Euro Decals

ED72-105
ED48-105

## International Airacobras

P-39Q-20 - 44-3132, GC I/9, North Africa, 1944

GC I/9 took possession of several former US P-39s in North Africa and initially flew coastal patrols as part of their pilot training. As the Allies moved northward, the French began to fly close-support missions over Southern France and Italy until the end of the war. This example carries the vulture insignia of the 1st escadrille of GC I/9 on the door and the name "My Sun Shine" (possibly left over from its USAAC days) on the nose.

1
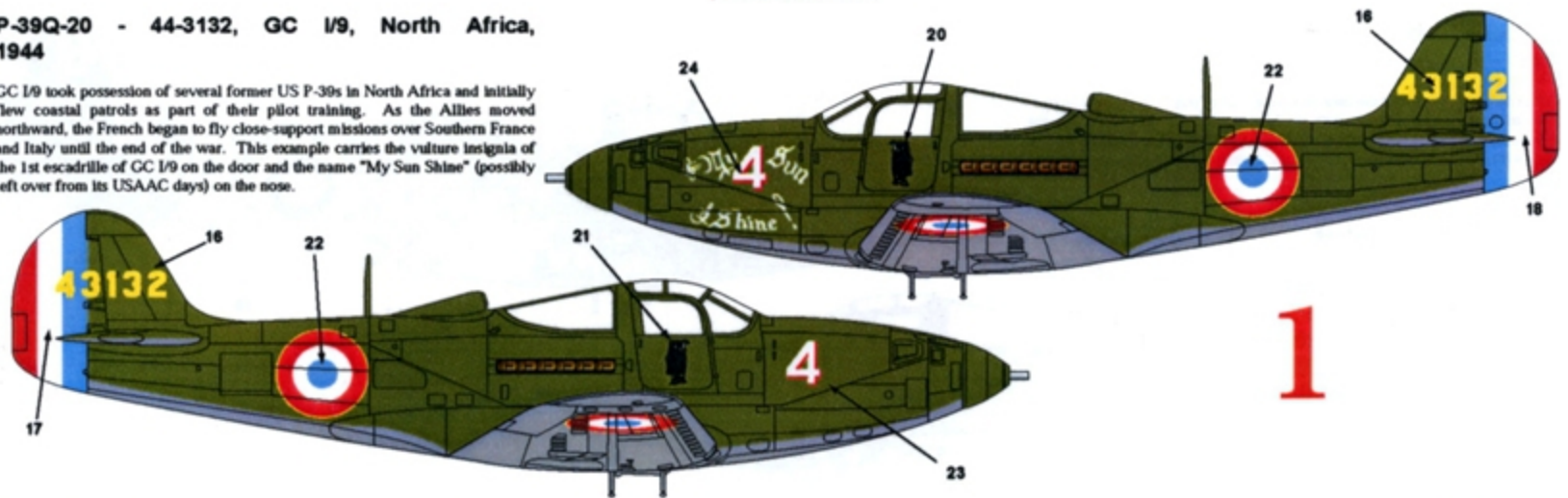
P-39Q-5, 4' Stormo C.T., Co-Belligerent AF, 1945.

The P-39 replaced the Macchi C.202 in the 4' Stormo and flew missions over the Balkans. These aircraft retained their USAAC colors and of the 170 aircraft initially turned over to the Italians, 21 were in such poor shape as to remain grounded. Some aircraft carried the name on both sides, but the photo evidence

2
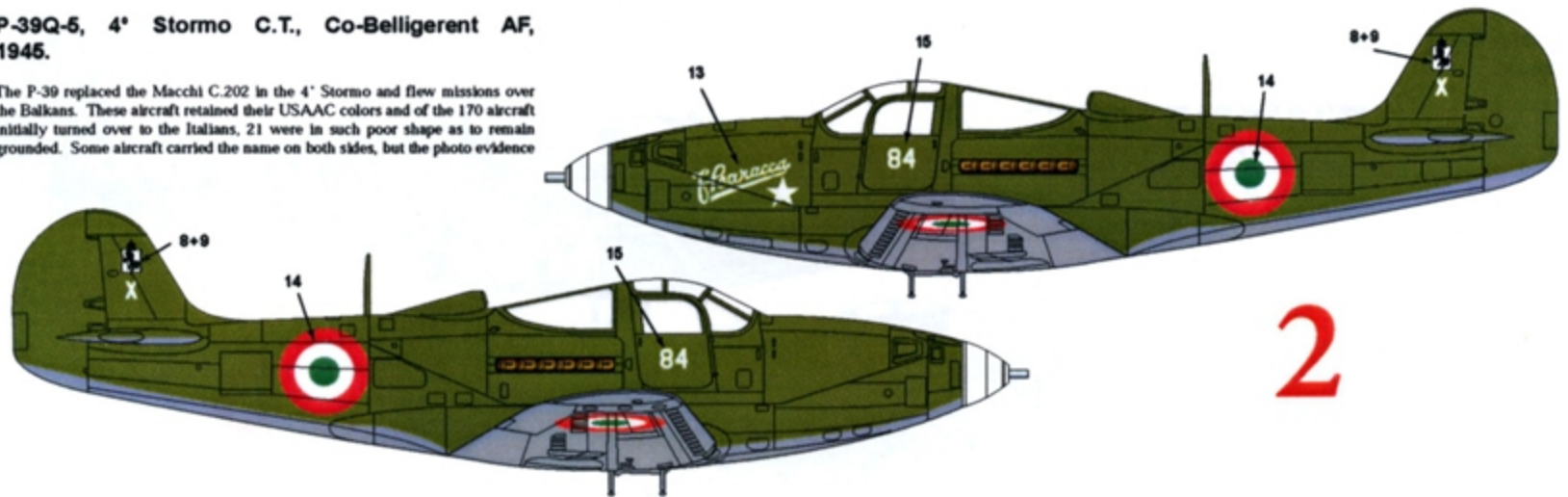
P-39, "Spare Parts," 46th FS, 21st FG, 1943

"Spare Parts" was an aircraft built from salvaged hulks by the mechanics of the 46th FS. It is painted overall black and possibly operated as a night fighter. It is uncertain as to which style of national insignia was used, and some references indicate white bars. However, the only known photo of this plane is inconclusive. Note that "Spare Parts" has no wing guns. Use the kit decals for the national markings.

3
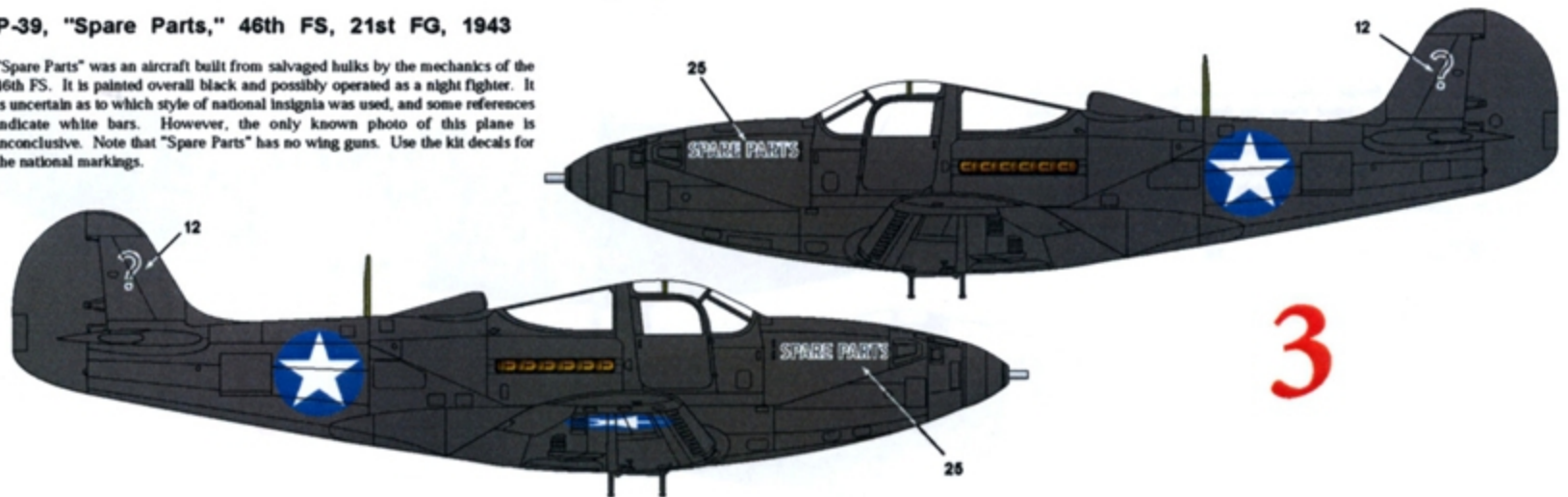
P-400 - No.2 Ota, Portugal

Portugal was one of the lesser-known operators of the Airacobra. It operated 19 aircraft: 15 Airacobra Mk.Is and 4 P-39Ls. These were all interned aircraft which were later sold to Portugal for $20,000 a piece. The Airacobra served in the Portuguese AF until 1950, all serving with No. 2 Ota, known as the OK squadron. These planes were finished in RAF colors, most likely Dark Green and Ocean Gray over Medium Sea Gray, although some references suggest Dark Earth and Dark Green over Sky. This aircraft has a yellow spinner.

4
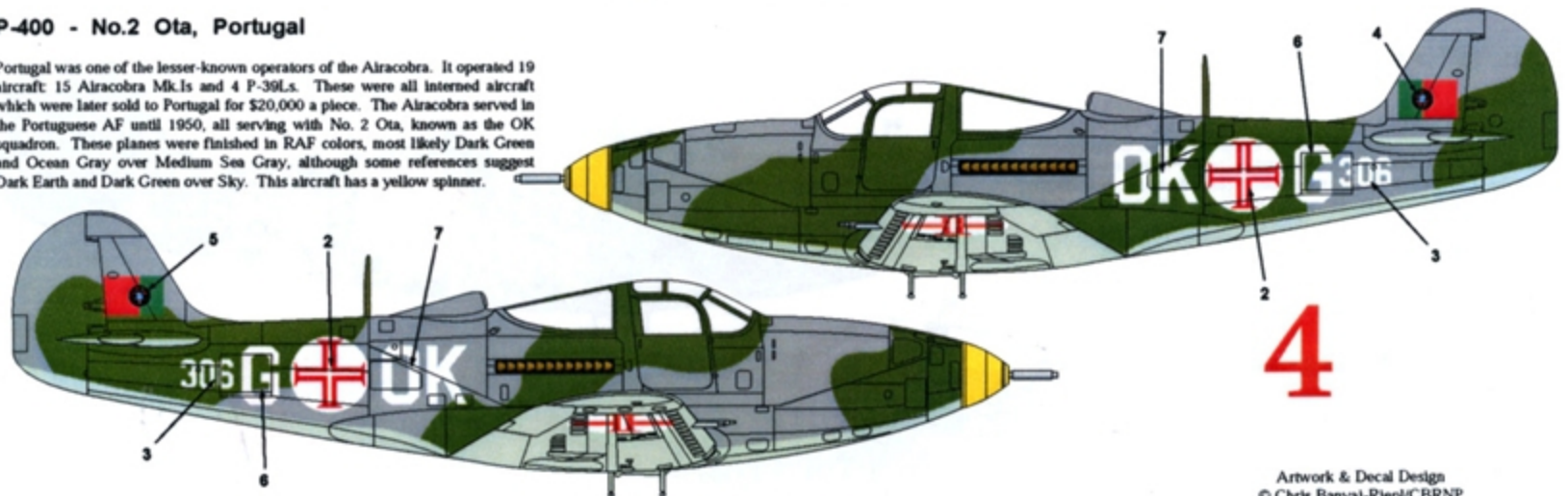
## Airacobra Mk.I, AH601, 601 Sqn, October 1941

RAF experience with the Airacobra was brief. Only 601 "County of London" Squadron flew the type, and then only for three combat operations. AH601 was the squadron CO's aircraft, and it is finished in Dark Green and Ocean Gray over Medium Sea Gray. Note the fishtail flame damper exhausts that were
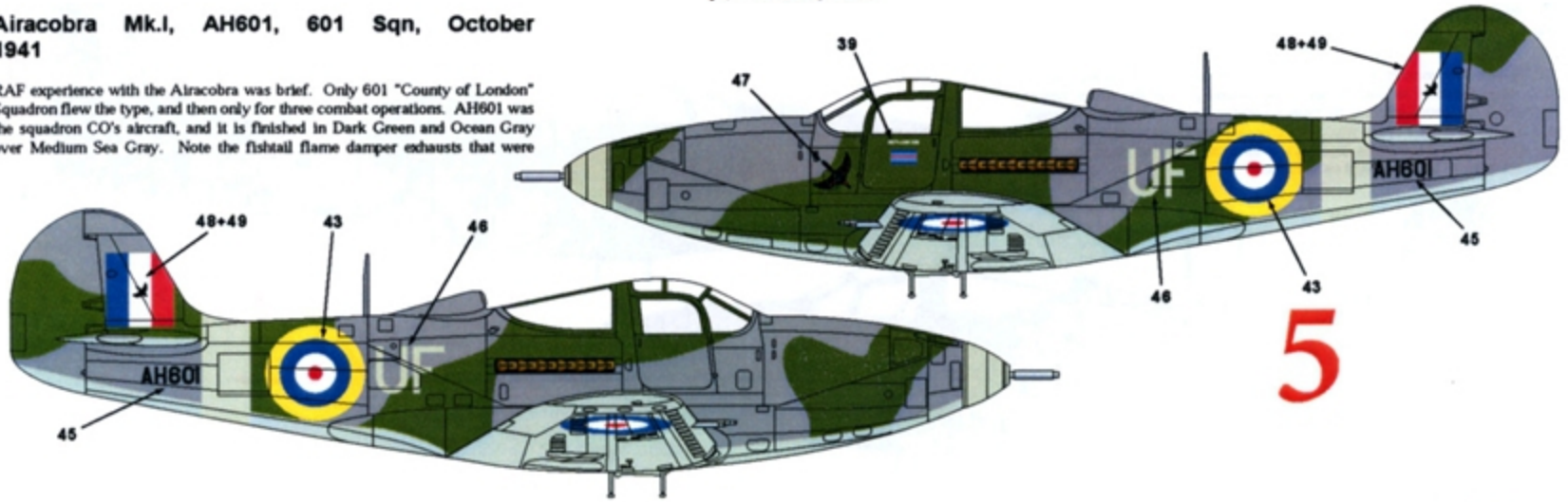
5

Airacobra Mk.I, AH574, 778 NAS, RN, late 1940s

778NAS was a service trials unit for the Royal Navy that operated AH574 in carrier landing trials. The quartered discs are camera reference points for the filmed test program. The paint scheme by this point was quite faded and worn, but still appears to be original Dark Green and Ocean Gray over Medium Sea Gray.
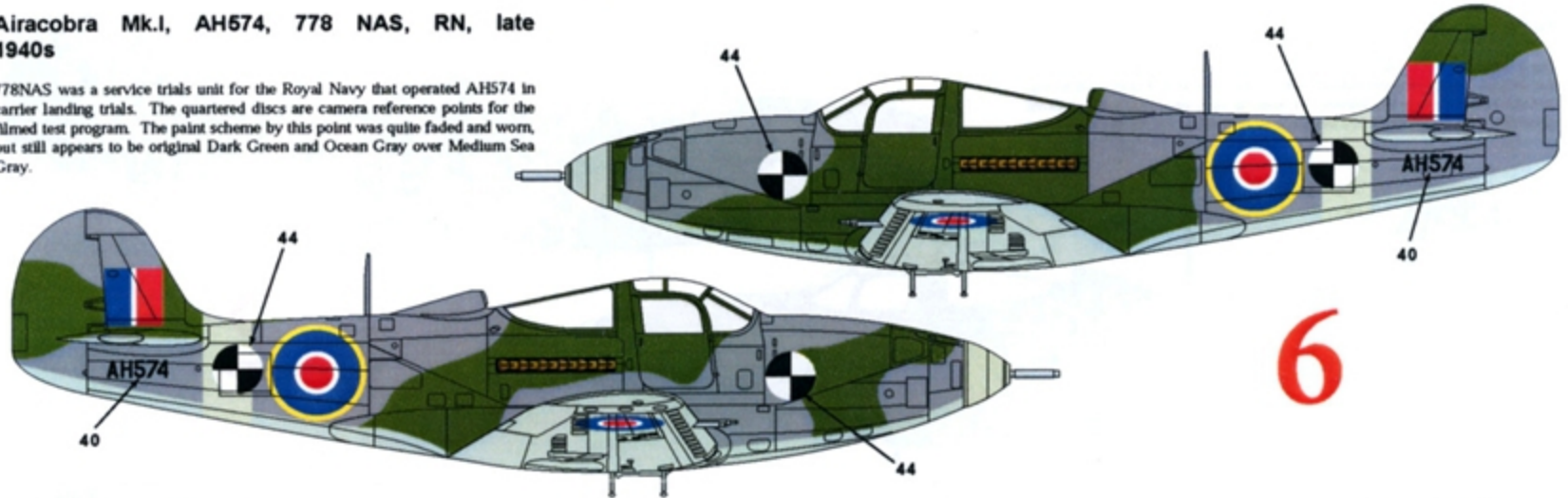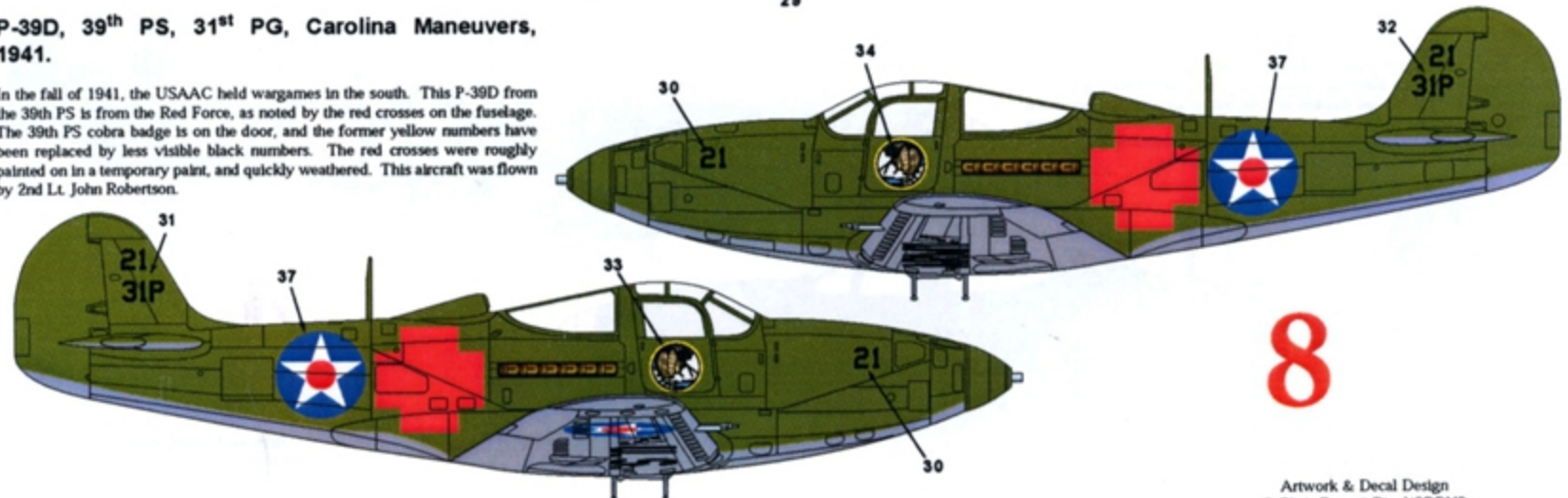
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P-39Q. White 67, VVS

Presentation aircraft in the Soviet Union were common, but less known are the presentation aircraft from the United States that flew in the VVS. This P-39Q carries an inscription from Buffalo, New York's School 51, which remained on the aircraft when it was transferred to the Soviets. The VVS unit is unknown, and it is unknown as to how many P-39s carried this marking. Camouflage is olive drab over neutral gray, with the US serials and national markings painted out with AMT-4 green (AMT-7 on undersides).
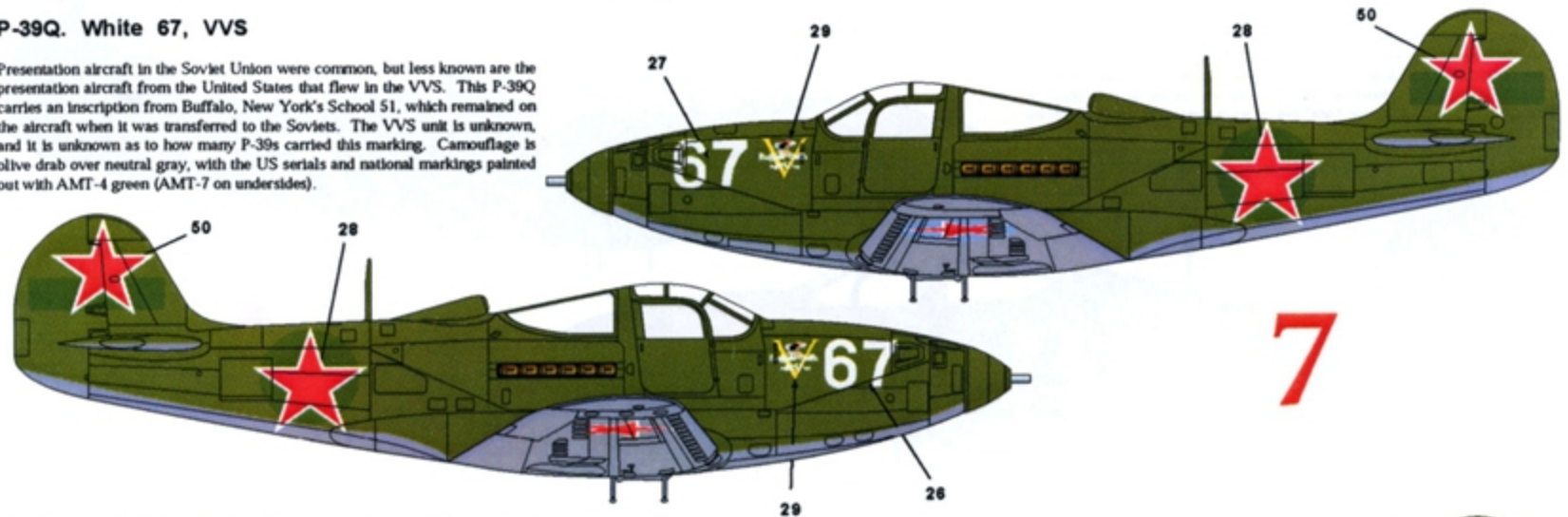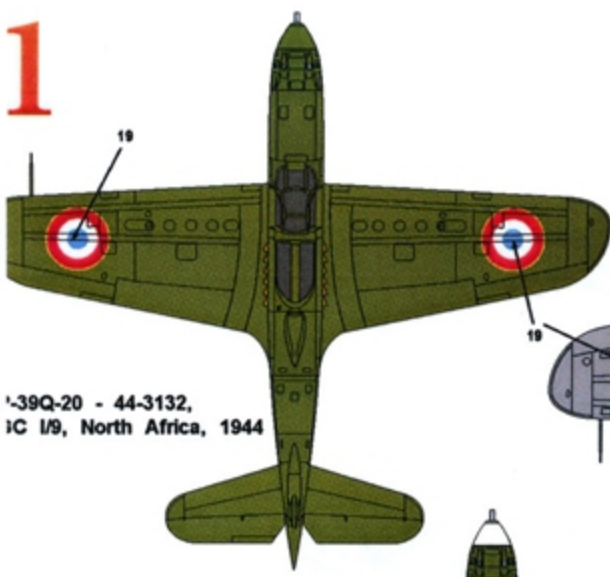
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P-39D, 39th PS, 31st PG, Carolina Maneuvers, 1941.

In the fall of 1941, the USAAC held wargames in the south. This P-39D from the 39th PS is from the Red Force, as noted by the red crosses on the fuselage. The 39th PS cobra badge is on the door, and the former yellow numbers have been replaced by less visible black numbers. The red crosses were roughly painted on in a temporary paint, and quickly weathered. This aircraft was flown by 2nd Lt. John Robertson.
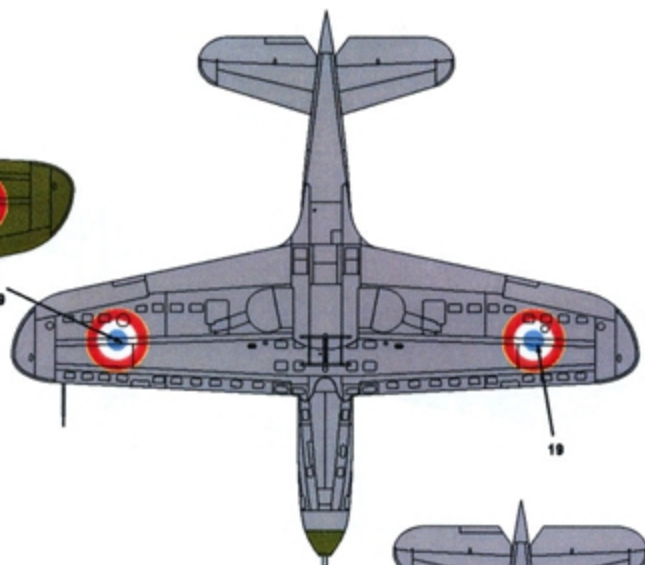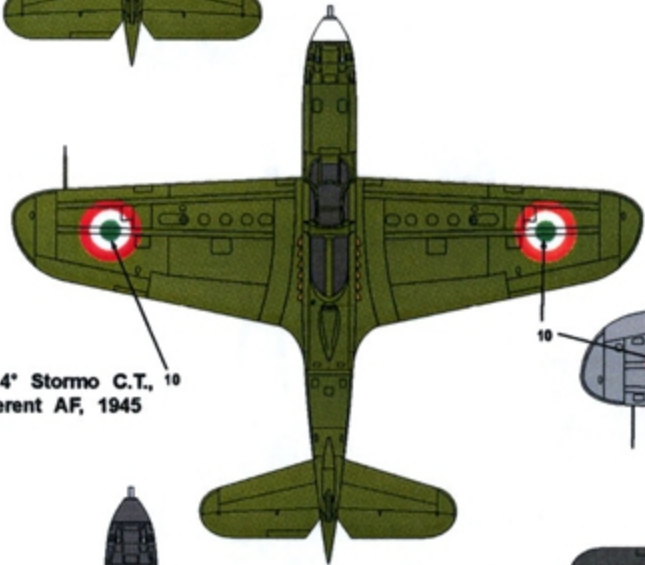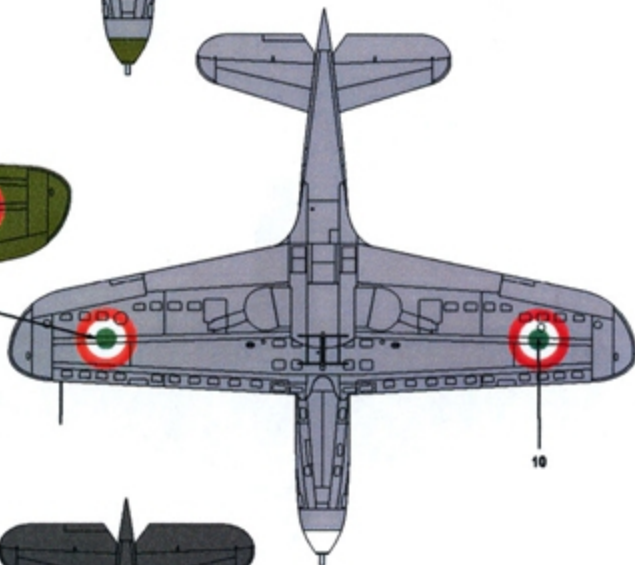
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P-39Q-20 - 44-3132,
GC I/9, North Africa, 1944
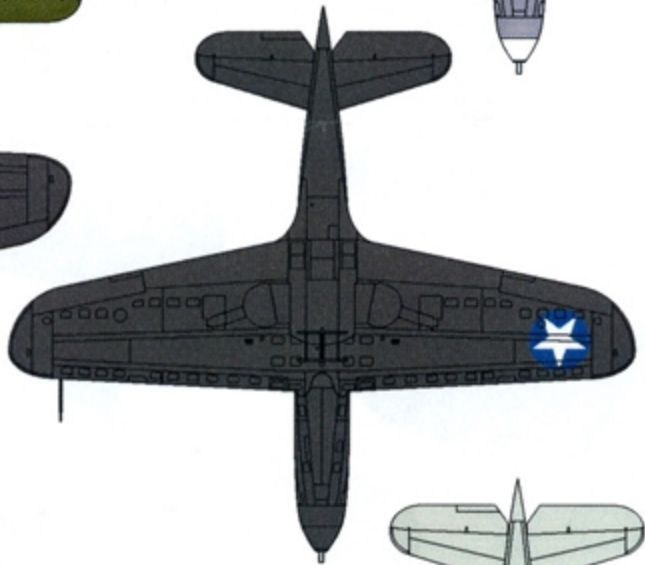
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P-39Q-5, 4° Stormo C.T.,
Co-Belligerent AF, 1945

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P-39, "Spare Parts,"
46th FS, 21st FG, 1943

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P-400 - No.2 Ota, Portugal

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Olive Drab

Neutral Gray

Dark Green

Ocean Gray

Medium Sea Gray

Sky

Black

Insignia Yellow

Insignia Red

AMT-4

AMT-7
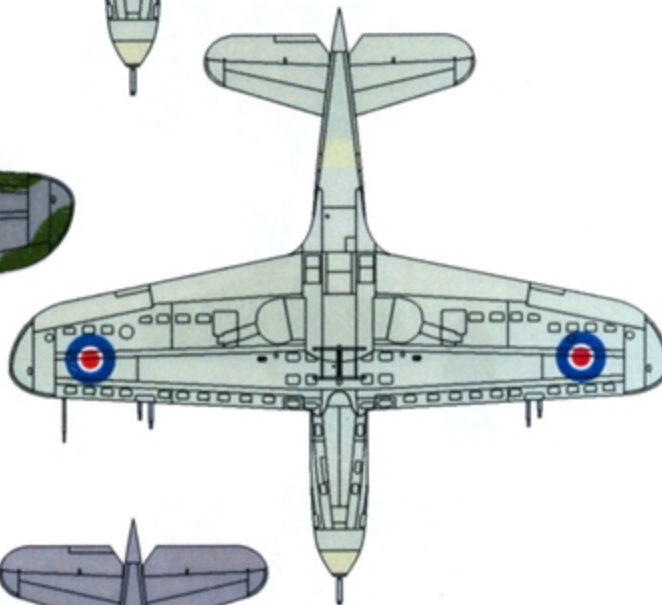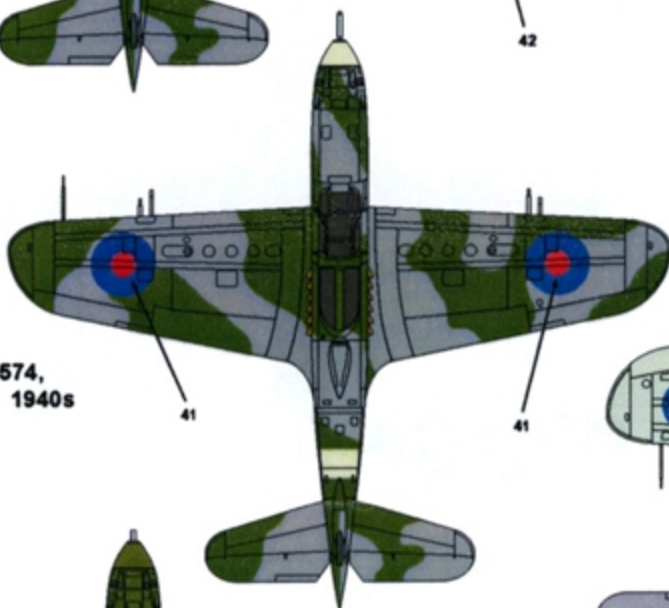
5 Airacobra Mk.I, AH601,
   601 Sqn, October 1941
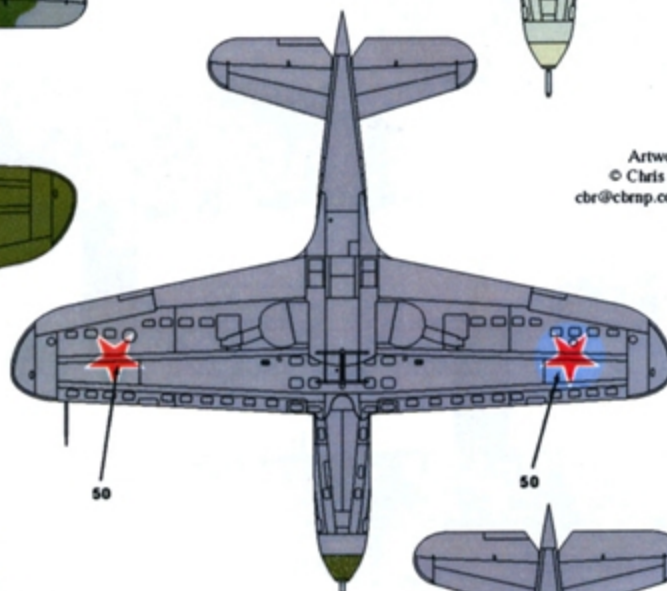
6 Airacobra Mk.I, AH574,
   778 NAS, RN, late 1940s

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7 P-39Q. White 67, VVS

8 P-39D, 39th PS, 31st PG,
   Carolina Maneuvers, 1941.