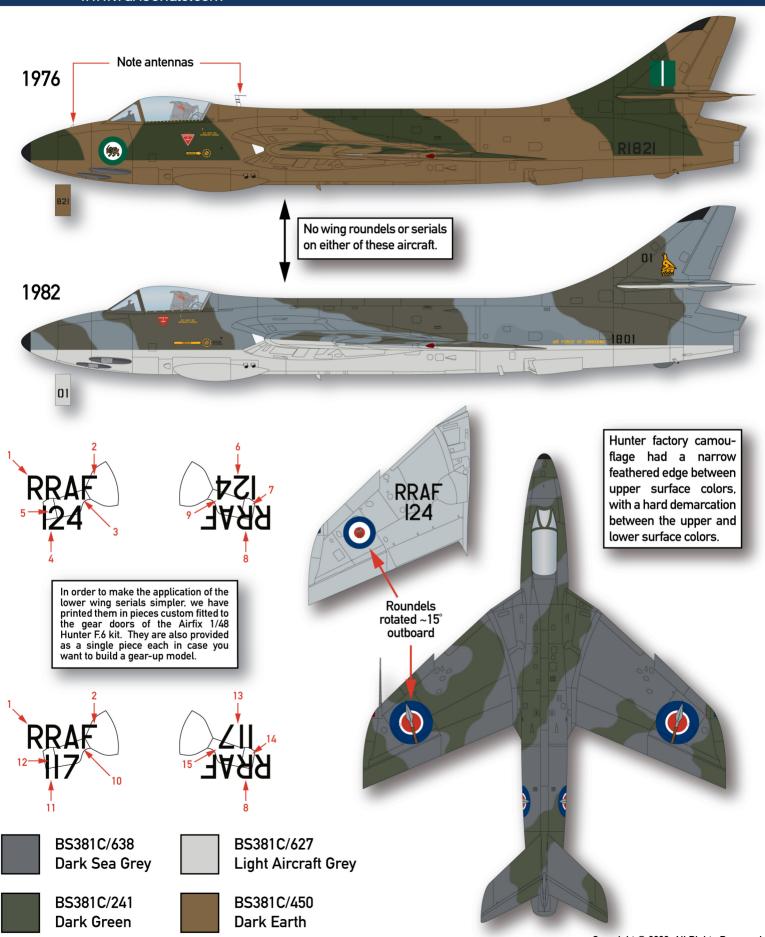


Hawker Hunters

Rhodesian/Zimbabwe Air Force 1962-1980s

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HIGH VELT HUNTERS

Rhodesia received 12 upgraded ex-RAF Hunter F.6s starting in 1962. While they had most of the external appearance of the FGA.9, with the drag chute shroud above the exhaust and outboard wing pylons, they lacked the flap cut-out for the larger drop tanks and the blister fairing above the outboard pylon position that were common to the FGA.9. These may have been retrofitted later in their lives. They were finished in the standard RAF paint scheme of gloss (really more semi-gloss) Dark Green, Dark Sea Grey, and High Speed Silver. We should note at this point that despite literally decades of profiles, decals, and other references, NO Rhodesian or Zimbabwean Hunter ever had Dark Green, Dark Earth, and Sky camouflage. There is simply no photographic or documentary evidence for it, but there is ample evidence for the standard RAF color scheme. The aircraft were externally identical to RAF aircraft.

When originally delivered, they carried the triple assegai Type D roundels in six positions, with the serials in RAF style on the lower wings. After the breakup of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland in 1963, the roundels and fin flashes changed to the proportions of the WWII Type C, and a single, larger assegai superimposed on it. The lower wing roundels were deleted, although the serials remained. The wing roundels were angled outboard approximately 15 degrees from the longitudinal axis of the aircraft.

In 1970, Rhodesia declared itself a republic, and the roundel changed to the green/white version with a lion clutching an elephant tusk. Most RRAF Hunters eventually adopted an overall Dark Earth color scheme, retaining the Dark Green disruptive pattern on the upper surfaces, in more or less the original RAF pattern. On the Dark Earth and Dark Green scheme, the lion appeared in the background camouflage color.



Although of poor quality, these two photos are interesting none the less. At left, an RRAF aircraft showing the angle of the single assegai roundel on the wings. Below, one of the few known photos of a fomer RRAF aircraft still in the basic RAF camouflage colors, carrying the Rhodesian lion roundel on the aft fuselage. No roundels were carried on the wings in this scheme.

