

ITALIAN CAMOUFLAGE & MARKINGS

by
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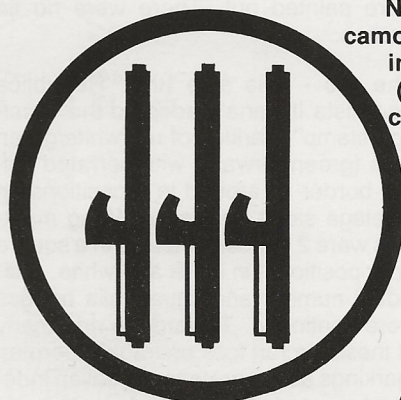
In common with camouflage practices in the W.W. II Italian Airforce (Regia Aeronautica), insignia standards corresponded to broad guidelines but there was wide variation in the actual execution of the relevant directives. Accordingly, while the following observations are generally applicable, exceptions were not uncommon.

At the beginning of W.W. II most Italian aircraft were marked in civilian guise, even when the veneer was patently thin. Moreover there was a long delay after war was declared until some machines finally got their military finish so that pre-war finishes remained prevalent for a time. This generally consisted of:

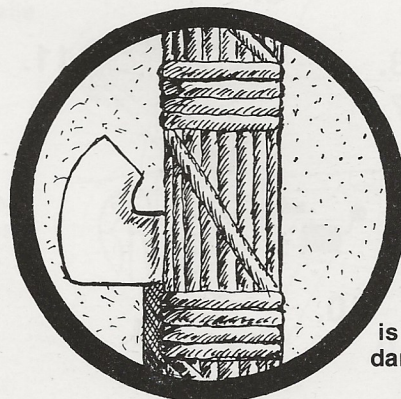
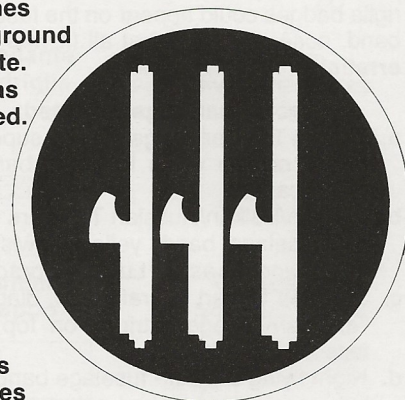
- Wing fascies in 4 positions. These were usually either white on a black base or the reverse, and positioned about 70-80% of the distance out from the mid-line to the wingtip. The "blade" always faced outboard, and the diameter was about 60% of the wing chord at that point but not overlapping onto control surfaces.
- Fuselage fascies with full color "faggots and blade" on a pale blue circle 30cm in diameter. These were located just forward of the cockpit on both sides, and the "blade" always faced forward.
- Vertical, full height green/white/red stripes (green forward) on the rudder. Occasionally the green portion was painted **ahead** of the rudder post, and sometimes the Arms of the House of Savoia was found at about mid-height of the white bar.
- Civil registration codes of 5 letters (ex. I-ABCD) on both sides of the fuselage and under the top wing. These were painted in either black, white, or black with white outline depending on background.
- Later on Squadriglia and Aircraft numbers began to appear on both sides of fuselage (ex. 90-12).

In the Fall of 1940 the Germans asked the Italians to devise a rapid recognition marking and the R.A. response was a white, 1/2 meter wide fuselage band (1 meter on multi-engined aircraft) starting one meter ahead of the leading edge of the tailplane. At the same time the rudder tricolor was abandoned (as looking too similar to French practice) and replaced by a white cross usually confined to the rudder only, and usually with the Arms of the House of Savoia at the intersection point (applied as a decal). An individual aircraft serial number ("matricula militare") in black or white (ex. M.M.1234) appeared on both sides of the fuselage just ahead of the tailplane, often under the aircraft designa-

Note: Sometimes camouflage background instead of white. (Both insignias can be reversed.)

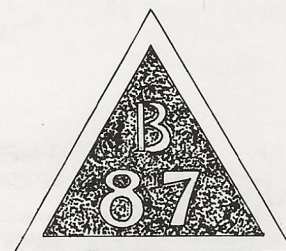
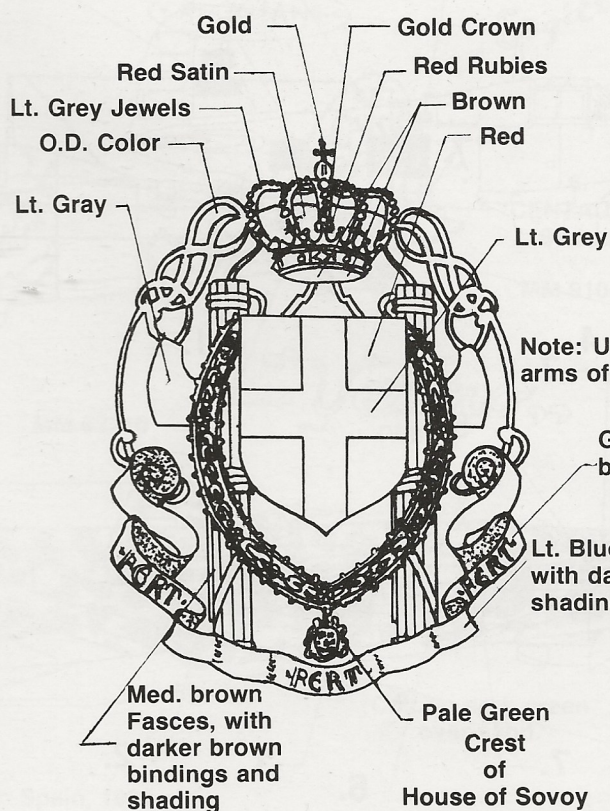
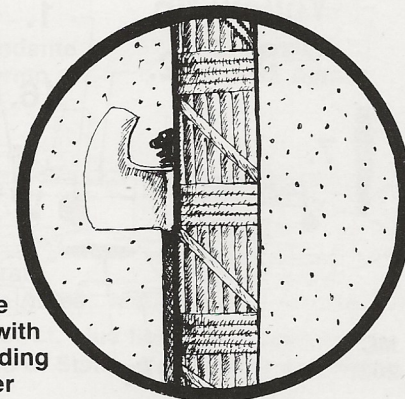


Wing Fascies Alternate styles



Fuselage Fascies Alternate Styles

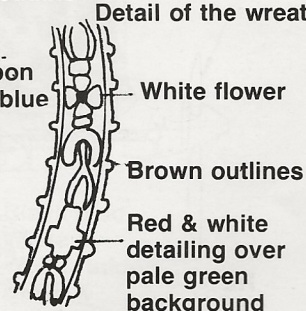
**Black outline
light blue disc—bundle is light brown with dark brown shading
blade is silver**



Fuel Marking (Fuselage) (Red)

Note: Unless otherwise specified crown arms of the House of Savoia is gold.

Gold letters with black outline.



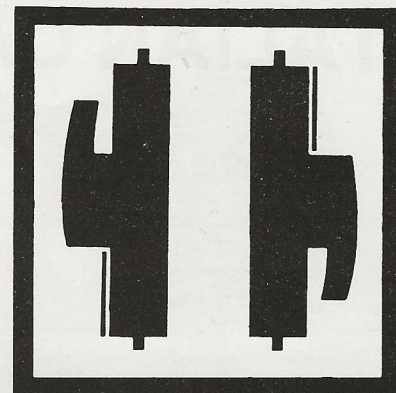
tion (ex. Fiat CR.42) in 10 cm high letters. As the war continued squadriglia and aircraft numbers gradually diminished in size, the aircraft number portion took on individual squadriglia colors, and eventually these tended to disappear completely, replaced by an individual aircraft number as per German practice. The colorful squadriglia badges could appear on the fuselage band, nose, tail, or not at all (it was **very erratic**).

Special markings included:

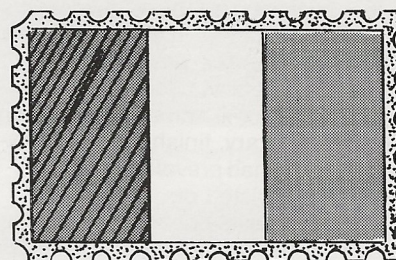
- a. African Theater - large black X superimposed on the white fuselage band in some cases.
- b. Belgian/Balkan/Russian Theaters - yellow fuselage band, yellow cowls and lower wingtips as per Luftwaffe practice.
- c. Sea and Desert aircraft - red, diagonal "anti-camouflage" stripes on top surface of upper wing.
- d. Night flying aircraft - fuselage band and tail cross often blacked out.

After the surrender of September 1943 the Regia Aeronautica split into two factions:

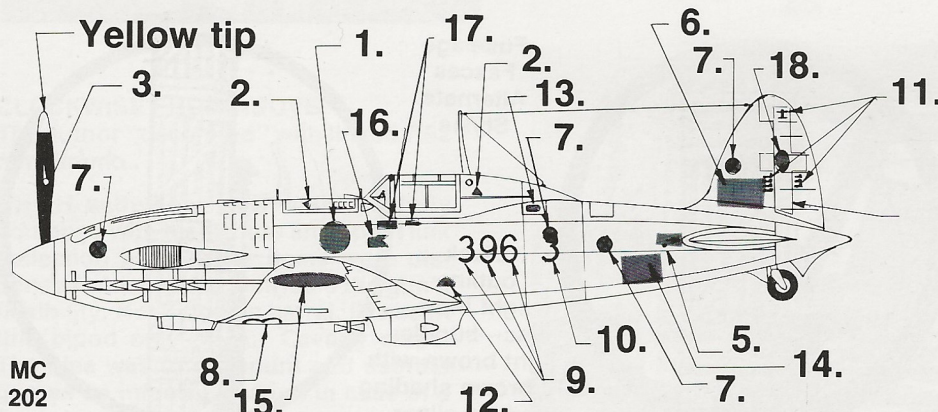
- a. The pro - allied side (the "Italian Co-Belligerent Air Force") re-adopted the W.W.I red/white/green roundels (green center) in 6 positions, similar to British practice, and the former R.A. markings were painted out. There were no fin flashes.
- b. The pro - axis side (the "Repubblica Socialista Italiana") adopted the "postage stamp" marking of red/white/green bars (green forward) with serrated yellow border all around in 4 positions on fuselage sides and tailfin. Wing markings were 2 opposed Fasces in a square (four positions) in black and white. Individual number and squadriglia badges were continued. Toward the end many of these aircraft took on frankly German markings as the pretence of Italian independence was abandoned.



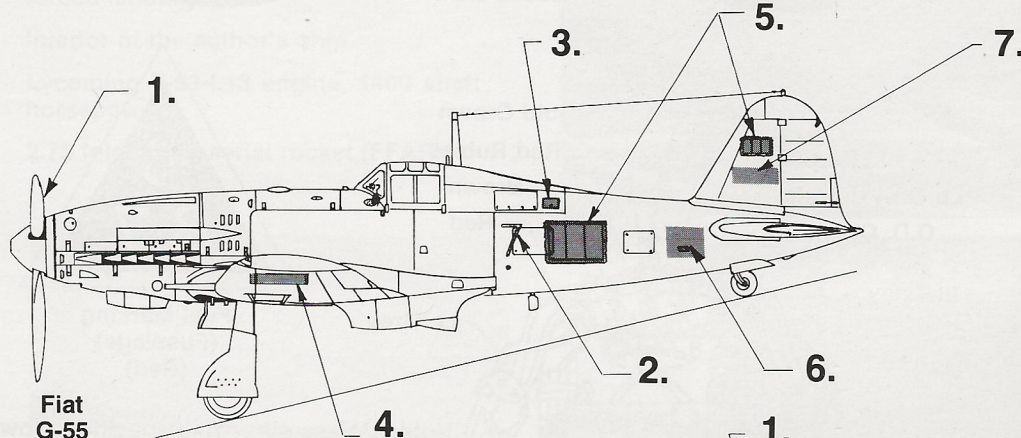
Left wing H.S.I. insignia—opposite is a mirror image of above.



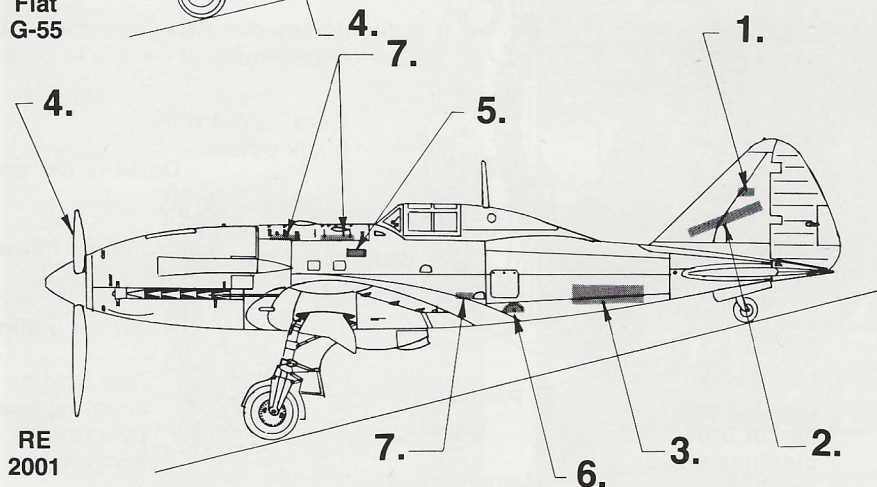
Tail and fuselage insignia.



MC 202



Fiat G-55



RE 2001

MC-202

- 1.) Position of fuselage fasces.
- 2.) Fuel triangles.
- 3.) Propeller black with yellow tips.
- 4.) Manufacturer logo—detail p. 45).
- 5.) Data block.
- 6.) Manufacturer's data (detail p. 45).
- 7.) Unit insignia positions (common).
- 8.) A/C number of landing gear cover.
- 9.) Squadron number.
- 10.) Individual aircraft number.
- 11.) Victory markings (alternate positions).
- 12.) Battery connection—stenciling.
- 13.) First aid kit—white-red cross.
- 14.) Appenage—data block.
- 15.) Wing insignia—4 positions).
- 16.) Command pennant location.
- 17.) Data blocks—(detail on p. 45).
- 18.) Arms of the House of Savoia emblem.

Fiat G-55

- 1.) Propeller (as MC-202).
- 2.) Aircraft number (various colors).
- 3.) First aid kit (as MC-202).
- 4.) Wing insignia position.
- 5.) 4 position R.S.I. marking.
- 6.) Data block (detail—p. 45).
- 7.) Tail data (detail—p. 45).

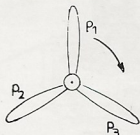
R.E. 2001

- 1.) Manufacturers logo (detail—p. 45).
- 2.) Name—(detail—p. 45). Red w/yellow trim.
- 3.) Data block—(detail—p. 45).
- 4.) Propeller black.
- 5.) Fuselage data plate.
- 6.) Battery connection.
- 7.) Stenciling (unknown).

AVVERTENZE IMPORTANTISSIME

1 LE ARMI DEBONO ESSERE SINGRONIZZATE A META PALA DELL'ELICA
[VEDI FIGURA]

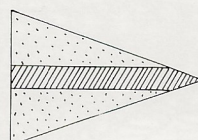
$P_1 - P_2 - P_3 =$ PUNTI DIFASE



2 NELLA MESSA A PUNTO DELLA SCATOLA DI SINCRONIZZAZIONE LA CORSA RESIDUA DEL PUNTALINO OLTRE LO SCATTO, MISURATA CON L'APPOSITA SONDA DEVE ESSERE COMPRESA TRA 3 E 4/10 DI mm

3 NON SI DEVE MAI SPARARE CON IL MOTORE AL DISOTTO DI 1000 GIRI AL 1'

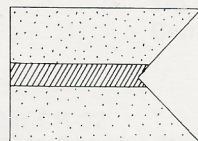
16.) COMMAND PENNANTS



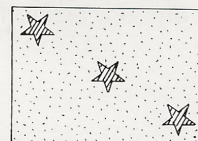
Comandante di Squadriglia



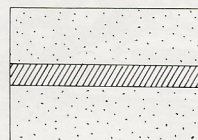
Generale di Divisione Aerea



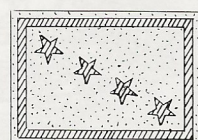
Comandante di Gruppo



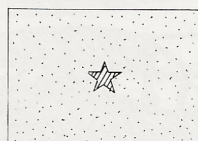
Generale di Squadra Aerea



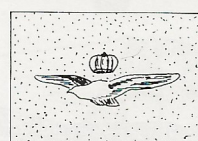
Comandante di Stormo



Generale di Armata Aerea



Generale di Brigata Aerea

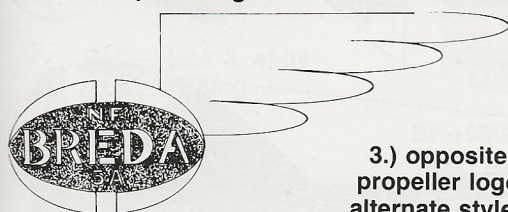


Capo di Stato Maggiore dell'Armonautica
Colors: Lt. blue field - Red design
Except Capo di Stato—Yellow bird and crown.

17.) Opposite page MC-202 Data blocks

ATTENZIONE
ASSICURATEVI DELLA CHISURA DEI CHIAVISTELLI DEL PARABREZZA

Propellor logo—Red with White details



3.) opposite propeller logo alternate styles



MC-202 data blocks

5.) opposite
M.M. 9395
AS
Black or white serial number

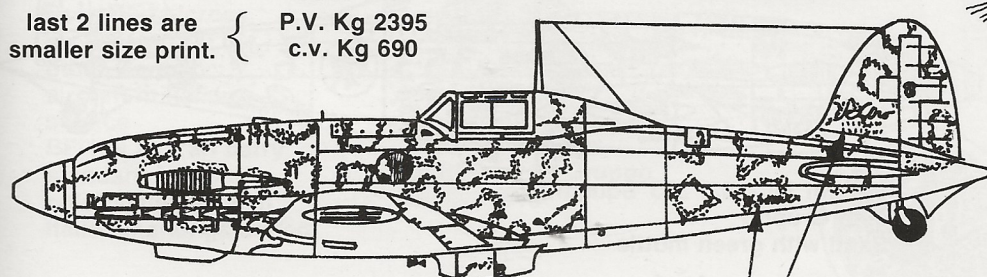
6.) opposite
A⁵A
Aer Macchi
C.202

RE-2001 Details

1.)
• REGGIANE •

2.)
Sagittario

3.) Serial block
RE-2001
MM 092344



MC-202 (unknown unit)

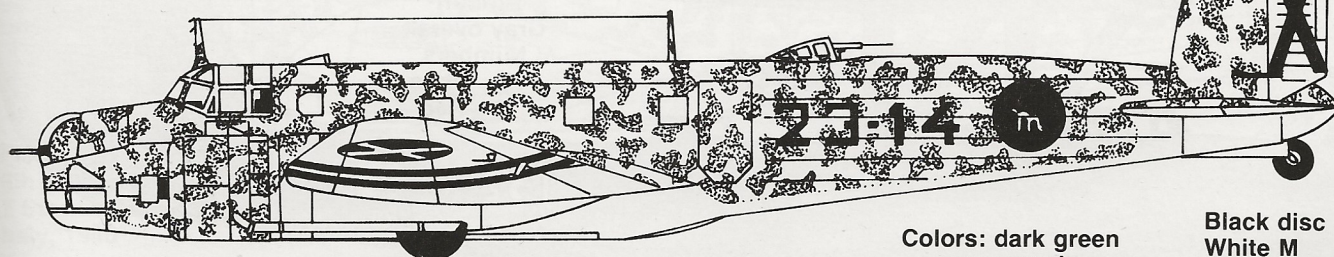
MM 82210

Veltro
(White)

Fiat G-55
Data blocks

6.
"CENTAURO"
Serie 4
MM 91058

7.
P.V.kg. 2580
Range: 91053-91652

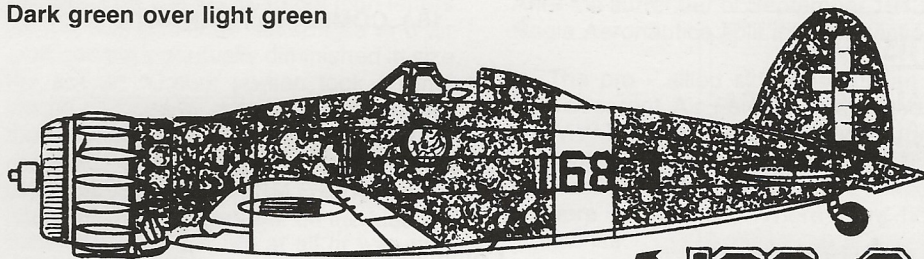


Colors: dark green over sand.

Black disc
White M
White rudder
Black X

Fiat—BR.20, 23rd, "Mussolini" Squadriglia in Spain, 1939.

Dark green over light green



Macchi MC-200, 168 Squadriglia,
54th Stormo, Sicily, 1942

168-3

Black numbers
white outline



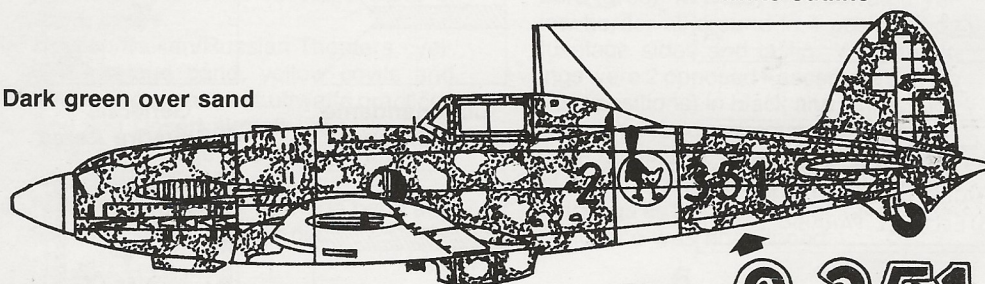
54th Stormo
Red

Black

Orange

Tiger's eyes are blue

Dark green over sand



Macchi M-202, 351 Squadriglia,
20th Gruppo

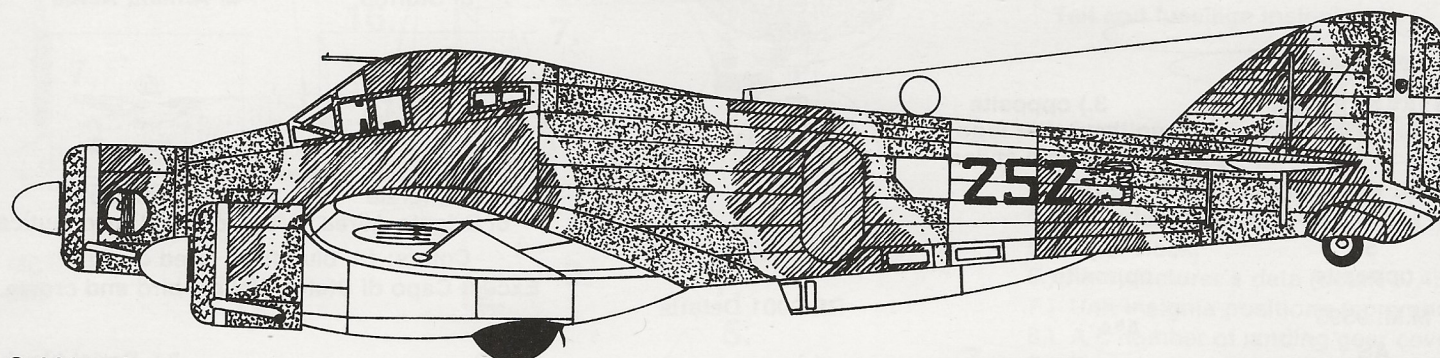
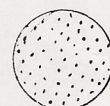
Black
with
white outline

2 351

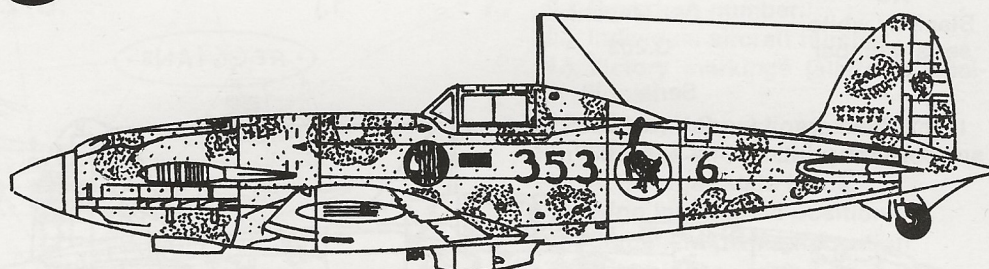
Dark
Green

Red
Brown

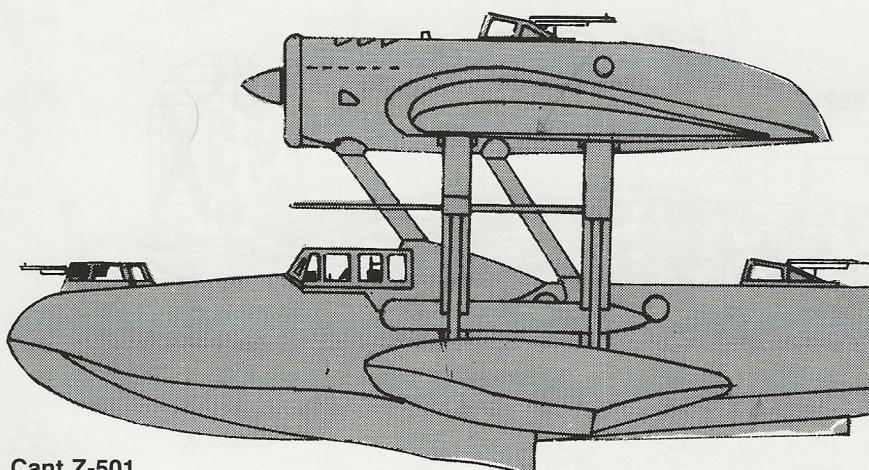
Yellow
Ochre



Gold bands
White spinners
Savoia-Marchetti SM-79
46th Stormo,
Albania, Dec. 1940



Macchi MC-202, 353 Squadriglia,
80th Gruppo
Sand with green mottle

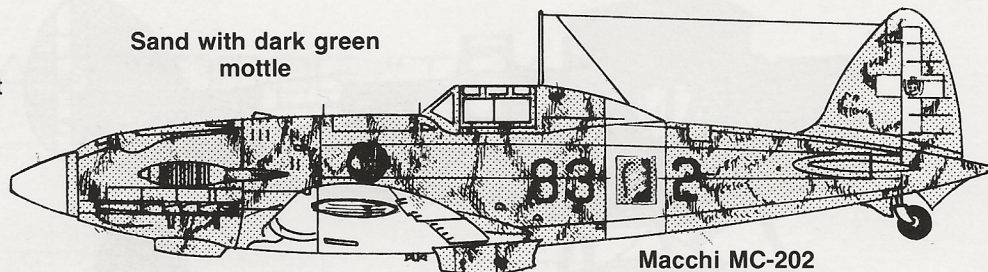


Cant Z-501

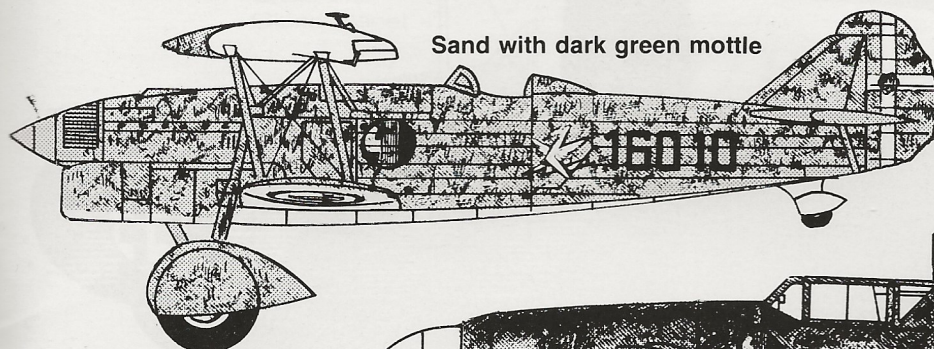
Rogia Aeronautica
markings overpainted
in black
Aircraft-
Gray overall
Numbers
182—White
6—Red

182-6

RS1 "Postage Stamp"
Black skeleton fascias on all
four wing positions



Macchi MC-202
83rd Squadriglia
3rd Stormo, 18th Gruppo
Central Italy, 1943

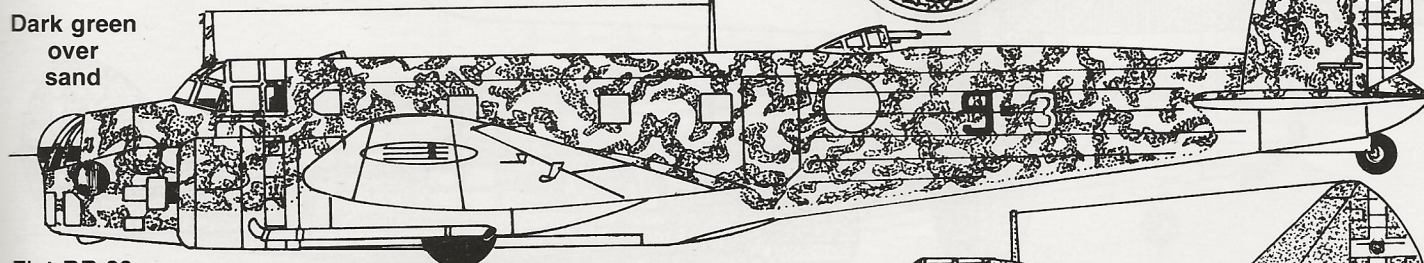
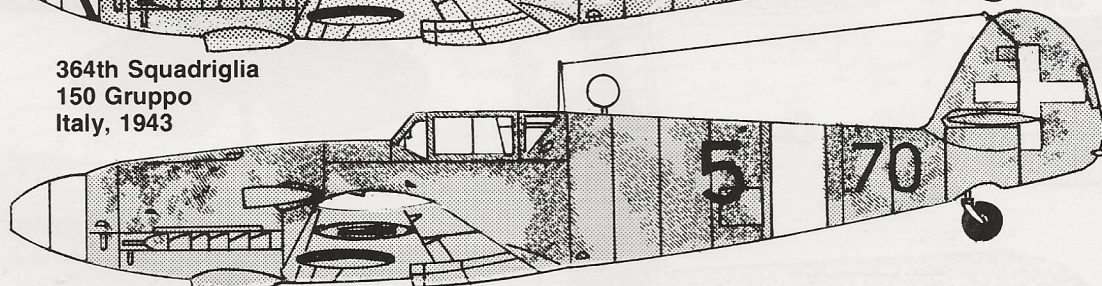
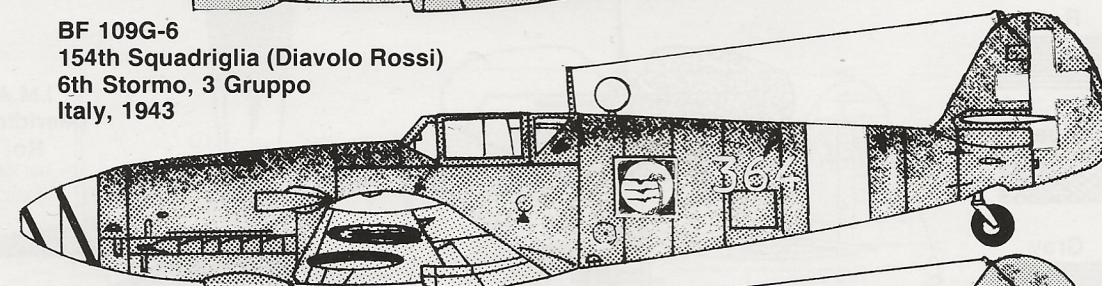
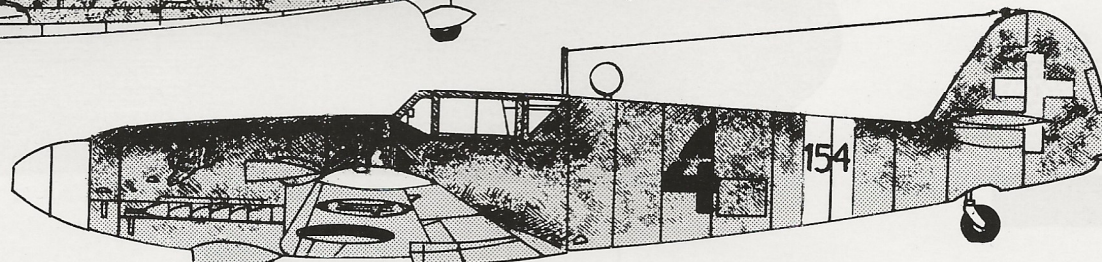


Fiat CR-32
160th Squadriglia,
50th Stormo, 12 Gruppo
Libya, June, 1940

Red—black & white
detailing

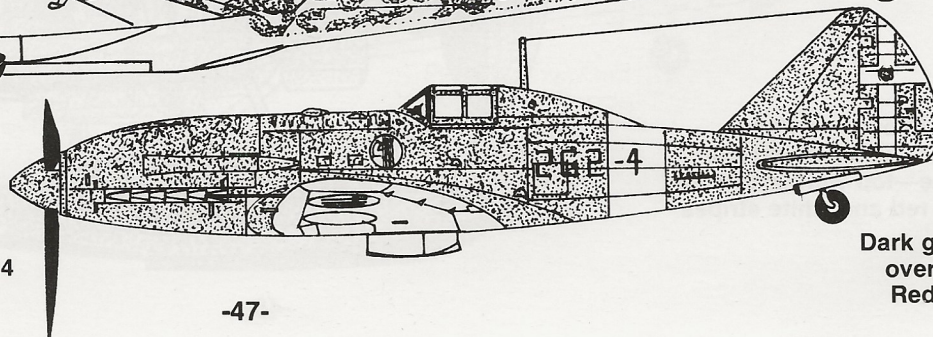


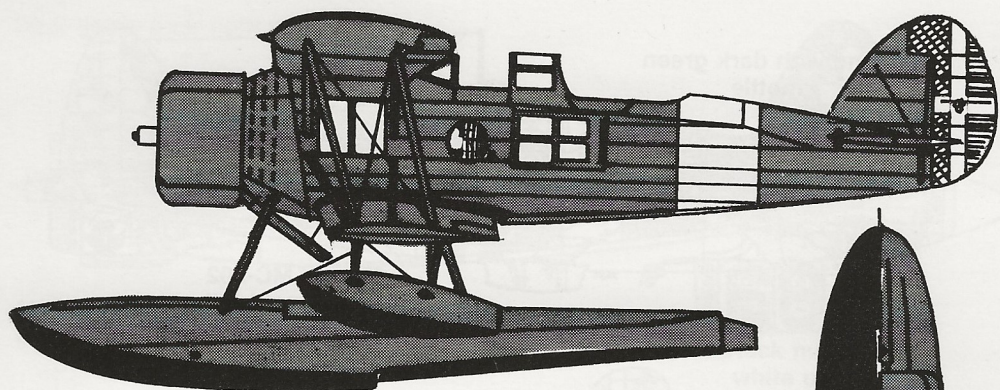
Colors—Standard
Luftwaffe with
Italian markings over.
Note that no arms of
House of Savoia emblem
used on tailcross
on BF-109, or
other German
aircraft in Italian
service
BF-109 aircraft carry
standard Luftwaffe
color schemes with
Italian markings added



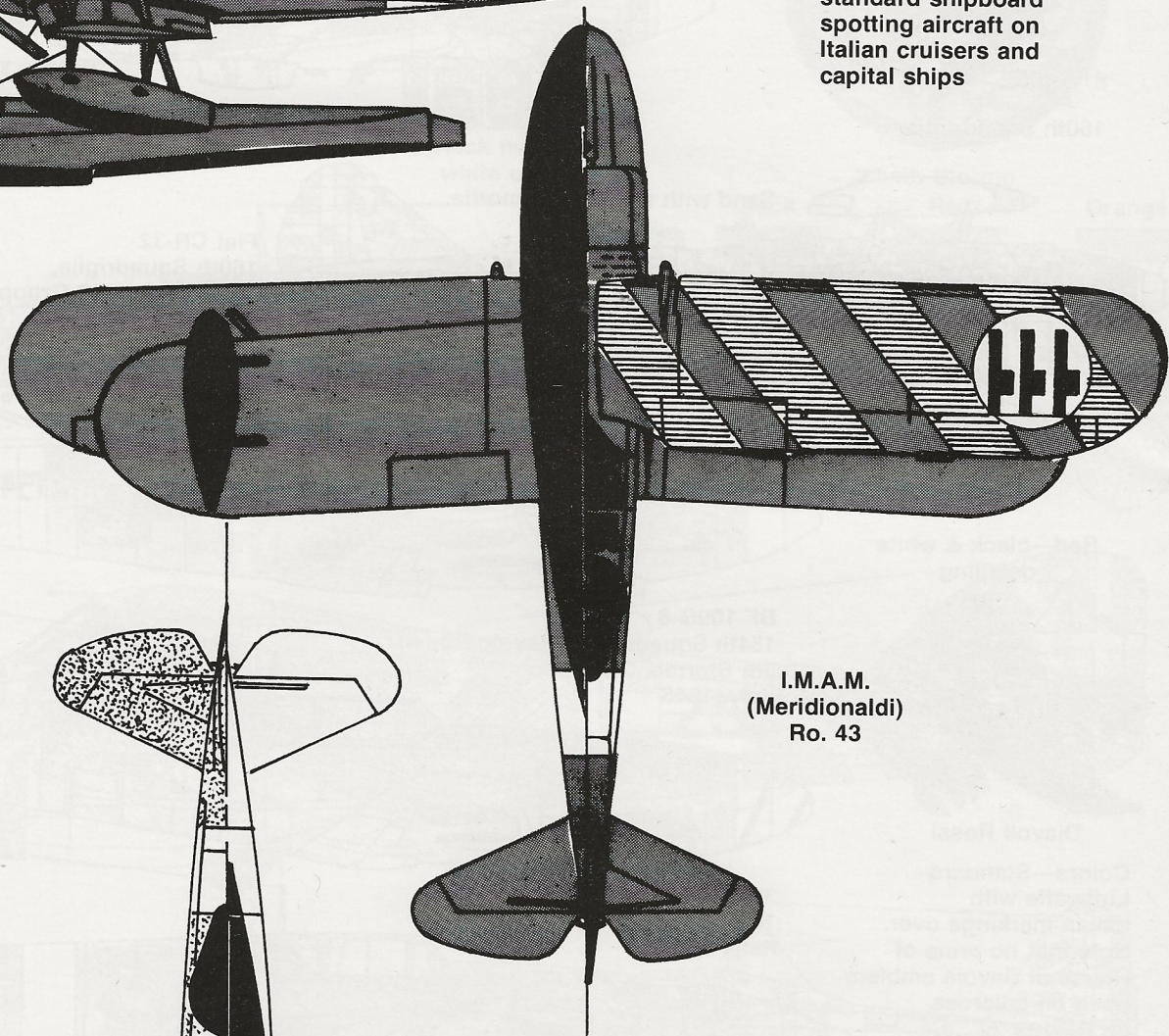
Fiat BR-20
9th Squadriglia
7 Stormo, 25 Gruppo
Italy, 1940

RE-2005
"Sagittario"
262 Squadriglia, 1944

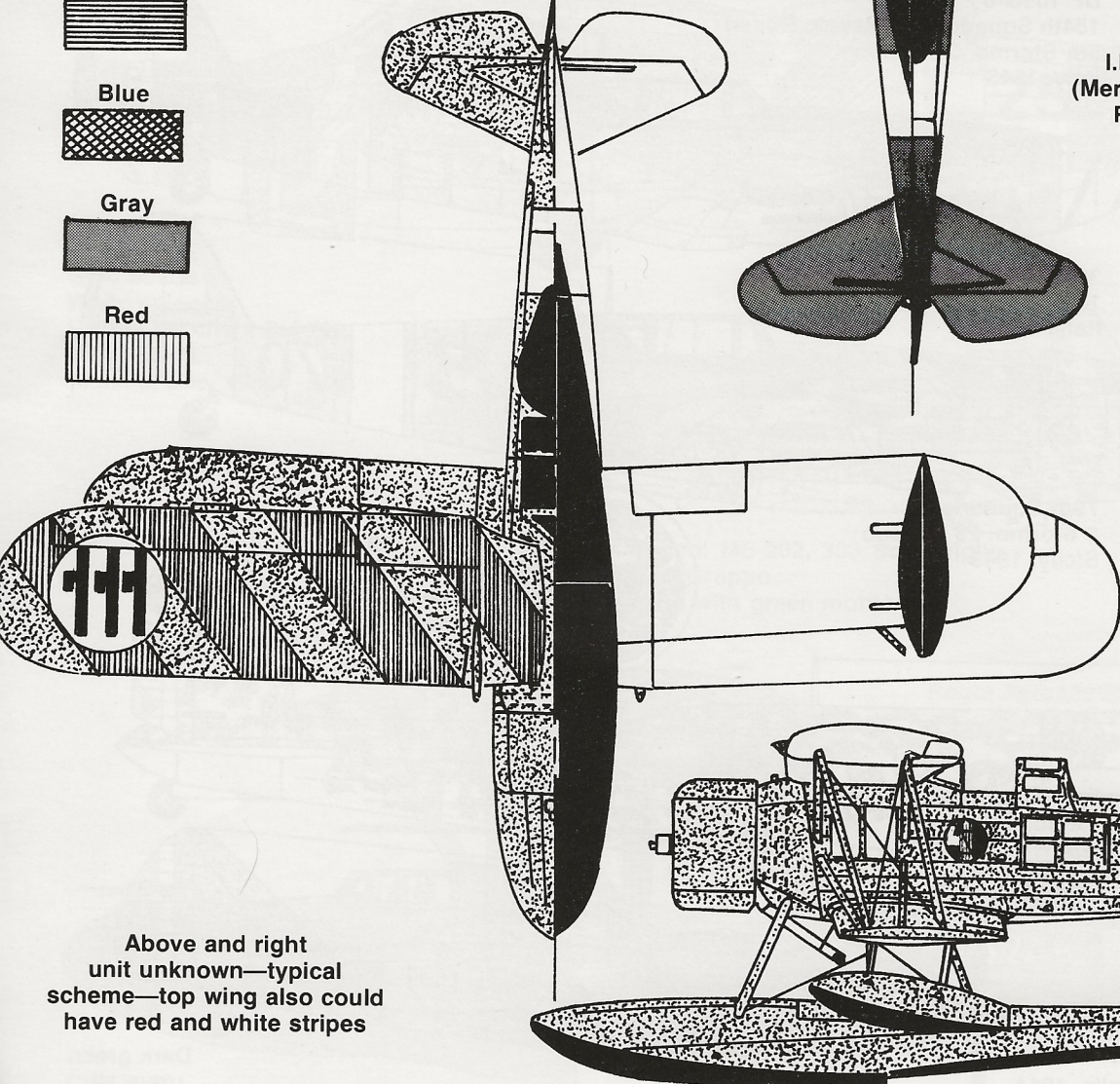
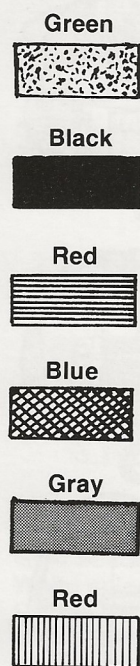




Left and below
Aircraft from the
heavy cruiser Zara
standard shipboard
spotting aircraft on
Italian cruisers and
capital ships



I.M.A.M.
(Meridionali)
Ro. 43



Above and right
unit unknown—typical
scheme—top wing also could
have red and white stripes