



SCALE-MAIL

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NEXT MEETING

General get together with no demonstrations. Look forward to seeing everyone there.

Tuesday 19th April - 7.30pm
Leys Institute (upstairs)
20 Saint Marys Road, Ponsonby

COMMITTEE

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman
Martin Short • Treasurer
Kevin Benson | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members
John Watkins
Brett Sharman
Henry Ludlam
Mike Rather |
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A WORD FROM MIKE

Greeting's everyone. It's just been over a year since Craig and I started working on the newsletter together with an emphasis on better design. It has been great to get the feedback and participation of you all with submissions of pics and text about the various modeling subjects we all enjoy. I hope you can keep sending me stuff to include and I would like to ask the armor boys and ship guys to submit their fancy to include in future issues. There is a noticeable lack of these subjects but when they do turn up it is a pleasure to lay the material out into the newsletter.

We are privileged to have some real talent on these subjects in the club and I do hope you will come forward. I'd like to also make mention on the

good fellowship between the guys in our club. It is quite noticeable how open everyone is with their ideas and modeling tricks that they are happy to share with the rest of us. I've made some very good friends from amongst our group.

I'm also trying to actually get some models finished also to put on the table as it has been quite a while since I last did this.

Finally, it is good to be part of the club and I thank you all for your input and the good company we all share.

Mike

APOLOGIES FROM CRAIG

Craig want's to send his apologies from America this time for not getting on to this months newsletter quick enough. He will show more respect next time and be more responsible to his station as editor.

He has been missing us sorely while

buying up stash, going to air museums and hanging out with his model buddies over thar in the US of A. He will be back soon and have lots of great stories (bulls...) to tell us.

Have a safe journey, see you soon.

Craig, Mike

NOTICES



UPCOMING MEETINGS

JUNE - ANZUS 1951 - 1986 theme night. Remember a bygone era when we still had visits from the US military before Labour did the dirty. Any US, NZ or Australian military

model from within that time frame that fits the theme is welcome on the table.

Model X will also be back in June on Queens Birthday weekend -

Saturday 4th - Sunday 5th. Bring your display subjects along on Friday night as it helps us get the tables set up and looking their best before Saturday morning.

BUILD THE SAME PLANE CONTEST

"Build The Same Plane" contest kicks off in March and runs until October club night. Build any scale Grumman Avenger you want to and build it how you want to; out of the box; highly modified; excessively detailed; warbird; combat veteran - the choice is yours.

There is no shortage of markings options as the aircraft was flown in many versions, by the following countries:

Brazil

Canada

France

Japan

Netherlands

New Zealand

UK

US

Uruguay

Available kits:

1/32 Trumpeter

1/48 Accurate Miniatures, Hobby Boss, Italeri (AM kit reboxed)

1/72 Academy, Airfix, Hasegawa

Bring your Avenger along as you progress so everyone can see how you are going.



REVIEW

DORNIER X, HANDLEY PAGE HP42 "HERACLES" AND JUNKERS G.38 "HINDENBURG"

By Pete Harisson



The Dornier X, Handley Page HP42 "Heracles" and Junkers G.38 "Hindenburg" all date from 1930. These models are all 1/144 scale and apart from the addition of a few aerial wires and rigging essentially from the box. The peculiarity of these aircraft and the interesting stories surrounding them were what lead me to make models of these aircraft. Detailed articles on each craft are in Airplane The Complete Aviation Encyclopedia.

The Dornier X with a 48m wingspan and capacity for 150 passengers was the largest aircraft in the world in 1930. Even compared to modern airliners it still looks big. It made a world wide demonstration tour although it never entered commercial service. Only one was ever built and it no longer survives. Anytime I display this model people ask if it really existed. A true case of model making keeping history alive. This is the Entex kit, that was

reboxed by Matchbox and is has been re-released by Revell in 2011.

The Handley Page HP42 "Heracles" was part of a fleet of 8 airliners of the type that operated with Imperial Airways. They were the worlds first practical four engined airliner with an impressive length of service and unblemished safety record.





The cranked lower wing was to allow passengers easier access when boarding. This is the Airfix kit, hopefully it will be reissued soon, I had to hunt high and low for an old kit to build.

The Junkers G.38 is another 1930's giant from Germany. Only 2 were ever built but they did enter service with Lufthansa. It has a raft of curiosities, including passenger seating in the wings! The original idea was for the plane to be massive flying wing, but for practical reasons a fuselage and tailplane became part of the design. The wing still looks impressive especially when viewing the model from above. This is a Revell Kit and part of a series of early Junkers Lufthansa airliners they release from time to time.

One of my pet projects is to build a collection of 1/144 airliners from across the eras. I doubt whether I will find a more curious trio. Since no examples of these aircraft exist the purpose of models showing us what they were like in 3D seems all the more relevant.



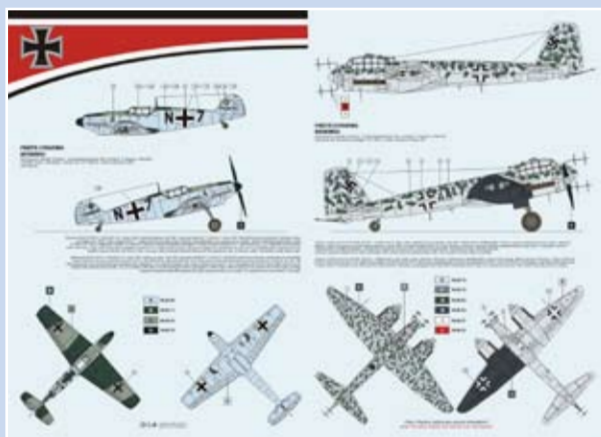
Peter Harrison



REVIEW

OWL DECAL NIGHTFIGHTER EXPERTS

By Mark Davies



Catalogue Number:

1/48 OWD48014

1/72 OWD72014

Advantages:

Very attractive package with excellent quality production.

Disadvantages:

The subjects bear little to no relationship to the title of "Night-Fighter Experts", some either having no victories or only daytime kills.

Conclusions:

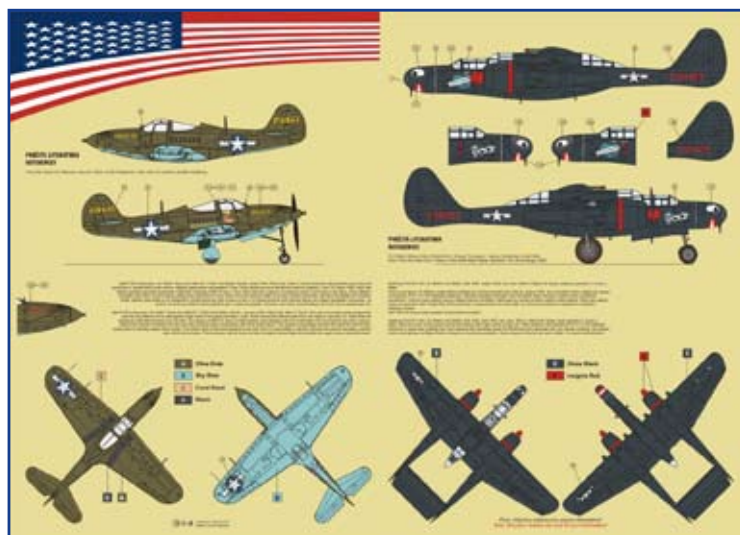
Recommended for their quality, but not as a basis for a cohesive collection of expert night fighter pilot's aircraft, as few if any are night-fighter "expert's" aircraft.

Background

Owl Decals is probably best known to modelers for their range of decals and detail accessories, with a particular emphasis on Luftwaffe night-fighter subjects. The decal sets reviewed here appears at first to be in keeping with the night-fighter emphasis, but covering subjects from three nations' air forces.

The Decals

The decals come in a large zip-lock plastic bag with very attractive and clearly printed A4 eight-page booklet. This is printed on stiff glossy paper, and provides for decal placement and colour scheme guides. Instructions are in English and Czech, and colour call-outs



use RLM codes for the Luftwaffe subjects and service colour names for the RAF and USAAF choices. The back page has some photos of a Ju 88G-6 and instructions on decal application.

The attractiveness and quality of this booklet's production suggests that Owl recognise that they have serve a collector's as well as builder's market. The title "Nightfighter

Experts" implies that the package provides for a collection of leading night fighter aces from the various air arms represented, and so forms the basis for a cohesive collection. This however is a bit misleading in my view as I shall shortly explain. The aircraft covered are:

- Bell P-39 Q Airacobra (Capt. Felix O. Scott)
- Messerschmitt Bf 109 D-1 (Oblt. Johannes Steinhoff)
- Junkers Ju 88 G-6 (Oblt. Herbert Koch)
- Hawker Hurricane N.F. Mk. IIc (S/L. James A. F. Maclachlan)
- De Havilland D.H. 98 Mosquito FB Mk. VI (S/L Russell „Rus“ Bannock)

The P-39 pilot scored one night victory, the P-61 crashed with apparently no mention of any victories, the Bf 109 pilot had 173 victories but none at night, and it's unclear if the Mosquito's nine victims were despatched by day or night, although possibly some of the 19 V-1 flying bombs were. The Ju 88 pilot had 23 and the Hurricane pilot five night victories. Without getting

too tied up over details I think that it would have to be agreed that this grouping hardly constitutes one of night fighter experts!

I should qualify my remarks by saying that they are based on the narratives provided by Owl Decals in their instructions, not my own research. So I may be unfair if misinterpreting the information given, although I don't think so.

The decal's production quality appears to be excellent, and following images should give the reader a good indication of what's included in the package. Both the 1/72 and 1/48 share the same

booklet, only the size decals sheets varying as would be expected.

Conclusion

These appear to be top quality decals with a superbly finished instruction booklet. The subjects are attractive and cover a nice variety of aircraft and air arms.

I feel however that the title is misleading in that the aircraft selected are not by any stretch of the imagination those flown by night fighter experts. I think that this package to some extent is style over substance, and aimed at decal collectors who like nice portrayals of

attractive schemes. This said, some nice schemes are provided. Given Owl's speciality in night-fighter subjects I think they could have researched and presented better choices of night-fighter experts' aircraft to fit the package theme, or they should have used a different title.

I can recommend these decals for their quality, but not as a basis for a collection of expert night-fighter pilot's aircraft.

Thanks to Owl Decals for the review samples.

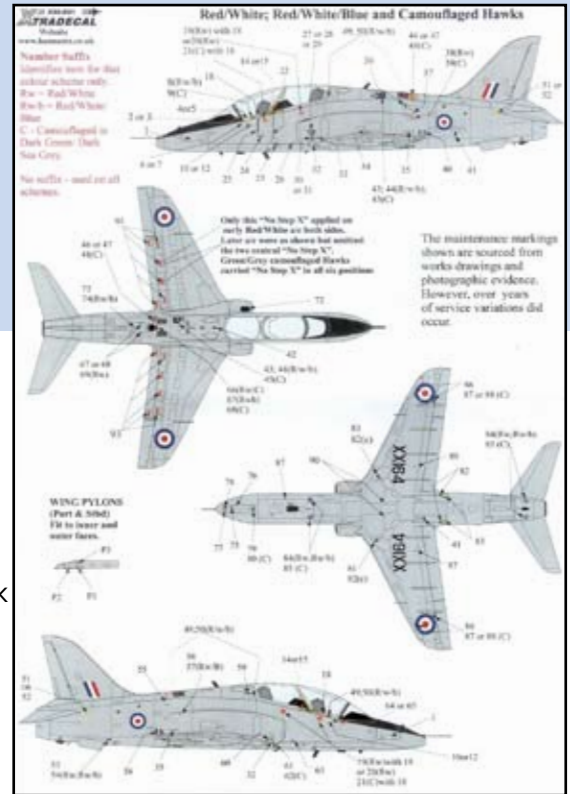


“The subjects are attractive and cover a nice variety of aircraft and air arms.”

REVIEW

XTRADECAL 1/32 BAE HAWK T.1 SERIAL NUMBERS & LETTERS AND COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE MARKINGS By Mark Davies

HAWK T.1



Catalogue Number:

X32030 (Black and White serial numbers and letters)

X32031 (Comprehensive Maintenance Markings)

Background

The BAe Hawk needs little introduction, representing as it does one of the most successful Western advanced trainers. Over 900 have been produced, and serve with 18 nations. The Hawk's attractive lines and plethora of colour schemes have made it a popular modelling subject. Revell's recent release of a 1/32 scale kit will no doubt give Hawk modelling another boost, and so Xtradecal's release of the two decals sheets reviewed here is very timely.

The decals are supplied in Xtradecal's usual A5 window envelope. Understandably, only the maintenance markings sheet has instructions, none being needed for serial numbers and letters.

X32030

Entitled: "BAe Hawk T.1A Black and White serial numbers and letters in underwing and fuselage sizes to customise any Hawk in RAF service". There's not much to add as that pretty much says it all!

X32031

Entitled: "BAe Hawk T.1 Comprehensive Maintenance Markings for all camouflage schemes". Two formats for maintenance marking placement are given, one for overall grey or black Hawks, and one for Red/White/Blue or camouflage Hawks. Sufficient markings for one of each of these two alternatives are provided. In both cases the airframe is depicted in pale grey to make stencil placement clear and obvious. The instructions are nicely produced in colour and clearly indicate markings

placement. These decals look to be superbly printed and with excellent colour density.

Conclusion

These look to be top quality decals that were well timed to support an initial burst of enthusiasm for the new Revell 1/32 BAE Hawk kit - Recommended.

Thanks to Xtradecal for these samples.

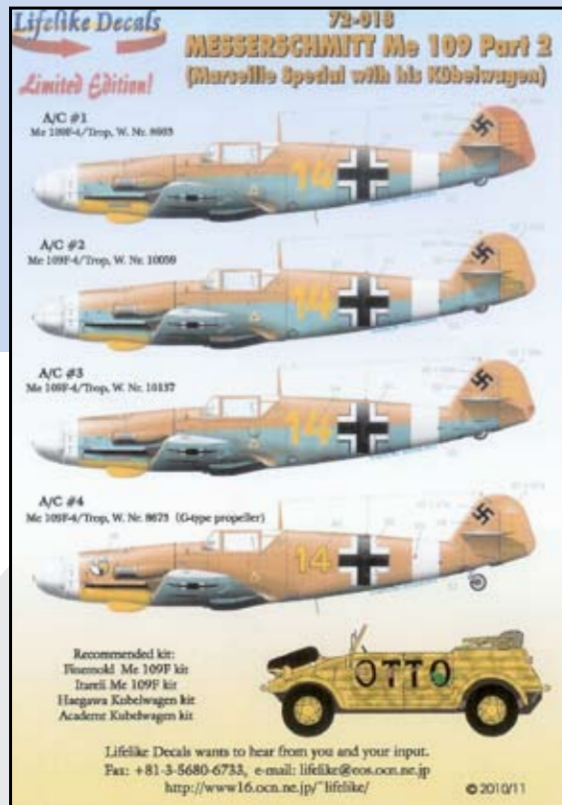
These look to be top quality decals



REVIEW

Lifelike Decals 1/72 Messerschmitt Me109 Part 2 (Marseille Special with his Kubelwagen)

By Mark Davies



First Look

For me the Bf 109F is perhaps the best looking of the numerous versions of this famous aircraft, and its clean lines are only enhanced by the crisp and simple desert scheme as covered by the decals reviewed here. The set provides markings for perhaps the most famous desert ace of all, Hans Joachim Marseille. It features four of the aircraft he flew, and as a bonus provides decals for his Kubelwagen named "Otto".

Lifelike probably have a winning combination with perhaps the first or second most popular model aircraft subject, a top German ace, and a nice but simple to execute colour scheme. The Kubelwagen decals are a nice bonus for diorama builders.

The decals come in the ubiquitous A5-sized zip-lock bag with a folded A4 page for instructions. These are very nicely printed in colour. However they lack any colour call-outs, and simply provide the aircraft version and works number. There are no narratives on service dates, location, or any other background information. The decals themselves look to be superbly printed and with good colour density. Sufficient national insignia for two complete aircraft are provided, however one set of upper wing crosses have ragged clear areas within their borders to represent where the

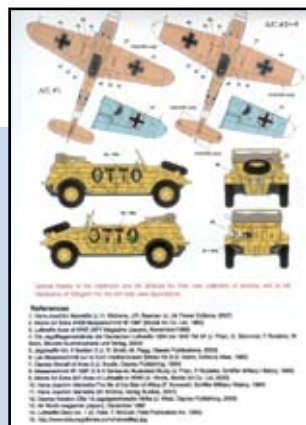
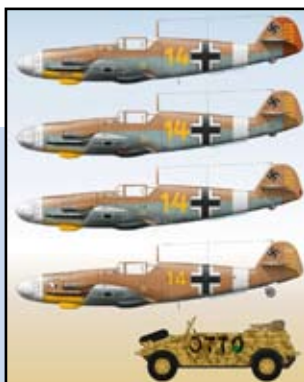
black paint had worn away on the real aircraft. An additional small sheet provides stenciling for one airframe.

Conclusion

These are superbly produced decals of an attractive and popular subject. Whilst most will know the correct RLM colours for the schemes selected, I feel that the instructions should still include RLM or other paint codes. A little more information on each aircraft's background would also have been nice.

This set is apparently a limited edition, so don't delay if you want one - Recommended

Thanks to Lifelike Decals for these samples.



ON THE CATWALK



DRAGON 1/35 VALENTINE MK III

This is an out of the box masterpiece by Lance Whitford built for the distributor.



DRAGON 1/48 FOCKE WULF FW 190A-8

Some follow up pictures from a review of the Typhoon in a previous newsletter. I have added some fairly simple items (figures, chocks, drip tray) to make a basic diorama, hopefully to add a little more life to the display. The figures come from the ICM 'RAF Pilots and Ground Crew Personnel' kit.

Barry Burton



BRONCO 1/35 V-1

Building something simple like the Bronco 1/35 V-1 can help clear the air while your mind is working on how to solve all those biplane rigging problems.

Bruce Salmon

CLASSIFIED

Stash 'n' Stuff

Need to BUY, SELL or SWAP stuff?

Place an ad for it.

Send Craig your message and he'll drop it in here for you. Ask for what you want, include your name, contact phone number, email address and a photo if it helps.

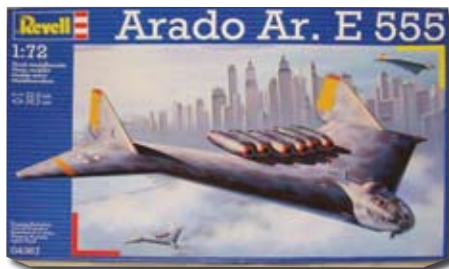
Email your message to;

vmfa451@xtra.co.nz

Wanted to buy

Arado Ar. E 555 Revell 1/72 scale
I can't find this one either. I'll pay a fair price if you can help me.
Contact Mike at;

mike@quantumcreative.co.nz
Office (09) 6300 526
Home (09) 424 7343
Bat phone 021 666 264



GALLERY

ON THE TABLE









SIGN OFF



MONOGRAM 1/48 AV-8B

Monogram's older kit of the AV-8B in "quarter scale" is still a very accurate model. At the time I started converting this one to the radar nose variant, the Hasegawa kit was not available. One of the unwritten laws of modelling is that as soon as you are nearing completion of a model that is not available, someone will release one, and that was the case here (I was able to use some Hasegawa parts on this build). AMRAAM Line conversion, Black Box cockpit, TwoBobs decals, modified Aires F/A-18 radar and lots of rescribing and scratchbuilding.

Craig Sargent



SCALE-MAIL