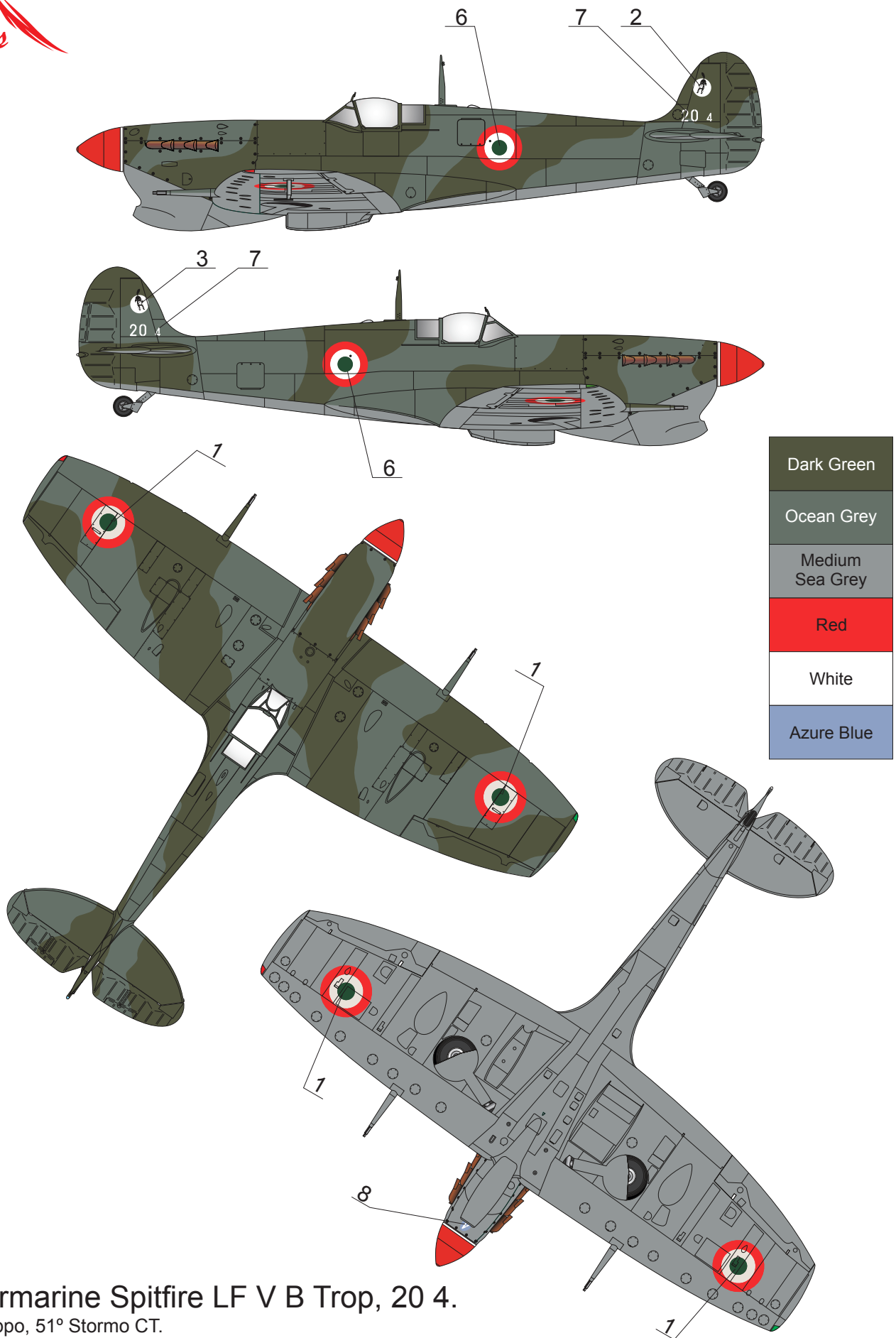
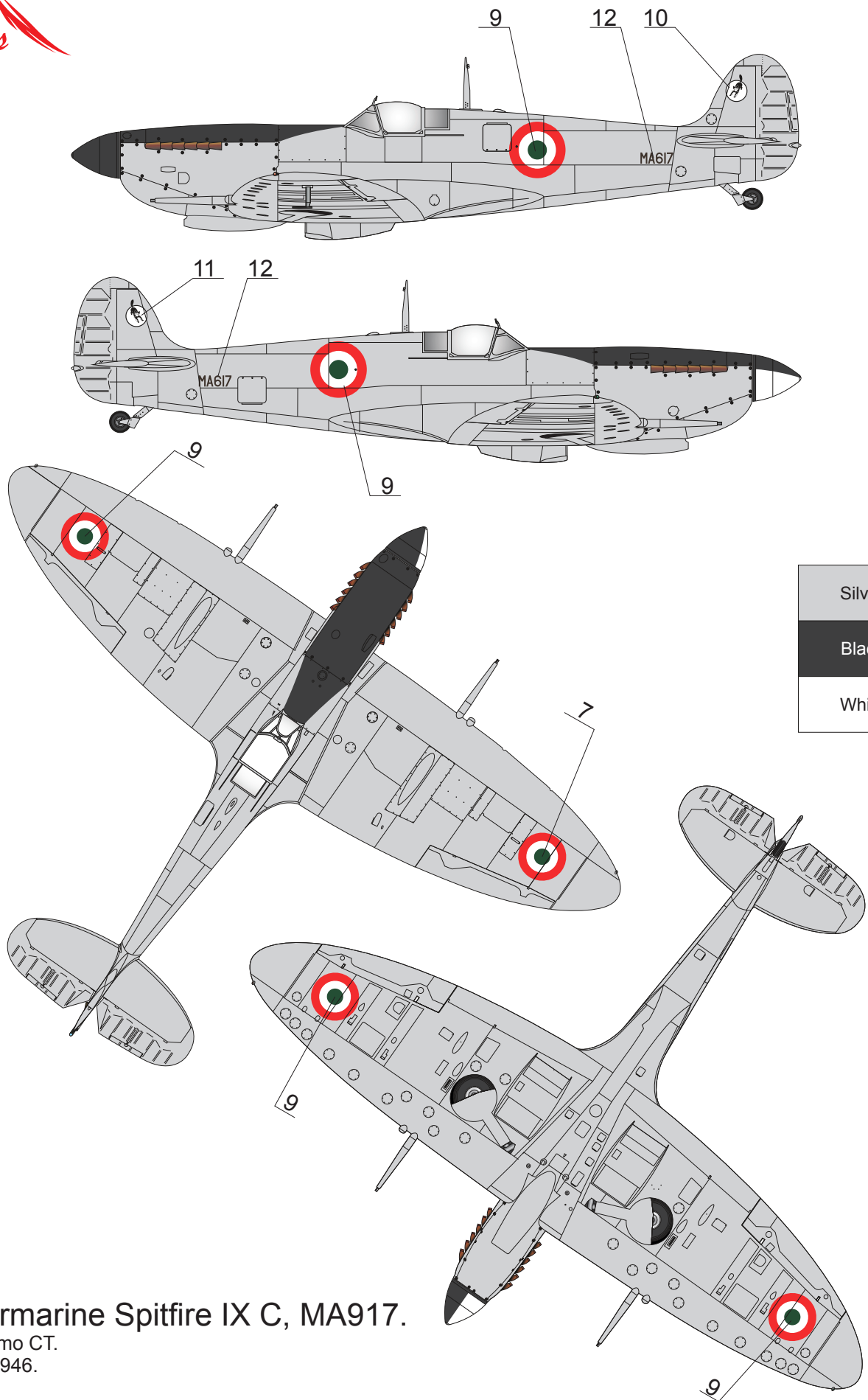


Supermarine Spitfire V C Trop, 20 1.  
20° Gruppo, 51° Stormo CT.  
Galatina, November 1944.



Supermarine Spitfire LF V B Trop, 20 4.

20° Gruppo, 51° Stormo CT.  
Canne, April 1945.



Supermarine Spitfire IX C, MA917.

51° Stormo CT.  
Lecce, 1946.

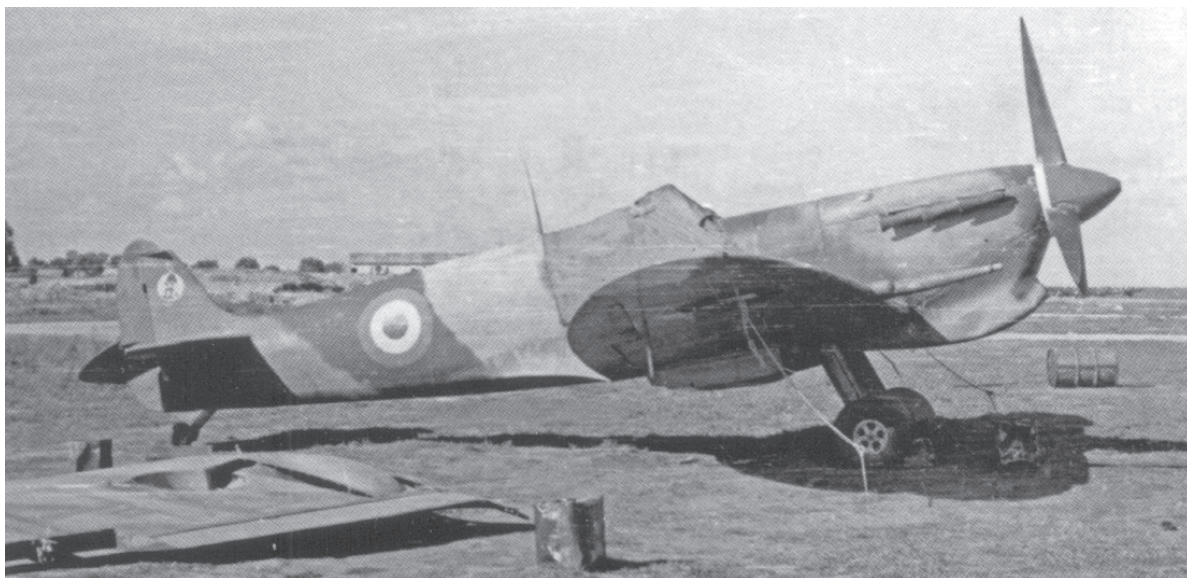


photo credit: Paolo Waldis & Marino De Bortoli „Camouflage and Markings of the Italian Air Force 1943-1945” books.

The Supermarine Spitfires Mk.V wearing camouflage schemes from their previous owners, essentially in Dark Earth and Mid Stone Desert Scheme with Azur Blue lower sides, were directly overhauled by RAF No.100 Maintenance Unit, therefore normally using original RAF paints, even if some pictures are showing patches of fresh colour clearly used to paint the British markings out and not well matching the surrounding areas.

According to propaganda sequence filmed at Canne in March 1945 by an official Balkan Air Force operator, many aircraft of 20th Gruppo were effectively repainted with Day Fighter Scheme (Dark Green and Ocean Grey with Medium Sea Grey lower surfaces) in the closing stages of war.

info based on Paolo Waldis & Marino De Bortoli „Camouflage and Markings of the Italian Air Force 1943-1945” books.

After the war, the Italians bought from the British about 150 Spitfire Mk.IX - these planes served in the 51st and 5th Stormo until 1950.

The planes were painted entirely silver, with a black anti-glare stripe. The spinners were painted in the "German style" - black with a white segment. The planes did not carry any individual markings apart from the RAF serial number and the unit emblem on the fin. It was only in 1947 that Italian Spitfires received Italian serial numbers.

Both fighter squadrons ended the use of Spitfires in 1950 - after 1952, most of them were scrapped, and 30 planes (in the best technical condition) were sold to Israel.

info based on Wojtek Matusiak „Supermarine Spitfire cz.3” book printed by AJ PRESS.

photo credit: Paolo Waldis & Marino De Bortoli „Camouflage and Markings of the Italian Air Force 1943-1945” books.

