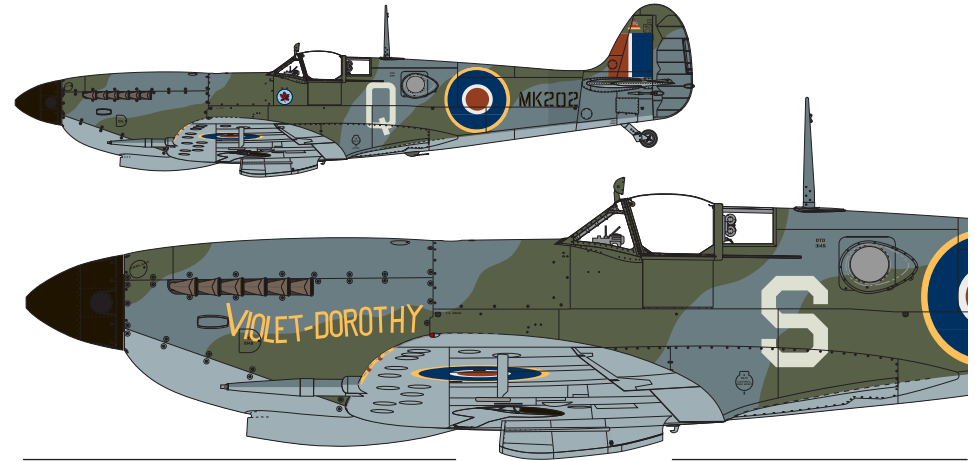
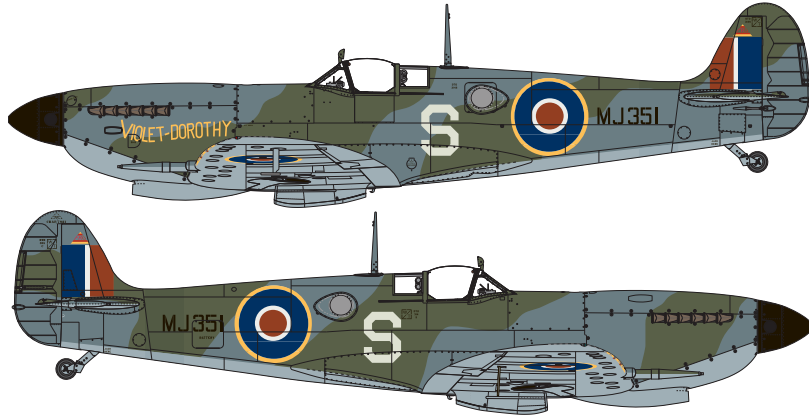


Spitfire FR.IXC MJ351 as S of 414 Squadron, 39 Wing, RCAF
As flown by F/L Ken Lawson • 2 January – 19 March 1945

Spitfire FR.IXC MK202 as Q of 414 Squadron, 39 Wing, RCAF
As flown by S/L Gordon Wonnacott • starting, January 1945



This Basic Set package provides the individual aircraft markings for two FR Spitfires of 414 “Sarnia Imperials” Squadron, 39 Wing, RCAF. If you’ve opted for the Full Set combo, then roundels and fin flashes for 1 aircraft (available separately as [ADD24c109-2](#)) are also included. Full and Basic Set “plus” combos that include an extensive set of Spitfire airframe stencil data markings (available separately as [ADD24s109](#)) are also available.

Although both were operational prior to 2 January 1945, each is depicted here with finish and markings details reflecting changes made on or after that date. These included refinishing of the Sky spinners in black, and the overpainting of the Sky “fighter band” on the rear fuselage in fresh camouflage colours. If either aircraft had a portion of the AEA “invasion” stripes remaining on the lower rear fuselage, this would have been similarly overpainted. The roundels on both surfaces of the wings were also field-converted to so-called Type C1 with yellow outer rings.

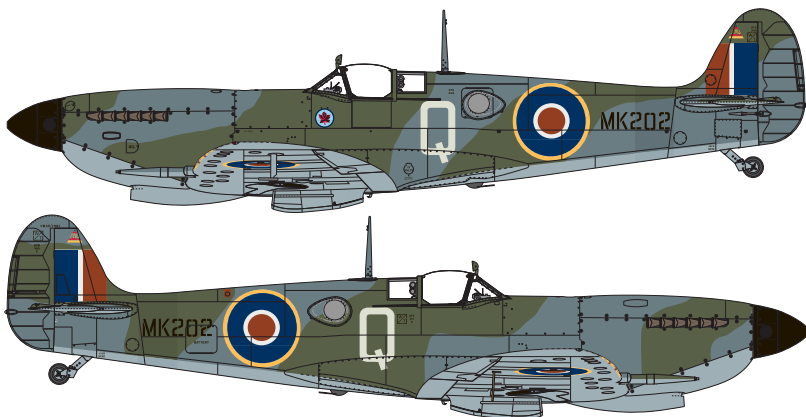
These Spitfires were originally built as standard LF.IXCs and modified to the rare FR.IXC – possibly redesignated LF.IXC (FR) – configuration by 501 Field Repair Unit (later, 1 FRU), RAF for use as fighter reconnaissance aircraft. The most noteworthy external modifications were a pair of camera “blisters” astride the radio equipment bay in the rear fuselage. The bay was also internally modified to accommodate an F24 camera which could be set to “look” obliquely out either side of the aircraft. Please refer to Aviaeology Docs Publication AOD-D009 for further details, including scale drawings. Also note that Laminar Flow Design (Belgium) have planned to produce ready-made conversion parts in this scale, based on their excellent work in other scales.

Variations and combinations available

- AOD24009-1 Full Set, includes all individual aircraft markings & ADD24c109-2 (Spitfire National Markings) in the same package.
- AOD24009-1x Basic Set, includes all individual aircraft markings, but not the Spitfire National Markings ADD24c109-2 (for those who prefer to use paint masks for roundels and fin flashes).
- AOD24009-1s Full Set +, with both ADD24c109-2 and ADD24s109 (Spitfire Airframe Stencil Data Markings) in the same package.
- AOD24009-1xs Basic Set +, with ADD24s109 in the same package (for those who prefer to use paint masks for roundels and fin flashes).

All components of each package described above are printed in small-batch production lots with the goal of making them continually available in our web shop, where availability may temporarily show “0” from time to time due to print run rotations for all products.

The Full Set and Basic Set packages, as well as any subject-related stand-alone National Markings sets and Airframe Stencil Data Markings sets, are also made available to our distributors and retailers.



Spitfire FR.IXc MJ351

“S” of 414 Squadron

This particular FR.IX came to 414 Squadron straight from the FRU. A note in its record has it down for a “major repair” on 7 July 1944. This is most likely the day she went to the FRU for conversion. By 15 August it was on record with 414 Sqn and flying operational sorties the very next day. F/L Ken Lawson had logged 25 missions in this a/c prior to it being brought down by flak on 19 March 1945, with squadron mate P/O Glaister at the controls. Our reference photo, taken just prior to the loss, shows a liberal amount of weathering and grime, including paint scuffed completely away from the wing root on the L/H (boarding) side. The yellow-ringed roundels in all six positions was current as of early January 1945.

Spitfire FR.IXc MK202

“Q” of 414 Squadron

At a glance this FR Spitfire has all the appearances of a nondescript squadron machine. However, its pilot – Edmontonian S/L Gordon Wonnacott DFC and Bar – makes it worthy of inclusion. Not only did he achieve the rare distinction of ace status with all victories scored as an FR pilot (in both Mustangs and Spitfires), but had three successes in a single action. On New Year's Day 1945, he was returning to Eindhoven (Allied Airfield B.78) after a recon sortie, and discovered *Bodenplatte* in full swing. Facing a daunting number of Luftwaffe fighter bombers and escorts attacking the airfield he reacted quickly, downing two Bf109s and damaging an Fw190 before running out of ammo. He was the squadron commanding officer at the time. At the time he was flying MK374 “R”. Although we could not locate a photo of this aircraft, the graphic interpretation presented here was cobbled together from images of contemporaneous Squadron aircraft.

Legends

detail notes →

Decal callouts →
decal notes

