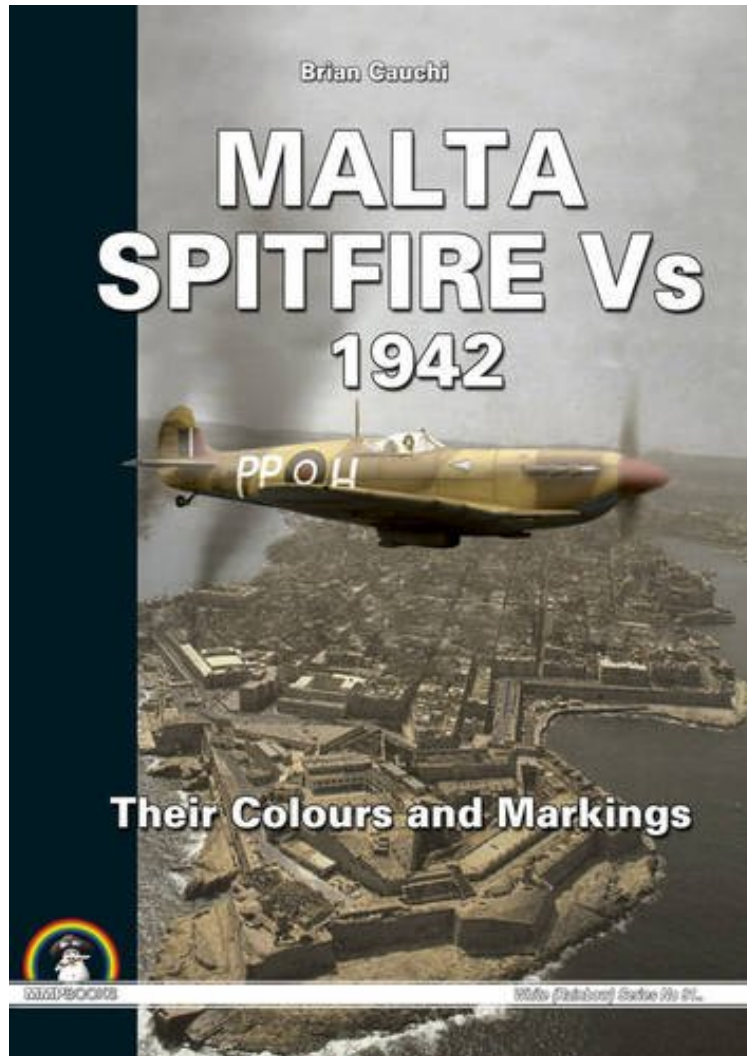


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## Malta Spitfire Vs - 1942: Their Colours and Markings (White Series)

Brian Cauchi

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**Brian Cauchi : Malta Spitfire Vs - 1942: Their Colours and Markings (White Series)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Malta Spitfire Vs - 1942: Their Colours and Markings (White Series):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A much needed reference book. By WW2nut There's been a lot of debate over Malta Spitfire camouflage colors and this book is the best attempt to date to solve those mysteries. The author does his best using official documents, photos, testimonials, and just good detective work to offer the best ideas of how these aircraft were painted for Malta operations. Some may be frustrated that there are still gray areas but that's

not likely to change as the history will always be a bit murky. There are dozens of color profiles, numerous excellent black and white photos along with a good operational history. He also includes color photos of aircraft remains, pilot profiles, delivery listings and history and other goodies. If you're interested in the Malta Spitfire operations you'll want to have this book in your library. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A well thought out analysis of controversial Spitfire colors on Malta. By Jim Meehan the book has good reproductions of photographs and well executed color profiles to illustrate the authors theory of the aircraft colors and sources of the paint and specifications. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent story as well as comments on colors and markings. By John Matlock The battle for Malta during 1942 was fiercely fought with the Germans and Italians wanted to remove this little island from the war as it was a major annoyance in their attempts to send supplies to Rommel in North Africa. Likewise, the British were quite determined to hold on to it. One aspect of the British determination was the supplying of up to date fighter aircraft to replace the ones all too frequently lost. The ability to ship Spitfires to Malta by ship was seriously hampered by the axis sinking the ships. The British responded by shipping the planes to Gibraltar where they were assembled, and loaded onto aircraft carriers for a trip deeper into the Mediterranean where they were launched and flown to Malta. Of particular interest to Americans was that one point in time the US Navy loaned the British the USS Wasp for such ferry duty. Of course the Spitfire was not a Navy carrier based plane. It was rather slow to accelerate, and did not have an arresting hook so landing on a carrier was impossible -- well sort of. The taking off was not something I'd want to do. You gave it full power, held it on the brakes as long as possible and went as fast as you could. Not having enough power to lift off the deck, you ran off the end of the carrier and started falling towards the water. Instinct would tell you to pull the plane up, but you'd best let it sink for a half mile or so as it built up speed. Then you could pull it up. Taking off was enough to scare you, but landing? Shortly after leaving the Wasp, Pilot Officer Jerrold A Smith realized that a fuel pump malfunction would prevent his making it to Malta. He flew around the carrier until the deck was clear. Then he came in to land -- wave off, too high. He came around again, full flaps, engine shut off -- he basically had a glider. Touch down and just before going off the end of the flight deck came to a stop. This little episode is covered with a more full description and photographs of his landing with the propeller not turning. Just part of the descriptive material in this book in addition to the color/markings description. A good book

In the desperate battle for Malta in 1941-2, when German and Italian bombers pounded the island, the arrival of Spitfire Vs helped turn the tables in favor of the Allies. Flown from RN and USN carriers, and some even direct from Gibraltar, the Spitfires significantly enhanced the defenses. For many years arguments have raged about the precise color schemes carried by these aircraft in this new book Brian Cauchi looks at all the evidence, from photos and personal memories through to surviving parts of these aircraft, and presents his personal interpretation of the many color schemes, official and otherwise, carried by these hard-pressed and hardworking warplanes.

For anyone interested in the air war in the Mediterranean or interesting Spitfire camouflages, this is an excellent book to have. (Internet Modeler) About the Author Brian Cauchi lives in Malta.