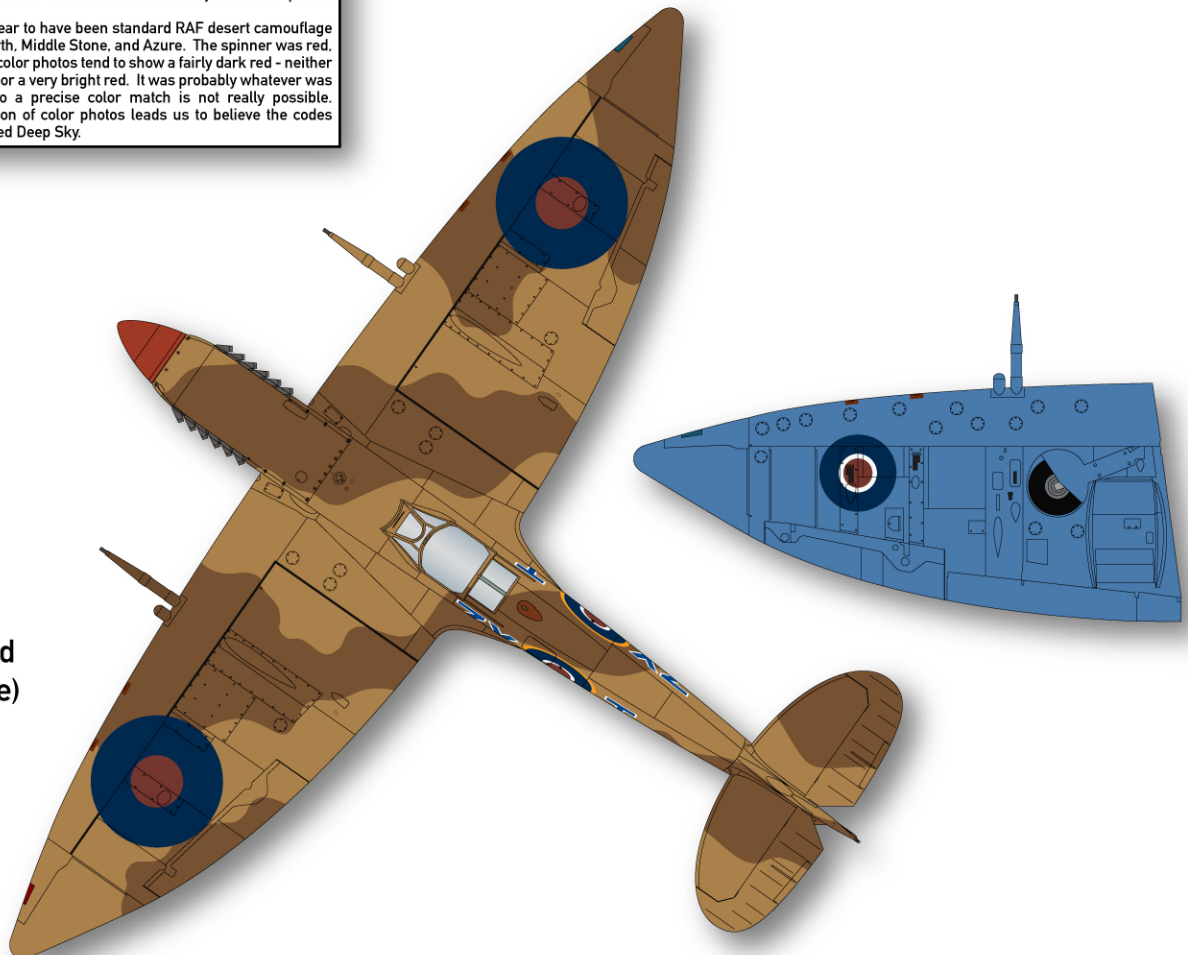


Detail Note

Lance Wade's Spitfire Mk.VIII was somewhat unusual in having extended wingtips (usually seen on the Mk.VI/VII) as well as the original rounded rudder. Elevators were the later type with the double angle to the counterweight section. Wheel hubs had four spokes, and the aircraft was fitted with a flat rear view mirror as often seen on early marks of Spitfires.

Colors appear to have been standard RAF desert camouflage of Dark Earth, Middle Stone, and Azure. The spinner was red, but period color photos tend to show a fairly dark red - neither Ident Red nor a very bright red. It was probably whatever was at hand, so a precise color match is not really possible. Interpretation of color photos leads us to believe the codes were painted Deep Sky.

-  Dark Earth
-  Middle Stone
-  Azure
-  Dark Red (see note)





Squadron Leader Oliver Charles Kallio, DSO, DFC

Some More History...

Because of his promotion Lance Wade turned the squadron, and JF472, over to fellow American S/L O. C. Kallio on 25 November 1943. Kallio came from Ironwood, Michigan and had been a mechanic in the US Army Air Corps in 1940. He enlisted in the RCAF and was sent to England prior to Pearl Harbor. By 1942 Flying Officer Kallio was flying Hurricanes with 33 Sqn in North Africa alongside Wade. In September 1943 Kallio was posted to 601 Sqn as a Flight Leader flying Spitfires. By the time Kallio took over 145 Sqn their role had changed to low level sorties including strafing and bombing and eventually covering the amphibious landings at Anzio. According to Chris Shores in "Those Other Eagles", Kallio made several claims while flying JF472:

- 2 December 1943, one Bf.109 probably destroyed (No.145 Squadron, Spitfire JF472)
- 30 December 1943, one Bf.109 damaged, Palena area (No.145 Squadron, Spitfire JF472)
- 18 February 1944, one FW.190 destroyed (No.145 Squadron) - possibly not in JF472

On 25 February 1944 Kallio suffered two broken legs in landing accident. He was probably not flying JF472 at this time as there is no mention of damage to the aircraft until July 1944. JF472 was SOC in September 1944.

Kallio took command of 417 Sqn RCAF during the summer of 1944 and led them on fighter-bomber sorties until November. On 25 February 1945 Kallio had been repatriated back to Canada. In 1946 he visited Wade's family in Reklaw, Texas only to find out that the Wing Commander's body had not made it home, yet. Wade did finally make it home to Texas and was laid to rest that summer.

The Case For Blue Codes...

But not the color we thought!

These photos show that the squadron codes on 145 Squadron aircraft were in fact a different color of blue than we originally surmised. Photos here clearly show that the codes were a lighter blue, which we believe to be Deep Sky or a blue close to it. Other interpretations have included Ident Red (roundel red), Ident Blue (roundel blue), or a light sky blue shade. Based on these photos, we feel relatively certain that Deep Sky is the actual color we are seeing.

We recommend using the Deep Sky codes supplied on a separate insert in the decal package.

