

Savoia-Marchetti S.79 Sparviero Torpedo-Bomber Units (Combat Aircraft)

Marco Mattioli

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Marco Mattioli : Savoia-Marchetti S.79 Sparviero Torpedo-Bomber Units (Combat Aircraft) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Savoia-Marchetti S.79 Sparviero Torpedo-Bomber Units (Combat Aircraft):

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Combat Log of the S.79 By R. J. Morgan This was a nice surprise, producing a fascinating book on the combat record of the Savoia-Marchetti Sparviero, the odd-looking tri-motor used by the Italian Air Force in torpedo-attack role during World War II. Layout is in chronological order covering combat operations for both the Regia Aeronautica and its late-war AR successor. Technical details on the aircraft are limited, the text almost entirely covering the men and units that flew the high risk torpedo-attack missions throughout the

Mediterranean against the Allied forces. Photographic selection is excellent and includes in-flight and in-combat shots. Profiles are nicely done in typical Osprey fashion and include two pages of unit insignia. Modelers will appreciate the different views of the complex Italian camouflage used throughout the war. Cover art is excellent as well. It's refreshing to see a relatively obscure aircraft like the S.79 covered with its own book; this effort is an excellent effort for its size and cost. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Great book on this aircraft By Scott Bailey Good overview of the units and aircraft development in WW2. Book talks about the mission and the pilots who flew them, many pictures and color drawing of the aircraft. Interesting part of the book is the use of this aircraft after Italy surrendered. One group continued to use this aircraft in its intended role fought for the Germans after the surrender of Italy. Another group used the aircraft as a transport for the Allies after the surrender of Italy. Many unit histories are covered who used this aircraft. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not knowing a lot about Italian bomber/torpedo units in W. ... By carbinemike Not knowing a lot about Italian bomber/torpedo units in W.W.II, I found this book very insightful for its history of the units and individuals, tactics and color plates.

Italy's Sparviero (Sparrowhawk) saw combat with the Regia Aeronautica in France, Yugoslavia, Greece, North Africa, East Africa and in the Mediterranean versus the Royal Navy. Italy's most successful wartime bomber, the S.79 was also the most produced, with around 1370 built between 1936 and early 1944. Initially developed by Savoia-Marchetti as a transport aircraft it had evolved into a dedicated medium bomber by the time the S.79-I made its combat debut with the Aviazione Legionaria in the Spanish Civil War in 1936. The manufacturer then produced the S.79-II torpedo-bomber, fitted with 1000 hp Piaggio or Fiat radial engines in place of the original 780 hp Alfa Romeos. Entering service in 1939, the S.79-II saw much action over the next four years, particularly in its intended torpedo-bomber role against the Royal Navy in the Mediterranean. Indeed, the Sparviero crews tasked with targeting Allied shipping became national heroes in Italy thanks to their exploits, with men such as Buscaglia, Graziani, Erasi, Faggioni, Di Bella, Aichner and Cimicchi being as revered as fighter aces in other countries. Following Italy's surrender in September 1943, a large number of S.79s continued to see action against the Allies with the pro-German RSI, although they suffered heavy losses. This is the first of two proposed volumes on the S.79, the second book detailing its use as a bomber and transport.

About the Author A native of Rome, Marco Mattioli has been interested in military history since he was a teenager. In 1992 he joined the Italian National Journalist Order, after which he was employed as a writer for several leading Italian history publishers. A contributor to many important Italian history and defense magazines, as well as the author of a number of books on Italian military aviation, he wrote Osprey Aviation Elite Units 38 - 53° Stormo. The author lives in Rome, Italy.