

The Incredible Savoia Marchetti 79 Sparviero Bomber Units Combat Aircraft 122: A Legend in the Skies

When it comes to combat aircraft, few can match the prowess and historical significance of the Savoia Marchetti 79 Sparviero. Developed in the 1930s, this Italian bomber played a crucial role in World War II and earned its place as a legend in the skies.

The Savoia Marchetti 79 Sparviero, also known as the S.79, was first introduced in 1936. It quickly gained recognition for its exceptional performance and striking design. With its distinctive three-engine layout and robust construction, the S.79 became an iconic symbol of Italian aviation.

The Birth of a Legend

The S.79 was designed with a specific purpose in mind: to serve as a long-range bomber capable of carrying a significant payload. Its massive fuselage could accommodate up to 1.5 tons of bombs, making it a formidable weapon in aerial warfare.



Savoia-Marchetti S.79 Sparviero Bomber Units (Combat Aircraft Book 122)

by Stephen L. Moore (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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Equipped with three engines, the S.79 had an impressive range of over 1,700 miles and a top speed of 295 mph. These capabilities allowed it to travel great distances without refueling, making it ideal for strategic missions deep into enemy territory.

The bomber was also armed with a range of machine guns, providing defensive capabilities against enemy fighters. Its strong armor protected the crew, allowing them to withstand heavy enemy fire and continue their missions.

Combat Performance

The S.79 first saw combat during the Spanish Civil War, where it proved its mettle as a reliable and formidable bomber. Its success in this conflict led to the aircraft being adopted by several other countries, including Germany, Hungary, and Romania.

During World War II, the S.79 played a crucial role in the Italian Royal Air Force's bombing campaign. Operating in various theaters, including North Africa and the Mediterranean, it struck fear into the hearts of Allied forces.

One of the most notable operations conducted by the S.79 was the raid on the British naval base at Alexandria in 1941. This daring attack showcased the aircraft's exceptional range and accuracy, causing significant damage to the Royal Navy's Mediterranean Fleet.

Despite its success, the S.79 faced challenges when facing technologically advanced opponents. As the war progressed, newer aircraft with superior speed and firepower began to outmatch the S.79 in combat. However, the bomber's reputation and historical significance remained intact.

Legacy and Impact

With over 1,300 units produced, the S.79 became one of the most iconic bombers of its time and left a lasting impact on aviation history. Its remarkable design and combat performance influenced the development of subsequent aircraft, both in Italy and around the world.

The S.79's lasting legacy can still be seen today, with several restored aircraft on display in museums and private collections. These preserved examples serve as a testament to the exceptional engineering and design of this legendary combat aircraft.

The Savoia Marchetti 79 Sparviero (S.79) stands as a testament to the ingenuity and technological advancements of its time. This legendary bomber earned its place in history, serving with distinction during some of the most challenging periods in World War II.

While newer aircraft eventually surpassed the S.79 in terms of technology and capabilities, its impact on aviation history and the memories of those who witnessed its might shall forever remain.

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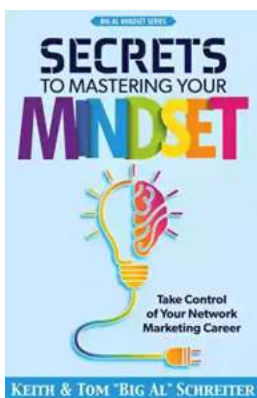


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Initially developed by Savoia-Marchetti as a transport, the aircraft had evolved into a dedicated medium bomber by the time the S.79-I made its combat debut in the Spanish Civil War in 1936. During World War 2, it became Italy's most successful bomber, and the most produced, with around 1370 built between 1936 and early 1944. Although initially hampered by poor tactics, the S.79 bomber crews nonetheless scored sunk a number of Allied vessels, and provided a constant threat to Allied sailors in the Mediterranean in the early stages of the war. In East Africa and the Red Sea the Sparvieri were the most modern bombers in-theatre, proving a challenge to RAF and SAAF biplane fighters.

Using specially commissioned full-colour artwork, first-hand accounts and historic photographs, this volume chronicles the history of the S.79's war in the Mediterranean, North African, Balkan, and East African theatres.



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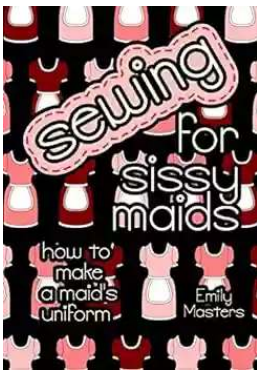
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