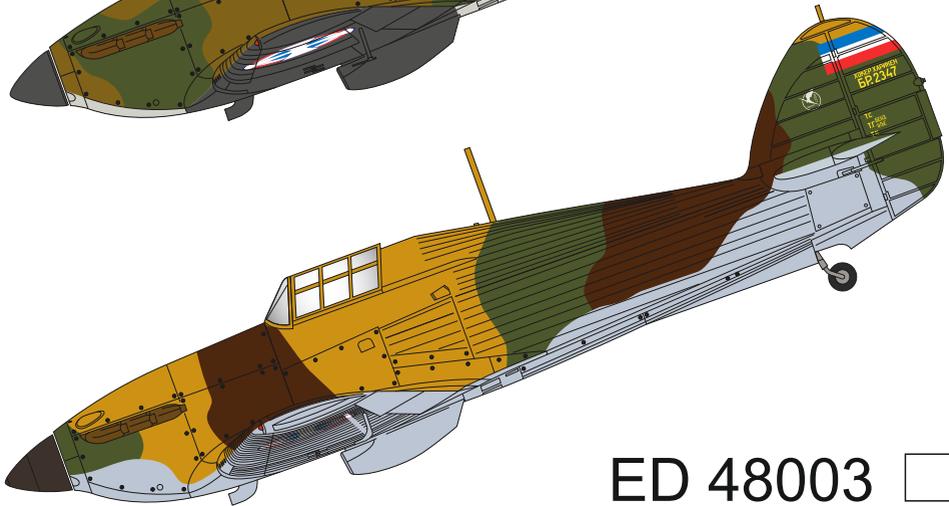
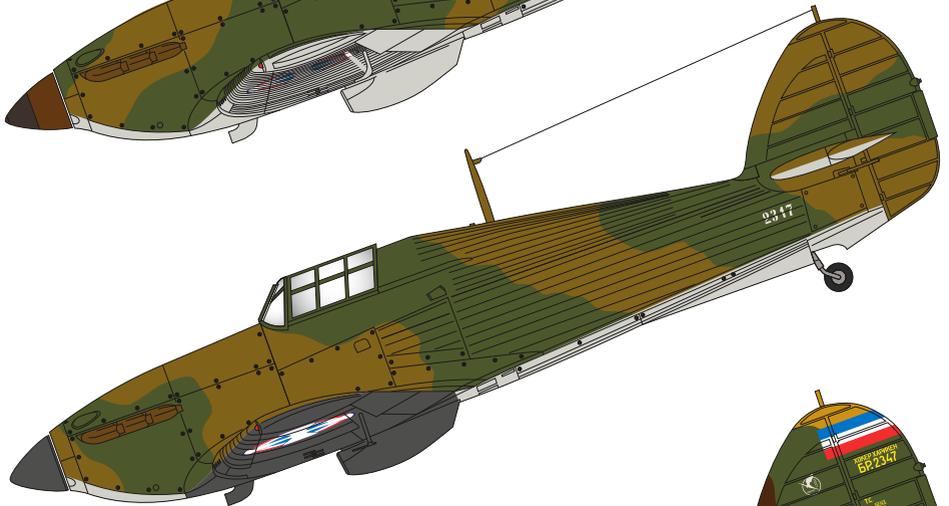




# Hariken

Hawker Hurricane Mk.I  
in Yugoslav service



ED 48003

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# Hawker Hurricane in Yugoslav service

Yugoslav pilots had the opportunity to fly the Hurricane Mk.I during April and May 1938, during the Royal Yugoslav Air Forces delegation visit to the United Kingdom.

Owing to the good political relations between the UK and KJ and confidence in the ability of the Yugoslav aeronautical industry, which already successfully mastered the manufacturing of Hawker Fury, the British agreed to deliver 24 fighters manufactured at Hawker and to sell the licence for production of the type in Yugoslav factories. As such Kingdom of Yugoslavia became the first country to acquire the licence for the production of such modern and complex British fighter. Contract for 12 aircrafts and the licence was signed in December 1938.

The first two Hurricanes flew over 15 December 1938 from Brooklands across France and Italy to Belgrade. The next 10 aircrafts were shipped in April 1939. Those aircrafts were taken from Hawker's first series of 600 Hurricanes and had Rolls-Royce Merlin II engines with two blade Watts propellers, fabric covered wings, non armored windscreen and radio mast.

The next delivery, in accordance with the agreement from 11 January 1940 and contract with Hawker from 12 January 1940, followed in March and April 1940 when the next 12 Hurricanes from Hawker's second batch arrived. Those 12 Hurricanes had Rolls-Royce Merlin III engines with three bladed de Havilland/Hamilton Standard propellers, metal stressed skin wings, new bulletproof windscreen and new type radio mast.

The initial intend to produce 100 Hurricanes by Yugoslav aeronautical industry (60 at Zmaj and 40 at Rogozarski) never materialized. By securing the licence and deliveries for the British engines, Royal Yugoslav Air Forces Headquarters ordered the production only 48 licence aircrafts (24 at Zmaj and 24 at Rogozarski). Contracts with both factories were signed on 31 March 1939 while the delivery date was set to 30 September 1940.

A contract with Rolls-Royce was signed for delivery of 60 Merlin III engines with the delivery date between September 1939 and March 1940.

Due to long and complex preparations, production of Hariken (as Hurricane was called by the Yugoslavs) at Zmaj began during summer of 1939. With the start of war in Europe on 1 Sept. 1939, numerous hold ups and stoppages due to suspension of deliveries from the UK slowed the work down. As a consequence, the work on first 24 Harikens was completed at the beginning of April 1941. The first Zmaj-built Hariken took off on 21 March 1941, and till beginning of war total 15 Zmaj-built Harikens had been delivered. A total nine of brand new aircrafts were delivered from Zmaj during the war.

The Hariken production at Rogozarski experienced more difficulties than at Zmaj. Until that time Rogozarski didn't construct modern aircraft consisting of metal construction, its experts and workers had to embrace new technologies and skills during the construction itself, which of course slowed the work down. Rogozarski didn't manage to complete a single aircraft, despite completing 78% of parts and sub-assemblies for the 24 aircraft on order.

Licence-built Harikens had Rolls-Royce Merlin III engines with three bladed Rogozarski U-21 propellers with mechanical command, fabric covered wings, non armored windscreen and old type of radio mast.

Those aircrafts had been equipped with eight 7,9mm M.38 (FN Browning) machine guns.

At the beginning of April 1941 Royal Yugoslav Air Force had 35 operational Harikens.

Four were assigned to 3 PS (3rd Pilot School), 16 to 4.LP (4th Fighter Regiment) and 15 to 2.LP (2nd Fighter Regiment).

At 6th April 1941 Harikens have located as follows

- Kraljevo Airport / Knić auxiliary war airfield - 8 Harikens (163.E, 51.VG, 2.LP) + 7 Harikens (164.E, 51.VG, 2.LP) + 1 LVT-1 (Hawker Hurricane with DB.601A engine)
- Bosanski Aleksandrovac war airfield - 5 Harikens (105.E, 33.VG, 4.LP) + 6 Harikens (106.E, 33.VG, 4.LP) + 5 Harikens (108.E 42.VG, 4.LP)
- Kosor auxiliary war airfield near Mostar - 4 Harikens (3.PS)

info based on Ognjan Petrović & Djordje Nikolić book „Yugoslav Fighter Colours 1918-1941“ published by MMP Books



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