IAF-136 1:32

Israeli Air Force

Meteor

F Mk 8 and FR Mk 9

117 Squadron

107 Squadron

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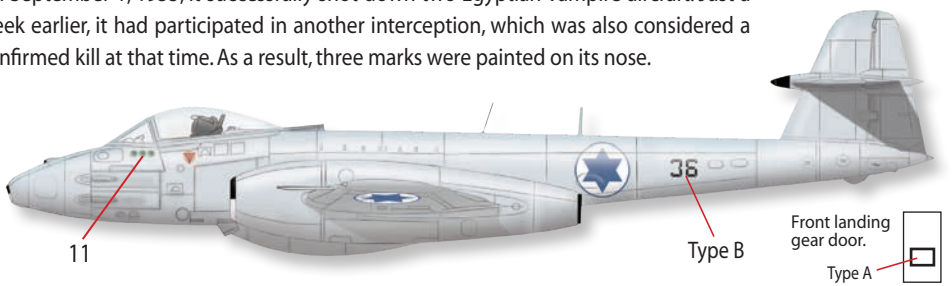
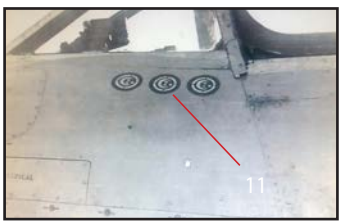
The Gloster F.8 and FR.9 Meteors were delivered to Israel with a high-speed silver finish, resembling their appearance in other countries. In late 1956, a few Meteors were painted in experimental camouflage colors to test their effectiveness on a jet fighter. Unfortunately, the initial paint did not adhere well. It took several years to find a suitable solution for painting jet fighters.

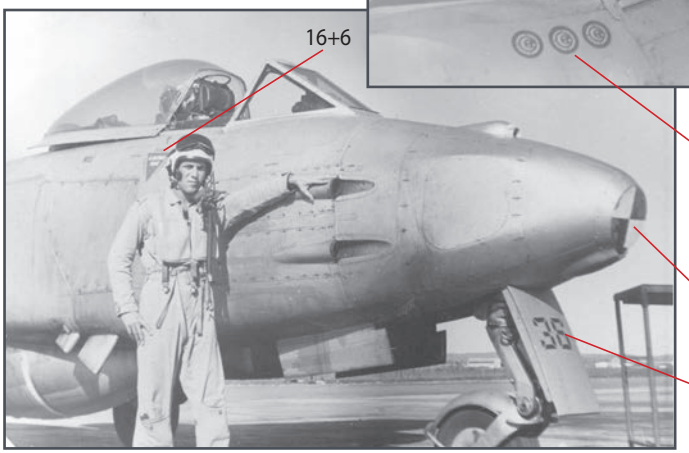
In September 1955, as part of preparations for an impending war, black stripes were painted on the wings and fuselage of aircraft. During the 1956 Sinai Campaign, in accordance with agreements made with France and the UK, yellow and black stripes were also added to the fuselage and wings.

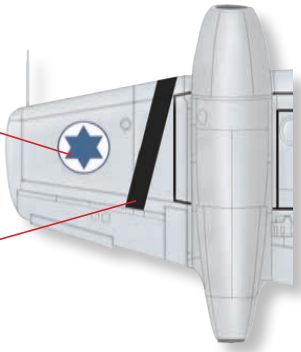
The FR.9 Meteor number 36 is the only Israeli Meteor to have shot down enemy planes. On September 1, 1955, it successfully shot down two Egyptian Vampire aircraft. Just a week earlier, it had participated in another interception, which was also considered a confirmed kill at that time. As a result, three marks were painted on its nose.





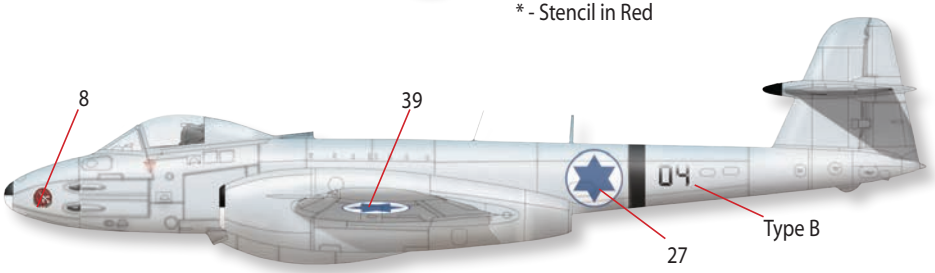
The stencis were as painted by Gloster. As they were faded quite fast, Hebrew stencils were painted in Hebrew.

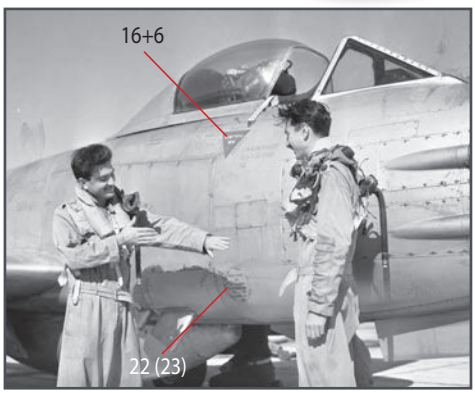


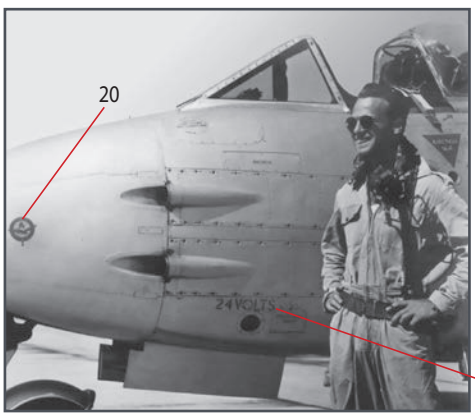


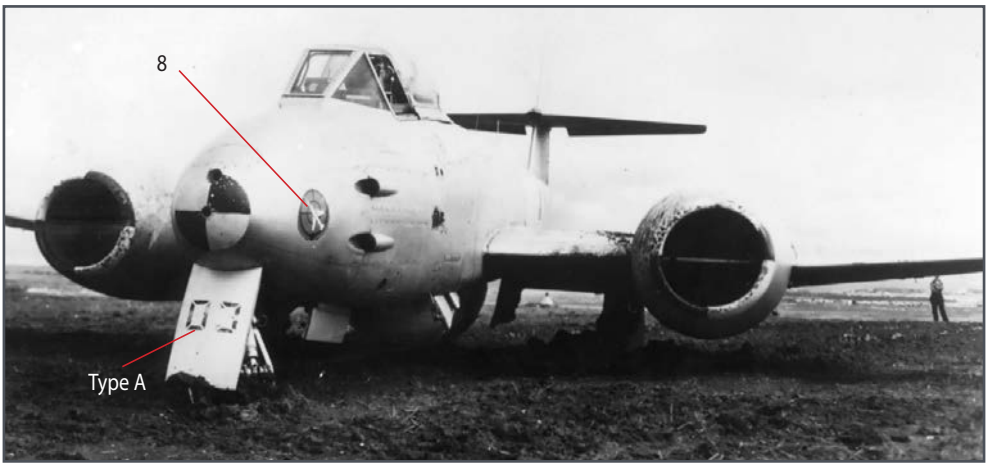
Black stripes were painted in September 1955 during the "Tempo" exercise, which was conducted to prepare for war.

* - Stencil in Red

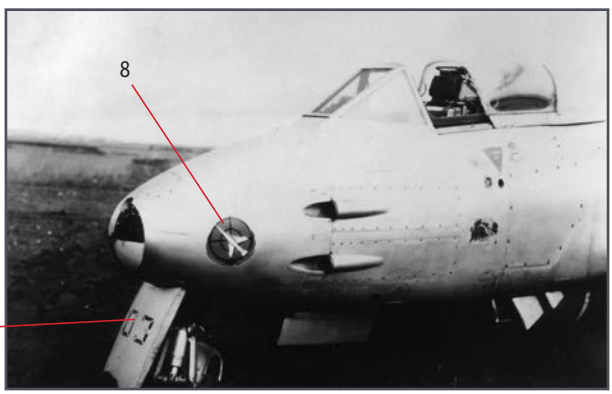


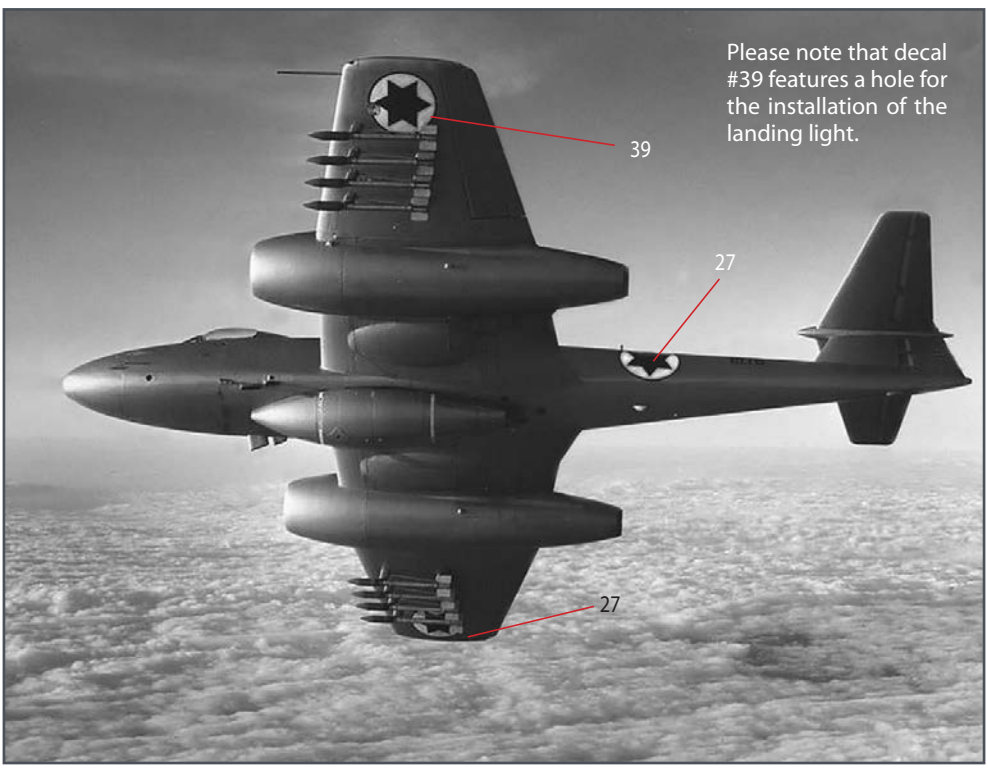




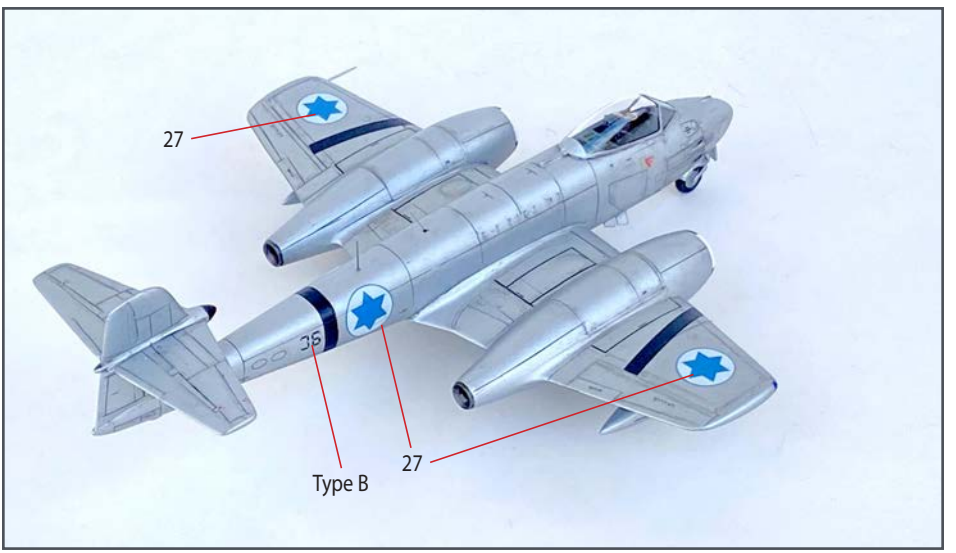


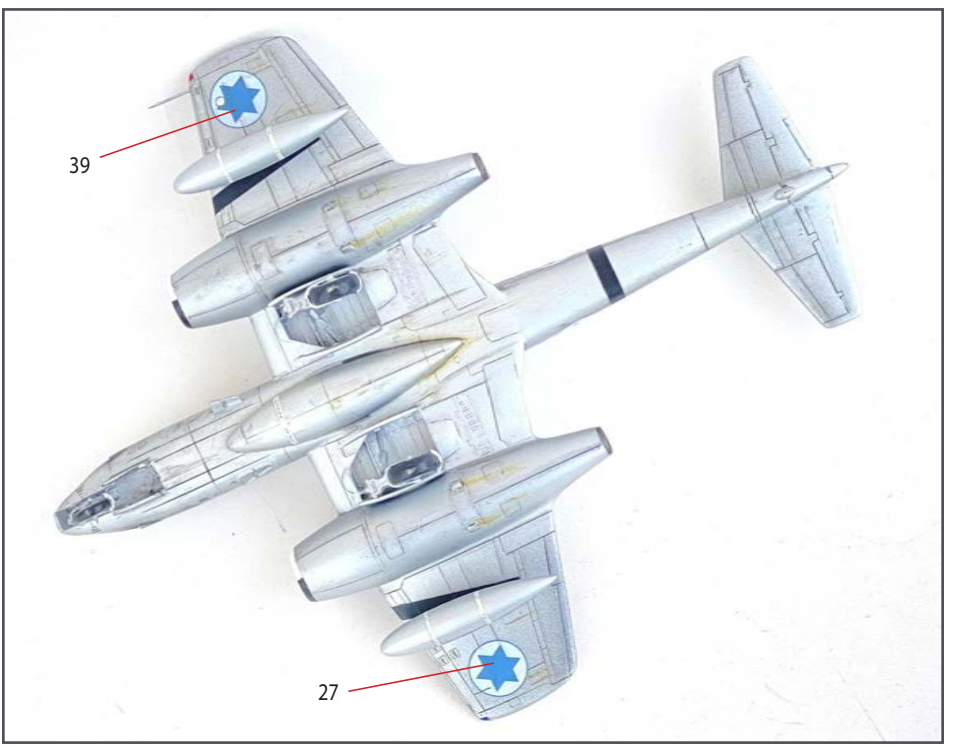
The Meteors were stationed with the 117 Squadron at Ramat David air base, which was designated as the First Jet Squadron. The squadron's badge (decal #8) was painted on the nose of the aircraft, similar to the propeller-driven aircraft of the 101, 105, and 107 Squadrons that were also serving at the same base during that time.




Please note that decal #39 features a hole for the installation of the landing light.
39
27
27

Yoav Efrati's FR.9 Meteor.

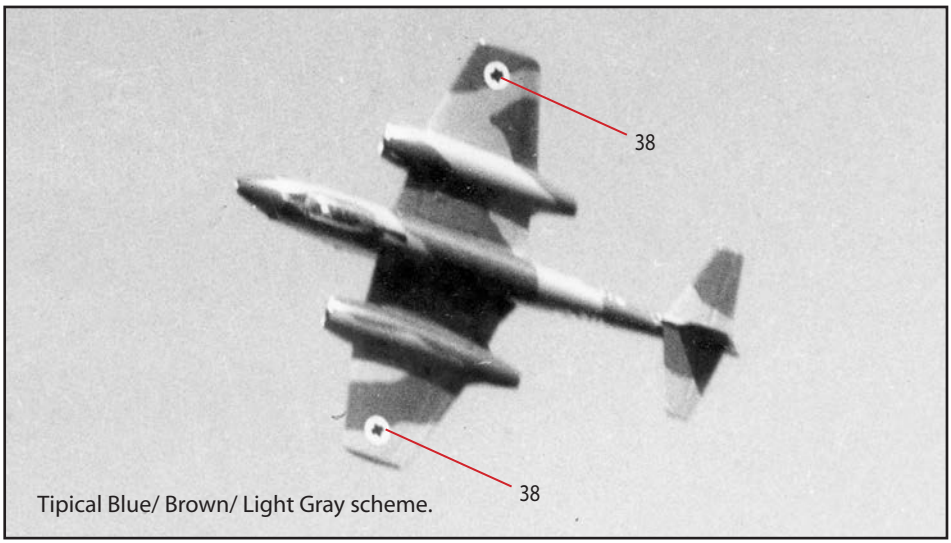



39
27

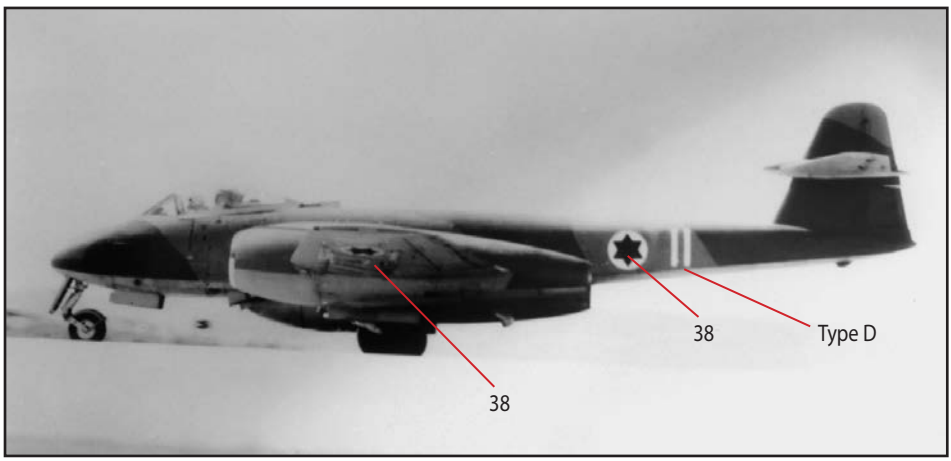
Most of the Meteors were primarily assigned to the 117 Squadron. The Night Fighters, the NF-13 Meteors, were stationed at the 119 Squadron, which was established at Ramat David and later relocated to Tel Nof Air Force Base. Several T-7 Meteors were converted into reconnaissance aircraft, equipped with vertical cameras mounted on their undersides, and transferred to the 115 Squadron, which operated the PR-16 Mosquitos.

In 1962, following the introduction of the Mirage III, it was decided to consolidate all Meteors at Ramat David and reform the 107 Squadron. Most of these aircraft had already been painted in a blue, brown, and light grey camouflage scheme. The 107 Squadron functioned as an Operational Training Unit (OTU). In its role as a training squadron, the Meteors were marked similarly to the aircraft of the Flight School, such as the T-6 Harvard, PT-17 Stearman, and Fouga Magister, with the nose, rear fuselage, and specific areas on the wings painted in Trainer Yellow.

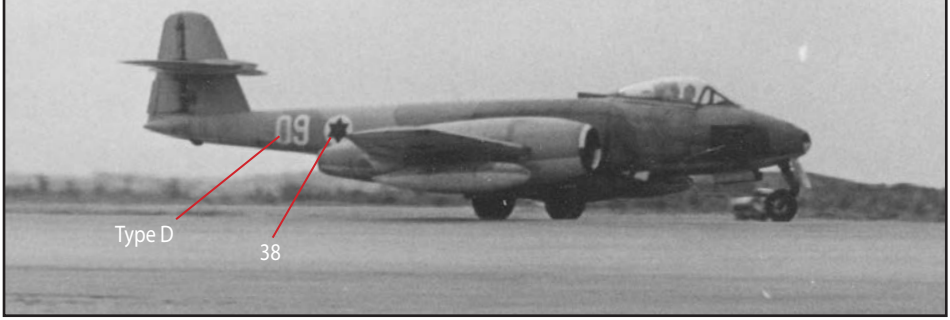
In 1963, a decision was made to repaint the aircraft, applying removable Day-Glo Red stripes in place of the previously yellow areas. At that time, the NF Meteors were retired from service, while the two-seat versions were reassigned to the 110 Vautour Squadron.

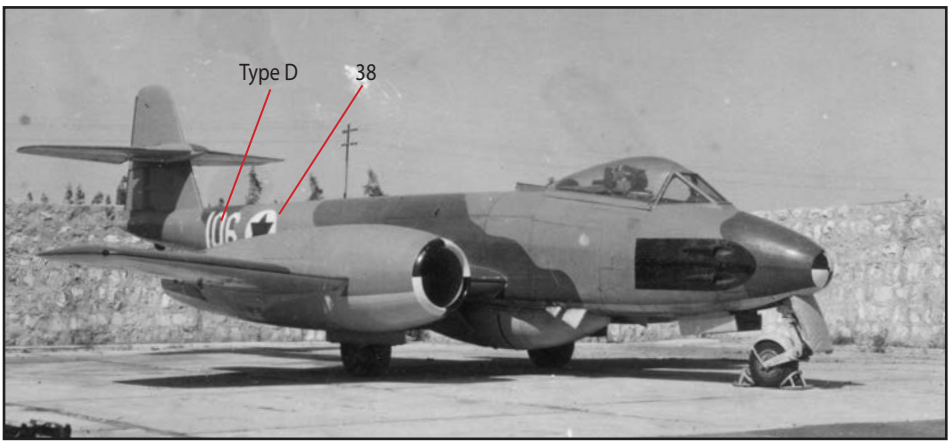


Tipical Blue/ Brown/ Light Gray scheme.



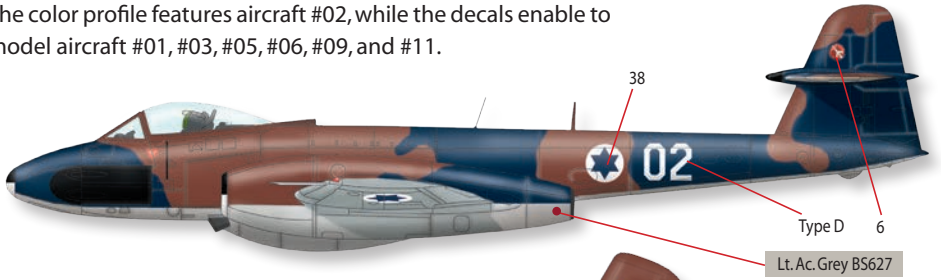
The final quality painting was completed by Israel Aircraft Industries in the late 1950s, using square type numbers (type D). The paint application featured a sharply masked line between colors.

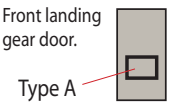


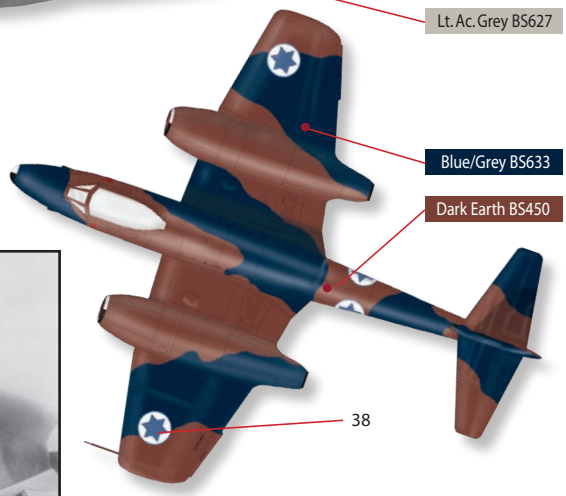


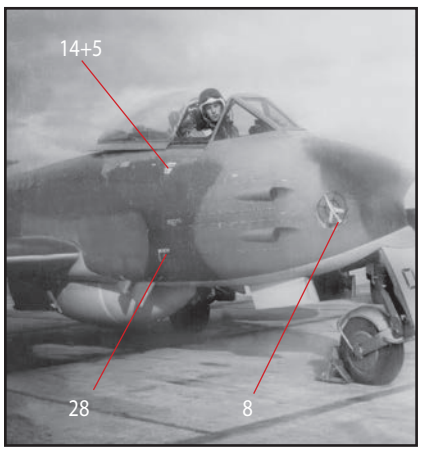
The original paint job featured a freehand spray paint color scheme.

The color profile features aircraft #02, while the decals enable to model aircraft #01, #03, #05, #06, #09, and #11.

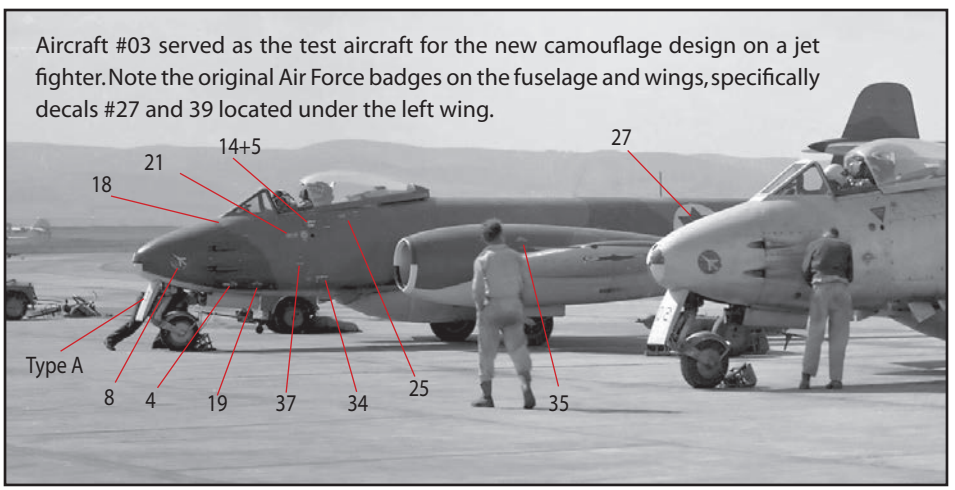








Meteor F.8 #03 before the black-painted box was added, covering the gun area. Note that not all aircraft had the squadron badge painted on.



FR.9 Meteor #34.

A photo from 1961 shows three FR.9 Meteors: #31, #33, and #34. The numbers are Type C decals.

A rare and unique photo of the Meteor line in 1962 at 107 Squadron, featuring a Blue/Brown/Light Grey scheme with trainer yellow-painted areas.

F.8 Meteor #09

F.8 Meteor #06

Yellow nose

FR.9 Meteor #31

Yellow trapeez on the wings

FR.9 Meteor #33

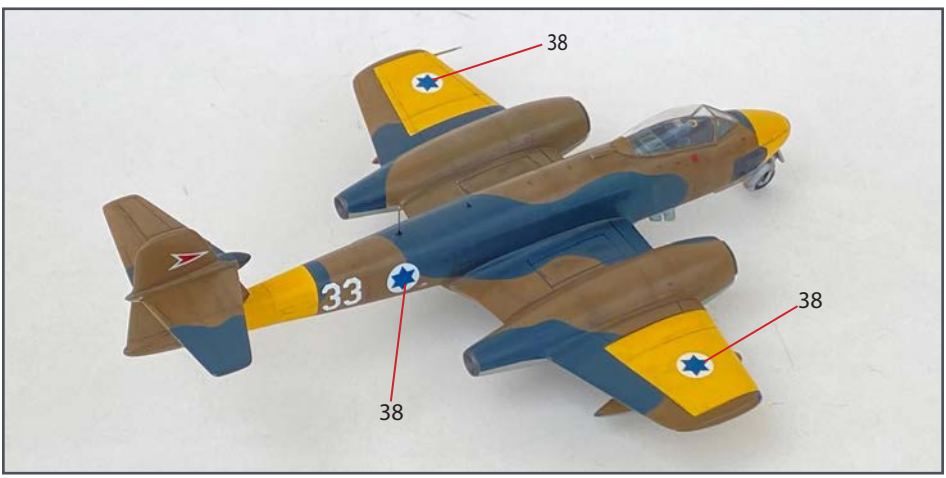
FR.9 Meteor #34

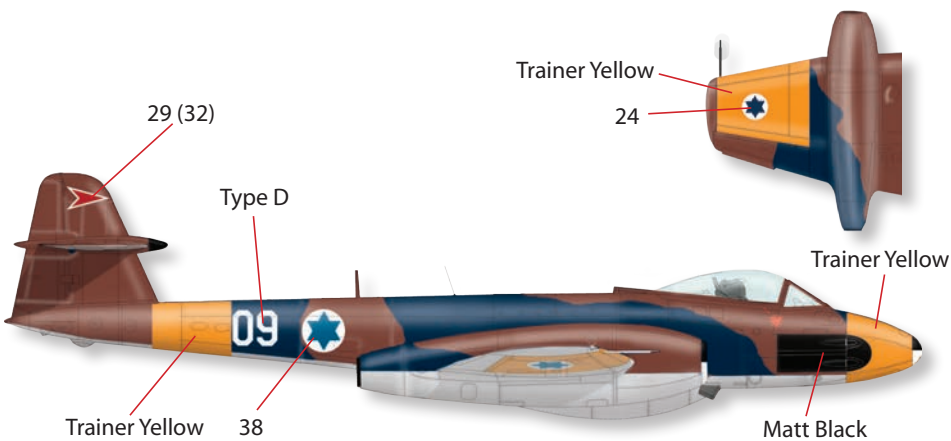
32 (29)

Yellow band on the rear fuselage

A model created by Yoav Efrati. This decal lets you build one of the FR.9 models: #31 or #35, or the F.8 models: #03, #06, #09, or #11.

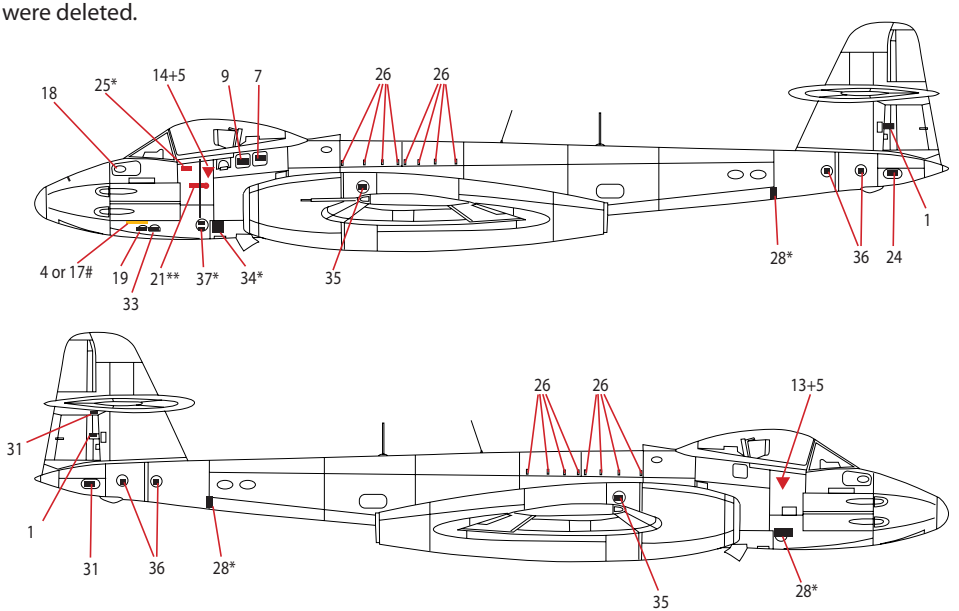
Yoav Efrati's FR.9 Meteor.





Stencils for camuflaged aircraft

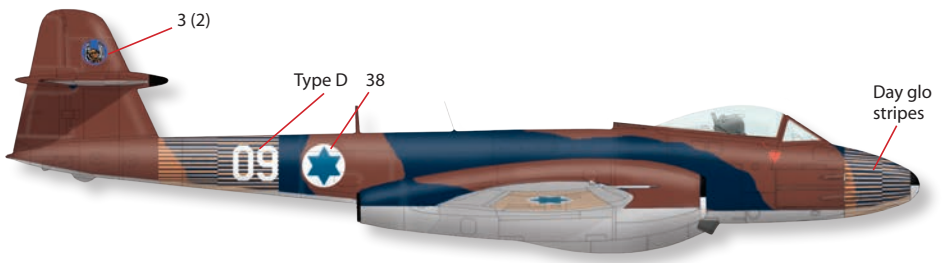
When the Meteors were painted with camouflage, most stencils were repainted in white paint and remained in English. Several main stencils were translated into Hebrew, while many others were deleted.



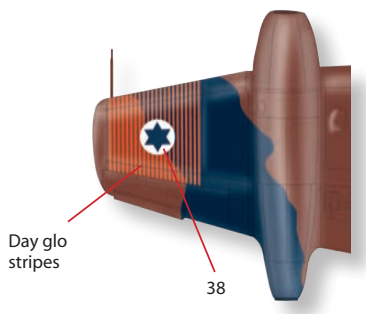
* - White stencils for camuaflage planes. Black stencils for natural metal scheme.

** - White stencils for camuaflage planes. Red stencils for natural metal scheme.

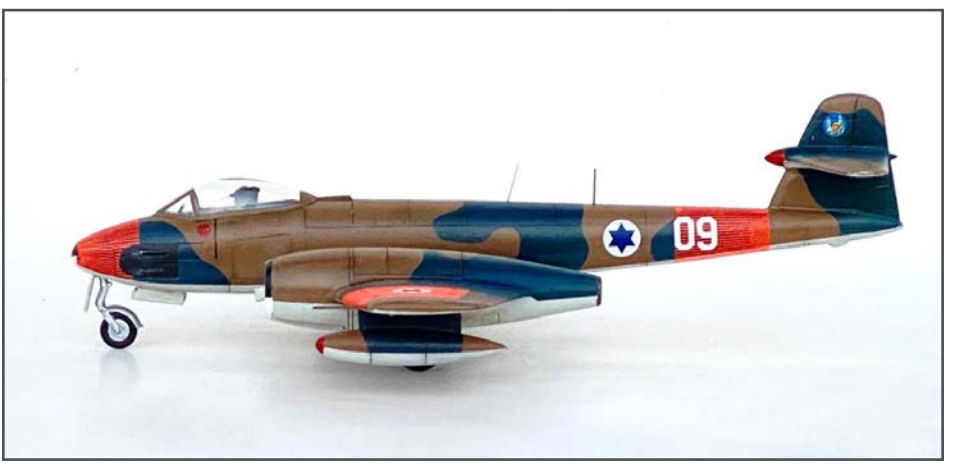
- 4- White stencils for camuaflage planes. Black stencils for natural metal scheme. #17 is optional instead.



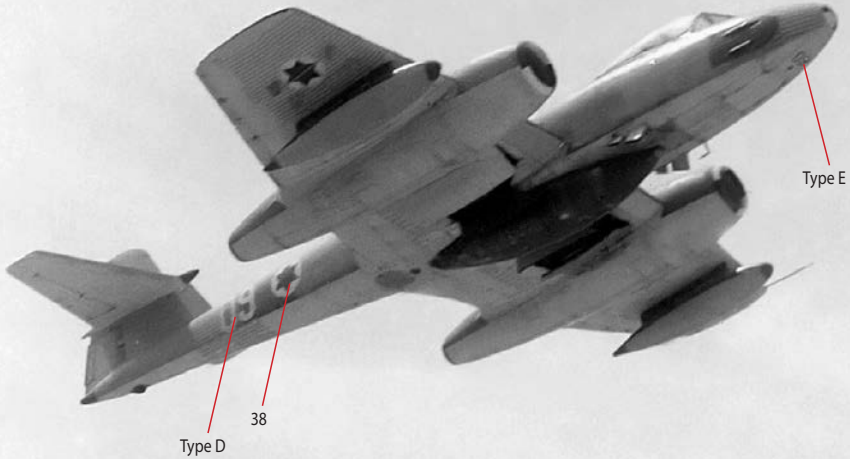
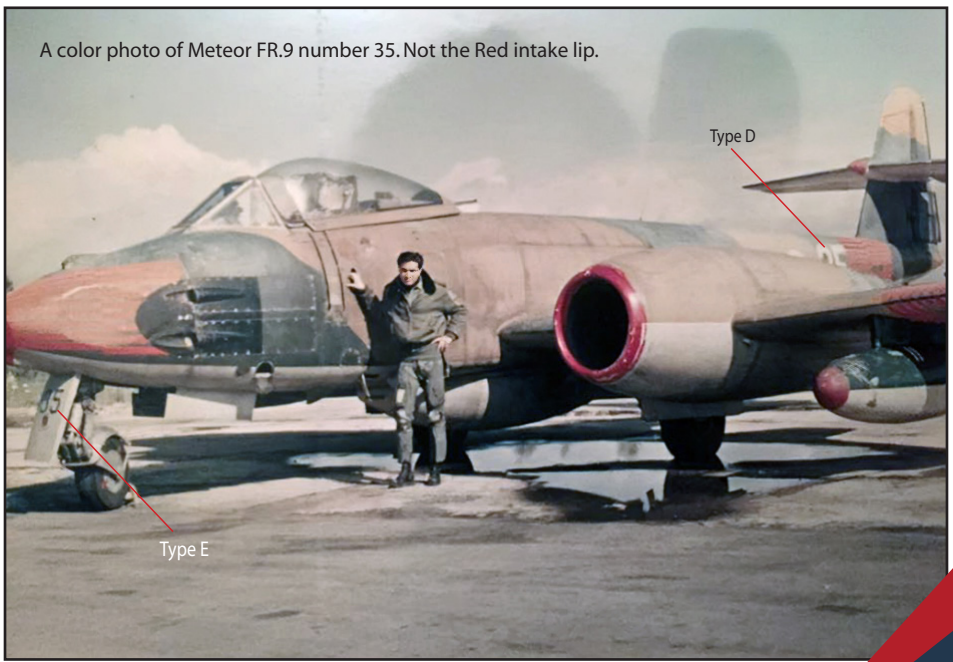
The final scheme for the F.8 and FR.9 Meteors included 3M Day Glo Red stripes on the fuselage and wings, as seen in the photo of Yoav Efrati's model. These stripes are not included in the model set. In reality, the stripes were 2 inches wide, which translates to 1.6 mm in 1/32 scale, with a similar gap between them. The purpose of these stripes was to facilitate their removal in the event of a war, as was done during the 1967 Six-Day War with the Fouga Magisters. However, the F.8 and FR.9 Meteors were retired before the Six-Day War occurred.



09


09

Meteor F.8 #09 adorned with the Day-glo red stripes on its fuselage, nose and wings. Note the Black and White nose and intakes lips. Wing's fuel tanks tips are in red. The belly tank is in Red as well.



A color photo of Meteor FR.9 number 35. Not the Red intake lip.