

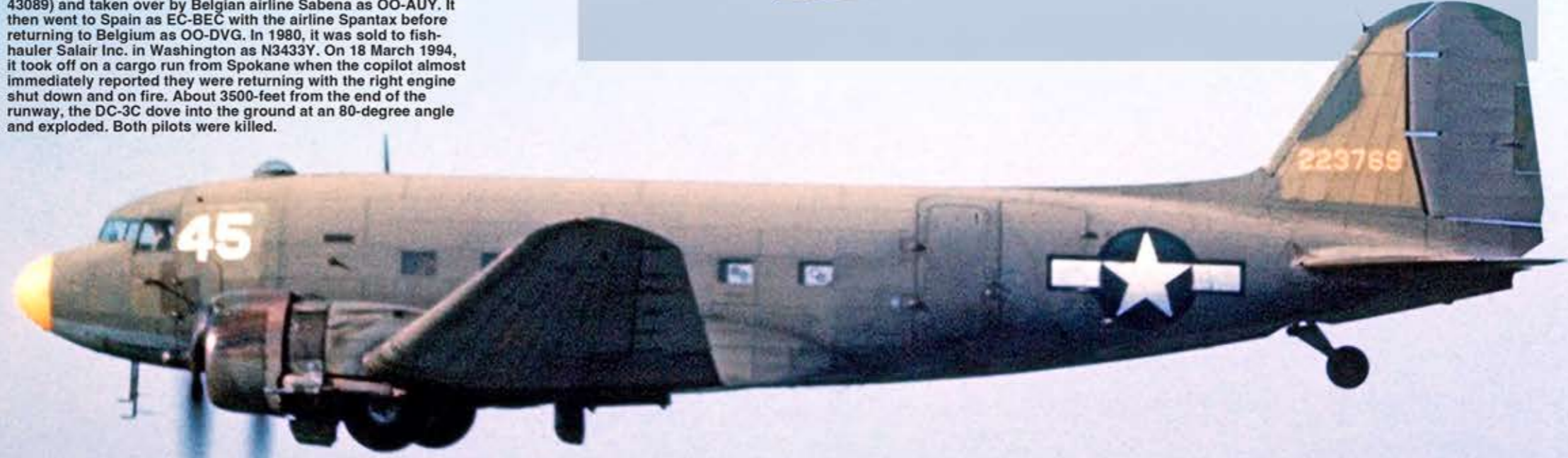
COLORS OF WAR

MORE INTERESTING MILITARY AIRCRAFT
COLOR SCHEMES FROM THE FILES OF
CHALLENGE PUBLICATIONS
BY MICHAEL O'LEARY

Flight of Gooney Birds during a training mission out of Sedalia AAF (now Whiteman AFB) during September 1944. The photo was taken by Lt. James Kirkpatrick who had received his multi-engine training on the little-known Beech AT-10 Wichita at Freeman AAF in Seymour, Indiana. His log books show that he made 48 C-47 flights during the four months he was assigned to Sedalia. The main C-47A illustrated is USAAF 42-23769 and it is interesting to note the camouflage on the plane along with that on the wing in the foreground. Exposed to harsh weather, the Olive Drab tended to quickly fade, taking on a light brown color. Also, areas of overpainting are clearly evident. Note how the aileron has "splotches" of Medium Green while also showing overpainting in at least two colors. The subject aircraft has several areas on the nose section that have been overpainted as aircraft codes have changed while the vertical tail may have come from another aircraft or out of the spares store since it seems to be almost Sand in color with a large overspray of Medium Green. The rudder is also obviously a replacement. These hard-working aircraft were seldom stripped or repainted. With the end of the war, the plane was flown to an RFC/WAA storage yard and placed for sale. It was purchased and overhauled as a civilian DC-3C (new c/n 43089) and taken over by Belgian airline Sabena as OO-AUY. It then went to Spain as EC-BEC with the airline Spantax before returning to Belgium as OO-DVG. In 1980, it was sold to fish-hauler Salair Inc. in Washington as N3433Y. On 18 March 1994, it took off on a cargo run from Spokane when the copilot almost immediately reported they were returning with the right engine shut down and on fire. About 3500-feet from the end of the runway, the DC-3C dove into the ground at an 80-degree angle and exploded. Both pilots were killed.



This is an air force one doesn't get to see every day. Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG 22UMD #164 of the Croatian Air Force blasts aloft with gear coming up. Operated by *Eskadrilla Borbenih Aviona*, the MiG is painted overall gray with toned-down markings and was photographed on 9 September 2020 at Zagreb. The stores under the wing are rocket pods for ground attack.



In the last issue, we had an article on the "Fokker Four" flying the S.11. Mention was made of the Fokker S.14 Machtrainer and this photo displays a trio of the ungainly beasts. Only 20 Machtrainers were built for the Royal Netherlands Air Force and the aircraft were sprayed overall aluminum with high-visibility DayGlo markings.