Barry Ketley

Luftwaffe EMBLEMS

1939-1945









FLIGHT RECORDER PUBLICATIONS
A passion for accuracy

LUFTWAFFE EMBLEMS

Front Cover:

Proof positive that the upper portion of the `Lion of Aspern' emblem of II./JG 54 was white, not yellow.

Rear Cover Clockwise from Top:

Appearing on the starboard side of the aircraft only, this is the cat of 1./JG 71, seen on a Messerschmitt Bf 109D.

This Bf 109F of JG 53 keeps its Geschwader emblem in the winter weather.

A member of the ground crew applies the emblem of I./JG 27 by hand.

Stab II./St.G 77 prominently displays its emblem on a Junkers Ju 87B-1.

Possibly one of the most flamboyant unit markings ever carried by a Luftwaffe aircraft, there is no mistaking the wasp of II./ZG 1 on the nose of a Bf 110.

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First published by Hikoki Publications

This revised edition published by
Crécy Publishing 2012

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ISBN 9 780955 426834

Printed in China

Crécy Publishing Limited
1a Ringway Trading Estate
Shadowmoss Road
Manchester M22 4LH

www.crecy.co.uk

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A number of people have written to the author in the intervening years between this edition and the previous one. Regrettably, not all have received as prompt a reply as they might have expected. I have no excuse apart from the pressures of work, age and increasing infirmity and I hope you will accept my apologies now. Among those people who were good enough to supply letters, photos or other information are the following:

Messrs Andreas Brekken, Eddie Creek, Hans-Peter Dabrowski, Carl-Frederik Geust, Werner Horst, Phil Jarrett, Manfred Knobling, Hartmut Küper, Tristan Charles Loidl, Thomas Lüdecke, Simon Parry, Friedemann Schell, Dick Ward, John Weal and Maj Wolfgang Wittmann. My thanks to you all.

Finally, no serious Luftwaffe researcher can afford to ignore the excellent works by Sven Carlsen, Michael Meyer, Peter Petrick, Jochen Prien and Axel Urbanke, who continue to find new information and without which this book would be the poorer.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The following glossary covers terms and abbreviations used in this book, giving their English equivalent.

Aufkl.Fl.Schule	Aufklärungsfliegerschule (Reconnaissance Flight School)
Aufkl.Gr.(F)	Fernaufklärungsgruppe (Long Range Reconnaissance Group)
Aufkl.Gr.(H)	Heeresaufklärungsgruppe (Army Tactical Reconnaissance Group)
Aufkl.Kette	Aufklärungskette (Reconnaissance element of [usually] three aircraft)
Aufkl.Sta.(F)	Fernaufklärungsstaffel (Long Range Reconnaissance Squadron)
Aufkl.Sta.(H)	Heeresaufklärungsstaffel (Army Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron)
Beob.Vorschule	Beobachtervorschule (Observer/Navigator Preliminary School)
BFGr	Bordfliegergruppe (Shipboard Reconnaissance Group)
BFS	Blindflugschule (Blind Flying School)
BFSta	Bordfliegerstaffel (Shipboard Reconnaissance Squadron)
DB	Daimler-Benz
DFS	Deutsches Forschunginstitut für Segelflug (German Research Institute for Glider Flight)
Erg.Gr.(F)	Ergänzungs-Fernaufklärungsgruppe (Long Range Reconnaissance Reserve/Replacement group)
Erg.Küstennahaufkl.Sch	Ergänzungs Küstennahaufklärungs Schule (Reserve Training School for Tactical Coastal Reconnaissance)
Erg.Nahaufkl.Gr	Ergänzungs-Nahaufklärungsgruppe (Short Range Tactical Reconnaissance Reserve/Replacement and Training Group)
Erg.Sta	Ergänzungsstaffel (Training and Replacement Squadron)
Erpr	Erprobungs (Proving or Test)
Erpr.Gr	Erprobungsgruppe (Proving or Test Group)
Erprobungsstelle	(Proving or Test Centre)
(F)Sta	Fernaufklärungsstaffel (Long Range Reconnaissance Squadron)
FAGr	Fernaufklärungsgruppe (Long range Reconnaissance Group)
Feld-Luftgaukommando	(Field Air Force Administrative Command)
FFS	Flugzeugführer Schule (Pilot Training School)
Flieger	(Airman or Pilot)
Fl.Beob.Sch	Fliegerbeobachterschule (Aerial Observer School)
Fl.Bildsch	Fliegerbildschule (Aerial Photography School)
Fl.Erg.Gr (See)	Fliegerergänzungsgruppe (See) (Aircrew Reserve Training Group – Sea[planes])
Fl.Gr	Fliegergruppe (Air Group)
Fliegerdivision	(Air Division)
Fliegerstaffel	(Air Squadron)
Fliegertruppe	(Flying Branch)
Fl.K	Fliegerkorps Air Corps

Fl.ÜG.	Fliegerüberführungsgeschwader (Air Ferry Group)
Flivo	Fliegerverbindungsoffizier (Air Liaison Officer)
Gesch	Geschwader (equal to an RAF Group or USAAF Wing)
Gr	Gruppe (equal to an RAF Wing or USAAF Group)
GS	Grossraumseglerstaffel (Me 321 transport glider unit)
(H)Sta	(Heeres) Nahaufklärungsstaffel (Short Range Army Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron)
Heer	Armee (Army)
Jabo	Jagdbomber (fighter-bomber)
JFS	Jagdfliegerschule (Fighter Training School)
JG	Jagdgeschwader (Day Fighter Group)
JVS	Jagdfliegervorschule (Initial Fighter Training School)
Kdo	Kommando (Detachment or Command)
KG	Kampfgeschwader (Bomber Group)
KGr	Kampfgruppe (Bomber Wing)
KGzbV	Kampfgeschwader zur besonderen Verwendung (Transport unit designation until 1943)
KGrzbV	Kampfgruppe zur besonderen Verwendung (Transport unit designation until 1943)
Kü.Fl.Gr	Küstenfliegergruppe (Coastal Reconnaissance Group)
Küstenmehrzweckestaffel	(Coastal General Purpose Squadron)
Kurier	(Courier or Special Messenger Squadron)
Kü.Sta	Küstennahaufklärungsstaffel (Coastal Reconnaissance Squadron)
LBeoSta	Luftbeobachtungsstaffel (Air Observation Squadron)
LFL or Lflt	Luftflotte (Airfleet)
Lg	Luftgau or Luftgaukommando (Air Force Administrative Command)
LG	Lehrgeschwader (Training Group)
LKS	Luftkriegschule (Air Warfare School)
LLG	Luftlandgeschwader (Air Landing Group [gliders])
Luftdienst	(Air Service)
Luftnachrichten	(Air Signals)
Lw or LW	Luftwaffe (German Air Force –literally 'Air Weapon')
Luftwaffenkommando	See (Luftwaffe Maritime Command)
Marine/Kriegs Marine	(German Navy)
MG	Maschinengewehr (machine gun)
Nacht	(Night)
Nachtjagd	(Night Fighter [Arm])
NAG	Nahaufklärungsgeschwader (Short Range Army Reconnaissance Wing)
NAGr	Nahaufklärungsgruppe (Short Range Army Reconnaissance Group)
NASta	Nahaufklärungsstaffel (Short Range Army Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron)
NJG	Nachtjagdgeschwader (Night Fighter Group)
NJGr	Nachtjagdgruppe (Night Fighter Wing)
NSGr	Nachtschlachtgruppe (Night Ground Attack Wing)
Ob.d.H	Oberbefehlshaber des Heeres (Commander in Chief of the Army)
Ob.d.L	Oberbefehlshaber der Luftwaffe (Commander in Chief of the Air Force)
Ob.d.M	Oberbefehlshaber der (Kriegs) Marine (Commander in Chief of the Navy)
OKH	Oberkommando des Heeres (High Command of the Army)
OKL	Oberkommando der Luftwaffe (High Command of the Air Force)
OKW	Oberkommando der Wehrmacht (High Command of the Armed Forces)
(Pz)	Panzer Armour
RLM	ReichsLuftfahrtministerium (State Air Ministry)
SAGr	Seeaufklärungsgruppe (Maritime Reconnaissance Group)
SchGr	Schlachtgruppe (Ground Attack Wing)
Schlepp	(Towing)
Sd.Kdo	Sonderkommando (Special Detachment)

(See)	(Sea or Maritime [prefix/suffix])
Seefliegerstaffel	(Seaplane Squadron)
Seenotstaffel	(Air Sea Rescue Squadron)
SG	Schlachtgeschwader (Ground Attack Group)
SKG	Schnellkampfgeschwader (Light Bomber Group)
Stab	(Staff or Headquarters Flight)
St. or Sta.	Staffel (Squadron)
Staffelkapitän	(Squadron Commander, regardless of rank)
Starrschlepp	(rigid towing, as opposed to towing by cable)
St.G	Stukageschwader (Dive Bomber Group)
Trägergeschwader	(Aircraft Carrier Wing)
TG	Transportgeschwader (Air Transport Group [from 1943])
TGr	Transportgruppe (Air Transport Wing [from 1943])
Verbindungs	(Liaison)
Versuchs	(Experimental)
Versuchsstaffel	(Experimental Squadron)
Versuchsstelle für Höhenflüge	(Experimental Centre for High Altitude Flight)
Versuchsverband	(Experimental Unit or Element)
VK(S)	Verbindungskommando (Schlepp) (Glider/tug unit until 1943)
Wehrmacht	(Armed Forces)
Wekusta	Wettererkundungstaffel (Meteorological Squadron)
Wüstennotstaffel	(Desert Rescue Squadron)
Zerstörer	(Heavy Fighter [literally Destroyer])

Greenhearts and edelweiss

Emblems, themes and units

One of the most striking differences between the Luftwaffe and the opposing air forces in the Second World War was the widespread use of badges and emblems identifying individual Luftwaffe units, some of these insignia surviving until the last days of the conflict. The number of these badges is potentially enormous as several thousand units are known to have existed at one time or another. These ranged in size from full-blown Luftflotten (Air Fleets) down to small temporary groupings of a rotte (pair) of aircraft. Many, but by no means all, proudly carried their own badge on their aircraft (and in many cases on their ground equipment and vehicles as well), and it is these that form the substance of this book.

Research being a continuing process, this volume continues the attempt to record the majority of all known Luftwaffe unit emblems in one volume, a project inspired by Karl Ries's pioneering works of some 50 years ago. The badges shown here represent the latest state of knowledge on the subject and correct several misidentifications of ownership or colours, including some in earlier books by this author. It is not the last word on the subject (if indeed there ever will be a last word on anything to do with the Luftwaffe) as there are still many badges that remain unidentified or simply too poorly recorded in available photos to allow an intelligent reconstruction. The author would welcome any further information, comments or additional material readers may wish to contribute, and can be reached via the publisher.

For the purposes of this book, the definition of what constitutes a unit emblem is any marking additional to national markings and not required for in-flight recognition or servicing and maintenance purposes. Additionally, a unit emblem should also have been carried by at least two aircraft simultaneously. Not included are the various checkerboard colours used on the noses of Fw 190s of JG 1 at various times. Although they did identify individual Staffeln, their main purpose was air-to-air recognition. Personal emblems, victory markings and theatre markings are not shown as they have been extensively covered in other works.



This Bf 109E was in use for training at Cazaux in France. Despite the heavy camouflage, the eagle and bow emblem of its former owners, I./JG 1, was still proudly displayed; with a yellow rudder and underside to the engine cowling, '14' still presents a colourful appearance.

Application and colours

In 1937, as the strength of the Luftwaffe was expanding rapidly, a directive, Fl. In. 3. Nr. 730/37 II, specified that an area measuring 300mm by 250mm on the fuselage under the windscreen could be used for a Geschwader emblem, at the Kommodore's discretion. Needless to say, units rapidly developed their own interpretations of this rule, aided by experience in Spain, and it was not long before an aircraft from one of the major units could carry up to three official or semi-official badges at any one time – that is, those of the Geschwader, Gruppe and Staffel, sometimes with a personal badge as well. This was the exception, although some units, particularly JG 54, favoured this approach, at least in the mid-war years. As the military pressures mounted, however, many emblems grew smaller or were discarded altogether.

The fearsome red 'Tatzelwurm' insignia of an Fw 190A of 5./JG 1 is seen some time in the summer of 1942. The terrifying 'worm' in Nordic mythology is more akin to a dragon than its name suggests.



The emblems shown in this book are all based on actual examples from photographs, but it should be remembered that unit badges were almost invariably applied by hand painting. The success or otherwise of the finished product therefore depended on the skill of the painter. As a result subtle variations are common, stencils being only infrequently used, while decals do not seem to have been used at all.

It should also be noted that most units commonly applied their emblem to both sides of the aircraft, the emblem itself often being handed. Most badges are shown here as they appeared on the port side of the aircraft, usually because this was the side from which crews customarily mounted their aircraft and was consequently the most frequently photographed.

Another factor to be considered by the researcher is that very many of the emblems shown here were passed on to other units at various times. The most familiar interpretation may therefore not be the correct one unless the aircraft type and time period are taken into account. An example is the 'Tatzelwurm' used by both JG 1 and JG 3, but only on the Bf 109 by the latter unit. To reinforce this point emblems are repeated in the colour plates where appropriate.

The colours of emblems marked with an asterisk (*) are based on intelligent interpretation of monochrome photos, but should still be regarded as provisional until absolute confirmation is forthcoming. Those emblems marked with a query (?) are believed to have been worn by the unit noted, but require definitive proof.

Origins

Compared to other European air arms, the Luftwaffe put a greater value on the creation and display of unit heraldry as an element in creating 'esprit de corps', despite the fact that this could easily give valuable information to an appreciative enemy. At first sight this seems odd, given the National Socialist state's general obsession with secrecy. The reasons for this obvious show of pride in identity are probably a function of the tangled history of the German people.

Germany, as a country, came late to nationhood and it was not until 1871 that the German Empire, dominated by Prussia, came into being. Until the end of the First World War the patchwork of small German states that made up the Empire meant that an individual

was as likely to see himself first as a Prussian or a Bavarian or a Saxon, as much as a German. As a consequence of this, civic pride was (and still is) given form by the robust display of all manner of heraldic devices, city coats of arms and so on, following on in a long tradition of militaristic emblems.

After the defeat of 1918, the turbulent conditions that prevailed in Germany meant that it was difficult for an individual to feel loyalty towards the rather nebulous organisation that was the Weimar Republic. Instead, the need to feel a sense of belonging to somewhere meant that there was often fierce pride in originating from a particular area or city. This feeling, which was then grafted on to the political system introduced by the Nazis in 1933, was in turn transferred to the particular unit of the armed forces of which many a young man was eventually a member.

At the higher state level, the Nazis made much use of ceremonies in which they hijacked earlier military events and heroes for the purposes of the Party. When the Luftwaffe was first revealed to the world, several units were given 'tradition' unit names and badges in elaborate presentations. These were usually the names of significant military heroes or battles. Among these was JG 2, the 'Richthofen' fighter Geschwader, named after the premier First World War fighter ace. Another was KG 1 'Hindenburg', named after the First World War field marshal and later Reich President, while yet another was Aufkl.Gr 10 'Tannenberg', named after the German victory over the Russians of 1914. Paradoxically, despite largely owing its existence to the rise of the Nazi Party, there were arguably only two tradition units in the Luftwaffe named after a Nazi 'hero'. One was JG 26, named after Albert Leo Schlageter, a young Freikorps officer executed by the French in 1923 for sabotage. The other was ZG 26 'Horst Wessel', after the writer of the song that was adopted as a Nazi national anthem. Elevated to the status of a martyr after his death in 1930, Wessel had in fact been murdered by the pimp of the prostitute with whom he was living.

It is perhaps significant that, although ostensibly the most politically favoured arm of the entire Wehrmacht, at least in the early days of the war, there is so little evidence of Nazi icons in the unit heraldry. Indeed, the few emblems that paid slavish attention to Nazi artistic ideals, such as that first used by 1./JG 52, proved to be highly unpopular within the units and were quickly superseded. Possibly the overriding influence of



Seen here in Norway in 1940, the sole bat-like Junkers G 38 used by the Luftwaffe in the Second World War always drew a crowd. Driven by four massive wooden propellers and capable of a maximum speed of a stately 140mph, it was an appropriately grand aircraft to carry the coat of arms of Generalfeldmarschall von Hindenburg, First World War hero and later President of Germany. The same emblem was also carried by KG 1, which was named after the old soldier.

the common dangers of the air, shared by all who fly, and the attitudes it breeds were responsible for the far more common irreverent and humorous themes adopted.

Unlike the RAF and to some extent the USAAF, squadron badges in the Luftwaffe were generally not subject to approval at the highest levels, nor was there apparently a system for monitoring such badges. Certainly those carried by the earlier units originated at the higher political levels, but as units and their associated emblems proliferated the choice devolved down to the incumbent Geschwader, Gruppe or Staffel commander. Indeed, responsibilities generally within the Luftwaffe often devolved down to a much lower rank level than other air forces.

The ultimate design of a unit emblem was the work of the individual unit, often by the ground crews. On many occasions a change of commander meant a change of unit emblem, although as traditions built up within the longer-lasting units there was more reason to retain popular badges. An additional factor in changing emblems was the frequent dispersal and reformations and redesignations of units in response to the war situation. Ultimately this was probably one of the main reasons for the declining use of unit badges late in the war – and that few of the personnel lived long enough to give the matter much attention.

Themes

Almost anything served as a source of inspiration for the unit artists. The results ranged in style from classic heraldry, animals and devils through to humorous cartoons and the downright bizarre. As previously noted, a sense of civic pride meant that the arms of numerous German towns and cities were later adopted by Luftwaffe units. Often these were the most successful in design terms.

Among favourite themes chosen for unit emblems were those using traditional German military symbols such as eagles and lions. Others alluded to warlike materials such as iron and steel, or natural forces such as thunder and lightning, all of which are common elements in Norse mythology.

For a short time just before the outbreak of war there was a fashion for naming aircraft. Units known to have followed this practice include Aufkl.Gr 121, based in East Prussia, which used the names of towns in the region such as Eydtkuhnen and Gumbinnen. Another was Aufkl.Gr (F)/123, which gave alliterative names to its Dornier Do 17Ps based on the individual aircraft identity letter, such as L for 'Lumpi', G for 'Glitzer Mary' and F for 'Flitzer'. Yet another unit to subscribe to this fad was JG 132, which applied names such as 'Luchs' (Lynx) or 'Greif' (Griffon) to its Heinkel He 51 fighters.



A brand new He 70 of Aufkl.Gr 121, '10+H12', displays a rarely seen style of aircraft identification. The use of alliterative names linking aircraft to specific towns was not common, but this unit used the names of towns in East Prussia (where it was formed) for that purpose.

The concept of giving individual aircraft a range of names linked by a similar theme was employed in desultory fashion throughout the war, but never enjoyed great popularity. The exception was the use of wives' and girlfriends' names. Used fitfully throughout the Luftwaffe early in the war, by the time the Allied aerial assault was beginning to have a real impact upon the German homeland in late 1943-44 the use of loved ones' names was the dominant emblem. By 1945 almost all other emblems had disappeared or had shrunk very small. Clearly the intention was to remind the men of the Luftwaffe what it was they were fighting for by that time – no longer the Greater German Reich, but their homes and families. Presumably there was some kind of order to cover this situation, although it may have been simply picked up in response to the changing tone of the broadcasts emanating from the Propaganda Ministry.

There are numerous instances of the use of the same badge by different units (especially maritime) as these were formed and reformed, sometimes at the same time. Care must, however, be taken to differentiate between very similar emblems used by different units. An example is the spread eagle of the arms of the city of Nordhausen that was used on the bombers of III./KG 4 and the very similar arms of Dortmund used by KGrzbV 500, a transport unit.

For a short while after the conclusion of the Polish campaign, some (mostly bomber) units applied large individual cartoons in temporary white paint to their aircraft. These soon fell out of favour, probably as the drawings compromised the aircraft camouflage.

In the earliest days of 1940 political caricatures enjoyed brief popularity, especially those portraying Neville Chamberlain, the British Prime Minister until the spring of 1940, who was inevitably depicted with or by an Englishman's umbrella. Following Chamberlain's departure and the passing of the Battle of Britain, these images soon disappeared. Winston Churchill seems to have been much more difficult to portray; it is possible that the absurdity of using one's enemy as a source of unit pride contributed.

More obviously nautical themes formed the logical subject matter of many maritime units' emblems. These were often transferred to, or adopted by, other units in a bewildering fashion. On the other hand, the night fighter arm contented itself with a single emblem for almost all units within its jurisdiction.

On occasion the names of fallen members of a unit were used on individual aircraft – a practice more frequently used by the French. Particularly noteworthy heroes sometimes gave their name posthumously to their old units. The most famous of these has to be JG 51, which was renamed after the death of its old Kommodore, Werner Mölders, in November 1941. The only other contemporary fighter pilot to be so commemorated was Walter Oesau, Kommodore of JG 1 at the time of his death in action in May 1944, following which the Geschwader was named 'Oesau'. Following the suicide in 1941 of Ernst Udet, the General in charge of Luftwaffe technical development, JG 3 was named 'Udet', despite the fact that he had had little contact with the unit. Another unit to receive the name of a contemporary Luftwaffe personality was KG 4, named after Walther Wever, one-time Chief of Staff of the Luftwaffe, who was killed in an accident before the war.

Some units used devices with more obscure meanings. A case in point is JG 27, whose famous 'native and lioness over Africa' badge was in existence before any part of the unit ever went to Africa. The reason for this was the great interest held by the first Kommandeur, Hauptmann Helmut Riegel, in the return of the German colonies forfeited after 1918. In early 1940 all the aircraft of the second staffel bore the names of former colonies; these included such places as Samoa, German South-West Africa and Tsingtau.

At various times some units chose not to use a badge as such, preferring instead a device such as the red noseband used briefly by JG 53 on its Bf 109Es in the summer of 1940. Another example is the 'tulip' pattern around the nose of several of the Messerschmitts of Erich Hartmann's I./JG 52 in the very last days of the war. Yet another variation was a non-standard colour for the staffel identity letters or numbers such as the brown numbers of 6./JG 26, first adopted due to a shortage of the prescribed yellow paint in the summer of 1940 and retained for the rest of the war.

An uncommon practice was the linkage of Luftwaffe units with other arms of the Wehrmacht, in particular the U-boats. Several of these used the same emblems as Luftwaffe fighter or bomber units, examples being *U262*,

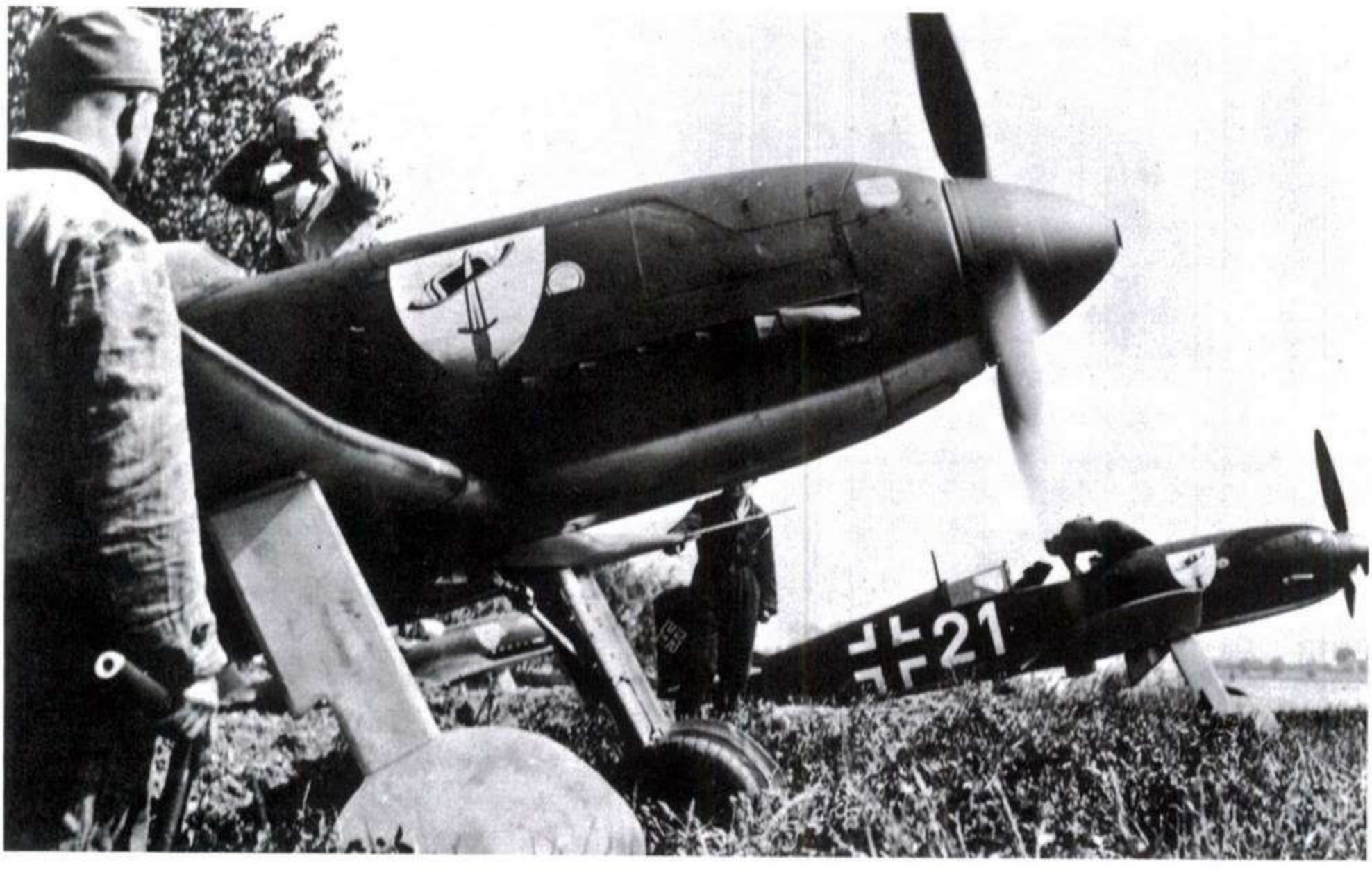
which carried the dagger of JG 52 on its conning tower, and *U1202*, which used the lion badge of KG 26 (IV Gruppe of which was the specialist anti-shipping torpedo bomber unit of the Luftwaffe). JG 52 had little to do with naval operations, although for a brief period in 1941 I./JG 52 was based in Holland, occupied with operations over the sea, which is possibly how the two services came into contact. Otherwise the sailors presumably saw themselves as the marine equivalent of the fighter pilots – the sea-hunters.

There are two types of emblems that rarely, if ever, appeared on Luftwaffe aircraft: those featuring women (totally unlike Allied forces, particularly the Americans) and presentation aircraft markings. The non-appearance of women, clothed or otherwise, is probably due to the influence of Nazi ideology, which greatly idealised the role of women as the subservient wives and mothers of soldiers and, officially at least, frowned upon anything remotely prurient.

The reasons for the absence of presentation aircraft constitute something of a mystery, but are possibly due to the central role of the Nazi Party, which overlaid all local political functions. Consequently the need to promote civic pride and raise support for the war effort by raising funds locally to pay for aircraft was not recognised or felt to be necessary. Possibly it was also felt to be more effective in morale terms to link cities or towns to military units, rather than to the hardware used.

Finally, there are the totally fictitious unit badges concocted by the propagandists and seen in many wartime pictures. These include the emblems of the so-called 'Kampfgeschwader Lutzöw' and the deliberately mislabelled Heinkel 'He 113' night fighter units. Supposedly using pipe-smoking moons, lightning flashes and similar insignia, none of these units existed except in the imaginations of the propaganda makers. In passing, it might be noted that some of the early pre-war emblems, particularly those on fighters, appear to have been painted onto cut-outs that were temporarily attached to the aircraft, the slight shadow formed thereby sometimes giving the appearance of a black surround. An example can be seen on the aircraft of 7./JG 26 (see the photograph on page 36.

Fake 1: One of several imaginative emblems dreamed up by the propaganda hacks for use on the so-called 'He 113'. In fact, the nearest thing to a genuine emblem ever carried by any He 100 was the name of the manufacturer. None of those produced saw squadron service.





Fake 2: Another imaginary staffel emblem on a 'unit' of 'He 113s' was this lightning flash, which could, however, claim some legitimacy as the 'blitz' marking was fairly common on aircraft produced by the Heinkel concern in the late 1930s.



Fake 3: This is the badge of the spurious 'Kampfgeschwader Lutzöw', seen on a Heinkel He 111.

Air arms and heraldry

Sources, symbols and meaning

The following is a brief description and history, where known, of all the unit insignia that are shown in colour in this book. It should be recognised that not all of these emblems were those of Luftwaffe flying units; several seen on Junkers Ju 52/3ms, for example, were those of Fallschirmjäger (paratroop) or flak units, which formed part of the Luftwaffe. Others, particularly those sported by courier and liaison machines, were sometimes those of Army units or Party organisations. Those non-Luftwaffe-originated badges definitely seen on aircraft are therefore also included. Again it should be stressed that subtle variations of the emblems illustrated are quite possible.

The colours and details of emblems marked with an asterisk (*) are based upon careful study of monochrome photos (sometimes blurred) and other evidence and are believed to be correct, but for the time being should still be regarded as provisional. Additionally, available evidence concerning ownership of the badges of some of the less well-known units (and some well-known ones) is often contradictory, so insignia marked with a question mark (?) are believed to have been those of the unit noted, but still require absolute confirmation.





These two He 70s of 4.(F)Aufkl.Gr 11 shortly before the outbreak of World War II demonstrate one of the more unusual staffel emblems. Each has the alliterative name of one of the towns in East Prussia, where the unit was formed, on the cowling. Not only that, these particular aircraft also appear to have red propeller spinners.The aircraft are in immaculate condition and are apparently painted in an overall light grey, probably RLM 02 or RLM 63. It was most unusual for the He 70 to be finished in such a colour scheme, as the bulk of these aircraft, when first delivered, carried the factory finish of an overall silver with black engine cowlings and a bold lightning flash. Clearly, the unit had their own ideas on finishes and Staffel unit markings, but the practice of naming individual aircraft was rapidly superseded in 1939 and replaced by the more usual style of staffel emblem.

Higher formations

These are the highest levels of command within specific theatres or areas of operations.


1

1
Luftwaffenkommando Ost: This is based upon the initial of the commander of the Luftwaffe forces in the Smolensk area of Russia, Generaloberst Ritter von Greim, and was used from early 1942 until the formation became Luftflotte 6 in May 1943. There were ten other Luftwaffenkommandos, presumably each with its own symbol, but as yet these have not been found.


2

2
Luftflotte 6: Based on the earlier Kommando Ost emblem, but with a yellow 'G'. In use from 6 May 1943.


3

3
Luftgau Moskau: Used (optimistically) by the command formation responsible for the Luftgau (air district) of Moscow, actually based around Smolensk in late winter 1941.


4

4
Luftgau Moskau: Unconfirmed alternative to emblem 3.


5

5
VIII Fliegerkorps: Used by the command responsible for tactical operations in close support of the Army. In 1940 this was in France and the Low Countries and against Britain, followed by operations over Greece (near the 'Metaxas Line' and Corinth) and the Balkans. From 1941 operations were focused on the Danube and Dnieper areas, attacks against Leningrad and Moscow, and airlift support for II Armeekorps at Demjansk, then from May 1942 in South Russia over the Crimea and Kertsch, followed by the disaster at Stalingrad. The formation served on the Eastern Front for the remainder of the war.


6

6
5 Flieger Division: Used in 1944-45 in Norway. The emblem is another legacy of Ritter von Greim, who was the first commander of the Division in 1939.


7

7
7 Flieger Division: This was first formed in Berlin in 1938 as the command HQ of the Luftwaffe parachute troops. This emblem was used from 1940.


8

8
7 Flieger Division: The shooting star was a favourite device of the Fallschirmjäger. This one was used during operations around the Staraya Russa area south of Leningrad in 1942.

Fighter units



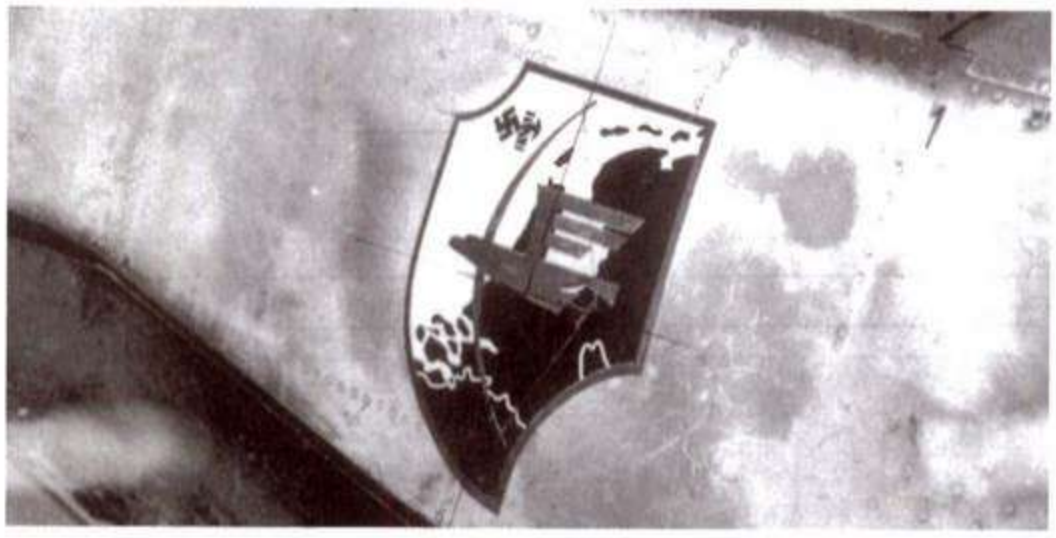
9

9
Stab/JG 1: Emblem of the Stabsschwarm of Oberstleutnant Carl Schumacher, who was tasked with controlling Gruppen from various units in defence of the Heligoland Bight in 1939-40. The eagle looks out over a map of the area. Bf 109E.

10
JG 1: Developed from the Schumacher emblem, the eagle is now launched from a bow. 1940-43.



10



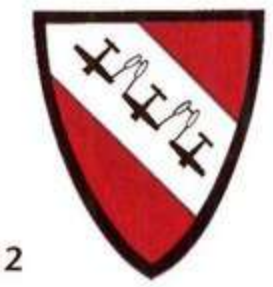
A development of the first JG 1 emblem and used between 1940 and 1943 until replaced by the winged '1', which was introduced by Walter Oesau. On this example, seen on a Messerschmitt Bf 109G-1 at Jever in the autumn of 1942, there is a small additional detail in the form of a swastika and an Italian fasces. Reputedly there were a number of Italian pilots on secondment to the unit at this time in anticipation of delivery of the Bf 109 to the Regia Aeronautica, but it has to be said that this story is not substantiated by more solid evidence.



11

11
JG 1 'Oesau': New Geschwader emblem introduced by Walter Oesau in September 1943. A winged '1'. Used until the end of the war. Bf 109G, Fw 190A.

12
Stabskette/JG 1*: Used briefly in autumn 1943 as a visual pun, 'kette' being the German term for a chain and also a formation of three aircraft. Fw 190A.



12



13

13
I./JG 1: The emblem is based on a 'Jesau cross' after the town in East Prussia, which used it as a coat of arms. Originally it was the black cross of the Teutonic knights. Bf 109E, 1940. Later adopted by III./JG 27.



Focke-Wulf Fw 190A-3, W.Nr. 7125, of 5./JG 1, stands in front of the camouflaged hangars at Katwijk in Holland, summer 1942. Flown by Oblt Max Buchholz, the machine wears a 'Tatzelwurm' in red, the staffel colour, while the II Gruppe bar is in black. The underside of the engine cowling is in yellow. Note the fine spiral marking on the propeller spinner, possibly indicating Buchholz's status as Staffelkapitän, and the wing of a large white bird emblem just visible below the cockpit sill. A similar device was noted on a Bf 109F flown by Fw Küpper and an Fw 190A of Dietrich Wickop (See badge 19 opposite).



14

14
1./JG 1 (later): A diving eagle on a shield. This emblem originated with JG 77 and was used on the He 162 during 1945.



A line-up of He 162s of 1./JG 1 at Leck on 8 May 1945. 'White 1' and 'White 5' both carry the diving eagle emblem of the staffel. 'White 5' is an He 162A-2, W.Nr. 120054, flown by Major Werner Zober. 'White 1' was flown by Lt Rudolf Schmitt and may have scored an unconfirmed victory on the type, on 4 May 1945.

15
2./JG 1(early): A hand wielding a sword cuts Chamberlain's umbrella in half. A typical early war insigne, used briefly in autumn 1939. Bf 109E.



15



16

16
2./JG 1*: Based upon the trademark of the Sun insurance company, the emblem appeared in many subtle variations, usually accompanied by the name of the pilot's wife or girlfriend. 1941. Bf 109E.

17
3./JG 1: A lion rampant holding the figure '3'. Introduced in late 1944, and only seen on a single He 162.



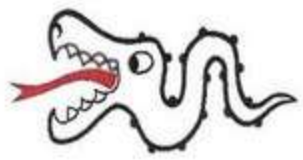
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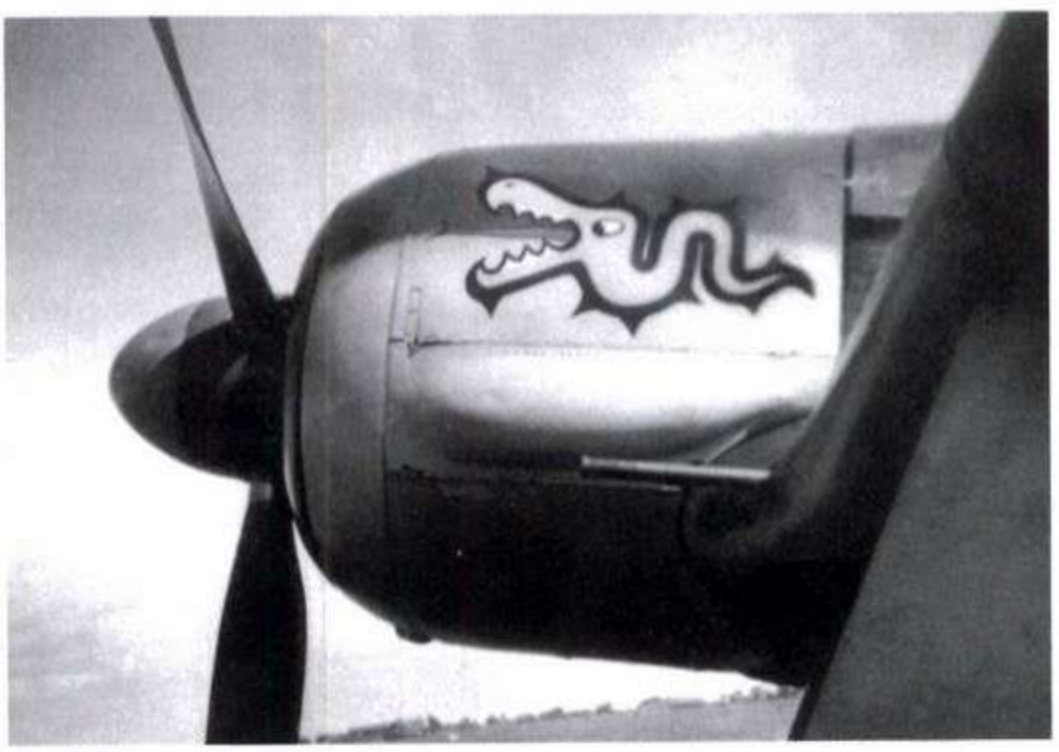
18

18
II./JG 1: From 15 January 1942 I./JG 3 became II./JG 1. It brought its 'Tatzelwurm' with it, which was green in the case of the Gruppen Stab. Bf 109F, Fw 190A.

19
4./JG 1: White 'Tatzelwurm'. The legendary Norse version of this 'worm' is more like a dragon. 1942. Bf 109F, Fw 190A.



19



A close-up view of the white 'Tatzelwurm' of 4./JG 1 on an Fw 190A, probably some time in the summer of 1942. On this machine the forward portion of the propeller spinner is also red, indicating II Gruppe.



20

20
5./JG 1: Red 'Tatzelwurm'. 1942. Bf 109F, Fw 190A.



22

21
6./JG 1: Yellow 'Tatzelwurm'. 1942. Bf 109F, Fw 190A.



21

22
III./JG 1: The Maltese cross was introduced in summer 1941 when the Geschwader was reformed in Holland, and was used until October 1943. Bf 109E & F, Fw 190A.



This is the Fw 190A-2, W.Nr. 0495, of Uffz Heinz Hanke, the Gruppen-adjutant of III./JG 1, whose chevron marking it carries. Seen (possibly at Esbjerg) in the summer of 1942, the Maltese cross of the Gruppe is clearly visible here. The notably high contrast between the tones of the camouflage colours suggests that this may be one of the very few examples of the type to be finished in RLM 71/02/65.



23

23
7./JG 1*: A lightning-spitting devil in the clouds. 1942. Fw 190A.



24

24
8./JG 1 (early)*: A small dog doing unspeakable things over Uncle Sam's hat. Summer 1943. Fw 190A.



25

25
8./JG 1 (later)*: A seated man doing unspeakable things in Uncle Sam's hat. Designed by Franz Steiner, summer 1942, and later adopted by 2./JG 11 in summer 1943 when III./JG 1 became I./JG 11. Fw 190A.



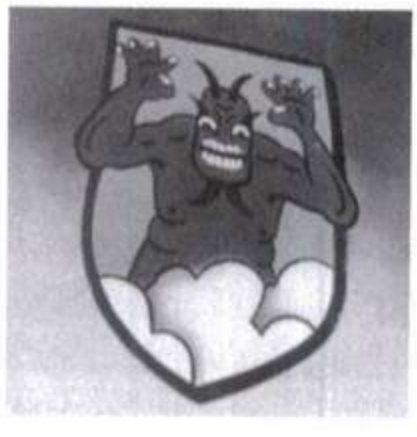
26

26
9./JG 1: A cartoon pistol over a heart surrounded by a motto that reads 'He who shoots first lives longest'. 1942 until April 1943, when the unit became 3./JG 11. Fw 190A.



27

27
IV./JG 1: A 'devil in the clouds' was used in 1939, reintroduced in 1942 and used until 1945. Bf 109E, Fw 190A, He 162.



The 'devil in the clouds' of IV./JG 1 on the cowling of an Fw 190A.



28
JG 2 'Richthofen': A shield with the initial 'R' for Richthofen. The unit was named after Hermann Göring's old unit in the First World War. 1939-1942. Ar 68, Bf 109E & F, Fw 190A.



28

The red and silver Geschwader badge of JG 2 under the windscreen of a Bf 109E-4.

29
1./JG 2: A running 'Bonzo' dog, based upon a sketch done by the then Staffelkapitän, Otto Bertram, in 1939.



29

30



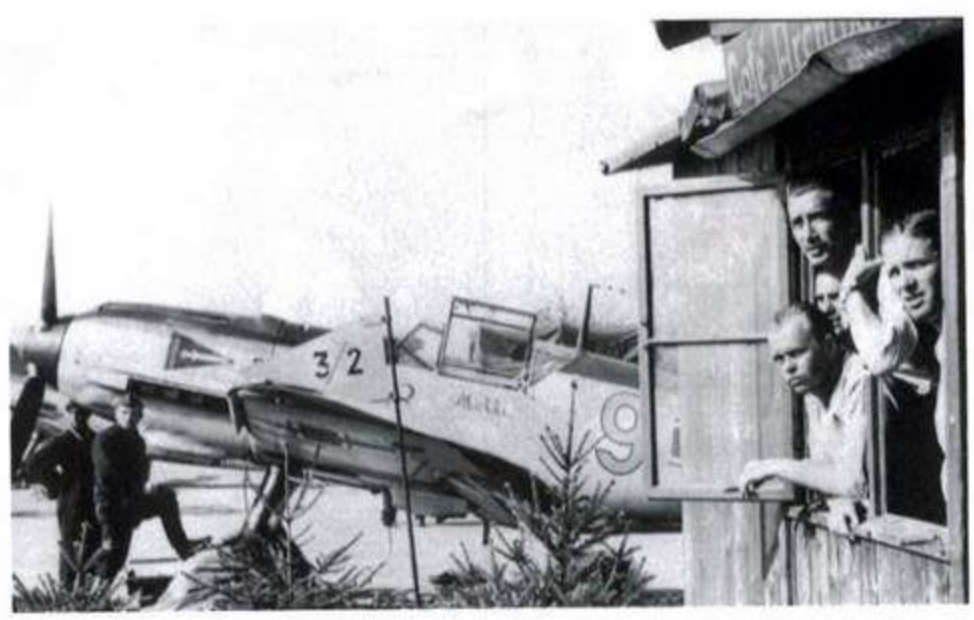
3./JG 2: A pennant with a dagger and the fighter pilot's war cry 'Horrido' in blue and yellow. This alludes to the Swedish family connections of the one-time Staffelkapitän, Hennig Strümpell. 1940. Retained by Helmut Wick, it apparently did not last long after his death in late November of that year. Bf 109E.

30

Major Helmut Wick runs up the engine of his Messerschmitt Bf 109E of 3./JG 2 preparatory to a mission in the autumn of 1940. He was shot down and killed in this machine ('Yellow 2', W.Nr. 5344) on 28 November. Note the Staffel emblem on the cowling, first introduced by Hennig Strümpell, just forward of the air intake. Apart from the propeller spinner backplate, which is white, the remainder of the cowling and spinner is covered in temporary yellow paint.



Pilots of 3./JG 2 watch the world go by from the shelter of the 'Café Archibald' during the 'Phoney War' of early spring 1940. Bf 109E-1 'Yellow 9', in the typical clean camouflage of the period, wears both the Geschwader and Staffel badges, as well as the personal name 'Motti'. Note the metal pennant identifying the unit. Rudi Pflanz, at the top of the window, and Franz Jaenisch, below, were both successful pilots. Pflanz later won the Ritterkreuz before his death in action on 31 July 1942.



31



31

III./JG 2: Another visual pun, being a cock's head ('hahn' in German), which was the name of the Gruppenkommandeur, Oblt 'Assi' Hahn. October 1941-early 1943. Bf 109F, Fw 190A.



The cock's head of III./JG 2 was introduced by the Gruppenkommandeur, Oblt Hans 'Assi' Hahn in October 1941. The aircraft is a Messerschmitt Bf 109F.



Seen at RAF Pembrey, probably the day after its capture on 23 June 1942, this is the Focke-Wulf Fw 190A-3, W.Nr. 313, of the Gruppenadjutant of III./JG 2, Oblt Armin Faber. The machine was delivered intact after the pilot became disoriented during combat and mistook the Bristol Channel for the English Channel. Apart from the Gruppe badge, the machine wears the black panel behind the exhaust, which was later to develop into a full-blown eagle's head, a decorative motif used by several of the early Fw 190-equipped units.



32

32

7./JG 2: A thumb crushing an opera hat, designed by Ofw Klee and Lt Schmidt. Summer 1940 until late 1942. Bf 109E, Fw 190A.

33

8./JG 2: A red wolf rampant, which was the coat of arms of an early Staffelkapitän, Oblt von Winterfeldt. It does not seem to have survived past summer 1940. Bf 109E.



33



A Focke-Wulf Fw 190A-3, W.Nr. 105, of 7./JG 2, at Morlaix in France in August 1942. 'White 11' carries the Staffel emblem on the cowling, which is more commonly seen on the unit's earlier Bf 109s. Note the white III Gruppe vertical bar and the yellow rudder.

34

9./JG 2: A 'stechmücke' (gnat) on a disc, origins unknown. Summer 1940. Bf 109E.



34



Seen at Vannes, France, on 18 February 1943, this is the Focke-Wulf Fw 190A-4, W.Nr. 764, flown by Oblt Siegfried Schnell, Staffelkapitän of 9./JG2. Here the decorative eagle head, used to cover the stains from the engine exhausts, has completely obscured the earlier Gruppe emblem on the cowling. 'Yellow 4' has a yellow vertical bar to indicate III Gruppe and a yellow rudder with a personal marking showing 75 victories, the last four being over American opponents. Schnell was killed while with JG 54 in February 1944.



Tired pilots of a fighter unit based on the Channel coast (probably JG 2) are briefed by their commanding officer. The I Gruppe Fw 190A-4 wears the decorative eagle head used by JG 2 (among others) and an RLM 74/75/76 camouflage scheme, but offers no other clues to confirm the identity of the unit.

35



35

10.(Jabo)/JG 2: A fox with a broken ship in its jaws, indicative of the unit's anti-shipping task. Designed by a Miss Arnold, it was carried by the unit's bomb-carrying Bf 109Fs and Fw 190As from late 1941 until about mid-1943.

36

10.(Jabo)/JG 2 (alternative): A black-outlined blue chevron and horizontal bar on the rear fuselage. It was carried by the unit's Bf 109Fs in early 1942, sometimes concurrently with emblem 35.



36

37

11.(N)/JG 2: An owl seated on a branch, it was used briefly on the Bf 109D during the period when all fighter Geschwader formed a makeshift night fighter staffel in late 1939-early 1940. Inherited from 10.(N)/JG 26.



37



38

38
12./JG 2: An eagle carrying a tattered RAF roundel. Used from summer 1942 until about autumn 1943. Bf 109G.

39
JG 3 'Udet': A winged letter 'U' representing Ernst Udet, the First World War ace and later technical chief of the Luftwaffe. Not adopted until the end of 1941. Bf 109F & G.



39



40

40
Stab/JG 3: A combination of the three Gruppen badges, consisting of the shield of II Gruppe, the battle-axe of III Gruppe and the three-coloured 'Tatzelwurm' of I Gruppe. 1940-42. Bf 109E.

41
I./JG 3: A 'Tatzelwurm', which was green in the case of the Gruppen Stab. On 15 January 1942 I./JG 3 became II./JG 1 and took its emblem with it. Bf 109E & F.



41



Hptmn Hans von Hahn, the commanding officer of I./J3, is in the cockpit of his Bf 109F-2, W.Nr. 5448, in the summer of 1941. The aircraft's markings reveal the high level of confidence within the Luftwaffe at that time. Not only does it carry a unique camouflage pattern, but it also has the Geschwader's 'Tatzelwurm', Hahn's personal cockerel emblem and a unique triangular stab marking. In addition it carries the arms of Frankfurt am Main, Hahn's home town, under the cockpit on the starboard side.



42

42
1./JG 3 (early)*: A pastiche of traditional German heraldry consisting of a bear walking over a city gate, with factory chimneys in the background. This alludes to the industrial heartland of Germany where the unit was first formed. Bf 109E.

43
1./JG 3: White 'Tatzelwurm'. 1940-end 1941. Bf 109E& F.



43



44

44
2./JG 3 (early)*: A bell bearing the monogram of the Sudetenland Nazi Party. Presumably someone in the unit had connections with the Sudetenland. Bf 109E.

45
2./JG 3 (later): Red 'Tatzelwurm'. 1940-end 1941. Bf 109E & F.



45



46

46
3./JG 3 (early)*: A turnip or beetroot. The reasoning behind this emblem is unknown – possibly a visual pun on the name of a staffelkapitän. Bf 109E.



47

47
3./JG 3 (later): Yellow 'Tatzelwurm'. 1940-end 1941. Bf 109E & F.



48

48
I./JG 3 (later): Crossed bayonets on a shield. Used briefly in autumn 1942 after the Gruppe was reformed. Bf 109F.



Sitting in the middle of a Russian wheat field surrounded by heavy flak guns in the late summer of 1942, this Messerschmitt Bf 109F-4 Trop carries the 'winged U' Geschwader emblem introduced after the death of Ernst Udet and the I Gruppe bayonets badge. 'White 2' has very soft-edged yellow theatre markings and is apparently finished in the desert camouflage delivery scheme of 78/79 with additional large green or grey patches. Note that the sand filter has been removed.



49

49
II./JG 3: A red outlined shield quartered gyronny in black and white. 1940 until summer 1942. Bf 109E & F.



50

50
III./JG 3: A running insect carrying a lance. Used in 1940 on the Bf 109E, and also seen on a single Bf 109K in 1945.



Ofw Hans Stechmann is seated in the cockpit of his Messerschmitt Bf 109E-4, W.Nr. 5150, 'Yellow 3' of 8./JG 3 in December 1940 at Desvres, France. The insect was then the III Gruppe emblem, but was gradually superseded by a battle-axe device during the winter of 1940-41. One pilot at least later resurrected the insect as a personal badge on his Bf 109K. Stechmann was awarded the Ritterkreuz in September 1941, ending the war with 41 victories.

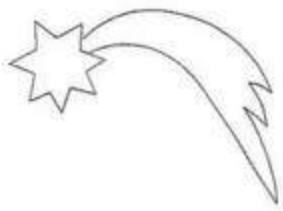


51

51
III./JG 3 (later): This emblem, a battle-axe on a shield, superseded the previous version in summer 1940 and lasted until summer 1942. Bf 109E & F.



This Messerschmitt Bf 109F-4 of the Gruppen Technical Officer of III./JG 3 carries both Geschwader and Gruppe emblems. Finished in the standard RLM 74/75/76 camouflage, it is seen somewhere in Russia in 1942. Other pictures of the same aircraft reveal that it did not carry the III Gruppe bar aft of the cross, but it did have a yellow fuselage band and five white victory marks at the top of the rudder.



52

52
7./JG 3: A short-lived emblem of a seven-pointed white shooting star applied to the 'bumps' on the engine cowlings of the staffel's Bf 109G-6s. Spring 1944.

53
9./JG 3: Most of the pilots of this staffel came from the fighter unit intended for the unfinished aircraft carrier *Graf Zeppelin*, hence the nautical theme of their emblem of a seahorse. It lasted through summer 1941. Bf 109.



53



Almost bleached out by the angle of the early autumn sun in 1940, this is the rarely seen seahorse emblem of 9./JG 3. Placed just behind fuselage frame 1 of Messerschmitt Bf 109E-4, W.Nr. 5151, it is almost obscured by the heavily laden pilot as he is being assisted into his machine.



54

54
IV.(Sturm)/JG 3: This was the only Gruppe of JG 3 to fly the Fw 190, and then only for the last year of the war. The emblem shown here, of a gunsight framing a B-17, may be unique.

55
IV.(Sturm)/JG 3: The preferred emblem of the pilots of the Gruppe was the whites of their enemies' eyes, which was painted not on the aircraft, but on their flight jackets. It is shown here for completeness.



55



56

56
4./JG 4: Formed only in spring 1944, the Gruppe made little use of emblems. The only definitely known staffel marking is this plumed knight's helmet. Early 1945. Fw 190A-8. A variant with a white plume is also recorded, but whether this represents use by another staffel is not known.



57

57
14./JG 4?: A four-leaved clover, once the emblem of 6./JG 5. Late 1944. Bf 109G.



58

58
2./JG 5: An eagle flying over typical Norwegian cliffs, inherited from JG 77. Late 1941. Bf 109E and T.



59

59
II./JG 5: A four-leaved clover in a diamond. The emblem was passed on to IV./JG 4 in late 1944. Bf 109F & G. Also attributed to 6./JG 5.



60

60
4./JG 5: A bear's head being severed by a knife. Bf 109E, Northern Norway/Finland, 1942.



61

61
5./JG 5: A diamond surrounding a polar bear's head, inherited from 14./JG 77. Early summer 1942. Bf 109E.



62

62
6./JG 5: A four-leaved clover. Winter 1941-42 until spring 1944, when the unit became 14./JG 4. Also attributed to II./JG 5. Bf 109E & F(?).



63

63
III./JG 5: Another Arctic symbol – a Lapp boot in front of the Finnish flag. May 1942 until late in the war. Bf 109F & G.



64

64
III./JG 5 (late): A red sun setting over an Arctic sea. Once thought to be the Geschwader emblem, it now appears that it was used only on Fw 190A-8s of the III Gruppe in April/May 1945.

65
7.(Z)/JG 5: A yellow lion rampant on a red and blue shield, previously used by 1.(Einsatz)/EJG 3. From December 1941. Bf 109F. Note: The dachshund emblem used by 10.(Z)/JG 5 has also been attributed to this unit.



65



Ground crew service a Messerschmitt Bf 109F of JG 5, which carries both the Lapp boot emblem of III Gruppe and the rampant lion of 7 Staffel.



66

66
8./JG 5: Another Arctic symbol was a yellow (or white) edelweiss on a red shield. From early 1942. Bf 109F & G.

67
10.(Z)/JG 5: A dachshund crunching a Russian I-16 in its jaws. This unit was formed in January 1942 from 1.(Z)/JG 77 before becoming became the 10.(Zerstörer) staffel of JG 5 that summer. The emblem was used from about spring 1942. Bf 110C, E & F.



67

The crew pose with a Messerschmitt Bf 110D of 10.(Z)/JG 5, which carries that unit's I-16-crunching dachshund emblem. Part of the heavy fighter staffel of this Northern Russian Front-based unit, the full unit code is not known, but would have been '1B+?X', '?' being the individual aircraft letter. There is also a small mysterious marking just below the windscreen that, on enlargement, could easily be read as a small 'Snoopy', seated facing right and wearing a hat and scarf – except that Charles Schulz did not create him until the early 1950s.

Right: *More work for the long-suffering ground crew! Another Bf 110 of 10.(Z)/JG 5 showing the unit's dachshund emblem.*







68

68
IV./JG 5: The eagle of the fjords, perched on a cliff, looming over a map of Norway. Previously presumed to be the emblem of Stab/Jagdfliegerfuhrer Norwegen, it is in fact now known to be that of IV./JG 5, then based in Southern Norway. Seen only on Fw 190As in early 1944.

69
12./JG 5: Again referring to the Arctic area where the unit was based, the emblem shows an alarmed Mickey Mouse on skis with what appears to be Pluto, his dog, clinging on behind, all placed on a yellow shield. Used briefly from late 1942 until early 1943. Fw 190A.



69



70

70
13.(Z)/JG 5: As 10.(Z)/JG 5. From summer 1942. Bf 110E, F & G.

71
14.(J)/JG 5: This, the Jabo staffel of JG 5, used an emblem of a bomb being launched from a bow set on a white disc, not blue as previously thought. From February 1943. Fw 190A.



71



72

72
JG 6 'Horst Wessel': Converted from the Stab, I and II Gruppen of ZG 26 into a fighter Geschwader in August-September 1944, the new unit retained the old emblems. It is not confirmed that this badge was ever actually worn on any of the Focke-Wulf fighters of JG 6.



73

73
JG 7 'Nowotny': Formed in summer 1944 to use the Me 262, the Geschwader used a single emblem of a running wolf on a blue shield. There were many subtle variations. 1944-45. Me 262.



74

74
JG 11: Formed for Reich defence duties in April 1943, the Geschwader used a 'strongman' emblem based upon a Nazi sculpture that was featured on the front pages of the newspapers following the disaster at Stalingrad under the headline 'Revenge'. Fw 190A.



75

75
2./JG 11*: A seated man doing unspeakable things in Uncle Sam's hat. Inherited from 8./JG 3 when that unit was redesignated in summer 1943. Fw 190A.



76

76
3./JG 11: This staffel used the same badge it had used in its previous incarnation as 9./JG 1, a gun and heart. From April 1943. Fw 190A.



77

77
5./JG 11: 'Der Boeingklau', an odd figure with a sack of B-17s. Based upon the 'coal-stealer', a cartoon propaganda figure designed to encourage energy-saving. Bf 109F & G.



78

78
III./JG 11: A tiger's head on a red and black shield. From summer 1943. Fw 190A.

79
Stab III./JG 11?: Seen on a Fw 190 flown by Anton Hackl, it is unclear whether the badge, a black and white shield with a red dragon, was a stab or personal emblem. Spring 1944.



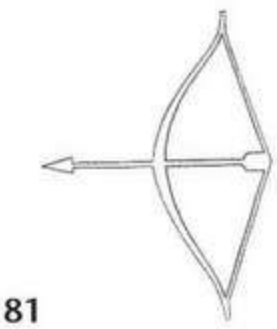
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80

80
I./JG 20: 'The axe from the Lower Rhine' dates from the formation of the Gruppe (with only two staffeln) at Jesau in July 1939. In November 1940 the unit and its badge became III./JG 51. Bf 109.

81
1./JG 20: A white bow and arrow in the simple style of the immediate pre-war period. Taken over as 7./JG 51 in November 1940. Bf 109E.



81



The white bow and arrow emblem on the nose of an early Messerschmitt Bf 109E, 'White 3', is that of 1./JG 20. The dark green camouflage scheme is typical of the late 1939 period. In November 1940, however, 1./JG 20 became 7./JG 51 but retained the same unit badge.



82

82
2./JG 20: A red angry cat on a white disc with a black outline. Became the emblem of 8./JG 51 in mid-1940. Bf 109E.

83
3./JG 20: A third staffel for I./JG 20 was formed very late in 1939. The flying fish then became the short-lived badge of 9./JG 51 in summer 1940. Bf 109E.



83



84

84

I./JG 21: The Teutonic black cross and red shield are based upon the arms of the East Prussian town of Jesau, which was the pre-war birthplace of the unit. In July 1939 it became III./JG 54 and retained the badge. Bf 109D & E.



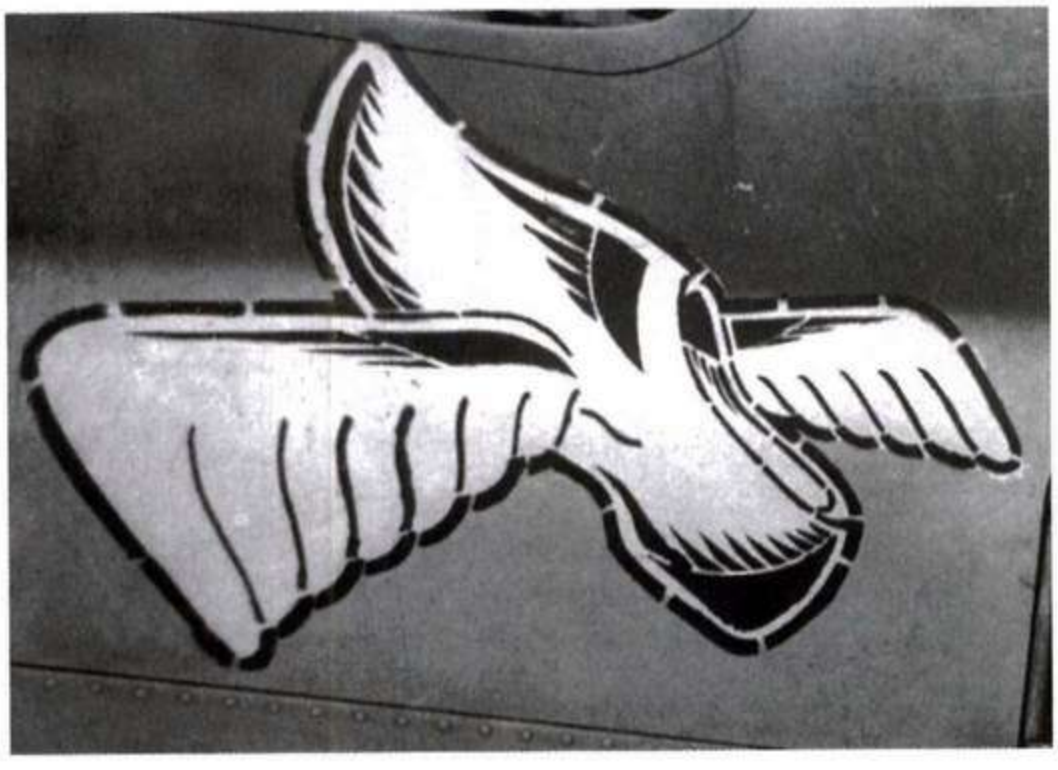
Ground and air crew swarm around a Messerschmitt Bf 109D of I./JG 21 in summer 1939. Of particular interest is the 'Jesau cross' emblem under the windscreen, which was later adopted by III./JG 54, and the small bird emblem on the pennant on the antenna mast. This identifies the aircraft as 'Yellow 1', the mount of the Staffelkapitän of 3. Staffel. The unit became 9./JG 54 in July 1940, but the bird was then discarded.

85

1./JG 21: A flying clog used from 1939. Later used by 7./JG 54 from July 1940 until 1942, when it was modified by the addition of the arms of Hamburg. Bf 109E.



85



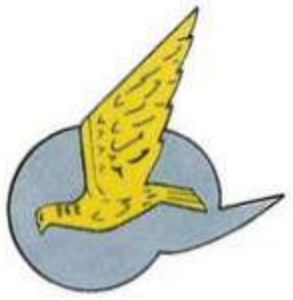
An excellent close-up view of the 'flying clog' emblem of 7./JG 54, seen on the cowling of a Messerschmitt Bf 109E. The picture probably dates from midsummer 1940, when the Staffel was formed from 3./JG 21, as the badge looks very fresh. As the unit was based in Holland at the time, the new 7./JG 54 emblem seems entirely appropriate, although its origins date back to 1939.

86

2./JG 21: A red bird used from mid-1939. It then became the emblem of 8./JG 54 in July 1940 until 1942. Bf 109D & E.



86



87

87

3./JG 21 (early): A rarely seen swooping hawk emblem used briefly on Bf 109D and Es of the unit during autumn 1939.

88

3./JG 21 (later): A grinning red devil, sometimes on a yellow shield, superseded the hawk emblem. The staffel, and its devil, survived to become 9./JG 54 in July 1940.



88



89

89

JG 26 'Schlageter': The famous 'S' on a shield lasted from mid-1939 until spring 1942 and the arrival of the Fw 190. Bf 109E & F.



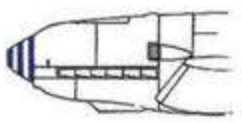
A rare in-flight picture of an early-model Messerschmitt Bf 109E, W.Nr. 782, of II/JG 26. 'White 4' of the 4th Staffel is probably an Erla-built machine and wears the dark green upper surface camouflage used until about December 1939. The absence of head armour probably dates this picture to about mid-1939, shortly before the outbreak of war, when the unit was based in the Düsseldorf area.



90

90

Stab/JG 26: The 'Schlageter Knight' saw infrequent use in the early part of the war. Bf 109E.



91

91

Stab I./JG 26: For a short time in November 1940 the unit used spinners marked in blue and white stripes in lieu of a conventional emblem. Bf 109E.

92

1./JG 26: A grasshopper. Used until the Staffelkapitän was replaced in August 1940. Bf 109E.



92



93

93

1./JG 26 (later): The replacement for the earlier grasshopper was a striking spread eagle, almost like an American bald eagle. 1940-41. Bf 109E.



94

94

2./JG 26 (early): This is a crude form of the devil's head, used under the cockpit canopy. 1939. Bf 109E.



95

95

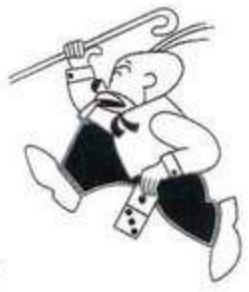
2./JG 26 (later): The red devil gradually evolved into a silver or white version and moved to the nose of the aircraft. Summer 1940. Bf 109E.



96

96
3./JG 26: A diving eagle carrying a bomb, shown here in black, but could also be yellow. Possibly unofficial. 1940. Bf 109E.

97
4./JG 26 (early): Based upon an original character created by the Swedish cartoonist Oscar Jacobsen, the aggressive 'Adamson' was transferred to the 8th Staffel in September 1939. Bf 109E.



97



Two Luftwaffe NCOs check out an aircraft instrument while seated in front of an Adler field car that carries the 'Adamson' emblem of 4. or 8./JG 26 on the door. Note that the man on the right wears a Flight Technical Specialist's badge on his forearm.

98
4./JG 26 (later): An odd rectangular tiger's head was the replacement for the 'Adamson' emblem used before the war until September 1939. The replacement lasted until the arrival of the Fw 190. Bf 109E.



98



99

99
5./JG 26: 'Habakuk', a cartoon raven, was once used by J.88 in Spain, then by the unit from 1939 to 1940. Bf 109E.

100
6./JG 26 (early): An oddly proportioned cross between an ibex and a chamois, demonstrating the mix of strength, speed and guile required by a fighter pilot. Used 1939-40. Bf 109E. Not shown here, but used as a form of unit emblem from late summer 1940, was the use of brown numbers instead of the official yellow, which lasted until the end of the war.



100



101

101
Stab III./JG 26: A combination of good luck and bad luck omens: a four-leaved clover with a number '13' superimposed. Summer 1940. Bf 109E.



102

102
7./JG 26 (early): A fat gun-toting angel, sometimes shooting a chicken carrying an umbrella. Used until December 1939.



The first commander of 7./JG 26, Hptmn Walter Klenitz, is in his Bf 109E-3, which carries the first short-lived emblem of the Staffel in September/October 1939.



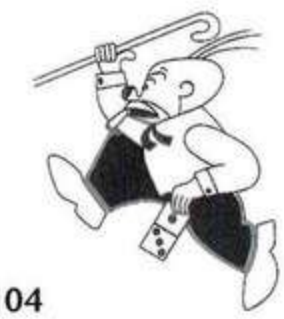
Another version of 7./JG 26's first emblem. This one, however, appears to be a cut-out placed on the aircraft for photographic purposes. Note that the feet of the 'angel' do not follow the contours of the reinforcing strip of the wingroot.



103

103
7./JG 26: One of the most memorable emblems, a simple red heart. Used from about January 1940 until the Bf 109s were replaced by Fw 190s in late 1941. Occasionally it was painted on a white hexagon background and may have been black at first.

104
8./JG 26: Originally the 4th Staffel emblem, 'Adamson' was transferred to the 8th in September 1939. He survived until JG 26 stopped painting Staffel emblems on its aircraft in June 1941. Bf 109E & F.



104



This unidentified pilot of JG 26 demonstrates the sliding vision panel in the canopy of an early model Bf 109. The dark green 70/71 paintwork and JG 26 Geschwader emblem are clearly visible, with the 'Adamson' insigne of either 4. or 8. Staffel just appearing.



105

105
9./JG 26: The red griffon or 'hellhound' gradually grew fatter and fiercer from its birth in late 1939 until mid-1940 before disappearing in 1941. Bf 109E & F.

106
9./JG 26 (variant): Normally coloured red, this version of the 'hellhound' appears to be black. Bf 109E.



106

Normally seen in red, this 'hellhund' of 9./JG 26 appears to be black with red detailing. The presence of the JG 26 Geschwader emblem and the light-colour fuselage sides of this Bf 109E probably date the picture to early summer 1940, although JG 26 refrained from camouflaging the flanks of its fighters until much later in 1940 than other units.

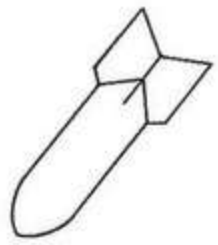




107

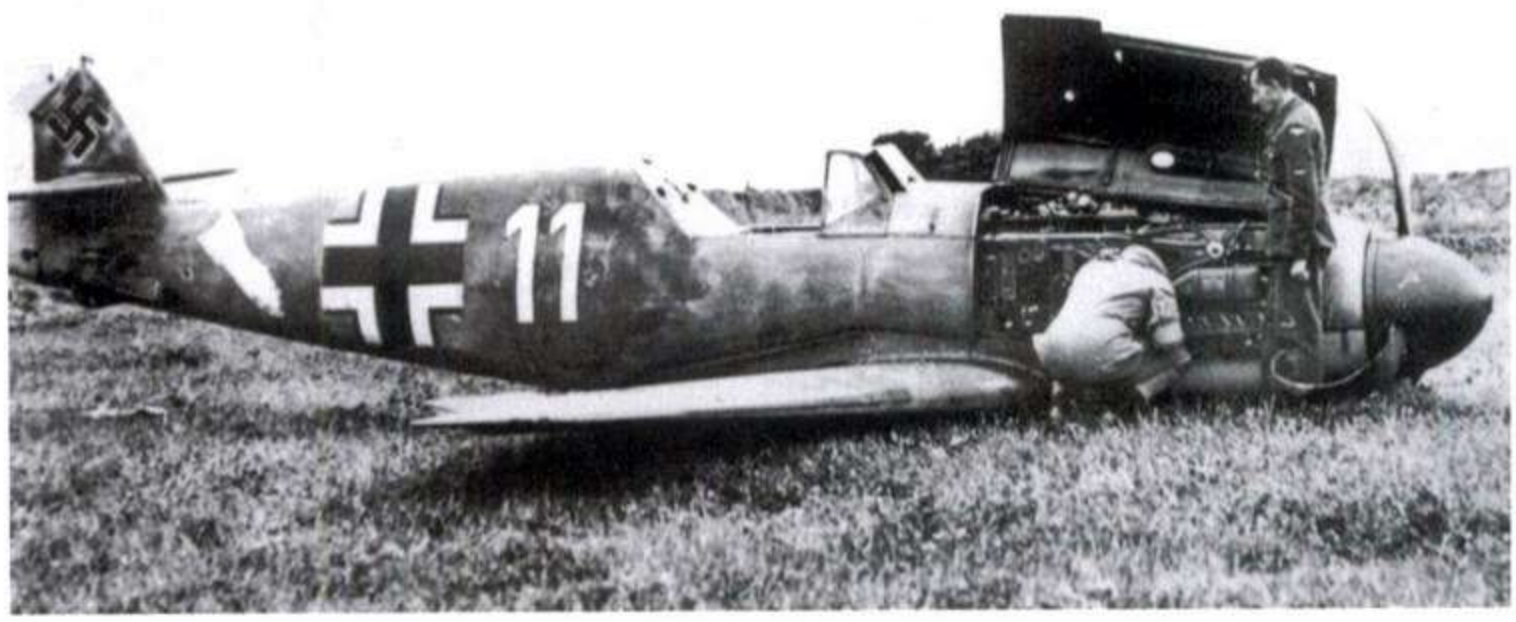
107
10.(N)/JG 26: An owl seated on a branch. Used briefly on the Bf 109D during the period when all fighter Geschwader formed a night fighter staffel in late 1939-early 1940, before the Staffel became 11(N)./JG 2.

108
10./JG 26 (Jabo): This was a typical emblem for the Jabo staffeln – a white bomb carried on the rear fuselage. Used from March 1942. Bf 109F.



108

This is the largely undamaged Messerschmitt Bf 109F-4 Jabo, W.Nr. 7232, of Uffz Oswald Fischer of 10./JG 26 after he was shot down by gunfire from a Royal Navy vessel he was attacking off Newhaven on 20 May 1942. Fischer made a successful forced landing on Beachy Head and was taken prisoner. 'White 11' carries the unit emblem on the rear fuselage, the place most commonly used by the Jabo staffeln. Note the heavy mottle and the yellow rudder. The aircraft was subsequently repaired and flew with No 1426 Flight of the RAF as NN644.





109

109

Stab/JG 27: A variation of the 'Jesau cross' on a white shield with a black outline and three yellow aircraft pointing upwards. October 1939-1942. Bf 109E & F.

110

I./JG 27: The famous 'lioness over Africa' badge. October 1939-1944 after the end of the African campaign. Bf 109E, F & G.



110



A fairly well-known picture, it still serves to illustrate the colours of JG 27's 'Afrika' emblem. 'Black 8' is a Bf 109E-7 Trop in full desert camouflage from 2./JG 27, seen over the North African coastline. Four small red victory bars are just visible on the rudder.



A member of the ground crew applies the emblem of I./JG 27 in the traditional way – by hand painting – probably in his 'free' time.



A Messerschmitt Bf 109G-6 'gunboat' of I./JG 27 is seen at Fels am Wagram in early 1944. 'White 8' of 1. Staffel clearly displays the Gruppe badge, a yellow rudder and the green Reichsvertidigung band introduced in January 1944.

111

2./JG 27: Based upon the interests of the first Gruppe Kommandeur, all aircraft bore the name of one of the lost German colonies. Early 1940. Bf 109E.

TSİNGTAU

DEUTSCH-SÜDWEST AFRİKA

111

112

2./JG 27: A swastika superimposed on a red and white shield. The design was taken from the front board of the book Kolonien in Dritten Reich - 'Colonies in the Third Reich', which has the left upper quadrant on the shield in red, the cross in blue. Other, unverified, sources show the background to the stars as blue. Seen on one aircraft also marked 'Deutsch Sud-West' (Africa). This must have been unpopular as, like many of the overtly 'Nazi' - inspired emblems, it does not seem to have survived for long. Spring 1940. Bf 109E.



112



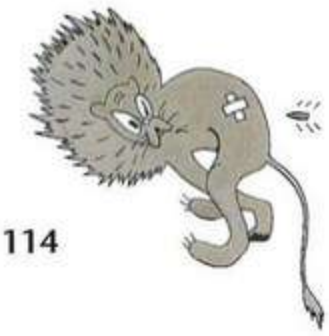
113

113
II./JG 27: The arms of the city of Berlin, which the Gruppe had been tasked to protect since early 1940. Bf 109E, F & G.



A Bf 109F, 'Black 9', carries the emblem of II./JG 27 on its cowling as well as the simple two-tone tropical camouflage often retained by this model. Note the ubiquitous Opel 'Blitz' truck, here marked as apparently belonging to the Stabs Kompanie.

114
Stab II./JG 27: A ragged English lion being pursued by a bullet. Known as 'verpflasterte Albion' ('plastered Albion'). Possibly only used in Africa. Bf 109F.



114



115

115
4./JG 27: A winged British lion about to crash. 1941-42. Bf 109F & G.

116
5./JG 27: A small pig with a lucky four-leaved clover in its mouth flying over Africa. 1941-42. Bf 109F.



116



117

117
6./JG 27: A seated 'Berlin Bear' piloting a lucky horseshoe. 1942. Bf 109G.

118
III./JG 27: The 'Jesau cross' with a yellow outline to the white shield and three yellow aircraft pointing downwards. The oldest day fighter unit in the Luftwaffe, the unit was formed as I./JG 131 at Jesau in 1937, when it adopted this badge, then becoming I./JG 1 until July 1940, when it was redesignated III./JG 27. Bf 109D, E, F & G. 1937-44.



118

Messerschmitt Bf 109E-4 'White 6' is from 7./JG 27. The placing of the aircraft number on the engine cowling was a distinctive practice by III Gruppe, originating in France during the Battle of Britain. Note the yellow engine cowling and rudder with a white fuselage theatre band and rear portion of the spinner. The Gruppe emblem can be seen just forward of the windscreen. Indicative of the hurried transfer of Luftwaffe forces to the Mediterranean, the camouflage scheme is still the original 74/75/76 greys, despite the location at Gela, Sicily, in May 1941.




119

119
7./JG 27: An arrow piercing an apple. Introduced in September 1943. Bf 109G-6.

120
8./JG 27; I./ZG 2: A black hand on a white disc, alluding to the notorious criminals in America known as the 'Black Hand Gang'. Introduced in June 1943. Bf 109G.


120


121

121
9./JG 27?: Exact status unconfirmed, this badge of a 'Jesau cross' shield with a sprig of oakleaves in front was definitely used by Ofw Gromotka on his Bf 109G, 'Yellow 1'. Gromotka was the last staffelkapitän from February to May 1945.


122

122
IV./JG 27: An edelweiss in a diamond with a red, black and white frame. First formed in Greece in May 1943.


123

123
1./JGr 50: A 'red hunter' superimposed on a yellow-outlined green diamond. Possibly inspired by Hermann Graf, who was CO of the unit and a member of the Luftwaffe football team, the 'Red Hunters'. JGr 50 only existed between August and December 1943. Bf 109G.



The badge of JGr 50 on Hermann Graf's Bf 109G has clearly been applied by means of a stencil. Whether painted by hand or stencil, there was a good day's work for someone.


124

124
JG 51 'Mölders': A buzzard's head. Adopted from 1941 following the untimely death of Werner Mölders in a flying accident. Bf 109E, F & G.


125

125
I./JG 51: A stylised chamois, the 'Kitzbühler mountain goat'. Originally the emblem of I./JG 135, later I./JG 233 at Bad Aibling. From 1938. Bf 109D, E, F & G, Fw 190.


126

126
1./JG 51: A Mickey Mouse adopted from 3.J/88 in Spain. From 1939. Bf 109E.


127

127
3./JG 51: The 'clutching hand'. Originally from 3./JG 233. From mid-1939. Bf 109E.

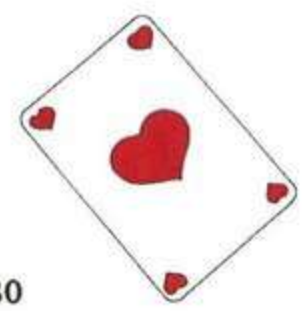

128

128
II./JG 51 (early): A red cartoon woodpecker with a cold on a white shield. First used by 2./JG 71 in 1939, the unit became II./JG 51 in November 1939 when a motto was added. Used until late 1943. Bf 109C, E & F.



129

129
5./JG 51: As 128, but with a green woodpecker on a yellow shield.


130

130
6./JG 51 (early): An ace of hearts playing-card. Introduced by Josef Priller while he was Staffelkapitän. He later used it as a personal emblem. Winter 1939-40. Bf 109E.


131

131
6./JG 51 (later): A red cartoon woodpecker with a cold on a white shield. Bf 109E.



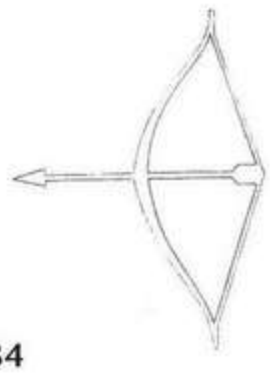
P/O Wicks of 56 Squadron, RAF, examines the emblem of 6./JG 51 on the fuselage of Bf 109E-4 'Yellow 10', W.Nr. 5587, which was shot down at East Langdon on 24 August 1940 while being flown by Ofw Fritz Beeck.


132

132
II./JG 51 (later): A sword piercing the markings of the Allied powers. Introduced in 1943 by Hauptmann Rammelt. Bf 109G.


133

133
III./JG 51: 'The axe from the Lower Rhine' was originally the emblem of I./JG 20. In November 1940 the unit and its badge became III./JG 51. Bf 109.


134

134
7./JG 51 (early): A bow and arrow taken over from 1./JG 20 and used between June and September 1940; in white against the dark green camouflage or black on RLM 65. Bf 109E.


135

135
7./JG 51 (later): A flying fish from 3./JG 20 became the short-lived badge of 7./JG 51 in September 1940 until about May 1941. Bf 109E.


136

136
8./JG 51: A black angry cat. Inherited from 2./JG 20 in mid-1940, but apparently not often used. Bf 109E.


137

137
9./JG 51: A white seahorse, used infrequently on the fuselage side behind the Balkenkreuz in autumn 1940.


138

138
IV./JG 51: An old boot. The Stab I./JG 77 was redesignated IV./JG 51 in February 1941 and brought its emblem (previously that of IV./JG 132) with it. Bf 109E & F.



139

139
15.(Spanische)/JG 51: Beginning in late September 1941 until March 1944, groups of Spanish volunteers were rotated through JG 51 as the 15th staffel. Consecutively numbered by the Spanish as the 1, 2, 3 and 4 'Blue' Squadrons (after the blue shirts of their uniforms) and known collectively, with their army equivalents, as the 'Blue Division'. (A fifth squadron was also formed; it saw service for only a month in March 1944 and never had a badge.) The first of these (1./Esquadron Azul) used the three birds on a disc dating from the Spanish Civil War. September 1941-January 1942. Bf 109E & F.



Somewhere on the Russian Front a Spanish soldier of the volunteer 'Blue Division' stands guard over a Messerschmitt Bf 109F-4 of 15./JG 51. As the aircraft is marked with the emblem of the 3./Esquadron Azul, it dates the picture to between November 1942 and July 1943, probably spring 1943. Note the soldier's arm and helmet shield in the red and yellow Spanish colours; otherwise his uniform is that of a Luftwaffe unteroffizier. The emblem is based on that used by the leading Spanish Nationalist fighter ace of the civil war, Garcia Morato.



140

140
2./Esquadron Azul (15./JG 51): The same emblem as 139 superimposed on a Balkenkreuz. June-November 1942. Bf 109E & F.



The finish of this Messerschmitt Bf 109F-2 of the Spanish-manned 15./JG 51 is entirely standard for the Russian Front with the addition of the Spanish Falangist Party 'yoke and arrows' emblem on the rear fuselage. The Spaniards adopted the practice of marking the names of fallen members of the unit on the engine cowlings. Here, Cabo Mecanico (Corporal Mechanic) Zaro has had his name painted on the cowling. Another person so commemorated was Capitan Antonio Noriega Labat, one of only two pilots to be killed during the time that 2./Esquadron Azul served in Russia.

141
3./Esquadron Azul (15./JG 51): The same emblem as 139 superimposed onto a cross formy. November 1942-July 1943. Bf 109F. Fw 190A.



141



142

142
4./Esquadron Azul (15./JG 51): The same emblem as 139 superimposed onto a winged arrow surrounded by a wreath. July 1943-February 1944. Fw 190.

143
JG 52: A winged sword on a red and black shield. Introduced spring 1940, and lasted until about 1943. Bf 109E, F & G.



143



Messerschmitt Bf 109E 'Yellow 7', of I./JG 52, undergoes engine repairs. The running boar emblem of the Gruppe is in an unusual position, presumably following its reinstatement after a temporary 'clutching hand' emblem was used during the Battle of Britain period. The sword badge of the Geschwader shows clearly under the windscreen. This picture most probably dates from late 1940 or early 1941 as indicated by the dark camouflage of the machine. Note the yellow rudder.



144

144
I./JG 52: A running boar on a shield. Used from autumn 1939 (usually placed on the rear fuselage) until about early 1943. Bf 109E, F & G.


145

145
I./JG 52 (alternative): A short-lived emblem used during the Battle of Britain period was a 'clutching hand' grasping a Spitfire over a map of the English Channel. An odd example was recorded on a Bf 109G in Russia. 1940. Bf 109E.



146

146
1./JG 52: Possibly the emblem most influenced by Nazi artistic ideals (a winged figure in a steel helmet), the overly 'heroic' symbol was not popular and may never have appeared on an aircraft. 1939/40.


147

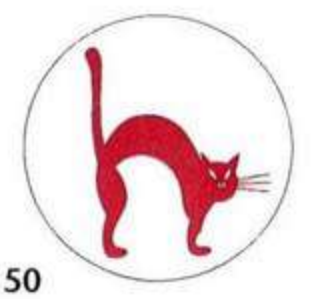
147
2./JG 52 (early): A small red devil (the 'Rabbatz') with a bow and arrow. Later transferred to 5th Staffel. 1940. Bf 109E.


148

148
2./JG 52 (later): As a result of his connections with the Sarotti chocolate company, the Staffelkapitän, Oblt Rudolf Trenkel, used that company's trademark (the turbaned head of a Moor) as a unit badge. 1944. Bf 109G.


149

149
3./JG 52: Chamberlain's umbrella broken by a stream of bullets. 1940-41. Bf 109E & F.


150

150
4./JG 52: A red tomcat, inherited from 1./JG 71, which with 2./JG 71 formed the basis of JG 52 in mid-1939. 1939-40. Bf 109D & E.


151

151
5./JG 52: A red devil ('Rabbatz') with a bow and arrow (previously the emblem of 2./JG 52). An appropriate motif for the 'troublemaker' staffel of JG 52. 1940. Bf 109E.


152

152
6./JG 52: A striking black or white large winged eagle covering the entire engine cowling. Summer 1940. Bf 109E.


153

153
6./JG 52 (later): A cobra coiled ready to strike. Rarely seen, under the canopy sill. 1941. Bf 109F.


154

154
III./JG 52 (early): A running black wolf in a yellow oval, based upon the name of the first Gruppenkommandeur, Wolf Graf von Houwald. Spring 1940. Bf 109E.


155

155
III./JG 52 (later): After Houwald left the Gruppe in mid-1942, a new emblem of a barbed red cross on a white diamond was introduced. Bf 109F & G.



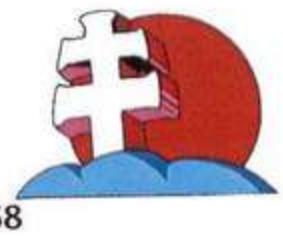
156

156
7./JG 52: Death's scythe shattering a red star. Obviously originating from the Eastern Front, the emblem was introduced in mid-1943. Bf 109G.

157
9./JG 52: A red heart pierced by an arrow, accompanied by the name of the pilot's wife or girlfriend. The highly skilled 'Karaya' staffel numbered Erich Hartmann, Gerhard Barkhorn and Hermann Graf among its members. 1943-45. Bf 109G.



157


158

158
13.(Slowak)/JG 52: Manned by Slovak personnel, the unit emblem was a Cross of Lorraine on a hill in the Slovak national colours of red, white and blue. Late 1942 until mid-1943. Bf 109E, F & G.

159
15.(Kroat)/JG 52: An 'Ustasha' red and white checkerboard (an ancient Croatian symbol) with wings. The volunteer unit was manned by Croats, the emblem being that of the Croat Legion. A metal version of the badge was worn by many Croat and German pilots in the unit. Early 1942 until 1943. Bf 109E, F & G.


159



A winged version of 15./JG 52's emblem on an early-model Bf 109G.



A signwriter applies the 'Ustasha' emblem of 15./JG 52 to one of the unit's Bf 109s. The 'U' indicates 'Ustasha', ie 'volunteer', and the red and white checkerboard is a Croatian symbol of long heritage. These next few pictures of the Croatian unit serve to illustrate how many variations of any unit emblem could be found, a point to be remembered by modelmakers.



Fw Stiepan Radic (left) and Ofw Veca Mikovic sunbathe in front of Messerschmitt Bf 109E-4 'Red 15', of 15.(Kroat)/JG 52. This staffel was manned by Croat volunteers who adopted a winged 'Ustasha' checkerboard for their emblem. Seen here on Mariopol airfield in Russia in spring 1942, Mikovic was one of the first casualties of the unit, being shot down and killed near Rostov on 20 July 1942 in Bf 109G-2 'Black 13', W.Nr. 13411. Radic was killed in similar circumstances on 29 August, near Tuapse, in his Bf 109G-2, W.Nr. 13520.



Here the unit emblem is applied very small, but the 'U' has grown much larger.



Yet another type to carry the Croatian 'Ustasha' badge was this Bf 108 liaison aircraft. The date and location are unknown.

The insigne of this early-model Messerschmitt Bf 109E of II./JG 53 is clearly visible on the engine cowling. The location is probably Charleville in France during May-June 1940. Note the central position of the swastika, which suggests that the aircraft is wearing a field-modified camouflage scheme. As JG 53 tended not to use staffel emblems, and also used grey instead of red numerals for a time in 1940, it is difficult to say with certainty whether this is 'Yellow 15' of 6. Staffel or 'Grey 15' of 5. Staffel.

160

JG 53 'Pik-As': An ace of spades in a diamond with a black frame. This is very similar to the emblem of 5./ZG 26, which differs by virtue of a red surround to the diamond. JG 53 was the most consistent user of a Geschwader emblem, to the almost total exclusion of staffel badges. Most aircraft carried a personal emblem in addition to the 'Pik-As'. 1939-45. Bf 109E, F & G.



160

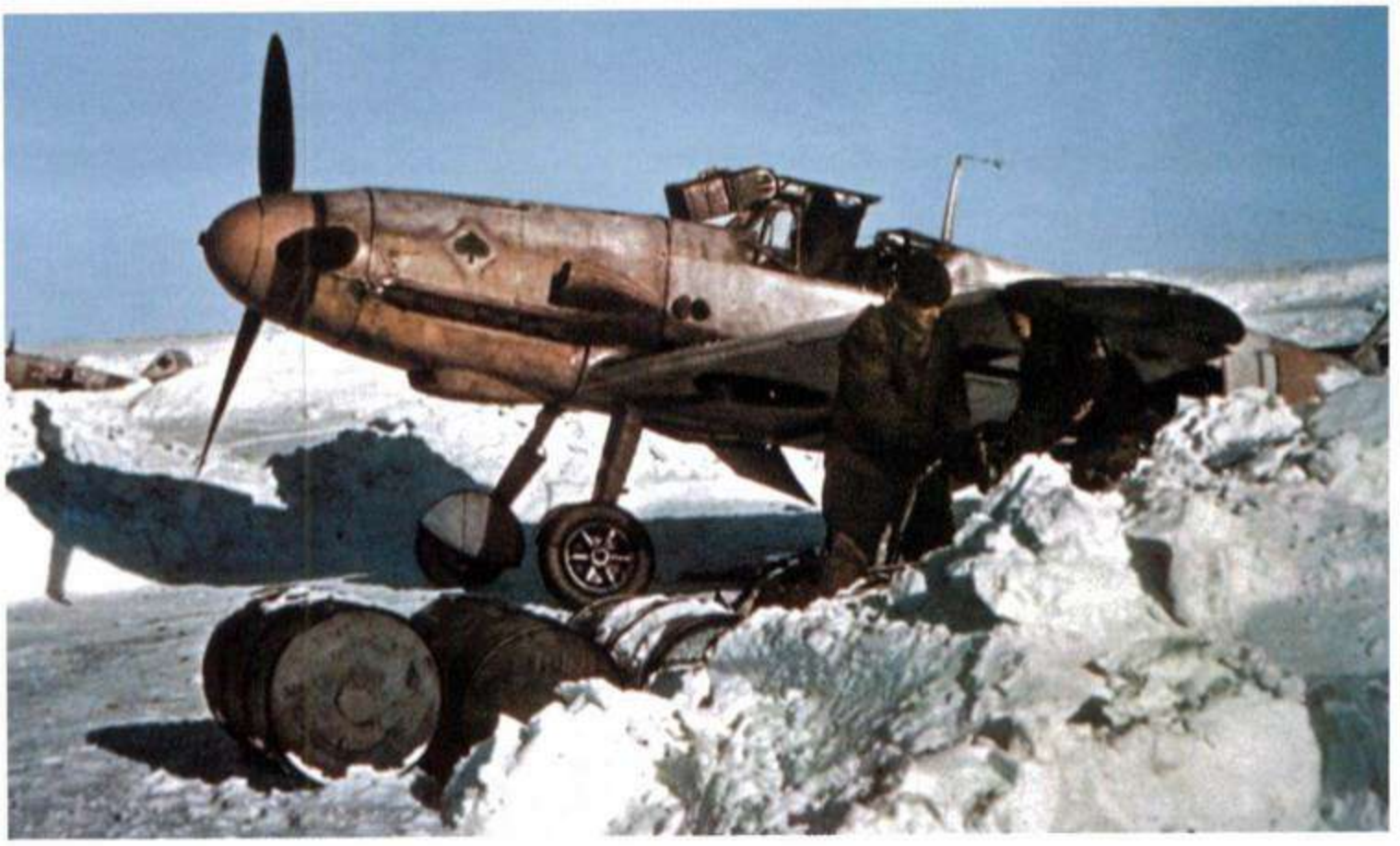




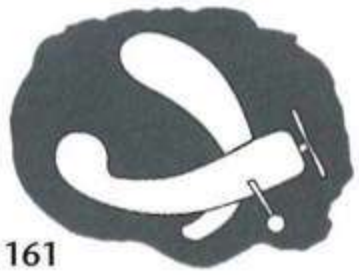
An excellent close-up view of the 'Pik-As' emblem of JG 53. Note the highly unusual overspray on the propeller spinner.



Still finished in nondescript European camouflage of 74/75/76 greys, Bf 109G-6 'Yellow 7' of 6./JG 53, W.Nr. 18068, found abandoned in Sicily in 1943, retains the 'Pik-As'.



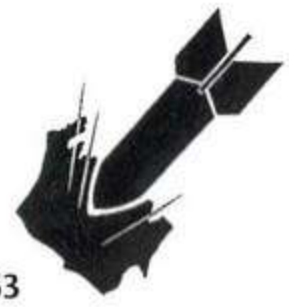
Winter conditions on the Eastern Front may have dictated the use of snow camouflage, but this Bf 109F of JG 53 still keeps the Geschwader emblem.


161

161
Stab II./JG 53: The aircraft of the Stab carried a very small white aircraft device under the cockpit. Early 1940. Bf 109E.

162
10.(N)/JG 53: Reformed from 10.(N)/JG 72, the temporary night fighter staffel carried an owl sitting on a 'Pik-As' (ace of spades). The owl did not survive long, but the ace became the emblem of JG 53 for the rest of the war. Winter 1939. Ar 68E.

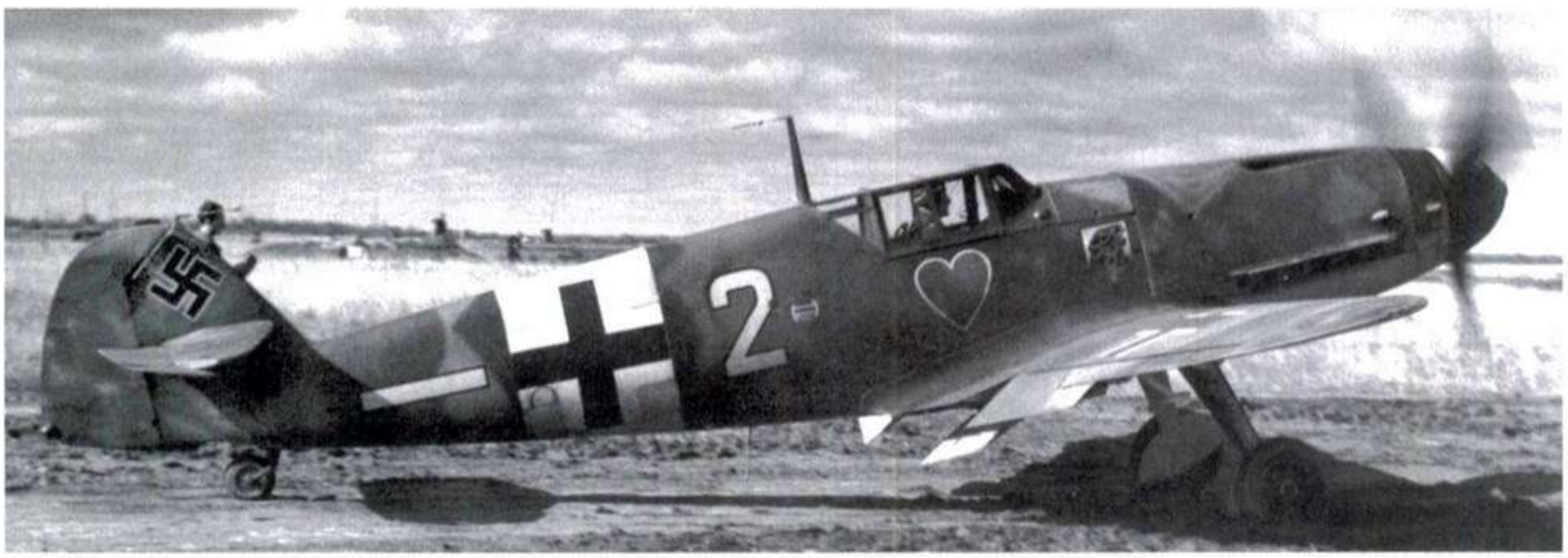

162


163

163
10.(Jabo)/JG 53: Another typical Jabo emblem, a black bomb falling onto a map of Malta, reflects the unit's duties from December 1941 until May 1942. Bf 109F.

164
JG 54 'Grünherz': A large green heart – possibly the most famous Geschwader emblem of all. It was first used by Hannes Trautloft as a reminder of his home in the 'green heart' of Germany while he was serving with the Legion Condor in the Spanish Civil War. Occasionally used in summer 1940 following his appointment as Geschwaderkommodore, it was not until the move to the Eastern Front in summer 1941 that it began to be used unit-wide. 1940-44. Bf 109E, F & G, Fw 190A.


164



Messerschmitt Bf 109G 'Yellow 2', of 5./JG 54, ploughs through the muck on the ex-Russian airfield at Siwerskaya, some time in 1942. Both Geschwader and Gruppe emblems are clearly visible, as is one of the many variations on the imaginative camouflage schemes used by JG 54.



Two Fw 190s of I./JG 54 display both the Geschwader 'Greenheart' emblem and that of I Gruppe on the cowling. Both aircraft are finished in one of the non-standard green camouflage schemes much favoured by this unit while in Russia. Note the reduced size of the Eastern Front yellow tactical markings.



165

This Focke-Wulf Fw 190A-4, somewhere on the Eastern Front in winter 1942-43, wears the Geschwader and Gruppe emblems of I./JG 54. Strangely, it also wears white winter camouflage, although there is no sign of snow.

165
I./JG 54: The arms of the city of Nuremberg. Formed from I./JG 70 in September 1939. Bf 109E, F & G. Fw 190A.



166
Stab I./JG 54: A 'Schreckensteiner' – a kind of cavalier with a halberd based on a cartoon strip in the *Berliner Illustrierte*. Used only in 1941. Bf 109F.



166



167

167
1./JG 54: A lucky chimney sweep, introduced by Reinhard Seiler as a memento of his time in Spain with J.88. Used in various forms, with and without the shield. From 1940. Bf 109E & F.

168
2./JG 54: A red devil riding a trident. 1939 until spring 1941. Bf 109E & F.



168



169

169
3./JG 54: A cartoon hunter, taken from the children's book *Struwwelpeter*, collecting Spitfires. From 1940 until some time in 1941. Bf 109E & F.

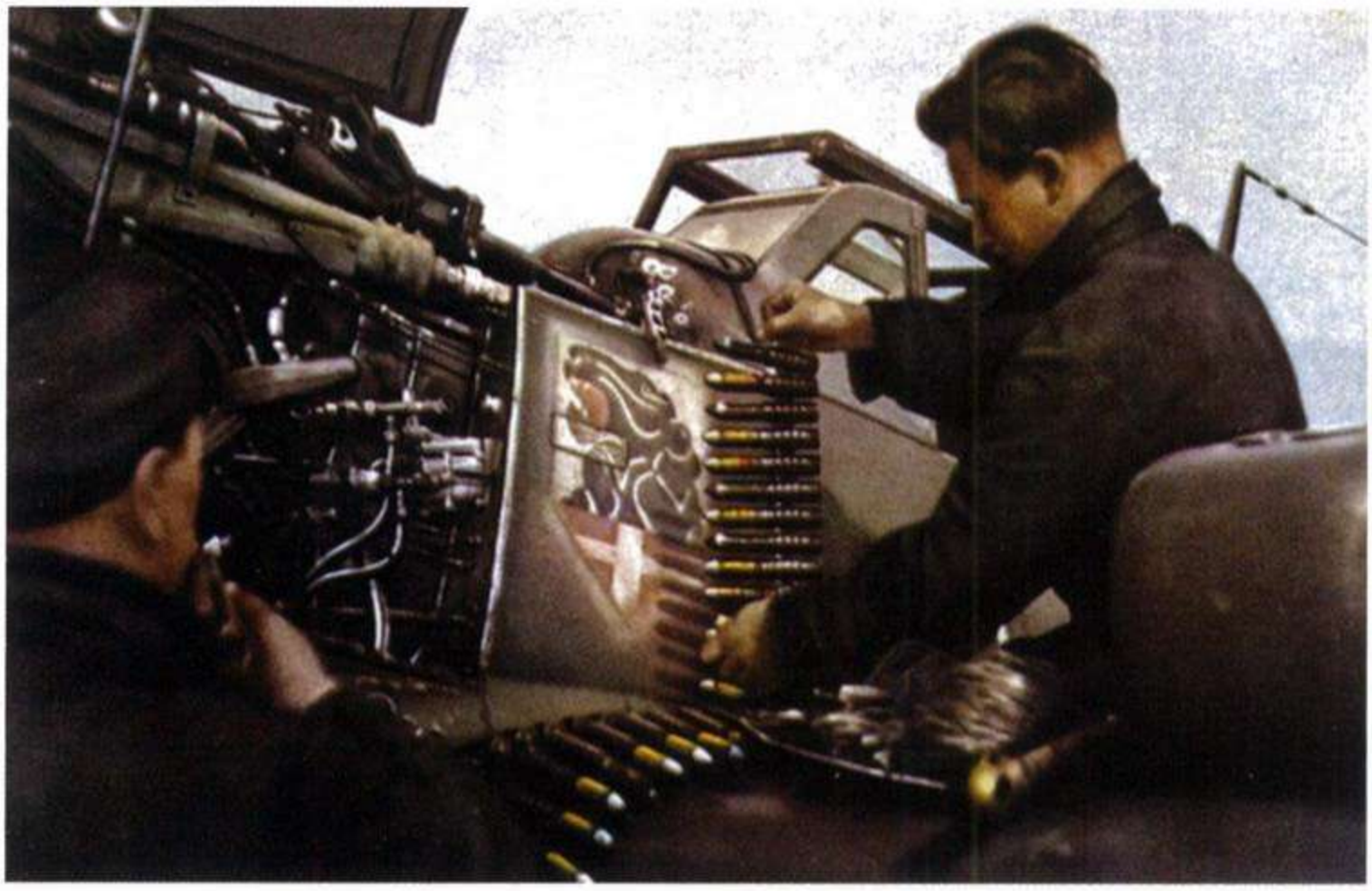
170
3./JG 54: A variant of the previous emblem used from 1940 until some time in 1941. Bf 109E & F.



170

171

II./JG 54: The 'Lion of Aspern' inherited from the Austrian JG I./134 via I./JG 76 in summer 1940. Bf 109.





171

Proof positive that the upper portion of the 'Lion of Aspern' emblem of II./JG 54 was white, not yellow.



Ground crew strain to push a Messerschmitt Bf 109F-2 of II./JG 54 under cover, somewhere in Russia in 1941. The aircraft was flown by the Gruppenkommandeur, Hptmn Dieter Hrabak, whose command chevrons can be seen just behind the canopy. Finished in the unique grey camouflage scheme sported by many of the unit's aircraft in 1941, the Gruppe emblem is clearly visible. Note the interesting streaking on the lower engine cowling and the colours on the propeller spinner, much of which appears to be green.



Something has attracted the attention of the pilot and ground crew of this Messerschmitt Bf 109F-2 of the Stabschwarm of II./JG 54 on the Eastern Front, summer 1941. It wears the 'Lion of Aspern' emblem of II Gruppe and the meandering camouflage pattern favoured by JG 54 in summer 1941. Note the stylish treatment of the chevron and bar, which was something of a trademark of the unit.



172

172
III./JG 54: A variant of the 'Jesau cross', with the black cross on a red shield, as the unit formed in Jesau (as I./JG 21) in summer 1939.



174

173
7./JG 54: A winged clog, a souvenir of the unit's time in Holland (as 3./JG 21) during summer 1940. Bf 109E, F & G.



173

174
7./KG 54 (later): The flying clog was combined with the arms of Hamburg when Oblt von Hofe took command of the staffel in 1942, Hamburg being his home town. 1942-43. Bf 109G.

'White 6', a Messerschmitt Bf 109G-2 of 7./JG 54, sports the later version of the staffel emblem, which combined the winged clog with the arms of the city of Hamburg. This dated from 1942 when Oblt von Hofe, a native of Hamburg, took command of the staffel. Not visible from this angle is the wavy bar of III Gruppe just aft of the fuselage cross.

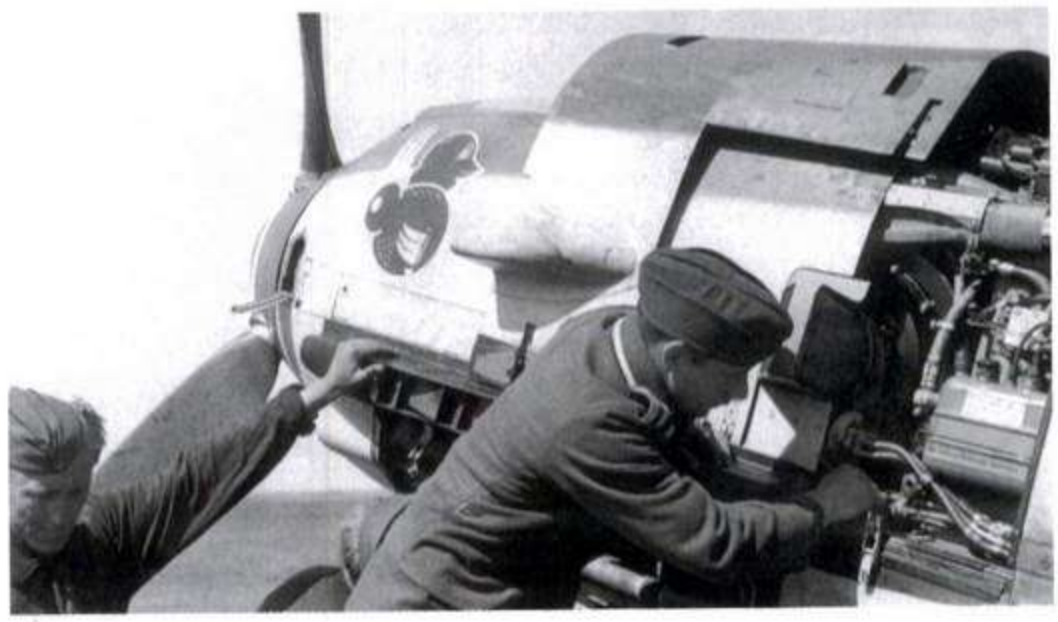




175

175
8./JG 54: A red 'sparrow', originally the emblem of 2./JG 21. 1939-42. Bf 109E, F & G.

Mechanics service a Messerschmitt Bf 109E of either 2./JG 21 or 8./JG 54. The very clean finish suggests that the aircraft may belong to the earlier owners in spring 1940.



A group of Luftwaffe NCO pilots cluster around a very new Messerschmitt Bf 109E, which carries the 'dicky bird' insignia of 2./JG 21. Not long after the Battle of France, the Gruppe was redesignated as 8./JG 54, the more familiar owners of the emblem. The propeller spinner is unusual in having a white ring – this may indicate a staffelkapitän's machine. The location is unknown, but is probably in Germany in spring 1940, shortly before the attack on France.





176

Ground crew are hard at work again on a Messerschmitt Bf 109F-2, which bears the leering devil insigne of 9./JG 54. The location is somewhere on the Eastern Front in 1941. JG 54 used a variety of innovative camouflage schemes and also some complex designs on propeller spinners. This one is quartered in black and white. Note the red triangle giving lubrication information.

176
9./JG 54: A leering red devil's head, sometimes on a yellow or white shield. Introduced by Hans-Ekkehard Bob during 1940 in France, and in use until at least 1944. Bf 109E, F & G.





177

177
IV./JG 54 (early): Three hedgehogs diagonally on a shield, the arms of the Prince of Savoy. Introduced by Rudi Sinner, who came from JG 27 and presumably encountered the emblem during his stay in the Mediterranean. Summer 1943 until January/February 1944. Bf 109G.



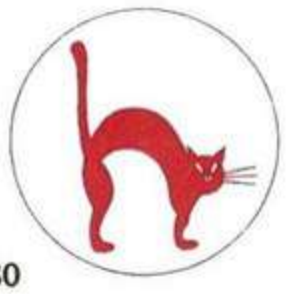
178

178
IV./JG 54 (late): The arms of the city of Königsberg in East Prussia were adopted in late spring 1944 in line with Geschwader traditions. At the same time the unit converted to the Fw 190A-8.

179
13./JG 54: A Navajo Indian's head was used briefly from about August 1944 until January 1945, when the unit was disbanded. This is possibly an ironic allusion to the Luftwaffe term for enemy aircraft as 'Indians'. Fw 190.

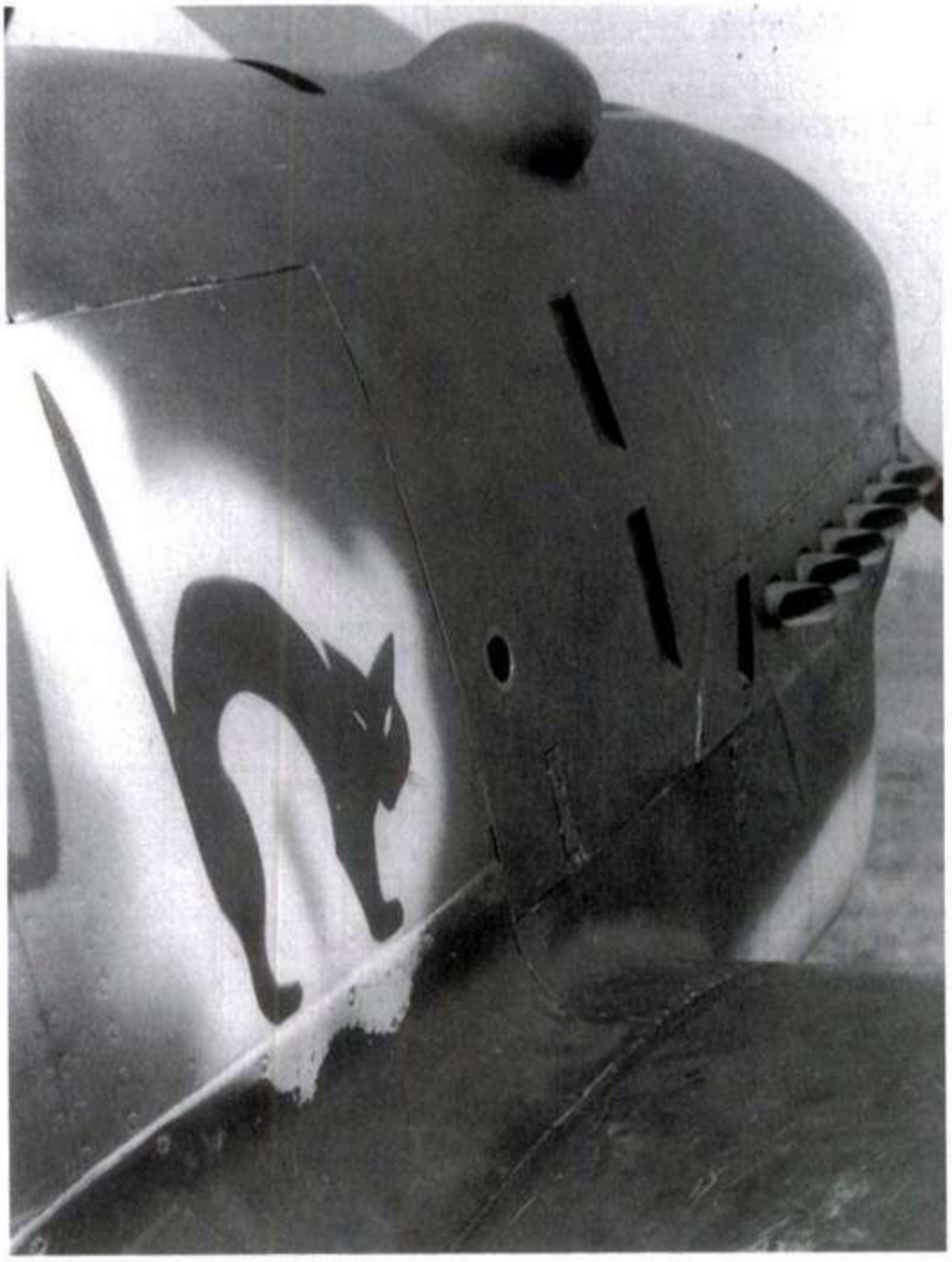


179



180

180
1./JG 71: A spitting tomcat, usually created by a loose spray over a mask on the aircraft's basic camouflage. A more formalised version on a white disc was later passed on to 4./JG 52 in late 1939. Bf 109D.



Easily confused with the similar 'spitting cat' emblem of 8./JG 51, this is the cat of 1./JG 71, seen on a Messerschmitt Bf 109D. As seen here, the emblem normally only appeared on the starboard side of the aircraft. This one has been created by simply spraying white paint over a stencil, although it was later seen in red on a white disc when it was adopted by 4./JG 52. The date is probably mid-1939.



181

181
2./JG 71: A cartoon woodpecker with a red umbrella and a cold. Used from July 1939 until November that year when the unit became II./JG 51. Bf 109C.



182

182
3./JG 71: A winged red devil with a trident. Used briefly in July 1939 on requisitioned Avia B.534 fighters following the annexation of Czechoslovakia.



183

183
10.(N)/JG 72: The temporary night fighter staffel carried an owl sitting on a 'Pik-As', before being transformed into 10.(N)/JG 53. Winter 1939. Ar 68E.



184

184
I./JG 76: The 'Lion of Aspern' dating from the birthplace of the unit in Vienna and retained when the unit became II./JG 54 in June 1940. Bf 109E.



185

185
JG 77 'Herz-As': A red heart in a diamond with a black surround and a coloured infill for the individual Gruppen. One of the few emblems to survive on aircraft until late in the war and seen used on the Bf 109G & K. From April 1943.

186
Stab/JG 77: As emblem 185 but with a green surround.



186



187

187
I./JG 77 (early): An old boot. Nicknamed 'Jahnke's Travelling Circus' after an early Gruppenkommandeur. Inherited from IV./JG 331, which used it for six months until mid-1939 then handed on to IV./JG 51 in late 1940. Bf 109E.



Messerschmitt Bf 109Es of both I. and II./JG 77. The nearest machine, wearing the 'old boot' emblem of I Gruppe on the engine cowling, is that of the Gruppen adjutant, whose chevron marking can just be seen behind the wing. The aircraft is finished in what appears to be an RLM 71/02/65 colour scheme, and the location is somewhere in France, in May-June 1940. Not visible in this view is the personal emblem of a rabbit and the name 'Kieki' in a mock-Oriental script just under the cockpit.

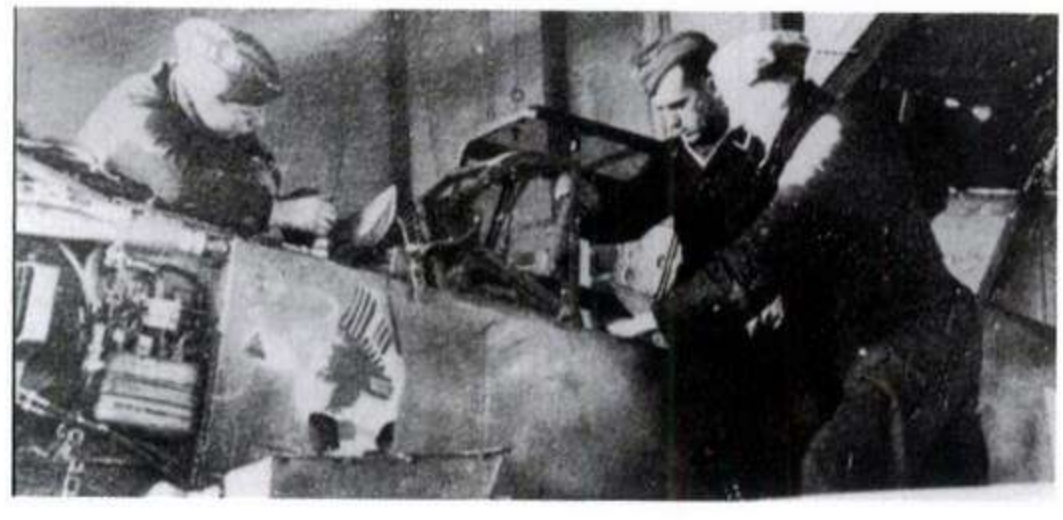
188
I./JG 77 (later): An eagle flying over a fjord. Used after the unit reformed in January 1941, then became Stab of I./JG 5 in December 1941. Bf 109E & T.



188

A poor-quality but rare picture showing the 'eagle over the fjords' emblem of I./JG 77 in Norway. The fighter is a Bf 109T, identifiable as such from the C3 fuel octane marking on the fuselage.





Another Bf 109T, 'Red 5', of 2./JG 77, not only wears the Gruppe emblem, but also a barely visible name, 'See Adler' (Sea Eagle), on the engine cowling.



189

189
I./JG 77 (last): Another variant of the heart in a diamond, but with a white surround.

190
II./JG 77 (early): A seagull in flight reflecting the unit's patrols over the Heligoland Bight in autumn 1939. Bf 109E.



190



191

191
II./JG 77 (later): An eagle watching over the sea. Summer 1940. Bf 109E.

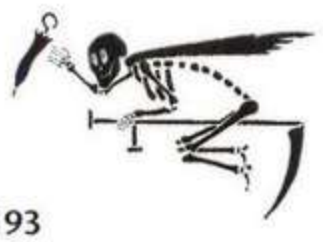


A clear view of an early version of the 'eagle guarding the seas' badge of II./JG 77 on an early Bf 109E. The star is a personal marking.



192

192
II./JG 77: A red heart in a diamond, but with a red surround. From early 1943. Bf 109.



193

193
4./JG 77: Death riding a scythe. 1939-40. Bf 109E.

During the Battle of Britain period, the Bf 109E carried the 4. Staffel 'skeleton' emblem, as well as that of the Gruppe.



Ground crew rush to congratulate Lt Heinz Demes of this Bf 109E, 'White 11', W.Nr. 1365, of 4./JG 77, after his victory on 27 March 1940 over a reconnaissance Blenheim IV of 107 Squadron RAF. While Demes could genuinely claim to have destroyed L8747, his return to Sylt appears to be a less convincing propaganda exercise; note the tie-down stake near the rear fuselage.





194

194
5./JG 77: A top hat, used from 1939 until late 1940. Bf 109E.

195
6./JG 77: A penguin using the facilities indicated by the initials 'W.C.' – a convenient abbreviation for Winston Churchill. Used until about mid-1940. Bf 109E.



195



Some time in early 1940 a mechanic tops up the oil in an early-model Bf 109E, 'Yellow 9', which wears the penguin and 'WC' emblem of 6./JG 77.



196

196
III./JG 77: A wolf's head. From about mid-1941 until the war's end. Bf 109E, F & G.

197
III./JG 77 (alternative): A red heart in a diamond, but with a yellow surround.



197



198

198
9./JG 77?*: The head of a small boy peering out from a beer stein surrounded by a garland of hop leaves. This is believed to be based on the trademark of the 'Kindl' brewery of Berlin. Late 1940-1941. Bf 109E.

199
13./JG 77: An eagle with upstretched wings over a fjord. Sources disagree on the exact ownership of this emblem, which may be a variant of 188 . It has also been attributed to II Gruppe and 2. Staffel. It was, however, used exclusively by Bf 109E & T models based in Norway in 1940-42. Bf 109E & T.



199



200

200
14./JG 77: A polar bear's head on a diamond panel. Northern Norway 1941-42. Retained when the unit was redesignated as 5./JG 5 in February 1942. Bf 109E.

201
2./JGr 101: A devil in the clouds against a yellow sky. Used briefly from late September 1939 until early March 1940 when the staffel reverted to being 4./ZG 1.



201

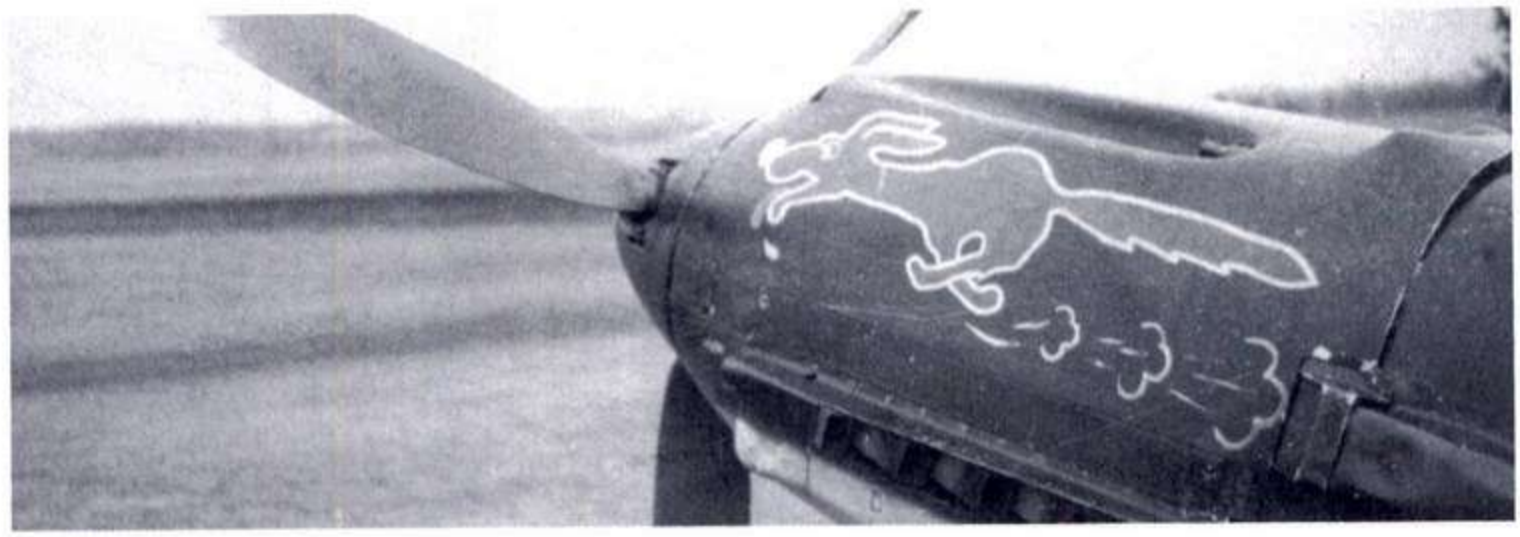


202

The 'running fox' emblem of JGr 101, seen some time between September 1939 and early 1940.

202

3./JGr 101: A cartoon running red fox used from September 1939 until early March 1940 when the unit became 6./ZG 1. Bf 109E.





203

203

1./JGr 102: A befuddled hunter with a blunderbuss. Originated in Bernburg with 1./JG 231 and eventually passed to 1./ZG 2 in early 1940 when the unit converted to the Bf 110. Usually known as the 'Bernburger Jäger'. September-November 1939. Bf 109C/D.



204

204

1./JGr 102: A black hand on a disc. Winter 1939-40. Bf 109C/D.



205

205

I/JG 110*: A winged boar on a shield, probably a variant of the emblem of BFS 11, which was redesignated as JG 110 in October 1943.

206

3./JGr 126: A white cockerel, usually accompanied by the name of a wife or girlfriend, inherited from 9./ZG 26 on reformation, September 1939-February 1940. Bf 109D. The other Staffeln of ZG 26 may also have passed on their badges to JGr 126, but firm evidence is lacking.



206

207

JG 131: A 'Jesau cross', with a yellow outline to the white shield and three yellow aircraft pointing downwards. The oldest day fighter unit in the Luftwaffe, the unit was formed at Jesau in 1937 when it adopted this badge, then became I./JG 1 until July 1940. Late 1938-late 1939. Bf 109D/E.



207

208

Stab/JG 132: In 1937 this was the first unit in the Luftwaffe to receive the Bf 109. Shortly thereafter the famous Richthofen 'R' monogram on a shield appeared. The I Gruppen Stab became the Stab/JG 131 in late 1938, subsequently forming the Stab of I/JG 2 in May 1939 and retaining the emblem thereafter. Bf 109B, C, D, E & F.



208

209

IV./JG 132: An old boot, later inherited by the Stab I./JG 77, which was then redesignated IV./JG 51 in February 1941. Bf 109E & F.



209

210

I./JG 135 (later): A stylised chamois, the 'Kitzbühler mountain goat', was introduced at about the time I./JG 233 was resignated I./JG 51 and began to convert to the Bf 109E. From 1939. Bf 109D & E.



210



This is believed to be Bernhard Malichewski in the cockpit of an overall grey Heinkel He 51 of I./JG 135. The location is probably Bad Aibling in November 1938 shortly after the Gruppe was redesignated I./JG 233, as it still carries the chamois skull and horns badge used by that unit. In mid-1939 the unit was renamed again as I./JG 51 and the emblem disappeared.

211

Stab I./JG 137: A black bear on the city wall of Bernburg, all on a white disc. Only used on Ar 68s in 1937.



211



212

212

1./JG 137: A black hand on a white disc used at first on the Ar 68 in 1937. Following the transformation of the unit into 1./JG 231 and re-equipment with the Bf 109 it was used on the engine cowling, usually with the 'Bernburger Jäger' under the cockpit.



213

213

I(I)./JG 138: The first appearance of the famous Austrian 'Lion of Aspern' was on the Fiat CR 32s of the Austrian Luftstreitkräfte which were taken over after the Anschluss of 1938. For a short period between November 1938 and May 1939 the unit was known as I./JG 134, before then becoming I./JG 76.



Pride in unit did not extend only to aircraft. The 'Lion of Aspern' roars out the name of the owners of the ski hut belonging to the Austrian Jagdgruppe, I./134, formed at Wien-Aspern during the winter of 1938-1939, soon after the annexation of Austria. The Gruppe was then absorbed by the Luftwaffe as I./JG 76 before being renamed II./JG 54 in late 1940. The bulk of the original personnel were Austrians who had volunteered to serve in the Luftwaffe. Note that most illustrations show the lion's head to be on a yellow background; in fact it was white.

214

II.(J)/186 (early): As the unit was originally intended to serve aboard the aircraft carrier *Graf Zeppelin*, the earliest emblem used was the arms of the Zeppelin family. The carrier was never completed and the unit served ashore. September 1939 to May 1940. Bf 109.



214



215

215

II.(J)/186 (later): In view of the obvious complexity of the previous emblem, and the time needed to hand-paint it, it seems logical that the decision was made to use the simpler emblem of a witch riding a bird over the sea. Norway, May 1940. Bf 109E.



216

216

4./TGr 186: An odd choice for a fighter unit was the penguin used by this unit; possibly an ironic allusion to the fact it remained flightless from its intended base, the aircraft carrier *Graf Zeppelin*.



217

217

6./TGr 186: A young witch riding a broomstick. Yet another time-consuming paint job, this emblem was only used during the 'Sitzkrieg'. After the unit moved to Norway in May 1940 it disappeared, presumably as by then the ground crew no longer had the time for the work involved. Bf 109E.



Bf 109E-1 'Yellow 14' of 6./II.(J)/TrgGr 186 displays the 'witch' Staffel emblem. The date is probably autumn 1939 at Nordholz. Note the rarely seen high-visibility helmet cover worn by the pilot, intended as a rescue aid in the event of him having to be located at sea.



218

218

I./JG 231: A befuddled hunter with a blunderbuss. Originated in Bernburg with 1./JG 231 and eventually passed on to 1./ZG 2 in early 1940 when the unit converted to the Bf 110. Usually known as the 'Bernburger Jäger'. September-November 1939. Bf 109C/D.

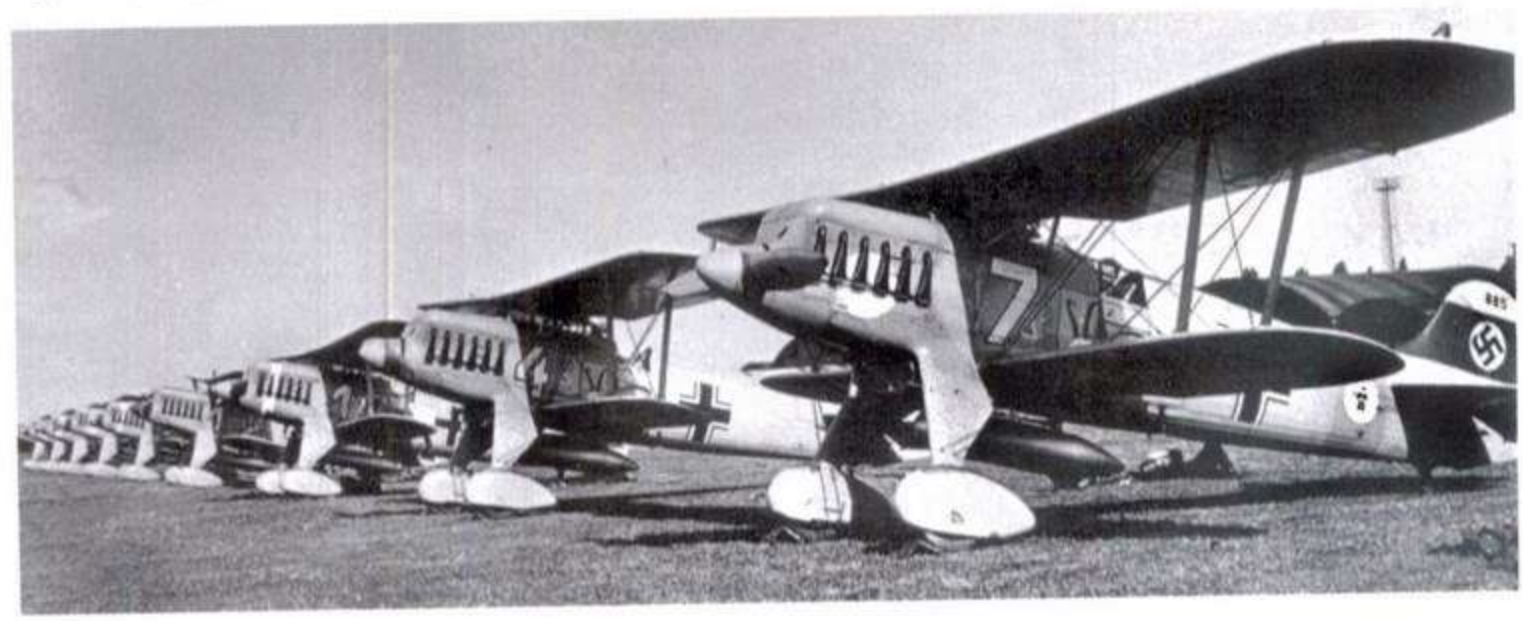


219

219

I./JG 233 (early): The horns of a chamois on a blue shield. 1938. He 51, Bf 109D.

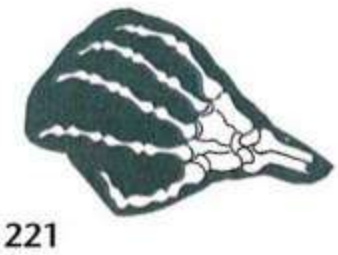
He 51B fighters from all three Staffeln of I/JG 233. Engine cowlings and fuselage bands are bright sky blue, the edge of which can be seen sweeping up in a curve from the wing root. Nearest machine, W.Nr. 885, white '7' of the third staffel, not only wears the 'chamois skull' emblem of the unit just forward of the cockpit, but also a very early example of individual artwork in the newly formed Luftwaffe. On the original print this is clearly a small figure of a Moor wearing a fez, possibly reflecting some specific aspect of the pilot. Probably Bad Aibling, early 1937.




220

220
I./JG 233 (later): A stylised chamois, the 'Kitzbühler mountain goat', was originally the emblem of I./JG 135, then I./JG 233 at Bad Aibling. From 1938. Bf 109D & E.

221
3./JG 233: The clutching hand. Later used by 3./JG 51. 1939. Bf 109E.


221


222

222
JG 301*: A wild bull superimposed on a 'wolf hook', all on a shield. It is quite likely that this emblem never appeared on an aircraft, but may have been used on ground equipment. Originally formed for 'Wilde Sau' operations, the unit reverted to day fighting in March 1944.

223
III./JG 301: A tiger leaping onto a propeller. Following the habit of many Sturmstaffeln, this is another emblem that was worn by pilots, but may never have been carried on an aircraft.


223


224

224
1./JG 400: The legendary and infamous Baron Münchhausen, an 18th-century German eccentric given to tall stories about himself, seen here riding a cannonball. An appropriate motif for the Me 163. 1944-45. Me 163 Komet.


225

225
1./JG 400: A variant of emblem 224. 1944. Me 163 Komet.


226

226
1./JG 400: A variant of emblem 224. 1944. Me 163 Komet.



227

227
2./JG 400: A rocket-propelled flea. The motto 'Wie ein floh aber oho!' translates as 'Like a flea – but oho!' 1944-45. Me 163 Komet.


228

228
5./JG 400?: Previously unknown, it appears that the Staffel may have had the emblem shown here, although definitive proof that it was carried on an Me 163 is lacking.

229
7./JG 400: Baron Münchhausen riding a champagne bottle. An unofficial emblem. Late 1944. Me 163 Komet.

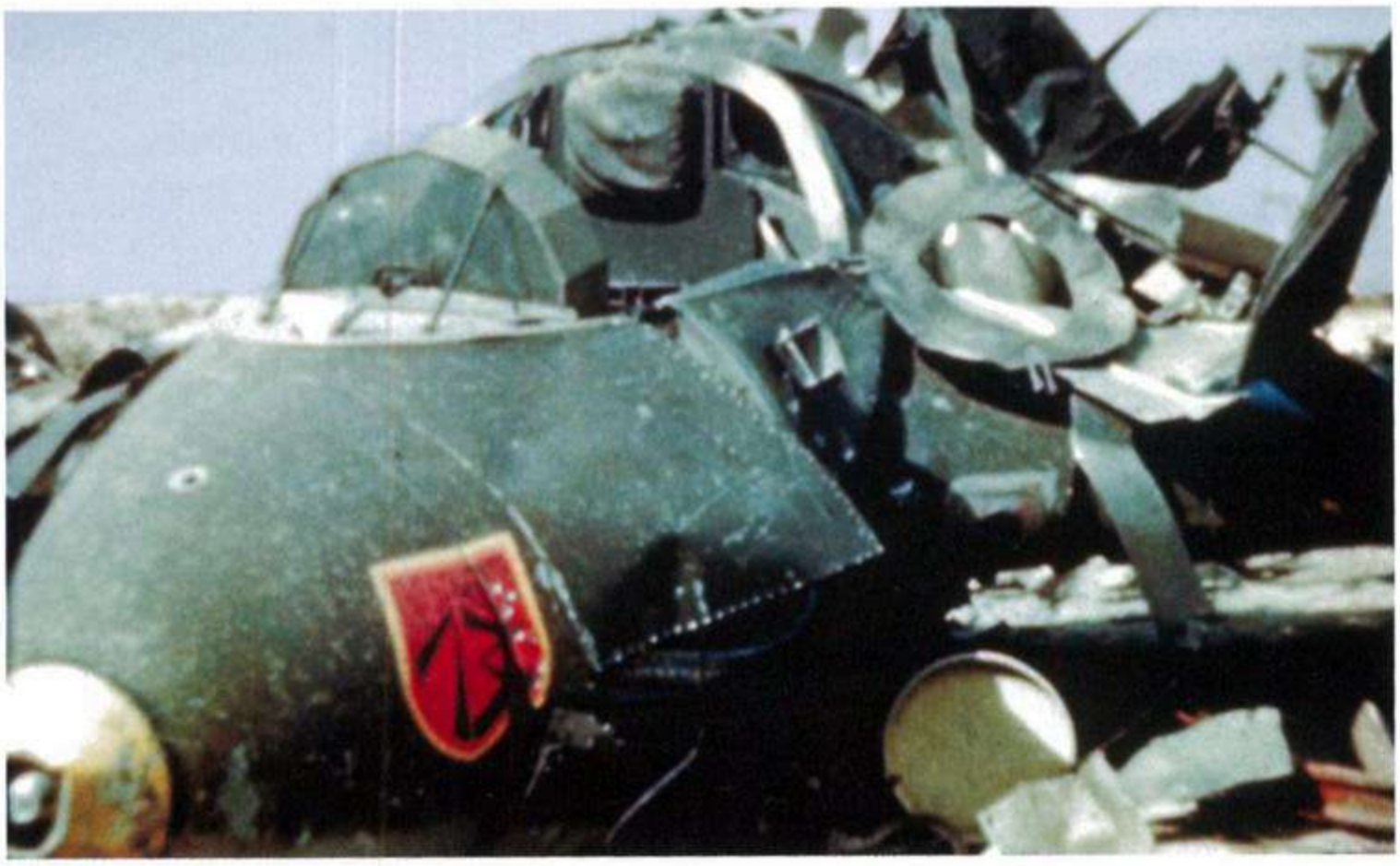

229



230

230
'13./JG 400': Apparently worn by aircraft of the more superstitious pilots. Although not officially approved, the fact remains that several aircraft of JG 400 carried this emblem. 1944-45. Me 163 Komet.

A rare colour view of the apparently unofficial emblem of the 'Black 13th' Staffel of JG 400. Despite this unofficial staus, the fact remains that several aircraft carried this emblem. 1944-1945. Me 163.





231

231
14./EJG 2/JG 400: A rocket streaking through clouds. The unit designation is unconfirmed, but was associated with the training element of JG 400. 1944-45. Me 163 Komet.

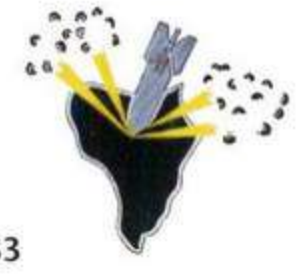


232

232
Sturmstaffel 1*: A gauntlet grasping a bundle of lightning. 1943. Fw 190A.

This is the emblem of Sturmstaffel 1 on an Fw 190A-8. This unit was first created in June 1943, later forming the nucleus of 10. and 11./JG 3 in October. The unit was tasked with almost suicidal attacks on the USAAF daylight bomber formations.





233

233
Jabostaffel Afrika: A bomb striking a map of Africa. 1942-43. Bf 109G.

Night fighter units



234

234

NJ Division: Worn by only a few staff aircraft and long-range fighters. Later replaced by the 'Englandblitz'. Late 1940. Do 215B.



235

235

NJ-Geschwader: The famous 'Englandblitz', a diving eagle clutching a bolt of lightning descending upon a map of Britain. Originally it was not a night fighter emblem at all, but was devised by Victor Mölders, brother of Werner, while a member of 1./ZG 1 in 1940. He took the emblem with him when he moved to the night fighters in June that year. Do 217, He 219, Ju 88, Bf 110.



A close-up view of the so-called 'Englandblitz' emblem of the Nachtjagd carried on the nose of Junkers Ju 88R-1 'D5+EV', W.Nr. 360043, of IV./NJG 3 shortly after its arrival in England. Flown by Lt Schmitt and his crew from Norway, the aircraft arrived at RAF Dyce on 9 May 1943. There is still some mystery over the exact circumstances of its arrival, which was apparently by prior arrangement, 'Schmitt' (if that was his real name) and crew being either defectors or British agents. Whatever the truth, the aircraft was fully functional and fitted with FuG 'Lichtenstein BC' radar (removed here), which was of immense technical value. Today the same machine is on display in the RAF Museum at Hendon.

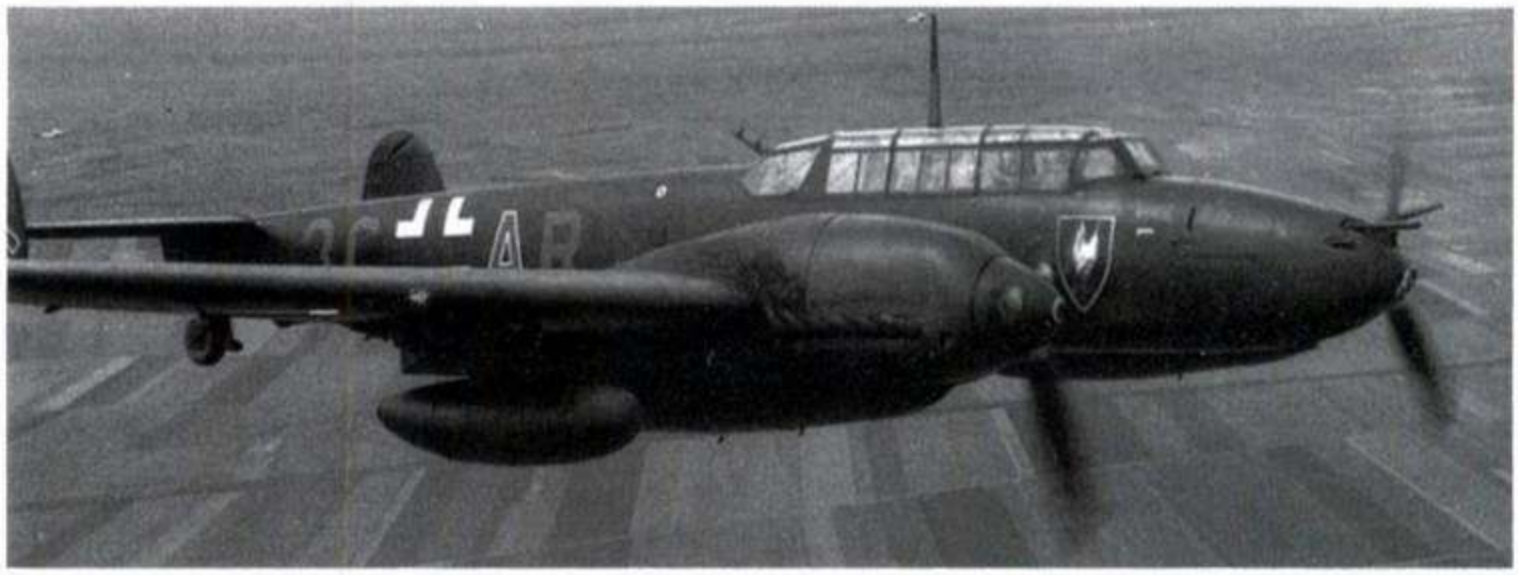


Fully fitted with under-wing bomb racks, this Messerschmitt Bf 110E-1 is an unusual version to find wearing the 'Englandblitz', particularly as it still retains the ladybird of I./ZG 76 (just visible under the open canopy glazing). The fresh-looking appearance of the Nachtjagd badge, combined with the lack of radar and the day fighter camouflage, suggests that the machine has just been transferred to the night fighter arm. The date is therefore some time in September 1940, when the Stab of I./ZG 76 formed the Stab of II./NJG I.

A sheep in wolf's clothing: this Fieseler Fi 156 Storch, 'CK+KF', is in use with the Nachtjagd as a liaison aircraft.



This all-black Bf 110E, '3C+AR' of 7./NJG 4, carries the 'Englandblitz' emblem some time in 1942. Apart from the national markings and aircraft code, the finish is unrelieved black, except for very small white rings on the spinner tips to indicate the Staffel.



236

5./NJG 2?: A camel and palm tree perched in the loop of the number '5' with a red devil on the bar. Ownership is not confirmed, but the desert themes would fit in with the unit's stay in the Mediterranean and North Africa in 1942-43. Bf 110.



236



237

237

11.(NJ)/JG 2: An owl seated on a branch. Originally from 10.(N)/JG 26 and used briefly on the Bf 109D during the period when all fighter Geschwader formed a makeshift night fighter staffel in late 1939-early 1940.



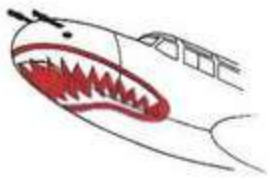
238

238

1./NJG 3: An owl seated on a crescent moon. Used briefly in the Mediterranean in 1942. Bf 110C.

This Messerschmitt Bf 110C night fighter, 'L1+CH', is from 1./NJG 3, newly formed from 13. Staffel of LG1. The aircraft wears the unit emblem of an owl seated on a yellow crescent moon. The finish is overall black, enlivened only by the white national markings and light grey codes; the individual aircraft letter, 'C', is also outlined in white, and also appears under the wingtips. Only the upper half of the theatre marking, a white fuselage band, has been applied. The location is either Trapani or Catania on the eastern coast of Sicily in January 1941, soon after the unit arrived in the Mediterranean.



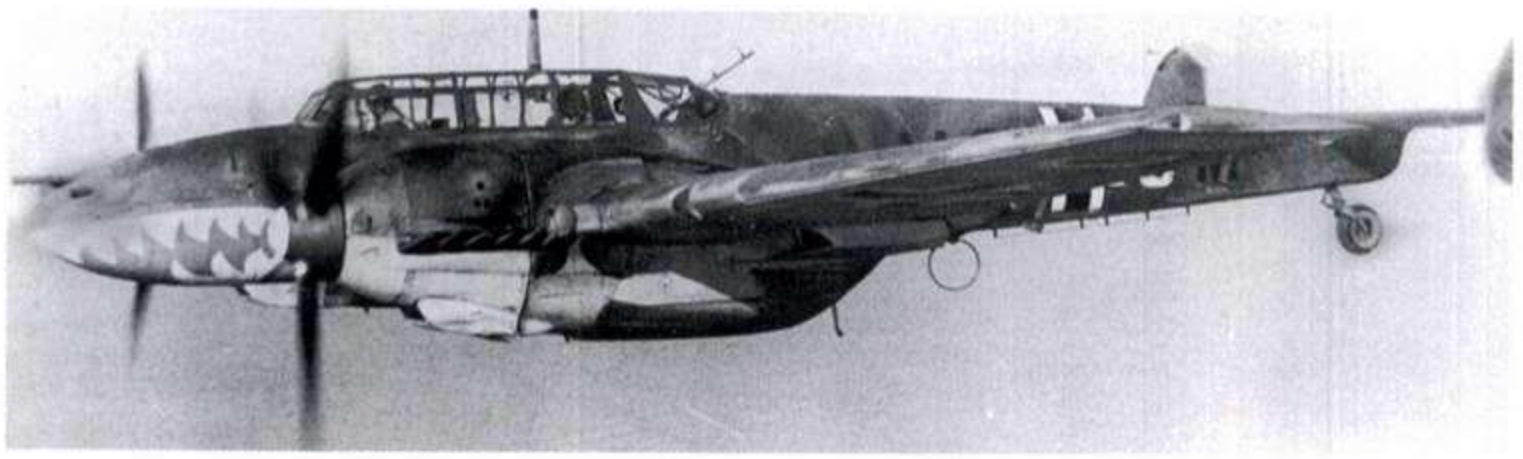


239

Still retaining the 'M8' code and sharkmouth of ZG 76, this Bf 110E is being flown by future night fighter ace Martin Drewes, shortly after ZG 76 became III./NJG 3 in late 1941.

239

III./NJG 3: Possibly the most famous unit badge of all – the sharksmouth – which inspired all the others in the Second World War. Taken over from III./ZG 76 in November 1941. Bf 110C & G.





This Bf 110E is in service with 9./NJG 3, but still wears the sharkmouth of ZG 76, after it was re-tasked as a night fighter unit in late 1941. The aircraft appears to wear a standard day finish with an overspray of irregular lines in a light grey.



240

240

NJG 7: An eagle with spread wings holding a sword and a flaming brand in its talons. The emblem reflects the 'illuminator' task allotted to the unit. 1944-45. Ju 88.



241

241

NJGr 10: A boar's head, similar to that used by JG 300. 1944. Bf 109G, Fw 190.



242

242

10.(N)/JG 26: An owl seated on a branch. Used briefly on the Bf 109D during the period when all fighter Geschwader formed a night fighter staffel in late 1939-early 1940.



243

243

10.(N)/JG 53: The temporary night fighter staffel carried an owl sitting on a 'Pik-As'. Winter 1939. Ar 68E. Shown previously as the emblem of 10.(N)/JG 53, it is repeated here for completeness and to show the earlier simple variant used.



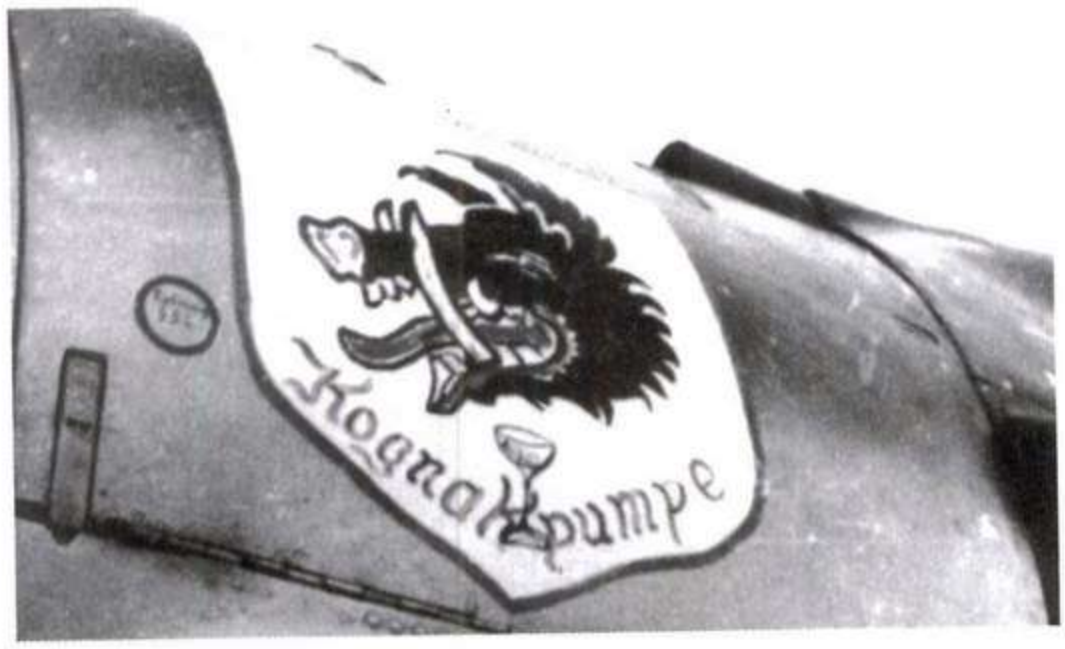
244

244
I./NJG 100: A diving eagle carrying a lightning bolt striking the head of a Russian bear. Winter 1943.

245
JG 300: A boar's head, emblematic of the 'Wilde Sau' night fighter operations with which the unit was tasked. Previously shown many times on a disc, it appears that the boar actually only ever appeared on a shield, a fact borne out by photographs and the evidence of veterans. JG 300, 301 and 302 all reverted to day operations in March 1944 following heavy losses. Fw 190, Bf 109.



245



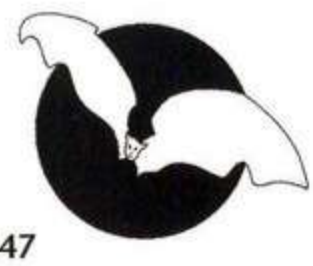
The 'Kognakpumpe' was an interesting variation of the 'Wilde Sau' emblem carried on the Fw 190A-8 flown by Ofw Gunther Migge of NJGr 10 (3./NJG 11).



246

246
Stab/JG 300: The pre-war arms of the city of Bonn consisting of a yellow/gold lion guardant passant on a light field surmounted by a black and silver cross on a white field. The unit was formed at Bonn-Hangelar on 26 June 1943.

247
I./JG 300*: A white bat on a disc. 1943. Bf 109G.

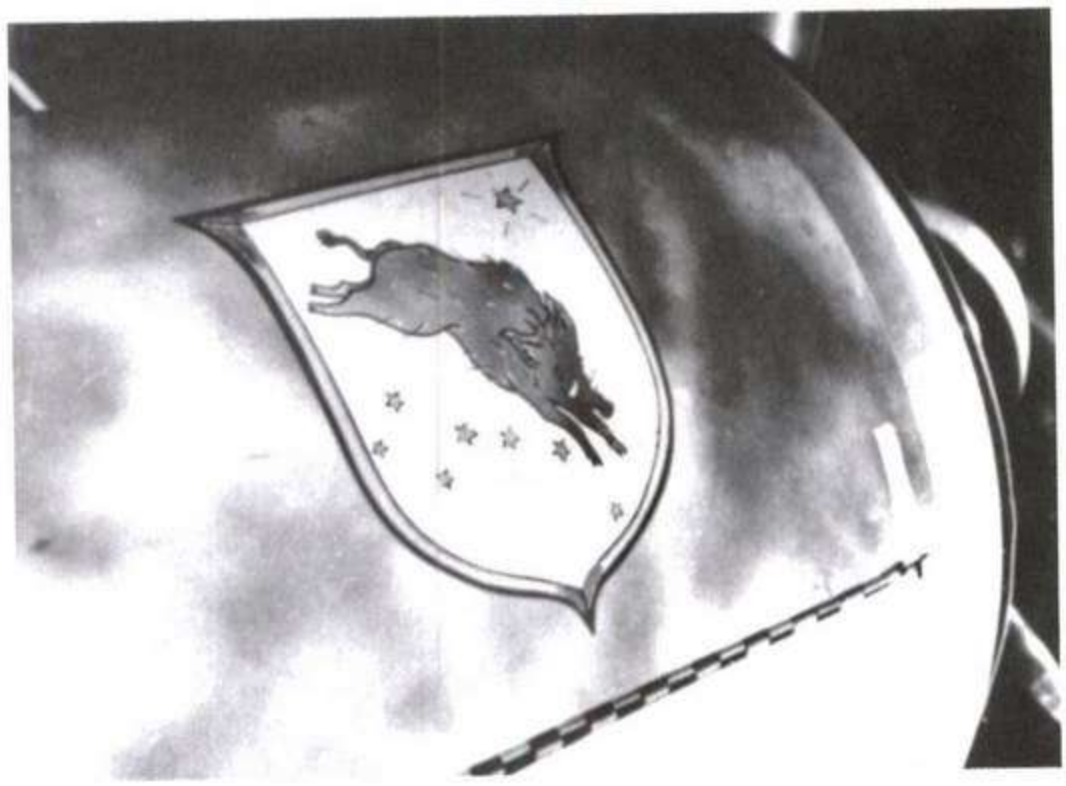


247



248

248
II./JG 300: A boar rampaging through the stars. Fw 190.



A variation of the 'Wilde Sau' emblem on an Fw 190 night fighter of II./JG 300. These aircraft were the nocturnal equivalents of the Sturmstaffeln.


249

249
8./JG 300*: A bear carrying a spear running over the globe. 1944. Fw 190A-8.


250

250
JG 301*: A wild bull superimposed on a 'wolf hook', all on a shield. It is quite likely that this emblem never appeared on an aircraft, but may have been used on ground equipment.


251

251
III./JG 301: A tiger leaping onto a propeller. Following the habit of many Sturmstaffeln, this is another emblem that was worn by pilots but may never have been carried on an aircraft.


252

252
I./JG 302: A red devil riding a wild boar and holding a trident. 1943-44. Bf 109G.

Zerstörer units

Before the full-scale introduction of the Bf 110 as the standard heavy fighter, the Bf 109D was used by several units that were designated as 'Zerstörer' (destroyer). By the outbreak of war most of these early units had been re-equipped with the twin-engined aircraft.

The severe losses sustained by the Zerstörer units during the summer of 1940 led to much reforming. Consequently many of the emblems were to be seen on several different units in a short space of time. They are repeated here for completeness.

253

ZG 1 'Wespen': A spectacular black, white and yellow wasp covering the entire nose of the aircraft. Following severe losses the unit was formed and reformed several times, the emblem thereby also finding its way to SKG 210. Developed from the earlier emblem of II./ZG 1, this is how it appeared in Russia and the Mediterranean. 1941-44. Bf 110C, F & G.



253



Possibly one of the most flamboyant unit markings ever carried by a Luftwaffe aircraft, there is no mistaking the wasp of II./ZG 1 on the nose of a Bf 110, which lent itself so well to such markings.



A starboard-side view of the spectacular wasp emblem of II./ZG 1 on a Messerschmitt Bf 110E-1, somewhere in Russia in 1942. An ETC500/IXb centre-line bomb rack is clearly visible. The propeller spinners appear to be yellow, suggesting that this is a machine of the 6. Staffel.



254

254
I./ZG 1*: An eagle flying over a sea full of U-boats, symbolic of the unit's task of protecting friendly submarines in the Bay of Biscay. Autumn 1943. Although ZG 1 was flying the Ju 88C at the time, there is no evidence that the emblem was applied to aircraft.



255

255
1./ZG 1 (early): A British lion in the clutches of an eagle. 1939-40. Bf 110C.



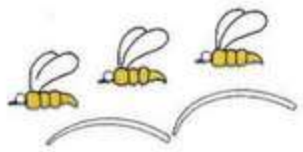
256

256
1./ZG 1 (later): The famous 'Englandblitz' emblem of a diving eagle clutching a bolt of lightning descending upon a map of Britain was devised by Victor Mölders while he was a member of 1./ZG 1 in 1940. He took the emblem with him when he moved to the night fighters in June that year. Bf 110C.



257

257
3./ZG 1: A lion's head. 1939. Bf 110C.



258

258
I./ZG 1: Three wasps above a cloud. Carried over to III./ZG 76 when that unit was redesignated in June 1940. Bf 110C.



259

259
2./JGr 101: A devil in the clouds against a yellow sky. Used briefly from late September 1939 until early March 1940, when the staffel reverted to being 4./ZG 1.



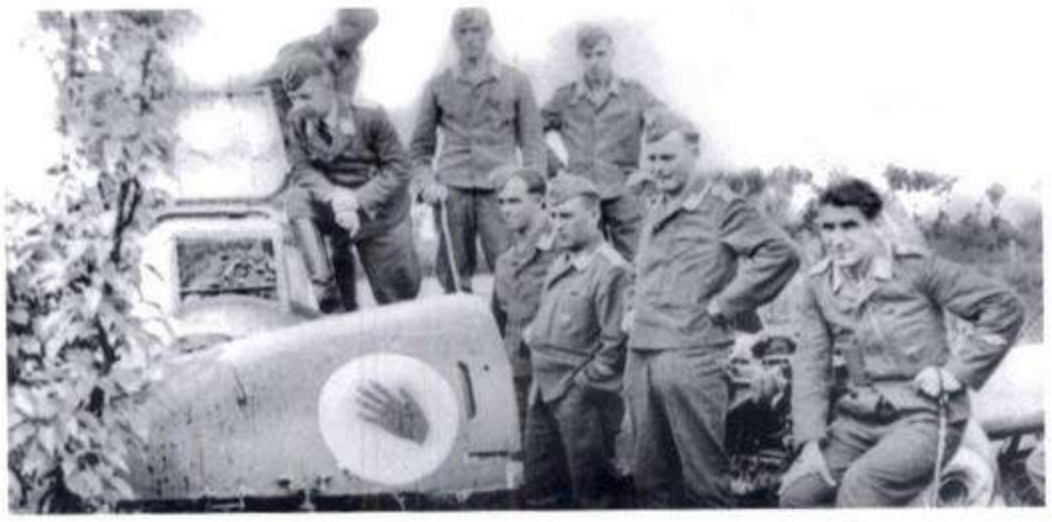
260

260
I./ZG 2: A befuddled hunter with a blunderbuss. Originated in Bernburg with 1./JG 231 and was inherited by I./ZG 2. Usually known as the 'Bernburger Jäger'. This is the same emblem as carried even earlier by 1./JG 137. 1939-40. Bf 109E, Bf 110C.



261

261
I./ZG 2: A black hand on a white disc, alluding to the notorious criminals in America known as the 'Black Hand Gang'. Inherited from 1./JG 231 and seen on Bf 109Ds before Bf 110Cs in 1940, usually in combination with the 'Bernburger Jäger'. May 1939-October 1940.



A disconsolate ground crew gather around a rather bent Messerschmitt Bf 110C of I./ZG 2 bearing that unit's 'Black Hand Gang' emblem. The glum faces are probably on account of the potential amount of repair work.



262

262
II./ZG 2 (early): A white dragon on a black shield. Originally the emblem of I./ZG 52, which was reformed as I./ZG 2 after it had been decimated in the Battle of Britain. Summer 1940. Bf 110C.



A 'black man' on a French airfield in 1940 carefully camouflages a Messerschmitt Bf 110C of I./ZG 52, whose dragon insigne is visible on the nose. This particular example is a little more detailed than usual. ZG 52 was decimated during the Battle of Britain, and as a result had to be disbanded; the emblem was then passed on to II./ZG 2. The new owners fared little better and the emblem consequently fell into disuse.

263
II./ZG 2 (later): A red German crocodile chasing a black British fish; known as the 'Ringelpitz'. Inherited from I./ZG 26 after reforming in March 1942. Bf 110C & F.



263



264

264
4./ZG 2: A white dragon on a black shield, the same as II./ZG 2. Summer 1940. Bf 110C.

265
5./ZG 2: A white dragon on a black shield, the same as II./ZG 2. Summer 1940. Bf 110C.



265



266

266
6./ZG 2: A white dragon on a black shield, the same as II./ZG 2. Summer 1940. Bf 110C.

267
ZG 26 'Horst Wessel': A shield quartered red and black with the monogram in runic form of the Nazi gutter poet after whom the unit was named. 1939-??.

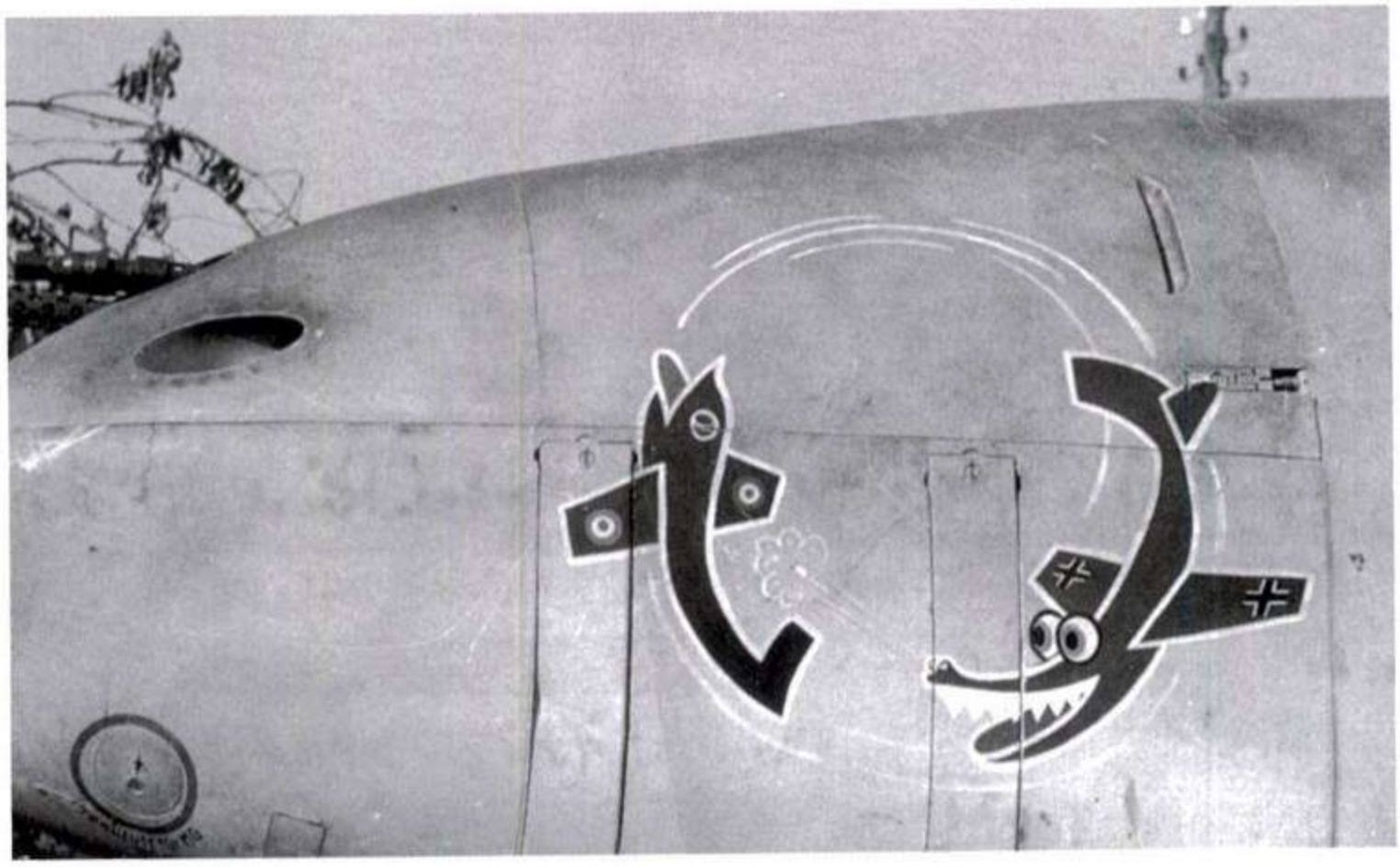


267



268

268
I./ZG 26: A red German crocodile chasing a black British fish; known as the 'Ringelpitz'. Later used by II./ZG 2. 1940. Bf 110C.



This is the 'Ringelpitz' of I./ZG 26, which was later passed on to II./ZG 2 after it was reformed in March 1942.

269
?./ZG 26*: A small devil holding a bow and arrow. 1939-40. Bf 110C.



269



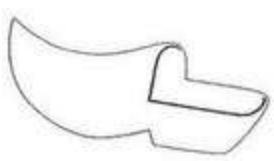
270

270
3./ZG 26 (early): The cartoon drunken raven 'Hans Huckebein' (created by Wilhelm Busch in 1886) standing on one leg, sometimes holding onto a ringsight. 1939-40. Bf 109C & D, Bf 110C.

271
3./ZG 26 (later): The silhouette of a steam locomotive. Introduced as a result of the unit's strafing activities in Poland in 1939. Bf 110C.



271



272

272
II./ZG 26: A wooden clog. 1940-44. Bf 110, Me 410.

273
Stab II./ZG 26: A yellow lightning flash. Used briefly in 1939. Bf 110B.



273



274

274
4./ZG 26: A ladybird on a red and black outlined white diamond. From September 1939. Used on Bf 109D and Bf 110B.

275
5./ZG 26: An ace of spades in a diamond with a red surround. Introduced 1940. Bf 110C.



275



276

276
6./ZG 26: A red square on a white diamond. September-December 1939. Bf 109C.



277

277
III./ZG 26: A ladybird in a diamond. 1939-40. Bf 110C.



278

278
7./ZG 26 (early)?: A black cat arching its back. Some uncertainty is attached to this emblem. Possibly originating with JG 134, the cat was seen on an Ar 68E in late 1939. Bf 110.



279

279
7./ZG 26: A penguin holding an umbrella superimposed on the double chevron of the ZG units. 1940. Bf 110C.



280

280
8./ZG 26 (early): A sad fox. 1939-early 1940. Bf 109D, Bf 110C.



281

281
8./ZG 26: A black cat superimposed on two red chevrons. 1940-41. Bf 110E.



282

282
8./ZG 26* (later): A be-spurred cowboy riding a Bf 110. Used in Russia, 1941-42.



283

283
9./ZG 26: A white cockerel. 1939-42. Bf 109B, Bf 110C.



Seen in Sicily in 1941-42, this is '3U+JT', a Messerschmitt Bf 110E-2 of 9./ZG 26, whose cockerel badge is clearly visible on the nose. At this time the unit had the duty of protecting Axis shipping convoys between Sicily and North Africa. As a result, the bomb racks under the wing were removed in order to lighten the aircraft and allow the fitting of 900-litre drop tanks to enhance the range of the aircraft. The small letter 'N' on the engine cowling indicates the use of DB 601N engines, which required 100 octane fuel.


284

284
10(N)./ZG 26: A black cat arching its back. A simpler version of the emblem used earlier by 7./ZG 26, it was carried by the short-lived single-seat night fighter staffeln formed in the early months of the Second World War. Bf 109D.


285

285
11./ZG 26?: The silhouette of a diving eagle. Mediterranean, 1943. Ju 88C. (It is uncertain whether this is a staffel or personal emblem.)


286

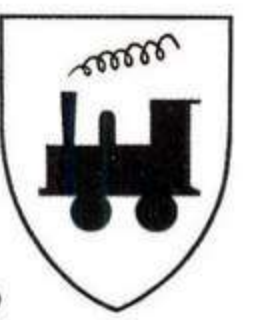
286
I./ZG 52: A white dragon on a black shield. Passed to II./ZG 2 after ZG 52 had been decimated in the Battle of Britain. Summer 1940. Bf 110C.


287

287
I./ZG 76 (early)*: A chequered Moravian eagle based on the arms of the Czech town of Olmütz (Olomouc). Used briefly in summer 1939. Bf 109C & D.


288

288
I./ZG 76: A brown or dark red dancing fox on a shield. Introduced by the then Kommandeur, Major Reinecke. 1939-1941. Bf 110C.


289

289
1./ZG 76 (later): The silhouette of a steam locomotive on a shield, reflecting the unit's strafing duties in Poland in 1939. Bf 110C.


290

290
2./ZG 76: A ladybird on a shield. Inherited from 5./ZG 141 when that unit converted from the Bf 109 to the Bf 110 and was redesignated. 1940. Bf 110C, D & E.


291

291
3./ZG 76 (early)?*: A chequered Moravian eagle based on the arms of the Czech town of Olmütz (Olomouc). 1939. Bf 110B.


292

292
3./ZG 76 (later): A red eagle fighting a green dragon, sometimes on a shield. Rarely seen. 1940. Bf 110.

This Messerschmitt Bf 110E-2 of 4./ZG 76, 'M8+LM', is complete with a fearsome sharkmouth. The light-coloured panel on the upper portion of the nose could be a white tactical marking adopted during the Battle of Britain, but with tyres well protected against the elements the location is more likely somewhere in the Balkans in 1941, a yellow nose or engine cowling and rudder being a Luftwaffe tactical marking during the invasion of Greece and Yugoslavia. Note the small letter 'N' on the engine cowling indicating the need for 100 octane fuel for the uprated DB 601N engines.

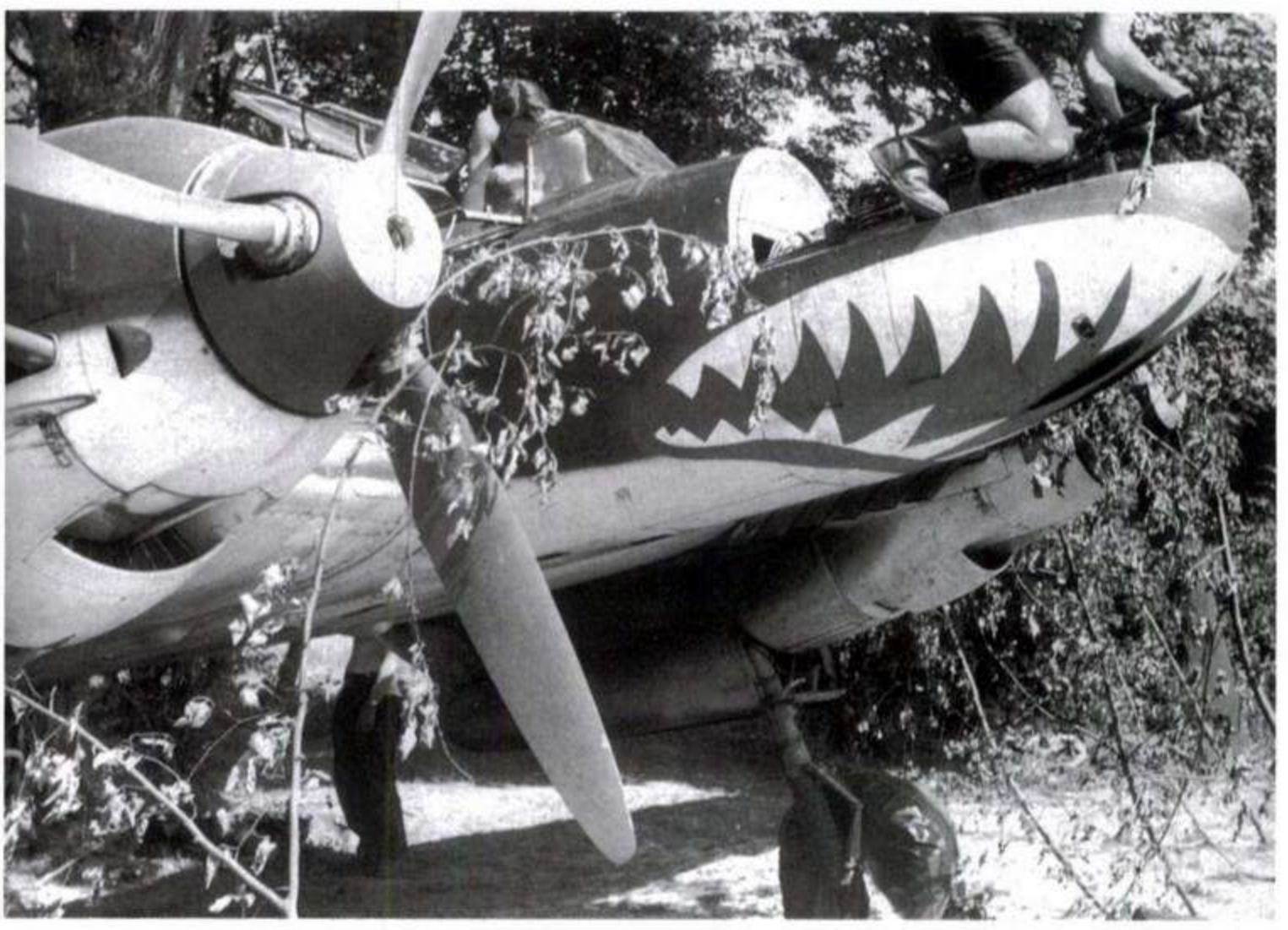
293

II./ZG 76 'Haifisch Gruppe': Possibly the most famous unit badge of all – the sharkmouth – which inspired all others in the Second World War. Later taken over to III./NJG 3 in November 1941. Spring 1940 onwards. Bf 110C & D.



293





Ground crew busily rearm the nose guns of a Messerschmitt Bf 110C-2 of II./ZG 76 somewhere on a French airfield in summer 1940. The white spinner fronts suggest that this is a 4. Staffel machine. At this time camouflage is still the RLM 70/71/65 scheme.



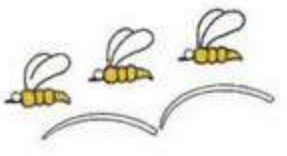
294

294

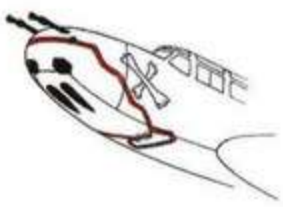
4./ZG 76: The sharkmouth as above, but also combined with Iraqi markings on aircraft from the unit used there in 1941. Bf 110C & D.

295

III./ZG 76 (early): Three wasps over a cloud. Inherited from II./ZG 1 when that unit was redesignated in June 1940. Bf 110C.



295



296

296

III./ZG 76?: A skull and crossbones covering the entire nose of the aircraft. Although the aircraft wearing this bizarre decoration was in Denmark in 1941 at the same time as III/ZG 76, there is no conclusive proof to link the two. It is also possible that this was used only by a single aircraft. Bf 110.



297

297

4./ZG 141: A white griffon on a red shield. 1939. Bf 109D.



298

298

5./ZG 141: A ladybird on a shield, the significance of which is unknown. The frame was sometimes blue or grey. Later passed on to 2./ZG 76. 1939. Bf 109D.



299

299

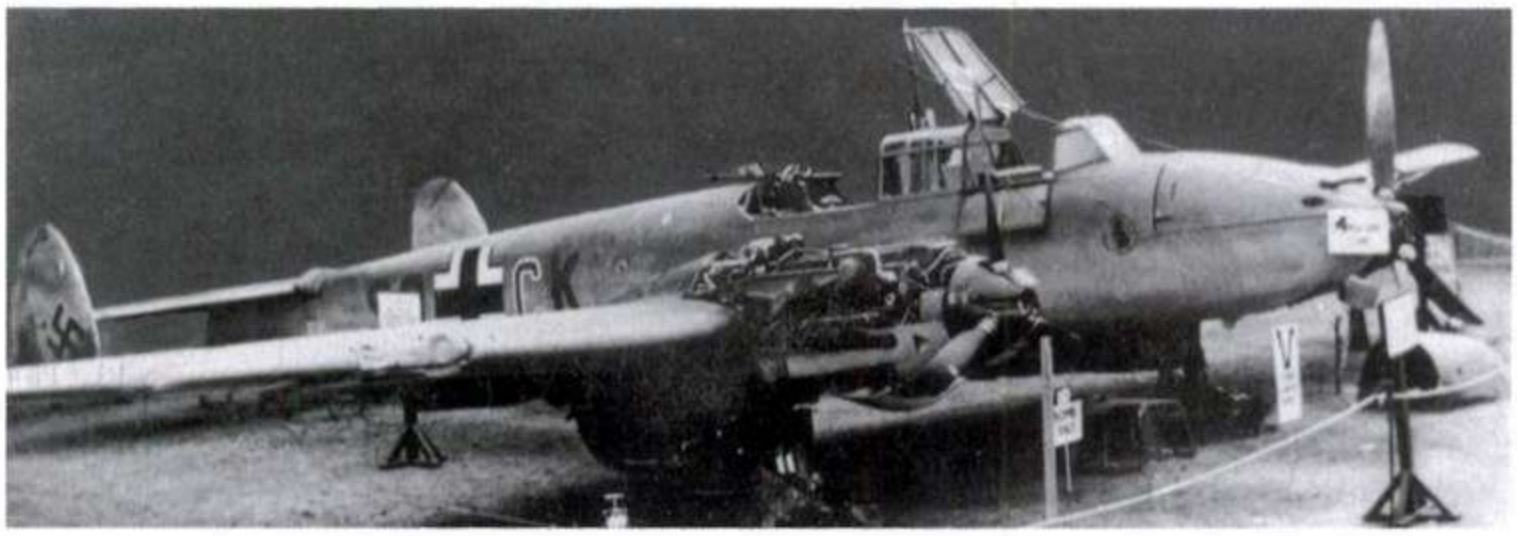
2./ZG 143*: A heraldic spread eagle, unusually positioned upon the rear fuselage of the unit's Ar 68s. The emblem seems to have disappeared when the Gruppe converted to the Bf 109D during 1939, being redesignated I./ZG 52. November 1938-1939. Ar 68.



300

300

Erpr.Gr 210: A gunsight over a map of Britain. Formed in summer 1940 for fighter-bomber duties, the unit was redesignated SKG 210 in April 1941, but retained the same emblem, codes and aircraft. Bf 110C, D & E.



Seen on display in Hendon for fund-raising, this is Messerschmitt Bf 110D 'S9+CK' of 2./Erpr.Gr 210 (W.Nr. 3341). The aircraft was shot down during an attack on Croydon on 15 August 1940. Both members of the crew, pilot Oblt Alfred Habisch and radio operator Uffz Ernst Elfner, were captured unhurt. Just visible on the nose is the 'gunsight over Britain' badge of the unit, which was eventually passed to SKG 210 in 1941.



Being bombed up probably during the Battle of Britain period, this Bf 110 belongs to Erpr.Gr 210 and carries that unit's 'gunsight' emblem.

A rotte of Messerschmitt Bf 110Es of 1./SKG 210 somewhere over the Russian front in 1941. Two of them wear a developed version of the 'gunsight over Britain' badge first used by Erpr.Gr 210 a year previously. Colour shift in the original image makes it difficult to say with certainty what the colour scheme is, but it appears to be RLM 02/71 with much overspraying and the underside blue recently added to the wing leading edges.



301

3./Erpr.Gr 210: A witch riding a bird over the sea. Presumably carried over from 4.(J)/186 when that unit converted to the 'Schnellbomber' role and was renamed in July 1940, although definite photographic confirmation that the emblem was carried after that date is lacking. Bf 109E.



301

302

SKG 210 (later): A black, white and yellow wasp's head covering the entire nose of the aircraft. Inherited from ZG 1 when the unit was reformed with crews from ZG 1 in January 1942. Until 1944. Bf 109E, Bf 110C, D, E & G.



302

This is a Messerschmitt Bf 110C-4 belonging to SKG 210 over Smolensk in Russia in winter 1941/42. Finished in typically nondescript temporary winter camouflage, the wasp emblem was inherited by SKG 210 when that unit was reconstituted from 1./ZG 1 in June 1941. In January 1942 the process was reversed and Stab II./SKG 210 became Stab II./ZG 1.



303

Unidentified: The arms of Westphalia – a white prancing horse on a red shield. May be connected with ZG 26, whose Geschwader Stab and I Gruppe were both formed in Dortmund and III Gruppe in Lippstadt. Spring 1940. Bf 110C.



303

Bomber units


304

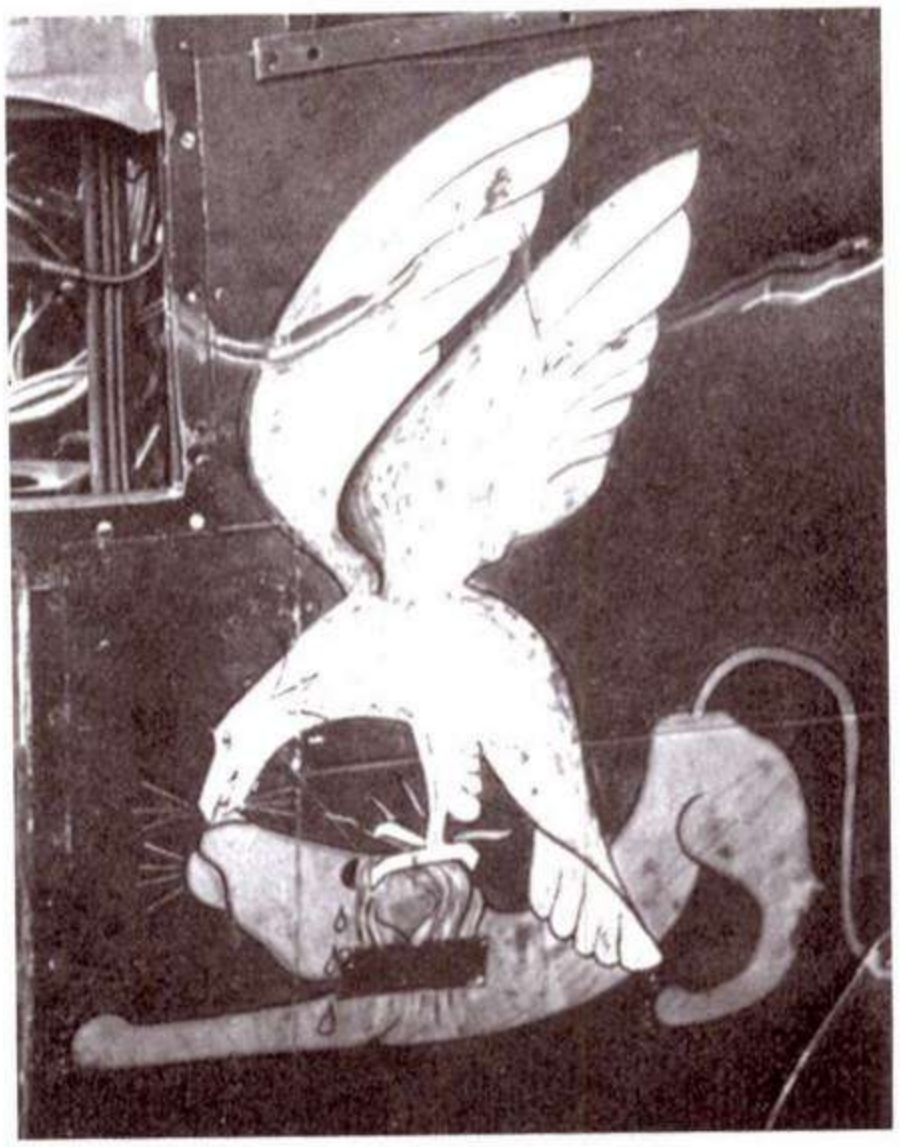
304
KG 1 'Hindenburg' (early): The coat of arms of Generalfeldmarschall Hindenburg. Used until the outbreak of the Second World War. Ju 86.


305

305
KG 1 'Hindenburg' (later): A simplified version of Generalfeldmarschall Hindenburg's signature. 1940 onwards. Ju 88.


306

306
3./KG 1: An eagle biting the nose of a lion. Late 1940-early 1941. He 111.



The rarely seen emblem of 3./KG 1 on a Heinkel He 111H.

307
4./KG 1: A cow with lightning coming from its nose riding a bomb. 1940 onwards. He 111.


307

308
6./KG 1: A flying black owl silhouetted against a full moon. 1940. He 111.


308

309
6./KG 1 (variant)*: A flying black owl silhouetted against a full moon, all on a shield. 1940. He 111.


309



310

310
7./KG 1: An eagle carrying a bomb over a railway line, all on a shield. Frequently combined with a white diamond on the fin. 1939-42. He 111. Ju 88A.

311
10./KG 1: The arms of the city of Stuttgart, a prancing black horse on a yellow shield. Staffel formed in December 1940. Ju 88.



311



A Junkers Ju 88 carrying both the prancing horse emblem of 10./KG 1 and the Geschwader badge, the stylised signature of Generalfeldmarschall Hindenburg.



312

312
IV/KG 1: A Teutonic black cross on a white shield, placed on a blue shield beneath the signature of Generalfeldmarschall Hindenburg. Used by the operational training Gruppe of the unit. 1941-44. Ju 88.

313
11./KG 1*: A black disc, outlined white with a white diamond within and a red diamond in the centre. Summer 1940. He 111.



313



314

314
KG 2 'Holzhammer': A hand holding a wooden mallet. Unit formed in summer 1939. Do 17, Do 217.

315
1./KG 2: The silhouette of an eagle carrying a bomb in its claws. 1940-41. Do 17Z.



315


316

316
4./KG 2?*: An oriental figure carrying a telescope and riding a diving bomb. 1940-41. Do 17Z.

317
5./KG 2*: A 'ferocious Dornier' superimposed upon a globe. 1940. Do 17Z.


317



318

318
6./KG 2: The iron gauntlet of Götz von Berlichingen (a legendary medieval German knight who used an artificial iron hand after losing the real thing in battle; allegedly responsible for originating the saying 'They can kiss my arse'). Unit formed from 6./KG 252 in May 1939. Do 17.


319

319
Stab/KG 3 (early): The arms of the city of Elbing (where the unit was formed), consisting of two iron crosses, one red, one white. 1939-late 1940. Do 17Z.


320

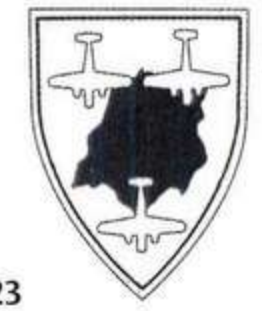
320
Stab/KG 3 'Blitz' (later): A white bolt of lightning against a green shield. 1941-44. Ju 88.


321

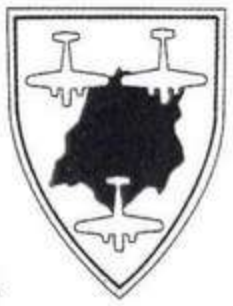
321
Stab I./KG 3 (early)*: Three Dorniers in silhouette over a map of East Prussia, where the unit was formed. 1939-40. Do 17Z.


322

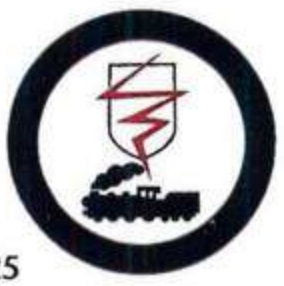
322
Stab I./KG 3 (later): A red bolt of lightning against a white shield. 1941-44. Ju 88.


323

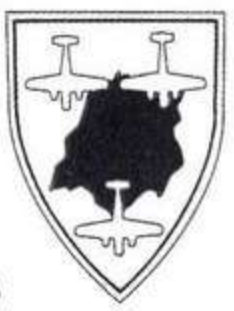
323
1./KG 3*: Three Dorniers in silhouette over a map of East Prussia, where the unit was formed. 1939-40. Do 17Z.


324

324
2./KG 3 (early)*: Three Dorniers in silhouette over a map of East Prussia, where the unit was formed. 1939-40. Do 17Z.


325

325
2./KG 3 (later): The silhouette of a steam locomotive below the lightning on a shield emblem, all within a black ring. Used after the unit was reformed in March 1940 and re-equipped with the Ju 88 for train-busting duties.


326

326
3./KG 3*: Three Dorniers in silhouette over a map of East Prussia, where the unit was formed. 1939-40. Do 17Z.



327

327
Stab II./KG 3 (early): A singing thrush. Inherited from II./KG 153, which formed at Merseburg in 1936. At that time Merseburg was famous for its choir, which was the inspiration for the badge. All three staffeln used the Gruppe emblem as well as a Staffel badge. 1939-40. Do 17Z, Ju 88A.



A Dornier Do 17Z with the 'thrush' emblem of II./KG 3 and a staffel marking on the engine cowling. The badge of 5. Staffel is already known, so this devil on a bomb must belong to either 4. or 6. Staffel; as it is red, there is a slight bias in favour of it being that of 4. Staffel.



328

328
Stab II./KG 3 (later): A bolt of white lightning against a red shield. 1941-43. Ju 88.



329

329
4. or 6./KG 3: A red devil riding a bomb. Known to be from II Gruppe, but unconfirmed as to which staffel. 1940. Do 17Z.

330
5./KG 3*: A diving bird holding a bomb in its claws. 1939-40. Do 17Z.



330



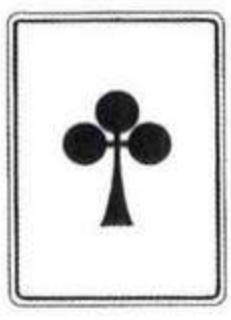
331

331
Stab III./KG 3 (early): A hand of all four ace cards. Inspired by the main industry (making playing-cards) of Altenburg, where the unit was formed as III./KG 153 in 1936. Do 17.



332

332
Stab III./KG 3 (later): A red bolt of lightning against a yellow shield. 1941-44. Ju 88.



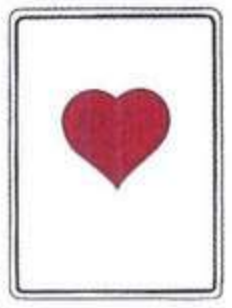
333

333
7./KG 3: A playing-card with the ace of clubs. Inherited from 7./KG 153. 1939-41. Do 17.


334

334
8./KG 3: A playing-card with the ace of spades. Inherited from 8./KG 153. 1939-41. Do 17.

335
9./KG 3: A playing-card with the ace of hearts. Inherited from 9./KG 153. 1939-41. Do 17.


335


336

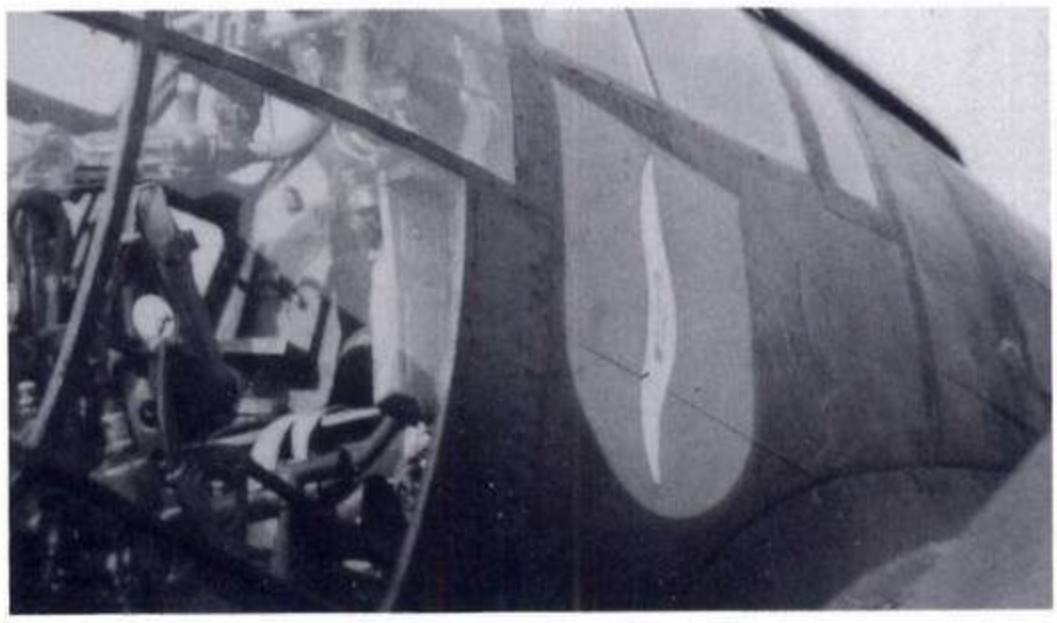
336
9.(Eis)/KG 3 (later): A winged railway wheel, once used as a Reichsbahn air express logo, as an ironic comment on the unit's specific task of attacking Soviet railway assets. Ju 88C.

337
15.(Kroat)/KG 3: An 'Ustasha' checkerboard. The unit was manned by Croats, the emblem being an ancient Croatian symbol. 1943. Do 17Z.


337


338

338
Stab/KG 4 'General Wever': A white shuttle on a red shield. Taken from the family coat of arms of General Walther Wever, the Luftwaffe's first Chief of Staff, who was killed in a flying accident in 1936. 1939-42. He 111.



A cheerful crew member stands in the cockpit of an He 111 of KG 4, showing the unit's 'weaving shuttle' emblem.

339
III./KG 4 (early): The arms of the city of Nordhausen, a black spread eagle on a golden yellow shield, relating to where the Gruppe was formed from III./KG 253. Seen in Norway, April 1940. He 111.


339



The arms of the city of Nordhausen are blazoned large on the fuselage of this He 111 of III./KG 4. Note the protective fairing to the aircraft's bombsight.



340

340
7./KG 4: A yellow bat superimposed on a crescent moon. Seen in England, October 1940. Probably only until October-November 1940, when the unit was redesignated III./KG 30. Ju 88.

Pictured on a planked runway, possibly in Holland, this Ju 88A wears the 'bat and moon' emblem of 7./KG 4, reflecting the Staffel's night bombing role. The period is probably during the early Blitz.





341

341
III./KG 4 (second formation): An owl seated on a branch surrounded by the moon and stars, reflecting the nocturnal minelaying and bombing carried out by the unit. 1941. He 111.

An unidentified air crew poses in front of a Heinkel He 111 of III./KG 4, whose owl emblem is clearly visible. The propeller spinners appear to be yellow, so the machine could be from 9. Staffel.





342

342
Stab/KG 6: The upper half of a spread eagle over a rain of bombs on a shield. Formed September 1942. Ju 88.



343

343
2./KG 6: A running lion over two bombs on a shield. Formed August 1942 from 2./KG 77. Ju 88.

344
I./KG 26 'Löwen': A black lion sejant on a white shield. 1939-42. He 111.





344

'72+F25' is an He 111H or P of KG 257 in early 1939, not long before it was reformed as KG 26. The lion emblem on the nose was retained by the later unit, but not the complex code system. The location is probably Lüneburg.



A close-up of the lion badge of I./KG 26 on a crashed He 111.



Local entertainment for the crew of this Heinkel He 111H-6 of KG 26, somewhere in Sardinia in late 1942.



An in-flight shot of an He 111H of 5./KG 26, somewhere in the Mediterranean area, as indicated by the white fuselage band.



345

345
Stab I./KG 26: As above, but a white lion sejant on a green shield. 1939-42. He 111.

346
1./KG 26*: A dwarf in 18th-century dress (Baron Münchhausen?), carrying a lance and riding a flying bomb. Marked on either engine cowlings or fuselage and used concurrently with the lion on a shield. The motto 'Zwerg Zausdürrer', meaning something along the lines of 'scrawny dwarf', was a favourite expression of the then Staffelkapitän, Hptmn Martin Vetter, when under stress. 1939-40. He 111.



346



A close-up of the insignia on the fuselage of a Heinkel He 111 of KG 26 in 1939-40, showing the dwarf in 18th-century dress (Baron Münchhausen?), carrying a lance and riding a flying bomb. This was also used on engine cowlings on other aircraft, concurrently with the lion on a shield. The motto 'Zwerg Zausdürrer', roughly translated as 'scrawny dwarf', was a favourite expression of the then Staffelkapitän, Hptmn Martin Vetter, when under stress.



347

347
1/KG 26 (variant): A black lion sejant on a white shield, but with a suitcase hanging from the shield. Inspired by the view of the Staffel ground crews that the frequent moves from base to base meant they were living out of their suitcases. 1940. He 111.

348
II./KG 26: A red lion sejant on a white shield. 1939-42. He 111.



348



Beware lions! This publicity picture shows an He 111 of II./KG 26 somewhere in the Mediterranean, presumably North Africa, as revealed by the desert camouflage and the presence of the lion cub. Note the sunblind in the roof of the crew compartment.



349

349
Stab II./KG 26*: A red lion sejant on a green shield. 1939-42. He 111.



350

350
III./KG 26: A black lion sejant on a yellow shield. 1939-42. He 111.



351

351
Stab III./KG 26*: A yellow or gold lion sejant on a green shield. 1939-42. He 111.



352

352
IV./KG 26: A black lion sejant on a blue shield. 1939-42. He 111.



353

353
Stab IV./KG 26: A blue lion sejant on a green shield. 1939-42. He 111.

354
Stab/KG 27 'Boelcke': A yellow, white and red horse leaping over the arms of the city of Hannover, where the unit had been stationed before the war. Formed in spring 1939 and named after the famous First World War pilot. He 111.


354



355

355
I./KG 27: A black winged sword on a white shield. Formed in spring 1939. He 111.



356

356
II./KG 27: A black winged sword on a red shield. Formed in spring 1939. He 111.



357

357
III./KG 27: A black winged sword on a yellow shield. Formed in spring 1939. He 111.



358

358
IV./KG 27: A black winged sword on a blue shield. Formed in spring 1939. He 111.


359

359
KG 30 'Adler': A black swooping eagle on a shield divided diagonally into red, white and yellow bands. Formed in September 1939, this was the first unit to be equipped with the Ju 88.



360

360

I./KG 30: A black swooping eagle on a white shield. Formed in September 1939. Ju 88.



Junkers Ju 88A-4 '4D+GK', of 2./KG 30, is somewhere over the Eastern Front in 1943. The eagle emblem is clearly visible, as are the yellow wingtip theatre markings. There is an abbreviated yellow band just below the fuselage cross and the aircraft letter is in red outlined in white.



Refuelling is under way on a Ju 88A of I./KG 30, probably somewhere in Finland or Norway.



This early-model Junkers Ju 88A-1 carries the KG 30 eagle badge, here on a white background indicating that the aircraft belongs to I Gruppe. KG 30 was the first unit to deploy the Ju 88 in combat. The location is probably somewhere in France in summer 1940. Note the lightweight summer flying helmets worn by the crew.



361

361
1./KG 30: A black umbrella on a white shield with a yellow gunsight superimposed. Formed in 1939. Ju 88.

362
II./KG 30: A black swooping eagle on a red shield. Formed in September 1939. Ju 88.



362



'4D+DP' is an early-model Ju 88A from 6./KG 30, whose red and black eagle emblem can be seen under the canopy, probably during the Battle of Britain period.



363

363
III./KG 30: A black swooping eagle on a yellow shield. First formed in September 1939, until late 1940, then reformed from III./KG 4. Ju 88.

364
12./KG 30?: A stork carrying a bomb in a nappy hanging from its beak. Formed November 1940. Ju 88.



364



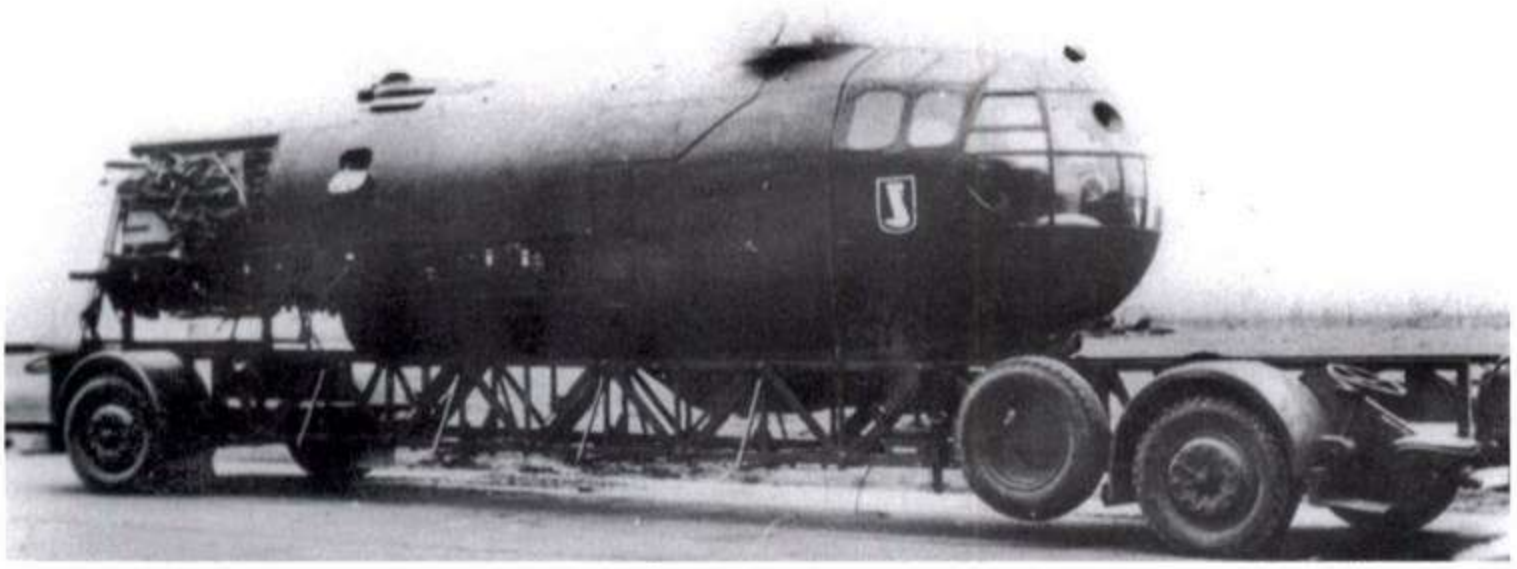
365

365
I./KG 40: The world in a ring, reflecting the long-range nature of the unit's operations. Formed April 1940 and equipped with the Fw 200 for maritime operations. Emblem used until very late in the war.

366
KG 50: A white 'worm' on a yellow-outlined black shield. First formed late 1942. Emblem noted on several He 177s on the Eastern Front. Possibly only used during 1943.



366

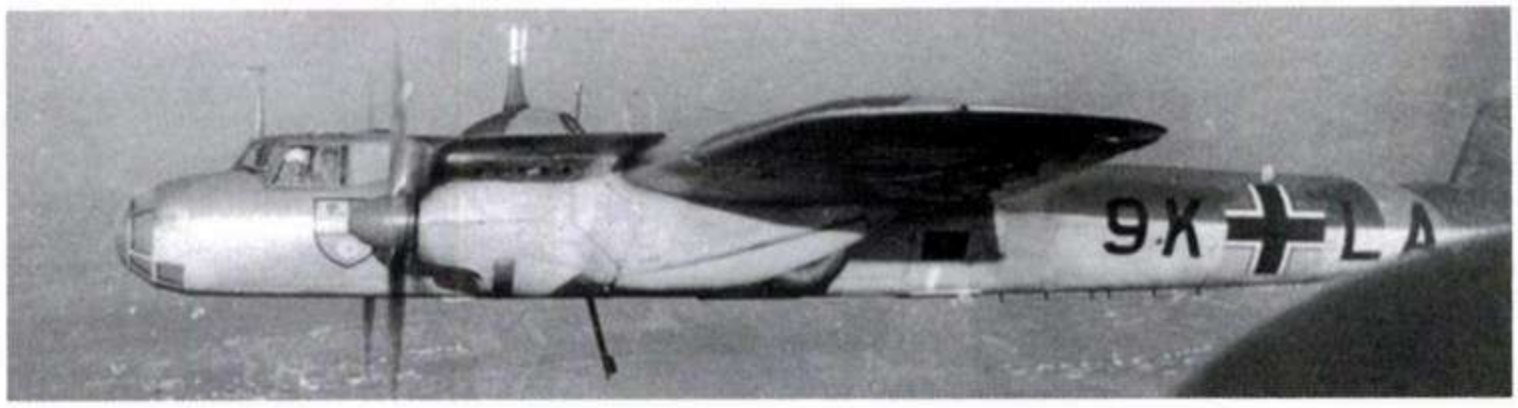


The fuselage hulk of a Heinkel He 177A-5 carries the rarely seen 'worm' badge of KG 50. Formed from parts of 15./KG 40 in mid-1942, the unit carried out a few desperate and relatively unsuccessful missions against Stalingrad, but was redesignated II./KG 40 in autumn 1943.

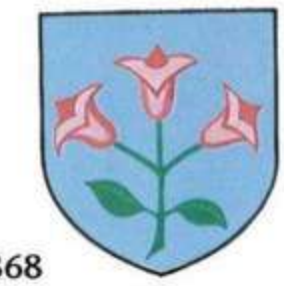


367

367
Stab/KG 51 'Edelweiss' (early): The emblem shown here combines the three Gruppen badges that were inherited from KG 255 in May 1939. These were first awarded to the units in 1938, inspired by the mountain flora around Landsberg where the unit was based. Do 17E.



Dornier Do 17E '9K+LA' belongs to the Geschwader Stab of KG 51. Finished in the pre-war RLM 62/63/64/65 colour scheme, the aircraft wears a badge that combines the insignia of all three Gruppen that made up the Geschwader. Awarded emblems by Göring in late 1938, the first Gruppe used an alpine rose, the second a gentian and the third the motif that later gave the entire unit its popular name – edelweiss. The propeller spinners are possibly blue.



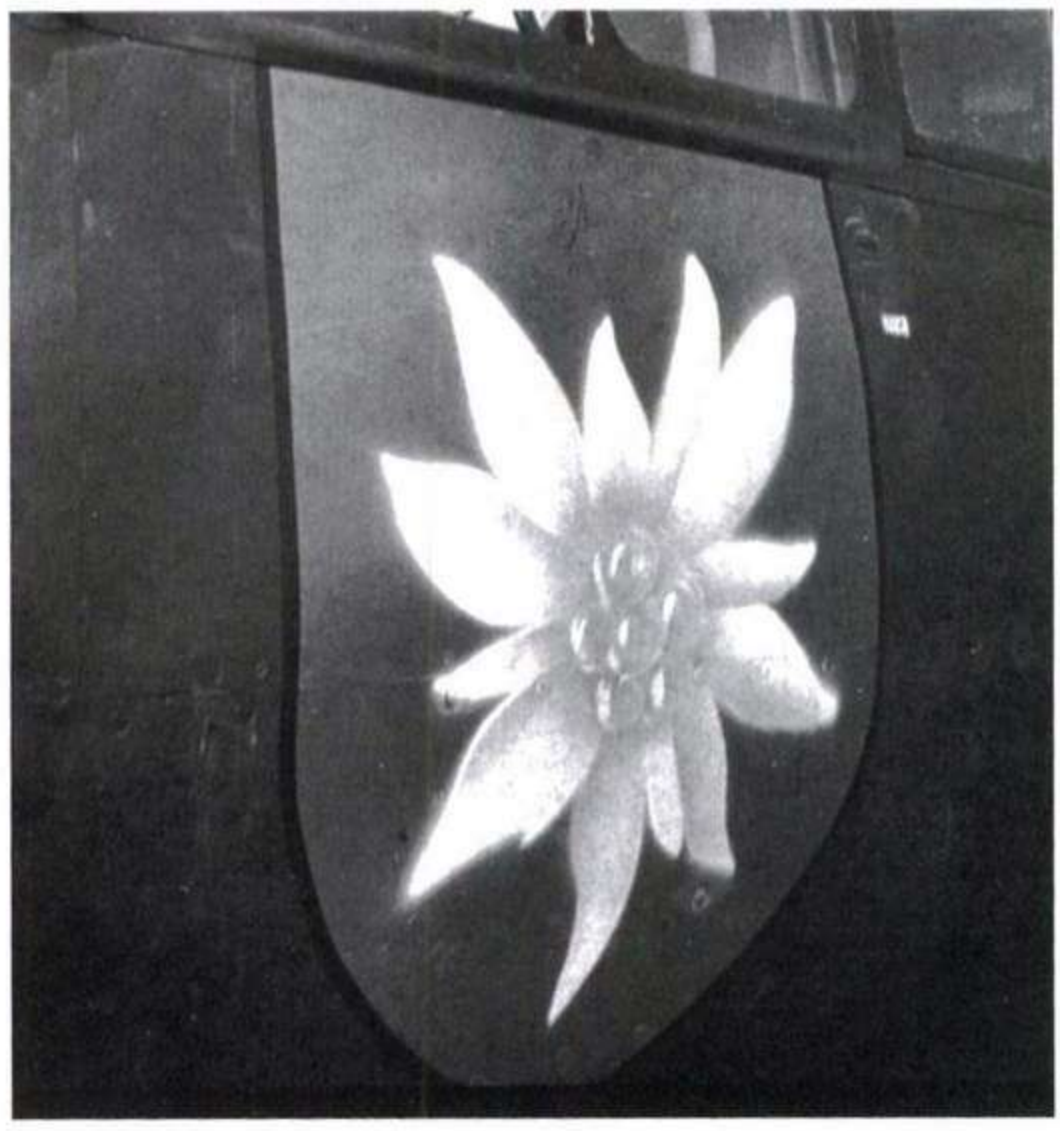
368

368
I./KG 51 (early): An alpine rose on a shield. Used until the outbreak of war, when KG 255 became KG 51 and the emblem of III Gruppe was adopted for the entire Geschwader. Do 17E & M.

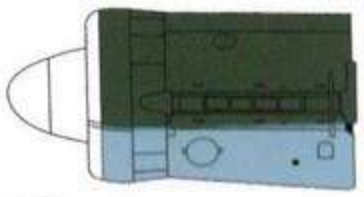
369
KG 51 (later): An edelweiss on a blue shield. From the outbreak of the war all aircraft in the Geschwader used the same emblem, but occasionally with different-coloured shields. From about May 1940, when the Ju 88 was introduced, the various Gruppen were also identified by coloured rings around the engine cowlings. Additionally, staffeln were further identified by different-coloured propeller spinners. It is uncertain what colour the spinners on Stab aircraft were painted. Ju 88.



369



A close-up view of the edelweiss emblem of KG 51 on a Ju 88. Note the rarely seen special aircrew steel helmet in use.



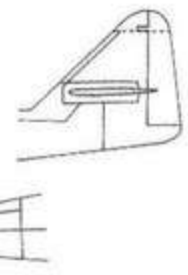
370

370
1./KG 51: White rings and white spinners. Ju 88.

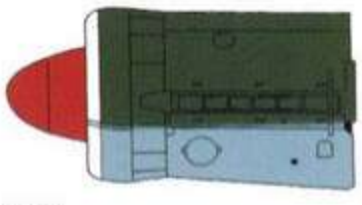


The crew of a Ju 88A of 1./KG 51 prepare for their next mission. All are wearing kapok-filled life-jackets, which suggests that the period is during the Battle of Britain. Apart from the Geschwader edelweiss, the Staffel is also identified by the white spinners and cowl rings.

371
1./KG 51 (later): White nose, fin tip, gunport surrounds and individual aircraft letter. When the Gruppe converted to the Me 262A Jabo in late 1944, these areas of each aircraft were painted in this colour to identify the Staffel. Until 1945.



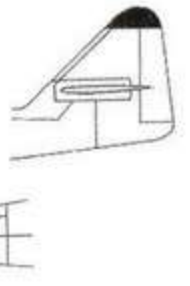
371



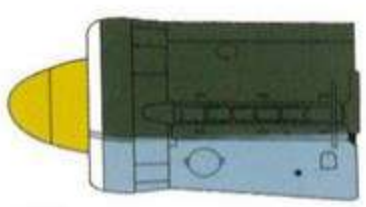
372

372
2./JG 51: White rings and red spinners. Ju 88.

373
2./KG 51 (later): Black nose, fin tip, gunport surrounds and individual aircraft letter. When the Gruppe converted to the Me 262A Jabo in late 1944, these areas of each aircraft were painted in this colour to identify the Staffel. Until 1945.



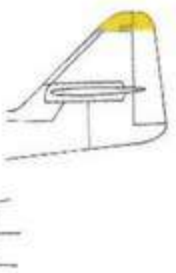
373



374

374
3./KG 51: White rings and yellow spinners. Ju 88.

375
3./KG 51 (later): Yellow nose, fin tip, gunport surrounds and individual aircraft letter. When the Gruppe converted to the Me 262A Jabo in late 1944, these areas of each aircraft were painted in this colour to identify the Staffel. Until 1945.



375



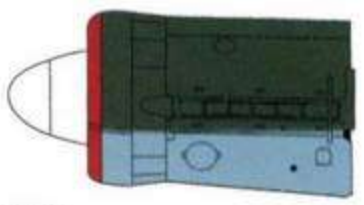
376

376
II./KG 51 (early): A gentian on a blue shield. Used until the outbreak of war, when KG 255 became KG 51 and the emblem of III Gruppe was adopted for the entire Geschwader. Do 17E & M.


377

377
II./KG 51 (later): An edelweiss on a red shield. Ju 88.

378
4./KG 51 (later): Red rings and white spinners. Ju 88.

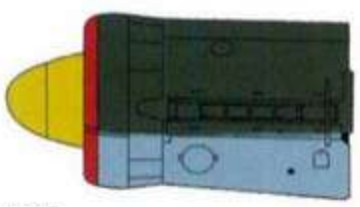

378


379

379
5./KG 51 (early): A 'pig-fiddle', originated by Oblt von Wenchowski during summer 1941, and probably not used after his death in action in July 1941. Found on the rudder of the unit's Ju 88s.

380
5./KG 51 (later): Red rings and red spinners. Ju 88.

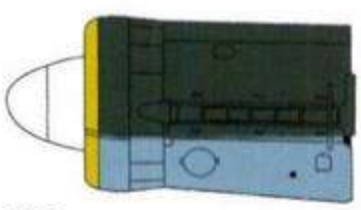

380


381

381
6./KG 51 (later): Red rings and yellow spinners. Ju 88.

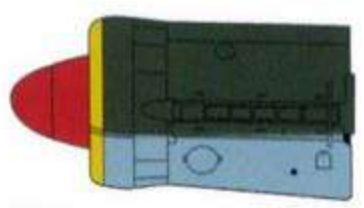
382
III./KG 51: An edelweiss on a blue shield. On the outbreak of war, when KG 255 became KG 51, the emblem of III Gruppe was adopted for the entire Geschwader. It was one of the most enduring of the bomber unit emblems, surviving until at least 1943. Do 17E & M, He 111, Ju 88, Me 410.

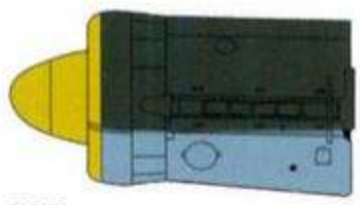

382


383

383
7./KG 51 (later): Yellow rings and white spinners. Ju 88.

384
8./KG 51 (later): Yellow rings and red spinners. Ju 88.


384


385

385
9./KG 51 (later): Yellow rings and yellow spinners. Ju 88.

386
KG 53 'Legion Condor': The silhouette of a diving eagle carrying a bomb, all on a white shield. First formed in May 1939 as KG 355 after the return of the Legion Condor from Spain. He 111.



386



The eagle insigne of KG 53 on a Heinkel He 111. This style of emblem was very common on bombers used by the Legion Condor in Spain, the tradition being perpetuated by the badge shown here.


387

387

I./KG 53: The silhouette of a diving eagle carrying a bomb, all on a black disc with a yellow surround. First formed as II./KG 355 in May 1939. He 111.

388

II./KG 53?*: A white eagle releasing a bomb on a red (?) disc with a yellow frame. Seen in the background of a photograph taken in the Geschwader Stab HQ, which had framed images of other identified Gruppe emblems, this could be a variation of that of I Gruppe, or, more likely in the author's view, that of II Gruppe.


388


389

389

4./KG 53: An eagle with a swastika in its claws superimposed on a vertical bomb on a shield. 1939? He 111.

390

III./KG 53 (early?): A red bomb with stylised white wings on a black disc. Very similar in style to emblems carried by K./88 in Spain. 1940. He 111.


390

391

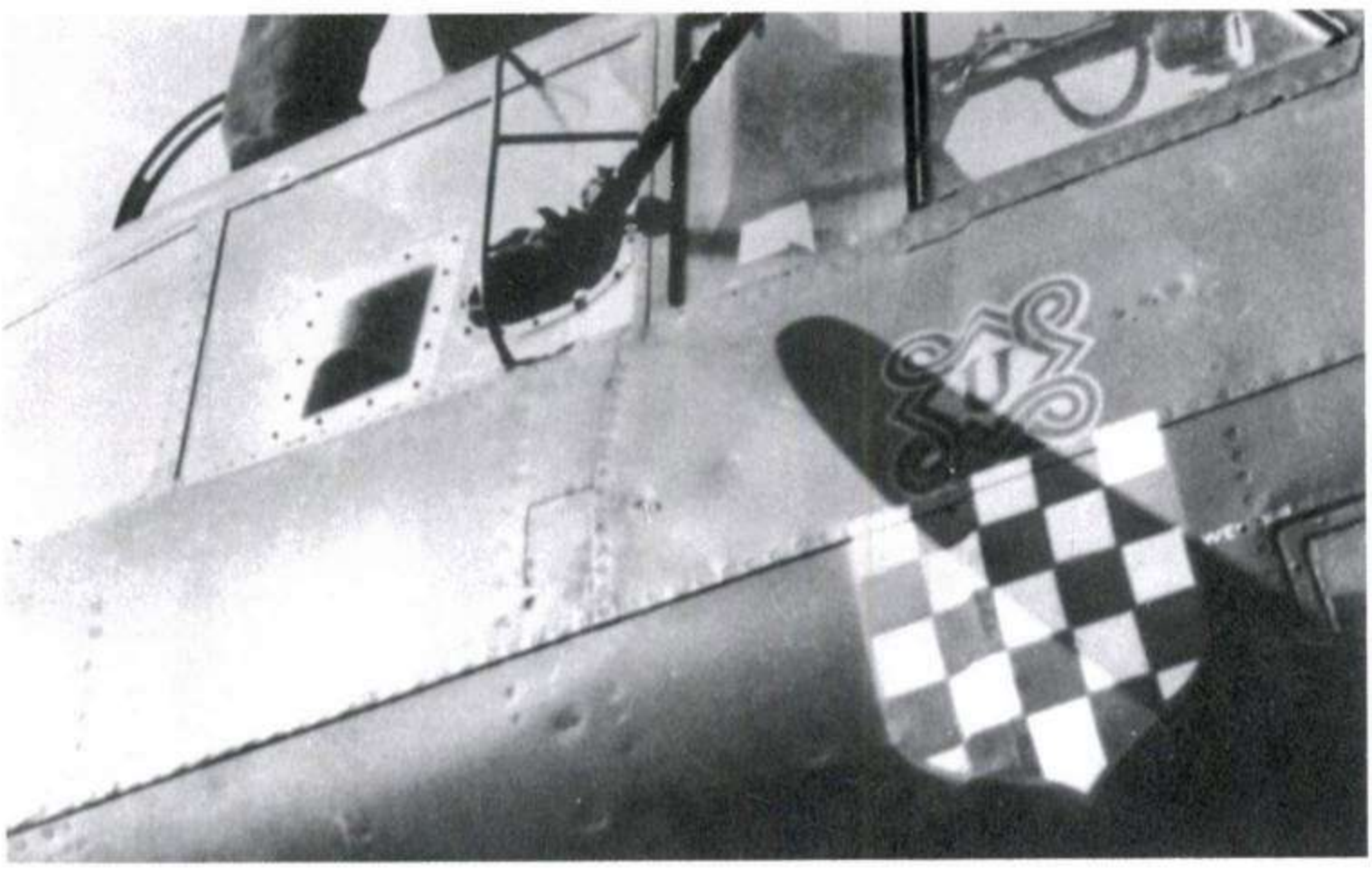
3./KG 27: A black bomb exploding within a red ring. Previously thought to belong to KG 53, information that arrived too late to allow a major rearrangement of the text means that this emblem is shown out of sequence. It has now been confirmed that it is in fact the rarely seen emblem of 3./KG 27. Unusually it was positioned just behind the canopy glazing. Eastern Front, 1941. He 111.


391

392

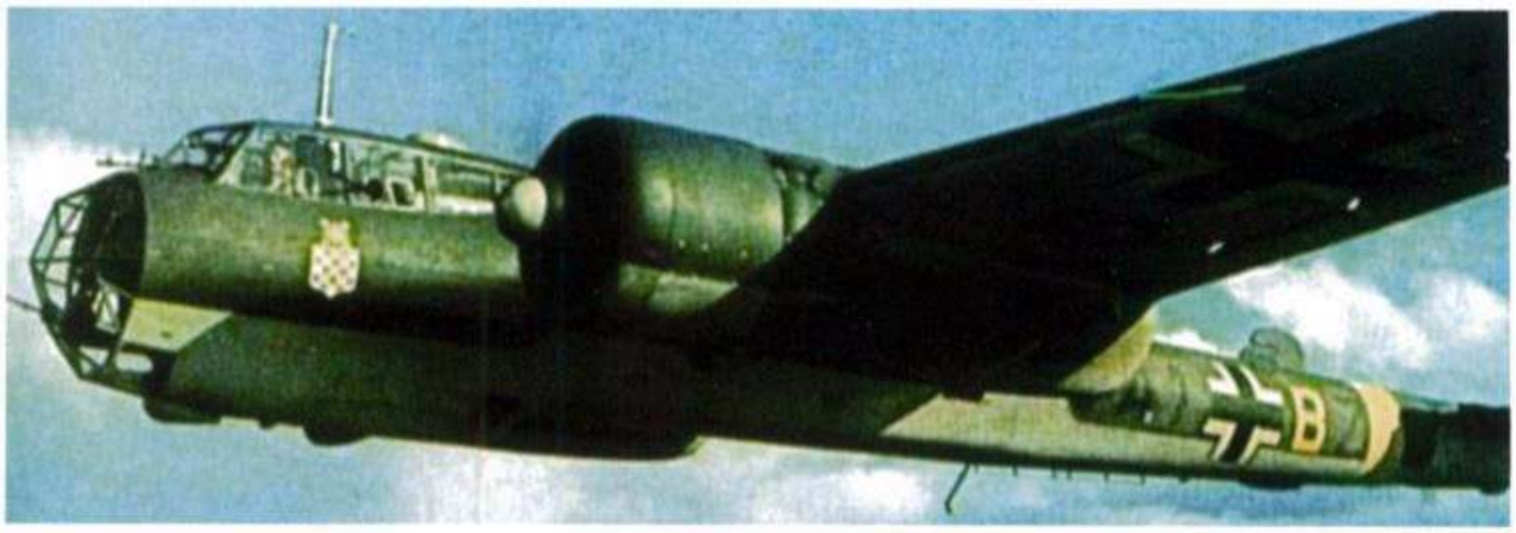
15.(Kroat)/KG 53: An 'Ustasha' checkerboard. The unit was manned by Croats, the emblem being an ancient Croatian symbol. 1943. Do 17Z.


392



A close-up view of the Croatian 'Ustasha' ('rebel') emblem of 15./KG 53 on a Dornier Do 17Z, some time in 1943. Nominally a part of the 'Horvát Repülölégió Legija Zrakoplovstva NDH', or Croat Air Legion, the unit was first formed under German control in September 1941. Equipped with tired Dornier Do 17Z bombers for use exclusively on the Russian Front, the number of serviceable aircraft available at any one time was small and the unit achieved little. Eventually the unit was withdrawn to Croatia for anti-partisan duties in November 1943.

Although of indifferent quality, this picture serves to show the Croatian marking on the nose of elderly Dornier Do 17Z 'A1+BZ' of 15./KG 53.





393

KG 54 'Totenkopf': A death's head, originating from an old cavalry regiment badge. Possibly the longest-lasting of all the bomber unit emblems. Adopted in about May 1939 as the unit began converting from the Ju 86 to the He 111 and was redesignated KG 54 from KG 254. He 111, Ju 88, Me 262.

The crew of a Junkers Ju 88A-4 of KG 54 pose in front of their machine somewhere in the Mediterranean soon after being awarded the Iron Cross 1st Class for completing their mission, despite severe damage to the starboard engine. The 'Totenkopf' emblem is derived from an old cavalry regiment badge.



394

Stab/KG 54?: A long-nosed badger (?) seen on both a Fi 156 and a Ju 52, both of which were presumably being used as hacks.



394



395

395

II./KG 54 (early): A map of Britain with a gunsight superimposed, all on a blue shield. The unit was formed from II./KG 28 in December 1939. The emblem may have been used from then until June 1942. He 111, Ju 88.



396

396
II./KG 54 (later): A leaping tiger on a red shield. Used from June 1942 when the unit moved to the Mediterranean theatre. Ju 88.

397
IV/KG 54: A blue shield with a black skull superimposed, with a white diagonal flash. Probably introduced when the Gruppe was formed in April 1941. Ju 88.



397



A very young crew member peers from the cockpit of a Junkers Ju 88A-4 of IV./KG 54. The machine displays an interesting variant of the 'Totenkopf' in black on a blue shield with a white diagonal stripe, probably being introduced in April 1941 when the Gruppe was formed.



398

398
11./KG 54*: A cartoon Luftwaffe crewman riding in a bomb. Mediterranean, summer 1942. Ju 88.

399
Stab/KG 55 'Greif': Based upon the arms of the city of Giessen, featuring a red griffon on a green shield. Formed at Giessen from KG 155 in May 1939 and used until about 1942. He 111, Bf 110C.



399



400

400
I/KG 55: An owl seated on a box or a pile of bricks. Inherited from KGrzbV 5, which became I./KG 55 in May/June 1943 when the original I Gruppe was redesignated III./LG 1. He 111.

401
1./KG 55: A leaping bull, sometimes carried very large on the fuselage aft of the wing and sometimes smaller on the rudder. This emblem has also been attributed variously to the 9. and 10. Staffeln. However, the only photo known to the author that shows both the complete aircraft code and the unit emblem clearly identifies it as belonging to the 1. Staffel machine ('G1+BH') flown by Fw Fritz Jürges, which crashed after a raid on Bristol on 25 September 1940. He 111.



401


402

402
2./KG 55 (early): A red griffon, sometimes outlined in black. Unit formed in May 1939. He 111.

403
2./KG 55 (variant): A red griffon on a white shield. He 111.


403


404

404
4./KG 55: A red griffon on a white shield. Unit formed at Giessen in May 1939. He 111.

405
5./KG 55: A red 'worm', usually carried on the rudder of the unit's He 111s. Unit formed at Giessen in May 1939. He 111.


405


406

406
8./KG 55: Three red fishes on a yellow shield, the emblem being based on the colloquial German expression 'kleine fische', indicating 'no problem', usually marked on the rudder. Unit formed at Neudorf in December 1939. He 111.



A close-up view of the unusually placed Staffel emblem of 8./KG 55 on a crash-landed He 111, W.Nr. 2808.

407
7.(Bel)/KG 66*: A naked small boy carrying a bomb. Formed at the end of summer 1944 as part of III./KG 66 as a Mistel unit. In November it became 5.(Bel)/KG 200 and took the emblem with it. Ju 88S, Ju 188.


407


408

408
KG 76 'Florian Geyer': An eagle's talon on a shield, sometimes with the name of the unit inscribed (named after a 15th-century German knight). 1939-late 1941. Do 17Z, He 111?



409

409
KG 76 (alternative): A simpler version of the previous emblem, in plain black on a white shield with a red outline. Do 17Z.

410
Stab/KG 76: A black owl with eyes like dartboards standing on a map of Britain and a bundle of lightning bolts. Unit formed in May 1939 from KG 158. Emblem used only briefly until late 1940. Do 17Z.


410


411

411
1./KG 76: A red devil holding a pistol and dropping a bomb from his rear end. Often pictured on the unit's Do 17s, it does not seem to have survived the conversion to the Ju 88 during winter 1940/41.



One of the more amusing emblems of the Battle of Britain period was the 'bomb-dropping devil' of 1./KG 76. Apparently used only on the unit's Dornier 17s, the emblem disappeared when the Junkers Ju 88 entered service. Note the typically high demarcation line between upper and lower surface colours.

412
2./KG 76*: A lion, holding a shield made from the Union Jack, being struck by a bomb. A short-lived emblem dating from the Battle of Britain period when Luftwaffe confidence was at its highest. Do 17Z.


412

413
3./KG 76: A bomb landing in the centre of a map of Britain. Summer 1940. Do 17Z.


413

414
4./KG 76: A duck wearing a British steel helmet and holding an umbrella with a gunsight superimposed. 1940-41 during operations against England and early in Russia. Ju 88.


414

Emblems with an anal theme seem to have been popular in 1940. An example is that used by 4./KG 76, seen here on a Junkers Ju 88A, consisting of a gunsight targeting a duck with an umbrella, a steel helmet, a cigar and a bowel problem. After the winter of 1940/41 most of the early emblems of KG 76, except this one, seem to have been quietly forgotten, perhaps superseded by the more aggressive hornet.





415

415
III./KG 76: The arms of the city of Heidelberg. Introduced in winter 1942-1943 in honour of the Gruppenkommandeur, Hauptmann Heinrich Schweickhard, who originated from there. Also used without the name. Ju 88A.



416

416
Stab III./KG 76: A large black and yellow hornet. Seen from summer 1941. Ju 88A.



417

417
7./KG 76*: An upright dragon. Winter 1940. Ju 88A.



418

418
8./KG 76 (early): The silhouettes of three Do 17s superimposed over a vertical bomb on a red shield. 1940. Do 17Z.

Medical personnel aid a wounded crew member of a Dornier Do 17Z-2 of 8./KG 76 ('F1+DS'?) after an operation during summer 1940. The Staffel emblem is clearly visible. Below it is an individual aircraft name, 'Delphin' ('Dolphin'); this was an uncommon practice, even in the first year or so of the war, but odd examples could be found right up until the end of the conflict.

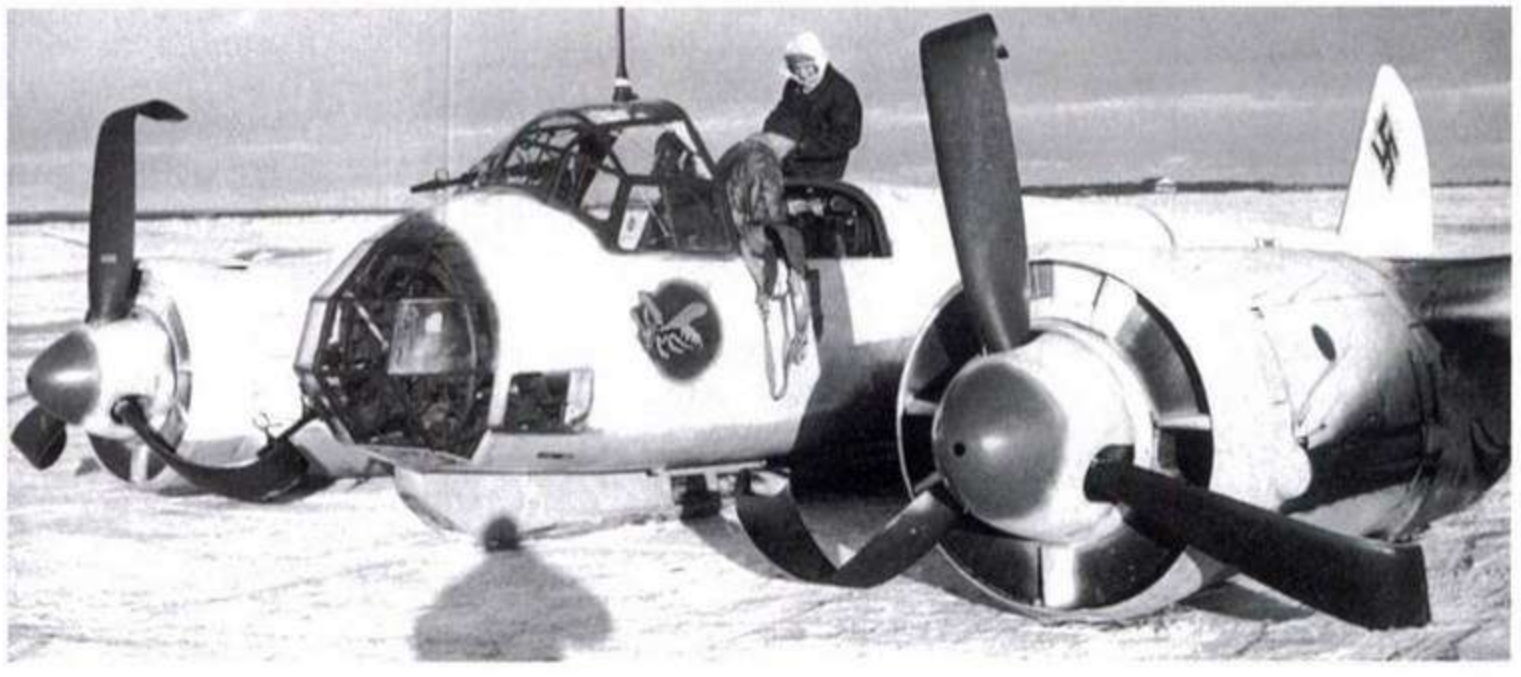




419

419
8./KG 76 (later): A hornet on a red disk. Eastern Front from 1941-42. Ju 88.

Wearing freshly applied winter camouflage, this Junkers Ju 88A-5, 'F1+AS' of 8./KG 76, has the hornet emblem on a red disc. Propeller spinners are in the Staffel colour of red. Apart from the propeller blades, damage appears to be minimal.





420

420

9./KG 76 (a): A Gallic cockerel prostrated beneath the Eiffel Tower with two bombs falling upon it. Summer 1940. Do 17Z.

421

9./KG 76 (b): Three vertical yellow 'Tyr-Runes' on a red and white shield. In Germanic mythology these represent Tyr, the god of war. Post-June 1940. Do 17Z.



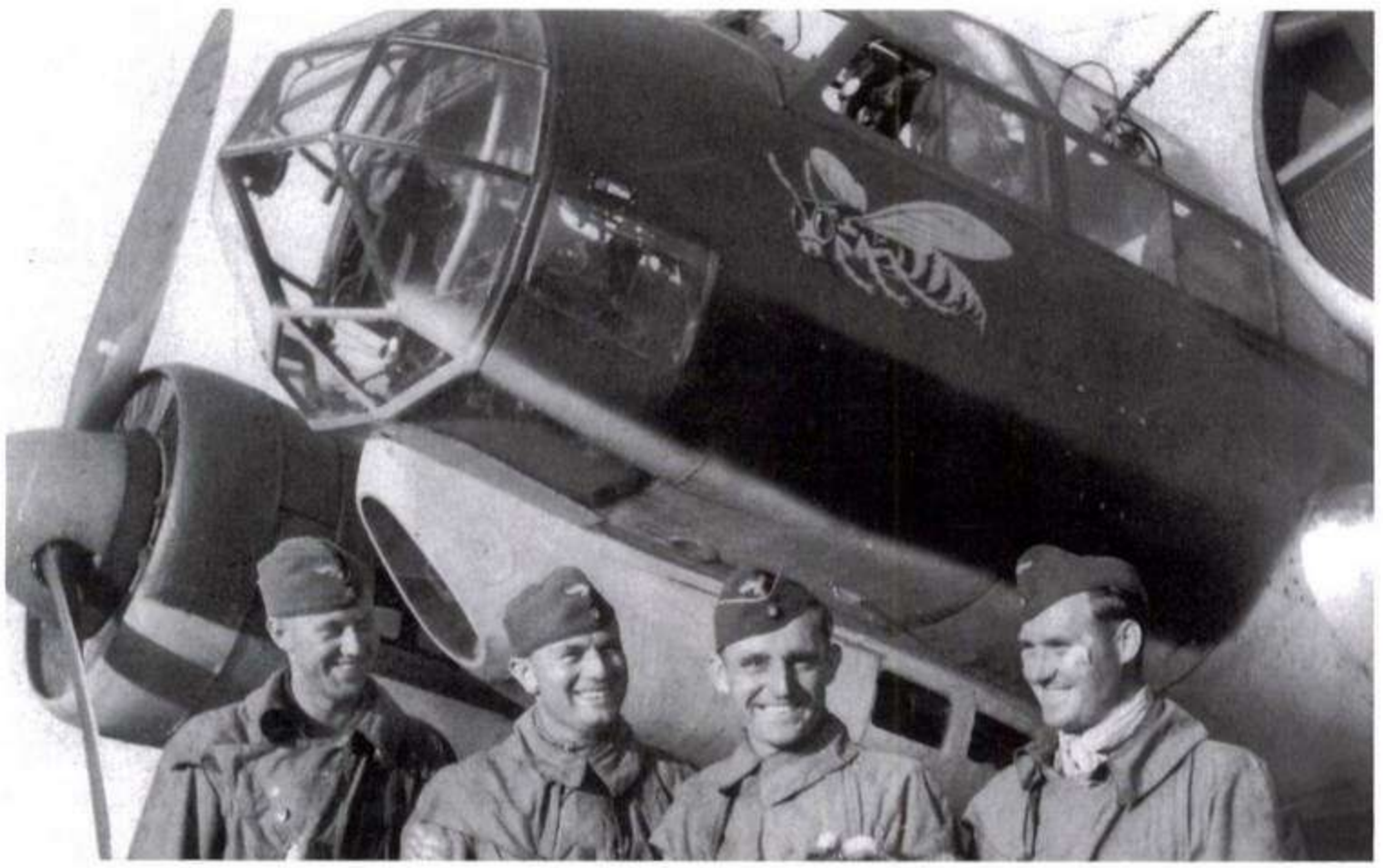
421



422

422

9./KG 76 (c)?: A large black and yellow hornet on a blue disc. Winter 1941. Ju 88A. Note: Evidence regarding ownership of the hornet badge on a disc is fragmentary and inconclusive, particularly concerning the colour(s) of the disc. A plausible explanation would be that it was used only by III Gruppe, with discs of white, red and blue for 7, 8, and 9 Staffeln respectively, blue being used instead of yellow in view of the basic colour of the insect. Visual proof of use by 7. Staffel is still required.



This is the hornet emblem of Stab III./KG 76, seen on a Junkers Ju 88A-5 flown by the Gruppenkommandeur, Hptmn Heinrich Schweichhard (third from left) and his crew, shortly after their return from a mission over Russia during the early days of Operation 'Barbarossa' in 1941. The propeller spinners are painted in the Stab colour of green. There also appears to be a newly applied panel of black or black-green paint below the hornet.

423

11./KG 76: A hand holding a tattered red banner featuring a medieval shoe and the motto 'Hol's der Geier' (literally 'Vulture take it') in front of a shield – this is an idiomatic saying meaning roughly 'confound it!'. 1942-43. Ju 88.



423

424

12./KG 76?: A large black and yellow hornet on a blue disc, which presumably indicates either the Staffel or IV Gruppe. The colour of the disc is not confirmed, but the yellow allotted as the staffel colour would hide the hornet. 1942-43. Ju 88.



424



425

425
?/KG 76?: A bomb falling onto a mountain top. 1940. Do 17Z.

426
Stab KG 77 (early)*: A variant of the eagle on a banner commonly associated with this unit, it consists of an eagle clutching lightning bolts striking a map that appears to be the 'Polish corridor'. Used by the Geschwader's reconnaissance aircraft. The motto on a scroll above the shield was retained on the later emblem. 1939-40. Do 17Z.



426



427

427
I./KG 77 (early): A yellow pennant bearing a black eagle attached to a lance point, all on a white shield. A motto on a scroll above reads 'Ich will dass si vorfechten', which is the motto of the German medieval knights order and loosely translates as 'Be my champion'. Used from formation in 1939 until the unit reformed from KGr 606 in September 1942 and moved to Italy in spring 1943. Do 17Z. Ju 88.



This is the old German knight's banner of KG 77 on a Dornier Do 17Z. The shield here appears to be white, which would identify the owners as I Gruppe. Staffel emblems do not seem to have been used by this Geschwader.

428
I./KG 77 (later): A crowing cockerel in the German colours of red, yellow and black, perched on a 'victory staff'. Apparently used from January 1943 when the unit moved to Italy. Frequently applied to the fin of the aircraft instead of the nose. Ju 88.



428



429

429
II./KG 77: A yellow pennant bearing a black eagle attached to a lance point, all on a red shield. A motto on a scroll above reads 'Ich will dass si vorfechten', which is the motto of the German medieval knights order and loosely translates as 'Be my champion'. Used from formation in 1939, probably until the unit disbanded in July 1944. Do 17Z, Ju 88.

430
III./KG 77: A white pennant bearing a black eagle attached to a lance point, all on a yellow shield. A motto on a scroll above reads 'Ich will dass si vorfechten', which is the motto of the German medieval knights order and loosely translates as 'Be my champion'. Used from formation in 1939, probably until the unit disbanded in July 1944. Do 17Z, Ju 88.



430



431

431

This is a good view of the Viking ship emblem of KG 100. Considering the pathfinder duties of the unit, the image seems particularly appropriate. Note that this version has a white outline.



This is a good view of the Viking ship emblem of KG 100. Considering the Pathfinder duties of the unit, the image seems particularly appropriate.



432

432

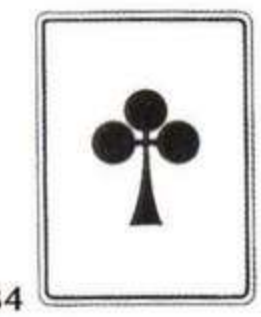
KG 152: The arms of the Hindenburg family. Given the honour title 'Hindenburg' when first formed in spring 1936, eventually being renumbered KG 1 in early 1939. Ju 86, He 111.



433

433

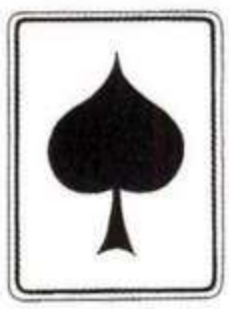
I./KG 153: A thieving crow or magpie with a ring in its bill. Formed in Merseburg in 1935; when the unit was redesignated as I./KG 77 in 1939 the emblem fell into disuse. Ju 52/3m, Do 17E.



434

434

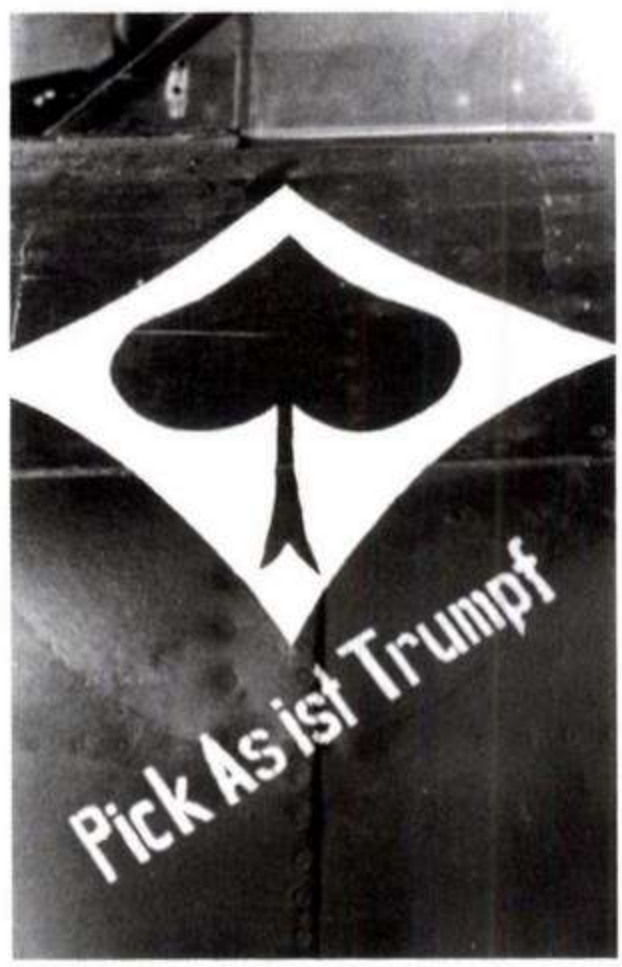
7./KG 153: An ace of clubs. Used until May 1939 when the unit was reformed as 7./KG 3. Do 17.



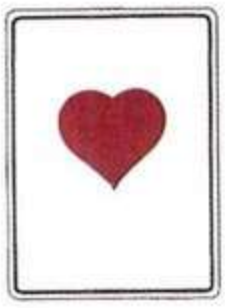
435

435

8./KG 153: An ace of spades. Used until May 1939 when the unit was reformed as 8./KG 3. Do 17.



An oddly proportioned version of the emblem of 8./KG 153 on a Dornier Do 17: 'Ace of spades is trumps'. A more refined version was later passed on to 8./KG 3 when the unit was redesignated in May 1939.



436

436
9./KG 153: An ace of hearts. Used until May 1939 when the unit was reformed as 9./KG 3. Do 17.



437

437
5.(Bel)/KG 200*: A naked small boy carrying a bomb. The unit was the 'target illuminator' Staffel for the Mistel-equipped 6./KG 200, and the emblem was inherited from III./KG 66, a Mistel unit, in August 1944. In November it became 5.(Bel)/KG 200 and kept the emblem. Ju 88S, Ju 188.



438

438
6./KG 200*: A small boy seated on the shoulders of his father who is flying above clouds – a metaphor for the Misteln combinations that equipped the unit. First formed in August 1944 as a part of III./KG 66, the unit was redesignated 6./KG 200 in November. Bf 109/Ju 88 Mistel.



439

439
I./KG 255: An alpine rose on a shield. Inherited from I./KG 153. The Gruppe reformed in May 1939, the emblem becoming the property of I./KG 51. Do 17E.



440

440
II./KG 255: A gentian on a white shield. Inherited from II./KG 153. The Gruppe formed III./KG 77 in May 1939, the emblem being bequeathed to II./KG 51.



441

441
III./KG 255: An edelweiss on a shield. Inherited from III./KG 153. The Gruppe formed III./KG 51 in May 1939, the emblem subsequently being adopted as the Geschwader emblem.



442

442
1./KGr 106: Three oystercatchers (coastal wading birds) in flight above the sea. Formed from KüFl. 506 in October 1941 when the Kriegsmarine gave up control, it operated over the North Sea and the Mediterranean until being redesignated in line with Luftwaffe protocols as III./KG, 26 June 1942. Ju 88.



443

443
KGr 606: An eagle tearing at a map of Britain. Inherited from Kü.Fl.Gr 606 in November 1939 when that unit was redesignated I./KGr 606. Until 1942? Do 17Z, He 111, Ju 88.



444

444
KGr 806: The face of the crescent moon on a disc. Formed from Kü.Fl.Gr. 806 in November 1939 and converted to the He 111 and Ju 88. The emblem probably dates from then.



445

445
1./KGr 806: A chained red devil on a white triangle holding an aircraft. '3 BR' relates to the unit's earlier task in summer 1941 of mining the Baltic approaches to Reval, thereby 'chaining up' the Soviet 3rd Baltic Red Banner Fleet. Anti-shipping operations were undertaken over the Mediterranean from Sicily, December 1941 until September 1942, when it became III./KG 54. Ju 88.


446

446
2./KGr 806: A black eagle with upraised wings carrying an Iron Cross on a blue and white oval edged in red. 1940. Ju 88A.


447

447
Unidentified: A 'wolf hook' (an ancient Germanic runic character supposedly capable of warding off wolves). Ju 88.


448

448
Unidentified*: Three diving eagles on a divided shield. Ju 88.


449

449
Unidentified*: A shield with a map (showing Northern Norway?) overlaid by a gunsight and the legend '69N'. This is close to the latitude of both the Luftwaffe base at Kirkenes and Murmansk in Russia, a major target for the Luftwaffe. The gunsight could indicate use by a bomber unit, possibly part of KG 30, which operated in the region and used the Ju 88, or could simply be the aim of a Wekusta unit (Wetterkette Banak or Wekusta 6?), mostly also equipped with Ju 88s.

Transport units

With these units using aircraft culled from second-line units and schools, cobbled together for operations lasting anything from a few days to a few months, often still in the markings of their previous units, only a few of their emblems can be positively identified. Most are to be found on the ubiquitous Ju 52/3m. It should be noted that the majority of the transport units also used four Staffeln to a Gruppe.


450

450
I./KGzbV 1: A white knight chess piece. First formed in June 1939. Passed on to I./TG 1 in May 1943. Ju 52/3m.


451

451
II./KGzbV 1 (early): A red Brandenburg eagle with a sword in each claw. Used between 1938 and 1941. Ju 52/3m.


452

452
II./KGzbV 1 (later): A combination of the existing Gruppen emblem and a shield carrying an Austrian-style double-headed eagle. Introduced by Major Neundlinger in mid-1941. Ju 52/3m.



453

453
II./KGzbV 1?*: A diving eagle with a swastika in its claws. and the motto 'Tobruk'. Seen on a Ju 52 in North Africa 'on a special mission'.


454

454
6./KGzbV 1 (early)*: A face in a sun on the corner of a shield. 1940-42. Ju 52/3m.


455

455
6./KGzbV 1 (later)*: A cartoon pilot seated on a winged railway freight truck. Introduced in winter 1941/42. Ju 52/3m.



456

456
7./KGzbV 1*: A shield bearing a pig's head and the motto 'Schwein muss sein'. This has no direct translation, but roughly means 'You just need a bit of luck'. 1940. Ju 52/3m.



457

457
8./KGzbV 1 (early)*: A parachutist landing on a map of Britain and a seated figure (Churchill?), with the motto 'Heut den Schwanz – Morgan ganz!'. This has angling connotations and loosely translates as 'Catch the tail today – the rest tomorrow!'. The emblem presumably reflects the allotted task of the unit during the intended invasion of Britain in 1940. Ju 52/3m.


458

458
8./KGzbV 1 (later)*: An eagle carrying a suitcase. Presumably the previous emblem became inappropriate after late 1940 and was replaced. Ju 52/3m.



459

459
9./KGzbV 1: Based upon the arms of Berlin and featuring a dancing black bear on a white shield. Introduced early in the war. Ju 52/3m.



461

460
10./KGzbV 1: Based upon the arms of Berlin and featuring a dancing black bear on a red shield. Introduced early in the war. Ju 52/3m.

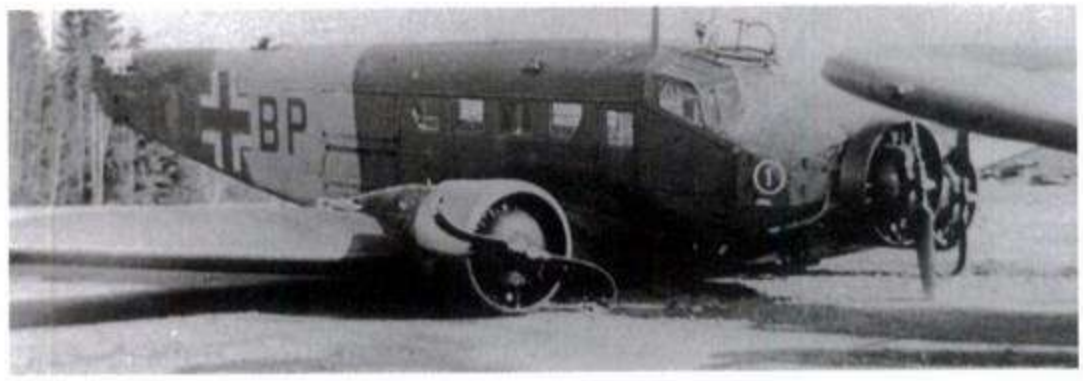


460

461
11./KGzbV 1: Based upon the arms of Berlin and featuring a dancing black bear on a yellow shield. Introduced early in the war. Ju 52/3m.



Ground crew working on a Junkers Ju 52/3m of III./KGzbV 1. The tone of the shield suggests that the machine is from the 11. or 12. Staffel.



Some mystery attaches to this wrecked Ju 52/3m. It wears a modified version of the pre-war 61/62/63 camouflage scheme, but retains the Stammkennzeichen 'CN+BP'. The number '1' in a circle may indicate that it temporarily belonged to KGzbV 1. It was wrecked at Fornebu in Norway on 9 April 1940.



Ju 52/3ms clearly showing the 'Berlin bear' emblem on a yellow shield of 11./KGzbV 1.

462
12./KGzbV 1: Based upon the arms of Berlin and featuring a dancing black bear on a blue shield. Introduced early in the war. Ju 52/3m.



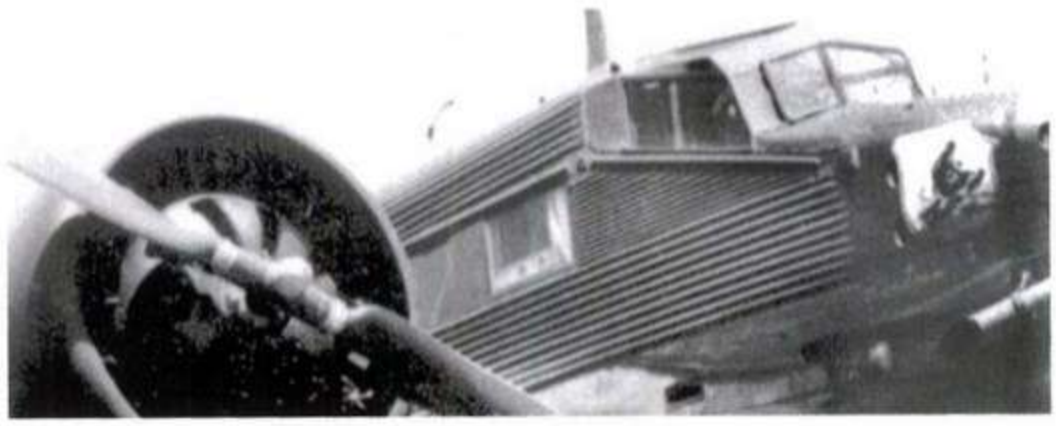
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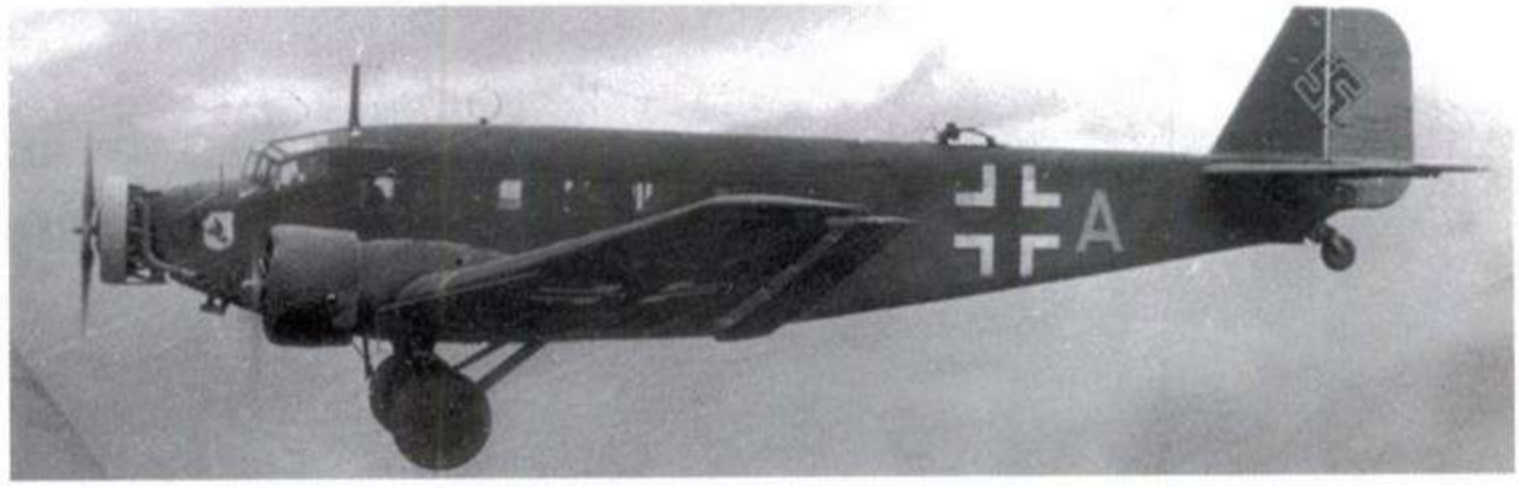
IV./KGzbV 1: A devil seated on a bomb with a trident over his shoulder. Used until about 1943. Ju 52/3m.



463



A Junkers Ju 52/3m of IV./KGzbV 1 wearing the Gruppe badge on the nose. Note the Kriegsmarine Leutnant with the crew, somewhere in the Balkans in 1941.



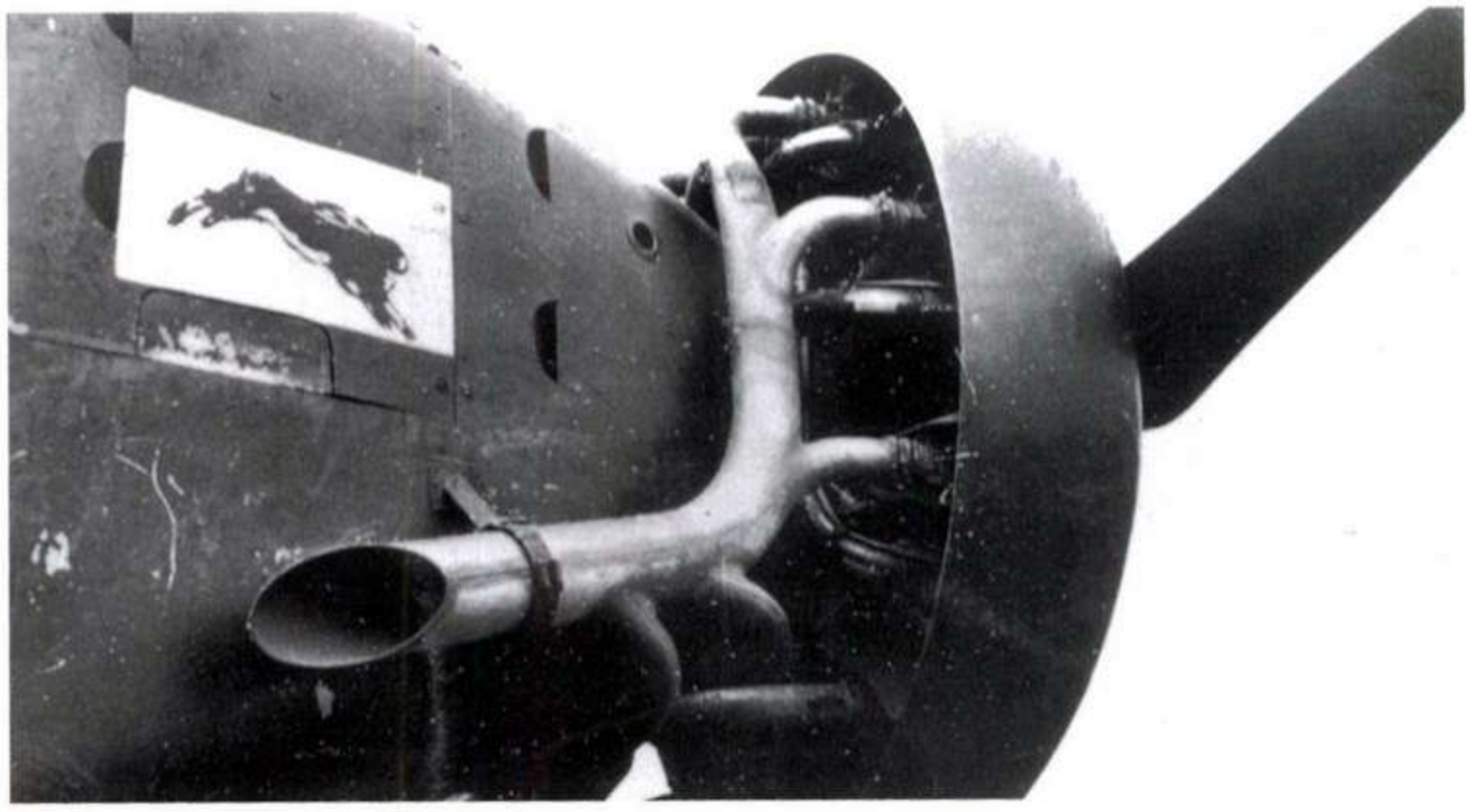
Junkers Ju 52/3m '1Z+AZ' of 15./KGzbV 1 is tucked in extremely close to the camera ship (another Ju 52/3m of the same unit, '1Z+BZ', being flown by Fritz Link) somewhere over Bulgaria in 1941. Note the IV. Gruppe emblem on the nose and the yellow Balkan theatre markings on nose and rudder. Strangely, the swastika is still in the pre-war position.

464

15./KGzbV 1*: A running hare. This may be a visual pun based on the Luftwaffe slang term for experienced aircrew, known as 'old hares'. Early 1940-42. Ju 52/3m.



464



A close-up of the 'running hare' emblem of 15./KGzbV 1 on a Junkers Ju 52/3m in France, May 1940. The subject may be a visual joke referring to the Luftwaffe slang term for more experienced pilots, who were known as 'old hares'. Aircraft noted carrying this emblem included '1Z+JZ' and '1Z+KZ'.

465

3.(GS)/KGzbV 2*: Inherited from GS 22 in spring 1942, a shield bearing an eagle being towed by three smaller birds above a globe. This relates to the incredibly dangerous task of towing the Me 321 glider, which required three simultaneous tugs (known as a 'Troika-Schlepp') to get it into the air. Leipheim, spring 1942-November 1943, when the unit became GS-Kdo 1. Bf 110.



465



466

466

4.(GS)/KGzbV 2*: A three-headed crow, indicative of the three He 111 glider tugs used by the unit, which was originally formed in spring 1942 specifically for 'Troika-Schlepp' operations with the Me 321 glider. In November 1942 it was redesignated as GS 4. He 111.

467

4.(GS)/KGzbV 2 (variant)*: A three-headed crow, indicative of the three He 111 glider tugs used by the unit, which was originally formed in spring 1942 specifically for 'Troika-Schlepp' operations with the Me 321 glider. In November 1942 it was redesignated as GS 4. He 111.



467



468

468

KGrzbV 5: An owl seated on a box or a pile of bricks. Originally a transport unit, KGrzbV 5 became I./KG 55 in May/June 1943 when the original I Gruppe was redesignated III./LG 1. Ju 52/3m, He 111.

469

17./KGzbV 5?*: A comet. Identified as such by a respected source and supposedly used during 1940, this designation does not seem correct as the author can find no other reference to a 17th Staffel, although the comet insigne was a favourite of the Fallschirmjäger.



469



The venerable Junkers Ju 52/3m served many purposes, ranging from paratroop transport, aerial ambulance, bomber, trainer, passenger liner and cargo hauler to clothes horse. Just visible on this otherwise anonymous machine is a small comet emblem, possibly in yellow. This could indicate ownership by 7. Flieger Division or a paratroop unit.





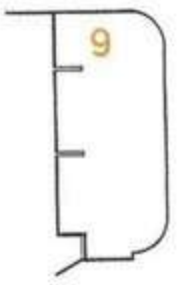
470

470

KGrzbV 7: A simple device consisting of a white number '7' and a white outlined blue horizontal band above it. This band was repeated on the outer face of the engine cowlings. January-April 1942 at Demjansk. Ju 52/3m.


471

471
4./KGrzbV 7: A bee on a shield – actually the emblem of LNS 4. This was the designation allotted to aircraft from that unit that were diverted to take part in the desperate supply missions to the Demjansk 'cauldron' in the northern sector of the Eastern Front between February 1941 and April 1942. Ju 86G.



472

472
KGrzbV 9: Typical of the temporary nature of many of the transport Gruppen, the emblem of the Geschwader during early 1942 was a figure '9' on the rudder. This was almost invariably carried in addition to any staffel badge. Ju 52/3m.



473

473
Stab/KGrzbV 9: A shield, the upper half black with a white running stag. The lower half is green with the word 'RODI' in white, the meaning of which is unknown. Seen during the course of the Demjansk supply operations in early 1942, usually carried on the outer engine cowlings. Ju 52/3m.


474

474
2./KGrzbV 9: An angel in a green dress and hat carrying a suitcase in each hand. Probably dates from the opening of hostilities with Russia in June 1941. Ju 52/3m.



475

475
2./KGrzbV 9 (variant): A muscular angel carrying a suitcase in each hand. Probably dates from the opening of hostilities with Russia in June 1941. Ju 52/3m.


476

476
3./KGrzbV 9: A cartoon bird carrying a German sausage. Probably dates from the opening of hostilities with Russia in June 1941. Ju 52/3m.

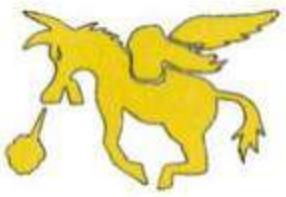


477

477
4./KGrzbV 9: A cartoon bird carrying a crate from its beak and an oil drum from its neck, all in front of a palm tree. The obvious desert theme of this emblem suggests that it dates from the time the unit served in the Mediterranean during January to May 1941. Ju 52/3m.



A Junkers Ju 52/3m offers a good view of the emblem of 4./KGrzbV 9 with its obvious desert theme. The location is probably somewhere in the Mediterranean between January and May 1941.



478

478

?./KGrzbV 9*: A puffing winged donkey. Another short-lived emblem, it was used for only about one month during April-May 1940 during the Norwegian campaign. Ju 52/3m.



479

479

KGrzbV 101: A yellow parrot with a German soldier seated on its tail, carrying a rifle in its claws. March 1940-December 1941. Ju 52/3m.



480

480

KGrzbV 101 (alternative): A white circle encompassing the number '101'. This variant was probably only used during the assault on Crete and in the Balkans in 1941. Ju 52/3m.



481

481

3./KGrzbV 101*: A shield with the number 101 in the top left corner depicting a dragonfly carrying a German soldier. The low contrast seen in photos of the emblem suggests that the shield was white, and the dragonfly and soldier possibly yellow (to identify the Staffel), but this is only speculation.



482

482

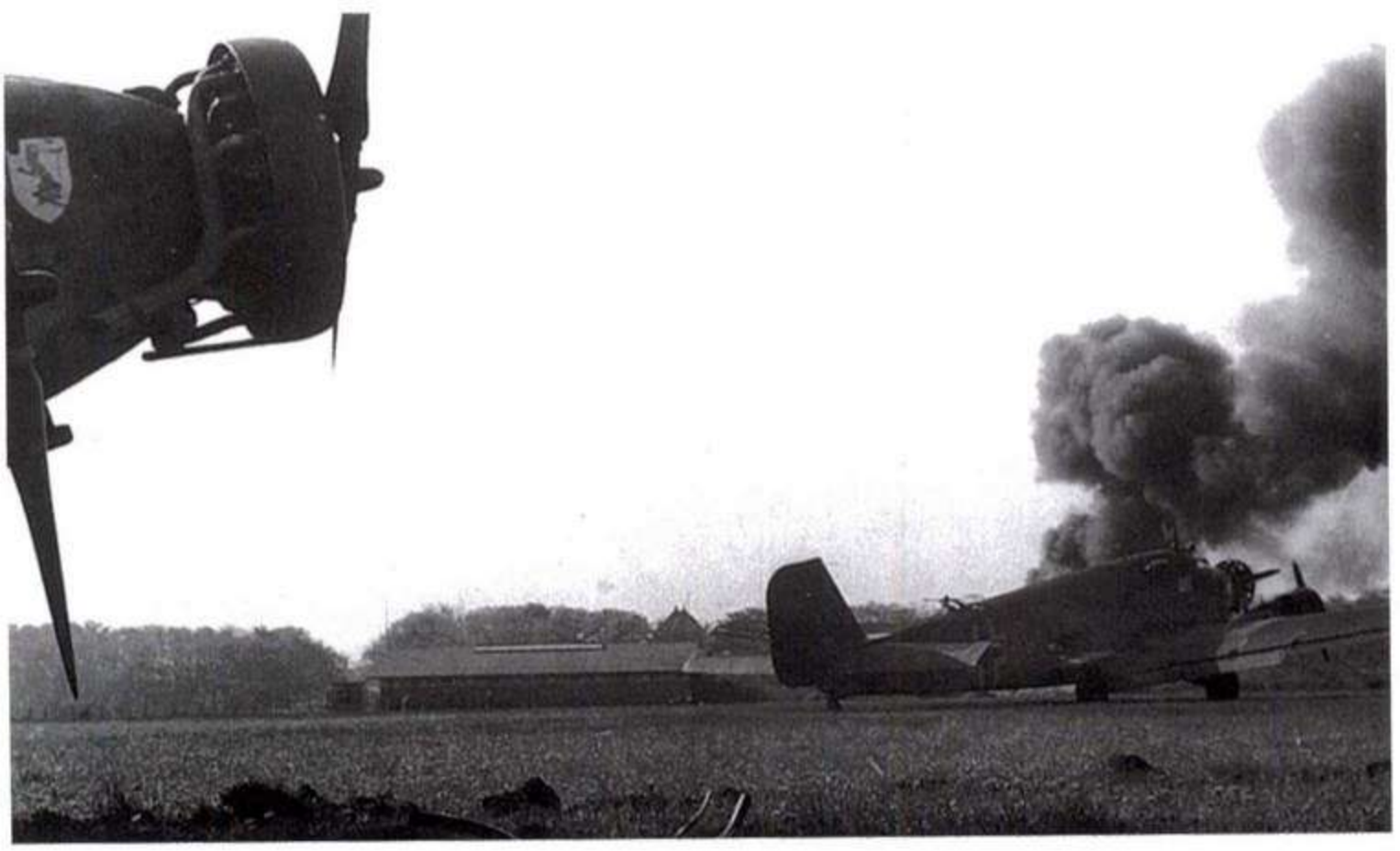
KGrzbV 102: This emblem, a blue shield with a propeller, anchor and edelweiss surmounted by the word 'Narvik', represents the services that took part in the occupation of Narvik in Norway. Issued to all those who had participated, it eventually became the emblem of KGrzbV 102, ultimately passing to III./TG 3. 1941-43. Ju 52/3m.



483

483

4./KGrzbV 103*: A Luftwaffe dagger or lightning bolt slicing into a map of Britain. One of the shortest-lived emblems of all, it was used only for about one month during April-May 1940 during the Norwegian campaign and the invasion of the Netherlands. Ju 52/3m.



This interesting picture shows Ju 52/3ms under fire on a Dutch airfield in May 1940. The nearest aircraft clearly displays the rarely seen emblem of 4./KGrzbV 103.



484

484
KGrzbV 105 (alternative): A white circle encompassing the number '105'. This variant seems to have only been used during the assault on Crete and in the Balkans. Ju 52/3m.



485

485
Stab/KGrzbV 105: A winged oil drum with the word 'Stab'. 1940-43. Ju 52/3m.



486

486
2./KGrzbV 105: A winged oil drum with a red number '2'. 1940-43. Ju 52/3m.



487

487
3./KGrzbV 105: A winged oil drum with a yellow number '3'. 1940-43. Ju 52/3m.



488

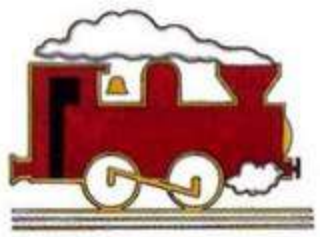
488
KGrzbV 106: A blue shield with a propeller, anchor and edelweiss surmounted by the word 'Narvik', representing the services that took part in the occupation of Narvik in Norway. 3./KGrzbV 102 reformed as 1./KGrzbV 106 in April 1942, which may explain how the same emblem was adopted by KGrzbV 106. 1942-43. Go 244, Ju 52/3m.


489

489
KGzbV 106 (alternative): A leaping stag. Used briefly in the Balkans and on Crete in 1941. Ju 52/3m.


490

490
1./KGrzbV 106*: A folded umbrella. Norway 1940. Ju 52/3m.


491

491
4./KGrzbV 107: A steam locomotive, indicative of the regular transport missions of the unit. Spring 1940. Fw 200.


492

492
KGrzbV 108?: A winged oil drum with a setting Arctic sun above. 1941-43. Ju 52/3m.


493

493
KGrzbV 108 (Tranzocean staffel): A white 'seahorse' on a red shield. This emblem was used on at least one Do 26 that served for a short while with the unit during the invasion of Norway.


494

494
KGrzbV 108 (Tranzocean staffel): An eagle above waves or rocks. This emblem was used on at least one Do 26 that served for a short while with the unit during the invasion of Norway.


495

495
1./KGrzbV 108: A polar bear standing on an ice floe with a setting Arctic sun behind, all on a shield. Float-equipped Ju 52/3m in Finland/Northern Front.



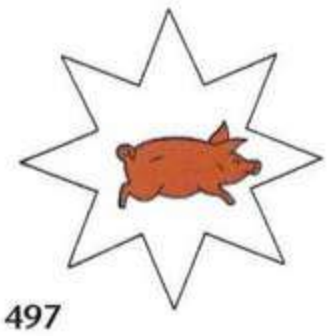
496

496

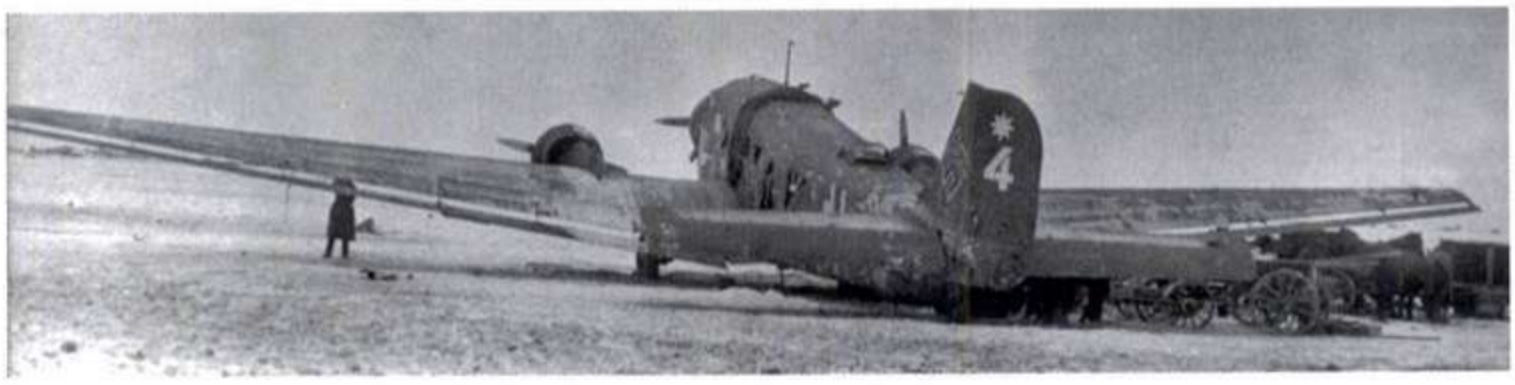
2./KrzbV 108*: A disc with a map of Norway, Sweden and Denmark. Ju 52/3m.

497

1./KGrzbV 172: A small pig on a white eight-pointed star, each Staffel of the Gruppe using a different-coloured star. Used from 1941 until May 1943, when the Gruppe became IV./TG 3. Use thereafter not confirmed. Ju 52/3m.



497



Seen abandoned among the wreckage in the aftermath of Stalingrad, this Ju 52/3m wears the star emblem of KGrzbV 172 on its rudder. Crete and Stalingrad effectively sounded the death knell for the Luftwaffe's transport arm.



498

498

2./KGrzbV 172: A small pig on a red eight-pointed star. Used from 1941 until May 1943, when the Gruppe became IV./TG 3. Use thereafter not confirmed. Ju 52/3m.



499

499

3./KGrzbV 172: A small pig on a yellow eight-pointed star. Used from 1941 until May 1943 when the Gruppe became IV./TG 3. Use thereafter not confirmed. Ju 52/3m.



500

500

4./KGrzbV 172: A small pig on a blue eight-pointed star. Used from 1941 until May 1943 when the Gruppe became IV./TG 3. Use thereafter not confirmed. Ju 52/3m.



501

501

1./KGrzbV 300: A map of Africa on a white shield, the shield having a thin red or black outline and a further thick outline in the Staffel colour, here white. The emblem commemorates the Gruppe's stay in North Africa from November 1941 to February 1942. Ju 52/3m.



502

502

2./KGrzbV 300: A map of Africa on a white shield, the shield having a thin red or black outline and a further thick outline in the Staffel colour, here red. The emblem commemorates the Gruppe's stay in North Africa from November 1941 to February 1942. Ju 52/3m.



503

503

3./KGrzbV 1./300: A map of Africa on a white shield, the shield having a thin red or black outline and a further thick outline in the Staffel colour, here yellow. The emblem commemorates the Gruppe's stay in North Africa from November 1941 to February 1942. Ju 52/3m.



504

504

4./KGrzbV 1./300: A map of Africa on a white shield, the shield having a thin red or black outline and a further thick outline in the Staffel colour, here blue. The emblem commemorates the Gruppe's stay in North Africa from November 1941 to February 1942. Ju 52/3m.



505

505

1./KGzbV 323: A small begging dog seated on a British steel helmet. From July 1942. This was inherited from GS 1 following redesignation. Me 323.



506

506

2./KGrzbV 323*: A disc showing three ducks towing the legendary Baron Münchhausen seated on his cannonball. This was inherited from GS 2 when it was renamed in May 1942. Me 321.



507

507

KGrzbV 500: The arms of the city of Dortmund, a black spread eagle on a golden yellow shield. Formed winter 1942/43. Ju 52/3m.



Junkers Ju 52/3mg4e '1Z+AS', apparently from the Stab of 8./KGzbV 1, is seen in flight over the Mediterranean during a flight from Trapani in Sicily to Tripoli in Libya in February 1942. This is a good example of how difficult it can be to identify German transport units. Although the aircraft clearly wears the '1Z' code of KGzbV 1, it also carries the yellow tactical codes (P3F) on the rudder that identify it as 'F' of the 3. Staffel of KGrzbV 400. The aircraft is recorded as belonging to II./KGzbV 1 with W.Nr. 6936. The emblem under the cockpit is not clear but appears to be the eagle badge of II./KGzbV 1.



508

508

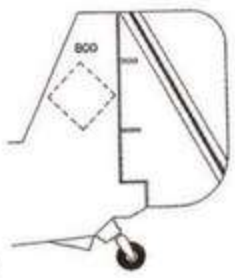
KGrzbV 700*: A shield bearing a flagstaff surmounted by a 'sun' swastika and carrying two pennants labelled Demjansk and Stalingrad, which is held by an eagle piercing a star. December 1941 until May 1943, when the unit became IV./TG 4 and used the Ju 52/3m. LeO 451.



509

509

KGrzbV 700 (alternative): A stork carrying a mail sack and flying through clouds. The sack is marked 'II A.K', which refers to II Armeekorps in Russia, for which the unit was tasked with logistics support. Additionally, aircraft of the unit carried the number '7' on the rudder and '700' above the swastika on the fin. 1942-43. Ju 52/3m.



510

510
KGrzbV 800: Not an emblem as such, but a diagonal black stripe (sometimes edged in white) across the rudder, with the number '800' high on the fin. December 1941-May 1943. Ju 52/3m.



511

511
3./KGrzbV 900: The Ritterkreuze and its ribbon on a shield with the Staffel number. Ju 52/3m.


512

512
LLG 1: A triple-tailed green comet on a white-outlined blue shield. It is not known if the emblem was used by other elements of the Geschwader. 1941 onwards. Go 145, Ju 52/3m.


513

513
Erps.Kdo. XI Fliegerkorps*: A question mark on a shield. Formed as a glider tug unit for the DFS 230 in late 1941 (?). He 111.


514

514
LS Kdo Hundenborn*: A diving eagle carrying a bomb in its claws, all on a shield. Formed June 1941, disbanded in December. DFS 230.


515

515
LTStaffel See 222: A black and white Viking ship on a yellow-outlined blue disc. June 1942 onwards. Bv 222.


516

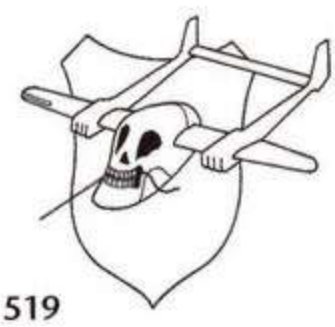
516
LTStaffel 290: Based upon the propaganda figure of the 'Kohlenklau' (coal-stealer), the emblem was soon disapproved of by higher authority. Ju 290.


517

517
Savoiastaffel: Based upon the 'Berlin Bear' of III./KGzbV 1. A yellow (or possibly white) shield with a black upright bear with two crossed palm trees behind. Formed July 1942. Savoia Marchetti SM 82.


518

518
Schleppgruppe 2: A seagull silhouetted against clouds with crossed sabres below. The emblem was previously that of VK(S) 4 and was retained when the unit was redesignated Schleppgruppe 2 in October 1943. DFS 230, Go 242.


519

519
1./Schleppgruppe 4: A Gotha 242 with a skull for the cabin against a white shield. Formed October 1943 on the Eastern Front. Go 242, He 111.


520

520
2./Schleppgruppe 4: A Gotha 242 with a skull for the cabin against a red shield. Formed October 1943 on the Eastern Front. Go 242, He 111.



521

521
3./Schleppgruppe 4: A Gotha 242 with a skull for the cabin against a yellow shield. Formed October 1943 on the Eastern Front. Go 242, He 111.

522
GS 1: A small begging dog seated on a British steel helmet. From formation in winter 1941/42 until it became 1./KGrzbV 323 in May 1942. Me 323.



522

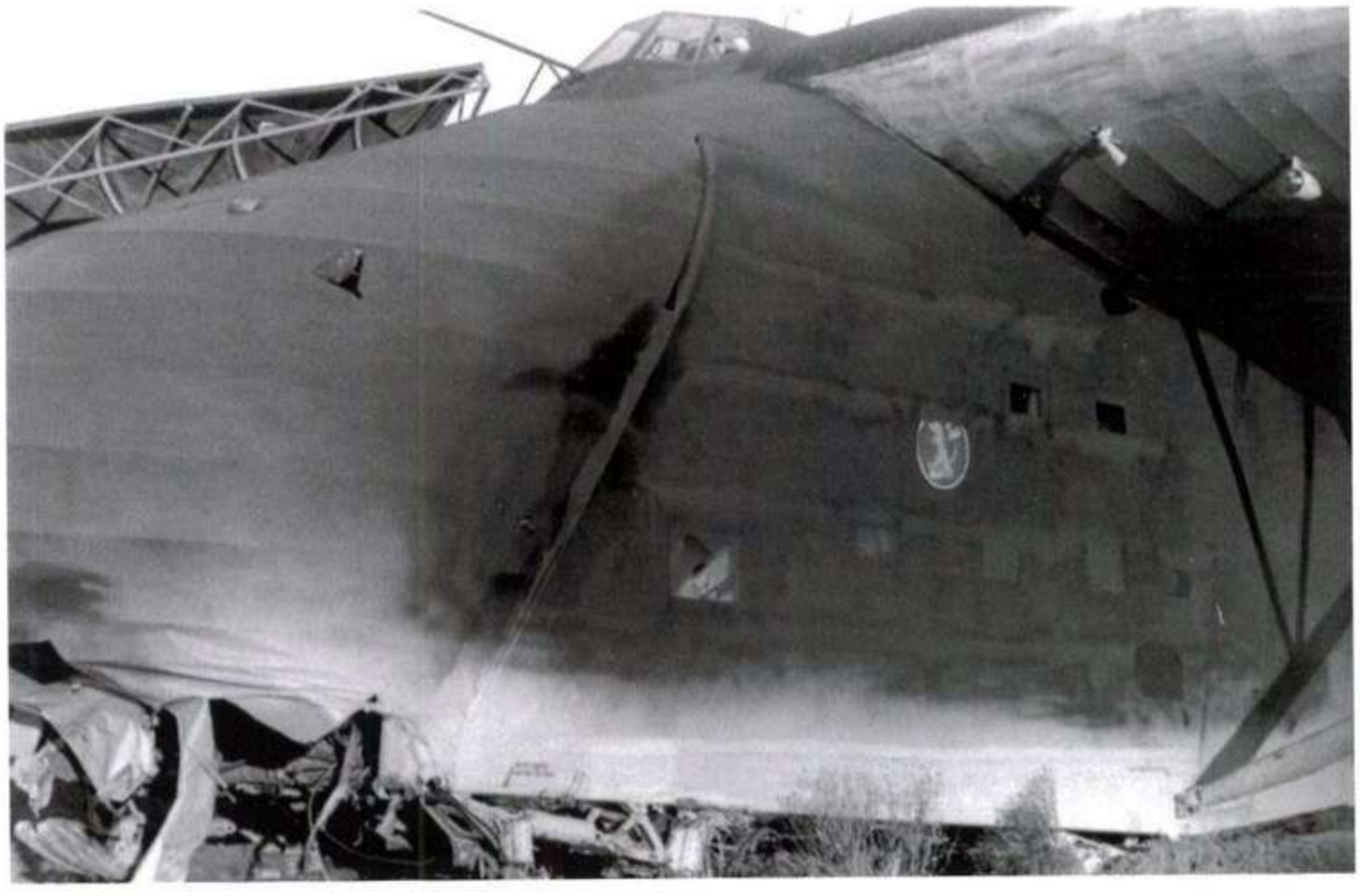
In Germany in late 1941 a crewman peers out of the cockpit of a Bf 110 of GS 1, which carries that unit's emblem with the addition of the legend 'Taps'. Considering the hazardous nature of the unit's task of a triple-tow of the gigantic Me 321 glider, the man looks remarkably cheerful!



A starboard-side view of the Bf 110 of GS 1 seen in the previous picture reveals some interesting details of modifications to the aircraft for its glider-towing role. Note the small rear-view mirror in front of the windscreen and the tow cable strop running along the wingroot. Presumably this was attached to the strongest part of the aircraft in the centre-section. There appears to be some form of two-colour marking on the engine cowling, but whether this is the result of fuel spillage or is a more specific marking to aid formation-keeping is not known.



Seen close up, the massive size of the Me 321 glider becomes apparent. This one wears the 'dachshund' badge of GS 1, which has been overpainted on its top edge on account of previous repairs to the fabric covering. The damage seen here will take more work.





523

523

GS 2*: A disc showing three ducks towing the legendary Baron Münchhausen seated on his cannonball. From formation in winter 1941/42 until it became 2./KGrzbV 323 in May 1942. Me 323.



Oblt Edmund Auer stands in the cockpit of a Bf 110 glider tug of GS 2 at Leipheim in early 1942.

524

GS 4: A three-headed crow, indicative of the three He 111 glider tugs used by 4.(GS)/KGzbV 2, which was originally formed in spring 1942 specifically for 'Troika-Schlepp' operations with the Me 321 glider. In November 1942 it was redesignated as GS 4. He 111.



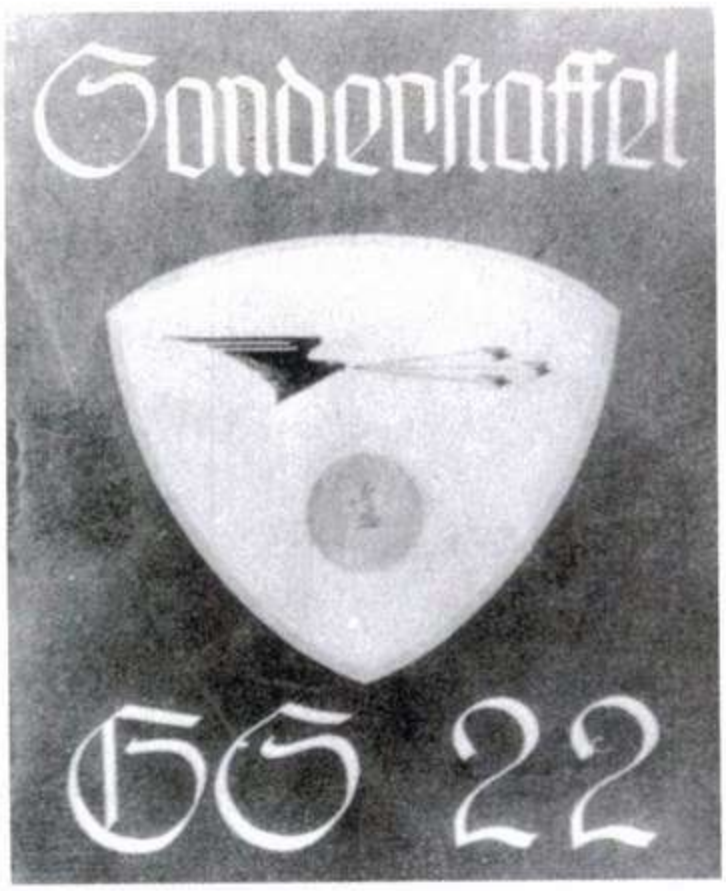
524



525

525

GS 22: A shield bearing an eagle being towed by three smaller birds above a globe. This relates to the task of towing the Me 321 glider, which required three simultaneous tugs (known as a 'Troika-Schlepp') to get it into the air. Passed on to 3.(GS)/KGzbV 2 in spring 1942. Bf 110.



A close-up of the badge of GS 22, another of the little-known 'Troika-Schlepp' glider tug units.



The emblem of GS 22 painted on another long-suffering Bf 110.


526

526
1.(Go) Verbskdo (S) V: A yellow shield carrying the letters 'Go' surrounding a sharkmouthed Go 242 glider holding onto the tail of a black cat. Russia, winter 1942/43. He 111, Go 242.


527

527
Starrschlepp Staffel 23*: A red and yellow wasp towing a DFS glider by its sting, all on a black shield. Orange, France, summer 1943. DFS 230, He 46?


528

528
Transportstaffel/II Flieger Korps: A Luftwaffe eagle, minus swastika, on an inverted triangle. Italy/North Africa, winter 1942/43. Ju 52/3m.


529

529
I./TG 1: A white knight chess piece. Inherited from I./KGzbV 1 in May 1943. Ju 52/3m.

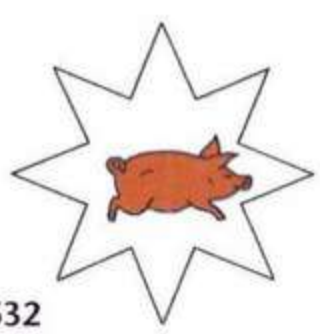

530

530
IV./TG 1?: A devil seated on a bomb with a trident over his shoulder. Believed to have been used from May 1943, when the unit was formed from IV./KGzbv 1. Ju 52/3m.



531

531
III./TG 3: A blue shield with a propeller, anchor and edelweiss surmounted by the word 'Narvik'. Inherited from KGzbV 102 and adopted by III./TG 3 in May 1943. Ju 52/3m.


532

532
13./TG 3?: A small pig on a white eight-pointed star. Used by 1./KGrzbV 172 until May 1943, when the Gruppe became IV./TG 3. Use thereafter probable but not confirmed. Ju 52/3m.


533

533
14./TG 3?: A small pig on a red eight-pointed star. Used from 1941 until May 1943, when the Gruppe became IV./TG 3. Use thereafter not confirmed. Ju 52/3m.


534

534
15./TG 3?: A small pig on a yellow eight-pointed star. Used from 1941 until May 1943, when the Gruppe became IV./TG 3. Use thereafter not confirmed. Ju 52/3m.


535

535
16./TG 3?: A small pig on a blue eight-pointed star. Used from 1941 until May 1943, when the Gruppe became IV./TG 3. Use thereafter not confirmed. Ju 52/3m.


536

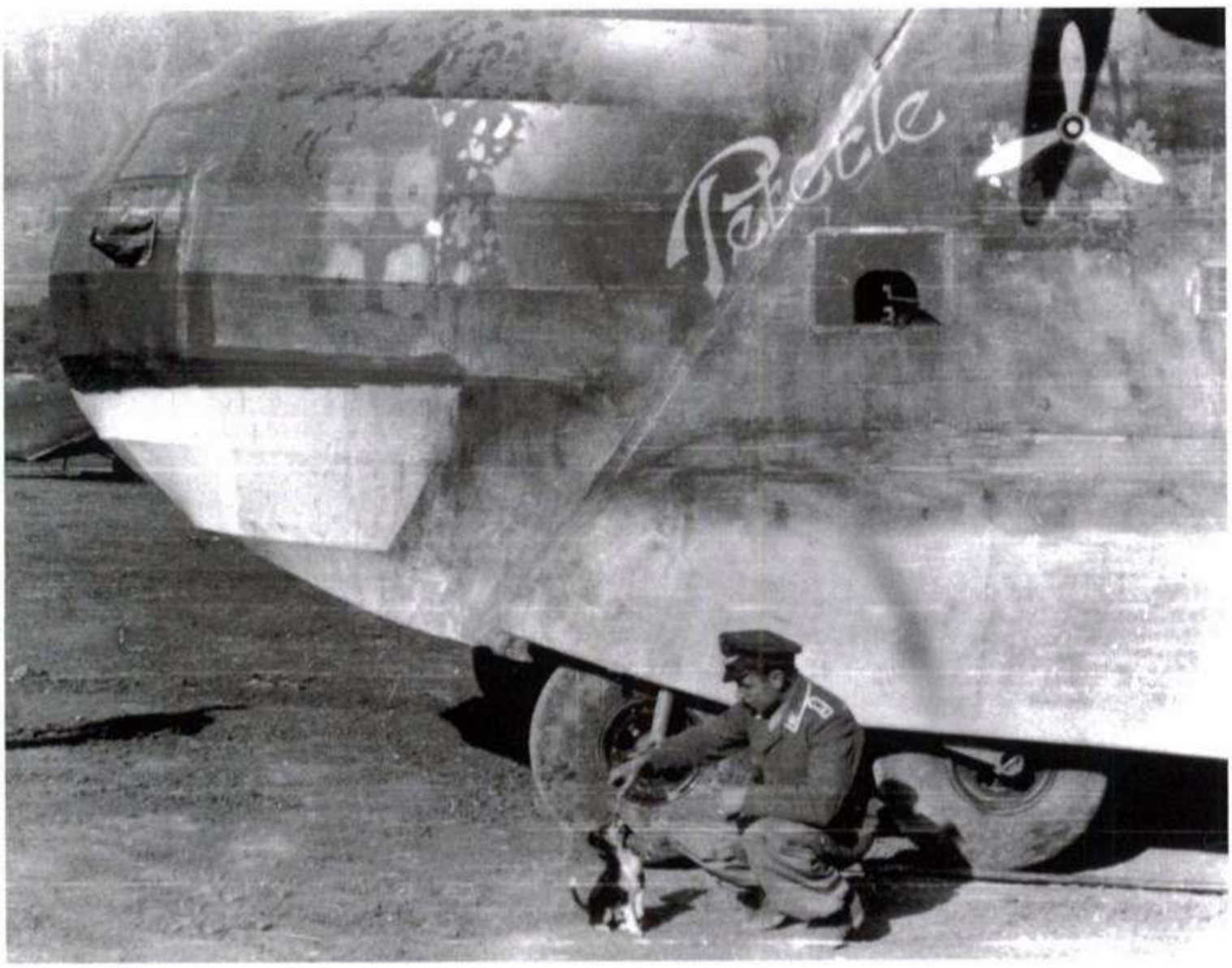
536
I./TG 5: A small begging dog seated on a British steel helmet. From July 1942. This was inherited from GS 1 following redesignation. Me 323.



537

537

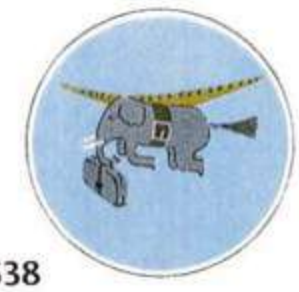
Stab I/TG 5: A white propeller surrounded by a wreath of oak leaves in front of the white or black number '6'. This relates not to the unit number, but to the number of propellers on the unit's equipment – the six-engined Me 323. North Africa, 1943.



'Peterle' is the name on this battered-looking Me 323 of the Stabstaffel of I./TG 5. Perhaps it was named after the pup in the foreground?



The flight crew in front of an Me 323 of Stab I/TG 5 give scale to what was a very large aircraft.



538

The remarkably advanced Arado Ar 232B-07 'A3+RB' of Stab I./KG 200 is seen on display at Farnborough in 1945. RAE records give it the W.Nr. 305002, but a German source claims it to be 0110029. Apart from the RAF roundels the aircraft is still in its original German finish, including the emblem of 1./TG 5, an earlier owner of the machine, which passed through the hands of various units before ending up with KG 200 and eventually the RAF. Although earmarked for preservation, it was regrettably scrapped in 1947.

538
1./TG 5: An elephant with a wing strapped to its back and a suitcase in its trunk. May 1943-August 1944. Me 323.





539

539
II./TG 5: Baron Münchhausen riding a cannonball drawn by a flight of geese. May 1943 until about August 1944. Me 323.



540

540
TGr 30*: A poacher fox carrying away a goose under his arm. Formed in May 1943. He 111.



541

541
1.(DFS)/VK(S) 2: An elephant towing a glider by means of a rope attached to its tail. North Africa, mid-1942 until year-end. DFS 230.



542

542
VK(S) 4: A seagull silhouetted against clouds with crossed sabres below. The emblem was passed on when the unit was redesignated Schleppgruppe 2 in October 1943. DFS 230. Go 242.

543
Feldwerftverband (MOT) 10?*: A triple-bladed propeller. There is some doubt attached to this attribution, as it could be a misinterpretation of the similar badge of Stab I./TG 5. Me 323.



543



544

544
Flugkdo./LnRegt(mot) Afrika: A yellow bolt of lightning. Seen on the rudder of Ju 52/3ms in July 1943.

545
Unidentified*: The silhouette of a Ju 52 over a map of Europe.



545


546

546
Unidentified*: A devil's head among flames. Seen on a Ju 52/3m in Sicily. 1941-43.


548

547
Unidentified*: A double-headed battle-axe. Seen on a Ju 52/3m in Sicily. 1941-43.


547

548
Unidentified*: A pilot being towed while seated on a fuel drum, all on a shield. DFS 230.


550

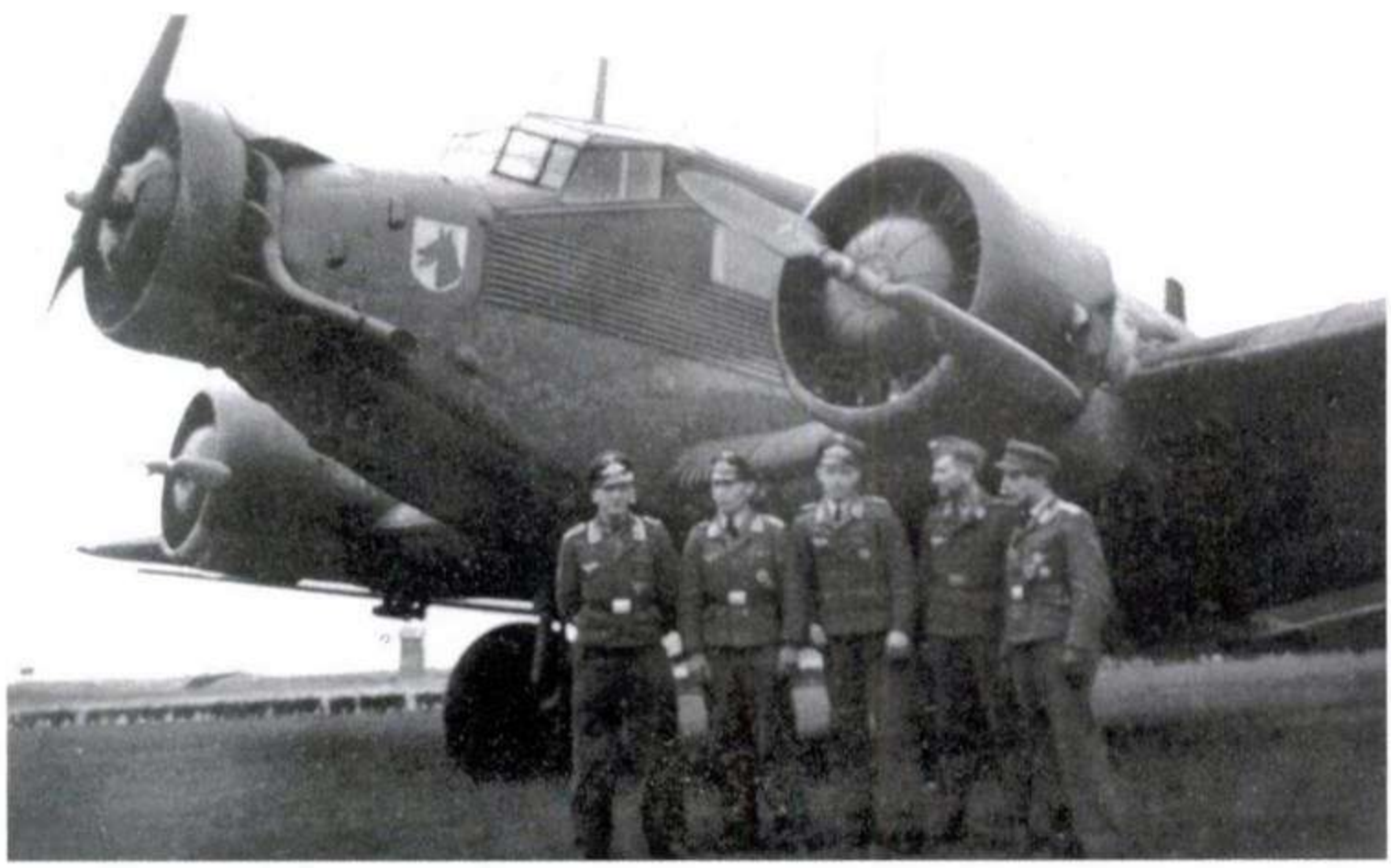
549
Unidentified*: Three rabbits chasing in a circle. Ju 52/3.


549

550
Sanitäts Flugbereitschaft 8*: A figure with upraised arms in silhouette against a rising sun, standing next to the sea, all on a shield. A specialist medical transport unit, it is shown out of sequence as it was only identified shortly before this book went to press. Ju 52/3m.



Allied troops inspect the wreck of a Ju 52/3m bearing the Verbandskennzeichen 'C3+KH' of Transport Staffel/Fliegerkorps II.



A Ju 52/3m carrying an unidentified badge of a dog with its tongue hanging out

Ground attack units

The first ground attack units of the Luftwaffe were those equipped with the 'Sturzkampf'-type aircraft, indicating dive-bombing, abbreviated to 'Stuka', a term usually associated with the Ju 87, but more accurately applicable to the mode of attack. Those units using the Ju 87 were, logically enough, named 'Sturzkampfgeschwader' (St.G). With the introduction of other later types of aircraft such as bomb-equipped Bf 109Es and Fw 190s, and the Hs 129, the term became somewhat academic. Those units primarily using single-seat fighters were therefore redesignated as 'Schlachtgeschwader' (SG – 'Ground Attack', denoting 'Assault'). In October 1943 these ground attack units were officially redesignated Schlachtgeschwader (Schl.G). In most cases they retained their existing unit codes and emblems; consequently, as the effect upon markings was minimal, the badges of the newly designated SG units have not been shown to avoid unnecessary repetition.


551

551
1./NSGr 2: A mosquito riding a bomb against a full moon. Formed from 1./StörKGr Luftflotte 6 in October 1943, the unit carried out night harassing sorties in the central sector of the Eastern Front until autumn 1944, when it transferred to the West. Ju 87.


552

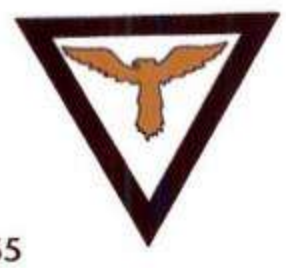
552
3./NSGr 5: A ghost holding a bomb under one arm and a lantern in the other hand, all on a blue shield. Inherited from 2./NSGr 6 in April 1944.


553

553
2./NSGr 6: A ghost holding a bomb under one arm and a lantern in the other hand, all on a blue shield. Inherited from 6./Störkampfgruppe/Luftflotte 4 in October 1943. To 3./NSGr 5 April 1944.


554

554
NSG 9: A white ghost carrying a bomb on a white-outlined black shield. Seen only on ground vehicles, not aircraft.


555

555
Stab I./SG 1: A stylised eagle with wings outspread in an inverted triangle. Summer 1941. Bf 110F.


556

556
SchG 1: A pistol-wielding Mickey Mouse on a white disc. Inherited from 4.(S)/LG 2 in 1942 when that unit was disbanded and the previously blue disc changed to white. Hs 123, Bf 109E.


557

557
2./SchG 1: A brown bear wielding an axe cutting an umbrella in half. All on a red-outlined white shield. Fw 190G, Hs 129.



558

558

4.(Pz)/SchG 1: An upright black bear with a machine gun over its shoulder and a tank hanging from the barrel, all on a yellow disc. From about October 1943. Hs 129.



560

559

5./SchG 1: A black bear wielding an axe, all on a white-outlined red shield. Fw 190G, Hs 129.



559

560

SchG 2: A stylised black bird with spread wings superimposed on an ace of diamonds. 1942-43. Bf 109E.

561

II./SchG 2*: A pistol-wielding Mickey Mouse on a disc. Usually shown as blue, it seems more logical for the disc in this instance to be red, indicating the Gruppe; certainly colour photos exist of Fw 190s carrying such an emblem. Inherited from II./SchG 1 in October 1943. Fw 190, Hs 123, Bf 109E.



561



The Mickey Mouse emblem shown here had a long history, much of it connected with Adolf Galland. Originating in crude form in Spain with the Legion Condor, where it was used on ground attack Heinkel He 51s (commanded by Galland), it was picked up again by 4.(Sch)./LG 2 in 1940 on its Hs 123s. It then went to II./SchG 1 in winter 1941 on fighter-bomber Bf 109s. Meanwhile Galland had retained it as a personal emblem, with the addition of a fat cigar, an object Galland was rarely without. In October 1943 the emblem was acquired by II./SG 2.



562

562

5./SchG 2: A Mickey Mouse carrying an axe and riding a bomb. December 1942 onwards. The emblem was later used by I./SG 4. Fw 190A-5.



Yet more work for the long-suffering ground crews as they struggle to extricate a Focke-Wulf Fw 190 of II./Schl.G 2 or I./SG 4, which has run into a shallow trench. The location is probably Tunisia in 1943, or possibly somewhere in central Italy in spring 1944. Note the desert camouflage worn by the machine (which does not have the additional dust filters of a tropicalised version) and the uniforms worn by the men.


563

563
8./SG 2: A diving eagle holding a bomb on a red shield.

564
7./SG 3?*: The arms of the Archduchy of Austria above the Enns superimposed on a diving Ju 87, all on a white disc. Seen on an Fw 190 flown by the then Staffelkapitän, Hubert Pölz, an Austrian Ritterkreuz-holder.


564


565

565
10.(Pz)/SG 3*: A wolf's head crushing a tank between its jaws, all on a disc. Formed from 4./SG 2 in early 1944 for operations on the Eastern Front. Ju 87D/G, Fw 190F.

566
I./SG 4: A Mickey Mouse carrying an axe and riding a bomb, inherited from II./SchG 2 in late 1943. Fw 190F & G.


566


567

567
III./SKG 10*: A winged silver arrow on a red (?) or blue (?) shield. Tunisia 1943. Fw 190.

568
6./Störkampfgruppe/Luftflotte 4: A ghost holding a bomb under one arm and a lantern in the other hand, all on a blue shield. To 2./NSGr 6 in October 1943.


568


569

569
I./St.G 1: A cartoon diving raven. Summer 1940-1943. Ju 87B, R & D.

A Junkers Ju 87 D-1 Trop of Stab I./St.G 1 somewhere over the Balkans. The cylinder under the wing is a 'Mischlastbehälter', or mixed-load container, used to drop supplies to ground troops. Made of wood on a metal frame, these containers were parachute-retarded, early versions being dropped from altitudes of about 300 metres.





570

570
Stab II./St.G 1?: A seated devil on a diving bomb. 1940. Ju 87B.

571
I./St.G 1: A red spread crowned eagle on a white shield. Inherited from III./St.G 51 in July 1940. Ju 87B & D.



571



572

572
4./St.G 1: A yellow comet with a small charging bull in the star. Inherited from 7./St.G 51 in July 1940. Ju 87B.



573

573
5./St.G 1 (early?): A mailed fist on a red (?) jousting shield. Inherited from 8./St.G 51 in July 1940 (?). Ju 87B.



574

574
5./St.G 1: Felix the Cat about to throw Chamberlain's umbrella. Inherited from 8./St.G 51. Devised by Otto Messmer, Felix enjoyed popularity on both sides of the Atlantic and could be found on Allied unit badges as well as in the Luftwaffe. Summer 1940-early 1941. Ju 87B.

575
6./St.G 1: A devil seated on a diving bomb, carrying a torch. Inherited from 9./St.G 51 in July 1940. During 1942 the aircraft carried instead individual 'heavy' animal insignias, such as rhinos and hippos, on the cowlings. Ju 87R.



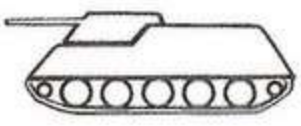
575



576

576
7./St.G 1: A winged steel helmet superimposed on an anchor, all on a shield. The nautical theme of this emblem stems from its origin as 1./Tr.G 186, which was formed as part of the strike component of the aircraft intended for the aircraft carrier *Graf Zeppelin*. The carrier was never finished and the unit became 7th Staffel in July 1940. Ju 87B & D, Bf 108.

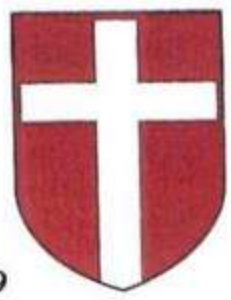
577
Pz.Jäger Staffel/St.G 1: The white silhouette of a Soviet T-34 tank. Late summer 1943. Ju 87G.



577



A close view of the evil-looking Ju 87G and its lethal tank-killing cannons. The unit emblem is a silhouette of a Russian T-34 tank to identify its main purpose – stopping Russian armour.


579

578
St.G 2 'Immelmann': A black 'Jesau' crusader's cross on a white shield. 1940-43. Ju 87R & D.

579
Stab/St.G 2: A white 'Jesau' crusader's cross on a red shield. 1940-42. Ju 87B & D.


581

580
Stabskette/St.G 2: The arms of the town of Barleben, near Magdeburg. In the early days of the war large bomber units carried out their own aerial reconnaissance. This badge was carried by the three Do 17Ps used by St.G 2 from about April 1940 until 6 June 1943.

581
Stab/St.G 2 (later?): A small Scottie dog on a blue disc. The model for the emblem was 'Molch', the dog owned by the I Gruppenkommandeur, Major Hitschold. 1942 onwards. Ju 87D.

582
Stab I./St.G 2: A small Scottie dog on a green disc. 1942 onwards. Ju 87D.


578


580


582

A Junkers Ju 87D-1 of Stab I./St.G 2 somewhere over the Eastern Front in 1942. Coded 'T6+SB', W.Nr. 2705 carries an unusual variation on the unit code, as it is the last letter that is in white, the I Gruppe colour. The Scottie dog insigne is probably on a green disc, the same colour as the spinner tip. The white number '2' on the wheel spat is either for tactical purposes or, more probably, serves to identify the Gruppenstab 1a.





583

583
1./St.G 2: A small Scottie dog on a white disc. 1942 onwards. Ju 87B & D.



Ju 87Bs of 1./St.G 2 showing the black Scottie dog on a white disc, which the Staffel wore from 1942. If this date is correct, the aircraft would appear to be very old as they still wear the narrow fuselage crosses and mid-fin-positioned swastika of the opening months of the Second World War.

584
2./St.G 2: A small Scottie dog on a red disc. 1942 onwards. Ju 87B & D.



584



585

585
3./St.G 2: A small Scottie dog on a yellow disc. 1940-43. Ju 87B & D.

586
3./St.G 2 (alternative): The arms of the city of Breslau on a yellow disc. Inherited in April 1939 when the unit was first formed from 3./St.G 163 at Breslau. 1939-43. Ju 87B & D.



586



Just visible below the windscreen of Junkers Ju 87B 'T6+HL' is the arms of Breslau, the early emblem of 3./St.G 2. Seen somewhere in France in May 1940, the aircraft is fully armed with SC 50 bombs under the wings. The propeller spinner tip is in yellow, the staffel colour, and enlivens the otherwise sombre finish. It is possible that this is the same machine (W.Nr. 5582) that was shot down at Selsey on 16 August 1940 with both crew members wounded.



587

587

Stab II./St.G 2*: A complex quartered coat of arms involving a red Brandenburg eagle, a black lion rampant, the colours of Austria (?) and a cross. 1939. Ju 87B-1.



An early-production Junkers Ju 87B-1, 'T6+BC' (W.Nr. 235?) of the II Gruppen Stab of St.G 2, is seen at its home base of Bonn-Hangelar in spring 1940. It is assumed that the badge is that of the Stabs Kette as it can also be just made out on the aircraft (code letter 'A') in the background. The finish is RLM 70/71/65 with black codes and a green letter 'B' and spinner tip. The Gruppe was an unusual unit in so far as it operated independently from the rest of the Geschwader until it was eventually absorbed by St.G 3 on 13 January 1942 to become III./St.G 3.

Another view of early-production Junkers Ju 87B-1 'T6+BC' (the first portion of which is just visible on the original print), W.Nr. 235(?), of the Stab of II./St.G 2, at the unit's home base of Bonn-Hangelar in spring 1940.




588

588
II./St.G. 2 (later): A green disc carrying the image of a mounted knight, the so-called 'Rider of Bamberg', introduced by the Gruppenkommandeur, Major Kupfer (an ex-cavalryman who was born in Bamberg) after the unit reformed in early 1942. A variant of this badge has a Stab chevron added to the front. Ju 87D.


589

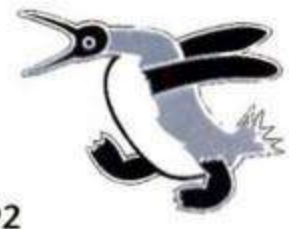
589
4./St.G 2 (early): A four-leaved clover on a white diamond. 1940-41. Ju 87B.


590

590
4./St.G 2 (later): A white disc carrying the image of a mounted knight, the so-called 'Rider of Bamberg', introduced by the Gruppenkommandeur, Major Kupfer (an ex-cavalryman who was born in Bamberg) after the unit reformed in early 1942. Ju 87D.


591

591
4./St.G 2 (Africa): The Afrika Korps emblem of a palm tree and the Luftwaffe emblem seems to have superseded other emblems during II Gruppe's stay in the Mediterranean and North Africa. (February-October 1941.) Ju 87B.


592

592
5./St.G 2 (early): A screaming penguin. 1940. Ju 87B.



This close-in aerial formation picture shows the Junkers Ju 87Bs of 5./St.G.2 on a training flight over their home base of Bonn-Hangelar in winter 1939/40 for the benefit of the Propaganda-Kompanie cameraman. Nearest is the tail of 'T6+GN', W.Nr. 5486, and next in line is 'T6+KN', W.Nr. 5435, which does not appear to carry the staffel emblem as other aircraft in the formation clearly do. The very low contrast between the two dark greens (RLM 70/71) used on the upper surfaces and the black codes has resulted in an outline, possibly in red, which was the allotted staffel colour, being applied to the individual aircraft letter. Additionally, the propeller spinner has been given a narrow ring in the same colour, with what appears to be a black portion forward of the ring and dark green behind. The individual identity letter was also painted in black above and below both wing tips at this period of the war.



593

593

5./St.G 2 (later): A red disc carrying the image of a mounted knight, the so-called 'Rider of Bamberg', introduced by the Gruppenkommandeur, Major Kupfer (an ex-cavalryman who was born in Bamberg) after the unit reformed in early 1942. Ju 87D.



594

594

6./St.G 2 (early): A white or silver rampant winged griffon. France 1940. Ju 87R. This emblem is uncommon.



Three late-production Junkers Ju 87R-1s of 6./St.G 2 are about to start their next mission from an airfield at Ouilly-le-Tesson, to the north of Falaise, France, in 1940. 'T6+AP' is the Staffelkapitän's aircraft and clearly carries a 'rampant winged griffon' emblem. This is a rather mysterious device that pre-dates the later unit badge of 'Felix the Cat'. It seems not to have survived for long after the French campaign. The front portion of the propeller spinner and the individual aircraft letter are both yellow, the Staffel colour.



595

595

6./St.G 2 (later): A yellow disc carrying the image of a mounted knight, the so-called 'Rider of Bamberg', introduced by the Gruppenkommandeur, Major Kupfer (an ex-cavalryman who was born in Bamberg) after the unit reformed in early 1942. Ju 87D.



596

596

III./St.G 2: A shield carrying the red, white and blue emblem of Slovakia, commemorating the unit's formation at Vinne in Slovakia. 1940-44. Ju 87B & D.



597

597

8./St.G 2: A diving black eagle carrying a bomb in its claws, all on a red jousting shield. 1940. Ju 87B.



598

598

9./St.G 2: A dancing black devil with a trident on a yellow shield. France 1940. Ju 87B.



599

599

Stab/St.G 3: A shield carrying a white mosque on sandy ground with a palm tree and blue sky. The obvious desert theme suggests that the emblem dates from early 1942, when the unit first arrived in North Africa. He 111, Ju 87R, Bf 110.



600

600

3./St.G 3: A yellow rampant griffon on a black shield set within a yellow disc. 1942-43. Ju 87D.

601

2./St.G 5 (?): A small red devil holding a spear and riding a horizontal bomb. Probably inherited from 11./LG 1 when that unit was redesignated as 2./St.G 5 in January 1942. Ju 87B & R.



601



602

602

III/St.G 51 (early?)*: A silver mailed fist on a pale colour (probably yellow, the Gruppe colour) jousting shield. This emblem is only noted on Ju 87B-1s, so it is believed that it was gradually superseded by the spread eagle as the unit received Ju 87B-2s, shortly before being redesignated and reformed as Stab II./St.G 1 in July 1940. Ju 87B-1.

603

III./St.G 51 (later?): A red, crowned 'Tyrolean' spread eagle on a white shield. The unit was redesignated and reformed as II./St.G 1 in July 1940. Ju 87B-2.



603



604

604

7./St.G 51: A yellow comet with a small charging bull in the star. Unit redesignated as 4./St.G 1 in July 1940. Ju 87B.



606

605

8./St.G 51?*: A silver mailed fist on a red (?) jousting shield. This is a tentative identification based on a single close-up picture, identical to emblem 602 except for the background colour of the shield, which is much darker in tone. Early 1940. Ju 87B-1.



605

606

9./St.G 51: A devil seated on a diving bomb, carrying a torch. Redesignated as 6./St.G 1 in July 1940.

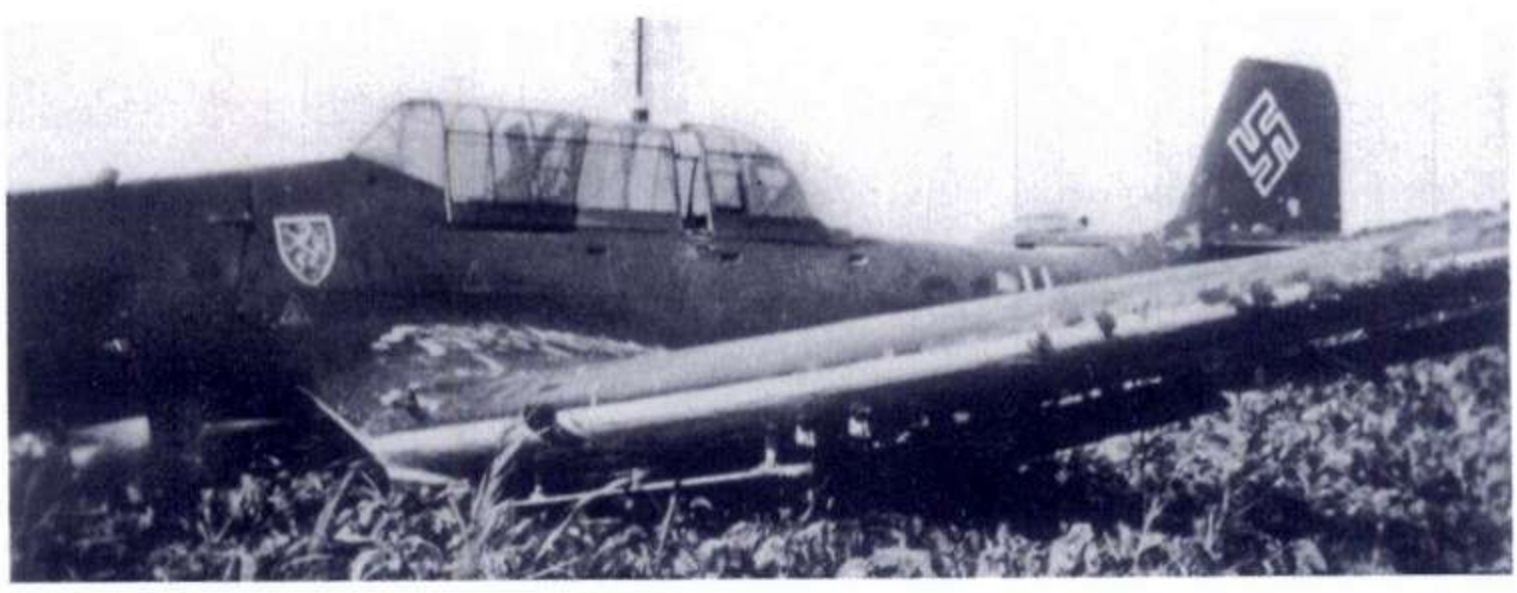
607

I./St.G 76: The Styrian 'panther' (actually a white rampant griffon) with a curly tail on a green shield set within a white disc (the arms of Graz in Austria). This was inherited from I./St.G 168 when that unit was redesignated in May 1939. Ju 87B.



607

This picture demonstrates how the undercarriage of the Junkers Ju 87B could be jettisoned in the event of an emergency landing. The aircraft is wearing the white Steiermark griffon (in heraldic terms a 'panther', and the arms of Graz in Austria) on the green shield emblem of I./St.G 76 (which was inherited from I./St.G 168 in May 1939), and also carries the fuselage code 'S1'. This probably dates the event to 26-28 May 1940, when two aircraft of the unit were shot down while attacking Dunkirk. The sole Gruppe that made up St.G 76 was soon afterwards reformed as III Gruppe of St.G 77.




608

608
St.G 77: A blue and yellow shield (partitioned in chief dancetty, in heraldic terms) with a black spread eagle bearing a red, white and green shield on its chest and a grenade with the number '77' in its claws. The basic shield and colouring division were used consistently for all emblems throughout the Geschwader. Ju 87B & D.


609

609
Stab I./St.G 77: A white and yellow shield, with a black wolf's head. 1939-43. Ju 87B & D.


610

610
1./St.G 77: A white and yellow shield, with a diving pink pig. 1939-43. Ju 87B & D.


611

611
2./St.G 77: A white and yellow shield, with a trumpeting grey or silver elephant. 1939-43. Ju 87B & D.


612

612
3./St.G 77: A white and yellow shield, with the head of a long-eared owl. 1939-43. Ju 87B & D.


613

613
Stab II./St.G 77: A red and yellow shield with a black lion rampant. 1939-43. Ju 87B & D.



With a look that says 'Don't just stand there', two 'black men' struggle to crank up the motor of a Junkers Ju 87B-1 of Stab II./St.G 77, whose unit emblem is prominently displayed. The bright yellow cowling indicates that the aircraft is taking part in Operation 'Marita', the invasion of Greece and Yugoslavia in April 1941, where the Gruppe served under the 'Fliegerführer Graz'.


614

614
4./St.G 77: A red and yellow shield with a black crowing cockerel. 1939-43. Ju 87B & D.


616

615
5./St.G 77 (early): A red and yellow shield, with a black running rabbit wearing a Polish czapka hat. 1939 only. Ju 87B.


615

616
5./St.G 77 (later): A red and yellow shield, with a black panther. 1940-43. Ju 87B & D.


617

617
6./St.G 77: A red and yellow shield, with a charging black bull. 1939-43. Ju 87B & D.

'S2+AP' was an early Ju 87B-1 of 6./St.G 77 being flown by the Staffelkapitän, Hptmn Herbert Pabst, who is preparing for take-off during the opening stages of the campaign in Russia in summer 1941. The almost illegible script on the nose is a rarely seen example of a Luftwaffe aircraft being given an individual name (unlike the USAAF). 'Anton der Zweite' is presumably Pabst's second aircraft coded 'A'.




618

618
Stab III./St.G 77: A light blue and yellow shield, with a mounted knight. This emblem was introduced by Gruppenkommandeur Major Bode, the knight carrying a shield with the Bode family arms. 1941-43. Ju 87B & D.


619

619
7./St.G 77: A light blue and yellow shield, with a black eagle's head. 1941-43. Ju 87B & D.


620

620
8./St.G 77: A light blue and yellow shield, with a black bomb through the loop of a red number '8'. 1941-43. Ju 87B & D.


621

621
9./St.G 77: A light blue and yellow shield, with a diving eagle carrying a bomb. 1941-43. Ju 87B & D.


622

622
Stab IV/St.G 77: A blue and yellow shield, with Baron Münchhausen seated on a bomb. 1941-43. Ju 87B, Bf 110.


623

623
10./St.G 77: A blue and yellow shield, with a black squirrel. 1941-43. Ju 87B & D.

624
11./St.G 77: A blue and yellow shield, with a black bomb and red lightning flashes. 1941-43. Ju 87B & D.


624


625

625
12./St.G 77: A blue and yellow shield, with a black silhouette of Major Günter Schwartzkopf, one-time Kommodore of St.G 77, who was killed in action in France on 15 May 1940. 1941-43. Ju 87B & D.

626
1./St.G 165: A blue square outlined red, with the head of a devil. Used from 1936 until April 1939, when the unit became 1./St.G 51. He 51.


626


627

627
I./St.G 168: The Styrian 'panther' (actually a white rampant griffon) with a curly tail on a green shield set within a white disc; the arms of Graz in Austria, where the unit formed in 1938 until May 1939, when it was redesignated I./St.G 76.

628
?./Tr.G 186: A blue anchor superimposed on a red eagle, all on a shield. This is believed to be an earlier version of the emblem of 1./Tr.G 186 (but could possibly be 2./Tr.G 186), which was formed as part of the strike component of the aircraft intended for the aircraft carrier *Graf Zeppelin*. It is not absolutely clear whether the badge was later used just by the Erganzungs Staffel of St.G 1 or one of the other staffeln of III Gruppe. Ju 87B & D.


628


629

629
1./Tr.G 186: A winged steel helmet superimposed on an anchor, all on a shield. The nautical flavour of this emblem stems from its origin as part of the strike component of the aircraft intended for the aircraft carrier *Graf Zeppelin*. The carrier was never finished and the unit became 7./St.G 1 in July 1940. Ju 87B & D.

630
4./Tr.G 186: The arms of the Counts von Zeppelin. The Geschwader was planned as the air unit destined for use on the Kriegsmarine aircraft carrier *Graf Zeppelin*. In the event the carrier was never finished and the aircraft were all transferred to land duties. Later known as 3./Tr.G 186, the unit became 9./St.G 1 in July 1940. Ju 87B.


630



Ground crew attend to the engine of a Ju 87B-1 of 4./Tr.G 186. The arms are those of Count Graf von Zeppelin, whose name was given to the only German aircraft carrier. As the vessel was never completed, the Stuka never did take off from over water and the unit became 9./StG 1 in July 1940.



631

The nose of a Ju 87B-1 that has nosed over in soft ground at Prague-Ruzyne in March 1941. Although very similar in style to the emblem of III./St.G 2, this may be that of the missing 7./St.G 2 or a training unit.

631

Unidentified*: A blue shield with a red Cross of Lorraine rising from a sprig of oakleaves. Similar in style to the emblem of III./St.G 2, this may be that of the missing 7./St.G 2 or a training unit. Prague-Ruzyne. March 1941. Ju 87B-1.



A Luftwaffe Leutnant supervises the fuelling up of the underwing tanks of a Junkers Ju 87R-2 at Trapani, Sicily, in January 1941; five Italian ground crewmen and a hand pump seem to be necessary to carry out the job! The aircraft wears an unidentified emblem on the engine cowling, the style of which is such that it could belong to either the Luftwaffe or the Regia Aeronautica (which had been using Ju 87s since August 1940). There is also a very close similarity to the emblem of the Hungarian 2/4 Vadászszázad. The emblem itself seems to be 'pasted on' in a slightly odd position here, although that on the other side of the aircraft seems to be painted, consequently there is a suspicion that it may simply be a fake for the benefit of the photographer, but as it has also been recorded on a vehicle, this now seems less likely.

632

Unidentified*: A red, white and green (?) spider with a black and yellow maggot in its jaws. Seen in Sicily in 1941, the style of the emblem is such that it could belong to either the Luftwaffe (possibly from II./St.G 2) or the Regia Aeronautica, which had been using Ju 87s since August 1940. There is also a very close similarity to the emblem of the Hungarian 2/4 Vadászszázad. There is a suspicion that it may simply be a fake for the benefit of the photographer, but as it has also been recorded on a vehicle, this now seems less likely. Ju 87R.



632



Reconnaissance units



633

633
Aufkl.Gr 10 'Tannenberg': A black 'Jesau cross' on a white shield. This is a typical emblem for units first formed in East Prussia. 1938-41. Do 17P, Fi 156, Hs 126, Ju 88D.

A 2,500 mission wreath for Leutnant Troebs of 1./NAGr 12, 'Tannenberg', whose emblem is shown twice. The exact date is unknown and was taken somewhere in Albania. The battered truck is a Ford V3000 type.



634
4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 10: A combat clasp over the Tannenberg monument commemorating the German victory over the Russians in 1914. 1940-late 1942, when the unit was destroyed at Stalingrad. Bü 131, Hs 126.



634



635

635
2.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 11: An oakleaf wreath with crossed daggers and three seagulls. 1939. Do 17P.

636
3.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 11?: A Messerschmitt Bf 110 flying over a map of the Crimea. Also attributed to Kü.St.Krim (which formed from aircraft and crews of 3.(F)/11 in August 1943), it seems likely that in the short term the emblem may have been used by both units. August 1943-July 1944. Fw 189, Bf 110E, F & G.



636



637

637
4.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 11: A fox's head wearing a monocle on a shield. September 1939-autumn 1941. Do 17P, Ju 88.



638

638
5.(H)Pz/Aufkl.Gr 11: The red head of a devil with the 'wooden eye'. Formed in late 1940, and passed on to NAGr 1 when the staffel was redesignated in January 1942. Hs 126, Fw 189, Bf 110.

639
11.(H)Pz/Aufkl.Gr 11: An eagle carrying a tank in its claws, all on a red shield. 1943-44. Fw 189.



639



Oblivious to the fire raging in the background, the pilot of this Focke-Wulf Fw 189A-2 of 11.(H)Pz/11 completes his cockpit checks after returning from a mission somewhere on the central sector of the Russian Front. The staffel emblem of an eagle clutching a tank aptly sums up the unit's task of tactical reconnaissance for the Panzers. This picture shows how close to the front line some of the forward airfields were, as the blaze was probably started by Soviet artillery fire. The overcoats suggest that the time is early 1944 when the Staffel was attached to NAGr 15.



640

640
3.(H)Pz/Aufkl.Gr 12: A cartoon raven wearing big boots, a visual pun based upon the name of the Staffelkapitän, Oblt Raabe (raven). 1940-42. Passed on to NAGr 16 in March 1943. Fw 189, Hs 126.

641
5.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 12: A Moor climbing a rope. November 1940-42. Fw 189.



641



Another Focke-Wulf Fw 189A-1, this time it is wearing the 'Moor on a rope' emblem of 5.(H)/12. This unit was one of the constituent Staffeln of NAGr 15. Note the small bombs under the wing. The date and location are unknown.


642

642
11.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 12: A Moor with a flute. This was devised in connection with the Staffelkapitän, Hptmn Ruff, who spoke Turkish. Formed from 1.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 12 in 1942, when it was part of NAGr 15. 1943-44. Fw 189.


643

643
1.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 13: A devil with a telescope. 1942 onwards. Fi 156, Fw 189.


644

644
2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 13: An owl on a branch with a magnifying glass. 1942. Fw 189.


645

645
3.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 13: A man with a telescope seated within the loop of a figure '3'. 1939-42. The unit was destroyed at Stalingrad. Hs 126.


646

646
3.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 13 (variant): A man with a telescope seated within the loop of a figure '3'. 1939-42. The unit was destroyed at Stalingrad. Hs 126.


647

647
4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 13: A head peering from a cloud marked '4'. 1939-42. Hs 126.


648

648
5.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 13*: Three red fishes on a white shield. 1939-?. Hs 126.



Two Henschel Hs 126A-1s of 5.(H)/13 form a backdrop for this meeting between a member of the Luftwaffe and local villagers somewhere in the Balkans in 1941. The aircraft in the background is 4E+GN. The unit emblem of three red (?) fish on a white shield could be a representation of the arms of a town or city with sea or port connections, or a rebus upon the colloquial German expression "kleine fische" indicating 'no problem', and is clearly visible on the nearest machine.


649

649
6.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 13: An eagle over a tank, both on a shield. 1940. Hs 126.

650
7.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 13*: A number '7' with a bespectacled eagle's head. 1940-42? Hs 126.


650


651

651
2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 14*: An edelweiss on a blue (or red?) shield. 1942. Hs 126.



The suitably attired crew of a Henschel Hs 126 of 2.(H)/14 pose in front of their aircraft in North Africa in 1942.

652
2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 14 (later): Introduced in early 1941, the emblem consists of a rendition of the Reconnaissance Flyers' Operational Flying clasp overlying a map of Africa, all on a blue disc with a yellow star. Fi 156.


652


653

653
2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 14 (variant): A winged eagle's head over a map of Africa. This emblem was noted on a Bf 109G-2 in Tunisia in 1943. Possibly this was a replacement introduced with the Bf 109.



654

654
4.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 14: Baron Münchhausen holding a telescope and seated on his cannonball. 1939. Do 17. Ju 88.



At the end of the day it all depended on the man with the paintbrush. Here a Junkers Ju 88 ('5F+FM') receives the emblem of 4.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 14.

Below: *Messerschmitt Bf 110C-5, 5F+HM, of 4.(F)/14 in a hangar at a location in Germany or France. The Baron Munchausen unit emblem is visible on the nose. It is believed that the officer walking towards the camera is Generalfeldmarschall Kesselring, accompanied by his wife. A Junkers Ju 86E is visible in the back of the hangar.*



655
2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 21: A stork standing on a globe peering through a magnifying glass. Later adopted by NAGr 8 in 1943. Do 17, Hs 126



655

656
3.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 21: A red heart on a white square. 1939-42. Hs 126.



656



657

657
4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 21: A red rampant griffon on a white shield. 1939-42. Fi 156, Bf 109F.

658
5.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 21: A small winged dog on a white disc in a black circle. Sometimes applied all in white on camouflage. 1941. Hs 126.



658

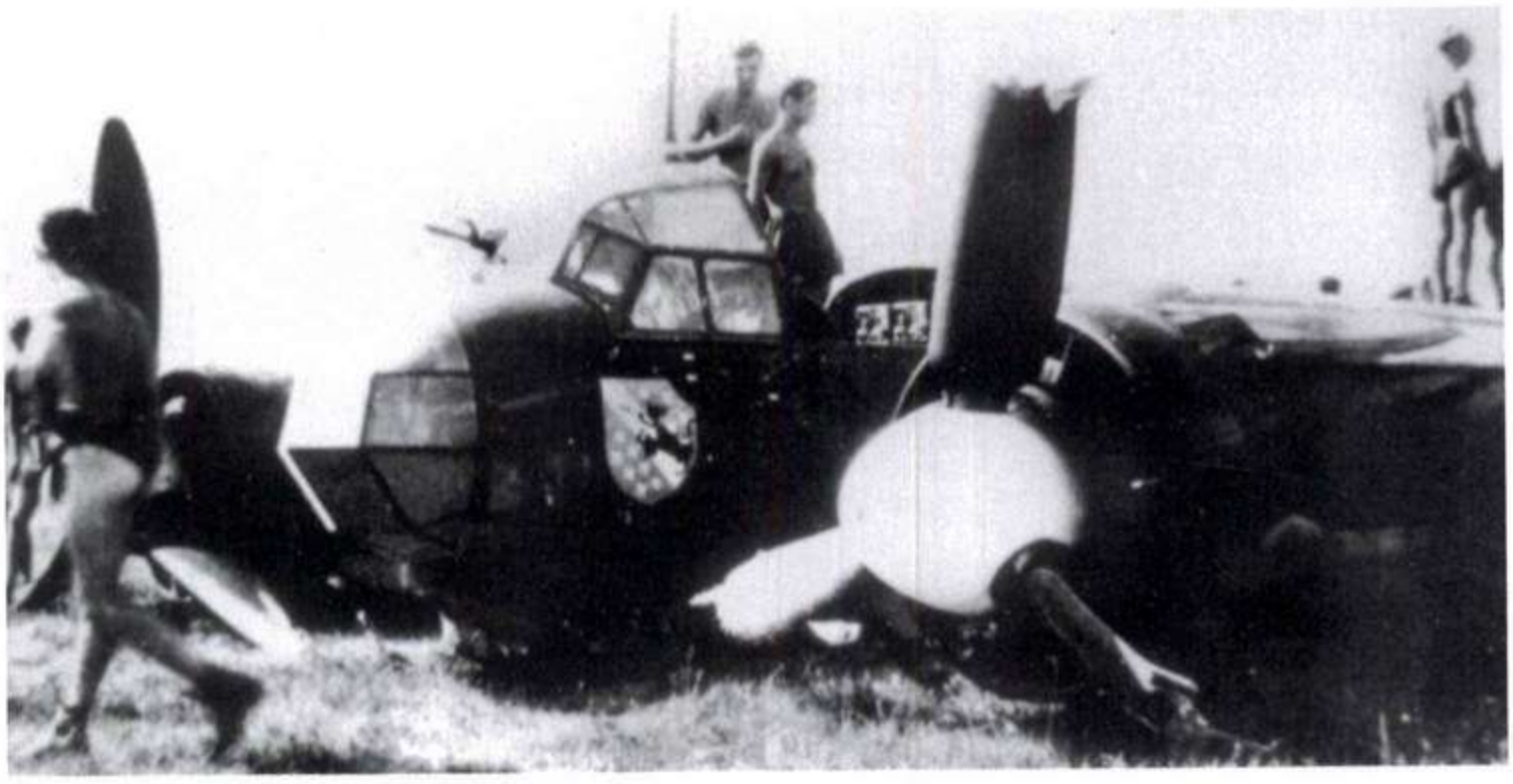


659

659
6.(H)Aufkl.Gr 21?*. A rampant griffon or lion on a shield. There is some uncertainty attached to the exact ownership of this emblem, as the aircraft types (Bü 131 and Fw 44 trainers) on which it has been recorded, were supposed to have been used for courier duties by this unit. The emblem however, is the arms of Oschatz, which are part of the badge used by A/B 61 which was formed there. Bü 131, Fw 44.

660
1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 22: The coat of arms of Kassel, the unit's peacetime base, with a Puss in Boots superimposed. 1939-42. Do 17, Ju 88, Bf 110.

660



A force landed Junkers Ju 88D of 1.(F)/22, whose 'Puss in Boots' emblem is clearly visible. The cat was superimposed on the light blue and white shield of Kassel, the unit's peacetime base. Note how the Schwarz wooden propellers have splintered.



661

661
2.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 22 (early): A red diamond on an angular white shield. 1939-42. Do 17P, Ju 88, Bf 110.

662
2.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 22 (later): A black bear on an ace of diamonds. 1942-44. Ju 88.



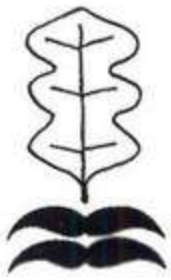
662



663

663
3.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 22: A white Balkenkreuz with a red diamond at the node. 1939 onwards. Ju 88, Bf 110.

664
2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 23: An oakleaf over two sleeve rank wings.



664



665

665
3.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 23: A black swan (?) with outspread wings holding a grenade, all on a white shield. 1941. Hs 126.

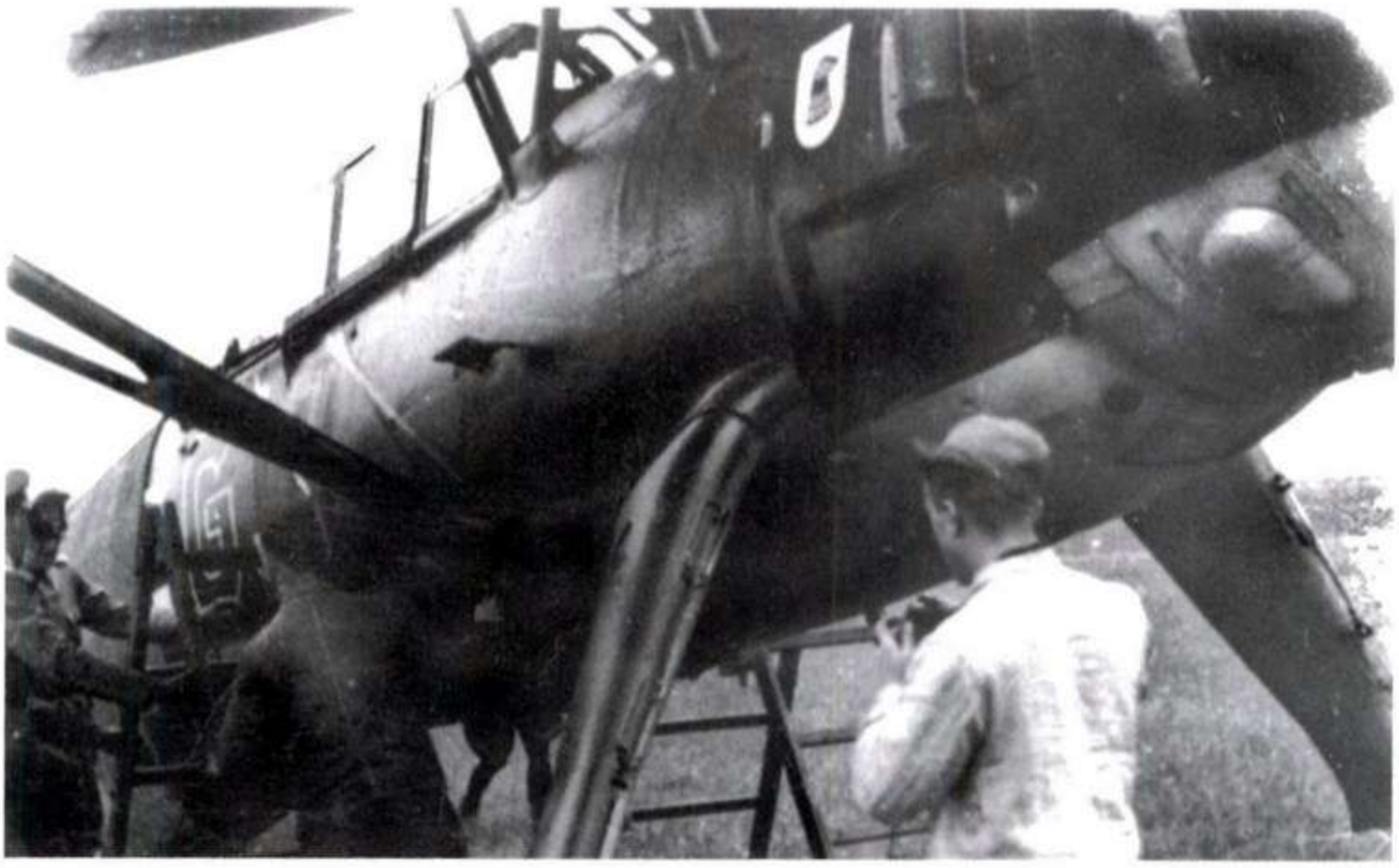
666
Aufkl.Gr 31: An eagle's head resembling that in the centre of the reconnaissance mission clasp. Fw 189.



666



This Focke-Wulf Fw 189A-2 wears the emblem of Aufkl.Gr 31. The location is probably somewhere on the Eastern Front but no other details are known. Note the solid construction of the undercarriage forks.



The emblem of Aufkl.Gr 31 on a Henschel Hs 126 seems to echo the elegant eagle's head that formed the centrepiece of the combat clasp awarded to reconnaissance aircrew.

667
1.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 31 (early): The arms of the city of Brieg in Silesia, where the unit was first formed in late 1939. Fi 156, Hs 126.



667



668

668
1.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 31 (later): A Luftwaffe dagger with an eagle in front holding lightning bolts. Fw 189.



669

669
2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 31: A winged tank on a red shield. Hs 126.

670
3.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 31: A black lobster on a white shield. 1939-42. Bf 110.



670



A Messerschmitt Bf 110E, 5D+GL, of 3.(F)/31 is manhandled back into its dispersal among the trees. Clearly visible is the sliding camera hatch beneath the fuselage.



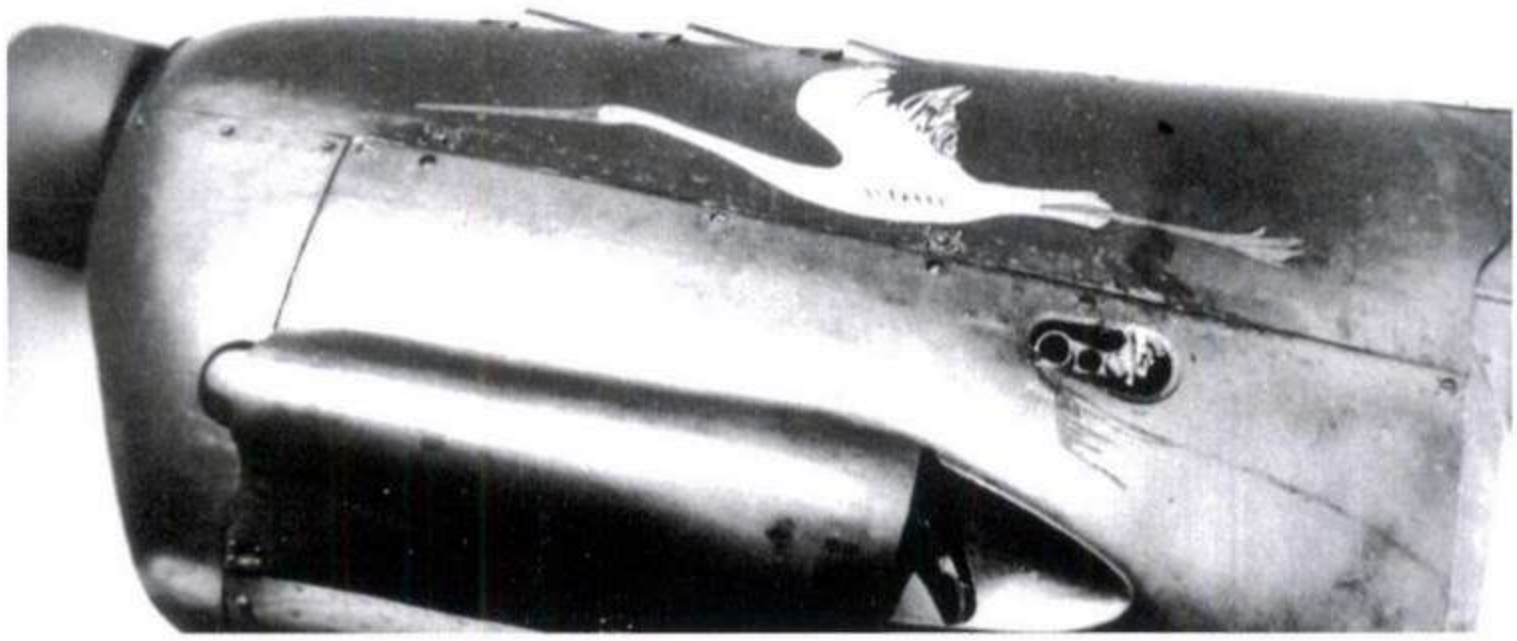
671

671
5.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 31* : A bird wearing glasses. Formed in France from part of 1.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 31 in January 1941. Took part in Operation 'Barbarossa' until October 1941, then disbanded spring 1942. Hs 126.



672

672
1.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 32: A flying stork, very similar to those used by the French Cicognes squadrons in the First World War. 1940 onwards. Fi 156, Fw 189



Close up of the nose of Fieseler Fi 156 Storch, V7+1H, of 1.(H)/32 in Finland showing the unit's highly appropriate stork emblem.



673

673
2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 32: A pair of pincers crushing a map of Britain. 1940-42. The unit was destroyed at Stalingrad. Fw 189, Hs 126.



674

674
5.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 32: A red seahorse on a white shield with two waves, symbolising the coastal reconnaissance missions performed by the unit. 1940. Hs 126.



675

675
7.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 32: A red '7' on a white octagon. Formed 1940 in Poland. He 45, He 46, Hs 126, Fw 189.



676

676
8.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 32*: A walled city gateway with three towers. This is possibly the coat of arms of Bromberg, where the unit was reformed from 7th Staffel in 1941. Hs 126.



Henschel Hs 126B-1, M4+FS, of 8.(H)/32 in Latvia in 1941. The individual aircraft code letter 'F' is red with a thin white outline. The unit emblem is believed to represent the arms of Bromberg, consisting of three towers and a gate, where the unit was reformed earlier in the year.



677

677
1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 33: A large flying eagle over a globe and shield.



678

678
2.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 33: Puss in Boots with a camera. From March 1941. Bf 110.



679

679
4.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 33: An Iron Cross with a yellow sun wheel on a red shield. From 1941. Bf 110.



680

680
1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 100: An eagle holding a camera taking a picture of Britain. Formed from 1/Aufkl.Gr. Ob.d.L. in 1943. Ju 88.



681

681
FAGr. 120: Black reindeer antlers over a red 'Jesau cross' on a silver shield. Ju 88.

682
1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 120 (early): Black reindeer antlers on a white shield. Do 17, Fw 200, Ju 88.



682



A Dornier Do 17P carrying an unusually elaborate version of the stag's antlers used as a unit emblem by 1.F/AufklGr 120.



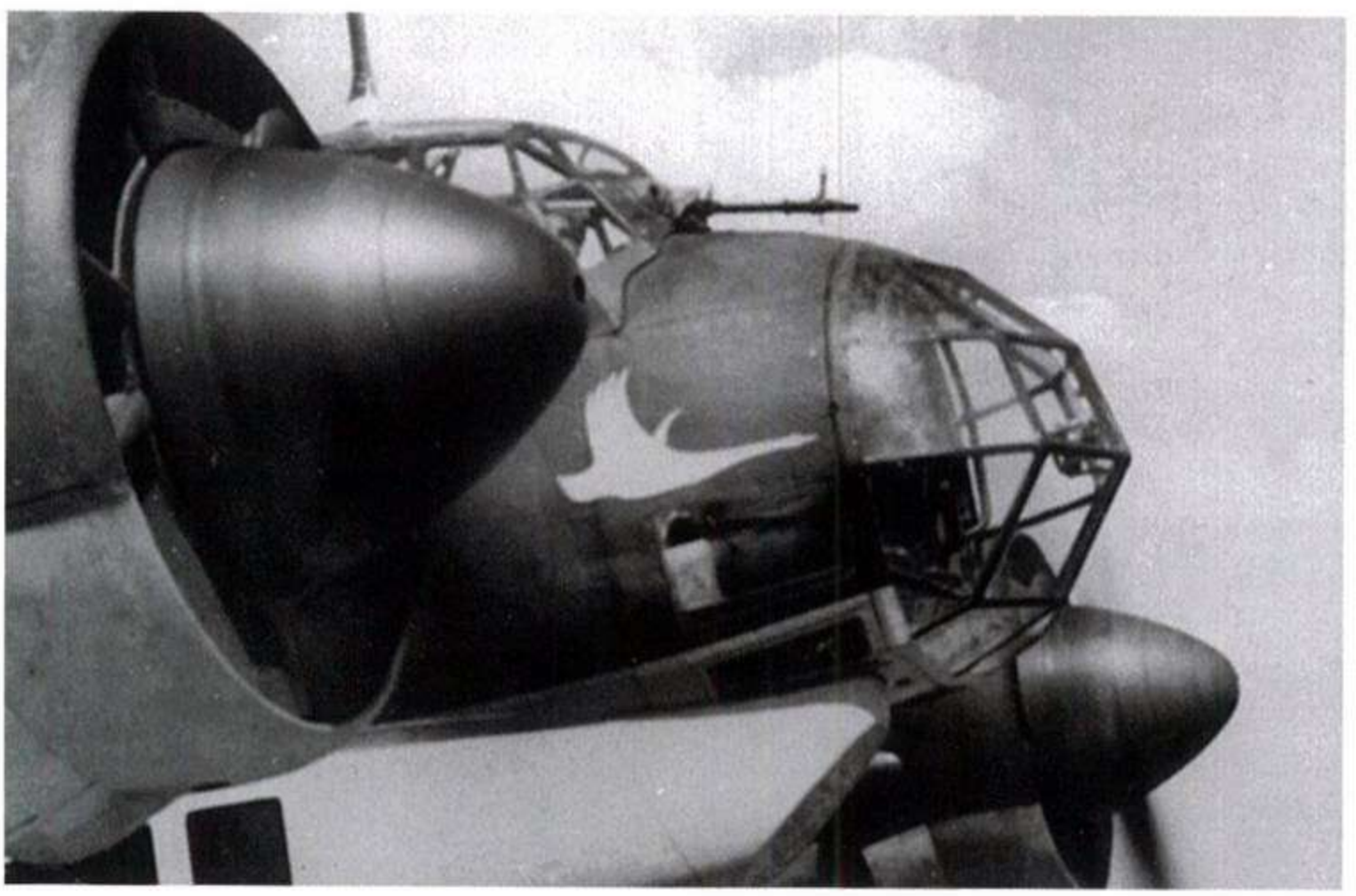
683

683
1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 120 (later): White reindeer antlers on a black rectangle. Ju 88.



684

684
1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 121: A flying swan. 1939-42. Do 17, Ju 88.



A view of the nose of a Junkers Ju 88D-1 of 1.(F)/121 bearing the white goose or swan unit emblem. Note the open crew access panel of the under fuselage gondola which mounts a single machine gun.

Providing an example of the uncommon practice of giving aircraft within a unit individual names, this is a Heinkel He 70, coded '10+G12' of Aufkl.Gr 121, seen at its base in East Prussia shortly before the war. Operating with a mix of He 45 and He 70 aircraft, the unit gave each machine an alliterative name of a town in East Prussia, such as 'Gumbinnen' seen here. Others known on He 70s were 'Hohenstein', 'Johannisburg', 'Kraupisch' and 'Marienburg'. Names on He 45s included 'Christburg', 'Eydtkuhnen' and 'Frögenau'. Note that the lightning flash on 'Gumbinnen' is grey, not white.



Three Junkers Ju 88D-1s of 1.(F)/122 cruise at altitude somewhere over the Mediterranean or the southern sector of the Russian Front. Sometimes called the 'silber-adler' (silver eagle), the emblem is more appropriately described as a wild goose or stork.





685

685
4.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 121: A wise raven seated on a branch within a red circle. 1939-40. Do 17. He 111, Ju 88.



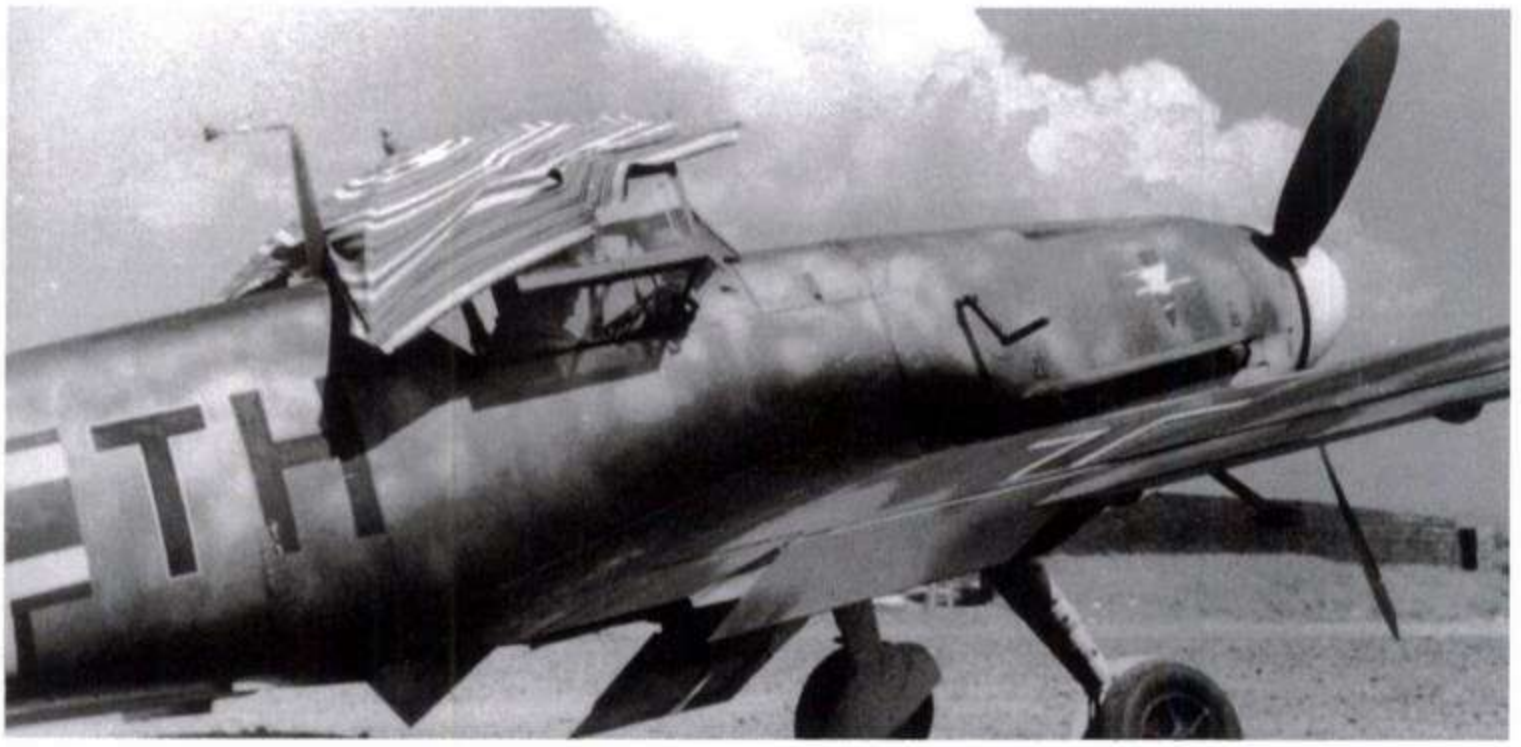
686

686
Stab/Aufkl.Gr 122: The arms of the city of Goslar, a black spread eagle on a yellow shield. 1939-c1943. Do 17, He 111.



687

687
1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 122: A flying stork in front of a red device representing the field of view of a camera lens. Formed 1939. Ju 88.



A Messerschmitt Bf 109F, F6+TH, of 1.(F)/122 with the unit emblem and an umbrella sun shade. Definitely a PR aircraft (note the oil deflector channel around the camera lens under the fuselage) it is most likely a field-modified F-2 as only one F-4 model was built with both cameras and radio.



688

688
2.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 122: A boy scout riding on a bomb, all on a shield bearing the motto 'Holzauge bei wach', which translates as 'Wooden eye on watch', having its origins in the wooden covers over look-out windows in medieval castles; 'wooden eye' consequently became an equivalent colloquialism for keeping one's eyes peeled. 1942. Me 410.



689

689
3.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 122: A female head wearing a toadstool and holding a telescope and a bomb. Formed 1939. Ju 88.



690

690
4.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 122: A golden eagle flying over cliffs and the sea.



691

691
5.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 122: A red runic wheel made from five linked letter Fs.



692

692
6.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 122: A brown owl with yellow eyes. Formed from Wekusta 6 in June 1944.



693

693
1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 123: A Luftwaffe airman's head holding a telescope, known as the 'Knullenkopf'. 1940-c1942. Ju 88, Bf 109F.



694

694
2.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 123: A red and yellow shield with an eagle carrying a telescope. 1940 onwards. Do 17P, Ju 88D.



695

695
3.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 123: The 'Eiserne Dritte' – 'Iron Third'. A black hammer and anvil on a yellow shield. 1939-40. Do 17P.



696

696
4.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 123: Two stylised seagulls on a yellow shield. 1942. Bf 109G.

697
1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 124: The only staffel used an eagle over the Eiffel Tower emblem. 1942. Ju 88.



697



Wehrmacht personnel inspect a force landed Junkers Ju 88D of 1.(F)/124. Date and location are unknown, but as the man on the left (the pilot?) wears Luftwaffe flying boots and the 1943 Model field cap, it must be sometime between 1943 and March 1945. For most of this time the unit carried out reconnaissance for Luftflotte 5 over the northern sector of the Russian Front from bases in Norway. Note the unit emblem of an eagle over the Eiffel Tower, the camouflage overspray on the white propeller spinner and the torn off landing gear in the foreground.



698

698
Aufkl. Kette Lappland: A setting sun over an Arctic sea on a Balkenkreuz with reversed colours. A trio of aircraft formed this unit in June 1941. At first known as Aufkl. Kette (F) AOK Lappland, from February 1943 until August 1944 it was the 1.(F)/124 Kette Lappland, then became the Schwarm Lappland until October 1944 when it was absorbed by 1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr 124. June 1941-October 1944. Do 17P, Bf 110.

699
Aufkl.Gr 125 (See): A penguin flying in a clog holding a bomb under its wing. Seen on aircraft of both the 1st and 3rd Staffeln before it was redesignated as SAGr 125 in July 1943. From 1941. Ar 95, Bv 138.



699

700
2./Aufkl.Gr 125 (See)?: Two seahorses with their tails entwined on a blue shield. Originally used by 4./Bordfl.Erg. Staffel, it seems highly probable that the emblem could have been inherited by 2./Aufkl.Gr 125 (See) as the former unit lasted only between February and April 1941 before being redesignated as here.



700



701

701

1./Aufkl.Gr 126 (See): A seated Dutchman peering through a telescope, an appropriate emblem for the unit, which was equipped with the Dutch-built Fokker T.VIIIW. Used from 1941 until September 1942, when the unit was redesignated 7./KG 100 and re-equipped. Later reformed in February 1943 (using the same insigne). Became 1./SAGr 126 in July 1943. Ar 196, He 60.

702

1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr Nacht: An angel riding a telescope and holding a candle, all against a starry sky. Formed 1942. Do 17P.



702



A very sombre Dornier Do 17P-1 of 1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr Nacht, probably somewhere in Russia, in 1942. Considering the unit's task of night reconnaissance, the emblem is highly appropriate.



703

703

2.(F)/Aufkl.Gr Nacht: A black owl on a white disc. From 1942. Do 17P.

704

3.(F)/Aufkl.Gr Nacht: A nightwatchman on a yellow disc. Formed 1942. Do 17P.



704



705

705

4.(F)/Aufkl.Gr Nacht: A moth riding a telescope against a starry sky. Formed August 1942. Do 17.

706

Aufkl.Gr. Ob.d.L.: A circular red 'G' in a black ring. This is based upon the initial of the commander of Luftflotte 6 in Russia, Generaloberst Ritter von Greim. From about 1943. Do 215, Ju 86P.



706



707

707

1.(F)/Ob.d.L.: An eagle watching a globe. 1942.



708

708
3.(F)/Ob.d.L.: A sunburst on a shield with two ravens, the messengers of the god Odin in Norse mythology, who bring destruction in their wake. 1942. Subsequently adopted by FAGr 5. Ar 240, Bf 109.



A post-war picture of the emblem of FAGr 5, a shield with two of Odin's ravens in front of a sunburst. The unit was originally 3.(F)/Ob.d.L.



709

709
Kü. St. Krim?: A Messerschmitt Bf 110 flying over a map of the Crimea. The unit was formed using aircraft of 3.(F)/11 in August 1943. One source notes that Kü.St. Krim adopted an alternative emblem (see 700). August 1943-July 1944. He 111, Bf 110E, F & G.



710

710
Kü. St. Krim?*: An eagle carrying a swastika over a map of the Crimea. Attributed by one source to this unit, the emblem may never have been carried on an aircraft. August 1943-July 1944. He 111, Bf 110E, F & G.



711

711
1./BfGr 196: A seahorse on a blue shield. From about early 1940. Ar 196, He 60.



712

712
2./BfGr 196: A seahorse on a blue shield. From about early 1940. Ar 196, He 60.



713

713
5./BfGr 196: A 'Hansa cog' sailing vessel with red sails on a white shield. Ar 196, He 60.



714

714
1./FAGr 5: A 'Hansa cog' sailing vessel with red sails on a white shield and a 'Jesau cross' on the sail. From 1943. Ju 290.



715

715
2./FAGr 5: A 'Hansa cog' sailing vessel with red sails on a yellow shield and the emblem of 3.(F)/Ob.d.L. on the sail. From 1943. Ju 290.



A Junkers Ju 290A-4 or A-5 of 1./FAGr. 5 showing the FuG 200 'Hohentwiel' antenna and the unit emblem, a galleon on a shield with a black 'Jesau' cross on the sail. In theory this should be white, 2. Staffel used the same emblem with a yellow shield and Odin's ravens on the sail, but the shield here also appears to be yellow, so maybe this was not a hard and fast rule.



716

716
KG 40: A white 'worm' on a yellow-outlined red shield. Brief use, probably during 1943 only. He 177.

717
I./KG 40: The globe surrounded by Saturn's rings. From about April 1940, when the unit was first formed. Fw 200.



717



The famous 'world in a ring' emblem of KG 40 on an unidentified Fw 200.



718

718
Kommando Braunegg?*: A green disc with a Steiermark panther (actually an heraldic griffon, the arms of Steiermark). It is not known if the emblem was ever actually carried on the unit's Me 262s before it was redesignated as 2./NAGr 6 in March 1945.

719
2./Kü.Fl.Gr 106: A swordfish against a wave. About 1940. Do 18.

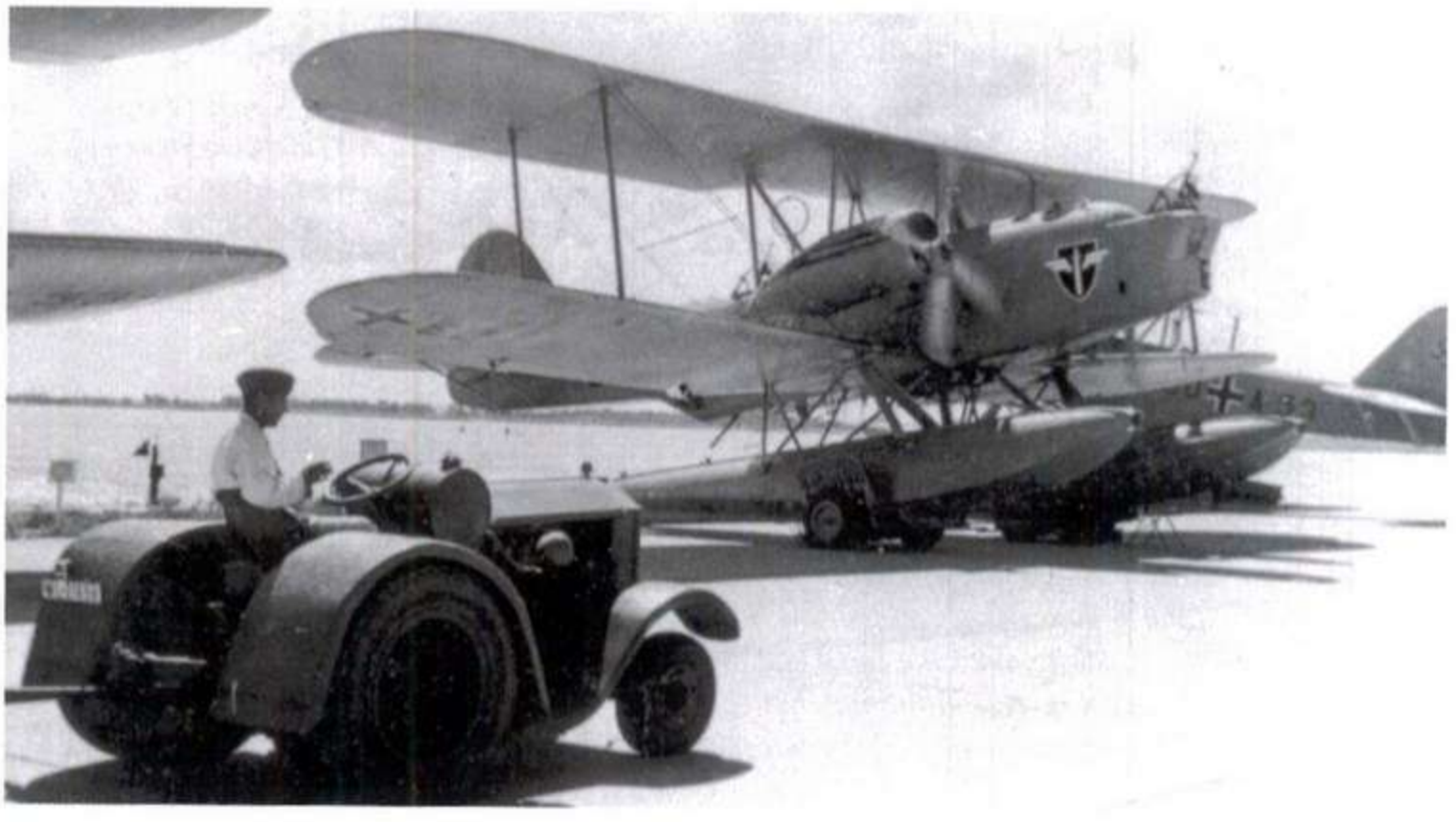


719



720

720
3./Kü.Fl.Gr 106 (early): A winged dagger on a black shield. Introduced 1937, and passed on to 3./Kü.Fl.Gr 406 that year, then to 3./Kü.Fl.Gr 506 in October 1939. He 59.



An overall-grey He 59B-2 of 3./Kü.Fl.Gr 106 simmers in the sun at List in 1937. The striking 'winged dagger' emblem was subsequently passed onto 3./Ku.Fl.Gr 406, then 3./Ku.Fl.Gr 506 in 1939.



721

721
3./Kü.Fl.Gr 106 (later): A skull and crossbones on a disc within a shield. Inherited from 3./Kü.Fl.Gr 206 in April 1937. He 59.

722
3./Kü.Fl.Gr 106 (alternative): A skull and crossbones on a shield. 1940-41. He 115. Ju 88.



722

A Heinkel He 115C-1 shows off the emblem of 3./Kü.Fl.Gr 106. Coded 'M2+BL', the aircraft has well-worn temporary black undersurfaces.





723

723
1./Kü.Fl.Gr 206: Three dice and a dice cup. 1937-38. He 60.

724
1./Kü.Fl.Gr 206 (later): Three dice and a dice cup on a black shield. 1939-40. He 115.



724



725

725
1./Kü.Fl.Gr 306: A seagull flying over an island with a beacon. The device is based upon the arms of Nordeney, where the unit was formed in 1939. Do 18?, He 60.

726
1./Kü.Fl.Gr 306 (later): A blue and silver shield with a motto reading 'Rüm Hart klar Kiming' and a fish. The motto is in a Friesian dialect and roughly translates as 'In close, aim true'. Taken over by 3./Kü.Fl.Gr. 806 in November 1939. He 60.



726



727

727
2./Kü.Fl.Gr 306: A large whale over the island of Sylt with its lighthouse, all on a blue shield. Later used by 3./Kü.Fl.Gr. 406 from November 1939. On the full-size article, the lighthouse represents Hornum and there are five small dots indicating the position of other villages on the island. Bv 138, Do 18.

728
1./Kü.Fl.Gr 406 (early): A flaming torch crossed by a match, all on a blue shield. Mid-1937 until October 1939, when the unit became 1./Kü.Fl.Gr 506. He 60.

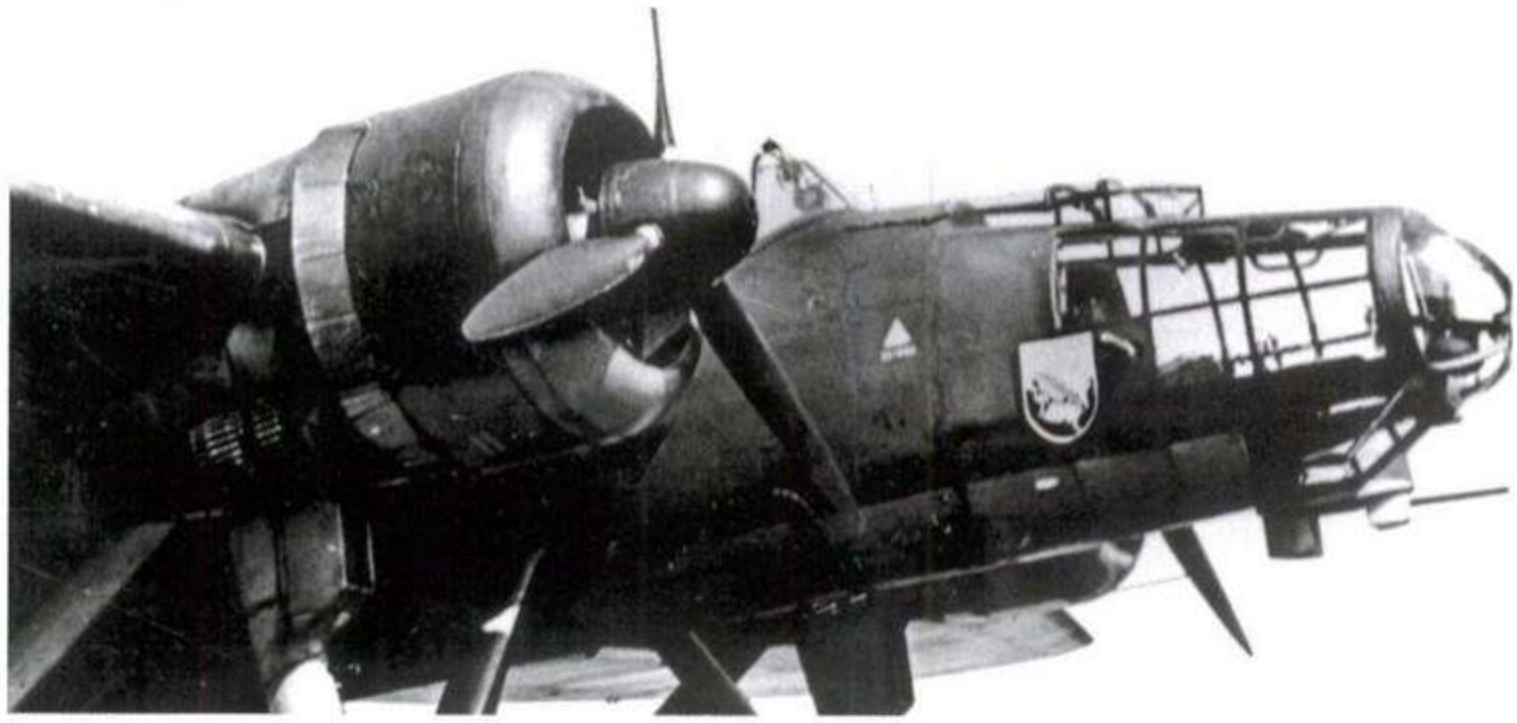


728

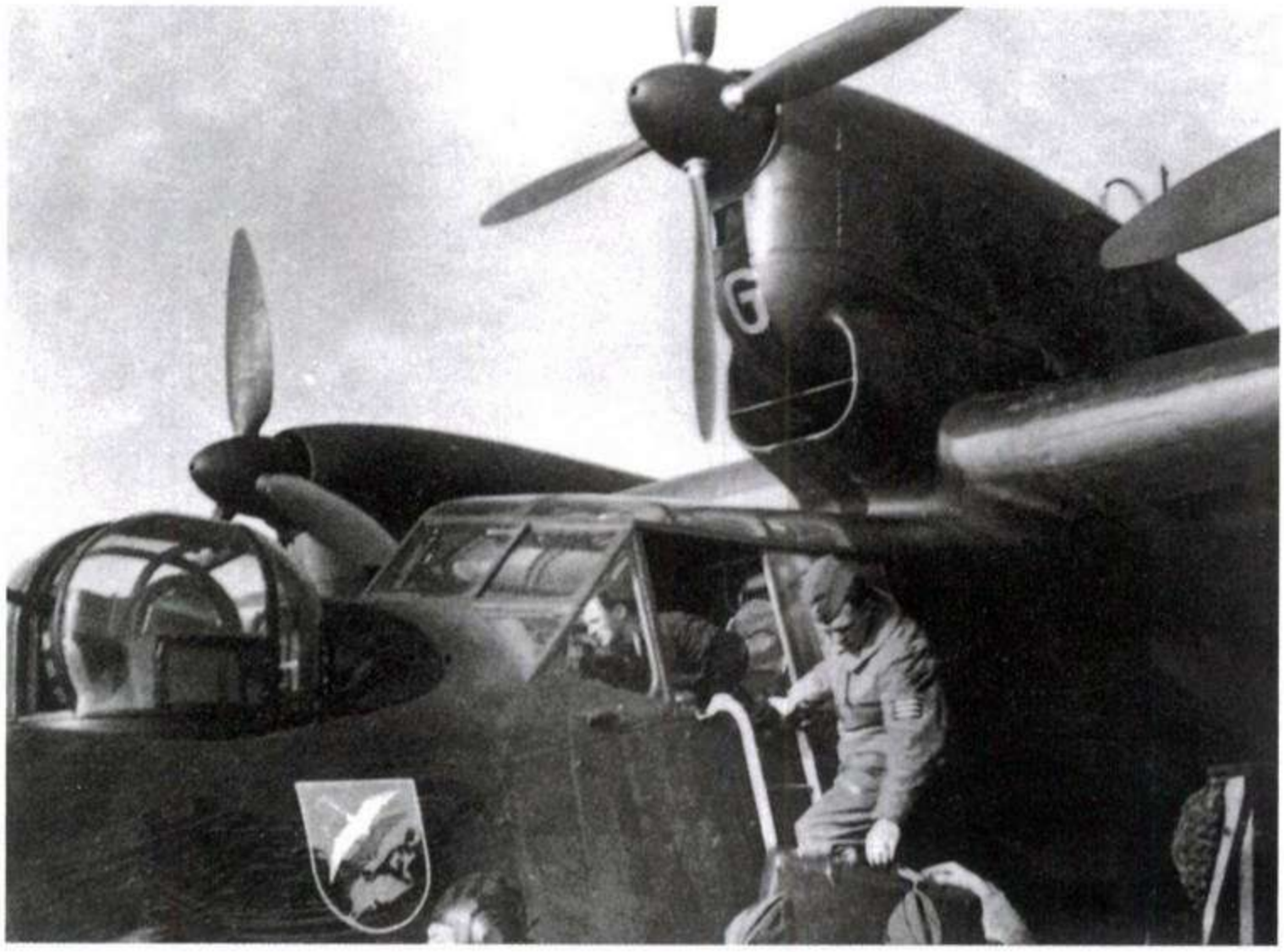


729

729
1./Kü.Fl.Gr 406 (later): The silhouettes of two swans, one white, one black, flying over a map of the Stettiner Haff and the Baltic. Adopted when the unit was reformed from 2./Kü.Fl.Gr 506 in October 1939. Used until about 1943. Bv 138, Do 18, He 115.



The much-travelled wild swans of 1./Kü.Fl.Gr 406 are seen on a Heinkel He 115B-1. The badge was inherited from 2./Kü.Fl.Gr 506 in October 1939.



A clearer view of the emblem of 1./Kü.Fl.Gr 406, seen on a Blohm & Voss Bv 138C, aircraft 'G', as the crew prepare for their next mission. Note how the birds are flying forwards on both sides of the nose. The date is probably late 1941 and the location most likely in Norway.



730

730
2./Kü.Fl.Gr 406: An armoured gauntlet on a diagonally striped blue, red and yellow shield. 1./Kü.Fl.Gr 506. He 60.



731

731
3./Kü.Fl.Gr 406 (early): A winged dagger on a black shield. Inherited from 3./Kü.Fl.Gr 106 in 1937, then passed on to 3./Kü.Fl.Gr 506 in October 1939. He 59.



732

732
3./Kü.Fl.Gr 406 (later): A large whale over the island of Sylt with its lighthouse, all on a blue shield. Adopted from 2./Kü.Fl.Gr 306 in November 1939. On the full-size article, the lighthouse represents Hornum and there are five small dots indicating the position of other villages on the island. Bv 138, Do 18.



733

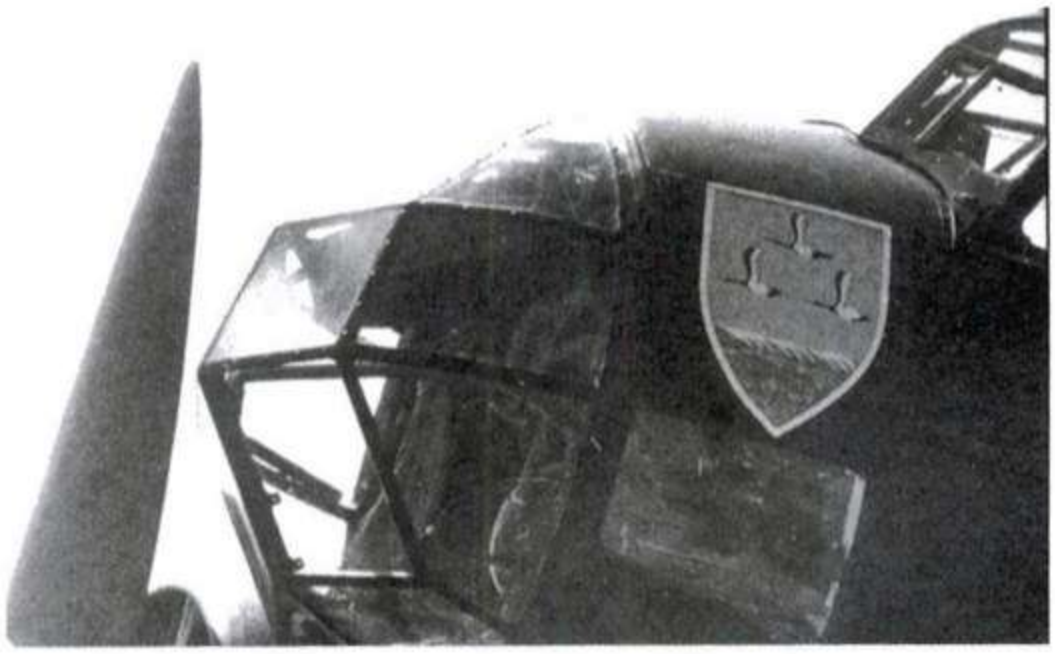
733
1./Kü.Fl.Gr 506 (early): A red griffon on a white shield with a blue outline. Used from 1938 until about October 1939. Became 1./Kü.Fl.Gr 806 in October 1939. Do 18, He 60, He 114.



734

734
1./Kü.Fl.Gr 506 (later): Three oystercatchers (coastal wading birds) in flight above the sea. Reformed from 1./Kü.Fl.Gr 406 in October 1939 and re-equipped with the Ju 88. 1939-43.

Seen on an early Junkers Ju 88A, this is the second emblem used by 1./Kü.Fl.Gr. 506. Less warlike in content than many, it consists of three oystercatchers (a common European wading bird) flying over three waves. The whole emblem demonstrates the many subtle variations possible with hand-painted markings, as the shield is much wider than is normally seen.

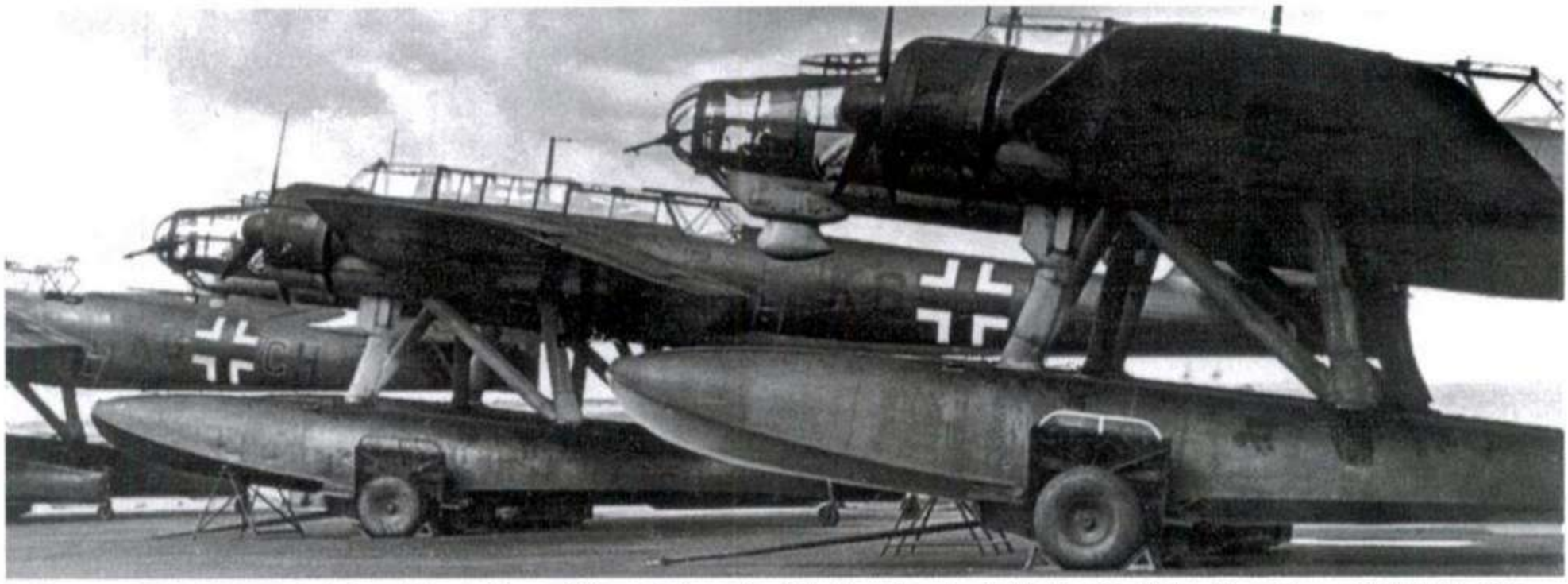


735

2./Kü.Fl.Gr 506: The silhouettes of two swans, one white, one black, flying over a map of the Stettiner Haff and the Baltic. Became 1./Kü.Fl.Gr 406 in October 1939. Bv 138, Do 18, He 115.



735

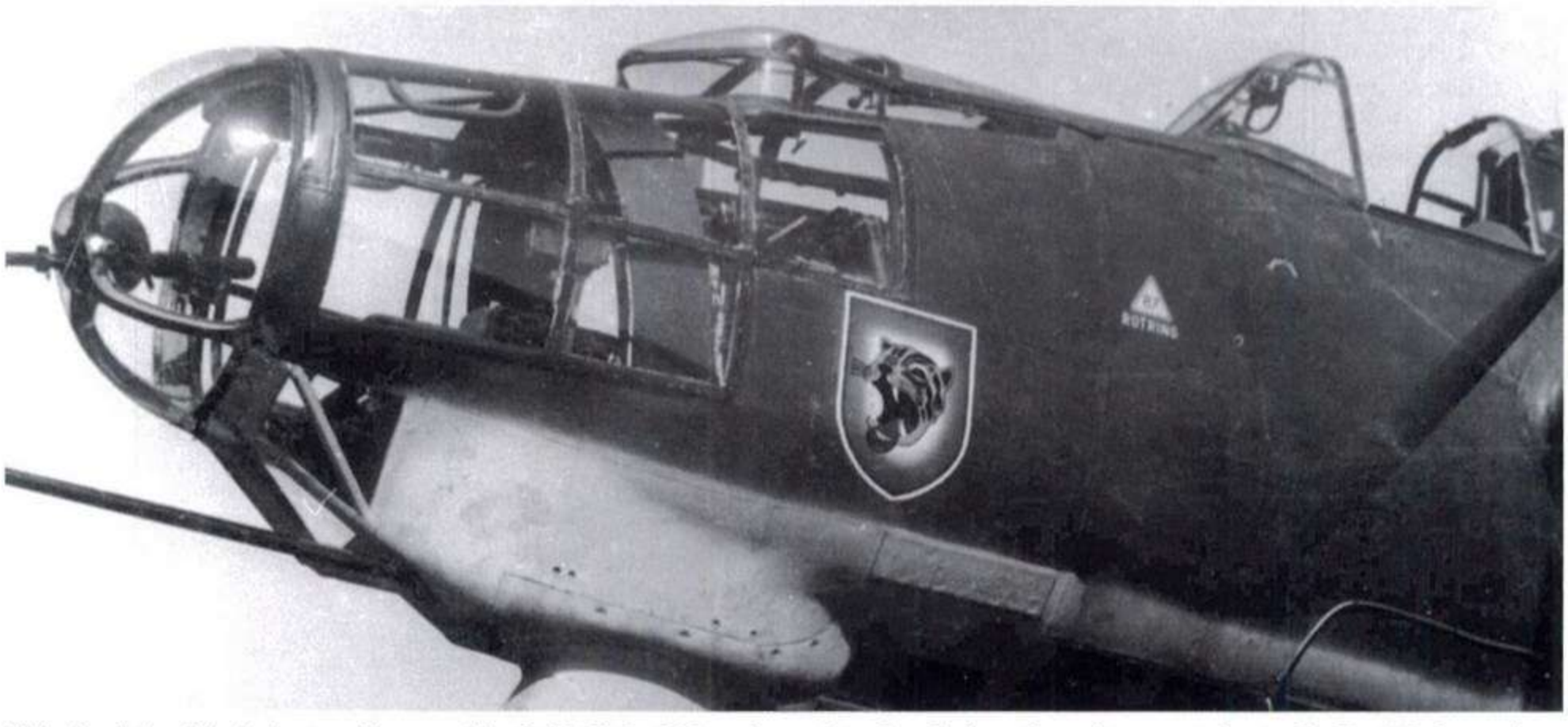


A line-up of He 115s on their beaching trolleys. Although the only full aircraft code visible is 'K6+CH', all are from 1/Kü.Fl.Gr 406, whose badge can just be seen below the nose glazing. Note the difference between the under-nose fittings on each aircraft: the nearest has a teardrop-shaped cartridge collector, identifying it as an He 115C. Immediately behind is an He 115B.



736

736
2./Kü.Fl.Gr 506 (later): A tiger's head on a blue shield. Adopted from December 1940, when the unit was reformed from 2./Kü.Fl.Gr 906. 1940-c1943. He 115.



This tiger's head is the last emblem used by 2./Kü.Fl.Gr 506, and was introduced when the unit converted onto the He 115 for service over the Atlantic and Bay of Biscay in 1940. The exact location of this cannon-equipped He 115C is unknown.



738

737
3./Kü.Fl.Gr 506 (early): A winged dagger on a black shield. Inherited from 3./Kü.Fl.Gr 406 in October 1939. He 59.

738
3./Kü.Fl.Gr 506 (later): The skull of a ram on a golden-brown shield. Date of introduction uncertain, possibly connected with replacement of the He 115. 1941.



737

Two Junkers Ju 88As of 3./KGr 506, the more aggressive development of 3./Kü.Fl.Gr 506 after it had converted from the He 115 in September 1941. 'S4+AL' in the back-ground is probably the Staffelkapitän's machine and has its individual letter outlined in yellow, the Staffel colour. The 'ram's head' insigne seems to have been introduced just after or at about the time that the early Heinkel He 59 was replaced by the He 115, before being replaced in turn by the Ju 88. There are no Eastern Front markings visible on the aircraft, so the location may be the Mediterranean.



739

739
Kü.Fl.Gr 606: An eagle tearing at a map of Britain. Used until November 1939, when the unit was redesignated I./KGr 606. Used until late 1940. Do 17Z, He 111.



740

740
1./Kü.Fl.Gr 706: An harpooned shark leaping from the sea. Date of introduction unknown; used until c1944. Bv 138, He 59, He 115.



741

741
2./Kü.Fl.Gr 706: A penguin flying in a clog with a telescope under its wing. In June 1943 the staffel began as 1./SAGr 125, then as here, finally becoming 2./SAGr 130 in July. Bv 138.



742

742
3./Kü.Fl.Gr 706: A hand holding a sword in front of a Viking ship. Formed in November 1938, the staffel became 3./Kü.Fl.Gr 906 a year later. He 115.



743

743
3./Kü.Fl.Gr 806: A blue and silver shield with a motto reading 'Rüm Hart klar Kiming' and a fish. The motto is in a Friesian dialect and roughly translates as 'In close, aim true'. Taken over from 1./Kü.Fl.Gr 306 in November 1939, the staffel was renamed 3./KGr 806 that same month.



744

744
1./Kü.Fl.Gr 906: A green shield with a stylised singing bird. Probably dates from November 1939 when the staffel was formed from 1./Kü.Fl.Gr 706. He 60.



745

745
2./Kü.Fl.Gr 906: Three black flying fish on a silver shield. Probably used from formation in November 1939 until December 1940, when the unit became 2./Kü.Fl.Gr 506. Bv 138, Do 18.



746

746
3./Kü.Fl.Gr 906: A hand holding a sword in front of a Viking ship. Inherited from 3./Kü.Fl.Gr 706 in November 1939. He 115.



747

747
NAGr 1: The head of a 'wooden-eyed' red devil. Taken over from 5.(H)Pz./11 in early 1942. Fw 189, Hs 126, Bf 110.

748
Stab./NAGr 1: An enormous skeletal hand on the nose of the unit's Bf 110s. 1942-43.



The shark-like nose of the Messerschmitt Bf 110 gave ample scope for spectacular markings. Here is the skeletal hand of Stab./NAGr 1 seen on Bf 110G-3 'Q1+VB', which has sustained an engine fire shortly after landing. Some of the ground crew at least are fighting to quell the flames, while the others seem remarkably relaxed about the affair. The tips of the propeller spinners appear to be in the Stab colour of green, although the individual aircraft letter looks to be white. It is seen in autumn 1943, probably in the Mediterranean or southern sector of the Russian Front.



748



749

749
NAGr 2*: A bird carrying a Mercedes badge or steering wheel, all on a shield. Early 1942 onwards.

750
NAGr 3: The head of an eagle over a tank, typifying the unit's task as the eyes of the Panzers. Early 1942 onwards. Fw 189.



750



751

751
NAGr 4: A stylised diving eagle riding a combined bayonet and lightning bolt. Summer 1941. Bf 109.

752
NAGr 5*: The 'Baltic Cross' medal (?) awarded to Freikorps members in 1919. Note that the outline to the shield may have been red instead of black as shown. From early 1942. Heeresgruppe Nord used a similar emblem. Fw 189.



752



753

753
2./NAGr 6*: A green disc with a Steiermark panther (actually a heraldic griffon, the arms of Steiermark). The emblem is reported to have been inherited from Kommando Braunegg when that unit was redesignated in March 1945, although actual use on aircraft remains unconfirmed. It should also be noted that the disc may be red to indicate 2. Staffel. Me 262.

754
NAGr 8: A stork standing on a globe peering through a magnifying glass. Adopted from 2.(H)/21 in 1942. Do 17, Hs 126



754



755

755
NAGr 10: A stylised eagle shining a light onto three rocks. From early 1942. Hs 126.



757

756
Stab/NAGr 10*: A bumblebee holding a tool box. From early 1942-1944.



756

757
NAGr 11: A prancing white horse on a red shield. From early 1942. Bf 109.



'White 13' of NAGr 11 with the unit emblem of a white horse on the cowling, the lower section of which is yellow. Also to be seen is the aperture in the leading edge of the port wing for the Robot II camera. The Robot II was designed to take photos from an altitude of approximately 2000 metres but, as they proved ineffective in operation they were often removed.



758

758
2./NAGr 12: A fairy riding on a bumblebee. From April 1943. Hs 126.



759

759
2./NAGr 13*: A stylised eagle looking over cliffs and the sea, probably reflecting the coastal reconnaissance task of the unit. 1943-44. Fw 190A-4/U-4.



760

760
NAGr 15: The head of an eagle mounted on the plan of a fortress in blue, placed on a white shield with two towers as supporters. Formed from various staffeln from Aufkl.Gr 12, 13 and 32 in 1942. Disbanded 1945. Fw 189, Hs 126, Bf 110.



762

761
SAGr 125: A penguin flying in a clog holding a bomb under its wing. Inherited from Aufkl.Gr 125 (See) in July 1943. Ar 95, Bv 138.

762
2./SAGr 125: A pelican flying over a running lion. Ar 196.

763
3./SAGr 125: A penguin flying in a clog holding a bomb under its wing. Ar 95, Bv 138.



761



763



Arado Ar 95A-1 '7R+ML', W.Nr. 952350, belongs to 3./SAGr 125, whose penguin insignia is visible on the nose. Seen here moored somewhere in the Baltic in summer 1941, the aircraft were only reluctantly used by the Luftwaffe and were gradually, and surreptitiously, handed over to a unit manned by Estonian volunteers. These then had to make do with these elderly machines until 1944 when three crews took the opportunity to defect to Sweden. Note the bombs on the racks under the fuselage.



A very clear picture of the nose of a Blohm & Voss Bv 138C-1 of 3./SAGr.125 showing the nose turret rotated into the standard position for mooring. Note the various cleats and mooring eyes—and a crease in the bow. Location is the Black Sea coast, possibly Mamaia in Romania as the officers in peaked caps are Romanian.



764

764
SAGr 126: A seated Dutchman peering through a telescope. Inherited in July 1943 from Aufkl.Gr 126 (See) after that unit reformed from III./KG 100 in February. Ar 196.



765

765
1./SAGr 126: A seated Dutchman peering through a telescope. Inherited from 1./Aufkl.Gr 126 (See) in its second incarnation when the unit was redesignated as here in July 1943. Ar 196, He 60.



766

766
2./SAGr 130: A penguin flying in a clog with a telescope under its wing. In June 1943 the staffel began as 1./SAGr 125 and finally became 2./SAGr 130 by July. Bv 138.



767

767
Tranzocean Staffel (version 1)*: An eagle over three waves or rocks. Formed a part of KGrzbV 108 in 1939-40. In January 1941 the staffel became part of Kü.Fl.Gr 406. Carried on the Do 26V1, which was named 'Seeadler' ('Sea Eagle'), destroyed in April 1940.



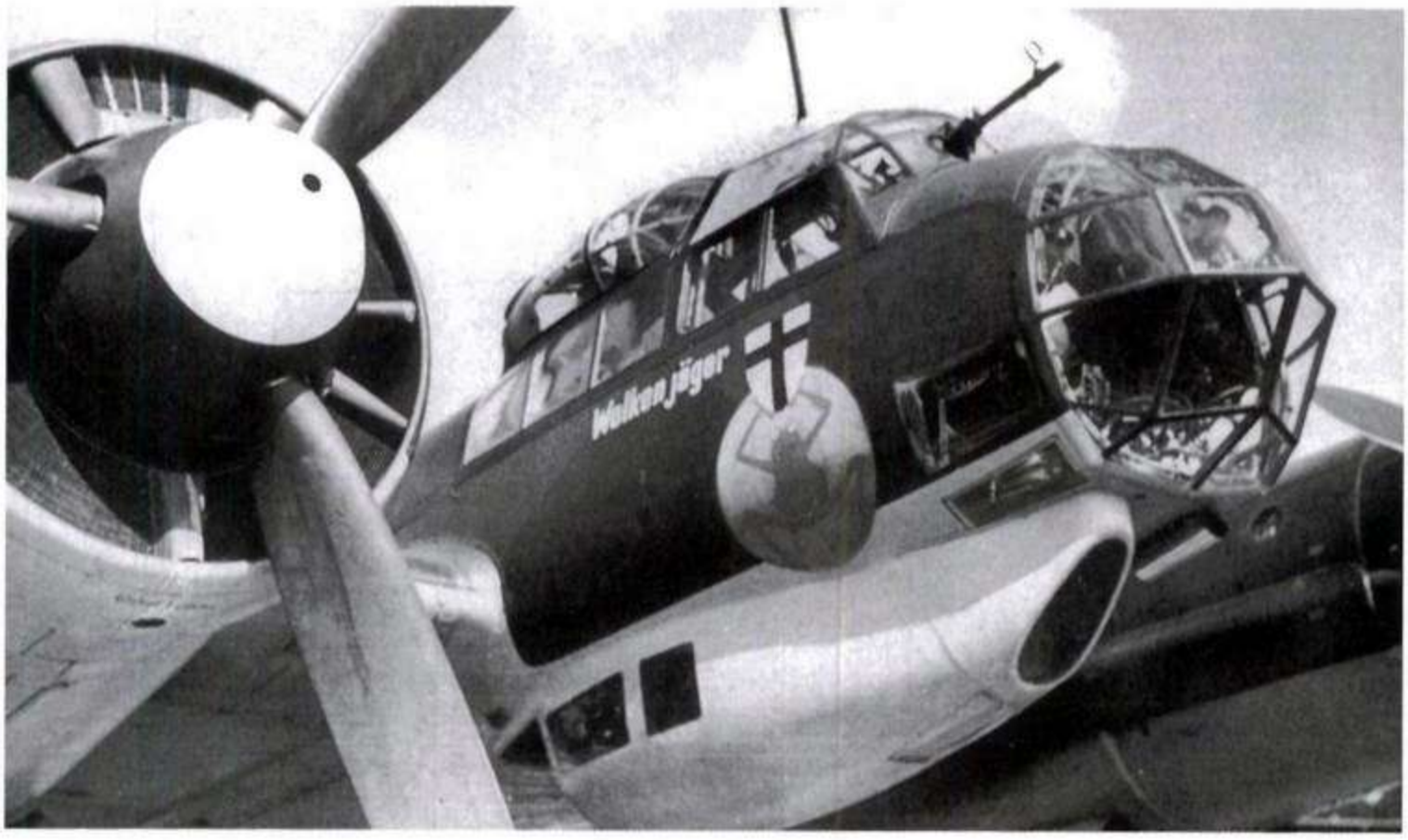
768

768
Tranzocean Staffel (version 2): A white 'seahorse' on a red shield. Formed a part of KGrzbV 108 in 1939-40. In January 1941 the staffel became part of Kü.Fl.Gr 406. Do 26.



769

769
Wekusta 1/Luftflotte 1: A crouching frog on a blue disc holding a shield with a 'Jesau cross'. July 1939-July 1944. Ju 52/3m, Ju 88.



'Wolkenjäger' ('Cloudhunter'), a Junkers Ju 88 coded 'D7+GA', displays the emblem of Westa 1/Luftflotte 1. The combination of a weather frog and a 'Jesau' shield gives a clue to both the unit's function and its place of origin. Formed at Neuhausen in East Prussia in November 1939, the unit was responsible for weather reconnaissance over the Baltic and the northern sector of the Russian Front for Luftflotte 1 from 1941 until 1944, when it merged with FAG 5. The location here is probably Pleskau in Russia in 1941.



770

770
Wekusta 1/Ob.d.L.: A rainbow over an island in the sea. 1939-45.
Do 17, He 111, Ju 88.

A clear picture of a Ju 88D-1, 'T5+BU', belonging to Wekusta 1./Ob.d.L., whose rainbow emblem is clearly visible. Bad Zwischenhahn, 1942. Note the blue letter above the wingtip





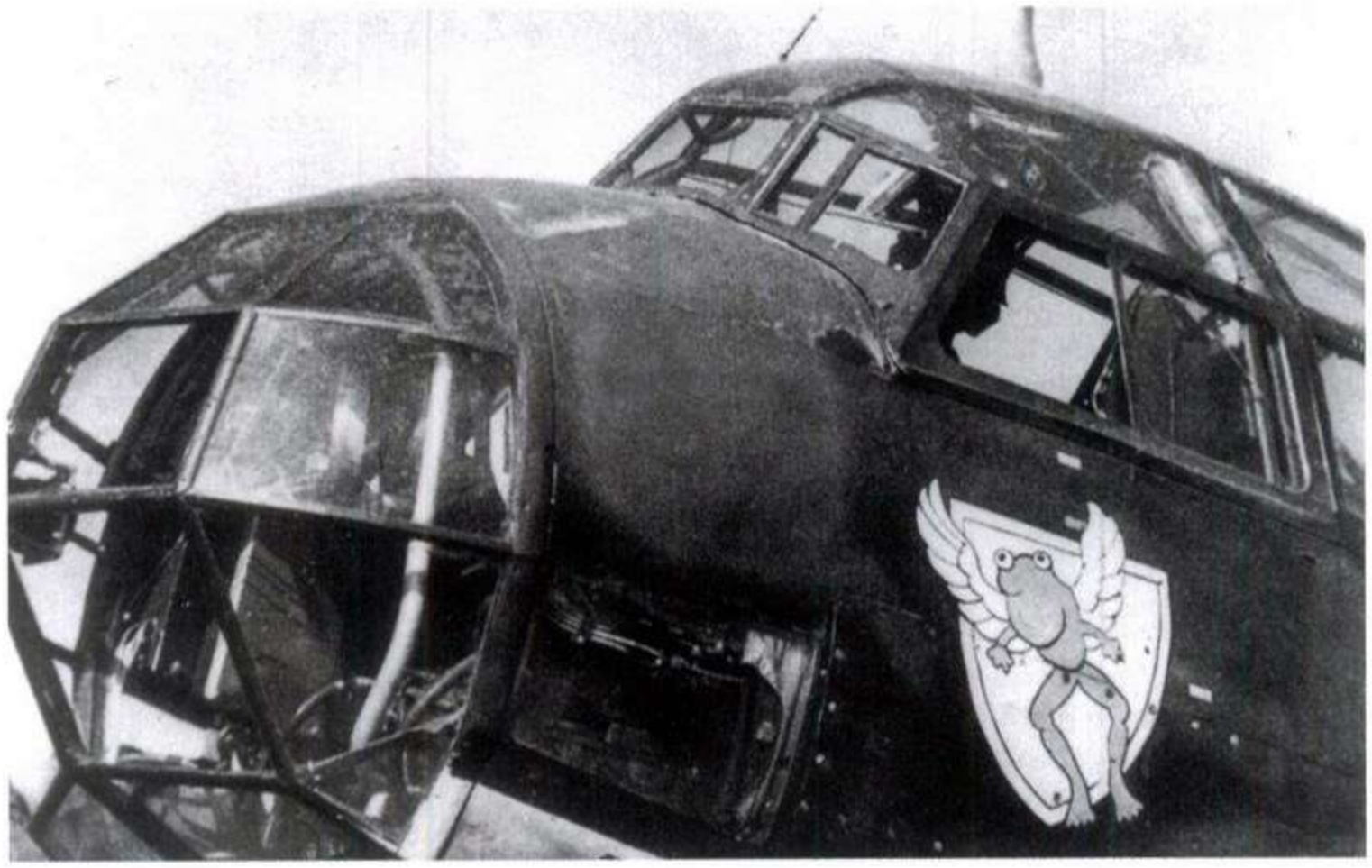
771

771
Wekusta 2/Ob.d.L.: A weathercock over a globe.May 1941-September 1944. He 111. Ju 88.



772

772
Wekusta 5: A winged frog ('weather frog' being Luftwaffe slang for a meteorologist). From May 1940 to September 1944. Ar 232, He 111, Ju 88.

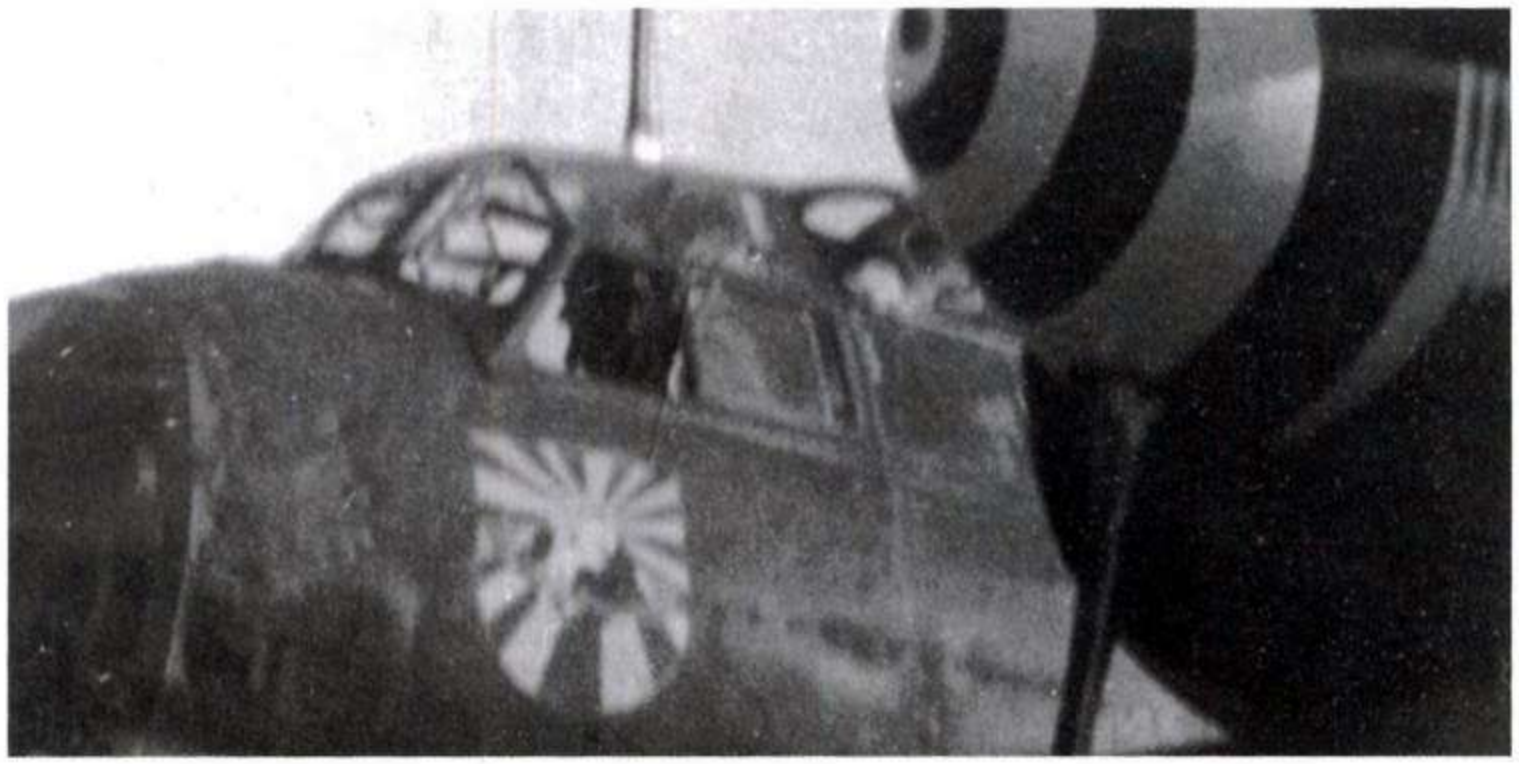


A typical 'weather frog' on a Ju 88 of Wekusta 5, some time between May 1940 and September 1944.



773

773
Wekusta 6: A sunburst over a map of Bear Island (off Greenland). July 1943-October 1944. He 111, Ju 88.



The Wekusta 6 emblem of a sunburst over Bear Island in the Arctic Ocean, a familiar landmark to many weather reconnaissance aircrews, may not have been entirely official, although confirmation either way is lacking.



774

774
Wekusta 26: A brown owl with yellow eyes. Formed June 1939, the unit became 6.(F)/122 in June 1944; it reformed the same month, but disbanded in February 1945. Ju 88.



775

775
Wekusta 27: An eagle carrying a key over a temple on an island in the sea, redolent of the Greek islands, the key presumably being a rebus representing the 'Greek key', a classical form of decoration. Formed in May 1942 from a detachment of Wekusta 26 known as 'Wetterkette Kreta', it became a staffel in its own right from June 1943. Following the German reverses in the Mediterranean, it retreated through the Balkans to Hungary, where it was disbanded in late 1944. Ju 88, Ju 188.



776

776
Wekusta 51: A disc featuring various meteorological symbols. Formed in 1939, the unit operated over France and the UK until disbandment in October 1944. He 111, Ju 88.



777

777
Wekusta 76: A winged frog standing on a cloud. October 1942-August 1944. He 111, Ju 88.



778

778
Wetterflug Rhein-Main*: A long-eared genie or dog sheltering under an umbrella beset by rain and lightning. 1939. Do 17P.



779

779
Unidentified*: A quartered shield with various meteorological symbols in each. Obviously belonging to a weather-reconnaissance unit, it is not known whether this is a unit or personal emblem. Ju 88.



780

780
Unidentified*: This emblem appears to be a seated soldier holding a flag underneath the number '5', all on a white shield. Seen on an Fi 156 in Russia in 1941.

781
Unidentified*: A small winged dachshund. Fi 156.


781

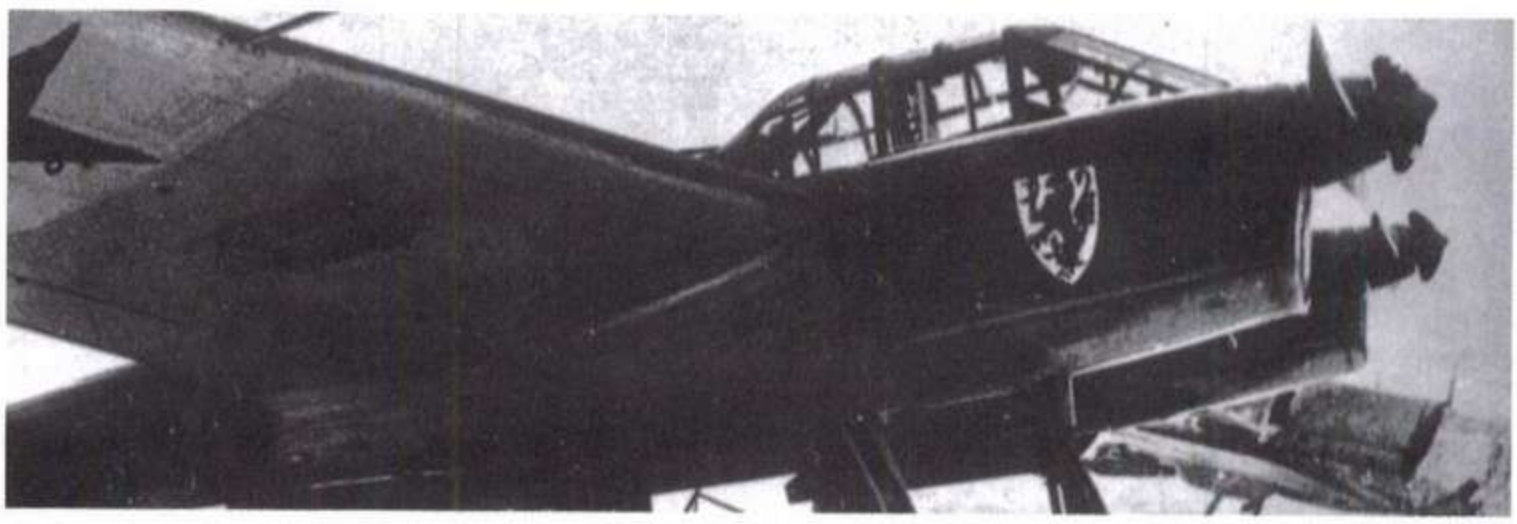

782

782
Unidentified*: The head of a devil within a circle, all in stencil form. Hs 126.

783
Unidentified*: A rampant lion or griffon on an elongated shield. Seen on an Fw 189 at the repair depot at Antwerp-Deurne and another at Stalingrad. Possibly from Aufkl.Gr 41, three staffeln of which were destroyed at Stalingrad and whose unit emblems are presently not known.


783

Seen abandoned after the disaster at Stalingrad, this Fw 189 wears an unidentified emblem that is believed to belong to one of the three staffeln of Aufkl.Gr 14 that were lost there and whose unit emblems are presently not known.




784

784
Unidentified: The arms of the city of Kassel with an eagle perched on top of the shield.

785
Unidentified*: A stylised eagle with an Fw 189 superimposed, all on a white shield. 1941-? Fw 189.


785


786

786
Unidentified: A stylised eagle's head on a green disc. Ju 88D.

787
Unidentified*: A shield with a map (showing Northern Norway?) overlaid by a gunsight and the legend '69N'. This is close to the latitude of the Luftwaffe base at Kirkenes and of Murmansk in Russia, a major target for the Luftwaffe. The gunsight could indicate use by a bomber unit, possibly part of KG 30, which operated in the region and used the Ju 88, or could simply be the aim of a Wekusta unit (Wetterkette Stavanger?), mostly also equipped with Ju 88s.


787


788

788
Unidentified: A small yellow singing bird on a white shield. Used by one of the constituent staffeln of NAGr 15 in 1942, it seems likely that this is the emblem of Stab/Aufkl.Gr 32, which is the only emblem of the Gruppe unaccounted for at that time.

Training units

When the Luftwaffe training system was reorganised in October 1943, the (C) school designations were changed to FFS (B). Apart from changing 'C' to 'B', there was no change to the emblems, so these have not been repeated. Additionally, every Luftwaffe training school had so many different types of aircraft that no attempt has been made to list those used.


789

789
Fluglehrerschule der Luftwaffe: A red Brandenburg spread eagle with a crown, an appropriate emblem as the unit was based at Brandenburg-Briest until 1945.


790

790
FFS A/B 1: A stylised red propeller on a white shield. Görlitz. 1940-45.


791

791
FFS A/B 2: A gold rampant lion on a blue and yellow chequered shield. Luxeuil. 1939-44.


792

792
FFS A/B 3*: A medieval three-towered gateway (based upon the arms of Guben) on a divided blue/white (?) shield. Guben. 1939-43.


793

793
FFS A/B 4: A funnel on a diagonally striped red and white shield. Neudorf/Oppeln. 1939-45.



Two different sub-types of Klemm 35 from FFS A/B 4, whose funnel emblem is clearly displayed.

794
FFS A/B 5: A black seahorse on a white shield. A visual pun recalling the place, Seerappen, where the unit was formed in 1939. The emblem was passed on in November 1941 when the school became part of A/B 33 at Quackenbrück.


794


795

795
FFS A/B 6: The arms of the city of Danzig, two white Maltese crosses surmounted by a crown, all on a red shield. Until 1941.

796
FFS A/B 7: The arms of the city of Plauen. 1936-43.


796


797

797
FFSD A9: A shield with the number '9' fronted by a winged propeller. 1944.

798
FFS A/B 10: A rabbit with a stick seated on a cloud. This may be a parody on the Luftwaffe term for experienced pilots, 'old hares'; trainees were presumably 'young rabbits'. 1938-40.


798



A close-up of the forward fuselage of a Heinkel He 72 Kadett basic trainer. The code is 'TA+HN', and the rabbit badge is that normally associated with FFS A/B 10. The overall aircraft finish appears to be silver dope with prominent maintenance markings.


799

799
FFS A/B 11: A cockchafer on a white disc. Schönwalde. c1940-1943.

800
FFS A/B 12 (early): A blue shield showing the 'Schwedler Tor' of Königsberg/Neumark, where the unit was based, in white. 1939-43.


800


801

801
FFSD A 12 (later): The arms of Prenzlau, where the unit moved tin 1943 until early 1945, when it was dissolved.

802
FAR/FFS 13: A fledgling parrot emerging from an egg marked '13'. Formed in 1939 and closed at Neubiberg in 1943.



802



803

803
FFS A/B 14: A shield divided with three black passant lions on the yellow section and the red/white/red colours of Austria on the other – the arms of Carinthia, the district in Austria where Klagenfurt (where the unit was based) is located. 1938-44.



804

804
FFS A/B 23: A blue and black tower on a yellow shield. Kaufbeuren. 1939-45.



805

805
FFS A/B 24: A winged eagle's head on a white disc. Kitzingen. 1943.



Last-minute instructions for the student pilot of a Heinkel He 72 Kadett of FFS A/B 24. This aircraft also appears to be finished in overall silver dope. The location is probably Olmutze (Olomouc) in Czechoslovakia, where the school was formed in October 1939.



806

806
FFS A/B 32: The arms of the town of Pardubitz, a prancing white horse on a red shield. 1939-44.



807

807
FFS A/B 33?: A black seahorse on a white shield, a visual pun recalling the place, Seerappen, where the unit was formed in 1939 as A/B 5. The emblem was possibly inherited in November 1941 when A/B 5 became part of A/B 33 at Quackenbrück. It became BFS 10 in May 1943.



808

808
FFS A/B 41: The arms of the city of Frankfurt/Oder, where the school was initially formed in 1934. 1939-early 1945.



809

809
A/B 42: The arms of the city of Langensalza. 1942-43.


810

810
FFS A/B 43: A gold shield with three inverted black kettle hooks surmounted by a silver crown, the arms of Crailsheim. 1939-43.

811
FFS A/B 52: The arms and heraldic supporters of the city of Danzig (Gdansk), where the unit was formed (in 1940) and based until obliged to move to Celle in early 1945, where it disbanded.


811



812

812
FFS A/B 61*: A twin tower on a shield with another inset (which may be yellow) carrying a rampant lion (the arms of Oschatz) where the unit was formed and operated from until 1944. Note that there may be a variation incorporating just the arms of Oschatz. See emblem 659. 1939-1944.

813
FFS A/B 62: The central arms of Quedlinburg – a dog sitting in the open gateway of a medieval town – where the school was first formed. 1936-43.


813


814

814
FFS A/B 63: A fountain, reflecting the spa area in which the unit was formed. Karlsbad, Marienbad. 1938-41.



Bücker Bü 131 'GD+ON' of FFS A/B 63 was based at Marienbad in Czechoslovakia in 1941. The unit emblem alludes to the various health spas in the area. Originally the unit was formed as FAR 63 in 1938, but was reformed as A/B 8 in October 1940 at Marienbad, only to be renumbered as A/B 63 in October 1941. It is not known exactly when the unit badge was introduced, or if it was used by A/B 8.

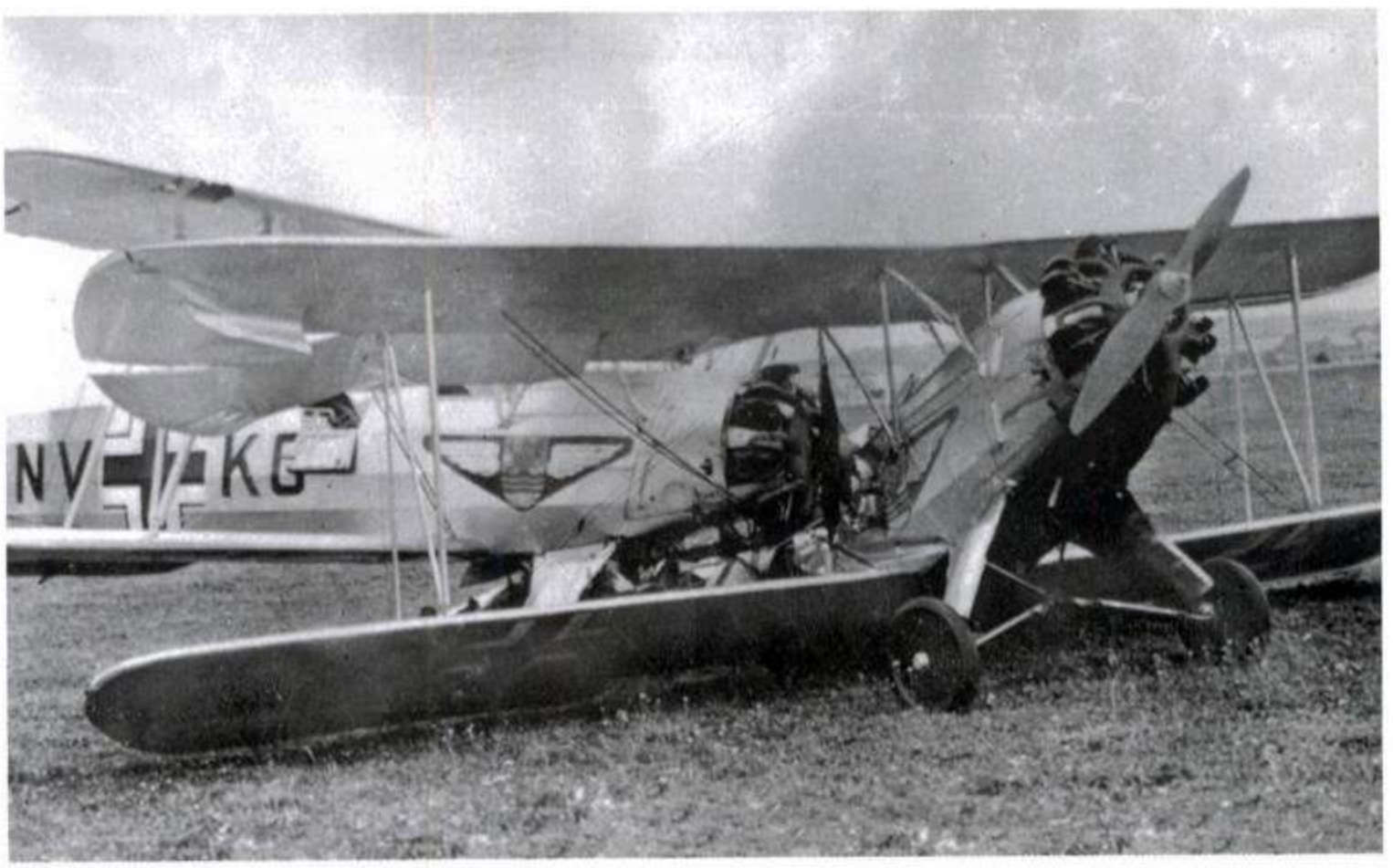
815
FFS A/B 63 (alternative?): The arms of Vilseck, consisting of a black crowned lion, queue nowed, rising from the waves, on a white or silver shield with a yellow bend.


815



816

816
FFS A/B 71: A griffon rising out of waves on a winged shield.
Stolp/Prossnitz. 1940-43.



Both of these two Focke-Wulf Fw 44F primary trainers of FFS A/B 71 bear the school's handsome 'winged griffon' badge. By the look of things 'NV+KG' has taxied into the nearer aircraft in a fairly common type of school accident. Both machines appear to be finished in the overall silver finish that was generally superseded by grey by the outbreak of the war. As A/B 71 was not formed until May 1940 at Prossnitz, this shows that training aircraft could retain their original finish for months, if not years, after they were supposed to have been repainted.

An all-grey Fw 58 in use by FFS A/B 71 out of Stolp/Prossnitz wearing the school's striking winged griffon badge (based on the arms of Stolp) which was adopted in August 1941.



817
FFS A/B 72: A stylised aircraft over mountains. Markersdorf/St Pölten. 1939-44.





817

Of indifferent quality, but included because of its rarity, this is an Ar 96 of FFS A/B 72.



818

818
FFS A/B 72*: A stylised seagull over mountains. Used by the glider school that formed part of the unit. Markersdorf/St Pölten. 1939-44.

819
FFS A/B 110*: An eagle perched on a cliff. Stubendorf. 1939-43.



819



820

820
FFS A/B 110 (gliders)*: A shield showing a glider in flight over a large smoking furnace next to a lake, both of which are located close to the airfield at Nieder-Ellguth. 1942.



821

821
FFS A/B 112: A stylised yellow bird on a blue shield. 1939-44.



822

822
FFS A/B 113 (Detmold): A red inverted triangle, the famous 'Detmold swimming trunks'. 1939 until March 1940, when the unit relocated to Brünn.



823

823
FFS A/B 113 (Brünn): A monument surmounted by a helmeted warrior with upraised arm holding a sword (Arminius the Cheruskan, known locally as the 'Hermann Monument'). 1940-43.



824

824
FFS A/B 114: A flying eagle on a shield in the shape of a gemstone. Zwölfaxing-Wien. 1939-45.



825

825
FFS A/B 115: A visual pun of a catfish on a shield, the unit being based at Wels, which can be translated as catfish. 1939-45.

826
FFS A/B 116*: A divided shield, one half with what appears to be half a Silesian eagle, the other has three antlers on a dark ground. Believed to be based upon the arms ofNeudorf or Oppeln in Lower Silesia where the school was formed in 1939 and based until mid-1941 when it transferred to Göppingen.


826


827

827
FFS A/B 118: The arms of the city of Stettin (the head of a crowned eagle), where the unit was formed in 1940. Until 1944.

828
FFS A/B 119: A miniature pilot riding a duck. 1940-43.



828



829

829
FFS A/B 121*: A tower on a shield. This was probably a notable landmark in Straubing, where the unit was formed in 1940.

830
FFS A/B 123: A stylised 'AB' forming a fez and a red/white checkerboard. This unit trained Croat personnel and the emblem reflects the Muslim beliefs of many of the trainees, combined with the classic Croat 'Ustasha' checkerboard. 1941-43.



830


831

831
FFS A/B 125*: An exceptionally complex picture of a small village sitting on a long pennant.

832
FFS (C) 1: A scrawny eagle weaving its way through the letters 'FF'. Schweinfurt. 1943-44.



832


833

833
FFS (C) 3: A swooping swallow on a shield. 1939-44.

834
FFS (C) 5: A spread eagle with upraised wings. 1940-44.



834


835

835
FFS (C) 6*: A shield with waves in the lower half and a sunburst (?) rising from it, the whole perhaps loosely based on the arms of Kolberg where the school was formed and remained until 1945.

836
FFS (C) 7: Two smoking chimneys over a datum marking, all on a shield. These presumably relate to one of the local hazards for pilots. 1939-44.


836


837

837
FFS (C) 8: A clover leaf (or is it a shamrock?). 1940-44.



838

838
FFS (C) 9: A quartered black and yellow shield inset within another of blue and white lozenges. These allude to the Bavarian origin of the unit at Roth-Kiliansdorf. 1940-44.



839

839
FFS (C) 10: A figure striding over an aircraft compass, all on a blue shield. 1939-44.



840

840
FFS (C) 11: A chamois on a mountain peak on a shield with a crest in the form of an edelweiss. The obvious alpine symbols relate to the Austrian home of the unit, Zeltweg, where it formed in 1939. Closed 1944.



Two unidentified crewmen stand in front of a Ju 88 belonging to FFS (C) 11, whose 'chamois and edelweiss' emblem is clearly visible.

841
FFS (C) 13: A divided shield, one half yellow with a black eagle, the other divided red and white. 1940-44.



841



842

842
FFS (C) 14: The cartoon raven, 'Hans Huckebein', carrying a letter 'C', all on a yellow disc in the outline of a gimbal mounting. 1941-44.



843

843
FFS (C) 15: An eagle or vulture with its chicks in the branches of a tree. 1940-44.



A good close-up view of the nose of a Junkers Ju 52/3m of FFS (C) 15, a training unit based at Avord, near Bourges in France, from January 1943 for the training of Heinkel He 177 heavy bomber crews. The white number 19 just below the cockpit probably identifies the number of the aircraft in the unit.



844

844
FFS (C) 16: A black owl on a yellow shield. 1940-44.



845

845
FFS (C) 17: Two white symbols above waves, all on a blue shield. 1941-44.



846

846
FFS (C) 18: The head of an eagle on a shield divided diagonally into gold and blue. 1941-44.



847

847
FFS (C) 19: A black spread eagle with a cross over a crescent on its chest, all on a yellow shield. Ohlau. From mid-1941 to 1944.



848

848
FFS (C) 20: A red rose growing, being a visual pun based upon the name of the place where the unit was formed in late 1941, Rosenberg/Zopten. Closed 1944.



849

849
FFS (C) 21: The Luftwaffe eagle emblem above a red cross moline on a white shield. 1941-44.



850

850
FFS (C) 21 (variant): A simple cross on a white shield. 1944.



851

851
FFS (C) 22: Three white towers on a crescent, all on a black shield. 1941-44.


852

852
Fluglehrerschule Brandenburg-Briest?: Listed as such by a respected source, in fact this is a version of the arms of Frankfurt/Oder, similar to that used by A/B 41. Whether this emblem was taken over by the Brandenburg school, or was already marked on an aircraft transferred from A/B 41 (which seems the most likely), is unknown.

Note: All blind flying schools added '30' to their unit number when the training system was reorganised in October 1943; for example, BFS 2 became BFS 32. The change did not significantly effect the emblems.

853
FFS (B) 32: A black bull on a red and white striped shield, 'B32' in the top right. The style of the bull and the frame to the shield suggest that, unusually, this may have been created by means of a stencil. The unit owes its origins to the previous BFS 2. Brünn, Czechoslovakia. 1944.



853


854

854
BFS 2/32: A 'pig-fiddle', a popular emblem with transport and training units. 1938-44.

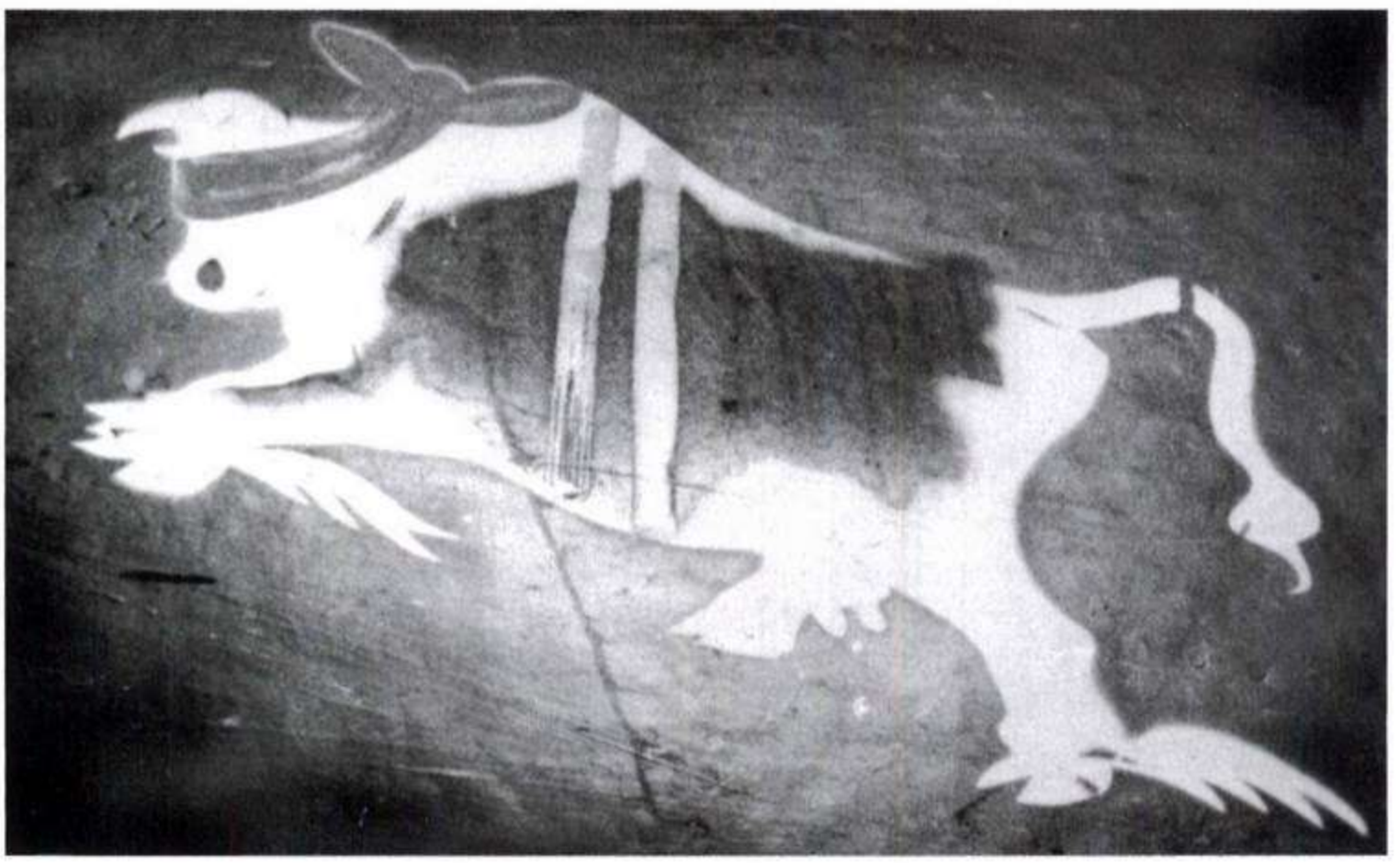
855
BFS 3/33: A blindfolded cow superimposed on a Balkenkreuz with the number '3', all on a shield. The cow motif is a rebus (in German 'Blinde kuh' is Blind Man's Buff) and was used by many schools, the black patch on its back representing a map of the operational area of the school; here it is eastern Germany and Poland. 1939-44.



855


856

856
BFS 4/34: A blindfolded cow with a map of Austria on its hide and the two yellow stripes as carried by Luftwaffe aircraft to denote their blind flying training status. This was the specialist transport pilots' school. Late 1940-1945.



A typical blind flying school emblem of a blindfolded cow. The two yellow stripes represent those worn by Luftwaffe aircraft employed on blind flying training as a warning to other aircraft. In this case the animal additionally has wings on its hooves. The map on the side of the cow is of Austria and represents the training area originally used by FFS B34.


857

857
BFS 5/35: A blindfolded cow over a number '5' with a map of the area around Rahmel (East Prussia) where the unit formed in late 1939. The number was often done in stencil form and the shield may have also been used on its own. Closed 1944


858

858
BFS 6/36: A blindfolded cow with a map of Poland on its hide on a red and yellow quartered disc. Based at Radom from 1940 to 1941, when it became BFS 7, the unit reformed in 1941 at Wesendorf; it is not known if the emblem continued in use.


859

859
BFS 6 (variant): The blind cow on a quartered disc placed within the loop of the number '6'. The black patches now appear to be random. Late 1943.



860

860
FFS B36: Similar to the above, but instead of a disc the cow is on a quartered shield carrying the number '36'.


861

861
BFS 7/37: A blindfolded cow with what appears to be a map of Scandinavia on its hide. This would be strange as the unit was based only in Germany and Poland, although it may also represent European German-occupied territory at its height. 1941-1944.



862

862
BFS 8/38: A shield with a red griffon on one side and the head of a blindfolded cow on the other, superimposed over two diagonal yellow stripes and the number '8'. 1941-44.


863

863
BFS 10: A winged running boar on a shield, alluding to the fact that this unit was formed in 1943 specifically for the training of 'Wilde Sau' night fighter pilots. Became JG 110 in October 1943.


864

864
BFS 11: A blindfolded cow on a bomb, alluding to the school's task of training night ground attack pilots. 1943. Became SG 111 in October that year.


865

865
BFS (See): Two diagonal yellow stripes over waves on a shield, symbolising blind flying over the sea.


866

866
Gr.KFS 2: A shield quartered in black and white with various symbols including a winged bomb and propeller and lightning bolts. Hörsching. 1940-42.


867

867
I./Gr.KFS 2: A shield quartered in black and yellow with various symbols including a winged bomb and propeller and lightning bolts. Hörsching. 1940-42.



868

868
LG 1: A red rampant Pomeranian griffon, based upon the formation place of the unit, Greifswald. 1939-45.

Seen on a Junkers Ju 88, this is the Pomeranian griffon of LG 1. The location is Greifswald.



869
I.(SJ)/LG 1: A wolf's head. This was the specialist Zerstörer (heavy fighter) unit of the Geschwader. 1939 onwards.



869



870

870
II./LG 1: A mounted knight in armour carrying a large banner, the arms of the city of Schwerin. 1938 onwards.



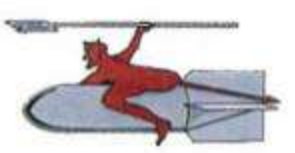
871

871
III./LG 1: Three stylised geese flying over waves.



872

872
IV./LG 1: A devil holding a trident riding a diding bomb. As the Stuka Gruppe of the Geschwader, the emblem reflects a common theme among such units.



873

873
11.(Stuka)/LG 1?*: A small red devil holding a spear and riding a horizontal bomb. This emblem has also been attributed (probably wrongly) to III./St.G 1. Ju 87B & R.


874

874
I./LG 2: An ornate capital letter 'L' enfolding a map of Britain. The unit formed 1./JG 77 in January 1942 and supposedly passed on this emblem, but it is not certain that it was ever used on an aircraft of the new unit.


875

875
1.(J)/LG 2: A black disc with a white St Andrew's cross in the style of the Spanish Nationalist insigne. Many of the pilots of this Jabo staffel had served in Spain, hence the choice of emblem. Summer 1940. Bf 109E Jabo.


876

876
2.(J)/LG 2: A top hat on a disc, placed on the rear fuselage. 1940. Bf 109E.


877

877
3.(J)/LG 2: A silver Mickey Mouse with an umbrella over his shoulder. 1938-42. Bf 109.


878

878
4.(Sch)/LG 2: A Mickey Mouse holding a pistol and an axe on a blue disc. A similar emblem was used by Adolph Galland as a personal marking. Passed on to II./SchG 1 in winter 1941/42. Hs 123, Bf 109E.


879

879
5.(Sch)/LG 2: An axe-wielding bear chopping an umbrella in half. 1938-42. Hs 123.


880

880
6.(Sch)/LG 2: Puss in Boots carrying a lantern and a sword, all on a silver disc. 1938-42. Hs 123, Bf 109E.


881

881
7.(F)/LG 2: A grinning devil's head, sometimes as shown, sometimes all red. 1939-43. Bf 110.



Of indifferent quality but of interest for the unique swept version of the yellow Balkan theatre markings on the nose, this picture of a reconnaissance Messerschmitt Bf 110C of 7.(F)/LG 2 at Bitolj, Yugoslavia, in 1941 also displays the 'leering devil' unit emblem. The rectangular camera ports are just visible under the fuselage, a little way behind the wing leading edge.


882

882
9.(H)/LG 2*: A rampant red griffon on a shield. 1939-42. Hs 126.

883
10.(See)/LG 2: An eagle flying over an anchor and a propeller, all on a blue, yellow and white shield. 1939-40. He 59, Ju 87A.


883



884

884
LKS 1*: A winged sword on a shield. Dresden. 1939-45.

885
LKS 3: Three flowers in front of a lake, representing the lakes near Wildpark-Werder, west of Potsdam, where the school was based. 1940-44.



885


886

886
LKS 7: A disc with the letter 'T' flanked by two shields; one with the Austrian colours, the other with a German eagle. This represents the amalgamation of Austria and Germany and the location (Tulln, near Vienna). 1939-44.

887
JVS 1: A red and white shield incorporating a winged arrow and a Roman 'I'. Kamenz. 1940-November 1942.


887


888

888
JVS 2: A red and white shield incorporating a winged arrow and a Roman 'II'. Neustadt/Pfalz and Lachen-Speyerdorf. 1940-November 1942.


889

889
JVS 3: A red and white shield incorporating a winged arrow and a Roman 'III'. Wien-Schwechat, 1941-42. Neubiberg, 1942.


890

890
JFS 1*: A top hat on a cane, all on a shield, which is shown in blue but could be yellow. Schleissheim. 1939-40. Ar 96, Bf 109C.


891

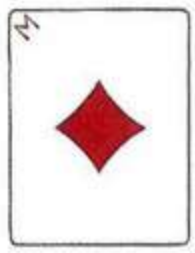
891
JFS 2: A red, white and blue shield incorporating a winged arrow over a triangle. Schleissheim, Magdeburg-Ost, Zerbst. 1940-43.


892

892
JFS 2 (variant): A red, white and blue shield incorporating a winged arrow similar to emblem 880, but with the addition of a small swastika in the top right corner.

893
3./JFS 2: Little information is available on the emblems (if any) of the individual sub-units within the various schools, but this is one: a yellow-outlined disc with a Messerschmitt Bf 109 superimposed. Schleissheim, Magdeburg-Ost, Jüterbog-Damm, Zerbst. 1940-43.


893


894

894
JFS 3*: An ace of diamonds playing-card with a letter 'M' in the top left corner. Stolp-Reitz, Grove, Bad Aibling. 1939-42.



895

895
JFS 4*: A red, white and blue shield incorporating a winged arrow over a triangle, and the legend 'Jagdfl. Schule 4' in the top section. Fürth, Roth. 1940-43.


896

896
JFS 5: An ornate yellow, white and blue shield incorporating the silhouette of a Messerschmitt Bf 109. Wien-Schwechat, Villacoublay. 1939-43.


897

897
2./EJG 2: A swooping cartoon owl on a shield, an appropriate motif for the unit, which was tasked with operational training for single-seat night fighter pilots. Hagenow. Late 1944-45. Bf 109G.


898

898
1.(Einsatz)/EJG 3: A gold lion over a red and blue shield. Redesignated as 7(Z)./JG 5 from January 1942.


899

899
2.(Schule)/EJG 3: A dice showing three dots.


900

900
7./EJG 5*: A shield quartered in two colours with a diamond or dice in opposite corners. Bf 109E.


901

901
EJGr Ost: A clown riding a Messerschmitt Bf 109, all on a shield, introduced when EJG 51 transferred from France to Poland and was renamed. 1941. Bf 109E.


902

902
3./JGr Ost: An eagle and three eaglets within a nest. Late 1944. Bf 109F.


903

903
4./JGr Ost*: A winged cow on a disc.



904

904
4./Erg. JGr West: A chick emerging from an egg marked 'W'. 1941-42.


905

905
2./Erg. JGr Merseburg: A small angel with a tuba. 1940.



906

906
3./Erg. JGr Merseburg: The four aces playing cards on a yellow disc. 1940.

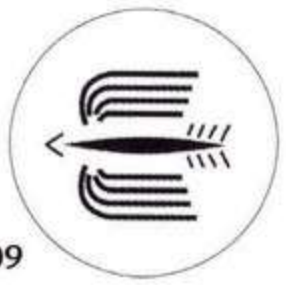


907

907
4./Erg. JGr Merseburg: A bird excreting while perched on the rim of an inverted top hat marked with a Union Jack. 1940.


908

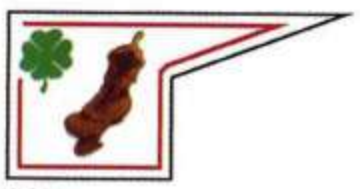
908
Erg. Staffel/JG 26: A dice, a motif used by one or two other Erganzung (advanced training) staffeln. Bf 109E.


909

909
2. Erg. Gr/JG 27: A winged arrow on a disc. 1941. Bf 109E.


910

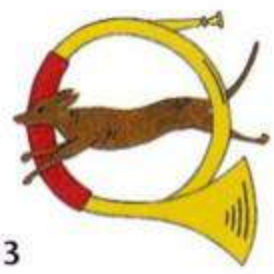
910
Erg. St/JG 27: An Iron Cross emerging from the sea with a sunburst behind, all on a shield.


911

911
1./Erg. Gr Merseburg: An old boot and a four-leaved clover on an oddly shaped pennant. 1940. Bf 109.


912

912
Erg. Gr/JG 54*: A Viking ship under full sail on a shield. 1941-42. This unit later formed 3./Erg. JGr Ost in April 1942; it is not known if the emblem was retained. Bf 109.


913

913
7./JG 107: A greyhound leaping through the loop of a posthorn. Late 1944-1945.


914

914
IV.(L)/JG 134: A spitting tomcat. 1938. Restyled, the emblem was adopted by 8./ZG 26 (via 8./JG 142) in May 1939.


915

915
6./NJ Schule 1: A pilot riding a machine gun equipped with a searchlight. 1941-43. Bf 110.



916

916
NJG Schule Ingolstadt: The 'Englandblitz' emblem with a small letter 'S' (for Schule) in the corner. 1941. Bf 109E & T, 1941-43.


917

917
II./ZS 1: A long-bearded schoolmaster berating a small pilot seated at a desk. 1939-42.


918

918
ZS 2: A swallow swooping over two fledglings seated on a flying arrow. 1939-42.


919

919
ZS 2 (variant): As above but with the arrow in black.



920

920
1./ErgZGr Deblin-Irena: An enormous wolf's head. April 1940-March 1943. Bf 110, Me 410.

921
1./ErgZGr Vaerlöse: The head of a devil with a very long tongue. Used while the unit was based in Denmark, between June 1940 and about September 1941. Bf 110C & D.



921



922

922
I./SG 152*: A running pilot with a Bf 110 under his arm. Late 1943-mid 1944. Hs 123.

923
IV.(Erg)/KG 3: A hairy wildman carrying a bomb and a trident, all on a jousting shield. 1941-44. Do 17.



923



924

924
Erg./St.G 1: A blue anchor superimposed over a red spread eagle, all on a shield. This is believed to be an earlier version of the emblem of 1./Tr.G 186 (but could possibly be 2./Tr.G 186), which was formed as part of the strike component of the aircraft intended for the aircraft carrier *Graf Zeppelin*. Inherited in August 1939 and used until about May 1943. Ju 87B & D.

925
StSchule 2 (Graz)*: A cartoon winged panel with what appears to be 'StG 1' in Gothic lettering above a Ju 87B undercarriage. This could indicate that the emblem was somehow connected with StG 1, but any direct link to StS 2 is unknown. Graz-Thalerhof, from spring 1941 until January 1942. Ju 87B.



925



926

926
Schleppschule der Luftwaffe*: An eagle towing a winged skull. 1941.

927
4./Erg.Gr (S)1*: Two singing birds on a shield surrounded by a motto in Sütterlin script.



927



928

928
7./Erg. TG*: A flying elephant with wings and tailplane strapped to its back and tail, with wheels on its feet. Late 1943-45. Ar 232.



929

929
Erg.St (F)/Nacht: A moon looking down on a leaping black cat. 1943.



930

930
5./Erg.Gr (F): A naturalistic eagle flying over a U-boat, all on a shield. Rahmel. 1943-45.


931

931

1./Erg.Gr für Fallschirmkampfbeobachter: A three-bladed propeller in front of a parachute, all on a shield. Freiburg. October 1942-September 1944. He 111.


932

932

4./Bordfl.Erg. Staffel: Two seahorses with their tails entwined on a blue shield. This unit lasted only between February and April 1941 before being redesignated 2./Aufkl.Gr 125 (See). It seems highly likely that the emblem was therefore passed on.


933

933

Kü.Fl.Erg.St 138: A black stylised eagle rising from the sea. Used while the unit was based at Copenhagen from June 1941 until September 1944, specifically to train crews on the Bv 138.


934

934

Fluglehrerüberpruf.St ?*: A seabird on a shield. Quedlinburg. 1943-44. Seen on an Ar 96.


935

935

FlWS(See) 2*: A sun setting into the sea with a Viking ship under sail and an eagle overlooking the scene. All on a shield with a swastika in the top right corner. Aircraft were additionally identified by a name under the shield eg 'Habicht' (Hawk), 'Kondor' (Condor). Bug auf Rügen, 1940. He 115.


936

936

LNS 1*: Apparently a silhouette of a town/spire on a triangle. Nordhausen. 1941-44. Ju 86.


937

937

LNS 2*: A townscape silhouette by a river with an eagle overhead, all on a background of an unusual shield. This may take its inspiration from the Czech town of Hradec Králové (then known as Königgrätz), situated by two rivers and very close to the operating airfield of the unit. 1940-45. Fw 58, Caudron C445, Ju 86.


938

938

LNS 3*: A hawk rising from a shield supported by lightning bolts. The shield bears a rampant lion and a lozenge pattern. Used on gliders from the school giving air experience to trainee wireless operators, the emblem carries appropriate symbols, with the shield carrying Bavarian motifs. Pocking. 1943. DFS Kranich & Olympia.


939

939

LNS 4?: A bee on a shield. Seen on a Ju 86 taking part in the Demjansk resupply operations.



940

940
LNS 5: A bundle of lightning bolts on a flash background. Erfurt. 1940-44. Ju 86, Ju 87A.



A Dornier Do 17E with the emblem of LNS 5, a bundle of lightning bolts on a flash background, is seen at Erfurt between 1940 and 1944. The emblem was to be seen on a wide variety of ex-operational aircraft.



941

941
LNS 5 (alternative)*?: A kneeling archer in front of a lightning bolt, all on a shield. It is not certain that this emblem was used on aircraft or was any more than a propaganda motif for 'the day of the Wehrmacht'. Erfurt. 1943.



942

942
LNS 6 (See): A seagull flying over lightning (signifying radio signals) over the sea. Disbanded 1944.



943

943
LNSchule Prague-Ruzyne?: A radio-direction finding loop with two bolts of lightning each forming the letter 'Z', all on a black diamond. 1941. Ju 86.



944

944
LnVRegt Kothen: A white disc with a black or dark blue letter 'V' and what appears to be a lightning flash or worm in the intersection of the letter. Properly, the full title is 'Luftnachrichten Versuchsregiment Köthen', the unit being used for development trials of radio equipment. Köthen 1942. Fw 58, Fw 190, Ju 86.



'CX+HB' is an Fw 58, in use with LnVRegt Köthen for development trials of radio equipment at Köthen in 1942.

945

Bombenschutzschule Bug auf Rügen*: A winged bomb in front of a Balkenkreuz with an air-gunner's qualification badge superimposed, all on a shield. Bug auf Rügen, 1941. Fw 58, Potez 63.II.



945



946

946

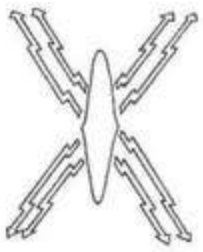
Bordfunkerschule Halle/Saale: The town's coat of arms combined with a silhouette of the market. Ju 52/3m.

947

Unidentified*: A diagonally divided shield with a stylised bird. Possibly a signals school. Ju 52/3m.



947



948

948

Unidentified*: An ellipse with lightning bolts radiating from it, almost certainly from a signals school. Seen on the engine cowling of the same Ju 52 as 805.

949

Unidentified*: A raven or thrush carrying an aircraft control column under its wing. Seen on an Ar 66.



949



950

950

Unidentified*: An elaborate Silesian eagle clutching a scroll in its talons. This may be simply an ornate version of the emblem of FFS C (19). Prague-Ruzyne. Ju 86E.

Junkers Ju 86E 'SE+PX' has suffered an undercarriage collapse. It wears what appears to be a rendering of the 'Silesian Eagle' medal dating from 1919, which was awarded for Freikorps service on the Polish border just after the First World War. The location is Prague-Ruzyne, possibly indicating that the badge is that of an unidentified unit based there. It could also simply be an elaborate variation of the emblem of FFS (C) 19.







951

951
Unidentified*: A lion's head on a red shield with a yellow outline. Seen on a Ju W33, the owner was probably an 'A' or 'B' school.

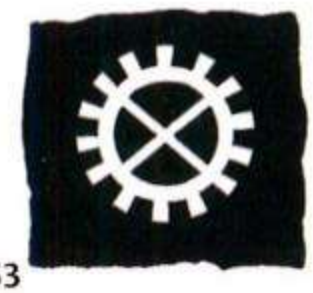


This Junkers W33, possibly 'DK+AP', was once thought to be in service with A/B 32, as a similar machine coded 'DK+AM' definitely belonged to that unit and was based at Pardubitz in Czechoslovakia in December 1941. The snow suggests that this aircraft could be in the same place. However, computer enhancement of the original photo clearly reveals an emblem just behind the cockpit glazing consisting of a lion's head on a shield. This is presumably that of an as yet unidentified 'B' or 'C' school, although the fierce image on the badge could indicate use as a hack by an operational unit.



952

952
Unidentified*: A condor holding lightning in its talons, all on a shield. Possibly a signals school. Seen on a Ju 52/3m in France, summer 1940.



953

953
Unidentified*: A white cogwheel, possibly indicating a technical school. Seen on an Ar 68 and Bf 109B at Fassberg-Celle in late 1939.

954
Unidentified: The shadow of a menacing bogeyman on a white shield, based upon the German propaganda image warning against careless talk giving information to the enemy. Possibly connected with LG 1. Ju 88.



954

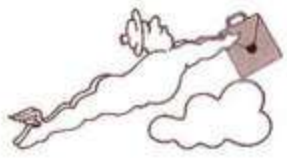
Courier, Air Sea Rescue & miscellaneous units



955

955
Stab/Luftflotte 6*: Based on the earlier Kommando Ost emblem, but with the addition of a small stylised seagull to the perimeter. In use from 6 May 1943. Fi 156.

956
Flugbereitschaft Luftflottenkommando 1*: A plump flying Mercury carrying a briefcase over a cloud. Used by the communications staffel. Caudron C445, Fi 156.

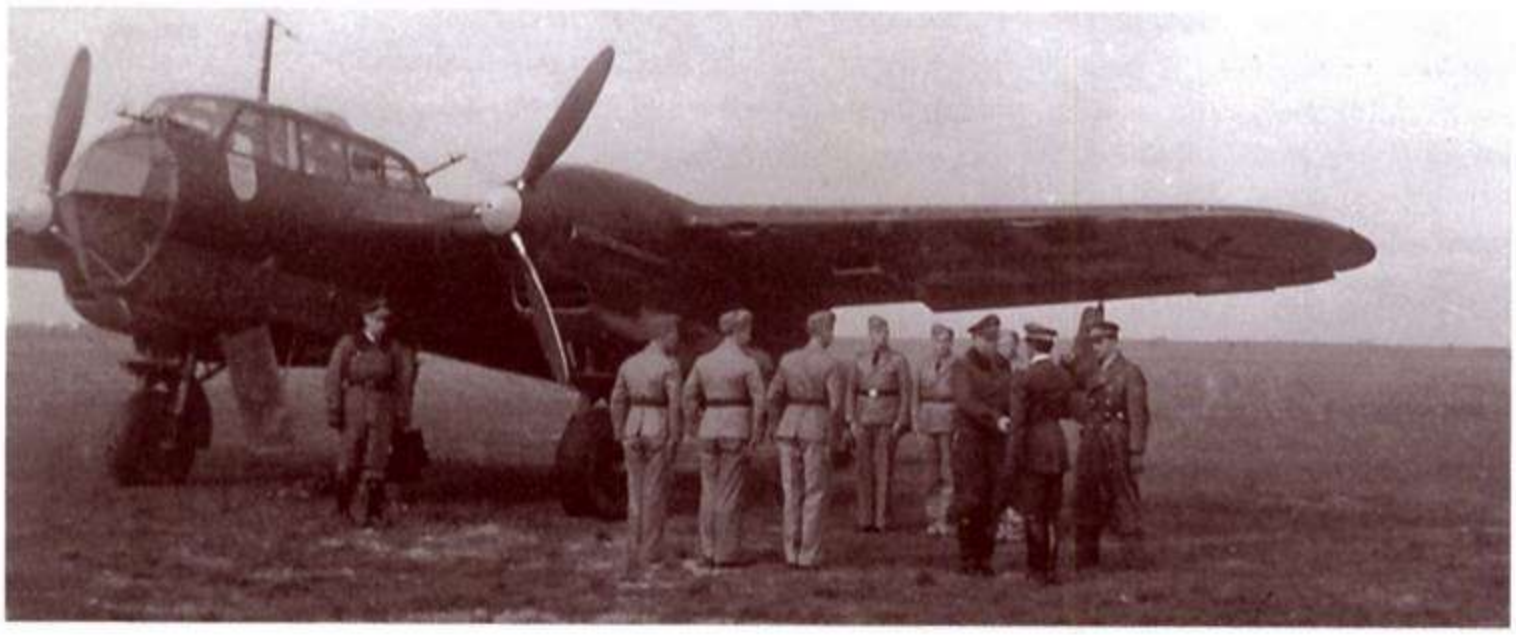


956



957

957
Flugbereitschaft Luftflottenkommando 2: The Luftwaffe eagle over crossed field marshal's batons and the number '2', all on a shield. Do 215, Do 217K.



Generalfeldmarschall Albert Kesselring greeting an Italian officer under the wing of his personal Dornier Do 215, which carries the badge of Flugbereitschaft Luftflottenkommando 2: the Luftwaffe eagle over crossed Fieldmarshal's batons and the number '2', all on a shield. As Kesselring was responsible for holding the Italian Front, presumably that is the location.

958
Flugbereitschaft Luftflotte 4 (early): An owl seated on a red shield with a white 'Jesau cross', the inescutcheon from the arms of Vienna, where the unit was formed. 1939-41. Do 17P.



958



959

959
Flugbereitschaft Luftflotte 4 (later)*: The head of a Turk wearing a fez, peering over a crescent moon, sometimes with the legend 'Kreta' below the emblem. Eastern Front. 1941-44. Fi 156, Bf 108, Bf 110.

960
Flugbereitschaft Luftflotte 5? / Fliegerführer Norwegen?: A diving eagle marked by a lightning flash and a swatika. Recorded on a Ju 52/3m used by Generalleutnant Kühne, commander of signals units for Luftflotte 5 from April 1940 until May 1942. Later used by a Ju 52/3m of Fliegerführer Norwegen which crashed in Sweden in 1943.



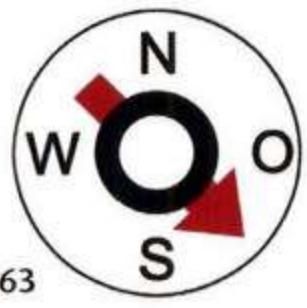
960


961

961
Flugbereitschaft IV Fliegerkorps: An eagle with upstretched wings holding lightning bolts over a globe, all on a shield. Eastern Front. 1941-44. Fi 156, Kl 35.


962

962
Flugbereitschaft Flakkorps II*: An oakleaf with two acorns, all on a square. Russia. 1941-42. Fi 156.



963

963
Flugbereitschaft Luftgkdo SudOst: A compass rose. 1941-43. Do 17Z.



964

964
Flugbereitschaft Wehrmachtsbefehlshaber der Niederland: This grandiose title was that of General Friedrich Christiansen, the First World War fighter ace, who was an ardent Nazi and military governor of Holland for most of 1940-45. It is not known how many aircraft carried the emblem of a 'C' (for Christiansen) in a diamond. Fw 58, Bf 108.


965

965
Flugbereitschaft Wehrmachtsbefehlshaber der Niederland: A Luftwaffe eagle on a disc. This is the additional emblem carried on the nose of Christiansen's aircraft. The colour of the disc is uncertain, but is most likely red to reflect Christiansen's status as a general. Fw 58.


966

966
Fuhrungskette X Fliegerkorps: An eagle perched on a globe superimposed on a shield quartered black, white and red. 1939 onwards. He 111, Ju 52/3m, Bf 108.


967

967
Fliegerübung Staffel Grossborn*: A crossed bayonet and stick grenade surmounted by the Luftwaffe eagle. 1942. Bü 131.


968

968
Kurierstaffel Ob.d.H: A silver eagle carrying a globe, all on a yellow shield. Formed August 1939. Fi 156, Ju 52/3m.


969

969
Kurierstaffel 1: The sun shining over a silhouette of a castle on a hill, all on a shield. August 1939 onwards. Fi 156.


970

970
Kurierstaffel Finnland*: A charging bull on a shield. Do 17, Fi 156.


971

971
Kurier Kette Norwegen?*: A charging bull on a shield. This unit also used the same identity code as the Kurierstaffel Finnland. The designation may therefore have only been a paper exercise to relate to aircraft temporarily on duty in Norway.

972
Regierungstaffel: A black eagle's head on a red-outlined white disc – the Führer's own transport unit, used by several other high-ranking Nazi officials. Fw 200, Ju 52/3m.





972

An Fw 200 of the Regierungstaffel, apparently undergoing refuelling. Note the armed guard. The eagle's head emblem is unmistakeable.



973

973
Verbindungsstaffel 59: A running figure holding aloft a torch, all on a white shield. Seen on an Fi 156 in Russia.

974
Verbindungsstaffel 62: The head of a trident on a shield. Formed June 1941. Fi 156.



974



975

975
Verbindungsstaffel 65: A cockchafer within a letter 'V', all on a shield. April 1941-July 1943. Fi 156, Go 145, Kl 25.



A Dornier Do 217E, 'SP+W?', marked with an unidentified emblem. This is probably that of a communications staffel, the stylised 'V' standing for 'Verbindungs'. It appears that there were several variations of this emblem with a lightning flash or insect at the intersection of the strokes of the 'V'.

976

Verbindungsstaffel 500?: The emblem of the Organisation Todt in red, seen on the fin of a Saiman 202 in Italy in 1943. As the only Luftwaffe unit in Italy at the time known to have used the Saiman is Verb.St 500, it is believed that the OT emblem may have also served as a unit badge.



976



977

977

Uberführungskommando des Chef des Ausbildungwesens: The devil holding the globe and chasing a Bf 110, all on a shield.

978

Fliegerkorps or Armeekorps: A square, quartered into black and white with a red surround, the standard Wehrmacht symbol of a Flieger or Armeekorps command. Seen on the fin or rudder of aircraft used as liaison machines by senior officers.



978

Believed to be somewhere in Russia in 1943-44, Dornier Do 17P 'KB+TA', W.Nr. 1076, is serving as a staff transport with an unidentified Armeekorps or Fliegerkorps, the symbol for which can be seen on the rudder. The finish appears to be a well-weathered 70/71 scheme on the upper surfaces with a newly applied theatre band on the fuselage. Note the night fighter Junkers Ju 88 in the background; the aircraft letter, 'K', can just be made out on its fuselage on the original print.



979

4 Gebirgsjäger Division?: Seen on a Ju 52/3m during winter in Russia, this is believed to be the blue and green gentian flower of the Army's 4 Gebirgsjäger Division.



979



980

980

Luftdienst: An inverted blue triangle with a yellow line inset and a pair of stylised wings surmounting the letters 'LD'. Used as a standard emblem by the Luftdienst units on many different aircraft types. 1939-45.

Dornier Do 17E 'BA+DX' has bellied in at an unidentified airfield, probably somewhere in Czechoslovakia. Finished in the pre-war RLM 61/62/63/65 camouflage scheme, the symbol of the Luftdienst is clearly visible under the cockpit. Many different types of war-weary aircraft served with the Luftdienst.





981

981

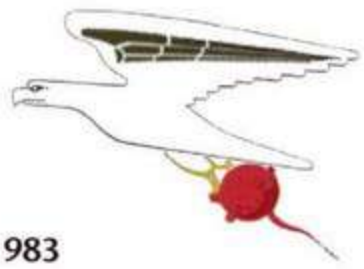
Luftfeldpoststaffel: A shield, divided blue and yellow, with an Iron Cross superimposed. From January 1943. Ju 52/3m.

982

Sonderkommando Ju 52(MS) 'Mausi'*: An eagle plucking the devil from the sea. Formed September 1940, the unit became 1./MS Gruppe 1 from October 1942 and the emblem was then changed. Ju 52/3(MS).



982



983

983

Sonderkommando Ju 52(MS) 'Mausi'* (variant) : An eagle plucking a mine from the sea. Formed September 1940, the unit became 1./MS Gruppe 1 from October 1942 and the emblem was then changed. Ju 52/3(MS).

984

Minensuchgruppe 1: A shield with an eagle plucking a mine from waves, symbolising the task of removing the mine menace from the sea lanes. This emblem then replaced the earlier one – see above. From October 1942. Ju 52/3(MS).



984



985

985

Erprobungsstaffel Torpedowaffenplatz der Luftwaffe: A witch riding a torpedo diving into the sea, all on a shield. Gotenhafen/Hexengrund. He 111, Me 410.



986

986

Seenotdienstes der Luftwaffe: An eagle's head overlooking a 'life-rune' and waves. Not definitely confirmed as being seen on aircraft, but probably worn at some point on HQ liaison aircraft.



987

987

1./Seenotgruppe: A shield showing an eagle in flight over a map of the French coast and the Bay of Biscay. Formed November 1940 from Seenotflug-Kdo 1, the unit became Seenotstaffel 1 in April 1942. Breguet 521.



988

988

1./Seenotstaffel: A sky-blue shield edged in white with a winged white lion above a yellow 'life-rune' and white waves.



989

989

2./Seenotflotille: A blue and yellow shield showing a sword piercing a white dragon with a white lion passant guardant above.


996

996
8./Seenotstaffel: A skull on a shield with an 'X' superimposed representing death vanquished. Formed April 1941 in the Black Sea. Became Seenotstaffel 8 in April 1942. Do 24.


997

997
10./Seenotstaffel: A white seabird above waves, all on a white-outlined blue shield, surmounted by a crown. The bird is common in the Arctic waters around Tromsö, Norway, where the unit was based.


998

998
Landstaffel der Seenotgruppe 81*: A red (?) eagle holding a sword above a blue 'life-rune' and waves, all on a yellow shield edged in white.

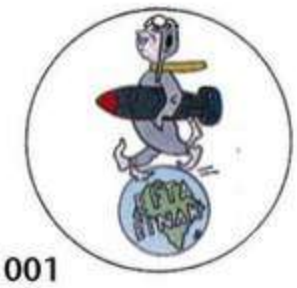
999
Wüstennotstaffel 1: A stylised stork flying over a map of Africa. Formed August 1941, and became Verbindungstaffel 400 in June 1943. The emblem was probably discarded after the defeat in Africa. Fi 156.


999


1000

1000
Sanitätsflugbereitschaft 7: An owl perched on a number '7'. Formed October 1941 until 1945. Ambulance Fi 156, Ju 52/3m.

1001
Sonderkommando Blaich: A small pilot with a bomb under his arm walking upon a globe bearing the motto 'Efta Einaká'. Formed in late 1941 for strikes against British Long-Range Desert Group operations, the unit made a spectacular raid against the Free French outpost at Fort Lamy in Chad on 22 January 1942. It was disbanded in June 1942. He 111, Bf 108.


1001


1002

1002
Fieseler Werkschutzstaffel: A disc with the company logo, a stylised letter 'F'. Crewed by company test pilots as an airfield defence squadron. 1940-41? Bf 109E.

1003
Alarmstaffel Erlawerk VII: A black spitting cat standing on a three-star bottle of brandy, all on a black-outlined white disc. Crewed by test pilots from the Erla depot at Antwerp-Deurne in Belgium and administered by II./JG 1. 1942-?. Bf 109G.


1003


1004

1004
Luftfahrtgerätewerk Hakenfelde*: The logo of this company (a subsidiary of Siemens) was carried on aircraft used for transporting urgently needed components. Fw 58.



1005

1005

Fliegerforstschutzstaffel: A grinning skull and crossbones on a shield. This unit was formed for crop-spraying duties with the Luftwaffe Forestry Service using converted Do 23 bombers. The emblem reflects the highly toxic nature of the chemicals used for spraying. Some aircraft were used as makeshift transports on the Russian Front.

1006

Fl.ÜG. 1*: A disc with a stork pulling three different types of aircraft by strings. The emblem represents the ferry tasks of the unit, which delivered many different types of aircraft to wherever they were needed. The unit would have had a few aircraft of its own for retrieving its pilots, in similar fashion to the British ATA. From 1942.



1006



1007

1007

Unidentified*: A narrow shield with a horizontal band and an antler below. Above the antler is the silhouette of a town. The antler is similar to that used by the arms of Wurtemberg, which could link to a unit based in the state, possibly at Göppingen. Seen on an He 111 used as a transport by an unidentified Luftwaffe general.

1008

Unidentified: A winged globe. Used by a courier staffel. 1943-45. Ju 52/3m.



1008



1009

1009

Unidentified*: A black or white character like an 'f' with two bars. This is the Wehrmacht tactical symbol for a heavy reconnaissance troop. Bf 108, Zlin 212.

1010

Unidentified*: A winged bomb with a face. Seen on an He 111, possibly in use as a unit hack.



1010



1011

1011

Unidentified*: A small helmeted dachshund and an enormous pistol. Ju 88P test unit.

1012

Unidentified: A white eagle carrying a bomb on a red and yellow shield. The style is vaguely reminiscent of emblems used by KG 53, but any connection is pure speculation.



1012

Addendum

Information on the following emblems arrived too late for inclusion in the main text before this book went to print. Nevertheless, they are included for completeness as it is hoped that readers will prefer their addition out of sequence, rather than their complete omission.


1013

1013
11.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 12: A Moor with a flute. This was devised in connection with the Staffelkapitän, Hptmn Ruff, who spoke Turkish. Formed from 1.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 12 in 1942 when it was part of NAGr 15. 1943-44. Fw 189.


1014

1014
12.(H)/Aufkl.Gr 13: A similar design of owl and magnifying glass to that of 2. Staffel of the Gruppe, which was redesignated as here from October 1942, when it still formed part of NAGr 15. The emblem is either a new version after renaming, or simply a variant of the earlier badge.


1015

1015
6.(H)Pz/Aufkl.Gr 32?: An eagle over a panzer on a shield. This unit was part of NAGr 15 in 1942 and the emblem may be an earlier version of that usually associated with 11.(H)Pz/Aufkl.Gr 11, which was formed from 6.(H)Pz/Aufkl.Gr 32 in 1944.


1016

1016
St.G 1*?: Believed to be the Geschwader emblem, it shows the silhouette of a Ju 87 over a map of Europe. Taken from a German publication of October 1942.


1017

1017
Flugbereitschaft I Fliegerkorps*: A pale grey or silver Luftwaffe eagle over a yellow (?) wreath, all on a white-outlined red (?) disc. Siebel Fh 104.

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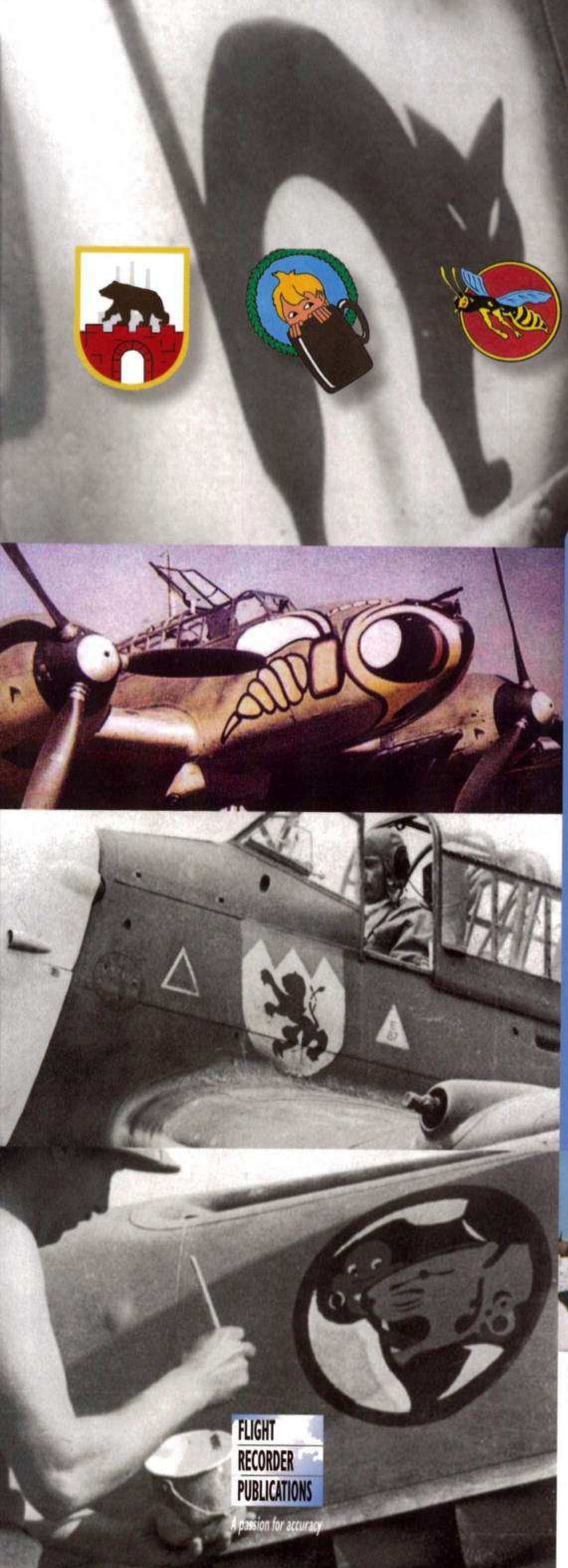
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Barry Ketley

Luftwaffe EMBLEMS

1939-1945





One of the most striking features of Luftwaffe aircraft during the Second World War was the widespread use of distinctive badges and emblems that identified individual Luftwaffe units. Some of these insignia remained in use throughout the war and even into the final days of the conflict.

The Luftwaffe units using their own insignia ranged in size from full-blown *Luftflotten* (Air Fleets), down to small temporary groupings of a *rotte* (pair) of aircraft. Many such units were famous fighter and bomber units - such as *JG 2, ZG 76, KG 2* and *KG 54*. Others were less well-known including maritime squadrons, humble training units and even communication flights. Whatever their status, they proudly carried their own unique badge on their aircraft, but until now there has been no comprehensive reference source for these emblems.

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