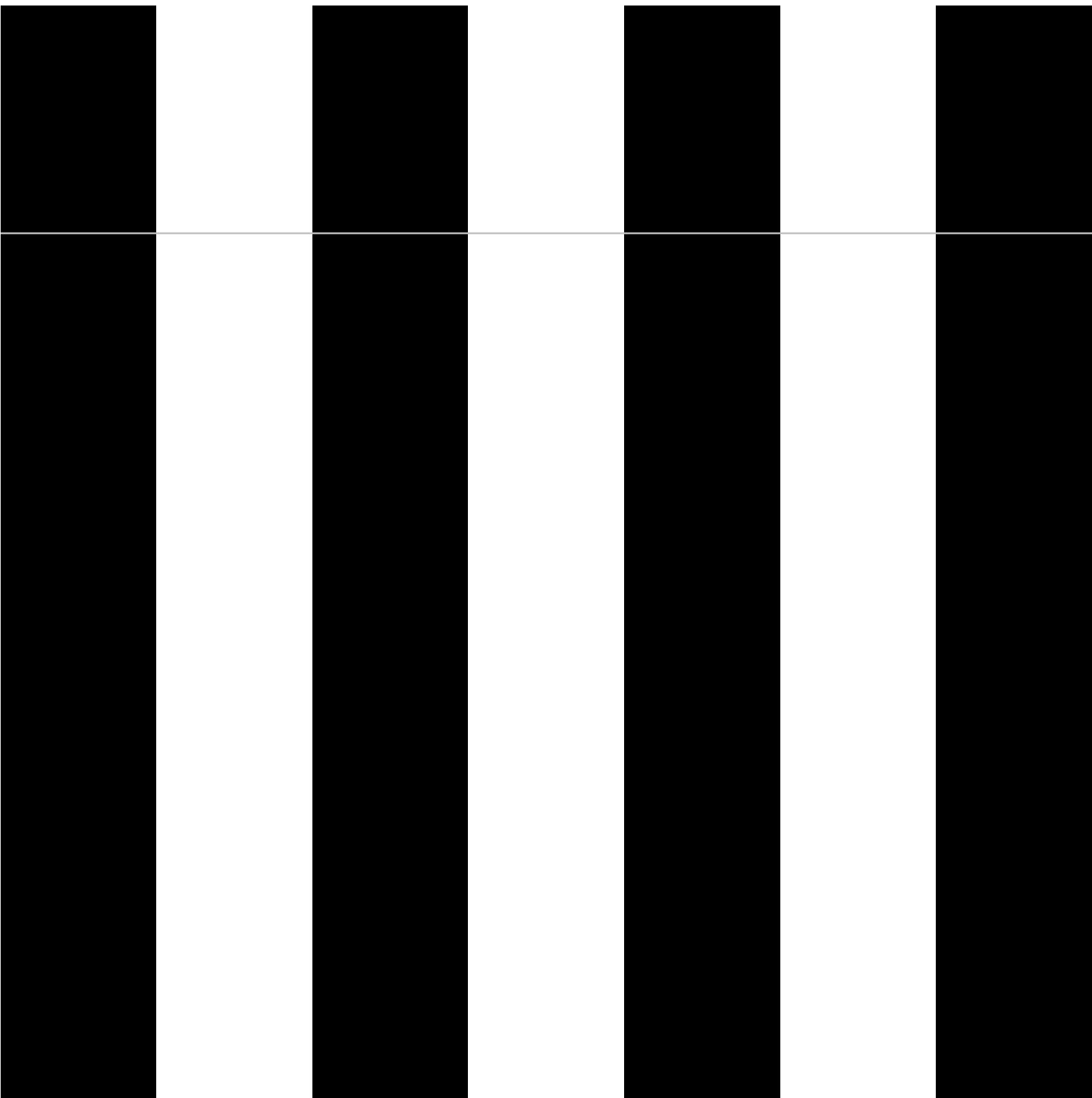




# THE

THE GERMAN MILITARY AVIATION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP



## Editorial

Welcome to the second issue of The Eagle, although it is more of bulletin than a full issue. This has been rushed to 'print' in time for the 75th anniversary of D-Day. There is just one article; a compilation of research into the role that the Luftwaffe played on D-Day, or rather the Luftwaffe's response to the Allied invasion on D-Day. A bibliography for this article will follow in the next issue of The Eagle.

I've made every effort to make what I've included here as accurate as possible but I'd like the reader to treat this as a springboard for their own investigation. I hope to include a D-Day display at SMW this year so if you are building a D-Day aircraft then please bring it along.

A third issue will follow shortly with a write up of the SIG's year so far and a short article on the Starfighter.

The SIG has had a very good year. So far we've picked up a Best Display trophy at the Bolton Model show and we've added Milton Keynes and Cosford to our display circuit. The SIG is going from strength to strength and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who have contributed models to the display. A collection of photos have appeared on our Facebook page: I'll compile a show report in the next issue of this newsletter.

There is some debate about the underside colour of the Starfighter, is it silver, grey or silvery grey. Hopefully, the article will settle the debate in time for the release of Kinetic's 1/48 scale kit.

I'll also have a bit more on our other theme for SMW: Bombers in 48 scale. Expect to see lots of ICM kits.

If my final plans come to fruition I'll also have a small write up on some recent paint releases. There are colour accuracy articles out there but the paint ranges included are a little dated. This is a more involved project so it might appear in issue four of The Eagle

Prost!



Nathan Robinson Luftwaffe SIG Leader

## D Day

The Luftwaffe was caught almost completely by surprise on D-Day despite Görings claim on the 23rd of May that the allies would find an invading force being faced by 1000 fighters. No reconnaissance aircraft were in the area to observe the approach of the invading forces. The landing forces had 3000 aircraft covering the landings on a relay from bases in southern England. Luftlotte 3 were unable to launch an effective counter in the crucial first hour of the invasion. During the day of June 6th the Luftwaffe mounted around 100 sorties by fighters and fighter reconnaissance aircraft. A plan to relocate aircraft from other areas to support counter invasion operations also failed to mount an effective counter to the allied attack.

There is not space to cover all the operations of the Luftwaffe in detail, that is perhaps a project for the 80th anniversary. Instead, I've chosen to focus on one particular unit: one with an interesting story.

## Schlachtgeschwader 4

Schlachtgeschwader 4 is typical of the forces that relocated to Northern France to join efforts to counter the allied invasion. With aircraft based in other parts of France, it took six and a half hours to move to its forward operating bases to areas just to the south of Normandy. During the emergency transfers, a chief mechanic flew inside the rear portion of the fuselage behind the pilot.

## Rhubarb

Lt East and Lt Schohard flying P-51's of 15 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron stationed at Middle Wallop (67th Tactical Recon Group, 9th Air Force) destroyed Obfw Kolbert's Fw190 (with mechanic Ogfr Ohlwein) and Uffz Speer's Fw190 (both from 7./SG4). All three men were killed. III./SG.4 lost five pilots in the ferry operations on June the 6th.

SG4 Losses				
Date	Type	W.Nr	Markings	Staffel
6 June	A-7	430472	Black 15	Stab III
	A-7	431002		
	A-6	470585	KS+JE or white A	7
	A-6	650502		Stab III
	A-6	650503	White A+	7
	A-6	650418	Yellow D+	
	A-6	470601	Black M+	8
	A-6	470582	Black B	
7 June	A-6	470620	Black D+	
	A-6	470766		

## Pegasus Bridge

III./SG.4 launched four Fw190s to attack allied landing craft were attacked near St Aubin. Despite overwhelming odds, and aided by cloud cover they dropped four 500kg bombs and returned unscathed.

Another four aircraft took off to attack vehicles on Pegasus bridge just north of Ouistreham. Again, they dropped four bombs. One aircraft was damaged by flak.

At 21:00 five aircraft took off to assault Lion-sur-Mer, this time the allied defences forced them to divert and attack other targets of opportunity. One Fw190 was badly damaged.

## D Day +1

On the 7th of June, SG.4 aircraft launched four further attacks on British troops near the Orne.

The first attack at 05:59 by III. was intercepted north of Caen before the aircraft reached the target area. 2 crew were injured, the formation leader Lt Günther Esau of 7./SG.4 badly so. Later in the day at 09:25, a larger force of ten Fw190s took off to attack

## Show Calendar

The SIG has a couple of shows booked for the remainder of 2018.

- East Riding of Yorkshire Model Show
- IPMS Keithley Edition II Show (provisional)
- SMW Telford
- Contact or Join the SIG

There are several ways to get in touch with the SIG:

[www.luftwaffesig.uk](http://www.luftwaffesig.uk)

[www.facebook.com/luftwaffesig/](https://www.facebook.com/luftwaffesig/)

[www.facebook.com/groups/luftwaffesig/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/luftwaffesig/)

[luftwaffesig@gmail.com](mailto:luftwaffesig@gmail.com)

[www.instagram.com/luftwaffesiguk/](https://www.instagram.com/luftwaffesiguk/)

If you are looking to join the SIG and perhaps add your model to one of our displays then please join our facebook group.

If you prefer to stay away from social media then please send the SIG leader an email using the gmail address above. We are an IPMS SIG but membership is open to everyone.



landing craft in the area around Riva-Bella. An Fw190 was badly damaged. An attack later in the afternoon (9./SG.4) resulted in injuries of two further pilots.

Allied aircraft continued to launch strafing attacks against SG.4 airfields. Two aircraft are recorded as lost [it is pertinent to point out that the sources I've come across paint varying pictures of the activities of SG.4 and consequently there are some differences in losses - further research is required].

On the 8th attacks were mounted near Ouistreham, Riva Bella and the Orne River. Allied air superiority again limited the success of any mission. On the 9th another attack against Riva Bella was made. In the morning of the 9th Laval was strafed by around a dozen mustangs but the gruppe did manage to fly operations. On the evening of the 9th, Laval was attacked by sixteen aircraft from 466 Squadron R.A.A.F flying from Driffield (all of whom returned safely). Fourteen aircraft bombed the target but two, P/O Page and P/O Mullen were unable to identify the target and brought their bombs back. SG4 was released from operations for two days whilst repairs were made to the runway at Laval. On the 12th four aircraft taking off were strafed by allied fighters and six day after D-Day the unit was finally stood down.

## Fliegercorps X

Returning to the events of D-Day, Fliegercorps X launched 40 aircraft to attack allied shipping as darkness descended on the evening of the 6th. Fliegercorps IX also launched attacks against the allied beachheads. In a famous radio report that starts with the line "we have yet to see a German plane over the amphibious convoy" war correspondent George Hicks provides an audio account of German anti-shipping attacks on the night of the 6th from aboard the USS Ancon which was positioned in the English Channel near Omaha beach.

At 23:16 flares were dropped into the water 200 yards on the port bow of USS Doyle and numerous flares were dropped in the transport area. Four minutes later enemy aircraft were reported heading towards the transport area. At 23:27 one

aircraft dropped bombs 150 yards on the starboard beam.

Between the sound of warning sirens and whistles and the sound of flak and streamers from warships he reports German aircraft attacking at low level 'the whole sea side is covered with tracer fire' and the sound of bomb bursting on the shore. He reports the first attack by German bombers "now that darkness has come upon us" and "the sound of nazi motors coming and going in the cloudy sky."

Hicks reports a fire either on the shore or a ship and the radio broadcast is interrupted by the sound of anti-aircraft fire from the USS Ancon. USS McCook reported heavy raids with two ships hit by bombs and five Luftwaffe aircraft downed.

Hicks go on to report that "tracers are going up in almost every directed towards the German bombers overhead". Attacks came from the aft in the direction of the British convoys. USS Ascon was successful in shooting down one of the attacking aircraft. USS Emmons reported rescuing one Luftwaffe pilot from the water, who subsequently succumbed to his injuries.

Bill Shriner a gunnery officer aboard the USS Ancon was credited with the first shooting down of a German plane by a surface vessel at Omaha beach. Bill Shriner described a Ju-88 being so low that it was below him. On its first pass only the tail gunner attacked which suggests the aircraft hadn't spotted the USS Ancon. Bill shot down the Ju-88 on its second pass. Hicks also reported a string of rockets were fired at a cruiser. By 12:10 the attack was over.

## A Call for Contributors

If any members have anything that they like to contribute to The Eagle, then please do get in touch.

I can't offer any financial incentive but if you'd like to get your builds or any other articles 'out there' then please do drop me a line. Contact details are on page 2.

# Order of Battle

The following is a reflection of Luftlotte 3's order of battle, plus an additional number of units that redeployed to Northern France following the invasion.

Fw 190					
JG26	Stab.	Lille-Nord	A-7/ A-8	II. Jagdkorps 4. Jagddivision	Luftlotte 3
	I.	Lille-Vendreville	A - 6 / A - 7 / A-8	II. Jagdkorps 4. Jagddivision	Luftlotte 3
	II.	Mont-de-Marsan	A	Jag d a b s c h n i t t f ü h r e r Bordeaux	Luftlotte 3
JG 2	Stab.	Creil	A-8	II. Jagdkorps 5. Jagddivision	Luftlotte 3
	I.	Cormeilles-en-Vexin	A-6/ A-8	II. Jagdkorps 5. Jagddivision	Luftlotte 3
	III.	Fontenay-le-Comte	A	Jafü Bretagne	Luftlotte 3
JGr Süd		Orange-Caritat		Jafü Südfrankreich	Luftlotte 3
JGr West		Mirowslawiec (Poland)		Jag d a b s c h n i t t f ü h r e r Bordeaux	Luftlotte 3
FAGr. 123	Stab.	Buc	A/F	Kommando der Luftlotte 3	Luftlotte 3
NAGr 13	1.	Dinard		II. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
	2.	Dinard		II. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
SG 4	III.	Laval		II. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
SKG 10	I.	Dreux / Evreux	G-3 / G-8	II. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
Fw 200					
KG 40	I.	Orléans-Bricy		X. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
	III.	Cognac	C	X. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
Mistel					
Eins. St. KG 101		Saint-Dizier	109 F4 and Ju 88A-4	II. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3

Bf 109					
JG 1	4.	Beauvais	G-6	Deployed from Reichsverteidigung	
JG 2	Stab.	Creil	G	II. Jagdkorps 5. Jagddivision	Luftlotte 3
	II.	Vitry-en-Artois	G-6	II. Jagdkorps 5. Jagddivision	Luftlotte 3
JG 3	II.	Evreux	G-6	Deployed from Reichsverteidigung	
	III.			Deployed from Reichsverteidigung	
JG 26	III.	Nancy	G-6	II. Jagdkorps 4. Jagddivision	Luftlotte 3
JG 301	1.	Epinoy	G-6	Deployed from Reichsverteidigung	
JGr Süd		Orange-Caritat		Jafü Südfrankreich	Luftlotte 3
JGr West		Mirowslawiec (Poland)		J a g d a b s c h n i t t f ü h r e r Bordeaux	Luftlotte 3
FAGr. 123	1.	Bernay	G-4/-5/-6	Kommando der Luftlotte 3	Luftlotte 3
NAGr 13	Stab.	Dinard	G-6	II. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
	1.	Dinard		II. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
	2.	Dinard		II. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
	3.	Laval	G-6/ G-8	II. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
Me 410					
KG 2	14(Jagd)	Hesepe (Germany)	B-1		
KG 51	II.	Soesterberg (Netherlands) or Gilze- Rijen (Netherlands)	A-1	IX. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
FAGr. 121	1.	Toussus-le-Noble	A	Kommando der Luftlotte 3	Luftlotte 3
LeO 451					
TG 4	IV.	Le Bourget		Kommando der Luftlotte 3	Luftlotte 3

Bf 110					
NJG 4	I.	Florennes (Belgium)	G	II. Jagdkorps 4. Jagddivision	Luftlotte 3
	II.	Coulommiers	G-4	II. Jagdkorps 5. Jagddivision	Luftlotte 3
	III.	Juvincourt	G	II. Jagdkorps 4. Jagddivision	Luftlotte 3
NJG 5	Stab.	Laon-Athies	G-4	II. Jagdkorps 4. Jagddivision	Luftlotte 3
	I.	Saint-Dizier	G-4	II. Jagdkorps 4. Jagddivision	Luftlotte 3
	III.	Laon-Athies	G-4	II. Jagdkorps 4. Jagddivision	Luftlotte 3

JU 188					
KG 6	I.	Melsbroek (Belgium) or Brétigny-sur-Orge	A-2	IX. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
	II.	Melsbroek (Belgium)	Could be Ju-88	IX. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
	III.	Melsbroek (Belgium) or Ahlhorn (Germany)		IX. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
KG 2	Stab.	Zeist (Netherlands)	E-1	IX. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
	I.	Hesepe (Germany)	A-2	IX. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
	II.	Münster-Handorf (Germany)	E-1	IX. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
KG 66	I.	Avord		II. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
FAGr. 5	4.	Nantes		X. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
FaGr. 33	I.	Saint-Martin-du-Var		II. Fliegerdivision	Luftlotte 3
FAGr. 122	3.	Soesterberg (Netherlands)		IX. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3

Ju 88					
KG 6	Stab.	Melsbroek (Belgium)	A-14	IX. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
	II.	Melum-Villaroche	A-4	IX. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
	VIII	Melum-Villaroche	A-4	IX. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
KG 26	II.	Valence	A-17	II. Fliegerdivision	Luftlotte 3
	III.	Montpellier	A-17	II. Fliegerdivision	Luftlotte 3
KG 30	Stab.	Bad Zwischenahn (Germany)	A-4	X. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
	II.	Bad Zwischenahn (Germany)	A-4	X. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
KG 66	I.	Avord	S	II. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
KG 76	4.	Istres	A-4	II. Fliegerdivision	Luftlotte 3
	6.	Istres	A-4	II. Fliegerdivision	Luftlotte 3
KG 77	Stab.	Orange-Caritat	A-17	II. Fliegerdivision	Luftlotte 3
	I	Orange-Caritat	A-17	II. Fliegerdivision	Luftlotte 3
	III.	Orange-Caritat	A-17	II. Fliegerdivision	Luftlotte 3
FAGr. 122	3.	Soesterberg (Netherlands)	D	IX. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
FaGr. 33	1.	Saint-Martin-du-Var		II. Fliegerdivision	Luftlotte 3
FAGr. 123	3.	Rennes	A/ D/ H	Kommando der Luftlotte 3	Luftlotte 3
NJG 4	Stab.	Chenay	R/ G	II. Jagdkorps 4. Jagddivision	Luftlotte 3
	I.	Florennes (Belgium)	R/ G	II. Jagdkorps 4. Jagddivision	Luftlotte 3
ZG 1	Stab.	Lorient	R	II. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
	I.	Lorient / Vannes	C / G/ R	II. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
	III.		C	II. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3



Junkers Ju-290					
FAGr. 5	Stab.	Mont-de-Marsan	A-7	X. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
	1.	Mont-de-Marsan	A-5/ A-7	X. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
	2.	Mont-de-Marsan	A-5/ A-7	X. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3

Dornier Do 217					
KG 2	III.	Achmer (Germany)	K-1 / M	IX. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
KG 100	Stab.	Toulouse-Francazal		II. Fliegerdivision	Luftlotte 3
	III.	Toulouse-Francazal	E/ K/ M (E fitted with Hs 293)	II. Fliegerdivision	Luftlotte 3
FAGr. 5	4.	Nantes		X. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
NJG 4	II.	Coulommiers	N	II. Jagdkorps 5. Jagddivision	Luftlotte 3
NJG 4	III.	Juvincourt	N	X. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3

Heinkel He 111					
KG 53	1.	Varelbusch (Germany)	H-22 fitted with Fi 103		
KG 100	Stab.	Toulouse-Francazal	H-22 fitted with Fi 103	II. Fliegerdivision	Luftlotte 3
FAGr. 5	4.	Nantes		X. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3

Heinkel 177					
KG 40	I.	Orléans-Bricy		X. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
	II.	Bordeaux-Mérignac	A	X. Fliegerkorps	Luftlotte 3
KG 100	1.	Toulouse-Francazal	K-1	II. Fliegerdivision	Luftlotte 3

Junkers Ju 87					
FAGr. 123	6.	Cormeilles-en-Vexin		Kommando der Luftlotte 3	Luftlotte 3
Wekusta 51		Buc		Kommando der Luftlotte 3	Luftlotte 3

SM. 72					
TG1	III.	Delle (Germany)		Kommando der Luftlotte 3	Luftlotte 3