





The Eagle

THE GERMAN MILITARY AVIATION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP



Editorial

This edition of The Eagle is dedicated to the pilot from Taktisches Luftwaffengeschwader (Tactical Air Force Wing) 73 "Steinhoff" who was lost on a training flight on the June 24th 2019. It is a sombre reminder that many people have lost their lives flying the aircraft that we spend time at our bench building.

This issue is being written in the run-up to and the month following Scale Model World 2019. For those who've never been and who are reading this in some far-flung corner of the globe far from the United Kingdom, this is a model show that everyone who likes scale models should try and visit at least once. There are countless models on display, the majority of which are of competition quality. There are more displays to see than time permits and traders from all over the world selling the latest and greatest products (and plenty of second-hand bargains are on offer too).

The friendly Telford is how I will remember this year. So many positive comments were made about our display without a single nitpick. Where were rivet counters? I'm guessing they've been exiled to Elba.

I got to meet many many members from the Flory Models fraternity and chaps from Scale Model Shed who gave the SIG a fantastic review that is appreciated. Listening to a positive review of the table on my drive to the show on Sunday morning was the icing on the cake!

I spent a total of £12 focusing my spending on a couple (literally) of aftermarket parts for my planned 2020 build....which leads me nicely on to SMW 2020. The theme for the build is 'Flying Circus' expect to see some very colourful World War One builds. Back to this years SMW, I did get to see a little bit of the show. I've compiled my thoughts elsewhere in this issue.

The last issue of the newsletter looked at the Luftwaffe in Northern France on and around D-Day. This issue takes a brief look at 1945 and has been produced to provide some inspiration to Flory Models members who have the opportunity to build a model on the theme, 'Bulges to Berlin'. Don't expect a complete analysis of the Luftwaffe

in '45; that would be well beyond the time and energies that have available to invest. I just hope to paint an impression of operations of an airforce facing considerable military and economic challenges.

In complete contrast to the final phases of World War Two, this issue also includes an introduction to the Eurofighter in Luftwaffe service. A modeller looking for more detail is encouraged to buy a copy of BAe/EADS Eurofighter: 10 Years in Luftwaffe Service by Andreas Zeitler (ISBN 10: 3935687745 ISBN 13: 9783935687744). It gives far more extensive coverage to the type across 64 pages and is highly recommended.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the SIG over the last few years and I look forward to another year modelling all things German.

Prost!

Nathan Robinson

Luftwaffe SIG Leader



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Eurofighter

Contact the SIG

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

www.luftwaffesig.uk

www.facebook.com/luftwaffesig/

www.facebook.com/groups/luftwaffesig/

luftwaffesig@gmail.com

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.



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If you would like to use the whole or part of this newsletter please contact the SIG leader, Nathan Robinson at luftwaffesig@gmail.com

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This newsletter can be freely distributed 'as is'. Please share it.

The Eurofighter EF-2000 is a single seat, multirole, all weather fighter aircraft used in the air defence and air to ground roles by the Luftwaffe.

The Luftwaffe has 140 Eurofighters and they form the backbone of the Luftwaffe's aircraft fleet and its NATO commitments. With its networked operations capability it can be deployed in close cooperation with air, sea and land forces.

The aircraft is built using advanced composite materials (only 15% of the aircrafts surface is metal). The Eurofighter is fitted with a Martin Baker MK 16A Ejection seat. The Luftwaffe does not use the term 'Typhoon'.

Four units operate the Eurofighter:

- Tactical Air Force Squadron 31 "Boelcke";
- Tactical Air Force Squadron 71 "Richtofen";
- Tactical Air Force Squadron 73 "Steinhoff"
- Tactical Air Force Squadron 74.

Alongside a BK-27mm Mauser cannon the aircraft carries a range of ordinance:

- AIM-9L Sidewinder
- IRIS-T
- AMRAAM
- METEOR
- GBU-48
- AWX kR
- GBU-54*
- Brimstone*

(*future)

Blocks and Tranches

Eurofighters have been built in tranches, each by on going 'block' development, delivering a different capability.

German took delivery of 33 Tranche 1 aircraft, 79 Tranche 2 and 31 Tranche 3 aircraft.

The differences between each Tranches are internal: the clue to an aircrafts Tranche are its weapons fit.

Tranche 1 aircraft were in the main delivered to what was at the time called JG73 which had previously flown Mig 29s. Tranche 1 aircraft are split between three blocks: Block 1 Initial Operational Capability, Block 2 air-to-air capability and Black 5

Full Operational Capability (air-to-air and air-to-ground). An R2 revision in place to retrofit earlier aircraft so that all Tranche 1 aircraft have the same capability.

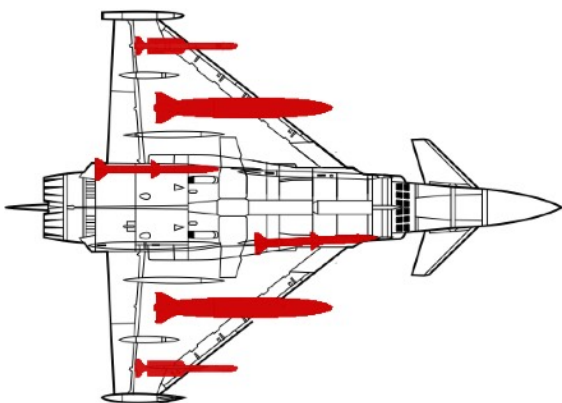
Tranche 2 aircraft in the main went to JG74 replacing F-4 Phantoms. The second Tranche 2 equipped squadron was FLgr71 "Richtofen" another F-4 Phantom unit.

Tranche 2 is also split into Blocks. Block 8 brought new hardware and computer equipment. Block 15 introduced AMRAAM, IRIS-T and laser guided bombs. Block 15 introduced METEOR, TAURUS and Brimstone capability.

Tranche 3a aircraft were delivered to TLG31 Boelcke replacing Tornados. Tranche 3 EOC 4 introduced hardware and computer systems improvements.

Baltic Air Policing

The Luftwaffe deployed five Tranche 2 aircraft, typically armed with two live AIM-120B and two live IRIS-T missiles. A 97% serviceability has been reported. TaktLwG 71 and TaktLwG 74 are sharing the deployment at Ämari in Estonia.



In a photograph published on the Bundeswehr's Flickr account, the IRIS-Ts were carried on the outer wing pylons and the AIM-120B's were carried in an asymmetric fashion under the fuselage.

combataircraft.keypublishing.com/2018/11/21/luftwaffe-eurofighters-police-the-baltics/

Eurofighter in 1/72

The following is not a complete kitography but is a write up of some of the more popular kits that are currently available.

Revell 03952

Released in 2016, The latest Revell release is an improvement on previous versions with a degree of simplicity introduced. It includes a single decal option 30+90 of Tactical Air Force Squadron TaktLwG 71 in special Richtofen markings.

Gate A has a PIRATE sensors, in the instructions it is marked as not for use as this is not applicable to Luftwaffe aircraft. Similarl a number of pylons are noted as not applicable to the single decal option in the kit.

The kit has since been re released (03884) in special 'Ghost Tiger' markings 31+00 of TakLwG 74.

An older tooling from Revell from 2004 (04338 and 04317) can still be recommended as it covers the single and two seat variants. The decal options are not special schemes in these boxings. The Luftwaffe aircraft do not need part 60 in stage 21 fitting. Care must be taken in weapons fit as non Luftwaffe ordinance is included in the kit.

Hasegawa 01570

Hasegawa released a newly tooled kit in 2012 which included markings for JG74. Like Revell, this kit has been released with a number of new decal options and a two-seater version has also been released.

Eurofighter in other scales

At the time of writing, Revell is really the only show in town. The kits include options for a number of operators so the same warnings apply for weapons fit and sensors. Single and Two seats kits are available. Trumpeter do have kits but I feel they are edged out by their Revell rivals.

Special Schemes

The Luftwaffe has painted a number of Eurofighter in special commemorative and tiger meet schemes. Here are a collection of examples from RIAT over the years. When special schemes are not applied, all production German Eurofighter are painted FS 35237.

[Richthofen Typhoon](#) CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 by [Ignacio Ferre](#)



© Ignacio FERRE - Photography

["Richthofen Eurofighter"](#) (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0) by [Ignacio Ferre](#)



Taktisches Luftwaffengeschwader 71 "Richthofen" 30+90 is available in 1/72 from Revell (kit number 03952). This was the first release of their newer easier to build 1/72 scale kit.

© Ignacio FERRE - Photography

30+25 is another TaktLwG 71 "Richthofen" to feature an anniversary scheme. This aircraft was on static at RIAT 2019.









Typhoon - RIAT 2019 CC BY-SA 2.0 by Airwolfhound

30+26, TaktLwG 74, 'Bavarian Tigers', NATO Tiger Meet 2017, is one of many Tiger schemes applied to Luftwaffe Eurofighter.



"Typhoon - RIAT 2017" (CC BY-SA 2.0) by Airwolfhound



Painted to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Luftwaffe, these markings are available in the Revell No. 05797 "60 Jahre Luftwaffe anniversary set. They are also available as aftermarket decals in 1/72: Model Maker Decals D72080.





"Typhoon - RIAT 2016" (CC BY-SA 2.0) by [Airwolfhound](#)



The Cyber Tiger from NTM 2016 operated by TaktLwG 74.

"Typhoon - RIAT 2016" (CC BY-SA 2.0) by [Airwolfhound](#)



31+00 from Tactical Air Force Wing 74 known as 'Ghost Tiger' won the best painted tiger aircraft in 2018 and is available from Revell (03884).





"ILA - Berlin Airshow 2018" (CC-BY-SA 2.0) by [Neuwieser](#)

"2016 05 20 30+42@LEZG 061" (CC-BY-NC 2.0) by [Stefano](#)
[Seneddu - coldwarkid.photos](#)



Taktisches Luftwaffengeschwader 74 30+42 shows some subtle special markings on the tail.



"Eurofighter Typhoon Luftwaffe 31+31 "Spi" (CC BY 2.0) by Clemens Vasters

Taktisches Luftwaffengeschwader 31 "Boelcke" 31+31 applied a special tail commenting the WW I flying ace after which the unit is named.





"German EF2000 "60 Jahre Luftwaffe" (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0) by Ignacio Ferre



© Ignacio FERRE - Photography





30+29" (CC BY 2.0) by GerardvdSchaaf

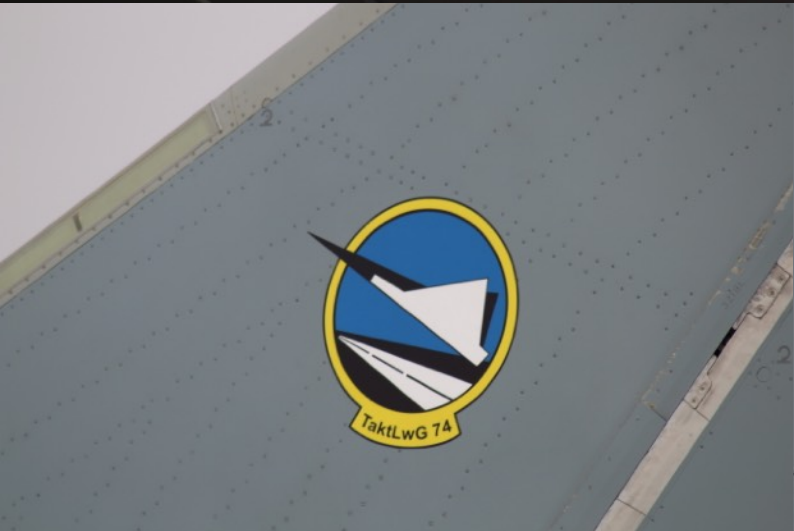
Over the following pages, 30+94 in standard Luftwaffengeschwader 74 markings is presented in a walk around. It was on static display at RIAT 2018.



"Eurofighter Typhoon - RIAT 2018" (CC BY-SA 2.0) by Airwolfhound













30+05, a two seat Tactical Air Force Wing 31 "Boelcke" aircraft.





"30+05" (CC BY 2.0) by [GerardvdSchaaf](#)



Typhoon - RIAT 2016 CC BY-SA 2.0 by [Airwolfhound](#)

DA1, one of seven development aircraft first flew in 1994. The DA1, equipped with Turbo Union RB.199 engines, made its maiden flight from EADS' Manching test facility, Germany, on 27 March 1994. It is now on display at the Deutsches Museum's Flugwerft Schleißheim site.



"Eurofighter EF-2000 Typhoon II in Oberst" (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0) by J.Comstedt





Above: DA 1 on it's maiden flight of the Eurofighter. Inset: pilot Peter Weger emerging from the cockpit at the end of the maiden flight.

Below: Peter Weger with Eurofighter DA1 20 years later.





German Air Force single seat Eurofighter over Lithuania as part of Nato policing of the Baltic States. The aircraft is from JG-74 from Neuburg, Germany and has IRIS-T missiles and drop tank

Image: © Eurofighter - Photograph by Geoffrey Lee, Planefocus Ltd

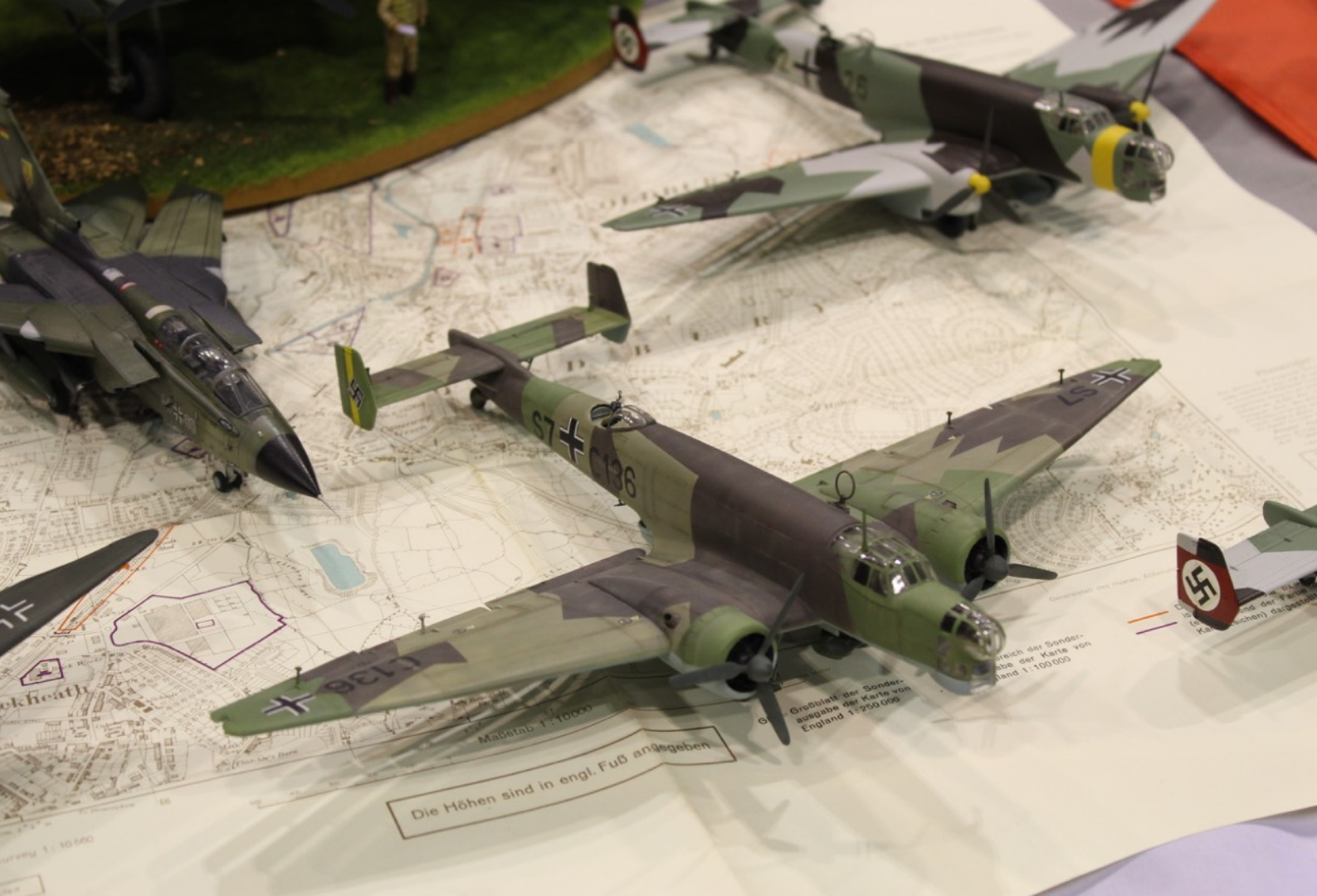
SMW DISPLAY

These images show the SIG's display. Thanks to all the members who contributed to the display, I couldn't have done it with you.



























AIRFIX FW 190A-8

If you are looking for a quick mojo fixer that will fly from the bench after a couple of days, then the Airfix 1/72 FW 190 might be just the kit. It lacks the finesse of the Eduard kit but what you gain a simple to build kit with few vices. The nose area needs a kit of care but apart from that you can expect a trouble free build which shouldn't break the bank. The build you see here uses markings for Fw 190A-8 WkNr 3317 flown Major Kurt Buhligen CO of JG 2 based at Creil from the Xtradecal D Day set (X72197).



SMW Displays

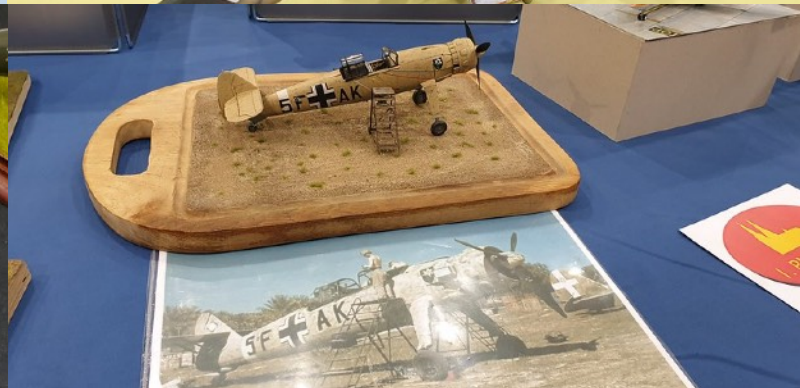
There were plenty of German subject, both in the completion and thought the three halls. Here are a collection of images taken by Bryn Robinson.















Big Display 2020

We have had a call to action!

Neil Robinson who is organising the Battle of Britain Big Display at SMW 2020 has asked the members of the Luftwaffe SIG if they are able to contribute to the display.

Look out for announcements in the SIG's Facebook group.

Show Diary

The SIG will be displaying at...

Bolton, 19th January

South Cheshire Militaire (Nantwich), 23rd February

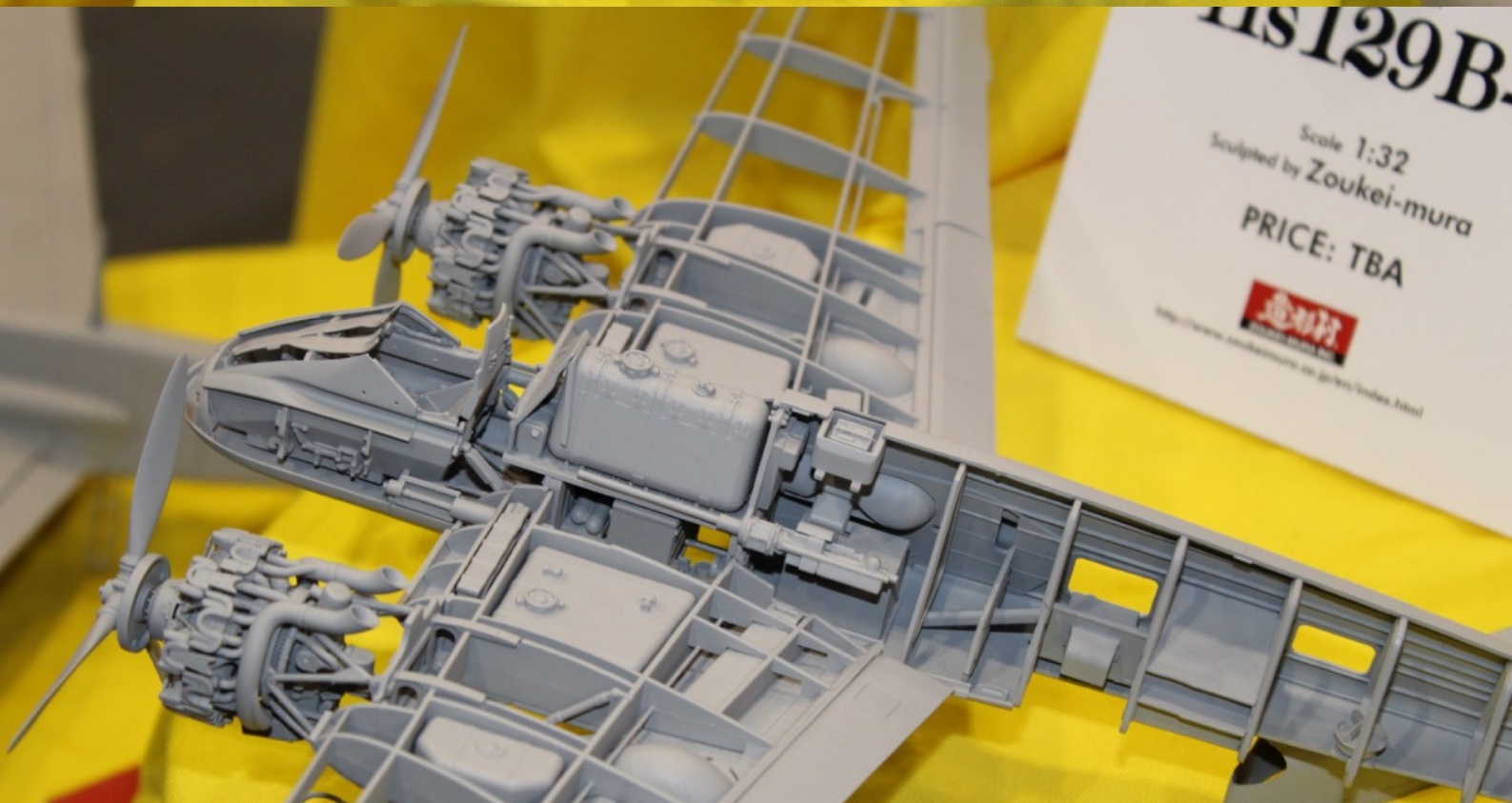
Sword and Lance, 28th March

Shropshire Scale Modellers (Cosford), 5th April

Other dates to be added as they are confirmed.

SMW Trade Displays

Scale Model World 2019 was a show that had a few new and future releases that caught my eye. Stating with Zoukei Mura, I'll let the photographs do most of the talking.





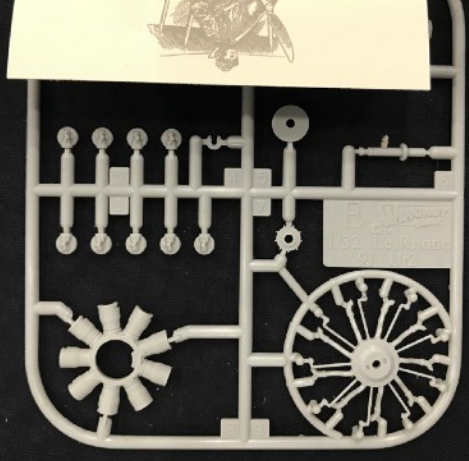
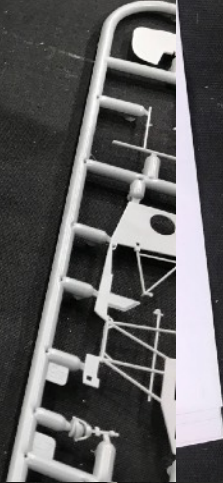


WINGNUT WINGS FOKKER DR.1

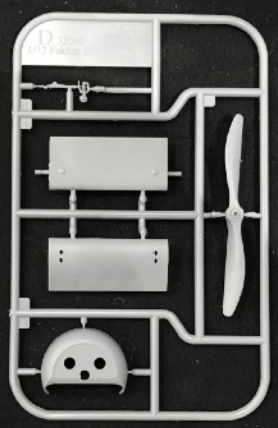
Even though the Dr.1 was produced in relatively small numbers I'm sure the 1/32 version will be a strong seller, the spurs on display suggest that the kit is up to their usual high standard.

68
1/Dr.1 (Early)
ent for 2020
wings.com

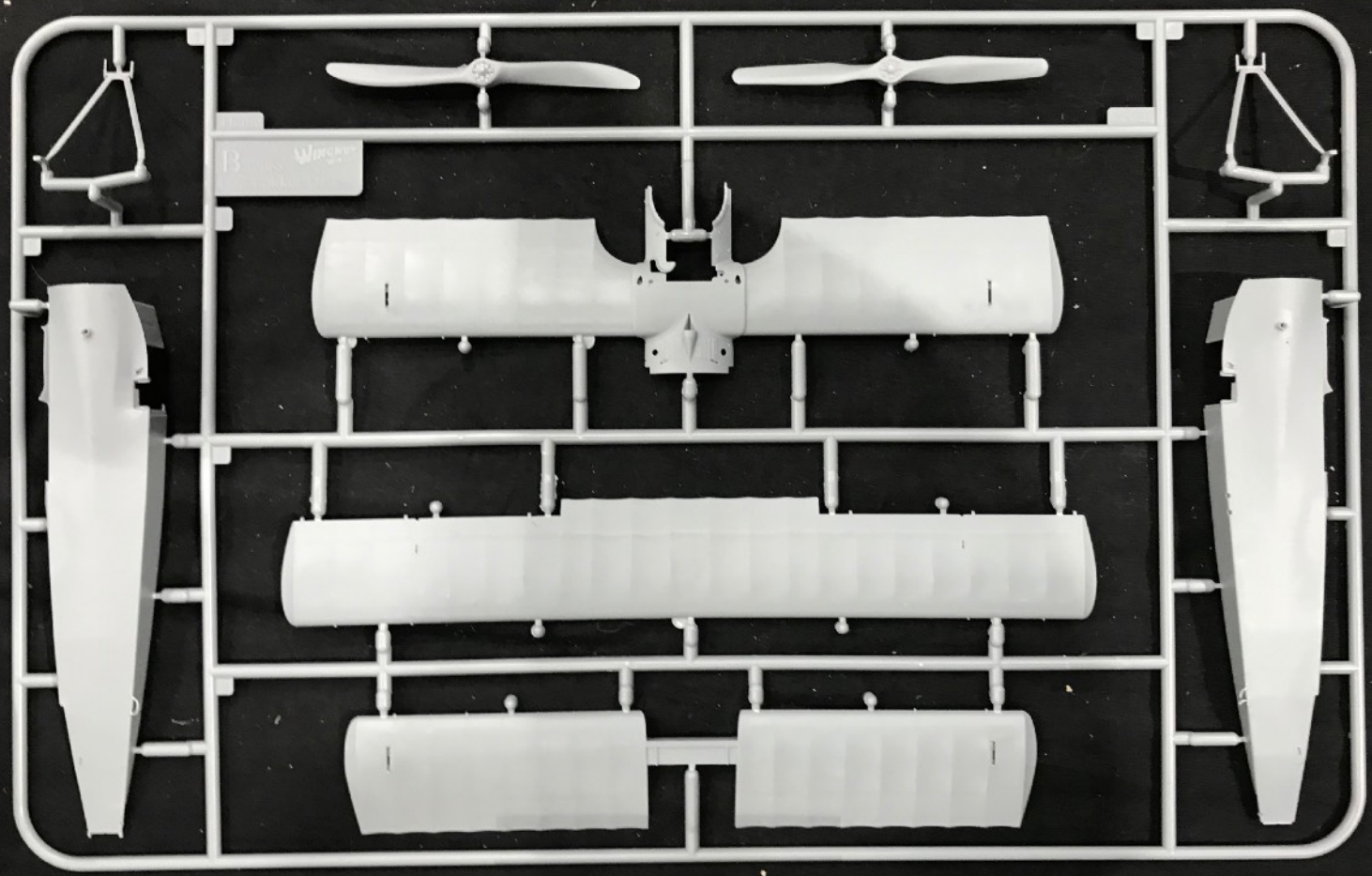
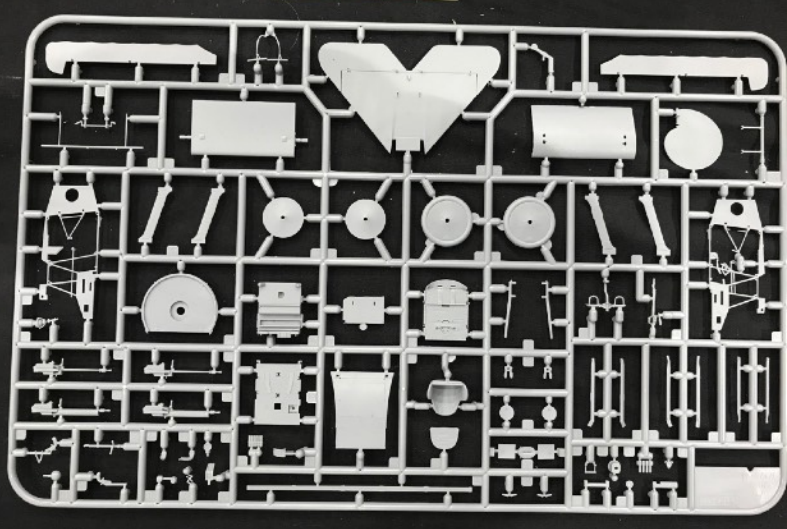
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Kinetic Build



I am delighted to present Rick Greenwoods' build of 22+39 from Jagdbombergeschwader 34.

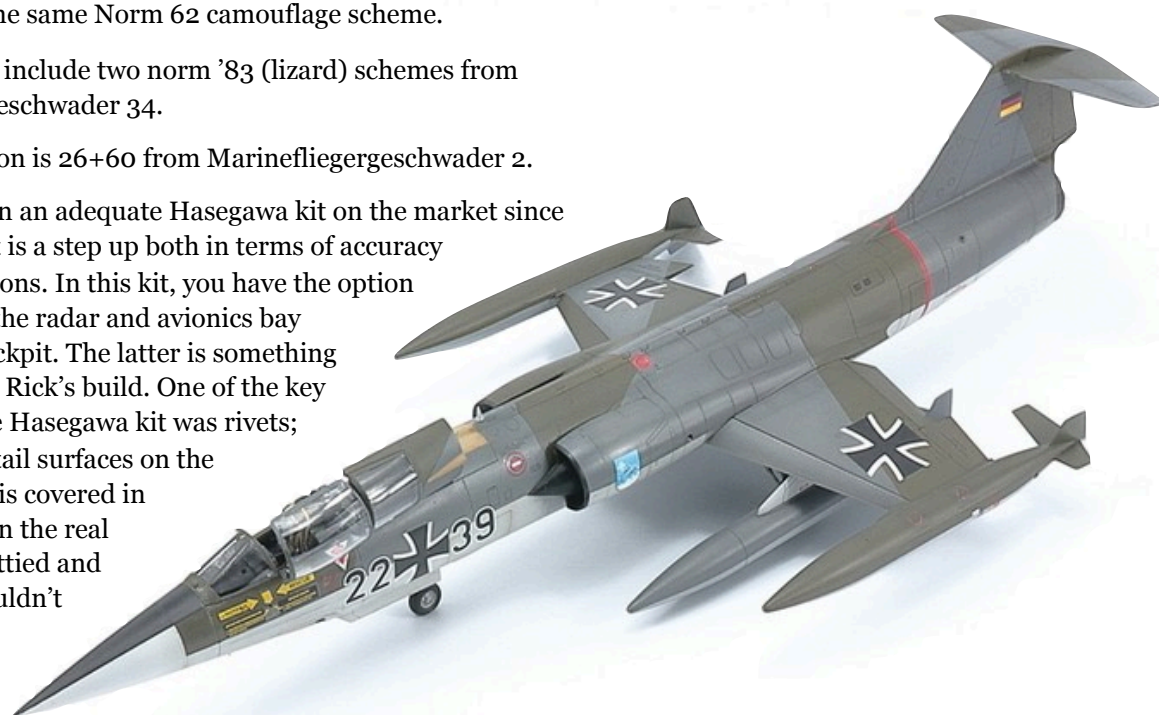
Out of the box, it is also possible to model 22+91 from the same squadron in the same Norm 62 camouflage scheme.

Other options include two norm '83 (lizard) schemes from Jagdbombergeschwader 34.

One final option is 26+60 from Marinefliegergeschwader 2.

There has been an adequate Hasegawa kit on the market since 2000. This kit is a step up both in terms of accuracy and build options. In this kit, you have the option of displaying the radar and avionics bay behind the cockpit. The latter is something you can see in Rick's build. One of the key faults with the Hasegawa kit was rivets; the wing and tail surfaces on the Hasegawa kit is covered in rivets which on the real thing were puttied and filled and shouldn't be visible.

On the



following pages, I've included a couple of photographs of preserved Starfighters to illustrate how well Kinetic have reproduced the wings.

There are four sprues (D being clear parts) and PE (which includes seat harnesses). Colour call-outs in the kit instruction reference Ammo by MIG which are cross-referenced to Vallejo, Mr Color, Tamiya and Humbrol. What is nice to see is a reference to RAL and FS colour standards.

I would recommend purchasing Hataka's Modern Luftwaffe paint set vol. 1 if you are looking to build an early natural metal or Norm '62 or Marineflieger machine. HTK-C226 RAL6012, HTK-Co16 FS34079, HTK-C224 RAL7021 and HTK-Co59 FS34095 are available individually or as part of Modern Luftwaffe Paint Set Vol 2. They are the paints I would recommend for the Norm '83 schemes.

The kit number is K48083 and both the kit and my paint recommendation are available from PM Models (kit price: £37.99).

As a final note, Rick's reports a trouble-free build so this kit comes highly recommended.





Two images to illustrate the appearance of rivet son the F-104 Starfighter wing and tail surface. More images of both of these aircraft are available on the SIG's website, www.luftwaffesig.uk.





Organisation of the Luftwaffe

In 1944 the Luftwaffe was split into Luftflotte, each being defined by a geographical area.

The largest was Luftflotte Reich which operated in an area defined as 'Greater Germany' comprised of Germany, Austria and western parts of the Czech Republic and Poland.

Luftflotte 3 flew from bases in France, Belgium and the Netherlands. Luftflotte 1, 6 and 4 operated on the Eastern front, Luftflotte 1 in the North in areas that are now (broadly speaking) Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. The central part of the Eastern Front was covered by Luftflotte 6 over an area covering eastern Poland, Belarus and northern Ukraine.

Luftflotte 4 was the southernmost part of the eastern front in areas around Easter Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary and into Romania and Greece. Luftflotte 4 had by the end of October 1944 absorbed Kommando Südost which operated in the former Yugoslavia Luftflotte 5 covered Scandinavia and Luftwaffe 2 operated in Northern Italy.



© IWM (BU 3265)

This, naturally is a picture that changed as the war moved into 1945. By January 1945, Luftlotte Reich was depleted as it had seen aircraft deployed to Luftlotte 3. It was now relived of its duty to defend Western Germany by day. Luftlotte 3 night fighter had transferred to Luftlotte Reich. Luftlotte 3 has now relocated to Western Germany.

Luftlotten 1, 4, 5 and 6 on the Eastern front has seen its equipment shift from bomber towards fighter, night fighter and tactical reconnaissance. Luftlotte 1 was cut off by advancing Soviet forces in a pocket in Lithuania and would see limited participation in fighting. Luftlotte 4 had been pushed back into Hungary and the former Yugoslavia. Luftlotte 5 has now operating out of just Norway having been pushed out of Finland but because of fuel shortages its participation in fighting was limited.

Luftlotte 6 remained the strongest of forces in the East, but was not based in just Prussia and western Poland. Luftlotte 2 in northern Italy was a spent force, with just 50 serviceable combat aircraft.

By April 1945 the picture had changed once again. Luftlotte Reich was struggling to match the numerical strength of allied incursion. Luftlotte based in the SE of Germany, Hungary and the former Yugoslavia had transferred several units to Luftlotte 6. Luftlotte 6 was being readied for the

inevitable Soviet offensive against Berlin and it was now the strongest formation in the Luftwaffe. The remnants of the other Luftlotte were downgraded to Luftwaffenkommando.

Aircraft type operating in 1945

Unlike previous articles on events surrounding D Day and Operation Barbarossa It is quite easy to find kits that offer the correct type and markings for 1945 on one condition: the decal options include dates.

The following list is compiled from Luftwaffe losses archives. As a piece of academic research it's far from complete but I hope it serves as inspiration or at least as a time-saving device as you hunt through the staff or a model shop shelf.

In xxxx describes a number of 'white hopes' to reflect the technical progress that was being made towards to the end of the war. It serves to highlight some of the new types that were entering service in 1944 and 1945. The white hopes were:

- Arado Ar 234B;
- Bachem Ba 349B Natter
- Dornier Do 335A-1;
- Focke Wulf Fw 190 'Sturmbock';
- Focke Wulf Ta 152H;
- Heinkel He 162A-2 'Volksjager';
- Heinkel He 177A-5;

- Henschel Hs 129 with 7.5cm cannon;
- Messerschmidt Bf 109G-10;
- Messerschmidt Me 163B
- Messerschmidt Me 262A;
- Messerschmidt Me 410 A-2/U4;
- Mistel (Mistletoe);
- Fieseler Fi 103 (V-1) flying bomb
- A-4 (V-2) rocket.

Luftwaffe Losses

Luftwaffe losses are another source of information that helps to answer the question of what type were in service during 1945.

The following is from a sample of aircraft losses record in and around February 1945, time does not permit me to go through every record and present a complete picture. Having said that it does offer up some interesting types and provide the modeller with an opportunity to do some of their own research and units and markings.

- Arado Ar 234 B2
- Arado Ar 66 D
- Arado Ar 96 B6, B7
- Blohm & Voss BV 138 C1
- Bücker Bü 181 c3
- Dornier Do 217 M1
- Dornier Do 24
- Fiat Cr 42
- Fieseler Fi 156 C1, C2, C3, D1
- Focke-Wulf Fw 189 A3
- Focke-Wulf Fw 190 A3, A4, A6, A8 (mistel), A8, A9, D9, F8, F9, G3, G8
- Focke-Wulf Fw 58 B2
- Focke-Wulf Fw 44 J
- Gotha Go 145 A
- Heinkel He 111 H5, H6, H10, H16, H20
- Henschel Hs 129 B2, B3
- Junkers Ju 188 A3, D2, D3, F1
- Junkers Ju 290
- Junkers Ju 52
- Junkers Ju 87 D2, D3, D5, G2
- Junkers Ju 88 C6, G1, G1 (mistel), G6
- Messerschmitt Bf 108 D1
- Messerschmitt Bf 109 G6, G8, G10, G12, G14, K4
- Messerschmitt Bf 110 G
- Messerschmitt Me 262 A1, A2
- Messerschmitt Me 410 A3

Modelling 1945

There are a vast array of kits available for the modeller looking to build an aircraft from 1945. The following highlights some recent releases that include decal options from 1945.

Me 262 in 1/48 and 1/72

There are two recommendations for the ME 262, Airfix in 1/72 and Hobbyboss for the larger scales. Each of the following kits includes decal for 1945 aircraft.

Hobbyboss have several boxings: kit number 80379 Me 262 B-1a/U1 with two options from NJG 11; kit number 80370 Me 262 A-1a/U1 with markings from KG 51 and 80376 Me 262 A-2a with markings for KG 51.

Airfix have three options in their range. The night fighter B-1a/U1 (kit number A04062) includes markings for NJG 11.

Me 262A-1a (kit number A03088) includes options for KG(J.) 54 and JG 7.

Me262A-2a 'Sturmvogel' (Kit number A03090) is a future release with options to include Kampfgeschwader 51 and Jagdgeschwader 7.



Fw 190 in 1/72



In a smaller scale, both the options in Airfix's F-8/ A-8 boxing (A02066) are from 1945 and it is a good example of some of the more esoteric marking applied to Luftwaffe aircraft in the period. The A-8 is in marking of 2./J.G.11 (Luftlotte 3). The ground attack aircraft, seen in the box art is from SG 2, Luftlotte 4 operating on the Eastern front in Hungary.



Airfix's most recent boxing (A01020A from 2019) has only one marking option, 10./J.G.5 operating in the Scandinavian theatre with Luftlotte 5.



In Eduard's weekend edition F-8 (7440) are two decals options from 1945, both from the eastern front. The box depicts an aircraft belonging to SG2, the other from SG10 is in an equally attractive scheme making a great choice for someone looking to build a Fw 190 from 1945.

In Eduard's A-8/ R2 (70112) option C is a JG301 aircraft from 1945, other options are from 1944.

Fw 190A-8

ProfiPACK
edition


Eduard's A-8 boxing (70111) has more options: a Norway based IV./JG 5 aircraft; 7./JG 300 based in Germany and I./JG 11 also based in Germany. The last option is in the late war RLM 81/83/84 camouflage.

Fw 190 in 1/48

Fw 190A-8/R2

ProfiPACK
edition


Options D and E from Eduard's Fw 190 A-8/R2 depict markings for JG 300 and JG 301 are appropriate for the timescale. These two fighter units formed part of Luftlotte Reich in the closing phase of the war.

Fw 190D-9 late

ProfiPACK
edition


Eduard's D-9 late (8189) is somewhat predictably rich picking, with all the decal options A to E being from 1945.

Zoukei-Mura's Focke Wulf Ta152H-1 SWS 1/48 No.02 includes decals for JG 301.

Hobbyboss also produce a Ta152. The markings are speculative due to a lack of definitive information from this period of the war.

Fw 190 in 1/32

Revell 03926 Focke Wulf Fw190 A-8 Nightfighter in 1/32 includes markings for an A-8 from JG301 from May 1945 (which is not fitted with radar antenna).

Zoukei Mura also produce a Ta 152 in 1/32 scale. As with there 1/48 kit the markings are somewhat speculative because of a lack on precise information from this period of the war.

Bf 109 in 1/72

AZ models probably has a wide variety of the 1945 boxings, here I've picked out a few



With three decal options from spring 1945 (JG 52, KG(J) 6 and JG 53) this boxing has plenty of options in the Bf 109K-4 "Kurfürst" (AZ7595) boxing.



Bf 109G-10Erla "Late" Block 15XX (AZ7611) has three decal options (9/JG 300, III/JG 6, Stab IV/JG 301) all from 1945. The camouflage options in this boxing are particularly interesting.

Finemolds also have released a number of very good late war 109's but are generally more difficult to obtain but still worthy of note.

Bf 109 in 1/48



Option C in Eduard's G-6 late (82111) is a Norway based option with J.G.5, other options in this kit are from earlier in the war.



All four decal options in the G-10 boxings are from 1945. Options include II./JG 51, II./JG 52, Hungarian and Jasta 5 of the Russian Liberation Army (Russian collaborators fighting with Germany).



In Eduard's G-14 kit (82118), there are two Luftwaffe aircraft, Options D and E include markings from 1945. There is also an option for an Italian aircraft that carried German markings.

Eduard have also issued a number of Bodenplatte limited editions kits and they are an obvious route to take if the modeller is looking for a 1945 Bf 109 (or Fw 190).

Hasegawa is also a worthwhile venture (and not just in 1/48 scale).

Bf 109 in 1/32



Revell have released two versions of their new tool 109G. Both decal options in the G-10 (JG 300 and JG 52) are from 1945. In the earlier G-6 release there is one relevant option from Stab 3./JG 5.

Heinkel He 111H-20



ICM's 1/48 kit number 48264 includes a single option from 1945, with markings for a KG 53 aircraft.

1945 Colour Palette

The closing stages of the war saw a breakdown on standardisation. Some aircraft left factories partially painted, others were heavily modified at the airfield.

Hataka have a late war set that includes most of the colours that are required. The set includes:

HTK-C007 RLM75

HTK-C008 RLM81

HTK-C020 RLM82

HTK-C022 RLM83

HTK-C038 RLM76

HTK-C040 RLM66

Modellers may well need to add HTK-C313 RLM74 as well.

For bombers the Early Luftwaffe set may be more applicable as it includes:

HTK-C015 RLM70

HTK-C017 RLM71

HTK-C023 RLM02

HTK-C029 RLM65



The Hataka paint sets and individual colours are all available from PM Models.

Aftermath

As allied troops advanced through Europe many Luftwaffe were taken for evaluation or became a curiosity for allied troops. Ive collected a series of images from Wikimedia and Flickr to illustrate camouflage patterns and marking on a few aircraft types.



Bundesarchiv, Bild 141-2497
Foto: o. Ang. | 1944/1945 ca.

Messerschmitt Me 262A "weisse 3" auf Flugplatz Dübendorf Schweiz April 1945. Bundesarchiv, Bild 141-2497 / CC-BY-SA 3.0.

This image is a good illustration heavy mottling on ME 262's. RLM81 RLM82 and underside RLM76 are a likely paint match.



Snapshot of U.S. Army T/4 Oscar Siehen seated in the cockpit of a German jet plane parked outside of a camouflaged building in the woods off the German Autobahn between the cities of Augsburg and Ulm, Germany. Photograph taken by or collected by Capt. E. H. Glenn Farthing of Watauga County, N.C. [1945]. From Edwin H. G. Farthing Papers, WWII 185, WWII Papers, Military Collection, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh, N.C.

This would make an interesting diorama, note the tail of another Me 262 in trees in the left hand side of the image.



This Messerschmitt Me262A-1a on display at the Wright Field Victory display on 1946 is one of only a few period colour photographs.

An FE serial number has been applied after capture but the original German markings survive. The engine nacelle is typical of hastily applied camouflage.

Via Flickr, COMMONS.SOURCE INSTITUTION: San Diego Air and Space Museum Archive



Heinkel He162, Wright Field, 1946 victory display. Via Flickr, COMMONS.SOURCE INSTITUTION: San Diego Air and Space Museum Archive



Messerschmitt Me163A. Via Flickr, COMMONS.SOURCE INSTITUTION: San Diego Air and Space Museum Archive

Luftwaffe SIG 2020

Following a SIG leaders meeting at SMW 2019 it has become apparent that a table that tells a story is more effective. To this end the SIG will display along four themes for 2020 and display materials will be created to reflect this.

Members of the SIG are being invited to display models on four themes.

1. Flying Circus - World War One - the more colourful the better.
2. Battle of Britain - we have been invited to contribute to the Big Display at SMW 2020. Any spill over will be displayed on the SIG's table.
3. Roads to Berlin - we would like to mark the end of the war by displaying aircraft from the closing stages of the conflict, from any front.
4. Open section - anything goes - I think it's important that we continue to display aircraft from all periods of German aviation so the open section will continue.

