1/48 Scale Plastic Model Kit



WEEKEND edition

Focke-Wulf Fw 190 was the best of what had Luftwaffe in its inventory during the second half of the WW II. It soldiered in various modifications for many different tasks.

The dedicated fighter version of Fw 190 was a high performance, heavily armed aircraft. To meet the 1938 specification issued by the Technisches Amt, RLM, the development team led by Kurt Tank ran into several difficulties, which were addressed continually during the process of the development. The first prototype took to the air on June 1, 1939 and after a series of improvements and, also after some quite radical changes, the design culminated during the fall of 1940, when twenty-eight units of pre-series Fw 190A-0 variant were built. Six of these were retained by the test unit Erprobungsstaffel 190 at Rechlin, tasked with service trials.

The trials revealed a wide range of flaws to the point where the RLM halted further development. Nevertheless, as the test unit staff recommended, the design team was given another opportunity. After the line of some fifty modifications, the RLM gave the go ahead for the Fw 190 to be taken into inventory of the Luftwaffe.

Into combat

In June 1941, Luftwaffe accepted first of 100 ordered examples of Fw 190A-1, armed with four 7.9 mm MG 17 machine guns. The II./JG 26 was completely equipped with the type and operating on the Western Front by September 1941 and its operations changed the game, as the new fighter was superior not only to Hurricanes, but also to Spitfires. The very first Fw 190 lost in combat was the Fw 190A-1 (factory No. 0028) flown by Gruppenkommandeur (Group Commander) of the II./JG26 Walter Adolph. He was shot down on September 18, 1941.

During November of the same year the production of the next version Fw 190A-2 commenced. The new variant was powered by a BMW 801C-2 engine and armed with two 7.9 mm MG 17s and two MG 151s of 20 mm caliber in the wings. Part of this series received an additional pair of 20 mm MG FFs, thus attaining an armament standard of later types. A significant advancement to the design came in the spring of 1942, when the BMW 801D-2 engine became available. Its installation allowed new Fw 190A-3 variant to be entered and in July 1942, the development continued with the improved Fw 190A-4. Both were armed with what became the standard armament for future Fw 190 variants, i.e., two fuselage mounted MG 17s, two wing mounted MG 151 cannons and two MG FF cannons placed inboard of the wheel wells.

Mass production begins

During 1942 the production of Fw 190 had intensified, and another production facility was set up at Fieseler, where the "Würgers", as the Fw 190s were nicknamed, were built under license. Thanks to this step and also to some other measures, production rose in 1942 to 1,878 units, comparing quite amazingly to just 224 aircraft in 1941. Large-scale production of the Fw 190A-5 was initiated in April 1943 with an identical wing to the A-4 variant, but with a nose extension that would become standard on all subsequent Fw 190A versions up to the A-9,

and on the corresponding F types. July than saw the development of a new, strengthened wing, which incorporated MG 151 cannons instead of the MG FFs ones in the outer position. The adoption of this wing developed into the Fw 190A-6 version. Further changes led to the Fw 190A-7, produced during the end of 1943. This version came about with the replacement of the fuselage mounted MG 17s with 13 mm MG 131 machine guns. Further improvements led to the Fw 190A-8.

Last of the radial breed

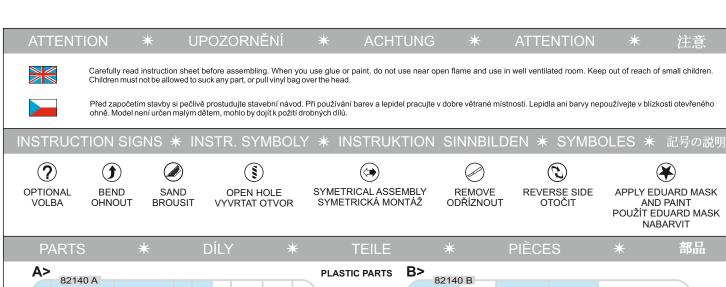
The final production version of the BMW 801 engine powered fighter was Fw 190A-9, equipped with the BMW 801TS of 2,000 hp (1,470 kW). There was a parallel development of these fighter-optimized aircraft with a dedicated fighter-bomber version, the Fw 190Fs. These had reduced wing armament to two MG 151 cannons in the wing root position. The engine was optimized for low level operation, and the armament options varied to satisfy the ground attack role, including bombs of various weight classes and a variety of anti-tank rockets. This branched into the extended range Fw 190G version. Development of the thoroughbred fighter continued in the guise of the Fw 190D, which began to reach Luftwaffe units in the second half of 1944 and was a result of mounting an in-line Jumo 213A-1 engine into a modified Fw 190A-8 airframe.

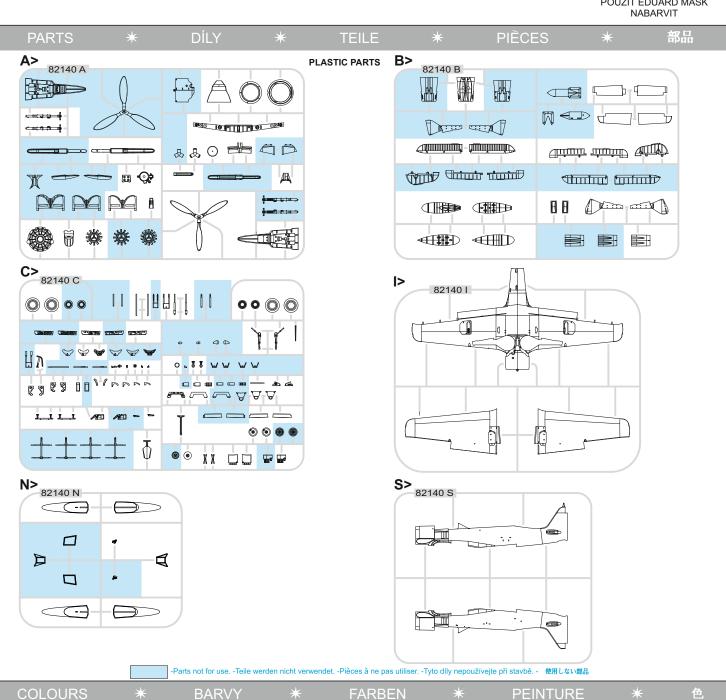
Although the Fw 190 never achieved the widespread use of competing Bf 109, its contribution to the German Air Force was certainly significant through the second half of WWII. Fw 190s saw service on the Western Front as well as on the East one.

This kit: Fw 190A-8

Thanks to the lengthened fuselage of Fw 190A-5, adopted due to the change of center of gravity of the aircraft, further development of the armament and armor of this fighter was possible. BMW 801D-2 engine developed 1,677 hp (1,250 kW), some 238 hp (103 kW) more compared to the previous C-2 variant, and this power raised the performance of the aircraft. The development reached the Fw 190A-8 stage in February 1944, and this version emerged as the most produced Fw 190 with some 6,655 units made. Apart of standard BMW 801D-2 engine also the 801Q unit with thicker armor of the annular oil cooler invented by BMW was used. The engine itself sported emergency boost system used with the fighter variants of the A-8, which raised the maximum power to 1,950 hp (1,460 kW) available for 10 minutes.

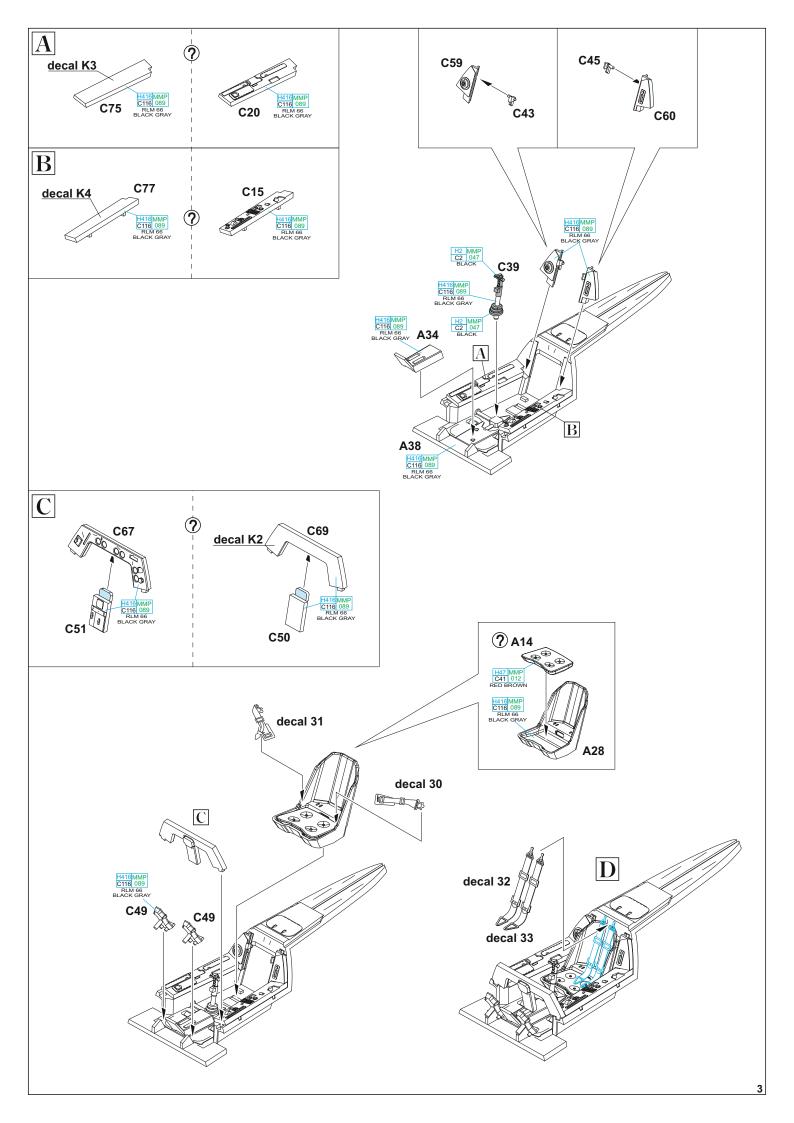
The production of the Fw 190A-8 started with the standard wing version. The armament installed in the wing was unified, as two 20mm MG 151 cannons were installed in inner as well as outer position in each half of the wing. This already quite heavy armament was supplemented with two 13mm MG 131 machine guns in the front fuselage. Later, the universal wing was enetered, allowing installation of different weapons in the outer wing position.

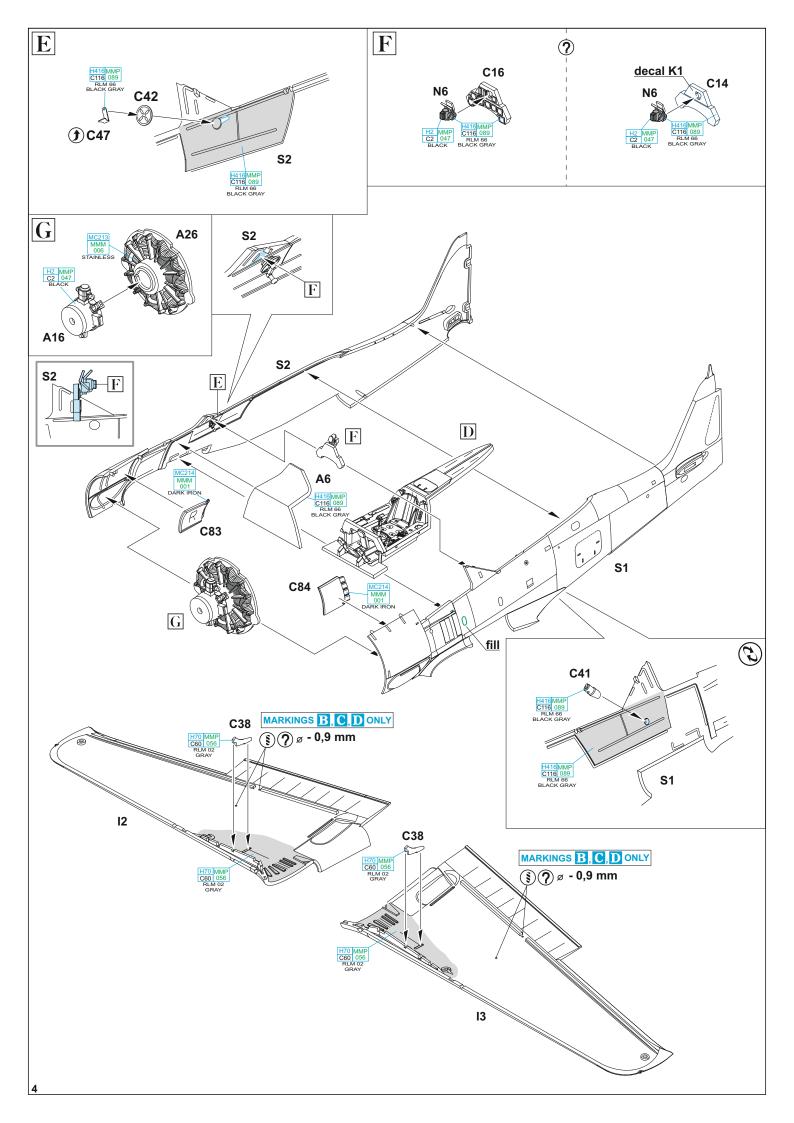


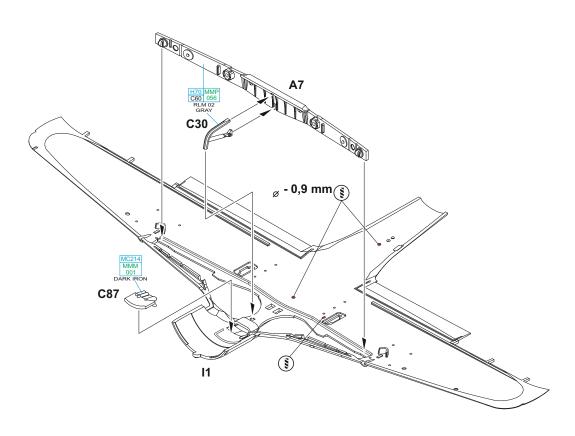


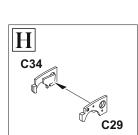
GSi Creos (GUNZE)		MISSION MODELS	
AQUEOUS	Mr.COLOR	PAINTS	
H1	C1	MMP-001	WHITE
H2	C2	MMP-047	BLACK
H11	C62	MMP-001	FLAT WHITE
H12	C33	MMP-047	FLAT BLACK
H15	C65		BRIGHT BLUE
H47	C41	MMP-012	RED BROWN
H65	C18	MMP-088	RLM70 BLACK GREEN
H68	C36	MMP-049	RLM74 DARK GRAY
H69	C37	MMP-050	RLM75 GRAY
H70	C60	MMP-056	RLM02 GRAY
H77	C137	MMP-040	TIRE BLACK
H90	C47		CLEAR RED

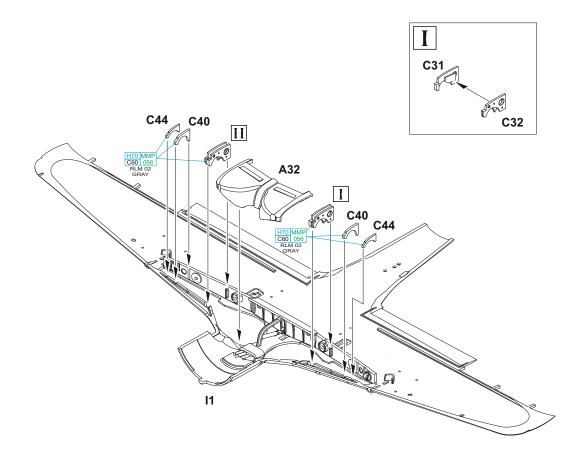
GSi Creos (GUNZE)		MISSION MODELS	
AQUEOUS	Mr.COLOR	PAINTS	
H94	C138		CLEAR GREEN
H413	C113	MMP-090	RLM04 YELLOW
H414	C114	MMP-003	RLM23 RED
H416	C116	MMP-089	RLM66 BLACK GRAY
H417	C117	MMP-051	RLM76 LIGHT BLUE
H421	C121	MMP-052	RLM81 BROWN VIOLET
H422	C122	MMP-053	RLM82 LIGHT GREEN
Mr.METAL COLOR		METALLICS	
MC213		MMM-006	STEEL
MC214		MMM-001	DARK IRON
Mr.COLOR SUPER METALLIC		METALLICS	
SM201		MMC-001	SUPER FINE SILVER 2

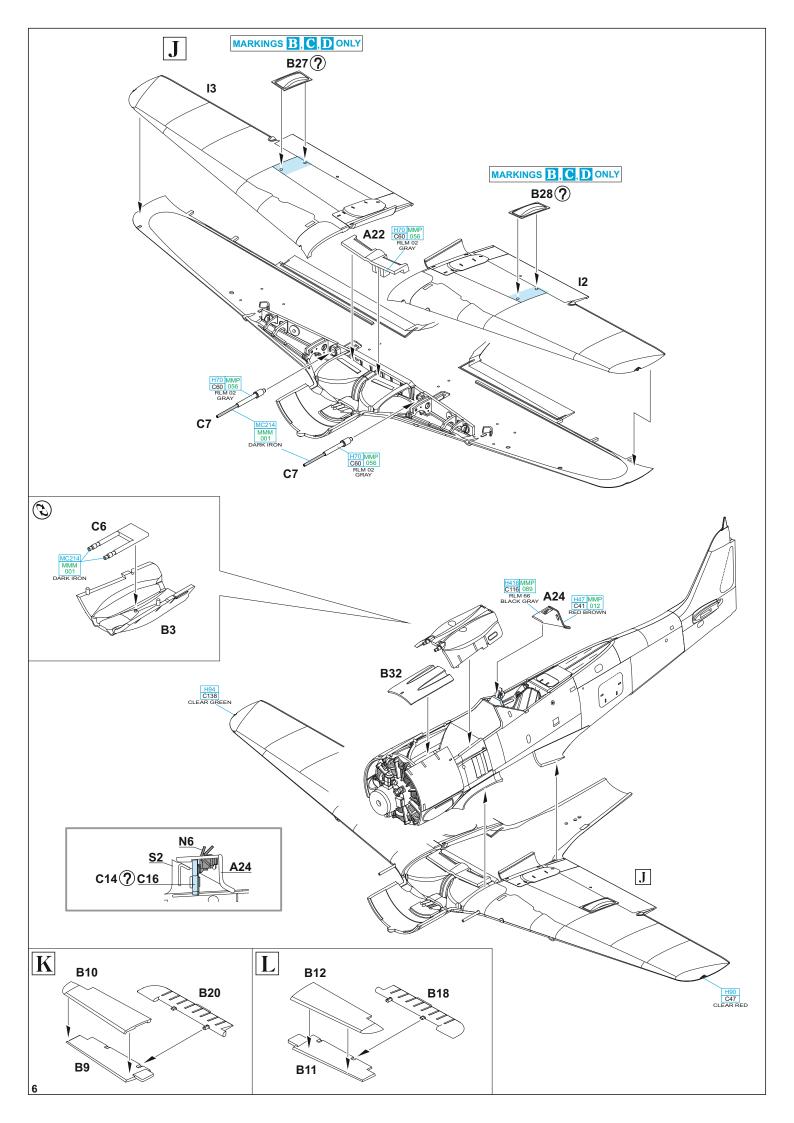


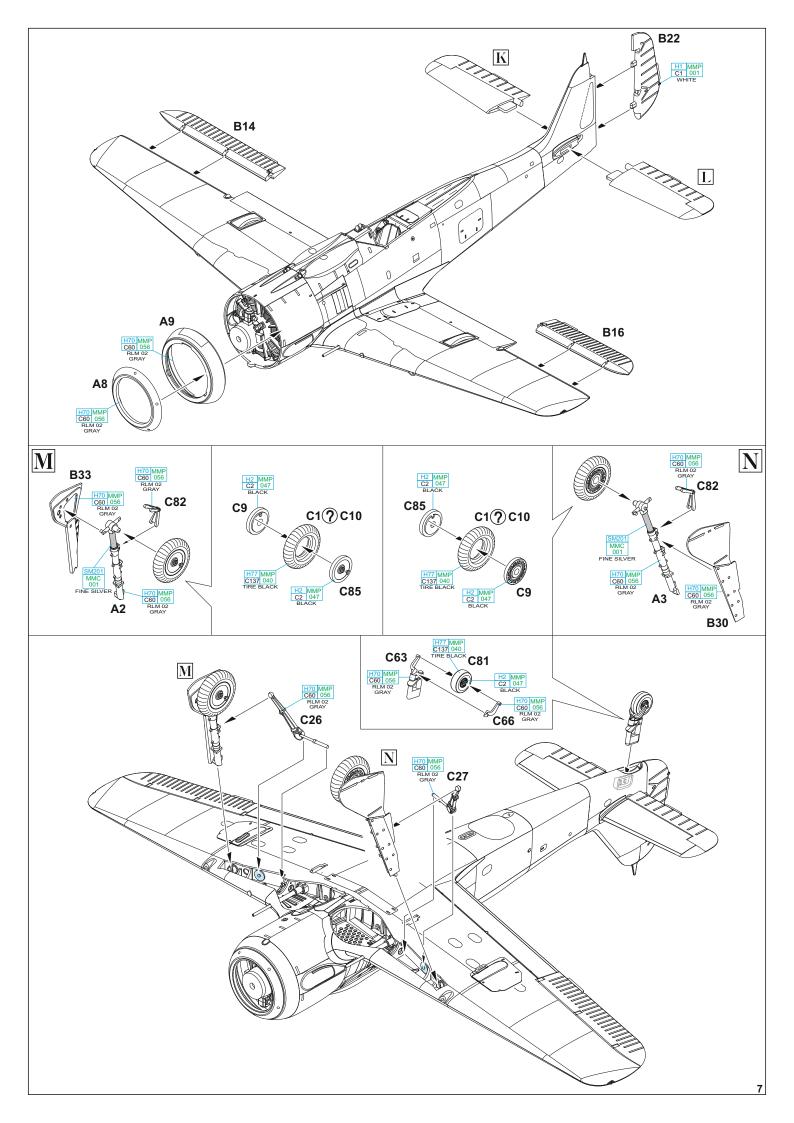


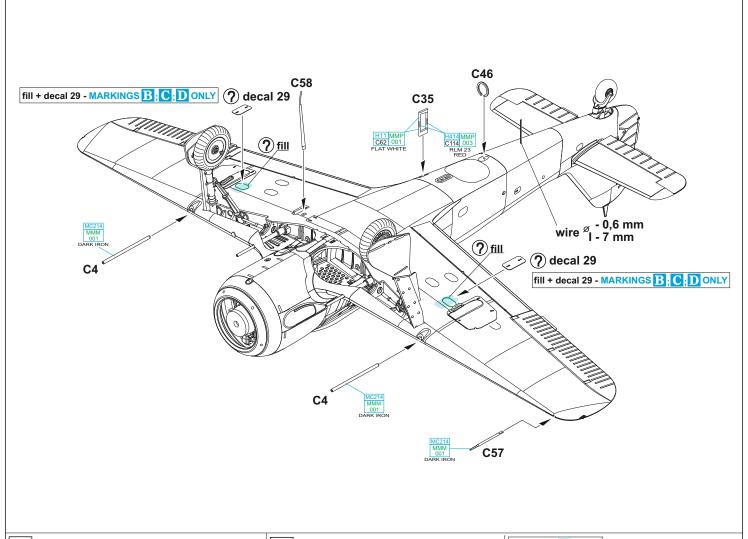


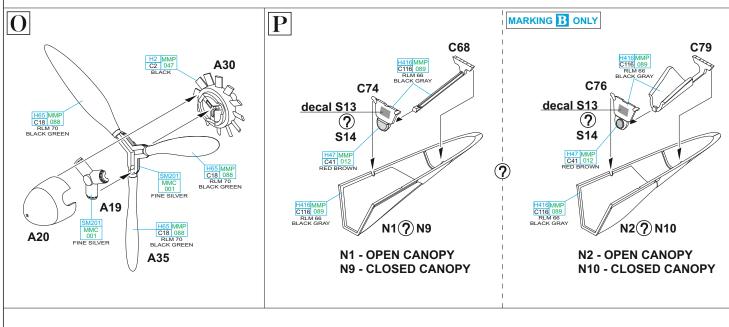


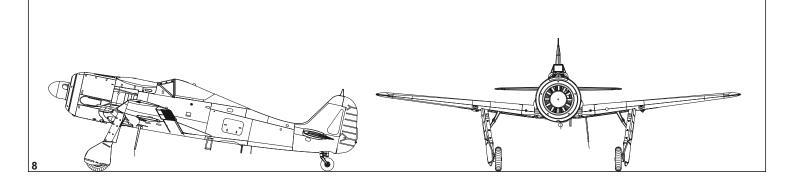


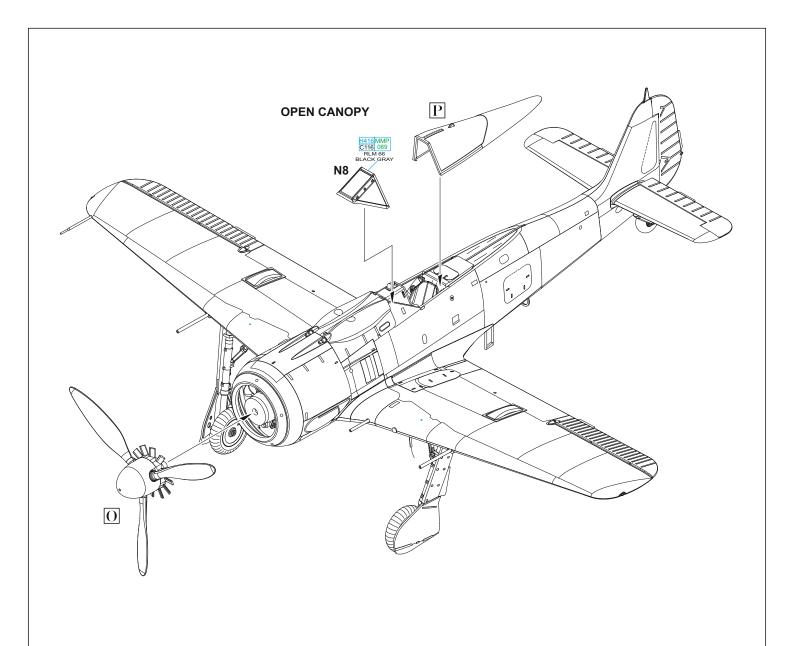


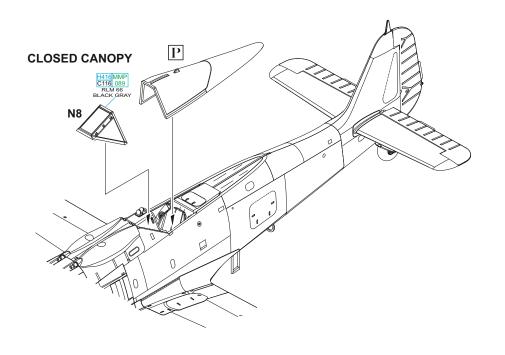


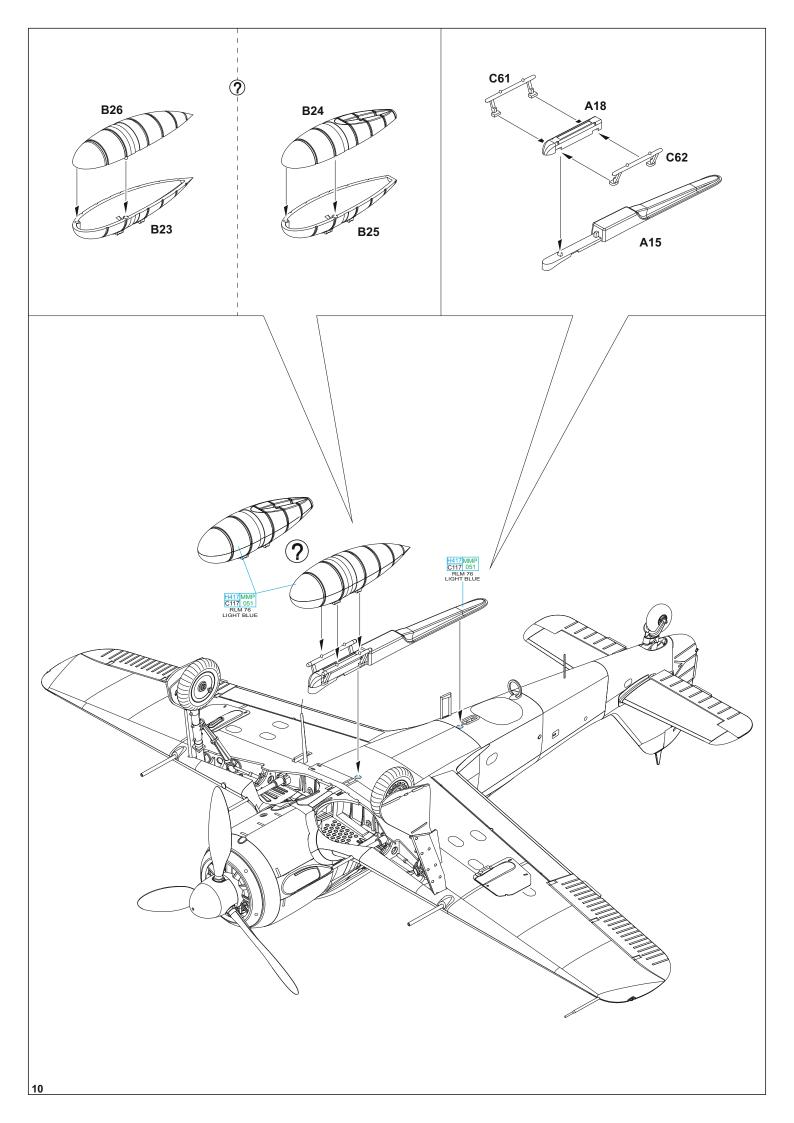






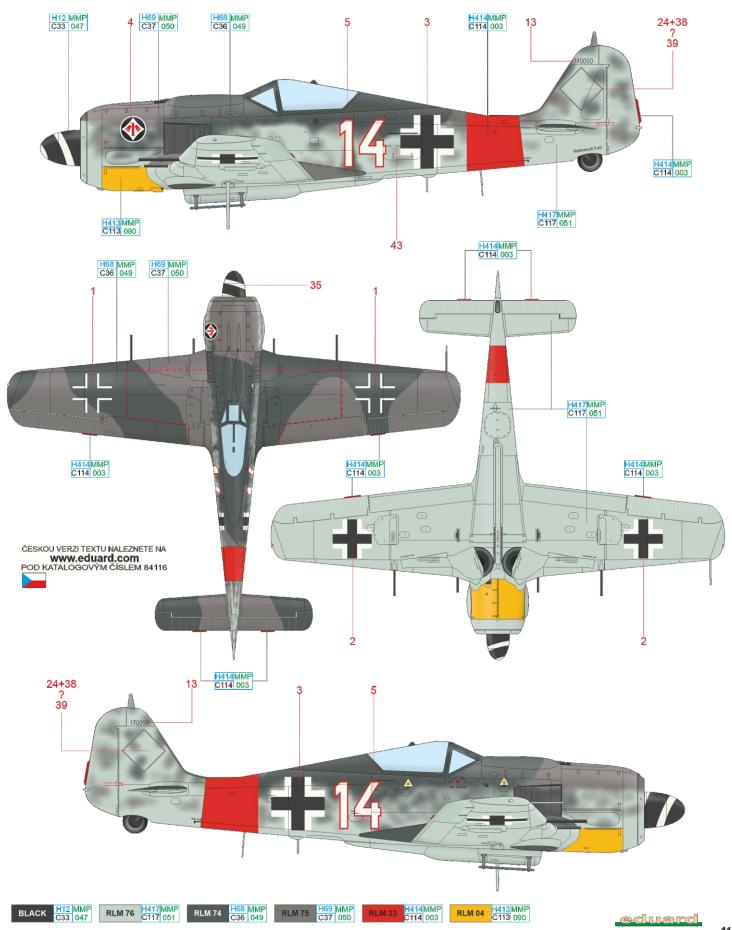






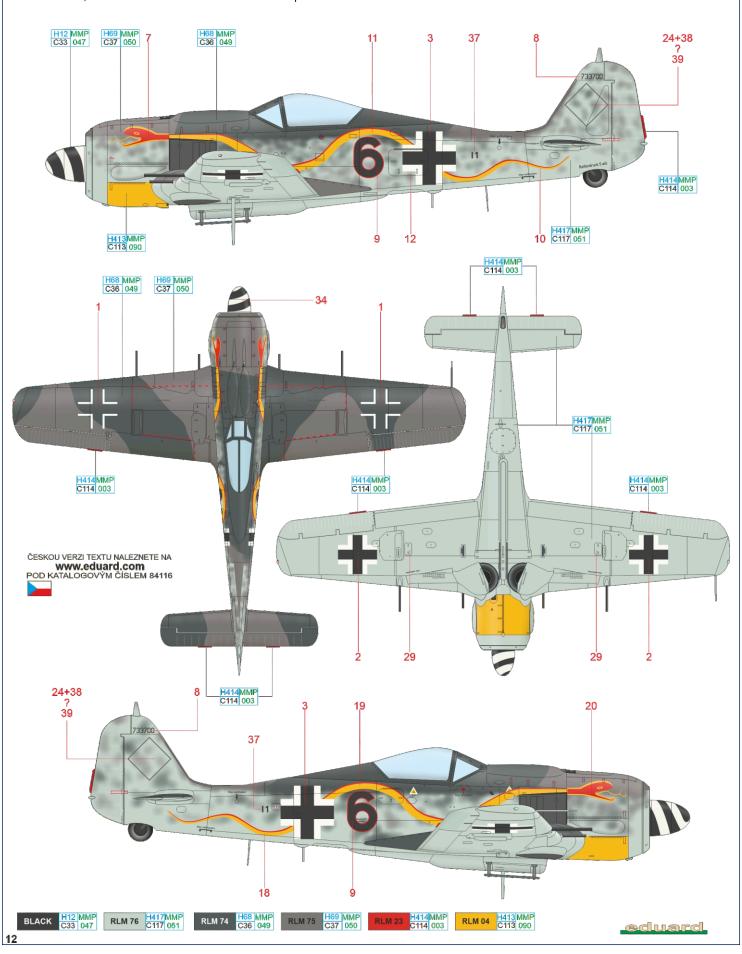
MNr. 170050, Lt. Heinz-Günther Lück, 1./JG 1, Bad Lippspringe, Germany, April 1944

Lt. Heinz-Günther Lück flew with JG 1 during his whole combat career. He was credited with five kills in total, all of them four-engined B-17s. On April 9, 1944 his Fw 190A-8 "white 14" was hit in the engine by the defense fire while he was attacking the formation of the American bombers and Lt. Heinz-Günther Lück was forced to perform an emergency landing on the island of Ørø near Stokkeby. His wingman in "white 3" landed alongside. Lück was wounded when his head hit the instrument panel and was treated for the resulting concussion at the hospital in Erøskøbing. In the following days the aircraft was dismantled and transported away. Lt. Heinz-Günther Lück was re-patriated back to Germany and to his unit JG 1 where he fought until the end of hostilities.



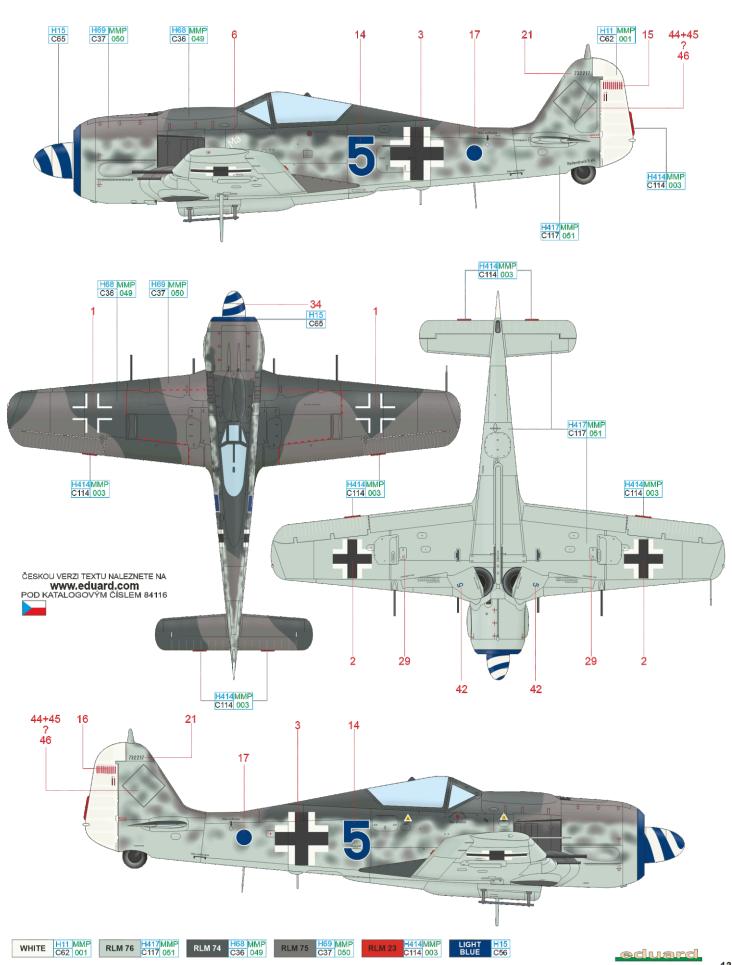
WNr. 733700, Uffz. Günther Pape, 3./JGr. 10, Jüteborg, Germany, November 1944

The aircraft flying with 3./JGr 10 were equipped with the 210 mm diameter rocket launchers installed on the bottom of the fuselage. This rear-firing device was used for attacking the formations of the American bombers. During September and October 3./JGr 10 suffered heavy losses inflicted by the American escort fighters and the unit had to withdraw for the scheduled rest and replenishment. "Black 6" does not feature the rocket launcher which could be removed at any time. "Black 6" was decorated by the yellow snake with red head and red outlined back painted on both sides of the fuselage. On April 5, 1945 Uffz. Günther Pape was shot down and killed over Thüringen in the duel with P-47 piloted by Lt. L. Dean from 393rd FS/367th FG. On November 8, 1997 his remains were found and Günther Pape was burried in Hotzelrod at Eisenach.



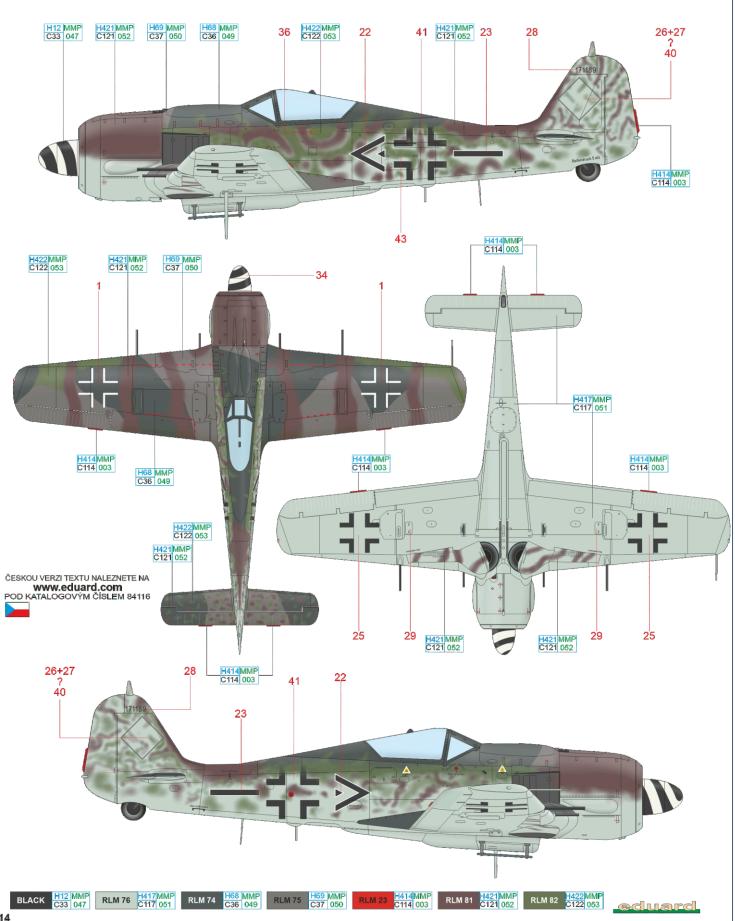
WNr. 732217, Uffz. Heinz Birk, 12./JG 5, Herdla, Norway, February 1945

Since summer 1944 Uffz. Heinz Birk flew with 7./JG 5 and 10./JG 5. In the fall of 1944 he was transferred to 12./JG 5 where he flew Fw 190A-8 "blue 5" WNr. 732217. Operating out of Herdla airport in Norway JG 5 fought against Soviet VVS and RAF. The photographs dated from February 1945 capture the "blue 5" with twelve kill markings on the rudder. Eleven of them are painted with red stars and one with English cocade. Uffz. Heinz Birk survived the war.



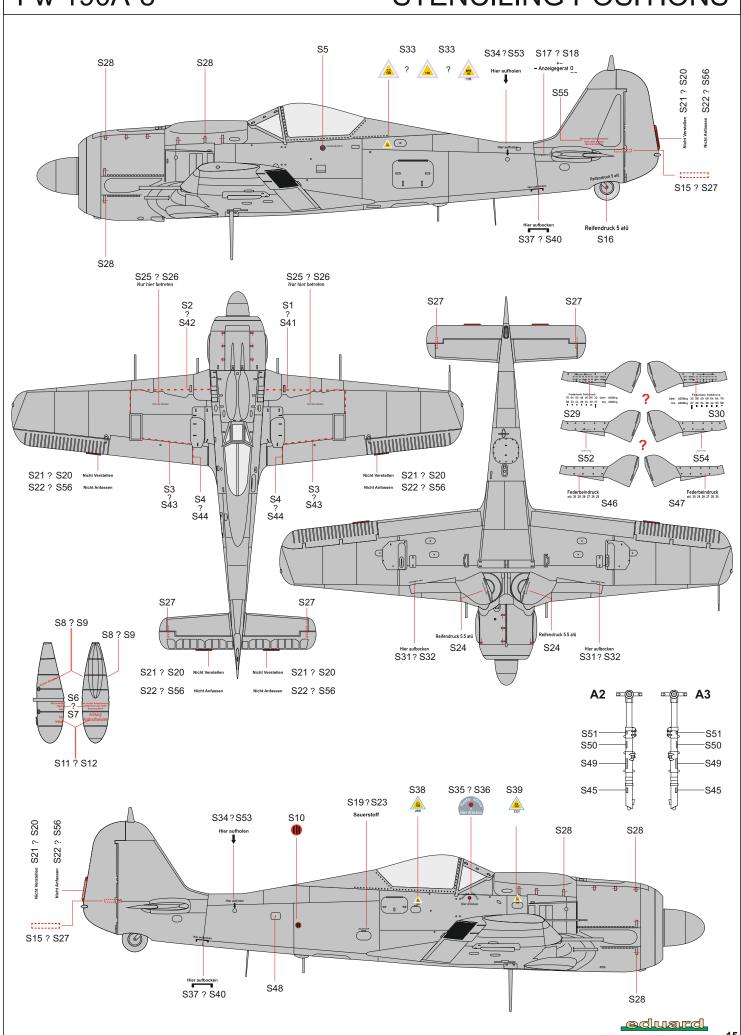
WNr. 171189, Maj. Karl Kennel, CO of II./SG 2, Kitzingen, Germany, May 1945

In the beginning of April 1945 the II./SG 2 commanded by Gruppenkommandeur Major Karl Kennel was located, together with Ju 87G from 10.(Pz)/SG 2 and 10.(Pz)/SG 77 at Mimoň-Kummer airport. Until the end of war the airport was constantly raided by Americans and Soviets. On April 21, 1945 the SG 2 command was assumed by Geschwaderkommodore Oberst Hans-Ulrich Rudel, who sortied with the whole SG 2 for missions against the Red Army and 2^{nd} Polish Army tanks and vehicles in the vicinity of Lobendava and Bautzen. On May 8, 1945 the Soviet Pe-2s and P-39s attacked the retreating German columns fleeing Mimoň to reach the Americans. The raid was unsuccessfull and the Mimoň center suffered damages from it. Major Karl Kennel escaped to Kitzingen in his Fw 190A-8 WNr. 171189. The aircraft was damaged upon landing. It carried the standard camouflage in RLM 74/75/76 with additional mottling in RLM 81/82.



Fw 190A-8

STENCILING POSITIONS



Eduard goodies for

Fw 190A-8

