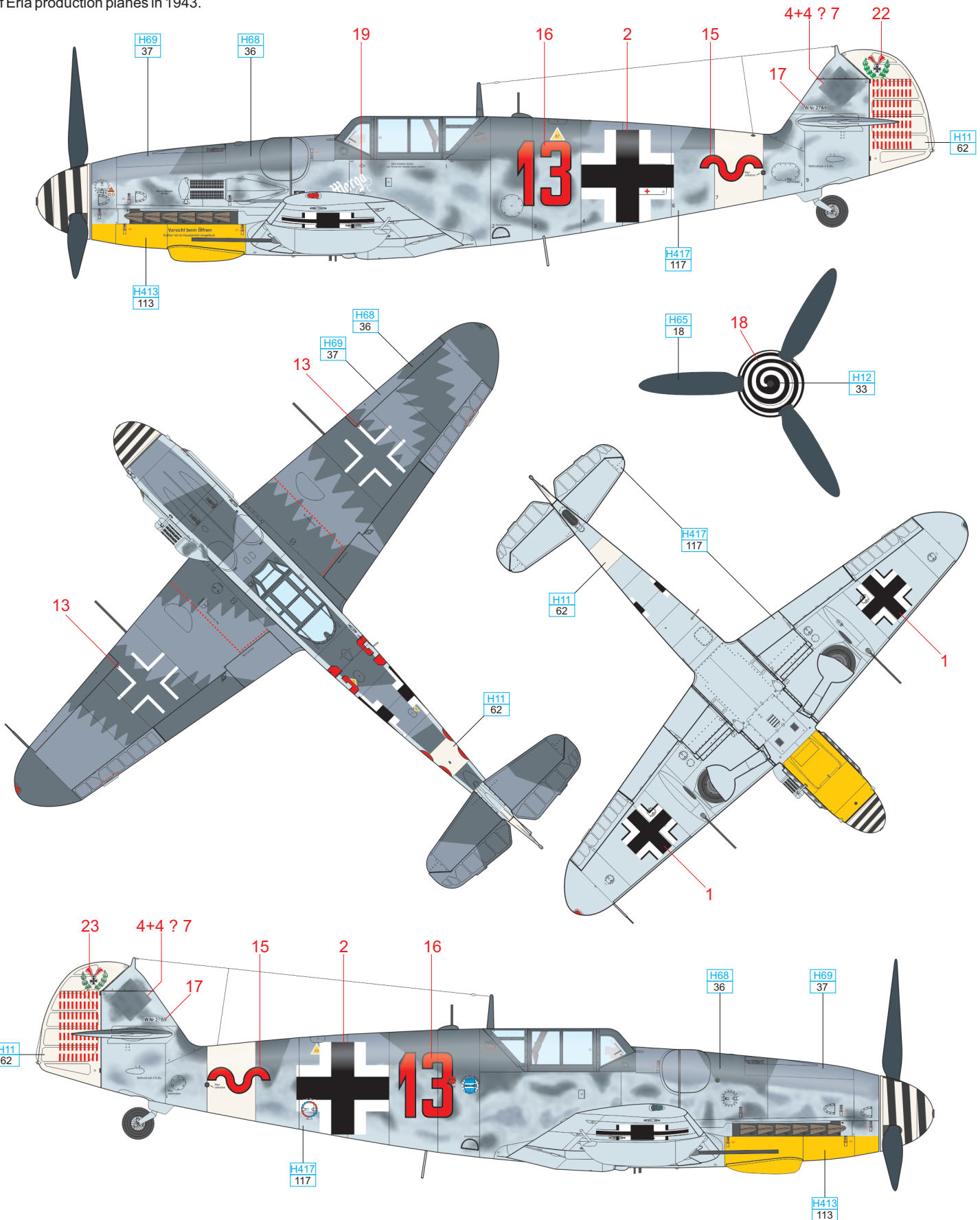


A W.Nr. 27169, Flown by Fw. Heinrich Bartels, 11./JG 27, Kalamaki Airfield, November, 1943

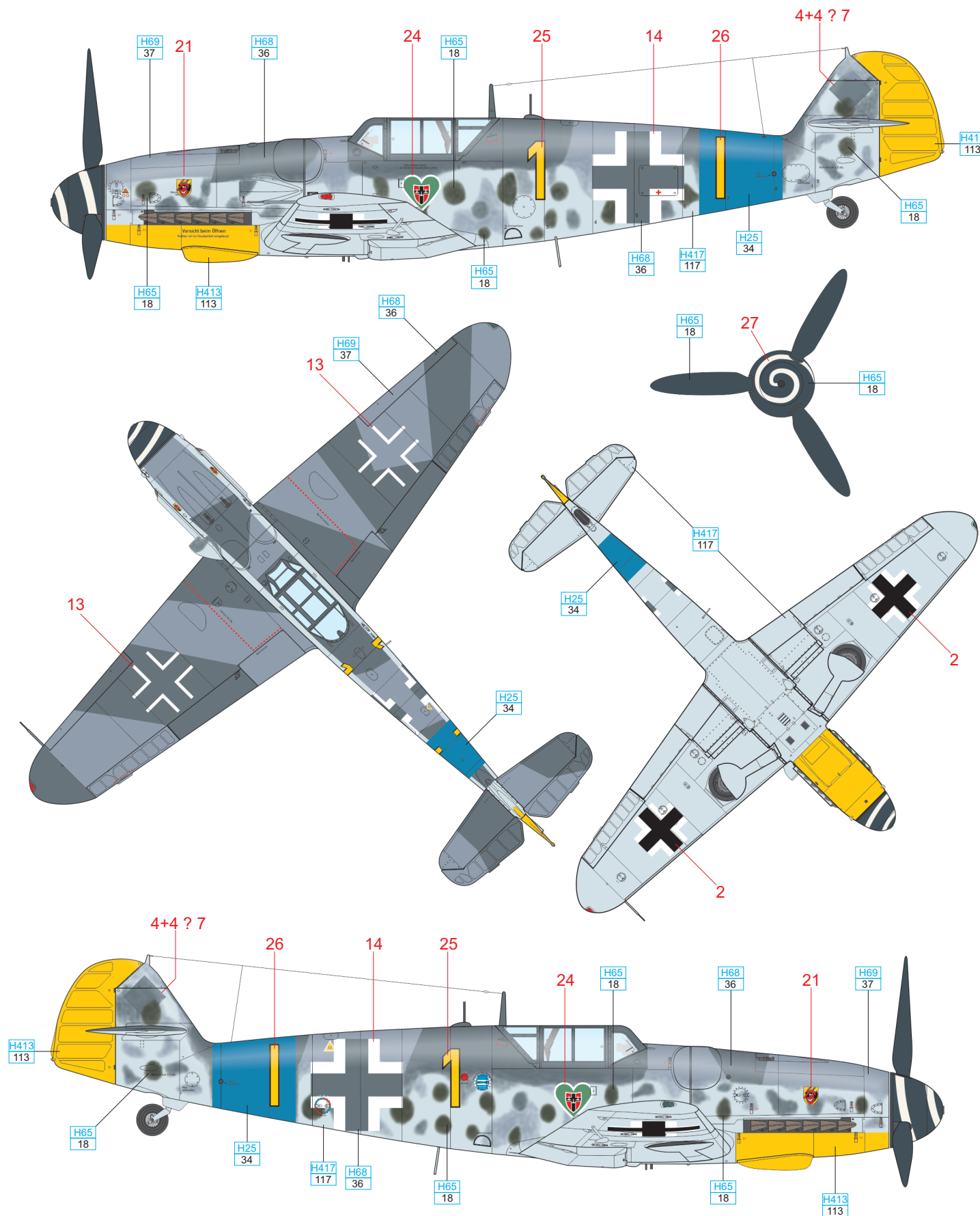
Heinrich Bartels's military career was launched on the Western Front. In August 1941, as a member of Erg./JG 26, Bartels downed two Spitfires over the Channel. Afterwards he served with JG 5 in Northern Europe and managed to shoot down 47 Soviet aircraft. As a member of JG 27, he downed 50 more enemy aircraft. Bartels met his ultimate fate on December 23, 1944. He clashed with American Thunderbolts, and despite managing to bag one of them, he failed to return to his home field. His fate remained unknown till January, 1968, when remains of his Bf 109 G were discovered. The unused parachute found in the cockpit is exhibited in the Deutsches Technikmuseum Berlin. Photographs of Bartels's G-6 were taken on November 15, 1943 (or a few days thereafter) when Bartels achieved his 70th victory. Seventy kill marks (Abschussbalken) are painted on the rudder along with the Knight's Cross. Bartels was awarded this medal a year before, on November 13, 1942. Note the saw-toothed demarcation between the camouflage colors on the wings, typical for part of Erlo production planes in 1943.



WHITE	H11 62	YELLOW	H413 113	RLM 76	H417 117	RLM 74	H68 36	RLM 75	H69 37	RLM 70	H65 18	BLACK	H12 33
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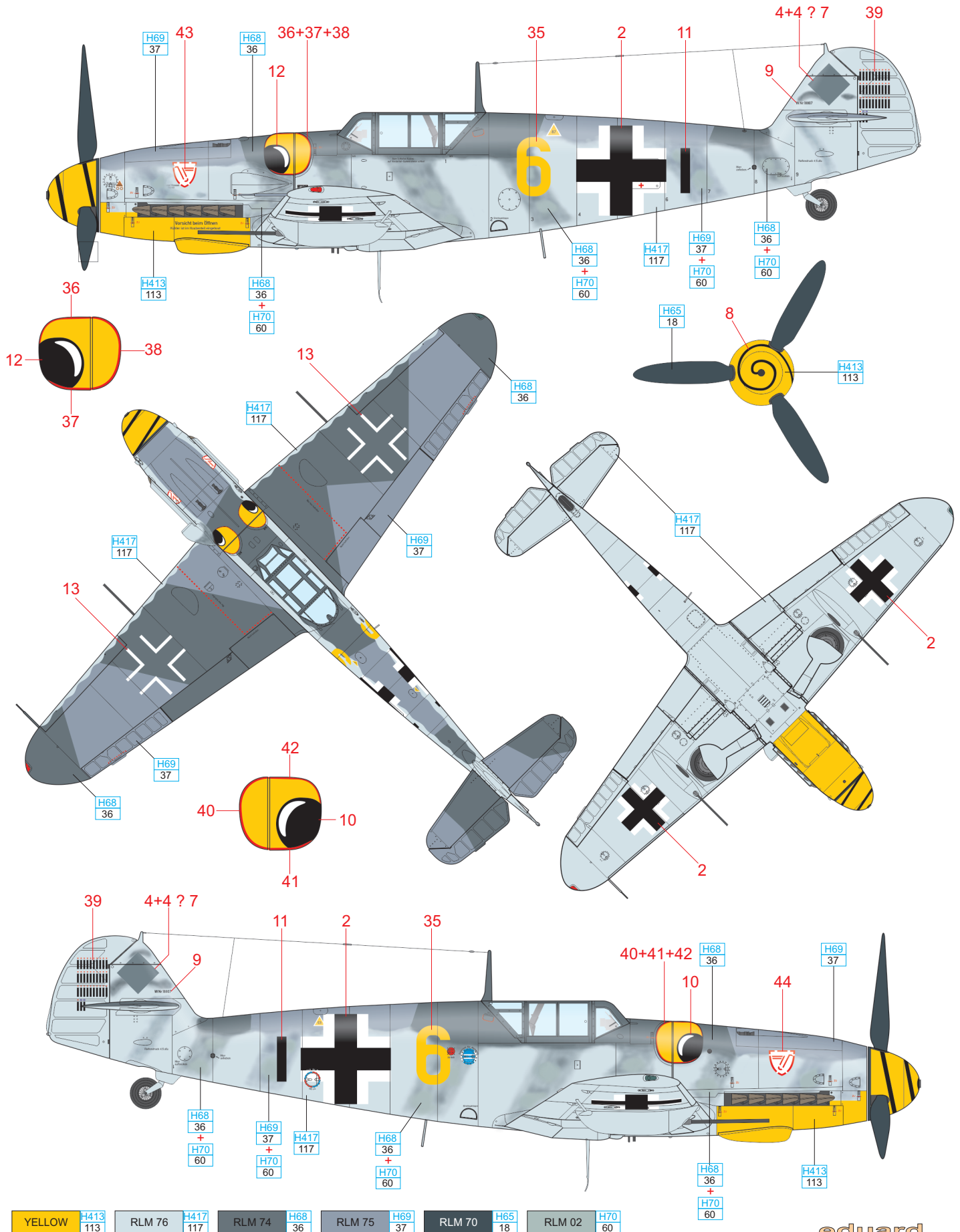
B W.Nr. 440141, Flown by Oblt. Wilhelm Schilling, CO of 9./JG 54, Ludwigslust Air Base, February , 1944

The very first enemy aircraft destroyed by Wilhelm Schilling was a Hurricane on May 12, 1940 over Brussels. Afterwards, as a member of JG 54, he added 50 confirmed and 13 probable kills, most of them over the Eastern Front. Schilling made an emergency landing with the aircraft depicted on February 20, 1944. He was shot down trying to oppose the Allied bombing campaign known as The Big Week. Ludwigslust Air Base was situated in the north of Germany and was JG 54's home at that time. Schilling was awarded the Ritterkreuz on October 10, 1942 for his then 46 victories. Schilling's aircraft sports a wide range of various markings. The green heart under the canopy was a JG 54 badge, the III. Gruppe badge is painted inside the heart. The devil's head on the engine cowling identifies a 9. Staffel aircraft. The blue tail band was painted on JG 54 aircraft that took part in the Third Reich defense.



SKY BLUE	H25 34	YELLOW	H413 113	RLM 76	H417 117	RLM 74	H68 36	RLM 75	H69 37	RLM 70	H65 18
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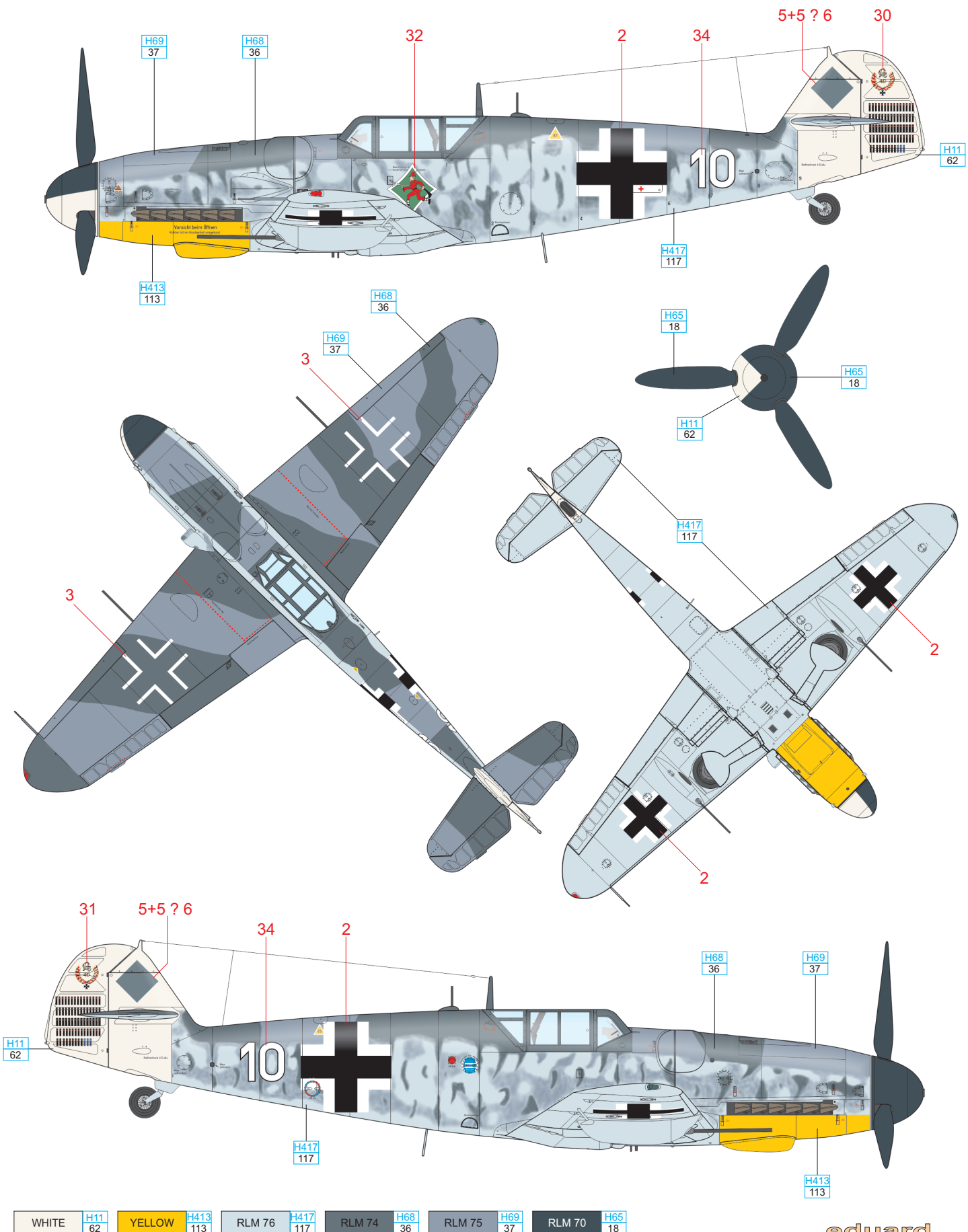
This aircraft was flown by Ofw. Alfred Surau, a fighter ace credited with 45 victories (some sources claim 46). Surau's first victim hit the ground in Russia on February 28, 1943. He served on the Eastern Front till the end of August, 1943. The first kills in the West were two B-17s in September, 1943. Two more were added to Surau's tally on October 1. His last combat sortie came on October 14, 1943. Surau took part in an aerial battle with US bombers over Schweinfurt, but B-17 gunners hit his G-6. Surau was seriously wounded and died the same day in a Wertheim hospital. The excess paint on the gun cowling identified 9./JG 3 aircraft, and the JG 3 badge is painted on the engine cowling. The rudder could be painted in yellow. The RLM 02 splotches were sprayed on fuselage sides.



YELLOW	H413 113	RLM 76	H417 117	RLM 74	H68 36	RLM 75	H69 37	RLM 70	H65 18	RLM 02	H70 60
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D Flown by Oblt. Alfred Grislawski, CO of 1./JGr.50, Wiesbaden – Erbenheim Air Base, September, 1943

Jagdgruppe 50 was created on August 15, 1943 from Jagdgruppe Süd der ObdL that was formed as a high altitude fighter unit to combat recce Mosquitos on July 21, 1943. JGr.50 was led by Hermann Graf who gave birth to the unit's crest painted under the canopy. The Red Hunter symbolized the German Luftwaffe soccer team known under the nickname 'die Roten Jäger'. Graf was a member of this team, along with then German national team members. The unit existed for only a few months, and in October 1943 was incorporated into I./JG 301. Alfred Grislawski was the CO of 1./JGr.50 and the formation leader, as can be seen from the white tail. He served with JG 1 and JG 53 afterwards, and his total score accounted for 133 victories. Grislawski was awarded the Knight's Cross on July 1, 1943 and with Oak Leaves on April 11, 1944.



E Flown by Maj. Ludwig Franzisket, CO of I./JG 27, Early 1944

Ludwig Franzisket achieved his first victories in May 1940 over the Netherlands as a member of 1./JG 1. He took part in the battle of France, and fought in North Africa with JG 27. He was awarded the Ritterkreuz (Knight's Cross) on July 23, 1941 for 22 victories. In the summer of 1943, he became the CO of I./JG 27. His unit was tasked with the opposing of Allied raids over Germany. Among other victories, Franzisket added two B-17s downed over Schweinfurt to his score on October 14, 1943. By the end of the war, Franzisket managed to shoot down 43 enemy airplanes including four B-17s. The wide green tail band identifies aircraft flown by JG 27 as part of the Defence of the Reich. The JG 27 badge, painted on both sides of the cowling, refers to the geschwader's combat deployment in Africa. The double chevron was painted on airplanes flown by Gruppe leaders and the white rudder is a marking of formation leaders.

