

W.Nr. 551099, flown by Uffz. Willi Maximowitz, Dortmund, Germany, January - March 1944

With the onslaught of American bomber raids conducted by the 8th and 15th Air Forces against targets in Germany, it became imperative to develop tactics to counter the four engine heavies, establish test units, and to equip them with aircraft possessing the needed capabilities. This task was entrusted to Hans-Günther von Kornatzki in the fall of 1943, the Commanding Officer of the newly established Sturmstaffel 1, equipped with the Fw 190A-6. One of the unit's volunteers was Uffz. Willi Maximovitz, formerly of JG 1. He got his first kill in January 1944 and by the end of the war, had racked up another twenty-six. The aircraft used by Sturmstaffel 1 were equipped with the side armour panels protecting the cockpit, and an armoured windscreen, along with armoured glass panels on the sides of the sliding portion of the canopy. The latter were dubbed 'Scheuklappe', a reference to horse blinds.

