





On 16th of April, four Gustavs took off from Lučko on a reconnaissance mission. Over Sinj, str Vladimir Sandter in black "4" and str Josip Ceković in black "10" dropped back and then broke-off on a southwestern course over Adriatic towards Italy. Reaching the shore north of Ancona and seeing Allied airfield, both men lowered their undercarriage, waggled their wings and fired red and white recognition flares. Black "4" landed at Falconara and black "10" at lesi landing ground. The plane had been taken over by 3 Wing SAAF (South African Air Force), got new markings although

Black "10" had been delivered to ZNDH in December 1944. The plane had standard RLM 74/75/76 factory camo.

its subsequent fate remains unknown.



Falling under command of Luftflotte 4, it received the mandatory yellow theatre markings made up of a fuselage band and "V" shaped chevron of the lower side of left wing and white spiral on the spinner. German insignia had been overpainted with a brush coat of probably RLM 65 (fuselage and lower wings surfaces) and probably RLM 71 (upper wings surfaces). ZNDH insignias, in form of Croat red-white chessboards, were applied on both sides of the wings and fin.

Black four-digit serial (2110) were painted on the fuselage.

The stylized ram in square (2.ZLJ emblem) might be painted under the cockpit.

At the beginning of February 1945 a new national insignia, the Zvonimir cross, was introduced into ZNDH. Old chessboard on the wings had been overpainted with a brush coat of RLM 65 / RLM 70 and new crosses had been applied (pretty clumsily and asymmetrically). The new cross had been painted just aft of the cockpit, and yellow stylized ram in square had been painted under cockpit. On top of the tail chessboard, a stylized red-white pattern with black U letter had been added.

had been painted under cockpit. On top ot the tail chessboard, a stylized red-white pattern with black U letter had been added. Serial on the fuselage had been overpainted (probably RLM 65) and individual number "10" had been painted (pretty clumsily) in the same place in black colour.

The last change in recognition markings was ordered in the beginning of April 1945 when yellow rudder and band around the nose tip became mandatory. The yellow "V" chevron on the left wing and fuselage band had to be removed, but again it was done in an unwieldy way with a brush coat of probably RLM 70 and / or RLM 71.

In SAAF plane received SAAF (or RAF) roundels covering Zvonimir crosses and fin-flash over the Croat chessboard. Additionally, serial number (464068) on the right side had been overpainted with kind of grey colour (probably Medium Sea Grey)

Some sources tells that this plane received white "27" number on the nose. In our opinion, after a careful analysis of the available good-quality photographs, we tend to conclude that this is not a complete number "27" painted, but rather some kind of chalk drawings or even some scratches on the cowling surface.



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