



# xperten Decals

ED-2A



## “Checkmate”

*Gelbe 3 / B3+?T*

*Me 262 A-1a, WNr. 17030?*

*III./KG(J) 54*

**AUTHORS:** *David E. Brown and David Wadman*

**ARTWORK:** *Thomas A. Tullis and Kathleen A. Tullis*

This publication, ED No.2-A, focuses on a fascinating aircraft, *Gelbe* (Yellow) 3, whose markings confirm without a doubt the identity of the one of the units with the “chequerband” tails. Also, its distinctive camouflage provides new insights into the surprising variability of Me 262 camouflage schemes and colours employed by the *Luftwaffe* during the last chaotic year of the war.

### Dedication

This publication is dedicated to the memories of Jeffery L. Ethell and Lorenz Rasse, two outstanding contributors to World War II aviation history. Their recent passings have left a great void with all those who have been exposed to their accomplishments, support, enthusiasm and pure joy of discovery. There will be no others like them and they shall be missed.

### Introduction

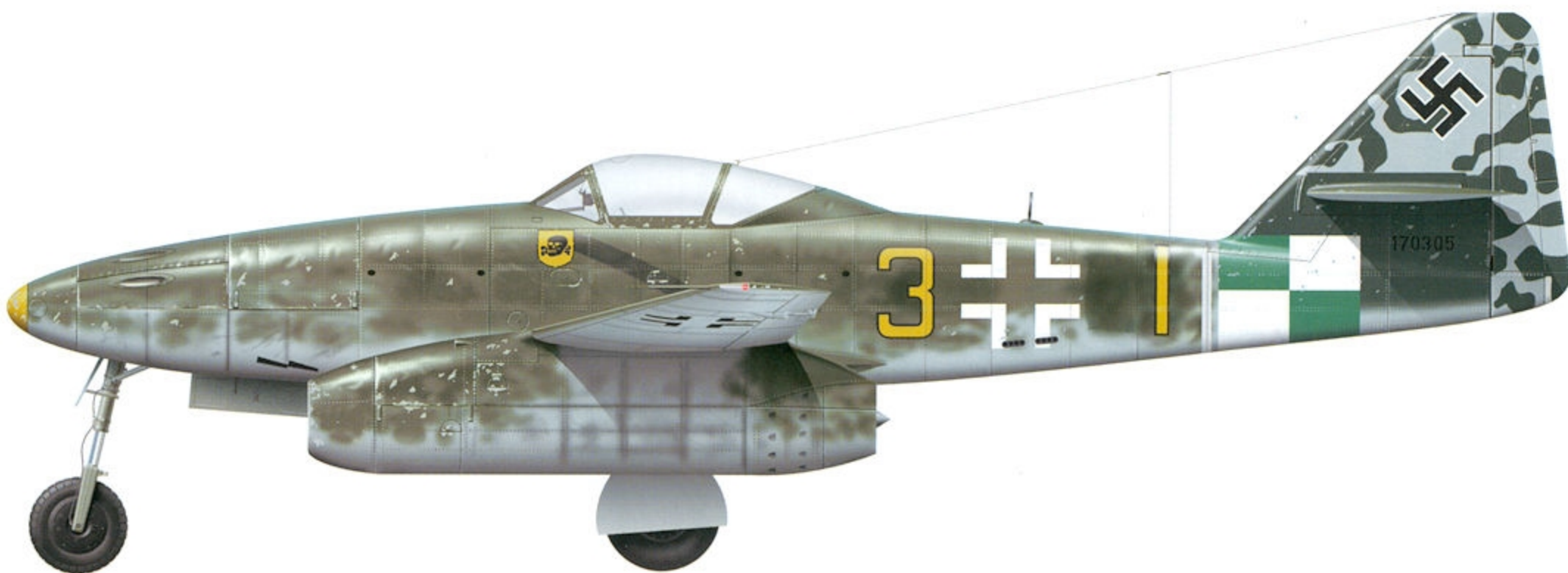
We believe that *Gelbe* (yellow) 3 was one of the first Me 262s received by I./KG 54 in October/November 1944, was transferred to the III. Gruppe and soldiered on with that unit until it was ordered to turn over its remaining jets to JV 44 on April 18, 1945 (Radtke, 1990). Documents indicate that the unit was but a shell of its former self, as a ledger detailing the unit assignments of all Me 262s produced up to April 10, 1945 indicates that only three aircraft were on strength with III./KG(J) 54 in the March 31st to April 10th period (Jurleit, 1993a,

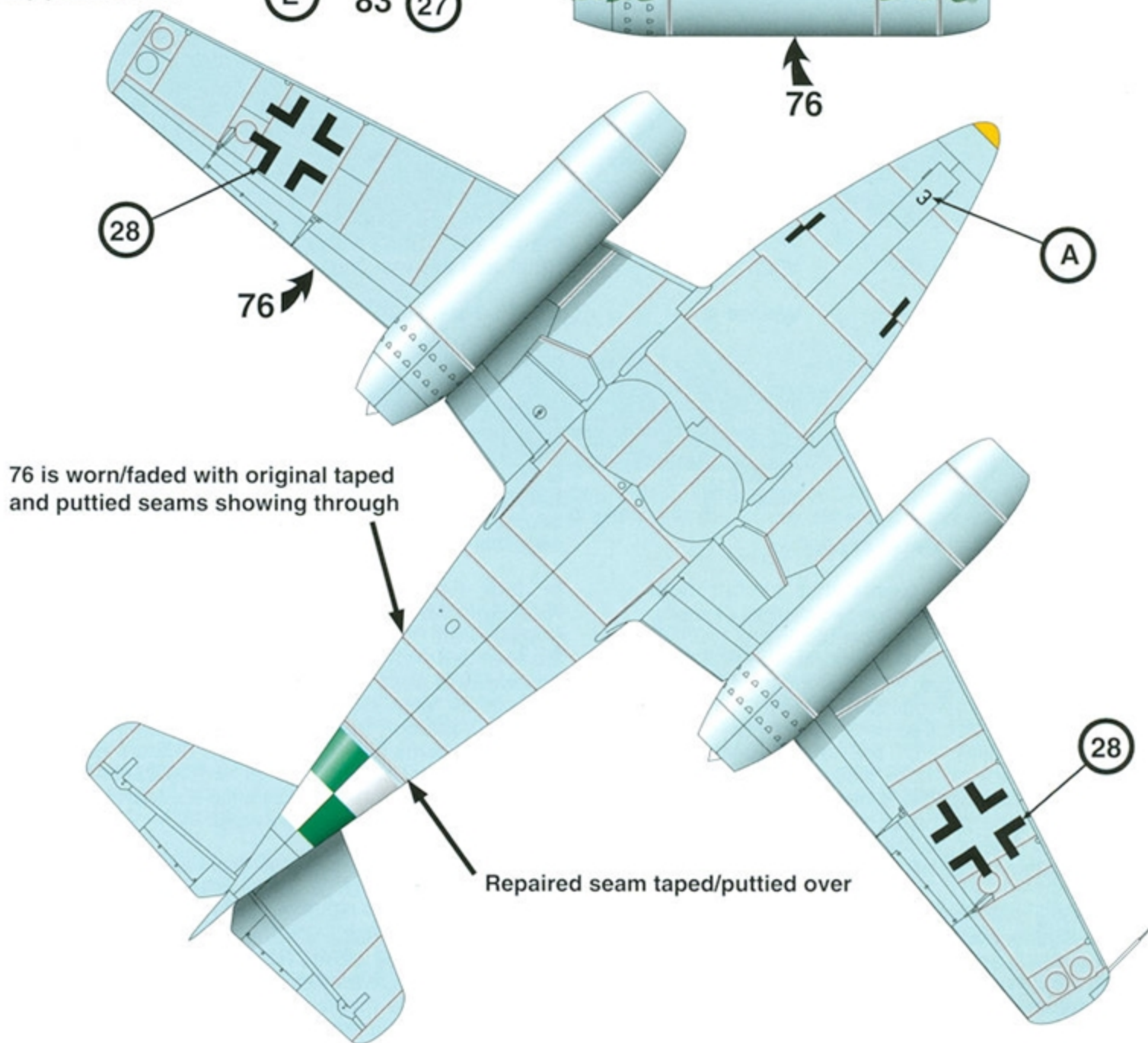
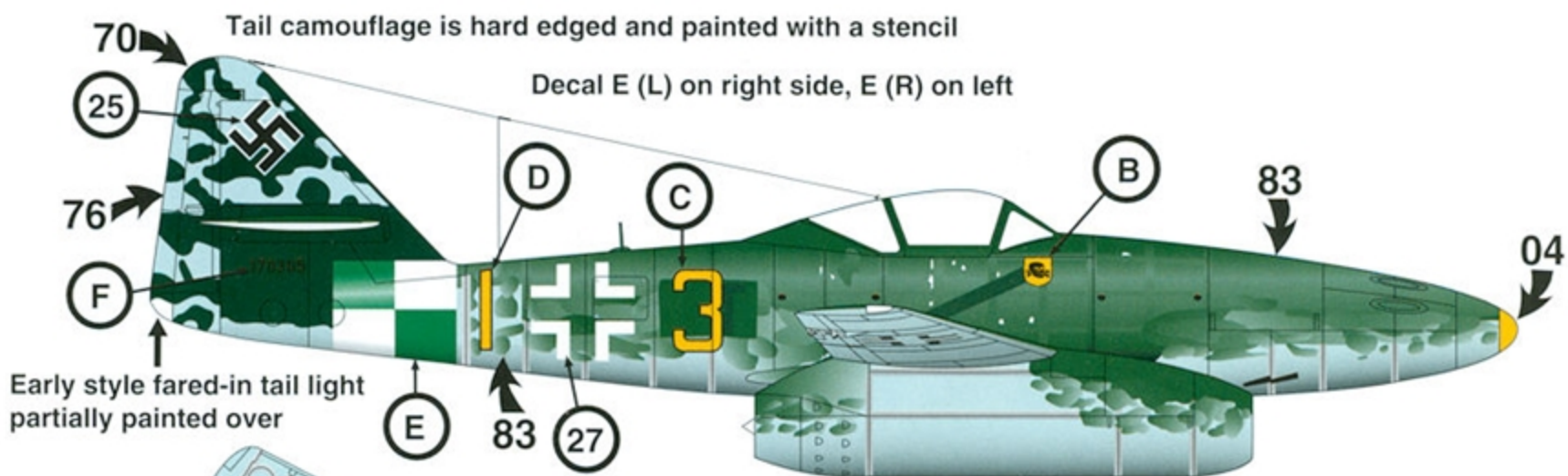
pp.186-187). From the photographic evidence, it can be determined that while *Gelbe* 3 eventually made it to München-Riem, it is unknown if the aircraft was ever used operationally by JV 44. It was finally discovered in a derelict state by US ground forces which occupied the airfield on April 29-30, 1945 (Plate 1; and Forsyth, 1996, p.190, centre-right).









### Camouflage

The photographs of *Gelbe* 3 reveal that it has a very distinctive camouflage scheme, based for the most part on its tail camouflage, with the remaining aircraft having a single upper- and lowersurface colour with minor amounts of mottling (Plates 1 and 2). From our studies, we believe that this single colour uppersurface camouflage scheme was not uncommon to early production Me 262s.

A review of the abundant literature on the Me 262 published over the years indicates that in addition to *Gelbe* 3 at least five other aircraft were camouflaged in the same manner. Of these, four are thought to have originated with a single unit, often identified as *Kommando Nowotny* (III./JG 6). These aircraft, *Weisse* (white) 1, 4, 7 and 19, are well photographed and are seen in the famous line-up of Me 262s filmed in late 1944. However, Boehme (1992, photo caption, unpaginated) claims that the unit has for many years been mis-identified, and states that the images come from an instructional film taken in December 1944 at Achmer of aircraft assigned to *Ergänzungsjagdgeschwader 2* (III./EJG 2),

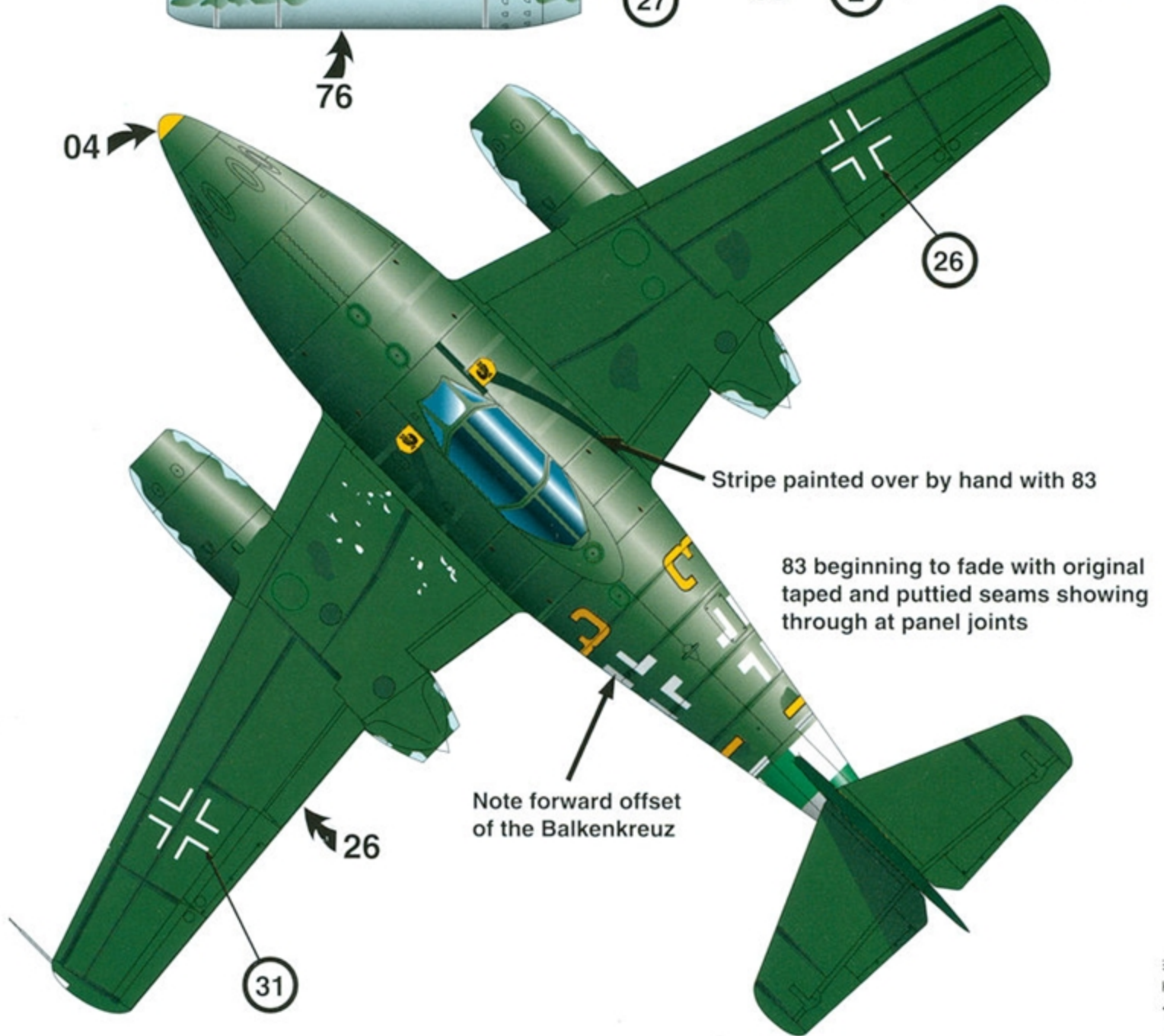
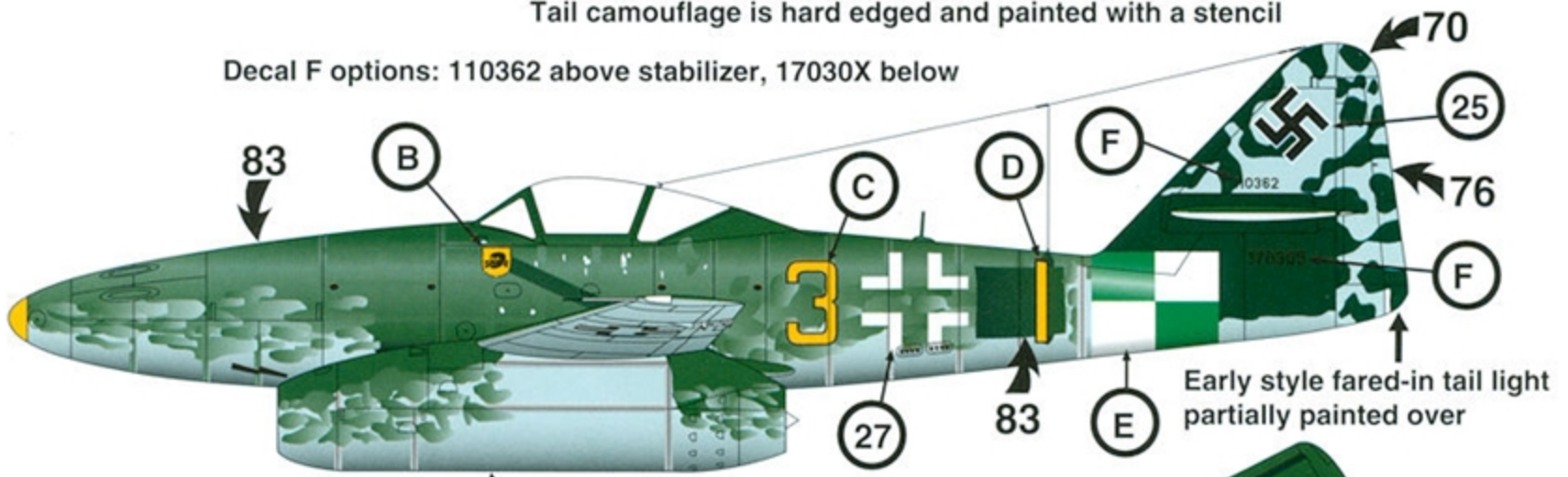




	04 Gelb 04 Yellow		25 Hellgrün 25 Bright Green		83 Dunkelgrün 83 Dark Green
	21 Weiss 21 White		70 Schwarzgrün 70 Black-Green		5 Decal
	22 Schwarz 22 Black		76 Lichtblau 76 Light Blue		

Tail camouflage is hard edged and painted with a stencil

Decal F options: 110362 above stabilizer, 17030X below



**Gelbe 3 / B3+?T**  
**Me 262 A-1a**  
**WNr. 17030?, III./KG(J) 54**