

EagleCals #15

Bf 109 K-4s

The final version of the Messerschmitt 109 series, the Bf 109 K, has always sparked a lot of interest. Unfortunately good photo reference, especially of colorful machines is searce. Much of the available documentation is from photos taken after the war of derelict aircraft many on scrap piles. As a result, much of what we try to identify is speculation. Many of the photos show aircraft that appear to be pieced together and are painted a variety of camouflage colors that are difficult to interpret. The additional wing mounted landing gear doors and tail wheel doors added to the K series are missing on many photos. More than ever, the modeler has to make the final decision.

Reference: 1. Prien, Jochen; Peter Rodeike; Messerschmitt Bf 109 im Einsatz bei der III. und IV/JG 27. Struve-Druck Germany

2. Hitchcock, Thomas. Bf 109 K Monogram Close-Up 16. Monogram Publications USA

3. Janda, Ales and Tomas Poruba. Messerschmitt Bf 109K. JaPo Czech Republic

Photos and film in private collection of Jerry Crandall

Recommended kits: 1/48 - Decals are engineered especially for the mid 1999 release Hasegawa Bf 109 K

For accurate color reference we recommend the Luftwaffe Color Chart published by Eagle Editions Ltd. featuring paint chips prepared by Warnecke and Böhm available from your local hobby shop or Eagle Editions Ltd.

"Red 1" Bf 109 K-4 W. Nr. Unknown Pilot: Unknown 10./JG 27 May 1945

This machine has been previously identified as "Yellow 1".

Colors: Undersurfaces; 76 Light Blue Uppersurfaces; Messerschmitt 81 Brown-Violet (FS 30140)/ 83 Dark Green.

25 Bright Green Reich defense band. Vertical III Gruppe bar and number "1" Red outlined in Black. Vertical fin and rudder appear to be typical 81 with Dark Green spots. Wind screen and canopy framing 66 Black-Gray.

Spinner: Black with White spiral Prop blades: 70 Black-Green. Antennas unknown

Wings are missing, therefore color and camouflage pattern speculative,

National Markings: Fuselage; 900 mm Black with White outline crosses, 300 mm Hakenkreuz Black, no White outline.

Wings: Upper 1000 mm White outline crosses, possibly Black or wing camouflage color with White outline.

Stencilling: Unknown

Lower: probably 900 mm Black with White outline

Reference: #1 page 309 and #2 page 6

"Blue 16" Bf 109 K-4 W. Nr. Unknown Pilot: Unknown 12/JG 27 May 1945 Berlin, Germany

Colors: Undersurfaces; 76 Light Blue possibly Green-Blue. (Blue-Green). Uppersurfaces; 75 Gray-Violet 83 Dark Green,

25 Bright Green Reich defense band. Vertical III Gruppe bar and number "16" Blue outlined in White. Overall paint heavily weathered and stained. Windscreen and canopy framing 66 Black-Gray. Wings & vertical tail missing therefore colors and camouflage pattern speculative. Spinner: Black with White spiral Prop Blades: 70 Black-Green Antennas unknown.

National Markings: Fuselage; 900 mm White outline crosses filled in w/ 83 Dark Green; 300mm Hakenkreuz possible White outline

Wings: Upper - 1000 mm White outline crosses, possibly Black or wing camouflage color with White outline Lower - probably 900 mm Black with White outline crosses.

Stencilling: Some stencilling visible. Port fuel octane triangle partially covered by the "Blue 16".

Reference: #1 page 308

Reference: #3, page 54

"Red 7" Bf 109 K-4 W. Nr. Unknown Pilot: Unknown 10, I/G 27 May 1945 Prague, Czechoslovakia This well-known aircraft is now thought to be "Red 7" of 10/JG 27 by some sources. Originally shown as "Blue 7" of 12/JG 27. Both choices are included.

Colors: Undersurfaces; 76 Light Blue Uppersurfaces: Messerschmitt 81 Brown-Violet (FS 30140)/83 Dark Green. (Based on recovery of crashed K-4 of this unit.) The entire aircraft is dirty and weathered.

Spinner and prop blades: 70 Black-Green.

National Markings: Fuselage; 900mm White outline crosses filled in w/83 Dark Green; 300mm Black Hakenkreuz with White outline.

Wings: Upper - 1000mm crosses 83 Dark Green with White outline.

Lower - probably 900mm Black with White outline crosses.

Lower - probably 900mm Black with write outline crosses Stencilling: Unknown

"White 8" Bf 109 K-4 W. Nr. Unknown Pilot: Unknown Thought to be JG 52 May 1945

This K-4 crash-landed into American held territory escaping the Russians. The markings on this Bf 109 K-4 are not especially colorful but any late war color photos are rare especially Bf 109 Ks, so we chose one as we can accurately document most of the aircraft. Photos were taken from a color film and are reproduced on the instruction sheet. See color photos for reference.

Colors: Undersurfaces; 76 Light Blue (dirty), another source says Yellow-Gray but viewing complete film it is obvious it is 76 Light Blue.

Uppersurfaces, Messerschmitt 81 Brown-Violet (FS 30140)/ 83 Dark Green (Heavily mottled).

Spinner: Black with White spiral Prop Blades:70 Black-Green. Narrow White stripes on upper wing tips probably tape to prevent water leaking into wooden wing tips used on late Bf 109s. Appears to have a White or natural metal irregular spot on port side of engine cowl just above the supercharger intake scoop. All antennas appear to be intact.

National Markings: Fuselage; 900mm White outline crosses filled in w/83 Dark Green, 300 mm Black/White Hakenkreuz partially oversprayed Wings: Upper - 1000mm White outline crosses Lower-Probably 900 mm Black with White outline crosses.

Stencilling: Probably factory standard. Port side fuel octaine triangle positioned directly over the "White 8". Reference: #4 photos

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The color schemes depicted are the artist's interpretations of the available photographic references only. The final decision resides with the modeler.