

Albatros D.III/V Part 2

Limited Edition!

D.Va



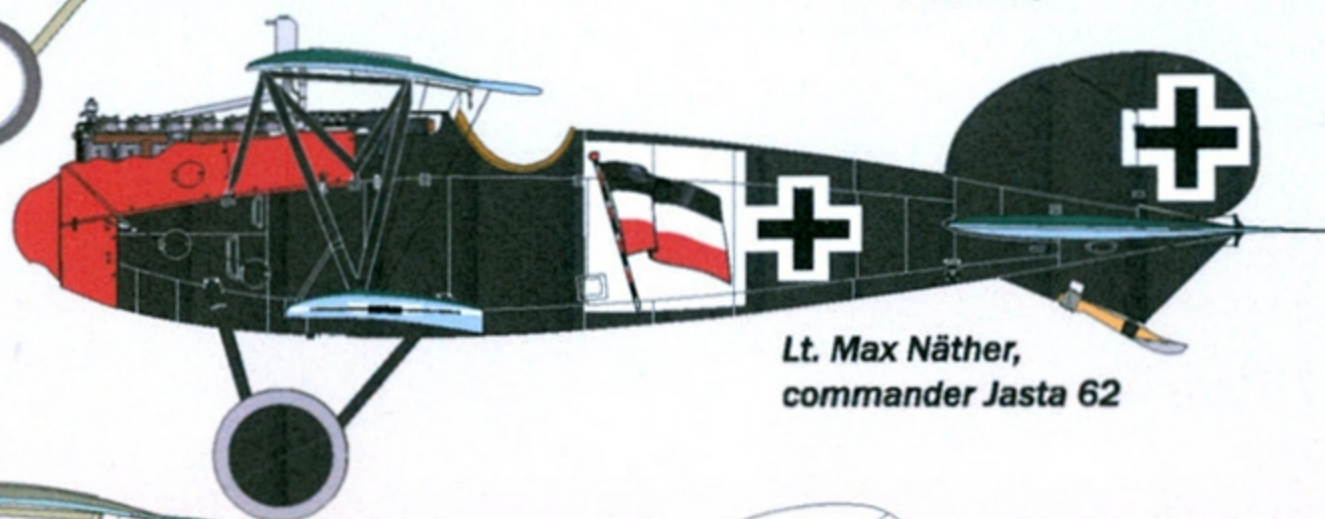
*Vfw. Karl Hopf,
Jasta 76b*

D.V



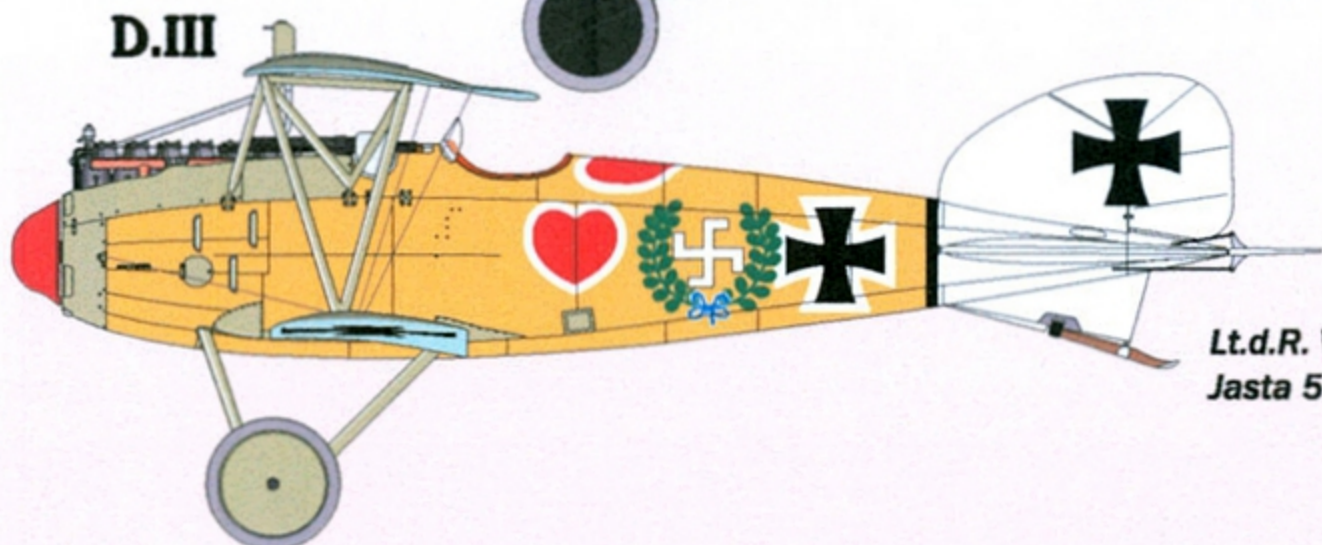
*Lt.d.R. Josef Veltjens,
Jasta 18*

D.Va



*Lt. Max Näther,
commander Jasta 62*

D.III



*Lt.d.R. Werner Voss,
Jasta 5*

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Recommended kit: Eduard Albatros D.V/D.Va

Lifelike Decals wants to hear from you and your input.

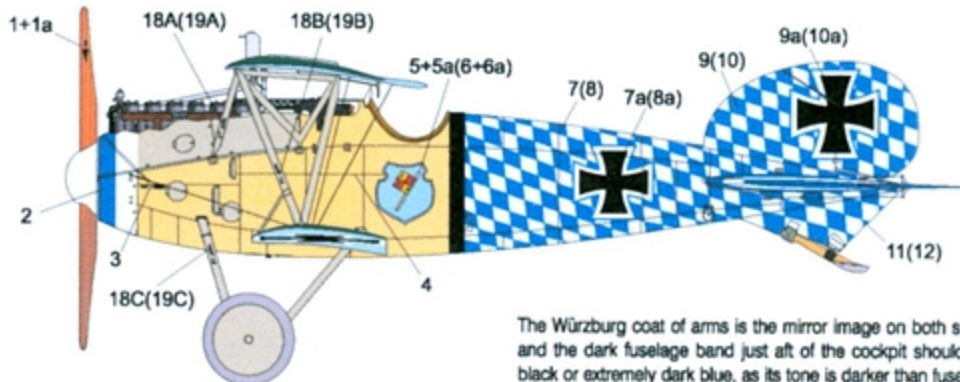
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A/C #1 Albatros D Va, serial unknown, flown by Vfw Karl Hopf, Jasta 76b, Habsheim, around March 1918. (Niendorf propeller) (Eduard kit has somewhat higher deck position and the length between cockpit and tail plane is somewhat short. The marks provided in this decal are specifically adjusted to this kit, so the Bavarian checker would be impossible to apply to other kits.)

This A/C was originally flown by Vfw. Hans Böning, and was handed over to Vfw. Karl Hopf who added the Würzburg coat of arms on the fuselage. The left side view photo is shown in ref. 1, and the right side view is shown in ref. 1, 2, 3 and (more clearly) in ref. 4.

This A/C is very flamboyant with the Bavarian checker on the entire rear fuselage, but to reproduce it by decal is quite difficult. Left side photo shows that the size of the checkers are almost identical, and center lines are rather straight, but continuation of such pattern to the right side does not cover the entire fuselage, and some trick should be made to cover whole right fuselage. Close scrutiny of the right side photo in ref. 2 and 3 shows that the lines from the top deck continues to the middle of fuselage cross, but the lines from the bottom fuselage goes up sharply on the rear fuselage (due to narrower fuselage perimeter), and these two different trends of lines are adjusted very smartly by one checker line disappearing near the bottom of the fuselage cross. We tried our best to fit the marks on the kit, but if you find some discrepancy, please use the light blue extra mark to fill it.



From these photos the outline of fuselage and tail cross is not normal black but of the same Bavarian blue color, and there is a clear distinction between fuselage cross white outline and light color of the checker, indicating the checker is not blue and white. Mr. Leckscheid suggested that this slightly dark color might be Pfalz silver gray, as Jasta 76b was equipped with Pfalz D III fighter at times and silver gray paint should have been abundantly available. Staffel mark is the white stripe on blue tail plane.

The Würzburg coat of arms is the mirror image on both sides, and the dark fuselage band just aft of the cockpit should be black or extremely dark blue, as its tone is darker than fuselage cross. Another light-colored band seems to exist in front of this fuselage band in the left side photo, but is NOT visible on the right side photo. We are not sure whether this is due to time difference, but no such band is provided in this decal. The nose band on Jasta 76b Albatros is usually white (front) and blue (rear), but this A/C has it in reverse sequence.

Vfw. Hopf joined Jasta 76b on 12. Dec. 1917, coming from Jastaschule 1, staying until 20. April, 1918, when he was posted to APF 2. He scored a single victory on 15. March, 1918, over a SPAD single-seater, most likely flown by Cpl. P. Brun, Spa. 151.

A/C #2 Albatros D V, serial unknown, flown by Lt. d. R. Josef Veltjens, Jasta 18, Balâtre, February 1918. (Wolff propeller)

The illustration of Veltjens' Albatros D V with straight-sided Balken Kreuz on the tail is shown in several references including ref. 5, but the only photo of this A/C is the line-up photo of Jasta 15 provided by Mr. Leckscheid. As the photo is rather indistinct, and the A/C might be a different one than shown in this decal (propeller type is different, though wooden propeller is changed very often), we decided to choose his A/C with Eisernes Kreuz on the tail. If you want to reproduce the illustrated condition, please use the Balken Kreuz of item #3.

Clear photos of this A/C are available in ref. 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7, from which the red/blue demarcation line and details of his lancer mark can be seen. Close-up of the mid-fuselage section does not show the remnant of fuselage Eisernes Kreuz, so the blue paint was very opaque in this case. Wheel hub is apparently painted in white. Its windshield is of square type with upper right corner cut off to fit the telescopic sight.



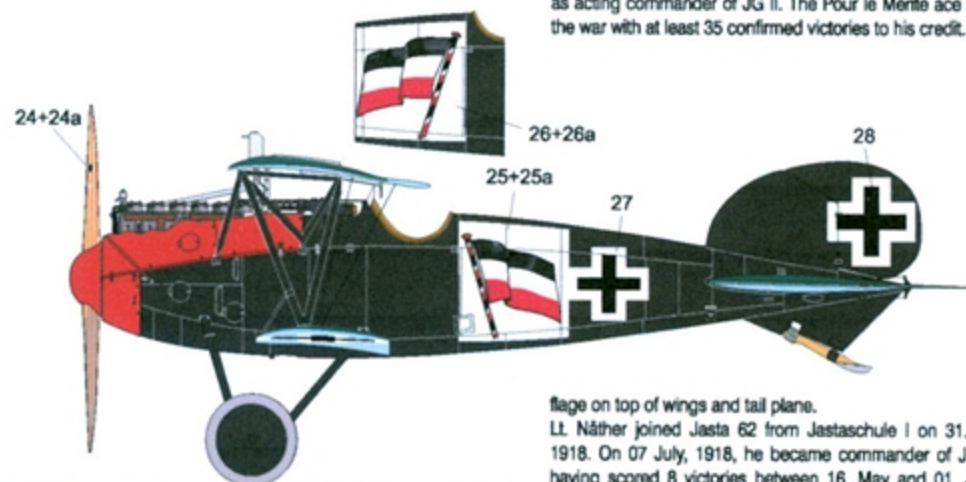
Lt. Veltjens was a highly skilled pilot, serving with Jastas 4, 14, 18 and 15, and later commanded Jasta 15, and at times served as acting commander of JG II. The Pour le Merite ace survived the war with at least 35 confirmed victories to his credit.

A/C #3 Albatros D Va, serial unknown, flown by Lt. Max Näther, Jasta 62, Balâtre, April to June, 1918. (probably Garuda V propeller)

The left side photo of this A/C is shown in ref. 8, and was illustrated in ref. 9 and 10. Though the pilot is standing in front of the A/C, the white outline of small fuselage Balken Kreuz can be seen behind his left arm. The right end position of the white rectangle can be seen behind his neck collar, so the size of white rectangle and fuselage cross can be determined. Recently posted photo in ref. 11 shows that the right side flag and its position in the white rectangle are slightly different from the left one.

The flag color is always illustrated with red top and black bottom, but the lighter shade of top color in the photo is due to better reflection of sunlight, and black top/red bottom arrangement should be correct for Prussian flag (ref. 11).

The position of tail Balken Kreuz can be seen from the photo provided by Mr. Leckscheid. He also suggested us that the nose of this A/C is probably red, as the Pfalz D III of this unit supposedly had red nose at about the same time (Ref.7).



The above three photos show that the black paint was applied rather thinly on the plywood surface. The large demarcation line on top of the tail plane may suggest green and mauve camou-

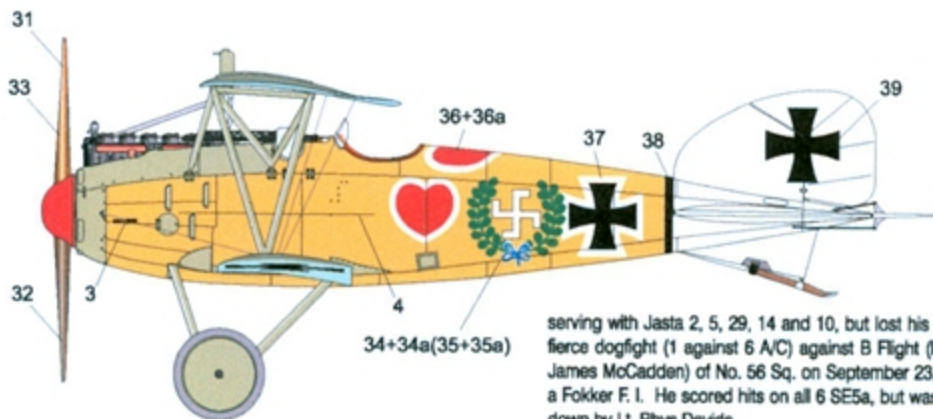
flage on top of wings and tail plane. Lt. Näther joined Jasta 62 from Jastaschule I on 31. March, 1918. On 07 July, 1918, he became commander of Jasta 62, having scored 8 victories between 16. May and 01. July. He spent a few days in hospital from Sept. 27 to Oct. 2 but continued to lead Jasta 62 until the armistice with a total score of 26 by then.

A/C #4 Albatros D III, serial unknown, flown by Lt d. R. Werner Voss, Jasta 5, Krefeld, June 1917. (Axial propeller)

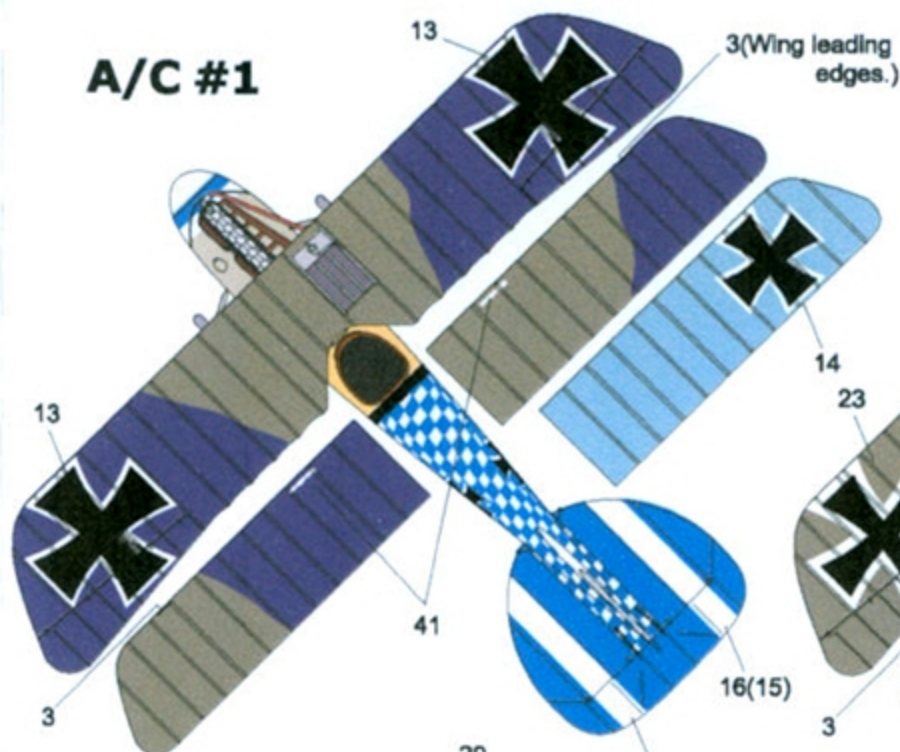
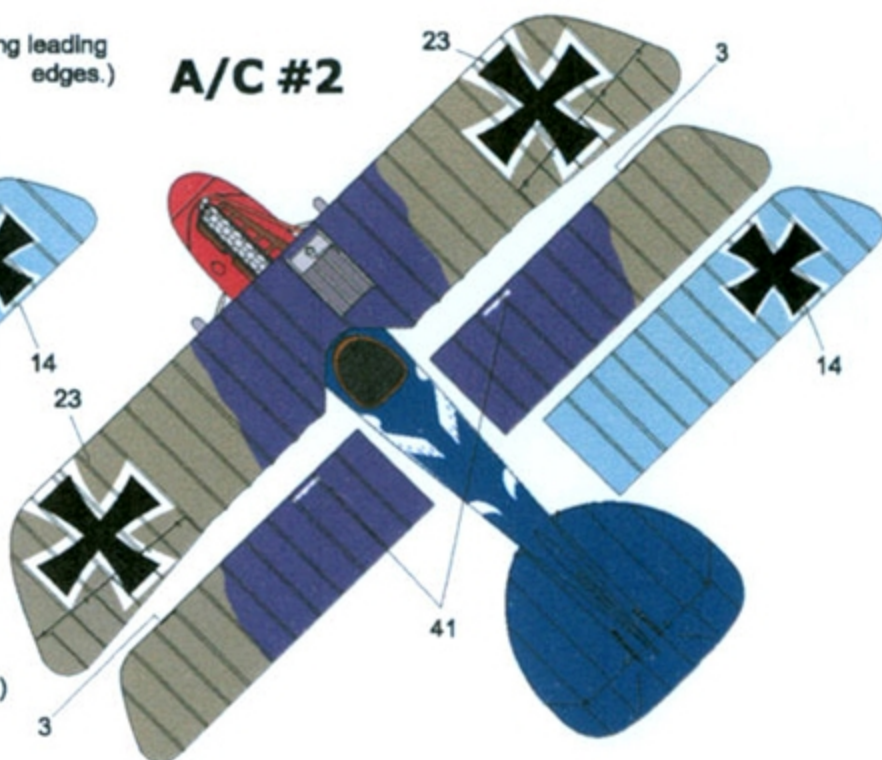
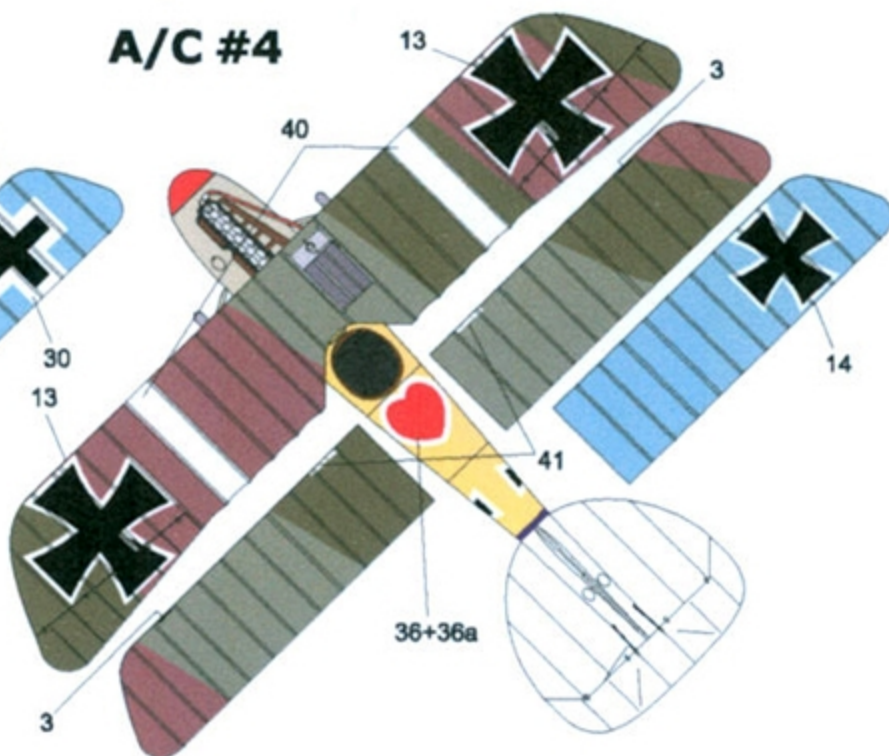
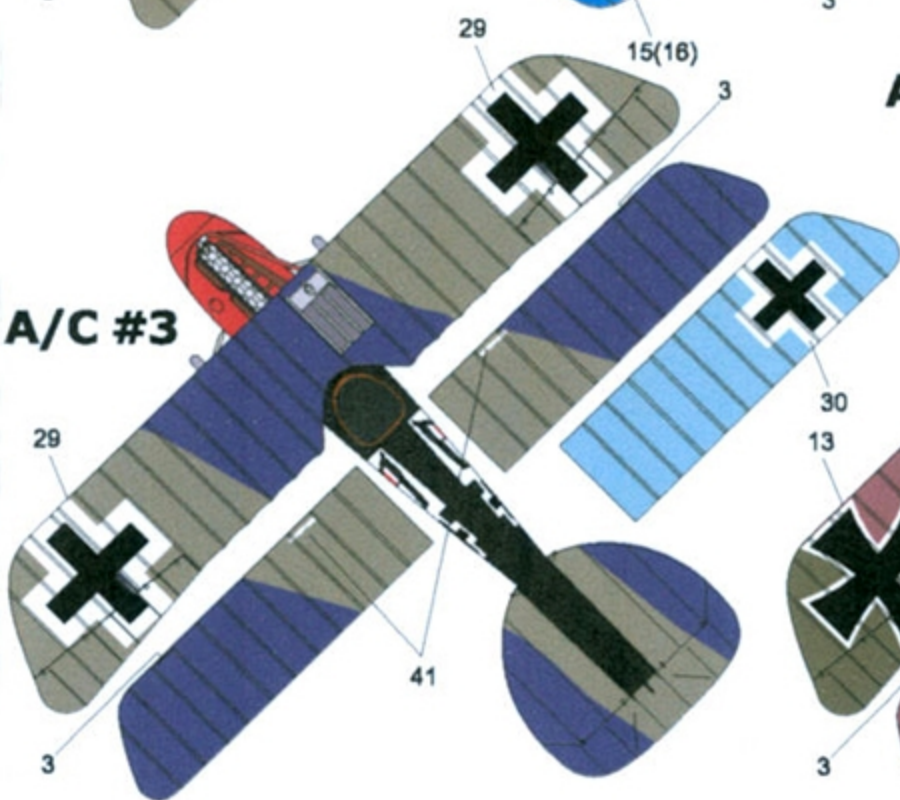
This is a very famous A/C with gaudy marking. Several photos of this A/C (taken with Voss' family members and Manfred von Richthofen at Krefeld, Voss' hometown, around 9 June, 1917) and its illustration are shown in ref. 1, 12, and 13 among other references. It should be noted that small louvers are added aft of the propeller. On the leading and trailing edge of upper wing shows the existence of white bands on top. Color of the narrow band in front of the tail plane is shown as purple in the illustration in ref. 10, but now white tail with black stripe is identified as the marking of Jasta Boelcke (ref.11).

Judging from the exactly same style and position of the personal mark, this A/C was first painted with two hearts on fuselage in Jasta Boelcke days, and Voss took it to Jasta 5 to apply the third heart mark on top deck and the nose louvers.

Lt. Voss was a very agile fighter and an ace with 48 victories



serving with Jasta 2, 5, 29, 14 and 10, but lost his life during a fierce dogfight (1 against 6 A/C) against 8 Flight (led by Capt. James McCadden) of No. 56 Sq. on September 23, 1917 flying a Fokker F. I. He scored hits on all 6 SE5a, but was finally shot down by Lt. Rhys Davids.

A/C #1**A/C #2****A/C #4****A/C #3****References;**

- (1) Osprey Aircraft of the Aces 32, Albatros Aces of WWI part 1 (Norman Franks, Osprey Publishing, 2000)
- (2) Windsock Datafile Special—Albatros Fighters (Albatros Productions Ltd. 1991)
- (3) Osprey Aircraft of the Aces 77, Albatros Aces of World War I, part 2 (G. VanWyngarden, Osprey Publishing, 2007).
- (4) <http://www.theaerodrome.com/index.php>
- (5) Osprey Aviation Elite Units 19, Jagdgeschwader Nr. II (Greg VanWyngarden, Osprey Publishing, 2005)
- (6) Over the Front magazine vol. 9 No. 3 (League of WWI Aviation Historians, autumn/1994)
- (7) <http://www.wingnutwings.com> .
- (8) Eisernes Kreuz und Balken Kreuz, (H. Nowarra, Verlag Dieter Hoffmann, 1968)
- (9) Albatros Fighters in Action (John Connors, Squadron Signal Publication, 1981)
- (10) Kaiser's Aces (M. Murawski, Kagero Publishing, 2003)
- (11) <http://www.theaerodrome.com/forum/art/55354-ignis-ab-alto-n%E4thers-albatros.html> (only members can see the photo)
- (12) Aces & Aeroplanes 1, Werner Voss (D. Hylands, Albatros Productions Ltd. 1986)
- (13) Osprey Aviation Elite 26, Jagdstaffel 2 Boelcke (Greg. VanWyngarden, Osprey Publishing, 2007)

Special thanks to Mr. Jörn Leckscheid for many reference photos and various marking considerations.