GERMAN WW II HEAVY FIGHTER

1:48 SCALE PLASTIC KIT

DUAL COMBO!



Fw 190D JV 44 - Sachsenberg's Platzschutzschwarm

JV 44, Jagdverband 44, is, despite its short existence, one of the best known Luftwaffe units. It came about in early 1945 as an attempt to counteract, by any means possible, the catastrophic war situation developing for Germany at the time.

At the end of 1944, Hermann Göring's dissatisfaction with the performance of Luftwaffe units and differences of opinion with Adolf Galland resulted in the removal of the popular CO from his functions as General of Fighters (General der Jagdflieger). There was a plan to transfer Galland to one of the existing fighter units. However, thanks to support in high places, Galland received the opportunity to form his own unit. Reportedly, by decision of Hitler himself, he was given access to Messerschmitt Me 262 Schwalbe fighters, and he was able to demonstrate that the use of the Me 262 as an interceptor against incoming bombers was more effective than using them as fighter-bombers.

Galland began to form JV 44 in February, 1945, and chose Brandenburg-Briest as his base, some 50km west of Berlin. Progressively, he was able to accumulate actual aces of the German air force, among them seventeen Knight's Cross recipients. These included the likes of Oblt. Heinz Bär (221 victories), Maj. Gerhard Barkhorn (301 v.), Oberst Johaness Steinhoff (176 v.), Hptm. Walter Krupinski (197 v.), Oberst Gunther Lützow (108 v.), and others. Among the additions were pilots in similar situation as Galland, who had fallen from grace due to philosophical differences with the leadership, and others who jumped at the opportunity to fly the most modern piece of technology in the world. These names however, needed to be complemented by pilots and personnel who inevitably had varying levels of expertise, including those that had no experience with jet aircraft at all.

After the completion of training, at the beginning of April, the unit moved south to the airport at Munich-Riem. From here, attacks against the USAAF were conducted, and included combat against heavy bombers and fighters alike. Some success was achieved against the bombers using R4M unguided air-air rockets. Due to its speed, the Me 262 could outfly anything the Allies could make airborn, but thanks to the inability of the rapid application of throttle, the plane was vulnerable on takeoff and landing, making it an easy target for Allied fighters. The Allies had the Munich airport well in their sights, and the danger that this presented was very real. The protection of the jet fighters fell on high-performance piston engined fighters - the Fw 190D. This group, the airfield protection flight 'Platzschutzschwarm', under the leadership of Lt. Heinz Sachsenberg, was formed in mid-April, and had at its disposition five Fw 190D Doras, in D-9 and D-11 versions. Members of the unit included Hptm. Waldemar Wübke, Lt. Karl-Heinz Hofmann and Oblt. Klaus Faber. Also among this group was Fw. Bodo Dirschauer, but his role within Platzschutzschwarm carries with it some uncertainties. The role of these men was to take off before the Me 262s, and clean out the air space around the airfield. Once the Me 262s formated, and left the local airspace, the Fw 190s were to land. The protection of the Me 262s on landing approach was not

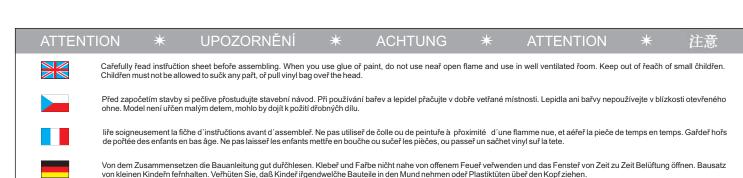
At the end of April, American ground forces were found so near to Munich, that plans to relocate to Austria, at the time a part of the Third Reich, were dropped. The Me 262s moved over to Maxglan airfield near Salzburg, and the Fw 190s to Ainring on April 28th, 1945. At the time JV 44 was commanded by Heinz Bär. At the very end of the war, on May 3rd, the highest leaders of the Luftwaffe attempted to have the unit move to Prague, and issued an order for the redesignation of the unit to IV./JG 7. Despite high levels of persuasion thrown at Bär, the unit stayed at Maxglan, where the unit capitulated on May 7th, 1945. Over the short duration of its existence, the unit shot down around sixty aircraft.

Airfield Protection Flight of JV 44 appears in literature and references under several different designations - Platzschutzschwarm, Sachsenbergschwarm, Würgerstaffel or Papagei Staffel (Parrot Squadron). In the interest of historical accuracy, the first of these is most accurate. The striking coloring of the bottom of the aircraft composed of a red surface with white stripes, was to allow the German anti-aircraft units to identify them as friendlies. This rather pragmatic approach to the problem ensured that JV 44 Doras were the most striking of all, and assured them an unequaled popularity among aviation fans. The Platzschutzschwarm would meet allied fighters once over Munich - Riem. Klaus Faber would down one, perhaps two, P-47s over Bad Aibling over the first days of May, 1945. More information can be obtained on JV 44, the Fw 190D-11, and on Heinz Sachsenberg on the internet magazine Eduard INFO from June and November, 2010, at www.eduard.com.



Fw 190D-11, W.Nr.2200??, Red 2, Munich – Riem airport, Bad Aibling, Germany, April - May 1945

The fifth Dora used by Platzschutzschwarm JV 44 was identified only recently. It was a D-11, Red '2', and at the end of the war was found at Bad Aibling airfield. There are currently no photographs showing the entire airframe, and as such, it is unknown if this aircraft carried any kind of inscription. The aircraft likely arrived at Bad Aibling at the end of April, 1945, when JV 44 moved from Munich to Salzburg, where for unknown reasons it remained until the occupation of the airfield. Who flew Red '2' is unknown. For modelers who wish to build this airplane, we are including red '2's on the decal sheet. For more information, please refer to Jerry Crandall's 'The Focke-Wulf Fw 190D Dora', Volume Two, from Eagle Editions.



組み立てる前に必ず説明書をお読み下さい。接着剤や塗料をご使用の際は、窓を開けて 上分な換気をおこない、火のそばでは使用しないで下さい。小さな子供の手の届かない 所に必ず保管してください。部品や破片を噛んだり、なめたり、飲んだりすると人変危 険です。又、部品を取り出した後のビニール袋は、小さな子供が頭から被ったりすると 窒息する恐れがありますので、破り捨てて下さい。

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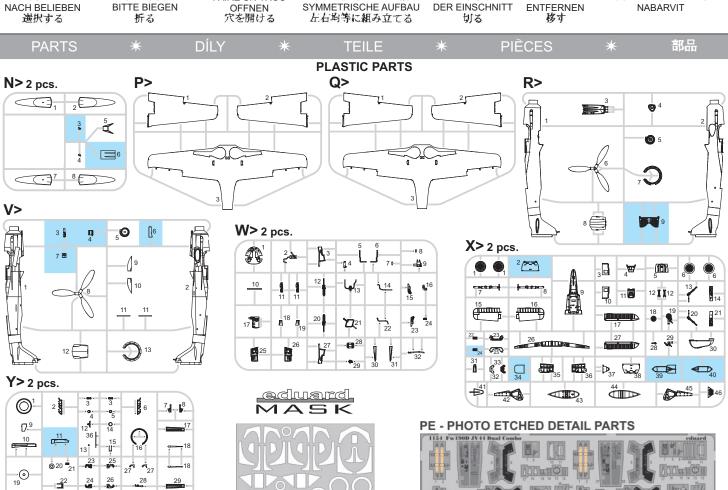
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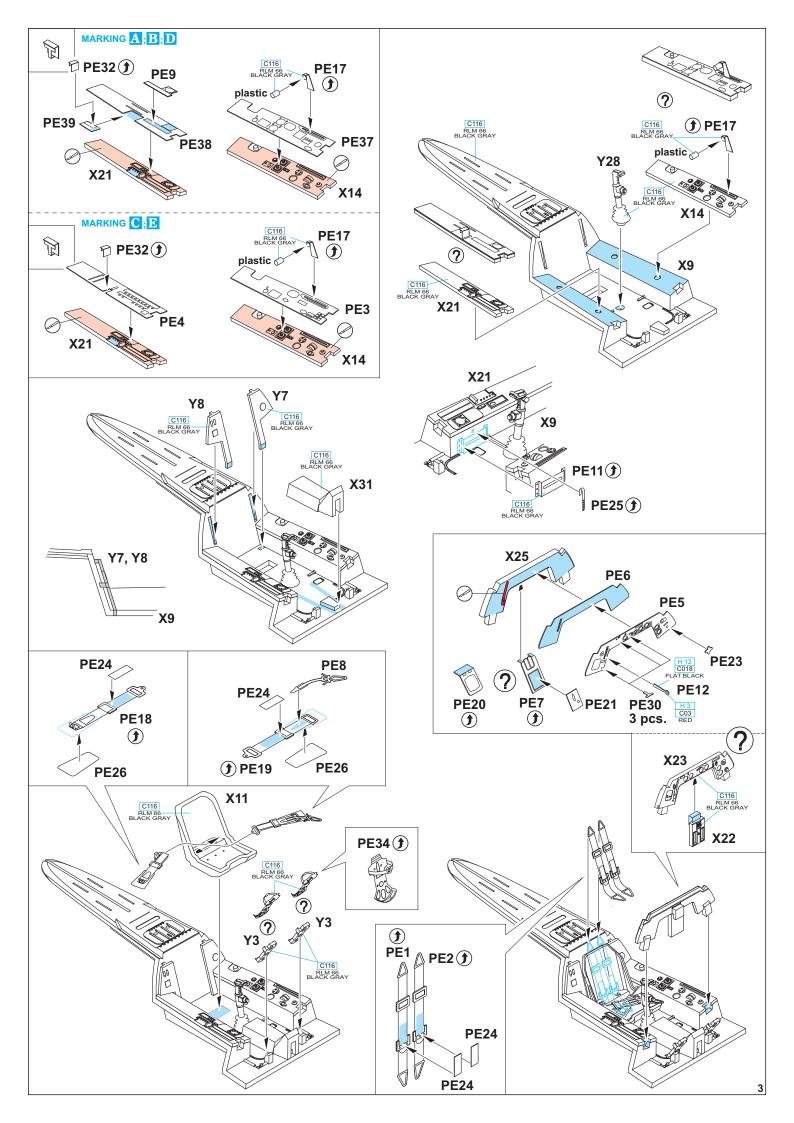
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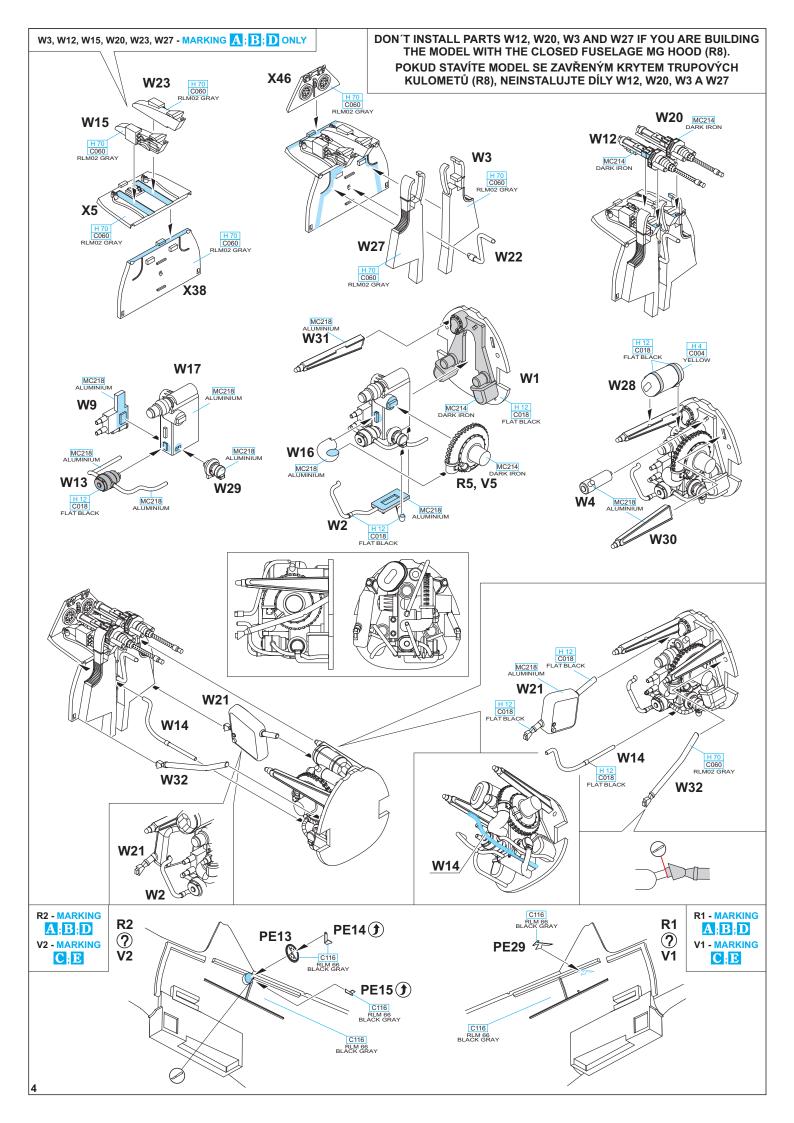
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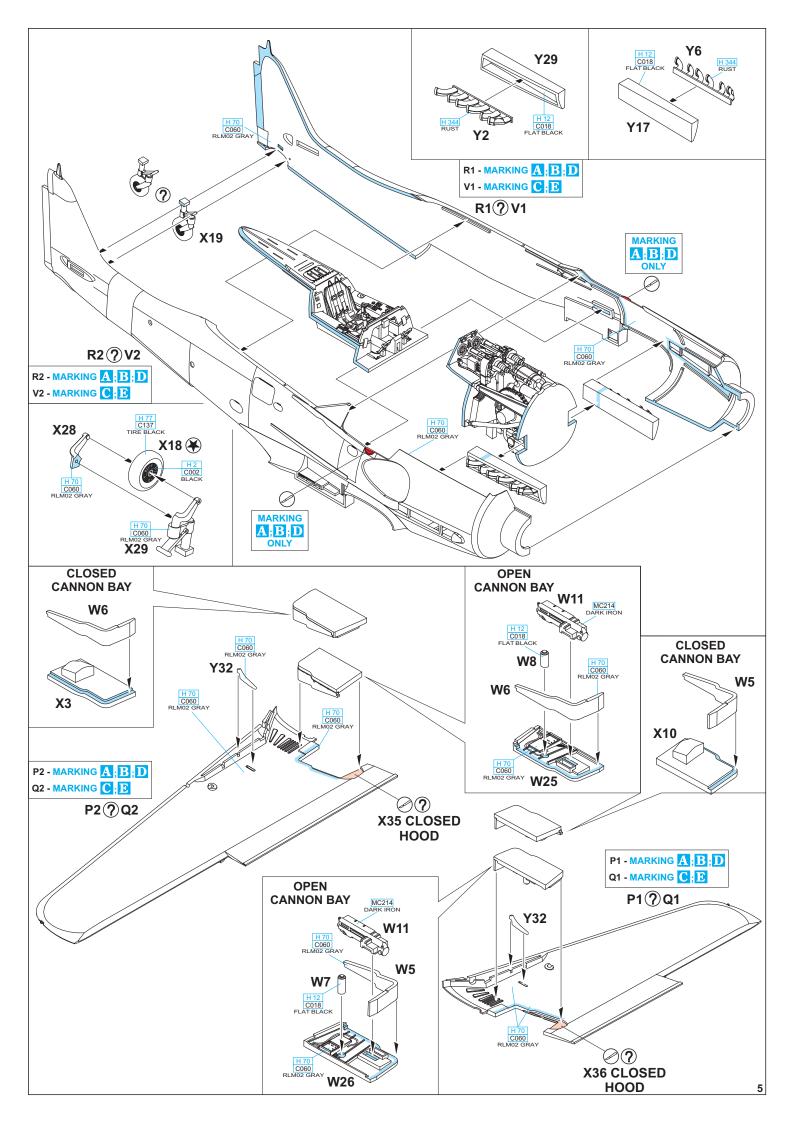
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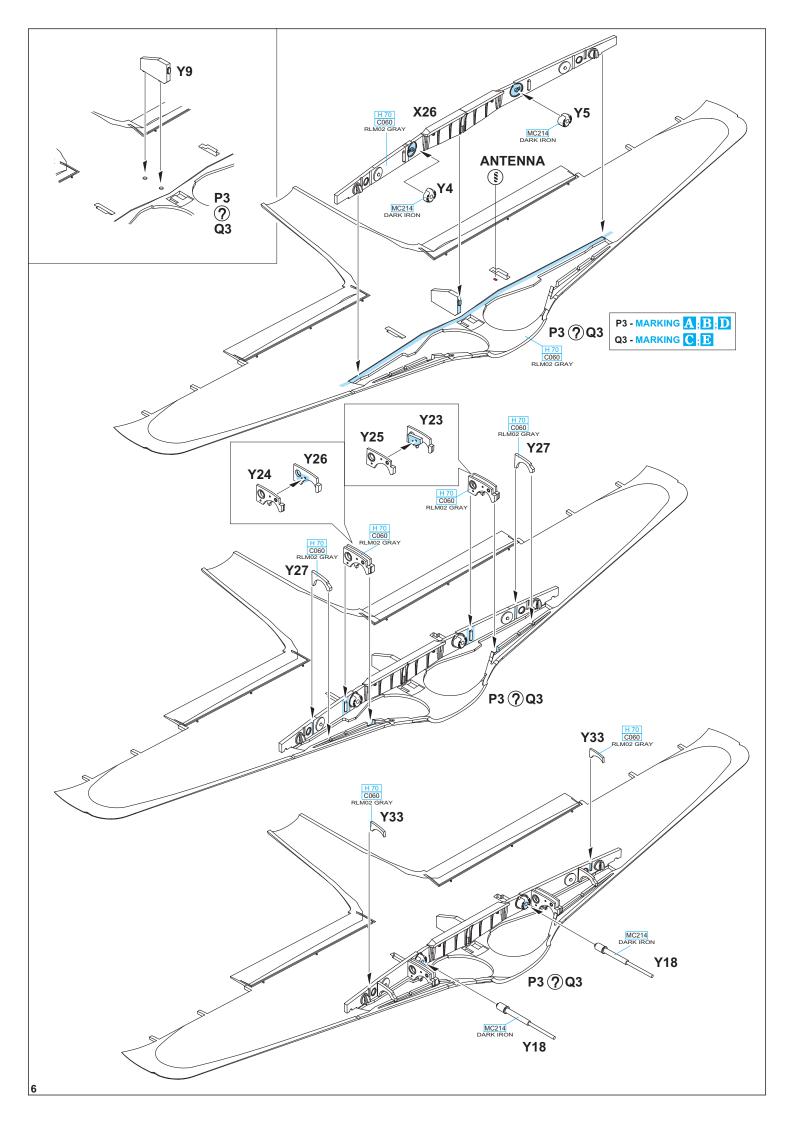
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H 3	C003	RED
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H 12	C018	FLATBLACK
H 47	C041	RED BROWN
H 70	C060	RLM02 GRAY
H 77	C137	TIRE BLACK
H 80		KHAKI GREEN
H 414	C414	RLM23 RED
H 417	C117	RLM76 LIGHT BLUE

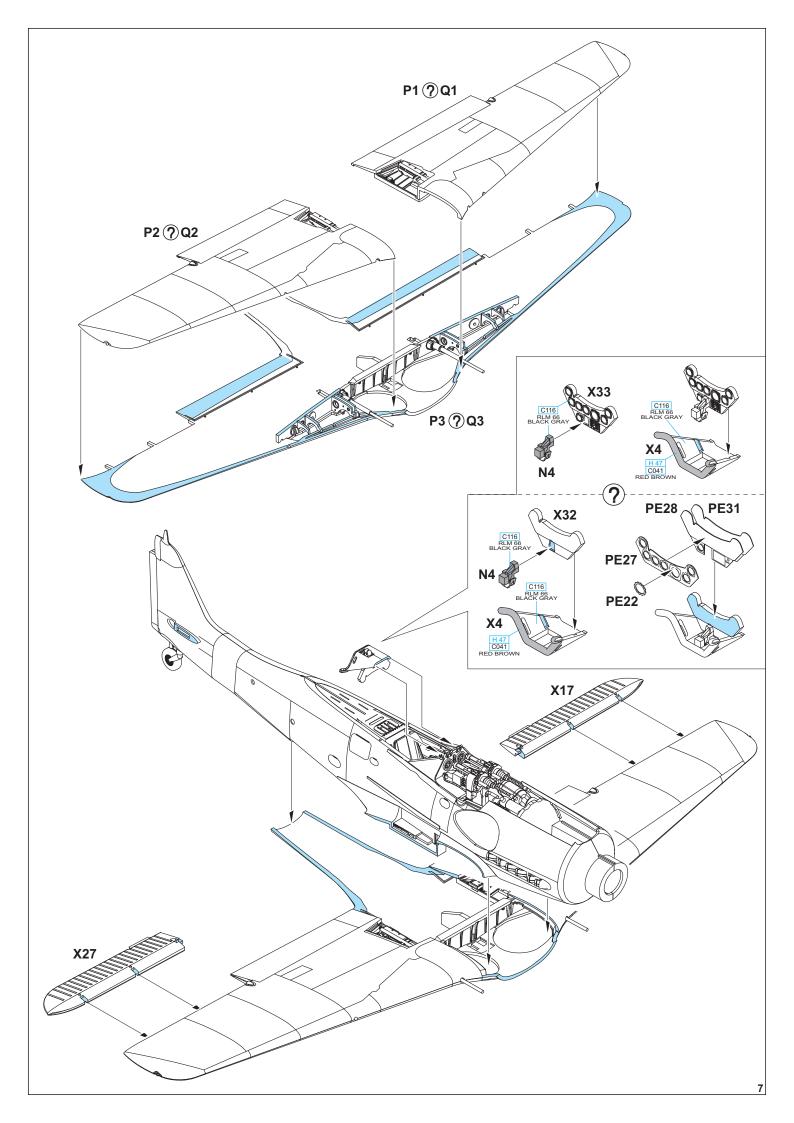
AQUEOUS	Mr.COLOR	
H 421	C121	RLM81 BROWN VIOLET
H 422	C122	RLM82 LIGHT GREEN
H 423	C123	RLM83 DARK GREEN
	C116	RLM66 BLACK GRAY
Mr.METAL	COLOR	
MC214		DARK IRON
MC218		ALUMINIUM
Mr.COLOR SUPER METALLIC		
SM01		SUPER FINE SILVER
SM04		STAINLESS STEEL

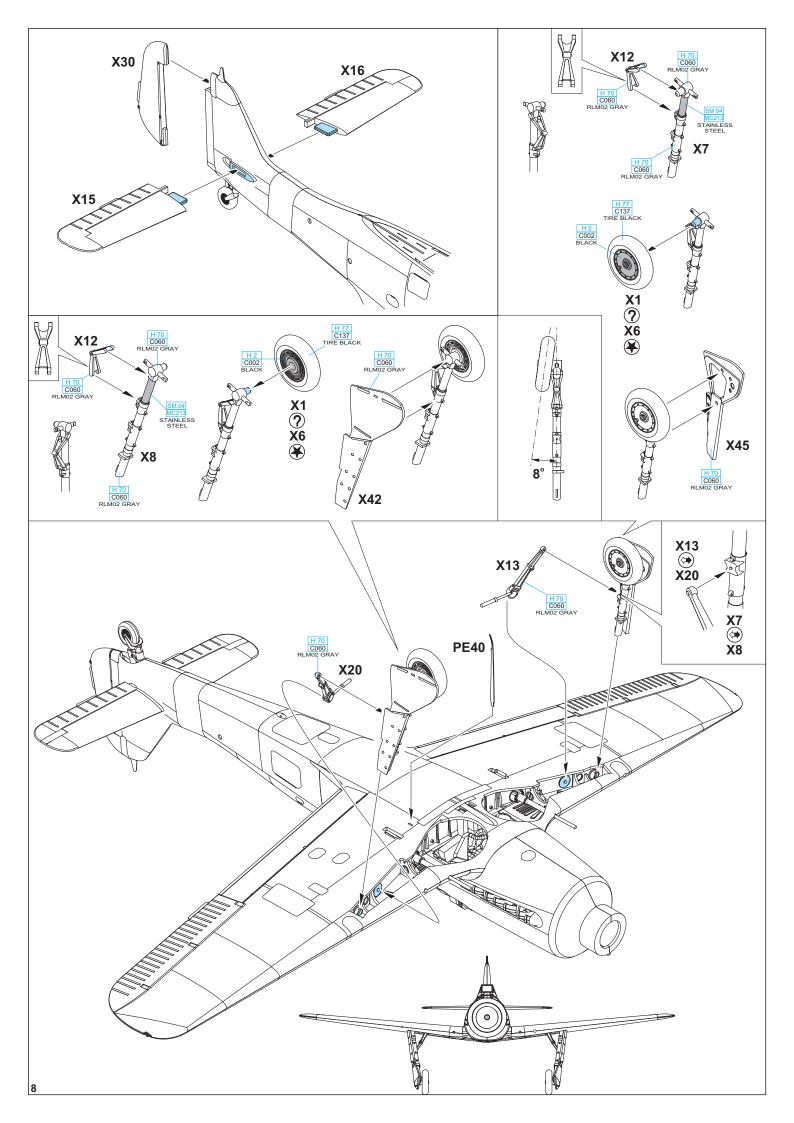


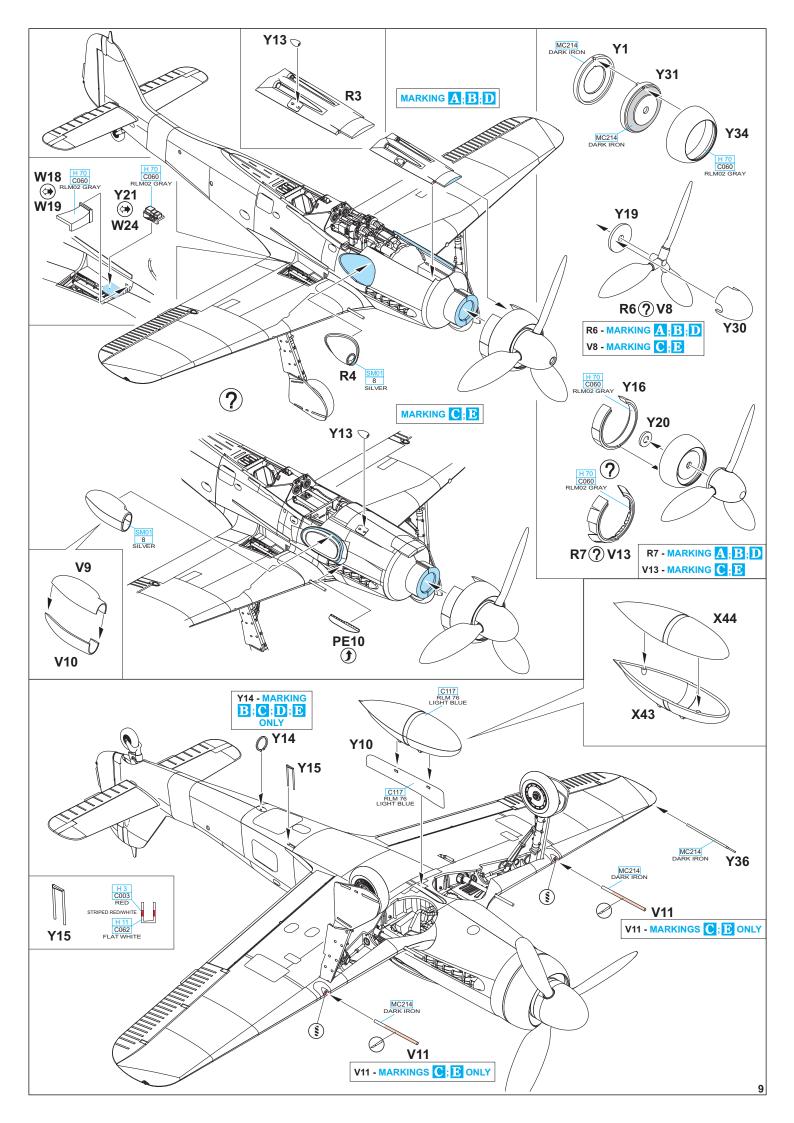


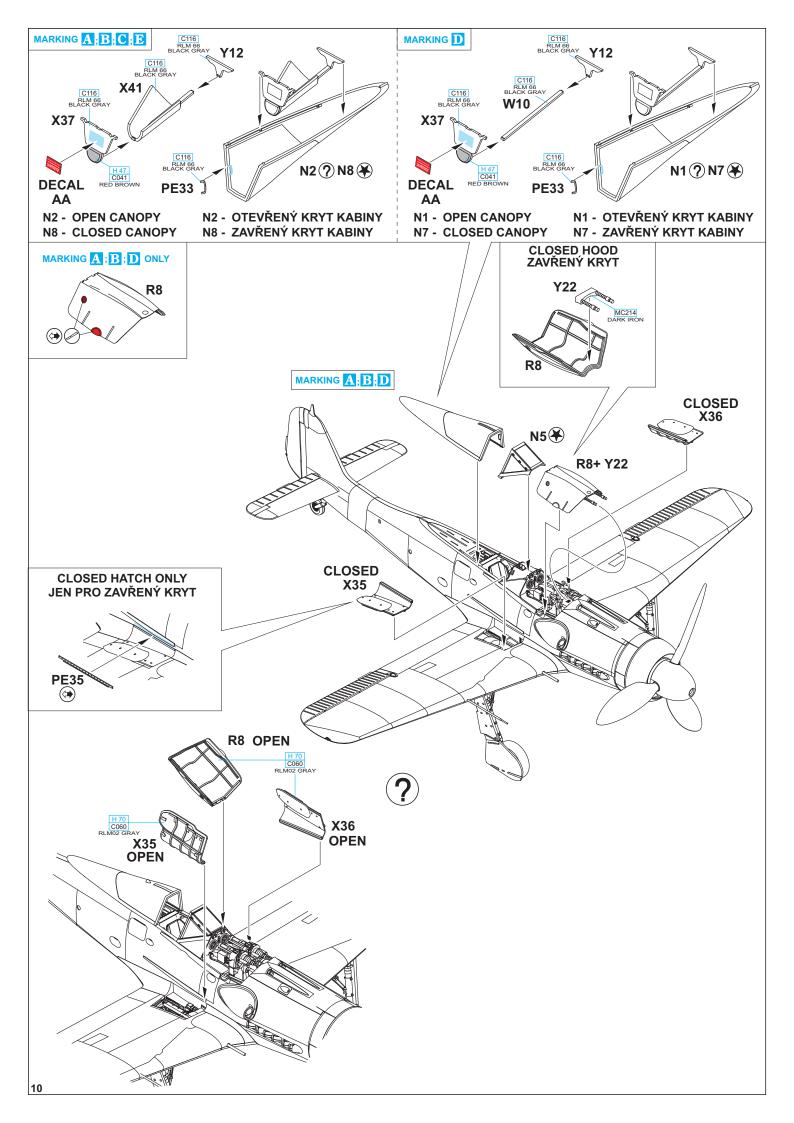


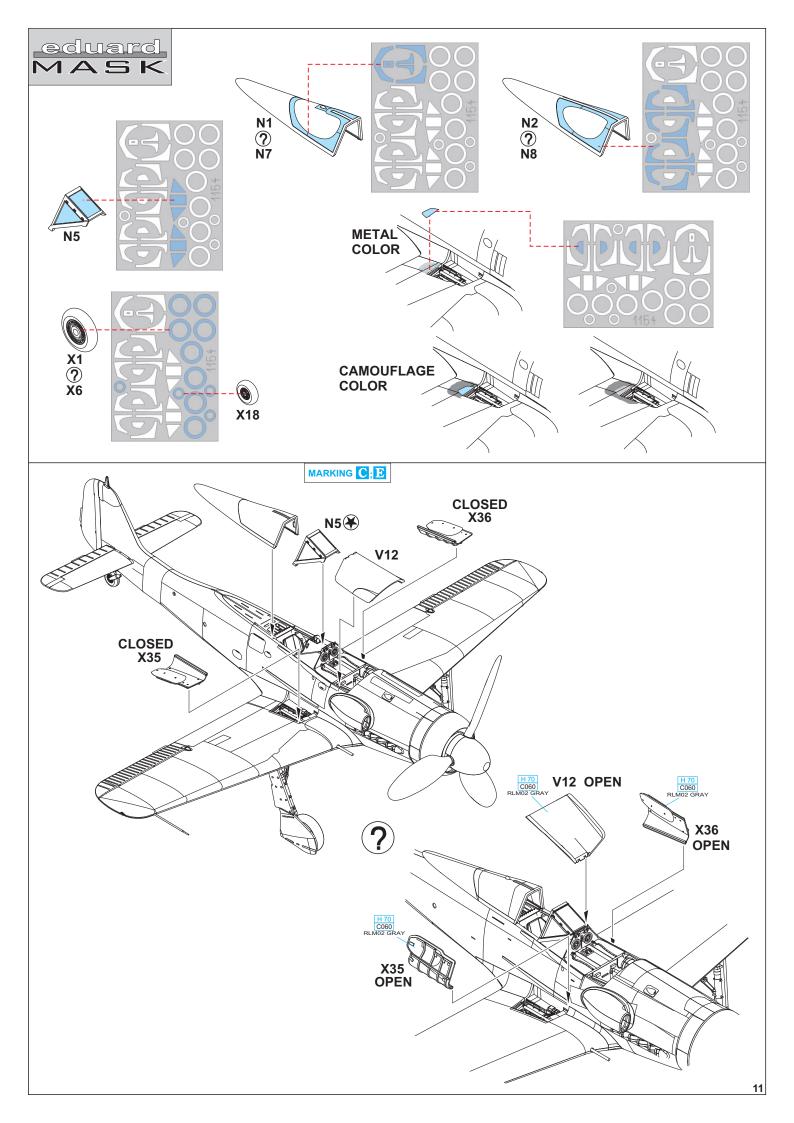






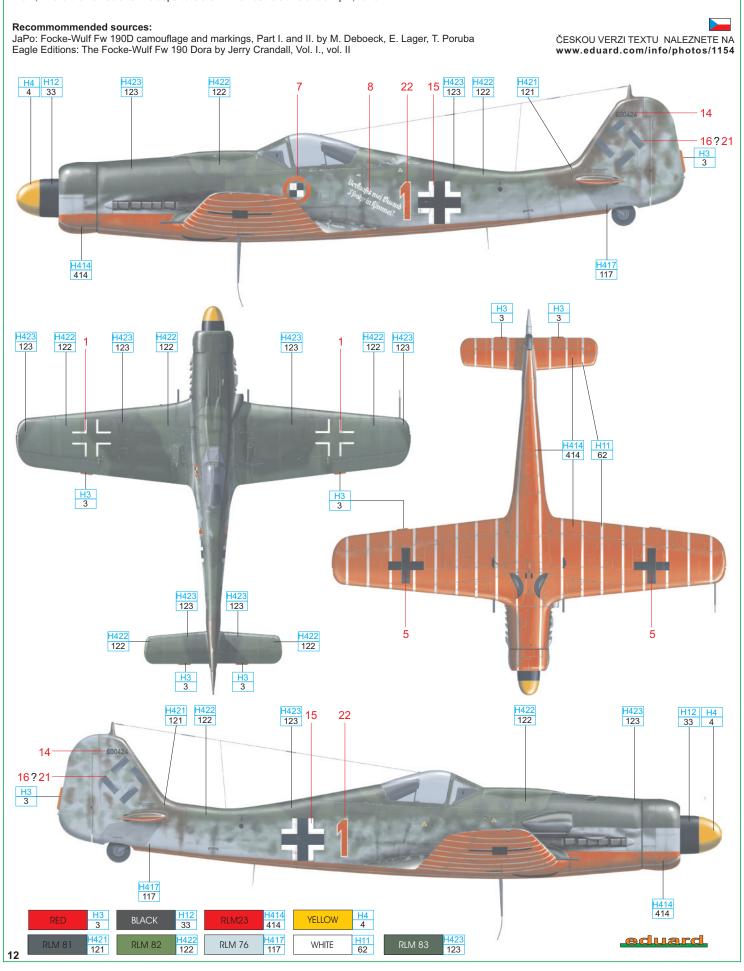






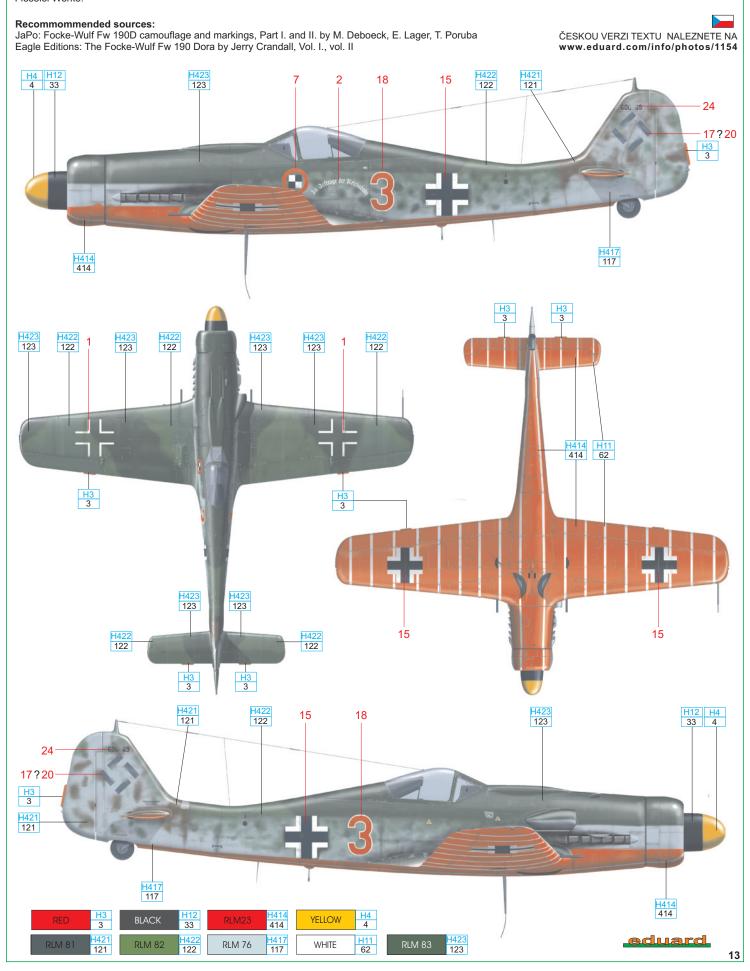
Fw 190D-9, W.Nr. 600424, Lt. Heinz Sachsenberg, Munich - Riem airport, Germany, April - May 1945

Lt. Heinz Sachsenberg (104 victories) was the Co of Platzschutzschwarm. The aircraft assigned to Sachsenberg carried the inscription 'Verkaaft's mei Gwand, I foahr in himmel', which is a Bavarian proverb 'sell my shroud, I am leaving for Heaven' The font was Schwab, which was popular at the time. Sachsenberg, holder of the Knight's Cross, came from an aviation family. His uncle Gotthard flew in the First World War and shot down 31 aircraft, and was awarded the Pour le Merite. Heinz's brother, also named Gotthard, flew a night fighter with NJG 3. He shot down two British bombers and fell on March 8th, 1943. The aircraft was found at the end of the war at Munich-Riem, where it remained after the departure of JV 44 to Austria at the end of April, 1945.



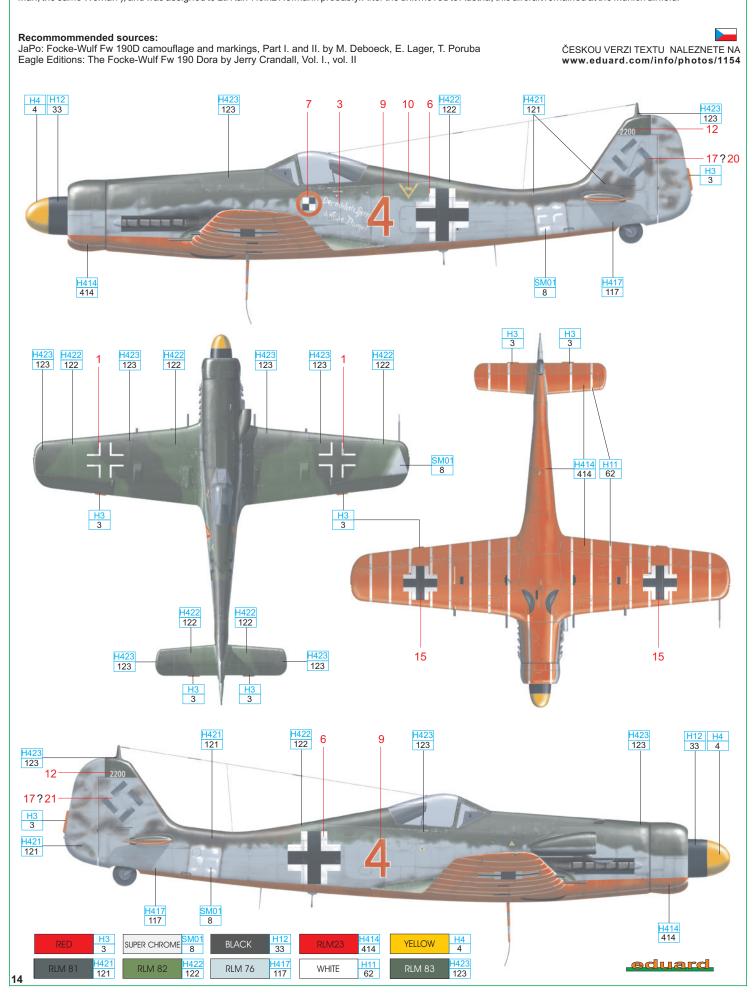
B Fw 190D-9, W.Nr. 600?69, Hptm. Waldemar Wübke, Ainring airbase, Austria, May 1945

The port side of this Dora carries the inscription 'Im Auftrage der Reichsbahn' ('In order of the State Railways'), which Wübke carried on at least two other aircraft he flew, 109s, from when he served with JG 54. The slogan can be traced back to the Battle of Britain years when Wübke, in a rather irritated state, noted that as a fighter, he often carried a bomb under his fuselage. Another version of the story has this down as a reference to the several times that Wübke was shot down and ended back at his unit via the railway. Wübke (15 victories) flew with JV 44 from April 16, 1945 and initially flew the Me 262. As indicated by the serial number, this aircraft was built by Gerhard Fisseler Werke



Fw 190D-11, W.Nr.2200??, Lt. Karl-Heinz Hofmann, Munich – Riem airport, Germany, April - May 1945

This aircraft was first used by Verbandsführerschule des General der Jagdflieger in March and April, 1945, a unit that supplied specialized training to fighter unit COs and was based at Bad Wörishofen, near Munich. At the end of the war, the aircraft came to JV 44. Red '4' carried the inscription 'Der nachste Herr Diesselbe Dame' ('Next Man, the same Woman'), and was assigned to Lt. Karl-Heinz Hofmann probably. After the unit moved to Austria, this aircraft remained at the Munich airfield.



D Fw 190D-9, W.Nr. 210240, Oblt. Klaus Faber, Ainring airbase, Austria, May 1945

This aircraft also carried a slogan on the port side with a light hearted connotation to it, 'Rein Muss er, und wenn wir beide weinen' ('he must go in, even if we both cry'). Faber stated that on the 2nd or 3rd of May, 1945, he shot down one, prehaps two, P-47s near Bad Aibling. In all probability, he was flying this airplane at the time. Together with Wübke's Red '3', Red '13' fell into the hands of the Allies at Ainring.

The black-white-red emblem on the port side of the fuselage under the cockpit designates Headquarters (black and white checkerboard) protected by the flight of red aircraft (red circle).

