

**Luftwaffe Squadrons
Organized in WWII**

Reconnaissance Units:

11-13 Aufklärungsgeschwader Staffs (Reconnaissance Squadron)
103 Aufklärungsgeschwader
10-11, 21, 31, 41 (12), 22 (13), 23 (14) Aufklärungsgruppe (H)
(Reconnaissance Groups)
120-124 Aufklärungsgruppe (F)
100 Aufklärungsstaffel (F) (Reconnaissance Squadron)
102 Nahaufklärungsgeschwader (short range recon squadron)
1-16 Nahaufklärungsgruppen
101 Fernaufklärungsgeschwader (long range recon squadron)
1-5, (Sea) 125-131 Fernaufklärungsgruppen

Fighter Units

1-7, 11, 20, 21, 25-28, 50-54, 70-72, 76, 77, 300-302
and 400 Jagdgeschwader
100, 101, 102, 126, 152, 176, & 200 Jagdgruppen
44th Jagdverband
1-7, 11, 100, & 200 Nachtjagdgeschwader (night fighters)
10 Nachtjagdgruppe
2, 26, 52, 76, & 101 Zerstörergeschwader (destroyer squadrons,
equipped with Me-110)
210 Zerstörergruppe

In the beginning all of the German jagdgeschwader were equipped with Bf 109s. The 101, 102, 126, 152, and 176th were Zerstörer (destroyer) groups and were to be converted from Me 109s to Me 110s, but this change was never completed. In 1942 the FW 190 began to appear and in 1944 the 1, 26, 76 Zerstörergeschwader and 1 kampfgeschwader were absorbed into the 4, 6, 76 and 7th Jagdgeschwader. In the summer of 1944 the 400th Jagdgeschwader was the first to receive the new Me 163. The 7th Jagdgeschwader was equipped with the Me-262. The night fighter units were, for the most part, equipped with Me-110 and modified Ju-88.

Short Range Attack Units

1-3, 5, 51, 76, 77, 101, 102 & 151 Sturzkampfgeschwader
(Dive Bomber Squadrons)
1-5, 9, 10, 77, 101-104, 111, 151, & 152 Schlachtgeschwader
(Battle Squadron)
1-12, 20, & 30 Nachtschlachtgruppen (Night Bomber Groups)

These units were equipped with the Sturzkampfflugzeuge (Dive bomber) Ju 87. The 3/2nd Group was converted to FW 190 fighters in 1945. Some staffels were, later, especially equipped with either FW 190s or Henschel 129s for tank busting. The 101st & 102nd Sturzkampfgeschwader, later the 101-104th and 111th Schlachtgeschwader, were schools. The 151st Sturzkampf/Schlacht -geschwader was a replacement squadron. The Nachtschlachtgruppen were formed in November 1943. Though generally equipped with Ju-87s, but the 3rd and 5th Group and the 8th Staffel were equipped with the Go-145 and Ar-66.

Kampfverband or Bomber Units

1-4, 6, 25-28, 30, 40, 50, 51, 53-55, 60, 66, 76, 77, 101-105,
152, 200, & 201 (S) Kampfgeschwader ("Battle" or Bomber Squadron)

10 Schnellkampfgeschwader (Fast Battle Squadron)

126th Kampfgruppe

1-3, 172, 323 Kampfgeschwader z.b.V. (Special Battle Squadrons)

4-12, 20-26, 40, 50, 60, 101-108, 200, 211, 400, 500, 600, 700

800, 900, & 999 Kampfgruppen z.b.V. (Special Battle Groups)

At the outbreak of war, the 1, 4, 26, 27, 28, 51, 52, 54 and 554 Kampfgeschwader were equipped with the He 111, the 2,3,76 & 77 were equipped with the Do-17. In January 1943 the 1,3,6,30,51,54,76, & 77 and the 1 Lehrgeschwader (school squadron) were equipped with Ju-88, the 4,26,27,53,55, and 100 with the He 111, the 2 with the Do 217.

Kampfgeschwader 40 had the He 177, Do 217 and FW 200. Schnellkampfgeschwader 200 had bomber versions of the FW 190. Kampfgeschwader 26 was equipped with He111's equipped for torpedo attacks. In February 1945 the only Kampfgeschwader were the 4, 25 and 1st Lehrgeschwader. The Kampfgeschwader 53 (He 111) served as a "V 2" tow over the north sea. Kampfgeschwader 1 was Jagdgeschwader 7 and was equipped with Me262 jets. The 10th Schnellkampfgeschwader became the Schlachtgeschwader 10. The 2,3,40,77 and 100 Kampfgeschwader had been or were being disbanded.

By 1945 the 51 and 76 Kampfgeschwader, which were raised as Schnellgeschwader, had been converted to Jagdgeschwader (51 with e 262 and 76 with Ar 234). The 6, 27, 30, and 55 Kampfgeschwader were being converted to Kampfgeschwader (J), the 54 was being converted to a Schnellkampfgeschwader. From the 16th groups of these geschwader, six were to be converted to Me 109, one to FW 190, and seven to Me262, but this conversion was not completed. The 200 Kampfgeschwader became a research formation.

The Kampfgeschwader z.b.V. were equipped with Ju 52 transports and were not bomber units. In the spring of 1940 the 101-108 Kampfgruppen z.b.V. were formed. During the winter of 1940/41 the 30,40, 50, and 60 were formed. During the winter 1941/2 the 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900 and 999 were formed. The 4-8 were formed in the Summer of 1942.

Kampfgruppen 21 & 22 had Ju 86 and 23 and 24 had He111, but they were still used for transport and committed to the relief of Stalingrad. Kampfgruppe z.b.V. 200 had the FW 200 Condors, Kampfgeschwader z.b.V 323 had Me 323 and one group of Ju-90s.

During the summer of 1943 the kampffgeschwader and -gruppen z.b.V were redesignated Transportgeschwader and -gruppen.

Special Aviation Units:

1-5 & 172nd Transportgeschwader (Transport Squadrons)

30, 30 Transporttruppe (Transport Groups)

1-2nd Luftlandegeschwader (air landing squadrons)

7th Fleigergruppe/geschwader z.b.V (Special Aviation Group)

1-3rd Schleppgruppen (Tow Groups)

1-2nd G.S.Kommandos

1-3rd Lehrgeschwader (Training Squadrons)
105, 306, 406, 50-6, 606, 706, 806, & 906th Küstengruppen
(Coastal Groups)
186th Trägergruppe (Carrier Group)
196th Bordfleiegergruppe (Rim? Aviation Group)
1 Minensuchgruppe (Mine Search Group)
1-3rd Fleiegerzielgeschwader (Aviation Target Squadrons)
1st Flugzeugüberführungsgeschwader (Aircraft Delivery Squadron)
2nd Flugzeugverbindungsgeschwader (Aircraft Communication
Squadron)
Ergänzungs-Aufklärungsgeschwader
1st & 2nd Ergänzungsjagdgeschwader
1st Ergänzungskampfgeschwader

The 1-5 & 172nd Transportgeschwader (Transport Squadrons) were formed in the Summer of 1943 by the designation and equipped with Ju52s.

The Luftlandverbands of the XI Fleieger Corps, Fleiegergruppe z.b.V of the 7th Fleieger Division, and the two group G.S. Kommands (Me 321 and 323) were formed only for special operations.

The Küstenfleiegergruppen were float plane reconnaissance units and the Trägergruppe was formed for service aboard the Graf Zeppelin aircraft carrier.

The Fleiegerzielgeschwader served the Flak units by providing towed targets.

Tessin, G., Verbände und Truppen der deutschen Wehrmacht und Waffen-SS im Zweiten Weltkrieg 1939-1945, Biblio Verlag, Osnabrück, 1977.

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