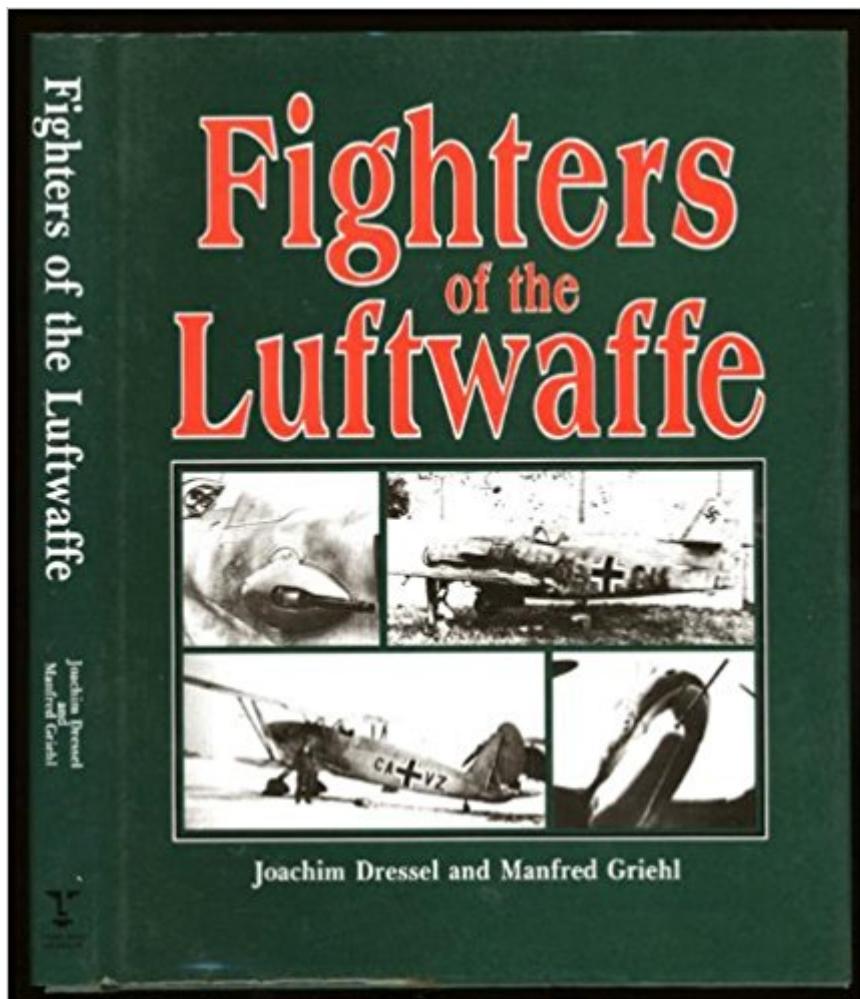


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# Fighters Of The Luftwaffe



## Synopsis

A photographic archive of every fighter in service with the Luftwaffe, combined with detailed narrative and technical history of each type and sub-variant - text and illustrations appear together for easy reference. This guide is designed for modellers, enthusiasts, collectors and renovators.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: German

Book may be O.K. if you like all black & white photos. For a modeler, the 3 view drawings and coloring might be more valuable. Book appears to show scenes not otherwise known by modeling enthusiast. Certainly not a good reference book for modelers.

Hitler's Luftwaffe continues to fascinate 60-odd years after the fall of the Third Reich. Luftwaffe buffs will undoubtedly enjoy well-known German authors Dressel and Griehl's photo-history of Luftwaffe fighters, offering, as it does, 300+ photographs of Messerschmitts, Focke Wulfs and other Third Reich fighters. After a 25-page introduction charting the creation of the German fighter forces, FIGHTERS OF THE LUFTWAFFE devotes succeeding chapters to single-engine fighters, twin-engined fighters, high-altitude fighters, night fighters, jet aircraft and rocket aircraft, breaking down major aircraft by model. So the 39 pages given over to Single-Engine Fighters, for example, presents photos, basic history and specs on the Bf 109E, F, G and K along with the FW 190A and D. On the down side, the book, which was translated from German, is pretty dry. Likewise, photo

quality varies. Three-views would have been a nice touch as well. While not as in-depth as William Green's magnificent *WARPLANES OF THE THIRD REICH*, Dressel and Giehl's book provides a good overview and basic summary of such warbirds as the Bf 109, Bf 110, Me 410, Ta 152H, Ju 88R, He 162 and Bachem 349. With so many fighter photos under one cover, Luftwaffe enthusiasts will find it hard to pass up this book. Recommended.\*\*\*\*In 1997 this book and the companion bomber volume were combined and sold under the title *THE LUFTWAFFE ALBUM*.

Strangely, the Third Reich bubbled with technological developments, but locked itself into standardized designs (Bf 109 and 110, Fw 190, Ju 87 and 88) for the most part. Contrary to common opinion, there were few jets, fewer night fighters than the British Mosquito NF series, and the most interesting were completed just in time to be captured by the Allies. Hitler, never a long-range planner, desired many inexpensive single-engine types. This book is full of pictures, construction and operational, of the types so often mentioned in biographies. Missing are stories, such as when Bf 110s of ZG 76 were caught by 56th Group P-47 fighters on 4 Oct 1943. In revenge for downing 4 B-17s, they lost 9 Messerschmitts, with 11 men killed and 7 wounded. Or the story of the luckless He 219 Night fighter: on its' first combat flight with ace Werner Streib (11 June, 1943), he claimed 5 British bombers- but crashed due to flap failure on landing, wrecking the plane. Never given priority production, planned re-equipment never happened. The aging Bf 110G had to soldier on instead. But if you want to read about Jets, go to p. 125. The first- Heinkel 280, was never produced, the Me 262 developed faster, was produced in large quantities, only most were blown up at war's end. Look at those pictures of ground crews man-handling them due to lack of tow vehicles. The continued development of single-engined jets underscores the shaky finances of the Luftwaffe- witness the He 162 'Volksjager', a tiny fuselage with engine piggy-backed on top. Last were the hazardous Rocket planes; fueled with poisonous chemicals, good for one pass, returning as gliders- and prone to explosion on landing. The Me 163, a desperation design! See: The Me 262 Stormbird: From the Pilots Who Flew, Fought, and Survived It, The Luftwaffe Profile Series: Number 3: Heinkel He 219 UHU, Top Secret Bird: The Luftwaffe's Me-163 Comet.

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