

**Bf 109F-4/Trop GL ?**

Bf 109F-4 Trop captured by No.5 Squadron SAAF and flown during the latter part of 1942. On 23 November 1942 it is mentioned in the War Diary for the first time when the squadron moved to Msus. It could not be started, but the ground crew repaired it in record time enabling the commanding officer Major Pearce to fly it out a while later to arrive at Martuba on 25 November 1942. It was used for training by the squadron until it was taken away by the RAF while based at Martuba.



Left: Newly painted, showing the non-standard roundels on the wings.



Main image: At least we have an idea of the fate of one of the '?' marked aircraft used by the SAAF. A No.5 Squadron member remarked that GL-? was taken away from his squadron by the RAF while they were based at Martuba. (December 1942 - January 1943). They eventually abandoned it to be scrapped, and it was photographed lying in this state by some American troops.



Below and right: Showing the cockpit and the light coloured roundel on the wing top.



The colours for GL-? have been speculated as a very dark colour. Most previous profiles suggest that it was a dark blue. Looking at the black and white photos the colour is lighter than the Roundel Blue, and also lighter than the red under the wing tip. Accepting that the squadron would have used the paint available, and at the same time wanting to look like an Allied aircraft so as not to be shot down by mistake, it is believed that Olive Drab is the most likely colour. The fuselage band would most likely have been 'Sky' as used by the SAAF.

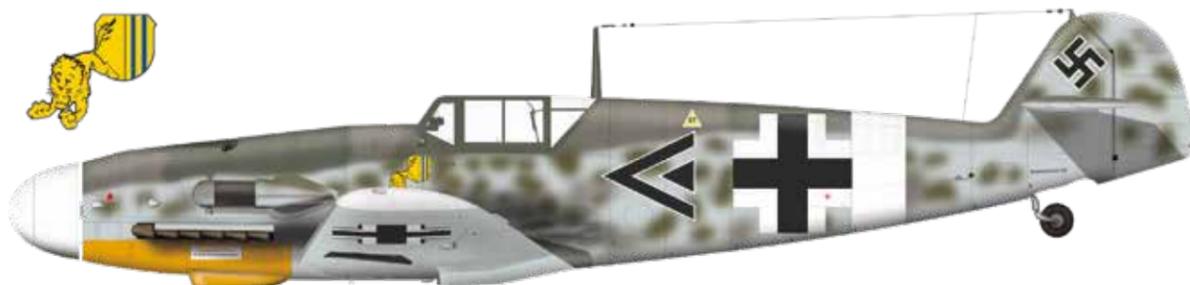
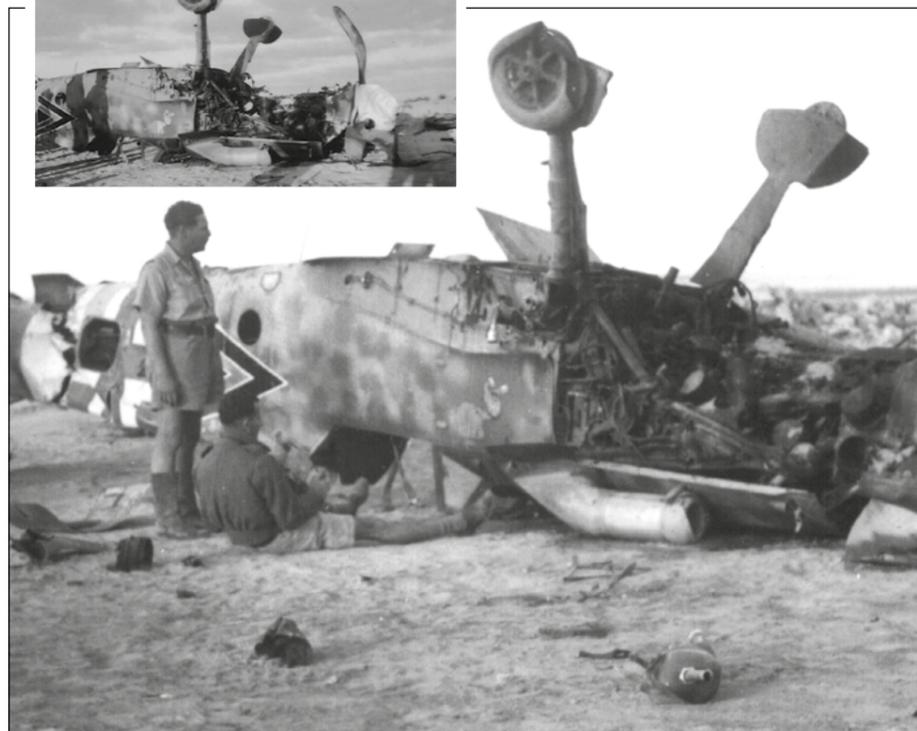


Bf 109G-2

W.Nr.10527

I./JG77

An upside down G-2 with the personal badge of Gruppenkommandeur Heinrich Bär on the side. He commanded I./JG77, and this aircraft was recorded as W.Nr 10527. His badge comes from his hometown of Leipzig and appeared on both sides of the aircraft. It was recorded as yellow with black outline and black details. The mane had dark brown details. The shield had two medium-blue vertical lines. It was flown by another pilot, Hauptman Heinrich, on 29 October 1942 when he hit an obstruction while landing and overturned near Bir-el Abd. When it crashed it was recorded as being with 3./JG77.



Bf 109G-2

Yellow 1+

Stab III./JG77

This Bf 109G-2 belonged to the Adjutant of III./JG77. It was found in the revetment next to Yellow 3 at Quotaifyah near El Daba. It is also reported as being at Bir-el Abd, which is in the Daba region. These photographs were taken by R Robinson from No.1 Squadron SAAF.



Bf 109G-2 Trop

Stab/JG77

A G-2 Trop in the markings of I./JG77 (Geschwader Adjutant). JG77 was based at Zuase, now Qualat-as-Sanan, in Tunisia from 22 January 1943 until 15 February 1943. No.24 SAAF Squadron was at Zuase from March 1943 until April 1943, which gives an approximate location and date of the photos.

