upermarine Spitfire
Spitfire fighter was the
t agile machine in the
le – it could out-
nœuvre even the
109E. Another vital
eriority was its fire-
er: eight wing-mounted
wnings which, though
ranged by the German
mon, held a decisive
centration of rounds
second. In the Battle of
ain the Spitfire also held
advantage of fighting
home ground, unfettered
the range handicap of
109E.
ament: Eight ·303-inch
chine-guns.
x speed: 361 mph

9. Hawker Hurricane
Britain's first monoplane fighter was the numerical mainstay of RAF Fighter Command in the Battle of Britain. The Hurricane's ideal role was that of bomber-interceptor; as a rule, only the Spitfire could tackle the Me-109 on level terms, though the Hurricane scored notable successes against the Me-110. During the battle the Hurricane was already being replaced by the Spitfire as the standard RAF fighter.
Armament: Eight ·303-inch machine-guns.
Max speed: 328 mph



8



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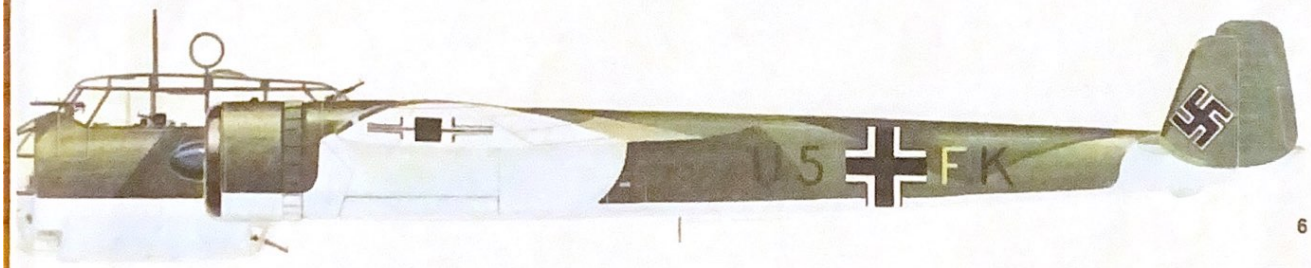
unkers 87
famous gull-winged
ka was the main weapon
ch Göring turned against
RAF fighter bases. But
easy victories of past
paigns had been won
he absence of adequate
ter opposition, and RAF
ts found the Stuka an
y prey. Severe losses in
rations throughout
gust destroyed its
ration as the all-
quering weapon of the
waffe, and the Ju-87
withdrawn from the
rehead of the attack.
mb load: One 1,102-lb,
110-lb bombs.
x speed: 217 mph

4. Junkers 88
The Ju-88 was the most versatile aircraft in the Luftwaffe's armoury for the entire war, serving as level bomber, dive-bomber, and night-fighter, as well as carrying out valuable reconnaissance duties. It was used by the Luftwaffe as a medium bomber in the Battle of Britain; but neither speed nor its comparatively high number of defending machine-guns was adequate protection from the fire-power of Spitfires and Hurricanes.
Bomb load: 5,510 lb
Max speed: 292 mph

5. Heinkel 111
The standard level bomber of the Luftwaffe at the time of the Battle of Britain, the He-111 suffered from its design as a medium bomber ideal for Continental operations but handicapped – as were all German twin-engined bombers – by the distances to targets in the north of England. Göring was convinced that its use in mass would prove decisive; but the He-111, it was found, was unable to beat off determined RAF fighter attacks.
Bomb load: 5,510 lb
Max speed: 258 mph

6. Dornier 17
The Do-17 was the Luftwaffe's veteran bomber: the type first saw service in the Spanish Civil War. Despite subsequent modifications, it was very weak in defensive fire, especially to attacks from below and to the rear. Known as the 'Flying Pencil' from its slim fuselage, the Do-17 was often confused with the British Hampden bomber, many of which were fired at by their own anti-aircraft guns. Its slender lines dictated a light bomb load.
Bomb load: 2,210 lb
Max speed: 270 mph

7. Dornier 215
This variant was a development of the basic design of the Do-17 with the installation of more powerful Daimler-Benz engines. The Do-215 was faster than the Do-17 – fast enough to tax the lower-rated British engines of the early Spitfires and Hurricanes in a chase. In its light bomb-load and weak defence armament, however, the Do-215 was as handicapped as the Do-17.
Bomb load: 2,215 lb
Max speed: 311 mph



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