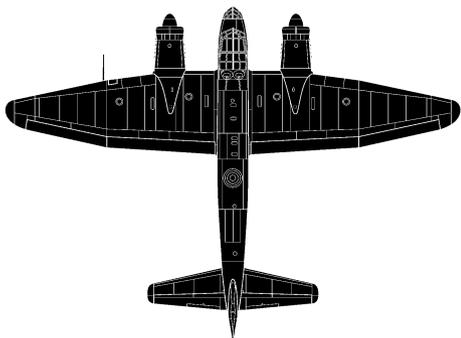


Ju 88



Germany's Ju 88 medium bomber was the most versatile of all aircraft in the Luftwaffe's World War II inventory. The Junkers-designed airplane served as a bomber, dive-bomber, fighter-bomber, torpedo bomber, night fighter, barrage-balloon destroyer, flying bomb, communications airplane, engine test bed, mine-layer, and reconnaissance system. It was built in numbers greater than all other German medium bombers combined.

The Ju 88 was not designed as a multipurpose aircraft, but it evolved into one. It was conceived in the mid-1930s as an answer to Hermann Goering's demand for a "schnellbomber" (high-speed bomber). It was an all-metal, flush-riveted, cantilever, two-spar wing aircraft, and the basic

structure remained almost unchanged throughout its life. However, it ran into early difficulties and underwent many engineering changes before entering combat in September 1939.

The Ju 88 took part in the early Norwegian, and Western Front attacks. It was prominent in the 1940 Battle of Britain, in which it suffered heavy losses. The highly maneuverable Ju 88 fared well in the East, where it could operate from primitive airfields. Ju 88 units attacked Soviet strips and troop positions at low level, wreaking havoc. The airplane went on to fight on every front, in a wide variety of roles, and was unsurpassed in an anti-shipping role.

—Walter J. Boyne

This aircraft: Ju 88 A-4 4D+AC—#140171—as it looked in spring 1942 when it was assigned to Kampfgeschwader KG30, based in Petsamo, Finland.



In Brief

Designed by Junkers ★ built by Junkers, Arado, Henschel, Heinkel, Dornier, Volkswagen ★ first flight Dec. 21, 1936 ★ crew of four—pilot, bombardier/gunner, engineer/gunner, radio operator/gunner ★ number built 16,000+ ★ two Junkers Jumo 211 inline V-12 engines ★ **Specific to Ju 88A-4:** armament (typical) one 13 mm and two 7.92 mm machine guns ★ bomb load 4,500 lb ★ max speed 292 mph ★ cruise speed 190 mph ★ max range 1,700 mi ★ weight (loaded) 31,000 lb ★ span 65 ft 7 in ★ length 47 ft 3 in ★ height 15 ft 11 in.

Famous Fliers

Decorated Pilots: Erwin Fischer, Joachim Helbig, Herbert Isachsen, Alfons Muggenthaler, Heinrich Paepcke, Heinrich Schweickhardt. **Aces:** Martin Becker, Helmut Lent, Gerhard Raht, Heinz Roekker, Heinz Struening, Prince Heinrich zu Sayn Wittgenstein, Paul Zorner. **Record Setters:** Kurt Heintz, Ernst Siebert. **Notables:** Theodor Rowehl, Hajo Hermann.

Interesting Facts

Set world records of 321.5 mph over 1,000 km (621.4 mi) course and 310.6 mph over 2,000 km course ★ flown by Germany, Italy, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Finland ★ captured and flown by three German enemies—Britain, France, Soviet Union ★ carried Lichtenstein radar and upward-firing "jazz music" guns for night fighting ★ became "Mistel" guided bomb when cockpit was replaced by 8,350-pound warhead ★ nicknamed "Dreifinger" ("three fingers," from long engine cowlings) and "The Maid of All Work" (play on "Jack of All Trades") ★ became (March 3, 1945) last German aircraft downed over England ★ now displayed in the National Museum of the United States Air Force.



German crewmen rest next to their Ju 88A variant, summer 1942.

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