







photo credits: Georg Hoch "Messerschmitt Me 109 in Swiss Air Force Service" book

The aircraft were painted in typical German camuflage of these days - common shades of grey RLM 74/75 over RLM 76, with small patterns of RLM 02 on the fuselage sides. Propeller spinner was blackgreen (RLM 70) with white segment, propeller blades were RLM 70 with two small white strips. National insignia were in eight positions - on the wings upper side (in the form of a roundel with a Swiss cross) and lower side (in a form of red band with a Swiss cross), at the fuselage (in a form of red band with a Swiss cross) and on the rudder painted red. The aircraft numbers (white) were painted on both sides of the fuselage.

Presumably two aircraft were provided with a grouded hood - but possible shade (yellow, RLM 02 or RLM 66) cannot be determined.

After the incidents with USAAF aircraft from September 1944, Swiss insignia on the upper side of the wing received band form (as on the lower part) and all Swiss aircraft were receiving red-white identification stripes ("neutrality stripes"). The engine cowlings were painted white.

These "neutrality stripes" from fuselages were removed at summer 1945 during a partial or total revision of the aircraft. For reason of aviation security the identification marking on the wings were kept. During revision work at summer 1945 the camouflage on the fuselage side was correspondingly adjusted with light specks. Each aircraft was individually sprayed without exact guidelines, Swiss blue-gray shades, mixed by hand, were used.

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In summer 1944 at least one aircraft received aggressive "shark mouth" (or rather "crocodile head") painting. It was not clearified for what reason the paintng was applied. At the end of Thirties the FI Kp 7 had a shark as Kompanie emblem. In summer 1940 a more paceful trout served as a symbol. In 1944 one probably wanted to accentuate a certain aggressiveness, and paint at least one aircraft in the present manner.

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Some authors shows this "crocodile head" as yellow.

Indeed, it is difficult to precisely determine the color of the painting from one black and white photo. Due to the fact that the mechanics in the unit used shades of paint mixed manually on a daily basis at the workplace, we believe that it was rather a gray-greenish or yellow-greenish color, close to the natural one.

Some authors assign the number J-706 to the plane with a "crocodile head" - unfortunately, this information is still not confirmed in any sources. However, we have added numbers J-706 to our set for use if anyone wants.



A Gustav of FI Kp 7 in summer 1944







