



The ALBATROS C.III was one of Germany's most successful WWI aircraft designs. Developed from a long line of Albatros multi-purpose designs, most notably the B.II and the first Albatros C.IIIs arrived at the Front in December of 1915. Originally referred to in reports as an improved C.I, the new aircraft was actually a blend of the best from the C.I and the B.III. Good flying characteristics and simplified construction and maintenance procedures made the C.III a favorite with aircrew and ground crew alike. It was so popular that no less than seven other firms undertook construction of the type.

Flown in combat in both reconnaissance and bomber roles, the Albatros C.III remained in front line service until mid-1917. From there, the remaining aircraft went to training centers, where many were fitted with dual controls. While primarily an Army aircraft, several saw service with the German Navy Air Service. During WWII, a contingent was sent to the Turkish Air Service and post-war operators included Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, Finland and Poland. As the type served on all fronts, it is not too surprising that captured examples appeared in the markings of France, Czarist Russia and probably others.

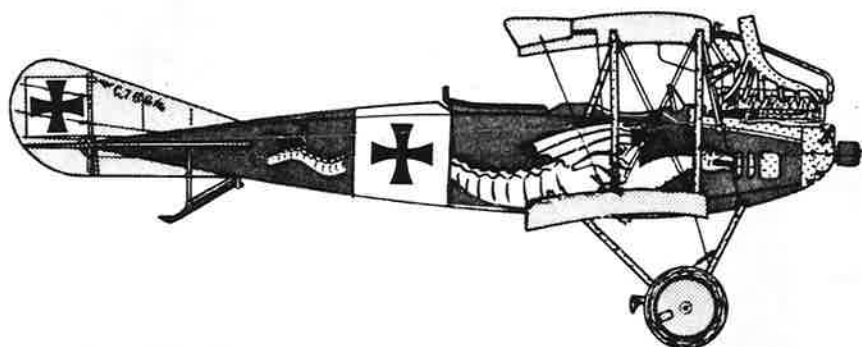


As with most limited run injection molded kits, the Albatros C.III would benefit from some cleaning up of parts. Lightly sand flat parts to be cemented together and wash all parts in warm, soapy water before assembly and painting. Details such as windscreen and rigging may be added at the modeler's discretion.

Check photos of the actual aircraft that you are building for individual details. There were several different exhaust stack variants, armament arrangements, dual controls for the trainers and sometimes quite different tails and rudders, sometimes borrowed from other types of aircraft.

Early aircraft were doped in white or clear doped linen. The most common color scheme seen, however, was a varnished and sometimes stained natural wood fuselage with doped linen wings and tail surfaces. Most aircraft had all metal surfaces, including access panels in the nose, painted metallic grey. All struts were usually painted a light grey.

Because of the length of service of the Albatros C.III, almost every variant of the German cross was carried. Aircraft identification number was often carried on the tail in black. The small emblem at the end of the number is the Albatros emblem a swooping bird with a human head with early pilot's helmet and the logo "ALBATROS SCHNEIDENUHL". A tiny red dot should be added to the decal, if used.

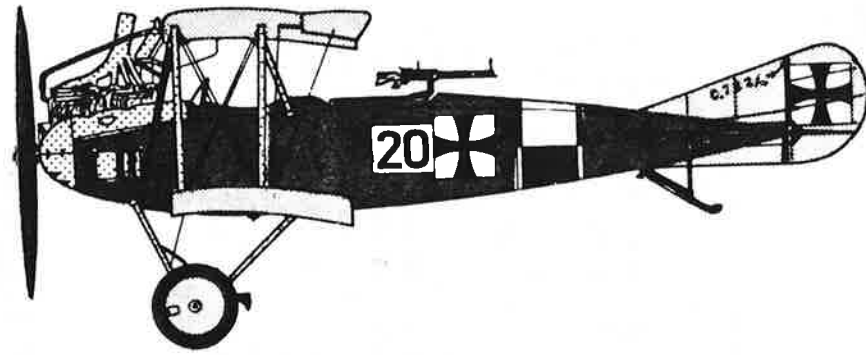
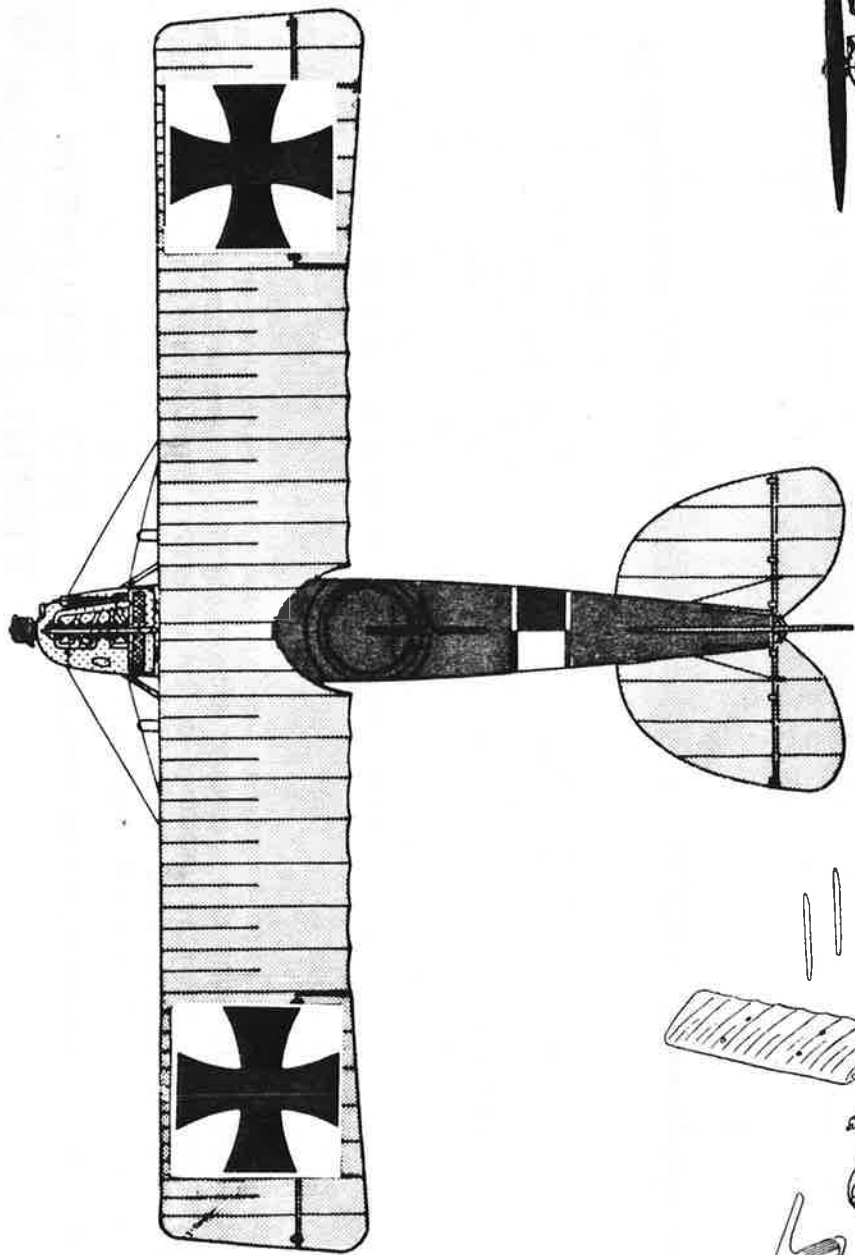


LEFT:
ALBATROS C.III 766/16 of Kampfgeschwader I, Staffel 7 as flown by Leutenants Bohme and Lademacher. Varnished wood fuselage, clear doped wings and tail. White wrap-around fuselage band. Dragon in white with black detailing. Tail number in black.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. ALBATROS C.III by P.M. Grosz, Windsock Datafile 13. This thirty page monograph is almost a one-stop shopping center for C.III research. Superb plans in both 1/72 and 1/48 are supplied, being supplemented with many pages of detail photos. Color views by Ray Rimell and a cover painting by Brian Knight round out the many excellent photos. Both of the aircraft offered on our decal sheet are shown, the color drawing of C.722, however, shows the wrong number.
2. SCALE MODELS, March, 1979, Albatros Two-Seaters of World War I, No. 5 by Peter Gray. A full page of plans to 1/72 scale is supplemented with six photos.
3. VON RICHTHOFEN AND THE "FLYING CIRCUS", Harleyford Publications. Hard to find, but the 1/72 scale plans and nine excellent photos make it worth the effort.

Please Note: Because of the complexity of the rear gun ring, we are offering it as a separate item along with brass etched detail parts. In order to keep the cost down of these and other Meikraft products, we are offering these extras, separately, as accessory kits with the price and availability to be announced. If you wish, you can make a gun ring out of a strip of .030 by .020 plastic wrapped around a 7/16" piece of tubing. If you have a copy of the Windsock Data File #13, you can see the impossible task of molding this part accurately in plastic. We strive to be one of the best in short-run kit manufacturers. Your comments are appreciated. Feel free to write us. For a reply, please include a #10 S.A.S.E. Otherwise, we respectfully cannot reply to all inquiries. Thank You.



ALBATROS C.III 722/16 of Kampfgeschwader IV, Staffel 20. Varnished wood fuselage, clear doped wings and tail. Light grey nose panels. All markings black and white.

