

America's Alertmen

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FIGHTING PLANE OF THE WEEK

HEINKEL JU-88

GERMAN DIVE BOMBER

Successor to the famed Ju-87, or Stuka, the Ju-88 is proving to be the chief offensive weapon of the weakening German Luftwaffe. Originally designed as a high altitude bomber, it was later altered to operate as a dive bomber, as well. Other variations of the Ju-88 are in use for many different purposes. Recently, one carrying a torpedo was shot down by the R.A.F., and others have been reported as being used for specialized ground attack missions.

During the Blitz of London, the Ju-88 was very much in evidence and it has been used constantly to harass Channel shipping. Reports from Russia state that it has seen much action on that front and more recent reports from North Africa tell of its use in that area.

MAXIMUM SPEED OVER 300 M.P.H.

The maximum speed of the Ju-88 is quoted as somewhat over 300 m.p.h. and its cruising range is said to be 1,560 miles at 185 m.p.h. The diving speed with brakes is reported as being up to 340 m.p.h. and over 400 m.p.h. without them. The maximum internal bomb load is given as 4,960 pounds. Six machine guns form the defensive armament and the plane carries a crew of four for high level bombing and three when used as a dive bomber.

The engines of the Ju-88 are deceiving in appearance. Liquid-cooled, they have circular nose radiators which make them look like radial, air-cooled engines.

LEARN THESE CHARACTERISTICS

TYPE: Land monoplane; two motors.

WING: Dihedral; sweptback beyond motor nacelles; tapered; semi-squared wing tip; low wing.

TAIL: Single fin and rudder on horizontal tailplane.

NOTE: Motor nacelles project far beyond leading edge of wing; slender fuselage; off-center under turret; general nose-heavy appearance.

