



TBF-1 Avenger

The heaviest single-engined aircraft of the war, Grumman's rugged **TBF** proved an outstanding torpedo bomber.

The Torpedo value depends on the scenario date

Variants

This card depicts almost all major variants, including the TBF-1C and TBM. Named Avenger Mk.I and Mk.II in British and New Zealand service

TBM-3 Improved variant, in service mid-44, named Avenger Mk.III in British service Add ATGR 7 and Drop Tank abilities





TBD-1 Devastator

Though one of the most advanced bombers in the world when it entered service, four years later the Douglas **TBD** had become outdated and vulnerable. It was further limited by a torpedo that could not be dropped at high speed. Successes were modest in the naval battles of 1942 and casualties high. The **Devastator** was soon replaced by the more capable **TBF Avenger**.





SBD-3 Dauntless

The Douglas **SBD** was the primary US Navy and Marine Corps dive bomber of the war and hero of the naval battles of 1942. Though an excellent carrier plane it fared less well as a land-based bomber. Towards the end of the war it was gradually replaced by more flexible fighter-bombers.

Variants

This card also depicts late-production variants, including the SBD-4 and -5, as well as the land-based Army Air Force A-24 Banshee

SBD-1, SBD-2 Early variants without fuel protection and armour Reduce Protection to 3



A-20C Havoc

Douglas built the **Havoc** as a light bomber, but it matured into a versatile attacker that served in American, British, Commonwealth and Soviet air forces.

Variants

This card depicts the A-20A, B and C, the DB-7 in French and Soviet service, and the Boston Mk.III and Mk.IIIA in British and Commonwealth service

A-20G, A-20H Ground attacker, in service Feb 43

Increase Bombs to 13 and Firepower to 2/0

A-20J, A-20K Bomber, in service 1943
Upgrade Bombsight to G; increase Bombs to 13





P-40F Warhawk

The failing of the early Curtiss **P-40** models was their lack of power at high altitudes. The addition of a Packard-built Merlin engine helped the fighter tackle capable foes such as the **Bf 109F**, though it still lacked the supercharging needed to challenge high-flying enemies.

Variants

The P-40F was named Kittyhawk Mk.II in British and Commonwealth service

P-40L Lightweight variant with some guns removed

Reduce Firepower to 1; add Edge > ability





P-40E Warhawk

The Curtiss P-40E improved upon the P-40C with a more powerful engine and a bigger gun battery. It was sufficiently different that the British renamed it the Kittyhawk and it was to play an important role in North Africa, the Pacific, and Russia.

Variants

The P-40E was named Kittyhawk Mk.IA in British and Commonwealth service

P-40D Early version, built in small numbers.

Named Kittyhawk Mk.I in British and
Commonwealth service

Reduce Firepower to 1





P-40B Warhawk

The Curtiss **P-40** was ubiquitous in the early war. Inadequate supercharging limited its effectiveness at altitude, but as one of the few modern fighter aircraft available from America, it played a vital role in many theatres.

Variants

This card depicts the **P-40B** and **C**, named **Tomahawk Mk.II** in British and Commonwealth service

Tomahawk Mk.I Early variant without fuel protection and armour, in British and Commonwealth service May 41 Reduce Protection to 3





F4F-4 Wildcat

Grumman's **F4F** was the USN's primary carrier fighter on entry into the war, playing a vital role in the early Pacific battles.

Variants

The F4F-4 was named Martlet Mk.IV or Wildcat Mk.IV in British service

F4F-3 Early variant, in service Aug 40. Named Martlet Mk.I, Mk.II and Mk.III in British service

Reduce Firepower to 1

FM-1 GM-built model, named Martlet Mk.V or Wildcat Mk.V in British service

Reduce Firepower to 1

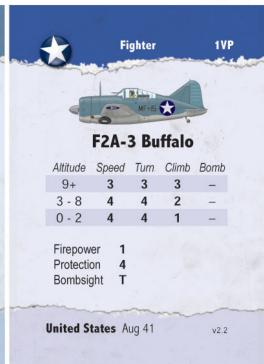
For later variants see the FM-2 card





















F2A-3 Buffalo

The early Brewster F2A Buffalo was a sprightly, well-regarded fighter. However, adding weapons, armour and equipment robbed it of performance, while unreliability and poor build quality gave it a reputation as a 'lemon'. In the right hands the Buffalo made a decent account of itself, but the Americans and British soon retired it.

Variants

This card depicts the 'heavy' Buffaloes in service with the US and the British **Buffalo Mk.I**, available May 41

For the 'light' Buffalo variants see the B-339D Buffalo card



Gladiator Mk.II

Britain's last biplane fighter, Gloster's Gladiator was exported to many countries, Finland and China amongst them. By the outbreak of war the Gladiator was outclassed by modern monoplanes, and though it won some heroic victories it was rapidly pensioned off.

Variants

This card depicts the early **Gladiator Mk.I**, in service Feb 37, named **J 8** in Swedish service; the uprated **Mk.II**, named **J 8A** in Swedish service; and the navalised **Sea Gladiator**





Battle Mk.I

The Fairey **Battle** was a clean-looking light bomber powered by the same Merlin engine as the **Spitfire** and **Hurricane**. However, it lacked power for its weight, so that by the opening campaign of the war it could not cope with the role thrust upon it. Badly mauled in France in 1940, the **Battle** soon receded from front-line service.

Variants

This card also depicts the Battle Mk.II and Mk.V





Blenheim Mk.IV

The Bristol factory's **Blenheim** fast bomber was an icon of rearmament, though by 1940 it lacked speed and weapon load. It saw a lot of action until more capable replacements, such as the **Beaufighter**, appeared.

Variants

Blenheim Mk.I Mar 37 early version Reduce Protection to 3-4

Remove Bomb rating; increase Firepower to 1; reduce Turn by 1; add Rear View ability

Blenheim Mk.V 'Bisley' Ground-attack variant, in service mid-42 *Increase Firepower to 1* and *Protection to 5*





Spitfire Mk.VB

The Supermarine Spitfire Mk.VB was the main production variant of the Mk.V. The 'B' indicated wings that mixed cannon and machineguns to increase the fighter's punch. Engine power was greater, but barely made up for the weight of new guns and equipment.

Variants

This card also depicts the **Spitfire Mk.VC** with numerous improvements

Spitfire Mk.VA Machinegun-armed variant made in small numbers Reduce Firepower to 1





Spitfire Mk.IA

Boasting eight machineguns, good speed and a sparkling rate of turn, the **Spitfire** was easily the match of the best German fighters of the early war. Supermarine's Merlinengined wonder became the icon of the Battle of Britain.

Variants

This card depicts all early variants, including the **Spitfire Mk.I**, in service Aug 38, and **Mk.IIA**, in service Aug 40

Spitfire Mk.IB, Mk.IIB Cannon-armed variants built in small numbers. The Mk.IB entered service Jun 40 Increase Firepower to 2





Hurricane Mk.IIC

With upgraded weapons and powerplant, Hawker's **Hurricane** gradually shifted from the fighter to the ground attack role.

Variants

This card also depicts the navalised **Sea Hurricane Mk.IIC**, in service May 42

Hurricane Mk.IIA, Mk.IIB Machinegunarmed variants, in service Sep 40 Reduce Firepower to 1

Hurricane Mk.IID Anti-tank variant, Jun 42 Reduce Firepower to 0; increase Protection to 4-5: carries AT Pod instead of bombs

Hurricane Mk.IV In service late 43
Add AT Pod and ATGR 8 abilities





Hurricane Mk.I

The Hawker Hurricane Mk.I gave yeoman service in the early years of the war as a cheap and rugged fighter. Until there were sufficient Spitfires available it was the backbone of the fighter arm in the Battle of Britain, the Mediterranean and the Far East. Outpaced by most modern fighters, it was considered to be manoeuvrable and could be deadly in skilled hands.

Variants

This card also depicts the navalised **Sea Hurricane Mk.IB**, in service Jul 41





















MC.202 Folgore

The Folgore ('Thunderbolt') was Macchi's answer to the failings of the MC.200 Saetta. It mated a German inline engine to the MC.200 airframe and added armour to create an agile, fast fighter capable of beating the Hurricane and P-40. Though it became a mainstay of the Regia Aeronautica, Macchi was unable to produce enough of them to stem the Allied tide.

Remove Bomb rating and **Drop Tanks** ability before 1942

Variants

This card also depicts the improved MC.202AS and the MC.202CB fighter-bomber





MC.200 Saetta

Macchi's MC.200 Saetta (the name refers to Jupiter's lightning bolts) was one of a number of Italian fighters that entered service just prior to the war. Like its contemporary the G.50 Freccia, it had modern features but lacked power. It was not until a more powerful engine was fitted to create the MC.202 Folgore that the airframe could compete with the Allies on even terms

Remove Bomb rating and **Drop Tanks** ability before 1942

Variants

This card also depicts the improved MC.200CB





G.50 bis Freccia

Though Fiat's **G.50 Freccia** ('Arrow') was one of the Regia Aeronautica's most modern fighters on the eve of war, it was already inferior to British and German types. However, in the right hands the **G.50** could achieve success, and did so in the desperate fighting over the Western Desert.

Remove Bomb rating before May 41

Variants

G.50 Initial production model, in service Jan 39

WING LEADER

Reduce Protection to 3



CR.42 Falco

Fiat's CR.42 biplane was one of the most widely used Italian aircraft of the war. It reflected the pre-war consensus in Italy on the supremacy of aerobatic manoeuvrability. However, it suffered from a lack of speed and firepower, and was picked apart by faster, more heavily armed Allied aircraft. As a result, the Regia Aeronautica would gradually shift away from the CR.42 to more modern monoplanes.

Variants

This card depicts all service variants including the improved **CR.42** *bis* and the **J 11** in Swedish service





Yak-1

The Soviet Union's best-performing fighter on the eve of the German invasion, the Yak-1 suffered from poor manufacture and was only available in small quantities. However, quality improved and numbers of Yaks grew until it was one of the major types seen over the Eastern Front. Though outclassed by German fighters, the aircraft became the basis of a series of mass-produced Yakovlev fighters, such as the Yak-7 and Yak-9.

Variants

Yak-1B Improved variant, in service Dec 42

Add Rear View ability





LaGG-3

Lavochkin, Gorbunov, and Gudkov's LaGG-3 was a wooden fighter of modern design. The aircraft was underpowered, unpopular with pilots, and outclassed by the Bf 109. However, the desperate need for planes following the German invasion meant that by May 42 it was the most widely used fighter in Soviet service.

The addition of a more powerful radial engine would transform the inadequate LaGG-3 into the superior La-5.

Variants

LaGG-3-37 Up-gunned variant, in service Sep 42 in small numbers *Increase Firepower to 2*





IL-2 'llyusha'

Built in greater numbers than any other military aircraft in history, Ilyushin's IL-2 was designed from the start as a heavily armoured attack aircraft (or *Sturmovik*). The 'Ilyusha', in its definitive form as the two-seat IL-2M, would become the emblem of Soviet Frontal Aviation, at the forefront of the fight.

Variants

This card depicts the single-seater variant only

For the two-seat variant see the IL-2M card





SM.79-II Sparviero

The Savoia-Marchetti **SM.79 Sparviero** ('Sparrowhawk') was a record-breaking pre-war bomber. During the war it served with distinction, both as a bomber and in torpedo attacks in the Mediterranean.

Variants

This card also depicts the **SM.79-I** production bomber, in service late 36, and the **SM.79-III** torpedo bomber

WING LEADER

1.5VP

Bomb

9

9

Fighter

Bf 110C-4

Turn

Climb

3

2

Drop Tanks

Rear View

Speed

5

2

4-5

Т

0



Bf 109E-4 'Emil'

Altitude	Speed	Turn	Climb	Bomb
12+	4	4	3	_
5 - 11	5	5	2	7
0 - 4	5	5	1	7

Firepower Protection Bombsight

Germany Jun 40

v2.2



Bf 109F-2 'Friedrich'

Altitude	Speed	Turn	Climb	Bomb
14+	4	4	3	_
6 - 13	5	5	2	7
0 - 5	5	5	1	7

Drop Tanks Firepower Protection 4 Edge ▶ Bombsight T

Germany Oct 40

v2.0



Altitude	Speed	Turn	Climb	Bomb
15+	5	5	3	-
6 - 14	6	6	2	7
0 - 5	6	6	1	7

Firepower Protection 4 Bombsight T

Germany Jun 41

Drop Tanks Gun Pod

v2.0

Germany Jul 40

Altitude

11+

3 - 10

0 - 2

Firepower

Protection

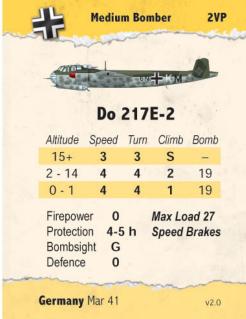
Bombsight

Defence

v2.2











Bf 110C-4

Messerschmitt's twin-engined **Bf 110** came out of a requirement for a heavily armed long-range fighter, or *Zerstörer*. In combat, it proved less agile than single-engined fighters, and was soon withdrawn from the front line. It would later find new careers as a fighter-bomber and night fighter.

Variants

Bf 110C-1, C-2, C-3 Early versions of the C-series, in service Jan 39

Remove Bomb rating; reduce Firepower to 1 and Protection to 4

Bf 110C-7 Fighter-bomber variant *Increase Bombs to 14*





Bf 109F-4 'Friedrich'

Messerschmitt's **Bf 109F-4** was the definitive version of the 'Friedrich', with a more powerful engine and propeller that improved high-altitude performance. This was a fast and powerful fighter that was superior to Soviet aircraft and could hold its own against the British and Americans.

Variants

This card also depicts the **Bf 109F-4/R1** which could carry gun pods





Bf 109F-2 'Friedrich'

Messerschmitt improved upon earlier versions of its **Bf 109** fighter with numerous aerodynamic refinements. The F-series was supposed to feature a more powerful engine, but this was not available in numbers at first. So the **F-2** version, with an older motor, became an important interim fighter until the appearance of the **Bf 109F-4**.

Variants

This card also depicts the early **Bf 109F-1** with alternative armament, built in small numbers





Bf 109E-4 'Emil'

Messerschmitt's versatile interceptor built its reputation with the E-series in the great battles over France and Britain. The 'Emil' was a world-class fighter, being small, lightweight and fast. Its only flaw was its short range, but in spite of this it would form the backbone of the Jagdwaffe.

Variants

Bf 109E-1, E-3 Early variants, in service Feb 39

Remove Bomb rating; reduce Firepower to 0 and Protection to 3

Bf 109E-7 Long-range variant capable of carrying additional fuel Add **Drop Tank** ability





He 111H-1

A redesign of Heinkel's original **He 111** created the definitive version of the bomber, which despite encroaching obsolescence soldiered on almost to the end of the war.

Variants

This card depicts all the early H-series from the H-1 to H-10

He 111P-1 Daimler-Benz-engined version, depicting the **P-0** to **P-6**, in service late 38 Reduce Bombs to 13 and Protection to 4 h

He 111H-11 Improved 1942 version, depicts the series up to the H-16 and H-20 Upgrade Bombsight to G; increase Firepower to 1/0 and Protection to 4-5





Do 217E-2

Though superficially resembling the **Do 17**, Dornier's **Do 217** was a completely new aircraft. Larger and faster than its predecessor, it boasted a very long range and a substantial payload, allowing it to compete with heavy bombers.

Variants

This card depicts all the E-series from the E-1 to E-5; the Do 217K night-bomber and anti-shipping variant, in service Sep 42; and the Do 217M night bomber, in service Nov 43





Do 17Z-2

Based on experience gained in Spain, Dornier substantially redesigned its fast bomber to create the mass-produced **Do 17Z.** However, its light bomb load and short range meant that production ended in 1940 in favour of the **Ju 88**. The type saw little service after the war's early years.

Variants

This card depicts the Z-series from the Z-0 to Z-5, as well as the early radial-engined Do 17M

Do 17P Reconnaissance variant Remove Bomb rating





Fw 190A-2

Focke-Wulf's radial-engine fighter came as a shock to the Allies, being blisteringly fast at low and medium altitudes, even if its performance dropped off at high altitude. The Fw 190A handled well and mounted a powerful gun battery. Its main opponent at the time of introduction was the Spitfire Mk.VB, which it clearly outclassed. For a while it tipped air superiority in northwest Europe in favour of the Germans.

Variants

This card also depicts the early-production Fw 190A-1, in service Jul 41 in small numbers only







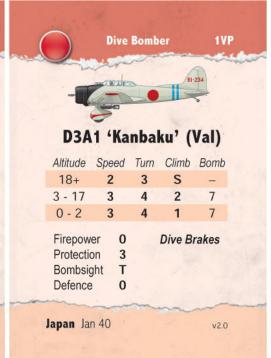














A6M2 'Zero' Allied Codename: Zeke

Mitsubishi's famous 'Zero' fighter reflected Naval pilots' desire for manoeuvrability and the Admirals' need for great range. A lightweight airframe granted both qualities, as well as respectable speed and climb rate. In the first year of war the A6M2 'Zero' held an edge over heavier, often underpowered opposition. However, after 1942 it would be eclipsed by faster, better-protected Allied fighters.

Variants

This card also depicts the improved A6M3





Ki-43-la Hayabusa Allied Codename: Oscar

Like the Navy's A6M, the Japanese Army's Ki-43 Hayabusa ('Peregrine Falcon') squeezed the best performance out of its engine by mounting it in a light airframe with no armour. Its weapons lacked punch, but for the lack of a timely replacement, Nakajima's creation became the most widely used Army fighter of the war.

Variants

Increase Firepower to 1

This card also depicts the **Ki-43-lb Ki-43-lc** Up-gunned version, in service Oct 42 in small numbers

Wine Leanen



Ju 88A-4

Designed by Junkers as a fast bomber, the Ju 88 was a true multi-role aircraft, serving in the strike, reconnaissance and even fighter roles. It was the most important twin-engined aircraft in Luftwaffe service and served right to the end of the war.

Variants

This card depicts the early A-series from the A-1, in service Sep 39, to A-5 and the A-10. The A-4 was the main production variant

Ju 88A-14 Depicts the late A-series up to the A-17, in service 1942 Upgrade Bombsight to G





Ju 87B-1 'Stuka'

Icon of the early Blitzkrieg victories, the Junkers dive bomber was a potent precision weapon. However, the Battle of Britain revealed its vulnerability to fighters and it would soon be replaced by fighter-bombers.

Variants

This card also depicts the **Ju 87B-2**, named **Picchiatello** in Italian service

Ju 87A Early variant, in service Jan 38 Reduce Bombs to 7 and Protection to 3

Ju 87R Long-range anti-ship variant. The R-series included the R-1, R-2 and R-4 Reduce Bombs to 7; add Drop Tank ability





D3A1 'Kanbaku' Allied Codename: Val

The Aichi D3A (or 'Type 99 Carrier Bomber', abbreviated as 'Kanbaku') was built to fill an Imperial Navy requirement for a carrier-based dive bomber. The resulting aircraft was manoeuvrable but lacked armour and carried a light payload. These deficiencies did not prevent the Kanbaku from racking up successes against Allied ships. After replacement by the D4Y Suisei it was relegated to a land-based role towards the end of the war.

Variants

This card also depicts the improved D3A2, in service late 42





B5N2 'Kankō' Allied Codename: Kate

The **B5N** series (or 'Type 97 Carrier Attack Bomber', abbreviated as 'Kankō') was built by Nakajima to fulfil a need for a fast torpedo bomber. Its speed was achieved by keeping the aircraft unburdened by extra weight, such as armour.

Despite its near-obsolescence, the **B5N2** saw success at Pearl Harbor and in the first year of war in the Pacific, before being replaced from 1943 onward.

Variants

This card also depicts the early **B5N1** that saw service in China from late 38





G4M1 'Rikkō' Allied Codename: Betty

Mitsubishi's **G4M** series (or 'Type 1 Landbased Attack Aircraft', abbreviated as 'Rikkō') was a long-range fast bomber for the Imperial Navy. Range was achieved at the expense of protection, which earned it a reputation for burning easily. However, this superlative bomber was a mainstay of the Navy's striking power up to the war's end.

Variants

This card also depicts the improved **G4M2**, in service mid-43

G4M3 Late-war variant with additional protection, in service Oct 44 *Increase Protection to 4-5*





Ki-21-IIa Allied Codename: Sally

The Mitsubishi **Ki-21** (or 'Type 97 Heavy Bomber') was one of the Japanese Army's primary bombers. Dominant over China, the **Ki-21** suffered serious casualties against the Western Allies, and so gradually shifted away from front-line service.

Variants

This card also depicts the improved **Ki-21-IIb**, in service mid-43

Ki-21-la, -lb, -lc Early-war variants, in service late 38

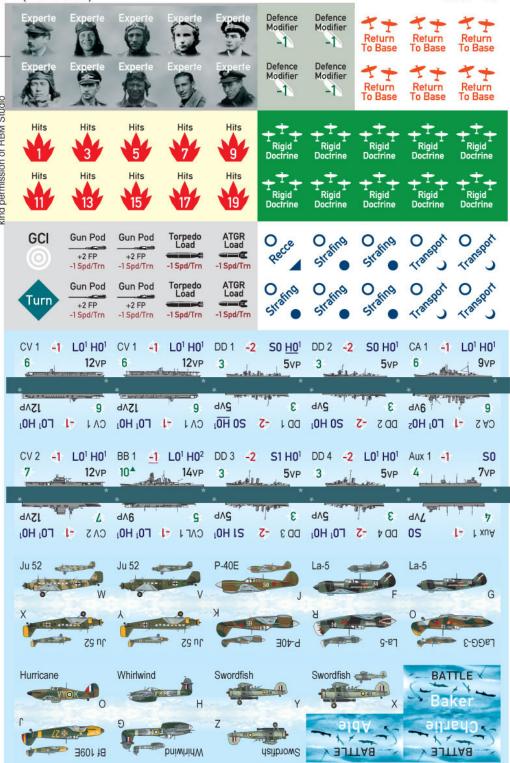
Reduce Protection to 3-4

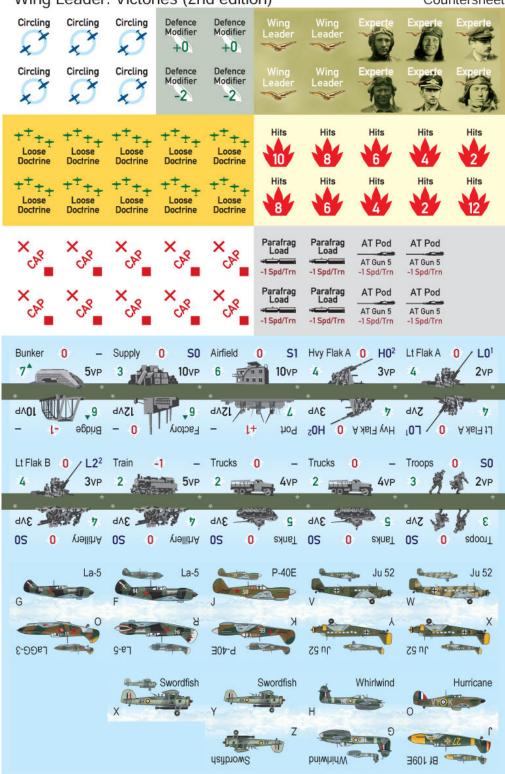














Swordfish Mk.I

Despite its obsolescent biplane configuration, Fairey Aviation's **Swordfish Mk.I** carved out a legendary reputation as a torpedo bomber in the early years of the war performing spectacular feats of arms such as the raid on Taranto. With the arrival of its replacement, the **Barracuda**, it spent the later years of the war doing less perilous anti-submarine work.

Variants

Swordfish Mk.II Improved variant, also depicts the radar-equipped anti-submarine **Mk.III**

WING LEADER

Add ATGR 8 ability



Whirlwind Mk.I

Westland built the **Whirlwind** to meet a requirement for a cannon-armed heavy fighter. However, the advent of the cannon **Spitfire** and the more versatile **Beaufighter** rendered it redundant. Though of advanced design, the **Whirlwind** struggled for performance at high altitude and lacked the range for effective escort duty. Just two squadrons were deployed, operating as low-level ground-attack specialists before being withdrawn from service in 43.

Variants

This card also depicts the ground-attack **Whirlwind Mk.II**, nicknamed the 'Whirlibomber'





La-5

The deficiencies of the LaGG-3 had resulted in production being shut down in favour of Yakovlev fighters. Deprived of resources, Lavochkin improved his design by grafting a radial engine onto a LaGG-3 airframe. The new fighter, designated La-5, soon proved itself to be superior, and was ordered into mass production. Though still at a disadvantage to the Germans, the La-5 gave its pilots a fighting chance.

Variants

La-5F Variant with boosted engine, in service Jan 43

Add Edge ▶ ability

WING LEADER



Ju 52/3m

The Junkers Ju 52 tri-motor was the iconic air transport of the Third Reich. Designed as an airliner, it was repurposed for military use by the resurgent Luftwaffe. It served briefly as a bomber until more modern bombers entered service, but it was best known as a troop and supply transport, in which role it served to the end of the war.

Variants

This card depicts all major variants of the Ju 52, including the early bomber versions

Many **Ju 52**s were unarmed and lacked bombs (no Bomb or Defence ratings). Such aircraft will be indicated by special rules

