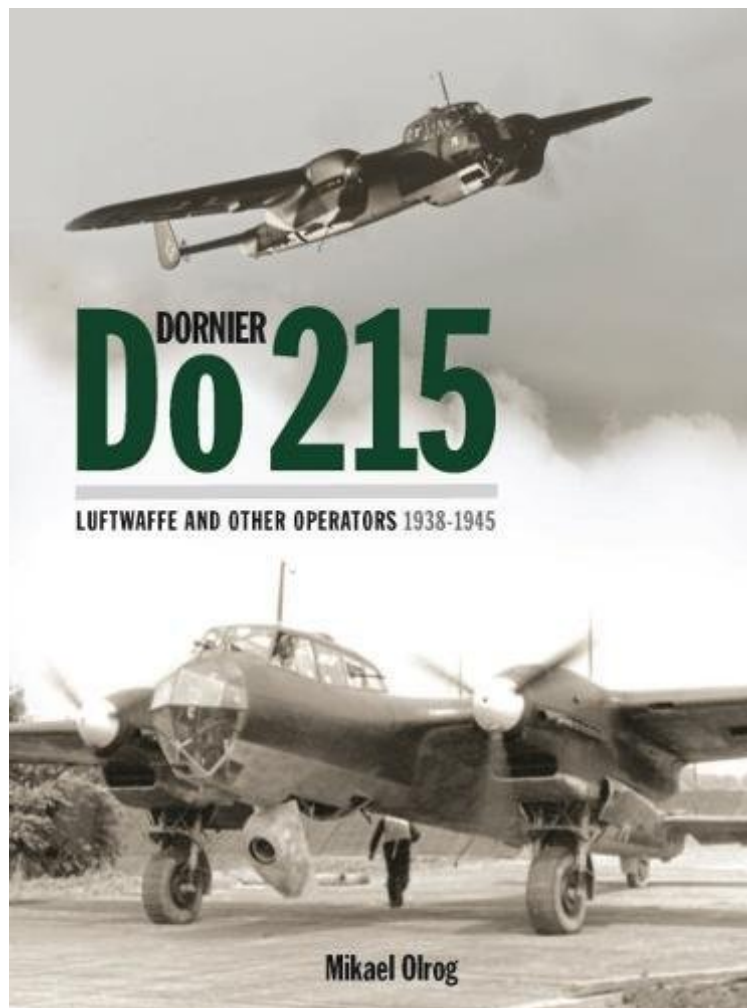


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## **Dornier Do 215: Germany's Strategic Reconnaissance Aircraft Night Fighter (Luftwaffe and Other Operators 1938-1945)**

*Mikael Olrog*

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**Mikael Olrog : Dornier Do 215: Germany's Strategic Reconnaissance Aircraft Night Fighter (Luftwaffe and Other Operators 1938-1945)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dornier Do 215: Germany's Strategic Reconnaissance Aircraft Night Fighter (Luftwaffe and Other Operators 1938-1945):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Classic produces the best Luftwaffe books availableBy Hedgehog6Classic produces the best Luftwaffe books available. This volume on the little known Do-215 is no exception. It is highly detailed, well researched and profusely illustrated. It covers the developmental history,

reconnaissance, night-fighter and foreign service of this Luftwaffe type. Highly recommended!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Julio C. Gomezexcellent deal, it is good to see new pics from time to time1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding, well up to the highest Classic Publications standardsBy Jim DavisThis is the 27th volume in Classic Publication's long running series "Luftwaffe Classics" devoted to German aircraft of WWII. These volumes are all 12" x 8-3/4" hardcovers with superb production values. Previous volumes have mostly been devoted to exotic or major production types. This one is more in line with the very first volume which covered the Hs 129, a lesser known aircraft produced in small numbers which nevertheless made an important contribution to the German war effort. The Do 215 gets the definitive treatment in this book's 280 pages.The book covers enough of the development of the Do 17 predecessor and the contemporary Do 217 to give the proper context. Essentially the Daimler-Benz DB601 engine is the glue that ties everything together. The production run of the Do 215 proper, a mere 100 aircraft, are covered in excruciating detail. Their careers as reconnaissance aircraft, night fighters, transports, and trainers are detailed about as well as surviving records will allow, supplemented by the reminiscences of pilots and crewman who are sadly no longer with us. Also covered are the sales that did not in fact come to fruition either from choice or the outbreak of war. Some Do 215s did wind up in foreign hands (Russia and Hungary) and their careers in these arms are covered as well.This is one of those books that has definitive written all over it. The author seems to have left no stone unturned in an effort to clear up every question about these aircraft. One gets the firm impression that if the author doesn't know something, that something has been swallowed up in the depths of time.But I will pick some nits. The book seemed to err on the side of undertranslating German words and phrases. It's not egregious but it is tiresome to come across "verbandsskennzeichen" and "stammkennzeichen" over and over again. Also, the author seems a little uncertain about various technical details such as the supercharger for the B-6 subtype. He never identifies it explicitly as a turbocharger and his description of operation seems vague.One could have wished for more modern graphics; as it is there are many color profiles and insignia. The line drawings are contemporary, though cleaned up fairly nicely.Highly recommended even at the high asking price. I think this one will command high prices on the second hand market when it goes out of print - just like its predecessor covering the Hs 129.

Although one of the Luftwaffe's lesser-known front line aircraft, the Dornier Do 215, descended from the Dornier Do 17, saw service in a wide range of roles, including night fighter, reconnaissance and staff transport. In doing so it demonstrated remarkable flexibility for both the Luftwaffe and several foreign operators between 1939 and 1944. This new book describes the Do 215's operations with the Luftwaffe's secretive Aufklärungsgruppe Ob.d.L., both in wartime operations in the West and in civil disguise in preparation for Operation Barbarossa in 1941 and during the invasion itself. It describes its lineage from the dedicated reconnaissance aircraft Do 17R, as well as the development of the Do 17 Z-7/Z-10 which preceded the Do 215 B-5 nightfighter, one of the first aircraft to employ radar and infrared sighting equipment. The Do 215 was also the chosen aircraft of several leading Luftwaffe commanders, including Josef Kammhuber, Albert Kesselring and Erhard Milch. Following many years of extensive research the author describes the covert reconnaissance, night-fighter and staff transport service of the Do 215 and how the type was affected by the protracted development of the Dornier's DB 600 and DB 601 powerplants. He also uncovers details of the export efforts made by Nazi Germany with Yugoslavia, Romania, Sweden, The Netherlands, the Soviet Union and other nations, as well as the late war Hungarian operation of the Do 215. With hundreds of rare photographs, specially commissioned color artwork, technical and performance data, details on camouflage and markings, production and loss lists, Mikael Olrog presents a fascinating and revealing account of the often overlooked and misunderstood Dornier Do 215.