

# AIRFIX

## DORNIER DO 217E-2

The Do 217E-2 was one of the best of the German bombers of the Second World War, and was used for a great variety of tasks throughout the war. The Do 217 replaced all other German night bombers operating against Britain, and was widely used in Russia and North Africa.

The Dornier series of bombers had commenced with the Do 17 "Flying Pencil" which went into service in 1937, and saw action in the Spanish Civil War, proving faster than most of the contemporary fighters.

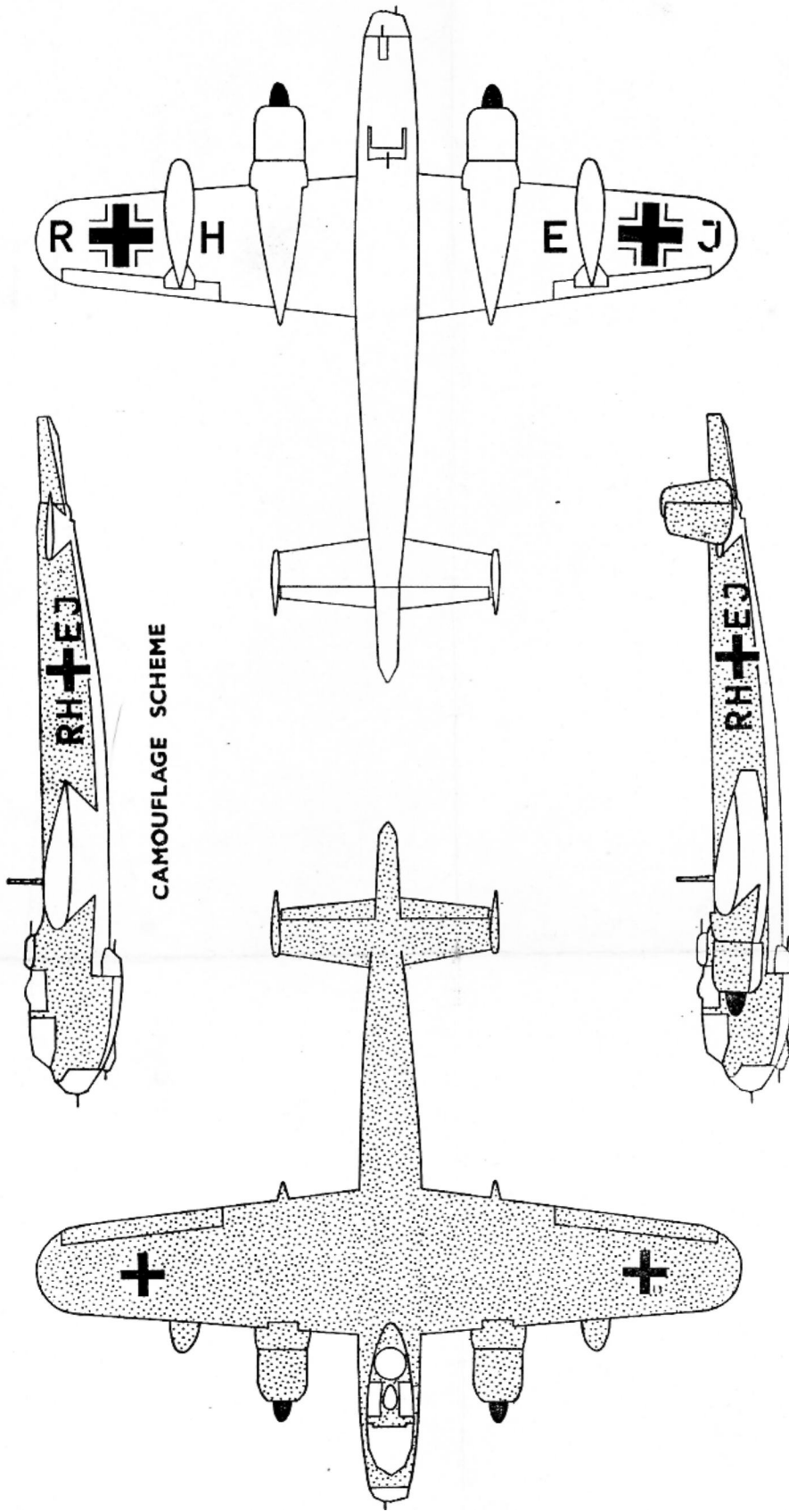
The prototype Dornier Do 217 first flew in 1938, but the Do 217E-2 did not go into production until 1941. In common with most German bombers, the crew were grouped together in the nose compartment and the exceptionally heavy armament was disposed around the forward fuselage. Originally intended as a dive bomber, the E-2 was at first fitted with a long tail cone containing an umbrella-type dive brake; this proved ineffective and after several accidents the dive bomber role was abandoned and in many cases the brakes removed and replaced by a new short tail cone.

In addition to normal bombing duties, versions of the E-2 were used for reconnaissance, torpedo dropping, anti-shipping strikes, and with the addition of two long range drop tanks, as a long range bomber. With a redesigned nose containing four cannon and four machine guns the Do 217E-2 became the Do 217J night fighter. When production of the Dornier Do 217 ended over 1,700 had been produced and the type remained in front line service until the end of the war.

The Dornier 217E-2 was powered by two B.M.W. 801 radial engines, each of 1,600 h.p., giving a maximum speed of 304 m.p.h. and a range of 1,500 miles. Normal internal bomb load was 4,400 lb., although in some cases this was increased to 8,000 lb., and bombs could also be carried beneath the wings. Defensive armament varied considerably, a typical combination being one 20 mm. cannon, one fixed 15 mm. cannon, and four 13 mm. machine guns.

Wing span was 62 ft. 5 in. and length 59 ft. 8 in.

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