

Luftwaffe: a Battle of Wits...

by Dennis Milbert

One of the keys in finding a winning strategy of a particular game, lies in the examination of that game's Combat Results Table (CRT). When an ecstatic wargamer tears the plastic off his newly acquired copy of Luftwaffe, he finds a CRT that covers the entire front of the inside box. Fortunately, due to AH emphasis on playability, the CRT is extremely easy to use. But even so, a wargamer may shy away from a full scale analysis of all those little numbers. I performed the analysis since I was curious to see if a 'magic' combat strength existed, where one could employ his FW 190's and obtain a maximum kill rate. The results are presented here for your consideration.

Procedure: Basically this involved computing the kill rate one could expect on the average for each aircraft at each combat level. As you see, this could get quite tedious (indeed it was), but an interesting result

was derived. In all cases aircraft effectiveness increases until a certain combat level is reached; thereafter, effectiveness remains fairly constant no matter how high a combat level is reached. This means that 20 factors of fighters will kill on the average twice as many aircraft as 10 factors. While this doesn't seem exactly earth shaking, it allows us to examine the idea of massing monstrous numbers of fighters before attacking. Because, no immediate benefit is gained from massing fighters.

However, each aircraft has an Optimum Combat Level (OCL). If aircraft are employed at this level or above, the plane will have a maximum Kill Rate (KR). If your loyal fighters are used below the OCL, they will suffer deterioration in performance. Lastly, I recomputed the KR for fighters attacking superior types such as a P 47 and a FW 190. This gives KR (-1) and KR (-2) for one or two columns being subtracted on the CRT.

German Aircraft

NAME	FW 190	ME 262	ME 109	ME 163 ME 162	ME 110	JU 88 TA 152	ME 410	HE 219 DO 217	DE 520
OCL	7	9	8	12	8	9	5	3	5
KR	0.50	0.75	0.45	0.27	0.45	0.38	0.65	0.50	0.19
KR (-1)	0.36	0.39	0.31	0.27	0.31	0.28	0.45	0.33	0.10
KR (-2)	0.24	0.26	0.21	0.27	0.21	0.18	0.29	0.22	0.07

American Aircraft

NAME	P 39	B 26	P 38	B 17 B 24	P 40 P 51	SPITFIRE P 47
OCL	2	2	5	11	8	7
KR	0.08	0.05	0.30	0.25	0.40	0.55
KR (-1)	0	0.05	0.20	0.25	0.31	0.36
KR (-2)	0	0.05	0.13	0.25	0.21	0.24