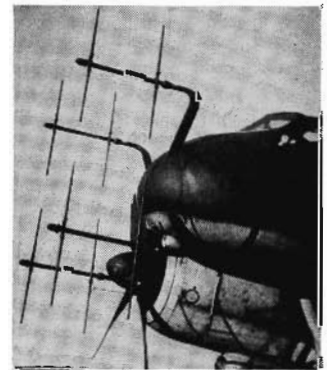


In the *Jäger-Notprogramm*, the "Emergency Fighter Programme", the further development of the Ju 388J was considered essential. Possessing an identical airframe to the bomber and reconnaissance variants of the Ju 388, the high-altitude night and all-weather *Zerstörer* prototype converted from a Ju 188T, the Ju V2, began its flight test programme late in January 1944. Equipped with the MG 131Z/FA 15 remotely-controlled twin-tail barbette which was intended as an item of equipment common to all Ju 388 variants, the Ju 388 V2 carried FuG 220 *Lichtenstein SN-2* with its *Hirschgeweih* (Stag's Antlers) aerial array, and a forward-firing armament of two 20-mm. MG 151 cannons with 180 r.p.g. and two 30-mm. MK 108 cannons with 110 r.p.g. in a gun tray, or *Waffentropfen*, mounted asymmetrically beneath the portside of the fuselage centre section. The pressure cabin, which provided accommodation for a pilot, two observers and a radio-operator, was designed to maintain a pressure differential of 3.7 lb./sq. in., and the cabin roof was double-glazed, partly with armoureglass and partly with plexiglass, hygroscopic chemical preventing misting. The rear wall of the pressure cabin was protected by an armour bulkhead, and the entry hatch in the starboard-side floor could be opened in an emergency by compressed

air. The FA tail turret was aimed by means of a PVE 11 double telescopic sight, and its field of fire was ± 60 degrees azimuth and ± 45 degrees elevation and depression. Its twin vertically-disposed 13-mm. MG 131 machine guns were provided with 100 r.p.g., but delays in the perfection of this turret and its control

system affected the Ju 388J in a similar fashion to other aircraft intended to mount this equipment, and production orders for the initial model, the Ju 388J-1, were amended to permit delivery without the remotely-controlled armament, the Ju 388 V4 and V5, the second and third prototypes for the J-series *Zerstörer*, being delivered without the FA 15. These prototypes differed from the Ju 388 V2 in several other respects. A "schräge Musik" arrangement of two 20-mm. MG 151 cannons with 200 r.p.g. was introduced in the aft fuselage, these weapons firing obliquely upward at an angle of 70° from the horizontal, and the *Lichtenstein SN-2* and its *Hirschgeweih* aerial array was replaced by FuG 218 *Neptun* with a pointed wooden nose cone enclosing much of the *Morgenstern*-type antennae, FuG 350 *Naxos Z* being built into the *Morgenstern* compartment to receive H2S emissions. An additional tail-warning antenna was provided, and other avionic equipment included FuG 10 H.F. and FuG 16ZY V.H.F. radio, FuG 25a I.F.F., FuG 101a radio altimeter, PeGe 6 radio compass,

FuBl 2 airfield blind approach receiver, and FuG 120a *Bernadine* beacon bearing recorder.



(Below) The Ju 388 V2, the first prototype for the Ju 388J night fighter. (Above right) The nose of the Ju 388 V2 with the "Hirschgeweih" antennae of the *Lichtenstein SN-2* radar. Subsequent J-series prototypes had "Morgenstern" antennae.

