Blitz!

Germany's
Arado Ar 234 Jet Bomber

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The Ar 234V22, V23, V24 and V25 which were all similar, were prototypes for the Ar 234C-3 series.

A modification of the basic design was the Ar 234C-3/N night fighter. This project, which was detailed in an Arado report dated 3 January 1945, was to retain the two 20 mm MG 151/20 cannon with 250 rounds in the nose, and to feature two 30 mm MK 108 cannon with 100 rounds in an under-fuselage pack. The design was also to carry a second crew member seated in the rear of the fuselage, facing aft, under a small transparent panel. His task was to operate the various radio and radar equipment which was to comprise:

- FuG 16ZY: VHF R/T set
- FuG 218: "Neptun V"—A.I. radar with a range of three miles.
- **FuG 120a: "Bernardine"—VHF device for the measurement of a bearing relative to a ground beacon.**
- FuG 125: "Hermine"—Receiver for signals from ground voice rotating beacons.
- FuG 350Zc: "Naxos"—Device to home on to British H2S radar, carried above and behind the cockpit in a "bulged" installation.
- FuG 25a: IFF

The Arado Ar 234C-4 was a specialized reconnaissance variant similar to the C-3, but with provision for two cameras. These could comprise two Rb 75/30, two Rb 50/30, or one of these and one Rb 20/30. Armament comprised two 20 mm MG 151 cannon beneath the cockpit firing forward and two further MG 151 with 250 rounds in a special bulged ventral pack firing aft.

The Ar 234C-5, for which the V28 was prototype, was similar to the C-3 but carried two crew members seated side by side. The second crew member was able to perform the function of navigator and bomb aimer, and thus solve the problem of the pilot having to switch to automatic control before he could aim his bombs. In addition to the two forward-firing MG 151 cannon, two similar rearward-firing weapons were installed in the rear fuselage. A similar bomb load to that carried by the C-3 was proposed. The Ar 234C-6, for which the V29 acted as prototype, was a reconnaissance version of the C-5.

The Ar 234C-7 was a development of the C-3/N night fighter. It carried a crew of two seated side by side in a new stepped nose similar to that later to be employed by the Ar 234P series. The machine was designed to carry FuG 245 Gerät Bremen O centimetric radar, with the scanner installed in the nose. Armament comprised two 20 mm MG 151 cannons with three hundred rounds per gun in the nose and two 30 mm MK 108 with one hundred rounds firing forward in a special under-fuselage pack. The aircraft was originally proposed with four BMW 003A-1 turbojets, although projected power plants included two 2,860 pound static thrust Heinkel Hirth HeS 011 or two 2,200 pound static thrust Jumo 004C engines.

Final projected variant of the C series was the Ar 234C-8 single-seat bomber. This was to be powered by two 2,310 pound static thrust Junkers Jumo 004D turbojets and to carry an armament of two 20 mm MG 151 cannon. Bomb load was similar to that proposed for the C-3, a Lotfe 7K bomb sight and BZA 1b bombing computer being installed.

Other C series prototypes included the Ar 234V27 which was fitted with various types of dive brakes and the V26 and V30 which are described elsewhere. Fourteen Ar 234C-0 pre-
DEVELOPMENT of the Ar 234C-7 night fighter led to the design of the specialized P series. The Ar 234P featured an increase in fuselage length to 43 feet 6 inches and a completely redesigned nose with stepped contours. Five variants were projected. The Ar 234P-1 was powered by four BMW 003A-1 turbojets and carried a crew of two in the pressurized cabin. Armament comprised two forward-firing 20 mm MK 108 cannon with one hundred rounds mounted in a pack beneath the fuselage. The aircraft carried FuG 245 “Bremen” radar.

The Ar 234P-2 was similar to the P-1 but featured a heavily-armored and reshaped cockpit constructed of 13 mm plate. The Ar 234P-3 was essentially similar to the P-2, but was powered by two 2,860 pound static thrust Heinkel Hirth HeS 011 turbojets. Like the P-2, armament capacity of the 20 mm MG 151 cannon was reduced to 250 rounds. The Ar 234P-4 was again similar to the P-2, but was powered by two 2,310 pound static thrust Jumo 004D turbojets. The machine carried the following radio and radar equipment:

- FuG 15: R/T
- FuG 25a: IFF
- FuG 142: Rescue homing beacon.
- FuG 120a: “Bernardine”—Device for the measurement of bearing relative to a ground beacon.
- FuG 125: “Hermine”—Receiver for signals from ground voice rotating beacons. (The operator heard his bearing spoken in tens of degrees in his headphone.)
- FuG 130
- FuG 350Zc : “Naxos”—Device to home on to British H2S and warn of approach of radar-equipped night fighters.

The final development of the basic series was the Ar 234P-5. This was a three-seat night fighter based on the P-1 but powered by two HeS 011 turbojets. Fuel capacity was reduced from 815 to 660 Imperial gallons, and the machine carried an armament of one 20 mm MG 151 under the cockpit with three hundred rounds, two 30 mm MK 108 with one hundred rounds under the fuselage and a further pair of MK 108s with one hundred rounds firing obliquely upwards at a fifty-degree angle. The third crew member was accommodated in the rear fuselage in a similar position to that occupied by the radar operator in the Ar 234C-3/N.