

Albatros D.I – Brief Overview

WHO

Manufacturer: Albatros Flugzeugwerke.

Designers: Robert Thelen, Schubert, and Gnädig.

Crew: One (pilot).

WHAT

The Albatros D.I was Germany's first operational fighter featuring a plywood semi-monocoque fuselage. It introduced heavy twin armament, carrying two synchronized 7.92 mm LMG 08/15 Spandau machine guns. This design marked a major step forward in both firepower and durability compared to earlier Eindecker fighters.

WHEN

First flight: June 1916.

Service entry: August–September 1916. Approximately 50–62 aircraft were built in total.

The Albatros D.I was quickly replaced in production by the improved D.II, which featured better pilot visibility.

WHERE

The Albatros D.I was operated by the German Luftstreitkräfte, particularly in the newly formed Jagdstaffeln (fighter squadrons), where its speed and twin-gun armament provided an immediate advantage.

Technical Specifications (Albatros D.I)

Parameter	Value
Crew (Besatzung)	1 (pilot)
Length (Länge)	7.33 m
Wingspan (Spannweite)	8.50 m
Height (Höhe)	2.95 m
Wing Area (Flügelfläche)	22.90 m ²
Empty Weight (Leermasse)	674 kg
Maximum Takeoff Weight (Startmasse)	898 kg
Engine (Triebwerk)	Mercedes D.III (160 PS) or Benz Bz.III (150 PS)

Maximum Speed (Höchstgeschwindigkeit)	175 km/h (109 mph) at sea level
Service Ceiling (Dienstgipfelhöhe)	≈ 6,000 m
Rate of Climb (Steigleistung)	3.3 m/s
Time to 1,000 m	≈ 4 min
Time to 3,000 m	≈ 15 min
Endurance (Flugdauer)	≈ 1 h 50 min
Range (Reichweite)	≈ 230 km
Armament (Bewaffnung)	2 × 7.92 mm LMG 08/15 Spandau machine guns
Production Total	50–62 units