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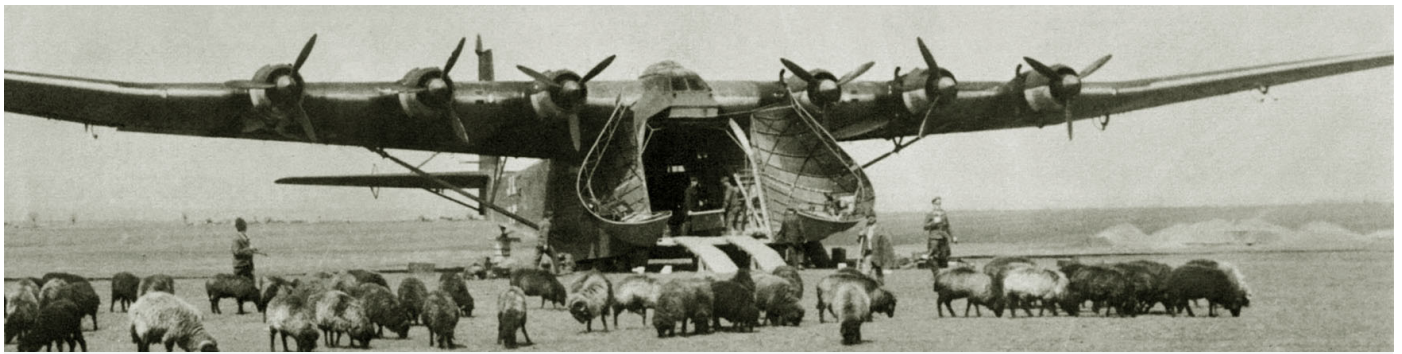
Me 323 Gigant Super-Heavy Transport Aircraft Messerschmitt



↓ The Messerschmitt Me 323 Gigant ("Giant") was a German military transport aircraft of World War II. It was a powered variant of the Me 321 military glider and was the largest land-based transport aircraft of the war.

The aircraft was a strut-braced high-wing aircraft of a mixed design, with deck empennage, a multi-wheeled chassis that could not be removed in flight, and a six-engine power plant. The aircraft is based on the Me 321 airframe and is similar in design to it. The main differences are as follows.

The wing of the aircraft has been modified for the installation of propulsion engines. The main power truss of the center section is reinforced and equipped with overlays for engine mounts. Each plate is made as a single unit, which is attached to the truss with four bolts. In the toes of the center section between the internal engines, there are the cabins of mechanics, and there is a manhole for access to all the engines. The plywood sheathing of the socks in the areas of the engine exhaust pipes is covered with sheet metal. Around the wing cannon installations, the linen sheathing was replaced with plywood.



Tandem chassis - along each side of the fuselage there are 5 wheels covered with a duralumin fairing. The front pair of wheels is of a smaller diameter and has its own suspension system, the three main wheels have their own. The suspension includes a beam, rod levers for the suspension of the wheels, two (one for the front pair of wheels) liquid-gas shock absorbers and one (two) spring damper. The main wheels are equipped with pneumatic brakes.

The power plant included 6 piston engines. Basically, a radial two-row air-cooled Gnome-Rhone 14N48 / 49 engine with a metal variable-pitch propeller of the Raitier or Chanviere type was used. On the right half-wing, GR 14N48 motors were installed with the right rotation of the shaft, and on the left - GR 14N49 with the left rotation. The fuel was stored in six sealed tanks located in the center section. The total supply of gasoline reached (on the Me 323E) 10740 liters.

The hydraulic system was powered by hydraulic pumps installed on the propulsion engines.

A total of 213 are recorded as having been made, a few being converted from the Me 321.







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Aircraft Handbook

| [Bf 109K-4](#) |

Me-321/323			
	Me 323E	Me 323E/WT	Me 323V-16
Crew	12	17	12
Dimensions			
Length, m	28.15	28.15	28.15
Wing span, m	55	55	55
Height, m	9.65	9.6	9.6
Wing area, m ²	300	300	300
Weight			
Empty weight, kg	29000	32000	32000

Normal takeoff weight, kg	48000	40000	48000	
Maximum takeoff weigh, kg	50500	42000	54000	
Loaded weight, kg	10000	-	18200	
Wing loading, kg/m ²	160	133,3	160	
Powerplant				
Engine	6 x G-R 14N	6 x G-R 14N	6 x Jumo 211RN	
Power, hp	6 x 1140	6 x 1140	6 x 1140	
Performance				
Maximum speed, km/h (empty)	252	255	285	
Cruising speed, km/h at alt. H=1500m	208	225	220	
Landing Speed, km/h	120	120	130	
Ceiling, m	4200	4500	5000	
Range at altitude H=2000m, km	1200	1100	1100	
Take-off run, m	800	800	900	
Landing field length, m	700	600	700	
Transported Soldiers	120	-	130	
Armament				
Pcs	Cannon	2 x 20 mm	11 x 20 mm	2 x 20 mm
	Machine guns	5 x 7.92 mm	4 x 7.92 mm	5 x 13 mm

Photo	Description
 <p>Me 323D-1</p>	Drawing Me 323D-1
	Me 323 and the lorry "Follow me"
	Me-323 - Opened front cargo door.
	"Gigant" at airfield in Italy , August, 1943.

Bibliography

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- Messerschmitt Me 321/323: The Luftwaffe's "Giants" in World War II. /Dabrowski, Hans-Peter./

