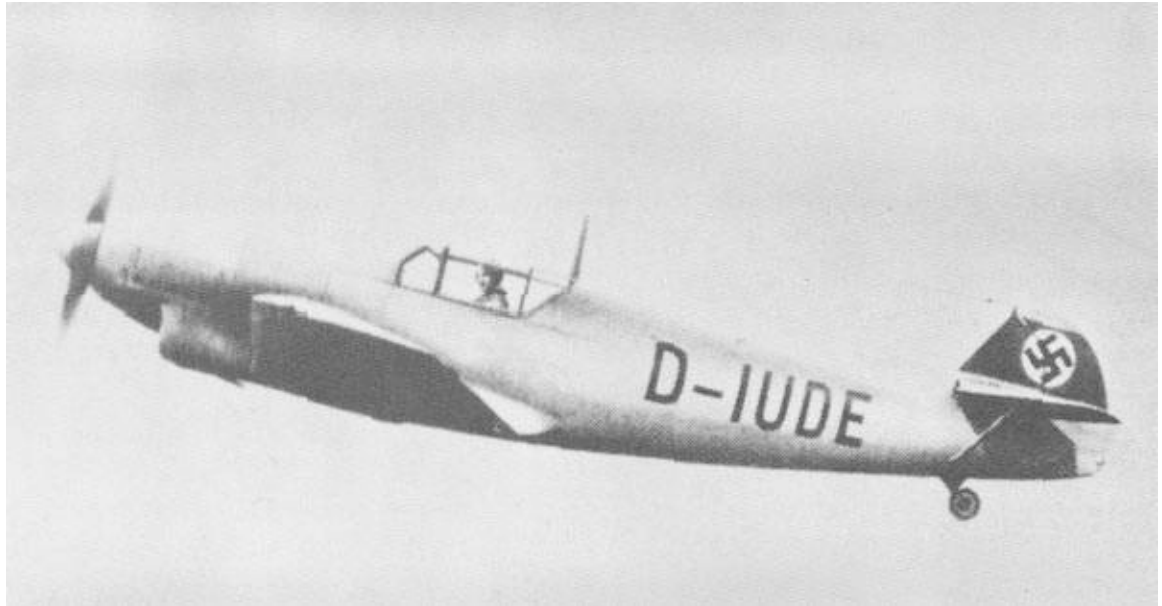


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**From Chapter 2 – Hermann Wurster Spins the Bf 109V2
Prototype, 15 March 1936**



Having demonstrated the Bf 109V2's diving and pull-up performance, Wurster climbed back to altitude to demonstrate its spin capabilities. Again, tighten straps, check the cockpit for anything that could become a lethal missile, do the checklist, oxygen to full 'on', a clearing turn, and it was time to go again. This time in a spin.

Wurster slowed down, pushing back the throttle to idle. As the Bf 109V2 slowed, the automatic leading-edge slats deployed and the warning horn sounded in the cockpit. The controls gently shuddered. The plane was now on the edge of a stall. With both the rudder and ailerons ineffective, the control stick going forward towards the instrument panel, he pushed the nose about ten degrees below the horizon. The left wing dropped and the aeroplane went into a spin. As the Bf 109 started sinking towards the ground,

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whirling around and around like the blades of a helicopter rotor, the 360 degrees of the horizon would pass in front of his eyes, revolving slowly at first, but then with ever-increasing speed.ⁱ

Wurster went around and around, the first turn steep, with the nose pointing down at the Travemünde airfield below. Next, he gently pulled back on the stick. The Bf 109V2 revolved in a flat spin, Wurster watching the horizon whip around through the windscreen.

He alternated the types of spin until he had put the Bf 109V2 through twenty-one rotations to the right. He pulled back on the stick, applied opposite rudder (i.e. opposite to the direction of the spin). Then, with the hand that had been on the throttle throughout, he added power – slowly. The aircraft pulled out of the spin.

Wurster climbed back up to altitude for the third time that flight. He spun the Bf 109V2 again, this time with seventeen rotations to the left. None of the Rechlin test pilots had been among the audience for Wurster's performance, but they soon learned what he had done. Word even penetrated the marble corridors of the RLM. The Bf 109V2 had demonstrated it could do everything the specification demanded of it.

ⁱ This description of a Bf 109 in a spin is from Norbert Hanning, *Luftwaffe Fighter Ace: from the Eastern Front to the Defense of the Homeland* (Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2009), p. 65.