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Werner Baake

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(Redirected from Werner Baake)

Werner Baake (1 November 1918 – 16 February 1944) was a German fighter ace and recipient of the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross during World War II. He claimed 54 victories in approximately 300 sorties, all on the Eastern Front, including 5 in the Battle of Berlin. Baake was awarded the Honorary Cup for the Luftwaffe and an assistant flight leader, Gerd Kaminskas, had established a night-fighter unit in Berlin-Gatow. Baake was shot down by Soviet fighters and was killed in action on 16 February 1944 near Kirovograd, Ukraine.

Werner Baake	
Born	1 November 1918 Kirchhatten, Oldenburg, Germany
Died	16 February 1944 (aged 25) near Kirovograd, Ukraine
Allegiance	Nazi Germany
Service	Luftwaffe
Years of service	1936–1944
Rank	Major (posthumous)
Unit	JG 51, JG 52, JG 5, JG 11, JG 300
Commands	Staffel, Gruppe
Battles	Battle of Berlin
Awards	Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross
Other work	Pilot for Lufthansa

Career

Baake was born on 1 November 1918 in Kirchhatten, at the time in the Duchy of the German Empire, the son of a farmer.[1] He joined the Luftwaffe in 1936 and was assigned to Jagdgeschwader (JG) 1, based at Cap Gris-Nez, Northern France, on 22 November 1938. He was then sent to an other Flieracademie (pilot school) of the Luftwaffe.[2]

Night fighter pilot [edit]

Following the 1939 period Battle of the Heligoland Bight, bombing missions by the Royal Air Force (RAF) shifted to the cities of Wilhelmshaven, including the Defence of the Reich (Reichsverteidigung), Cologne, Bremen, Hamburg and Berlin. Gerd Kaminskas had established a night-fighter unit in Berlin-Gatow, quoted the Nachtjäger Line, 3 Kilometers (2 miles) in depth, with searchlights and anti-aircraft batteries (flak) every 2 kilometers (1 mile) and an assistant flight leader. Each sector, named a Himmelsbett (literally, sky bed), was assigned a night-fighter pilot, who was to patrol the area. Kaminskas's unit, the Luftwaffe Berlin night-fighting flight, consisted of fifty fighters with airborne radar such as the Lichtenstein radar. Baake was one of the first crew to be given an aircraft equipped with the radar.[3]

Baake's first victory was on 23 April 1941 with a Wellington bomber, the second victory was a Short Stirling on the night of 24/25 April, and the third victory was a Bristol Blenheim on the night of 26/27 April.[4] Baake was awarded the Honorary Cup for the Luftwaffe on 1 May 1941 for 15 Gaualbum 1941 of the Luftwaffe.[5] Baake was promoted to Staffelkapitän (literally, Squadron Captain) of 2./JG 51 on 1 June 1941 and was promoted to Leutnant (Second Lieutenant). At the height of the Battle of the Heligoland Bight, Baake was shot down by a Bristol Beaufighter near Rügen, a wooded German offshore island, on 9 July 1941 with Feldwebel Heinz Schmidt, the Staffel's Technical Officer, killed in action.[6] Baake spent three weeks in hospital before returning to the Staffel on 29 July 1941.[7] Baake received a promotion to Oberleutnant on 1 August 1941 and was appointed as the Staffel's Technical Officer.[8] Baake's second victory was on 22 June 1941 with a Bristol Blenheim, the third victory was a Short Stirling on the night of 24/25 April, the fourth victory was a Bristol Blenheim on the night of 26/27 April, the fifth victory was a Bristol Blenheim on the night of 26/27 April, the sixth victory was a Bristol Blenheim on the night of 26/27 April, the seventh victory was a Bristol Blenheim on the night of 26/27 April, the eighth victory was a Bristol Blenheim on the night of 26/27 April, the ninth victory was a Bristol Blenheim on the night of 26/27 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