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Martin Becker

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Martin Becker	
Born	22 April 1918 Zwickau, Germany
Died	7 February 2006 (aged 87) Kitzbühel, Austria
Allegiance	Nazi Germany
Service/branch	Luftwaffe
Years of service	1937–1945
Rank	Major
Unit	Stab/JG 26 Jagdgeschwader 300
Commands held	Stab/JG 26 Jagdgeschwader 300
Awards	Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves and Swords

Martin Becker (22 April 1918 – 7 February 2006) was a German fighter ace.

He flew with Jagdgeschwader 26 and Jagdgeschwader 300 and was credited with 100 aerial victories including 7 victories in the Battle of Britain, 1 victory in the Battle of Berlin and 92 victories claimed over the Western Front and Reich Defence Zone, including 4 victories while flying the Messerschmitt Me 262 jet fighter. He was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves and Swords.

Operation Gisela, the Luftwaffe's attack on Allied bomber formations, was launched by Jagdgeschwader 6 (JG 6) with Major Walter Dahl, Major Hans-Joachim Jabs and Major Martin Becker participating in the Battle of Berlin. Dahl was killed in action (KIA) on 15 February 1945 and Jabs was shot down and wounded (WIA) on 16 February 1945. Becker was appointed to the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves and Swords on 17 February 1945 for 100 aerial victories.

Becker, who flew approximately 700 combat missions, died on 6 February 2006 in Kitzbühel, Austria.

Early life [edit]

Becker was born on 22 April 1918 at Wüstenbrand at the town of Hohenstein, a district of Zwickau, Germany.[1] He was the son of a miner.[2] Becker attended the local school and then joined the Jungvolk in Hartmannsdorf from 1931 to 1933. From 1933 he was a member of the Hitler Youth and the Nationalsozialistisches Kraftfahrkorps (NSKK).[3] Becker attended an apprenticeship as a mechanic at the Horch factory in Zwickau.[4] He was a member of the Luftsportverband (LSV) and was certified as a glider and motor pilot and an aerial photo interpreter.[5] Becker joined the Luftwaffe in October 1937 and was assigned to the Ersatzkompanie (replacement company) of 2./JG 26 at Wunstorf.[6] Becker completed his basic training with Jagdgeschwader 26 (JG 26) in the autumn of 1938 and was assigned to the 1./JG 26 under the command of Oberleutnant Joachim Müncheberg.[7] Becker was promoted to Unteroffizier (sergeant) on 1 April 1939.[8]

World War II [edit]

World War II in Europe began on Friday 1 September 1939 when German forces invaded Poland. From 10 May 1940, Becker flew reconnaissance missions in the Battle of Poland and Battle of Belgium. He was promoted to Leutnant (Air Reserve) (second lieutenant of the reserves) on 1 July 1940.[9] Becker was shot down in the Battle of Britain on 7 September 1940 and was wounded in action (WIA) on 9 September 1940.[10] Becker was appointed to the staff of Jagdgeschwader 26 (Stab/JG 26) as a Staffelkapitän (squadron leader) on 1 October 1940.[11] Becker was promoted to Oberleutnant (first lieutenant) on 1 October 1940.[12] On 1 October 1940 he was appointed Staffelkapitän of 1./JG 26.[13] Becker was shot down in the Battle of Britain on 15 October 1940 and was wounded in action (WIA) on 20 October 1940.[14] On 1 November 1940 he was appointed Staffelkapitän of 3./JG 26.[15] Becker was shot down in the Battle of Britain on 11 November 1940 and was wounded in action (WIA) on 14 November 1940.[16] Becker returned to duty and shot down a Supermarine Spitfire on 15 December 1940.[17] Becker was shot down in the Battle of Britain on 16 December 1940 and was wounded in action (WIA) on 20 December 1940.[18] Becker returned to duty and shot down a Spitfire on 28 December 1940.[19] Becker was shot down in the Battle of Britain on 29 December 1940 and was wounded in action (WIA) on 31 December 1940.[20] Becker returned to duty and shot down a Spitfire on 12 January 1941.[21] Becker was shot down in the Battle of Britain on 14 January 1941 and was wounded in action (WIA) on 16 January 1941.[22] Becker returned to duty and shot down a Spitfire on 24 February 1941.[23] Becker was shot down in the Battle of Britain on 26 February 1941 and was wounded in action (WIA) on 28 February 1941.[24] Becker returned to duty and shot down a Spitfire on 24 March 1941.[25] Becker was shot down in the Battle of Britain on 26 March 1941 and was wounded in action (WIA) on 28 March 1941.[26] Becker returned to duty and shot down a Spitfire on 12 April 1941.[27] Becker was shot down in the Battle of Britain on 14 April 1941 and was wounded in action (WIA) on 16 April 1941.[28] Becker returned 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