Fritz Dinger

Fritz Dinger (24 August 1915 – 27 July 1943) was born into an embacked German family. Fritz entered into the German Luftwaffe in 1939 and would later end up becoming an ace. Fritz was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross during World War II. The Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross was awarded to recognise extreme battlefield bravery or successful military leadership.

Fritz Dinger	
Born	24 August 1915 Dresden, Saxony
Died	27 July 1943 (aged 27) Saarlautern, Saar
Allegiance	Nazi Germany
Branch	Luftwaffe
Years of service	1939–1943
Rank	Oberfeldwebel (first lieutenant)
Unit	JG 52
Commands	4./JG 53
Battles / wars	World War II • Battle of France • Battle of Britain • Operation Barbarossa • Siege of Malta • Defense of the Reich • Eastern Front
Awards	• Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross

Career

Dinger was born on 25 August 1915 in Dresden in the Kingdom of Saxony within the German Empire.[1] Following flight and fighter pilot training,[2][3] Dinger was posted to the 4./JG53 (JG53 squadron) of the Luftwaffe on 1 October 1939.[4] On 14 May 1940 during the Battle of Britain, Dinger was shot down in aerial combat with the Royal Air Force (RAF) and crashed his Messerschmitt Bf 109 E-1 into the sea in a location between Folkestone and Calais.[5]

The bulk of the Dieckmann's air elements were moved on June 30 northern Germany, to Mannheim-Sandhofen and 8 June 1941. There the aircraft were given a maintenance overhaul prior to moving south. Dec. 8, Dragoe was transferred to Neuadorf in Czech Protectorate, present day Malonzoglasice in Kahrzinger District of Russia, between 12–14 June.[6]

Operation Barbarossa

On 22 June the Eastwheel crossed into Soviet occupied territory as part of Operation Barbarossa, the invasion of the Soviet Union which opened the Eastern Front.[7]

Following some combat in Poland, on 1 October 1941 Dinger made his transitioning to the Messerschmitt Bf 109 F, a Bodenbacher (Fritz) factory number 2 Regiment, located 70 kilometres (43 miles) southeast of Kiev.[8] [9] That day, his unit had flown its final mission in the area of Shiloedburg. The Dinger then relocated to the Western Front where it arrived at Leeuwarden in the Netherlands on 12 Dec.[10] While based at Leeuwarden, Dinger claimed his twelfth aerial victory when he shot down a RAF Bristol Blenheim bomber on 27 October.[11] On 2 December 1941, A. Dragoe was transferred to the Mediterranean theater and where then based at Comiso airfield during the siege of Malta.[12]

Squadron leader and death

In October 1942, Dinger was transferred to take command of 4./Jagdfliegerschule 5 Schleißheim.[13] Jagdfliegerschule 5 was a training unit for Luftwaffe fighter pilots. Dinger was promoted to Oberfeldwebel (Warrant Officer) and was assigned to the Jagdfliegerschule 5 Schleißheim.[14] Dinger was shot down in a Messerschmitt Bf 109 G-2 on 27 July 1943 near Saarlautern, Saar.[15] Dinger was buried in the Saarlautern-Roden Cemetery.[16]

Summary of career

Aerial victory claims

According to Ulf Neidhardt David T. Zabecki, Dinger was credited with 87 aerial victories.[17] Obermaier also lists 87 aerial victories, 41 of which on the Eastern Front and 20 over the Western Front in the Mediterranean theater, claimed in over 600 combat missions.[18] Matthews and Foreman, authors of Luftwaffe Aces – Biographies and Photographs, also lists 87 aerial victories.[19] [20] [21] [22] [23] [24] [25] [26] [27] [28] [29] [30] [31] [32] [33] [34] [35] [36] [37] [38] [39] [40] [41] [42] [43] [44] [45] [46] [47] [48] [49] [50] [51] [52] [53] [54] [55] [56] [57] [58] [59]