Heinrich Ehrler

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Heinrich Ehrler

Birth name	Heinrich Ehrler
Nickname(s)	"Heinz"
Born	6 September 1914 Gengenbach, Baden, Germany
Died	7 December 1944 (aged 30) Gerolstein, Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany
Allegiance	Nazi Germany
Service/branch	Luftwaffe
Years of service	1935–1944
Rank	Major
Unit	JG 52, JG 5, JG 7
Commands held	Staffel, Gruppe, Geschwader
Battles/wars	World War II Spanish Civil War Defense of the Reich Eastern Front
Awards	Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves and Swords
Other work	Lufthansa pilot

Heinrich Ehrler (6 September 1914 – 7 December 1944) was a German World War II fighter pilot. He was credited with 208 aerial victories, all on the Eastern Front, including 24 victories in the Spanish Civil War. Ehrler was a Staffelkapitän and later Gruppenkommandeur of Jagdgeschwader 52 (JG 52), Jagdgeschwader 5 (JG 5) and Jagdgeschwader 7 (JG 7). He was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves and Swords. He was killed in a flying accident on 7 December 1944.

Early life and career

Ehrler was born on 6 September 1914 in Gengenbach, Baden, part of the Grand Duchy of Baden, Germany. He was nicknamed "Heinz". After the outbreak of World War I, his family moved to Freiburg im Breisgau where he attended the local grammar school. He was a member of the Hitler Youth and was interested in aviation. He was also a member of the Nazi Party (Nazi Party) membership number 5,000,000