

= Jagdgeschwader 1 (World War II) =

Jagdgeschwader 1 (JG 1) was a German World War II fighter unit or " wing " which used the Messerschmitt Bf 109 and Focke @-@ Wulf Fw 190 aircraft , between 1940 ? 1944 . The name of the unit derives from Jagd , meaning " hunt " and Geschwader , meaning " wing " . First formed in May 1939 in eastern Prussia , I. / JG 1 was one of the original groups created by the Luftwaffe as part of its expansion plans .

Between 1940 and 1942 , JG 1 operated primarily over the Western Front and northern occupied Europe . During the initial days of the war , JG 1 faced little resistance , apart from occasional Royal Air Force (RAF) excursions . The unit was rarely engaged in large @-@ scale confrontations during this time . From late 1942 onwards it was tasked with defence of the Reich . After D @-@ Day , elements of JG 1 were moved to France and were tasked with air support to the Wehrmacht Heer , along with their air defence role . Operation Bodenplatte severely reduced the strength of JG 1 .

Towards the end of the war , the unit was disbanded and its remaining pilots and aircraft were re @-@ organized . What remained of these groups surrendered to Allied forces at the end of the war .

JG 1 was the first unit to attempt ' aerial bombing ' techniques against the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) heavy bomber formations . It was the only unit to be equipped with the Heinkel He 162 jet fighter .

In 1944 the " Oesau " suffix was added to the unit 's title , after its late Geschwaderkommodore Oberst Walter Oesau (127 kills) , who was killed in action .

Some 700 enemy aircraft were claimed shot down during the war by the unit .

= = Formation history = =

In 1938 the Luftwaffe envisaged a five @-@ year expansion plan that utilized the single @-@ engined Messerschmitt Bf 109s for short @-@ range domestic defence duties and the twin @-@ engined Messerschmitt Bf 110 for external long @-@ range offensive roles . In the summer of 1939 , Luftwaffe replaced its long @-@ term expansionist plans for fast mobilization with creation of five new Geschwader starting in July 1939 . Even those plans failed to materialize and several groups (Gruppen) were created from existing groups . One such group , I. / Jagdgeschwader 131 (JG 131) , was thus created from II. / Jagdgeschwader 132 " Richthofen " (JG 132) . The new group , I. / JG 131 , was commanded by Major Bernhard Woldenga , and was based in Jesau , East Prussia (modern Nivenskoye in Russia) . The unit was re @-@ equipped with the Bf 109E by June 1939 .

In May 1939 , the entire organization of the Luftwaffe was changed . As a result , a large number of units were re @-@ designated and many command title changes took place . I. / JG 131 was given the designation I. / JG 1 . The high @-@ profile and most senior home front wing , JG 2 " Richthofen " had coveted that designation , but was left in " second place " . However , on 7 May , just before the invasion of France and the Low Countries , I. / JG 1 was merged with Jagdgeschwader 27 and re @-@ designated as III. / Jagdgeschwader 27 (JG 27) . This temporarily dissolved JG 1 as a unit . Seven months later , on 7 December 1940 a new unit I. / JG 1 was formed at Jever out of several defensive units based on the North Sea coast .

JG 1 's role was to provide air cover over a large portion of the North Sea coastline . Its commander was Oberstleutnant Carl @-@ August Schumacher . Their operational area stretched from the Netherlands to Southern Norway . On 5 January 1942 , Schumacher handed over command to Major Erich von Selle to become commander of the fighter forces for Luftflotte 5 (Jagdfliegerführer Norwegen) .

= = = Reorganization = = =

Similar to its parent Jagdgeschwader 2 , Jagdgeschwader 1 was designated to be a " donor " unit in forming a new unit called Jagdgeschwader 11 (JG 11) on 31 March 1943 . I and II Gruppen JG 1

were transferred to JG 11 . IV Gruppe was re @-@ designated as I. / JG 1 . A new III Gruppe was formed in Leeuwarden , Netherlands , commanded by Major Karl @-@ Heinz Leesmann

The new Jagdgeschwader 1 was moved to Deelen to protect occupied Dutch territory , and Jagdgeschwader 11 tasked with protecting the North German border between Netherlands and Denmark . Erich Mix was replaced by Major Hans Philipp as Geschwaderkommodore . By mid 1943 , JG 1 came under the control of Luftwaffenbefehlshaber Mitte , which went on to form Luftflotte Reich .

= = Organization structure = =

Generally , the organization of JG 1 followed the standard Luftwaffe organization for any typical wing (Geschwader) . It was commanded by a Geschwaderkommodore , equivalent to a USAAF Wing Commander or RAF Group Captain . A Geschwaderkommodore was supposed to have the rank of Lieutenant Colonel (Oberstleutnant) or Colonel (Oberst) , but the position could be filled by a relatively junior officer .

Initially most Luftwaffe fighter wings consisted of three groups (Gruppe) , which were the equivalent of USAAF groups or RAF Wings . Groups were identified using Roman numerals , followed by the unit number ; e.g. I. / JG 1 . In 1942 JG 1 was the first unit to be expanded to incorporate a fourth group . Partly as a result of JG 1 's expansion , other Luftwaffe fighter wings incorporated a fourth group from mid @-@ 1943 .

Each group usually consisted of three to four squadrons (Staffeln) , which were identified using numbers ; e.g. 3 . / JG 1 . Each squadron also had a subordinate headquarters flight (Stabschwarm) associated with it . A squadron with an establishment of 12 ? 16 aircraft usually consisted of three to four flights (Schwärme) of four aircraft usually flying in the " finger @-@ four " formation . The commanding officer of a squadron (Staffelkapitän) usually held a rank of Senior Lieutenant (Oberleutnant) or Captain (Hauptmann) . The flights of a squadron were color @-@ coded " Red " , " Blue " , " Yellow " and " Green " .

= = = Headquarters Flight JG 1 = = =

A Geschwaderstab was essentially a Headquarters Unit (Stabschwarm) for the entire wing . There were headquarters units also at gruppe level . Initially when JG 1 was re @-@ formed in Jever , it was constituted as a Regional Fighter Command (Jagdfliegerführer 2) on 30 November 1939 with an intention to co @-@ ordinate with Navy (Kriegsmarine) flak and signals units . This autonomous command defending the coastline was placed under Oberstleutnant Carl @-@ August Schumacher . Geschwaderstab JG 1 (Stab . JG 1) was also alternatively called JG Nord or JG Schumacher and was equipped with Bf 109 ' D ' and ' E ' variants .

= = = Group I. / JG 1 = = =

I. / JG 1 consisted of one Headquarters Flight (Gruppenstab) and 1 . , 2 @-@ and 3 Staffels . When the Battle of France commenced on 10 May 1940 , I. / JG 1 was put under the administrative control of JG 27 . After seeing extensive service , the group was re @-@ designated III . / JG 27 on 5 July 1940 .

1 . / JG 1 was reformed on 7 December 1940 in Vlissingen from the " Holland " Squadron (Jasta Holland) . 2 . / JG 1 was formed on 5 July 1941 in Katwijk , Netherlands , from the Münster @-@ Loddenheide Squadron (Jasta Münster @-@ Loddenheide) of Luftflotte 2 while 3 . / JG 1 was formed on 1 March 1941 in De Kooy from parts of the Training / Supplement squadron of JG 52 (Ergänzungsstaffel Gruppe / JG 52) . These three units operated independently until September 1941 when they were grouped into I. / JG 1 under Major Erich Mix .

3 . / JG 1 was ordered to Sicily and later Africa , and re @-@ designated as 6 . / JG 51 on 30 November 1941 . Another 3 . / JG 1 was formed in Wangerooze on the same day . In January 1944 , the 18 Staffel unit was transferred to Dortmund where they were located next to I. / JG 1 . Here

they were subordinated to Major Rudolf @-@ Emil Schnoor , the commander of I. / JG 1 . On 15 August 1944 , 9 . / JG 77 was transferred to reinforce I. / JG 1 , becoming 4 . / JG 1 .

=== Group II . / JG 1 ===

In September 1941 , Hauptmann Hans von Hahn 's I. / Jagdgeschwader 3 (JG 3) was transferred from the Eastern Front to Germany for rest and re @-@ supply . In November 1941 , it was transferred to the northern Netherlands and on 15 January 1942 re @-@ designated II . / JG 1 in Katwijk . The group had been involved in the Battle of France and the Eastern Front campaigns as I. / JG 3 , and had 421 kills to its name by September 1941 . While at Katwijk and Vlissingen , they were assigned the task of coastal defence and protection of shipping routes .

In early 1944 , the Reichsluftministerium (Reich Air Ministry ? RLM) reinforced the day @-@ fighters of " Defence of Reich " with additional units from the Eastern Front . On 15 August 1944 , II . / JG 1 was increased to four staffeln with the addition of 7 . / JG 51 equipped with the Bf 109G @-@ 6 " Gustav " from its base at Brest @-@ Litovsk . On arrival in May 1944 at Störmede , they were re @-@ equipped with the Focke @-@ Wulf Fw 190 and re @-@ designated 8 . / JG 1 on 15 August 1944 . 4 . / JG 1 was re @-@ designated to 7 . / JG 1 . From this point until the end in 1945 , II . / JG 1 would consist of its Headquarters Flight , Stab II . / JG 1 , as well as 5 . , 6 . , 7 @-@ and 8 . / JG 1 .

=== Group III . / JG 1 ===

By January 1942 , most fighting wings (Jagdgeschwader) of the Luftwaffe had created their own Training Group (Ergänzungsgruppe) , with which to prepare trainees for operational service with their parent wing . Each training group had its own operating squadron (Einsatzstaffel) that doubled as a supplemental squadron , consisting of instructors and trainees . It was from such Einsatzstaffel that III . / JG 1 was formed .

III . / JG 1 was formed in January 1942 in Husum . 7 . / JG 1 consisted of supplemental flights (Einsatz @-@ Schwärme) of fighter pilot schools (Jagdfliegerschule or JFS) Gleiwitz , Breslau and Königsberg . III . / JG 1 was re @-@ designated I. / JG 11 on 1 April 1943 and a new III . / JG established on 23 May in Leeuwarden led by Major Karl @-@ Heinz Leesmann .

=== Group IV . / JG 1 ===

JG 1 expanded to include a 4th group (Gruppe) around the same time as III . / JG 1 , and was also formed using the training groups (Ergänzungsgruppen) and training squadrons (Einsatzstaffeln) of other wings .

On 21 March 1942 IV . / JG1 was re @-@ designated as III . / JG 5 . It was re @-@ established on the same day in Werneuchen with elements of the previous IV . / JG 1 and training squadrons of fighter schools 1 and 4 . On 1 April 1943 , IV . / JG 1 was re @-@ designated as I. / JG 1

=== Aircraft of Jagdgeschwader 1 ===

When JG 1 was formed , it primarily used the Messerschmitt Bf 109E @-@ 1 . In mid @-@ 1942 , II . , III. and IV . / JG 1 started converting to the Fw 190 ; although I. / JG 1 continued to operate the Bf 109 ' E ' and ' F ' and later ' G ' models , including the specialized ' F @-@ 4 / Z ' and ' G @-@ 1 ' (the latter also being pressurized) high @-@ altitude fighter with GM @-@ 1 boost . By April 1943 , I. / JG 1 had largely transitioned to the FW 190A , while III . / JG 1 returned to the Bf 109G . In April 1944 , III . / JG 1 was one of the first Luftwaffe units to have been equipped with the Bf 109G @-@ 5 / AS with improved supercharger and methanol @-@ water MW @-@ 50 boost .

I. and II . JG 1 were the first units to equip with the Heinkel He 162A @-@ 2 Spatz (Sparrow , Heinkel 's name for the design) , with deliveries of the He 162 in February 1945 to I. / JG 1 at Parchim . Around April 1945 , II . / JG 1 moved to Rostock @-@ Marienehe near the Heinkel factory

to receive the deliveries of the new aircraft .

= = = Unit emblem and color schemes = = =

When JG 1 was initially formed as I. / JG 1 , its emblem was designed by Major Woldenga as a German Crusader 's cross on which a flight of three Bf 109s was transposed .

When I. / JG 1 was incorporated into JG 27 , I. / JG 1 's original emblem became that of III . / JG 27 . When JG 1 was reformed in 1940 , II . / JG 1 's emblem was the Tatzelwurm , a mythical Norse serpent with origins with JG 3 .

I. / JG 1 was the only group that displayed individual aircraft numerals on the engine cowling until it was re @-@ designated III . / JG 27 . Each of the staffeln also had its own emblems . For example , 2 . / JG 1 had a sword slicing Chamberlain 's umbrella in two .

The badge of 9 . / JG 1 depicted a flintlock pistol on a heart surrounded by the words , (translated from German) " Who Shoots first gets more out of life " . After his appointment as Geschwaderkommodore Oberstlt . Walter Oesau introduced a new emblem on 12 November 1943 and used by all of JG 1 ; a red ? winged ? 1 ? inside a white diamond surrounded by a black circle . There seem to have been some disputes over emblem details , with one version enclosing the white diamond with a red circle instead of a black one .

In spring 1943 I. / JG 1 briefly introduced high @-@ visibility geometric patterns of alternating black and white horizontal stripes on the engine cowling , with other units of JG 1 (formerly IV . / JG 1) using checkerboard patterns on the cowling . I. / JG 1 was unique in using a variation of a more colorful identification scheme of checkerboard black @-@ and @-@ white @-@ striped engine cowlings . The checkerboards were divided into black @-@ white , black @-@ red and black @-@ yellow for the 1 . , 2 @-@ and 3 . Staffeln respectively .

Following the general adoption of aft coloured fuselage bands identification by all Jagdgeschwaders , I. / JG 1 utilised black and white bands . I. / JG 1 started painting red aft fuselage bands to distinguish from JG 11 and the Sturmstaffel aircraft . Use of these colored fuselage bands was generally abandoned by mid @-@ 1944 . At one point , a color scheme of painting the tail rudder in white was trialled for units dedicated to Defence of Reich duties .

= = Wartime history = =

The original I. / JG 1 based in Jesau , played little part in the Invasion of Poland . Within Eastern Prussia , they were re @-@ deployed to three forward bases ; Heiligenbeil , Schippenbeil and Arys @-@ Rostken . I. / JG 1 had negligible involvement and no enemy aircraft were downed . The only casualty was a pilot of 2 . / JG 1 injured by friendly flak . On 5 September 1939 , the group returned to Jesau . After a ten @-@ day stop in Lübeck @-@ Blankensee , the group arrived at Vörden . Although I. / JG 1 came under administrative control of JG 27 , I. / JG 1 was temporarily put under administrative control of JG 77 on 4 June 1940 . It came back under control of JG 27 few days later .

Upon arrival at Vörden the first aircraft credited to I. / JG 1 was a Bristol Blenheim of No. 110 Squadron RAF shot down on a reconnaissance mission . In February 1940 , Major Bernhard Woldenga was promoted to the position of Inspectorate of Fighters and was succeeded by Joachim Schlichting . The unit went on to participate extensively in the Battle of France . I. / JG 1 claimed 82 air victories during the Battle of France , with Hauptmann Wilhelm Balthasar top scorer with 23 kills , and Leutnant Ludwig Frantisek with 9 .

After being re @-@ established in December 1940 , I. / JG 1 's primary responsibility was the air defence of Germany and its Northern occupied territories . In this role , the unit almost exclusively worked in the Netherlands prior to its transfer to central West Germany . Its main opponents through 1940 ? 41 were therefore lone RAF reconnaissance aircraft , the anti @-@ shipping aircraft of RAF Coastal Command and the medium bombers of RAF Bomber Command 's 2 Group , although the group would see little action compared to other theaters during 1941 . During this time , this sector was considered relatively safe compared to other theaters .

= = = Defence of the Reich 1942 ? 1943 = = =

Because RAF bombers and their escorts had insufficient range to reach German airspace , JG 1 was somewhat isolated from the RAF 's " Lean into Europe " fighter offensive of 1941 that involved JG 2 and JG 26 . Oberstleutnant Erich Mix , a veteran of World War I and over 40 years of age , claimed a Blenheim as his 13th kill in mid @-@ 1941 .

JG 1 did however take part in the famed Channel Dash , as part of the air cover plan (Operation Donnerkeil) for the German Kriegsmarine battlecruisers Scharnhorst and Gneisenau , with cruiser Prinz Eugen on 13 February 1942 . By May II . / JG 1 was assigned to Woensdrecht and Katwyk . Its first victory was scored by Unteroffizier Meisner of 6 . / JG 1 . By early 1942 , the group had started re @-@ equip from the earlier Bf 109F @-@ 4 to the Focke @-@ Wulf Fw 190 , completing by 12 May 1942 . One notable ace from early 1942 was Oberfeldwebel Gerhardt , leading scorer of JG 1 with a tally of 9 by 17 February 1942 .

From late 1942 onwards , the increasing USAAF bomber offensive now brought JG 1 to the forefront of the Defence of the Reich , operating at high altitudes against the American bomber streams of the 8th Air Force . Equipped with the Bf 109G " Gustav " with pressurized cabins , JG 1 experimented with several official and unofficial ways of downing the heavy bombers ? with varying degrees of success . One of the unofficial methods Leutnant Heinz Knoke developed was " air bombing " the bombers from above using a delay @-@ fused 250 kg bomb with a 15 @-@ second fuse , although the loss of aircraft performance and vulnerability of the bomb @-@ carrying aircraft to fighters meant the method was not widely adopted . Knoke 's initial operation using air bombs was from 1 @, @ 000 metres (3 @, @ 300 ft) above the bomber formation on 22 March 1943 , and he reported breaking the wing off one of the bombers , although the only B @-@ 17 lost that day was to III . / JG 1 .

JG 1 also pioneered the use of underwing Werfer @-@ Granate (Wfr . Gr. or WGr) 21 rockets as a " stand @-@ off " anti @-@ bomber weapon in mid @-@ 1943 , although they proved too heavy for the fighter aircraft and were removed later in the year .

By the start of 1943 , JG 1 were mainly equipped with the Fw 190 @-@ A , excepting I . / JG 1 still using the Bf 109G @-@ 1 . The first large @-@ scale air battle between JG 1 and VIII Bomber Command occurred when the latter bombed the naval base at Wilhelmshaven on 27 January 1943 with a force of 64 B @-@ 17 Flying Fortress (B @-@ 17) and 27 B @-@ 24 Liberators (B @-@ 24) . Facing them were I . , II. and IV . / JG 1 . With their Jever base below the route I . / JG 1 attacked in full strength under Hauptmann Günther Beise . In broken cloud cover , they intercepted at 25 @, @ 000 ft (7 @, @ 600 m) . The lack of heavy armament on the Bf 109 and the lack of experience of I . / JG 1 meant had less than satisfactory results . The US crews noted the Bf 109s did not press home their attacks . Although most of the B @-@ 17s had some combat damage , only one failed to return , with first American casualty of " Defence of Reich " campaign Captain Vance Beckham 's 305th Bomber Group B @-@ 17F (41 @-@ 24637) . There were five claims (one unconfirmed) and the bomber was shot down by either Oberleutnant Hugo Frey of 2 . / JG 1 or by Feldwebel Siegfried Zick of 2 . / JG 1 , as his second kill . Five of the Bf 109s went down with three pilots killed , although damage to the naval base was minimal .

Cloud cover over the target and bad radio communication meant the B @-@ 24 formation broke up . The smaller B @-@ 24 formation lost their way and crossed into the Netherlands near Woensdrecht . After wandering over North Netherlands they turned north towards the North Sea where they ditched their bombs . II. and IV . / JG 1 took off from Woensdrecht and München @-@ Gladbach to intercept while 5 @. @ and 6 . / JG 1 refuelled at Schiphol . 4 . / JG 1 made one pass at the bombers and two Liberators were claimed but not confirmed . 12 . / JG 1 intercepted over Terschelling , downing two Liberators . Of these , one was the result of a collision with a downed Fw @-@ 190 that cut the bomber 's tail , 12 . / JG 1 's only loss .

On 4 February 1943 the night @-@ fighter wing Nachtjagdgeschwader 1 (NJG 1) , equipped with Bf 110 twin @-@ engined night fighters , joined the fray along with I . / JG 1 , II . / JG 1 and IV . / JG 1 . Due to poor weather conditions only 3 . / JG 1 was able to find the formation at first , claiming

one B @-@ 17 . II . / JG 1 and IV . / JG 1 claimed six B @-@ 17 downed at the cost of two fighters .

I . / JG 1 claimed four B @-@ 17s and four B @-@ 24s on 26 February 1943 during an attack on the Wilhelmshaven U @-@ boat yards and two Liberators were confirmed lost . One was claimed by Oberleutnant Heinz Knoke , and the other claimed by Unteroffizier Leo Demetz of 3 . / JG 1 . Thirteen B @-@ 17s were claimed downed by JG 1 in total .

On 18 March 1943 , 76 B @-@ 17s and 27 B @-@ 24s were sent to bomb Vegesack U @-@ Boat Yards near Bremen . I . / JG 1 , IV . / JG 1 and parts of III . / JG 1 along with Nachtjagdgeschwader formations intercepted the bombers southwest of Heligoland . Knoke and his wingman Dieter Gerhardt each attacked one B @-@ 24 bomber head on . Knoke 's target exploded but was also claimed by Oberleutnant Walter Borchers of 8 . / Nachtjagdgeschwader 3 (NJG 3) . Gerhardt 's target B @-@ 24 limped back to England while he was shot down over the North Sea by another bomber return fire . The fight lasted for two hours , and four B @-@ 17s and five B @-@ 24s were claimed shot down for the loss of two pilots and three aircraft . Only one B @-@ 24 and one B @-@ 17 was actually lost .

On 1 April 1943 , Oberfeldwebel Fritz Timm of 3 . / JG 1 shot down a Lancaster . On 17 April 1943 , Hauptmann Fritz Losigkeit , Gruppenkommandeur of I . / JG 1 shot down his first B @-@ 17 , and his unit claimed a total of three of which two were confirmed for the loss of one pilot and two Fw 190s . 17 other B @-@ 17s were claimed shot down by JG 1 and JG 11 .

On 11 June 1943 , Leemann 's III . / JG 11 saw action for the first time . The group intercepted a formation of B @-@ 17s approaching Wilhelmshaven . Leutnant Eugen Wintergerst , Staffelkapitän of 9 . / JG 1 claimed one B @-@ 17 for his twenty @-@ first victory .

VIII Bomber Command organized its first large attack on the Ruhr Area on 22 June 1943 . The main objective involving bombing the synthetic rubber plant in Hüls by ten B @-@ 17 groups . JG 1 intercepted and was credited with fifteen bombers .

On 25 June 1943 , another B @-@ 17 formation headed into Germany . However , both primary and secondary targets were covered with cloud and the bombers attacked two convoys off the Frisian Islands . Some eight assorted groups of fighters intercepted , among them III . / JG 1 , who claimed seven bombers , Leemann responsible for one of them . III . / JG 1 lost two pilots including Adjutant Oberleutnant Friedrich Hardt , and three pilots were injured .

The weather on 25 July was so poor that two bomber formations of VIII Bomber Command selected their secondary target and a third abandoned its mission . III . / JG 1 downed three bombers , but lost Leemann , who crashed into the North Sea along with his 37th victim .

Next day , the bombers went after rubber factories in Hannover , along with Hamburg U @-@ Boat Yards . Feldwebel Alfred Miksch of 8 . / JG 1 and Hauptmann Robert Olejnik of III . / JG 1 each claimed one bomber .

30 July 1943 was the last day of what was dubbed " Blitz Week " . Mission No. 80 targeted the Fieseler factory in Kassel . III . / JG 1 did scrambled until the bombers had bombed and were returning , and , along with III . / JG 11 , intercepted the bombers near the Dutch border over Emmerich am Rhein . They were unexpectedly confronted by one hundred USAAF P @-@ 47 Thunderbolts and III . / JG 1 had three Bf 109G aircraft damaged , of which two were beyond repair . Leutnant Wintergerst of 9 . / JG 1 shot down one P @-@ 47 , the first P @-@ 47 lost in the " Defence of Reich " campaign . The 56th Fighter Group and 78th Fighter Group recorded the loss of one fighter each . Two bombers were also shot down .

On 12 August 1943 , 330 B @-@ 17s bombed targets in Western Germany , escorted for the first time by P @-@ 47s with drop tanks . II . / JG 1 had six Fw 190s force @-@ land and another six suffered heavy damage , losing one pilot .

On 8 October 1943 , JG 1 lost high scoring ace Oberstleutnant Hans Philipp , killed by the P @-@ 47 fighters of the 56th Fighter Group . The geschwaderstab heard Philipp announce a victory over a Thunderbolt , and his last transmission was to wingman Oberfeldwebel Reinhardt , stating " Reinhardt , attack ! " . Reinhardt last saw Philipp 's aircraft disappear into a cloud . Reinhardt was wounded after colliding with an enemy aircraft , but made a successful forced landing .

II . / JG 1 were reinforced with several Experten at this time , including Hauptmann Karl @-@ Heinz

Weber (136 kills in 500 + missions with 7 . / JG 51) Oberleutenant Friedrich Krakowitz (23 kills by June 1944) and Obfw . Günther Heckmann (12 kills) . It was during late 1943 that Walter Oesau was appointed Kommodore of JG 1 .

On 28 December 1943 , 6 . / JG 1 lost Unteroffizier Gerhard Hartwig and Rudolf Wezulek over Mesum and Oberfeldwebel Werner Essinger bailing out over Burgsteinfurt . Hauptmann Hans @-@ Georg Hackbarth , who had joined JG 1 on 15 November was promoted to replace Hans Ehlers in I . / JG 1 , killed on 22 December 1943 .

= = = D @-@ Day and beyond 1944 = = =

Major Hans @-@ Günther von Kornatzki had formed an experimental unit to evaluate new methods of bomber attack . Sturmstaffel 1 consisted entirely of volunteers trained to engage the enemy bombers in extremely close quarters , utilising specially armed and up @-@ armored Fw 190 's (so @-@ called Sturmböcke) or Battering Rams) . These were intended to attack the bombers from the rear in tight arrowhead formations , closing to extreme close range , as replacements for the formerly @-@ dedicated Zerstörer twin @-@ engined heavy fighters , which themselves were being shot down in ever @-@ increasing numbers by Allied escort fighters . In January 1944 , the 18 Staffel unit was transferred to Dortmund where they were subordinated to Major Rudolf @-@ Emil Schnoor and his I . / JG 1 .

By January 1944 , II . / JG 1 was based in Northern Germany as a " Defence of the Reich " (Reichsverteidigung) unit under Hauptmann Walter Höckner (62 kills) . Over the following few months II . / JG 1 now had three noted experts transferred in ; Hauptmann Hermann Segatz (33 kills) , Oberleutnant Georg @-@ Peter Eder (33 kills) and Major Heinz Bär (179 kills) . Oberleutnant Georg @-@ Peter Eder was assigned as Staffelkapitän of 6 . / JG 1 on 15 March 1944 , after recovering from wounds suffered while serving with JG 2 .

On 4 February 1944 Hauptmann Hermann Segatz replaced Hauptmann Walter Hoeckner as commander of II . / JG 1 . Although Major Bär had led I . / JG 77 , his outspoken criticism of the Luftwaffe leadership led Reichsmarschall Göring to demote him to Staffelkapitän leading an operation training group . He was transferred on 21 January 1944 to 6 . / JG 1 as an ordinary pilot . Walter Oesau welcomed him with assurances to High Command that Bär would not have command responsibilities . Oesau however managed to utilize Bär 's skills as formation leader after the death of Segatz on 8 March 1944 , and Bär was appointed as acting commander of II . / JG 1 .

On 24 February 1944 , the Eighth Air Force attempted to repeat the success of 20 February . 1st and 2nd Divisions flew due east towards Germany and the 3rd Division east @-@ northeast without escort . After crossing into Schleswig @-@ Holstein they attacked targets along the Baltic sea coast . The 1st and 2nd Divisions were considered to be the main thrust of the attack and the 3rd Division went unmolested . The B @-@ 24 bombers of the 2nd Division were scheduled to bomb Gotha and JG 1 were directed to attack these B @-@ 24s . Due to strong tailwinds and flying at lower altitude , the bombers were separated from their escorting fighters and JG 1 reached Gotha before the bombers . Major Heinz Bär led II . / JG 1 in a diving attack and claimed four B @-@ 24s while I . / JG 1 attacked head @-@ on and claimed five B @-@ 24s downed .

At the time an " assembly directive " in place dictated that the senior pilot landing at any fighter airfield would assume command of all other fighter pilots (irrespective of unit) landing on that airfield with a serviceable aircraft . This enabled large ad @-@ hoc formations of fighters to be quickly thrown back into the battle . JG 1 's Walter Oesau led one such attack with improvised command .

On 6 March 1944 , Jimmy Doolittle ordered 730 bombers to bomb Berlin for the first time . They were escorted by 644 fighters from 8th Air Force , 9th Air Force and the RAF . The Commander of I . Jagdkorps requested and received reinforcements from II . Jagdkorps and 7 Jagd @-@ Division . Oesau led Stab . / JG 1 and I . / JG 1 , Major Bär led II . / JG 1 , and accompanied by I . / JG 11 and III . / JG 54 they initially intercepted sixteen B @-@ 17s of 100th Bomb Group who were escorted by P @-@ 47s of the 78th Group . Ten B @-@ 17s went down in the first wave , and in several waves of attacks on the bombers from multiple directions most of the pilots ended up exhausting their

ammunition , resulting in twenty bombers being shot down in the 25 minutes before the escorting P @-@ 47s arrived .

During the first half of 1944 , Allied attacks on railway networks had thoroughly frustrated Reichsmarschall Hermann Göring . Göring was not at all happy with the inability to stop the bombing , and he questioned the commitment of several fighter wing leaders who were not flying and personally leading their units on a regular basis . On 11 May 1944 , 1 @,@ 000 B @-@ 17 and B @-@ 24 bombers of the 8th Air Force attacked vital railway networks in north east Belgium and eastern France , escorted by an even greater number of fighters . Oesau was sick and in bed at the time but , angered by Göring 's insinuations , took off with two other fighters of the Headquarters Flight in his " Green 12 " Bf 109 .

There are various versions regarding his death . One version suggested that his wingman reported damage and was asked to break off . Alone over the Ardennes , he was engaged by at least four escorting P @-@ 38s or possibly by P @-@ 51s . In the ensuing 20 minute dogfight , he was killed crashing near St. Vith . In his memory , Jagdgeschwader 1 was granted the " Oesau " suffix .

Bär was transferred to JG 3 on 21 May 1944 , having claimed 23 victories in four months with II . / JG 1 , replaced by Oberleutnant Georg @-@ Peter Eder . Hauptmann Weber was appointed to command III . / JG 1 on 7 June 1944 .

The wing had served almost exclusively in North Germany and the Netherlands until now , when it was transferred to Central and Western Germany before moving to France , providing air cover over the Army (Wehrmacht) during the Battle of Normandy . On D @-@ Day , II . / JG 1 received orders to transfer west from their base near Störmede . 32 Fw 190A @-@ 8s took off under the command of Oberleutnant Eder , and headed for Essay . By late afternoon all the aircraft landed at Montdidier . News that their original destination had been bombed meant a diversion to Le Mans . The newly added Staffel 7 . / JG 51 (later 8 . / JG 1) was attacked by Mustangs near Le Mans , Lt. Johann Brännler being shot down and killed . I . / JG 1 and II . / JG 1 , along with II . / JG 53 , were based at Le Mans with a complement of 100 Fw 190s and Bf 109s .

The next day saw the notable loss of Hauptmann Karl @-@ Heinz Weber , commander of III . / JG 1 who was shot down and killed by Mustangs . It was from Le Mans that JG 1 started to perform fighter @-@ bomber (Jagdbomber or Jabo) missions , even though I. nor II . / JG 1 had any specialised training . On 8 June 1944 both gruppen were sent off on ground @-@ attack missions . 25 Fw 190s of II . / JG 1 attacked Allied shipping off the Normandy coast unmolested . RAF aircraft bombed Le Mans airfield on the night of 9 June , resulting in II . / JG 1 losing seven aircraft and five damaged . Oberleutnant Rüdiger von Kirchmayr flew back to 4 . / JG 1 after hospitalization on 12 June in Störmede , and en route he was attacked by Spitfires over Flers , claiming an unconfirmed kill as a result . There was a follow @-@ up bombing attack on 15 June resulting in a loss of two more Fw 190s .

On 15 June 1944 , Feldwebel Günther Henschel of 8 . / JG 1 downed a Mustang north of Caen . One Fw 190 was downed without human loss . On 16 June 1944 , II . / JG 1 moved its complement of 25 Fw 190s to Essay and was tasked with defending the skies over the beaches of Normandy . During the transfer , 8 . / JG 1 , was probably attacked by the P @-@ 51s of the 354th Fighter Wing , near Alençon . JG 1 lost three pilots and one mechanic riding passenger , and also lost were two other aircraft without human loss with a claiming of two P @-@ 51s downed credited to Lt. Friedrich Krakowitzer (24th kill) and Oberfeldwebel Günther Heckmann (13th kill) . The base at Essay was bombed the same day by B @-@ 24 Liberators , making the airfield unsuitable for missions .

This prompted a transfer to a landing ground at Semallé , south @-@ east of Alençon . As the unit was establishing itself here , they came under fresh attack from Mustangs , which shot up the airfield , destroying 15 Fw 190s and putting II . / JG 1 out of the battle . Around 11 non @-@ operational Fw 190s were also destroyed ? resulting in the final losses of II . / JG 1 in Normandy . In ten weeks in Normandy , II . / JG 1 had lost 27 pilots , 3 captured and 2 wounded . A total of 106 aircraft were lost for various reasons .

On 17 August 1944 , II . / JG 1 transferred back to Reinsehlen , Germany , for training and re @-@ equipping with the new Heinkel He 162 Spatz lightweight jet fighters .

On 21 November , 1 @,@ 149 bombers and 858 fighters of the 8th Air Force attacked the

Merseburg oil yard . In poor flying conditions , many of the new inexperienced pilots of I. / JG 1 were lost , some 20 aircraft being shot down . I. / JG 1 was then assigned to support preparations for the Ardennes counter @-@ offensive , which would restart the Battle of the Bulge

Providing air support to the army in the Bastogne area was as hard for II . / JG 1 , losing several experienced pilots . On 26 December 1944 , Leutnant Horst Ertmann , Oberfeldwebel Georg Hutter and Oberfeldwebel Reinhard Flecks of 5 . / JG 11 and 6 . / JG 11 were all lost . Other pilots lost included Unteroffizier Ferdinand Nüsse and Johann Ruburg and Leutnant Heinz Fresia , Oberführer Paul Brühl and Oberführer Helmut Bullenkamp of 8 . / JG 1 .

= = = Operation Bodenplatte = = =

In late 1944 , the Luftwaffe Operation Bodenplatte with the aim of crippling Allied tactical air forces based in the Low Countries , and thus reviving the bogged @-@ down progress of the Wehrmacht during the Battle of the Bulge . The operation was launched on New Year 's Day , 1945 . JG 1 participated in this action with orders to destroy as many enemy aircraft on the ground as possible . Although a large number of allied aircraft were destroyed , the Luftwaffe lost a large number of pilots that were irreplaceable .

JG 1 's targets included :

131 Polish Fighter Wing RAF (302 " Poznański " Squadron , No. 308 " Krakowski " Squadron (Krakowski) and 317 " Wileński " Squadron) located near Ghent / Sint @-@ Denijs in Belgium .

485 (NZ) Squadron located near Maldegem in Belgium .

Other Spitfire squadrons near Ursel in Belgium .

JG 1 lost ten pilots killed , seven missing and eight captured .

During a fight with No. 308 Squadron Spitfires , by Flight Sergeant Józef Stanowski engaged Hauptmann Georg Hackbarth (30 kills) and his Fw 190A @-@ 8 crashed near St. Pieters railway station , his body being thrown clear of the wreckage . Fw . Karl Hahn was also shot down by Stanowski , as was Feldwebel Harry Klints ' I. / JG 1 Fw 190 " Green 5 " which crashed near Zwijnaarde . Flying Officer Tadeusz Szlenkier also claimed the Fw 190 piloted by Klints . Szlenkier in turn was attacked and crash @-@ landed .

However , Stanowski had to crash @-@ land due to lack of fuel . As No. 308 Squadron returned to base they shot down four more of the I. / JG 1 fighters .

It was then that II . / JG 1 arrived . Fw . Edgar Ardner of 5 . / JG 1 was engaged by two Spitfires and shot down , bailing out and taken prisoner . No. 317 Squadron then joined the mêlée upon arrival . Warrant Officer Stanisław Piesik shot down another Fw 190 .

One eye witness account suggested some of the downed JG 1 pilots faced the wrath of Belgium civilians , citing that the body of one of the pilots was stripped and attacked by an angry mob . Another pilot , Unteroffizier Fritz Hoffman , barely escaped by surrendering to Allied forces after being shot down by Flight Lieutenant Czesław Mroczyk of 317 Squadron . Feldwebel Paul Mayr and Leutnant Ernst Von Johannides were also shot down by No. 317 Squadron . In turn , Flight Lieutenant Tadeusz Powierza was shot down and killed . Another Allied pilot crash @-@ landed after downing a German aircraft .

Pilot Officer Andrzej Dromlewicz was credited for downing another German aircraft and Flight Lieutenant Mach shot down another German aircraft after a chase at ground level . Another German Fw 190 was shot down by his wing man , Warrant Officer Stanisław Bednarczyk .

The remaining pilots of I. / JG 1 and II . / JG 1 started their homeward journey , some of whom , like Fw . Paul Wunderlich , were downed by enemy flak . They also came under fire from friendly flak , downing even more pilots .

In all , JG 1 claimed 32 Spitfires , one B @-@ 17 and one Short Stirling on the ground . However , RAF records state only 13 Spitfires were destroyed , with 8 shot down in aerial combat . Just 4 were listed as lost in aerial engagements with JG 1 .

= = = Defence of the Reich 1945 = = =

After the disastrous losses of Operation Bodenplatte , and failing to maintain air superiority over the Ardennes area , a severely weakened II . / JG 1 transferred to Insterburg in East Prussia (modern Chernyakhovsk in Russia) . I. / JG 1 faced British fighters over Hengelo @-@ Twente on 14 January 1945 . JG 1 lost 12 pilots with 7 being killed , 3 wounded and 2 missing . Spitfires shot down the entire 1 @.@ and 2 @.@ staffels of JG 1 at Twente airport as they took off (for the loss of two) . Ihlefeld threatened to court martial Major G. Capito , the new leader of I. / JG 1 , for such a disastrous loss but was unable to during the transferring to the Eastern Front . In Poland JG 1 were briefly assigned to Luftflotte Reich (the Air Fleet assigned to defend what was left of Germany from the final Allied offensives) .

It was during this time that the unit began converting to the new jet @-@ propelled Heinkel He 162A " Volksjäger " . I. / JG 1 started training on the new jet aircraft in March 1945 . Some 12 pilots were killed in accidents flying the new unfamiliar fighter . I. / JG 1 had moved back to Parchim , performing " Defence of the Reich " duties , and one of the bases of the pioneering German jet fighter wing , JG 7 . Since this was not far from Rostock @-@ Marienehe (today 's Rostock @-@ Schmarl neighborhood) , where the Heinkel factory was located , it was easier for the pilots of I. / JG 1 to pick up the new jets . However , with Germany on the brink of collapse , transportation and fuel supply was getting difficult with the increased Allied air attacks .

On 7 April 1945 , 134 B @-@ 17 Flying Fortresses bombed the field at Parchim . In two days , I. / JG 1 relocated to a nearby airfield at Ludwigslust . They moved again a week later to Leck . Around this time , II . / JG 1 had moved to airfield at Marienehe and also started taking delivery of the He 162 . These new jet aircraft would never see widespread combat with JG 1 due to their late introduction and a shortage of pilots , aircraft and fuel . JG 1 could no longer field their full complement or effectively fly operations as required .

The new He 162 had about 30 minutes worth of fuel . This endurance was simply not enough , and at least two JG 1 pilots were killed making Deadstick landing after exhausting their fuel . By April , I. / JG 1 had scored a number of kills , but at the cost of 13 He 162s and 10 pilots . The losses were mostly attributed to issues with the He 162 such as engine flame @-@ outs or occasional structural failures , which can most probably be attributed to poor design and insufficient development time . On 24 April 1945 , III . / JG 1 was disbanded .

On 19 April at least one He 162 of 3 . / JG 1 fell victim to a Hawker Tempest of 222 Squadron . Leutnant Gerhard Steimer wrote :

We took off from the concrete runway in Leck , Kirchner (Fhj.Fw Günther Kirchner) stayed 30 metres behind me on my right side as usual ; ... We climbed up to about 200 metres , when suddenly two Thunderbolts appeared behind us and instantly shot down Günther Kirchner 's plane . I saw him jettison canopy and catapult but his parachute did not deploy . I was very lucky that the Thunderbolts did not press on with another attack .

The combat matches an account by Flight Lieutenant G. Walkington of 222 Squadron who reported shooting down an unusual looking German aircraft while on armed reconnaissance in the area . This was the first loss of an He 162 in combat .

= = Dissolution = =

On 30 April 1945 , II . / JG 1 was combined with I. / JG 1 at Leck to form two new groups (Gruppen) : I. (Einsatz) / JG 1 and II . (Sammel) / JG 1 ; a combined total of about 50 pilots and aircraft . On 4 May 1945 , all of JG 1 's surviving He @-@ 162s were formed into a special consolidated Intervention groups (Einsatzgruppen) . However , on 5 May 1945 , the war ended and there was a ceasefire which , effectively grounded the He 162s . Surviving JG 1 crews collectively turned their He 162s over to the Allies .

" Throughout the entire war , our JG 1 had the thankless task of defending the north @-@ west flank of the Reich , which , until the Americans entered the air war , merited little attention . The Geschwader came to the fore with the start of the " Defence of the Reich " , which was to be a harsh baptism of fire . "

= = Notable successes and losses = =

One of the most famous group commanders (Gruppenkommandeure) of JG 1 was Major Heinz " Pritzl " Bär , before he was promoted as wing commander of JG 3 . Credited with 220 kills , Bär was the 8th ranking aerial " Ace " of all time . Other notable aces were Oberstleutnant Georg @-@ Peter Eder , the highest @-@ scoring Luftwaffe ace against the USAAF , who would go on to become a " jet ace " , scoring at least 12 and possibly 24 victories in an Me 262 while serving with Kommando Nowotny and JG 7 .

The Gruppe 's 700th victory occurred on 29 April 1944 , credited to Oberlt. von Kirchmayr as his 15th kill . There were several high @-@ scoring pilots associated with JG 1 . For example , Alfred Grislawski had a score of 134 to his name , Georg @-@ Peter Eder had 78 , and Walter Oesau had 127 confirmed prior to his death .

However , losses were also high . Five of the fourteen Group commanders (Gruppenkommandeure) of II . / JG 1 were killed in action while serving with II . / JG 1 . The notable losses were Oberleutnant Rohwer , and Hauptmanns Kijewski , Wickop , Seegatz and Dähne . During early 1944 , prior to D @-@ Day , II . / JG 1 was led by one of its four experienced formation commanders . These were Hauptmann Segatz , Major Bär , and Oberleutnants von Kirchmayr and Eder . Yet the unit suffered heavy losses (along with most other wings in the West) of 48 pilots killed , 23 wounded , and 158 aircraft destroyed for 164 confirmed victories . Of these , 119 were USAAF four @-@ engined bombers .

Significantly , the highly experienced and irreplaceable experts were among the losses . The most notable loss of II . / JG 1 was its Kommandeur , Hauptmann Seegatz (KIA 8 March 1944 , 40 kills) . The Group also lost seven experienced team leaders (Rottenführer) and flight leaders (Schwarmführer) .

Unteroffizier Erich Negraszus (KIA 11 February 1944 , 3 Kills) ,
Feldwebel Heinz Fuchs (KIA 24 February 1944 , 11 Kills) ,
Unteroffizier Hans @-@ Joachim Tünger (KIA 3 March 1944 , 4 Kills) ,
Feldwebel Heinz Kahl (KIA 12 May 1944 , 9 Kills) ,
Unteroffizier Helmut Stiegler (KIA 12 May 1944 , 6 Kills) ,
Unteroffizier Heinrich Weber (KIA 16 May 1944 , 3 Kills) ,
Leutnant Gunther Buchholz (KIA 31 May 1944 , 5 Kills) .

When 8 . / JG 1 (originally 7 . / JG 51) was transferred from Eastern front , it had 15 pilots in May 1944 . By August , twelve pilots had been killed , one captured and another severely wounded ; only Lieutenant Günther Heckmann was the sole pilot remaining .

The Luftwaffe units committed to battle after the D @-@ Day landings suffered further catastrophic losses against the overwhelming numbers of allied fighters present . In the ten weeks of action following D @-@ Day , II . / JG 1 lost 106 aircraft (41 in air combat) and 30 pilots , for just 32 air claims . Many experienced and irreplaceable Experte were killed during this time . Hauptmann Karl @-@ Heinz Weber , Gruppenkommandeur of III . / JG 1 (136 claims) was killed in action against Polish Wing Mustangs on 7 June 1944 , north of Paris , while on 17 June 1944 , Leutnant ' Toni ' Piffer (35 claims) was shot down and killed in aerial combat with USAAF fighters over La Cordonnerie .

On 16 June 1944 , while 8 . / JG 1 was moving from Le Mans to Essay , France came under attack by the P @-@ 51s of 354th Fighter Wing , near Alençon . In the ensuing dogfight , 8 . / JG 1 lost three pilots and one mechanic riding passenger . Those were Uffz . Günther Henschel , Uffz . Franz Zechner , and Feldwebel Helmuth Heidemann . The mechanic was Uffz . Herbert Redlich . Also lost were two other aircraft without loss of life .

Total pilot losses in World War II were 464 killed in action , 174 wounded , 94 killed in accidents , and 16 POW .

= = Commanding officers = =

= = = Wing Commanders (Geschwaderkommodore) = = =

Originally JG 1 was formed as a single Group I. / JG 1 in 1938 . A full wing was formed only in November 1939 . The first Wing Commander was Schumacher .

Oberstleutnant Carl @-@ August Schumacher , 30 November 1939 ? 5 January 1942

Major Erich von Selle , 6 January 1942 ? 27 August 1942

Oberstleutnant Erich Mix , August 1942 ? 31 March 1943

Oberstleutnant Hans Philipp , 1 April 1943 ? 8 October 1943

Major Hermann Graf , October 1943 ? 10 November 1943

Oberst Walter Oesau , 12 November 1943 ? 11 May 1944

Major Heinz Bär (acting) , 12 May 1944 ? 20 May 1944

Oberst Herbert Ihlefeld , 20 May 1944 ? 8 May 1945

= = = Group Commanders (Gruppenkommandeure) = = =

= = = I. / JG 1 = = =

Originally JG 1 was formed only as a single group I. / JG 1 under Woldenga . That group was re @-@ designated as III . / JG 27 . JG 1 thus temporarily ceased to exist . It was reactivated 7 months later under Schumacher in November 1939 . But a formal I. / JG 1 came to exist in September 1941 .

Major Bernhard Woldenga , 1 May 1939 ? February 1940

Hauptmann Joachim Schlichting , 13 February 1940 ? 5 July 1940

Oberleutnant Erich Mix , September 1941 ? August 1942

Oberleutnant Paul Stolte , August 1942 ? September 1942

Hauptmann Günther Beise , September 1942

Major Fritz Losigkeit , 1 April 1943

Hauptmann Rudolf @-@ Emil Schnoor , 15 May 1943

Hauptmann Hans Ehlers , 17 April 1944

Hauptmann Georg Hackbarth , 28 December 1944 ? 1 January 1945

Major Günther Capito , 3 January 1945

Oberleutnant Emil Demuth , 15 January 1945 ? 12 April 1945

Major Werner Zober , 1 May 1945 ? 5 May 1945

= = = II . / JG 1 = = =

Hauptmann Hans von Hahn , 15 January 1942 ? June 1942

Oberleutnant Detlev Rohwer , 20 June 1942 ? October 1942

Major Herbert Kijewski , October 1942 ? 16 April 1943

Hauptmann Dietrich Wickop , 17 April 1943 ? 6 May 1943

Hauptmann Robert Olejnik , May 1943 ? 28 June 1943

Hauptmann Walter Hoeckner , 28 June 1943 ? 31 January 1944

Hauptmann Hermann Segatz , February 1944 ? 8 March 1944

Major Heinrich Bär , 15 March 1944 ? 12 May 1944

Oberleutnant Georg @-@ Peter Eder , 13 May 1944 ? June 1944

Oberleutnant Rüdiger Kirchmayr , June 1944 ? July 1944

Hauptmann Hermann Staiger , 1 August 1944 ? January 1945

Oberleutnant Fritz Wegner , December 1944 ? 1 March 1945

Hauptmann Paul @-@ Heinrich Dähne , March 1945 ? 24 April 1945

Hauptmann Rahe , 1 May 1945 ? 5 May 1945

= = = III . / JG 1 = = =

In April 1943 , III . / JG 1 was re @-@ designated as I. / JG 11 . A new group was added to JG 1 as III . / JG 1 based on Operation squadrons of Fighter schools .

Hauptmann Herbert Kijewski , 6 February 1942 ? October 1942

Hauptmann Rudolf @-@ Emil Schnoor , October 1942 ? November 1942

Major Walter Spies , October 1942 ? 31 March 1943

Major Karl @-@ Heinz Leesmann , 1 April 1943 ? 25 July 1943

Hauptmann Robert Olejnik , 26 July 1943 ? 8 October 1943

Hauptmann Friedrich Eberle , 9 October 1943 ? 27 April 1944

Major Hartmann Grasser , 27 April 1944 ? 31 May 1944

Hauptmann Karl @-@ Heinz Weber , 3 June 1944 ? 7 June 1944

Hauptmann Alfred Grislawski , 7 June 1944 ? June 1944

Hauptmann Erich Voitke , June 1944 ? August 1944

Oberleutnant Erich Buchholz , July 1944 ? September 1944

Hauptmann Heinz Knoke , 13 August 1944 ? October 1944

Hauptmann Erich Voitke , October 1944 ? 24 December 1944

Hauptmann Harald Moldenhauer , 25 December 1944 ? 5 May 1945

= = = = IV . / JG 1 = = = =

IV . / JG 1 was re @-@ designated as I. / JG 1 in April 1943 . Afterward there was no IV . / JG 1 added to JG 1 and JG 1 continued to exist as three group wing until its dissolution .

Hauptmann Günther Scholz , January 1942 ? March 1942

Hauptmann Fritz Losigkeit , March 1942 ? 1 April 1943