

= Günther Lützow =

Günther Lützow ( 4 September 1912 ? 24 April 1945 ) was a German Luftwaffe aviator and fighter ace credited with 110 enemy aircraft shot down in over 300 combat missions . Apart from five victories during the Spanish Civil War , most of his claimed victories were over the Eastern Front in World War II . He also claimed 20 victories over the Western Front , including two victories ? one of which was a four @-@ engined bomber ? flying the Messerschmitt Me 262 jet fighter .

Born in Kiel , Lützow volunteered for military service in the Reichswehr of the Weimar Republic in 1931 . In parallel , he was accepted for flight training with the Deutsche Verkehrsfliegerschule , a covert military @-@ training organization , and at the Lipetsk fighter @-@ pilot school . Following flight training , he was posted to Jagdgeschwader " Richthofen " ( Fighter Wing " Richthofen " ) in 1934 . In 1937 , he volunteered for service with the Condor Legion during the Spanish Civil War where he was appointed Staffelkapitän ( squadron leader ) in Jagdgruppe 88 ( J / 88 ? 88th Fighter Group ) . From April to September 1937 , he claimed five aerial victories . For his service in Spain he was awarded the Spanish Cross in Gold with Swords and Diamonds , Germany 's highest decoration of the Spanish Civil War .

After an assignment as fighter pilot instructor , he was appointed Gruppenkommandeur ( group commander ) in Jagdgeschwader 3 ( JG 3 ? 3rd Fighter Wing ) following the outbreak of World War II . He led the Gruppe through the Battle of France and claimed his first victory of World War II on 14 May 1940 . Lützow became Geschwaderkommodore ( wing commander ) of JG 3 on 21 August 1940 . After 15 aerial victories during the Battle of Britain , he was awarded the Knight 's Cross of the Iron Cross on 18 September 1940 . Lützow commanded JG 3 in the aerial battles of Operation Barbarossa , the German invasion of the Soviet Union . There , after his 42nd aerial victory , he was awarded the Knight 's Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves on 20 July 1941 . Three months later , following his 92nd aerial victory of the war , Lützow was awarded the Knight 's Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves and Swords on 11 October 1941 . On 24 October , he claimed his 100th victory of the war , becoming the second fighter pilot after Werner Mölders to do so . From September to November 1941 , he also served as acting commander of Jagdgeschwader 51 ( JG 51 ? 51st Fighter Wing ) , replacing Friedrich Beckh , who had been injured in combat , until the position was filled by Karl @-@ Gottfried Nordmann . After being instructed not to fly operations , he ignored the order , adding two more victories before being posted on 11 August 1942 to the staff of General der Jagdflieger ( General of Fighters ) Adolf Galland , serving as " Inspector of Day Fighters , East " .

In July 1943 , Lützow was tasked with commanding fighter operations in Italy . From September 1943 to March 1944 , he led the 1 . Jagd Division ( 1st Fighter Division ) , commanding all day- and night @-@ fighter operations in northwestern Germany , the Netherlands and Belgium . Lützow 's role in the " Fighter Pilots Revolt " was considered mutiny by Hermann Göring , who exiled Lützow to Italy . In April 1945 , he joined Galland 's Jagdverband 44 ( JV 44 ? 44th Fighter Detachment ) . He was reported missing in action flying the Me 262 on 24 April 1945 while attempting to intercept a U.S. Army Air Forces B @-@ 26 Marauder raid near Donauwörth . His body was never recovered .

= = Early life and career = =

Lützow was born on 4 September 1912 in Kiel , at the time the capital of the Province of Schleswig @-@ Holstein , a province of the Kingdom of Prussia . He was the third of five children of Friedrich Lützow , a naval officer , and his wife Hildegard , née Kinzel . He had an older brother , Werner , an older sister , Liselotte ( Elisabeth Charlotte ) , a younger sister , Hildegard , and a younger brother , Joachim . The family at the time lived at the Reventloulallee 23 on the west bank of the Kieler Förde . This was close to the German Imperial Naval Academy where his father attended a two @-@ year Admiralty Staff training course . Following the outbreak of World War I , his father was posted to the staff of the Führer der Unterseeboote ( Commander of Submarines ) Fregattenkapitän ( Frigate Captain ) Hermann Bauer , and the family had to move to Wilhelmshaven .

Lützow graduated with his Abitur ( university @-@ preparatory high school diploma ) on 31 March

1931 from the Schulpforta , a boarding school for academically gifted students . Unlike his brothers , who both pursued a naval career , Lützow joined the Reichswehr ( Army of the Weimar Republic ) following his graduation from school . This decision had been influenced by his mother 's youngest brother , Eberhard Kinzel , at the time an officer in the Reichswehr and later General der Infanterie ( General of the Infantry ) in the Heer ( German Army ) .

On 7 April 1931 Lützow began his pilot training at the Deutsche Verkehrsfliegerschule ( DVS ? German Air Transport School ) at Schleißheim . The DVS was headed by Karl Bolle , a World War I fighter pilot , and his flight instructor was Wilhelm Stör , another World War I fighter pilot . He and 29 other trainees were part of Kameradschaft 31 ( camaraderie of 1931 ) , abbreviated " K 31 " . Among the members of " K 31 " were future Luftwaffe staff officers Bernd von Brauchitsch , Wolfgang Falck , Günther Radusch and Hannes Trautloft . Lützow graduated from the DVS on 19 February 1932 . In late September 1931 , Lützow and three other students made a cross @-@ country flight from Schleißheim to Berlin . The flight was made in two 2 @-@ seater Klemm Kl 26 training aircraft . Lützow , as the best air navigation student of his class , flew in the navigator 's position . In the Luftstreitkräfte of World War I , the pilot was called " Emil " and the navigator was called " Franz " . From that point on , Lützow was nicknamed " Franz " or the diminutive " Franzl " ( little Franz ) . From " K 31 " , Lützow and nine others were recommended for Sonderausbildung ( special training ) at the Lipetsk fighter @-@ pilot school .

Following his return from flight training , Lützow joined 5 . ( Preußisches ) Infanterie @-@ Regiment ( 5th ( Prussian ) Infantry Regiment ) , at first in Greifswald ( 15 October 1932 ? 31 January 1933 ) as a Offizieranwärter ( officer candidate ) . There he completed his basic training . From 1 February to 31 March 1933 , he served with 5 . ( Preußisches ) Infanterie @-@ Regiment in Stettin . He then attended the Kriegsschule ( war school ) in Dresden and was promoted to Leutnant ( second lieutenant ) on 1 October 1934 . In 1935 , he officially transferred to the newly formed Luftwaffe , at first serving as a fighter pilot instructor at Schleißheim ( 8 March 1935 ? 31 March 1936 ) followed by a posting to II . Gruppe ( 2nd group ) of Sturzkampfgeschwader 162 ( StG 162 ? 162nd Diver Bomber Wing ) at Lübeck @-@ Blankensee ( 1 April ? 3 November 1936 ) . In parallel , from 1 May to 1 November 1936 , Lützow held the position of Staffelloffizier ( squadron officer ) with 4 . Staffel ( 4th squadron ) of Jagdgeschwader 132 " Richthofen " ( JG 132 ? 132nd Fighter Wing ) at Jüterbog @-@ Damm .

= = Spanish Civil War = =

During the Spanish Civil War , Lützow volunteered for service with the Condor Legion , a unit composed of volunteers from the Luftwaffe and from the Heer which served with the Nationalists . On 19 March 1937 , he was appointed Staffelfkapitän ( squadron leader ) of 2 . Staffel ( 2nd squadron ) of Jagdgruppe 88 ( J / 88 ? 88th Fighter Group ) .

From March to September 1937 , Lützow , now an Oberleutnant ( first lieutenant ) , claimed five victories , including the first ever recorded claim by a Messerschmitt Bf 109 pilot . Flying a Bf 109 B , he shot down an Polikarpov I @-@ 15 , a Soviet built biplane fighter aircraft , on 6 April 1937 . On 26 April 1937 , air elements of the Condor Legion targeted and bombed Guernica , an attack which has been characterised as a war crime by Wette and Ueberschär , but Lützow did not participate in the attack as he was on home leave from 8 ? 29 April 1937 . After he returned , Lützow claimed three more I @-@ 15s shot down , one on 22 May , another on 28 May , and his last on 18 August 1937 . His final aerial victory in Spain was over a Polikarpov I @-@ 16 , a monoplane fighter aircraft , which he shot down on 22 August 1937 .

On 16 October 1937 , Lützow was assigned to the Reichsluftfahrtministerium ( RLM ? Ministry of Aviation ) Sonderstab W. ( special staff " W " ) under the command of and named after General Helmuth Wilberg . Sonderstab W. was responsible for collecting and analyzing the tactical lessons of the Spanish Civil War . Lützow wrote up his report , Erfahrungsbericht Winterausbildung 1937 / 1938 , Jüterbog @-@ Damm , 5 . Staffel ( field report winter training 1937 / 1938 , Jüterbog @-@ Damm , 5th squadron ) documenting his Spanish experiences and tactical proposals . His report referred to the finger @-@ four formation as the clearly superior tactical formation for contemporary

fighter operations . Lützow 's comrade Werner Mölders solved the problem of manoeuvring a finger @-@ four formation months later by introducing what is still known today as the " crossover turn " or " tac turn " . At RLM , Lützow received his promotion to Hauptmann ( captain ) on 20 November 1937 . For his achievements in Spain , Lützow was honored with the Spanish Medalla de la Campaña and Medalla Militar and the German Spanish Cross in Gold with Swords and Diamonds ( Spanienkreuz in Gold mit Schwertern und Brillanten ) on 6 June 1939 .

On 12 February 1938 , Lützow met his future wife Gisela von Priesdorff , the oldest daughter of military historian Kurt von Priesdorff , at a carnival party held at the Jagdfliegerschule 1 ( fighter pilot school ) at Werneuchen . On 19 July 1938 the two were officially engaged , and they married on 11 March 1939 at the Holy Trinity Church in Berlin . They had a son , Hans @-@ Ulrich , born 29 January 1940 , and a daughter , Carola , born 31 August 1942 . On 1 November 1938 , Lützow became a head flight instructor at Jagdfliegerschule 1 at Werneuchen , replacing Johannes Janke . At the time Jagdfliegerschule 1 , was under the command of Theo Osterkamp , a World War I fighter pilot .

= = World War II = =

World War II in Europe began on Friday 1 September 1939 , when German forces invaded Poland . Lützow did not participate in this campaign . He was tasked with providing fighter protection for Berlin . From the Jagdfliegerschule in Werneuchen , he detached two squadrons and placed them under the command of Jagdgruppe 20 based at Strausberg . At the end of October 1939 , a change in command of I. Gruppe ( 1st group ) of Jagdgeschwader 3 ( JG 3 ? 3rd Fighter Wing ) was announced . The former commander Oberstleutnant ( Lieutenant Colonel ) Otto @-@ Heinrich von Houwald was transferred to the Jagdfliegerschule in Werneuchen . Lützow joined I. Gruppe on 1 November 1939 , officially taking over command as Gruppenkommandeur ( group commander ) two days later .

= = = Battle of France = = =

On 10 May 1940 , the Wehrmacht began its offensive Operation Case Yellow ( Fall Gelb ) , the invasion of France and the neutral Low Countries . I. Gruppe of JG 3 participated in the offensive as a subordinated unit of Jagdgeschwader 77 ( JG 77 ? 77th Fighter Wing ) . During the Battle of France , JG 77 was under control of I. Fliegerkorps ( 1st Air Corps ) , which formed the right wing of Luftflotte 3 ( 3rd Air Fleet ) in Belgium and the Netherlands .

On 14 May 1940 , Lützow claimed his first two aerial victories of World War II . Flying out of Hargimont , his flight was tasked with providing fighter cover in the area northwest of Dinant . At 8 : 00 pm , the flight encountered 15 to 20 Armée de l 'Air ( French Air Force ) Curtiss P @-@ 36 Hawk fighter aircraft . Without loss , I. Gruppe claimed seven Curtisses shot down , including two claimed by Lützow . The next day , he claimed another P @-@ 36 southeast of Charleroi , his third victory of the war . On 19 May in combat north of Arras , he claimed a Hawker Hurricane fighter aircraft . Lützow claimed his fifth and sixth victory of the war on 31 May 1940 , shooting down two Morane @-@ Saulnier M.S.406 fighter aircraft south of Amiens . This was followed by another P @-@ 36 on 3 June . On 6 June , he claimed a Bristol Blenheim light bomber followed by another Blenheim shot down on 8 June . This latter Blenheim was shot down when Lützow was returning from a Junkers Ju 87 dive bomber escort mission . The Blenheim IV was flying alone unescorted and Lützow set it on fire . The bomber exploded in midair near Abbeville .

On 23 June 1940 , I. Gruppe was moved to a forward airfield at Grandvilliers in preparation for missions over the Channel Coast , but the following day , all Bf 109s were sent to Wiesbaden , via Brussels , for a thorough maintenance check . The overhaul detachment arrived in Wiesbaden in the late afternoon and the pilots were sent on home leave . The cease @-@ fire of the Armistice of 22 June 1940 went into effect on 25 June 1940 , ending the Battle of France . During the French campaign , Lützow flew 64 combat missions and claimed nine victories . Under his leadership , I. Gruppe was one of the most successful units in this campaign . It was credited with 88 aerial

victories for the loss of six pilots killed and ten Bf 109s destroyed .

By 3 July 1940 , the majority of the Bf 109s had returned to Grandvilliers from maintenance overhaul . At the time , Lützow had 45 pilots and 33 Bf 109 Es for disposition , 28 of the aircraft being operational . I. Gruppe flew its first missions over the Channel Coast on the evening of 5 July 1940 . In the following days flight operations were impeded by a period of bad weather . On 1 August 1940 , I. Gruppe was moved to Colombert , the Geschwaderstab ( headquarters unit ) and the other two Gruppen were moved to airfields in the vicinity of Boulogne . In preparations for actions against Great Britain , JG 3 was put under the control of Luftflotte 2 ( 2nd Air Fleet ) , thus placing it under the command of Jagdfliegerführer 2 Oberst ( Colonel ) Osterkamp .

On 1 August 1940 , Adolf Hitler had issued Führer Directive no . 17 ( Weisung Nr. 17 ) ; the strategic objective of which was to engage and defeat the Royal Air Force ( RAF ) so as to achieve air superiority in preparation for Operation Sea Lion ( Unternehmen Seelöwe ) , the proposed amphibious invasion of Great Britain . Reichsmarschall ( Marshal of the Realm ) Hermann Göring , in his role as commander @-@ in @-@ chief of the Luftwaffe ordered an attack on RAF Fighter Command 's ground organization , code named Adlertag ( Operation Eagle Attack ) . On 13 August , 485 bomber and approximately 1 @,@ 000 fighter sorties were flown , targeting British airfields in southern England . Lützow claimed his first aerial victory in the Battle of Britain on 16 August 1940 , shooting down a Supermarine Spitfire over Kent .

== Wing commander of JG 3 ==

At the height of the Battle of Britain on 21 August 1940 , it was announced that Lützow was to be appointed Geschwaderkommodore ( wing commander ) of JG 3 . He officially took command of JG 3 on 25 August and was promoted to Major ( major ) on 30 August 1940 . On 25 August , command of I. Gruppe was handed over to Oberleutnant Lothar Keller who led the Gruppe until the new Gruppenkommandeur Hauptmann Hans von Hahn arrived at the end of August . Lützow 's former adjutant with I. Gruppe , Friedrich @-@ Franz von Cramon , joined him at the Geschwaderstab and continued to serve as his adjutant . Under Lützow 's command , the Geschwaderstab was based on the Channel Coast until 16 February 1941 , at first in Colombert , then in August 1940 it was moved to Wierre @-@ au @-@ Bois and at the end of September to Desvres . Lützow , as Geschwaderkommodore , claimed eight victories during the Battle of Britain , his 11th ? 18th of the war .

On 26 August 1940 , Lützow claimed a pair of Boulton Paul Defiant fighters from No. 264 Squadron off the north Kent coast . On 27 August 1940 , Lützow , and other Geschwaderkommodore , were summoned to a meeting held by Jagdfliegerführer 2 , Generalmajor ( Major General ) Kurt @-@ Bertram von Döring in Wissant . This meeting was also attended by Generalfeldmarschall ( Field Marshal ) Albert Kesselring , and the commanding general of the II . Fliegerkorps Generaloberst ( Colonel General ) Bruno Loerzer . The subject of the meeting was the perceived lack of fighter protection provided for the bomber arm by the Jagdwaffe ( fighter force ) . The bomber crews had demanded the fighter escorts fly closer to the bombers , within visual proximity , increasing perceived security of the bomber crews . The generals accused the Geschwaderkommodore of being overly interested in accumulating aerial victories and awards at the expense of exposing the bombers to enemy attacks . Lützow argued that a fighter aircraft , such as the Bf 109 , required speed and space to combat the fast and more agile RAF fighter aircraft . The discussion ended with a compromise , some of the fighters were ordered to fly close and at the same speed as the bombers , while other fighters were to fly 1 @,@ 000 ? 2 @,@ 000 meters ( 3 @,@ 300 ? 6 @,@ 600 feet ) above the main bomber force , clearing the airspace of enemy fighters in the direction the bomber force was flying .

In September 1940 , Lützow claimed three Hurricanes , one each on 7 , 9 and 15 September . In addition to the 15 aerial victories he had claimed since the start of the war , he was credited with three ground victories and one barrage balloon destroyed . Subsequently , he was awarded the Knight 's Cross of the Iron Cross ( Ritterkreuz des Eisernes Kreuzes ) on 18 September 1940 . The presentation was made by Göring at the headquarters of the Befehlshaber der Wehrmachts in den

Niederlanden ( Supreme Commander of the Wehrmacht in the Netherlands ) , General der Flieger ( General of the Flyers ) Friedrich Christiansen , at Wassenaar near The Hague on 19 September . That day , both Lützow and Wolfgang Schellmann , Geschwaderkommodore of Jagdgeschwader 2 " Richthofen " ( JG 2 ? 2nd Fighter Wing ) , were so honored . Lützow was credited with three further victories against the RAF , two P @-@ 36s shot down on 5 October , and a Spitfire on 5 November 1940 . These were his last victories claimed over the Western Front until 1945 , taking his World War II score to 18 .

In spring 1941 , Geschwaderstab of JG 3 was transferred to Mannheim @-@ Sandhofen for a period of rest and conversion to the new Bf 109 F @-@ 2 . On 4 May 1941 , the Geschwaderstab was sent back into combat along the Channel Coast . On 7 May 1941 , Lützow 's Bf 109 F @-@ 2 ( Werknummer 8117 ? factory number ) suffered minor damage in combat when his tail surfaces were shot up . Operating from Saint @-@ Pol @-@ Brias until 8 June , the Geschwaderstab flew missions over southern England and the English Channel without filing any claims or sustaining any losses .

= = = War against the Soviet Union = = =

In preparation for Operation Barbarossa , the German invasion of the Soviet Union , the Geschwaderstab began heading east on 8 June 1941 . They stopped for several days at Breslau @-@ Gandau , the present day Wroc?aw ? Copernicus Airport in Poland . On 18 June , the Geschwaderstab relocated to Hostynne , from where on 22 June 1941 , Lützow led JG 3 in combat against the Soviet Union . At the start of the campaign , JG 3 was subordinated to the V. Fliegerkorps ( 5th Air Corps ) , under command of General der Flieger Robert Ritter von Greim , which was part of Luftflotte 4 ( 4th Air Fleet ) , under command of Generaloberst Alexander Löhr . These air elements supported Generalfeldmarschall Gerd von Rundstedt 's Heeresgruppe Süd ( Army Group South ) , with the objective of capturing the Ukraine and its capital Kiev .

Lützow claimed nine aerial victories in his first week on the Eastern Front . The first victory , an I @-@ 18 fighter , a variant of the Polikarpov I @-@ 16 , was achieved on the opening day of Barbarossa . On the second day of Barbarossa , he accounted for two Tupolev SB @-@ 2 bombers . On 24 June , he filed a claim for a Polikarpov I @-@ 153 biplane fighter destroyed . Two days later , he destroyed three aircraft , two SB @-@ 2 bombers and a Petlyakov Pe @-@ 2 ground attack aircraft . On 27 June , he shot down an Ilyushin DB @-@ 3 bomber followed by another Pe @-@ 2 on the following day , his last victory of June 1941 . Following a DB @-@ 3 bomber claimed on 7 July , Lützow was credited with four aerial victories on 10 July , consisting of one Vultee V @-@ 11 attack aircraft and three I @-@ 153s . The next day he claimed an II @-@ 16 . On 15 July he shot down two further I @-@ 16s and another DB @-@ 3 taking his total to 36 World War II victories .

On 16 July 1941 , Lützow claimed three further victories ? a SB @-@ 2 , an I @-@ 16 and a DB @-@ 3 ? and another DB @-@ 3 the next day . On 20 July , he claimed his 42nd aerial victory of the war , two V @-@ 11s . On the same day he was awarded the Knight 's Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves ( Ritterkreuz des Eisernen Kreuzes mit Eichenlaub ) , and was the 27th member of the Wehrmacht so honored .

Major Friedrich Beckh , Geschwaderkommodore of Jagdgeschwader 51 ( JG 51 ? 51st Fighter Wing ) at the time , was wounded in combat on 16 September . During Beckh 's convalescence , Lützow temporarily commanded both JG 51 and JG 3 until 21 December when Beckh returned . On 23 September , Lützow suffered combat damage to his radiator and had to make a forced landing behind Soviet lines near Krasnograd . He managed to return to the German lines unhurt . In October he claimed 29 victories , including five bombers shot down on 8 October . He was awarded the Knight 's Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves and Swords ( Ritterkreuz des Eisernen Kreuzes mit Eichenlaub und Schwertern ) on 11 October 1941 at which point he had accumulated 92 aerial victories since 1 September 1939 . The presentation was made on 12 October 1941 by Hitler at the Führer Headquarter Wolfsschanze ( Wolf 's Lair ) in Rastenburg ( now K?trzyn in Poland ) .

On 24 October 1941 , Lützow became the second fighter pilot , after Mölders , to amass 100 aerial victories in World War II . This event was also mentioned in the Wehrmachtbericht , a propaganda

radio report , on 25 October 1941 . Fearing his loss in combat , Lützow was then grounded , an order he did not always obey . In early November , he led Stab JG 3 back to Germany to rest and re-equip . During this period , Lützow participated in the honor guard for Generaloberst Ernst Udet . Udet had committed suicide on 17 November 1941 and on 1 December JG 3 received the honorary name " Udet " . In May 1942 Lützow and JG 3 commenced operations near Kharkov before moving into the Crimea and operating around Stalingrad . Lützow added one victory when he claimed a Polikarpov I 16 fighter on 21 May 1942 for his 107th kill . On 11 August , Lützow handed over command of JG 3 to Hauptmann Wolf Dietrich Wilcke .

According to Braatz , sometime in June 1942 ( most likely in Grakowo ) , Lützow was visited by two men from the SS . They were of lower rank . After Lützow asked them how he could be of assistance to them they responded by requesting as many of his men as possible to form up execution squads to liquidate Jews , Soviet Political Officers and other " scum " . Lützow was furious and ordered the entire Geschwader in full dress uniform to assemble and before the Jagdgeschwader he explained what the SS had requested and how he considered this act to be barbaric and criminal . He threatened to resign from command and take off his uniform if a single soldier volunteered . Braatz speculated whether this act got Lützow into trouble with the SS and the NSDAP .

== = Luftwaffe commander == =

In August 1942 , Lützow was posted to the staff of General der Jagdflieger ( General of Fighters ) Adolf Galland as Inspector of Day Fighters , Eastern Area . Braatz argues that Galland 's decision to appoint Lützow to this position may have been motivated by a desire to get him out of the " line of fire " from the SS and NSDAP . On 1 April 1943 , Lützow was promoted to Oberst ( colonel ) .

In July 1943 , Lützow became Inspector of Day Fighters , Italian Front , based in Naples . From September 1943 to March 1944 , he commanded the 1 . Jagd Division ( 1st Fighter Division ) in Defense of the Reich at Döberitz , where he assumed command for day- and night fighter operations in northwestern Germany , the Netherlands and Belgium . 1 . Jagd Division was under control of 1 . Jagd Korps ( 1st Fighter Corps ) commanded by Generalmajor Joseph Schmid . Lützow was relieved of this command on 16 March 1944 due to personal differences with Schmid . Following his dismissal , he was given command of the 4 . Flieger Schuldivision ( 4th Flyers Training Division ) .

== = Dismissal and death == =

Lützow became known as a central figure and spokesman behind the Fighter Pilots ' Mutiny which escalated in a meeting with Göring on 22 January 1945 . This was an attempt to reinstate Galland who had been dismissed for outspokenness regarding the Oberkommando der Luftwaffe ( Luftwaffe high command ) , and had been replaced by Oberst Gordon Gollob as General der Jagdflieger . The meeting was held at the Haus der Flieger in Berlin and was attended by a number of high ranking fighter pilot leaders which included Lützow , Hermann Graf , Gerhard Michalski , Helmut Bennemann , Kurt Bühligen , Erich Leie and Herbert Ihlefeld , and their antagonist Göring supported by his staff Brauchitsch and Karl Koller . The fighter pilots , with Lützow taking the lead as spokesman , criticized Göring and made him personally responsible for the decisions taken which effectively had led to the lost air war over Europe . This behavior , the fact that someone dared to criticize Göring in his leadership abilities , was regarded as mutiny by Göring , who relieved him of command and had him posted to Italy to take over Jagdfliegerführer Oberitalien ( Fighter Leader Northern Italy ) from Oberst Eduard Neumann . Göring exiled Lützow from Germany by placing him under " Reichsacht " ( lit . " Ban from the Reich " ) . He was not allowed to inform his secretary in Jüterbog nor his wife back home , he immediately had to leave Germany .

In early April 1945 , Lützow joined Galland 's Jagdverband 44 ( JV 44 ? 44th Fighter Detachment ) at Munich Riem . JV 44 was equipped with the Messerschmitt Me 262 jet fighter , an aircraft which was heavily armed and faster than any Allied fighter . Galland hoped that the Me 262 would

compensate for the numerical superiority of the Allies . Lützow had been released from his position as fighter leader in Italy and Galland appointed him as his adjutant . Lützow was credited with two aerial victories flying the Me 262 .

Lützow was posted missing in action following combat on 24 April 1945 while attempting to intercept an attack by United States Army Air Forces ( USAAF ) Martin B @-@ 26 Marauder medium bombers near Donauwörth . According to Stockert , an examination of U.S. records by Mr. Hirst indicates that Lützow 's Me 262 crashed near Schrobenhausen . The USAAF flew three attacks against the oil terminals at Schrobenhausen , south of Neuburg an der Donau , that day . On their second mission , 22 B @-@ 26 bombers escorted by 16 Republic P @-@ 47 Thunderbolt fighter aircraft , were just beginning their bomb run at 3 : 25 pm , when they came under attack by four Me 262s . Two P @-@ 47s came diving down from their top cover position to fend off the attacking jets . In this account , one Me 262 pilot noticed that he was about to come under attack and attempted to dive away . Unable to recover from this dive , the American pilots observed the Me 262 crashing into a small hill . This Me 262 may have been piloted by Lützow .

That day , Lützow had led a flight of six Me 262s of JV 44 against a force of 256 medium bombers of the 322nd and 344th Bombardment Group ( 344th BG ) . Lützow 's flight included Hauptmann Walter Krupinski and Oberleutnant Klaus Neumann . Two of the Me 262s had to abort the mission due to engine problems . The remaining four , of which at least Lützow 's and Neumann 's Me 262s were armed with the R4M air @-@ to @-@ air rockets , attacked elements of 344th BG . Following the first attack , at least three B @-@ 26 Marauder bombers were seen trailing smoke , when the Me 262s came under attack by P @-@ 47 Thunderbolt fighter aircraft of the 365th Fighter Group . Blue Flight leader Captain Jerry G. Mast and his wingman , Second Lieutenant Byron Smith , went into full power dives to drive the attacking Me 262s away . Following the dive , Smith got separated from Mast and pursued an Me 262 . Mast and Second Lieutenant William H. Myers then jointly went after another Me 262 which went into an even steeper dive . The Me 262 was seen crashing into the ground and exploding . In Forsyth 's account , the Me 262 chased by Mast and Myers was Lützow 's and had been flying furthest to the south .

On 28 April 2015 , the Augsburger Allgemeine , a German regional daily newspaper , published an article stating that according to Erich Bäcker , Lützow attempted an emergency landing at Donaumünster / Erlingshofen and crashed into the Danube . Bäcker made his claim based on reports made by eye @-@ witnesses who saw a low flying Me 262 crashing into the Danube that day .

= = Aerial victory credits = =

Lützow was credited with 110 enemy aircraft shot down in 310 combat missions . He claimed five victories in Spain , and 105 during World War II . The majority of his World War II victories were claimed over the Eastern Front , although 20 were claimed over the Western Front , two of which were achieved while flying the Me 262 jet fighter . These included one four @-@ engined bomber .

This and the ? ( Ace of spades ) indicates those aerial victories which made Lützow an " ace @-@ in @-@ a @-@ day " , a term which designates a fighter pilot who has shot down five or more airplanes in a single day . This along with the \* ( asterisk ) indicates conflicting information regarding the date or type of the aerial victory .

= = Awards = =

Spanish Medalla de la Campaña

Spanish Medalla Militar

Spanish Cross in Gold with Swords and Diamonds ( 6 July 1939 )

Wound Badge in Black

Front Flying Clasp of the Luftwaffe in Gold with Pennant " 300 "

Combined Pilots @-@ Observation Badge in Gold with Diamonds

Iron Cross ( 1939 )

2nd Class ( 26 May 1940 )

1st Class ( 3 June 1940 )

Knight 's Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves and Swords

Knight 's Cross on 18 September 1940 as Major and Geschwaderkommodore of Jagdgeschwader 3

27th Oak Leaves on 20 July 1941 as Major and Geschwaderkommodore of Jagdgeschwader 3

4th Swords on 11 October 1941 as Major and Geschwaderkommodore of Jagdgeschwader 3

Mentioned in the Wehrmachtbericht