

War Diary 10. / JG Mölders, January 1944

The last gift of the old year was a transfer order. Whilst the ground crew transferred on the 31st with Ju52's, bad weather kept us pilots back for some days at Kostromka. Finally on the 3rd the sky was clear enough - after two weeks qbi, and we, after a hearty New Year's Eve party, took-off for Winniza.

12 Yak-1's and a Boston definitely thought we were ready, as they attacked our field shortly before our take-off. In a flash we were behind them. Unfortunately it didn't completely work out though. Peter after 14 days rest forgot to retract his undercarriage completely, out of sheer joy to fly again. Bernd hung around at the fighters and wondered if he had been hit in his fuel tanks. Only Kurt and Nasi attacked the Boston, but with such a reluctance, that the good ones didn't catch any fire. Even more they definitely approached during the stopover in Uman at the company B....(*brothel*)

In any case when they finally arrived the next day in Winniza, they received a heavy grilling from the authorities above and for Kurtchen a quick transfer order!

In accordance to an unconfirmed rumour, it was worth it!

In Winniza Otto back from his vacation, was already waiting for us. For this Bernd drove - no he flew by Ju52 which took him to Berlin. For him this really sucked, for during Otto's absence fog always prevailed, and now with good victory weather he had to leave. So our new pilots Uffz. Gerasch, Schausten, OGefr. Marre and Gefr. Krämer had the chance to show what they were made of.

Already on the 8th they could rollout with the Staffel. Russian tanks advanced in the direction of Winniza, so the group hastily had to transfer to Kalinowka. Here we were hit with the first loss of this year. Nasi had to belly-land into the hand of the Russians. Fortunately his interminably Braunhemd (*brown shirt, NS colour*) was in the wash. Is he now being retrained? We didn't exactly know. Definitely it could happen, like recently with Marre, as he wanted to avoid being vaccinated. Muckel was now our Staffel leader, for Peter had to represent the commander, condemned him for three days *Dicken*, (*unknown saying, possibly arrest*) probably because he just returned from vacation, that he needed after his jaundice, convinced of his medical needs.

ROYAL HUNGARIAN FIGHTER STAFFEL

Ltn. Miklos Kenyeres

(8 signatures)

So Niko pulled his shot down wingman Lt. Miklos Kenyeres from his 109 far behind Russian lines, so now we get to keep our comradeship with the pilots of the Royal Hungarian fighter Staffel.

Otto Gaiser
Missing 22.1.44

FOTO

OFw. Otto Gaiser took-off on the 22.1.44, at 1025 hrs flying "White 11" on a free hunt in the area north of Kalinowka. At 1045 hrs he made contact with four enemy Il-2's at an altitude of 200 meters east of Ljuban. Since then he has been missing.

OFw. Gaiser had flown 380 missions and 74 victories, is owner of the golden front flight clasp, Iron Cross second and first class and the German Cross in Gold. He was proposed for the Knights Cross and the promotion to Lieutenant. (KC 9.6.44)

During the search for him strong ground defense was seen, we assume, that the aircraft, due to flak fire, had to land at the enemy area. We do not give up the hope, to see our Otto again.

During the next day's Willi, our oldest pilot, reported back from vacation. "-So-" it had been, he meant....and we believed in him just like that. After a hearty mission, he flew with us to the astonishment of us all. He returned to his W-34, and with her he flew week by week, maintaining the connection to Deblin-Irena, our replenishment airbase. And this is very important, for one had to replenish (and also for Ingeborg) - Ronny returned some days later. Even though he did not have it easy during his vacation, he was well recovered and he went with renewed strength into the mess.

One of our new ones again had an announcement. This time something enjoyable, a victory. Krämer was separated in aerial combat, but returned wagging, a Yak-1 biting the dust.

Also the other pilots of the Staffel were also not idling. For twenty-six Red stars had tumbled from the sky and our contingent in Kalinowka was exhausted, there was nothing left to cover, and once more we transferred.

This time to Uman, near the pocket of Korsun, to fly cover for the Ju52's and He111's, which supplied the enclosed divisions. We were in a wonderful area. - A land of a thousand small villages, small woods, small rivers and small lakes, which from above looked very nice, but during navigation this had to be "enjoyed" with utmost caution, for all striking containment lines were missing. Actually during one of the first days the command post "booked" eight out-landings for our group. Naturally we were also there. Nuckel took-off as leader of the Schwarm, with Fw. Schneider from the staff Schwarm, Ronny and Teddy; and returned ninety minutes later with a lost "bunny" from the 11th Staffel.

During which Fw. Schneider made a belly-landing somewhere, pounced the Rotte, Ronny - Teddy, on five Yak-1's. Ronny set one on fire, but disappeared after a barrel burst in such a manner, that he could finally notice at a small airfield near Bala, what happened already. In the meantime Teddy stood by as faithful air witness near the Russian until he crashed into the ground. Out of sheer joy, for having finally encountered enemy contact, and seeing a victory,

but he didn't find the "Karuso" (*airfield*) once again. On a field near Perwomaisk he stopped his small airplane after 80 meters of rolling. Yes please, is this nothing?

From our radio surveillance book of IV./ JG 51

..."Peter, do you see the truck?" - "Viktor" - "Watch out!" ... he is gone!"... Oh the small rider ...prrrt"Ronny, in front of you is a truck!" - "Viktorwe will have it soon!" - "Ronny, let me take it to the road!" - "Victor, but first the Pan's!" (*panje wagon*) - "Come on Ronny come down and let me come up!!!"... "Danger Peter, in front of us a larger village!" - "Damn it" - "Peter stay tough, don't get weak ..."Ouch" ... "Hit"... "Peter, it stinks... having a coolant temperature 130°!!!"... I believe I had to belly-land!!!" ...Peter, am I burning?!!!" ..."Peter, is this German held territory? ... Peter?!!!"... Viktor, Viktor, Ronny, definitely German held area, definitely German held area" ... Bauuutz - After three days Ronny returned proudly enthroned on top of an armored car to the airbase.

Meanwhile the battle for the Korsun pocket gradually got more dramatic. The Russians squeezed the pocket daily more and more from the north, east and west with superior power. Our troops retreated to the south, our tip of tanks tried to work against this, to push from the south-west against the pocket to crack it.

All this moving got more difficult because of bad weather. Soggy, or snow covered ground prevented normal supply, while bad weather made air supply very difficult. A weather which allowed the Russian fighters behind wispy clouds, or above the clouds to stalk the dropping points for our He111's or Ju52's and force us to take-off during snow flurries and fog and land with insufficient cloud height and visibility for the Bf109. More than once our aircraft narrowly making it back to the airfield.

Kurt was as Schwarm leader specially praised in for his exemplary behavior by Major Knappe of the task force, which didn't prevent him, some days later, - ironically at his Birthday, to fly into a rage in such a manner, that he landed with a motionless prop at Winniza and his wing - man, Schausten, belly-landing elsewhere.

The scheme of Muggel was much better, he would with rare luck fly through the clouds using his compass, watching and feeling his way, he flew for a certain time straight ahead, pushing through, and coming out where he wanted.

Uffz. Hyronimus Bartosch
Died 21. Febr. 1944

FOTO

On the 21.2.44 Ronny got it, our illustrator. He was flying as Rotten leader in the Schwarm of Kurt. It was one of the usual "rubbish" missions at Uman, with low hanging wispy clouds, and poor visibility. Suddenly Lavochkin-5's (*La-5's*) dropped out of the clouds, during a short dogfight, Kurt received engine damage and had to escape. Ronny was striving to keep his back clear, and just at this moment he didn't take care himself. A La-5 got behind him, one burst of fire, and the "White 2" began to burn. We could only see the impact.

Uffz. Bartosch had after his vacation increased his victory tally with the success over a U-2 and a Yak-1 to fourteen victories. He was decorated with the golden flight clasp and the Iron Cross second and first class. We not only lost a good fighter-pilot, but also a good comrade.

Who is hiding here shamefully behind a newspaper will not be relieved, but what is interesting him on the rear page could be told.

It is the talk of the bad airfield conditions at Uman. About the mud, which splashes during rolling for take-offs into the coolers, and brings the planes to boiling point, and a lot of work for our technicians; before the freezing came, you could read, the snow, which fell in such masses that we only could roll to take-off with 1,3 boost pressure, and, - if we then got stuck in the snow masses, performing take-offs and landings was so criminal that this left much to be desired. Nevertheless we, - besides some bent propellers by Marre - got away with no harm. How difficult this had proved the crashes, performed en-masse by the other Staffeln. Out of five Bf109's from another unit which transferred to Uman, two rolled-over, two did headstands, and the last one belly-landed as a precaution.

The pocket of Tscherkassy could be "cleaned up" with the help of all our power, in spite of the unfavorable circumstances.

And thus our task at Uman was done.

After Lieutenant General Seidemann during our farewell had some coffee in our modest casino, we were graciously released out of his area and transferred to Orscha.

Something
what young pilots don't understand.

Why fly one, on the way from Uman to Orscha,
www Suminka? to Odessa?

Why is Kurt waggling nearby Reichshof at a Me 110
with extended landing gear?

Why is Berndt landing with the last fuel at a
small airfield south of Deblin?

Why Nuggel said, as he was over the airfield at Deblin
on the radio "I had luck; I had luck?"

Why were you drunk at each transfer?

First Lieutenant Peter von Fassong was,
after he had lead the group at Kalinowka
and Uman, promoted to Captain and took
a new duty within the squadron.

So our Staffel stood under the leadership of Nuggel at Orscha. There were also some changes; Fw. Willy Hegner was ordered to the supply group as a flying instructor and Fw. Schneider, came from the staff Schwarm short time ago, was ordered for home defense.

For Herzog had just returned from vacation, Nuggel sent Schausten home, getting from Major

Bob, our just returned group commander, who reserved the holiday regulation for himself, - unfortunately -, a legendary heavy grilling.

Furthermore the Staffel developed in accordance to the guiding principle of Nuggel: “*Woman and alcohol* are, what makes us reckless.”

No wonder, that, as Ronny and Stutz, one of our Schwarm masters, were promoted to ..., during the course of celebrations, fired 60 pistol rounds through the walls within a small room, where Bläschen, our “surpreme weapons actor”, with a scratched face and our aircraft sergeant major; OFw. Pritscher; half naked, woke up under the debris of tables, chairs and beds at the next morning.

Captain Borchers of course, leader of the 11th, as he demolished our interior decoration no longer completely sober, had to swallow such a bad smell of tear gas in his room, that he preferred to sleep at the stairway. Gerd could not easily been irritated, even a ... (*smoke grenade*) could not awake him from sleeping. Finally Bernd found a suitable means to bring the tired of life ghosts back on their feet.

A handful of juicy sauerkraut, smeared in the middle of the face, will blow away the strongest fighter.

What affects the other part of Nuggels guiding principle, amazing rumors moved around within the Staffel, about a hole in the fence around the base and “pst” a sentry who didn’t see anything due to certain reasons. It’s said, that Kurt and Gerd crawled fantastically between 21 - 2 hrs to the terrific women. (*Katja and Natja*)

We were also in good form when the Base Commanders Office wanted to take away “additional catering”. Within half an hour our beloved animals were slaughtered and hidden. To the inspector, standing astonished in front of the barn, we told with an innocent face, that we learned, that within the Central Front Section any commandeering was forbidden, there - fore we returned everything from where it had come.

In spite of everything, the main thing was the flight service. First of all we flew fighter missions from Orscha and sometimes from Bobruisk. We rarely had enemy contact and if so, then without success. Solely Nuggel shot down a Yak-9 and Kurt with his Rotte neared two LaGGs’s so close, that you could see them as a Schwarm.

Finally, the time at Orscha became more interesting, as we were used as a fighter-bomber Staffel. With 250 kg explosive bombs and the beloved A/B “coal boxes” we went on, often during strong anti-aircraft defense, against troop concentrations, supply depots, railway stations, etc. The bomb hits were, after some attempts, from time to time on the target. We got a telex from the army, which spoke about the hit situation and the essential relieve and even once we were mentioned in the armed forces report. Finally our reputation became known to the Propaganda Company and they took the opportunity to waste some meters of film. Yes, so you slowly get famous.

Nuggel caught the attention with a new invention. He dived and threw, as the first one, during an attack on a tank workshop and observed exactly, how his bomb, actually the third one, hit the center of the target. He is entitled to this due to his rank. Contrary to this Bernd achieved, after take-off for a bombing mission, with an attached bomb, to shoot down nonchalantly a Pe-2 at 5000 m over the airfield, during the alert Rotte of the 12th, hanging already over the field, looked in vain for her.

And once more a transfer.

“Get out of the beds, get up, in one hour take-off, transfer to Lemberg...”

This was the end of our idyll at Orscha!

And two hours later the first stopover at Baranowice on a concrete runway with 90° crosswind. Everything went well, only Gerasch crashed during landing, took-off with a new aircraft and at once performed a belly-landing due to engine damage. During this he crashed into a Ju88. Result: Dead, injured and a burning crash he could escape hospital ready. In Deblin stood Nuggels platonic love, Hella, already on the roof of flight control and waving, during which we, bawling and hard drinking, left our aircraft... already during the afternoon ...how it was in the evening, curious people can read under circumstances in the files of the airfield head-quarter. We reveal nothing! During the next morning called a horrified “weather frog” Major Bob: “Here is an OFw. V...”, totally drunk, who impossibly can or is allowed to fly!” “Really, who is he?” “OFw. V...”Na, let him, he can do it always, even so ...” And actually he landed unmolested with us at Lemberg, even though the airfield was totally overcrowded and muddy. During the evening everyone had disappeared. Where...? Keywords “Rosl”, “Company Bordelano” (*brothel*), “Hotel P...” would say enough to the connoisseur. Lemberg is just Lemberg!

For Nuggel had found a new love, who gave him her last amateur photo, which could be found also with Bernd, is this also significant. But after good beginning is a bad omen... During the next morning we were thrown out of the Eldorado - possibly due to overcrowding - and we were transferred to Lysiatyche.

Crashes

“How can someone do a crash-landing?” once a very old pilot asked, and for 10 minutes he lied through his teeth. Yes, yes, you can ... You just don’t have to extend the landing gear during approach, or be not alert during landing, break away with the aircraft...

The airfield is sooo bad...

This excuses everything, even a pull-over during take-off and a rollover at the end of the airfield.

Even very talented ones even take the crane truck during take-off or are astonished when the unlocked cockpit (*roof*) opens and they had to bail out.

And then the hits:

Once someone returned with half of the tail section, sometimes a radiator flap is missing, this one they shot into the cabin, the other one finds a 13 mm bullet within the parachute, basically some bring home bullet holes in the wings, ... simply... amazing.

All in all, we were unpopular at the yard, simply unpopular.

Lt. Karl - Heinz Flügge (“Nuggel”), missing 8.4.44

He took-off on 8.4.44 with „White 5“ as Rotten leader within the Schwarm of OFw. Vechs. His wingman had to return shortly after the take-off, due to engine trouble. Nuggel continued alone and did not return. Later the “White 5” was sighted by a Rotte of 11th Staffel about 30 km east of Stanislau. She lied burned out at the ground, like after a normal belly-landing.

With Lt. Flügge no trace was found, he is considered missing.

Lt. Flügge had 13 victories, was owner of the Iron Cross second and first class and the golden flying clasp. His idealism and his daring recklessness will be our ideal.

Lt. Herbert Friebel, crashed fatally on 15.5.44

Lt. Friebel came to us from the 12th Staffel, after he was not flying for a long time due to him having been wounded. He took the command of the Staffel on 1.5.44. On 15.5.44 he flew his first mission with us and shot down a Yak-9 southwest of Tarnopol. During the afternoon he took-off as a Schwarm leader for free hunt. He got into an air battle with several La-5. He tried to follow an enemy fighter out of 1000 m in a dive. Then he got, southwest of Tarnopol, 3 km west of Vykiszymka, behind the HKL, ground contact. His aircraft was totally destroyed by crashes subsequent fire.

Lt. Friebel had 58 victories and was decorated with the KC.

Iib stuff

The Staffel was leaded by:

from 1.3.44	until 8.4.	Lt. Flügge.	MIA
from 9.4.44	until 30.4.	Oblt. Venth.	
from 1.5.44	until 15.5.	Lt. Friebel.	Died
from 15.5.44	until 18.6.	Oblt. Veth	MIA
from 19.6.44	until 11.3.44	Lt. Kalden	captured

Be promoted:

Lieutenant	OFw. Vechtel
Oberfeldwebel	Fw. Krückenberg Fw. Blasé
Unteroffizier?	OGefr. Marre, Hippler, Münch, Schmidt, Hamel, Löffler, Gefr. Krämer.

Decorations

Knights Cross: Lt. Wagner. MIA

Honor Goblet: OFw. Gaiser MIA
OFw. Vechtel
OFw. Dombacher

Iron Cross second class: Uffz. Marre, Schausten.

Newcomer: Uffz. Richter, Clemens, Stangenberg.
Gefr. Schachtner, Stangen.

Cookbook of 10. St. JG. "Rubbish" (from Emil Kuhfranzl)

Lysiatische desert with trail.

You take:

Several pilots, if possible worn out or for a longer time without vacation and, add under cautious stirring two nice young girls, e.g. Maria and Margarethe. After an

intimate connection between this two materials happened, soak this compound with a lot of alcohol, cover them with cigarette smoke (easy to get from easter-marketend-erware-ration) and shake them vigorously to the rhythm of the radio station Belgrade at candle-light. As soon as the food ferments and is foaming, spice it up with the known courtesy of “Kurtchen’s” diplomacy, a little “Venth’s” eroticism and some pistol rounds à la Bernd. In and of itself the meal is now ready, but it’s recommended, to avoid a decomposition process, to add the modest reluctance of young pilots. During the next morning, served cold, the meal is especially spicy, but should be enjoyed with utmost caution, for it is acting slightly explosive with an empty stomach.

Junk - Racket

If you nearly can’t get out of your planning to run in the air, this is normal, but if it starts already at the ground, this is planning to run in the square, really something. This idea glued at our heels for the first time on our way from Mogilew to Bojari. In Bojari we even had the opinion, that our Command Post issued a comic paper instead of a situation report. But when at our confused “Gusteln” (*fools*) suddenly a one kg charge exploded in their belly, we got a bad feeling, everyone understood that the situation report was indeed correct, and we could only wait in fear for the Ju’s. So we moved through Schodino - Minsk - Lida until Dubno and the poor remains of our more and more melting stock of Me’s was used for reconnaissance purpose, that we always exactly knew, when we had to take to one’s heels. Finally in Dubno, as already the “lung-mud” hang out of our throat, it was announced, that the IV. “Schamott” (*bad nickname for the group*) came to Lublin for rearming. In our fantasy we build castles in the air about 14 day vacation or 8 weeks rearming. Unfortunately this beautiful dreams were destroyed after three days, for with brand new airplanes we started against the “Ivan” - from Lemberg. But, shock horror, the theatre started once more from the beginning and our nice Bf109’s were slowly wiped out. What could not be killed by a belly-landing was forcibly slaughtered on the concrete runways at Lemberg, Jasionka and Mielec. As experts recommended themselves Gerasch, Stangen and Radlauer. - In Mielec we slowly reached zero. Finally there the “Fighterpilotsdiana” was so kind and sent us to Germany. We certainly brought only our aircraft back to East Prussia, but our moral seriously improved in Lobellen. Perhaps our mental strengthening could be traced back to the lovely beings in that small village. However the stock of aircrafts was reduced due to continuous low level attacks by the Russians down to one “bird”. But these setbacks could not harm, for they were only external and furthermore we regained every evening our mental strength for the coming day! A totally new profile gripped the Staffel thereafter, as two experts from the 14th Staffel took over our “Sauhaufen” (*bunch of shit*), in fact Lt. Kalden as leader with 34 victories and OFw. Marquardt with 51 victories as “sharpenner” (*idol*) for the young pilots.

Tilsit

On the 14.8.44 the IV. “Schamott” transferred to Tilsit - East. Even though during the first days there was a lot of racket, we settled into very excellent private rooms with the farmers of the Memel territory at Lompönen. A yet unseen surprise caused by the girls of Lobellen, as they sweetened us in readiness at the airfield.

Often after the enjoyable hours, followed unpleasant ones and it so came, that we daily had to jump with a Staffel to Ezere, only to scam with a fart from the devilishly shining Yak-9. The tragedy culminated at the fourth day at Ezere. As we just returned from a cover mission for Ju-52's (*nickname Jolanthe*), there was suddenly a suspicious humming at undefined heights and the experts said, those are Ju-87's. Then suddenly the atmosphere was a mixture out of organ pipes and dirt, the recognition was too late. In the evening, our Schwarm leader OFw. Marquardt, just managed to report back to the boss in Tilsit, with his splinter riddled Bf109, that his Schwarm was destroyed and burned out. The seriously wounded Uffz. Stangenberg succumbed the same day at the hospital due to his injuries. Anyone who had to fly to Ezere over the coming days, felt uncomfortable and you can say, anyone "circled the nozzle" about the daily "organ pipes".

Apparently the people at the green table do not have much to do, so probably, with a cup of pure coffee, came to the conclusion, to create out of the 10th the 13th Staffel.

Where we liked it a lot, anyway we didn't stay long. We were especially worried about the determination again, that the group transferred on 28.8.44 to Modlin.

Modlin

As we landed at Modlin we were surprised by the comfortable and good airfield conditions, for we feared to find there a swampy meadow. First come, first serve! So far as it was, that we choose the finest place. The accommodation is splendid! In our block, called cavalier house, had lived 90 nurses. Evil tongues claim, that it still smelt like them. Central heating, running warm and cold water, bath and toilet, so everything what the heart of a soldier, who knows the Russian east with dust, dirt and mosquitos, desires.

1.9. The first day of our being here, we already had had dogfight and victories - a good omen.

5.9. After three days of rest the Russian activities revived. Uffz. Krämer reached the lucky number ten and OFw. Marquardt had reached the number 60. The new "bunnies", Uffz. Keller, John, Radlauer and Kohlert each showed their best side. We hope that it stays that way.

18.9. In the meantime Lt. Dombacher had to leave us. He took over the 1st Staffel. Uffz. Krämer and Kittel were transferred to the staff.

Today it was really something. 100 Fortress with a large cover of Mustangs, Thunderbolts and Lightnings crossed our hunting area from west to east. They rushed us onto them, with the result, that everyone run away like one man. After several hours small "crumbs" of the group returned. Unfortunately the 14th Staffel had to announce a total loss, Uffz. Junge.

Also we had a death case, OFhr. Danner, one of the very new within our Staffel, crashed fatally at the landing curve.

There are now only fighter combats with the Russians.

30.9. Within the last days we were only at readiness and therefore saved fuel. Some "Junk" missions were, by the way, made against the mutineers at Warsaw.

Monthly Report

September 1944

There were 23 missions with 78 aircrafts.

Successes:

<u>Lt. Kalden</u>	41 - 46 victories	5	(6?)
Lt. Dombacher	43 victories	1	
OFw. Marquardt	57 - 63 victories	7	
Uffz. Krämer	9 - 10 victories	2	
Uffz Kohlert	1 victory	1	

			16 victories

Losses:

OFhr. Danner_crashed deadly on 16.9.44

Accruals: OFhr. Danner, Uffz. Ahrensmeyer.

Outflows: Lt. Dombacher to I. group.

Uffz. Krämer to staff Schwarm of IV. group.

Gefr. Kittel to staff Schwarm of IV. group

1.10. There is nothing going on at all. Besides some instruction flights we didn't fly. The boss had the luck during one of this flights to catch a Pe-2 and shot it down as his 45th victory.

Gefr. Brunotte, his Kaczmarek, who saw today his first "Russe", didn't get along at all.

6.10. Calm! - before the storm?

From morning to night, sleep, eat well and run to the cinema, that is our daily routine. Negus says, some days that the war will start. Hopefully he is right.

7.10. A day like any other, started today. The morning calm - but then - at noon, racket at all corners, in front the devil is on the loose. The "Russian" is pushing with all might and is trying to increase the bridgehead "Serok" (*Serock*). For the support of his ground troops he is using "cementbombers" (*Nickname for the Il-2*) and Bostons - and the most beautifully - with very little cover. The first Schwarm, who took-off, had great success. Lt. Kalden "waggled" for three victories, OFw. Marquardt also for three, and Uffz. Hannes Keller "killed" his first two Russians. Also Uffz. Stangenberg had made his first one. Unfortunately Uffz. Stangenberg had to perform a belly-landing, due to engine trouble, whereby he hit his "nut" on the Revi. He got immediately got into a hospital, but it seems, it is not so bad.

The next mission was junk and screwed up by the command post, for to take-off on Bostons, who were already on top of the "Gartenzaun", is nonsense. But then it turned around. Nuggel made a masterpiece and shot down five Russians. Hannes Keller his number three and four and our Pifke (*Uffz. Radlauer*) tormented also one down. When Pifke landed, he was more astonished, that he made a victory, as the "Russe", who lay below. In the evening is award ceremony and Hannes got the Iron Cross second class. He grinned across his face. Negus had completed his "Dödel" and was therefore awarded by the technicians. Unfortunately it is only made from cardboard until he gets the right one. First the request had to flutter across 82 desks and to employ 493 men of the high staff to fulfill their right to exist.

9.10. At one mission one victory. Unfortunately also a loss. Uffz. Kohlert aborts his mission due to engine trouble and pressed home with 400 km per hour - burning impact. Kohlert was seriously wounded and died on the same day in hospital.

13.10. It is claimed that the number 13 is a number for bad luck, but for us it is contrary. Of

course --

Staffel 13 "Schamott" had to have luck at the thirteenth. This especially proved the 16 victories, that were achieved on this day. Fw. Baumann, Uffz. Arensmeyer and John nailed their first ones, Clemens and Radlauer their second ones. Hannes, our prospective expert, shot down, believe it or not, five Russians and increased his victory tally to nine. Also our celebrities butted into and so we reached the number sixteen.

That the 14th killed five "mills" due to parachute jumps, doesn't belong here. After all, we also can show this side. John made it today, to layed his aircraft onto its belly.

At the evening, of course, what cannot be left out, the big awards ceremony. Hannes got the Iron Cross first class pinned at the chest. Pifke and Clemens got the Iron Cross first class. After a hearty "hunter drink" this was properly celebrated. There were enough reasons existing.

15.10. The thing phased out a little, and today it is not much better. After all, we had to show up on this two days eleven victories and a one wheel landing. In anger about his failed mission, Hannes demonstrated to us, already practiced at Bromberg, and accomplished with his aircraft a masterful crash (2%).

18.10. Since two days all is quiet, and we only had occasionally fighter battles.

19.10. Our fastest hunter, Uffz. Gossmann made, short behind the HKL a belly landing and used the occasion to give his comrades of the armed SS a never ending lecture about his amazing success as a hunter. The SS was completely enthusiastic and Gossmann was the center of a good drink.

21.10. Yesterday morning we had a big "Horrido", on the other hand the afternoon was totally calm. Lt. Kalden shot down his 63rd, OFw. Marquardt his 82nd, Uffz. Keller his 12th and Fw. Baumann shot his second Russian, therefore he got on the evening the Iron Cross second class. In the main, fighters were shot down, a sign, that the Russian are now using a strong cover.

Today the watchword came up, evil tongues claim, John never heard anything at the radio and also was never heard by anyone. By a request at older pilots the rumour was confirmed.

24.10. Apparently the Russian prefers to fly in the morning, for in the afternoon nothing is going on. So it was also today. In the morning he came with such masses, that we didn't have neither enough pilots nor aircraft. Everything that arrived, had such a big cover that it was mostly impossible to get to the bombers. After all, the Staffel performed fourteen victories, in spite of the heavy dogfights. A special success had Negus, Keller and Arensmeyer, - during one mission they shot down, all in all, six Il-2's.

Also a "Dödel" was completed again. Lt. Kalden reached today his 64th victory, equivalent to 72 victories, his aeronautical aim, that each pilot has. With hooray and roar he was lifted out of his "mill" and a wooden "Dödel", as large as a chest armour, was choking him around the neck. Therefore again, the 13th "Schamott" has two "Dödel-bearer-aspirants" in their ranks. Not to forget, Brunotte made his first and Arensmeyer his second and third victories. Arens - meyer received on the same evening the Iron Cross second class.

25.10. For some days the amazing 700th victory of the Staffel was expected. All technicians and pilots had already provided enough signal ammunition, for those, who will waggle for the 700th, to give an amazing welcome with smoke, lightning and bang. The lucky gunner should be Uffz. Keller. Under the howling of the crowd and with happy faces a wreath with a golden number 700 was wrapped about him.

Also the “most foolhardy” fighter pilot of our Staffel, Uffz. Gossmann, could handle his first Russian.

Notice! 13th Staffel

26.10. The campaign around the bridgehead “Serok”, in the meantime no longer a bridgehead, for already Serok is “deep Russian base”, has finalized, and therefore the Russian air activities had ended. Today we had only some dogfights, in which Hannes managed his 20th and Fw. Baumann made his third. Furthermore Hannes eliminated, far in the Russian backland, a “brandy bottle” (*captive balloon*).

31.10. For some days all is quiet. - But only in the air! At our quarter we hurry, in spite of artillery-fire under the clinking of our window panes, from one lesson to another. Here we had to swot-up on geography, freshen up our German and were drilled to get a socialite. Some are already carrying the idea to purchase a satchel. Hopefully our time will come back - the time of the fighters and we can call again: **End - End!**

Monthly Report

October 1944

There were 48 missions with 184 aircrafts.

Success:

<u>Lt. Kalden</u>	the	45 - 64	victory = 19
<u>OFw. Marquardt</u>	the	63 - 89	victory = 26
Fw. Baumann	the	1 - 3	victory = 3
Uffz. Keller	the	1 - 20	victory = 20
Uffz. Arensmeyer	the	1 - 4	victory = 4
Uffz. Radlauer	the	1 - 3	victory = 3
Uffz. Clemens	the	2 - 3	victory = 2
Uffz. John	the	1	victory = 1
Uffz. Stangenberg	the	1	victory = 1
Uffz. Gossmann	the	1	victory = 1
Gefr. Brunotte	the	1	victory = 1

Total victories 81.

Uffz. Keller destroyed a captive balloon.

Losses:

Uffz. Kohlert	crashed fatally at 9.10.44.
Uffz. Kropfgans	crashed fatally at 24.10.44.

Accruals:

Fw. Baumann, Uffz. Kropfgans, Gossmann, Gefr. Brunotte.

Outflows:

Uffz. Stangenberg wounded into hospital.
Uffz. Clemens und Radlauer due to jaundice into hospital.

Decorations:

German Cross in Gold:

OFw. Heinz Marquardt.

Honor Goblet:

OFw. Heinz Marquardt.

Iron Cross first class:

Uffz. Hannes Keller.

Iron Cross second class:

Fw. Heinrich Baumann, Uffz. Hannes Keller, Uffz. Heinz Radlauer, Uffz.

Hans Clemens, Uffz. Ernst Stangenberg and Uffz. Elmar Arensmeyer.

Map with victory places (low quality)

November 44

11.11. Everywhere qbi !!

At the HKL and at the airfield and at never ending readiness.

This evening we had instructions from our doctor (*Medical officer Lösche*).

The purest mind spy. He told us something about heredity using a lot of foreign words. No one could handle it, nearly even the commander.

Na, main thing he was right - we have to believe it, at all, we could not prove the opposite!

By the way, we got some new, Lt. Bauer, Fw. Hache and Uffz. Frisse. We again have now a wartime size Staffel.

30.11. We did not fly the whole month, even though the weather was not so bad, but no "Ivan" showed up at the sky, rarely a single fighter Rotte came over to us. For us the loafing around really sucks and we eagerly await that we have something to fly, only even lousy fighter bomber missions, about what now was rumoured and eagerly prepared. This would also be good for our birds, for it is not allowed to run them and they start slowly to corrode. During this idleness the military ghost stirs again and we now get lessons in anti-tank fighting, history, air tactics, victory movies and other things. Yes, some days ago we even exercised and the SS was quite astonished as suddenly staff sergeants and sergeants with shoulder arms and the song "It is so beautiful to be a soldier" marched through the fortress. Negus with Knights Cross as flank man in front. At O.v.H., watch officer and sergeant of the guard (U.v.D.) we participate from now on actively with more or less antipathy.

On Sunday 26.11. we had a big group mustering. A common guesswork, nobody knew exactly. At noon came Major General Fuchs from the first air force division. After a short speech, appreciating the performance of the group, our group commander Hpt. Lange and OFw. Marquardt got the, Knights Cross of the Iron Cross, awarded from the Führer, hung around the neck. This was, of course, a cheerful joy within the group and was extensively celebrated. Shortly we will have another happy event, then for our boss, Lt. Kalden, soon the "Dödel" will arrive.

Uffz. Stangenberg, Radlauer and Clemens would in the meantime leave the hospital, and could delight at home their vacation. In about two weeks they will be with us.

Monthly Report

November 1944

Unfortunately there was no flying and therefore no success could be achieved.

Losses:

None.

Accruals:

Lt. Bauer, Fw. Hache, Uffz Frisse.

Outflows:

None.

Decorations:

Knights Cross of the Iron Cross:

OFw. Heinz Marquardt.

December 1944

1.12. Today Gefr. Brunotte, our “Fips”, was promoted to Uffz. After he was “cleaned” with a beer glass full of schnapps, the taste refined with onions, pepper, salt, honey and mustard, inside completely cleaned from the team spirit, he could join the ranks of the sergeants. We did not spoil this and drunk with him a lot. Then, OFw. Marquardt, in advanced mood and hour, had the idea to clean him also at the outside from all traces of the team spirit. We thoroughly attacked Brunotte with a fire hose, and cleaned him and his room in the sense of a small fire-fighting exercise.

6.12. Today Negus left for Dödel vacation and will celebrate Christmas at home. Lt. Bauer drove to Liegnitz to improve his flying skills.

13.12. We finally flew today, but unfortunately only training missions for our new pilots without enemy contact. But after all, this is better than nothing, for our aircraft, now we can even fly with 1,5 Ata, would be “rocked through”. Furthermore, for all cases we got a built-in homing device.

On Sunday, 10.12. was our group evening, the main reason was a song contest between the Staffeln, and therefore some nice performances of our Staffel were shown, whereby Heinrich Baumann specially excelled himself, who with a condition, influenced by a certain liquid, entered the stage and had a great amusing success. Unfortunately the rating cards were given to the judge at this moment, when our Staffel stood singing on the stage, and therefore only the staff and another Staffel could provide the referee. Despite all prejudice our Staffel had nearly less points as the others. So, in spite of every effort we had bad luck.

By the way, yesterday Clemens and Radlauer returned from their holidays very well rested. As new pilots we also got Uffz. Müssig and Gefr. Landeata.

17.12. Today once more a big day for our Staffel. In a short time Major General Fuchs came for a second time and awarded our boss, Lt. Peter Kalden, the Knights Cross of the Iron Cross. Unfortunately our boss was withdrawn the whole day from us by officers of the staff, so that we could not toast with him for the high award. Lieutenant Bauer just returned from Liegnitz, to join the turkey eating for indulging his culinary delights.

Yesterday we had bad luck during a training mission of our Staffel. Gefr. Landaeta got engine guzzlers and had to belly-land west of the airfield, the “White 6” had 65 percent damage.

20.12. On Monday we celebrated with our boss. It was very nice. As the mood culminated,

Ernst Stangenberg suddenly appeared. This resulted in a big hello and was a reason to continue boozing. Before the boss went to sleep, he rearranged the room of Krämer. Today we had a training mission for the group, with five Schwärmen. It worked quite well and the commander was pleased. Now we are prepared about the changed conditions and customized for the coming missions.

28.12. The holidays, which went quietly, are now behind us. At the Holy Evening was a small celebration hour for the group. Afterwards some promotions were announced and decorations awarded for the Staffel. Hannes Keller got the honour goblet. We pilots celebrated afterwards the Holy Evening in our casino. Anyone got all sorts of gifts from the group, so that there was no lack. Unfortunately our intention was defeated, to save the spirits until New Year's Eve, already at the first Christmas day and after the dinner, the bottles emptied slowly but steadily. Stangenberg was capable to swallow salt spoon by spoon.

On the 23rd we finally again flew a mission, actually cover for ground attack aircraft, who attacked the airfield Wyzskow.

Today we had a scramble. Unfortunately both missions without enemy contact.

Yesterday Gossmann had a "little bit killed" the expert aircraft from Negus - "White 10" - for he rolled the plane over during a training mission and damaged the propeller and gear box. For some days we converted to the Bf 109 G-14. Seven aircrafts are already here. The transfer pilot, who should take away Pifkes old "White 6", made her, just during take-off, ready for the industry. Probably the obsolete bird could not part from us. Yesterday Uffz. Brunotte drove into vacation.

31.12. The day before yesterday, on his birthday, OFw. Marquardt returned from vacation. In the evening we celebrated his birthday with the pilots.

Today now is New Year's Eve. We are well armed with champagne, wine and schnapps. Until 24 hrs we drink a punch, for listening reasonably clear to the Führer's speech. At about 3 pm we moved to the post office, whereby Pifke showed himself as a facade climber. He climbed on a Spanish wall into a room and chased an SS-men out of the bed of a young girl. Fw. Asbach - Lache pulled a bottle of schnapps out of his pocket and therefore we could justify our self-invitation. Afterwards at home only a few sat in the orderly-room and came through until the morning. Our boss moved thereon with some men to the Staffeln, IVa, yard platoon, Headquarters Company, etc., to wish a happy New Year. From IVa we took along two sausages, schnapps and bread and moved to the airfield, where the pack with a ravenous appetite got over it. About noon we returned home, whereby the New Year's Eve celebrations came to an end.

By unknown perpetrators, but one suspects, this were men from the staff, the casino of the staff was completely smashed and the staff had to eat at New Year's morning from the remaining two plates.

Monthly Report

December 1944

There were two missions with six aircrafts and several training missions.

Success:

None.

Losses:

None.

Accruals:

Uffz. Müssig, Gefr. Landeata.

Uffz. Stangenberg, Clemens and Radlauer back from hospital.

Promotions:

Gefr. Brunotte to Unteroffizier.

Decorations:

Knights Cross of the Iron Cross:

Lt. Peter Kalden.

Honor goblet:

Uffz. Hannes Keller.

In the year 1944 achieved the pilots of the 13th Staffel

215 victories.

At the end of the year 1944 the 13th Staffel had the following pilots:

1	Lt.	Peter Kalden	64 victories	Staffel leader
2	Lt.	Friedrich Bauer		
3	OFw.	Heinz Marquardt	89 victories	
4	Fw.	Heinrich Baumann	3 victories	
5	Fw.	Lothar Hache		
6	Uffz.	Elmar Arensmeyer	4 victories	
7	Uffz.	Hans Clemens	3 victories	
8	Uffz.	Heinz Radlauer	3 victories	
9	Uffz.	Hannes Keller	20 victories	
10	Uffz.	Ernst Stangenberg	1 victory	
11	Uffz.	Franz John	1 victory	
12	Uffz.	Erich Brunotte	1 victory	
13	Uffz.	Georg Gossmann	1 victory	
14	Uffz.	Walter Frisse		
15	Uffz.	Manfred Müssig		
16	Gefr.	Paul Landaeta		

With effect from 1st January 1945 the following pilots will be transferred to the new established 15th Staffel.

1	OFw.	Marquardt
2	Uffz.	Clemens
3	Uffz.	Gossmann
4	Uffz.	Frisse (to staff)
5	Gefr.	Landeata

January 1945

Within the first half of January we flew only some training missions, that we gather flying hours on our new Bf 109 G-14, that we can fly with methanol. Now the whole Staffel converted to the new Bf 109 G-14. Otherwise everything goes on as usual, only in the evening is repeatedly "high-life" in our house. Especially fantastic was it at the wedding-eve-party of Oblt. Kiker, who wanted to drive home for wedding holidays. The scene was the casino of the staff, where a big heap of smashed bottles and flower pots piled up, which Oblt. Kiker tried to sweep up in vain. He should be seduced to an indiscretion, and for this purpose he was tied together with a young girl, but he remained firm and did not take the risk. He danced with her on the table and we sung and applauded to that, while two men with the "squeeze box" played the required hits. Our Heinrich walked down into the heating cellar, and for 90 minutes shovelled coke, and heated the water boiler in such a manner, that the "caretaker excellence" Niedermeier in the morning saw half of the house blow up. So our commander shot the complete washing unit of Oblt. Kiker, for what he imposed an alcohol ban for three days on himself, should by the way also be mentioned.

At the beginning of January Ernst Stangenberg drove to Bad Wiessee for recreation.

12.1. A day like each other. In the morning Lt. Bauer went with our boss to the airfield, to fly a training mission with him. Fate would have it, that Lt. Bauer, who made his first dogfight, before he properly understood, what it is all about, was shot down fatally by a Yak-9. With Lt. Bauer we lose a pilot and comrade, who despite the short time he was with us, nevertheless had won our hearts. With his real Viennese humour and all his Viennese style, he gave us some happy hours during this long winter time. We will honour his memories between us and will always like to remember him. He was buried at the heroes cemetery southeast Nasielsk. Lt. Kalden and Fw. Baumann paid their last respects from the Staffel.

Around the middle of January increased the signs of an upcoming major attack from the Russians and on the 13th it started here and at the Warsaw front.

We should have been relocated on the 14th, but a thick qbi made the take-off impossible. The same on the 15th. Everyone had already left, we only stayed here with the aircraft and some technicians. In the evening the Russians were already five kilometers away from the airfield, Buchmünde is burning and the artillery fires on us, so that we prefer, to sleep during the night in the bunker. During the night it finally cleared up and with the first dawn we took-off for Markthausen (*Popelken*). At noon we took-off for the first mission against the Russians, who supports his attack with strong air force units. Uffz. Arensmeyer had to bail-out of his aircraft, due to a fault, at excessive speed out of his new "13", and hit with his shoulder the tail section, the parachute broke during opening, and at the same moment, when fully deployed, he already sits on a straw roof. In the evening he returned slightly injured. The staff doctor declared him as not operational for four weeks and the boss sent him home for recreation. The day after next we had to move further back to Sichelsberg (*Sierpc*), for the Ivan marches with force westwards.

On the 19.1. we got immediately back to Graudenz. Here we could little improve our aircrafts. The boss and Hannes could shot down during this days some Russians. From Graudenz and also once from Thorn, low level attacks were flown.

On 24.1. it again got further back to Danzig - Langfuhr, where we finally could stay a little bit longer. Considering that we didn't stay for a long time in Germany, so it's not surprising, that

you found during the first time at night so many beds empty and many developed to night fighters. At the beginning only some low level attacks and free hunt missions at the area East Prussia and Graudenz were made. Here we could also refresh the number of aircraft too.

Monthly Report

January 1945

Fourteen missions with 44 aircrafts were flown.

Success:

<u>Lt. Kalden</u>	the 65 - 67 victory	= 3
Uffz. Keller	the 21 - 22 victory	= 2

With low level attacks one anti-tank gun, trucks and infantry columns could be destroyed.

Losses:

Lt. Friedrich Bauer crashed fatally on 12.1.1945

Accruals:

Uffz. Kramp, Herperts.
Uffz. Emmeling returned from hospital.

February 1945

At the beginning of February Uffz. Kramp returned from a mission with an empty fuel tank, touched down with standing propeller at the center of the strip, crashed into the filling station, removed a piece from a Ju52 and crossed the hangar in such a manner, that the aircraft showed out back at the rear, until the front of the wings. He himself was only slightly injured in the head, had to go for some days into the hospital and is now on vacation at Danzig.

On 11th we flew fighter bomber missions with "bulk boxes" (*AB container*). We didn't hit much, but Uffz. Herpertz had to bail-out of his burning "mill", but came down safely. Our boss made some days later a belly-landing with his new "White 8" on the field.

On 15th Uffz. Arensmeyer returned well recovered from vacation. Uffz. Stangenberg and Brunotte could not find their way back due to the actual confusion. Now we have again more enemy contact and Horrido, for the Russians came more often. Hannes had to do the whole stuff, for the boss had to lie in the bed with his cold. Hannes had shot down some fighters and Radlauer made his fourth.

On 18th Hannes flew again with his Schwarm. Radlauer shot down a Yak-9 and Arensmeyer an Il-2. From this mission Uffz. Keller didn't return. He was last seen at low level flying over the victory of Arensmeyer and turning back to German occupied area. It can be assumed, that he was hit by flak, for there was a strong defense.

During the afternoon we flew with a Schwarm of the 15th Staffel low level attacks northwest of Graudenz under strong flak fire. Uffz. John did not return from this mission and Fw. Bau - mann got hits at the fuselage and had to belly-land at the airfield.

On 19th Uffz. Arensmeyer with Fw. Baumann and Uffz. Radlauer over the sea during an escort mission, got lost. Heinrich landed at Stolp and broke the tailwheel. Arensmeyer and

Radlauer landed at the coast and returned during the afternoon.

On 21st the boss shot down a Boston and an Airacobra. Now we have a partly qbi and nothing is going on and we have to wait.

The 18th of February was a black day for the Staffel. North of Graudenz, near the railway line at about nine o'clock in the morning our Hannes Keller was shot down by Russian flak. Due to the confusing terrain we could not see his landing. For there no burning impact was seen, we assume, that he got taken alive into Russian captivity, so that the hope exists, that we will see our Hannes once again. Uffz. Keller, based on his fast career and his success, was not only from the pilots and the whole Staffel, respected and valued. With his Swabian way he was always a good comrade for us and we had with him some happy hours. At the whole Gruppe he was known as a good fighter and daredevil, for the relation of 60 missions and 27 victories were the best proof.

During the afternoon we were hit by another loss. During low level attacks northwest of Graudenz Uffz. John was shot down by light Russian flak. About his fate we don't know precisely. Uffz. John came together with Hannes Keller to our Staffel and had one victory. He was a "loyal Katschmarek" and as well a good comrade. We will remember about his comical fun with pleasure.

28.2. During the last week of the month nearly nothing was going on. Mostly qbi or no orders for a mission.

On Sunday Fw. Ulbrich flew with us as substitute Schwarm leader. He and Uffz. Arensmeyer shot down a Yak-9. Some days later Fw. Baumann had once again bad luck. He and his Katschmarek Fhr. Osterheld, after a free hunt mission, belly-landed in the area of Konitz at the airfield, respectively in the area west of Gotenhafen.

Uffz. Brunotte appeared also after two month of absence. He needed a month to find us.

During the last weeks some of our men were continually at Gotenhafen on the submarine "U-Teddy", to get an insight about the submarine operations. We liked it there very much, particularly we have seen there the newest equipment, and were well received as comrades by the submariners, in which so many good drops were drunk in the name of the Christian seafaring and hunting. Daily some of the submariners came over to us to get a little idea about hunting. Unfortunately a planned social evening failed.

Monthly Report

February 1945

X missions with x aircrafts were flown.

Success:

Lt. Kalden	68 - 69 victory	= 2
Uffz. Keller	23 - 27 victory	= 2 (26 and 27?)
Uffz. Radlauer	3 - 5 victory	= 2 (?)
Uffz. Arensmeyer	4 - 6 victory	= 2 (?)

One fighter bomber mission and some low level attacks against trucks and marching columns were flown.

Losses:

Uffz. Keller and John missing.
Possibly shot down by flak.

Accruals:

Lt. Engel, OFw. Anding, OFhr. Schneider and Fhr. Osterhelt.

Outflows:

Uffz. Kramp into hospital.

March 1945

6.3. We started March very tired of flying. So far, only one mission on Sunday, in which the boss had to return and Uffz. Arensmeyer in a threesome got aerial combat with La-7.

We are flying like savages, but the Russian too and so we cannot deal with them.

Result: Uffz. Arensmeyer returned with a large hole in the wing.

Therefore we also had to record something good. Our boss became Oberleutnant and OFw.

Anding got Stabsfeldwebel. The boss was just at the submarine as the good news reached him. Just there started the celebrations and in the evening he returned home with a new cap - a mixture of navy and air force. The promotion was registered by L.J. Lt. Feldmann, what would be a rarity, the promotion of an air force officer by a submarine officer.

On Sunday we celebrated the promotion at our new basement casino in keeping with the guilds, where also Lt. Feldmann and the I.W.O. Lt. Lorenz were present and also contributed their necessary part of the racket. As at 10 pm the commander said good bye, we could once more let steam off to our hearts content.

11.3. The usual Sunday mission didn't let us down. This time it's a little bit more. The Russians passed through with tanks and completely encircled Danzig - Gotenhafen. The whole week we were at transfer readiness for Ramel, but now this is also cancelled. The pre-command returned back, for the Ivan would soon be at the airfield. We fly fighter bomber missions against the tanks that had broken through. At 0840 hrs the boss took-off with a Schwarm to the area Friedenau - Kölln against tanks. Our boss didn't return from this mission. He was last seen, as he pulled into the clouds after an attack. In the evening we could catch a Russian radio message, that Oblt. Kalden went into Russian captivity. Uffz. Radlauer shot down a La-5.

The whole day the Russians made II-2 low level attacks at our field, without any major damage. We made a long neck at our airfield, for to see everything, while the others buried their heads into the sand.

Lt. Engel was preliminary assigned to lead the Staffel.

On the 16th we celebrate pretty big the birthday of Lt. Engel. Five cakes were catered, so everyone got his monies worth.

Ernst Stangenberg also returned safe and sound.

During this week we eagerly built boxes at our airfield, whilst we could see the Russians until next Sunday from the ground.

On Sunday, the 11.3., fate grabbed for the third time during a short period into our ranks, and gave us the heaviest loss, which ever could hit us. We lost during a fighter bomber mission our boss, Oblt. Kalden. Flying in the clouds, never being impatient for this, got for him a big

problem. At least we have the certainty that he is alive, as a Russian radio message confirmed, which we intercepted at the evening. What this loss meant for us, one can only appreciate, who had properly known Oblt. Kalden. In spite of his youth he was a Staffel leader, emerged the school of Hptm. Borchers, who was an idol not only on the ground, but also in the air. In almost two years he reached 69 victories at about 380 missions and was decorated during December with the Knights Cross. As the youngest Staffel leader in the group, he often had a difficult time, but this didn't get him down. For us pilots he was always a good teacher and we will remember the time subordinated to Oblt. Kalden.

18.3. Sunday didn't let us down. There is fighter bomber cover to East Prussia.

19.3. Today is large combat day in the air. Continually Il-2 attacks at the airfield. With a bomb attack three hangars were destroyed. For our good location we once more don't get anything. Arensmeyer and Radlauer made their seventh victories. On the evening we fly once more as fighter bombers against tanks southwest of Gotenhafen.

20.3. Slowly the situation gets uneasy within the pocket of Danzig. The artillery fires more often over to us and the Russians try to drive a wedge to the coast between Danzig and Gotenhafen. During the evening he is for hours with "Mitchell's" and DB-3's over Danzig. This morning we have once more strong air activities, unfortunately we have to stay at the ground. Suddenly at noon we got the transfer order. The aircraft should be given to the I. group, and we are all to shipped to Germany. After a long back and forth, only the commander, the leaders of the Staffeln and the best Schwarm leaders would drive today. We twenty pilots should stay back and should fly bomber missions to the last. On the evening we were rushed to the airfield. Technicians of the I. group mount the ETC under in a rush, and we could fly two Rotten missions. During the last landing it is nearly dark. On Radlauer's aircraft the emergency bomb release was not mounted and with one SD-1 container he accomplished an extremely soft dawn landing.

21.3. Our technicians returned more or less kinked from the harbour. Preliminary it means to endure. The I. group took over our G-14's. We, the remaining pilots, were subordinated to Hptm. Glas of the 2./SG.3 and fly in front as guides with his Fw 190 battle aircraft fighter bomber missions against Russian tanks. We fly with the G-6 of the 14th and 15th Staffel and were soon instructed by the Ivan about the unfavourable location of our airfield.

23.3. Nevertheless this morning our technicians moved off, in which some sighted with a relief. Indeed 19 men stayed behind with us, they should, on order of Colonel Weiss, to endure to the last.

The Russian stays this morning already with 24 tanks on the racetrack at Zoppot. The city has fallen and the Ivan reached the sea at a width of several kilometres. The airfield is already under direct fire. Fw. Baumann lost, during starting of the aircraft, his right leg by a grenade splinter, also a technician. Most of the aircraft were transferred to Pillau before noon. As Arensmeyer landed at noon from a fighter bomber mission with his Schwarm, the airfield was so covered by artillery that we have three dead amongst the technicians and several wounded. As then also several aircrafts rolled into shell craters, slowly the higher level recognized that it is useless to continue flying. The aircrafts were dismantled and should be brought by land to Pillau.

24.3. We were embarked at Danzig and sail with the air traffic control ship "Günther Plüschow" (*Gunther*) into the empire. Yesterday evening we got hold of all sorts of wine and with the certainty of a safe departure, in spite of the continuous noise, it got a hilarious

farewell from Danzig.

After two days of crossing we were put on land at Sassnitz and continued our journey to Döberitz where we arrive as first of the group. There they send us to Anklam. There the whole group is reconstituted. The group is close to getting disbanded, but the commander managed this time to hold our group, although we should take over from another group, which will be disbanded with Fw 190's.

Monthly Report

March 1945

There were 20 missions with 55 aircrafts.

Success:

Uffz. Radlauer	6 th and 7 th	victory	= 2
Uffz. Arensmeyer	7 th	victory	= 1

We were mainly used as a fighter bomber Staffel for anti-tank combat in the area of Danzig - Gotenhafen. We achieved good success and with AB 4HL - bombs and a series of destroyed tanks (*AB 250 with 40 x SD 4HL*).

Losses:

Oblt. Kalden was taken into internment.

Fw. Baumann lost his left leg from an artillery hit.

Outflows:

Uffz. Emmeling, Müssig, Kramp to first group.

Fw. Baumann into hospital.

Promotions:

Lt. Kalden to Oberleutnant.

OFw. Anding to Stabsfeldwebel.

April 1945

On this year we will have a rather dull Easter at Anklam. We sleep in four level tool racks and in that case the whole group including the pilots in one room. As a small consolation prize at least it gave some schnapps and wine, and with a clever combination you could put yourself into a little drunkenness.

After Easter we finally got out of this "fug bunker" and drive to Gartz. There we take over the Fw 190's and after a detailed instruction we could let go. OFw. Marquardt landed with his Schwarm at Prenzlau. Lt. Engel could not resist performing a nice crash on the landing cross. In Prenzlau, well known for good food, we fill extensively our starved stomach's, sprawl around in the casino and then fly a fighter bomber cover mission, and landed afterwards at our new mission airfield Eggersdorf. There we were welcomed by our new Staffel boss, Lt. Tanzer. He comes from the old 12th Staffel and is owner of the Knights Cross. Due to his wounding he was suspended aeronautically for a long time. At least, now we have again a proper man at the top and the thing got at once a new upturn.

We take over all the aircraft and the equipment from III. / JG 54, which will be totally disbanded. Four good pilots were also added, Lt. Königer, Uffz. Heinz, Gobert, Witt. The airfield is so well camouflaged, that we had to fly around in the area for about fifteen minutes and didn't see the runway not until flight control helpfully laid down a landing flag. Then we started soon with flying, for the group released generously petrol.

On 7.4. Fw. Hache was shot down by a Yak-9 during a fighter bomber cover mission. He bailed-out, but the parachute didn't open for some reason.

During these days the younger pilots perform training flights with the Fw 190, in which mainly the pilots of the 15th Staffel showed up as experts in "aircraft killing". But also we were involved with two, namely Osterheld and Gefr. Rupp, who came with five other new men.

On 10.4. General Fiebig came and inspected our group. He talks about the coming mission and required from everybody the highest engagement, for the Russians had to be stopped at the river Oder. At the end Uffz. Arensmeyer and Radlauer got the Iron Cross first class.

On 12.4. our commander Oberstleutnant Nordmann was dismissed. Major Lange became wing commander and went north to the other groups in East Prussia. Oblt. Josten should become our new commander and until his arrival he will be represented by Major Pittkern (*Douglas Pitcairn, Ia staff/JG 51*).

This morning a big part of our Staffel and the assistants drove to Borkheide as pre commando. From the new pilots three were given away and two went with us to Borkheide. Now we have in our new casino, that we established at the airfield, at least again some space, because 22 pilots is still a little bit too much, because there are only cover - and fighter bomber missions. This evening we fly an interesting order, namely most of us see today for the first time "Father and Son". The Ju-88's were steered to the bridges near Küstrin and created on impact a large explosion.

13.4. "13" is for Arensmeyer not an unlucky number, but it was for him on Friday, for during a bombing mission in the area of Fürstenberg, he got during a low level flight a 3,7 (cm) hit into the right wing root, but he could just bring home the aircraft and belly-landed. He was slightly wounded in the head by glass splinters and one flak-splinter crossed the cabin and passed his head.

The troop concentrations at the Küstrin bridgehead increase during the last days so strongly, that we count on the start of a Russian major offensive every day.

14.4. The Russians had started in the morning hours with the awaited attack. They clash only with small formations to scan our frontline. In the air is only a medium fighter activity. OFw. Marquardt reached with the victory over two Yak-3 his 100th victory. During the afternoon we celebrated adequately this with a proper cake within the circle of the pilots. Shortly before the end of work we were delighted with a cover mission for fighter bombers to the bridges near Küstrin.

16.4. Yesterday started a major Russian attack, but the Ivan could be stopped everywhere. Unfortunately for us, we didn't get the longed for activity. Negus even had to persuade the commander with a faked scramble to fly a free hunt mission, for we all got to go a mission. As then the Schwarm returned home with four victories, was that the proof that Negus had a good nose. Unfortunately we lost this day before yesterdays mission OFhr. Schneider, he bailed-out, but plummeted with a burning parachute.

Today the Russian's started large flight operation, already in the morning he comes with Pe-

2's and recently also with Mitchell's. Uffz. Witt was shot down at the first take-off by Yak's and dangled in his parachute. We feel the same way as in October at Modlin. The technicians work at full speed, as half are at Borkheide and we wait impatiently for the next missions, drink strong pure coffee and didn't touch the food. The main missions are again in the morning at 8 o'clock, at noon and at coffee time. During the day the Staffel achieved fifteen victories, the whole group twenty-two. Again one sees, that the 13th Staffel make two-third of all victories. OFw. Marquardt and Arensmeyer shot down once in a Rotte seven Russians. Also our boss, Lt. Tanzer is shooting down the enemy again, in spite of his wounded arm.

17.4. This night Ivan visited us for the first time. He stayed with us for several hours and threw his bombs in the area. Therefore it is calm in the air today, but not from our side, for we didn't see for a long time such a strong German air activity. Constantly fighter bomber formations fly to the east. The only victory for the group was made by Pifke during a bomber mission.

18.4. By all means this night we had left no rest. Before darkness until dawn there were U-2's, they were directly over our barrack and the airfield. With dropping phosphorus the economic barrack and some others, as the wood at several spots, went up in flames. In the morning we are so overtired, that we nearly could not fly a mission. Therefore the pleasure is all the greater as Pifke and Arensmeyer performed eight victories in dual Schwarm over the airfield. Witt and Österheld made here their first. Until noon the Staffel had again 13 victories. The Russians couldn't be stopped by our formations and are now so near, that it is again time to run away. Therefore we fly in the afternoon to Borkheide. There of course, we waggle all the victories of the last days, for the pre-command did not know anything about our success.

20.4. The airfield conditions at Borkheide were indeed very ideal, for there were living bunkers directly at the airfield, but operationally it was there too unfavorable, so we flew yesterday to Prenzlau and wait here until that they find at the surrounding area the right airfield for us. It was considered back and forth and in the meantime we let us fall in the evening bombs on our head.

Finally this morning Herpertz made his first victory. During the last days the fighter air-battles got harder and harder. Flew the Il-2 formations at the beginning with low cover, so now the cover is nearly stronger than the formations itself, and in addition the Russian are flying a lot of free hunt. This afternoon we had an especially tough air-battle with Kingcobras above Werneuchen. Suddenly at the evening came a strange mission: Führer's orders - all aircraft of the eastern front for bomb dropping at 7.30 pm to the area of Baruth. Nobody knows anything for sure, until the first reported who returned, that the Russians broke through from the area of Kottbus, with strong tank and motorized units, until there. Uffz. Heinz cranks during this mission with four Spitfires for his life and races so wild around the radio towers of Oranienburg, that one Spitfire got ground contact and therefore Heinz helped to half a victory. During the evening the commander reminded with short words during the appeal of the pilots the birthday of the Führer and promoted afterwards Uffz. Arensmeyer and Radlauer, as well as Krämer of the 14th Staffel to Feldwebel. The joy is great, but from the missions everyone is so tired, that today nobody thinks about celebrating.

22.4. Finally they found for us the right airfield and we fly to the auxiliary airfield - Schmoldow - nearby Tutow. Fhr. Funk, during landing turned himself on the back and cracked some of his ribs a little bit. Also Herpertz and Anding could not deny themselves some days ago to lay a crash at the airfield and Brunotte dropped down at Borkheide due to

stick-locking already after take-off. Yesterday we had peace at Prenzlau and used the chance to go on the razzle. The three new Feldwebel had to drink down two bottles of "Camus" and the effect showed soon. At first Krämer got pale as chalk, then the effect showed up fast at Pifke. He danced the "Swing from Copenhagen" and as afterwards a girl from the service showed up, he has been trapped into his old vice, that he, when he is tipsy, had to kiss every girl, and could not get around to comply with his urge. Arensmeyer kept at the best, with many cups of strong pure coffee, he prevented himself from overturning. Finally Pifke curled himself totally up in a corner of the room. Then Willi Herpertz took care of him, loaded him on a wheelbarrow, and drove him like a dead one at home. There took Willi him into a drastic cure with ice-cold water and put him then into the bed, where he became, to some extent, on the other day, clear. About all this, what happened with him, he didn't know anything.

24.4. Yesterday we used a day with a well-deserved rest. Today got our Staffel two D 9 (*Fw190 D-9*). During the transfer Negus at once shot four Yak-3's and Herpertz a Pe-2 down. Another Schwarm lost, during a "jump" mission from Prenzlau, by a bombing attack two aircraft, and Pifke and Witt arrived pretty battered looking as hitch-hikers from a refugee trail.

29.4. During the last days we mostly flew only fighter bomber cover missions, where Augustin queued up into the row of crash pilots. In addition we got two further D 9's, but unfortunately we cannot bring to bear the combat strength of our Staffel, as we could have done it at Eggersdorf with the big air traffic. Lt. Engel, StFw. Anding and Fhr. Just had left us and were transferred to the recce-force. Therefore Oblt. Wilhelm from the staff Staffel came to us. As the Russians slowly came nearer, we can obtain from the farmers fat animals, so that we again have something good for our stomach. The front had reached once more our heels, and so we moved once more to the west. We come to Klein - Lübke, a narrow "towel". During the transfer Heinz and Pifke shot down each an Il-2. This should be the last two victories of the Staffel during this war. At Klein - Lübke we were perfectly treated by the farmers, and we really fill our stomachs.

30.4. (*Typing error: 30.5.!*) Unfortunately we could stay only for one day at this nutritious airfield, for at this the evening it goes on to Redlin near Parchim. At Klein - Lübke we had to blow up the D 9's "White 13" and "White 3". Our boss rolled the "13" into a ditch. Here in Redlin the mood is also nothing special. Here we have enemy contact with Tommy's and Americans and furthermore the front moves in closer from both sides.

Monthly Report

April 1945

Success:

To provide exact information is not possible as a result of loss of documentation. There were about 50 missions during the month April, among them a number of fighter bomber - and cover missions. Thereby about 50 Russian aircrafts were shot down for only two losses ourselves. Fw. Hache by enemy fighters and Ofhr. Schneider by Russian flak.

May 1945

1.5. Today is a national holiday, but hardly anybody remembers this. For us the battle for Berlin is more important, and is slowly ending. We should fly cover for battle fighters to Berlin and take-off with half of the Staffel for a jump transfer to Schwerin. OFw. Marquardt flies ahead with a Rotte of D 9's. At the Schwerin airfield they were surprised by Spitfires. OFw. Marquardt takes the air battle and was shot down by the numerical and in performance superior Spitfire XX (*actually Spitfire 9*). Fw. Radlauer could only see the burning impact. Since then, any sign of OFw. Marquardt is missing. The others return in the evening, besides Dormann.

During the day we organized two 190's and a "stork", because at the airfield are a lot ownerless aircraft to get, and our stock was rather depleted.

In the evening we hear the shocking news about the death of the Führer. We all feel now, that the war is now coming to an end, but we look forward with calmness, to what fate will bring us over the next days. Our pre-commando is since this evening on the road again, this time to Flensburg.

2.5. This noon we meandered with a low level flight over to Flensburg. Our pre-column arrived in the evening. Nothing about the exact situation comes through and it slowly becomes clear that we had to wait here for the end of the war and so we wait from today onwards for the Tommy.

8.5. The war has come to an end, but totally differently to what we imagined. The Dönitz government had, under the pressure of the events, unconditionally surrendered, and for some days we have a ceasefire. The Tommy's are here and there are ongoing negotiations with the OKL and OKH, which are also situated here. Our aircraft are parade-like lined up and we had to hand over them with all of the equipment. At the second day of our presence we organized a well done Staffel evening, to be once again funny and happy before we go towards an uncertain time. Heinz, Gobert and Witt got Feldwebel and Brunotte, Herpertz and Witt got the Iron Cross second class. From JG 4 eight men joined us, among them Flieger, Lingnau and Lupp.

Against this twist of fate we are powerless. This was shown again, on the first of May, as our OFw. Marquardt, well known in the whole group as the best shooter honored and appreciated, during the last mission of the war, flown by our Staffel, was shot down in flames by Spitfires nearby Schwerin. Fw. Radlauer, who flew with him, could only see the burning impact, so we don't have any great hope, that we will ever see him again. So fate had our Negus, who performed in almost two years 121 victories in about 280 missions, caught him on the last day.

(See my report)

Our old commander Oberst Nordmann called the rest of the group once more together and with a short speech he recounted about the successful years of our proud Geschwader. He thanked everyone for the carried out work over the years and committed us in the name of the 300 fallen of our group, further hold together and show our conquerors a proud and upright position.

So our group, in spite of multiple signs of disintegration, besides some individual cases, stayed close together. Our Staffel counts only about 50 good men, for the post-command from Redlin didn't arrive. Our initial hope, to be released soon, does not come true, and our group is waiting, crowded together in the space of a barrack, a garage and some tents about the coming things.

Source: Handwritten copy given from Heinz Marquardt, author unknown

Notes: Thanks to Johannes Matthews for help and proof reading!

Some German expressions were not translated to avoid confusion! My comments in italic or in brackets.

AB 250	Bomb container filled with SD 2 bombs, “coal box”
Ata	Absolute Atmosphäre , absolute atmosphere
Diana	Roman goddess of hunting
Dödel	Slang for the Knights Cross
Fhr.	Fähnrich, ensign
Free hunt	Searching for a victory without detailed order
Fw.	Feldwebel, Staff Sergeant
Gartenzaun	Garden fence, slang for own airfield
Gefr.	Gefreiter, private
HKL	Hauptkampflinie, Main battle line
Horrido	Hunters Greetings , great sensation, great fuss, big stir
Hpt. Hptm.	Hauptmann, captain
IC	Iron Cross , Ritterkreuz
Kaczmarek	Wingman, polish: Innkeeper
Kurtchen	Small form of first name Kurt
Lt.	Leutnant, Lieutenant
Negus	Nickname for Marquardt, black man, king of Ethiopia
Nicknames	See chapter of pilots
Oberst	Colonel
Oblt.	Oberleutnant, first lieutenant
OFhr.	Oberfähnrich, senior ensign
OFw.	Oberfeldwebel, Staff Sergeant, higher rank
OKH	Oberkommando des Heeres, high command of the army
OKL	Oberkommando der Luftwaffe, high command of the air force
qbi	Short for: Bad weather regulations come into effect
Revi	Reflexvisier, reflex sight
Rotte	A unit of two aircrafts , plural Rotten
Russe	Russian, german expression for all soviets
Schamott	Actually fire clay, but slang description for rubbish , junk
Schwarm	A unit of four aircrafts, plural Schwärme
Schwarmmeister	Master mechanic within the unit
Stabsfeldwebel	Staff Sergeant
Stabsschwarm	A Schwarm within the staff
Staffelführer	Leader of the Staffel
Uffz.	Unteroffizier, Sergeant
U.v.D.	Unteroffizier vom Dienst, Sergeant of the guard