

YOU who served with the Halifax Bomber RE : JB931

Lt. Heinz Strüning 2./NJG 1

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<https://prabook.com/web/heinz.struning/2338853>

14/05/1943	Ltn. Heinz Strüning	2	NJG 1	Halifax	3265: 5200m [10km N. Breskens]	1.49	Western Front
14/05/1943	Ltn. Heinz Strüning	2	NJG 1	Halifax	2244: 3300m [60km W. Walcherer]	2.26	Western Front

56 Air Victories

## Heinz Strüning [Edit Profile](#)

### flying ace

Heinz Strüning was a German Luftwaffe fighter ace and recipient of the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves during World World War World War II

## Background

Strüning was born on 13 January 1912 in Neviges and joined the Luftwaffe in 1935.

## Career

The Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross and its higher grade Oak Leaves was awarded to recognise extreme battlefield bravery or successful military leadership. Strüning shot down 56 aircraft in 280 missions. All of his victories were recorded at night.

He was shot down and killed in action on Christmas Eve, 24 December 1944.

He was posted as an Unteroffizier to 5./Zerstörergeschwader 26 "Horst Wessel" (ZG 26—26th Destroyer Wing) on 2 August 1939. When World World War II broke out, he flew

several ground attack missions during the campaign in Poland.

Strüning was then transferred to the Nachtjagd (night fighter force) arriving in July 1940 to 1./Nachtjagdgeschwader 2 (NJG 2—2nd Night Fighter Wing). With this unit, Feldwebel Strüning made 66 intruder missions over England at night, and gained his first victory on the night of 23 November 1940.

At the end of 1941 he had 9 claims in total.

In November 1941, he was transferred to 7./NJG 2. With this unit, Strüning gained 15 victories until mid-September 1942. From November 1942, Strüning served with NJG 2 in the Mediterranean from bases in Sicily, until April 1943.

Strüning is then transferred to 2./NJG 1 in May 1943.

On 1 June he shot down three Royal Air Force Avro Lancasters. Promoted to Oberleutnant and appointed Staffelkapitän of 3.

(NJG 1—1st Night Fighter Wing), Strüning coordinated the introduction of the new Heinkel He 219 "Uhu". With this aircraft, Strüning downed three bombers on the night of 1 August 1943.

By April 1944, Strüning had accumulated 15 night victories and on 20 July 1944, was awarded the Eichenlaub.

Shortly after, he was appointed to take command of 9./NJG 1. At about 6 pm on 24 December 1944 his Messerschmitt Bf 110 G-4 (Werknummer 740 162—factory number) G9+Connecticut was shot down by 10-kill ace F/L Rural Delivery Doleman and F/L District of Columbia Bunch of Number. 157 Squadron Royal Air Force in a de Havilland Mosquito Intruder while he tried to attack a Lancaster bomber over Cologne.

He bailed out but struck the tail of his plane and fell to his death.

His body was found two months after his death. During his career, Hauptmann Heinz Strüning had made 280 combat missions (250 at night), and claimed 56 victories at night (including two Mosquitoes).