

Flur meiner Bw menschlicher

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Jhr Gerhard Krens



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#### Oberleutnant Gerhard Krens.

Born 4th May, 1920. Gerhard Krens joined the Luftwaffe on 9th November, 1938, commencing pilot training on 15th March, 1939 at LKS (2) Flight Training School, Gatow, Berlin. He graduated to multi-engine training at FFS (C) 3 School at Lönnewitz, 1st November, 1939, followed by night and instrument flight training at Stargard, which he completed 15th April, 1940. The next day he started operational training on the Do17 at the Reconnaissance Flying School, Grossenhain. Promoted to Leutnant 1st June, 1940, Gerhard was sent to a holding unit at Weimer-Nohra to await a posting to an operational staffel. On 15th August, 1940, he joined Stabsstaffel/KG 27 in France. During the Battle of Britain, Gerhard completed 39 operational sorties (most of these being in He 111 1G+BA, the subject of this Aerophile) and was awarded the Iron Cross Second Class (EK II) 21st October, 1940, First Class (EK I) on 18th November, 1940. On 22nd April, 1941 he was awarded the Bomber Aircrew Qualification Clasp in Bronze, for completing 20 operations. The following day Gerhard completed his 39th and final operation over England, after which, he, along with KG27 was sent east, to take part in the invasion of Russia. On 30th June, 1941, Gerhard was awarded the Wound Badge, followed by the award of the Silver Aircrew Clasp on 25th July, for completing 60 operations. He was then awarded the Gold Clasp, 10th October, 1941, for completing 110 operations, followed by the Honour Goblet on 26th October, 1941. Transferring to 2 Staffel KG27 on 27th January, 1942, Gerhard became the first in his Unit to be awarded the Knights Cross (RK) 25th May, 1942. This was followed by the Russian Front Medal 25th November, 1942, and on 20th December, by the Gold Clasp with Pendant for completing 200+ operations. On 15th March, 1943, Gerhard gained the Krimschild for the Crimean Campaign. Transferred to Ia/Stab Gen. Kdo. I Fliegerkorps, 21st May, 1944, which he served with until the War in Europe ended, 8th May, 1945 - 4 days after his 25th birthday - when he was interned by Russian Forces. During his wartime service, Gerhard completed 250 operations, and was held in captivity until release on 20th October, 1945. From 1946 - 1950, he studied at Berlin University, and graduated as an engineer. During a long career in the water industry, he became internationally well known, especially for his scientific research work for well constructions. He finally retired in 1980.

#### Kampfgeschwader 27 (KG 27 < Boelcke >) Ident. Codes, 1G.

Formed May, 1939, KG 27 was part of Luftflotte 3 during the Battle of Britain, with their Headquarters and I. Gruppe based at Tours, II. Gruppe at Dinard and Bourges, and III. Gruppe at Rennes. KG 27 was equipped with the Heinkel He 111 before and during the Battle, using this type for most of the War - including operational service on the Eastern Front.

#### Technical Specification

##### Heinkel He111 P

Wingspan: 74ft 2ins (22.60 mtrs) Length: 53ft 9ins (16.40 mtrs)  
Height: 13ft 1ins (4.00 mtrs) Max Speed: 242 mph (390 kmh)  
at 16,400 ft (5,000 mtrs)  
Engine: 2 x Daimler Benz DB 601A V 12 inverted liquid cooled of over 1,000hp each.  
Armament: 5 x 7.92mm MG 15 machine guns. Bomb load 4,410lb (2,000kg).



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