

THE ESSEN, BERLIN, HANNOVER AND MAGDEBURG RAIDS 12th/13th AUGUST 1941



- RAF loss - Squadron / serial number
- RAF loss - Squadron / serial number (approximate location)
- Luftwaffe loss - Gruppe/Geschwader serial number
- Himmelbett station
- Target
- Nacht Jagd Raum Führer (NJRF) Headquarters
- Claimed location of Fernnachtjagd bombing
- Fernnachtjagd patrol areas

Marine Flak in the Dutch Frisian Islands was credited with an outward-bound Berlin raider shot down, whilst Flak of the 3. and 8. Flak Divisions and the Berlin Flak defences of the 1. Flak Division (which were all described by returning bomber crews as 'intense and accurate') submitted claims for eight bombers destroyed. Five of these were confirmed by the OKL on 29 February 1942:

-149 Sqn Wellington R1024: hit by Flak of 2./M. Flak Abt. 246 and crashed in North Sea off Sylt at 00.13 hrs.

-15 Sqn Stirling N3659: hit by 1./Res. Flak Abt. 464 and 2./Res. Flak Abt. 222, crashed at Berxen near Vilsen at 00.49 hrs.

-142 Sqn Wellington W5433: hit by Flak of 3. Flak Div. and Flakgruppe Süd, crashed near Blievenstorf at 01.06 hrs.

Note: victory confirmed by OKL on 29.2.1942

-9 Sqn Wellington R1513: hit by IV. Zug 4./Res. Flak Abt. 603 and crashed into mouth of River Weser near Weddewarden at 01.15 hrs.

Note: mis-identified as 'Bristol-Blenheim'.

-76 Sqn Halifax L9530: coned by 2. & 3./Res. Flakscheinw. Abt. 150, 2. & 3./Res. Flakscheinw. Abt. 608 and 1. & 2./Res. Flakscheinw. Abt. 609, hit by 3./Res. Flak Abt. 341 and 2. & 3./Res. Flak Abt. 247, crashed near Buxtehude, Ostmoor at 01.24 hrs.

-104 Sqn Wellington W5461: hit by 1.-3./Res. Flak Abt. 907 and 2./Res. Flak Abt. 232, crashed at Darrigsdorf at 01.25 hrs.

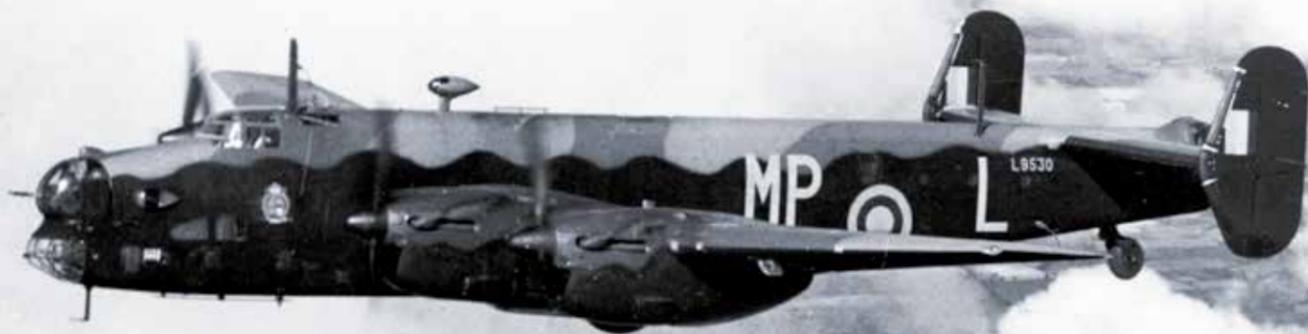
-104 Sqn Wellington W5443: coned by 1. & 2./Res. Flakscheinw. Abt. 238 and 1. & 2./Res. Flakscheinw. Abt. 338, hit by 3./Res. Flak Abt. 262, 1. & 2./Res. Flak Abt. 163, 1. & 3./Res. Flak Abt. 132 and 3./Res. Luftsperr Abt. 210, crashed and exploded at the Klüverdamm at Sagehorn at 01.54 hrs.

-207 Sqn Manchester L7377: hit by Berlin-based Flak, exploded and crashed at Grossbeeren, 5 km SE of Teltow at 02.00 hrs.

-115 Sqn Wellington Z8835: coned by 3./Res. Flakscheinw. Abt. 608 and hit by 1. & 2./Res. Flak Abt. 601, crashed twixt Rübke and Hohentannen (Ostmoor) at 02.52 hrs.

Right: Flt Lt Christopher Cheshire, younger brother of Leonard Cheshire in the cockpit of Halifax L9530 of 76 Sqn. He and his crew were shot down aboard L9530 on this night by Flak at 01.24hrs at Buxtehude. The coat of arms is a light hearted version based on the name Cheshire.

Below: Handley Page Halifax L9530 in flight. (both photos coll. ww2images.com).



152 aircraft attacked Hannover between 23.00 and 02.47 hrs (CET, nine lost), 82 aircraft bombed Braunschweig between 00.25 and 02.40 hrs (CET, one lost), and Magdeburg was attacked by 52 aircraft between 00.35 and 01.54 hrs (CET), for the loss of four aircraft.

Flak of the 8. Flak Division reported three Abschüsse, all of which were officially confirmed by the OKL on 14 March 1942. A Wellington that was claimed as probably shot down by the *Flakscheinwerfergruppe* Hannover and by Flak over Hannover between 00.52 and 01.01 hrs was rejected. This claim actually concerned a 150 Squadron Wellington that was later ditched in the IJsselmeer.

-83 Sqn Hampden AE131: hit by 1. & 3./Res. Flak Abt. 521 and 2./Res. Flak Abt. 237, crashed near Pattensen at 00.45 hrs.

-104 Sqn Wellington W5486, hit by 3./Res. Flak Abt. 117, 1. & 2./Res. Flak Abt. 265, 3./Res. Flak Abt. 231, 3./Res. Flak Abt. 163 and 1./Res. Flak Abt. 122, crashed at Bremen-Woltmershausen at 00.48 hrs.

-218 Sqn Wellington R1008: coned by 3./Res. Flakscheinw. Abt. 301 and 11./Flakscheinw. Rgt. 51, hit by 1.-3./Res. Flak Abt. 222, 1.-3./Res. Flak Abt. 611 and 3./Res. Flak Abt. 606, crashed at Bremen-Oberheide at 02.36 hrs.

Note: mis-identified as 'Hampden-Hereford'.

In reaction to the three Main Force raids, 12 Ju88s and two Do17s of I./NJG2 intruded over the North Sea and into the hunting areas A, B and C over Britain, another estimated 29 crews of NJG1 and I./NJG3 patrolling in the Nahnachtjagd role over the Netherlands and NW Germany. II./NJG1, III./NJG1, and I./NJG3 destroyed four Whitleys from the Hannover raid, plus a Halifax from the Magdeburg force. Three crews of I./NJG1 from Venlo, patrolling in the Räume 8 and 9, failed to achieve Feindberührung. The first Nachtjagd claimant for the night, Lt. Hadeball in Bf110 C-4 G9+HR of 7./NJG1 was wounded in a combat with a 35 Squadron Halifax that he shot down near Freren and force-landed at nearby Plantlünne airfield.

Three experienced crews of 4./NJG1 each bagged a *Dunkelnachtjagd* Abschuss under control of the JLO Lt. Maier in box *Löwe*. The 1. *Welle* (First Wave) patrol, Oblt. Becker and his crew of Uffz. Staub and Ogefr. Gänzler in the *Lichtenstein*-equipped Do215 B-5 G9+OM, opened his Staffel's score with a Whitley Abschuss near Terwispel. Five days later, the crew's *Bordfunker* Uffz. Staub wrote his *Zeugenbericht* ('eye witness report'):

"We were directed by Seeburg plotting on to a hostile plane at 4200 m altitude. This machine was picked up by the Lichtenstein at 2200 m and recognised as a Whitley at 300 m range. After an attack with a long burst from behind and beneath, the enemy made a wing-over to starboard. I was able to observe an impact fire at 01.17 hrs".

Relieving Becker as a 2. *Welle* patrol in *Raum Löwe*, Becker's *Staffelkapitän* Oblt. Lent was scrambled from Leeuwarden in Bf110 D-3 G9+FM at 02.30 hrs for his 56th Nachtjagd *Einsatz*. Accompanied by his *Bordfunker* Ofw. Reinthal, Lent bagged his 20th Abschuss, as he wrote in his *Gefechtsbericht*:

"I was vectored at around 03.15 hours onto an enemy bomber flying home. As visibility at altitude was very good, I lost height to come in under the bomber and after several changes of heading, made visual contact with a homeward-bound 'Whitley' ploughing along some 4,400 metres off my beam. I positioned myself under him, matching his speed and attacked from astern and below at close range. After my first salvo there was no evidence of fire. As I dropped away I came under ineffective fire from the tail gunner. On my second attack from below flames erupted in the bomber's fuselage and after a few seconds the aircraft exploded. Blazing debris fell into the sea in grid square 54 632 (N of Ameland). I was able to observe the downing right up to the moment of impact".

When Oblt. Lent returned to Leeuwarden at 04.10 hrs, the 3. *Welle* patrol Ofw. Gildner and his crew of Fw. Müller and Uffz. Poppelmeyer in Do215 B-5 G9+NM took up a waiting position in box *Löwe* to hunt for the returning 'heavies' of the Hannover raid. One week later, Gildner recorded the train of events in his Combat Report:

"At approximately 4.35 hrs., following a fruitless pursuit, ground control directed me to an opponent that was flying away at a heading of 300 degrees (i.e. WNW, author's note) and at a height of 3,400 m. Within a distance of 15 km to the opponent I received 2 course corrections to the left and I recognized the enemy machine at 100 m to my left ahead of me, 50 m higher, since I was flying 300 m below the ordered altitude. I identified the target as a Whitley and started my attack, aiming my first burst at it from below and behind. Because I almost collided with my opponent, I banked away whereupon the Whitley dived and tried to escape further attacks by taking evasive action. Nevertheless, I still retained visual contact, and resumed my attack. I pulled up and opened fire. The opponent throttled sharply back, flying at a speed of about 150 km/h, so I could only fire a short burst and sped past the target. Diving steeper down, the Whitley reached an altitude of 2,500 m, where I shot its right engine on fire from below and behind. The Whitley continued to fly straight for a moment, flipped forward and fell down. I watched it crashing on land, followed by a big explosion where the burning machine could be seen for some time".

Ofw. Lüddecke and his regular crew of Fw's Wacker (BF) and Rothehüser (BM) were scrambled from Gilze-Rijen in Ju88 C-4 R4+EL of 3./NJG2 at 01.58 hrs for a patrol in *Raum A*. Towards dawn, they claimed two aircraft shot down in flames off the Humber Estuary, 'near *Raum B*' as Fw. Wacker recorded in his *Flugbuch*. Their first victim was a 12 Squadron Wellington returning from a small-scale nine-aircraft attack on Rotterdam; their second quarry, a 4 Group Whitley returning from Hannover, escaped severely shot up from the encounter. The victorious Nachtjäger returned to Gilze-Rijen at 07.13 hrs, after a 315 minutes flight. Another Ju88 intruder crew, hunting in *Raum B*, returned with a claim for a Blenheim probably shot down in the circuit of Finningley at 02.30 hrs. During the course of the night, I./NJG2 logged a further total of eight undecided *Feindberührungen* with British aircraft (four of which ended without getting into shooting position) and nine bombing attacks on several airfields and on three cities on the British coast.

Lt. Heinz-Martin Hadeball: 2	7./NJG1	Halifax	800 m. S. Andverenne near Freren (5 A)	01.10	35 Sqn Halifax L9500
Oblt. Ludwig Becker: 4	4./NJG1	Whitley	near Terwispel (64773, Löwe): 4.200 m	01.17	102 Sqn Whitley Z6842
Uffz. Wilhelm Benning: 2	1./NJG3	Wellington	W. Sögel	01.36	102 Sqn Whitley Z6877
Oblt. Helmut Lent: 20	4./NJG1	Whitley V	sea N. Ameland (54632, Löwe): 4.400 m	03.20	51 Sqn Whitley Z6819
Ofw. Paul Gildner: 18	4./NJG1	Whitley V	Terschelling Island, at km mark 22.5 (Löwe): 2.500 m.	04.43	102 Sqn Whitley Z6829
Ofw. Robert Lüddeke: 2	3./NJG2	Wellington	sea 20 km E. Humber Estuary: 2.400 m.	05.20	12 Sqn Wellington W5536
Ofw. Robert Lüddeke: 3	3./NJG2	Whitley	sea 20 km E. Humber Estuary: 2.700 m.	05.37	102 Sqn Whitley Z6798 (damaged).

Note: attacked twice by unseen fighter 5 miles E. of Flamborough Head at 05.38 hrs (CET), fuselage holed, rear gun turret and intercom put out of action, starboard engine hit, dived into cloud cover, landed 06.27 hrs (CET)



During the 14-15 August 1941 Hannover raid, 150 Squadron Wellington R1016 was hit by Flak over the target, setting the starboard engine on fire and causing the propeller to break away. Gradually losing height flying on one engine, the Wimpey was force-landed on the IJsselmeer to the west of Workum. The wreckage was recovered by the Germans and seen here lying on the harbour dyke of Hindeloopen (Coll. Tresoar).

15-16 August 1941

I./NJG2 mounted a minor intruder operation, one Ju88 being sent out to the Räume A and B, whilst a Do17 ventured into the areas C and F. Neither reported *Feindberührung*. The Junkers crew dropped a load of eight SD 50 bombs on (probably) Hull, the Dornier dropping 75 incendiary bombs on King's Lynn.

16-17 August 1941

Three German cities were selected for Main Force attacks. 72 aircraft bombed Köln between 00.22 and 04.53 hrs (CET, eight lost), 58 aircraft attacked Düsseldorf between 01.27 and 03.50 hrs (CET, five lost), and Duisburg was bombed between 02.39 and 03.45 hrs (CET), for the loss of one of their number.

In reaction, ten Ju88s of I./NJG2 left Gilze-Rijen on intruder duties, whilst approximately 24 *Nahnachtjäger* took up patrols over the Netherlands and Belgium. *Ritterkreuzträger* Lt. Hahn of 3./NJG2 was the first *Nachtjagd* claimant of the night, shooting down a 104 Squadron Wellington that had set off for Köln half an hour earlier, for his 13th Abschuss. He reported on 17 August:

“Areas A and B. At 00.45 hrs. contact with an aircraft of unknown type over Scunthorpe. On account of too high an overtaking speed, flew beneath aircraft. Hostile aircraft fired upon with moveable weapon. At the same time, attack on a Vickers Wellington; aircraft went

down vertically on fire and crashed. Impact observed. At 02.00 attack from 1000 m altitude with 10 x SD 50 on an unidentified airfield in the northern part of Area B without observing results”. (During August-September 1941, Hahn claimed a 14th victory, but no records have come to light that could give more details on this Abschuss). As a result of the *Fernnachtjagd* operations on 16-17 August, one crew hunting in Raum B reported two *Feindberührungen* with Wellingtons in the circuit of Wittering (at 03.30 hrs) and nine crews reported successful bombing attacks on various aerodromes. One attack, reportedly on Mildenhall airfield, was particularly successful, as the (unnamed) crew reported upon his return to Gilze-Rijen: “Area C without enemy contact. At 03.55 hrs low-level attack with 6 x SD 50 and 84 incendiary bombs on dispersal and aircraft taxiing thither with the help of searchlights at Mildenhall aerodrome. Six aircraft destroyed on the ground (six red explosions and pieces of aeroplanes flying through the air)”.

Over the Continent, the three separate Main Force raids all passed through the Räume 8, 9, and 10, on the South-Eastern Dutch-Belgian border, both on their inward and outward flights. In these areas, which were controlled by the JLO's Lt. Knickmeier, Lt. Mützelburg, Lt. Sauer and Fw. Raumann, the experienced *Nachtjäger* of the Venlo and St. Trond-based I./NJG1 were patrolling. During the course of the night, they destroyed a record nine aircraft and filed two further claims as ‘probables’, nine by the crews operating from Venlo and two by crews from St. Trond. All these Abschüsse were made under ground radar guidance. Nine of their victories were achieved in close co-operation with *Flak Scheinwerfer Regiment 1*, the remaining two (by the teams of Oblt. Griese/Uffz. Beiam and Lt. Redlich/Geft. Völly, both flying from St. Trond) were made with ground radar only and in complete darkness. In just under one hour's time, the JLO in Raum 8 C Lt. Knickmeier successfully guided Oblt. Thimmig and his regular BF Fw. Steckemetz, and Lt. Frank and his *Funker* Uffz. Gotter to a Hampden, a Wellington and two Whitleys, all of which were caught by searchlights before the *Nachtjäger* shot them down. In addition, Flak destroyed one homeward-bound Köln raider:

-78 Sqn Whitley Z6823: hit by Flakgruppe Vlaardingen, crashed at Velddriel, SE of Zaltbommel at 03.15 hrs.

The War Diaries of *Flak Scheinwerfer Regiment 1* provides a detailed account of the night's operations by the Venlo-based *Nachtjäger*: “Codeword from 22.40 hrs, preliminary crow (readiness); from 23.00 hrs pheasant (stand to operational readiness); from 05.15, final crow (stand down).

Three waves took off for Zone 8: the first with three machines, the second with two, the third with one. Three waves took off likewise for Zone 9.

Weather: The low, which had been sitting over Holland for several days, had dissolved and drawn away to the east. This determined the weather for the night. Visibility and observation conditions were good. Reception conditions perfect. 4-6/10 cover, layers of haze at 2000 and 300 m altitude, visibility good.

Events: About 100 enemy aircraft flew into the Reich area. The heaviest area of transit was in Sectors 8 C - 9 A - 9 B. Although since June the enemy had only come over at night in a single wave, tonight three waves were confirmed, whose aircraft flew over the night fighting area in a continuous operation. The incoming flights reached the zone of operations at 00.12 and only ceased at 03.20 hrs. Return flights began at 00.46 and ended at 04.32 hrs. This brisk enemy activity made great demands on the *Abteilungen* and batteries and on the commitment of individuals.

The night fighters were committed according to the situation, at the critical points. Thus a singular total of victories could be scored during the night. Through dashing action, 8 hostile planes were definitely shot down and a further two probably. In all, the night fighters made 18 contacts. These successes are outstanding. The effort and performance of the searchlights in acquiring and holding were excellent.

The I./1 caught in the lights 21 targets out of 24 flying through; the II./1 picked up 21 out of 36; and the III./1, 11 out of 17.

The successful night fighters were: Hptm. Streib (twice); Obltn. Dimter (twice); Ltn. Frank (twice); Obltn. Thimmig (once); Obltn. Reese (once)”.

Lt. Hans Hahn: 13	3./NJG2	Wellington	over Scunthorpe	00.45	104 Sqn Wellington W5532
Oblt. Wolfgang Thimmig: 5	2./NJG1	Hampden	3 km S. Meijel, W. Venlo (8 C): 3.850 m	01.45	106 Sqn Hampden AE134.
Note: coned for 5 mins by searchlight nr. 21 of I./Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1					
Oblt. Hermann Reese: 2	2./NJG1	Manchester	Kinrooi, 5 km NW Maeseyk (9 B): 2.500 m.	01.52	97 Sqn Manchester L7384.
Note: coned for 10 mins by searchlight nr. 55 of II./Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1					
Oblt. Heinrich Griese: 6	1./NJG1	Whitley	Ryck, 8 km NE Tongeren (Raum 10)	01.55	10 Sqn Whitley Z6586
Hptm. Werner Streib: 20	Stab I./NJG1	Manchester	Aphoven, 2 km SW Heinsberg (9 A)	02.05	207 Sqn Manchester L7311.
Note: coned for 6 mins by searchlight nr. 55 of II./Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1					
Lt. Hans-Dieter Frank: 3	Stab I./NJG1	Wellington	Roggel, 9 km NW Roermond (8 C)	02.15	99 Sqn Wellington X9700.
Note: coned for 6 mins by searchlight nr. 21 of I./Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1 and by 4./III./Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1					
Oblt. Wolfgang Thimmig: 6	2./NJG1	Whitley V	near Winterswijk (8 C): 4.800 m.	02.30	VNE: ASM, 10 Sqn Whitley Z6805.
Note: coned by Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1. Oblt. Thimmig noted in his Flugbuch: ‘01.43 attacked and shot at a Whitley V which crashed near Winterswijk at 02.30 hrs’.					



Above and opposite page: Two fine air-to-air shots of the Bf110 C-D flown by the *Staffelkapitän* of 2./NJG1 Oblt. Wolfgang Thimmig in 1941. Thimmig achieved his first six night-time Abschüsse between 17/18 June and 31 August/1 September 1941, including a Hampden on 16/17 August. (Coll. Max Thimmig)

Lt. Hans-Dieter Frank: 4	Stab I./NJG1	Whitley	Lottum, 6 km N. Venlo (8 C)	02.40	10 Sqn Whitley Z6794.
<i>Note: coned for 9 mins by searchlight nr. 25 of I./Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1, 13./III./Flak Rgt. 26 and 11./III./Flakscheinw. Abt. 611, also claimed by Flak of 2., 3. & 5./Res. Flak Abt. 447 ('Whitley V Nieukerk'). Flak searchlight and Flak claims all confirmed by OKL on 14.3.1942</i>					
Lt. Hans-Joachim Redlich: 3	1./NJG1	Hampden	near Gembloux, N. Namur	02.44	106 Sqn Hampden AD756
Hptm. Werner Streib: 21	Stab I./NJG1	Whitley	4 km NNW Roermond (9 A)	02.47	78 Sqn Whitley Z6754.
<i>Note: coned for 6 mins by searchlight nr. 13 of I./Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1 and by searchlight nr. 48 of 4./III./Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1</i>					
Oblt. Wilhelm Dimter: 1	Stab I./NJG1	Whitley	3 km NNE Maeseyk (9 B)	03.50	78 Sqn Whitley Z6577.
<i>Note: coned for 4 mins by searchlight nr. 169, 1. Res. 340, of Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1</i>					
Oblt. Wilhelm Dimter: 2	Stab I./NJG1	Whitley V	300 m. W. Breda (9 B): 2.500 m.	04.20	VNE: ASM, 58 Sqn Whitley Z6729.
<i>Note: coned for 12 mins by searchlight nr. 178, 2. Res. 340, of Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1</i>					

17-18 August 1941

A force of 59 aircraft was dispatched to attack Bremen, the force bombing between 01.40 and 03.37 hrs (CET) for the loss of two Hampdens. A second force of 41 aircraft was sent to Duisburg, which bombed between 02.28 and 03.58 hrs (CET) without loss.

In reaction to both Main Force raids, 11 Ju88s and one Do17 *Fernnachtjäger* of I./NJG2 were sent out across the North Sea on patrols in the *Räume* A, B, C and F, whilst an estimated 28 *Nahnachtjagd* sorties were made over the Netherlands and NW Germany. Returning intruder crews reported one *Feindberührung* and 11 bombing attacks on various airfields (including three on Digby) and on the city of Hull. One of the intruders failed to return. Ju88 C-4 R4+HM of 4./NJG2, detailed to intrude into *Raum* F, went missing over the North Sea with the loss of Lt. Pfeiffer, a pilot with two victories to his credit, and his crew.

One of the Bremen raiders fell foul of Oblt. Becker, at the controls of *Nachtjagd's* first and top-secret *Lichtenstein*-equipped night fighter, who shot it down into the Paterswoldse Lake, to the south of Groningen city. He recorded in his *Flugbuch*:

“68th operational night sortie. Pilot Oblt. Becker. Crew Bordfunker Uffz. Staub, Bordwart Obgr. Gänsler. Do215 G9+OM. Take off Leeuwarden 0.46, landing Leeuwarden 2.08. Total flying time 1.22 hrs. Abschuss of a Handley Page Hampden at 01.44 hrs near Paterswolde (Holland). Strong defensive fire. 6 hits. Left-hand engine shot out. Smooth single-engine landing”. Three days later, he drafted his *Gefechtsbericht*: “I was directed by Lt. Maier (JLO of *Raum* Leeuwarden/Löwe, author’s note) through Seeburg (plotting table) and Freya (radar) and discovered the opponent at 3700 m (height) in the *Lichtenstein* (set) at a distance of 1800 m. I could only get visual contact with the enemy machine at a distance of 200 m above and in front of me, due to the pitch-black darkness (new moon). I recognized it as a Hampden and attacked (it) with several bursts of gunfire from below and behind. The Hampden was in flames immediately. I could observe hits. After my first burst I was subjected to heavy defensive fire, taking hits in the cockpit, left engine and left wing. My left engine stopped due to bullet strikes in the oil- and glycol cooler and in the electrical wiring. The landing at Leeuwarden went smooth with the right engine running”.

Oblt. Ludwig Becker: 5 4./NJG1 Hampden Paterswoldse Lake (Löwe): 3.700 m. 01.44 50 Sqn Hampden AE185

18-19 August 1941

62 Bomber Command aircraft were dispatched to attack the city of Köln, the force bombing between 01.58 and 04.10 hrs (CET). Five Whitleys and a Wellington failed to return. A second Main Force raid, 41 aircraft attacking Duisburg between 02.10 and 03.50 hrs (CET) suffered the loss of two Wellingtons. One Köln raider fell foul of the Köln Flak defences:

-51 Sqn Whitley Z6566: hit by Flak of 7. Flak Div. and crashed at Dorweiler, west of Köln at 03.30 hrs.

Eight Ju88 *Fernnachtjäger* and one Do17 (which returned early due to engine failure) of I./NJG2 were sent out to patrol in the hunting areas A, B, C and F. Ofw. Strüning of the I. Staffel returned with two Abschüsse. His first claim was later officially anerkannt, and has been identified as an 11 OTU Wellington that was hit just as it turned on its landing lights and began its approach to Bassingbourn. Fiercely ablaze, the Wimpey crashed into the chalk slopes NE of Barrington at 01.05 hrs. Strüning reported to have dropped his load of eight SC 50 bombs on King’s Lynn. Seven other Ju88 crews also reported bombing attacks on various airfields and on two coastal towns.

NJG1 employed approximately 19 fighters of the I., II. and III. Gruppen in ground-controlled patrols over the Netherlands, NW Germany and on the approaches to the Ruhr. The *Nahnachtjäger* were credited with seven bomber Abschüsse. These included six Abschüsse by four crews of I./NJG1 (Oblt. Griese/Uffz. Beiam, Ofw. Herzog/Fw. Gross, Oblt. Reese/Gefr. Heu and Oblt. Dimter/Gefr. Hübner), five of their victories being achieved in co-operation with searchlights of the *Flak Scheinwerfer Regiment* 1. Two outward-bound 149 Squadron Wellingtons of the Duisburg force, X9746 and Z8795, were coned by searchlights in the Venlo area between 02.20





Fw. Steckemetz, BF to Oblt. Thimmig, St.Kpt. of 2./NJG1 (on left) and the back of the head of Oblt. Thimmig (on right) in their Bf110 C-D during a flight sometime in 1941 (Coll. Max Thimmig).

and 02.27 hrs (CET) and badly shot up by Nachtjäger, most probably belonging to I./NJG1. Three crew members were wounded in the encounters. Both *Wimpeys* managed to escape into the dark night. X9746 landed safely at Mildenhall at 05.49 hrs (CET), but never flew again.

At 01.35 hrs, Fw. Ney of 4./NJG1 and his crew of Uffz's Pätz and Warbelow left Leeuwarden for a *Dunkelnachtjagd* patrol in Do215 B-5 G9+MM in *Raum* Den Helder (*Hering*), under control of JLO Ofw. Prinz. During their sortie, they dispatched a 218 Squadron Wellington of the Duisburg raid. Two days later, Ney recorded in his Combat Report:

"After reaching the ordered height and waiting position, I was radioed (by Ofw. Prinz): 'Enemy aircraft from 9 to 3'. I was directed fly on a heading of 280 degrees (i.e. almost due west, author's note) by ground control and, after a steep turn, intended to head on the new vector. Just before I finished my turn, my mechanic Uffz. Warbelow saw the enemy aircraft 50 m away and to the right above us, at a height of 4700 m. We recognised the plane as a Wellington. I then positioned myself 100 m below him and pulled up to attack the Wellington. My bursts of gunfire hit the fuselage full, though I could see no apparent effect. My adversary dived down for some 1500 m and tried to escape on a heading of 300 degrees (i.e. WNW, author's note) with energetic defensive movements. During my attack, the tail gunner initially fired to our right, past us, but was apparently hit, because he did not return fire anymore. When the Wellington felt safe again, I positioned myself once more 100 m beneath it and attacked it for the second time. I scored hits in the left wing, between the fuselage and the engine, which produced a bright flame. The fire took hold of the fuselage and the Wellington fell in flames, exploding in three pieces and hitting the surface. The pieces burned for another 15 minutes. I could not observe any parachutes".

Oblt. Griese, *Kapitän* of I./NJG1 and his regular *Funker* Uffz. Beiam, dispatched two 10 Squadron Whitleys of the Köln raid. Their first opponent, Z6672 was caught in a concentration of searchlights and was attacked by Griese after approximately 15 minutes of evasive flying, killing the rear gunner, damaging the port engine and setting fire to the fuselage. S/Ldr. Kane, the pilot decided to drop the bomb load on nearby Aachen, but soon after the Whitley was again attacked. This time the second pilot and observer were killed and the elevator and rudder controls were destroyed, whereupon the two survivors baled out safely. The KTB of *Flak Scheinwerfer Regiment 1* sums up the night's *Helle Nachtjagd* operation by the night hunters from Venlo: *"Codeword from 21.45 hrs. pheasant (stand to operational readiness); from 05.00 stand down. Two waves, each of two night fighters, took off for Zone 8; for Zone 9, two waves of three each.*

Until midnight the weather fluctuated from 0/10 to 3/10, after that the light conditions deteriorated. A layer of haze at 2000 m considerably impeded the searchlights' penetration.

Sixteen aircraft flew through the Regiment's Zone of Operations on their way in and 13 on their way out. Of these through-flights, 14 machines were caught and held for a minute or more; five enemy aircraft were shot down by night fighters. Given the changing weather conditions, these successes merit particular recognition. Two machines were shot down by Ofw. Herzog, one by Obltn. Griese, one by Obltn. Reese and one by Obltn. Dimter.

Alongside Abteilungen I./I-III./I, Res. 340 played an essential part in these successes".

Ofw. Heinz Strüning: 7	1./NJG2	2-mot	near Grantham airfield: 50-10 m.	01.00	11 OTU Wellington N3005.
<i>Note: claimed as 'twin-engined enemy aircraft that force-landed in a field near Grantham with its right-hand wing on fire'</i>					
Ofw. Heinz Strüning: 8	1./NJG2	2-mot	near Grantham airfield: 250 m.	02.00	unidentified.
<i>Note: claimed as 'burning shoot down'</i>					
Oblt. Heinrich Griese: 7	1./NJG1	Whitley	Eben Emaël, 6 km S. Maastricht (Raum 8 or 9 D(ora)	02.03	10 Sqn Whitley Z6672.
<i>Note: coned by Res. Flakscheinw. Abt. 340</i>					
Fw. Siegfried Ney: 4	4./NJG1	Wellington	IJsselmeer, 15 km N. Medemblik (5314, Hering): 3.000 m.	02.06	218 Sqn Wellington N2844
Oblt. Heinrich Griese: 8	1./NJG1	Wellington	Opgrimbie, 10 km N. Maastricht (Raum 8 or 9 D(ora)	02.16	10 Sqn Whitley Z6564.
<i>Note: coned for 5 mins by searchlight nr. 72 of II./Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1</i>					
Ofw. Gerhard Herzog: 9	3./NJG1	Wellington	Haelen, 2 ½ km S. Roggel (Raum 8 or 9)	02.22	149 Sqn Wellington X9704.
<i>Note: coned for 3 mins by searchlight nr. 47 of II./Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1 and by Res. Flakscheinw. Abt. 340</i>					
Oblt. Wilhelm Dimter: 3	Stab I./NJG1	Whitley	Malden, 5 km S. Nijmegen (Raum 8 or 9)	02.24	51 Sqn Whitley Z6811.
<i>Note: coned for 4 mins by searchlight nr. 27 of I./Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1, by searchlight nr. 153 of V./Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1 and by Res. Flakscheinw. Abt. 340</i>					
Ofw. Gerhard Herzog: 10	3./NJG1	Wellington	Arzfeld, 7 km S. Prüm (Eifel) (Raum 8 or 9)	02.30	218 Sqn Wellington W5457.
<i>Note: coned for 5 mins by searchlights nr. 43 and 52 of II./Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1 and by Res. Flakscheinw. Abt. 340</i>					
Oblt. Hermann Reese: 3	2./NJG1	Whitley	1 km W. Triees/Beverst (Raum 8 or 9)	03.03	51 Sqn Whitley Z6569.
<i>Note: coned for 3 mins by searchlight nr. 169 of V./Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1 and by 1. Res. Flakscheinw. Abt. 340</i>					

19-20 August 1941

From a 108-aircraft raid on Kiel (which bombed between midnight and 03.17 hrs CET), four 'heavies' failed to return. One was lost to Flak of the *Flugabwehr Kommando Dänemark*, the victory being officially confirmed by the OKL on 24 March 1942:

-9 Sqn Wellington R1455: hit by 3./Res. Flak Abt. 607, crashed near Hojer at 00.35 hrs.

Only few Nachtjäger rose to counter the Kiel raid. NJG1 made an estimated five ground-controlled sorties over the Netherlands and NW Germany, all without success, and eight Ju88 *Fernnachtjäger* intruded over Britain, hunting in the areas A, B, C and F. Returning crews of I./NJG2 reported to have bombed 18 airfields. Fw. Alfons Köster and his crew of the 3. Staffel flew a sortie into the Cambridgeshire area, where they engaged Wellington W5455 of 142 Squadron, which was attacked twice by a Ju88 during landing at Binbrook at 04.54 hrs (CET). Upon his return to Gilze-Rijen, Fw. Köster reported: *"(Area B). At 03.20 hrs, 10 x SD 50 from 200 m altitude on Cranwell aerodrome. Hits amongst dispersed aircraft. After bombing, five bright yellow explosions about 50 m high, which gave way to dark red fires. Aircraft parts seen flying high into the air. Five aircraft destroyed on the ground for certain. At 04.45 one Bristol Blenheim shot down on fire at 50 m altitude near an airfield 20 km north east of Lincoln. The airfield was illuminated, hostile aircraft had navigation lights set. Impact fire observed".*

Fw. Alfons Köster: 8	3./NJG2	Blenheim	near airfield 20 km NE Lincoln: 50 m.	04.45	142 Sqn Wellington W5455 (damaged)
----------------------	---------	----------	---------------------------------------	-------	------------------------------------

21-22 August 1941

I./NJG2 mounted a small-scale intruder operation, two Ju88s venturing into the *Räume*, A, B and C. Neither reported *Feindberührung*, both dropping a load of ten SC 50 bombs on the city of Lincoln and on Waddington airfield.

22-23 August 1941

97 Wellingtons and Hampdens were detailed to bomb Mannheim, the force bombing between 00.30 and 04.15 hrs (CET). The Nachtjagd reaction was on a comparatively small scale. Six Ju88 and two Do17 *Fernnachtjäger* operated over the Eastern parts of the UK and the North Sea (*Räume* A, B, C and F). Three crews reported four unsuccessful *Feindberührungen*, six crews also attacking six airfields with SD 50 and incendiary bombs. Only a handful of *Nahnachtjäger* patrolled over the Low Countries. These included three Bf110s of I./NJG1 hunting in *Helle Nachtjagd* fashion in the *Räume* 8 and 9. Their operation was hampered by the prevailing bad weather conditions, none of the Venlo-based Nachtjäger reporting *Feindberührung*.

One Main Force aircraft was lost to Flak near the target:

-106 Sqn Hampden AE220: hit by Flak and crashed near Plankstadt, 5 km West of Heidelberg at 02.12 hrs.

24-25 August 1941

In reaction to a 44-aircraft raid against Düsseldorf (which bombed between 23.40 and 01.10 hrs CET), I./NJG1 employed six Bf110s from Venlo for *Helle Nachtjagd* in the *Räume* 8 and 9. At least two further crews of the Gruppe hunted in *Dunkelnachtjagd* fashion from St. Trond. The teams of Lt. Sigmund/Uffz. Bauer, Oblt. Griese/Uffz. Schenke, and Lt. Frank and his *Funker* Uffz. Gotter were responsible for the demise of all three Düsseldorf raiders that failed to return. Lt. Frank's *Abschuss* was achieved in co-operation with the *Flak Scheinwerfer Regiment* 1; another *Feindberührung* by this crew (at 00.26 hrs) went without result.

Eight Ju88 crews of I./NJG2 operated in the *Fernnachtjagd* role over the North Sea and into the hunting areas A, B, C and F, none of which succeeded in making *Feindberührung*. Seven crews reported to have made bombing attacks on airfields, including two on Scampton, and one on a target of opportunity south of Southwold. Between 22.33 and 01.59 hrs, Ofw. Lüddecke flew a sortie in Ju88 C-4 R4+KL, his *Funker* Fw. Wacker recording in his *Flugbuch*: "*Raum B. 10 bombs on airfield near Kings Lynn, strong searchlight activity*".

Lt. Hans-Dieter Frank: 5	Stab I./NJG1	Whitley	Wessencanal, 7 km ESE Weert (8 C)	01.15	51 Sqn Whitley Z6505.
--------------------------	--------------	---------	-----------------------------------	-------	-----------------------

Note: coned for 4-5 mins by searchlight nr. 39 of I./Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1 and III./Flak Rgt. 12 (II./Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1) ('Whitley V caught 01.11 hrs')

Oblt. Heinrich Griese: 9	I./NJG1	Halifax	Neuf Maison, 10 km S. Ath	01.16	35 Sqn Halifax L9572
Lt. Rudolf Sigmund: 1	I./NJG1	Whitley	5 km N. Varre/Wavre	01.20	78 Sqn Whitley Z6466

25-26 August 1941

49 aircraft bombed Karlsruhe between 23.45 and 01.30 hrs (CET, three lost) and 45 bombers attacked Mannheim between 23.33 and 01.18 hrs (CET, also three lost). Due to adverse weather conditions, no *Nachtjäger* were active against either raid. At least two 'heavies', one of each raid, were destroyed by Flak:

-7 Sqn Stirling N6020: hit by 3./Res. Flak Abt. 395 and crashed at Trier-Sievernicherhof, time unknown.

-50 Sqn Hampden AE320: hit by 8./II./Flak Rgt. 42 and Flakgruppe Mannheim, crashed at Pellingen at 00.45 hrs.

26-27 August 1941

Köln was the main target for the night, 99 aircraft bombing between 01.48 and 03.48 hrs (CET). An estimated nine aircraft of NJG1 were employed against the raid, without success or loss. Two Köln raiders failed to return, one of which fell foul of Flak during its homeward flight:

-106 Sqn Hampden AE302: hit by 11. & 12./Flak Rgt. 4 and crashed in sea NW of Oostende at 03.47 hrs. Note: mis-identified as 'Whitley'.

During the course of the night, six Ju88 and one Do17 *Fernnachtjäger* of I./NJG2 intruded into the hunting areas A, B, C and F. Although one Ju88 crew got a visual on three aircraft in the circuit of Church Fenton, the fighter failed to get into shooting position. Five Junkers crews bombed airfields and Ipswich town. One of these attacks was notably successful, as can be read in the (regrettably anonymous) crew's debriefing report:

"(Area C and F). No enemy contact. 23.15 hrs: 6 x SD 50, 72 x B1 E1 on West Raynham aerodrome. Five red fires and, after about five minutes, three explosions and burning aircraft parts thrown high into the air. On a further pass, two more burning aircraft established, making five aircraft definitely destroyed on the ground".

27-28 August 1941

A force of 91 bombers raided Mannheim between 00.20 and 03.20 hrs (CET). The *Nachtjagd* employed seven Ju88 and two Do17 *Fernnachtjäger* in the *Räume* A, B and C, and approximately seven *Nahnachtjäger* of NJG1 over the Netherlands and NW Germany. A returning 1 Group Wellington (of either 103 or 150 Squadron) was attacked and damaged by one of the intruders over Feltwell at 03.03 hrs (CET). Upon his return to Gilze-Rijen, the (anonymous) Ju88 crew reported:

"Area C at 02.52 hrs. contact with probable Bristol Blenheim at 300 m near Honington airfield. Part of port wing detached; probable victory. At 03.01 attack with 10 x SD 50 from 80 m altitude on aircraft taxiing out on Mildenhall aerodrome. Aircraft exploded". Eight of the intruders reported to have bombed airfields and the cities of Grimsby and Colchester.

None of the night hunters operating over the Continent made *Feindberührung*.



Spanner-equipped Do215 B-5 G9+PM of 4./NJG1. In this aircraft, Oblt. Lent achieved a Wellington *Abschuss* on 16-17 July 1941 and a 49 Squadron Hampden *Abschuss* on 28-29 August 1941 (Coll. Mikael Olrog).

28-29 August 1941

Duisburg was the target for 124 aircraft, the force bombing between 02.23 and 04.12 hrs (CET). Eight bombers failed to return. In response to the raid, four Ju88s of I./NJG2 were scrambled for intruder duties over Britain (hunting in the *Räume* A, B and C), whilst an estimated 15-20 *Nahnachtjäger* of I., II. and III./NJG1 took up ground-controlled patrols over the Netherlands, Belgium, NW Germany and on the approaches to the Ruhr. The *Fernnachtjäger* failed to achieve *Feindberührung*, but claimed to have bombed five airfields.

I./NJG1 from Venlo, in the direct flight path of the Duisburg force, employed nine Bf110s in two waves in the *Räume* 8 and 9. Although a total of 30 outward-bound bombers and 17 homeward-bound 'heavies' passed through these boxes, the Gruppe's operation was severely hampered by heavy layers of haze between 1500 and 3000 metres. Just one experienced pilot, Hptm. Streib, who had been scrambled for a patrol in *Raum* 8 C at 03.45 hrs, managed to achieve contact with what he identified as a 'Wellington'. After his attack, however, Streib only observed a smoke plume emanating from his quarry and the bomber made its escape into the dark night. His adversary has been identified as Stirling N3666 of 7 Squadron, which was coned by searchlights for 15 minutes and then attacked by a Bf110 at around 03.45 hrs (CET). The bomber received heavy structural damage in the attack, the rear gunner baling out severely wounded while the aircraft was falling out of control. The Stirling pilot managed to regain control and limped back to the UK, where it crashed on landing at Newmarket when its port undercarriage collapsed.

During a patrol in box *Löwe* (JLO Lt. Maier), Oblt. Lent, St.Kpt. of 4./NJG1 was the only *Nachtjäger* who achieved a victory over the Duisburg force. He shot down a searchlight suppression Hampden, AE126 of 49 Squadron, into the mudflats of the Dutch Wadden Sea. (A second 49 Squadron Hampden, AD971, also crashed into the Wadden Sea, but this aircraft came down somewhat further to the west, to the east of Vlieland/Texel, due to an unknown cause). Oblt. Lent flew Do215 B-5 G9+PM on this occasion, accompanied by Ofw. Reinthal (FB) and Uffz. Kemper (BM), and recorded in his *Gefechtsbericht*: "*On 29 August 1941 I took off at 02:47 for Dunkelnachtjagd in the area of Leeuwarden. At around 03:35 I was directed towards an approaching enemy aircraft. At 03:38 my Bordmechaniker saw the enemy aircraft to starboard above as a black shadow. I climbed from below and behind and opened fire on the starboard engine. After a few rounds the engine caught fire, in the light of which I recognised the aircraft as a Hampden. The aircraft immediately dived away burning and exploded at an altitude of 1,000 metres. The burning pieces came down in the Wadden Sea south of Ameland. Witnesses on the ground observed two of the crew baling out by parachute*". Lent returned to Leeuwarden from his 60th *Nachtjagd Einsatz* (and 160th overall) at 04.49 hrs.

Oblt. Helmut Lent: 21	4./NJG1	Hampden	S. Ameland in Wadden Sea (5465, Löwe): 3.400 m.	03.40	49 Sqn Hampden AE126
-----------------------	---------	---------	---	-------	----------------------



Another view of Oblt. Helmut Lent's *Spanner*-equipped Do215 B-5 G9+PM of 4./NJG1. (Coll. Mikael Olrog).

The Flak and searchlight defences of 4. Flak Division in the Ruhr area were described by returning bomber crews as 'very intense and accurate'. The Division was credited with the shooting down of five Duisburg raiders, ten further Main Force aircraft returned with Flak scars:

-40 Sqn Wellington Z8839: coned by 1. & 2./Res. Flakscheinw. Abt. 250, 12. & 13./III./Flak Rgt. 611 and 1./Res. Flakscheinw. Abt. 648, hit by 7. Lehr. u.Vers. Battr., 1.-3./Res. Flak Abt. 264, 1. & 3./Res. Flak Abt. 642, 1./Res. Flak Abt. 233, impacted 5 km SW of Mülheim at 02.49 hrs.

-7 Sqn Stirling W7438: coned by 12. & 13./III./Flak Rgt. 611 and 1. & 2./Res. Flakscheinw. Abt. 648, hit by 1./Res. Flak Abt. 241 and 3./Res. Flak Abt. 642, 1./Res. Flak Abt. 233, 1.-3./Res. Flak Abt. 404, crashed at Kaarst at 04.08 hrs.

-35 Sqn Halifax L9501: hit by 1.-3./Res. Flak Abt. 465, crashed at Gahlen, time unknown.

-405 Sqn Wellington W5488: coned by 2./Res. Flakscheinw. Abt. 648, hit by 1./Res. Flak Abt. 233, 1./Res. Flak Abt. 133, 1. & 3./Res. Flak Abt. 241, 1.-3./Res. Flak Abt. 404, 2. & 3./Res. Flak Abt. 141, crashed at Solingen-Glüder, time unknown.

-104 Sqn Wellington W5595: coned by 12./III./Flak Rgt. 611, 1./Res. Flakscheinw. Abt. 648 and 1. & 2./Res. Flakscheinw. Abt. 250, hit by 1.-3./Res. Flak Abt. 642, 4./Res. Flak Abt. 264, 2./Res. Flak Abt. 40, crashed at Strümp, near Buderich, time unknown.

31 August-1 September 1941

Bomber Command mounted two separate raids against German cities. 103 aircraft bombed Köln between 23.15 and 00.41 hrs (six lost), and 71 Whitleys and Wellingtons visited the Krupps works in Essen between 23.19 and 01.38 hrs, for the loss of a 102 Squadron Whitley.

In reaction to both raids, I./NJG2 dispatched eight Ju88 and one Do17 *Fernnachtjäger* to intrude over the UK, in the *Räume* A, B, C and F, whilst NJG1 employed approximately 13 fighters in ground-controlled patrols over the Low Countries and on the approaches to the Ruhr. Five crews of I./NJG1 from Venlo operated in two waves in the *Räume* 8 and 9. Above cloud, visibility was good with moonlight. Four crews (Oblt. Dimter/Gefr. Hübner, Oblt. Thimmig/Fw. Steckemetz, Uffz. Pähler/Lt. Konarske and Fw. Launer/Gefr. Schramm) scored six Abschüsse. Five of their victims were from the Köln force, Uffz. Pähler being responsible for the loss of the single Whitley that failed to return from the Essen raid. Four further *Feindberührungen*, by Oblt. Dimter in box 9 C at 23.15 hrs, by Lt. Loos in *Raum* 9 B at 00.20 hrs, by Fw. Launer at 00.34 hrs (box 8 C) and by Uffz. Pähler in *Raum* 8 C at 00.38 hrs, did not lead to an Abschuss. All victories from I./NJG1 were achieved in *Helle Nachtjagd* fashion, in close co-operation with the *Flakscheinwerfer Regiment 1* over the South-Eastern Dutch/Belgian/German border area, and all in the face of return fire, Lt. Loos returning to Venlo with hits in his starboard engine.

The KTB of *Flak Scheinwerfer Regiment 1* provides some interesting comments on the *Helle Nachtjagd* success of the night:

"In Zone 8, 18 hostile aircraft were acquired and held for 2-18 minutes. In Zone 9, 40 hostiles were acquired and held for 1-6 minutes. In retrospect, the acquisitions and hold-times should be considered very good, given the indifferent state of the weather.

The average search range of 5 km from the Zone boundary is likewise good. Conspicuously, in the course of the night fierce bomb and machine gun attacks on the searchlight positions by low-flying nuisance and attacking aircraft were observed. No damage worth mentioning occurred. The reflector and casing of one searchlight were damaged; one crew hut collapsed. By the end of the night and at the end of the second year of the war, *Flakscheinwerfer Regiment 1* had scored its 72nd - 77th victories".

On the bombers' return to Britain, Fw. Köster, one of the intruder aces of 3./NJG2 was lurking for prey. He first claimed a 'Wellington' shot down in flames near Oxford. His adversary, a 16 OTU Anson, was damaged but its pilot managed to shake off the attacker and landed safely at Croughton, a satellite of Upper Heyford. One hour later, Fw. Köster was over Waterbeach, where he shot down a 99 Squadron Wellington returning from the Köln raid. Upon his return to Gilze-Rijen, he reported: "(Area C). At 02.53 hrs, *Vickers Wellington* shot down in flames from 300 m altitude near airfield not precisely identified east of Oxford. Impact and explosion observed. At 02.58, 8 x *SD 50* on Oxford from 800 m, prolonged fires observed. At 03.42, *Handley Page Halifax* shot down in flames at 100 m altitude near Hatfield aerodrome. Impact and explosion observed". Another Ju88 crew reported two *Feindberührungen* with twin-engined aircraft near Upper Heyford airfield (at 00.04 and 00.07 hrs), the latter taking hits in the cockpit and being claimed as a 'probable'. The intruder force also reported to have bombed seven airfields and cities.

I./NJG2 operated over the UK and the British coastal waters on 16 nights in September 1941, flying a total of 103 intruder sorties.

Oblt. Wilhelm Dimter: 4	Stab I./NJG1	Wellington	Winterslag, 10 km NE Hasselt (9 C): 4.000 m.	23.37	101 Sqn Wellington R1703.
Note: coned for 9 mins by searchlight nr. 85 of III./Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1					
Oblt. Wolfgang Thimmig: 7	2./NJG1	Hampden	near Oberkrüchten, 5 km SW Waldniel (8 C): 5.000 m.	23.39	207 Sqn Manchester L7316.
Note: coned for 4-6 mins by searchlight nr. 29 of I./Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1 and 4./III./Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1					
Oblt. Wilhelm Dimter: 5	Stab I./NJG1	Hampden	Münsterbilsen, 12 km NW Maastricht (9 C): 2.000 m.	23.47	83 Sqn Hampden AD859.
Note: coned for 3 mins by searchlights nr. 85 and 87 of III./Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1					
Uffz. Heinz Pähler: 1	2./NJG1	Whitley	3 km NW Kinroy (9 A): 3.000 m.	00.08	102 Sqn Whitley Z6837.
Note: coned for 6 mins by searchlight nr. 61 of II./Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1					
Fw. Richard Launer: 1	2./NJG1	Hampden	3 km S. Asten (8 C): 4.000 m.	00.19	83 Sqn Hampden AD912.
Note: coned for 4 mins by searchlight nr. 33 of I./Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1					
Uffz. Heinz Pähler: 2	2./NJG1	Hampden	twixt Deurne and Venray (8 C): 4.200 m.	00.31	83 Sqn Hampden AE187.
Note: coned for 6 mins by searchlights nr. 19 and 32 of I./Flakscheinw. Rgt. 1					
Fw. Alfons Köster: 9	3./NJG2	Wellington	airfield E. Oxford: 300 m.	02.53	16 OTU Anson N5074 (damaged)
Fw. Alfons Köster: 10	3./NJG2	Halifax	near airfield Hatfield: 100 m.	03.42	99 Sqn Wellington R1411

1-2 September 1941

54 Wellingtons and Hampdens bombed Köln between 23.29 and 00.59 hrs (CET). One aircraft was lost to Köln-based Flak of the 7. Flak Division:

-144 Sqn Hampden AD905: coned by searchlights and hit by 1./Res. Flak Abt. 381, crashed at Mauenheim ca. 23.40 hrs.

A meagre *Nachtjagd* reaction comprising four *Nahnachtjagd* patrols (including three by I./NJG1 in the *Räume* 8 and 9), did not lead to any *Feindberührungen* due to the prevailing bad weather. I./NJG2 employed eight Ju88s which were briefed to attack airfields in Eastern England, another crew being sent out on *Fernnachtjagd* duties to *Raum* C. Seven crews reported successful bombing attacks. Radio contact with the eighth Junkers (R4+CM of the 4. Staffel) was lost after 00.46 hrs, the aircraft and crew vanishing in the North Sea off Lowestoft, victim of W/Cdr. John Cunningham in Beaufighter T4625 of 604 Squadron.

2-3 September 1941

126 aircraft bombed Frankfurt between 23.15 and 01.59 hrs (CET), for the loss of two aircraft. One was destroyed by Flak:

-44 Sqn Hampden AE313: hit by the Flakgruppe Frankfurt/Main, coming down near St. Wendel-Alsfassen at 01.45 hrs.

49 Bomber Command aircraft were dispatched to bomb Berlin between 01.10 and 04.33 hrs (CET). Five Berlin raiders failed to return. One outward-bound aircraft was lost to Marine Flak:

-44 Sqn Hampden AE152: hit by Flak of 3./M. Flak Abt. 246 battery Vieland West and crashed in sea at 23.18 hrs.

Operating predominantly against the Berlin force, NJG1 and I./NJG3 employed approximately 29 fighters in ground-controlled patrols over the Low Countries, NW Germany and on the approaches to the Big City. Flying from Wittmundhafen, Lt. Schoenert