



Staffel 10.(Pz)/SG77 Gelb Schwarm

DEBRIEFING REPORT FOR UNIT TRANSFER TO NITRA
(August 11th 1944)

The transfer of Gelb Schwarm, while starting smoothly, came unstuck due to navigation and flight plan mis-labelling errors. This led to Gelb I und Gelb III running out of fuel and forced to conduct emergency landings.

These landings resulted in the minor injuries to Schwelbfuhrer Heydrick (aircraft damaged) and the death of Lt Lehmann (Rottefuhrer, Rotte II). Both were disorientated west of Nitra due to an incorrect labelling of the flight map

Lt Wittmann (Gelb II), the newest member of the 10.(Pz), became separated from the rest of the unit but managed to make it back to Nitra on his own. He is to be commended for his initiative and presence of mind.

Lt Herling crashed his plane on landing at Nitra airfield after misjudging the length of the runway. Despite immediate reports of his apparent death, Lt Herling was later found two km downstream, having been partially trapped in an air bubble created by his detached and partially submerged canopy.

AFTERMATH

- 1) The loss of Lt Lehmann is felt by us all in the Geshwader. 10.(Pz)/SG77 will conduct a flyover of Hontnados on its way to its next gunnery training session, set for Aug 13th.
- 2) New aircraft will be flown in from Nitra and one new permanent member of the Staffel will be assigned.
- 3) The Adjacent takes all due care in the preparation of flight plans but each pilot is expected to confirm the plan as correct for both personal and unit integrity.

Hauptman Helmut Bruck
Kommodore, Schlachtgeschwader 77
August 11th 1944
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