

Arend Pierre (RAF n° 102532)

Knight in the Order of the Crown, Officer in the Order of the Crown, Knight in the Order of Leopold, Officer in the Order of Leopold, Knight in the Order of Leopold II, Commander in the Order of Leopold II, Belgian Croix de Guerre 1940, Evader Cross, 1939/1943 Star, ...



(Guy De Win Collection)

Pierre Arend was born on September 8, 1908 at Soignies. After the Royal Military School he joined as 2nd Lt the Infantry. He joined the 67^o promotion at the Aéronautique Militaire Belge and was commissioned pilot on November 30, 1931. Promoted to Lt, he joined the 2nd Rgt. Member for a while of the Aviation Commission and instructor at the Aviation School, he rejoined his unit where he served as test pilot. He became Captain on 26 March 1940. On May 15, 1940 he flew with his unit to France. In August 1940 he returned to Belgium, but on October 18, 1940, he escaped from Belgium. He reached England in June 1940 and volunteered for the RAFVF. He served several units in England and Burma: 131 Sqn (August 30th, 1941), 24 Sqn (October 12th, 1941), 235 Sqn (May 13th, 1942), 350 Sqn (June 22nd, 1942), Test pilot with Vickers-Armstrong (January 11th, 1943), 176 Sqn (June 29th, 1943) and finally 89 Sqn (August 14th, 1944).

After the war he joined the Belgian Training school in the RAF. Promoted Major in 1946 he went to the BTC at Evere and later to the Education and Training Group where he was promoted Lt-Col. On October 1st, 1949, he went to the Fighter school at Coxyde where he ended his career at the BAF. He died at Brussels on December 2nd, 1990.

(information kindly provided by Cynrik de Decker and André Bar)

His claims are :