

'L'arabe' Blairon José A. (RAF n° 1299913)

Belgian Croix de Guerre 1940 (Posthume)



(André Bar Collection)

José Blairon was born at Leval - Trahegnies (Binche) on 18 January 1921. He was at the Mining school of Mons when the general mobilisation was proclaimed. On 8 April 1940 attended the Flying School where he was accepted. Evacuated to Oujda, Morocco with the Flying School when Germans over run the country. Escaped to England where he arrived on August 14, 1940. Sent for training, he joined the Franco Belgian EFTS at Odiham (2 November 1940), 5 SFTS at Ternhill (15 May 1941), 61 OTU at Heston (20 August 1941). Training finished, José Blairon was posted to 74 Sqn where he arrived on 7 October 1941. He joined the newly created 350 (Belgian) Squadron on 18 November 1941. First Loss of 350 Sqn, killed on May 9, 1942 (Red 4, Spitfire AA857), Circus 170. Having been involved in combat with FW. Georg Hutter from 5./JG1 West of Walcheren he returned with his damaged plane to the British coast, baled out to low and was rescued by Air Sea Rescue. He died of his injuries 2 hours later at the hospital. He was buried at Brockwood, 13 May 1942.

(Source: Cynrik De Decker, Philippe Deman and André Bar)

His claims are :-