

Distinguished Flying Cross, Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, Grand Officer in the Order of the Crown, Commandeur in the Order of the Crown, Officer in the Order of the Crown with Palm, Belgian Croix de Guerre 1940 with 4 Palm, Croix des Évades, Atlantic Star & Clasp, 1939 - 1943 Star, Air Crew Europe Star with one Silver Rose, Defence Medal, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, Médaille de la France Libérée, ...



(André Bar Collection)

Michel 'Mike' Donnet is born at Richmond (UK) on April 1, 1917 . Military pilot at the Aéronautique Militaire Belge in 1939, he served at the 9/I, based at Bierset, when the Germans invaded Belgium. He evaded the country by air with Léon Divoy on a Stampe SV-4b on the night of 4/5 July 1941. On 26 July 1941 , Donnet is accepted by the RAF Volunteer Reserve . After conversion at 61 OTU on Spitfire from 27 July 1941 till 6 September 1941, he went to 143 Sqn the next day but was send to 64 Sqn on 15 September 1941. Promoted F/O, 26 July 1942, he was awarded a DFC on 19 February 1943. Acting S/Ldr on 26 March 1943, leading 64 Sqn. Posted to Fighter Command on 5 November 1943 and to 52 OTU on 19 November 1943. On March 23, 1944, Mike was posted to command 350 Sqn. Leading the Sqn till 23 October 1944. Promoted W/Cdr, saw him to led the Hawkinge - Wing, and the Bentwaters-Wing in 1945. After the war, he was posted to the Ministry of Defense. He then led the HQ of the 83 Anglo-Belgian Group, he became commander of Air Defense Central Europe and then Commander of HQ of 2 TAF. He took presidency of the direction comity of the project NADGE and afterwards became Military Attaché at the Embassy in London. He was member of the Military comity of the NATO and finally he retired as Lt - General in 1975. He wrote several books. Baron Michel died at Waterloo on the night of 31 July 2013.

DFC citation of 19 February 1943:

*" This Officer has completed 100 offensive sorties over enemy territory including low level attacks in wich locomotives, flak ships, flak posts and barracks were attacked. He has at all ime shown the greatest keenness to engage the enemy and his leadership and determination have done so much to contribute tot the succes of the squadron. He has destroyed one enemy aircraft an damaged four."*

(Info: André Bar)

His claims are :

30/03/1942	1 FW-190 Damaged	(64 Sqn) Off Ostend
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30/07/1942	1 FW-190	(64 Sqn) over St-Omer forest
04/08/1942	1 FW-190 Damaged	(64 Sqn) Cap Griz-Nez
17/08/1942	1 FW-190 Damaged	(64 Sqn)
29/08/1942	1 Me-109 Damaged	(64 Sqn)
05/09/1942	1 Fw-190 Damaged	(64 Sqn)
05/09/1942	1 Fw-190 Probable	(64 Sqn)
15/02/1943	1 FW-190	(64 Sqn) 10 miles east of Manston
04/09/1943	1 FW-190	(64 Sqn) Off Boulogne
03/11/1943	1 Me-109 Probable	(64 Sqn) Off Dutch Coast