

'Duke' Du Monceau de Bergendael Yvan (RAF n° 87700)

Distinguished Flying Cross with Bar, Belgian Croix de Guerre 1940 with 7 Palm, Fouragère 1940, Knight in the Order of the Crown, Officer in the Order of Leopold with Palm, Croix des Evadés, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, Franch Croix de Guerre 1940 with Palm, 1939-1945 Star, Air Crew Europa Star with one Silver Rose, Defence Medal, Médaille de la France Libérée, Legion of Merit (Officer), Companion of Royal Victorian Order, ...



(André Bar Collection)

Yvan Du Monceau de Bergendael was born on 10 December 1915 at Fullham (London). He was at the Flying School (83rd Promotion 3 June 1939) at Tirllemont when war broke out. The school evacuated to Morocco. There with some fellows he escaped to the UK. He completed his training at the Sutton Bridge OTU and joined 253 SQN . In April 1941, he was posted to 609 SQN. He became flight commander with 350 (BELGIAN) SQN in March 1942. There he was awarded a DFC in July 1942. From December 1942 till May 1943 he was instructor at the OTU in Rednal. He then took command of 349 (BELGIAN) SQN, which was newly-formed. He received a Bar to his DFC and was posted to Canada, then in the US and returned in Europe in 1945 at the Staff of the Belgian Section of the RAF. He became Aide de Camp of his HRH Prince Charles , Regent of Belgium with the rank of Major. He acted then as Military Attaché in Washington and returned to Belgium in 1952 to form the 10th Wing at Chièvres. He went to the 2 ATAF as Colonel . He Became Staff member, Commander of Training Command and finally Commander of the Tactical Air Force, retiring as Major General in 1973. He died of cancer on 9 November 1984.

DFC citation of 29 June 1942:

" Has participated in many operational sorties during which he has destroyed 4 aircraft and damaged 2."

Awarded a Bar to the DFC on 25 July 1944, citation as follows:

" This officer has participated in a very large number of operational sorties during which he has destroyed at least three enemy aircraft and damaged others."

His claims are :

03/07/1941	1 Bf-109F Damaged	(609 Sqn) Near St-Omer
11/07/1941	1 Bf-109F Probable	(609 Sqn) East of Dunkirk
18/08/1941	1 Bf-109E	(609 Sqn) South of Dover
19/08/1941	1 Bf-109E Damaged	(609 Sqn) Boulogne
27/09/1941	1 Bf-109F	(609 Sqn) St-Omer
18/02/1942	1 Do-217	(609 Sqn) Near convoy
08/03/1942	1 FW-190	(609 Sqn) Cap Griz-Nez
08/03/1942	1 FW-190 Probable	(609 Sqn) Cap Griz-Nez
09/05/1942	1 FW-190 Damaged	Calais
19/05/1942	1 FW-190 Damaged	Cap Griz-Nez
01/06/1942	1 FW-190	Off Nieuwpoort
30/07/1942	1 Bf-109F Probable	Off Dover
30/07/1942	1 Bf-109F Damaged	Off Dover
19/08/1942	1 FW-190	Dieppe
19/08/1942	1 FW-190 Damaged	Dieppe
27/08/1942	1 FW-190	Le Crotoy
12/12/1942	1 FW-190	Circus 242: St-Omer