

'Guilly' Guillaume Desiré. (RAF n° 102953)

Distinguished Flying Cross, Mentioned in Dispatches, Knight in the Order of the Crown, Knight in the Order of Leopold II, Officer in the Order of Leopold II, Commander in the Order of Leopold II, Knight in the Order of Leopold, Officer in the Order of the Crown, Officer in the order of Leopold, Belgian Military Cross 2nd Class, Croix des Evades, Croix de Guerre Belge 1940, 1939/1945 Star, Political Prisoner Medal, ...



(André Bar Collection)

Born 20 December 1901 at Jemeppe -Sur - Sambre. Moved to Nivelles in 1920. Engaged into Aéronautique Militaire where he gained his wings on 1 August 1923. Hed led a two year Belgian mission to Iran in 1934, to reorganise the Persion Military Aviation. During the invasion of Belgium, Guillaume was first send to Caen for the reception of the first Brewster B-339, with no succes, the Cargo Ship being diverted to Bordeaux due a harbor strike. Here the shipment was also unsuccessfull due the fast German advance. He demobilised end August. Known for his anti-nazi opinions, he had to escape from Belgium on 17 December 1940 (with Pierre Vanderemies). He arrived in the UK on 9 April 1941. Engaged the RAFVR, get a short training, get a commision and was posted to 131 Sqn (26/08/1941), 78 Sqn (26/10/41), 615 Sqn, Took command of 350 Sqn from 20/03/42 till 19/12/42. He took command as station commander of RAF Hornchurch, became instructor at Old Sarum, led the Belgian Initial Training school and ended the war as G/Cpt, being Inspector of the Belgian Air Force in GB. After the war he became the major of the City of Nivelles. He died at Braine-L'Alleud on 26 January 1988.

DFC citation of 30 August 1943:

" Has commanded a Squadron since March 1942. He participated in 4 sorties in the recent Combined Operations at Dieppe during which the Squadron destroyed 7 ennemy aircraft and probably destroyed or dammaged further 13 reflecting the greates crédit on Squadron Leader Guillaume's leadership."

(source: Nicolas Clinaz)

His claims are :-