

'Toto' Michiels Albert C.A. (NCO: 1299982, Officer: 141761)

Belgian Croix de Guerre 1940 with Palm (Posthumous), Knight in the Order of Leopold with Palm (Posthumous), 1939-45 Star, Air Crew Europe Star, War Medal 1939-45, Volunteer Medal,...



(André Bar Collection)

Born at Schaerbeek on 2 December 1915, Albert Michiels engaged into the Aé Mil Belge for 3 years in 1934 and was admitted into the flying personnel. He became radio operator with the promotion of Sergeant, and left the service in 1937, (presumably – as he joined for 3 years in 1934?) and was recalled to arms in August 1939. He completed a refresher course and joined 6/III/2Aé when the Germans invaded Belgium. He was evacuated with his unit to Candillargue in France on 28 May 1940. Transferred to 3/III/2Aé on 31 May 1940, he left his unit at Perpignan, and embarked at Bayonne for the UK on 23 June 1940 where he arrived on 27 June 1940. Taken into the Belgian Forces in Great Britain, he enlisted in the RAFVR and was sent to the RAF Depot at St. Athan on 1 July 1940. Posted to 235 Squadron on 7 September 1940 as a Sergeant Observer, during the Battle of Britain, he joined 272 Squadron on 20 November 1940. He volunteered for Pilot training, and was sent to 13 EFTS on 19 April 1941, followed by further postings to 17 EFTS (7 June 1941), 5 SFTS (9 July 1941), 61 OTU (30 September 1941), 58 OTU (28 October 1941). Qualified as pilot and promoted Sergeant, he was posted to 350 (Belgian) Squadron, where he arrived on 25 November 1941. He received a commission on 10 January 1943, and a promotion to F/O (WSR) on 10 July 1943. Rested, on 24 January 1944, he was promoted to (A) F/Lt on 1 February 1944, but was killed in a flying accident at Honeybourne/Worcs, on 10 July 1944, flying a Magister (R1858) from FTTC.

(source: Marc Artiges, Cynrik De Decker & Guy De Win)

His claims are :-