

'Plis' Plisnier André (RAF n° 100654)

Distinguished Flying Cross, Knight's Cross in the Order of the Crown with Palm,  
 Belgian Croix de Guerre with 3 Palm and 4 Bronze Lions, Officer in the Order of the Crown,  
 Knight in the Order of Leopold II, Officer in the Order of Leopold II, Knight in the Order of Leopold,  
 Military Decoration 2nd Class, 1939-1945 Star, France and Germany Star, Atlantic Star, Air Crew Europe  
 Star & Rosette, Defence Medal, French Liberation Medal, ...



(André Bar Collection)

Born on 2 November 1920 at Wandre, Liège, he enlisted on August 31, 1939, in the artillery. Posted at the Fortress of Namur he was promoted Sgt and he volunteered for pilot at the Aéronautique. At the outbreak of War, he followed the Flying School who was first transferred in France and then to Morocco. He escaped to the UK where he arrived on 5 August 1940. He enlisted in the RAFVR on 13 August 1940 and was sent for training at 13 EFTS (23 December 1940), 5 SFTS (2 April 1941) and terminating his training with 58 OTU where he arrived as P/O on 10 July 1941. He joined the Belgian Flight of 131 Sqn on 25 August 1941 and was transferred to the newly formed 350 (BE) Sqn on 14 November 1941. Promoted to F/O on 6 July 1942, (Acting) F/Lt on 29 December 1942 and takes command of "B" Flight. Hospitalized several times during the period between 7 October 1942 and 22 October 1943. F/Lt (WSR) on 6 July 1943. Posted to HQ, 9 Group (3 January 1944), N°2 Tactical Exercise Unit (5 January 1944), RAF Station Lulsgate Bottom (19 January 1944) returning to 350 Sqn on 26 April 1944. On 10 June 1944 he became C.O. of "A" Flight. Attached to the USAAF from 13 November 1944 till 15 January 1945 where he flew 8 operational missions with 336 Sqn of 4 FG (P-51D). He joined the 30 Belgian Leave and Rest Centre on February 3rd, 1945 followed by the School of Air Support on March 22nd, 1945 where he saw the War ending. He joined 17 SFTS in March 1946 and was posted to 525 Sqn in April 1946. When the Belgian Air Force became independent, Plisnier left service and joined SABENA. He died of an illness at Brussels, 19 February 1974.

DFC Citation of 30 August 1943:

*"Has served in a fighter squadron since July 1941, and has commanded a flight in 350 (Belgian) Squadron since December 1942. He has participated in 43 sorties during which he has destroyed at least 3 enemy aircraft and damaged 3 others. Throughout his operational career, Flight Lieutenant Plisnier has displayed keenness and efficiency which have set an excellent example."*

(Info Guy De Win, André Bar 'Belgians in RAF & SAAF 1940 - 1945' and Tim McCann 'Association of the 4th Fighter Group')

His claims are :

23/05/1942	1 FW-190	Rodeo: St-Omer
23/05/1942	1 FW-190 Damaged	Rodeo: St-Omer
19/08/1942	1 FW-190	Dieppe (Operation Jubilé)
19/08/1942	1/4 Ju-88	Dieppe (Operation Jubilé)
16/11/1942	1/2 Ju-52	St-Aubin
19/11/1942	1/2 Me-110 °	Gent
12/12/1942	1/2 FW-190	Circus 242: St-Omer
12/12/1942	1 FW-190 Damaged	Circus 242: St-Omer
22/01/1943	1 FW-190 Probable	Circus 253: St-Omer
19/08/1944	1 Ju-88	Brussels

° Could be only damaged (See BAHA article about Kurt Tank)

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