

'Don' Kingaby Donald Ernest (NCO RAF n°112406)

DSO, Air Force Cross, DFM & 2 Bar, DFC (US), Belgian Croix de Guerre 1940,
War Medal 1939-45, 1939-45 Star, ...



(André Bar Collection)

Don Kingaby was born in Holloway, North London, on 7 January 1920, the son of a vicar. He joined the R.A.F.V.R. in April 1939 whilst working for an insurance company, and was called up in September 1939, completing his training at 5 OTU, and being posted in June 1940 to 266 (Rhodesia) Squadron as a Sergeant. In late September he was transferred to 92 (East India) Squadron where he was to achieve great success during late 1940 and 1941, gaining for himself the nickname 'The 109 Specialist'. He was awarded a DFM on 6 December 1940, a Bar to this on 29 July 1941 and a second Bar on 11 November 1941 – the only man to receive two Bars to the DFM. At the time of the latter award he was posted to 58 OTU as an Instructor and was commissioned. He commenced a second tour in March 1942 with a posting to 111 Squadron, but a month later moved to 64 Squadron as a flight commander. Early in August he was posted to 122 (Bombay) Squadron becoming commanding officer of this unit in November. Awarded a DSO in March 1943, he was promoted to lead the Hornchurch Wing in May, where he remained until September. He then went on the Staff of HQ Fighter Command, although managing to fly a few sorties during the invasion of Normandy, when he claimed his last success. In July he went to the Advanced Gunnery School at Catfoss, where he remained for the rest of the war, receiving a Croix de Guerre from the Belgian Government in October and a US DFC in May 1945. Granted a Permanent Commission at the end of the war, he was to command 72 Squadron on Vampires from February 1949 until April 1952, receiving an AFC on leaving the unit. He then undertook a staff post with the Air Ministry, retiring from the service in September 1958. Many years later he and his wife moved to the United States to join their two daughters there, and it was in Westfield, Massachusetts, that he died on 31 December 1990 following a long illness.

(Information courtesy of Aces High by Christopher Shores and Clive Williams)

His claims are :

12/08/1940	2 Ju-88 Damaged	S Portsmouth (266 Sqn)
12/08/1940	1 Bf-110 Damaged	S Portsmouth (266 Sqn)
27/09/1940	1 Bf-109E Damaged	Biggin Hill area (92 Sqn)
30/09/1940	1 Bf-109E Damaged	Lewes (92 Sqn)

12/10/1940	1 Bf-109F Probable	Rochester area (92 Sqn)
12/10/1940	1 Bf-109E	SE Rochester (92 Sqn)
15/10/1940	1 Bf-109E	mid-Channel (92 Sqn)
20/10/1940	1/6 Bf-110	E Turnbridge Wells (92 Sqn)
24/10/1940	1 Do-17	E Deal (92 Sqn)
25/10/1940	1 Bf-109E Damaged	Channel (92 Sqn)
01/11/1940	1 Bf-109E	Thames Estuary (92 Sqn)
15/11/1940	1 Bf-109E	E Gravesend (92 Sqn)
15/11/1940	2 Bf-109E	Selsey Bill area (92 Sqn)
15/11/1940	1 Bf-109E Probable	Selsey Bill area (92 Sqn)
01/12/1940	1 Bf-109E	S Dungeness (92 Sqn)
14/02/1941	1 Bf-109	mid-Channel (92 Sqn)
16/05/1941	1 Bf-109 Damaged	Dungeness area (92 Sqn)
16/05/1941	1 Bf-109	off Calais (92 Sqn)
23/06/1941	1 Bf-109	SE Boulogne (92 Sqn)
02/07/1941	2 Bf-109F	off Gravelines (92 Sqn)
03/07/1941	1 Bf-109E Probable	off St-Omer (92 Sqn)
07/08/1941	1 Bf-109E Probable	St-Omer area (92 Sqn)
07/08/1941	1 Bf-109F Damaged	St-Omer area (92 Sqn)
09/08/1941	1 Bf-109F	Boulogne (92 Sqn)
09/08/1941	1 Bf-109F Probable	Boulogne (92 Sqn)
01/10/1941	1 Bf-109F Probable	Griz Nez area (92 Sqn)
01/10/1941	1 Bf-109F	Griz Nez area (92 Sqn)
03/10/1941	1 Bf-109F	off Ostend (92 Sqn)
02/06/1942	1 Fw-190 Damaged	Le Crotoy (64 Sqn)
30/07/1942	1 Fw-190	off Boulogne (64 Sqn)
17/08/1942	1 Fw-190 Damaged	off Dieppe (64 Sqn)
19/08/1942	1 Do-217	S of Dieppe (64 Sqn)
20/01/1943	1 Bf-109F	Guinness area (122 Sqn)
21/01/1943	1 Fw-190	S Calais (122 Sqn)
21/01/1943	1 Fw-190 Damaged	Gravelines (122 Sqn)
08/03/1943	1 Fw-190	Cleves (122 Sqn)
30/06/1944	1/2 Bf-109	Cazelle area (501 Sqn)

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