

" Flets " Smets Henri J. L. (RAF n° 87694)

Knight in the Order of the Crown, Belgian Croix de Guerre 1940 with bronze Lion,  
1939-1945 Star, Aircrew Medal with Clasp, ...



(Philippe Deman Collection)

Born on 31 May 1917 at Veldhoven (Netherlands). Pupil Pilot before War. Evaded with Flying School from Oujda to England where he arrived on 5 August 1940. Joined RAFVR, 14 August 1940, started training at 13 EFTS, 23 December 1940, joined 5 SFTS, 2 April 1941, 58 OTU, 14 July 1941 and was posted for flying duties at 131 Sqn on 27 August 1941. Directed to the newly formed 350 (Belgian) Squadron on 17 November 1941. Promoted (A)F/O, 6 July 1942, (A)F/Lt, 19 December 1942. Posted to 129 Squadron, 2 September 1943. Designated to RAF Station Coningsby, 11 March 1944, Belgian Initial Training School as (A) S/Ldr, 14 May 1944. Returned as (WSR)F/Lt to 350 (Belgian) Squadron, 21 June 1944. Shot down by Flak and made POW, 16 January 1945. Liberated, 29 April 1945. Joined the newly formed Belgian Air Force after the War and retired as Lt-Colonel, 1 July 1962. Deceased on 15 June 1993, Cap Martin, France.

His claims are :

19/08/1942    1/4 Ju-88

Dieppe (Operation Jubilé)

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