

" L'abbé " Van Lerberghe Jean (RAF n° 171435)

Knight (with Palm ) - Officer in the Order of the Crown, Knight - Officer in the Order of Léopold,  
 Knight - Officer in the Order of Léopold II, Croix de Guerre 1940 with Bronze Lion,  
 Croix des Evadés, 1939 - 1945 Star, Aircrew Europe Star with Silver Rosette,  
 Defence Medal, Médaille de la France Libérée, ...



(Philippe Deman Collection)

Born at Liège on 20 April 1921. 24 May 1940, assigned to 85 Promotion. Arrival at Oujda in French Morocco on 01 June 1940. Leaves Oujda for Casablanca and evade to G.B. where he ( led by Capt Cajot) arrived on 05 August 1940, taken into Belgian Forces the same day. Training sees him joining the RAF Depot - ST.Athan (13 Aug 40), EFTS - Odiham (02 Nov 40), SFTS - Ternhill (14 May 41) and 61 OTU (20 Aug 41). Posted as F/Sgt to 122 Sqn (07 Oct 41)and 24 Sqn (18 Oct 41) . posted to 350 Sqn on 14 November 1941 where he arrived on 17 November 1941. He left for 349 Sqn on 12 June 1943. Further postings saw him to 309 FTU & PRU (23 Sep 43), 269 Sqn (23 Sept 43), aircraft carrier H.M.S PREMIER (28 Mar 44), 269 Sqn (04 Apr 44), Belgian Depot (21 Jul 44), 84 GSU (08 Aug 44), 349 Sqn (16 Sep 44), 127 Sqn (13 Nov 44), Belgian Depot (17 Nov 44), 7 Flying Instructor School (23 Nov 44), 10 Flying Instructor School (26 Feb 45) when War ended. Discharged from RAF on 01 October 1946 he joined the new Belgian Air Force. Retired in 1966, l'Abbé died at Woluwé St.Lambert (Brussels) on 12 March 1997.

(source: Guy De Win & Philippe Deman)

His claims are :

19/08/1942 1/4 Ju-88  
 19/08/1942 1 Do-217 Damaged

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