

LIEUTENANT GENERAL ALBERT DEBECHE

Born 19th May 1919 - Passed away 1st November 2013

Born on 19 May 1919, Lieutenant General Albert Debêche, a long-standing member of the Belgian Branch, passed away at Waremmes on 1st November 2013. He joined the Belgian Royal Military Academy in 1938. In 1940 he was assigned to the Red Cross in France from where he set out to escape to England in Apr 1941. He was interned in Spain for some 8 months and eventually reached England in May 1942. He joined the 90th Belgian Promotion, was commissioned in the RAF and completed his pilot training in Canada in Aug 1943. He returned to UK and flew ops with a night-fighter squadron until 6 July 1944 when he was badly wounded while on mission. In Apr 1945 he completed re-training for assignment to Transport Command and in 1946 returned to Belgium to 169 Wing at Evere. His subsequent long and distinguished career with the Belgian Air Force culminated in his appointment as Chief of Staff. Wing Commander Ross McKenzie the Belgian Branch Vice Chair attended as the RAF and RAFA representative on behalf of Air Marshal Sir Christopher Harper: a poppy wreath was laid on the coffin.