

THE GRADUATES – Update January 2024

This correction list applies to THE GRADUATES Edition 2020 (with updates 2021, 2022 and 2023 incorporated) and should be made as ‘pen and ink’ changes by the owner.

The extra pages in Update January 2023 are NOT new pages to be inserted but can be used at your own discretion.

Insert new pages 208 to 215 after page 207.

The next update will be available on www.vieillestiges.be on Jan 31st, 2025.



Page nbr	Subject	Amend
2	Lenssens Reinold	Add ‘Deceased 27 July 2023’
5	Saeyns Henri	Add ‘Deceased 6 December 2023’
18	Stouten Ludovicus	Add ‘Deceased 8 May 2023’
27	Vingerhoets Antoon	Add ‘Deceased 1 January 2023’
29	Moriau Alexander	Add ‘Deceased 25 December 2023’
32	Jourez Paul	Add ‘Deceased 16 July 2023’
34	Sana Henri	Add ‘Deceased 6 May 2023’
35	Van den broecke Frank	Add ‘Deceased 18 October 2023’
36	Croonenberghs Jean	Add ‘Deceased 12 August 2023’
49	Siccard Jean	Add ‘Deceased 6 March 2023’
56	Vermeulen Alfons	Add ‘Deceased 24 July 2023’
57	De Vos Herman	Add ‘Deceased 23 January 2023’
66	Bernier Henri	Add ‘Deceased 10 September 2023’
67	Ronsse Leon	Add ‘Deceased 16 December 2023’
71	Rothheuth Guillaume	Add ‘Deceased 19 May 2023’
74	Strubbe René	Add ‘Deceased 15 August 2023’
74	Pourbaix Léon	Add ‘Deceased 27 November 2023’
84	Van Reydt Armand	Add ‘Deceased 25 December 2023’
87	Van remoortel Franz (‘Freddy’)	Add ‘Deceased 23 October 2023’
94	Dans Daniel	Add ‘Deceased 27 August 2023’
106	Scruel Jean-Pierre	Add ‘Deceased 31 July 2023’
112	Wiesemes Alfred	Add ‘Deceased 22 August 2023’
120	Callandt Philippe	Add ‘Deceased 14 July 2023’

PROMOTION: 2017 “Alex BINON”

Incorporation: August 2017 (COAux)

Graduation ceremony: 30 september 2020

Nb	NAME First Name	Remarks	Licence
1	BAEYENS Pieter	153SSMW-> Fighter (ENJJPT USA Class 20-03)	07 Feb 20
2	DE WISPELAERE Aaron	153SSMW-> Fighter (ENJJPT USA Class 20-03)	07 Feb 20
3	GODART Séverin	153SSMW-> Fighter (ENJJPT USA Class 20-03)	07 Feb 20
4	HAMBLENNÉ Antoine	153SSMW-> Fighter (ENJJPT USA Class 20-03)	07 Feb 20
5	LUYTEN Gilles	153SSMW-> Fighter (ENJJPT T-38 USA Class 20-03) -> Ph IV Transport (AVORD FR)	07 Feb 20
6	VERVLOET Vincent	-> Fighter (ENJJPT USA Class 20-03) -> Instructor Pilot on Marchetti SF260	07 Feb 20
7	MARCHAND Jens	-> Fighter (ENJJPT USA Class 20-05) stay as Instructor Pilot T38 ab initio	16 Jun 20
8	PIERRE Jonathan	168POL -> Helicopter (DAX FR) -> became No-Flying Pers Tech Offr	13 Aug 20
7	FOURNIER Brice	-> Helicopter (DAX FR)	13 Aug 20
8	PILPANI Georgiy	-> Helicopter (DAX FR)-> became No-Flying Pers NCO AirOps	13 Aug 20
9	LELEUX Samuël	-> Transport (AVORD FR)	20 Aug 20
10	DE COCK Benjamin	-> (Fighter T-6 ENJJPT USA Class 20-03) -> Helicopter (DAX FR)	02 Jul 21



Alex BINON

- Born on 1914
- In 1933, Alex Binon joined the 1st Aeronautical Regiment. Obtains an observer certificate as a COR, admitted to the aircrew.
- 1935, at his request the Flying School (72nd Promotion) and to acquire the pilot's license in 1936.
- 1938 Admitted to the corps of career NCO, then in May 40, as adjutant aviator in the 3rd Regiment of Aeronautics (IIIAé) and moved to FRANCE.
- 1943-44 Having entered the resistance within the Belgian Legion, Binon was assigned to the search and development of parachute fields but also to the training of teams to serve these grounds. In May 1943, the Legion's provincial staff was captured in a PFM action. Binon escaped the trap only narrowly.
- He joined the intelligence service of the OMBR, a group of Charleroi, until the liberation. Returned to the National Defence in November 1944
- May 1945 to March 1946 sent to England within the Belgian Section of the RAF and taken over at the Belgian Training School in Snailwell
- 1946, he received the Croix de guerre 1940 with Palme accompanied by citation.
- 1946 – May 48 Technical School of Aviation Saffraanberg Head Of Section Instruments
- 1947 present at the Congress marking the centenary of the A. I.Lg an analysis of the conditions to be fulfilled by international aerodromes called upon to receive ever faster aircraft of ever higher tonnage.
- May 1948 Conversion Aircraft Tpt DC3-K10 to 15 de Tpt and Comm.
- Summer 1952 conversion Fairchild C119.
- Actor in the Belgium-Congo liaison(LBC) and later in the project to ensure a link BE-Congo with Mil Jet CF100.

- 1956-1957 flew on Meteor
- 1958 1WChTT conversion on CF 100
- Since April 16, 1959, designated as personal pilot of His Majesty King Baudouin 1st, on Dakota K16 and DC6 KY2 and on the personal aircraft of King Aero Commander
- 09 Sep 1960 Commander of 15Wing
- 05 Nov 1962 transferred to HQ 2ATAF
- 29 Apr 1964 last flight and totals 7,054 flight hours on 31 types of aircraft, single-engine and multi-engine. He was admitted to the early pension on 1 August 1964.

Sobelair hired him as captain DC6 and flew more than 2,700 hours before deciding to hang up his headphones definitively on September 27, 1968, the company deeming him too old to allow him to convert to Caravelle. He died in March 2004.



The graduates together with GenMaj Th DUPONT (Comd COMOPSAIR)

Godart, Luyten, Baeyens, Pierre, Fournier, Leleux, De Wispelaere, Dupont, Vervloet, Marchand, Pilpani, Hamblenne.

PROMOTION: 2018 “Baron Pierre De Caters”

Incorporation: August 2018 (COAux)

Graduation ceremony: 06 October 2021

Nb	NAME First Name	Remarks	Licence
1	DECLERCK Christophe	-> Fighter (ENJJPT USA Class 21-03)	05 May 2021
2	Van den Borre Sybren	-> Fighter (ENJJPT USA Class 21-03) – Became CIP ENJJPT	05 May 2021
3	D'HONDT Pieter-Jan	154SSMW-> Fighter (ENJJPT USA Class 21-03)	05 May 2021
4	MEULEWAETER Charles	154SSMW-> Fighter (ENJJPT USA Class 21-03)	05 May 2021
5	COLIJN Olivier	169POL-> Fighter (ENJJPT USA Class 21-05) RET Tpt	27 May 21
6	BERWETTE Vincent	154SSMW-> Fighter (ENJJPTT-38 USA Class 21-05)-> Ph IV Transport (AVORD FR)	27 May 21
7	DE COCK Benjamin	Pil17-> (Fighter ENJJPT T-6 USA Class 20-03) -> Helicopter (DAX FR)	02 Jul 21
8	DE RIDDER Senne	-> Helicopter (DAX FR)	02 Jul 21
7	Van der Meersch Casper	-> Helicopter (DAX FR)	02 Jul 21
9	VANDAELE Brecht	-> (Fighter ENJJPT T-6 USA Class 20-05) -> Helicopter (DAX FR)	02 Jul 21
11	BESEME Cyprien	-> Transport (AVORD FR)	31 Aug 2021
12	VAN ROY Arne	-> Transport (AVORD FR)	31 Aug 2021
13	DE COCK Jens	169POL -> Transport (AVORD FR)	31 Aug 2021
14	KREMER Claude	154SSMW Luxemburg -> Transport (AVORD FR)	31 Aug 2021

De Caters



Born on 25 Dec 1875

Electrical engineer by training, Baron Pierre de Caters became passionate about motor racing. He also acquired an international reputation by participating in many motor racing competitions. He met other champions who would also become pioneers of aviation, including Frits Koolhoven, Chevalier Jules de Laminne, John Moore-Brabazon and Henri Farman.

In 1908, he turned to aviation and bought aircraft manufactured by the Voisin brothers, which he completely transformed by equipping them with engines of Belgian design. He converted his property in 's-Gravenwezel Castle, near Antwerp, into a private airfield on which he made numerous tests.

In February 1910, in collaboration with the Bollekens Brothers, he created Aviator, the first Belgian aeroplane construction company. In September of the same year, he undertook to train the first Belgian military airmen.

When the mobilization was decreed, de Caters felt that he had to resume service and spontaneously put himself at the disposal of his country. He's going to be 40 years old. He entered the Army on August 1, 1914 and on August 6, he distinguished himself by going to recover with the Prince de Ligne, the HF-20 aircraft of Hagemans and Gallez landed in disaster in Waremme, following an

engine damage.

After the cessation of hostilities, de Caters continued its industrial activities. However, he will no longer be seen at aviation events.

Pioneer of the first hour and holder of several records in his field, Pierre de Caters showed the way to a whole generation of aviators. He created the first company in the field of civil aviation and was also the first to train officers in aviation.

Baron de Caters died on 21 March 1944. With him disappears one of the most remarkable figures of the beginnings of Belgian aviation



The graduates together with GenMaj Th DUPONT (Comd COMOPSAIR) and Col P JULY (Comd CC Air)

DE COCK J – D'HONDT P-J – MEULEWAETER Ch – DE CLERCK Ch – VAN ROY A – LELEUX S – KREMER (LUX) – VANDAELE B – COLLIN O – BERWETTE

Van den Borre S – BESEME C – DE RIDDER S – Van der Meersch – DE COCK B

PROMOTION: 2019 "Paul William JANSSENS de VAREBEKE"

Incorporation: August 2019 (COAux)

Graduation ceremony: 28 september 2022

Nb	NAME First Name	Remarks	Licence
1	BOLLAERTS Olivier	Aux -> Fighter (ENJJPT USA Class 22-03) -> Re-Orient Tpt	11 Feb 2022
2	BRUYNSEELS Wannes	155SSMW -> Fighter (ENJJPT USA Class 22-03) -> Re-Orient Tpt	11 Feb 2022
3	CLAESEN Loïc (Marine)	153SSMW-> Fighter (ENJJPT USA Class 22-03) --> Orient Heli	11 Feb 2022
4	DE DECKER Brent	170POL-> Fighter (ENJJPT USA Class 22-03)	11 Feb 2022
5	NOYEN Thibo	Aux -> Fighter (ENJJPT USA Class 22-03)	11 Feb 2022
6	SAYED Aymen	156SSMW -> Fighter (ENJJPT USA Class 22-03)	11 Feb 2022
7	WOLLAERT Louique	Aux -> Fighter (ENJJPT USA Class 22-03) -> Re-Orient CIP ENJJPT	11 Feb 2022
8	LEMOINE Tristan (Fr)	Aux -> Helicopter (DAX FR) – Failed Ph 4 Heli _> Civilian	04 Jul 2022
9	REMY Maximilien	155SSMW -> Helicopter (DAX FR)	04 Jul 2022
10	VAN ROSSEM Jetske	170POL -> Helicopter (DAX FR)	04 Jul 2022
11	BALS Nico	Aux-> from T-6 (ENJJPT USA Class 21-05) -> Ph 3 Tpt (AVORD FR)	20 Oct 2023
12	LOWTHER Lucas	Aux -> Transport (AVORD FR)	29 Nov 2022
13	REMACLE Johan	Aux -> Transport (AVORD FR)	29 Nov 2022

Paul William "Billy" JANSSENS de VAREBEKE



- Born on 08 Jul 1916 in BOSTON (USA)
- After his return to Belgium, Billy starts a trade license in Leuven. Billy, who had opted for the Belgian nationality, so at the age of 21, in 1937 his military service as a reserve officer with the 1st Hunters-on-horseback. He participated in the Eighteen-Day Campaign.
- 28 May, in Bruges at the 4th Lancers learning of the armistice, he headed for the Dunkirk pocket. He sailed for England but was sent back from there to the south of the France. In Sète near the Mediterranean Sea, where he tried with a group of Offr to buy a boat to return to Britain. He failed but nevertheless managed to board a cargo ship bound for Gibraltar.
- From Gibraltar, Billy set out on the warship HMS Fidelity in convoy to England.
- 4 August 40 Billy was in England and on 5 August where he was conscripted into the Belgian forces in Great Britain.
- On August 13, 1940, Billy began training with various student pilots at the White Waltham EFTS. On 16 December, he was enlisted in the VR (Voluntary Reserve) as "Pilot Officer on probation of the RAF for the duration of the war"
- 24 April 1941, Billy was promoted to Pilot Officer and on 2 August he entered the OTU in Cranwell. It flies on Blenheim.
- 13 October, assigned to 612 Squadron, which flies the twin-engine Armstrong

Whitworth Witley. This coastal command unit is based in Wick, NE Scotland.

- February 8, 1942, 235 Squadron announces the arrival of Billy for "flying duties". During the Battle of Britain, this squadron was part of Coastal Command. Since 1941, it has been equipped with Beaufighters.

- Aou-Oct 1942 Search & Rescue, patrol flight, convoy protection.

- Nov 42 – performs its first "ship strike". In the Gironde estuary, 235 Squadron attacked ships. Three Beaufighters strafe two MVs (Merchant Vessels). Billy chooses a 1,500-ton ship as his target and drops his bombs very closely. The FLAK is powerful. Hit, he returned to the base with a damaged plane.

- On 18 Dec 1942, then Leader, 235 Squadron was to escort a Navy convoy. They were surprised by an attack by two Messerschmitt Bf-109s flying out of the sun. He is hit but stings between ships that can cover it. Unfortunately, all four airmen, including Billy, were killed instantly.



The graduates together with LtGen Th DUPONT (Comd COMOPSAIR), Col P JULY (Comd CC Air) and family of Peter (Col Avi e.r. Patrick Janssens de Varebeke en his wife Hermine)

1st row WOLLAERTT – BALS – BOLLAERTS – DUPONT Th – JULY P– NOYEN – SAYED

2nd row Lemoine – REMACLE – LOWTHER – BRUYNSEEL - DE DECKER B - CLAESEN(Marine) -VAN ROSSEM – REMY M – foto-holder (non JBr FEUILLEN - (Col Avi e.r. Patrick Janssens de Varebeke and spouse Hermine)

PROMOTION: 2020 Col Avi “VAN” Albert. Van Eeckhoudt

Incorporation: August 2020 (COAux)

Graduation ceremony: 04 Octobre 2023

Nb	NAME First Name	Remarks	Licence
1	AELAERTS Lauren	Aux 19 -> Fighter T-6 + T-38 (ENJJPT USA Class 23-05)	05 May 2023
2	DAMOISAUX-DELNOY Jade	157SSMW -> Fighter T-6 + T-38 (ENJJPT USA Class 23-05)	05 May 2023
3	EXPEELS Thibault	157SSMW -> Fighter T-6 + T-38 (ENJJPT USA Class 23-05)	05 May 2023
4	STERCKX Mitch	157SSMW -> Fighter T-6 + T-38 (ENJJPT USA Class 23-05)	05 May 2023
5	TAMINIAUX Quentin	Aux 19 -> Fighter T-6 + T-38 (ENJJPT USA Class 23-05)	05 May 2023
6	EERTMANS Jimmy	Aux 20 -> Helicopter (DAX FR)	06 July 2023
7	VAN HUL Brent	171POL -> Helicopter (DAX FR)	06 July 2023



TAMINIAUX Q, DAMOISAUX-DELNOY J, AELAERTS L, STERCKX M, VAN HUL B, EXPEELS Th, EERTMANS J

Albert "VAN" VAN EECKHOUDT



- Born in Vollezele (Brabant) on 25 July 1916
 - After graduating from the university of Melle (Ghent) and a year of studies as a technical engineer, he was called up for Mil Sv on 25 August 1937, Candidate lieutenant of the reserve (KOLR). He was assigned to the Aerostation company at Zellick.
 - He joined the Military Air Force school on May 31, 1939, this time as a student pilot. He is part of the 81st Promotion. Licence Pilot Wevelgem 29 Apr 1940 and assigned to the 7th Escadrille of the 3rd Group of the 3rd Air Force Regiment (7/III/3Aé) as Sergeant pilot KOLR.
 - With his colleagues including Georges Nossin and Robert Bladt he will share important moments during his war career.
 - Escaping captivity, the group to which Albert Van Eeckhoudt belonged was demobilized upon his return to Belgium.
 - June 1942, Belgian military pilots present on the territory were to be imprisoned in the citadel of Huy.
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- The escape to Great Britain, via Spain & Portugal, turns out to be the only alternative. A train journey to reach the Free French Zone, betrayed by an occasional guide, imprisoned and transferred to Macon prison, before being sent to a labor camp from which he escaped.
 - A disappointment awaits them as they are sent to the Congo by the government. On 20 November, the group was incorporated into the Congolese 'Force Publique' in Léopoldville. Possibility of serving, after training, in an Sqn of the South African Air Force (SAAF) in the Middle East, elementary and advanced pilot schools (EFTS/SFTS) and one or more. This OTU squadron could have provided air defence of strategic installations in Bas Congo, without placing its squadrons under the operational control of the RAF. From then on, the government of London forbade this approach at the end of November 1942, and took over for its benefit the personnel who continued to be trained in South Africa. The Air Ministry only agreed to the creation of a fighter squadron attached to the RAF/VR and deployed within the West Africa Command, the 349th Squadron created in Ikeja (Nigeria) in January 1943 with Belgian pilots, of course, but all from England.
 - Albert Van Eeckhoudt joined the "350" on 1 October 1944 and was the last commander of the 1st Fighter Wing that was deployed in operations with the RAF during the Second World War. His war career was marked by perseverance, tenacity and an unshakable will to secure his place in the fight for the liberation of his country.
 - After the war, he will be one of the personalities that the Air Force and in particular the 1 Wing will be able to count on to achieve a level of excellence within NATO.
 - Leaving the operational sphere that took him from the Fairey-Fox to the CF-100, not to mention a few NATO evaluation flights on TF-104, Albert Van Eeckhoudt ended his career as a senior officer in national (Comdt TAF HQ, EM Grp IE) and international (Aircent HQ, AFCENT) staffs, continuing to fly T-33, Fouga Magister and SV4.
 - He was admitted to retirement in March 1969 but continued to sacrifice his passion as a reserve pilot as a tow pilot for the benefit of the Air Cadets.
 - Appointed Colonel Aviator in the Reserve on 26 March 1970, he accumulated more than 3,200 hours of flying time during his career.
 - Albert Van Eeckhoudt died on 7 January 1997.