

Baron Etienne Van Zuylen Van Nyevelt.

Etienne was senior to Raymond 'Cheval' Lallemand at Wevelghem Flying School (pre-war). Cheval wangled his posting to 609, but when Etienne arrived Cheval was in the sick bay receiving treatment and too late to stop Etienne being allocated to one of the other Flights. On his very first sortie, on the return leg, his engine cut and he was lost in the ditching. Cheval maintains that he was given a ropey aircraft which had known engine problems, and worse, when he called the section leader - Remy 'Mony' Van Lierde - he was not told to bale out. Cheval has never forgiven Van Lierde as Etienne was a very good friend.