

GILROY, George Kemp, from Edinburgh, joined the Auxiliary Air Force before the war, and was commissioned in 603 Squadron in November 1938. He was first in action on 28th October 1939 when he shared a He111 with five other pilots. On 19th January 1940 he shared another He111 with two others, and on 3rd July shared a Ju 88. He shared other aircraft during the month and also shot three down, receiving the DFC. He destroyed a Bf109 on 28th August and another on the 31st, but on 1st September he baled out of a burning aircraft and was nearly lynched by the local Home Guard. On 28th October he again shot down a Bf109, and on 21st November shared a He111. He damaged two Bf109's during the summer of 1941, and in the autumn was posted to command 609 Squadron. He destroyed two Bf109's on 27th October 1941, and another on 8th November. On 8th March 1942 he damaged a Fw190 and on 15th April shot one of these down. In June he was awarded a Bar to his DFC, by which time his score was at least 10, and he was then promoted to Wing Commander. In November he was posted to 325 Wing in East Africa, but the following month was posted to lead 324 Wing in North Africa. On 2nd January 1943 he destroyed a Bf109, shared another on the 11th and shot one down on the 18th. On 3rd February he shared in probably destroying a Bf109 and in damaging a second. He was awarded a DSO in this month and his score now stood at 15. On 22nd April he shared a Ju52 and on the 24th shot down a Bf109. On 1st May he shared a He111 with four other pilots, and on the 5th damaged a Bf109. Over Sicily he shared a probable Ju88, and on 4th September destroyed a Macchi 202. By the time his tour ended in November he had brought his total score to 21 at least, and had been wounded three times. He was promoted to Group Captain and returned to the United Kingdom, becoming commanding officer of Wittering, and later, Blakelow. He left the RAF at the end of the war and rejoined the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, returning to 603 Squadron as Commanding Officer. Before the war he had been a shepherd, and was known in the RAF as 'Sheep'

GILROY, George Kempt, S/L (90481) - Croix de Guerre, Belgian -.awarded as per London Gazette dated 3 March 1942.