

Flying Officer Raymond 'Cheval' Lallemand joined the Belgian Air Force on 4th September 1939, the day after Britain declared war on Germany, and escaped to England, on 3rd July 1940, via France and Morocco. After attending **Elementary Flying Training School** at Odiham in Hampshire, **Service Flying Training School** at Ternhill in Shropshire and No. 61 Operational Training Unit at Heston, Middlesex, he was posted to 609 Squadron on 30th September 1941 at Biggin Hill as a sergeant pilot, his first victory coming over a year later on 19th December 1942 over Deal in Kent. He followed this with further kills in January and February 1943, and on 9th March 1943 he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross before being posted to the Napier engine factory as a test pilot. On 14th August 1944, he returned to the squadron - this time as its Commanding Officer - having been with No. 197 Squadron from the first day of the new year until 14th February when he was posted to No. 198. One month later, on 14th September 1944 he was hit by Flak while flying Typhoon PD505. He managed to nurse it back to Merville but crashed on landing and was badly burned. After receiving the Bar to his Distinguished Flying Cross on 18th January 1945, he commanded No. 349 (Belgium) Squadron on Supermarine Spitfires from 1st March until 1st October 1945. He stayed in the Belgian Air Force until 1972, when he retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel Aviateur.

LALLEMANT, Raymond A., known as 'Cheval,' was a pupil pilot in Belgium in May 1940. He escaped to the United Kingdom and joined the RAF. In July 1941 he was posted to 609 Squadron as a Sergeant. and was commissioned in December. Early the following year he converted to Typhoons and on 19th December 1942 shot down a Fw190. He claimed another on 20th January 1943, and on 14th February got two more and probably a third. He then finished his first tour and spent six months at Napier's as a production test pilot, before joining 198 Squadron as a flight commander. On 12th February 1944 he destroyed a Potez 63 on the ground, and on the 26th shared in shooting down a Bf110. He also shot down a Me210, bringing his score to 5½. He was posted to command 609 Squadron in mid-1944, and led the unit on ground-attack sorties with rocket projectiles during the invasion. In September he was shot down by flak, being badly burned, and spent several months in hospital, receiving plastic surgery. At the end of the war he was posted to command 349 Squadron, leading this unit for the last few weeks of hostilities. He received the DFC while with the RAF, and remained in the Belgian Air Force after the war, becoming a Lieutenant Colonel.