

DU MONCEAU de BERGENDAEL, Count Yvan, known as 'Duke', flew in Belgium with 4/Ile Groupe de Chasse, flying Fiat CR42's and Fairey Firefly's. He did not gain any victories during the fighting in May 1940, and escaped to France and then to the United Kingdom to join the RAF. He was posted initially to 253 Squadron on Hurricanes, and then to 56 Squadron. Early in 1941 he was posted to 609 Squadron, flying Spitfires, and on 11th July 1941 probably destroyed a Bf109. He shot one down on 18th August, and next day damaged another. On 27th September he destroyed another Bf109 and on 18th February 1942 shot down a Do217. On 8th March 1942 he destroyed a Fw190 and damaged a second, and was then posted to 350 Squadron, the first Belgian fighter unit. On 9th May he damaged a Bf109 and a Fw190, and on 1st June shot down a Fw190. Over Dieppe on 19th August 1942 he destroyed another Fw190, and on the 27th claimed another and a damaged. On 12th December he shot down a further Fw190 to bring his score to 8, the top-scoring Belgian pilot of the war. He was awarded a DFC together with several Belgian decorations. He later became the first commanding officer of 349 Squadron, with which he served until July 1944, when he was taken off operational flying. After the war he joined the Belgian Air Force, and reached the rank of Colonel.

Count Yvan Georges Arsène Félicien du MONCEAU de BERGENDAL DFC and Bar, nickname "Duke". 'Duke' became CO of 349 (Belgian) Squadron on 08 June 1943, at that time based at Wittering.