

# DISPERSALS

## INTERIM NOTES

09 January 2012

### LAST POST

#### RAOUL SCHREIDEN • PILOT • 320 SQUADRON



Raoul Schreiden passed away on 15 July 2012 at his home in Ajijic, Jalisco, Mexico after a brief battle with cancer. He was 88 years old.

Raoul was born in the Belgian Congo on 18 July 1923 and grew up in Belgium. He was 17 years old at the start of WWII when he fled occupied Belgium only to be captured and imprisoned by the Vichy government in the south of France. He escaped them and worked for a year with the French Resistance before relocating to Spain and then Gibraltar.

A Polish boat took him from there to England where he volunteered for the Royal Air Force. He took his pilot training in the BCATP bases in Canada before being posted to 320 'Dutch' Squadron RAF at Dunsfold, Surrey in England. Raoul completed the war flying B-25 Mitchells in operations over Normandy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany with Belgian crewmates Charles 'Charlie' Lawarrée (AG), Jean de Gobert (N) and Jean-Pierre Vermeiren (AG).

He joined Sabena Belgian Airlines in 1946 flying Douglas DC-3s and retired from their employ in 1981 as Chief Pilot of a Boeing 747. Raoul and his wife Claudia, a former stewardess, became Canadian citizens and retired on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. In 2007 they moved to Ajijic, on the north shore of Lake Chapala in the province of Jalisco, Mexico. A former 2TAF MBA member, Raoul was an active member of 904 (Lake Chapala-Mexico) Wing of the Air Force Association of Canada.

Raoul is survived by his wife Claudia and a daughter, Inez Schreiden, of Belgium.

*With information from 'The Guadalajara Reporter,' André Bar and Mehdi Schneyders.*

## JEAN-PIERRE VERMEIREN • OBSERVER • 320 SQUADRON



André Bar (Brussels Air Museum) reports the passing of Jean-Pierre Vermeiren on 28 November 2012.

One of the last of the Belgian 'Mitchell Boys', Jean-Pierre was part of the crew of Raoul Schreiden (P), Jean de Gobert (N), and Charles 'Charlie' Lawarrée (AG), all having predeceased JP; de Gobert on 21 Jun 1990, Lawarrée on 24 Jan 1997 & Schreiden on 15 Jul 2012.

Jean Pierre escaped occupied Belgium 01 Jun 41 and travelled to England via The Pyrenees, France, Spain and Portugal. Immediately upon arrival in the UK he joined the Belgian Forces in Great Britain and entered RAF Initial Training Wing at Scarborough 13 Oct 42. At No. 6 EFTS in Northampton, his difficulty with landings saw him redirected to No 6 Bombing & Gunnery School at Mountainview, Ontario, Canada followed by No. 9 Observer School, St-Jean, Québec.

Jean-Pierre was posted to 320 Squadron RAF on 22 Sep 44 where he and crewmates flew operations from Dunsfold, Surrey; Melsbroek, Belgium and Achmer, Germany thru 17 Jun 45.



*Charles Lawarrée, Raoul Schreiden, Jean de Gobert, Jen-Pierre Vermeiren. 1944*



*Jean de Gobert, Jean Pierre Vermeiren, Raoul Schreiden, Charles Lawarrée. 1987 reunion.*

*Information and photos compliments of André Bar and Mehdi Schneyders.*