

### Unteroffizier Willi Ghelsa, I/JG 53

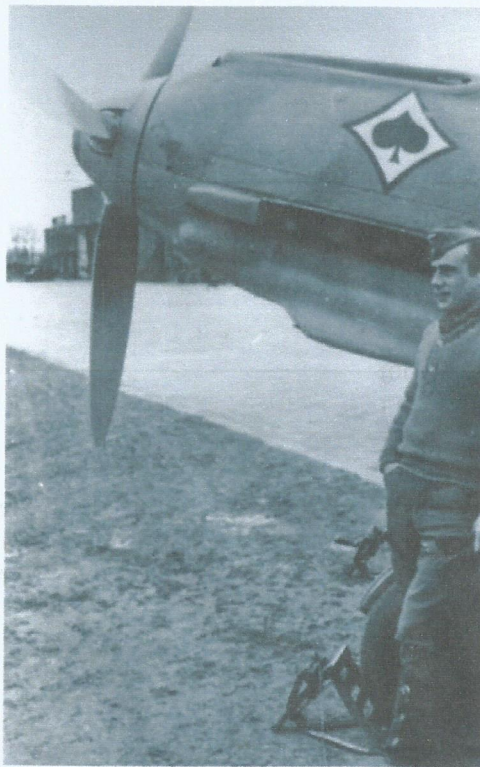
Here is a wee bit of info about Willi who claimed shooting down Fairy Battle K9483 in which Donald perished. According to the records it was probably him.

He was captured and taken as a Prisoner of War (POW) on the 5<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1940.

This is how he describes his ordeal of being captured.

“The night before this flight, I was on guard duty so was not assigned to what would become my last flight. However, as the mission was only escorting Bf 110s as far as Dover (because of low cloud), I agreed to fly with my *Staffel*. Near Dover, the cloud was higher and our *Staffel Kapitän* ordered us to fly on to London at 7,000-8,000m altitude. A comrade and I flew as cover for the rest of the staffel just under the clouds. Suddenly, British fighters appeared out of the clouds and before being able to turn away, I received hits in the engine and oil cooler. I dived down to 4,000m, got my plane under control again and tried to make for Calais by gliding. But now I was fired at again and I lost consciousness for a short time. When I had a clear head again, I found myself near the ground and immediately looked for somewhere to land. I did not have a choice and I landed under difficult circumstances in a meadow. During this crash-landing (and because I had opened my seat belts instead of my parachute release), I hit my head on the Revi Gun sight and got concussion. I quickly left my plane and walked to a nearby farmhouse where I was captured a few minutes later.”

He actually crashed in Aldington UK in his Bf109E-4 wreck no. 1804 White 10



UIEz Willi Ghelsa. (Ghelsa)



Far left is Willi or Wilhelm Ghelsa

He lived to tell the tale but that is war they were ordered to do their job and did so.  
A Polish pilot shot him down.