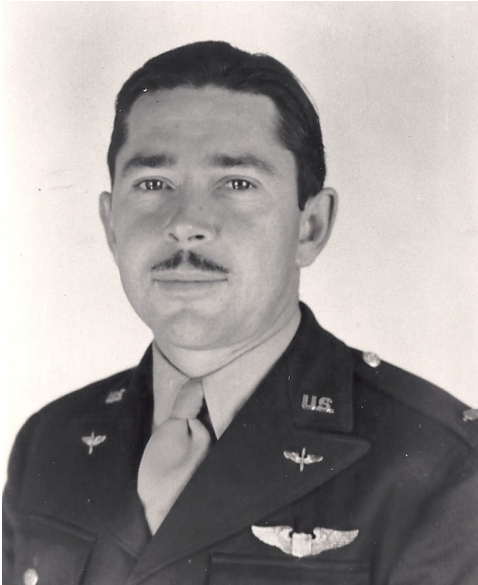


BATES, William D.

B: 6 March 1918 AL

D: 6 February 1945 English Channel



Hometown: Cullman, Alabama

Rank: Flight Officer

MOS: 1055 - Pilot, single engine fighter

Unit: 334th Fighter Squadron

Aircraft:

None assigned

4th Service: 16 November 1944 – 6 February 1945

9 missions

6 FEB 45 Forced to abort due to mechanical issues; bailed out over the Channel. Unable to get into his dinghy after several attempts, he elected to float in his Mae West and await rescue. Though located by an ASR Walrus, it was too rough for the flying boat to land. His body was later located by an ASR launch two and a half hours after landing in the Channel. KIA.

Victories:

None

Decorations:

Purple Heart