

BEESON, Duane W.

"Bee"

B: 16 July 1921 Boise, ID

D: 13 February 1947 Washington, DC



"The fliers know what Beeson is. And so do the enlisted men. Beeson uses less ammunition per kill than any other pilot in the group. He's a precise, cool pilot. Every faculty of his being is sublimated to the business of becoming the world's deadliest fighter."

- a passage from "Fighters Up!"

Hometown: Boise, Idaho

Rank: Major

MOS: 1055 - Pilot, single engine fighter

Unit: 334th Fighter Squadron

Aircraft:

Spitfire VB BL422 XR-J

Spitfire VB AD464 XR-L **Stinky**

Spitfire VB AB975 AV-A

P-47D-1-RE 42-7890 QP-B **Boise Bee**

P-51B-7-NA 43-6819 QP-B **Bee**

4th Service: 29 September 1942 to 5 April 1944

23 APR 43 Promoted to 1st Lieutenant

25 SEP 43 Designated squadron Gunnery officer (AD)

18 NOV 43 Appointed group Gunnery officer (PD)

15 DEC 43 Designated Flight Commander C Flight (PD)

15 FEB 44 Promoted to Captain

1 MAR 44 Appointed squadron's Assistant Operations and Gunnery officer (PD)

7 MAR 44 Appointed squadron Operations officer (PD)

15 MAR 44 Appointed squadron Commanding officer (PD)

o/a 1 MAY 44 Promoted to Major while POW

5 APR 44 Shot down by flak strafing Brandenburg airdrome; POW. (MACR 3606)

Victories:

22.08 (17.33 air/4.75 ground)

Highlights:

8 OCT 43- 2 ME-109's

29 JAN 44- 1 FW-190, 1 ME-109

23 MAR 44- 2 ME-109's

Post 4th Fighter Group:

Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel 25 October 1945

Transferred to regular Army 5 July 1946

Died due to brain tumor 13 February 1947.

Decorations

Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross (American; 6 OLC), Presidential Unit Citation, Air Medal (3 OLC), Purple Heart, POW Medal, Europe-Africa-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, Canadian Star Medal, Canadian Defense Medal, Croix de Guerre with Palm (Belgian), Belgian 1940-1945 Commemorative Medal, Belgian Gratitude Medal, Medal of Free France.