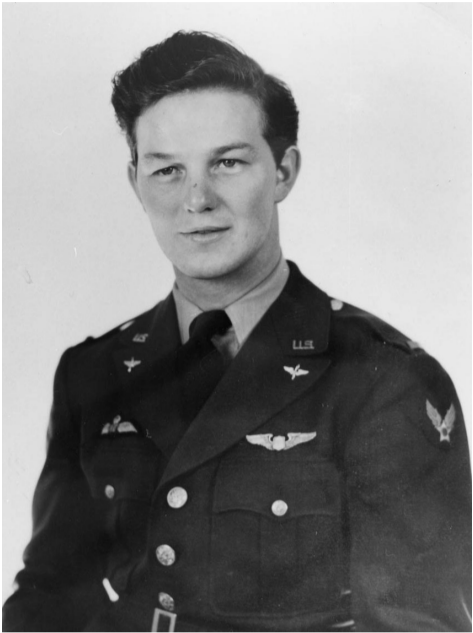


HOFER, Ralph K.

“Kidd” “Hofe”

B: 22 June 1921 Salem, MO

D: 2 July 1944 Mostar, YUG



“Hell, if I worried myself about all of that theoretical stuff, I’d never shoot anything down. I just go get ‘em, I don’t aim my guns at them, I aim myself at them.”

- Ralph Hofer to Jim Goodson upon being asked to join a discussion on tactics.

(from Goodson’s book “Tumult in the Clouds”)

Hometown: Salem, Missouri

Rank: 1st Lieutenant

MOS: 1055 - Pilot, single engine fighter

Unit: 334th Fighter Squadron

Aircraft:

P-47C-5-RE 41-6413 QP-L *The Missouri Kid/Show Me*

P-51B-7-NA 43-6946 QP-L

P-51B-10-NA 42-106924 QP-L *Salem Representative*

4th Service: 22 September 1943 – 2 July 1944

22 APR 44 Promoted to 2nd Lieutenant

11 MAY 44 Designated Flight Commander D Flight

23 MAY 44 Promoted to 1st Lieutenant

2 JUN 44 Designated Flight Commander A Flight

21 JUN 44 Participated in Operation FRANTIC II, the Russia Shuttle mission.

2 JUL 44 Shot down while strafing Jasenica/Mostar Sud Airfield, Mostar Yugoslavia.
KIA (MACR 6801)

Buried at Section 79 Site 254-256, Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, Missouri.

Victories:

29 (15 air/14 ground)

Highlights:

8 OCT 43 - 1 ME-109 Scored on his first mission

18 MAR 44 - 2 ME-109’s

18 APR 44 - 2 HE-177’s (ground)

24 MAY 44 - 2 FW-190’s

29 MAY 44 - 5 HE-177’s (ground; 4 + 2 shared w/ Speer)

Highest scoring NCO in the USAAF with 9 confirmed victories prior to promotion to 2nd Lieutenant

Decorations:

Distinguished Flying Cross (3 OLC), Purple Heart, Air Medal (3 OLC), European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal (with three bronze stars), Distinguished Unit Badge, World War II Victory Medal, French Croix de Guerre, Belgian Croix de Guerre 1940 with Palm, 1939-45 Star, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal.