

HOWE, David W.

"Dave"

B: 6 February 1919 East Hickory, PA

D: 22 May 1995 Erie, PA



"I closed dead astern and 20°-30° above him. Dropping a little flap to slow down, I opened fire at 450 yards, getting hits at once on the left wing. I corrected a little and got hits over motor, tail and wings, closing fairly fast. The e/a fell off on one wing and I got in a good burst in this position pulling negative G's. His motor either quit or he cut it. I slid up in a turn to get ready for another pass when he bailed out."

- David Howe, from his combat report 28 SEP 44

Hometown: East Hickory, Pennsylvania

Rank: Captain

MOS: 1055 - Pilot, single engine fighter

Unit: 334th Fighter Squadron

Aircraft:

P-47 coded QP-C

P-51B-7-NA 43-6774 QP-C

P-51B-15-NA 43-24793 QP-C

P-51B-7-NA 43-6717 QP-S

P-51D-5-NA 44-13884 QP-G

4th Service: 22 September 1943 – 3 April 1945

28 JAN 44 Promoted to 2nd Lieutenant

9 APR 44 Promoted to 1st Lieutenant

15 SEP 44 Designated Flight Commander B Flight (PD)

4 OCT 44 Promoted to Captain

31 JAN 45 Designated Squadron Assistant Operations and Gunnery officer (PD)

18 MAR 45 Becomes first ETO fighter pilot to complete two tours, totaling over 502 hours of combat flying time - and doing so without a single abort.

Victories:

8.5 (6 air / 2.5 ground)

Post 4th Fighter Group:

Retired from the USAAF 4 August 1945.

Earned private and commercial pilot's licenses.

Test pilot, Bell Aircraft. Test pilot on the X-14 program, becoming first pilot to transition from hover to normal flight in a fixed-wing aircraft.

Decorations

Distinguished Flying Cross (2 OLC), Air Medal (13 OLC), European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal (w/4 bronze stars), World War II Victory Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal.