

## **MALMSTEN, Donald M.**

B: 12 February 1916 UT

D: 11 May 1948 Taylor, NE

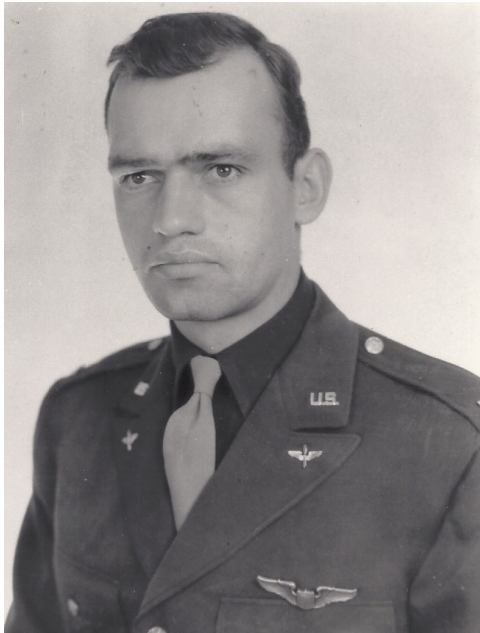


Photo courtesy Carl Brown Collection via Lynn Brown Shope

*"About 5 miles up the tracks, I located a train and blew up the locomotive and set two box cars on fire. I then saw some trucks on a flat car and set one on fire and came around for another pass. I clobbered another truck and as I pulled up, my engine started to smoke and sounded like a hay bailer. I had only about 150 feet altitude and kept it running for about 2 minutes before it caught fire"*

*- Donald Malmsten, from his combat report for 7 August 1944*

**Hometown:** Burwell, Nebraska

**Rank:** Captain

**MOS:** 1055 - Pilot, single engine fighter

**Unit:** 334th Fighter Squadron

**Aircraft:**

P-51B-15-NA 43-24979 QP-U

P-51D-10-NA 44-14560 QP-V **Crotch Rot**

**4th Service:** 4 April 1944 – November 1945

21 JUN 44 Participated in Operation FRANTIC II, the Russia Shuttle mission. (RTB 5 JUL)

7 AUG 44 A/C struck in the engine by flak while strafing a train near the town of Dijon, France. With his engine on fire he crash-landed in a beet field near Brazey, SSE of Dijon. Escaped the wreck with burns to his left cheek, nose and eye brows.

After walking for three days was picked up by the Underground then handed off to the Maquis, with whom he "spent a pleasant 4 weeks fishing, eating wild strawberries, etc" before returning to London on 5 September. EVD (MACR 7758)

9 AUG 44 Promoted to 1st Lieutenant

31 JAN 45 Designated Flight Commander B Flight

25 MAR 45 Promoted to Captain

**Victories:**

8.5 (1.5 air/7 ground)

**Highlights:**

27 FEB 45 - 1 ME-109, 2 JU-88's (all ground)

**Post 4th Fighter Group:**

Rancher

**Decorations:**

Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal (12 OLC), Purple Heart, World War II Victory Medal.