

PISANOS, Spiros N.

“Steve” “The Greek”

B: 10 November 1919 Kolonos, Greece

D: 6 June 2016 San Diego, CA



“Steve was a man who talked with feeling and elaborate gestures about whatever he was talking about. He was chronically excited about things in general, and in particular, about the Greek who had become an American officer.”

- from ‘1000 Destroyed’ by Grover C. Hall, 4th Fighter Group PRO during the war

Hometown: Plainfield, New Jersey

Rank: 1st Lieutenant

MOS: 1055 - Pilot, single engine fighter

Unit: 334th Fighter Squadron

Aircraft:

Spitfire Mk Vb XR-K

P-47D-1-RE 42-7945 QP-D *Miss Plainfield*

P-51B-7-NA 43-6798 QP-D

4th Service: 24 October 1942 to 5 April 1944

23 APR 43 Promoted to 1st Lieutenant

30 SEP 43 Promoted to Captain

FALL 43 Designated Flight Commander B Flight

6 JAN 44 Designated Flight Commander A Flight

5 MAR 44 Crash landed in occupied France due to engine failure. Evaded capture, fought with French Resistance. Repatriated after the liberation of Paris. Returned to Debden 3 SEP 44.

9 SEP 44 Assigned to Headquarters, 67th Fighter Wing

Victories:

10

Highlights:

14 JAN 44 - 2 FW-190's

3 MAR 44 - 2 FW 190's

Post 4th Fighter Group:

11/44-1/46 Flight Functional Test Pilot, 4020 AAF Base Unit, Wright-Patterson Field, OH

1946-48 Employed by TWA

10/48 Returned to active duty with the USAF; worked at the AF division, National Guard Bureau at the Pentagon, Washington, DC

1952/54 Allied Air Forces, Southern Europe

1955/57 Chief of Flight Ops, 27th Air Division Norton AFB, California

1959/64 Served with the Air Defense Command

1964/67 Headquarters, US Air Forces, Europe

1-10/68 Served with 457th Tactical Airlift Squadron at Cam Ranh Bay, South Vietnam, first as Operations officer, then as CO from 5/68

10/68 Deputy CO for Maintenance, 308th Ballistic Missile Wing at Little Rock, AR

5/71 Chief of Air Force section, military mission for aid to Greece - Athens, Greece. He served in this post until his retirement from the USAF as a Colonel on 1 DEC 1973

Author, *The Flying Greek* (2008)

Decorations

Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross(4 OLC), Air Medal (3 OLC), Presidential Unit Citation, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal (1 silver + 1 bronze service star), American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Legion of Merit (3), British 1939-45 Star, General Service Decoration (British), Croix de Guerre (French), Chevalier du Legion D'Honneur (French).