

SIEMS, Grover C. Jr.

B: 16 August 1923 Connellsville, PA

D: 13 August 1993 West Islip, NY



LIEUT. G. C. SIEMS NOW IN HOSPITAL

Fighter Pilot Is Wounded On Russia To Italy Mission

First Lieutenant Grover C. Siems, Jr., was seriously wounded in action on July 2 over Hungary, the war department has informed his father, Grover C. Siems, formerly of Woodward avenue, Wantagh. Mr. Siems is now residing in Woodside.

The young lieutenant has written his father from somewhere in Italy that he is coming along all right.

"While Capt. Hively was attacking one Hun he was in turn being attacked by another and Lt. Siems who was above picking out a target for himself, notices his C.O. was being attacked. With absolute disregard for his own safety and with the realization that he himself would be open for attack, Lt. Siems dove on the attacking German and destroyed him, thereby saving Capt. Hively's life."

- the 334 squadron history narrative on the Russia Shuttle mission

Hometown: Wantagh, Long Island, New York

Rank: 1st Lieutenant

MOS: 1055 - Pilot, single engine fighter

Unit: 334th Fighter Squadron

Aircraft:

P-51B-7-NA 43-6587 QP-0

P-51D-5-NA 44-13322 QP-0 *Gloria III*

4th Service: 4 April 1944 – 14 September 1944

10 JUN 44 Promoted to 1st Lieutenant

21 JUN 44 Participated in Operation FRANTIC II, the Russia Shuttle mission. Seriously wounded in the shoulder, neck and chin during combat on 2 July, forcing him to return to Italy. Unable to open his canopy upon landing due to the extent of his injuries, he managed to fire his kite's machine guns to attract attention. Taken to the 61st station Hospital near Foggia. Sent home after recuperating.

Victories:

7.83 (4.33 air / 3.5 ground)

Highlights:

21 MAY 44 - 3 ME-210's (ground)

Post 4th Fighter Group:

Went to work for Republic Aviation, serving as a test pilot and field representative, ultimately rising to the position of Executive Director before retiring in 1987.

1993 - Editor/PR, Association of the 4th Fighter Group

Decorations:

Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross (OLC), Air Medal (3 OLC), Purple Heart, Distinguished Unit Badge, European-African-Middle Eastern Medal (w 2 Bronze Stars), World War II Victory Medal.