

SMITH, William B.

B: 20 July 1914 Bluefield, VA

D: 13 September 1944 Hesselental, GER



Hometown: Bluefield, Virginia

Rank: Captain

MOS: 1055 - Pilot, single engine fighter

Unit: 334th Fighter Squadron

Aircraft:

P-47C-5-RE 41-6410 QP-Y *Little Butch*

P-51B-7-NA 43-6933 QP-Y

P-51D-10-NA 44-14281 QP-Y

4th Service: 23 May 1943 – 13 September 1944

15 NOV 43 Promoted to 2nd Lieutenant

21 DEC 43 Promoted to 1st Lieutenant

28 MAR 44 Designated Flight Commander C Flight (PD)

15 APR 44 Designated Flight Commander B Flight (PD)

1 MAY 44 Promoted to Captain

2 JUN 44 1st tour completed; to U.S. on leave
(returned 17 AUG)

13 SEP 44 Aircraft struck in the engine and cockpit
by 20mm flak while strafing airdrome at
Schwaebisch Hall-Hesselental, Germany.
Aircraft was seen to pull up to 400' then
roll over on its back and fly into the
ground, exploding on impact.

KIA (MACR 8989)

Tablets of the Missing, Epinal American
Cemetery Epinal, France

Victories:

3

Decorations:

Distinguished Flying Cross (3 OLC), Air Medal (3 OLC),
Purple Heart, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign
Medal.