

WILKINSON, James W.

B: 1916 PA

D: 6 June 1944 Llandoverly, Wales



With 82FS/78th FG
- courtesy www.littlefriends.co.uk



With 82FS/78th FG
- NARA photo 50038AC

Hometown: Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

Rank: 1st Lieutenant

MOS: 1055 - Pilot, single engine fighter

Unit: 334th Fighter Squadron

Aircraft:

P-47C-5-RE 41-6405 QP-S

4th Service: 20 January 1943 – 17 May 1943

20 MAR 43 Promoted to 1st Lieutenant

27 APR 43 Involved in mid-air collision on local flight while engaged in an exercise with members of his squadron. His aircraft was struck by that of Lt. Chatterley, shearing off the "tail stabilizer." Bailed out successfully but severely injured during the landing due to chute having 3 panels blown out.

17 MAY 43 Transferred to 2nd Evacuation Hospital with a broken back.

Victories:

None with 4th

7 total (6 air/ 1 ground)

Post 4th Fighter Group:

Transferred to 82nd Fighter Squadron, 78th Fighter Group in Duxford; promoted to Captain.

4 JUN 44 Piloting P-47D-22-RE MX-G (42-26256), he crashed into a mountain northeast of Llandoverly, Wales while strafing during a training mission. KIFA.

Buried at Cambridge American Cemetery
Cambridge, England
Plot F Row 2 Grave 113

Decorations:

Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star,
Distinguished Flying Cross (4 OLC), Air Medal (30LC),
Purple Heart.