

HAPPEL, James R.

B: 17 October 1920 Paulsboro, NJ

D: 1 June 1970 Berkeley Heights, NJ



"I fired a three second burst...at approximately 400 yards and noticed a good strike in the wing root. He turned to starboard and.. I fired another burst getting a few more good strikes in his wing root and engine...I kept closing and noticed fire coming from his engine. The pilot jettisoned his canopy and bailed out. His 'chute just opened and he hit the ground."

- James Happel, from his combat report of 12 May 1944

Hometown: Paulsboro, New Jersey

Rank: Major

MOS: 1055 - Pilot, single engine fighter

Unit: 335th Fighter Squadron

Aircraft:

P-47C-2-RE 41-6182 WD-X

P-51B-7-NA 43-6784 WD-X

4th Service: 14 October 1942 – 30 September 1944

24 MAR 43 Designated Squadron Oxygen Officer

13 APR 43 Promoted to 1st Lieutenant

6 DEC 43 Designated Flight Commander C Flight

22 JAN 44 Promoted to Captain

3 FEB 44 Designated Flight Commander B Flight

5 MAR 44 Appointed Squadron Assistant Operations and Gunnery Officer

24 MAR 44 Designated Squadron Operations Officer

18 APR 44 Appointed Squadron Commanding Officer

Victories:

8.67 (4 air/4.67 ground)

Post 4th Fighter Group:

Pilot, Allegheny Airlines.

Decorations:

Distinguished Flying Cross (3 OLC), Air Medal (3 OLC), Presidential Unit Citation, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal.