

RUSSELL, James W. Jr.

“Rusty”

B: 30 December 1920 Bonham, TX

D: 1 May 2005 San Antonio, TX



Photo courtesy Littlefriends.co.uk

Hometown: Bonham, Texas

Rank: Captain

MOS: 1055 - Pilot, single engine fighter

Unit: 335th Fighter Squadron

Aircraft:

P-51B-7-NA 43-6959 WD-T

P-51D-5-NA 44-13567 WD-O

4th Service: 4 April 1944 – 11 September 1944

22 MAY 44 Promoted to 1st Lieutenant

21 JUN 44 Participated in Operation FRANTIC II, the Russia Shuttle mission. (RTB 3 JUL)

14 JUL 44 Designated Squadron Assistant Operations and Gunnery Officer

14 AUG 44 Designated Flight Commander B Flight

11 SEP 44 Shot down during an engagement with over 50 German fighters. POW (MACR 8987)

Victories:

2

Post 4th Fighter Group:

Served in Korea and Vietnam.

1973 Retired from the USAF as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Decorations:

Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal (3 OLC), Purple Heart, POW Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Legion Of Merit (OLC).