

SMITH, Fonzo D.

“Don” “Snuffy”

B: 22 October 1918 Malakoff, TX

D: 6 February 1996 Kingsville, TX



Hometown: Malakoff, Texas

Rank: Major

MOS: 1055 - Pilot, single engine fighter

Unit: 335th Fighter Squadron

Aircraft:

P-47D-1-RE 42-7936 WD-W *Pistol Packin Mama/Texas*

P-51D-5-NA 44-13934 VF-S

4th Service: 24 September 1942 – 3 August 1944

- DEC 42 Returned to the U.S. for a bond drive with 6 other former Eagles; promoted to 1st Lieutenant while in the Z.I.
- 5 JUL 43 Promoted to Captain
- 4 OCT 43 Designated Squadron Operations Officer
- 30 NOV 43 Promoted to Major
Completes tour of 50 missions; transferred to 12th Repl. Pool
- JUL 44 Returned to Debden; assigned to 4th Headquarters Squadron
- 3 AUG 44 Aircraft suffered an engine failure during escort mission to Joigny, France. Jettisoned canopy and helmet at 16,000'; rode aircraft down to 3,000' then rolled it over and bailed out, landing south of Caen. POW. (MACR 7453)

Victories:

3

Post 4th Fighter Group:

Owner of three Dr. Pepper distributorships in Texas;
Retired in 1983.

Decorations:

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