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.