

**BENNETT**, Joseph H.

“Joe”

B: 25 November 1918 Marlow, OK

D: 15 August 2000 Dallas, TX



**Hometown:** Morton, Texas

**Rank:** Captain

**MOS:** 1055 - Pilot, single engine fighter

**Unit:** 336th Fighter Squadron

**Aircraft:**

P-51B-10-NA 42-106686 VF-T *ANN III*

P-51B-7-NA 43-6572 VF-N

**4th Service:** 4 April 1944 – 25 May 1944

11 missions

9 APR 44 Designated Squadron Assistant Operations and Gunnery Officer (PD)

15 APR 44 Forced to ditch in the Channel on way home to Debden; picked up by ASR launch. Off Ops for a month.

22 MAY 44 Designated Squadron Assistant Operations and Gunnery Officer (PD)

25 MAY 44 During an engagement with a gaggle of German fighters, his aircraft was rammed by an ME-109 piloted by Lt. Hubert Heckman over Botenheim, Germany. Bennett was able to bail out of the stricken fighter, spending time in a German hospital before being transferred to a prison camp.

POW. (MACR 5720)

**Victories:**

3

8.5 total (5.5 with the 61st FS/56th FG)

**Highlights:**

25 MAY 44 - 2 ME-109's

**Post 4th Fighter Group:**

Retired as a Major.

**Decorations:**

Distinguished Flying Cross (2 OLC), Air Medal (3 OLC), POW Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal.