

EMERSON, Donald R.

“Don” “Emmy”

B: 17 May 1923 Joliet, ND

D: 25 December 1944 Elsloo, Holland



“About my room - I have a very comfortable bed with a thick mattress and sheets, etc. I have a dresser with a large mirror and plenty of drawers...a wall closet with more room than necessary for my clothes. I have a nice writing desk with a wash basin with a mirror above it. The room has steam heat and carpeting on the floor...outside of the fact that we are in combat, to say that we have it nice would be putting it mildly”
- Donald Emerson, from a Letter home 15 Mar 44

Hometown: Pembina, North Dakota

Rank: Captain

MOS: 1055 - Pilot, single engine fighter

Unit: 336th Fighter Squadron

Aircraft:

P-51B-7-NA 43-6889 VF-L

P-51D-5-NA 44-13317 VF-L, VF-B *Donald Duck*

P-51D-15-NA 44-15054 VF-D

4th Service: 9 March 1944 – 25 December 1944

20 MAY 44 Promoted to 1st Lieutenant

21 JUN 44 Participated in Operation FRANTIC II, the Russia Shuttle mission. (RTB 5 JUL)

8 JUL 44 Designated Squadron Operations officer

14 JUL 44 Designated Flight Commander A Flight

27 JUL 44 Promoted to Captain

15 DEC 44 Designated Flight Commander B Flight

25 DEC 44 Led his section into combat against FW-190's attacking the bomber stream. Afterward, separated from his section, he was caught down on the deck alone by ME-109's. Members of his section heard his transmissions but were unable to locate him. After downing at least one of his attackers, he radioed he was heading home. Struck by flak just as he was crossing friendly lines, he crashed in Elsloo, Holland. KIA.

Buried at the American Military Cemetery in Margraten, Holland. Plot B Row 15 Grave 21.

Victories:

7 (4 air / 3 ground)

Decorations:

Distinguished Flying Cross (2 OLC), Air Medal (7 OLC), Purple Heart, Distinguished Unit Badge, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal (w/ 2 bronze stars), Purple Heart.