

**GENTILE, Domenic S.**

“Don” “Gentle”

B: 6 December 1920 Piqua, OH

D: 28 January 1951 Forestville, MD



*“It’s his aggressiveness. He’s got a split-second jump on any fighter I ever saw. Your ordinary good flier sees a flock of Huns below him and he counts them. He picks one out in the rear and dives for his tail. Gentile sees a flock of Huns below and he’s after them at the same instant. He’ll hit any one he can get to quickest.”*

*- Lt. John Godfrey, 336*

**Hometown:** Piqua, Ohio

**Rank:** Captain

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

**Unit:** 336th Fighter Squadron

**Aircraft:**

Spitfire Mk VB BL255 MD-T *Buckeye Don*

P-47D-1-RE 42-7884 VF-T *Donnie Boy*

P-47D-5-RE 42-8659 VF-T *Donnie Boy*

P-51B-7-NA 43-6913 VF-T *Shangri La*

**4th Service:** 29 September 1942 to 18 April 1944

26 SEP 43 Designated Flight Commander B Flight

30 SEP 43 Promoted to Captain

6 JAN 44 Designated Flight Commander A Flight

1 MAR 44 Designated Assistant Operations and Gunnery officer

25 MAR 44 Designated squadron Operations officer

Completed tour 13 April 1944

**Victories:**

27.83 (21.83 air/6 ground)

**Highlights:**

14 JAN 44- 2 FW-190's

3 MAR 44- 2 FW 190's

8 MAR 44- 3 ME-109's

23 MAR 44- 2 ME-109's

29 MAR 44- 2 FW-190's, 1 ME-109

8 APR 44- 3 FW-190's

**Post 4th Fighter Group:**

Flight Functional Test Pilot, 4020 AAF Base Unit, Wright-Patterson Field, OH; Retired from active duty as a major Apr 1946

Western Division Director Sales & Service – Globe Aircraft Co., Dallas, TX.

Returned to active duty in 1947, receiving a regular Air Force commission as a Captain.

Killed in flying accident in TF-80C-1-LO, 49-905 28 January 1951.

**Decorations**

Distinguished Service Cross (OLC), Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross (American; 7 OLC), Distinguished Flying Cross (British); Presidential Unit Citation; Air Medal (3 OLC), Presidential Unit Citation, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal (1 silver + 1 bronze service star), American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, 1939-45 Star Medal (British), 1939-45 War Medal (British), Croce Al Merito Di Guerra (Italian), Medaglia D'Argento Al Valor Militare (Italian), Croix de Guerre (with Palm, Belgian), French Fourragere.