

GOODSON, James A.

**“Jim” “Goody”
“King of the Strafers”**

B: 21 March 1921 New York City, NY

D: 1 May 2014 Plymouth, MA



“You see, if you strafed an airfield where you found airplanes on the ground, not camouflaged or hidden in revetments, one fighter could take out five, six or even ten German airplanes. I didn’t go strafing because I enjoyed it. I did it because I thought it was the best way to destroy German planes.”

- Maj. Jim Goodson, from an interview quoted in “Great American Fighter Aces” by Dan Bauer

Hometown: Toronto, Ontario

Rank: Major

MOS: 1055 - Pilot, single engine fighter

Unit: 336th Fighter Squadron

Aircraft:

P-47D-1-RE 42-7959 VF-W

P-51B-7-NA 43-7059 VF-B

P-51B-15-NA 43-24848 VF-B

P-51D-5-NA 44-13300 VF-B

P-51D-5-NA 44-13303 VF-B

4th Service: 9 October 1942 to 20 June 1944

26 SEP 43 Designated Flight Commander A Flight (PD)

27 SEP 43 Promoted to Captain

6 JAN 44 Designated Squadron Operations Officer (PD)

4 MAR 44 Promoted to Major

8 MAR 44 Appointed Squadron Commanding Officer (PD)

13 APR 44 Detached Service to 31st Fighter Group, 15th Air Force, San Severo, Italy

10 MAY 44 Resumed duties as Squadron CO

20 JUN 44 Shot down by flak while strafing Neubrandenburg A/D; POW. (MACR 6252)

Victories:

29 (14 air/15 ground)

Highlights:

16 AUG 43- 2 FW-190s

7 JAN 44- 2 FW 190s

16 MAR 44- 2 ME-110s

23 MAR 44- 2 ME-109s

23 APR 44- 2 ME-109s

Post 4th Fighter Group:

Discharged from the USAAF upon return to the U.S.

Civilian career included positions with Goodyear’s Aviation Division; Hoover and IIT.

Author, *Tumult in the Clouds* (1983)

The Last of the Knights (1990)

Over-paid, Over-sexed and Over Here (1991)

(with Norman Franks)

Decorations:

Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross (American; 8 OLC), Distinguished Flying Cross (British), Presidential Unit Citation, Air Medal (20 OLC), Purple Heart, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign (3 bronze stars), World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal Germany Bar, POW Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon, British 1939/45 Star, British Air Crew Europe Star, British War Medal, Canadian Volunteer Medal, Belgian Order of Leopold (Silver Palm Leaf), Belgian Croix de Guerre 1939-45 (with Palm), French Legion d’Honneur Chevalier, French Croix de Guerre (with Palm Leaf)