

## **GROUNDS, Ira E.**

**“Snuffy”**

**B:** 22 February 1922 Talpa, TX

**D:** 9 October 1957 Montgomery, AL



*“As I climbed out a Me-109 dived past me on my starboard side some 150 yards away. I attacked and fired intermittently as the e/a came up over hedges and wires. Strikes were visible in several bursts and smoke streamed out. After a lengthy chase...the e/a lowered flaps and hit the ground. After one bounce the e/a made a good belly landing.”*

*- Ira Grounds, from his combat report of 19 July 1944*

**Hometown:** Talpa, Texas

**Rank:** Captain

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

**Unit:** 336th Fighter Squadron

### **Aircraft:**

P-51B-10-NA 42-106666 VF-0

P-51C-10-NT 42-103786 VF-0

**4th Service:** 17 April 1944 – 10 November 1944

17 JUN 44 Promoted to 1st Lieutenant

21 JUN 44 Participated in Operation FRANTIC II, the Russia Shuttle mission. After departure from Italy 5 July returned because of mechanical issues. Left the following day in VF-J. (RTB 6 JUL)

30 AUG 44 Designated Assistant Squadron Operations and Gunnery Officer

28 OCT 44 Promoted to Captain

### **Victories:**

3.5 (3 air/.5 ground)

### **Post 4th Fighter Group:**

Remained in the USAF; promoted to major in 1955.

### **Decorations:**

Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal (5 OLC), European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Distinguished Unit Citation, World War II Victory Medal.