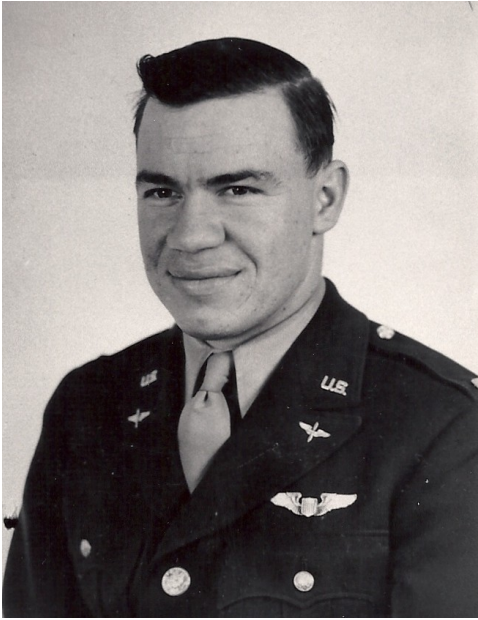


GROUNDS, Ira E.

“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:

N/A

Decorations:

Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal (5 OLC), Distinguished Unit Citation, World War II Victory Medal