

JONES, Larry F.

B: 14 August 1921 TX

D: 21 April 1995 Newton, TX

Longview Soldier Member of Famous P-51 Fighter Unit

Staff Sgt. Larry F. Jones, son of Mrs. William T. Jones, of Longview is a member of the oldest fighter group in the 8th Fighter Command, the high-scoring P-51 Mustang Group commanded by Col. Don Blakeslee, of Fairport Harbor, O., which celebrated its second anniversary recently by destroying 24 enemy planes in two days.

The group was formed Sept. 12, 1942, when the three Eagle Squadrons of the Royal Air Force transferred to the USAAF and became the first fighter group in the Eighth Air Force.

In the two-year period the ex-Eagles, complemented by U. S. trained pilots, have flown Spitfires, Thunderbolts and Mustangs. They have destroyed 687 enemy aircraft, 222 while on hazardous ground strafing operations.

The group's list of famous firsts include: First Allied fighters to penetrate Germany from Britain; first Allied single-engine fighters over Berlin; providing the fighter escort for the first Britain-to-Russia shuttle raid; and the first fighter group in the European Theater of Operations to pass the 400, 500, and 600 marks in enemy planes destroyed.

Sgt. Jones is an aircraft mechanic with a squadron in the group. He has served in England since June, 1942.

From the Longview (Texas) News
29 October 1944

Hometown: Longview, Texas

Rank: Staff Sergeant

MOS: 750 - Crew Chief

Unit: 336th Fighter Squadron

Aircraft:

P-47C-5-RE 41-6533 VF-B

P-47C-5-RE 41-6571 VF-B *The Earl*

P-51D-5-NA 44-13317 VF-B

4th Service: 9 December 1942 - 29 August 1944

Campaigns: Normandy, Northern France.

Post 4th Fighter Group:

N/A

Decorations:

Distinguished Unit Badge, Good Conduct Medal; European-African-Middle Eastern Service Ribbon (with two bronze stars); World War II Victory Medal, American Defense Medal.