

# MESSENGER, Robert J.

B: 25 July 1918 Erie, PA

D: 19 August 1994 Phoenix, AZ



Photo via Gover Collection USAFA Library

**Hometown:** Erie, Pennsylvania

**Rank:** 1st Lieutenant

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

**Unit:** 336th Fighter Squadron

### Aircraft:

Spitfire Mk VB BL582 MD-V *EL*

P-47C-5-RE 41-6184 VF-V *Old Rocking Chair/Well/EL*

P-47D-11-RE 42-75392 VF-V

**4th Service:** 9 October 1942 – 6 March 1944

1 MAY 43 Promoted to 1st Lieutenant

1 MAR 44 Designated Flight Commander C Flight

6 MAR 44 Went down 50 miles south of Berlin after an engagement with enemy aircraft; not seen to go down. Was heard faintly over the R/T calmly stating "I'm going to have to bail out."

POW (MACR 3042)

### Victories:

1

### Post 4th Fighter Group:

Business owner in Phoenix, Arizona.

### Decorations:

Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal (3 OLC), European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal; POW Medal, World War II Victory Medal.