**MESSENGER, Robert J.**

B: 25 July 1918  Erie, PA  
D: 19 August 1994  Phoenix, AZ

**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.