

NELSON, Robert F.

“Buffalo Grass”

B: 8 August 1919 St. Louis, MO

D: 23 September 2013 Bakersfield, CA



Hometown: Long Beach, California

Rank: 1st Lieutenant

MOS: 1055 - Pilot, single engine fighter

Unit: 336th Fighter Squadron

Aircraft:

P-47C-2-RE 41-6197 VF-Q

P-51B-7-NA 43-6633 VF-Q

4th Service: 18 August 1943 – 22 April 1944

27 NOV 43 Promoted to 2nd Lieutenant

14 JAN 44 Promoted to 1st Lieutenant

22 APR 44 Aircraft struck in glycol system during an engagement with several German aircraft. He attempted to nurse the stricken fighter home with a glycol leak, but the engine seized up and he bailed out safely near Korbach, Germany. He evaded capture for 4 days until he was finally captured at Wilnsdorf, Germany. POW (MACR 4130)

Victories:

6 (1 air/5 ground)

Post 4th Fighter Group:

Retired from the USAFR as a Lieutenant Colonel

Decorations:

Distinguished Flying Cross (2 OLC), Air Medal (3 OLC), POW Medal, World War II Victory Medal.