

PATCHEN, Donald J.

B: 24 September 1922 Victory, NY

D: 25 July 1999 Binghamton, NY



Hometown: Bainbridge, New York

Rank: 1st Lieutenant

MOS: 1055 - Pilot, single engine fighter

Unit: 336th Fighter Squadron

Aircraft:

P-51B-7-NA 43-6584 VF-A

4th Service: 9 March 1944 – 19 May 1944

MAY 44 Promoted to 1st Lieutenant

19 MAY 44 Aircraft struck in the coolant system by flak at 28,000'. Turned for home, flying about 30 minutes before the engine began belching smoke and quit. He rolled the aircraft over and bailed out at 9,000'. His Mustang crashed about 6 miles SW of Nienburg, Germany. POW. (MACR 5290)

Victories:

2 (ground)

Post 4th Fighter Group:

Served in the Korean War.

Rural mail carrier for 30 years, retired in 1979.

Decorations:

Air Medal (OLC), POW Medal, World War II Victory Medal.