

PETERSON, Kenneth D.

“Black Snake”

B: 21 April 1916 Mesa, AZ

D: 11 March 1950 Indian Springs, NV



"In my opinion Capt. Peterson's extraordinarily heroic action saved the lives of three men beside myself who bailed out successfully. In the absence of Capt. Peterson I wish to confirm two Fw190's destroyed by him. I also wish to commend Capt. Peterson for his courage and aggressiveness in attacking 12 enemy aircraft alone, with the full knowledge that his chance of survival was very small"

- S/Sgt Edgar Johnson, waist gunner, 306th Bomb Group

Hometown: Mesa, Arizona

Rank: Captain

MOS: 1055 - Pilot, single engine fighter

Unit: 336th Fighter Squadron

Aircraft:

P-47C-5-RE 41-6539 VF-F *Arizona Pete*

P-51B-7-NA 43-6696 VF-F

4th Service: 9 October 1942 – 29 March 1944

4 JAN 44 Designated Flight Commander C Flight (PD)

20 JAN 44 Designated Flight Commander B Flight (PD)

15 FEB 44 Promoted to Captain

1 MAR 44 Designated Flight Commander A Flight (PD)

25 MAR 44 Designated squadron Assistant Operations and Gunnery officer

29 MAR 44 Shot down while attacking 12 Fw-190's that had set upon a crippled B-17. POW.
(MACR 3459)

Victories:

4 (3 air / 1 ground)

Highlights:

29 MAR 44 - 2 FW-190's

Post 4th Fighter Group:

Remained in the Air Force after the war. Stationed at Williams Field AZ, later at Indian Springs AFB.

11 MAR 50 KIFA. The F-80A (44-85327) in which he was flying suffered a mechanical failure and crashed 5 miles N of Indian Springs AFB, NV

Decorations:

Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross (OLC), Air Medal (8 OLC), Distinguished Unit Citation