

KINNARD, Claiborne H. Jr.

“Clay”

B: 29 October 1912 Franklin, TN

D: 18 September 1966 Franklin, TN



Kinnard Named To Lead Fourth Fighter Group

London, Nov. 23.—(P)—Lt. Col. Claiborne H. Kinnard Jr., 32-year-old fighter pilot from Franklin, Tenn., has assumed command of the Fourth Fighter Group of the U. S. Eighth Air Force, headquarters announced today.

Kinnard, who has destroyed six enemy planes in aerial combat and 15 by strafing, succeeds Col. Don Blakeslee, Fairport Harbor, Ohio, who has been ordered to a new assignment in the U. S.

The Fourth Fighter Group is the Eighth's highest scoring Mustang group, with more than 700 Nazi craft destroyed in the air and on the ground.

*From the Durham (NC) Morning Herald
24 November 1944*

Hometown: Franklin, Tennessee

Rank: Lieutenant Colonel

MOS: 1055 - Pilot, single engine fighter

Unit: 4th Headquarters Squadron

Aircraft:

P-51D-10-NA 44-14292 QP-A *Man O' War*

P-51D-10-NA 44-14537 QP-A *Man O' War*

4th Service: 9 September 1944 to 29 November 1944

9 SEP 44 Appointed Acting Deputy Group and Station Commander

15 SEP 44 Appointed Acting Group and Station Commander

3 NOV 44 Appointed 4th Group and Station Commander

29 NOV 44 Tour ends, returns to Zone of the Interior

Victories:

3 (1 air / 2 ground) with the 4th

25 total (8 air/ 17 ground) includes service with 355FG and 356FG)

Post 4th Fighter Group:

1946–1953 Air Force Reserves

1953 Group CO, Tennessee Air National Guard

Built a successful business supplying patented pre-stressed concrete beams.

Passed away in 1966 due to a brain tumor.

Decorations

Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross (7 OLC), Air Medal (8 OLC), Croix de Guerre (with Palm), Distinguished Unit Citation, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal.