

PETERSON, Chesley G.

“Col. Pete”

B: 10 August 1920 Salmon, ID

D: 28 January 1990 Riverside, CA



“Peterson was tall, wiry and approximately knock-kneed, with flaxen hair and deep-socketed blue eyes. He was affable and well liked; he was boyish without loss of dignity. But the salient characteristic was combativeness.”

- from ‘1000 Destroyed’ by Grover C. Hall, 4th Fighter Group PRO during the war

Hometown: Santaquin, Utah

Rank: Colonel

MOS: 1055 - Pilot, single engine fighter

Unit: 4th Headquarters Squadron
334th Fighter Squadron

Aircraft:

P-47C-5-RE 41-6413 QP-V

4th Service: 16 September 1942 - 19 May 1943
20 August 1943 - 1 January 1944

16 SEP 42 Promoted to Major; designated Group Executive Officer and Group Operations Officer

21 OCT 42 Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel

15 APR 43 Returning from a mission his aircraft suffered an engine failure, forced to bail out over the Channel 30 miles from shore. Picked up by an RAF ASR Walrus after 45 minutes

19 MAY 43 Assigned to 334th Fighter Squadron; on DS as Assistant A-3, Operations and Training, VIII Fighter Command

20 AUG 43 Assigned to 4th Headquarters Squadron; designated 4th Group and Station Commanding Officer

22 OCT 43 Promoted to Colonel

1 JAN 44 Assigned to 9th Air Force Headquarters; designated Combat Operations Officer

Victories:

9

Post 4th Fighter Group:

MAR 45 Commanding Officer, Dale Mabry Field Tallahassee, Florida

AUG 49 Air Instructor 128th Fighter-Bomber Wing Milwaukee, Wisconsin

AUG 51 Assumed command 137th Fighter-Bomber Group Alexandria, Virginia

AUG 53 Assumed command 48th Fighter-Bomber Wing Chaumont Air Base, France

JUN 55 Chief, Tactical Branch Operations Plan Division Washington, DC;

later appointed Chief, Fighter Branch, Operation Controls Division, Washington, DC;

Deputy Chief, Operations Control Division Washington, DC

AUG 59 Assumes command of the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing

JUL 61 Chief of Staff, 5th Air Force Fuchu Air Station, Japan

JUL 63 Promoted to Brigadier General; appointed Assistant Chief of Staff, J-2, US Strike Command McDill AFB, Florida

APR 65 Promoted to Major General

DEC 65 Appointed Director of Plans J-5

APR 67 Appointed Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Staff CINC, Pacific

JUL 70 Retired from the USAF

Decorations:

Distinguished Service Cross, British Distinguished Service Order, Distinguished Flying Cross, British Distinguished Flying Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, French Legion of Honor, Air Medal (4 OLC), Purple Heart, Legion of Merit (OLC), European-African-Middle Eastern campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal w/Star, Air Force Longevity Service Award (SOLC).