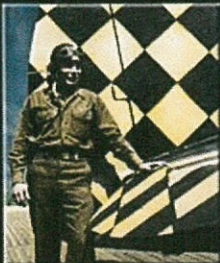


"NO ESCAPE"

Image by Neil "Mysticpuma" Pugh



"I chased him down from altitude and I pulled my gunsight on him. I guessed at about four ship lengths through him and then opened fire, as I rolled out I saw him burst into flame and blow up."

*Lt. Gerald B Edwards
325th Fighter Group-317th Fighter Squadron*



A-2 Jacket
Owned by 1st Lt. (later Capt.) Eugene H. Emmons DFC
325th Fighter Group 317th Fighter Squadron
Aerial Ace with 9 Confirmed Victories

This A-2 Jacket was originally owned by Lt. Gerald B. Edwards DFC of the 325th Fighter Group 317th Fighter Squadron (3 confirmed aerial victories) and was given to Lt. Eugene H. Emmons DFC. The reason for Edwards to give his A-2 Jacket to Emmons can only be speculated on today as both men are deceased and neither explained why the jacket was once owned by both of them.

The most reasonable explanation would be that when Edwards moved to flying the P-51 Mustang he gave his A-2 that was decorated with the P-47 Thunderbolt painting on the back to Emmons who continued to fly the P-47.

The A-2 Jacket was purchased from the Emmons Family in 2016 having been stored in a trunk since the late 1940s.

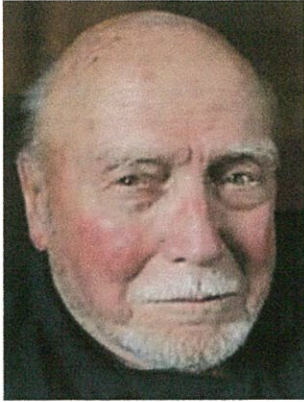
**Aerial Victories by Individual Pilot
317th Fighter Squadron**

NAME	P-40	P-47	P-51	TOTAL
Aho, Arne E.	0	1	0	1
Ambrose, David E.	0	0	2	2
Bagley, Wendell B.	0	0	1	1
Baldwin, Woodrow P.	0	0	2	2
Barrett, John	0	0	1	1
Bass, Robert S.	0	1	2	3
Bean, Robert W.	0	0	1	1
Bolek, Frank M.	0	0	1	1
Brower, John L.	0	2	0	2
Brundyge, Henry H.	3	0	0	3
Butler, Frank J.	0	3	0	3
Carroll, Neil C.	1	2	0	3
Chick, Lewis W., Jr.	0	6	0	6
Clark, Dudley R.	2	0	0	2
Clark, Robert D.	0	3	0	3
Conant, John P.	0	0	1	1
Cunningham, Bruce	2	0	0	2
Davis, Barrie S.	0	0	6	6
Dean, Cecil O.	1	3	2	6
Donovan, Alzie D.	1	0	0	1
Dorety, James C.	0	2	0	2
Dunkin, Richard W.	1	3	5	9

Dytrych, Joseph R.	0	0	1	1
Edwards, Gerald B.	0	2	1	3
Emmons, Eugene H.	0	9	0	9
Eyerley, Harry E.	2	0	0	2
Fiedler, Arthur C., Jr.	0	0	8	8
Gaia, John F.	0	0	1	1
Green, Herschel H.	3	10	5	18
Greve, Henry C.	0	0	2	2
Hamilton, Georgie C.	1	3	0	4
Hinton, Walter R.	0	0	2	2
Hoffman, Cullen J.	0	4	1	5
Huntington, Clifford	4	0	0	4
Jones, Edwin P.	2	0	0	2
Kastner, Paul J.	0	1	2	3
Lowery, Wayne F.	0	0	11	11
Miller, Edward L.	0	0	3	3
Mock, Richard H.	1	3	0	4
Murphy, William A.	0	0	1	1
Novotny, George P.	3	5	0	8
Owen, Daniel H.	1	0	0	1
Palmer, John P.	3	0	0	3
Paulk, Edsel	0	5	0	5
Penney, Warren F.	2	2	0	4
Reed, William R.	2	0	0	2
Reid, Robert F.	0	0	3	3

Ritter, Elvador E.	0	0	1	1
Rynne, William A.	0	5	0	5
Schaefer, Frank W.	0	0	1	1
Sederberg, Robert S.	1	0	0	1
Simmons, John M.	0	0	7	7
Stacy, Leland J.	0	0	3	3
Staley, George C., Jr.	1	0	0	1
Tatman, Paul P.	0	0	3	3
Taylor, Ralph G.	6	0	0	6
Terry, Donald B.	0	0	1	1
Troutt, Richard A.	0	0	1	1
Tudor, William T.	1	0	0	1
Walker, Frank E.	0	1	0	1
Walker, Walter B., Jr.	5	0	0	5
Wardan, Donald E.	3	0	0	3
Wolfe, Harold C.	0	1	3	4
Totals	52	77	85	214

[317th]



Gerald B. Edwards

Gerald B. Edwards

Keeseville - Gerald B Edwards, 92, of 75 Cassidy Road, Keeseville, passed peacefully, September 6, 2013 surrounded by his wife and children at his home following a heart attack.

Gerald was born in Yonkers, NY, September 28, 1920 the son of George C. Edwards and Patrice (Monahan) Edwards.

Gerald is survived by his wife of 52 years, Julie Edwards and eight children: Geralene Thurnau and husband Ted of Ridgeland, South Carolina, Patrice

Manget of Kalispell, Montana, Eileen Wray and husband Bill of Orlando, Florida, Michaelle Edwards of Hanalei Kauai, Hawaii, Gerald Jr. (Jody) of Essex Junction, Vermont, Kenneth and wife, Ginny Edwards of Gulfport, Florida, Tara Edwards and husband Fran Bola of Keeseville, New York, Tawn Edwards and husband Dmitri of Alfaretta, Georgia, ten grandchildren, Christine Manget of Davie, Florida, Harold(Chip) Pistone of Orlando, Florida, Tom & Pete Pistone of Charlotte, North Carolina, Zack Gilbert of Hanalei Kauai, Hawaii, Kylie Edwards of NYC, Thorne & Eleanor Bola of Keeseville, New York, and Capella and Solomon Gerald Edwards of Alpharetta, Georgia, and 2 great grandchildren Jessica Pistone of Orlando, Florida, and Justin Pistone of Wichita, Kansas.

Gerald grew up in Yonkers, NY. In his early youth, he was a choirboy, paperboy, soda clerk, gas station attendant, elevator operator, ambulance driver, and tunnel construction sand hog. On December 6, 1941, Gerald was a 21 year old civilian pumping gas looking forward to attending medical school. The attack at Pearl Harbor changed his plans linking his destiny with the U. S. Air Force as a fighter pilot, comptroller, SAC super secret planner and ultimately commander of the 1st Military Airlift Squadron at Dover AFB. In his almost 29 years of service in the Air Force, he flew P-40s, P-47s, and P-51s with the 325th Fighter group in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and Germany. He escorted bombers, flew fighter sweeps, and his group known as the "Checkertails" is credited with being one of the most highly decorated and successful of the European Campaign in WW II. His more than 60 missions over enemy territory saw Gerald taking part in the action at Ploesti, The Invasion of Southern France in 1944, and many flights in and out of Russia, (bombing Germany along the way), knocking down three enemy planes in aerial combat and earning for himself the Distinguished Flying Cross, and 11 different Air Medals. He was a veteran of Korea and Vietnam flying KB-50s, KC-97s, T-33s, F 100s, and C 133s, accumulating over 6,000 flying hours in his Air Force career. Other assignments were a 30 month tour in Germany after the war and a year at the Pentagon Air Force headquarters. Another assignment brought him to Ankara, Turkey as an advisor to the Turkish Air Force and military advisor to the consulate. Among other things he build their NATO briefing system from scratch and even represented Turkey at a NATO conference in Nov 1953. Returning to the states in 1954, Col. Edwards joined the Strategic Air Command at Barksdale AFB, LA. He was involved in work so secret, his office was a vault, and as a member of SAC's "planning group" under General Curtis LeMay, he worked on major war plans and matters of national security as James Bondish as the "Red Telephone". He completed the advanced management program at the University of Pittsburgh in 1957. He returned to the cockpit 1957 to 1965 holding additional operations, administration, and command positions with the 31st Fighter Wing, 308th and 2nd Air Refueling squadrons at Hunter AFB, Georgia. He was with the 4097th Air Refueling Squadron at Plattsburgh AFB and the 4081th Strategic Wing at Harmon AFB, Newfoundland, Canada. In 1961 he pinned on the silver leaves of Lt Colonel. Colonel Edwards was assigned to Dover AFB and became

the executive officer of the 1st Military Airlift Squadron in 1966 and commander in August 1967. Gerald made 35 combat trips to SE Asia. Gerald stayed connected to his WW 2 fighter group the 325th also known as the Checkertails and attended yearly reunions across the country for many decades including this past August 2013 in Boston. A documentary of the Checkertails was filmed by Neil Pugh of England and released in Washington DC documenting the heroic actions of Gerald and many other brave men.

In July 1970, Gerald retired from the Air Force and began a new life on Willow Hill Farm in Keeseville. Gerald and Julie spent the first six months building a barn for the horses they had already begun to collect. He kept busy during retirement working as a salesman for Combined Life Insurance Company, and served five years as Director of Economic Development for Essex County. He established the Keeseville Industrial Park while working hard to bring industry to the North Country. Inspired by neighbor Dora Arnold, he was a major force in the development of the Essex County ARC, later renamed Mountain Lake Services. He served as president for 25 years and continued as a board member until his death. He worked tirelessly and obtained grants which helped grow Mountain Lake Services into what may be the largest employer in the county. The Gerald B. Edwards Training Center in Keeseville is named in his honor in recognition of his many years of service for the disabled.

Gerald earned the NYSARC Volunteer award for his remarkable volunteer work for his community. He was a gifted story teller, avid reader, public speaker, and actor. He was a member of the Plattsburgh Little Theater and acted in several local productions. He formed the committee that was instrumental in bringing Amtrak back to the North Country and served as board member and trustee of WCFE Public Television for 10 years. He was board member and treasurer of the Lake Placid Horse Show Association for 12 years, and board member of Champlain Valley Educational Services (formerly BOCES) for 10 years. Always a champion for individual rights, Gerald along with Ruth Newberry led the League for Adirondack Citizens Rights in an effort to restore property rights to individuals against the onslaught of the Adirondack Park Agency Master Plan.

The Celebration of his Life will be held Sunday, September 22, 2013 at the Harmony Golf Club in Port Kent from 1 to 5 PM. Full military honors will be accorded at 1:30. A time for words of remembrance will follow. Anyone wishing to speak, please contact Ken Edwards at 352-509-1231 or 834-9746. Refreshments will be served with a cash bar available.

On Monday, Sept 23rd, at 6:30 pm, the Hollywood Theater on Main Street in AuSable Forks will present the Checkertails documentary. Anyone who knew Gerald or those interested in WWII Army Air Corps history are invited to attend free of charge, and the refreshment stand will be open.

In lieu of flowers, tax deductible donation checks in memory and honor of Gerald's life may be sent to the Checkertails Organization, 1004 Faulk Rd., Wilmington, Delaware, 19802.
www.checkertails.org

Arrangements are in the care of the Hamilton Funeral Home. 124 Clinton Street. Keeseville.

834-7667