

Merrill Leland Cornell

Born: June 28, 1922
Island

Died:

Period of Service: WW II

Sources: Monument,
B10F2a, JG, a picture in P4F1
Am Legion scrapbook box 17

Service # T-122819

Entered service March 26, 1942 in Green Bay
Discharged January 19, 1946 fort Dix, NJ as flight officer.

Served in 334th and 432nd NA Bomb Squadron of 17th Bomb Group from 10/16,1943 to 1/19/1946.
Went to AAF Pilot Training School Lakeland ,FL; RTU Lake Charles, LA; and was in Villicedra, Sardinia;
Bastia, Corsica; Dijon, France; and Luxemburg.

Was in the battle of Southern France, and was wounded 8/20/1944 and recuperated in a hospital in
Corsica till 9/19/1944. Returned to duty with his bomb group.

He had sailed from Morrison Field, FL and arrived at Dakar, in Africa on 7/9/1944, and then Sardinia on
7/13/1944. Finally sailed from LeHavre, France 11/19/1945 on *SS George Washington* arriving in
Boston 11/27/1945.

Medals include Air Medal with two clusters, Purple Heart, the French Croix De Guerre, the Presidential
Citation, ETO Ribbon, Victory medal and American Defense medal.

His B-26 crash landed in the Mediterranean when a tire blew out and the plane burned. He got free of
the plane with his clothes on fire, rolled in the mud to put out the fire, though he had burns, a broken
leg and broken ribs. He got out before the plane exploded.

While on a 10 day leave on the Island he broke his nose 2/22/1944 when his car rolled over. During his
stay in Europe he sent a graphic letter to his folks describing the operation of a plane while on a
bombing run over enemy territory and dodging the artillery flak. He served in Rome, Arno, Rix Island,
and Central Europe.

Ruby and Claude's son. Lived in Merrinette, WI, and then went to Texas. Died of brain cancer.

No data in RootsMagic