

Washington Island Military Archives

Cpl Klemmet Ellefson

Born: 12/6/1921

Died: 2005

Period of Service: WW II

Cemetery 052 S

Sources: Monument B10

F2a, Observer Interview, JG

Am Legion scrapbook box 17

Service # 16115110

Volunteered for Army Air Force on 8/3/1942 at Green Bay. Washed out to be a pilot, so trained at flight engineering school at Keesler Air Force Base, MS. He was discharged 10/13/1945 at Truax Field, Madison, WI.

Came home for leave before school started. Had to cross the Door in a Model A Ford fitted with treads like a tank. Arni said he couldn't make it so Klemmet walked the last half. Training included everything about planes, gunnery, and piloting. He was aviation cadet 2/6/1943 to 5/3/1943. Then to Eng Mach Airopplane school 5/8/1943 to 11/15/1943, Aerial Gunnery School 11/30/1943 to 1/25/1944, and overseas training 3/5/1944 to 7/3/1944. He was with 7875 Bomb Group 8/15/1944 to 4/13/1945.

He served at many stations: Boca Raton AAF Base, Nashville AAF Base, Maxwell Field, Montgomery, AL, Lafayette Field, LA; Gayel, LA; Kessler Field, Biloxi, MS; Tyndal Field, FL; Salt Lake City AAF Base, Pueblo AAF, CO; Lincoln AAF, NE; Stone, England; Green Castle, Ireland; Norwich, England; Santa Ana, CA; Chanute Field, IL.

He participated in campaigns in Northern France, Ardenne, Rhineland, Central Europe.

He was based in England and flew in B-24s with the 466th Bomb Group, 787 B squadron of the 2nd Division. Flew 31 missions over Germany after D-Day. His squadron supplied gasoline to various areas. General Patton was moving so fast he outran his supplies of gas. Their plane often got hit by ack-ack. His tail was shot away once and they had to bail out over England.

His medals include the Presidential Citation, Air Medal with 40 LC, ETO Ribbon with four stars, and pistol and carbine badges.

Back on the Island, he took care of nets for the fisherman, boiling them and rolling them up.

He was known as "K". His brothers were Jake and Steve (Everett). His wife was Phyllis Onsager, whose grandparents were all from Norway.

Picture on reverse.

Cpl Klemmet Ellefson

