



Lawrence E. Downey 1919 – 1944)

By Edurne Ganem

Lawrence E. Downey was a fighter pilot who participated in World War II. First Lieutenant Lawrence E. Downey was reported missing in action since June 19; he had been in England 7 months and had enlisted in the army on February 22, 1942.

He lived with his mother, Mrs. Dereva V. Downey; in Chula Vista at 1116 Second Ave (Aloe). More information revealed that she past away in 1980 and that she was buried in Escondido. He received his wings upon graduation from the AAF Gulf Coast Advanced Training Center in April 1943, and had received earlier Air Force training at F. Foster, Brooks, Moore and Ellington airfields.

Most of the information that was found was extracted from two articles that were published in the Star News of 1944.

Other information follows: Lawrence E. Downey entered the service from Ogallala, Nebraska.

He was a First Lieutenant in the United States Army Air Force. His service number was 0-677997. He was assigned to the 374th Fighter Squadron, of the 361st Fighter Group, 8th Air Force. He flew the P51B “Mustang” fighter aircraft



P51 “Mustang”

Lawrence Downey died on June 19, 1944, less than two weeks after D-Day. His name appears in the Brittany American Cemetery in St. James, France. The location of his headstone is Plot F, Row 2, Grave #3.

He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters and the Purple Heart

