

1st Lt. Arthur Montano



Lt. Montano served in the Army Air Force from February 1, 1943 to November 1945. He was assigned to the 8th AF, 385th Bomber Group, 548th Bomber Squadron in December 1944 as a Navigator and Toggler and finished his 35th mission on the 18th of April 1945. He flew 35 missions to Germany and occupied Europe, including one to Prague, Czechoslovakia.

He experienced many events during missions including flak barrages, mid-air collisions, airmen parachuting from disabled planes, and a rare ME-282 jet being chased by three P-51 Mustangs.

On one mission Lt. Montano and crew were forced to land on a glider field near Chalon-Sur-Marne, France when two engines failed and one prop failed to feather, making the plane extremely unstable.

“The situation was getting so bad that Mac, our pilot, ordered that all the loose equipment be thrown out to lighten the plane. All the ammunition and even the 50-caliber machine guns were tossed out.”

Lt. Montano was awarded Air Medals with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters and the European Theatre of Operations Ribbon.

Arthur Montano was born on October 28, 1923 in Audubon, NJ and resides in Punta Gorda, FL.

