

LEN KRENZLER



“PLAYIN’ WITH THE BOYS”

The Man: Richard “Bud” Peterson

The story of this scene is best told by Samuel Harry Glasser, radio operator-gunner aboard a B-17G called the “Outhouse Mouse.” His formation was about to be jumped by a pack of Luftwaffe fighters but the B17s were being escorted by P-51 Mustangs. The pilot of “Hurry Home Honey” radioed his ‘big friend’ and said, “I’ll be right back, fellas. I’m gonna go play with these boys.” Looks like he played for keeps because he came back. The pilot of that plane was Richard “Bud” Peterson.

Richard Peterson is shown here just as he opens fire on his second opponent, the Luftwaffe flight leader’s wingman. His first opponent can be seen free falling away from his stricken ME 109 as he wisely waits to lose speed before opening his parachute.

Richard Peterson was a well loved fighter pilot of the 357 th fighter group and went on to score 15.5 aerial victories and become one of the greatest Mustang aces of the war.

The Machine: P51D Mustang

This famous Mustang “Hurry Home Honey” is said to be named after the letters Richard Peterson received from his wife during the campaign. The letters must have worked because he made it home.

The P51 Mustang is well known as one of the most outstanding fighters ever produced during WWII. Rushed into production with advanced aerodynamic features such as laminar flow wings, the “D” model was powered by the legendary 12 cylinder liquid cooled Rolls Royce Merlin (built under license by Packard) and achieved a speed of 437 miles per hour in level flight, a climb rate of 3,475 ft/min. and a service ceiling of 42,000 feet. It was armed with 6 “.50 cal” machine guns.

The most important feature was its exceptional range allowing the Allies for the first time to escort Allied bombers on their entire perilous mission deep into central Europe . This escort greatly reduced bomber and air crew losses. It is said that when air marshal Goering saw Allied bombers being escorted by Mustangs over Germany he knew the war was over.

Editions:

750 20”x30” Paper Prints
75 20”x30” Paper Artist Proofs
75 20”x30” Canvas Iris Giclée Prints
25 30”x40” Canvas Iris Giclée Prints