

AVIATION WALL OF HONOR



First Lieutenant Clarence L. Vinge

Clarence L. Vinge is the son of Gust Vinge, Wabash Street, Ishpeming, Michigan. He was a graduate of Northern Michigan College of Education in 1938. Subsequently he received his Masters degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1941. Before joining the Army Air Force, he was employed as a geographer by the War Production Board in Washington D.C.

As co-pilot of a lead crew with the 34th Bomb Group, Eighth Air Force, he completed more than thirty bombing attacks on military targets in Germany and Nazi-occupied Europe. These aerial assaults included a variety of objectives ranging from Nazi “buzz” bomb launching platforms and fighter bases to road junctions, railroad yards and synthetic oil refineries.

First Lieutenant Vinge holds the Air Medal and four Oak Leaf Clusters for “meritorious achievement, coolness, courage and skill” during aerial combat activity and wears battle stars for the European Air Offensive, the Western Europe Campaign, and the Northern France Campaign. He was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries received during an Eighth Air Force bombing attack in a Nazi airfield in occupied France.

As a member of the Third Air Division, he was cited by the President for it’s now historic England–Africa shuttle bombing of Nazi Messerschmitt aircraft plants in Regensburg, Germany.