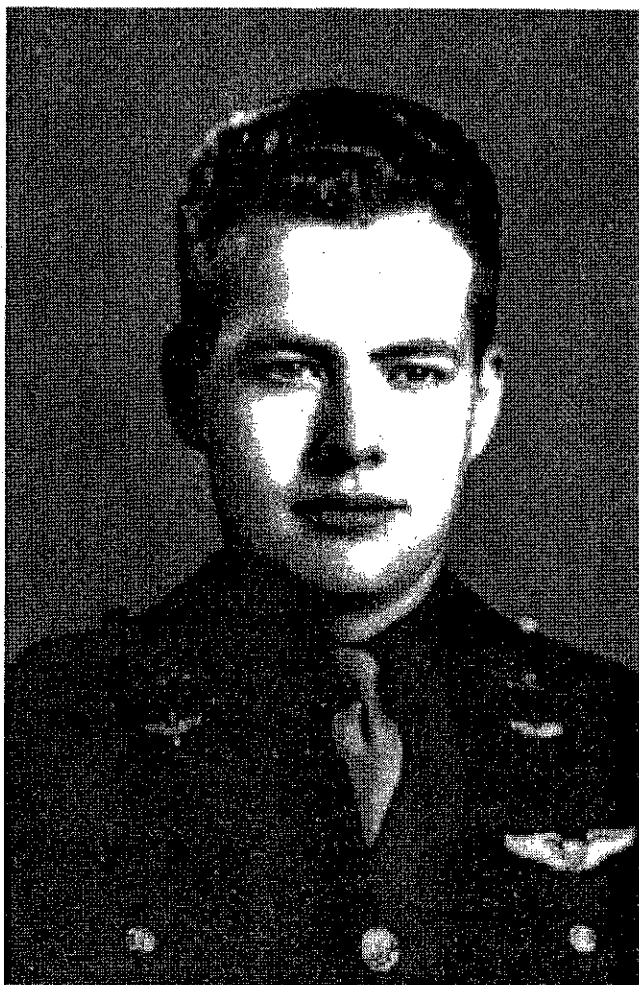


# AVIATION WALL OF HONOR



## **Captain USAAF Julius "Bert" Peterson**

Bert Peterson was born in Manistique, Michigan on July 12, 1920. After attending high school in Detroit and Bethany Lutheran Junior College, he enrolled in Finley College in Ohio where he took flying lessons and obtained his pilot's license. After joining the Army Air Corps, he had Primary Training in Arkansas followed by Basic in Sherman, Texas. Advanced Training proceeded at Lake Charles, Louisiana where he was commissioned and received his wings.

He was then transferred to the East Coast where he joined the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne, piloting a C-47 Transport. This plane was used for dropping the parachute troops wherever needed.

They first flew to England and then to North Africa where paratroop-drops were made over North Africa, Sicily, and then Italy. Flying at not much over treetop level with only a flack jacket for protection made for very hazardous flying.

Their next move was back to England for the big push on the European mainland with Normandy, Holland, and Bastogne as targets. Their most costly mission was over the Rhine River where of the 81 planes participating, 10 were shot down, 9 damaged beyond repair, and 36 aircraft needing major repairs. Many crewmembers were wounded including the C.O.

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Bert was awarded 11 Combat Medals and a Presidential Unit Citation for his efforts.

He returned to Marquette after the war, married Joan Frei, a teacher, where they have resided since. Together, they had two children, both of whom became Harvard graduates.

TJ Mudge, May 2004