

# AVIATION WALL OF HONOR



## **First Lieutenant Royal G. Madden Jr. Killed in Action**

Royal G. Madden attended Marquette public schools and graduated from Graveraet High School in 1941. At the time of his enlistment in the Army Air Corps in April 1942, he was a machinist's apprentice in the Lake Shore Engineering Company's plant here.

He graduated as top honor man and medallist in Class 43-D at Craig Army Air Field, Selma, Alabama on April 29, 1943 and received his pilots wings and a commission as Second Lieutenant. From Craig Field he was sent to Elgin Field, Florida for gunnery training and was given advanced training at Mitchell Field, New York.

Before going overseas in January 1944, he was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant. He was attached to the 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 485<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, 370<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group flying a P-38 (Lightning).

On August 18, 1944 while flying cover for an armored column between Caen and Argentan in France, he was reported missing in action. His squadron encountered heavy fog in the course of the mission and when it emerged Madden's plane was missing.

On November 17, 1944 General H. A. Arnold, Army Air Force Commander, addressed the bereaved father:

R. G. Madden

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“With deepest regret I have learned that an official determination has been made of the death of your son, First Lieutenant Royal Garnett Madden, who has been missing since August 18, 1944 in the European area. Nothing the War Department can do or say will in any sense repair the loss of your loved one. He has gone, however, in honor and the goodly company of patriots. Let me, in communicating to you the country’s deep sympathy and also its gratitude for his valor and devotion.”

Madden’s father received an Air Medal with one Silver and two Bronze Oak Leaf clusters awarded posthumously to his son.

TJ Mudge, April 2004

R. G. Madden