

Robert Pierce Hussey

11 February 1921 - 21 January 1944

World War II Pilot, 325th Fighter Group

Robert Pierce Hussey was born 11 February 1921 in Lake Charles, Louisiana to Peirce A. and Florence M. Hussey. Sometime before the 1930 Census the family moved to Dayton, Ohio. Father Peirce is a lumber salesperson. They are renting a home for \$65.00 a month and has a radio set. Peirce is a WWI Veteran. 9-year-old Robert was joined by little sisters Joan, 4, Francis, 2 and newborn brother William. In January 1940, Robert became a member of the National Society of Pershing Rifles chapter at the University of Dayton. The 1940 Census showed the family was still in Dayton, but moved to a new house that they own. Peirce now owns a lumber yard, the Hussey-Nesom Sales Company. Robert finished high school and is in college.

Robert's draft card dated 15 February 1942 showed he was an Inspector for Frigidaire. He was 5' 6" tall, weighed 121 lbs. with hazel eyes and brown hair.



Robert joined the Army Air Corp on 15 April 1942 at Patterson Field, Ohio. He has 2 years of college and was given Army serial #15195138. He soon qualified for flight training. After Pre-Flight at San Antonio, Texas, he went to Grider Field in Pine Bluff, Arkansas for Primary. This was 13 November 1942 to 15 January 1943. He flew PT-19s for 60:03, 24:59 dual and 35:04 solo. Next was Basic Flight at Connally Air Base in Waco, Texas. The type of plane is unknown, but he flew 75:15, 27:05 dual and 48:10 solo, plus 12:15 in a Link trainer. This was from 20 January to 20 March 1943. Next was Advance training at Aloe Field in Victoria, Texas. He flew AT-6s from 21 March to 24 May 1943. He had a total of 94.8 hours, 20.8 dual and 74 solo. On 24 May 1943 Robert was awarded his wings and commissioned, receiving a new service #O-680029. He had a total of 230.6 hours training. Next, he was sent to Barton Field in Florida to learn to fly combat planes with the 54th Fighter Group. He flew a P-51 A (with an Allison engine) for the first time on 16 June. Over the next 30 days he made a total of 10 flights in P-51As, for a total of 17.5 hours. On 19 July he was moved to the 306th Fighter Squadron at Dale Mabry Field, Tallahassee, Florida. The rest of July and all of August he flew mostly P-47s. 21 flights for about 59 hours. He had 309.5 hours of flight time

before deploying overseas. After some leave time, Lt. Hussey was sent overseas as a Replacement pilot to North Africa and the Fifteenth Air Force. He was assigned



to the 318th Fighter Squadron, 325th Fighter Group on 25 October 1943. His first overseas flight was in a P-47 on 28 October 1943. The 325th was in the process of switching to P-47s at this time, so no combat missions were flown. The first 2 weeks of December the 325th moved across the Mediterranean to base in Foggia, Italy.

318th Fighter Squadron During the last 3 weeks of 1943, Lt. Hussey flew P-47s 10 times for about 18 hours, including one flight from North Africa to Italy. In January he flew 4 more local training flights.

Lt. Hussey was lost 21 January 1944 during a fighter sweep over the Rome area. This looks like his first combat mission. This was the day before the Anzio landings. He reported engine issues, which eventually stopped. He told a squadron mate over the radio he was going to bail out, but he lost sight of Lt. Hussey's planes. Not sure if he bailed out or bellied in. He was flying P-47 D-10, serial #42-75011, squadron #52. This plane was usually flown by Chester Sluder. Since Lt. Hussey was not found, the Army declared him dead on 22 January 1945. He is memorialized at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery in Nettuno, Italy.