

**SMS 1155**  
**Updated 8/3/21**  
**Tawnie Mizer**

**SMITH, KENNETH GUY**

**Linear Ft.: 0**  
**Approx. No. of Pgs.: 200**

**Collection Date: 1942-1947**

**Biographical Note**

Kenneth Guy Smith was born in Boise, Idaho, on 8 June 1914. He attended the College of Idaho, then worked for the Idaho Power Co. About 1941 he moved to California. He joined the Army Aviation Cadet program, but left abruptly and was accepted by the Clayton Knight Committee. He received his flight training and was commissioned 19 January 1942, and assigned to 121 (Eagle) Squadron RAF. He then was transferred to the 4th Fighter Group, 335th Fighter Squadron as they were organizing in October 1942. He had accumulated five enemy aircraft victories when, on a "Rhubarb" mission to the Bordeaux area of France on 21 March 1944, while strafing the Caen-Carpiquet airfield in P-51B #43-6803, he was shot down by Flak, crashed in Tailleville, 14km North of the Caen-Carpiquet airdrome and was taken as a prisoner of war in Germany shortly after on 21 March, 1944.

Subsequently it was learned that he had been badly burned on his face and a German surgeon did an excellent plastic reconstruction of everything but his eyebrows. He was adamant in refusing an operation on his eyebrows; he said "No German eyebrows, I'll wait and get American eyebrows". While recuperating, he was an orderly in Dulag Luft POW camp and received proper treatment.

Upon return to the United States, he stayed in the Air Force, was promoted to Major in 1947 and became CO of 37th Fighter Squadron, at the then Dow Army Air Field in Bangor, Maine. On 20 October 1947, he had taken a group of pilots on an aerobatics training mission. The formation climbed to 18,500 feet and did some climbing turns, but something went wrong for Ken Smith, who couldn't pull his P-47N Thunderbolt #44-89399 out of a flat spin. He remained at the controls to avoid crashing into a populated area near Searsport, Maine. His Thunderbolt crashed in the Mill Stream and Kenneth Smith was killed on impact. He shortly after was buried in Boise, Idaho at Morris Hill Cemetery.

Smith was awarded several medals throughout his military career. These medals include the Air Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross with 2 oak leaf clusters, the Prisoner of War Medal, the Purple Heart, and he World War II victory medal.

**Note:** Credit for this biography can be given to the American Air Museum in Britain. Biography was accessed at <https://www.americanairmuseum.com/person/139522> on 8/5/2021.

## Scope and Content Note

This collection documents Kenneth Guy Smith and his time in the 121 Eagle Squadron of the 335 Fighter Squadron, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force in the 1940's during World War II. This collection is stored in two boxes and divided into six series. Series 1-4 are in folder 1 box 1, series 5 is in box 2 and a black binder stored in box 1 of this collection. Series 6 is in folder 2 box 1.

**Series 1) Pilot's Flying Log Book Folder 1 Box 1** contains the original flight log book of Ken Smith for the 121 Eagle Squadron. **Series 2) Smith Flight Records and Special Orders Folder 1 box 1** contains Smith's personal paper flight records, Special Orders, and pilot certification paperwork. **Series 3) Correspondence folder 1 box 1** contains personal letters to Ken a.k.a. Bill and his wife Irene. **Series 4) Photograph folder 1 box 1** contains a single 8 x 11 photograph of uniformed personal. **Series 5) Photo Album black binder box 1 and original Photo Album Box 2** Contains an extraordinary captioned photo album that depicts the military career of Kenneth G. Smith while serving with the 335 Fighter Squadron 121 Eagle Squadron and the 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force in the 1940's during World War II. This album includes captioned photographs of many of his squadron mates that were either POW's or killed in action.

For preservation purposes the photographs have been removed from the original photo album and moved to a separate black binder. Many of these photographs are captioned and these captions are re produced in the finding aid while other pages of photographs contain no captions. The photographs are labeled in the black binder and organized on the finding aid, first by page number in the original album, second by the spot number on the page and then the caption, if there is one. There are several blank pages throughout the original photo album and they are not listed on the finding aid. There are several loose photographs in the original photo album and these photos, though moved to the black binder, do not have any labels in the black binder and are noted in the finding aid as "loose photographs" usually under the pages they were found near.

**Series 6) Newspapers Folder 2 box 1** contains 5 newspapers revolving around aviation and aircraft. This collection was donated by Ken Smith's wife Mrs. Catherine Schwarz on 4, May 1999.

**Keywords and Terms:** 1942-1947; World War II; 121 Eagle Squadron; Royal Air Force (RAF); 335 Fighter Squadron; 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter group; 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force; 58 Operational Training Unit (O.T.U.); pilot's log book; HE III German Bomber; P-47 Thunderbolt; WD-X Mark 1; ME 110 aircraft; pilot certification; flight records; Special Orders; War Dept. Army Air Forces; Finding Aids

**Names:** Smith, Kenneth G.; Smith, Irene; Woods, Elfreda; Woods, Donald Capt; Hope, Stan; Grimm, Chester; Patterson, "Pat"; Fink, Frank; Kelley, Bill; Happel, Jimmy; Gallagher, Carol; Capt. Andrews; Col. Anderson; Gen. Hunter; Gen. Hoyt; Maj. Dufour; Belcher, Jim; "Jackie"; Stevenson, A.J.; Bourke, Paul; Lutz, John F.; L/ F/L Beeke; S/L Hadsley; Halsey, "Gunner"; Chanler, John; P/O King; Dunn, "Pappy"; Pepler, K.G; Draper; Windchester; Hockins, John; Restino, "Dog"; Gordan, Gladys; Boyles, Frank; Ayers, Hank; Hively; Williams, Frank "Digger"; Beatie, Ernest; Jimmie; Ida; Care, "Bud"; Andrews, Tommy; Willis, "Willy"; Lieut. Talbot; Ellington, Paul "Duke"; Lieut. Carlow; Evans, Royce; Sanders

**Places:** Walden, England; Debden, Essex, England; Bournemouth, England; Cambridge, England; Corfe Castle, England; Balado Bridge, Scotland; Dow Field, Bangor, Maine, United States; Idaho, United States

### **Arrangement and Description**

**SERIES ONE**

**PILOT'S FLYING LOG BOOK**

**BOX 1**

**Folder 1**

335th Fighter Squadron, Royal Air Force Pilot's Flying Log Book, of Kenneth Guy Smith, R.A.F. V.R. U.S.A. "121" Eagle Squadron

**SERIES TWO**

**SMITH FLIGHT RECORDS AND SPC. ORDERS**

**BOX 1**

**Folder 1**

Individual Flight Records of Maj. Kenneth G. Smith, 1946-October 1947

Squadron Ordered No. 11, Assumption of Command, 2 July 1947

Special Orders No 142 for Maj. Kenneth G. Smith, of the 37<sup>th</sup> FTR SQ, 14<sup>th</sup> FTR Group, 1946-28 July 1947

HQ 14<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group Pilot Certification Form Dow Field, Bangor, Maine, Special Orders No. 26, 2 October 1947

Instrument Pilot Certificate Application and test for Kenneth G. Smith 14<sup>th</sup> Ftr Gp. 23 Dec. 1946 War Dept. Army Air Forces

**SERIES THREE**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**BOX 1**

**Folder 1**

A hand written letter to Bill, from unknown, dated 7 June 1998

A hand written letter to Bill, undated

A hand written letter to Irene, from Elfreda Woods, wife of Cpt. Donald Woods, undated

**SERIES FOUR  
BOX 1  
Folder 1**

**PHOTOGRAPH**

An 8x10 black and white photo of unidentified personnel in uniform next to a plane, with inscription on back of photo "Official Photograph Army Air Forces, Base photographic laboratory, March Field, California.

**SERIES FIVE  
BOX 2**

**PHOTO ALBUM**

Affixed to the inside from cover of the photo album is a poster titled "To the Boys of the World Famed Eagle Squadron We're mighty proud of you"

Two loose photographs

**Page 2**

2-1 Transfer day R.A.F. Station Debden, Essex U.S. R.A.F. Fighter Squadron No. 71-334; No. 121-335; No. 133-336 September 25<sup>th</sup> 1942

A single loose photograph

**Page 3**

3-1 "Stan" Stan Hope missing but now a P.O.W. in Germany

3-2 Chester Grimm R.A.F. V.R. U.S.A. Killed in Action

3-3 "Pat" Patterson R.A.F. V.R. U.S.A. 335 Squadron killed in Action

3-4 Frank Fink R.A.F. V.R. U.S.A. P.O.W. in Germany

3-5 Bill Kelley R.A.F. V.R. U.S.A. 335 Sqdn killed in action

**Page 5**

5-1 The crash of a "thunderbolt" and the pilot lived

5-2 A news article in original photo album titled "Idahoans

distinguish themselves in eight air force” with a pic of Kenneth Smith receiving a medal labeled “Look who gets a medal”

- 5-3 Crashed on the edge of the field, Debden, Essex
- 5-4 Lieut. Kennedy 335 Sqdn Supply
- 5-5 “RAF” is smiling at someone 334 Type
- 5-6 A Debden Party Girl
- 5-7 Who’s name is?
- 5-8 Col. Blackeslees’ machine
- 5-9 Lining up for take off on a show. WD is our Sqdn and WD-X is me

**Page 7**

- 7-1 Thanksgiving day game at the station. Debden
- 7-2 Time out for a well needed rest
- 7-3 And the game goes on
- 7-4 Cambridge, England Place of Learning How did I get in?
- 7-5 Cold are you? Yes I’m in Scotland on a bus to see Irene
- 7-6 Part of the grounds, Debden
- 7-7 Irene took this at the Rose and Crown Saffron Walden Essex
- 7-8 Looks like a circus has come to our station but it is only for a Debden super party
- 7-9 Jimmy Happel lining up to buy the Scotch
- 7-10 Where are you going chaps? Ellington Fetrow and Boyles

A single loose photograph

**Page 8**

- 8-1 A news article in photo album with a picture depicting a Carol Gallagher a school mate of Ken Smith and captioned by Smith, "Hello Carol. Remember her in Hollywood? some doll, I say"
- 8-2 Some English clouds. they always seem to be around
- 8-3 Dollar Park Fulkirk
- 8-4 Kings College, Cambridge

**Page 9**

- 9-1 Capt. Andrews and the Duchess
- 9-2 Col. Anderson, the Duchess and General Hunter C.O. 8<sup>th</sup> Fighter Command
- 9-3 Inspecting the "Thunderbolt"
- 9-4 That's Hunter and Gen. Hoyt with her now
- 9-5 Gen. Hunter seems to know all about it

**Page 10**

- 10-1 The March past we even had a band that day
- 10-2 "Hurray" for 335 Sqdn
- 10-3 Maj. Dufour gets the white paper
- 10-4 Some more inspecting
- 10-5 And now the fly past that's 335 sqdn. Here. That's me, way out of formation
- 10-6 Hey, how did you get in here?
- 10-7 Three of the Local Army
- 10-8 "Old Dobin"

**Page 11**

- 11-1 News article in photo album titled “Offensive Action” and captioned “Jim Belcher my crew chief turns the prop through”
- 11-2 not captioned
- 11-3 not captioned

**Page 12**

- 12-1 “Jackie” at Corfe Castle
- 12-2 The village of Corfe castle and of course the Homeguard
- 12-3 Minus the homeguard
- 12-4 Speeding down the tracks towards home
- 12-5 Majestic Hotel- Bournemouth officer’s mess
- 12-6 P/O A.J. Stevenson R.A.F. Volunteer Reserve V.R. U.S.A.
- 12-7 A fine example of taking your own picture

**Page 13**

- 13-1 “Jackie” and the Bournemouth Rock Garden
- 13-2 “Close up”
- 13-3 And “Jackie” signs in as a visitor Corfe castle
- 13-4 “Jackie” in the park Bournemouth, Hants
- 13-5 All through?
- 13-6 Inside the church Corfe Castle
- 13-7 Oh, yes. Bournemouth
- 13-8 “All Aboard”

13-9 Ruins of Corfe Castle Bournemouth

A single loose photograph of Jackie

**Page 14**

14-1 Pilot Officer P/O Paul Bourke R.A.F. V.R. U.S.A.  
Officers Training Cosford

14-2 P/O John F. Lutz R.A.F. V.R. U.S.A Bournemouth

14-3 P/O K.G. Smith Bournemouth

14-4 In greatcoat and in great style

14-5 Bournemouth and “Steve”

14-6 Hey Fellers!

**Page 15**

15-1 L/ F/L Beeke R.A.F. Operational Training Unit  
O.T.U. Grangemouth my O.T.U. Instructor

15-2 S/L Hadsley Chief flight instructor and station CO  
Balado Bridge

15-3 Field Day at Balado Bridge R.A.F. O.T.U. Kinross,  
Scotland 58 O.T.U.

15-4 Kinrosshire Scotch Highland Band Balado Bridge  
R.A.F. O.T.U.

15-5 P/O John Chanler Pilot No. 58 O.T.U.  
Grangemouth

15-6 P/O King and “Spitfire” No. 58 O.T.U.

15-7 Ready for a night out at Grangemouth

15-8 “Avondale” officers mess Grangemouth

15-9 Peppler, K.G., and Windchester



**Page 16**

- 16-1 Hello you lucky people. Arriving at Grangemouth
- 16-2 The Intrepid Firemen Pepler, Draper, and Windchester
- 16-3 Firewatcher at "Avondale" still a rough war
- 16-4 Spitfire pilot in R.A.F. O.T.U. Grangemouth
- 16-5 I take off on a training flight
- 16-6 "Pappy" Dunn
- 16-7 "Pappy" Dunn

**Page 17**

- 17-1 "Pappy Dunn" and Draper MK I as we arrive in Grangemouth
- 17-2 How did I get in here?
- 17-3 The lunch wagon arrives for us hungry men- for food?
- 17-4 The C.O. "Puts the shot" Field Day at Balado Bridge
- 17-5 P/O John Hockins in good form. He wins the "shot put"
- 17-6 Visitors and spectators at our field day
- 17-7 Finish off the 100 yd. dash. That's yours truly in the lead
- 17-8 The latest in officers wear
- 17-9 P/O John Hockins R.C.A.F. at 58 O.T.U.

Loose photograph of unidentified officers

**Page 18**

- 18-1 Here we are both, again
- 18-2 Here we are both, again
- 18-3 Officers mess No. 121 Eagle Squadron South end by the sea
- 18-4 “Lawns” again
- 18-5 No. 121 Eagle Squadron South end on sea

**Page 19**

- 19-1 Who in the Hell?
- 19-2 “Dog” Restino about to?
- 19-3 Have a beer old bean
- 19-4 Irene yours truly and Gladys
- 19-5 Restino, Gladys and Irene
- 19-6 Old “Dog” after his usual game of golf
- 19-7 What a silly grin Dog. That’s Gladys he’s with.
- 19-8 Saffron Walden and a tree
- 19-9 The golf course Saffron Walden

**Page 20**

- 20-1 Mrs. Gladys Gordan
- 20-2 Some more of my golfing
- 20-3 And How
- 20-4 Irene is off to Scotland, Nora is off to South end and Frank Boyles is the driver
- 20-5 Hank Ayers and Gover

**Page 21**

21-1 Now "We two" our holiday together

**Page 22**

22-1 Hively in QP-J Steve in QP-D on our trip to Polebrook Sept 1943

22-2 "J" for Jively 334 Sqdn

22-3 Steve and Hively flying formation. How do you like that Airdrome?

22-4 Hively rides one of these Thunderbolts

22-5 We are off in a jeep to get Frank's camera

22-6 The English countryside from 10,000 ft

22-7 Frank Williams 'Fort' pilot from Polebrook

22-8 Williams and Hively when we went to visit Frank at Polebrook in our Thunderbolts

22-9 The nose of the HE III Two German machines rebuilt and flown by the RAF to different fields for identification

22-10 A rebuilt ME 110 flown by the RAF

22-11 Rebuilt HE III German Bomber

**Page 23**

Includes a poem by Frank M. Fink on bottom right corner of page

23-1 Refueling trucks at 335 Sqdn

23-2 Fetrow, Blanding, "Gunner" Halsey 335 Sqdn

23-3 Some of the gang talking to the Life magazine reporter. Boyles, Evans, and Stanhope

23-4 Good old WD-X Mark 1 my machine

- 23-5 Ernest Beatie 335 Sqdn. Isn't really his car
- 23-6 "B" Flight pilots August 1943
- 23-7 Frank Fink
- 23-8 Working on the guns that "terror" of the skies  
P-47 Thunderbolt

**Page 24**

Includes 11 unidentified photos with no markings or captions. Photos are organized by page number and spot number on page.

**Page 25**

Includes 3 captioned photos. Numbered 1-3. Also includes 4 unidentified photos with no marking or captions. Photos are organized by page number and spot number on page. Unidentified photos are numbered 4-7.

- 25-1 Longwick, Bucks, England. October 17 1942
- 25-2 To Ken, Our "best man," and life long friend.  
Jimmie and Ida? Princes Risborough, Bucks,  
England October 17 1942
- 25-3 To Ken, from Jimmie & Ida? Longwick,  
Bucks, England October 17, 1942

**Page 26**

Includes 7 unidentified photos with no markings or captions. Photos are organized by page number and spot number on page.

**Page 27**

Includes 3 captioned photos. Numbered 3,4 & 6. Also includes 4 unidentified photos with no marking or captions. Photos are organized by page number and spot number on page. Unidentified photos are numbered 1,2,,5 & 7. Number 2 is not captioned but the name tag of the person in the picture clearly says F.E. Hupe

- 27-3 Capt Roy Braun?
- 27-4 KG (Kenneth Guy)
- 27-6 KG (Kenneth Guy)

**Page 28**

Includes 1 captioned photo. Numbered 7. Also includes 8 unidentified photos with no marking or captions. Photos are organized by page number and spot number on page. Unidentified photos are numbered 1-6 & 8-9.

28-7                      Barbara

**Page 29**

Includes 2 captioned photo. Numbered 2-3. Also includes 3 unidentified photos with no marking or captions. Photos are organized by page number and spot number on page. Unidentified photos are numbered 1,4, & 5.

29-2                      Irene looking out the window Officers Line  
Walden

29-3                      Irene looking out the window Officers Line  
Walden

**Page 30**

Includes 2 captioned photo. Numbered 7-8. Also includes 9 unidentified photos with no marking or captions. Photos are organized by page number and spot number on page. Unidentified photos are numbered 1-6, & 9-11.

30-7                      Irene

30-8                      His girl

**Page 31**

Includes 4 unidentified photos with no markings or captions. Photos are organized by page number and spot number on page.

**Page 32**

Includes 4 captioned photos. Numbered 1-2 & 4-5. Also includes 1 unidentified photo with no marking or captions. Photos are organized by page number and spot number on page. Unidentified photo is numbered 3.

32-1                      “Bud” Care P/O Care R.A.F. V.R. USA 334  
Sqdn

32-2                      Pilots room 334 Sqdn Ben Ezel 334 1.0. Tommy  
Andrews

- 32-4 R.A.F. "Mustang"
- 32-5 Planes at Debden Air Show

A single loose unidentified photograph

**Page 33**

Includes 1 captioned photo. Numbered 3. Also includes 9 unidentified photos with no marking or captions. Photos are organized by page number and spot number on page. Unidentified photos are numbered 1-2 & 4-10.

- 33-3 Gunner Halze

**Page 35**

Front cover of Nov 1, 1943 LIFE magazine with a caption below identified "L/C Jim Clark Gp DPS" on the front cover

A single loose unidentified photograph

**Page 39**

Includes 6 captioned photos. Numbered 1-6. Also includes 3 unidentified photos with no marking or captions. Photos are organized by page number and spot number on page. Unidentified photos are numbered 7-9.

- 39-1 "Willy" Willis F/O Willis R.A.F. V.R. USA
- 39-2 Lieut. Talbot grounded
- 39-3 "Duke" Ellington P/O Paul R.A.F. V.R. USA
- 39-4 Lieut. Carlow
- 39-5 Lieut. Beatie P/O Beatie R.A.F. V.R. USA
- 39-6 Royce Evans

**Page 40**

Includes 1 captioned photo. Numbered 4. Also includes 6 unidentified photos with no marking or captions. Photos are organized by page number and spot number on page. Unidentified photos are numbered 1-

3 & 5-7.

40-4                      Our best man

**Page 41**

Includes 1 captioned photo. Numbered 3. Also includes 8 unidentified photos with no marking or captions. Photos are organized by page number and spot number on page. Unidentified photos are numbered 1-2 & 4-9.

41-3                      “Digger” Williams

**Page 42**

Includes 1 captioned photo. Numbered 2. Also includes 9 unidentified photos with no marking or captions. Photos are organized by page number and spot number on page. Unidentified photos are numbered 1- & 3-10.

42-2                      How Cute!

**Page 43**

Includes 5 unidentified photos with no markings or captions. Photos are organized by page number and spot number on page.

**Page 44**

Includes 7 unidentified photos with no markings or captions and 1 photo with a name written on the back. This captioned photo is numbered 1. The unidentified photos are numbered 2-8. Photos are organized by page number and spot number on page. Photo #4 is unable to be detached from the original photo album and was not added to the photograph binder that the rest of the photographs were put in.

44-1                      Sanders

Two single loose unidentified photographs

**Page 59**

This is the last page in the original photo album. Included 4 unidentified photos with no markings or captions. Photo #4 is unable to be detached from the original photo album and was not added to the photograph binder that the rest of the photographs were put in. Photos are organized by page number and spot number on page.

**SERIES SIX**  
**BOX 1**  
**Folder 2**

**NEWSPAPERS**

Portland Sunday Telegram and Sunday Press Herald-Portland, Maine, “Antarctic Bows to Modern Men and Equipment, Polar Group” with Major Kenneth G. Smith’s photo, February 9, 1947

Bangor Daily News “Dow Pilot Who Destroyed Six German Aircraft Dies in Searsport Plane Crash”, 21 October 1947

Bangor Daily News “First Seven of 83 Thunderjets Arrive at Dow Field”, 20 November 1947

San Francisco Chronicle inside edition of Bay area and California, “San Carlos Museum Tracks History of Aviation in Northern California, 5 June 1998

Shorelines 1- No. 44 Santa Monica, California “V-J Day Parade,” 17 August 1945