

" Ken " Smith Kenneth (RAF n°115521)

Distinguished Flying Cross, War Medal 1939-45, 1939-45 Star, Air Crew Europe Star, ...



(Terry Spencer Collection)

Ken Smith, who was born on 11 July 1922, enlisted in the RAFVR during early autumn 1940. He completed his flying training and was promoted Sgt during 1941, but was commissioned shortly afterwards, in December of that year, and was promoted Flg Off on 1 October 1942. In summer 1943 he served with 72 Squadron, taking part in actions during the invasions of Sicily and Southern Italy. Promotion to Flt Lt followed on 6 December 1943, and he was awarded a DFC, gazetted on 7 January 1944, his tour of operations concluding on 16th of that month.

Arrived as F/Lt (War Subs.) to 350 Sqn on 03 March 1945. Shot down whilst executing an Armed Recce near Schwerin (20 April 1945). Made POW, he evaded on 02 May 1945 and rejoined the squadron on 4 May 1945 in a German Staffcar. He remained in the RAF postwar, ultimately being promoted Wg Cdr on 1 January 1957, and retired from the service on 20 April 1968

Distinguished Flying Cross - awarded as per London Gazette dated 7 January 1944.
Citation from Air Ministry Bulletin:

"An inspiring leader, Flying Officer Smith has taken part in the North African, Sicilian and Italian campaigns. He has throughout displayed courage and determination and on three occasions has brought his aircraft back to base considerably damaged by anti-aircraft fire. This officer has destroyed at least three enemy aircraft and damaged others."

(source: Ian Brown and Hugh A. Halliday)

His claims are :

12/07/1943	1/2 MC200	Syracuse - Augusta (72 Sqn)
14/07/1943	1 Bf-109	Augusta - Latamina (72 Sqn)
12/09/1943	1 Bf-109 Damaged	SE Naples (72 Sqn)
15/09/1943	1 Fw-190 Probable	Near Priano (72 Sqn)
16/09/1943	1 Fw-190	Montecorvino area (72 Sqn)
04/11/1943	1 Bf-109	Casino (72 Sqn)

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