



Lt. Col Meyer noting George Preddy's DSC. Meyer had recommended Preddy for the Congressional Medal of Honor.

"I have yet to meet a man of such single-minded and dedicated purpose, of such intense desire to excel, not for himself but for his country. George Preddy was . . . just the greatest fighter pilot who ever squinted through a gunsight; he was the complete fighter pilot."

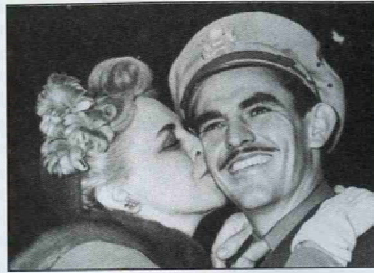
John C. Meyer*
General, USAF

* Meyer was Preddy's commanding officer in Europe and was credited with 24 aerial victories; he added two more during the Korean War, and rose to Vice Chief of Staff, US Air Force.



George & Bill Preddy

Prior to WWII, George attended Guilford College to earn credits necessary to qualify for flight training; Bill attended N. C. State College before entering the Air Corps. Bill graduated from flight training just in time to fly a practice dog fight with George while the latter was home on leave in September 1944. George told Bill he was ready to take on the best the Luftwaffe had to offer.



George with his mother, Clara Noah Preddy, while home on leave, September 1944.

Bill arrived in the European Theater about the time George was killed in action. He was assigned to the 339th Fighter Group flying Mustangs. It was on his seventh mission that Bill found out George was right; he met the enemy in the air on March 2nd encountering 35 to 40 of them while flying wing to Major William E. Bryan, the squadron leader. Although flying as wingman, Bill claimed two aerial victories on his first encounter. One of his victories was later reduced to a probable victory. It took George two years to score his first victory, Bill about two months.

On April 17th, 1945, while on a patrol and strafing mission near Prague, Bill and his flight leader, Captain Ray Reuter, sighted two enemy planes and gave chase. They were never heard from after that, but evidence was later found indicating they had both been shot down by ground fire while strafing an enemy airfield. Both were killed in action.



*Major George
Preddy*

"The Complete Fighter Pilot"

The Preddy Memorial Foundation
c/o Greensboro Historical Museum
130 Summit Avenue
Greensboro, NC 27401

*Write for info on membership, books,
video tapes, art work, etc.*

The purpose of the Foundation is to ensure that Major George E. Preddy, Jr., First Lieutenant William R. Preddy and their comrades at arms will continue to be honored for their significant contributions to victory during World War II.



Top Mustang Ace and America's Eighth Ranking Ace

The George Preddy Story

Major George Preddy won his wings just five days after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He immediately departed for Australia with the 49th Pursuit Group. After flying intercept missions in his



Major George Preddy became the top scoring Mustang ace while flying P-51 Mustangs named Cripes A'Mighty. A native of Greensboro, N. C., Preddy is credited with 27 aerial victories.

P-40 near Darwin for several months, he could lay claim to damaging one Zero and one Mitsubishi bomber — but no victories. A mid-air collision in July 1942 ended his combat tour in the Pacific. He returned home to recuperate.

One year later found Preddy in good health and in Bodney, England, flying P-47s with the 352nd Fighter Group. He scored his first victory on December 1, 1943. His second came on the 22nd when he was awarded the Silver Star for rescuing a B-24 (4-engine bomber) against six-to-one odds. His third came the next month, but on the way back to Bodney his P-47 was hit by flak forcing him to bail out into the cold English Channel. His wing man and a

spotter plane led his rescuers — an RAF Walrus seaplane — to him.

When the 352nd received P-51 Mustangs in the Spring of 1944, George's score increased dramatically. The high point in his combat career came on August 6th when he shot down six Me-109s within five minutes! Preddy, leading the Group, was about to rendezvous with allied bombers southeast of Hamburg when he spotted 30-plus Me-109s with similar intentions. George fearlessly flew right into the pack of enemy aircraft. He made his initial attack at 28,000 feet; finally, he got on the tail of his sixth victim and chased him down to 5,000 feet before nailing him.

Major Preddy received the Distinguished Service Cross for this classic combat, and was given 30 days leave in the US soon afterwards. He elected to return to combat after his leave.

When the German offensive created the critical Battle of the Bulge in December 1944, Preddy's Group was among those moved to advance bases in Belgium to assist Allied ground forces. On Christmas Day the Major was leading his flight southwest of Coblenz when he sighted two Me-109s. He gave chase and downed both aircraft. He then spotted a FW-190 and dived in pursuit. As he closed on the 190, American anti-aircraft guns opened fire. They missed the 190 but got Preddy; he was fatally wounded by one of the rounds.

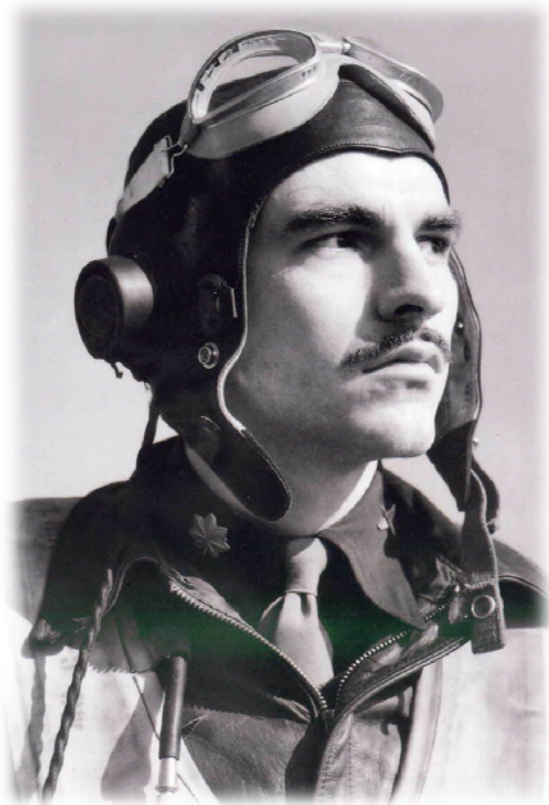
Major Preddy received the Distinguished Service Cross (second only to the Medal of Honor), the



Major Preddy with Cpl. Red McVay after his six-in-one mission.

Silver Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Distinguished Flying Cross with eight OLCs, the Air Medal with seven OLCs, and post-humously the Purple Heart and the Belgian Croix de Guerre. He flew 143 combat missions and 532 combat hours scoring 27 aerial plus five ground victories.

Bill Preddy joined the 503rd Fighter Squadron of the 339th Fighter Group in January 1945.



George PREDDY




Bill PREDDY



Ray REWTER

	<p>Preddy Memorial Foundation <i>"Preddy ... the complete fighter pilot."</i> Joe Noah <i>Founder/Treasurer</i></p>
	<p>86 Goat Island Court Post Office Box 523 Clarksville, VA 23927 Phone: 434- 374- 2781 Email: noahbjr@kerrlake.com Website: http://www.preddy-foundation.org</p>

The 27 stars represent George Preddy's 26.83 air-to-air victories; the Mustang silhouette and the Army Air Force wings represent the aircraft flown by and the wings earned by the Preddy brothers.




Major George E. Preddy, Jr., Top Mustang Ace

THIRTEEN RULES TO LIVE BY

1. No smoking at any time or under any circumstances.
2. Drink intelligently and sparingly.
3. Eat sensibly.
4. Exercise regularly and diligently.
5. Learn all possible about flying or any other job at hand.
6. Always be willing to go out of the way to learn something new.
7. Always try to give the other man a boost.
8. Fight hardest when down and never give up.
9. Don't make excuses but make up with deeds of action.
10. Learn by experience.
11. Listen to others and profit by criticism.
12. Live a clean life.
13. Trust in God and never lose faith in Him.