

Maj. Richard I. Bong

Unit: 49th Fighter Group

Aircraft/position: P-38/pilot

Place of action: Over Borneo and Leyte

Date of action: Oct. 10, 1944 to Nov. 15, 1944

Born: Sept. 24, 1920, Poplar, Wis.

Entered service at: Poplar, Wis.



Citation

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action above and beyond the call of duty in the Southwest Pacific area from 10 October to 15 November 1944. Though assigned to duty as gunnery instructor and neither required nor expected to perform combat duty, Maj. Bong voluntarily and at his own urgent request engaged in repeated combat missions, including unusually hazardous sorties over Balikpapan, Borneo, and in the Leyte area of the Philippines. His aggressiveness and daring resulted in his shooting down 8 enemy airplanes during this period.



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