

Top Ten American Fighter Pilot Aces

Compiled by Joe Noah, PMF, August 2008.

Maj. Richard I. Bong, US Army Air Forces, 40, MOH, NAHF

Maj. Thomas B. McGuire Jr., US Army Air Forces, 38, MOH, NAHF

Lt. Col. Francis S. Gabreski, US Army Air Forces & USAF, 34.5 (6.5 in Korea), NAHF

Capt. David McCampbell, US Navy, 34, MOH, NAHF

Capt. Robert S. Johnson, US Army Air Forces, 27

Col. Charles H. MacDonald, US Army Air Forces, 27

Maj. George E. Preddy, Jr., US Army Air Forces, 26.83

Col. John C. Meyer, US Army Air Forces & USAF, 26 (2 in Korea), NAHF

BGen. Joseph J. Foss, US Marine Corps, 26, MOH, NAHF

Capt. Robert M. Hanson, USMC, 25, MOH

NOTES:

(1) **MOH: *MEDAL OF HONOR* RECIPIENT**

(2) **NAHF: *NATIONAL AVIATION HALL OF FAME* ENSHRINEE**

(3) **Capt. Edward V. Rickenbacker, US Army Air Service, 24.33, MOH, NAHF. If counted according to WW II rules (Rickenbacker shared two victories with one other pilot, and a third victory with two others). He is credited with 26 victories according to WW I rules and according to popular opinion.**

(4) **Col. Gregory Boyington claimed 28 victories, four of them while with the American Volunteer Group (AVG). Those four could not be substantiated. The USMC recognizes those four, but the American Fighter Aces Association and Dr. Frank Olynyk do not.**

(5) **Joe, The list looks good to me. I had never seen the "new look" at Rickenbacker's score before, but it makes sense. Regarding Boyington, I was talking to Tex Hill during an Aces reunion once upon a time, and asked him about Boyington's AVG victories. Tex's response to me was "Boyington never scored those victories, you can't shoot down an enemy plane from the end of a bar"!!!**

Best regards,

Tom Ivie