



**Nolan
McKenzie**
Army Air Corps

Nolan McKenzie

Jul 31, 1918 - Dec 6, 2017

BIRTHPLACE: Solomon, KS

SOLDIER DETAILS

HIGHEST RANK: Captain

**DIVISION: Army Air Corps, 376th Bomb Group, 15th
Air Force**

THEATER OF OPERATION: European

SERVED: Jul 1, 1941 - Dec 15, 1945

HONORED BY: Nolan's Family

BIOGRAPHY

Nolan McKenzie was born July 31, 1918 at Solomon, Kansas. He graduated from Solomon High in 1933. He graduated from Kansas State University in 1941 and received a commission as a 2nd Lt. in the US Army Reserves. He was called for active duty July 1 at Ft Sam Houston, Texas. He served as a platoon leader in the 38th Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Division. In 1943 he transferred in grade to the U S Air Force. He was accepted for flight training and graduated from primary at Parks Air College at East St. Louis, basic at Coffeyville, Kansas, and advance flight training at Frederick, Oklahoma. After receiving his wings as a multi-engine pilot he reported to Liberal, Kansas for B-24 training and later to Muroc, California for final combat training and assignment of a full 10-person crew. On July 31st he departed Hamilton Field, California for overseas. Orders were opened after takeoff and he was headed to Bangor Maine , Gander-Newfoundland, Azores, North Africa, and Italy. The entire trip was with complete radio silence and no homing assistance. The crew now felt comfortable with their pilot and navigator. They were assigned to the 376th heavy bomber group of the 15th Air Force and our base was in the southern tip of Italy. They were advised that 43% of the crews completed the required 50 missions. After 15-20 missions they were usually the lead plane for our group. On one mission we were the lead plane for the entire air force of more than 400 planes. Nolan was promoted to Captain. The Distinguish Flying Cross, Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters and 6 campaign ribbons were awarded. Final combat mission was flown on February 28, 1945. Germany surrendered May 5th and Japan on August 5th, 1945. Discharged from service to Air Force Reserves Dec 28, 1945. He had a successful business career in finance.