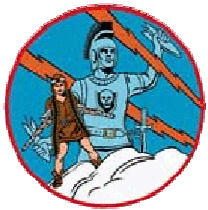


## 352nd FG Squadron Shields



328th  
Fighter  
Squadron

The insignia submitted to Washington (but never approved) was adopted by the 328th as its unofficial insignia. It was designed by Stephen B. Kirkel and his original sketch was titled: "The Spirit of Damon and Pythias - Fighter Escorting 'Big Friend.'" It carried the legend: "Each would have willingly sacrificed his life for the other." The sketch also designated the color scheme.

The original insignia of the 486th was that of the "Fightin' 21st," and consisted of the profiled head of an Indian superimposed on an outlined white cloud. After the 21st was redesignated as the 486th FS, however, and the Squadron went overseas, a new insignia was designed and, although never officially approved by Washington, became the unofficial insignia of the 486th.



486th  
Fighter  
Squadron



487th  
Fighter  
Squadron

The only officially approved insignia worn by members of the 352nd (except for the 21st) was designed by Sam Perry. Sam completed the artwork from photos of Lt Karl M. Waldron, Jr., a 487th pilot who posed in a diaper as the "little bastard" carrying the machine gun in the insignia. This design and that reference may have contributed to the origin of the Group's recognition as the "Bluenosed Bastards of Bodney."



## A Brief History of the 352nd Fighter Group

from the Home of the 352nd Fighter Group  
(<http://www.352ndfightergroup.com/assoc/intro.html>)

Like one of America's mighty rivers, the 352nd FG had its beginnings in the merging of smaller units into a superb fighting force which would account for 776 enemy aircraft destroyed, fourth among all 8th Air Force units.

The 352nd Fighter Group was constituted in September 1942 and activated at Brandley Field, CT on October 1, 1942. Two of its squadrons, the 21st (later changed to the 486th) and the 34th (later changed to the 487th) had long combat histories, but like the newly formed 328th, were short on experienced personnel. Early flight training in the P-47 Thunderbolts was at Westover, Trumbull, LaGuardia and Mitchel airfields. Most of the

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enlisted personnel, Det. "A" of the 1st Service Group arrived in January, 1943.

The Group embarked from New York harbor July 1, 1943, arriving in Scotland July 5th and a few days later reached their new base at Bodney, England. Training for combat became intense those next few months.

The Group flew its first combat mission on September 9, 1943, an uneventful sweep out over the North Sea to escort returning B-17s. Some 40 pilots participated in this mission. Although the 352nd had several minor encounters with the enemy in their early missions, it wasn't until November 26th that Major J.C. Meyer, C.O. of the 487th Squadron scored their first victory - an Me-109 attacking the bombers near Gronigen - the first of many victories for the 352nd.

During World War II the 352nd flew 420 missions, 59,387 operational combat hours, destroyed 776 enemy aircraft and had 29 aerial aces. Returning to the U.S. at war's end, the unit was deactivated.

**Enjoy the DVD,  
"The Last Reunion: A Gathering of Heroes"  
which tells the story of the 352nd Fighter Group, the  
"Bluenosed Bastards of Bodney."**

According to legend, Hermann Goering, who headed up Germany's Luftwaffe, once said : "I knew the war was lost when I saw the 'bluenosed bastards of Bodney' over Berlin."

## Highlights and Outstanding Achievements of the 352nd FG

- ★ Two of the USAAF's top seven aces of all U.S. wars were pilots in the 352nd.
- ★ Four 352nd pilots became "aces in a day" with five victories on one mission.
- ★ One 352nd pilot, Major George E. Preddy, Jr. shot down six enemy fighters on one mission.
- ★ The top Mustang ace was Major George E. Preddy, Jr. with 26.83 aerial victories.
- ★ Seven 352nd pilots became "ground aces in a day," destroying five or more in ground attacks.
- ★ Twelve 352nd pilots scored aerial victories over German jet fighters.
- ★ Twenty-seven of the USAAF's aerial aces over Europe were 352nd pilots.
- ★ Ten 352nd pilots were awarded the Distinguished Silver Cross, the 2nd highest U.S. combat award. Col. J.C. Meyer received the DSC three times and Capt. Bill Whisner twice. Lt. Ed Heller got the DSC for setting the 8th AF strafing record.
- ★ One 352nd squadron was the only 8th Air Force Squadron to be awarded a Unit Citation. This award came after a mission flown from a Belgian airfield during the Battle of the Bulge period when 12 pilots of the 487th, led by Colonel Meyer, shot down 23 attacking German fighters without a loss while under a strafing attack on takeoff.
- ★ Seven 352nd pilots continued their military careers and attained the rank of General. One of these, Col. J.C. Meyer, the only fighter pilot in WWII to attain four-star rank, commanded the Strategic Air Command and later became the Vice Chief of Staff at the U.S. Air Force.