

Is the mystery of the museum P-47 propeller solved?

The Montelimar Fighter Aircraft Museum has been displaying a P-47 propeller among the numerous historical aviation-related objects of its collection for years. However, the origins of this propeller remained largely unknown... Until one day Andrew Kuykendall, the grand-nephew of an American WW2 pilot, revealed the whole truth...

Last September, on a sunny Sunday afternoon, we had the pleasure (and the surprise) to welcome a very special visitor: Andreppw Kuykendall had come all the way from Northern Europe to see one piece of our collection, the P-47 propeller displayed in our WW2 gallery.

Andrew Kuykendall is a Captain in the United States Air Force currently assigned to Geilenkirchen Air Base, Germany. Andrew. He's been carrying out his own research to shed light on the exact circumstances of his great-uncle's death during the war. 1Lt William F. Kuykendall was a pilot of the 27th Fighter Group (524th Fighter Squadron). He was reported missing and died a few days after his P-47D was shot down on the 29th of August 1944, during a mission North of Valence. 1Lt William F. Kuykendall bailed out and apparently made a safe parachute landing, while his plane crashed along the Rhône near Châteaubourg (for further details, please read the attached reports).

We were curious to know a little bit more about William and Andrew's story (please read our original interview with Andrew directly on our blog at the end of the French article and have a look at the attached documents in English/and the photos. Thank you.)