

December 2009

Smokejumper Obituary: Ladendorff, Edmund (Missoula 1946)

National Smokejumper Association

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Recommended Citation

National Smokejumper Association, "Smokejumper Obituary: Ladendorff, Edmund (Missoula 1946)" (2009). *Smokejumper Obituaries*. 992.
https://dc.ewu.edu/smokejumper_bios/992

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Smokejumper Obituary

Ladendorff, Edmund (Missoula 1946)

Ed, 84, of San Antonio, Texas, died December 1, 2009. During high school Ed worked for the Forest Service on a road construction crew. When WWII came along, he joined the Army Air Corps serving from 1943-1945. During those two years he was stationed in England and piloted 29 missions in B-17s.

After returning home, Ed was looking for a summer job and there were openings in the smokejumper program. He had enough of airplanes and turned down the position until his buddy, John Frankovich (MSO-46), talked him into it. Smokejumper money allowed him to go to college in the winter.

He jumped 1946-49 while going to college. Ed received his business degree from the University of Oregon (1949) and later his M.B.A. (1951) from Harvard Business School. Ed retired in 1990 from Thomas J. Lipton (Lipton Tea Co) where he was vice president in charge of the Beverage Division.

For a short time after that, he taught at New York University and then moved to San Antonio, Texas

(end of excerpt)