



BIOGRAPHY

A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

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SAMUEL GORDON LEFTENANT



Samuel Gordon Leftenant was born on 16 March 1924 to the late James and Eunice Leftenant in Amityville, New York. He graduated from Amityville High School, Amityville, NY in 1942. He was on the school wrestling team, winning six wrestling championships, three of which were county titles. He was small in stature, wrestling in the 103 to 128 wrestling class.

He entered the US Army Air Corps in November 1943. He graduated from flight training, Class 44-H, on 8 September 1944, at Tuskegee Army Air Field, Alabama. Once he completed combat training at Walterboro Army Airfield, South Carolina, LT Leftenant deployed to Italy with the 99th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter group, in February 1945. He was one of six of the Leftenant family members to become actively involved in the military during World War II. The most famous family member is Nurse Major Nancy Leftenant-Colon.

2d LT Leftenant became a casualty of war on 12 April 1945, four weeks before World War II ended in Europe. It was his third mission. While on a Bomber Escort mission from Ramitelli Air Base, Italy to Sankt Viet, Austria the P-51 he was flying collided with a P-51 flown by 2d LT James Hall, Jr. 2d LT Hall bailed out and was taken as a Prisoner of War. 2d LT Leftenant was able to keep flying for a short while, bailed out and parachuted into enemy territory but was not seen again. He was reported Missing-In-Action the same day by the War Department, and declared dead 13 April 1946. His remains were never recovered. A Full Military Honors Memorial Service was held on 14 January 2016 whereby a casket was buried in his honor at Arlington National Cemetery, Memorial Section K Site 374, Memorial ID: 153392424. 2d LT Leftenant's name is included on the Tablets of the Missing at the Florence American Cemetery and Memorial in Italy. He also has a headstone in his hometown of Amityville, New York.

2d LT Leftenant's military education includes: Flight School, Tuskegee, Alabama and Combat Training, Walterboro, South Carolina.

2d LT Leftenant's military awards include: Air Medal (posthumous), Purple Heart (posthumous), United States Aviator Badge Army, World War II Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, Army Presidential Unit Citation, Army Good Conduct Medal, and European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign.

