



BIOGRAPHY

A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC. PUBLIC RELATIONS, P.O. Box 830060
TUSKEGEE, AL 36083

LEMUEL ARTHUR LEWIE, Jr. (1919 ~ 2019)



Cpl. Lemuel A. Lewie, Jr.

Lemuel A. Lewie, Jr. was born in Columbia, SC on November 8, 1919 to Dr. Lemuel A. Lewie, Sr. and Mrs. Ophelia McDaniel Lewie. He had two sisters, Vivian Lewie Williams (deceased) and R. Marguerite Lewie, MD. Lemuel was educated in public schools and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Allen University (SC) in 1941.

Lemuel was drafted into military service at Fort Jackson, SC and sent to basic training at Jefferson Barracks, MO. He trained in administration, chemical warfare, radio communications, aerial gunnery, bombardment, and aviation. In 1943, he attended Adjutant General's Administrative School at Atlanta University. Corporal Lewie was assigned to the 24th Bombardment Squadron at Eglin Field, FL, where he served as a Chemical Warfare NCO. In 1944, Lemuel was sent to Tuskegee Institute's college training detachment, and then assigned to Tuskegee Army Air Base, where he received pilot training on Piper Cubs.

In 1945, he was sent to Midland Army Air Field, TX, where he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. He was then assigned to the 477th Bomber Group at Godman Field, KY. He was assigned by special orders to Tuskegee Army Air Field (TAAF) for pilot training, where he received primary training at Moton Field in the PT-13 aircraft, then basic training at TAAF in the BT-13, and finally advanced training in the B-25J Bomber. Reflecting back on his training at Tuskegee, Lemuel said that his most memorable experiences included being the first student officer in his class to fly solo, taking part in spectacular night flying, being trained by excellent officers, and serving as Payroll Master for the Corps of Engineers, with a \$25,000 bi-weekly payroll. He remembers that as "a lot of money in 1945". He was in B-25 pilot training when WW II ended. While he never saw active duty in the war, he was promoted to 1st Lieutenant and discharged in August of 1946. He was placed in the Reserve at Fort Bragg, NC.

He received a M.S. degree in Biology from Atlanta University in 1948, the year he also eloped with Reva Goodwin, "the love of his life," and moved to Baltimore, MD. In 1949, he became an auto mechanic instructor at the Baltimore Veterans Trade School, followed by a 28-year career at Carver Vocational Technical High School, part of the Baltimore Public School System. Carver was known as one of the top vocational technical schools in the country, and Lemuel taught science, mathematics, and textile design. He also was involved in many school extracurricular activities and was a proud Lifetime Member of the Carver Alumni Association.

A very active and involved Lemuel was: 1) a proud, 70-year member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity (Lambda Sigma Chapter); 2) a 32 Degree Mason (Prince Hall Grand Lodge); 3) a member of the East Coast Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen (ECCTAI), Inc.; 4) a member of the Board of Directors of Beautiful Baltimore; 5) a member of the For-Win-Ash Garden Club; 6) a member of the Ripple Wood Community Association; 7) a member of the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland; 8) an effective and often honored member of Epworth United Methodist Chapel; and 9) a member of the Advisory Board (Region IV) of the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland.

Reva, an accomplished artist, and her beloved “Arthur” were the proud parents of one daughter and shared a love of national and international travel. Together, they owned Lewie Consolidated Enterprises in Baltimore. Lemuel was also a consummate gardener who won many prizes for his dahlias and horticulture specimens, and was especially proud of the greenhouse he added to his lovely home in Baltimore. As a member of ECCTAI, he often visited schools in Baltimore and the DC area, and made presentations about the Tuskegee Airmen, proudly sharing their history and helping to preserve their legacy.

Lemuel Lewie joined the Lonely Eagles on April 14, 2019, just a few months shy of his 100th birthday. He is survived by his wife of over 70 years, Reva Goodwin Lewie, his sister, Dr. R. Marguerite Lewie, daughter Rev. Dr. Marcia Lewie Thompson, son-in-law Troy Thompson, Jr., three grandchildren, one great-grandson, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

DOTA Lemuel Lewie was inurned on September 23, 2020 at Arlington National Cemetery, in Arlington, VA.

MILITARY LOCATIONS / ASSIGNMENTS

Fort Jackson, SC
Jefferson Barracks, MO
Eglin Field, FL
Tuskegee Army Air Field, AL
Midland Army Air Field, TX
Godman Field, KY
Moton Field, AL

MILITARY SERVICE

14 Nov 1942 to 21 Aug 1946 (Army Reserve, 1946 – 1957)

CIVILIAN AWARDS / HONORS

Congressional Gold Medal (awarded collectively)



Lemuel A. Lewie, Jr. at age 94

DOTA Lemuel A. Lewie, Jr. is listed on page # 155 of the “Known Participants” in the 2002 Ted Johnson Database