



# BIOGRAPHY

## A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

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

## MR. DEAN B. MOHR

1919-1986



Dean Burgette Mohr was born in Milwaukee, WI, on June 22, 1919. He was the son of Charles Henry Dean Mohr and Jessica Marcelite (Burgette) Mohr. His father was an educator and served as President of Paul Quinn College, Waco, TX. He graduated from Moore High School in Waco and Tuskegee Institute in 1940, with a degree in electrical engineering. Electronics was Mohr's avocation, as he built his first radio at the age of 11 and was an amateur radio operator or "HAM" from an early age until his death. He built his first computer using the Radio Shack / Tandy kit sold in the early 1980s.

Mohr was drafted in Oct. 1941 and then completed Officers Candidate School at Ft. Monmouth, NJ in 1942. Upon commissioning as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, he was assigned to the US Army Air Corps Signal Corps at Tuskegee AL. He served as a communications officer with the 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group in Ramitelli, Italy from 7/43 to 6/46.

After the war, Mohr pursued a military career until his retirement in 1973 as a full Colonel. He was assigned to the 58<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Squadron at Eilson, AFB, Fairbanks, Alaska, Air Education and Training Command at Kessler, AFB, MS, Air Force Logistics Command, Aerospace Defense Command and HQ USAF at the Pentagon.

He spent two years as Senior Advisor – Communications and Electronics to the Nationalist Chinese Government in Taipei, Taiwan, then became Chief, Technical Support Division at Strategic Air Command (SAC) at Offutt AFB. Mohr was profiled in Ebony magazine in August 1968 during his service at SAC HQ. He also appears in the book Black Defenders of American 1775-1973, which was published in 1974. Mohr's next assignment was as Director of

Communications-Electronics at SAC, March AFB and then Communications-Electronics Staff Planner at NATO HQ in Brussels, Belgium. He retired as Director of Operations at the Northern Communications Area HQ, Griffiths AFB, Rome, NY.

Following his retirement, Mohr worked as a test engineer at Resdel Corp., Arcadia, CA. Having settled with his wife, Mary Louise (Leonard) Mohr at Lake Arrowhead, CA, he then moved to Claremont, CA and taught electronics at a local community college.

Mohr was a devoted family man, serving as coach of his son Dean Jr's Little League team and becoming a Girl Scout so that he could sponsor his daughter's troop in Taipei. He was active in the LA Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., the American Legion, and Civil Air Patrol. A 1984 profile of Col. Mohr in the Pomona (CA) Progress Bulletin shows the determination and fortitude he relied upon. *"In most cases I was the only black officer around and most of the time I was in charge of everybody. As blacks in high positions usually do, I felt the pressure of having to do better. There was prejudice and discrimination, but I felt that in expertly doing my job, I could dispel misconceptions about blacks. So there was that stress as well as the ones normally associated with the job itself. But I tried not to bring the job home."*

Dean Burgette Mohr passed away on February 1, 1986. He was laid to rest with full military honors at the Riverside (CA) National Cemetery. His legacy lives on through his son, Dean B. Mohr, Jr. who was the first son of a Tuskegee Airmen to receive a commission after graduation from the US Air Force Academy. His daughter Diane Mohr resides in Silver Spring, MD and is active with The East Coast Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

#### LOCATIONS / ASSIGNMENTS

Ft. Monmouth, NJ  
Tuskegee Army Air Field, Tuskegee, AL  
Ramitelli Air Field, Italy  
Eilson, AFB, Fairbanks, AK  
Kessler AFB, MS  
Wright-Paterson AFB, OH  
Peterson AFB, CO  
USAF HQ, The Pentagon  
Nat. Chinese Air Force, Taipei, Taiwan  
Offutt AFB, NE  
March AFB, CA  
NATO HQ, Brussels, Belgium  
Griffiths AFB, NY

#### MILITARY AWARDS / DECORATIONS

Joint Service Commendation  
Meritorious Service Medal  
Air Force Commendation Medal  
Presidential Unit Citation  
Congressional Gold Medal collectively awarded to the Tuskegee Airmen

