

BIOGRAPHY

A DOCUMENTED TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

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LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHARLES H. DRUMMOND, JR. (1922 - 2000)



Born September 29, 1922, in Cambridge Massachusetts, Charles Harris Drummond, Jr. was the son of Charles Harris Drummond, Sr. and Eledia Barrow. Drummond Sr. was a Pullman Porter, and his mother was a housewife. Drummond's first job was during elementary school, where he shined shoes so he could save money to buy a clarinet to play in the school band.

Upon graduation from high school, Drummond entered the US Army in Oct 1940 with Infantry Company C, 1st Battalion 372nd Infantry Regiment. As a musician Drummond was assigned as the solo clarinetist in the jazz band of the 372nd Infantry Regiment and quickly was promoted to Tech Specialist Bandman. At the urging of his uncle, Maj Herbert Barrow (US Army), Drummond attended OCS (OCS45) at Ft Benning, GA., graduating in 1942 as one of the youngest graduates of the program at that time. He was assigned to a segregated tank destroyer battalion, Drummond quickly realized that bouncing around in a tank was not for him. He had always had a yearning to learn to fly, so in January 1944, Drummond started and subsequently graduated from the Pilot Training Testing class BTC# 10 in Greensboro NC.

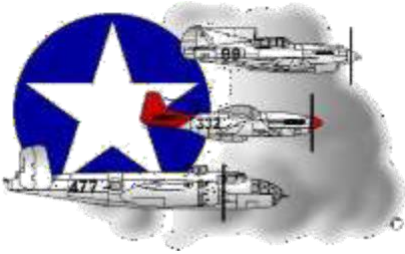
Upon graduation from pilot training, Drummond entered the Tuskegee Airmen training program at Moten Field, graduating in class 44-I-1 TE as a B-25 pilot. In October 1944, Drummond was assigned to the Bombardment Squadron of the 477th Fighter Group at Godman Field (Ft. Knox), Kentucky. After the war, Drummond was assigned as a 1st Lt. to the US Army Air Force at Hanscom AFB (MA) as a single and twin-engine pilot. He was later assigned to the US Air Force Reserve after its creation in 1948.

In July 1950, Drummond was loaned to the US Army as a pilot by the US Air Force Reserves and was detailed to the 272nd Field Artillery Battalion in Ft McCoy WI and served with the 272nd in Korea. In 1952, after leaving Korea, Drummond served with the 70th Armored Field Artillery as Aviation Officer, in Nuremberg Germany. After promotion to Captain in 1954, Drummond served with the 8th Infantry as an Aviation Officer, 1955 with the 14th Fixed Wing Tactical Training Company (the first fixed wing tactical transport company in the US Army) at Ft. Riley Kansas, as an Aviation Officer/Aviation Maintenance Officer (DHC 3, (Otter) airplanes).

From 1955 – 1958 Drummond attended various aviation schools, intended for officers, in Administration (AMOC), Maintenance, Navigation, Fixed Wing Tactical Transport, Officer Advanced Field Artillery courses and helicopter training school. He was also designated as a Nuclear Special Weapons Employment Officer.

In 1958 Drummond was detailed to Detachment R, Korean Military Advisory Group, Taegu, South Korean, where he was a Senior Aviation Advisor to the Commanding General, Lt. General Chang Do Young, 2nd Army of the Korean Republic, (SROKA), and Deputy Commanding General, Maj General Park Chung Hee, who later became President of South Korea. Drummond was also Aviation Advisor to US Lt. General Patrick F. Cassidy, Commanding General of Detachment R (KMAG) and advisor to the Korean Flight School at Kwangju, South Korea.

In 1960 Drummond was assigned as Commander of the 93rd Medium Helicopter Company (H-21) at Ft Devens, MA. This was the unit that invented the tree top approach to landing zones as first used in Vietnam. In 1961 he was assigned to the Defense Language Institute in Monterey CA to study German, and in 1962 Drummond was promoted to the rank of Major.



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While still on the Monterey Peninsula in September of 1961, Drummond was assigned to Division Aviation Company-Platoon Leader, General Support Platoon, and commanded six H-34 helicopters and one H-13 helicopter. In February 1962 Drummond was assigned to Commanding Officer, 47th Heavy Lift Helicopter Company (H-37 helicopters) in Ft Riley, KS.

In August 1963 he was assigned as the Commanding Aviation Officer, 7th Army Training Center, Grafenwoehr, Germany, the world's largest training area. Maj. Drummond's areas of responsibility included all aircraft at airfields at Vilseck, Hohenfels, Regensburg and Hof. The German Military Forces launched WWII from this training area.

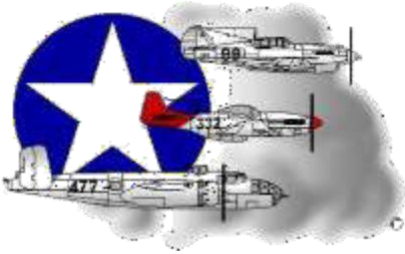
In 1965 Drummond was assigned Commanding Officer, 48th Assault Helicopter Co., the second commander of the unit and the first African American to hold this position. Maj. Drummond was responsible for the transport and deployment of all rotary wing aircraft at the start of the Vietnam conflict. Drummond's next assignment was to the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion (Forward) at Tuy Hoa, Vietnam in 1966. During this

tour, Drummond was gravely wounded during an assassination attempt by the Viet Cong and was evacuated to Japan. Upon recovery Drummond was assigned Commanding Officer of the 223rd Combat Aviation Support Battalion, one of the two largest Combat Aviation organizations in Vietnam at the time. Drummond activated this Battalion in Vietnam with two Airplane Companies, (L-19), two Assault Helicopter Companies, two Caribou Companies, (twin engine fixed wing transports), one Medium Lift Helicopter Company, (Chinook), and Airplane Reconnaissance Company (Mohawk). There were over 4800 Officers and men in this organization. Each Company had at least 60 Officer, all pilots, plus a Flight Surgeon with a medical detachment, and a Maintenance Team headed by an Officer. He was the first Black Officer to command so large a unit in Vietnam.



Maj. Drummond and brother, CWO Paul F. Drummond, also a helicopter pilot in Vietnam - Photo courtesy of Army Times 1968

After Vietnam, Drummond was promoted to Lt Colonel and assigned as Senior Aviation Officer at Ft. Ord, California, & Commanding Officer at Fritzsche Airfield (Ft. Ord), and the Aviation Complex which consisted of the Aviation activities of Ft. Ord, Camps Hunter Liggett and Roberts in San Luis Obispo, Ft. Irwin Army Airfield and Ft. MacArthur in Southern CA, and the US Army Reserve Aviation Maintenance Activity at Fresno. During this time, Drummond was also the Aviation advisor to the US Army Reserve Aviation Company at San Francisco. In 1969 he was assigned to create a helicopter training program for the Iranian Air Force in Iran. These orders were eventually canceled by the Major General, Commanding Officer of the 6th Infantry Division at Ft Ord due to his work at Ft Ord and his command of General MacArthur's H-34 helicopter (painted blue and white) based at Ft Ord.



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Lt Col Charles H “Ace” Drummond, Jr. retired from the Army in June 1970. After retirement Drummond, an avid reader, opened a bookstore, Drummond’s Poor Scholar, which grew to service numerous kiosks at local hotels in Monterey and Carmel, as well as the Monterey Peninsula airport.

After selling the bookstores, Drummond founded the Harris Management Company (HMC), a contract services company with over 800 employees, where he served as the Chief Executive Officer and President for 10 years. HMC consisted of four wholly owned subsidiaries providing management consulting services, contract management services, food services (mess attendants), janitorial services and institutional housekeeping services for the US Army, Navy, Air Force, FAA, NASA, Robert Louis Stevenson School (Pebble Beach), Monterey Peninsula College, National Forest Service and Jet Propulsion Lab:

Drummond served as Chairman of the Monterey Community Services Commission, as a member of the Monterey County Jail Study Committee and served on the Boards of organizations and agencies such as the

United Way of the Monterey Peninsula, the Seaside-Sand City Chamber of Commerce, the Monterey Kiwanis Club, the Monterey Peninsula branch of the NAACP. He was also a founding member, and served as President and Board Member of the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.



FAMILY

Lt. Colonel Charles Harris “Ace” Drummond passed away November 3, 2000, in Monterey California. He was laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery, which included a fly over tribute by a Blackhawk helicopter. His wife of 56 years, Doris Jean (Ray) was laid to rest along his side upon her passing in 2006.

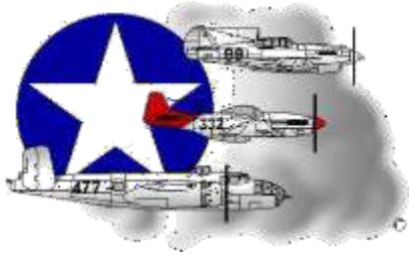
Jr and DoRay had six children. Notable among them are eldest son Raymond, a world-renowned jazz bassist, who earned an MBA from Stanford University, son Carl, who was part of the first class to integrate Princeton University (1967), after earning an academic scholarship through Bank of America, and their youngest son David, who earned his JD from Stanford School of Law, and was the first Chief Counsel and Senior VP for Google. Retired from Google, he now owns several California wineries and vineyards.

LOCATIONS / ASSIGNMENTS

Ft Dix NJ
Ft Benning GA
Ft. Huachuca, Arizona
Camps Bowie & Hood, Texas
Greensboro, NC
Tuskegee, Alabama
Freeman Field, Indiana
Godman Field, Kentucky (Ft. Knox)
Hanscomb AFB, Mass

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
Schwäbisch Gmünd, West Germany
Nuremberg, Germany
Taegu, South Korean (KMAG)
Fort Carson, Colorado
Ft Devens, MA
Ft. Riley, Kansas
Ft. Eustis, Virginia
Ft. Sill, Oklahoma

Ft. Wolters, Texas
Kwangju, South Korea
Monterey CA, (Defense Language Institute)
Grafenwoehr, West Germany
Phanq Rang, South Vietnam
Tuy Hoa, South Vietnam
Nha Trang, Qui Nhon, Vietnam
Fritzsche Airfield, Ft Ord, CA



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CAMPAIGNS / WARS

World War II
Korean War
Vietnam War

MILITARY AWARDS / DECORATIONS

Purple Heart
National Defense Service Medal
Legion of Merit
AFRM, 2nd Award
Air Force Pilot Wings
Army Aviator Badge
Senior Army Aviator Badge
VSM w/2 Bronze Service stars
VCM with dev 60
Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters
Army Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster
Congressional Gold Medal collectively awarded to the Tuskegee Airmen

