



BIOGRAPHY

A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC. PUBLIC RELATIONS,
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Lt. Col. Joe A. Lewis

1943 - Graduated with Tuskegee Class 43F-SE as a 2nd Lieutenant and soon transferred overseas into the war zone, serving in part out of Ramitelli flying P-51s with the 301st.

1944 - Participated in escort and ground attack missions. In October of that year, on the way back to the base LTs. Joe Lewis and Charles Dunne flew up and down the coast of Italy shooting at everything they saw. Both were shot down by enemy flak while attacking enemy ground forces and supply lines. They were captured and interred as POWs.

1945 - Remaining a POW for six months, he was held in LuftStalag III and Stalag VIIA until liberated by Patton's advancing 3rd Army in April.



Following WWII, LT Lewis was stationed at Lowry Air Force Base where he met his wife-to-be Elsa Seader from Brighton Colorado. Together they raised a family of four children and nine grandchildren. With the Air Force Cutting back on Pilots after World War II, he was transferred to SAC (the Strategic Air Command) and became an officer in bomber armaments and electronics. He achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and retired as Squadron Commander in 1963 at Shilling Air Force Base with 21 years of service.

While active-duty, Lt Col Lewis' other stations were in Ohio, Washington State, Japan for one year, three years in England and twice in Salina, Kansas.

After military retirement he managed a large wholesale warehouse and left to get his real estate license. He also served the Denver Police Department on a promotion board. His military career defined his life. In or out of the Air Force he was an "Officer and a Gentleman".

Colonel Lewis passed away on March 27th, 1996, and was laid to rest at Fort Logan Cemetery.

