

BIOGRAPHY

A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

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

LIEUTENANT COLONEL HOWARD LEE BAUGH

(1920 ~ 2008)



*Sicily, 1943: Baugh stands next to his P-40 "Warhawk"
Fighter named after his wife Constance Jeannette.*

Howard Lee Baugh was born in Petersburg, VA on January 20, 1920. He attended public schools in Petersburg and Brooklyn, NY and graduated from Virginia State College (University) in 1941. Baugh entered the U.S. Army Air Corps as an Aviation Cadet in March 1942. He completed pilot training at Tuskegee Army Air Field in November 1942 (Class 42-J) and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant.

In July 1943, Baugh was deployed to Sicily as one of the first group of replacement pilots for the 99th Pursuit Squadron. Flying P-40 & P-51 Fighter aircraft out of Sicily and Italy during WWII, he flew 136 combat missions. On January 27, 1944, Baugh was credited with 1.5 Aerial Victories while the 99th Pursuit Squadron protected the Allied occupied Anzio, Italy beachhead from aerial attack by German Focke-Wulf FW-190 fighters.

For his 16 months of combat during WWII, Baugh was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross; Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters; European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal; World War II Victory Medal; National Defense Service Medal; and Distinguished Unit Citation.

After his deployment, Baugh returned to Tuskegee as a Flying Instructor and soon became Director, Flying Training, Tuskegee Army Air Field.

Baugh remained in the military as a USAF Command Pilot and career officer for more than 25 years. During his career he amassed nearly 6,000 pilot hours, including 240 in combat and 1,100 in jet aircraft.

Baugh retired as a Lieutenant Colonel from the USAF on June 30, 1967. He then embarked on a second career joining Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester, NY. Baugh retired from Kodak in 1984 and moved back to Petersburg with his wife, Constance.

Throughout his military career, Baugh piloted the following military aircraft: PT-13, PT-17, BT-13, L-20, AT-6, P-39, P-40, P-47, P-51, B-25, B-26, C-45, C-47, B-57, B-66, T-33, F-80, and SA(HU)-16. Long after retiring

from the military, Baugh was given the opportunity to ride in the 2nd seat of a two-seater USAF F-15D Eagle in 1997 (at age 77) and a two-seater USN F/A-18F Hornet with the Blue Angels in 1998. In both cases, once airborne the aircraft controls were turned over to him for about 20 minutes. In the case of the F-15D, Baugh was able to fly the aircraft out over the Atlantic Ocean and break the "sound barrier" for the only time in his life.

Once retired, Baugh became a much sought-after Speaker for his unique insights into the Tuskegee Airmen Experience. He spoke to Schools; Colleges & Universities; Companies; Corporations; Organizations; Groups; and Military Bases throughout the US, Europe, and even once in Iceland.

Howard Lee Baugh passed away on August 23, 2008. He was preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Constance, and his older brother William. He was laid to rest with Full Military Honors at Arlington National Cemetery next to his wife.

The legacy of DOTA Howard Lee Baugh will live on through HBC-TAI; his (3) sons; (2) daughters-in-law; (4) grandchildren, (4) great grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, admirers, and countless others around the world whose lives he touched and inspired.

LOCATIONS / ASSIGNMENTS

Tuskegee Army Air Field, Tuskegee, AL
Ramitelli Air Field, Italy
Lockbourne Army Air Field, OH
Howard University Air Force ROTC, Washington, DC
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH
Maxwell Air Force Base, AL
Kwajalein Air Station, Marshall Islands
McClellan Air Force Base, CA
Clark Air Force Base, Philippines
Tennessee State University AFROTC, Nashville, TN
Chanute Air Force Base, Rantoul, IL

CAMPAIGNS / WARS

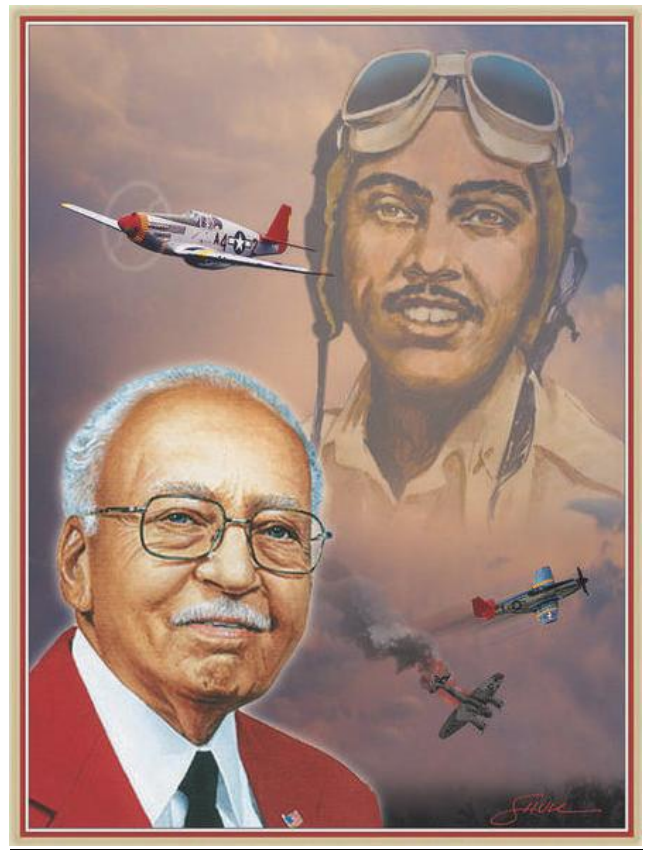
World War II
Korean War

MILITARY AWARDS / DECORATIONS

Distinguished Flying Cross
Air Medal with Three Oak Leaf Clusters
European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal
World War II Victory Medal
National Defense Service Medal
Air Force Distinguished Unit Citation
Air Force Commendation Medal
American Campaign Medal

CIVILIAN AWARDS / HONORS

2003: The Howard Baugh Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. (HBC-TAI) was founded in Petersburg, VA
2004: The Observation Deck at Richmond Executive–Chesterfield County Airport, VA was named in his honor
2004: Presented the “French Legion of Honor” in Paris by the Government of France
2006: Inducted into the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame
2006: Selected to Dominion’s Strong Men & Women: *Excellence in Leadership*
2007: Received the Congressional Gold Medal collectively awarded to the Tuskegee Airmen
2007: Given the African American Trailblazers’ James Armistead Lafayette Military Award
2018: Life-Sized Bronze Statue of DOTA Baugh on display in the Black History Museum in Richmond, VA



*Rendering by Artist Harold Shull depicts
DOTA Howard Baugh at ages 23 and 86.*