



WILLIAM A. WALTERS

TSgt., USAF Retired

Muskogee, Oklahoma

Sunrise March 1918 - Sunset December 21, 2009

1920-1936

- Moved to Wichita, Kansas. Became award-winning high school debater as member of National Forensic League. Received academic scholarship to Friends University, where he matriculated in 1938

1939

- Transferred to Wichita University (now Wichita State University)
- Challenged by a minister in Chicago to become part of the 99th Pursuit Squadron
- Assigned to the initial Cadre of Radio Operators School, Chanute Field, Rantoul, Illinois

1941

- Sworn in at Chanute Field as an enlisted radio operator mechanic, May 8
- Graduated from Cadre of Radio Operators School prior to the bombing of Pearl Harbor
- Transferred with unit to Tuskegee Army Airfield where we slept in tents pending completion of the barracks, October
- Assigned to the 890th Single Engine Flight Training Squadron, Maxwell Field, Montgomery, Alabama, December

1943-1944

- Served in the 99th Pursuit Squadron, Tuskegee, Alabama
- Spent 15 months in Liverpool, England, anxiously anticipating an assignment with the B-25 aircraft unit. Denied because he was a Negro
- Subsequently assigned to all-Black trucking unit—Red Ball Express where he served in many capacities from mail to latrine orderly
- Reassigned to the 99th Pursuit Squadron (99th Fighter Squadron), Tuskegee, Alabama
- Enrolled as student at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, and joined Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity
- Graduated from Tuskegee Institute with Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Industries (electricity)
- Appointed head of Stillman College Electrical Department, Tuscaloosa, Alabama