

B I O G R A P H Y
COLONEL GEORGE R BUCKEY

PART I - Narrative

Colonel Buckey was born at Belen, New Mexico, on May 5, 1919. Shortly thereafter he moved to Trinidad, Colorado, where he resided until entering the service. He attended Trinidad High School and received his higher education at Texas Wesleyan College, Fort Worth, Texas.

An aviation enthusiast from boyhood he obtained his private license during the summer of 1940. He enrolled in February of 1941 as a flying cadet in the United States Army Air Corps. He attended flight training at Santa Maria, Moffett Fld, and graduated from Stockton Air Base, California, where he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Air Corps Reserve on 27 September 1941.

Lieutenant Buckey's first assignment was as a pilot with the 17th Bombardment Wing at Pendleton, Oregon, flying B-25's when the War broke out.

His next assignment was with the 303d Bombardment Wing at Boise, Idaho, flying B-17's where he volunteered for an undisclosed mission which turned out to be reenforcement for the Midway battle. He arrived in Hawaii a day after the battle was won and he spent the next two months conducting submarine patrol in that area.

Due to the priority of the war in Europe he was sent back to the United States where he joined the 306th Bombardment Wing which deployed to England in August 1942.

It was as Commanding Officer of the 367th Bomb Squadron, 306th Bomb Wing, an 8th AF unit in England, that LtCol Buckey won the Distinguished Flying Cross with one Oak Leaf Cluster and the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters. He returned to the U. S. in June 1944 after completing 25 combat missions.

LtCol Buckey's first post war assignment was Operations Officer of a B-29 Group at Pratt AAB, Kansas. He attended the Command and General Staff School at Leavenworth, Kansas during the fall of 1946, after which he spent a short tour at Clovis AAB, New Mexico before being assigned to Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, Arizona, where he was Director of Personnel, 43d Bomb Wing, a position he held until 1950. It was during this tour that he attended the Air Command and Staff School at the Air University. For the next two and one half years, Col Buckey was the Chief of Maintenance, 97th Bombardment Wing, Biggs AFB, El Paso, Texas during which time he spent seven months TDY in England during the Korean War.

From November 1952 to August 1953 he was Deputy Commander, 7th Bombardment Wing at Carswell AFB, Ft Worth, Texas

In August 1953 he joined the newly formed 9th Bombardment Wing at Biggs AFB, Texas as Director of Materiel.

His next assignment, September 1956 to September 1957, was Chief of the 15th AF Assistance Team, March AFB, California. In September 1957, Col Buckey proceeded to Anderson AFB, Guam where he served two years as Director of Materiel, 3d Air Division. After returning from Guam in 1959 he spent one year as Director of Materiel, 22d Air Division, Clinton County AFB, Ohio.

In October 1960 he assumed the duties as Director of Materiel, 818th Strategic Aerospace Division, Lincoln AFB, Nebraska. While at Lincoln he attended the Senior Officers' B-47 Transition Course, McConnell AFB, Kansas and the Supervisor and Management Course on the Atlas F Missile at Sheppard AFB, Texas.

In September 1962 he joined the 837th Air Division, Shaw AFB, SC, with duties as Deputy for Materiel. With the deactivation of the 837th Air Division in February 1963, Colonel Buckey became the Deputy for Materiel, USAF Tactical Air Reconnaissance Center, with the Headquarters at Shaw AFB, SC.

Col Buckey is credited with flying 25 combat missions with a total of 150 combat hours during World War II. He amassed approximately 3900 hours flying time in a variety of aircraft.

Colonel Buckey and his wife, the former Maxine George, of Comanche, Texas, have three sons and two daughters: Richard 21, Donna 18, Barbara 14, David 11, and Stephen 9.

PART II - Fact Sheet

A. Personal Data

1. Born May 5, 1919 in Belen, New Mexico; father - Orlo Buckey; mother - Elizabeth (Eddy)(Buckey) Spaler.
2. Married February 19, 1942 to Maxine George of Comanche, Texas; children - Richard 21, Donna 18, Barbara 14, David 11, and Stephen 9.
3. Hometown address is 614 Willow Street, Trinidad, Colorado.

B. Education

1. Graduate Trinidad High School, Trinidad, Colo., 1938
2. Attended Texas Wesleyan College, 1938 - 1941
3. Graduate, Advanced Flying School, Stockton Field, Calif - 1941.
4. Graduate, Command and General Staff School, Ft Levenworth, Kansas, September 1946
5. Graduate, Air Command and Staff School, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Alabama, 1949.

C. Service

1. February 1941 - September 1941, Flying Training, Santa Maria, Moffett Field and Stockton Fld, California.
2. September 1941 - December 1941, Pilot, 34th Bombardment Squadron, 17th Bombardment Group, Pendleton AAF, Oregon.
3. December 1941 - May 1942, Pilot, 303d Bombardment Group, Gowan AAF, Boise, Idaho.
4. May 1942 - July 1942, Pilot, Hawaii - not assigned.
5. July 1942 - August 1942, Pilot, 367th Bombardment Squadron, 306th Bombardment Group, Wendover AAF, Utah.
6. August 1942 - June 1944, Squadron Operations Officer and Commander, 367th Bombardment Squadron, 306th Bombardment Group, combat tour with 8th AF, England.
7. June 1944 - March 1945, Instrument Instructor's School, Bryan AFB, Texas; AAFTC B-17 Instructor's School, Lockborne AFB, Ohio; B-17 Instrument Instructor's Course (2d AF), Galveston AB, Texas.
8. March 1945 - June 1946, Group Operations Officer (B-29), Pratt Air Base, Kansas.
9. June 1945 - September 1946, Command and General Staff School, Ft Levenworth, Kansas.

10. September 1946 - December 1946, Group Operations Officer (B-29), Clovis Air Base, New Mexico.
11. December 1946 - April 1950, Director of Personnel, 43d Bombardment Wing, Davis Monthan AFB, Arizona (SAC); (February 1949 - June 1949, TDY Air Command and Staff School, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Alabama).
12. April 1950 - November 1952, Chief of Maintenance, 97th Bombardment Wing, Biggs AFB, El Paso, Texas (SAC); (June 1950 - December 1950, TDY England).
13. November 1952 - August 1953, Deputy Commander, 7th Bombardment Wing (Heavy), Carswell AFB, Ft Worth, Texas (SAC).
14. August 1953 - September 1956, Director of Materiel, 95th Bombardment Wing (Heavy), Biggs AFB, Texas (SAC).
15. September 1956 - September 1957, Chief of the 15th Air Force Assistance Team, March AFB, California (SAC).
16. September 1957 - July 1959, Director of Materiel, 3d Air Division, Anderson AFB, Guam, M. I.
17. July 1959 - October 1960, Director of Materiel, 22d Air Division, Clinton County AFB, Ohio.
18. October 1960 - September 1962, Director of Materiel, 818th Strategic Aerospace Division, Lincoln AFB, Nebraska.

19. September 1962 - February 1963, Deputy for Materiel,
837th Air Division, Shaw AFB, SC.

20. February 1963 - Present, Deputy for Materiel, USAF
Tactical Air Reconnaissance Center, Shaw AFB, SC

D. Decorations and Medals

1. DFC with one Oak Leaf Cluster
2. Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters
3. Air Force Commendation Medal with ^{Two} ~~one~~ Oak Leaf Cluster
4. Presidential Unit Citation
5. American Defense Service Medal
6. National Defense Service Medal
7. American Campaign Medal
8. European - African - Middle Eastern Campaign Medal
9. Asiatic - Pacific Campaign Medal
10. WWII Victory Medal
11. Air Force Longevity Service Award with five Oak Leaf

Clusters

E. Promotions

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Temporary</u>	<u>Permanent</u>
2d Lt	27 Sep 1941	
1st Lt	19 Aug 1942	27 Sep 1944
Captain	21 Jan 1943	1 Jul 1948
Maj	21 Jul 1943	14 Dec 1950
LtCol	30 Jan 1944	7 Dec 1957
Col	1 Jun 1952	1 Dec 1960

PART III - Personalized Material

A. Interests

1. Very interested in hunting and fresh water fishing; enjoys playing golf and enjoys walking for exercise.

2. Participates in local community affairs - has been member of Chamber of Commerce, Lion's Club, Optimist Club, and Civilian Military Affairs Groups during military career.

B. Opinions, Tastes, and Evaluations

1. Is fond of most foreign type foods, especially Mexican foods and particularly enjoys outdoor barbequing; prefers conservative dark ensembles in civilian dress.

2. His reading is in the line of history, biographical works, and current events. In music, his taste runs to semi-classical works and modern from the 1930-1945 era. He particularly enjoys musical productions and the legitimate theater.

George R. Buckey
1752 S. Dudley Crt.
Lakewood, CO. 80226

Mr. Russel A Strong
2041 Hillisdale
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Dear Mr. Strong

Please forgive the delay for the information you requested on my father, Col. George R. Buckey. Your letter sent through the Comanche Chief took some time before reaching me on 30 May 1984, here in Denver.

It so happens that my fathers' records are in my possession and I remembered this biography that was written approximatley in 1964, and I am enclosing a copy. There are some up-dates that I will add, for your information:

page 7, item 20. February 1963 - July 1966, Deputy for Materiel, USAF
Tactical Air Reconnaissance Center, Shaw AFB, SC

item 21. July 1966 - March 13, 1970, Retired with Medical
Disability (Heart) and lived in the Denver area
until his death. He was layed to rest at Ft. Logan
National Cemetary.

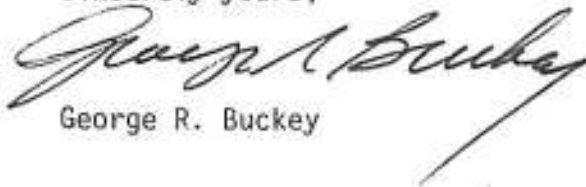
item 3. Air Force Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Cluster

I hope this information provides you with the information you seek.

I have always been a War in the Air history buff and rather in awe of the efforts put forth by the 8th Air Force, obviously through my fathers participation with it. I have a collection of books written about that time and numerous newspaper articles from the Texas area. There was an article written in the Saturday Evening Post during that period about the 306th Bomb Wing, and I'd like to obtain that and any other information or book related to this period. Do you have any information or can you suggest a contact? I would appreciate any help you can offer.

I am curious about the 8th Air Force Memorial Museum Foundation, and can I obtain any information about it?

Sincerely yours,



George R. Buckey

29 June 1984

Mr. George R. Buckey
1752 S. Dudley Court
Lakewood, CO 80226

Dear George:

Many thanks for the detailed information on your late father. I was a navigator in the 367th Squadron, but came along a month or so after your father had left the organization, so I never got to meet him. d

Col. Walter Coons, who lives at Colorado Springs, was your father's original bombardier and one of his closest friends during the period in England.

I wrote a history of the 306th Bomb Group before I got involved in my current project on command and staff officers of the 8th AF. I note in the index that there are 10 references to him, so you may want to order a copy of it.

I am also enclosing a couple of recent issues of 306th Echoes, thinking you might find them of some interest. We do add friends to our mailing list on their request.

Again, let me thank you for your help.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong