

James Carlton Dunlap, Jr.

2 May 1919 - 10 June 1943

James Carlton Dunlap, Jr. was born 2 May 1919 in Edgewood, Fulton County, Georgia to James



Sr. and Rosa Mildred Heins Dunlap. James Jr. is the couple's first child. The 1920 Census showed James Sr. is a Dentist and the family is renting a home on Delaware Street. His mother Rosa passed away 10 July 1924 and is buried at West View Cemetery in Atlanta, Georgia. James Sr. remarried in 1926 to Mary Letha Huff and sister Mildred is born later that year. Brothers Weyman came along in 1930 and Lloyd in 1937. The 1930 Census showed the family living in Jesper, Georgia and James Sr. is a Dentist at the Pickus County Jail. They own their home, valued at \$5,000, and have a radio set. The 1940 Census showed the family moved to Atlanta where James Sr. owns a Dental Laboratory. James Jr. has finished 3 years of High School and is working (unpaid) at his father's Dental Lab. He graduated from Tech High School in the spring of 1941.

James' Draft Card, dated 16 October 1940 showed he was 5' 10" tall, weighed 135 lbs. and had black hair with brown eyes. James joined the Army, Medical Corp on 18 September 1941. His original Army Service #14060323. He finished 4 years of High School and was still working at his father's Dental Lab. You may notice 2 Enlistment records. The first one was when James originally joined the Army, while the second is when he was awarded his wings becoming a Staff Sergeant Pilot. James qualified for flight training starting in January 1942, Class 42-H. After Pre-Flight at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, he went to Primary at Camden, South Carolina. Here he first learned to fly in PT-17s. He flew a total of 60:23 hours, 28:28 dual and 31:55 solo. On 30 April Cadet Dunlap moved to Basic flight at Bush Field, Augusta, Georgia. Here he flew both BT-15s and BT-13s for a total of 70:10, 32:01 dual and 38:09 solo. He also had over 10 hours in a Link trainer. Next was Advance flight training at Spence Field in Moultrie, Georgia. Here he flew AT-6s for a total of 78:15, 20:30 dual and 57:45 solo. He was awarded his wings and became a Staff Sergeant Pilot on 6 September 1942. During his flight training, he flew 208:45. Soon after he was sent to the Boston Air Defense Wing and was one of the original members of the 319th Fighter Squadron, 325th Fighter Group. He flew a P-40 for the first time on 7 October 1942. Through to the end of the year he flew almost 60 times in P-40s for about 90 hours of flight time. In December, all Staff Sergeant Pilots were made Flight Officers. With this, F/O Dunlap was given a new Serial #T-186046. In early January 1943 most of the 325th pilots went to Norfolk Virginia, found brand new Merlin powered P-40Fs, were placed on the carrier Ranger to be taken to combat in N. Africa. However, 'Happy' Dunlap (as classmate John Rauth called him) did not fly a P-40 off the Ranger but traveled by cargo plane to N. Africa with the Crew Chiefs. This took 8 flights to travel from Miami, Florida to Casablanca, Morocco, from 9-31 January 1943. The Southern Air Route went across the Caribbean to Brazil, across the Atlantic via Acencion Island to the Gold Coast, then up the coast of Africa to Morocco. His flight log showed 60 hours of 'other than pilot' time. Soon after arriving in N. Africa, the 325th was ordered to give many of its new planes to the 33rd Fighter Group, then engaged in heavy combat. This gave the 325th some extra time for training, but with only about half of the planes they should have, flying time was limited. In February he only flew 10 times for about 11 hours. As more replacement planes came in, flying time went up 23 flights in March for over 40 hours. In April the 319th Squadron moved up into combat, flying its first combat mission 17 April 1943.

He also flew combat missions on 29 and 30 April. F/O Dunlap flew 13 times in May, most of them combat missions for over 30 hours. In June he flew 8 time, again mostly combat, for 16+ hours.

Flight Officer James Carlton Dunlap Jr. was lost 10 June 1943 during a bombing mission over the Island of Pantelleria. This was the 5th of 6 missions flown by the 325th that day. Carrying bombs put the P-40s at a disadvantage if enemy fighters attacked, which they did. Since his body was never found, the Army Air Force declared F/O Dunlap dead on 11 June 1944. He is Memorialized on the Wall of the Missing at the North Africa American Cemetery. F/O Dunlap was lost so early in the war, Missing Air Crew Reports were not being used yet.

