

William Compton Lipsey

by
John Mier

William Compton Lipsey was born 23 January 1903 in Columbus, Mississippi to John Arthur Lipsey, Sr. and Martha Clara Harris Lipsey. He was the 4th child, joining Robert, born 15 March 1896, Sarah, born 5 March 1898, and John Jr. 28 August 1900. William's mother passed away 27 April 1903, about 3 months after he was born. Later that year John remarried to Sallie Sarah Montgomery. The 1910 Census showed the family living in a house on 5th Street in Columbus, that the family owned with no mortgage. John was a Salesman in Retail Dry Goods. Both Robert and John Jr. were World War I Veterans. The 1920 Census showed the family moved to 7th Street South in Columbus, the house is owned with no mortgage. John owned a Dry Goods store, Lipsey's. William was a tennis player in high school and graduated in 1920. William's father John passed away on 30 March 1930. A 1930 Census was not readily found. On 20 August 1932 William married Rosetta Orlyne Marlin in Garland, Arkansas. In 1935 they lived in Nashville, Tennessee. The 1940 Census showed William living with his wife at 516 1/2 2nd Street in Lowndes, Mississippi. He was an unemployed Bank Bookkeeper. He has been looking for work the past 18 weeks. In 1939 he worked 30 weeks and earned \$600. Rosetta was working as a Lady's Cloths Salesperson, then working 42 hours a week. In 1939 she worked 50 weeks, earning \$750.

William's draft card dated 16 February 1942 showed he was 5' 9" tall, weighed 180 lbs. with grey eyes and brown hair. It also showed he was living back in Columbus and was unemployed. William was drafted into the Army a few months later 13 June 1942 at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. It showed he was separated from his wife with no dependents.

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after February 17, 1897 and on or before December 31, 1921)

SERIAL NUMBER	1. NAME (Print)	ORDER NUMBER
1731	WILLIAM COMPTON LIPSEY	10381
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print)		
COLUMBUS LOWNDES MISSISSIPPI		
3. MARITAL STATUS		
Single		
4. TELEPHONE	5. AGE IN YEARS	6. PLACE OF BIRTH
None	39	COLUMBUS
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS		8. EMPLOYMENT NAME AND ADDRESS
None		None
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS		
None		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.		
D. S. S. FORM 1 (Revised 1-1-40)		

Signature: William Compton Lipsey

His Army Service # 34279738. Soon after he finished Boot Camp was when the 319th Fighter Squadron, 325th Fighter Group was being formed. It may be safe to guess he was assigned to this unit around September 1942. In January 1943 the 325th deployed to North Africa. Pilots and planes traveled on the carrier USS Ranger, flying their P-40s off her. Air Echelon, Crew Chiefs, Armorers, and those needed to keep the planes flying, flew over in transport planes. Ground Echelon,

Clerks, Cooks, Supply went by ship to North Africa. Being a Radio Technician, not sure how Corporal Lipsey traveled to North Africa.



Corporal William C. Lipsey was killed in a motor vehicle accident on 17 April 1943. He was a passenger in a Jeep that collided with a weapons carrier. His hospital record shows he suffered compound fractures of his tibia and fibula. Three others were injured. He died on the same day the 319th Fighter Squadron flew its first combat mission. Maybe the confusion of the first mission contributed to the accident. He was initially buried at Tebessa, Algeria. After the war, small battlefield cemeteries were consolidated. He was moved in 1948 to the North Africa American Cemetery. A marker was requested to be placed at

Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbus, Mississippi by Mrs. K. L. Spurlock at government expense in 1956. However, since William is buried overseas, the request for this marker was turned down.

This story is part of the Stories Behind the Stars project (see www.storiesbehindthestars.org). This is a national effort of volunteers to write the stories of all 400,000+ of the US WWII fallen here on Fold3. Related to this, there will be a smart phone app that will allow people to visit any war memorial or cemetery, scan the fallen's name and read his/her story.

References:

www.ancestry.com

www.fold3.com

www.checkertails.org

Checkertail Clan by Ernest McDowell

National Archives, St. Louis, MO

