

Roll of Honor
USS North Carolina Battleship (BB-55) Museum
2nd Lt. Fred Lorenzo Brewer Jr.



Name:

Second Lieutenant Fred Lorenzo Brewer Jr.

Birth:

4 August 1921 in Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

Death:

29 October 1944 in Moggio Udinese, Udine, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Italy.

Family Background:

Fred was the first-born child of Fred Lorenzo Brewer. Sr. and Janie R. Dunlap Brewer. He had one sister, Gladys. The family attended Ebenezer Baptist Church in Charlotte.

Roll of Honor
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Education and Pre-Service Life:

In 1938, Brewer graduated from the segregated Second Ward High School in Charlotte, and from Shaw University in Raleigh in 1942. While in college, he was listed in the 1941-42 edition of *Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges*; served as editor of the *Shaw Journal and Bear* during his junior and senior years; was a student representative at the National Intercollegiate Christian Council at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin in 1941; and was a delegate to the National Conference of Negro Youth in 1942.

Military Service Overview:

Branch of Service: U. S. Army Air Force.

Service Number: O-824827.

Enlisted: 11 November 1942 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Brewer served at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and Keesler Field, Mississippi. He was appointed an aviation cadet and was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant upon graduation, with highest honors, from advanced flight training with Class 44-C-SE on 12 March 1944 at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Tuskegee, Alabama.

Lt. Brewer received combat training with the 553rd Fighter Squadron in April at Selfridge Air Field, Michigan and in May at Walterboro Army Air Field, South Carolina before being sent to Ramitelli Air Base, Italy.

15TH Air Force unit: 100th Fighter Squadron of the 332nd Fighter Group.

Aircraft Flown: P-51 Mustang, "Travelin Lite".

Awards (posthumous): Purple Heart and Air Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster.

Circumstances of Death and Burial:

Lt. Brewer was declared Missing in Action on 29 October 1944 while flying a bomber escort mission from Ramitelli Airfield, Italy. Another pilot saw him climb in an attempt to rise above cloud cover when his plane stalled and fell into a spin. After the war, his unidentified body was recovered from a civilian cemetery and interred as an unknown in the Florence American Cemetery south of Florence, Italy. For nearly 80 years, Lt. Brewer's remains were unaccounted for, until the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified him in August 2023. In December 2023, he was finally laid to rest with full military honors at Salisbury National Cemetery in North Carolina.

Insight

In his short 23 years, 2nd Lt Fred Lorenzo Brewer, Jr. made great achievements in a society that offered him very little to work with. He was a chemistry lab assistant and became the academic dream of a 'black' American family. He furthered his willingness to serve by becoming 2nd Lt Fred L. Brewer, Jr. and began to escort bombers during WWII. And although, he continued to

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grow in these many directions, he was always the person he started as . . . a son to Janie and Fred L. Sr., a brother to Gladys, and a dedicated Christian.

(From Lt. Brewer's obituary, Grier Funeral Home, October 29, 2023)

<https://www.grierfuneralservice.com/obituary/lt-fred-brewer>

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Photos and Documents:

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

SERIAL NUMBER **1582** 1. NAME (Print) **Fred Lorenzo Brewer Jr.** ORDER NUMBER **10460**

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) **608 S. Myers St. Charlotte, Mecklenburg, N.C.**
(Suburbs and cities) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)
 [THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]

3. MAILING ADDRESS **Shaw University - Raleigh, N.C.**
(Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If none leave word blank)

4. TELEPHONE **None** 5. AGE IN YEARS **30** 6. PLACE OF BIRTH **Charlotte**
(Town or village) (State or country)

DATE OF BIRTH **Aug. 4, 1921** **N.C.**
(Month) (Day) (Year) (State or country)

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS **Miss Janice Brewer - 608 S. Myers St. - Charlotte, N.C.**

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS **Shaw University - Raleigh, N.C.**

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS **Shaw University - Raleigh, N.C.**
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE

D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 1-1-42) (over) ☆ GPO 16-21630-1 **Fred L. Brewer Jr.**
(Registrant's signature)

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION	
White	5ft 11 3/4 in	138 lb	Sallow	
	EYES	HAIR	Light	
Negro	☒ Blue	Blonde	Ruddy	
	Gray	Red	Dark	
Oriental	Hazel	Brown	Freckled	
	Brown	Black	Light brown	
Indian	Black	Gray	Dark brown	☒
		Bald	Black	
Filipino				

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification... **None**

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:
None to my knowledge

Amiee - I. Lagg Ward
(Signature of registrar)

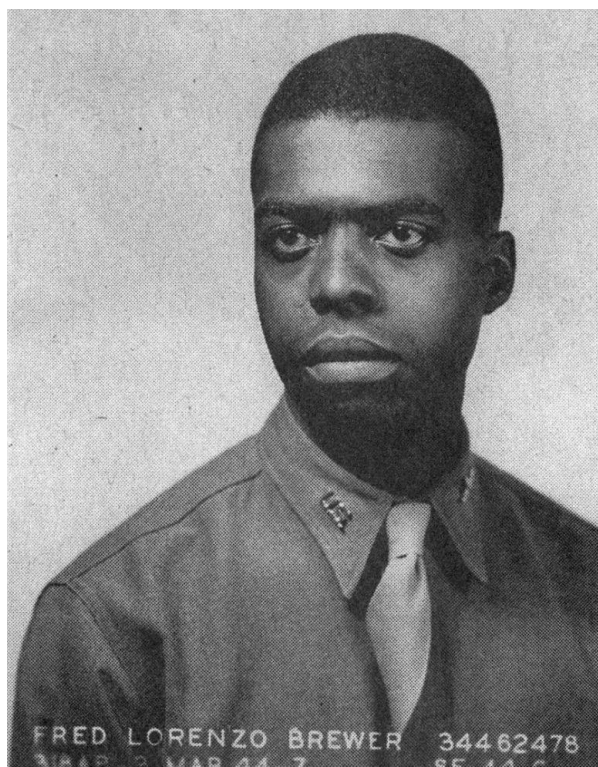
Registrar for Local Board **No. 2 Raleigh, N.C.**
(Number) (City or county) (State)

Date of registration **FEB 16 1942**

Local Board No. 1
 Mecklenburg County
 001
 121 E. 3rd Street, Room 111-A
 Charlotte, N.C.
 (The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the registrant shall be placed in the above space)

16-21630-1

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USS North Carolina Battleship (BB-55) Museum
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6-B—THE CHARLOTTE NEWS — April 17, 1944

Service Record

Second Lt. Fred-L. Brewer Jr., 608 S. Myers St. has reported for duty at Selfridge Field, Mich., where he has been assigned to the 553rd Fighter Squadron. Lt. Brewer entered the Army Nov. 23, 1942, as an enlisted man, and served at Fort Leonard Wood, Md., and Keesler Field, Miss. He was appointed an aviation cadet and received his training at Tuskegee Army Air Field, Ala. His commission was received March 12, 1942.

Declassified in accordance with E.O. 13526

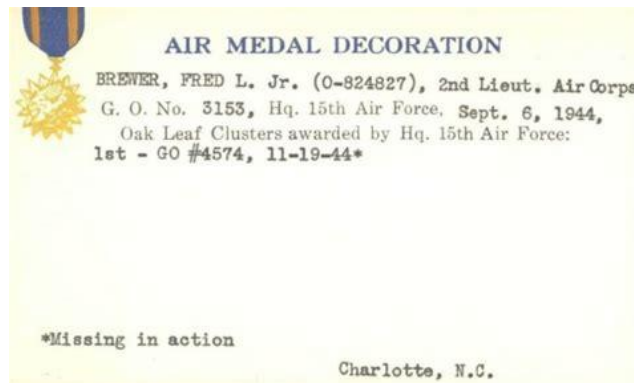
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Roll of Honor
USS North Carolina Battleship (BB-55) Museum
2nd Lt. Fred Lorenzo Brewer Jr.



Lt. Brewer's mission. Reference Italian news story December 15, 2023. https://www-primonumero-it.translate.goog/2023/12/dopo-79-anni-il-corpo-del-pilota-statunitense-second-lt-fred-l-brewer-jr-torna-a-casa/1530803758/?_x_tr_sl=fr&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=en&_x_tr_pto=wapp

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Pentagon identifies remains of MIA Tuskegee Airman from NC

BY RICHARD STRADLING
rstradling@newsobserver.com

RALEIGH

Fred L. Brewer Jr., a native of Charlotte and graduate of Shaw University in Raleigh, climbed into a P-51C Mustang at an air base in southern Italy on Oct. 29, 1944, and was never heard from again.

Brewer, one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen, was piloting one of 57 fighter planes that were to escort bombers on a mission to Regensburg, a small city in southern Germany. Heavy cloud cover prevented the fighters from finding the bombers, and most returned safely to Ramitelli Air Field.

But Brewer did not, and for 79 years his whereabouts were unknown.

Now the Pentagon says it has identified Brewer's remains, using a combination of detective work and a DNA match with one of his relatives. The Defense



Fred L.
Brewer Jr.

POW/MIA Accounting Agency confirmed the results of its work on Aug. 10, and they were first reported by

The Washington Post.

According to the Pentagon, another pilot on the mission saw Brewer climb to try to rise above the cloud cover but his plane, "Travelin Lite," stalled and fell into a spin near the Austrian border. The military never found his plane, and Brewer was declared missing in action.

His parents, Fred and Janie Brewer of Charlotte, were told he had been declared dead two weeks later. Their son, a second lieutenant, was 23.

After the war, the military recovered a body from a civilian cemetery near the Austrian border but could not identify it. The body, marked as "unknown," was buried in an American cemetery south

of Florence, where Brewer's name is one of 1,409 listed on Tablets of the Missing.

In 2011, researchers took another look at the case of the body found in the civilian cemetery. They discovered an Italian police report that indicated the remains had been recovered from a crashed fighter plane on the day Brewer disappeared. In June 2022, the body was exhumed and sent to a laboratory, where DNA testing was able to confirm Brewer's identity.

A cousin, Brenda L. Brewer, told The Washington Post that funeral arrangements have not been made but that she would like to see Brewer buried in Charlotte.

Brewer was born there in 1921 and graduated from Second Ward High School, according to the CAF Rise Above Squadron, which has put together profiles of hundreds of Tuskegee Airmen, the Black fighter and bomber pilots who flew with the

U.S. Army Air Force during World War II.

He graduated from Shaw in 1942 and enlisted in the Army the following year. He received pilot training at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Tuskegee, Alabama, and after combat training in Michigan and South Carolina was sent to Europe in late spring 1944.

Brewer was awarded the Purple Heart and Air Medal with one bronze oak leaf cluster after his death. They were presented to his family.

Since the mid-1970s, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has identified the remains of more than 1,500 soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen from World War II. It says that more than 72,000 from that conflict remain unaccounted for.

Richard Stradling:
919-829-4739,
@RStradling

The Charlotte Observer, Charlotte, NC. Tuesday, September 5, 2023

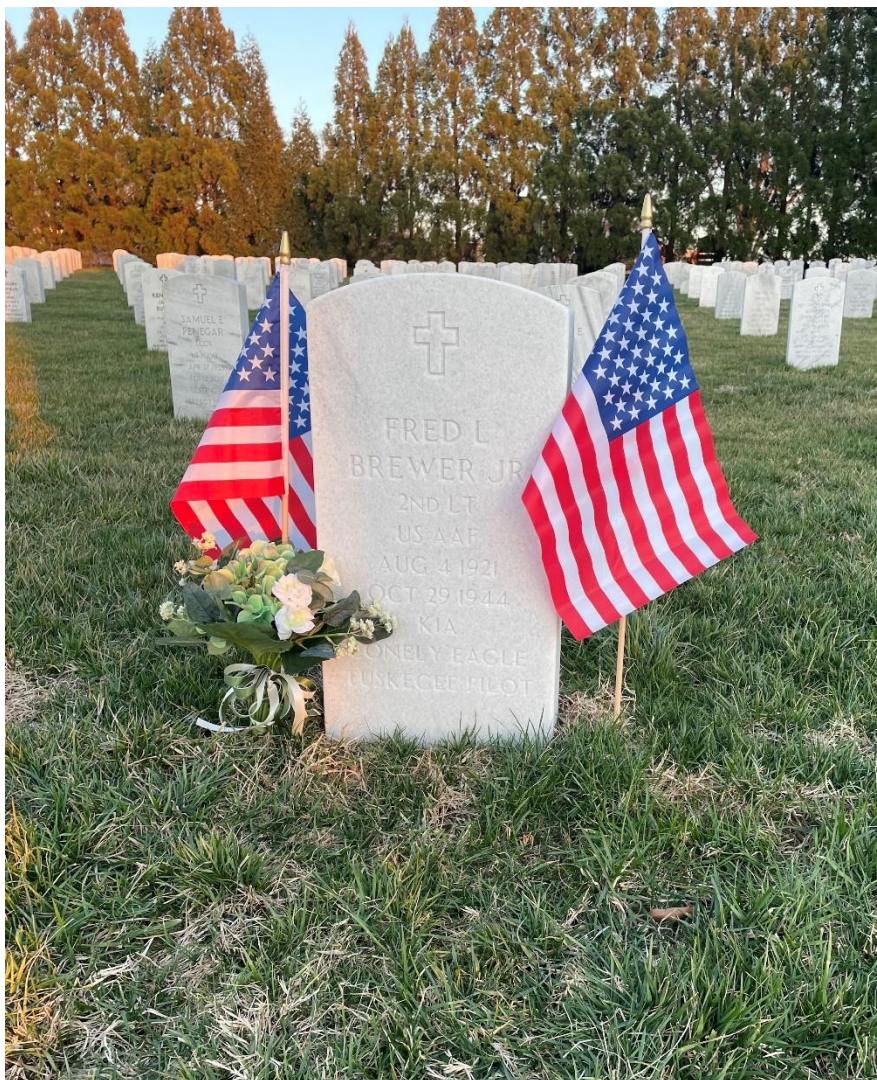
Roll of Honor
USS North Carolina Battleship (BB-55) Museum
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**The last flight home:
Tuskegee airman laid to
rest nearly 80 years after
he went missing**

ABC News

Roll of Honor
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Salisbury National Cemetery, Salisbury, North Carolina.

Roll of Honor
USS North Carolina Battleship (BB-55) Museum
2nd Lt. Fred Lorenzo Brewer Jr.

Sources:

https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/192977240/person/162508192479/facts?_phsrc=QQe1133&_phstart=sucessSource

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56361928/fred-lorenzo-brewer>

https://media.licdn.com/dms/image/v2/D5622AQE1-ZNc9e7eSg/feedshare-shrink_2048_1536/feedshare-shrink_2048_1536/0/1702046354621?e=2147483647&v=beta&t=TUijj7EcLPzxhLBOe6Qly283xt5HXYHcg5f_2eEZuUs

Commemorative Air Force Red Tail Squadron web site <https://cafriseabove.org/fred-l-brewer-jr/>

<https://www.wsocv.com/news/local/tuskegee-airman-charlotte-identified-unknown-soldier-79-years-after-vanishing-wwii/Z2PBSACPUBCYZD3IB7KPO553IU/>

<https://www.primonumero.it/2023/12/dopo-79-anni-il-corpo-del-pilota-statunitense-second-lt-fred-l-brewer-jr-torna-a-casa/1530803758/>

<https://www.grierfuneralservice.com/obituary/lt-fred-brewer>