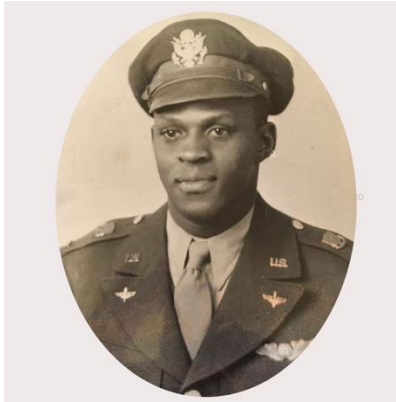


BIOGRAPHY

A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC. PUBLIC RELATIONS,
P.O. BOX 830060, TUSKEGEE, AL 36083



Major James Williams Jr.

James Williams Jr. was born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1922. After graduating from South High School in 1940, Williams applied for pilot training with the Army Air Corps in 1942. After successfully completing the qualifying examinations, he was accepted and sworn into the Army Reserves as a private.

In March 1943, after many months and several follow-up letters to the War Department (now known as the Department of Defense), Williams was called into active duty and ordered to report to Keesler Field, Mississippi, for basic training. He was the only Black person accepted for pilot training from the State of Utah, not that there were many Black people in Utah prior to World War II.

After six months of training in the pre-aviation cadet training at Tuskegee Institute, Williams was assigned to pilot training at Moton Field in Tuskegee, Alabama, in Class 44-E-SE. Primary Flying Training, he was eliminated after two 'bumpy' landings during solo flights.

Williams then applied, tested for, and was accepted into the navigation training program. He was then made to complete Basic training at Kessler Field again. Afterward, he was sent to Panama City, Florida, for Aerial Gunnery training. After successful completion of gunnery school, he was assigned to Hondo Field, Texas for Aerial Navigation Training. Upon completion, he was sent onto Aerial Bombardier school at San Angelo Army Airfield, Texas. He completed bombardier training as a Second Lieutenant in August of 1945 just after the atomic bomb was dropped on Japan.

With the war over, his orders to transition to B-25 training were cancelled, and he was then placed on Inactive Reserve duty status.

Over the next 17 years, and many active-duty tours, Williams retired from the Air Force. During that time, working on many different types of aircraft, he was employed by the Air Force Reserve as an Officer Air Reserve Technician in both Utah and California. After retiring as a military member, he continued his employment with the Air Force Reserve as a civilian.

Major James Williams Jr. not only distinguished himself through his military service but also through his dedication as a family man. He had five children: Jasmine, James III (twin older by 10 minutes), Howard (younger twin), Michael, and Marlon Williams. Williams also had two stepchildren, Larry and Lee Williams, with whom he had a close relationship. His family tree continues with his grandchildren: Heather and Karim Watson, Tanya Fobbs, and Alex and Britney Williams.

Away from the rigors of military life, Williams enjoyed a variety of hobbies. He enjoyed playing pool, poker, and watching sports. He connected to nature through fishing and camping. Williams continued his passion for aviation as a regular attendee at Reno Air Races.

DOTA James Williams Jr. is listed on page #272 of the "Known Participants" in the Ted Johnson database.