

Lawrence T. Bradshaw, Jr.

29 August 1921 – 17 October 1943

Lawrence T. Bradshaw, Jr. was born 29 August 1921 in Pontiac, Illinois to Larry and Ella Bradshaw. Both were World War I veterans, with Ella serving as a Nurse. He joined big brother John. The 1930 Census showed the family living on W. Cleary Street in Pontiac with little sister



Francis. They are renting a house for \$14.00 a month. Larry is a Laborer at Reformatory Jobs. Lawrence attended St. Mary's parochial school and Pontiac High School, graduating spring of 1940. The 1940 Census showed the family moved to W. Howard Street in Pontiac, that they rent for \$19.00 a month. Larry was then a Truck Driver, earning \$480 in 1939. Lawrence finished High School and was then working as a Salesman.

Lawrence joined the Army Air Corp at Chanute Field, Illinois on 4 September 1940 as a Private. His occupation was listed as a Clerk, was single, without dependents. His Service #16027800. He was 5' 10" tall and weighed 135 lbs. His original job was as an Aircraft Mechanic. When he joined, those wanting to become pilots needed a full 4-year college degree. As the need for pilots grew, the requirements were changed so more could be trained. The Aviation Cadet Qualifying Exam replaces the college requirement. Lawrence was in Flight Class 43-D. His flight records showed he did his Primary at Darr Aero Tech in Albany, Georgia from 21 October to 27 December 1942. He flew PT-17s for a total of 60:05, 28:42 dual and 31:23 solo. Next was Basic Flight at Greenville, Mississippi. No details were readily available for this part of his training. Next was Advance flight at Napier Field in Alabama. Again, detailed flight records were not available. After finishing Advance Flight Training at Napier on 29 April 1943, Lawrence was Commissioned and awarded his wings. Being promoted to an Officer, 2nd Lt. Bradshaw was given a new Service #0-802982. After some Leave Time, 2nd Lt. Bradshaw went to Pinella Army Airfield, just north of St. Petersburg, Florida for Transition Training. He flew a P-40 for the first time on 9 June and had a total of 24 hours flight time. In July he flew a P-40 16 more times for 40 hours. Last flight was on 20 July.

He was sent to N. Africa as a Replacement Pilot for the 12th Air Force. Lt. Bradshaw went to the 20th Replacement Battalion in Tunis, Tunisia for some local flight training before going to a combat unit. His first flight as a pilot overseas was on 20 August 1943. That month he had 7 flights in a P-40 and 1 as a co-pilot in a B-25. He was assigned to the 319th Fighter Squadron, 325th Fighter Group in September flying P-40s in support of the landings on Sicily. It looked like he did not fly any combat missions but did 11 training flights in P-40s. 325th was withdrawn from combat towards the end of September for a little Rest & Relaxation time and to transition into a new plane, the P-47 Thunderbolt. He had 4 more training flights in October in P-40s. 2nd Lt. Bradshaw was lost 17 October 1943 during a training flight in a P-40 F. No other details were readily available. John Rauth said in his book



"Tuesday morning I surveyed Lt. Bradshaw's parachute and dingy." Not sure what he meant by this. His death was listed as Death, Non-Battle (DNB), so he had no Missing Air Crew Report made. It was not possible to find any accident report for details. He was initially buried at the II Corp Cemetery close to Mateur, Tunisia. After the war, small battlefield cemeteries were closed, and families were given the option to leave loved ones close to where they fell or be brought home. His family chose to let him stay close to where he fell. In February 1948 he was brought to the Military Morgue in Borgel, Tunisia for final preparation. 2nd Lt. Lawrence T. Bradshaw was buried at the North Africa American Cemetery on 30 September 1948.