

Brown Coy Tucker

November 1, 1907 – October 17, 1995

He considered his contribution to aviation his most important accomplishment and Brown Tucker of Kirksey had the resume to back that up. Brown Tucker served our country in the Army Air Corps from 1926-1944 as an airplane mechanic and aerial gunner, he rose to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer and served with and serviced the airplanes of the likes of Charles Lindbergh, Curtis LeMay, Carl Spaatz, Ira Eaker, Jimmy Doolittle and Claire Chennault.

After leaving home at the age of 16 with a love of flying that began in the Summer of 1922 when a barnstorming pilot flying a “Jenny” JN-4 landed at the Calloway County Fairgrounds, he found his way to San Francisco, California by train and enlisted in the Army, which at the time was the only avenue to fly a plane in the military. He completed basic training in the Panama Canal Zone and it was there that he first met Charles Lindberg and serviced the famous nonstop transatlantic “Spirit of St. Louis” airplane. He was then assigned to Air Corps first fighter group at Selfridge Field near Detroit, Michigan. When WWII broke out in 1941, he received orders to serve on the southwestern Pacific island of New Guinea as maintenance chief of the fighter squadron where he survived numerous bombings from the Japanese.

After a distinguished military career, Tucker found his way back home to Kirksey where he was employed by the U.S. Government Department of Agriculture as well as the Army Corps of Engineers. Late in life he enjoyed a love of writing, particularly about the history of the Jackson Purchase and Calloway County. He was well known for his large apple and peach orchards,

making cider, growing strawberries, grapes and raspberries as well as a love for stamp and coin collecting.

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Chuck Adams

Sources:

- Interview & hand-written notes from Brown's son Douglas Tucker
- Newspaper Articles
 - Leisure Scene (Benton, Kentucky) by Tom Powell – May 26, 1978
 - *Paducah Sun Democrat* (Paducah, Kentucky) by Berry Craig – June 9, 1978