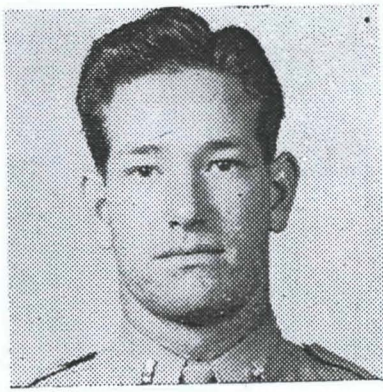




2ND. LT. W. T. LUCAS, JR., son of Mrs. W. T. Lucas and the late Mr. Lucas, of 216 North Railroad street, entered the service January 1943 and is a pilot in the Army Air Corps.

1ST LT. W. T. "HAMBO" LUCAS, JR.

03 June 1922 - 24 August 1948

IN THE SUMMER OF 1939, HAM SHOWED UP AT THE NEW MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL TO SEE COACH LEON BROGDEN - WHO RAN THE POOL AND COACHED THE AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL TEAM THAT PRACTICED THEREIN RECREATION PARK. HE WANTED TO JOIN THE WILSON POST 13 LEGION BASEBALL TEAM. HE HAD A GOOD GLOBE AND COUSIN IT, PLAYING FIRST BASE. WHEN COACH ASKED HIM WHERE HE WAS IN SCHOOL, HE VERY SHEPISHLY ADMITTED HE HAD DROPPED OUT IN THE NINTH GRADE FROM LUCAS' NIGHT SCHOOL. AT THE END OF THE SEASON, COACH TALKED HAM INTO REENTERING HIGH SCHOOL AT CHARLES L. COON HIGH. WHERE HE PLAYED BOTH FOOTBALL AND BASEBALL. GRADUATING IN 1942. WITH HIS HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA HE ENTERED THE US ARMY AIR CORPS IN JANUARY OF 1943. AFTER BASIC AND FLIGHT TRAINING HE BECAME AN ARMY AIR CORP TRANSPORT PLANE PILOT FLYING C-46 & C-47 PLANE THROUGHOUT WWII.

When the war ended, he decided to make a career of the Army Air Corp. In 1948 with the Russian Blockade of Berlin, he was assigned to Fly Air Corp Transport Service in the Berlin Air Lift. This was not a routine flight job because the Air Lift Pilots pushed through bad weather to keep up the needed supply line for Free Berlin. On 24 August 1948 he crashed short of the runway and was killed. In Berlin today near the Tempelhof Airport you will find a street named Lucasstrasse by the grateful citizens of Berlin.



Coon baseball in 1940

Pictured is the 1940 Charles L. Coon High School baseball team, submitted by Rainey Wilkerson. Top row, from left, Jim Wright, T.L. Herring, Ben Mercer, R.B. Wilkerson, O.D. Winstead, Coach Leon Brogden, Kether Kelly, Scoop Barnes, Bill Davis, O.L. Stallings and Ernest Deans Hackney. Second row: Ham Lucas, Lyman Laughinghouse, Billy Wright, Sammy Tait, Grady Stott, Billy Brooks, John Hackney and Bill Turner. In front are managers Tommy Lyles, Carlton Ellis and Hydric Tart. Photos taken in or before 1965 are accepted for this weekly feature. Call Lisa Batts at 243-5151, ext. 210, for more information.