

Leo Poundstone Memories

Leo Earl Poundstone, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon E. Poundstone of Bement, IL was born on December 3, 1921 in Farmersville, IL. He married Diane Mildred, born December 20, 1923.

Mr. Poundstone was inducted into the United States Air Corps and ordered to report to pilot training school to become an A-26 Invader pilot.

Lt. Poundstone was assigned to the A-26 with the nose art known as "Touchdown". After several bombing raids, he got to fly lead for the Ninth Air Forces's "Famous 416th" Bombardment Group. In total, he flew an amazing 70 missions to such targets as Hamun and Frankfurt, Germany. "Touchdown", with Lt Poundstone at the throttle, became one of the first medium bombers to attack in Czechoslovakia in cooperation with the Russian Army.

Poundstone was wounded two times, August 8, 1944 and Feb. 25, 1945. He received a Purple Heart with one oak leaf cluster. For many missions, the gunners on the Poundstone ship were Sgt. Arnie J. Burland and Sgt. Kalen Heath. These brave men commanded the flak-torn sky with 50 millimeter guns, taking out as many enemy planes as possible, all the while dumping 250 pound bombs on the ammo supply depots and railways below.

In September 1944, the 416th transferred to Melun, France where the troops lived in 10 men tents. Officers were at one end of the airbase and enlisted men at the other end.

The tents had wooden platform floors scrounged up by the tent occupiers. A small pot-belly stove sat in the center of the floor. The men dug reinforced bomb shelters alongside the tents.

At the 669 squadron area, a hot shower was installed with plenty of hot water. Lt. Poundstone had construction experience and took charge of rounding up an old bathtub and lots of pipe to carry water. He, with the help of other industrious 669 guys, connected the pipes to a water supply and then found lots of firewood to heat the water. The water tub was mounted about 6 feet overhead with shower heads. A pull-string operating system made things the best they could be under the circumstances of war-torn Europe. Poundstone came up with the idea of a safe and reliable fire place to heat the water overhead without any problem. Mixing valves and controls made the shower work perfectly. The shower was a wonderful luxury and much needed, the only problem was keeping away other squadron guys who also wanted to shower.

Lieutenant Poundstone holds the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters and the Purple Heart with an Oak Leaf Cluster. He also served in the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

Mr. Poundstone passed into the Heavens on January 16, 1989 at age 67 and was laid to rest at Riverside National Cemetery. With God as his co-pilot, he controls the throttle again.



Army of the United States

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that

LEO E POUNDSTONE O - 749 491 Captain 611 AAF Base Unit

*honorably served in active Federal Service
in the Army of the United States from*

6 JUNE 1943 to 6 JANUARY 1947

Given at EGLIN FIELD, FLORIDA

on the SIXTH *day of* JANUARY 1947

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "E. C. Ackerman".

E. C. ACKERMAN
MAJOR AIR CORPS

MILITARY RECORD AND REPORT OF SEPARATION
 CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE *Post 6-4542*

1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL Poundstone Leo E-			2. ARMY SERIAL NUMBER 0 - 749 491	3. ASS. GRADE Capt	4. ARN OR SERVICE AC	5. COMPONENT AUS
6. ORGANIZATION Sq C 611 AAF BU Eglin Field, Florida			7. DATE OF RELIEF FROM ACTIVE DUTY 6 Jan 47	8. PLACE OF SEPARATION Sep Ctr, Eglin Field, Florida		
9. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES Mrs Diana M Poundstone 6229 S Marshfield Ave Chicago, Cook County, Ill				10. DATE OF BIRTH 3 Dec 21	11. PLACE OF BIRTH Farmersville, Ill	
12. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE RECEIVED 6229 S Marshfield Ave Chicago, Cook County, Ill				13. COLOR EYES Green	14. COLOR HAIR Brown	15. HEIGHT 5' 10"
				16. WEIGHT 160 lbs.	17. NO. OF DEPENDENTS 1	
18. RACE WHITE		19. MARITAL STATUS MARRIED		20. U.S. CITIZEN YES		21. CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND NO. High School Student (X- 02)

SELECTIVE SERVICE DATA		22. REGISTERED YES NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	23. LOCAL S. S. BOARD NUMBER	24. COUNTY AND STATE 500 S Champaign St Bement Ill	
26. DATE OF ENTRY ON ACTIVE DUTY 6 Jun 1943		27. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY AND NO. Test Pilot 1022			
28. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS Northern France Normandy Ardennes Rhineland Central Europe Air Offensive Europe Anti-Submarine Campaign Distinguished Service Cross Distinguished Flying Cross					
29. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS Silver Star Medal Bronze Star Medal Air Medal w/3 Oak Leaf Clusters Purple Heart w/1 Oak Leaf Cluster Distinguished Unit Badge Meritorious Service Plaque EAME Campaign Medal w/6 Bronze Stars Amer Theater Camp Medal Army of Occ Medal Vict M					
30. WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION Sec 1 GO 149 Hq ABC 8 Aug 44 w/1 OCL to PH. Sec 3 GO 28 Ltr 9BD 22 Feb 45 Both ETO					
31. SERVICE SCHOOLS ATTENDED Cadet School Pilot			32. SERVICE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U. S. AND RETURN		
			DATE OF DEPARTURE	DESTINATION	DATE OF ARRIVAL
			3 May 44	EAME	24 May 44
			12 Sep 45	USA	22 Sep 45
33. FOREIGN SERVICE			34. EDUCATION (YEARS)		
YEARS	MONTHS	DATE	GRAMMAR SCHOOL	HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE
2	2	11	8	4	1

FOR CONVENIENCE A CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY NO. 1472265 HAS BEEN ISSUED BY THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION TO BE USED FOR THE FUTURE REQUEST OF AN GI BILL. THE GI BILL IS SUBJECT TO THE VETERAN'S READ- JUDGE (NOT OF 1944) AS APPLICABLE THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE TO THE PERSON WHO THIS SEPARATION PAPER WAS ISSUED.

IMPORTANT IF PREMIUM IS NOT PAID WHEN DUE OR WITHIN THIRTY-ONE DAYS THEREAFTER, INSURANCE WILL LAPSE. MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER OF THE U. S. AND FORWARD TO COLLECTIONS DIVISION, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.					
36. KIND OF INSURANCE		37. HOW PAID		38. Effective Date of Allocated Discontinuance	39. Date of Next Premium (before month after 30)
NAI. Serv.	U.S. Govt.	None	Assignment Direct to V.A.		
X			X	31 Dec 46	31 Jan 47
			40. PREMIUM DUE EACH MONTH		
			* 6.50		
			41. INTENTION OF VETERAN TO		
			Continue Continue only Discontinue		
			X *		

43.	42. REMARKS (This space for completion of above items or entry of other items specified in W. D. Directives) Lapel Button Issued ASRS Unknown Leave granted from 8 Nov 46 to 6 Jan 47 incl				
	44. SIGNATURE OF OFFICER BEING SEPARATED <i>Leo E Poundstone</i>		45. PERSONNEL OFFICER (Type name, grade and organization - signature) HAROLD C DICKS 2nd Lt <i>HC Dicks</i>		

WD AGO FORM 53-78
1 November 1944

This form supersedes all previous editions of WD AGO Forms 53 and 300 for officers entitled to a Certificate of Service, which will not be used after receipt of this revision.

52175



from the Armed Forces of the United States of America

This is to certify that

CAPTAIN LEO E. POUNDSTONE, AO 749 491, AIR FORCE RESERVE

was Honorably Discharged from the

United States Air Force

on the EIGHTEENTH *day of* JANUARY 1956 *This certificate is awarded*
as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service

James T. Quirk

JAMES T. QUIRK
COLONEL, USAF

DD FORM 256 AF 1 NOV 51 PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF THIS FORM MAY BE USED.

"MACE'S ACES"

We're some of Mace's Aces,
We're now in his good graces,
He talks to us and says, "Hi Boy," each day.

And when we go a-flying,
He starts right in a-crying,
He sweats with us and worries all the way.

It's not the flak he's sweating,
It's a silver star he's getting,
And that's what makes him look so old and grey.

Flying hours he's got many,
He's got seven in the twenty,
No wonder he can tell us what to do.

And when our flying's stinkin',
Our orders come from Schenkein,
He really knows his flying through and through.

All our trainees are synthetic,
It really is pathetic,
When Radetsky snaps the whip for me and you.

Old Farmer has a folly,
He cackles like a polly,
And at briefings you are sure to hear him say,

"All briefings will be formal
All join-ups will be normal
On take-off, flaps will be put down half-way."

And when our wheels we pull up,
He tells us that we foul up,
Another pass is gone the normal way.

And when we're on a mission,
Baldy's never in position,
Especially when we cross Pas De Calais.

He's twisting and a-curving,
He's always out observing,
His shiny head is always miles away.

So keep your cowl flaps open,
Keep a-praying and a-hopin'
That flak will get the Jerries any day.