

# **BUFORD L. GENTRY**



**US ARMY 1942-1945**

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Buford Lenon Gentry was born 11-DEC 1914 Warren, Knox, Kentucky. His father was Timothy Gentry (1877-1949), and his mother was Helen Lucille Adams (1880-1966). He had four sisters: Dorothy Bray, Lila Bell and Mary Luavina, Ola Lois; and four brothers: Bennie, Horace, William Lowell and Timothy Hugh. He married Helen Lucille Adams and they had one child: Sharon. His first wife Helen died 4-SEP 1954. Buford's civilian occupation, according to his enlistment records, was truck driver.

Bufford enlisted 8-MAY 1942 in the Army. His service number was 35478975. According to his enlistment form, he had completed a grammar school education. When he enlisted, he was married to Helen Lucille Adams. He reached the rank of T-5 Sergeant.

The Park City Daily News reported on, 15-MAR 1943 that Bufford, a former employee in an Indianapolis Defense Plant, was serving with the ground crew of the U.S. Army Air Forces in England.

In 1939 Gen. Hap Arnold negotiated with the U.S. Army Chief of Engineers for a special engineer unit to work with the Air Corps. The original concept envisioned a small group of skilled construction and engineer troops, closely trained alongside air units, with the ability to repair bomb damaged airfields, to camouflage airfields, and if necessary, to defend airfields. These troops would also be capable of constructing light duty airfields in forward locations.

Buford served in the 832nd Aviation Engineer Battalion. His DD214 later lists the 876th Airborne Engineer Battalion. Landing in England in Sept. 1942, five months after being activated, this Battalion started construction on Glatton Airdrome and Abbots Ripton Air Depot. They arrived in France on D-Day plus 24, following advancing armies across France into the heart of the Reich. By V-E Day they had built ten airdromes, 16 S&E strips, and maintained 9 airdromes built by others.

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| SERIAL NUMBER<br><i>659</i>                          | 1. NAME (LAST)<br><i>Buford L. Gentry</i> | ORDER NUMBER<br><i>194</i>                   |
| 2. ADDRESS (HOME)<br><i>Box # 2 Bowling Green Ky</i> |   |  |
| 3. TELEPHONE   | 4. AGE IN YEARS<br><i>27</i>              | 5. PLACE OF BIRTH<br><i>Bowling Green Ky</i> |
|  | 6. DATE OF BIRTH<br><i>12-11-14</i>       | 7. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP<br><i>USA</i>      |
| 8. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS  |   | 9. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON               |
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Bufford Gentry was discharged from the army on 7-OCT 1945

His Ribbons and Awards include:

- European–African–Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with Four Stars.
- Good Conduct Medal

He participated in the following campaigns:

- Normandy
- Northern France
- Rhineland
- Central Europe

On 11-APR 1959 he married Christine Louise Harris. He was a retired construction worker and heavy equipment operator. He died on August 31, 2000. He is buried in Fairview Cemetery, Bowling Green, Kentucky. He was 85.