

George Arthur Davison (1922-1945)

Service number: O-927794

December 16, 2017

Pre-WSC Life

George Arthur Davison, Jr. was born December 23, 1922 to parents George R. and Stella Davison in Twin Falls, Idaho (352 7th Avenue North). Twin Falls had a population of 8,324 at the time of the 1920 US Census, meaning that George grew up in a relatively small, close community. This is also reflected in the mentions of George in the various newspapers in Twin Falls at the time, including the *Twin Falls Times News* and the *Idaho Evening Times*. When his father passed away from a heart attack in 1946 (just a year after his son's death), the obituary mentioned that George was his only son.



In 1936, the *Idaho Evening Times* reported that George (then in eighth grade) was among the winners at a track and field championship. He was among those listed in the *Twin Falls News* in 1939 for receiving awards for excellence in typing class. *The Idaho Evening Times* reported in June of 1940 that George won \$5 for his second-place-winning essay on "Jack Davis, Alias Diamond Field Jack" in the Magic City jubilee essay contest. While surprisingly no articles about his high school athletics could be located, his obituary in the *Twin Falls Times News* remembers George as being "prominent in basketball, track, and baseball" at Twin Falls High School.

In September of 1940, the *Idaho Evening Times* reported, in their local news column, that George would be leaving Twin Falls to begin school at WSC. As already shown, Twin Falls was not a large town, and attending college was not a particularly common thing. As such, George achieved some celebrity in the community both for his athletics and his academic pursuits.

WSC experience

George began his attending WSC in the fall of 1940 and attended for three years until he enlisted in the US Army in June 1943. He majored in business administration and was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity. The *Chinook* yearbook reveals George served on the executive council of the junior class and was also the chairman of the junior prom. Additionally, the *Chinook* featured George was part of the Grey "W" Club, a letterman's club for varsity athletes.



George and his fellow executive council members

George earned varsity letters in both basketball and baseball at WSC. He was described as one of legendary Cougar coach Jack Friel's "varsity basketball stars in 1942" in the *Evergreen*. The newspaper also reported that in a December 1942 game against Whitman College, "Stocky George Davison was the only man to be ejected from the game on personals," perhaps indicating that he was a passionate and intense player. Additionally, he played second base and catcher for the baseball team, even racking up a few home runs, according to the *Evergreen*.



Second baseman Davison

While he stayed busy in athletics and extracurricular activities, a little piece of George's personality and humor is preserved in a December 1942 edition of the *Evergreen*. The campus newspaper included the following tidbit in their humorous observational column "The Kernel":

"Two of our ace hoopsters were gabbing the other night and after much thought and consideration George Davison said, "You know, it must be heck to be an astronomer." Tom O'Neill got the drift and commented. "Yeh [sic], just imagine! The only way he can get near a heavenly body is with a telescope."¹

George also spent his summers working at various places. In June 1941, the *Idaho Evening Times* reported that he would be employed in blister rust control work. The next summer, the *Times News* reported that he would be spending his summer in Flagstaff, Arizona working at a national defense plant.



Playing basketball

¹ "Cougar Corn Crib," *The Evergreen*, December 11, 1942, Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections, Washington State University Library, Pullman, WA.

Military Service and Death

George enlisted in the US Army on June 7, 1943 and received training at Camp Roberts California where he served with the 89th Infantry Division. He then attended officer's candidate school in Fort Benning, Georgia. After completion of officer training, he became a second lieutenant in the 15th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division. He then spent 1944 stationed at WSC with the Junior ROTC unit. Even as an officer, George found opportunities to put his athletic prowess to use. The *Evergreen* reported in February 1944 that he participated in an exhibition basketball game between the Washington State advanced course infantry team and the University of Idaho ATU All-Stars.

The *Twin Falls Times News* reported in January of 1945 that George would return to a base in Maryland after a home visit. Just two months later, on March 18, 1945, George was killed in action in Germany.² His regiment, under General Patch's Seventh Army, had been attacking German Siegfried line positions south of Zweibrücken, Germany. Within a week of his death, the 3rd Division (along with several other American divisions) had crossed the Rhine River. George is buried at Lorraine American Cemetery in St. Avold (Moselle), France. His grave can be found at Plot D, Row 16, Grave 38. He was awarded the Purple Heart.

**GEORGE DAVISON
REPORTED KILLED**

Three more Magic Valley young men were reported Wednesday as killed in action.

They were Lieut. George Davison, Twin Falls; Lieut. Hans Nüchel, Buhl, and Pfc. Howard D. Eldd, Miller.

KILLED IN EUROPE

Second Lieut. George Davison, serving with General Patch's seventh army in the European theater, was reported killed in action March 18, according to word received Wednesday morning from the war department.

The message was sent to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George A. Davison, 332 Seventh avenue North.

Lieutenant Davison joined the infantry in June, 1943, receiving training at Camp Roberts, Calif., and Fort Benning, Ga., before arriving overseas last Feb. 2.

He graduated from the Twin Falls high school, where he was prominent in basketball, track and baseball activities, and attended Washington State college, Pullman, Wash., for three years before entering the

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The *Twin Falls Times News* reported the George was one of 29 Gold Stars—soldiers who had given their lives in World War II—from Twin Falls High School. George's alma mater had 1,191 former students in the armed forces, 920 of whom were graduates, and 443 who were commissioned officers. George's status as a former high school sports star who had gone on to have success at a major state college would have made him something of a small town hero to the people of Twin Falls. His regular appearances in local newspapers from high school through his college years and time in the service indicate that the community followed him and his success. As a college athlete and military officer, he would have been the pride of a small town in some senses. Similarly, as his parents' only child, his loss (and the promise he had shown) would have been especially heartbreaking. Therefore, George's death not only would greatly impacted his own family (recall that his mother lost her only son and her husband in the span of a year), but his entire community as well.

Thursday, November 2, 1944

Seen Today

Woman walking jauntily down street in slacks, raincoat and fur-trimmed bedroom slippers. . . . Ceiling prices at small drive-in lunchroom posted practically on the ceiling. . . . Paul Taber perched in barber chair and getting that newly grown mustache trimmed. . . . Two children, one bawling lustily and one just sitting in baby buggy outside postoffice. . . . Nora Carder Kennedy wearing gardenia corsage presented to her by Meg's Y club along with shower of bridal gifts. . . . Charles Allen standing in middle of Main avenue telling somebody on curb that he's headed for Nevada. . . . Signs going on windows of new credit concern's offices on Second street west. . . . Man putting three pheasants and two ducks in refrigerated locker box. . . . Bus-driver wearing rubbers as sun shines merrily. . . . Much scratching out on election boards at Blinnick and McRoberts company—but quite a few of wagers still uncovered. . . . And overhead: Business woman inquiring of Mrs. Oma Whitton, "Do you sell scallop signs here? I want one to put on my office door until I can get some work out of the way."

George A. Davison Lieutenant Now

George A. Davison, son of Mr. and Mrs. George A. Davison, sr., has received his commission as second lieutenant after the completion of officers' candidate school at the infantry school at Ft. Benning, Ga. Lieutenant Davison graduated from the Twin Falls high school and attended the Washington state college, Pullman, Wash., before enlisting in the army in September, 1943. He served with the 89th infantry at

Camp Roberts, Calif., before going to officers' candidate school. A star Twin Falls high school basketball and baseball performer, he was a Washington State college ace in those sports. He is now home on leave visiting his parents here.

Albert Duplissa Last Rites Held

RICHFIELD, Nov. 2.—Funeral services were held for Albert Duplissa at the Richfield sanatorium with the Rev. J. H. Coulter in charge. Musical numbers were sung by the Methodist choir. Interment was in the Richfield cemetery under the direction of the Harris funeral home at Healy. Pallbearers were P. L. Manwill, Claude McKisick, George Coates, Len Woods, Thomas Byrnes, and Frank Pope. No relatives were located in time for the services.

D-DAY

Means DEWEY DAY

DO YOU KNOW

Hoover's election is pleaded for by Ka-convict Earl Browder's communitist and the political machine of Hague, Fendegat—Truman's late friend; by Boss Kelly in Chicago and others.

Is your vote going to bed with that crowd?

3 Days Until Election!

Young Republican's Club

of Twin Falls County

(Paid Pol. Adv.)

² Military records on the National Archives website list his official casualty code as KIA (killed in action), with no further details.