

Colonel Claude Edwin Putnam ---Oct.7, 1915- May 1965

Born on October 7, 1915 at Jacksboro, Texas born parents, he seemed destined to be a soldier from his beginning .

His father, Dr. Claude Edwin Putnam, for whom Colonel Putnam was named was born in Texas of parentage which came from Illinois and West Virginia. For 16 years, his father served in the National Guard and for 13 of these years, was Regimental Dentist. In Colonel Putnam's veins from the Putnam side there flows the blood of General Israel Putnam of Revolutionary War for our Independence .

His mother, Josephine Maude Stewart, came from stock which embraced a father born in Birmingham, Alabama and a mother born in Sherman, Texas .

Colonel Putnam's parents met and married in Jacksboro, Texas . His Jacksboro home where his parents still reside and have for the past 26 years is like wise historical for it was in the same identical home that Tom M. Marks, the first County Agent in Texas founded the first 4-H Club in America in 1907. Before a fire-place in this very home with the memories of ~~America~~ which still remain, who can there be to say that the lessons of Hand-Heart- Head - and Health which have meant so much to millions of American young men and women. In guiding them to better things, may not also have had their affect upon the life of our subject. Certainly the sotry of Colonel Putnam should prove to be a further incentive to every 4-H boy and Girl in America to continue their great work to the doing of bigger and better things.

As a boy the Colonèè was always interested in things military and in air planes in particular . From the time he was then years of age, he began his dreams of a military life by constantly asserting his intention of attending West Point or the "West Point" of the air. Even as a small boy he was contantly making model planes and much of his spending money came from sales made to other children of these model planes at which he became most proficient in their making. He entolled in the grammer school at Jacksboro on January 4th 1921 and graduated from the Jacksboro High School on January 21st, 1932. While he made excellent grades, his thoughts were for the Army and his eyes and every model of plane and was always imagining the day when he to would be " up there", high in the sky. Everything that his work turned to and every where that his steps led, seemed some how to emerge with a military tinge or to have an air plane as a part of the story .

At the age of twelve (actually he was twelve years and eight months) he enlisted in the Texas National Guard, was rather large for his age and his eagerness for the military service made it possible for him to pass his enlisting officer. He served for ten years and was made a l ine sergeant at 18 years of age. No oñly this but his commanding officer Captain Alonza A. Files, Commanding officer of Battery F. 131st Field Artillery, and recommended him for promotion for a Second Lieutenancy, but Colonel Charles A. Davis (now decaased) commanding Colonel of the 131 Field Artillery of the West Texas Units of the Texas National Guard, knowing his true age, refused to endorse the commission and ordered that his age he corrected which was done before his resignation from the Texas National Guard in order to enter Aviation at Randolph Field in San Antonio the, " West Point of the Air "

Previously to his entering his training course however, the Colonel enrolled at Texas Technological College commonly known as " Texas Tech " at Lubbock, Texas. This was in Septemebr 1934 after a two year period during which he had traveled extensively throughout the United States and Canada . During this period he again revealed his intent interest in history and mechanics. On this trip with his companions, he spent some time in Washington, D.C. Durigg which he indulged his yearning by spending most of this time in the Smithsonian Institute . There he found as much of interest that to this day he asserts that at the earliest opportunity he will return and spend at least six months there .

This incident reveals the inner most soul and determination of the man who has and still is aiding in the making of history .

Colonel Putnam never graduated from Texas Tech . He had made application for entrance to the " West Point of the Air " at Randolph Field, San Antonio, Texas because he had determined ~~it~~ upon Aviation as his life's work and while completing his senior year he was called and given his appointment. This was for the July 1937 class. From this date on until the present time aviation has been his sole vocation.

After basic training at Randolph Field, he was sent to Kelly Field for his advanced training here he was graduated in the upper bracket on June 16th , 1938, ~~and~~ and commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Reserve Corp. being assigned first to Barksdale Field at Shreveport, Louisiana. On October 7th, 1938, he was commissioned into the regular army. (This date October 7th should be borne in mind for this date seems to play an important place in his life as will be disclosed later.)

Being transferred from Pursuit to bombardment and qualifying as a bombardier instructor, he was then assigned to the new air base being opened at Savannah, Georgia where on October 7th, 1940 he received his promotion to First Lieutenant, again note October 7th in his life.

He was born on this date 1915, was commissioned into the regular army on October 7th, 1938 . He received his promotion to First Lieutenant on October 7th, 1940.

And most important, he proposed marriage to Miss Marjorie Buscham, of New York City October 7th, 1940 at San Antonio, Texas.

This marriage took place on December 8th, 1940 at the Chapel of the First Baptist Church . Colonel Putnam served in many capacities in the Air Force Corps. He was sent to the Douglas Air Corporation on several occasions to study the assembling of different types of planes being built for the government . He flew these planes and acted as instructor at the various posts where he had delivered them. In May of 1941, he was flight engineer of a group of twenty five bombers and their crews which toured South America on a good will tour and inspection of Air Bases, returning in July . He then was placed in charge of the Ferry Command from the West Coast to New York, transferring British purchases to the embarkation point. Thereafter he was on maneuver in various states and various posts, training and instructing the use of the Norden Bomb Sight and was on this mission when the bombing of Pearl Harbor occurred.

One child, a daughter , Eddie Paula Putnam was born to them October 25th, 1941 .

Recalled to Washington, D.C. and given his promotion to Captain, immediately he was sent on other private missions and while he engaged in May 1942 in the vicinity of Greenland inspecting possible sites for air bases, he and his crew were forced down on an uninhabited island with only two minutes of gasoline remaining. For eight days in sub-zero weather, they radioed their position and plight. Rather they attempted to radio their position, but after the second day the radio went out and they could only wait and hope that their message had been heard.

Their prayers had been answered for on the second day, an Englishman on a Danish Clipper with an Eskimo crew, several hundred miles away, picked up the message. Because of his familiarity with the area, he started to try and locate them. He was successful and on the 8th day reached them with the needed supplies and fuel. Colonel Putnam brought his Fortress out of this incident on its own power with the fuel brought to him by this Danish Clipper. He returned to Washington and later returned to Greenland to establish an air base where he had been forced down . It was on this mission that he received his promotion to Major in the Air Force Corps.

Scarcely was he back in Washington when he was sent to England and was the first to arrive there with the heavy bomb group on July 1st, 1948 . This was four years from his graduation from Randolph and Kelly . Then began in earnest the work which he had been training for and yet hoping would never be required of him. He began leading bombing attacks over the enemy . How many of these missions with which he has been associated is unknown

as this is written , but his decorations and his citations indicate many. Among these may be listed the following :

December 23, 1942: The AIR MEDAL /

FOR "EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT WHILE PARTICIPATING IN FIVE AERIAL COMBAT MISSIONS OVER ENEMY OCCUPIED CONTINENTAL EUROPE ."

1st, 2nd and 3rd OAK LEAF CLUSTERS TO THE AIR MEDAL :

FOR " ~~OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP~~ Exceptionally MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT WHILE PARTICIPATING IN FIVE AERIAL COMBAT MISSIONS OVER ENEMY OCCUPIED CONTINENTAL EUROPE AND GERMANY . 10 MISSIONS, 15 MISSIONS AND 20 MISSIONS ."

March 26, 1943: SILVER STAR

FOR "~~COURAGE~~* OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP WHILE COMMANDING HEAVY BOMBARDMENT FORMATIONS ON BOMBING RAIDS OVER ENEMY OCCUPIED TERRITORY AND GERMANY."

May 22, 1943: BRITISH (R.A.F.) DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

FOR "COURAGE, COOLNESS, AND SKILL AS PILOT AND AIR GUNNER DURING 12 DAYLIGHT OPERATIONS OVER ENEMY TERRITORY ."

July 28, 1943 : DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS (A.A.F.)

FOR " EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT WHILE COMMANDING A HEAVY BOMBARDMENT WING FORMATION FROM THE TAIL GUN POSITION OF THE LEAD AIRPLANE DURING A BOMBING RAID ON GERMANY ON 13th of JUNE ."

ALSO A NUMBER OF CAMPAIGN RIBBONS .

The above is the story of his honors as this is being written on September 17th, 1943.

A great aviator, a loyal American, a gallant Texan, a loving son, husband and father, he is still " out there" doing his full duty each day as it is given him to know it . From piloting planes and bombers or fighting craft to navigating and leading the lead planes; from planning the Ballistics for the first bombing missions; from establishing air bases to the faithful carrying ~~and~~ off of his full duty as a soldier and a patriotic American, Colonel Putnam has and is each day performing his duty as an American, the kind of an American of whom all are proud and the kind who assures us of ultimate victory .

That his patriotic efforts are appreciated by his family and his large group of friends without saying . That they are appreciated by our country is evidenced by the fact that on last February 10th, 1943, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and placed in command of a Heavy Bomb Station and thus became the youngest in all Air History to ever command a Heavy Bomb Group Station.

As a matter of fact, he was given a double promotion since his promotion was to that of a full Colonel at that time. However, due to an Army ruling, he was required to serve ninety days as a Lieutenant Colonel before he was entitled to his full rank as Colonel . However during this ninety days period he actually acted as Colonel and was made a full Colonel upon the expiration of this ninety days period or on May 10th, 1943, which rank he now holds.

Since returning to the states he was transferred to B-29's and was made C.O. at "Walker Field ", Hays, Kansas . There trained and shipped two groups to Saipan close of the Japanese War was sent to Washington, D.C. and placed on " The General War

Department Staff," In which capacity his course at Command School at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas . Also since his return has been ~~given~~ awarded The Presidential Citation and the Bronze Star.

This biography was written by Dr. and Mrs. C.E. Putnam , Jacksboro, Texas October 13, 1943 . It was sent to the Dallas Historical Society, The Hall of State archives .

Herbart Gambrell, Director at that time.

This original biography of Col Claude Edwin Putnam was sent to Laura Peacock, Box 472, Jacksboro, Texas 76056 in March 1976 by Col Putnam's wife Mrs. Jimmy Putnam Moore , Address 8719 E. Clarendon, Scottsdale, Arizona 85251 .

SCOOOP

1955

No. 57

The sign read "Slow" but it didn't say "Slow, Joe" so Joe kept his foot on the accelerator. Now Joe's name is in print for all to see—in the local obituary column.

First Star

Ike Announces Promotion; 1st LAFB Gen. Since 1944

Special to JET SCOOP . . . A deadline telegram from USAF Headquarters Personnel announced the promotion of LAFB ~~W. P. Jones~~ Claude E. Putnam to the rank of Brigadier General. The message stated in part, "The President of the United States announces that effective today you are promoted to the rank of Brigadier General in the Air Force. Congratulations."

The Air Force announced the nomination of General Putnam for general officer rank on July 22nd. It was stated later this month by a service media that the promotion would be effective 1 August. This was proved to be erroneous as learned by the JET SCOOP from the afore-mentioned telegram.

A veteran career pilot with the Air Force the past 18 years, the General entered flying school at Randolph Field in 1937. He received his pilot's wings and a second lieutenant's commission in June 1938 and was immediately assigned to the 90th Attack Squadron, Barksdale, La.

In 1941 the General was assigned to the Ferry Command as a pilot at Long Beach, Cal. Following this his duties were with the 1st Bomb Wing, Atlanta, Ga., 8th Bomber Command, and then the 8th Air Force in the United Kingdom as a Squadron Operations Officer.

Wichita CO

Returning from overseas in August, 1944, General Putnam assumed command of the Air Base at Wichita, Kan., until the fall of 1946 when he was assigned to attend the General Staff Officer Training Course in Washington, D. C. This was followed by studies at the Command and General Staff School Leavenworth, Kan.

General Putnam was first assigned to the Strategic Air Command in August, 1949, as Commander of the 92nd Bomb Group, Fairchild AFB, Washington.

At the outbreak of hostilities in



Gen. Putnam

Korea, General Putnam led the 92nd on its first strike against North Korean targets—eight days after his unit was alerted in the continental U.S. for combat in the Far East. He returned to the U.S. and was later assigned as Deputy Director of Plans, Headquarters, SAC.

Arrival At LAFB

General Putnam assumed command of the 310th Air Division October 11, last year. On 7 Dec. he piloted the first of LAFB's B-47s from the Boeing plant at Wichita, Kan. to the Base.

A command pilot, the General has been awarded the British Distinguished Flying cross and the Korean Service medal.

He is a native of Jacksboro, Tex. and a graduate of the University of Texas.

5 Day Forecast: Temperatures ranging from mid 90s to high 60s over weekend; from high 90s to 70s during week. Possible weekend thunderstorms.

THE JET SCOOP

The sign read "Slow" but it didn't say "Slow, Joe" so Joe kept his foot on the accelerator. Now Joe's name is in print for all to see—in the local obituary column.

Vol. 1

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, FRIDAY, JULY 29, 1955

No. 57

Putnam Earns First Star

FROM THE DESK OF

Laura Peacock

Jacksboro, Texas
March 15, 1976

Copied from the Jacksboro Gazette -(May 6, 1965)

Funeral services for Col. Claude Edwin Putnam, 48, U.S. Air Force (retired) were held at Messinger Mortuary in Scottsdale, Arizona at 2 p.m. Tuesday with interment in Greenwood Memorial Park at Phonix , Arizona .

Putnam had reitred from the Air Force four years ago, but had been in the 3525 Base Hospital at Williams Air Force Base 3 days when he died . He died of a heart attack arrest during surgery, according to information given the Gazette News by Messinger Mortuary .

Putnam was born in Jacksboro, Aug. 20, 1918. He was the son of the late Dr. Claude Edwin Putnam and Maude Josephone Stewart Putnam . He was a graduate of Jacksboro High School and attended Texas Tech before entering the army Air Corps in 1937 .

During W.W. II he received the Distinguished Flying Cross, Silver Star Medalion, British Distinguished Flying Cross and air medal with three clusters while leading bomber force on raids over Europe from England.

At one time during W.W.II he was the youngest colonel in American Armed Forces. He held a temporary grade of Brigadier General during Korean War .

Col. Putnam and his family made their home in 1601 E. Calle Tuberia in Phonex moving there from Albuerque, N.M. four years ago.

Survivors are his wife Marjorie (Jimmy) B. Putnam, five daughters, Cage, Penny, Jo Pamela, Barry Paige, Shelly Pat, all of the home , and Mrs. Eddie Paula Feltman of Camp Pendleton, Calif.; one grandchild and his mother .

Rites Held in Arizona For WWII Air Hero

MAY 5, 1965

JACKSBORO, (Spl)—Funeral services were held yesterday in Scottsdale, Ariz., for Claude E. Putnam, 48, a native of Jacksboro and much-decorated Air Corps officer during World War II.

Putnam had lived in the Arizona town since his retirement from the Air Force. He died here Saturday.

He received both American

and British citations for gallantry in action in the European Theater, and commanded a group of B-17 Flying Fortresses which made the second massive air strike against Berlin. Putnam also held other awards.

His wife lived in Fort Worth for a time during the war.

Also surviving are five daughters, and his mother, Mrs. Claude E. Putnam Sr. of Scottsdale.

PUTNAM, Claude E.

021642

7 Oct 1915 - Texas

Assigned to Group as operations office 1/18/43

Flew lead ship on 1st raid to Germany 1/27/43

Lt. Col. and Group C.O. 2/17/43

Led 7th mission to St. Nazaire 5/1/43

Led raid to Lorient 5/17/43

Colonel 5/10/43

Relieved as Group C.O. 6/20/43

AMolc 7/9/43 o/c 2/31/43 o/c 7/9/43

Silver STAR 3/26/43

C.O. 91st BG (Bassingbourn) 12 Dec 43-16 May 44

A.D. 17 June 1938

SS, DFC o/c, AM 2 o/c

31 December 1975

Mrs. Laura Peacock
Box 472
Jacksboro, Texas 76056

Dear Mrs. Peacock:

In checking back through my correspondence file,
I came across your letter to me concerning the
late Col. Claude Putnam.

And I am wondering if you have had any success in
securing an address for me of his wife or daughter?

I would much appreciate any information you might
be able to provide for me, so that I may continue
this aspect of my research on the 306th Bombard-
ment Group.

I very much appreciate your efforts.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

4900 Appleridge Court Dayton, Ohio 45424

Wright State University



Dayton, Ohio 45431 513 426 6650

News and Information Services

28 October 1975

Ms. Marcy Bagley
Librarian
Phoenix Gazette
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Dear Ms. Bagley:

I am presently engaged in a research project on the 306th Bombardment Group (H), U. S. Eighth Air Force, World War II.

One of the commanding officers of that unit was Col. Claude E. Putnam, Jr. I have been unable to find very much about him, but information received recently indicates that he may have died in Phoenix. And I believe his death may have occurred in 1969.

In an earlier stab at some information I contacted a Claude E. Putnam listed in the Phoenix telephone directory and found he was not related.

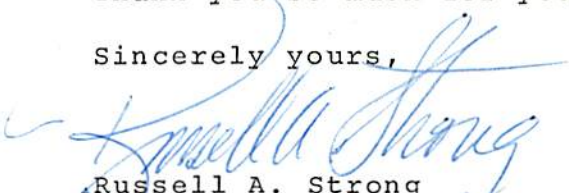
I was also informed yesterday that Col. Putnam's widow probably resides in Phoenix.

If you have any information on Col. Putnam in your files, I would appreciate receiving copies of it.

Col. Putnam was a career officer in the Air Force and was a native of Jacksboro, Texas.

Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,


Russell A. Strong
Director

Dear Mr. Strong,

I have checked our files & find nothing on Col. Claude E. Putnam, Jr. Sorry we could not help you.

October 31, 1975

Sincerely,
Marcy Bagley

FROM THE DESK OF

Laura Peacock

Jacksboro, Texas
October 23, 1975

Dear Mr. Strong:

Leigh McGee , Editor of the Herald -Gazette now asked me to answer your letter addressed to his late wife Ms. Mabel Claire McGee of Oct.14 in regards to the late Col. Claude Edwin Putnam . I am chairman of the Jack County Historical Sommission and I knew the Putnam family very well . However I didn't see Col. Putnam after he grew up and went to the army but one time. That was when he married.

I am sending you an article taken from our " Ninety Four Years In Jack County-1854-1949 " written by Mrs. Ida Lasater Huckabay . She also knew the Putnams very well living as neighbors to the family . Both parents of Col Putnam are buried in Oakwood Cemetary in Jacksboro. He is buried in Phoenix , Arizona I believe . I have written to people who know his wife's address and expect to hear from them soon . I am looking for an obituary which was run in the Gazette newspaper . When I hear from his wife or daughter I will forward it to you .

Sincerely,

Laura

Mrs. Laura Peacock
617 West Thompson
Box 472
Jacksboro, Texas 76056

Colonel Claude Edwin Putnam

Claude Edwin Putnam was born October 7, 1915, at Jacksboro, Texas of Texas born parents . He seemed destined to be a soldier from his beginning. His father, Dr. Claude Edwin Putnam, for whom Colonel Putnam was named was born in Texas from parentsge which came from Illinois and West Virginia. For 18 years, his father served in the National Guard, and for 13 of these years, was Regimental Dentist. In Colonel Putnam's veins from the Putnam side there flows the blood of General Israel Putnam of Revolutionary fame, who is carried in our history for his brave acts in the Revolutionary Wary War for our independence. His mother, Josephine Maude Stewart, came from a stock which embraced a father born in Birmingham, Alabama and a mother born in Sherman, Texas . Col. Putnam's Jacksboro home, where his parents resided until their death , is likewise historical for it was in this same identical house that Tom M. Marks, the first county agent in Texas, founded the first 4-H club in America, in 1907. Before a fireplace in this very home with the memories which still remain who can there be to say that the lessons of Hand-Heart-Head and Health which have meant so much to millions of American young men and women, in guiding them to better things, may not also have had their effect upon the life of our subject.

Certainly the story of Colonel Putnam should prove to be a further incentive to all 4-H boys and girls in America to continue their great work to the doing of bigger and better things. As a boy the colonel was always interested in things military and in airplanes in particular. He knew each and every model of plane and was always imagining the day when he too would be " up there". The story of his boyhood is most interesting and we regret space will not permit details, but he managed to pass his enlisting officers (at age of 12 years and 8 months) being rather large for his age and served 10 years in the Texas National Guard and was made a line Sergeant at 18 years of age and recommended for promotion to Second Lieutenant by the Commanding Colonel of the 131st Field Artillery (Col. Chas. A. Davis, now deceased) knew his age. Colonel Putnam attended Texas Tech at Lubbock . He made application for

entrance to the " West Point of the Air" at Randolph Field, San Antonio, Texas, because he was determined upon aviation as his life's work. Chapters could be written on his varied experiences. War clouds gathered--he was sent to England and was the first to arrive there with the heavy bomb group on July 1st, 1942. How many of these missions he made is unknown but his decorations and his citations indicate many. Among them may be listed the following:

On December 23rd., 1942, he received the Air Medal " For exceptionally meritorious achievement while participating in five aereal missions over enemy occupied continental Europe and Germany--10 missions, 15 missions, 20 missions."

March 26, 1943, he was awarded the Silver Star for " outstanding leadership while leading heavy bombardment formations on bombing raids over enemy territory,"and Germany."

May 22nd, 1943 British (R.A..F.) Distinguished Fly Cross for " courage, cooðness, and skill as pilot and air gunner during 12 daylight operations over enemy territory.

March 1945--awarded Presidential Citation and Bronze Star. In February 1943 , he was promoted to Lieut. Colonel and placed in command of a heavy bomb station, thus became the youngest in all air history to everbcommand a heavy bomb group station.

He was one of the Doolittle Raiders I believe .

28 October 1975

Ms. Marcy Bagley
Librarian
Phoenix Gazette
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Dear Ms. Bagley:

I am presently engaged in a research project on the 306th Bombardment Group (H), U. S. Eighth Air Force, World War II.

One of the commanding officers of that unit was Col. Claude E. Putnam, Jr. I have been unable to find very much about him, but information received recently indicates that he may have died in Phoenix. And I believe his death may have occurred in 1969.

In an earlier stab at some information I contacted a Claude E. Putnam listed in the Phoenix telephone directory and found he was not related.

I was also informed yesterday that Col. Putnam's widow probably resides in Phoenix.

If you have any information on Col. Putnam in your files, I would appreciate receiving copies of it.

Col. Putnam was a career officer in the Air Force and was a native of Jacksboro, Texas.

Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong
Director

14 October 1975

Ms. Mabel Claire McGee, Editor
Jacksboro Gazette-News
Jacksboro, Texas 76056

Dear Ms. McGee:

In preparing a book on the 306th Bombardment Group of the Eighth Air Force, I am trying to secure some solid information on Col. Claude E. Putnam, Jr., who usually listed his home as Jacksboro.

Col. Putnam died several years ago, which has complicated my search.

Can you give me any information about him or his family, or possibly could you give me a copy of an obituary you might have run on him?

Any scraps of information will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong
Director

21 January 1976

Public Information Office
Luke Air Force Base
Luke, AFB, Arizona

Dear Sirs:

In connection with a book I am now researching on the 306th Bombardment Group, U. S. Eighth Air Force, I am trying very hard to locate some information on the late Col. Claude E. Putnam, Jr.

I am informed that he died about the first of August 1965 in the LUKE AFB Hospital, but that is about all I have been able to uncover thus far.

I know that this is a long time ago, but if you could give me any leads to work on in trying to establish some rather basic biographical data I would be most appreciative.

Col. Putnam served as commanding officer of the group from February to June of 1943, and Gen. LeMay in "Mission with LeMay" calls him the best pilot he ever flew with.

I will certainly appreciate any effort you can make to assist me.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

4900 Appleridge Court Dayton, Ohio 45424

FROM THE DESK OF

Laura Peacock

Jacksboro, Texas
Jan. 12, 1976

Russell A. Strong
4900 Appleridge Court
Dayton, Ohio 4524

Dear Mr. Strong :

Your letter of December 31 was received and I am sorry that I have been unable to get Col Putnam's obit . I wrote a lady who knew his wife and daughters. They were told about you wanting research on their father , but his wife Jimmie is getting married again, the daughters promised to write me but havent. I do not have their address at this time. The lady I asked to write me after she talked to them did not answer my letter. I talked today with her sister in Graham. She is going to Ft. Worth one day soon and will do researh at the Star Telegram . They had stories on him as he was stationed at Carswells air-force Base at one time . They might have something . I work for the Star Telegram and the Wichita Times and local Gazette . All should have his obit . I am covered up with business, research and my husband and I have not been well the past three months, but I assure I am most interested in helping you as the Putnam family was very dear to me . I knew them a long time. His mother died about a year after Col Putnam . Col. Ira Fowler , a close friend of the Putnams wrote me he died around the first of August 1965 . I will look in the Gazette files here and keep searching. We will find it I promise. I would like a copy of the biography you will do on Col. Putnam . We have a Hall of Fame at our High School and he needs to be in it I think.

As soon as I find further research I will send it to you. A happy New Year, Sincerely,

Laura Peacock
Box 472
Jacksboro, Texas 76056

Phone - 817-567-2334

(over) *Laura*

I checked today in Gazette
could not find obit but will
look in files of Herald soon -

I cannot understand why
the the military base in
Arizona or New Mexico
would not have his obit -
We will find it soon -

Laura

P.S. I just talked to Col -
Cutnam's cousin and he said
he died at Luke air Force
Base in Phoenix, Arizona -
Write them and maybe
they can contact newspapers
for his obit - I will
keep looking -

FROM THE DESK OF

Laura Peacock

Jacksboro, Texas
March 15, 1976

Russell A. Strong, Director
News & Information Service
Wright State University
Dayton, Ohio 45431

Dear Sir :

I am sorry to have been so late with information on Col. Claude Edwin Putnam . I finally heard from his wife and she sent me the inclosed information which his parents wrote up in 1943 . This was filed in the Dallas Historical Archives . I have copied it and also a news item and his obit of May 1965 I found in the Jacksboro Gazette . I hope this information on Ed will help you in writing the book on the 306th Bombardment Group . When you get all the information on Col. Putnam I would appreciate a copy of it in full as I want to enter him in the Hall of Fame at our Jacksboro High School . I would also like a copy of the book also when it is printed . Bill me for it .

Sincerely,

Laura

Mrs. Laura Peacock
Box 472
Jacksboro, Texas 76056

Col. Putnam's wife's address now is : Mrs. Jimmy Putnam
Moore --8719 E. Clarendon-Scottsdale, Arizona 85251 .

They had five daughters and 8 grandchildren.