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Walterboro Army Air Field Timeline

- 1933 60 acres of land leased to the town of Walterboro by the estate of CC Anderson for whom the community air field was named.
- 1937 By this time the town had purchased the air field and its three unpaved landing strips.
- 1941 By this time the landing strips were paved and a large hanger had been built at the air field.
- August 4, 1942** **The Walterboro Army Air Field (WAAF) is activated as a sub-base of Columbia Army Air Field of the Third Air Force.**
- August 1942 – July 1943 The 310th, 321st, 340th and 345th Bombardment Groups train at WAAF.
- May 1943 School of camouflage established.*
- Aug 1943 The base gymnasium and the base chapel open.
- October 1943 The base theater opens.
- July 1943 – April 1944 The 339th, 405th and 48th fighter Bomber Groups train at WAAF.
- April 16, 1944** **Command of WAAF transferred to the First Air Force – Advanced Combat Training for 332nd Fighter Group Replacement Pilots established. Class 44-C is the first Tuskegee class to train in Walterboro.**
- Early May 1944 The 553rd Replacement Training Unit (RTU), including at least 5 black instructors from the 99th Fighter Squadron, is transferred from Selfridge Field, Michigan to WAAF.
- July 1944 Col. Guy Kirksey takes command of the air base from Col. William Prince. He would remain in command until the base was deactivated in October 1945.
Charles Dryden court-martialed for buzzing Walterboro Water Tower and WAAF Field Tower.
- December 07, 1944** **A German Prisoner of War Camp, consisting of 250 prisoners, is established at WAAF.**

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- Early May 1945 Officers of the 477th Medium Bombardment Group are transferred to WAAF straight from lock-up at Godman Field, KY.
- July 1945 *The Press and Standard* publishes an editorial on race relations at WAAF that angers many black airmen at the base.
- July 05, 1945 The officer's clubs at WAAF are desegregated. White officers immediately rent private club off base.
- October 4, 1945 **Walterboro Army Air Field is deactivated. The remaining members of the 553rd RTU and the 477th Bomber Squadron are transferred from Walterboro.****

Note: The primary source used to compile this timeline is Walterboro's "The Press & Standard" and the numerous articles published in the paper from 1941 – 1946 that chronicle the history and use of the airbase. The newspaper can be accessed online through **Digital Reel: Colleton's Online Historical Archive** at www.colletonlibrary.org/e-content.