



## **Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.** **Alfonza W. Davis Chapter**

*Ever Onward, Ever Upward!*



A.C. Lofton

## **Nebraska's Tuskegee Airmen**

### **2LT Ralph P. Orduna Omaha, NE**



Excerpts from the Omaha Star Newspaper  
May 2003-

Ralph P. Orduna was born in Omaha, Nebraska on August 17, 1920. As a youngster, Orduna was interested in aeronautics and learned all that he could about airplanes. While he was employed at the Martin Bomber Plant in Omaha, he helped to build the B-26, a medium bomber, and later the heavy bomber the B-29. In 1941, with the help of a family friend who was an Army NCO and the tenacity of his father, Orduna was able to break through discrimination and enlist in the Army Air Corps.

After Orduna graduated from the Tuskegee Flying School, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and was stationed at Raminelli, Italy with the 301st Fighter Squadron of the 332nd Fighter Group. The 332nd was the Army's first all Black fighting force.

Orduna flew 18 missions in the P-51 Mustang. He escorted American bombers on missions and also conducted reconnaissance flights over enemy territory. For his efforts he earned the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters.

After his service to his country, Orduna earned a commercial pilot's license but was unable to use it due to discriminatory practices of commercial airlines at that time.

Ralph P. Orduna passed away on May 27, 2003. He is now in the memorial ranks of the Tuskegee Airmen "Lone Eagles".