

Biography

Lucian K. Truscott IV

Lucian K. Truscott IV was born to 2nd Lt. Lucian K. Truscott III and Anne Harloe Truscott on April 11, 1947, in Fukuowka, Japan, the first baby born to American parents in Japan after the war. His father was the son of Gen. Lucian K. Truscott Jr., commander (successively) of the 9th Regimental Combat Team, the 3rd Infantry Division (famous as Audie Murphy's division), the 6th Corps, the Fifth Army and the Third Army, all during WWII. After the war, Gen. Truscott was head of the CIA in Europe from 1951 to 1955. After his return from Europe, Gen. Truscott became Inspector General and Deputy Director of the CIA, and a Special Advisor on Intelligence to President Eisenhower.

Mr. Truscott's mother was the daughter of Col. Bartley M. Harloe, who was a former Commander of the Army Corps of Engineers for the Mississippi River Valley, and director of all Corps of Engineers projects during the Works Projects Administration (WPA) during the Depression, including his design and construction of National Airport in Washington, D.C. Col. Harloe retired after the war and taught engineering for many years at the University of Hawaii and was for a brief time the City Manager of Honolulu. He was a graduate of the West Point Class of 1917.

Mr. Truscott's father had a distinguished career as an Infantry Officer in the United States Army, retiring due to medical reasons in 1971 as a Colonel. He commanded an Infantry Platoon and Company in combat in Korea, and in Vietnam he took the first Mechanized Infantry Battalion into the Delta. He was a graduate of the West Point Class of 1945. He recently edited and published "The Twilight of the U.S. Cavalry (Life in the Old Army, 1917-1942)". Kansas University Press, a memoir by Gen. Truscott, for which Col. Truscott wrote the preface.

Mr. Truscott grew up in the Army, living over the years in more than ten states, four foreign countries, and 27 different houses or apartments by the time he was 18.

Mr. Truscott is the oldest of five Truscott children, all "Army brats," who have distributed themselves across the United States, the rootless scion of rootless scion. Indeed, Mr. Truscott's sister

Mary Truscott, most recently of Seattle, Washington, wrote a book called "Brats," published in 1990.

Mr. Truscott attended schools all over the world, including three different high schools, in three different states in three years. He finally graduated from Mt. Vernon High School, in Alexandria Virginia and was a National Merit Scholarship Finalist.

In 1965 he entered West Point, via an appointment from Patsy T. Mink, Democrat of Hawaii, where the family had long ago established residency. He graduated, after what might be called a checkered career, in June of 1969, entering the Army as a 2nd Lt. of Infantry. He attended the Infantry School at Ft. Benning, Georgia, and moved to Ft. Carson, Colo. to command a Mechanized Infantry Platoon, which he did until May, 1970. In that month, he found himself in a dispute with the Army over an article he wrote for the Village Voice about the rampant, yet un-acknowledged problem of heroin abuse in the Army, specifically, in the 5th Mechanized Infantry Division at Ft. Carson. The Army refused permission to publish the article, and Mr. Truscott refused to withdraw the article from publication. The Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army for Personnel, a Lt. General in the Pentagon, threatened on the telephone, with both Mr. Truscott and his father Col. Truscott listening, to order Mr. Truscott to Vietnam immediately if he didn't withdraw the article. Mr. Truscott refused to withdraw the article, and refused the order to Vietnam, and told the General on the telephone that he would have him (the General) court martial led for attempting to punitively assign a soldier (Lt. Truscott) to a combat zone, one of the Army's most heinous crimes, punishable by 30 years on prison, if he attempted to carry out his threat. What they used to call in the Army "a flap" ensued, and resignation from the Army came soon thereafter.

In August 1970, Mr. Truscott went to work as a staff writer for the Village Voice for \$80 a week, about the same salary he was earning as a 2nd Lt. in the Army. He worked for the Voice until 1975, and since that time has been what is called a "freelance" writer, that is, a writer without a salary, benefits, office, or indeed, a recognizable job. He has written for many major magazines, including The New York Times Magazine, the New Yorker, Esquire, The Nation, Harpers, Rolling Stone, (the late) New Times, (the late) Harpers Weekly, Playboy, Penthouse, Metropolitan Home, (the late) True Magazine, Saveur and many others.

During his years as a journalist, Mr. Truscott covered politics, popular culture, the intelligence community and worked as a foreign correspondent. He spent a year on the Watergate story, spending most of the time covering Bebe Rebozo and his role as a bag-man for President Nixon. He spent 6 months in Israel and Beirut and wrote the first articles ever published in this country about terrorism as a military tactic. The rights to his articles were purchased by the Department of Defense in the mid 1970's and included in the curriculum at the Army War College and West Point.

In 1976, Mr. Truscott wrote "The Complete Van Book" for Harmony Books, a division of Crown Publishers, and thereafter quit magazine work. That year, Mr. Truscott received a grant from the Alicia Patterson Foundation for a study of his class at West Point. He was offered a contract for

a non-fiction book on the subject, and unable to reach an agreement with the publisher regarding the various legal squiggles and squirms in the contract, it was suggested to him by his editor, Betty A. Prashker, that he "turn it into a novel." He demurred, saying the contract specified a "non-fiction" book, and she said, "You let me worry about that." Mr. Truscott signed the contract, picked up the check and wrote and published the best-selling novel "Dress Gray" in 1979, which was later produced as an NBC miniseries, scripted by Gore Vidal, in 1986. After "Dress Gray," Mr. Truscott wrote the best-seller "Army Blue" for Crown Publishers. Since then he has written two novels and unhappy with them, consigned them dejectedly to a deep drawer. He has written a children's book, "Weird and D.A., the Barge Cats", as yet unpublished, and published a third novel, "Rules of the Road," with Carroll & Graf Publishers in 1990.

Mr. Truscott's fourth novel, "Heart of War," was published in hardcover by Dutton in June, 1997, and will be issued in paperback by Signet books this summer.

His fifth novel, "Full Dress Gray," published in July 1998 by Wm Morrow, is the long-awaited sequel to his first novel, "Dress Gray." Both books have been released in paperback by Signet Books.

As a screenwriter, he wrote a TV movie, "Double Identity," for Edgar Sherrick Productions. He wrote "Command Influence," an original screenplay for HBO, and "Glass Houses," a feature film for Dick Clark Productions. He adapted "Conduct Unbecoming," the Randy Shilts book about gays in the military, for HBO, and wrote "Traitor", a movie about the Korean War, for Paramount. He also wrote "Trophy Point," a motion picture for Warner Brothers. He has sold the motion picture rights to "Heart of War" to Stanley Jaffe (producer of "Kramer Vs Kramer", "Fatal Attraction" and "The Accused" among other films) and Columbia Pictures. He sold a short story titled "Leavenworth" to Columbia Pictures and has written the screenplay for a motion picture of that title which is currently in development. He wrote a television movie, "Code of Honor", for ABC, and two television movies for Carlton America: "Danger Beneath the Sea", and "Gone Without a Trace." He has written several stories and one teleplay for JAG, and recently wrote a pilot for an HBO dramatic series, "HHC 3-61."

He is a regular contributor to the op-ed page of the New York Times.

Mr. Truscott lives in Franklin, TN with his wife, Carolyn, and his three children, Lilly (age 17), Lucian V (age 10), and Violet (age 5).