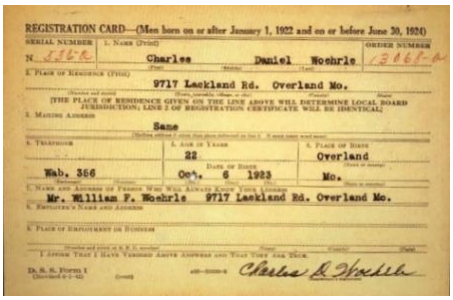
Charles Daniel Woehrle

Charles Daniel Woehrle was born 6-Oct 1923 in Overland Missouri. His father was William F. Woehrle (1887-1963), and his mother was Edith Sophie Barth (1888-1964). Charles was the youngest of four siblings. He had two brothers Fred and Dave: and a sister Dorothy.

In 1940 the family lived at 9717 Lackland Avenue in Normandy MO. Before joining the Marines, Charles completed High School (likely Ritenour High School) and attended Missouri University. After the war ended, he continued his studies at St. Louis University.



REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after January 1, 1922 and on or before June 30, 1924)

SERIAL NUMBER: 336 | 1. NAME (Print): Charles Daniel Woehrle | ORDER NUMBER: 12068-A

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print): 9717 Lackland Rd. Overland Mo.

(THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL)

3. MAILING ADDRESS: Same

4. TELEPHONE: Wab. 366 | 5. AGE IN YEARS: 22 | DATE OF BIRTH: Oct. 6 1923 | 6. PLACE OF BIRTH: Overland Mo.

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS: Mr. William F. Woehrle 9717 Lackland Rd. Overland Mo.

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS:

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 9-1-42) — Charles D. Woehrle

In 1943 Charles was at the Naval Air Training Center in Corpus Christi Texas. He would later be assigned to a Marine fighter wing. The Devil Dogs VMF-324 was established as Marine Fighter Squadron 324 on 1-OCT 1943, then VMF-324. Charles designed the Squadron Devil Dog patch for VMF-324. VMF-324 was deactivated on 15-OCT 1945 and later reactivated as VMA-324 on 17-MAR 1952. Finally, VMA-324 was deactivated on 29-AUG 1974.

Charles left the Marines after WWII on 17-FEB 1946 at Cherry Point, North Carolina. He registered for the post WWII draft 5-Feb 1946. He would stay in the reserves in St. Louis and was activated for Korea. In 1951, the Marine Corps began fielding the Douglas AD-1 Skyraider ground attack aircraft which had as its main role close air support for the Marines on the ground.

In January 1951, Charles was promoted to Captain. He was on active duty with the 1st Marine Air Wing and Aircraft Fleet Marine Force Reserve in St. Louis. Charles served in Korea earning his third **Distinguished Flying Cross**. The award stated:

"For twenty combat missions in a slow, unarmed observation plane and was instrumental in location enemy strong points and spotting the enemy for our artillery."

Charles was awarded:

- The Distinguished Flying Cross w/Two Gold Medals
- Purple Heart.
- World War II Victory Medal
- Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal

- American Campaign Medal
- Good Conduct Medal

The following letter was written to his brother David Carl Woehrle (1913-2003).

21-MAR 1944

Dearest Dave,
This is the second time that I have attempted to write to you but the first. Time was just too soon after an accident to write to anyone. It all happened five days ago when we in the midst of a heavy night flying schedule. One of the fellows caught fire just after he left the ground and explode about two miles out in the Carolina swamps. The time was shortly after ten 'clock. Searching parties were formed immediately guided by the fire of one-hundred octane gasoline. We went by jeep for a while then were forced to travel in rubber boats. It was after two o'clock in the morning when we arrived at the scene of the accident.

I'm writing this Dave so that perhaps you can pass it on to dad for I don't thing mom would help matter by reading it. Hell, we found his body or rather what was left of it. There was no head, and the shoes were blown from his feet by the giant explosion. There was an odor of burning flesh every where like roasted wieners (sic) and the similarity between the two was enough to turn a fellow's stomach. One look was enough and finally the medical department arrived. No one knew what to do; it was something new to us all being so near to the dead. After a while our engineering officer nudged me with his elbow and asked me to help him put the body on a stretcher. Somehow, I managed to swallow all fear and surprise and assist him. That's the story bold but true.

I might add that I came home took a shower, shave and brushed my teeth and finally went to bed. Sleep was not to be had, until finally I fell off from exhaustion. We have it all sufficiently recovered from the sight, but it will happen again and again before this war is over.

I check my plane carefully as I always have but several of the fellows have just started that practice. Some time they may forget. Then it will happen again.

I'm sure you have been eying the insignia up at the top of the page and the cloth pad which I have enclosed. These are our squadron insignia as was voted upon by the officer and men of VMF-324. Pretty cute, eh?

Dave, I don't know what we will do next. Our squadron will soon be ready for overseas duty. We are 64% complete now; only 80% is necessary. We are scheduled to move to Kinston N.C. a week ago but now the rumor have it that we ready to go to the West Coast. We feel here that we are ready. I am flying wing on of the of best and most sensible pilots in the squadron. I would go through hell flying on his wing. Our team he and I is unbeatable and we both live lives enough to do the sensible thing. He is a fast thinker and acts equally as fast.

Tell Shirley and Jane and Pat that I am fine. I sincerely hope they are even better. Dave what do you think about your chances on staying out? Good, I hope! From Charlie.

P.S. I almost forgot the most important thing. I sent a box by way of railway Express. It contains two bottles of liquor. I have quite a supply now and there isn't room for it all in my overseas box. Drink one down for your kid brother in the Marines. You will have to use Fred's car to call for it at the Lackland Street R.R. Express.

I guess you received a letter from Fred in England. The best parts of his letter were censored, but I was still glad to hear from him. Dave do you think you will have to go?

Give Shirley Ann a great big kiss for her Uncle Charlie; it will probably have to last for a long, long time.

Your brother,
Charlie

Charles married Bettie Jane Copeland (1924-1997) in August 1947. They had one child, Thomas Woehrle together. In 1993 they lived in Vienna, Virginia and Charles was working for the government in the Defense Department. Charles served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Audit Policy: Oversight, Evaluation and Criminal Policy). Charles first wife, Bettie died in 1997. Bettie and Charles were married for 49 years.

He later married Iona Faye Dickerson (1924-2009) on 7-DEC 1997.

Charles Daniel Woehrle died in Springfield Missouri on 13-OCT 2010. A memorial service was later held in St. Louis and Bolivar Missouri.