

Tuskegee Airmen Essay

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first black military aviators. These troops were in World War II. They were trained in Alabama, showing great performance. Their performance earned them a very important army decoration medal. It's called the "Distinguished Flying Cross". Which led to encouraging the integration of U.S. armed forces.

Back in the 1920s and 1930s the military was segregated. This affected their ability to participate in the military. They had extreme obstacles and little to no exception in the army. They were bothered with racial slurs and treated like aliens. When it came to war combat they were expected to do poorly and not be able to fly or operate aircrafts. They set low expectations for very high people.

Then, there was another great war that came rushing to the US. This is when President Roosevelt realized he needed more troops. So, President Roosevelt expanded the invitation for civilian pilot training. Leading to let more blacks become part of the army. But, there were so many "colored" men who wanted to devote their lives to their country. Black newspapers saw the insufficient work that was done and wrote papers about this unfair treatment. They also joined civil rights group and got so much more attention.

But, this did not mean everyone was treated equally. Racial segregation still existed in the military.

The Tuskegee Airmen were trained in a separate field at the Tuskegee Army Air Field in Tuskegee, Alabama. Their training area was where their name was inspired. All trainees were graduates of some sort, including Benjamin O. Davis Jr. Benjamin O Davis Jr. was one among the first set of aviator cadets from 1941.

They flew through North Africa and then Sicily. After this they were then shipped to Italy. This time, serving along with the white pilots. Many black pilots got a role in nearly all altercation of these battles.

There was a myth made that persisted through time that they never lost a bomber. Which was very untrue, they may not have lost many but, they did lose a few bombers. Their last leading group the 332nd flew their last combat in April 26, 1945 not far from the Germans surrendering. By this time the Tuskegee Airmen had done much damage and lost/ got captured a total of 98 people.

After their great achievement each still living and free cadet earned a Distinguished Flying Cross. When the Tuskegee's returned home they still had to face systematic racism and prejudice. They were a big step in the armed forces' next move. Three years after that in 1948, President Truman issued an order to segregate the armed forces! This concluded the integration of the armed forces! All the first aviator hard work paid off. They made the next set of aviator's trainer and involvement more easier and on a fairer scale. Things didn't just magically fix in the entire world but, this was another small step to a bigger point.