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## *The Tuskegee Airmen*

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African Americans to go through flight courses with the Army. Each man trained and studied at the segregated Tuskegee Army Air Field at Tuskegee, Alabama. There were 992 Tuskegee Airmen pilots and 11 of those fighter pilots who participated in World War II are still alive today. (1) Sadly, 66 out of 992 pilots were killed in war. (2) The Tuskegee Airmen have inspired many young people to pursue their dreams and to go out of their comfort zone to accomplish what needs to be done even if it means it's risky. People should continue to remember them. They did so much for our country even though they were treated terribly.

Women also qualified in many fields of work at Tuskegee, Alabama. They mainly were nurses, mechanics, supply pilots, and secretaries. (3) Back then women didn't have a lot of rights, Even getting into the Tuskegee program was probably a struggle for them. A lot of people focus on the Tuskegee Airmen but they never think about the people that made it possible for those pilots to fly. Do I think that without those nurses, mechanics, supply pilots and secretaries, would the Tuskegee men have made it? No. Although they did risk their lives to fight for this country, those who worked outside of combat should also be honored, especially the women. Knowing the pain and sexism they went through can make someone easily frustrated. (3)

While at the Air base, African Americans were treated poorly. The other white airmen picked fights and humiliated the brown skinned air men. Yes, they fought for the USA, but that didn't stop white people from treating them horribly. The Tuskegee Airmen were at a segregated base. Anyone who has common sense would already know that they definitely had limited resources. People didn't care that you were fighting for their country, all they knew was that you were "colored" and they didn't like you. (4) This was how people were raised and all we can do is forgive but we could never forget the hell that they put brown skinned people through.

Overall, to see how African Americans were treated and are still being treated gives me this type of anger that is hard to describe. All these years, and people of color are still being treated poorly and I will never be able to believe that humans will come to a conclusion where everyone is equal. I can't say myself; I would not be able to stay as humble and calm as those who went through discrimination.

Work cited

(1) <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/tuskegee-airmen-interview-daniel-haulman>

(2) <https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/tuskegee-airmen>

(3) <https://www.cnn.com/2012/02/02/us/women-of-tuskegee-supported-famed-black-pilots/index.html>

(4) <https://cafriseabove.org/the-tuskegee-airmen/tuskegee-airmen-history/returning-home/>