



# CAF RISE ABOVE®

Inspiring young people to RISE ABOVE adversity using the lessons and stories of the Tuskegee Airmen and the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP).

April 2022

The CAF Rise Above Traveling Exhibit was honored to be on display at the Women in Aviation International 33rd Annual International Women in Aviation Conference at Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee, March 17-19, 2022. With its unique blend of world-class speakers, busy exhibit hall, an array of education sessions, the WAI 2022 conference delivered numerous opportunities to connect and network with female peers in the aviation and aerospace industry.



CAF MN WIng member Amy Lauria and Kara White, the director of our WASP film stopped by.



Author Erin Miller stopped by to sign her latest book "What Grandma Did".



Our third stop took us Columbus AFB Airshow in Mississippi on March 22- 27. This was their first Airshow in nearly five years. It was a huge success. They had a family day and STEM expo for students on Friday. Friday evening we attended the Performers event at the Commanders tent, which included an amazing show by the Aeroshell T6 formation team. Saturday's crowds were a lot larger than anyone expected and great for us. We sat hundreds of spectators in the theater to watch the Tuskegee Airmen movie.

On April 6-10 we were at the Joint Base Air Expo in Charleston, South Carolina. Next stop is the Joint Base San Antonio Airshow April 19-24. Be sure to some see us!

~ Kelly Collin, Exhibit Coordinator

## **Our P-51C Mustang. Oh, what a beauty!**

*Back on tour circuit June 2022. Photos courtesy Steve O'Brien*





*America's Tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen*

## FEATURED TUSKEGEE AIRMEN PROFILE

### **Cpt Wendell Oliver Pruitt**

June 20, 1920 – April 15, 1945

**Class:** 42-K-SE

**Graduation Date:** December 13, 1942

**Unit:** 302nd Fighter Squadron of the 332nd Fighter Group

**Service #** O-794600

Pruitt obtained his private pilot license from Jefferson City Airport. In 1941 he was accepted into the U.S. Army Air Corps Flying School at Tuskegee, Alabama. Upon completion of pre-flight training and gunnery school as well as primary, basic, and advanced flying, Pruitt was commissioned second lieutenant and was assigned to the 302nd Fighter Squadron, which was designated as the 332nd Fighter Group.

The 332nd was transferred to the Mediterranean theater in late 1943 where Pruitt flew the P-47 Thunderbolt.



In June 1944, Pruitt and his occasional wingman, 1st Lt. Gwynne Walker Peirson, landed direct hits on an enemy destroyer that sank at Trieste harbor in northern Italy. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross for this action. Thereafter, the 332nd flew the P-51 Mustang as their primary fighter aircraft.

Pruitt teamed with Lee Archer to form the famed "Gruesome Twosome", the most successful pair of Tuskegee pilots in terms of air victories in the 332nd Fighter Group.

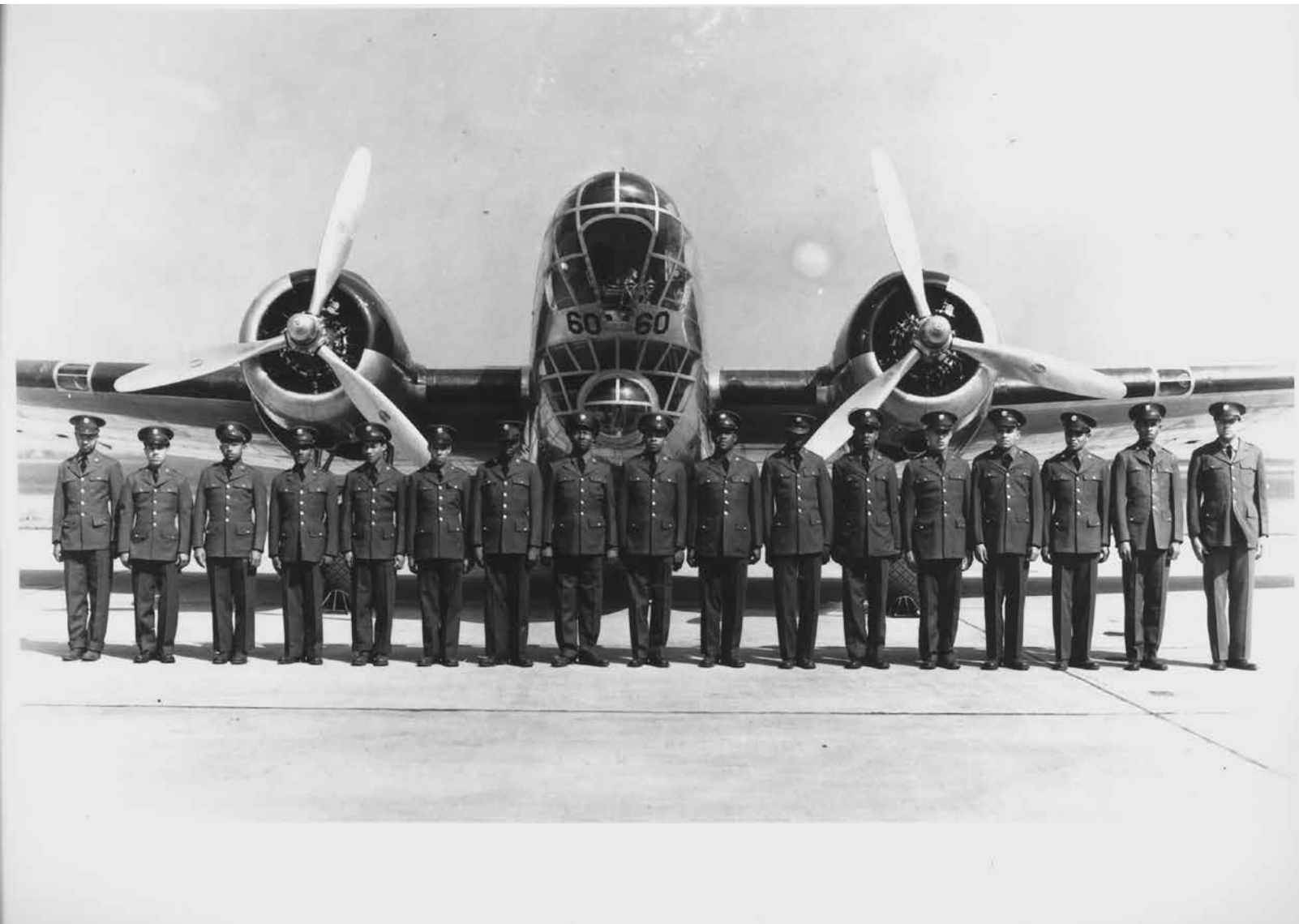
During his years as a Tuskegee Airman, Pruitt flew 70 combat missions overseas. He is credited with permanently disabling a German destroyer, shooting down three enemy planes in the air, and destroying several others on the ground. Before the war ended, Pruitt returned to the States to help train young pilots at Tuskegee. On the 20th of April, 1945 a student pilot was practicing maneuvers with Pruitt aboard.

The plane crashed, near the Tuskegee field, killing both men. Investigators believed the cadet froze at a point where it was too late for Pruitt to resume control of the plane. Pruitt was not supposed to be at Tuskegee that day. He would have been on his way to Europe had President Roosevelt not died eight days before (on the 12th of April, 1945). The accident occurred just five months after celebrating his day of honor in his hometown.

[\*\*Read his complete profile online!\*\*](#)

Learn more about the [\*\*CAF Red Tail Squadron\*\*](#), whose mission is sharing the inspiring legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen, America's first black military pilots and their support personnel. Their strength, courage, and ability to triumph over adversity during WWII can serve to inspire others about how to succeed today.

**“We need to change the way we fight. I need pilots who will put the bombers ahead of themselves.”  
~ General Luntz**



These recruits enlisted in the Army Air Corps at Bolling Field, Washington, D. C. and are being trained as airplane mechanics and specialists at Chanute Field, Rantoul, Illinois, for service with the 99th Pursuit Squadron, now an all-black unit. Shown in front of a Douglas B-18 medium bomber are left to right. Gorham Black, Wendell Hookaday, Alfred Farrar, Paul Woodson, Albert Hendricks, Albert Carey, Henry Reid, John Spann, Lloyd Tyner, Earl Smith, Leon Smith, Payl Sydor, Clarence Clarke, and Clarence Dishman.

US Air Force photo: SDAN: 173958. Courtesy of Octave Chanute Aerospace Museum Foundation.



*Honoring the Women Airforce Service Pilots*

## FEATURED WASP PROFILE

### **Dorothy E. Scott**

February 16, 1920 - December 3, 1943

#### **WAFS "The Originals"**

October, 1942, Dorothy Scott was hired as a ferry pilot in the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron of the Air Transport Command.

On July 5, 1943, she became a WASP when the WFTD and WAFS merged.

**Training Location:** New Castle Army Air Base (Wilmington, Del.)

**Assigned bases:** New Castle Army Air Base (Wilmington, Del.) and 5th Ferrying Group at Love Field in Dallas, Texas

**Planes flown:** PT-19, BT-13, BT-15, AT-6, AT-10



Dorothy started out at New Castle Army Air Base in Wilmington, Delaware and then went to the 5th Ferrying Group at Love Field in Dallas. While stationed at Love, she was sent to Palm Springs Army Air Field for pursuit plane training for the P-39, P-40, and P-47. Initial training started from the rear seat of an AT-6 or BC-1, which simulated the view from a pursuit plane cockpit. On this fateful day, there were several trainers and pursuits in the air. Dorothy had just been cleared to make her final landing. The tower had also cleared a P-39 to come in second. However, one thing had not been taken into account during this landing of both planes: The P-39 was the faster of the two. Without even seeing the BC-1, the P-39 caught up with it and came down on it without ever seeing it.

More than eleven hundred women pilots flew military aircraft for the United States Army Air Forces during World War II. These pioneering female aviators were known first as WAFS (Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron) and eventually as WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots). Thirty-eight of them died while serving their country. Dorothy Scott was one of the thirty-eight. She died in a mid-air crash at the age of twenty-three.

Born in 1920, Scott was a member of the first group of women selected to fly as ferry pilots for the Army Air Forces. Her story would have been lost had her twin brother not donated her wartime letters home to the WASP Archives. Dorothy's extraordinary voice, as heard through her lively letters, tells of her initial decision to serve, and then of her training and service, first as a part of the WAFS and then the WASP.

[\*\*Read her complete profile online!\*\*](#)

Learn more about the [\*\*RISE ABOVE: WASP\*\*](#), whose mission is sharing the story of the Women Airforce Service Pilots in order to inspire others, especially girls and young women, to RISE ABOVE expectations and find a greater appreciation of their potential.

**I had done a lot of other adventurous things; mountain climbing; training horses and things like that and that just seemed like the next step.**

**WASP Ann Baumgartner Carl, Class 43-W-5**



Enid AAF Enid, Oklahoma. WASP squadron in front of AT-6. They did utility and administrative flying, engineering testing and some ferrying.

(l to r) Evelyn Stewart (43-W-6), Meriem Roby (44-W-4), Harriet Jean Moore (44-W-2), Flora Smith (44-W-2), Lucille Carey (44-W-5), Juner Bellew (44-W-6), Mary Quinlan (44-W-3), Sylvia Miller (44-W-7)

# Educational resources!

Find a wealth of information about the Tuskegee Airmen or WASP, educational resources and more. Look for [RESOURCES](#) in the menu bar!

Our **free, downloadable RISE ABOVE Resource Kits** provides users access to posters featuring the Six Guiding Principles, PowerPoint's, classroom activities and a wealth of material about the Tuskegee Airmen and the WASP.

Purchase dog tags featuring the Six Guiding Principles, DVDs, and other materials to enhance your classroom activities in the [online store](#).

## THANK YOU!

"The reason that I support the CAF Red Tail Squadron is to honor my father, Clarence W. Dart, who was a Tuskegee Airman. The mission is important so that everyone learns the battles fought at home and overseas, before the civil rights movement of the 1960's, and the importance of a good education."

~ Warren L. Dart



## WE NEED YOU!

Please help us ensure that the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and WASP is passed on to future generations, so that their strength of character, courage and ability to triumph over adversity may serve as a means to inspire others to RISE ABOVE obstacles in their own lives and achieve their goals!

[Give online](#), or call 888-928-0188, or by mail at:

**CAF RISE ABOVE  
PO Box 416  
Red Wing, MN 55066**

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Find great treasures AND honor the history and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and WASP!

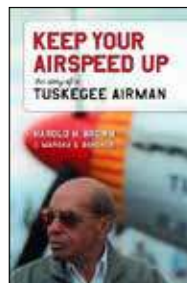
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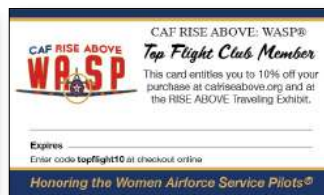
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**Why 99?** *(for each membership)*

### [Join RISE ABOVE: RED TAIL](#)

The 99th was originally formed as the U.S. Army Air Forces' first African American fighter squadron, then known as the 99th Pursuit Squadron. The personnel received their initial flight training at Tuskegee, Alabama earning them the nickname Tuskegee Airmen.

### [Join RISE ABOVE: WASP](#)

The Ninety-Nines was founded November 2, 1929, at Curtiss Field, Valley Stream, Long Island, New York. All 117 women pilots at the time were invited to assemble in mutual support of the advancement of women in aviation. In 1942 members of the Ninety-Nines were asked to join the Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP) class of 43-W-1 in Houston, Texas.

Please mail correspondence or donations to our home office at:

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Find an archive of all our best articles, featuring closer looks at original Tuskegee Airmen, the P-51C Mustang *Tuskegee Airmen*, and many more in-depth stories in our blog. [Check it out!](#)

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