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8th Grade

The Tuskegee Airmen

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The Tuskegee airmen were African American military pilots during WW2 they were a squadron that would later be nicknamed the red tails they fought against all types of prejudice during the time as military pilots due to segregation from the other white soldiers.

Before the Tuskegee airmen were formed the Tuskegee Institute was a famed black college who wanted to join the CPTP program but due to where they were the nearest airport would be 40 miles away. So the institute rented out a field to turn it into a hangar where they mowed the grass to create the runway and built the hangar from the ground up.

During their time there they learned how to fly. They first learned how to read maps and check the weather but soon enough the school needed a bigger place to train them.

In March 1941 Eleanor Roosevelt stopped at the Tuskegee airfield then using her column in the newspaper, Eleanor said good things about the african american trainees and the CPTP she also flew over pastures and land with african american instructor Charles Anderson.

The picture of Eleanor and Charles did wonders by showing whites that black people can fly airplanes and through Eleanor Roosevelt a 175,000 fund gave them enough money to expand the airfield at Tuskegee.

During World War 2 soon after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor the previously impartial Country Joined the war against the Axis due to many battles being fought in the air during WW2 an abundance of pilots was needed.

Although when black pilots volunteered to join, the army shut them down saying that they weren't brave enough to fight in the war even when African Americans insisted they were brave and daring enough to join they still did not allow them.

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But before the war even started a CPTP student named Yancey Williams filed a lawsuit against the army in hopes that african americans would be allowed to fly while the army argued that blacks can't fly the picture of Eleanor Rossevelt and Charles Anderson as well as the succes of the program proved that blacks can indeed fly planes.

On January 16 1941 the army finally agreed to form a black squadron giving african americans a chance of a victory in more ways than one by stopping the axis powers and helping to put an end to racism at home during their time of service in world war 2.

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