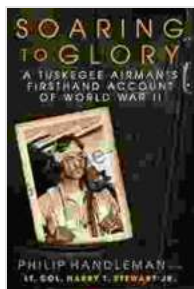


Tuskegee Airmen: A Firsthand Account of World War II

The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of African American fighter pilots who served in World War II. They were the first African Americans to fly combat missions for the United States military.

The Tuskegee Airmen were trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama. They flew P-40 Warhawks and P-51 Mustangs in combat, and they compiled an impressive record of success. They were credited with shooting down over 260 enemy aircraft and destroying over 1,000 railroad cars and other targets.



Soaring to Glory: A Tuskegee Airman's Firsthand Account of World War II by Philip Handleman

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 4352 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 290 pages



The Tuskegee Airmen played a major role in the Allied victory in World War II. They proved that African Americans were capable of flying and fighting in

combat, and they helped to break down the barriers of racism and segregation that had kept African Americans out of the military.

One of the most famous Tuskegee Airmen was Colonel Charles McGee, who flew over 100 combat missions during World War II. McGee also flew in the Korean War and the Vietnam War, and he retired from the Air Force in 1973.

In 1995, McGee was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his service in World War II. He was one of the first African Americans to receive the Medal of Honor.

The Tuskegee Airmen are a symbol of courage, determination, and achievement. They overcame adversity to serve their country with honor and distinction. Their story is an inspiration to all Americans.

A Firsthand Account

In an interview with the Library of Congress, Colonel McGee described his experiences as a Tuskegee Airman.

"We flew P-40 Warhawks and P-51 Mustangs in combat," McGee said. "We were escorting bombers, strafing enemy positions, and shooting down enemy aircraft."

"We flew over 100 combat missions," McGee said. "We never lost a bomber to enemy fighters. We shot down over 260 enemy aircraft. We destroyed over 1,000 railroad cars and other targets."

"We were a close-knit group of guys," McGee said. "We looked out for each other. We knew that we were fighting for something important. We were

fighting for freedom and democracy."

"The Tuskegee Airmen were a success story," McGee said. "We proved that African Americans could fly and fight in combat. We helped to break down the barriers of racism and segregation that had kept African Americans out of the military."

"I am proud to have been a Tuskegee Airman," McGee said. "It was one of the most important experiences of my life."

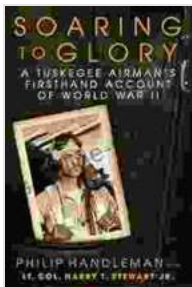
Legacy

The Tuskegee Airmen have left a lasting legacy. They have inspired generations of African Americans to pursue careers in aviation and the military.

In 1998, the Tuskegee Airmen were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award that Congress can bestow.

In 2012, the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site was established in Tuskegee, Alabama. The site includes the Tuskegee Army Air Field, where the Tuskegee Airmen were trained.

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