

99th Fighter Squadron Officers

NOTE: For historical photographs or information regarding the Tuskegee Airmen, contact: Maxwell Air Force Base by e-mail at afhrnews@maxwell.af.mil or write the Air Force Historical Research Agency, 600 Chennault Circle, Maxwell AFB, Ala. 36112-6424.

Year 2003 marked the 60th Anniversary of the 99th Fighter Squadron's departure from Tuskegee Army Air Field.

The late-Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., former professor of military science and tactics at Tuskegee University, commanded the Squadron. The team of aviators, including 42 officers and 287 enlisted personnel, departed April 2 for Camp Shanks, N.Y., en route to Casablanca, Morocco, North Africa. They arrived on April 24, 1943.

The Squadron moved from North Africa to Sicily, then to Foggia, Italy on Oct. 17, 1943. There the Airmen joined Col. Earl E. Bates, Jr., Commanding Officer of the 79th (White) Fighter Group who integrated the 99th Fighter Squadron. The Airmen remained with the 79th over Anzio in 1944.

The Airmen's success during World War II – not losing a single bomber to enemy fire in more than 200 combat missions – is a record unmatched by any other fighter group.

Their exemplary combat performance, including the destruction of 260 enemy aircraft, earned them more than 850 medals and persuaded then-U.S. President Harry S. Truman in 1948 to issue Executive Order 9981, desegregating the U.S. Military.

Officers of the 99th Fighter Squadron included:

NAME	RANK	CLASS	DUTIES	HOMETOWN
Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.	Lt. Col.	42C	Commanding Officer	Washington, D.C.
Ashley, Willie Jr.	2nd Lt.	42C	Pilot*	Sumter, SC
Bolling, George R.	2nd Lt.	42F	Pilot	Hampton, VA
Brooks, Sidney P.	1st Lt.	42D	Pilot	Cleveland, OH
Bruce, Samuel M.	2nd Lt.	42H	Pilot	Seattle, WA
Campbell, William A.	1st Lt.	42F	Pilot*	Tuskegee, AL
Carter, Herbert E.	1st Lt.	42F	Pilot/Engineering Officer	Armory, MS
Clark, Herbert V.	1st Lt.	42F	Pilot	Pine Bluff, AR
Currie, George R.	2nd Lt.		Ordinance Officer	Los Angeles, CA
Custis, Lemuel R.	Capt.	42C	Pilot*	Hartford, CT
Dryden, Charles W.	1st Lt.	42D	Pilot	Bronx, NY
Freeman, James O.	2nd Lt.		Ord. Det. #99	Jamaica, IL
Fuller, Willie H.	2nd Lt.	42G	Pilot	Tarboro, NC
Hall, Charles B.	1st Lt.	42F	Pilot***	Brazil, IN
Jamison, Clarence C.	1st Lt.	42D	Pilot	Cleveland, OH
Johnson, Hayden C.	Capt.		Adjutant	Washington, D.C.
Johnson, James L. Jr.	1st Lt.		Technical Supply Officer	Washington, D.C.
Johnson, Maurice E.	Capt.		Medical Officer	Washington, D.C.

Jones, Elmer D. Jr.	Capt.		CO AF Ser Det #99	Washington, D.C.
Knighten, James B.	1st Lt.	42E	Pilot	Tulsa, OK
Lane, Allen G.	1st Lt.	42F	Pilot	Demopolis, AL
Lawrence, Erwin B.	1st Lt.	42F	Pilot/Assistant Operations Officer	Cleveland, OH
Lawson, Walter I.	2nd Lt.	42G	Pilot	Newton, VA
Letcher, Henry M.	1st Lt.		Transportation Officer	Washington, D.C.
Malone, Thomas	1st Lt.		Adjutant/AFSD #99	Detroit, MI
McCullin, James L.	2nd Lt.	42H	Pilot	St. Louis, MO
Mitchell, Paul O.	2nd Lt.	42F	Pilot	Washington, D.C.
Petross, George E.	1st Lt.		Personnel Adjutant	Washington, D.C.
Proctor, Bernard S.	1st Lt.		Mess Officer/Adjutant	Glenolden, PA
Purnell, Louis R.	2nd Lt.	42F	Pilot	Germantown, PA
Rayford, Lee	1st Lt.	42E	Pilot	Washington, D.C.
Roberts, George S.	Capt.	42C	Pilot/Operations Officer	Fairmont, WV
Roberts, Leon C.	2nd Lt.	42G	Pilot*	Prichard, AL
Rogers, John W.	2nd Lt.	42G	Pilot	Chicago, IL
Smith, Graham	2nd Lt.	42F	Pilot	Ahoskie, NC
Stevenson, Dudley W.	1st Lt.		Communications Officer	Washington, D.C.
Thompson, William R.	1st Lt.		Armament Officer	Pittsburg, PA
Vincent, Cornelius Jr.	1st Lt.		Intelligence Officer	Boston, MA
Watson, Spann	2nd Lt.	42F	Pilot	Hackensack, NJ
White, Sherman W.	1st Lt.	42E	Pilot	Montgomery, AL
Wiley, James T.	1st Lt.	42F	Pilot	Pittsburg, PA
Wimp, Benote H.	1st Lt.		Administrative Supply Officer	Chicago, IL

**Enemy Aircraft shot down during World War II.*

Information provided by 1st Lt. Bernard S. Proctor