

COMBAT

Missions and Victories

NUMBER OF COMBAT MISSIONS OF THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

Daniel L. Haulman, Air Force Historical Research Agency

914 MISSIONS OF THE 332ND FIGHTER GROUP
(602 for the Twelfth AF, 312 for the Fifteenth AF)

577 MISSIONS OF THE 99TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
(BEFORE ASSIGNMENT TO 322ND FIGHTER GROUP)

1491 TOTAL NUMBER OF MISSIONS OF THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN IN COMBAT
(1179 for the Twelfth AF, 312 for the Fifteenth AF)

Details:

For Feb 1944, 100th FS flew 7, 301st FS flew 1, and 302nd FS flew 0 combat missions, for a total of 8 combat missions. Sources: 100th Fighter Squadron history (SQ-FI-100-HI) Dec 1941-Mar 1944; 301st Fighter Squadron history (SQ-FI-301-HI) Oct 1942-Mar 1944; 302nd Fighter Squadron history (SQ-FI-302-HI) Mar 1943-Feb 1944.

For Mar 1944, 100th Fighter Squadron flew 56, 301st Fighter Squadron flew 24, and 302nd Fighter Squadron flew 37 combat missions, for a total of 117 combat missions. Source: March 1944 history of 332nd Fighter Group in GP-332-HI Oct 1942-1947.

For Apr 1944, 100th Fighter Squadron flew 114, 301st Fighter Squadron flew 67, and 302nd Fighter Squadron flew 98 combat missions, for a total of 279 combat missions. Source: April 1944 history of 332nd Fighter Group in GP-332-HI, Mar-Apr 1944.

For May 1944, 100th Fighter Squadron flew 78, 301st Fighter Squadron flew 79, and 302nd Fighter Squadron flew 41 combat missions, for a total of 198 combat missions.

Between the start of June 1944 and the end of April 1945, the 332nd Fighter Group flew 312 missions for which we have records. Sources: monthly histories of the 332nd Fighter Group for June, July, August, September, October, November, and December 1944, and monthly histories of the 332nd Fighter Group for January, February, March, April, and May 1945, which also contain the narrative mission reports. Call number is GP-332-HI followed by month and year.

Note: Mission Report 24 actually describes two different missions flown on 13 July 1944.

For the total number of missions the 99th Fighter Squadron flew before it began flying combat missions with the 332nd Fighter Group in July 1944, the source is the June 1944 history of the 99th Fighter Squadron (SQ-FI-99-HI). The history notes that the squadron flew its 500th combat mission on June 2. For each following day in June, there is a number of the missions the squadron flew per day. Adding up those numbers, after June 2, results in a total of 77 missions, for a total of 577 combat missions of the 99th Fighter Squadron before July 1944, when the 99th began flying missions with the 332nd Fighter Group.

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE AIRMEN AERIAL VICTORY CREDITS

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The following is an excerpt from the entire detailed report of the victories of the 332nd Fighter Group.

The excerpt only details the victories of the 99th Fighter Squadron before they joined with the 332nd. The table list every 332nd victory.

The **99th Fighter Squadron** deployed from Tuskegee, Alabama, to French Morocco in **April 1943**. Originally flying the **P-40 Warhawk** aircraft, the 99th Fighter Squadron began combat operations from Tunisia on June 2. While serving under the 12th Air Force, the 99th and other fighter and bomber squadrons attacked enemy installations in Tunisia and Sicily and on the island of Pantelleria in the Mediterranean Sea. The defenders of Pantelleria, heavily bombarded from the air and sea, surrendered on June 11 without the need for an invasion.

On 2 July 1943, 99th Fighter Squadron pilots escorted B-25 medium bombers in an attack on Castelvetro, Italy. Enemy FW-190 fighters rose to intercept the bombers, and the Tuskegee P-40s intervened. On that day **Lt. Charles B. Hall** scored the squadron's first aerial victory. Hall's was the only squadron aerial victory for all of 1943.

On June 9, a squadron formation had scattered when a German fighter force twice its size and flying superior aircraft attacked it from above and out of the sun. Army Air Force generals questioned whether the 99th Fighter Squadron should remain in combat. In testimony before the War Department's Advisory Committee on Negro Troop Policies, Colonel Davis convinced committee members to endorse his squadron's continued combat role.

From the spring of 1943 until May of 1944, the 99th was assigned to the XII Air Support Command but attached at various times to white fighter groups, including the 324th, the 33d, and the 79th. During that time, the squadron supported the Allied invasion of Sicily, to which it moved in late July 1943, and the mainland of Italy, to which it moved in October. On January 16, 1944, the squadron moved again, this time to Capodichino Airdrome near Naples.

Less than one week later, more than 37,000 Allied troops launched an amphibious invasion of Anzio, about 35 miles south of Rome. Although they established a beachhead by nightfall, they could not break out of the city. On January 23, Luftwaffe aircraft attacked the Allied positions and two hospital ships in the harbor. Four Army Air Forces fighter groups and their squadrons took on the task of repelling enemy air raids. Among them was the 99th Fighter Squadron.

On January 27 and 28, formations of FW-190 German warplanes raided Anzio. Eleven of the squadron's pilots shot down enemy fighters in those two days. Among the victors was Captain Charles B. Hall, who had already scored the squadron's first aerial victory almost seven months earlier. Hall shot down two, bringing his aerial victory total to three.

Eight fighter squadrons were involved in the air defense of Anzio on January 27 and 28, and together they shot down a total of 32 enemy aircraft. Of these, the 99th had the highest score, with 13. The most enemy aircraft shot down by any of the other squadrons in those two days was seven. Black fighter pilots proved that they could shoot down enemy aircraft as well as their white counterparts after all.

99th Fighter Squadron pilots earned four more aerial victory credits on February 5 and 7, 1944, shooting down German FW-190s raiding Anzio and driving off others. Now the squadron total was 18. By the end of the war, the squadron had also earned three Distinguished Unit Citations.

Former squadron commander Col. Benjamin O. Davis had returned to the United States in October 1943 to assume command of the 332d Fighter Group, the first African-American fighter group. In February 1944, the group moved to the Mediterranean Theater with three assigned squadrons, the 100th, 301st, and 302d. On May 1, the 99th joined the group.

Members of the 99th Fighter Squadron would still have the opportunity to shoot down enemy aircraft, but no longer for the 12th Air Force on close air support and interdiction missions. The new mission of the 332d Fighter Group was to escort heavy bombers of the 15th Air Force on raids against enemy strategic targets in southern and central Europe. By the end of May, the group was equipped with P-47 Thunderbolt fighters and settled at Ramitelli Airfield in Italy.



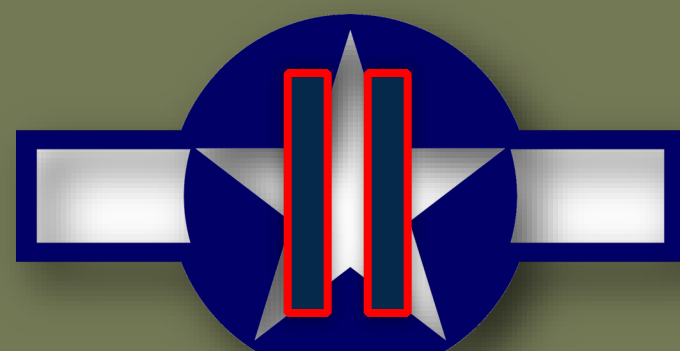
CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE AIRMEN AERIAL VICTORY CREDITS				
Dr. Daniel L. Haulman Air Force Historical Research Agency 600 Cheneault Circle Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6424				
Date	Name	Unit	Downed	GO #
2 Jul 1943	1 Lt Charles B. Hall	99 FS	1 FW-190	32 XII ASC 7 Sep 44
27 Jan 1944	2 Lt Clarence W. Allen	99 FS	0.5 FW-190	66 XII AF 24 May 44
18 Jul 1944	1 Lt Willie Ashby Jr.	99 FS	1 FW-190	122 XII AF 7 Aug 44
	2 Lt Charles P. Bailey	99 FS	1 FW-190	66 XII AF 24 May 44
	1 Lt Howard Baugh	99 FS	1 FW-190	122 XII AF 7 Aug 44
	Cpt Leonard R. Cuzzit	99 FS	0.5 FW-190	66 XII AF 24 May 44
	1 Lt Robert W. Deitz	99 FS	1 FW-190	122 XII AF 7 Aug 44
	2 Lt Wilson V. Eagleson	99 FS	1 FW-190	66 XII AF 24 May 44
	1 Lt Leon C. Roberts	99 FS	1 FW-190	122 XII AF 7 Aug 44
	2 Lt Lewis C. Smith	99 FS	1 FW-190	66 XII AF 24 May 44
	1 Lt Edward L. Toppins	99 FS	1 FW-190	81 XII AF 23 Jun 44
	1 Lt Robert W. Deitz	99 FS	1 FW-190	122 XII AF 7 Aug 44
28 Jan 1944	Cpt Charles B. Hall	99 FS	1 FW-190	64 XII AF 22 May 44
5 Feb 1944	1 Lt Elwood T. Driver	99 FS	1 FW-190	66 XII AF 24 May 44
	2 Lt Wilson V. Eagleson	99 FS	1 FW-190	122 XII AF 7 Aug 44
	2 Lt Leonard M. Jackson	99 FS	1 FW-190	66 XII AF 24 May 44
7 Feb 1944	1 Lt Clinton B. Mills	99 FS	1 FW-190	66 XII AF 24 May 44
	1 Lt Charles M. Busby	302 FS	1 ME-109	1475 XV AF 30 Jun 44
	2 Lt Frederick D. Funderburg	301 FS	2 ME-109s	1475 XV AF 30 Jun 44
9 Jun 1944	1 Lt Melvin T. Jackson	302 FS	1 ME-109	1475 XV AF 30 Jun 44
	1 Lt Wendell O. Pruitt	302 FS	1 ME-109	1475 XV AF 30 Jun 44
	1 Lt Harold E. Hall	301 FS	1 ME-109	2032 XV AF 31 Jul 44
12 Jul 1944	1 Lt Joseph D. Elsberry	301 FS	3 FW-190s	2468 XV AF Aug 44
	1 Lt Alfonso W. Davis	332 FG	1 MA-205	2030 XV AF 23 Jul 44

17 Jul 1944	2 Lt William W. Green Jr.	302 FS	1 MA-202	2038 XV AF 23 Jul 44
	1 Lt Luther H. Smith Jr.	302 FS	1 ME-109	2350 XV AF 6 Aug 44
	2 Lt Robert H. Smith	302 FS	1 ME-109	2350 XV AF 6 Aug 44
18 Jul 1944	1 Lt Laurence D. Wilkins	302 FS	1 ME-109	2350 XV AF 6 Aug 44
	2 Lt Lee A. Archer	302 FS	1 ME-109	2350 XV AF 6 Aug 44
	1 Lt Charles P. Bailey	99 FS	1 FW-190	2484 XV AF 11 Aug 44
18 Jul 1944	1 Lt Weldon K. Groves	302 FS	1 ME-109	2350 XV AF 6 Aug 44
	1 Lt Jack D. Hotclaw	100 FS	1 ME-109	2350 XV AF 6 Aug 44
	2 Lt Clarence D. Lester	100 FS	3 ME-109s	2202 XV AF 31 Jul 44
	2 Lt Walter J. A. Palmer	100 FS	1 ME-109	2202 XV AF 31 Jul 44
	2 Lt Roger Romaine	302 FS	1 ME-109	2350 XV AF 6 Aug 44
	Cpt Edward L. Toppins	99 FS	1 FW-190	2484 XV AF 11 Aug 44
20 Jul 1944	2 Lt Hugh S. Warner	302 FS	1 ME-109	2350 XV AF 6 Aug 44
	Cpt Joseph D. Elsberry	301 FS	1 ME-109	2350 XV AF 6 Aug 44
	1 Lt Langdon E. Johnson	100 FS	1 ME-109	2202 XV AF 31 Jul 44
	Cpt Armour G. McDonald	302 FS	1 ME-109	2350 XV AF 6 Aug 44
	Cpt Edward L. Toppins	99 FS	1 ME-109	2484 XV AF 11 Aug 44
25 Jul 1944	1 Lt Harold E. Sawyer	301 FS	1 ME-109	2284 XV AF 3 Aug 44
	1 Lt Freddie E. Hutchins	302 FS	1 ME-109	2350 XV AF 6 Aug 44
	1 Lt Leonard M. Jackson	99 FS	1 ME-109	2484 XV AF 11 Aug 44
26 Jul 1944	2 Lt Roger Romaine	302 FS	1 ME-109	2350 XV AF 6 Aug 44
	Cpt Edward L. Toppins	99 FS	1 ME-109	2484 XV AF 11 Aug 44
	1 Lt Edward C. Gleed	301 FS	2 FW-190s	2284 XV AF 3 Aug 44
27 Jul 1944	2 Lt Alfred M. Gorham	301 FS	2 FW-190s	2284 XV AF 3 Aug 44
	Cpt Claude B. Govan	301 FS	1 ME-109	2284 XV AF 3 Aug 44
	2 Lt Richard W. Hall	100 FS	1 ME-109	2484 XV AF 11 Aug 44
	1 Lt Leonard M. Jackson	99 FS	1 ME-109	2484 XV AF 11 Aug 44
	1 Lt Felix J. Kirkpatrick	302 FS	1 ME-109	2350 XV AF 6 Aug 44
	2 Lt Carl E. Johnson	100 FS	1 ME-109	2484 XV AF 11 Aug 44
30 Jul 1944	1 Lt George M. Rhodes Jr.	100 FS	1 FW-190	2831 XV AF 25 Aug 44
	2 Lt George M. Rhodes Jr.	100 FS	1 FW-190	2831 XV AF 25 Aug 44

Aug 1944	FO William L. Hill	302 FS	1 ME-109	3338 XV AF 21 Sep 44
	1 Lt John P. Briggs	100 FS	1 ME-109	3153 XV AF 6 Sep 44
	1 Lt Charles E. McClee	302 FS	1 FW-190	3174 XV AF 7 Sep 44
12 Oct 1944	1 Lt William H. Thomas	302 FS	1 FW-190	449 XV AF 31 Jan 45
	1 Lt Lee A. Archer	302 FS	3 ME-109s	4487 XV AF 1 Nov 44
	Cpt Milton R. Brooks	302 FS	1 ME-109	4287 XV AF 1 Nov 44
	1 Lt William W. Green Jr.	302 FS	1 HE-111	4287 XV AF 1 Nov 44
	Cpt Wendell O. Pruitt	302 FS	1 HE-111	4287 XV AF 1 Nov 44
	1 Lt Roger Romaine	302 FS	1 ME-109	4287 XV AF 1 Nov 44
16 Nov 1944	1 Lt Luther H. Smith Jr.	302 FS	1 HE-111	4604 XV AF 21 Nov 44
	Cpt Luke J. Weathers	302 FS	2 ME-109s	4590 XV AF 13 Dec 44
24 Mar 1945	1 Lt William S. Price III	301 FS	1 ME-109	1734 XV AF 24 Mar 45
	2 Lt Charles V. Brantley	100 FS	1 ME-262	2293 XV AF 12 Apr 45
	1 Lt Roscoe C. Brown	100 FS	1 ME-262	2293 XV AF 12 Apr 45
31 Mar 1945	1 Lt Earl R. Lane	100 FS	1 ME-262	2293 XV AF 12 Apr 45
	1 Lt Russ W. Bell	100 FS	1 FW-190	2293 XV AF 12 Apr 45
	2 Lt Thomas P. Braswell	99 FS	1 FW-190	2293 XV AF 12 Apr 45
	1 Lt Roscoe C. Brown	100 FS	1 FW-190	2293 XV AF 12 Apr 45
	Mar William A. Campbell	99 FS	1 ME-109	2293 XV AF 12 Apr 45
	2 Lt John W. Davis	99 FS	1 ME-109	2293 XV AF 12 Apr 45
31 Mar 1945	2 Lt James L. Hall	99 FS	1 ME-109	2293 XV AF 12 Apr 45
	1 Lt Earl R. Lane	100 FS	1 ME-109	2293 XV AF 12 Apr 45
	FO John H. Lyle	100 FS	1 ME-109	2293 XV AF 12 Apr 45
	1 Lt Daniel L. Rich	99 FS	1 ME-109	2293 XV AF 12 Apr 45
	2 Lt Hugh J. White	99 FS	1 ME-109	2293 XV AF 12 Apr 45
	1 Lt Robert W. Williams	100 FS	2 FW-190s	2293 XV AF 12 Apr 45
15 Apr 1945	2 Lt Bertram W. Wilson Jr.	100 FS	1 FW-190	2293 XV AF 12 Apr 45
	1 Lt Carl E. Carey	301 FS	2 FW-190s	2293 XV AF 12 Apr 45
	2 Lt John E. Edwards	301 FS	2 ME-109s	2294 XV AF 12 Apr 45

	FO James H. Fischer	301 FS	1 FW-190	2294 XV AF 12 Apr 45
	2 Lt Walter P. Manning	301 FS	1 FW-190	2294 XV AF 12 Apr 45
	2 Lt Harold M. Morris	301 FS	1 FW-190	2294 XV AF 12 Apr 45
15 Apr 1945	1 Lt Harry T. Stewart	301 FS	3 FW-190s	2294 XV AF 12 Apr 45
	2 Lt Charles L. White	301 FS	2 ME-109s	2294 XV AF 12 Apr 45
	1 Lt Jimmy Lambam	301 FS	1 ME-109	2484 XV AF 29 May 45
26 Apr 1945	2 Lt Thomas W. Jefferson	301 FS	2 ME-109s	3362 XV AF 23 May 45
	1 Lt Jimmy Lambam	301 FS	1 ME-109	3362 XV AF 23 May 45
	2 Lt Richard A. Simons	100 FS	1 ME-109	2990 XV AF 4 May 45

*order says credit was 16 Jul 1944, but history says 18 Jul 1944



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