



INDIANAPOLIS CHAPTER TUSKEGEE ARMEN, INC. (TAI)

Significant Wartime Achievement by Persons with Indiana Connections

All Graduates of the Tuskegee Advanced Flying School (TASF) were led by a Hoosier in flight school: **Dr. Lewis Jackson** was the Director of the first two phases of flight training that ALL Tuskegee Airmen had to complete prior to receiving their military flight training at the Tuskegee Advance Flying School.

28 graduates of the Tuskegee Advance Flying School (TASF) were Hoosiers: The prior count of 25 omitted three (3) persons with East Chicago addresses because Illinois was shown as their home state.

Member of the First Class of graduates: **Charles H. DeBow**, Indianapolis native, was a member of the ...**FIRST**... TASF class to graduate. Started with 13 and ended with only 5. They graduated March 7, 1942

First African American Aviator to have Aerial victory: **Charles B. Hall** from Brazil Indiana, July 2, 1943

Three(3) Airmen with Indiana Connections had Aerial Combat Victories:

Date	Name	Unit	Downed	Ref: General Order #
2 July 1943	1st Lt Charles B. Hall	99 FS	1 Fw 190	32 XII ASC 7-Sep-43
28 Jan 1944	Captain Charles B. Hall	99 FS	1 Fw 190	64 XII AF 22-May-44
28 Jan 1944	Captain Charles B. Hall	99 FS	1 Bf 109	64 XII AF 22-May-44
18 Jul 1944	2nd Lt Walter J. A. Palmer	100 FS	1 Bf 109	2202 XV AF 31-Jul-44
20 Jul 1944	Captain Armour G. McDaniel	301 FS	1 Bf 109	2284 XV AF 3-Aug-44

Two served concurrently as the First Adjutants of the 99th Fighter Squadron: 1st Lt. **Charles H. Debow** and 1st Lt. **George L. Knox, II** served as the first 99th Squadron Adjutants

Two were fighter Squadron Commanders ; 26 January 1943: **Capt. Charles H. Debow** became commander of 301st Fighter Sq. and on 5 April 1943: **1st Lt. George L. Knox** became the commander of 100th Fighter Sq.

One flew the most combat sorties: **Walter J.A. Palmer** flew 158 combat sorties

End of segregation with non-violence: On August 3, 1944, **Captain Willard B. Ransom** led twelve black officers to initiate the end of segregation of the Tuskegee Army Air Field Post Exchange restaurant.

Seymour, Indiana is the site of the "Freeman Field Mutiny": In April 1945, over 100 African American officers of the 477th Bombardment Group were arrested for trying to desegregate an all-white officers club. Gary, IN native, **Quinton P. Smith** and Indianapolis native, **Ario Dixione**, (ne Harold Dixon) are documented as a being one of those arrested. Indianapolis natives, **Louis G. Hill, Jr.** and **George L. Knox II**, and Terre Haute native, **John J. Suggs**, were also members of the 477th at the time of the Freeman Field "Mutiny".

Prepared men without college degrees to meet the challenge of flight training: **Theodore Randall**, an Indianapolis native, served as the Commander of the 320th College Training Detachment (CTD).

For additional information please refer to our webpage <https://www.indytuskegee.org/>
And/or the National Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. 2016 Media Kit
<http://tuskegeeairmen.org/wp-content/uploads/2016-TAI-Media-Kit-Jan-2016.pdf>



INDIANAPOLIS CHAPTER TUSKEGEE AIRMEN, INC. (TAI)

The *Congressional Gold Medal* is the highest civilian award presented by the U.S. Congress.

It is awarded to an individual or group for an outstanding deed or act of service to the security, prosperity, and national interest of the United States.



This medal was presented collectively to the *Tuskegee Airmen*, the first African American military aviators in the US military who flew for the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II.

The medal also includes other Tuskegee Airmen such as bombardiers, navigators, mechanics, and other military or civilian men and women who performed ground support duties.

Awarded on *March 29, 2007*, the medal recognized their "unique military record that inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Forces."

Tuskegee Airmen Congressional Gold Medal description;

Obverse: three profiles of a pilot wearing a leather flying helmet, ground mechanic wearing a billed cap; and pilot wearing a service cap; a soaring eagle depicted below the three profiles; raised letter text "TUSKEGEE AIRMEN" above profiles;

Reverse: three starboard side aircraft profiles, Curtiss P-40 with "99" on fuselage; North American P-51D with "332" on fuselage, and North American B-25 with "477" on fuselage; raised letter text, "*ACT OF CONGRESS, 2006, OUTSTANDING COMBAT RECORD INSPIRED REVOLUTIONARY REFORM IN THE ARMED FORCES*".

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