



TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

JOHN PERRITANO

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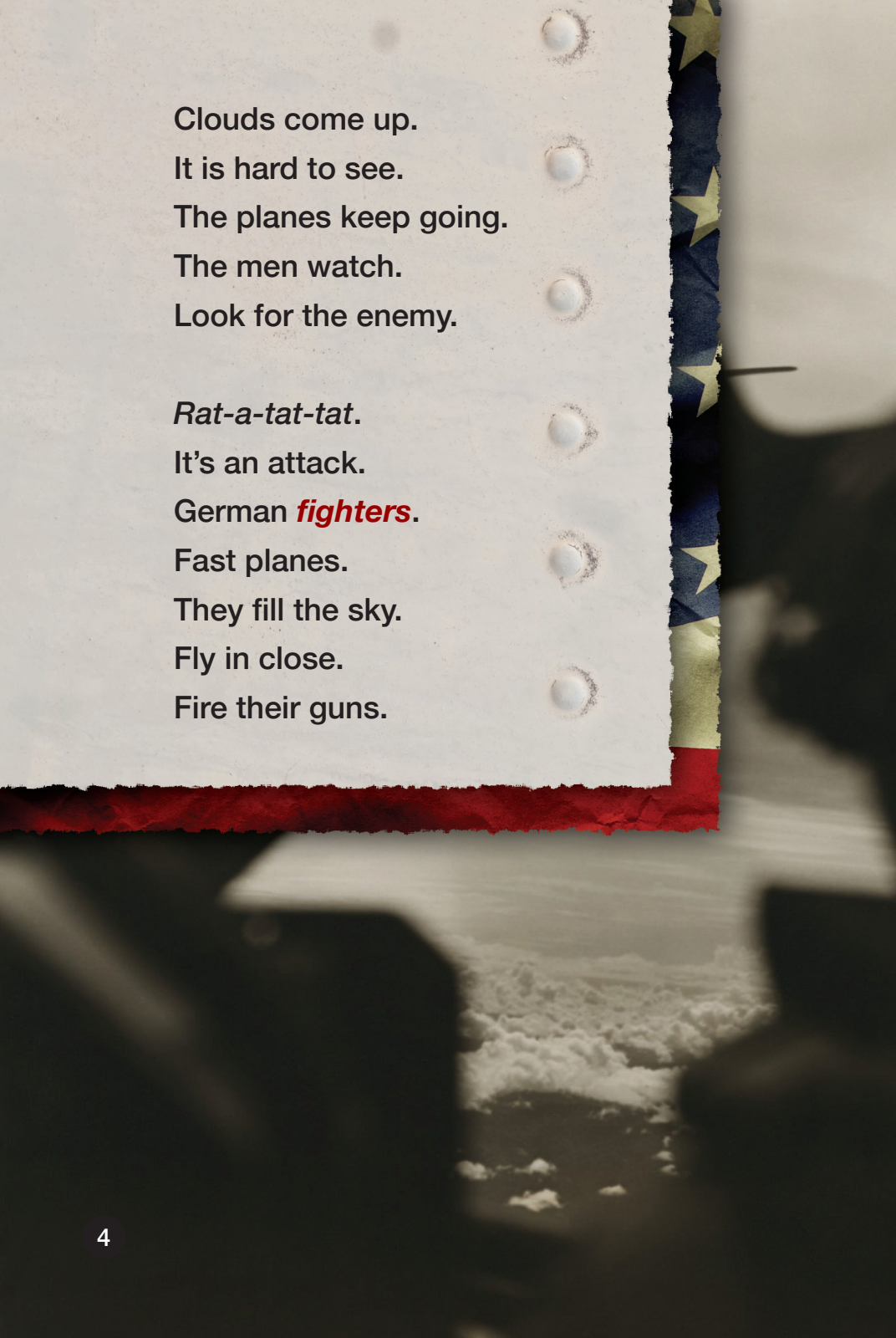




Chapter 1
RED TAILS

1944.
World War II.
Up in the sky.
U.S. planes.
All are *bombers*.
They have a job.
To blow up an oil field.
It will hurt the enemy.
Slow down the war.

The planes are big.
And loud.
They are slow.
Easy targets.



Clouds come up.
It is hard to see.
The planes keep going.
The men watch.
Look for the enemy.

Rat-a-tat-tat.
It's an attack.
German **fighters**.
Fast planes.
They fill the sky.
Fly in close.
Fire their guns.



Rat-a-tat-tat.

Rat-a-tat-tat.

More planes.

These have red tails.

They dive in.

Fire at the Germans.

Shoot some down.

The bombers fly on.

They are safe.

Thanks to the “red tails.”

U.S. fighters.

Special ones.

Flown by Tuskegee Airmen.

African Americans.

They helped win the war.

And shaped the future.





INTO COMBAT

P-51 Mustang

The P-51 was a fighter. One of the best the U.S. had. It could fly a long way. It was a great attack plane.

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

Why was Hitler able to rule?

Who was Jim Crow?

What were red tails?

How did the First Lady help the pilots?

Have you ever felt judged?

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