



TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

JOHN PERRITANO

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Chapter 1

RED TAILS

It was 1944.
World War II was raging.
U.S. planes flew over Europe.
They had a job.
An oil field needed to be bombed.
This would hurt the enemy.

But there was a problem.
The planes were big.
They moved slowly.
Their engines were loud.
This made them easy targets.

Clouds rolled in.
It was hard to see.
The planes flew on.
Soldiers kept watch.
They looked for the enemy.

Shots rang out.
Bullets rained down.
It was an attack.
Enemies fired.
Their planes were fast.
They filled the sky.



More planes came.
These had red tails.
They fired at the enemy.
This cleared the way.
U.S. **bombers** made it through.
They were safe.
This was thanks to the Red Tails.

Red Tails were U.S. fighter planes.
Tuskegee Airmen flew them.
These were Black soldiers.
They helped win the war.





HISTORY NOTE

P-51 Mustang

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

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

How were Black people treated in the 1940s?

How does racism affect people today?

What does it take to become a pilot?

What makes someone a hero?

Who are some of your heroes?

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