

plane's namesake shall never again be forgotten.

Both the pilot and the crew chief, Lt. Brown and S/Sgt. Smith, were "Tuskegee Airmen". They belonged to the 332nd Fighter Group of the all-Negro segment of the Army Air Corps stationed in Italy. They flew bomber support missions into and over key objectives over Germany. The fighter group was a unit of four squadrons, and they flew over 200 bomber escort missions without losing a plane to enemy aircraft. This record was matched by no other support group during the War.

Also, there are other significant historical Kentucky connections with the pioneers of black aviation. For instance, **Willa Brown**, the first black female U.S. licensed pilot was born in Glasgow, Kentucky. Another hero, **Col. Noel Parrish**, the white commander of cadet training at Tuskegee, was born in Lexington, Kentucky. And, there were at least **thirteen original Tuskegee Airmen cadets** from various cities throughout Kentucky.

As younger generations of Kentucky children come of age, it is imperative that they are taught about our heroes, and especially about the Kentucky connections with many of these brave men and women who played a critical role in saving American lives and winning the War.

We feel passionate about telling the story of "Miss Kentucky State", the role she played in WWII, the courageous Tuskegee Airmen who flew their dangerous missions and the men and women on the ground who provided support for them so that we could all be free. As a tribute to these brave WWII Tuskegee Airmen warriors, it is our goal that the "Miss Kentucky State" P51 Mustang will be memorialized through a life-size replica that will be placed at a central location in Kentucky. Through partnership with the Kentucky Aviation Museum and other interested parties, several sites

are being considered for an eventual resting place for the reproduction of the "Miss Kentucky State".

Additionally, it seems vital to have the stories of these young Tuskegee Airmen, and the men and women who inspired and supported them during WWII, be included as an integral part of our Kentucky and WWII history as well as social science classes and ROTC military curricula. It is our hope that KET and the Kentucky Board of Education will see the importance of including the stories of these valiant men and women in elementary, middle school and high school curricula across Kentucky.

For too many years, the Tuskegee Airmen story has been a little-known part of military history in the U.S. What better way to acknowledge the tremendous debt we owe to these dedicated men and women than by telling their stories in a variety of ways that will insure that their contribution to our freedom is no longer overlooked or forgotten.



S/Sgt Marcellus Smith (left) performing aircraft maintenance on "Miss Kentucky State" while Lt. Roscoe Brown (right) observe.

By having a full-scale replica of the P51 Mustang, "Miss Kentucky State" prominently displayed, the Commonwealth of Kentucky can demonstrate their commitment to honoring the Tuskegee Airmen by "*keeping their history alive in the hearts and minds of all Americans*".

CONFIDENTIAL

306TH FIGHTER WING
COMBAT CLAIM FORM

Mission Number 246 Date 24 March 1945

Claimant's Full Name Roscoe C. Brown Rank 1st Lt ASN O-824828

Home Address 770 St Nicholas Street, New York, N.Y. Position Flight Leader

A/C Number 415569 Sq. 100th Fighter Date of Encounter 24 March 1945

Time 1225 Place Berlin Area Altitude 27,000 feet

Type of E/A Encountered ME-262 Claim: Dest. X
Prob.
Dam.

NARRATIVE: I sighted a formation of four (4) ME-262's under the bombers at about 24,000 feet. They were below me, going North. I was going South. I peeled down on them toward their rear but almost immediately I saw a lone ME-262, at 24,000 feet, climbing at 90 degrees to me and at 25,000 feet from me. I pulled up at him in a 15 degree climb and fired three (3) long bursts at him from 2,000 feet at 8 o'clock to him. Almost immediately the pilot bailed out from 24,500 feet. I saw flames burst from the jet orifices of the E/A.

/s/ JOHN B. QUICK
/t/ JOHN B. QUICK
Capt., A. C.,
Interrogator

/s/ RAY B. WARE
/t/ RAY B. WARE,
Capt., A. C.,
Group S-2.

Approved as one E/A (Destroyed - ~~1/1/45~~ - ~~1/1/45~~)

/s/ B. O. DAVIS JR.
/t/ B. O. DAVIS JR.,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding.

The above document is a copy of a report of the enemy action (EA) that was filed by Lt. Roscoe Brown and his encounter and subsequent defeat of the enemy ME-262 jet in the final days of WWII.



Below: An unidentified officer poses with Miss Kentucky State on the flight line in Ramitelli Italy. These airmen were assigned to the 100th Fighter Squadron of the 332nd Fighter Group.



Above: Kentuckian S/Sgt Marcellus Smith (right rear) is shown here with the crew for #7. Miss Kentucky State carried two names. The port side of #7, (left) carried Lt Brown's daughter's name, "Bunnie".



The information contained was provided by Mrs. Maggie Cathryn Clement-Buford, Craig Huntly, CWO-USN, Gary Brown-Historian Tuskegee Airmen, Dr. Roscoe Brown, Jr., Dr. Anne Butler, PhD Kentucky State University, military records and the National Archives. RSETA (c)2006

More information can be obtained by visiting the website:
<http://members.aol.com/rstaexhibit>

“MISS KENTUCKY STATE”
As told by R.L. (Ron) Spriggs - Executive Director
January - 2006
The RON SPRIGGS EXHIBIT of TUSKEGEE AIRMEN, Inc
(RSETA)
Nicholasville, Kentucky

It was in the final days of WWII in 1945 when a young African-American pilot, **1/Lt. Roscoe Brown**, shot down one of the first jets developed by Germany during WWII. Lieutenant Brown, along with two other pilots, defeated a total of three ME-262 jets that day. With that air combat victory, Lt. Brown became the first Tuskegee pilot to claim that distinction.

The crew chief was permitted to paint his chosen name on the starboard side of the aircraft. So, **S/ Sgt Marcellus Smith** (of Henderson Cty and Louisville-deceased) named his side of #7, “**Miss Kentucky State**”, as homage of his secret feelings for Ms. Clement. No one, not even Ms. Clement,



Inscription reads:
 "Good Luck in your quest to tell the story of the Black Airmen". Roscoe Brown, Jr., Capt. USAF, Flt Cdr, 100FS, 332ndFG. Downed 1-ME262, 1-FW190; P-P51D, #7. Roscoe Brown, Pilot; S/Sgt. Marcellus Smith (Louisville, KY) Crew-chief.

The plane was a P51-D Mustang, the Cadillac of the single-seat fighters during WWII, with a cruising speed of 425 mph, Lt. Brown's plane was #7, and he had

Painted his daughter's name, "Bunnie", on the port side. It was not unusual at that time for a plane to bear two names... and here is where the story becomes especially interesting for Kentuckians.

Lieutenant Brown's crew chief, born in Henderson County and raised in Louisville, Kentucky, had a secret and distant love interest (or certainly an admiration) for one of Kentucky State University's Homecoming Queens, **Maggie Cathryn Clement**. Ms. Clement graduated from Kentucky State with a degree in Social-work.



The Vision Behind The Plane

knew at the time about the significance of this information. As a matter of fact, there are still many Kentuckians who do not know this historical fact. But, it is hoped that now that the story of the Tuskegee Airmen is being told more widely, the aerial combat victory and the story of the