



Veterans Day Nov 11

Dedicated to Calvin Peter Thierry
December 9, 1923 – September 4, 1980

For All of His Family

- **Parents:** Edgar Thierry and Laura Jupiter Pellerin-Thierry
- **Siblings:** Rett (Iretta), Joseph, Arthur, Jessie, David, Lois, Eunice, Calvin, Ralph, Alfred and Doris
- **Wife:** Jayne Elizabeth Edwards-Thierry-Chambers
- **Children:** Colette, Jon, Lisette and Darryl
- **Grand Children:** Gina, Leon, Sean, Kiya, Jame and Darryl
- **Great Grand Children:** Angelo, Ayren, Donald (DJ), Deavyn, Elizabeth, Mary, Peter, Victoria, Kyri, Kaleb, Kamari, Kenai, Ransom, Skyla, Reese and Mia
- **Great Great Grand Children:** Aaliyah, Hunter, Peyton, Pharaoh and Kaynin

Calvin was a WWII Vet who fought in Italy with the 332nd Fighter Group; Hero's to many .
The 332nd was part of the Historical "Tuskegee Airmen".
Please don't let this part of our family history fade.

Aviation Elite Units 

OSPREY
PUBLISHING

332nd Fighter Group – Tuskegee Airmen



Chris Bucholtz

RED
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21
P-51C (serial unknown) *By Request* of Col Benjamin O Davis, CO of the 332nd FG, Ramitelli, Italy, December 1944



22
P-51C (serial unknown) *MY BUDDY* of Capt Charles Bailey, 99th FS, Ramitelli, Italy, December 1944



23
P-51D-15 44-15648 *LOLLIPOOP II* of 1Lt Spurgeon Ellington, 100th FS, Ramitelli, Italy, December 1944



24
P-51D (serial unknown) *Cremer's Dream* of 1Lt Charles White, 301st FS, Ramitelli, Italy, January 1945



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P-51D-15 44-15648 *DUCHESS ARLENE* of 1Lt Robert W Williams, 301st FS, Ramitelli, Italy, March 1945



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P-51D (serial unknown) *TALL in the SADDLE* of 1Lt George Hardy, 99th FS, Ramitelli, Italy, February 1945



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P-51B (serial unknown) *KITTEEN* of 2Lt Leon 'Woodie' Spears, 302nd FS, Ramitelli, Italy, March 1945



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76 P-51D (serial unknown) *MEATBALL RAP #1* of 1st Lt Charles Lane, 99th FS, Ramitelli, Italy, March 1945



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The 332nd Fighter Group



Toni Frissell (1907-1988)

[Issuing Escape Kits Containing
Cyanide Capsules to Members
of the 332nd Army Air Force
Fighter Group](#)

Gelatin silver print,
March 1945

[Prints & Photographs Division](#)

Gift of the photographer, 1971 (73.3)

In March 1945, Toni Frissell took more than 280 photographs of the "Tuskegee Airmen," the elite, all-African American 332nd Fighter Group at Ramitelli, Italy. The group was commanded by Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr, who later became the first three-star general in the Air Corps. The Tuskegee Airmen flew more than 700 missions and never lost a bomber to enemy aircraft. They earned more than 744 Air Medals and Clusters, more than 100 Flying Crosses, 14 Bronze Stars, 8 Purple Hearts, a Silver Star, and a Legion of Merit. This photo records a member of the group is being given an "escape kit" containing cyanide in the event of capture in Yugoslavia.

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WHO ARE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN?

"Tuskegee Airmen" refers to the men and women, African-Americans and Caucasians, who were involved in the so-called "Tuskegee Experience", the Army Air Corps program to train African Americans to fly and maintain combat aircraft. The Tuskegee Airmen included pilots, navigators, bombardiers, maintenance and support staff, instructors, and all the personnel who kept the planes in the air.



Montgomery



Tuskegee





Enlisted men with P-39 at Selfridge Field MI. 1943

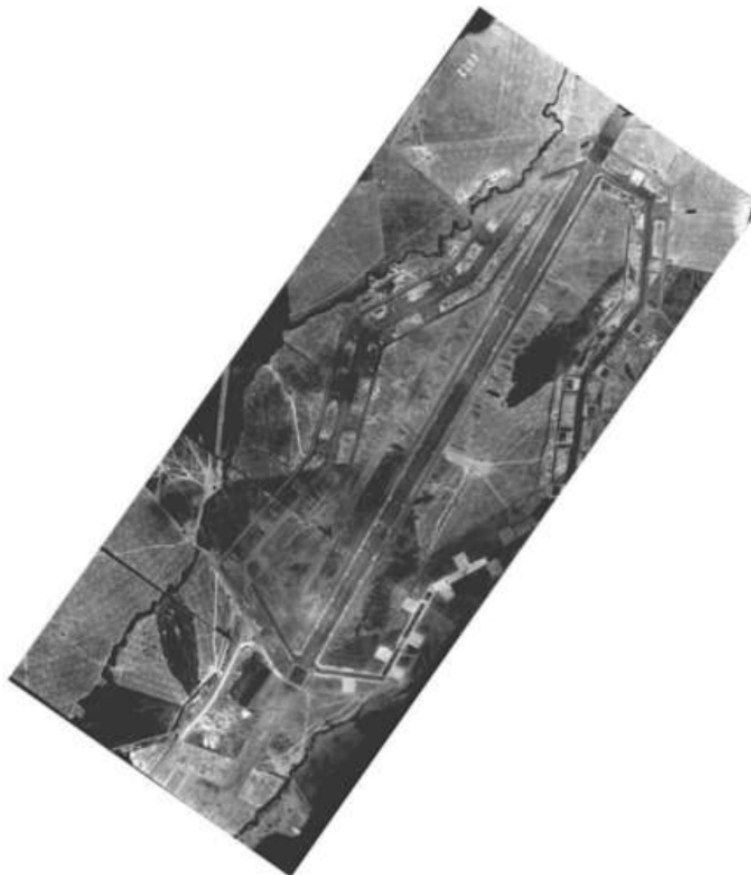


Ramitelli

41°54'08"N015°07'03"E

Ramitelli air field was a temporary airfield southeast of Campomarino in the north of Apulia, Italy.

The airfield was built by the United States Army Corps of Engineers in early 1944, as part of the Foggia Airfield Complex, a series of World War II military airfields located within a 25 mile (40 km) radius of Foggia. It had a single runway and made use of farmhouses around the airfield as operations buildings. It became the home base for the Fifteenth Air Forces 332nd Fighter Group, the 'Tuskegee Airmen'. They used the airfield until the end of the war, and served with distinction in their red tailed P-47 Thunderbolts and P-51 Mustangs. After 15 May 1945 the airfield was used by 523rd Air Service Group and 949 Air Engineering Squadron. It closed in Oct 1945, after which it was dismantled.



Aerial photo of Ramitelli Airfield shot on 25 Feb 1945 (warbirdinformationexchange.org)



Clearing The Field at Ramitelli, Italy
P-51C Mustangs at Ramitelli Airfield museumsyndicate.com



The former Ramitelli operations and briefing room in 2012 (Enzo Cupaioli on Flickr)

GRINDING DOWN THE REICH

Weather limited the group to just 11 missions in January 1945, but it brought no respite to the comings and goings of personnel at Ramitelli. The first to go was Maj Lee Rayford, CO of the 301st, who returned home and was replaced by Capt Armour McDaniel. Just days later, Capt Melvin Jackson turned command of the 302nd over to Capt Vernon Haywood. The group also managed to temporarily ease its pilot shortage when 34 new aviators arrived from the USA.

The 332nd remained grounded until 3 January, when Lt Alfred Gorham led a three-Mustang flight that accompanied an F-5 to Munich and Linz. However, cloud cover over Austria and southern Germany forced the mission to be abandoned. A second attempt to make the same run, this time with a photo-reconnaissance Mosquito, also ran into bad weather and yielded no results.

Sgts Calvin P Thierry, William E Pitts, Harold Cobb and an unidentified fourth man perform maintenance on one of the group's Mustangs. Although the initial months with the P-51 were fraught with serviceability problems, the group soon had a maintenance record the equal of any in the MTO (National Museum of the USAF).



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4 x 5 neg rec'd 8/28/44 from 1st AAF CCU thru EPR.

Released (over)

A24043



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Italy - Here are a few of the men who keep the all-Negro 332nd Fighter Group of the 15th AAF in the air. Powerful engines of the group's North American P-51 Mustangs require expert mechanics, and these men are just that...having attended AAF schools in the U.S. Left to Right: S/Sgt. Calvin P. Thierry, 350 E. 42nd St., New York City, prop specialist; S/Sgt. William E. Pitts, 2114 Naomi, Los Angeles, Calif., engine specialist; S/Sgt. Vernon C. Richardson, 215 West 111 St., New York City, engine specialist; and S/Sgt. Harold T. Cobb, Atlantic Highland, N. J., crew chief.

War Theatre #12 (Italy) *Negroes* MAINTENANCE



For every pilot there were 10 men on the ground keeping him in the air. Here 332nd FG mechanics work on a Mustang.
Left to right: S/Sgt. Calvin P. Thierry New York City, prop specialist;
S/Sgt. William E. Pitts, Los Angeles, engine specialist;
Vernon C. Richardson New York City, engine specialist;
and S/Sgt. Harold T. Cobb Atlantic Highlands, NJ, Crew Chief.



100th FS Ground Crew



Grandpa Before Grandma. Ha ha!







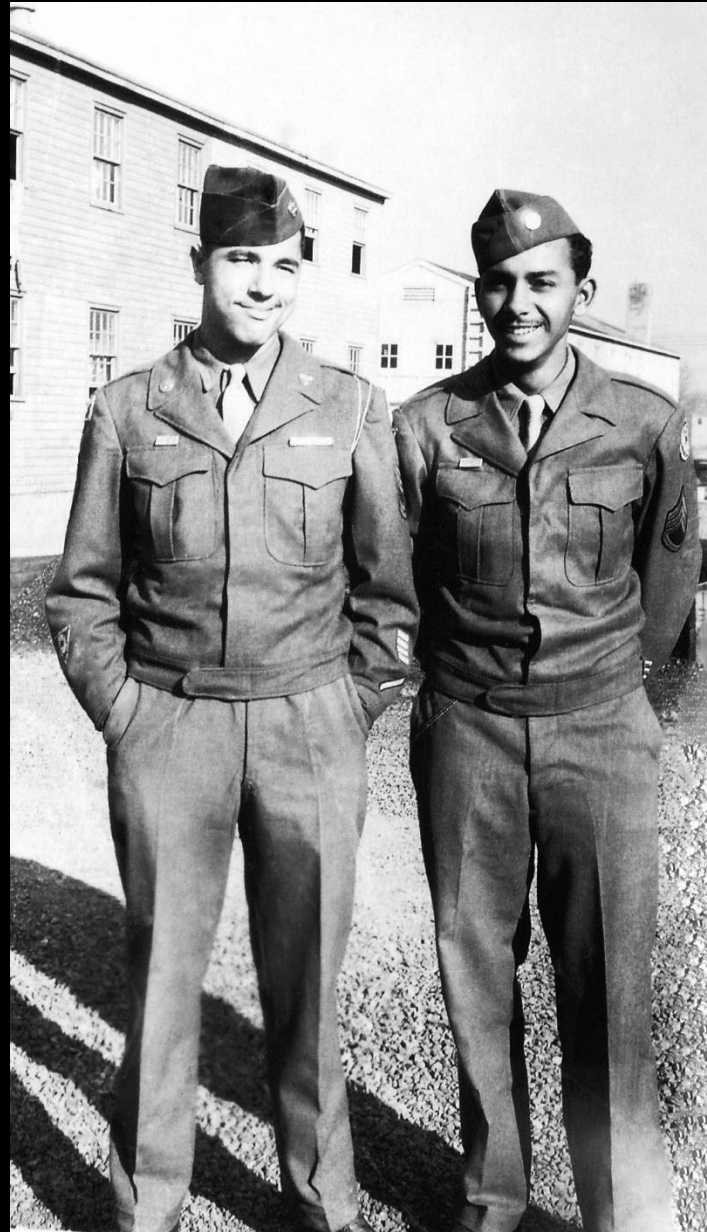


SSgt Calvin Thierry Prop Specialist 100th FS



CPT in Italy





TSgt Leon Geter & SSgt Calvin Thierry



Meet Jon Thierry, (USAF - Vietnam Era Veteran), the son of Tuskegee Airman Calvin P. Thierry who appears in one of the photos on the side of our RISE ABOVE traveling exhibit! You don't have to be related to come see RISE ABOVE, but of course, if you are, let us know!



The RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit is a mobile movie theater that tours the country year round to educate and inspire people of all ages with the history and lessons of the Tuskegee Airmen. These war heroes broke down barriers with their courage and determination to serve our country in World War II, and their ability to triumph over adversity remains a compelling and inspirational example to us all.

More information: <https://www.cafriseabove.org>

Tuskegee Airman Pilot
99th FS
Lt. Col. George Hardy

“Tall in the Saddle”



Jon Thierry
USAF
15th RTS

Vietnam Era Vet



Aviation Elite Units 

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PUBLISHING

332nd Fighter Group – Tuskegee Airmen



Chris Bucholtz

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Thank You Credit

From: CHuntly@aol.com

Date: Thu, 6 Jun 2013 01:01:13 -0400 (EDT)

To: info@lisettethierry.com

Lisette,

Thank you for calling me this afternoon. It brings me great pleasure to be able to share with you and your sibling's photographs of your father and his wartime comrades. I have known about your father for several decades as I have met and befriended many of his former squadron mates there in Los Angeles and across the country and almost everyone of them had photographs of your father that they allowed me to copy and reproduce for my collection and it is truly my honor and pleasure in providing you copies for yourself, siblings and other family members.

My interest in the Tuskegee Airmen goes far beyond the exploits of the fighter pilots. My primary interest and focus has been about the men who made the pilots successful, men like your father and my uncle who had to experience and endure the indignities of Jim Crow laws, blatant racism in the form of segregation, working in horrible environmental conditions while fighting for freedom in the hopes that their service for their country would make a difference so that they would be excepted as equals and extended the same freedoms as their Caucasian counterparts.

If you are interested and or have an opportunity Google my name Craig Huntly and you should be able to see a video of one of my lectures and hear a radio interview that I did several years ago.

I have attached 5 photographs that I had on my laptop down here in San Diego, each photo is labeled although your father is easily identifiable.

I will send you some other photos that I have in some scrapbooks and on my computer at my home. I hope that you enjoy them and feel free to call or email me at any time.

Respectfully

Craig Huntly

Trivia

Note:

Grand Father, Son and Grand Daughter

- Calvin Thierry served in the 15th Air Force. WWII Vet
- Jon Thierry Served in the 15th Air Force. Vietnam Era Vet
- Gina Woullard Thierry was born on a 15th Air Force Base. Vietnam Era Baby

Credits

- USAF 15th Air Force www.af.mil
- 332nd Fighter Group: Tuskegee Airmen www.tuskegeearmernationalmuseum.org
- Tuskegeearmernationalmuseum.org/history/who-were-they
- Chris Bucholtz www.ospreypublishing.com/authors/chris_bucholtz
- Osprey Publishing www.ospreypublishing.com
- Library of Congress www.loc.gov
- Craig Huntly CHuntly@aol.com Photos and history
- Lisette Thierry www.lisettethierry.com - Photos
- Colette Thierry-Jackson - Photos
- Dave Grusin - Take the A Train (soundtrack) 1993 [Dave Grusin](#) [Homage to Duke](#)
- "Take the 'A' Train" Music by Billy Strayhorn, 1939 - Lyrics by Joya Sherrill, 1944 - Original artist Duke Ellington
- Google www.google.com
- Microsoft www.microsoft.com
- YouTube www.youtube.com
- H2 HD History Channel www.history.com
- Live Airshow TV www.liveairshowtv.com
- Jon Thierry – (Compilation - Photo Retouching - Graphics) www.KIMOSAgraphics.com

EXTRAS

Videos



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[Dogfights - Tuskegee Airmen](#)