



1943
APRIL

The 99th Fighter Squadron travels from New York on the Luxury liner USS Mariposa to Casablanca, Morocco. Stationed at Oued N'Ja, the 99th prepares for combat with the Twelfth Air Force.

1943
JUNE

The 99th Fighter Squadron Begins Flying Missions. They aid in the Surrender of enemy forces at Pantelleria and support the Allied invasion of Sicily.

1943
JULY

LT. Charles B. Hall Shoots down the first enemy fighter on July 2nd. Lt. Walter Lawson also claims probable destruction of an FW-190 and ME-109. Two Tuskegee Airmen are lost in combat: 1st LT. Sherman H. White and 2nd Lt. James L. McCullin. The 99th Fighter Squadron earns their first Distinguished Unit Citation. Attached to the 324th Fighter Group, they contribute to the Allied forces successful Sicilian campaign.

1943
SEPT

Maj. George S. Roberts replace Lt. Col. Benjamin O Davis Jr. as commander of the 99th Fighter Squadron. Lt. Col Davis returns to America to command the 332nd Fighter Group. The 99th moves to a new base on the island of Sicily. By October 17th they are stationed at Foggia Airfield on mainland Italy.

1944
JAN

The 332nd Fighter Group, made up of the 100th, 301st, and 302nd Fighter Squadrons, travel to Italy. The 99th Fighter Squadron, stationed at Capodichino Airdrome near Naples, Italy, flies coastal patrol missions south of Rome. On January 27 and 28, the 99th shoots down 13 German FW-190's which were threatening Allied ground forces at Anzio Beachhead, Italy.

1944
FEB

As the 100th Fighter Squadron prepares for the combat in P-39 Airacobras, the 99th Fighter Squadron uses their P-40 Warhawks to dive-bomb a key Anzio bridge, preventing enemy retreat. The three 332nd fighter squadrons, fly their first combat missions. The 99th completes 55 missions, mostly dive-bombing patrolling.

1944
MAY

The 99th Fighter Squadron is assigned to the 332nd Fighter Group, but remains attached to white units. They earn a second Distinguished Unit Citation for missions over Cassino, Italy. Throughout May, the 99th moves rapidly from base to base, including Pignataro Airfield, Italy. By month's end, the 332nd is to Ramitelli Airfield, Italy. By month's end, the 332nd to Fifteenth Air Force, until Germany Surrenders.

1944
JUNE

The 332nd Fighter Group Begins escorting heavy bombers as part of the Fifteenth Air Force. On their first mission over Germany, they shoot down five ME-109s and Col. Benjamin O. Davis Jr. earns a Distinguished Flying Cross. They continue escorting bombers over Europe as the 99th flies strafing and dive-bombing missions.

1944
JULY

Pilots of the 332nd fighter Group Fly their First mission in the P-51 Mustang. All deployed African American flying units are stationed at Ramitelli AirField. They fly their first combat mission together a week later. On July 18, the 332nd makes headlines shooting down 12 enemy aircraft over Italy and Germany. Two days later they shoot down four ME-109s. Capt. Joseph D. Elsberry is the first Tuskegee Airman to claim for aerial victories. By month's end Tuskegee of any month in the war.

1944
AUG

On a Strafing mission, three pilots from the 332nd Fighter Group. Lts. Alexander Jefferson, Robert Daniels Jr., and Richard Macon become prisoners of war in Germany. The 332nd destroys 22nd enemy aircraft on the ground in Czechoslovakia, and takes part in Operation Reunion, escorting bombers and retrieving over 1000 American prisoners of war from Romania.

1945
SEPT-OCT

The 332nd Fighter Group escorts heavy bombers to oil refineries and engine works in Germany. Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Greece. They also strafe railroads, airfields and river boats and complete air-sea rescue escorts and reconnaissance escort missions.

1945
MARCH

March 25, the 332nd Fighter Group Flies the Berlin Mission the longest Fifteenth Air Force raid in WWII. While escorting B-17 Flying Fortresses, three 100th Fighters Squadron Pilots shoot down three German ME-262 jet aircraft. The 332nd shoots down another 13 enemy aircraft during a fighter sweep and strafing missions. In his P-51 Mustang Duchess Arlene 1st Lt. Robert W. Williams downs two FW-190's that day.

1945
APRIL

At Freeman Field, Indiana, 61 officers of the 477th Bombardment Group are arrested trying to enter the white officers club. Then 101 are detained for refusing a direct order to sign a document agreeing to a segregated policy for base facilities. The 332nd fighter Group is overseas flying two to four Fifteenth Air Force missions a day. 2nd Lts. Thomas W. Jefferson and Richard A. Simons and 1st Lt. Jimmy Lanham earn the last aerial victories for the Tuskegee Airmen The 332nd flies its last Fifteenth Air Force mission on April 30.

1945
MAY

Germany surrenders. Victory in Europe is celebrated on May 8th (V-E Day)

1945
JUNE

Col. Benjamin O. Davis Jr. returns home to command the 477th Bombardment Group at Godman Field. Col Davis is awarded the Silver Star, Five Distinguished Flying Crosses, Five Air Medals, and Bronze Star.

1945
OCT

The 332nd Fighter Group, under the command of Maj. George S. Roberts, returns home.