Civil and Military Aircraft Losses
Great Lakes & Inland Water Bodies

Black = Civilian & Commercial Aircraft
Red = U.S. Army, U.S. Navy & Foreign Military Aircraft

1,100 Projected Locations

(Wayne R. Lusardi 2023)
Lake Huron Red Tails!
Recovering a Tuskegee Warbird

Wayne R. Lusardi
State Maritime Archaeologist
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Tuskegee Institute
Civilian Pilot Training Program

99th Fighter Squadron
100th, 301st & 302nd Fighter Squadrons comprising the 332nd Fighter Group

Tuskegee Airmen in Michigan
March 1943 to May 1944

Tuskegee Airmen Training Airfields

(Wayne R. Lusardi 2018)
Selfridge Field
Est. April 1917

1932 Air Show, Selfridge Field, Mt. Clemens, Michigan
Lt. Thomas Selfridge & Orville Wright
Fort Meyer, Virginia 9/17/1908
Camp Skeel
Est. 1923. Oscoda Army Airfield (1942), Wurtsmith Air Force Base (1953)

Selfridge Fliers Learn War Game at Camp Skeel

Summer Maneuvers Above Sandy Plains Along Au Sable Profitable

By LEONARD S. HALL
OSCODA, MICH.

The primitive quiet of the sandy wilderness north of the Au Sable river has been shattered this summer by the cacophony of machine guns and the ground-shaking blast of aerial bombs.

This extraordinary invasion of an area which has known only the stealthy passing of the deer, fox and rabbit during the half century since lumber jacks chopped the plains of their harried gnaw, is part of the program of the United States Air Service, which has chosen this wild section.

Detroit Free Press, 8/18/1929
Tuskegee Aircraft Wrecks 1943-1944

- Known
- Missing

- Selfridge Field *
- Oscoda Army Airfield *
- Detroit
- Port Huron
- Alpena
- Sarnia
- Kincardine
- Georgian Bay
- Lake Huron
- Michigan
- Ontario
- Lake Erie

(W.R. Lusardi 2017)
Curtiss P-40 Warhawk

No.: 41-13655
Dimensions: 31’8” length, 37’4” Wingspan
Loss: Tawas, 5/9/1943
Pilot: 2ND Lt. Wilmeth W. Sidat-Singh
Vultee BT-13 Valiant

No.: 42-42926
Dimensions: 28’10” length, 42’0” Wingspan
Loss: Oscoda, 6/16/1943
Pilot: 2nd Lt. Nathaniel M. Hill & 2nd Lt. Luther Blakeney
Bell P-39Q Airacobra

No.: 42-21242
Dimensions: 30’2” length, 34’0” Wingspan
Loss: HARRISVILLE, 11/22/1943
Pilot: 2nd Lt. William E. Hill
Bell P-39Q Airacobra

No.: 42-21249
Dimensions: 30’2” length, 34’0” Wingspan
Loss: Lake St. Clair, 12/12/1943
Pilot: FO Nathaniel Porter Rayburg
Firestone
SKY CHAMPION
Frank Heman Moody
12/18/1921 – 4/11/1944
Tuskegee Bell P-39Q Airacobra

No.: 42-21226
Dimensions: 30’2” length, 34’0” Wingspan
Loss: Port Huron, 4/11/1944
Pilot: 2nd Lt. Frank H. Moody
2Lt. Jerome T. Edwards
(12/26/1918 – 5/7/1943)

2Lt. Wilmeth Sidat-Singh
(2/13/1918 – 5/9/1943)

2Lt. Nathaniel M. Hill
(2/5/1919 – 6/16/1943)

2Lt. Luther L. Blakeney
(6/20/1918 – 6/16/1943)

2Lt. Johnson C. Wells
(1920 – 9/28/1943)

2Lt. William H. Walker
(1/20/1919 – 10/14/1943)

2Lt. Leroi S. Williams
(7/30/1919 – 10/14/1943)

2Lt. Leon Purchase
(10/8/1917 – 11/19/1943)

2Lt. William E. Hill
(1923 – 11/22/1943)

FO Nathaniel P. Rayburg
(9/30/1916 – 12/12/1943)

2Lt. Cornelius F. May
(1921 – 12/28/1943)

2Lt. Paul C. Simmons
(9/22/1921 – 1/16/1944)

2Lt. Charles W. Dickerson
(1920 – 2/18/1944)

2Lt. Vincent J. Mason
(7/19/1923 – 3/18/1944)

2Lt. Frank H. Moody
(12/18/1921 – 4/11/1944)
Additional Reading

- The Red Tails: World War II's Tuskegee Airmen by Steven L. Jones
- Freedom Flyers: The Tuskegee Airmen of World War II by J. Todd Moye
- Selfridge & Collins: The Life & Times of Military Aviation Pioneers Lt. Thomas E. Selfridge & Capt. Phelps Collins by Dan Heaton
- Tuskegee Airmen: Legacy of Courage
- Black Knights: The Story of the Tuskegee Airmen by Lynn M. Homan and Thomas Reilly