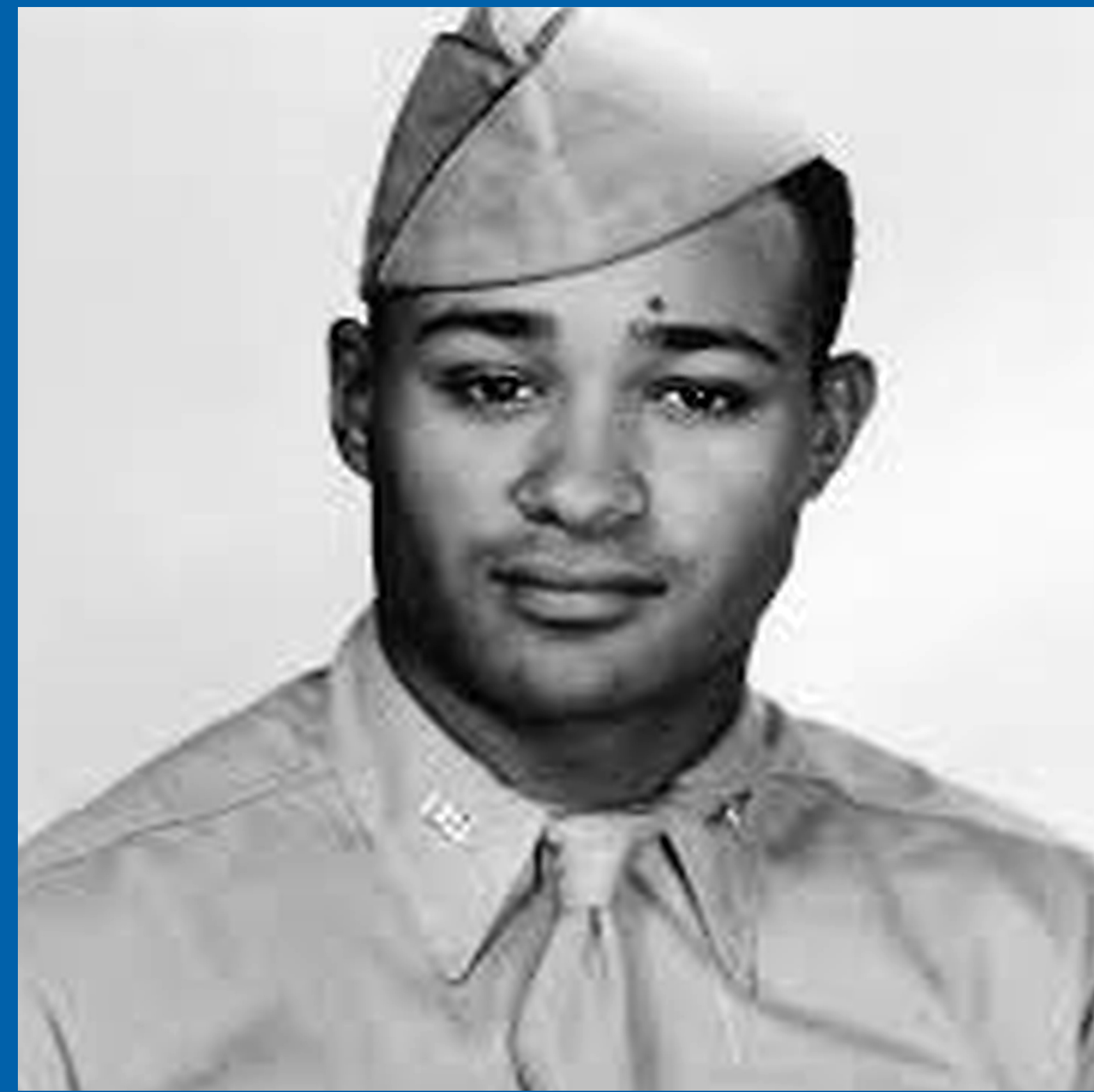


# Esteban Hotesse

## AFRO-LATINO MEMBER OF THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN



### BACKGROUND

2nd Lieutenant Esteban Hotesse was born on February 11, 1919, in Moca, Espaillat, Dominican Republic. At the age of four, he immigrated to the United States through the Port of New York with his mother, Clara Pacheco. He later built his life in New York City, where he married Iristella Lind Hotesse and together they raised two daughters, Mary Lou and Rosalie. In April 1943, following his military service, Hotesse and his family applied for U.S. citizenship.

### CAREER

Hotesse enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1943 and became part of the Tuskegee Airmen, serving in the 447th Bombardment Group during World War II. Although he did not serve in combat, he faced the realities of segregation within the military. He participated in the Freeman Field Mutiny, a protest against discriminatory practices on base, demonstrating his commitment to equality. His life was tragically cut short at age 26 in an aircraft training accident.

### IMPACT

Esteban Hotesse is recognized as one of the first Dominican military aviators in the United States, helping to pave the way for future generations. His service as a Tuskegee Airman contributed to the training of nearly 1,000 Black pilots between 1940 and 1946. His role in challenging segregation also supported the broader movement toward desegregation in the U.S. military.

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