Captain John Rogers, Sr. - Best Dive Bomber





John Rogers, Sr., was one of the original members of the 99th Pursuit Squadron. He was well-known for his outstanding ability as a dive bomber.

According to the inscription on this contemporary photo, now maintained at Chanute Air Museum:

This is Jack Rogers, the best dive bomber pilot in the business.

Already a pilot before he joined the military, Rogers became a Cook County Judge after he returned from the war.

Graduating from the University of Chicago Law School, he married <u>Jewel Stradford</u>, the first female to graduate from the same law school who had a <u>very distinguished career</u> in<u>her own right</u>. (She was initially <u>not allowed</u> to become a member of the Chicago Bar Association <u>because of her race</u>.)

Of his time as a Tuskegee airman, Rogers says:

We were a tight group. We stuck together and watched each others' backs, and that is why we were so successful proving folks wrong.

Rogers was still alive when *Red Tails* was released. He still loves to fly and <u>told an interviewer</u> (Wendell Hutson):

I hope there are planes in heaven I can fly, because you know how much I love to fly.

Credits:

Photo of John Rogers, Sr., by armament officer William Thompson, maintained by Chanute Air Museum.

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