

Americans of Native Descent In WWII



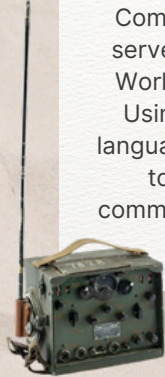
MAJOR GENERAL CLARENCE LEONARD TINKER



Clarence Tinker, a member of the Osage Nation, started his career as an Army aviator in WWI. He was the first Native American to achieve the rank of Major General in the U.S. Army. In 1942, while commanding the 7th Air Force in Hawaii, his plane went down during a bombing mission to Midway Island.

CODE TALKERS

Americans of the Navajo, Comanche, and other nations served as code-talkers during World War I and World War II. Using their unwritten Native languages, which were unknown to outsiders, they could communicate in coded language during combat.



TB4-4 TWO-WAY RADIO TRANSMITTER/RECEIVER



MARY GOLDA ROSS



Mary Ross was the great-granddaughter of the influential Cherokee Chief John Ross. During the War, Ross utilized her passion for mathematics and worked as an engineer for the Lockheed Corporation. She was instrumental in solving issues related to high-speed flight and aeroelasticity on the P-38 Lightning. Ross went on to work as an engineer on the highly secretive Skunk Works project, developing cutting-edge aerospace technology, like the SR-71 Blackbird. She eventually worked for NASA.

COLONEL HIAWATHA MOHAWK



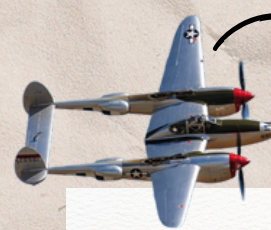
Hiawatha Mohawk was born in Tampa, Florida. He joined the U.S. military in 1942 and trained as a pilot. When he completed his training, Mohawk became a fighter pilot, assigned to fly the P-47 Thunderbolt with the 325th Fighter Group in Italy. He served with distinction during the War and continued his career in the U.S. Air Force, eventually piloting early jets.



THE THUNDERBIRD INSIGNIA OF THE 45TH INFANTRY DIVISION

THE THUNDERBIRDS

The 45th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army used a "Thunderbird" as its insignia, a design created by a Kiowa artist. The Division had many Native American servicemembers, including three who were awarded the Medal of Honor.



LOCKHEED P-38 LIGHTNING

GAME-CHANGING AIRCRAFT

Mary Ross played an instrumental role in the engineering and developing the P-38 Lightning and the SR-71 Blackbird.



LOCKHEED SR-71 BLACKBIRD