



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

Jesse Brown Photographs

2003

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Jesse Brown Photographs
Identifier:	NASM.2003.0049
Date:	(bulk 1947)
Extent:	0.05 Cubic feet ((1 folder))
Creator:	Jones, Phillip
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Joan B. Jones, Gift, 2003

Preferred Citation

Jesse Brown Photographs, Accession 2003-0049, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

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Biographical / Historical

Jesse L. Brown (1926-1950) was the first African-American Navy pilot. Born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi to sharecroppers, Brown attended Ohio State University and enlisted in the US Naval Reserve on 8 July 1946. That following spring, he accepted an appointment as a midshipman in the US Navy. Brown attended the Navy preflight school in Ottumwa, Iowa, followed by flight training at Pensacola, where he was one of only six (out of 100) to complete the training. In 1948, Brown began a tour of duty with VF-32 at Quonset Point, RI, and was commissioned an ensign on April 15th of that year. In June 1950, VF-32 was operating from USS Leyte in the Mediterranean on a routine cruise when it was diverted to the Korean War. By October 1950, Brown was flying F4U-4 Corsair missions from USS Leyte. Brown became a section leader and received the Air Medal for daring attacks against the enemy before getting shot down by enemy fire and perishing in the wreckage of his aircraft. Brown was posthumously awarded

the Distinguished Flying Cross and on March 18, 1972, the Navy christened the USS Jesse L. Brown (DE-1098) the first time that a Naval vessel had been named for an African-American.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of twenty-two snapshots taken by Phillip Jones, many of which include images of his friend Jesse Brown, as well as friends John Brannon, Sam Clauzel, and Rex Vannoy, during their Pensacola training. They are shown posing in front of a North American SNJ Texan. There are also a few shots of Pensacola training facilities as well as Sikorsky R-4s and other various training aircraft.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- African American air pilots
- Korean War, 1950-1953
- Korean War, 1950-1953 -- Aerial operations
- Medals -- United States

Types of Materials:

- Photographs
- Snapshots

Names:

- Brown, Jesse L., 1926-1950
- Jones, Phillip
- United States. Navy -- Aviation
- United States. Navy. Fighter Squadron 32

Geographic Names:

- Naval Air Station Pensacola (Fla.)
- United States -- Armed Forces -- Afro-Americans