

Chronological: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Coalition Speech

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers
Speeches, Chronological, Box SP11, Folder 78
<https://hdl.handle.net/10524/72644>

Items in eVols are protected by copyright, with all rights reserved, unless otherwise indicated.

UHM Library Digital Collections Disclaimer and Copyright Information

Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY COALITION SPEECH DECEMBER 7, 1998

War is a great equalizer. A bullet or shrapnel does not discriminate. They are not racist. A piercing bullet wound or a tearing shrapnel wound are equally painful whether the wounded are African-American, European-American, Asian-American or Native American. The blood that gushes from all is equally red. There is no black blood, white blood, brown blood or yellow blood. And history has demonstrated that in wartime, a person's commitment to a cause or dedication to the nation, oftentimes referred to as loyalty or patriotism, is equal. One who is willing to stand in harm's way is just as loyal as another willing to do the same.

One of the great battles of the War Between the States was the Battle of Wagner which was fought on July 18, 1863 and involved the 54th Regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. This regiment, made up of former African slaves, was given the mission to take over a heavily fortified fort manned by a garrison of Confederate infantry and artillery. On the fateful morning of July 18th, these men, without question, affixed their bayonets and moved forward into glory. When the battle ended, out of 600 men, 156 were wounded and 116 were dead. It was such an outstanding heroic moment in history that in later years this battle became the subject of a movie entitled, "Glory."

One must keep in mind that in those days and in the years that followed to the end of World War II, military units were segregated. It is no secret that the finest officers were not assigned to African-American units. Nor were these units provided with the latest weaponry. But, they were required to go into battle like everyone else.

In World War II, my regiment, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, was attached to the 92nd Division during the closing days of the war. It was a unit consisting of African-American enlisted men and a few African-American officers. The senior officers were all white. Officer's clubs were segregated and enlisted persons were required to attend their specially designated "For Blacks Only" enlisted clubs. Almost daily they were subjected to propaganda from the Germans. Notwithstanding these factors, they fought well and added much luster to our nation's military history.

As a footnote, I should tell you as a result of my injury, during the first three days of hospitalization, I was given 17 blood transfusions. It was the practice in our sector that when a wounded American received blood transfusions, he was shown the bottle with the name of the donor and unit inscribed thereon. It was a way of indicating that there was someone, a stranger, willing to give blood, so that the wounded would survive. Most of the blood I received was from men of the 92nd Division. I believe it is correct for me to say that if not for African-Americans, I would not be standing before you today. I have always been grateful to the 15 men who shared their blood with me.

Today is December 7th. Throughout the land there are gatherings, most small and almost forgotten. For the men who remembered that morning and the pain and suffering of that day, December 7th was the worst day in our Navy's history. Five battleships were sunk and eight battleships and eleven cruisers were damaged. Many brave sailors of all races lost their lives defending our nation's honor. Since the Navy for the most part was manned by European-Americans, one very seldom heard of the heroes and exploits of African-Americans, or for that matter, of the brave deeds of our minority sailors--Guamanians and Filipinos--whose lives were lost on December 7th.

A few minutes ago, I participated in a ceremony over the sunken hulk of the U.S.S. ARIZONA. When one speaks of the ARIZONA, one generally assumes all the men aboard the ship were European-Americans. But we know that was not the case.

As the war progressed, the heroism and sacrifices of African-Americans became a bit more pronounced. Our policy makers realized it was also their war. So 50 years ago, on July 26, 1948, President Truman took steps to integrate the military. Today there are 43 African American flag officers, 2 four-star generals, and one four-star admiral. Many of the senior non-commissioned officers and Sergeant Majors, are African-Americans. Many of the heroes of Desert Storm were African-American. One of the most distinguished officers of this century, who served America as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is an African-American--General Colin Powell.

On this day, let us once again recall that war is an equalizer and that our nation has finally recognized this common sense fact.

But unfortunately, there are many more steps to be taken for all of us to finally recognize that life itself is an equalizer. It is well that on this day we remember the 35 words Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY COALITION SPEECH
DECEMBER 7, 1998**

War is a great equalizer. A bullet or shrapnel does not discriminate. They are not racist. A piercing bullet wound or a tearing shrapnel wound are equally painful whether the wounded are African-American, European-American, Asian-American or Native American. The blood that gushes from all is equally red. There is no black blood, white blood, brown blood or yellow blood. And history has demonstrated that in wartime, a person's commitment to a cause or dedication to the nation, oftentimes referred to as loyalty or patriotism, is equal. One who is willing to stand in harm's way is just as loyal as another willing to do the same.

One of the great battles of the War Between the States was the Battle of Wagner which was fought on July 18, 1863 and involved the 54th Regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. This regiment, made up of former African slaves, was given the mission to take over a heavily fortified fort manned by a garrison of Confederate infantry and artillery. On the fateful morning of July 18th, these men, without question, affixed their bayonets and moved forward into glory. When the battle ended, out of 600 men, 156 were wounded and 116 were dead. It was such an outstanding heroic moment in history that in later years this battle became the subject of a movie entitled, "Glory."

One must keep in mind that in those days and in the years that followed to the end of World War II, military units were segregated. It is no secret that the finest officers were not assigned to African-American units. Nor were these units provided with the latest weaponry. But, they were required to go into battle like everyone else.

In World War II, my regiment, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, was attached to the 92nd Division during the closing days of the war. It was a unit consisting of African-American enlisted men and a few African-American officers. The senior officers were all white. Officer's clubs were segregated and enlisted persons were required to attend their specially designated "For Blacks Only" enlisted clubs. Almost daily they were subjected to propaganda from the Germans. Notwithstanding these factors, they fought well and added much luster to our nation's military history.

As a footnote, I should tell you as a result of my injury, during the first three days of hospitalization, I was given 17 blood transfusions. It was the practice in our sector that when a wounded American received blood transfusions, he was shown the bottle with the name of the donor and unit inscribed thereon. It was a way of indicating that there was someone, a stranger, willing to give blood, so that the wounded would survive. Most of the blood I received was from men of the 92nd Division. I believe it is correct for me to say that if not for African-Americans, I would not be standing before you today. I have always been grateful to the 15 men who shared their blood with me.

Today is December 7th. Throughout the land there are gatherings, most small and almost forgotten. For the men who remembered that morning and the pain and suffering of that day, December 7th was the worst day in our Navy's history. Five battleships were sunk and eight battleships and eleven cruisers were damaged. Many brave sailors of all races lost their lives defending our nation's honor. Since the Navy for the most part was manned by European-Americans, one very seldom heard of the heroes and exploits of African-Americans, or for that matter, of the brave deeds of our minority sailors--Guamanians and Filipinos--whose lives were lost on December 7th.

A few minutes ago, I participated in a ceremony over the sunken hulk of the U.S.S. ARIZONA. When one speaks of the ARIZONA, one generally assumes all the men aboard the ship were European-Americans. But we know that was not the case.

As the war progressed, the heroism and sacrifices of African-Americans became a bit more pronounced. Our policy makers realized it was also their war. So 50 years ago, on July 26, 1948, President Truman took steps to integrate the military. Today there are 43 African American flag officers, 2 four-star generals, and one four-star admiral. Many of the senior non-commissioned officers and Sergeant Majors, are African-Americans. Many of the heroes of Desert Storm were African-American. One of the most distinguished officers of this century, who served America as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is an African-American--General Colin Powell.

On this day, let us once again recall that war is an equalizer and that our nation has finally recognized this common sense fact.

But unfortunately, there are many more steps to be taken for all of us to finally recognize that life itself is an equalizer. It is well that on this day we remember the 35 words Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY COALITION SPEECH DECEMBER 7, 1998

War is a great equalizer. A bullet or shrapnel does not discriminate. They are not racist. A piercing bullet wound or a tearing shrapnel wound are equally painful whether the wounded are African-American, European-American, Asian-American or Native American. The blood that gushes from all is equally red. There is no black blood, white blood, brown blood or yellow blood. And history has demonstrated that in wartime, a person's commitment to a cause or dedication to the nation, oftentimes referred to as loyalty or patriotism, is equal. One who is willing to stand in harm's way is just as loyal as another willing to do the same.

One of the great battles of the War Between the States was the Battle of Wagner which was fought on July 18, 1863 and involved the 54th Regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. This regiment, made up of former African slaves, was given the mission to take over a heavily fortified fort manned by a garrison of Confederate infantry and artillery. On the fateful morning of July 18th, these men, without question, affixed their bayonets and moved forward into glory. When the battle ended, out of 600 men, 156 were wounded and 116 were dead. It was such an outstanding heroic moment in history that in later years this battle became the subject of a movie entitled, "Glory."

One must keep in mind that in those days and in the years that followed to the end of World War II, military units were segregated. It is no secret that the finest officers were not assigned to

African-American units. Nor were these units provided with the latest weaponry. But, they were required to go into battle like everyone else.

In World War II, my regiment, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, was attached to the 92nd Division during the closing days of the war. It was a unit consisting of African-American enlisted men and a few African-American officers. The senior officers were all white. Officer's clubs were segregated and enlisted persons were required to attend their specially designated "For Blacks Only" enlisted clubs. Almost daily they were subjected to propoganda from the Germans. Notwithstanding these factors, they fought well and added much luster to our nation's military history.

As a footnote, I should tell you as a result of my injury, during the first three days of hospitalization, I was given 17 blood transfusions. It was the practice in our sector that when a wounded American received blood transfusions, he was shown the bottle with the name of the donor and unit inscribed thereon. It was a way of indicating that there was someone, a stranger, willing to give blood, so that the wounded would survive. Most of the blood I received was from men of the 92nd Division. I believe it is correct for me to say that if not for African-Americans, I would not be standing before you today. I have always been grateful to the 15 men who shared their blood with me.

Today is December 7th. Throughout the land there are gatherings, most small and almost forgotten. For the men who remembered that morning and the pain and suffering of that day, December 7th was the worst day in our Navy's history. Five battleships were sunk and eight battleships and eleven cruisers were damaged. Many brave sailors of all races lost their lives defending our nation's honor. Since the Navy for the most part was manned by European-Americans, one very seldom heard of the heroes and exploits of African-Americans, or for that matter, of the brave deeds of our minority sailors--Guamanians and Filipinos--whose lives were lost on December 7th.

A few minutes ago, I participated in a ceremony over the sunken hulk of the U.S.S. ARIZONA. When one speaks of the ARIZONA, one generally assumes all the men aboard the ship were European-Americans. But we know that was not the case.

As the war progressed, the heroism and sacrifices of African-Americans became a bit more pronounced. Our policy makers realized it was also their war. So 50 years ago, on July 26, 1948, President Truman took steps to integrate the military. Today there are 43 African American flag officers, 2 four-star generals, and one four-star admiral. Many of the senior non-commissioned officers and Sergeant Majors, are African-Americans. Many of the heroes of Desert Storm were African-American. One of the most distinguished officers of this century, who served America as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is an African-American--General Colin Powell.

On this day, let us once again recall that war is an equalizer and that our nation has finally recognized this common sense fact.

But unfortunately, there are many more steps to be taken for all of us to finally recognize that life itself is an equalizer. It is well that on this day we remember the 35 words Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."


5.1 Dec. 7. Sp

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
HOLIDAY COALITION SPEECH
DECEMBER 7, 1998**

War is a great equalizer. A bullet or shrapnel does not discriminate. They are not racist. A piercing bullet wound or a tearing shrapnel wound are equally painful whether the wounded are African-American, European-American, Asian-American or Native American. The blood that gushes from all is equally red.

- **There is no black blood, white blood, brown blood or yellow blood. And history has demonstrated that in wartime, a person's commitment to a cause or dedication to the nation, oftentimes referred to as loyalty or patriotism, is equal. One who is willing to stand in harm's way is just as loyal as another willing to do the same.**


50% Recycled



One of the great battles of the War Between the States was the Battle of Wagner which was fought on July 18, 1863 and involved the 54th Regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.

This regiment, made up of former African slaves, was given the mission to take over a heavily fortified fort manned by a garrison of Confederate infantry and artillery.

25% Cotton
50% Recycled



- On the fateful morning of July 18th, these men, without question, affixed their bayonets and moved forward into glory. When the battle ended, out of 600 men, 156 were wounded and 116 were dead. It was such an outstanding heroic
- moment in history that in later years this battle became the subject of a movie entitled, "Glory."

One must keep in mind that in those days and in the years that followed to the end of World War II, military units were segregated. It is no secret that the finest officers were not assigned to

African-American units. Nor were these units provided with the latest weaponry. But, they were required to go into battle like everyone else.

● In World War II, my regiment, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, was attached to the 92nd Division during the closing days of the war. It was a unit consisting of African-American enlisted men and a few African-American officers.

● The senior officers were all white. Officer's clubs were segregated and enlisted persons were required to attend their specially designated "For Blacks Only" enlisted clubs.

● Almost daily they were subjected to propaganda from the Germans.

Notwithstanding these factors, they fought well and added much luster to our nation's military history.

As a footnote, I should tell you as a result of my injury, during the first three days of hospitalization, I was given 17 blood transfusions. It was the practice in our sector that when a wounded American received blood transfusions,

- he was shown the bottle with the name of the donor and unit inscribed thereon. It was a way of indicating that there was someone, a stranger, willing to give blood, so that the wounded would survive. Most of the blood I received
- was from men of the 92nd Division. I believe it is correct for me to say that if not for African-Americans, I would not be standing before you today.

● I have always been grateful to the 15 men who shared their blood with me.

Today is December 7th. Throughout the land there are gatherings, most small and almost forgotten. For the men who remembered that morning and the pain

● and suffering of that day, December 7th was the worst day in our Navy's history.

Five battleships were sunk and eight battleships and eleven cruisers were damaged.

● Since the Navy for the most part was manned by European-Americans, one very seldom heard of the heroes and exploits of African-Americans.

A few minutes ago, I participated in a ceremony over the sunken hulk of the

● U.S.S. ARIZONA. When one speaks of the ARIZONA, one generally assumes all the men aboard the ship were European-Americans. But we know that was not the case.

● **As the war progressed, the heroism and sacrifices of African-Americans became a bit more pronounced. Our policy makers realized it was also their war. So 50 years ago, on July 26, 1948, President Truman took steps to integrate the military. Today there are 43 African American flag officers, 2 four-star generals, and one four-star admiral. Many of the senior non-commissioned officers and Sergeant Majors, are African-Americans.**

● Many of the heroes of Desert Storm were African-American. One of the most distinguished officers of this century, who served America as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is an African-American--General Colin Powell.

● On this day, let us once again recall that war is an equalizer and that our nation has finally recognized this common sense fact.

- **But unfortunately, there are many more steps to be taken for all of us to finally recognize that life itself is an equalizer. It is well that on this day we remember the 35 words Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence, "We hold**
- **these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."**

Congressional Research Service
Library of Congress
<http://www.loc.gov/crs>

file

Speech
Dec. 7, 1998
(202) 707-5700
Fax: (202) 707-6745

Transmittal

December 3, 1998

TO : Hon. Daniel K. Inouye

ATTN : Frank Kelly

FROM : Glenda Richardson
Congressional Reference Division
TEL : 78989

RE : Your request for information as stated in the attached letter.

The enclosed material is forwarded in response to your request. It includes responses to your list of questions as well as supporting information for the enclosed speech. Unfortunately, a thorough search of our resources yielded no information on African-Americans stationed on the U.S.S. Arizona. However, we are enclosing information on Seaman Doris "Dorie" Miller, an African-American who is noted for his heroic deeds during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

According to staff at the Defense Manpower Data Center there are 44 African-American flag officers. There are two four star generals, one admiral, and 41 other flag officers in this group. Any questions regarding this statistics can be directed to Matt Bowen at (703) 696-6339.

We hope that this information proves useful.

10/5/97 pp G1, G9



FROM "THE SHAW MEMORIAL," EASTERN NATIONAL

A detail from Augustus Saint-Gaudens's Shaw Memorial at the National Gallery.

A Black Soldier Reflects

54th Regiment Double-Timed America's March Forward

When the National Gallery of Art unveiled Augustus Saint-Gaudens's memorial to Robert Gould Shaw and the Massachusetts 54th Regiment last month, retired Gen. Colin Powell made the following remarks about the statue and the soldiers who died in the assault on Fort Wagner in South Carolina on July 18, 1863.

By Colin Powell

I doubt if plaster and bronze have ever spoken more eloquently to us than in this celebrated work by Augustus Saint-Gaudens. What a powerful image we see—proud, young, fatalistic Colonel Robert Gould Shaw and his Negro soldiers, heads high, rifles on their shoulders, resolution in their every step as they move southward with fortitude. The scene is May 28th, 1863, in front of the Statehouse in Boston, on their way to glory.

But to understand this memorial and to put it in perspective, you have to go way back before 1863. You have to go back to the birth of our nation in 1776. You have to reflect on the ringing Declaration of Independence that said all men were created equal, and these truths were self-evident, and they were granted certain inalienable rights: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It also said that governments are instituted to secure these rights for our citizens. But it was just as self-evident at that time that there was a group of citizens that was not included. If your skin happened to be black, these rights did not accrue to you.

Our Constitution, which came a few years later, promulgated this same theory, that we were a nation blessed by God, but this blessing of God did not include rights for people whose skin was black. The institution of slavery justified this dichotomy in our national purpose, because black slaves were not seen as human beings. They were tools. They were to be used as tools for the benefit of their masters, and tools didn't need an education; tools didn't need a culture; tools didn't need a past or a history; tools didn't need a family. Tools didn't need the right to a better life or to a sense of pride or a sense of purpose. Tools didn't even need to pass on their children. They didn't need families: Break them apart, sell the children.

In this dehumanization and degradation of a group of Americans lay the true horror of the mortal sin of slavery. A nation that is blessed [like]

America, as we thought ours was by God, could not long endure with this dichotomy. As the years went by it became clear that a great struggle would be required to throw off the See POWELL, G9, Col. 1



Gen. Colin Powell, left, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, served 35 years in the Army. He retired in 1993 and lives in Northern Virginia.

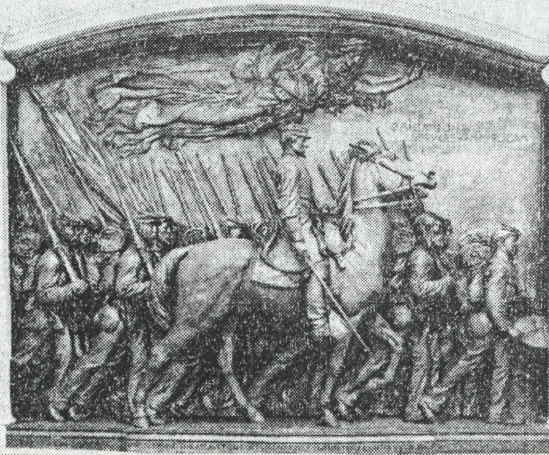
Iron Will, Immortalized in Plaster

POWELL, From G1



Larger than life: From left, Norman Conklin, whose ancestor was in the 54th Mass; Philip J. Carroll, president and CEO of Shell Oil; Gen. Colin Powell; National Gallery Director Earl A. Powell; "Glory" star Matthew Broderick; and National Park Service Director Robert G. Stanton at the Shaw Memorial.

'It was the 54th that marched off into glory on May 28, 1863, as they paraded—as you see them—in front of the Statehouse, past their governor, Governor Andrews, and headed south to destiny, to death.'



Augustus Saint-Gaudens's Shaw Memorial, which was recently unveiled at the National Gallery of Art, where it will be exhibited during a 10-year renewable loan.

yoke of slavery, and that great struggle came to us with the Civil War in 1861.

At that time, black Americans were still denied every opportunity to show what they could do, to demonstrate that they were equal to their white brothers, except in one regard, and that was their blood was as red as their white brothers'. And so in the Revolutionary War, blacks had been permitted to serve, and in the War of 1812 and in other conflicts that came along, but as soon as the conflicts were gone and the danger was past, they were no longer allowed to serve. They were put back in their place.

But now this great struggle was before us, the struggle to throw off slavery once and for all. It was in that period where it became clear that black men had to be part of the struggle. Lincoln was not supportive of it initially. It was thought to be too radical an idea. But by 1863 the losses had accrued at such a level that there was a need for manpower, and the issue was joined as Frederick Douglass and the abolitionists pressed their case on Lincoln.

The Confederacy was going through the same difficulty, and a Confederate general by the name of Harold Cobb heard that Jefferson Davis was planning to recruit Negroes to the cause of the Confederacy. General Cobb wrote to Jefferson Davis and said, "Don't do it. You can't do this. Use Negroes for whatever purpose you choose, such as chopping and digging and planting, and as servants, but don't make them soldiers, because if you make them soldiers, if they can stand on the field of battle with white men—if that is true, then the whole theory of slavery is wrong, and this Confederacy cannot endure."

Frederick Douglass saw the same problem, and he took advantage of it. And his statement to Lincoln and the others was, "Once you put upon the black man the blue uniform, once you put upon him the 'U.S.' saying 'United States,' once you put brass buttons on him and a cap and give him a rifle and give him a pistol and make him a soldier of the nation and send him off in battle to defend the nation and also to help preserve the Union, once you have done that, then no power on Earth can deny the full rights of citizenship in due course." It was the one institution in all of American society where the black man was equal to his white brother.

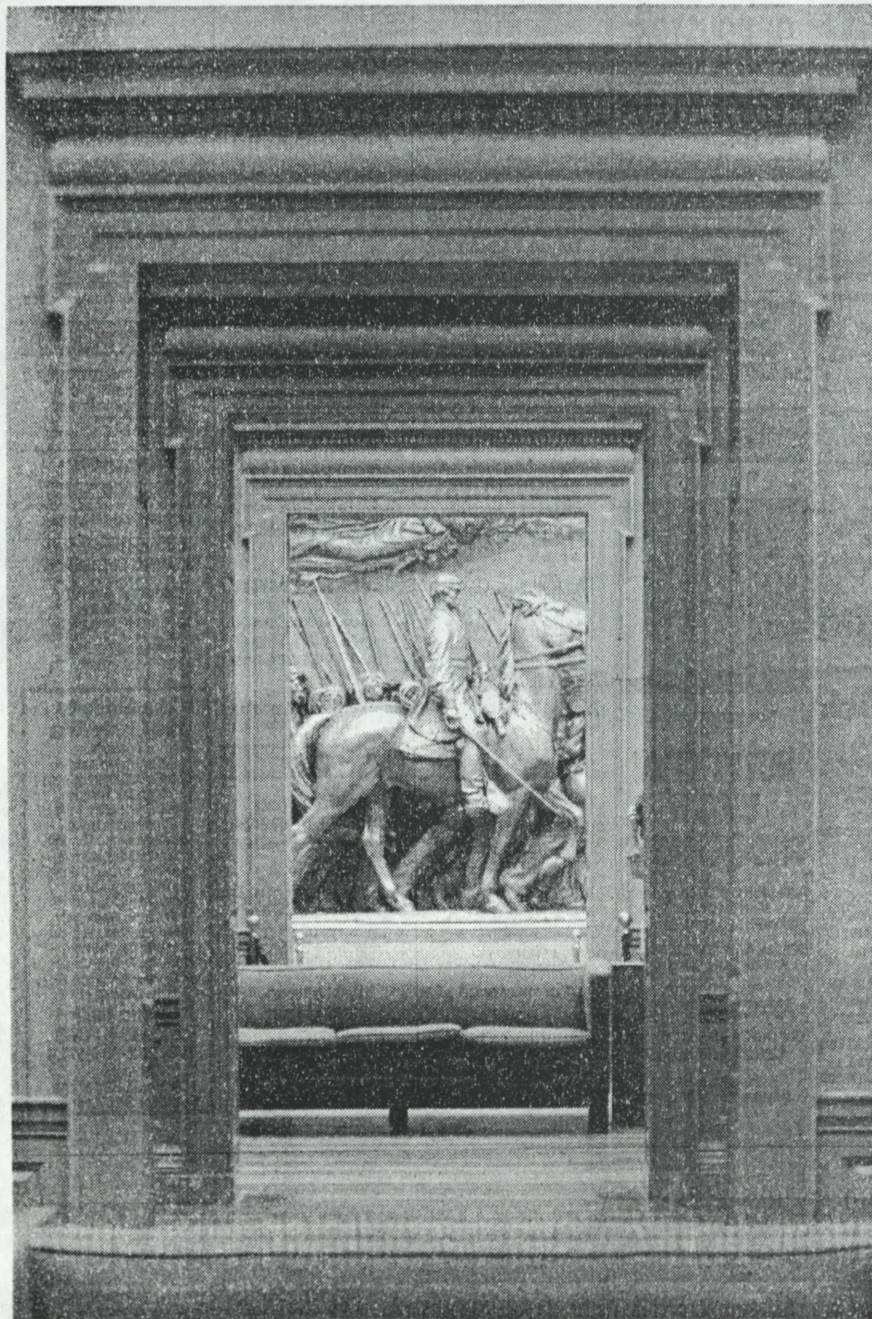
And so when the word went out from the government, with Frederick Douglass's encouragement, and Massachusetts's call to arise, they arose. Hundreds volunteered to serve, so many that the 54th Regiment was filled almost immediately and a 55th Regiment had to be created. But it was the 54th that marched off into glory on May 28, 1863, as they paraded—as you see them—in front of the Statehouse, past their governor, Governor Andrews, and headed south to destiny, to death.

Seven weeks after the scene depicted here, we had the battle of Fort Wagner, and you know the story. I hope you've seen the wonderful movie. You know how it ended, with Robert Gould Shaw dead in a trench, leading his Negro soldiers; 281 of the 600 members of the regiment were casualties, but they had shown what

*'It was the 54th
that marched off
into glory on May
28, 1863, as they
paraded—as you
see them—in
front of the
Statehouse, past
their governor,
Governor
Andrews, and
headed south to
destiny, to death.'*



BY JEFFERY NITZEL—THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Augustus Saint-Gaudens's Shaw Memorial, which was recently unveiled at the National Gallery of Art, where it will be exhibited during a 10-year renewable loan.



BY JAMES M. THRESHER—THE WASHINGTON POST
The massive plaster, which has a prominent position in the National Gallery, as viewed through five galleries.

endure."

Frederick Douglass saw the same problem, and he took advantage of it. And his statement to Lincoln and the others was, "Once you put upon the black man the blue uniform, once you put upon him the 'U.S.' saying 'United States,' once you put brass buttons on him and a cap and give him a rifle and give him a pistol and make him a soldier of the nation and send him off in battle to defend the nation and also to help preserve the Union, once you have done that, then no power on Earth can deny the full rights of citizenship in due course." It was the one institution in all of American society where the black man was equal to his white brother.

And so when the word went out from the government, with Frederick Douglass's encouragement, and Massachusetts's call to arise, they arose. Hundreds volunteered to serve, so many that the 54th Regiment was filled almost immediately and a 55th Regiment had to be created. But it was the 54th that marched off into glory on May 28, 1863, as they paraded—as you see them—in front of the Statehouse, past their governor, Governor Andrews, and headed south to destiny, to death.

Seven weeks after the scene depicted here, we had the battle of Fort Wagner, and you know the story. I hope you've seen the wonderful movie. You know how it ended, with Robert Gould Shaw dead in a trench, leading his Negro soldiers; 281 of the 600 members of the regiment were casualties, but they had shown what they could do. They had demonstrated what they could do. And before the war was over, some 200,000 Negroes had served. As a result of their service, they had helped preserve the Union and moved us one step closer to equality. But even with the 13th and 14th and 15th Amendments, we still didn't get all the blessings of liberty or what had been earned by the service of black men. It took another 100 years—another 120, 130 years—and that brings us to the present.

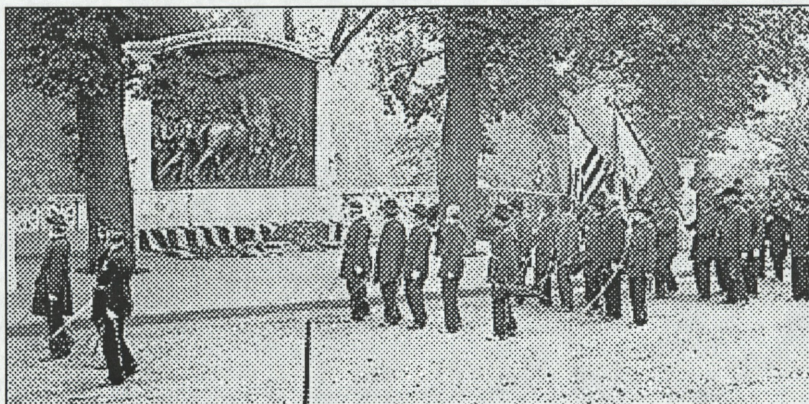
We have seen such progress with respect to the integration of our society. We have seen so much progress with respect to what black persons can now do in this country. I stand before you as a direct descendant of every one of those Negroes. I was able to rise to become chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the senior military position in the armed forces of the United States, but I have a direct lineage back to the men of the 54th and to all those who came before them, back to the Revolutionary War.

It's a lineage that I will never forget. It is a source of inspiration and strength to me and has been for many years, and I hope that with this marvelous statue here at the National Gallery, the nation's capital will continue to be a source of inspiration to millions of Americans, white Americans and black Americans, reminding us of a time in the past that we must never forget—but also showing to us how far we have come, and also reminding us that the struggle has to continue for a while longer, until we are the more perfect Union, the most perfect Union that our Founding Fathers intended.

This is a scene of glory. It is a scene of sacrifice. It is part of our history, and it is most appropriate that it remains here in the nation's capital as a source of inspiration for young people and old people, for all Americans, and for those around the world who will come here and see this marvelous work of art. I am pleased to be part of this ceremony here this morning. Thank you.



Sgt. Henry Stewart, Company E, 54th Massachusetts Infantry
Courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston
(Not to be used without permission.)



Veterans of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry at the dedication of the memorial to Robert Gould Shaw and the men of the 54th, May 31, 1897
Courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston
(Not to be used without permission.)

The memorial is located on the Boston Common. Col. Robert Gould Shaw, son of a white abolitionist, led the 54th and died during the assault on Fort Wagner. He was buried unceremoniously by Confederate troops in a common grave with the men he commanded.

Records of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment are among the military records held by the National Archives.

[[American Originals Menu](#)]



[National Archives home page](#)

National Archives and Records Administration

URL: <http://www.nara.gov/exhall/originals/54thmass.html>

webmaster@nara.gov

Last updated: October 1996

What Price 'Glory'?

The Movie May Be Stunning, But It's Surpassed by the Past

By David Nicholson
Washington Post Staff Writer

Watching "Glory," the new film about a black regiment in the Civil War, it was almost as if I were two people. I was enthralled and yet at the same time was filled with deep reservations, was at one moment moved to tears by the sight of black soldiers fighting (and dying) to gain their freedom and the next moment coldly noting the film's shortcomings.

I should make it clear, up front, that I think "Glory" deserves to be seen. If there is justice in the world, actor Denzel Washington will, finally, win an Oscar for his portrayal of Trip, a runaway slave who volunteers to fight in the 54th Massachusetts (Colored) Infantry. The battle scenes are stunningly photographed, the music is stirring but, much more important, "Glory" is a long overdue treatment of black participation in the Civil War, and it corrects the omission of a significant chapter in American history from popular culture.

Nonetheless, I'm troubled by the film. The root of my problem lies in an essential contradiction of the War Between the States. The vast majority of white Americans did not fight to abolish slavery but to preserve the Union. Even committed abolitionists who wanted to see the slaves freed, wanted them repatriated afterward to Africa, or settled in the West Indies or some area of the United States away from white Americans. But for black

See GLORY, G6, Col. 1

The Power of 'Glory'

GLORY, From G1

Americans, then as now, slavery, or rather, emancipation from slavery, was the sole issue.

To understand this, emotionally as well as intellectually, all you have to do is look at the photograph of the scars crisscrossing the back of a freed Mississippi slave in the book "Forged in Battle: The Civil War Alliance of Black Soldiers and White Officers," by Joseph T. Glatthaar. Or read the diary entry Glatthaar quotes of a lieutenant who "observed the physical examinations of his troops": "Some of them were scarred from head to foot where they had been whipped. One man's back was nearly all one scar, as if the skin had been chopped up and left to heal in ridges. Another had scars on the back of his neck, and from that all the way to his heels every little ways; but that was not such a sight as the one with the great solid mass of ridges, from his shoulders to his hips."

All you have to do is look at the photograph or read the description and feel to understand the injustice, the sheer cruelty, the utter evil of a system that would allow one man to own another.

For us, for black Americans, the Middle Passage—the decades-long wholesale importation of millions of men, women and children as chattel from Africa to the New World—and the succeeding years of bondage, was our Holocaust.

Watching "Glory," however, is a little like looking at a photograph of a group of blacks and whites where the whites are front and center and in focus, while the blacks remain at the edges, in shadow and slightly blurry. It's a matter of point of view. The film is billed as the story of the white Col. Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Massachusetts, but too much of it—especially early on—is about Shaw (played by Matthew Broderick) and his conflicts as he forges a ragtag horde of free men and former slaves into ranks of disciplined fighting men. Along the way, he must combat the racism of whites who do not believe black men will make good soldiers. And often, the means he must use—insisting that a black childhood friend who has volunteered to serve in the regiment address him as "Sir" and observe all requirements of military protocol; and, at another time, ordering the flogging of a soldier who leaves his post to forage for shoes—are uncomfortably like those of slavery.

Many of the decisions director Edward Zwick and writer Kevin Jarre made in the course of filmmaking were obviously in the interests of compression. They wanted to make a complicated story accessible to a mass audience. They needed, also, to adhere to the limitations (not always technical) of the narrative form in which they chose to work. A longer film might have been a more complete film, but conventional Hollywood wisdom holds that theater owners won't book a movie much over two hours because it limits the number of showings. The film is based on two books about Shaw and the regiment, but I would guess that another piece of Hollywood wisdom—that whites won't go to see a film they perceive to be about blacks—may also have affected the decision to build the film around Shaw.

Because the film is so tightly focused on him, it shows us little of the interior lives of the men who fought in the 54th Massachusetts. As a result, what we learn of them is too often within the well-worn conventions of the war movie. Significantly, the film fails to tell us why these men

would volunteer. We know, of course, that they wanted to fight for their freedom, but freedom remains an abstract concept, not the concrete reality it must have been for men who knew (some firsthand, because most of the men recruited to serve in Shaw's regiment were free) the horrors of slavery. Those who were escaped slaves made even greater sacrifices; vengeful masters often sold the slaves' wives and children as punishment because their men had gone to fight for the Union.

We want, I think, to know what the lives of Trip, Rawlins (the gravedigger-turned-sergeant major played by Morgan Freeman) and Sharts (an illiterate former slave) were like before they joined the Army. We want to know where they came from, what they left behind, what they feared and what they hoped for.

The real story of the men who joined the 54th Massachusetts is even more powerful and more moving than that told in "Glory." They left their own record in letters to family and friends—most of them were free and not escaped slaves as depicted in the film, and many were literate. It is a story of courage—the first black man whose deeds earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor served in the 54th—and a story that rends the heart. Consider this: Three days before the battle, the nephew of a sergeant in the 54th was stoned to death in the New York draft riots where hundreds of blacks were killed or injured by white mobs angered at the inequities of conscription. The sergeant died of the wounds he received at Fort Wagner.

My sense watching "Glory" (and Glatthaar confirmed this) was that, in the main, it was historically accurate. Once Massachusetts Gov. John Andrew received permission in January 1863 to form a regiment of black soldiers, he offered Shaw the colonelcy of the 54th Massachusetts (Colored) Infantry. A thousand eager volunteers were trained near Boston, and sent in May to South Carolina where they participated ("unwillingly" Glatthaar notes) in the burning of Darien, Ga. On July 18, 1863, the 54th Massachusetts led the assault on Fort Wagner. Shaw died leading his men across the parapet, and the 54th Massachusetts suffered more than 40 percent casualties (killed, wounded, missing in action) in the fruitless attempt.

Glatthaar said, however, in a telephone interview from his home in Houston, that what is arguably the most powerful scene in the film, the scene where Trip is flogged for leaving the post to forage for a pair of shoes, is wholly inaccurate. In his book he documents many examples of the mistreatment of black soldiers by white officers, but he also notes the court-martial and dismissal from service of a colonel who "struck one soldier and whipped two drummer boys."

"It was the most disturbing scene in the movie," he said. "Congress outlawed whipping [in the military] in 1861. The soldier did not desert—he was absent without leave, which was the most common offense. He would have been entitled to a hearing, and the chances are that the most punishment he would have received would have been a month without pay or confinement."

The point here is that while black soldiers wanted to serve and willingly underwent hardships, there was a limit to what they would accept. They wanted to fight, but they wanted to be treated as men. Thus Glatthaar documents numerous instances of black soldiers rebelling against mis-

treatment, rebellions that led to charges of mutiny and to execution. The flogging in the film, Glatthaar said, "gives the public a sense that black soldiers would endure such abuse when in fact they would not."

Though Glatthaar said the film "really captures the essence of service in the U.S. Colored Troops," he also said it contains numerous minor historical errors. A scene where the troops refuse to accept their pay because they were being paid less than white soldiers did occur, but not in Massachusetts. It happened after the 54th Massachusetts had been sent to South Carolina. And Shaw did protest, as Peter Burchard recounts in "One Gallant Rush: Robert Gould Shaw and His Brave Black Regiment," one of the books on which the film is based. The colonel wrote Andrew that "if he [the paymaster] does not change his mind, I shall refuse to have the regiment paid. . . ." The men of the 54th continued to refuse to accept unequal pay after Shaw's death. At least one soldier's family was placed in the poorhouse, and the regimental historian, Capt. Luis F. Emilio, "reported that other stories of hardship . . . would fill a volume." It was not until 1864 that Congress passed a bill guaranteeing equal pay to men who had been free since 1861.

The film shows Frederick Douglass present at the Boston gathering where Andrew offers Shaw the command and Shaw accepts. But neither Douglass nor Andrew was present, for Shaw was in fact in Virginia, serving as a captain with the 2nd Massachusetts Regiment. What really happened was that Andrew wrote Shaw's father, Francis George Shaw, that he wanted the younger Shaw to raise the regiment, and enclosed a letter to

of 'Glory'

teer. We know, of course, wanted to fight for their freedom remains an abpt, not the concrete reality have been for men who firsthand, because most recruited to serve in (ment were free) the horry. Those who were esmade even greater sacriul masters often sold the s and children as punishse their men had gone to Union.

I think, to know what the Rawlins (the gravedigergeant major played by man) and Sharts (an illit: slave) were like before the Army. We want to they came from, what ind, what they feared and ped for.

story of the men who th Massachusetts is even ul and more moving than "Glory." They left their in letters to family and st of them were free and slaves as depicted in the ny were literate. It is a age—the first black man earned him the Conedal of Honor served in d a story that rends the ler this: Three days bele, the nephew of a ser-4th was stoned to death York draft riots where blacks were killed or ine mobs angered at the conscription. The ser-the wounds he received er.

watching "Glory" (and firmed this) was that, in as historically accurate. usetts Gov. John And permission in January a regiment of black soldred Shaw the colonelcy Massachusetts (Colored) usand eager volunteers near Boston, and sent in h. Carolina where they "unwillingly" Glatthaar burning of Darien, Ga. '63, the 54th Massachu assault on Fort Wagner. fng his men across the he 54th Massachusetts than 40 percent casual-unded, missing in ac-tless attempt.

id, however, in a teleew from his home in what is arguably the scene in the film, the rip is flogged for leav- o forage for a pair of lly inaccurate. In his ents many examples of nt of black soldiers by but he also notes the d dismissal from ser- l who "struck one solped two drummer

most disturbing scene e said. "Congress out-

treatment, rebellions that led to charges of mutiny and to execution. The flogging in the film, Glatthaar said, "gives the public a sense that black soldiers would endure such abuse when in fact they would not."

Though Glatthaar said the film "really captures the essence of service in the U.S. Colored Troops," he also said it contains numerous minor historical errors. A scene where the troops refuse to accept their pay because they were being paid less than white soldiers did occur, but not in Massachusetts. It happened after the 54th Massachusetts had been sent to South Carolina. And Shaw did protest, as Peter Burchard recounts in "One Gallant Rush: Robert Gould Shaw and His Brave Black Regiment," one of the books on which the film is based. The colonel wrote Andrew that "if he [the paymaster] does not change his mind, I shall refuse to have the regiment paid. . . ." The men of the 54th continued to refuse to accept unequal pay after Shaw's death. At least one soldier's family was placed in the poorhouse, and the regimental historian, Capt. Luis F. Emilio, "reported that other stories of hardship . . . would 'fill a volume.'" It was not until 1864 that Congress passed a bill guaranteeing equal pay to men who had been free since 1861.

The film shows Frederick Douglass present at the Boston gathering where Andrew offers Shaw the command and Shaw accepts. But neither Douglass nor Andrew was present, for Shaw was in fact in Virginia, serving as a captain with the 2nd Massachusetts Regiment. What really happened was that Andrew wrote Shaw's father, Francis George Shaw, that he wanted the younger Shaw to raise the regiment, and enclosed a letter to

Robert Gould Shaw himself. Francis Shaw felt the matter so important that he left immediately on receiving it to take it to his son in Virginia. At first, the younger Shaw refused and gave a letter to his father to that effect.

Shaw does not seem to have doubted the ability of blacks to be soldiers, or to have feared execution should he be captured. It was, instead, Burchard writes, that Shaw seems to have doubted his own ability. He was also soon to be married and he had made many friends in the 2nd Massachusetts. Nonetheless, Shaw understood the importance of the task he had been offered. As a child, he had been brought to his grandfather's deathbed, where his grandfather exhorted him "to use your example and your influence against intemperance and slavery." Shortly after his father had left, Shaw telegraphed him, asking him to destroy his letter and to tell Andrew that he had accepted.

Though it was a Massachusetts regiment, many of the men who served in the 54th came from elsewhere—New York, Pennsylvania, and as far away as Illinois and Michigan. So many men were recruited that Andrew gave permission for the formation of a second regiment, the 55th Massachusetts. Two of Frederick Douglass's sons volunteered for the 54th, and one, Lewis, became its sergeant major—in the film the sergeant major is the former gravedigger played by Morgan Freeman.

"Glory" shows Shaw invading a quartermaster's office and threatening the destruction of his stores if his men are not issued socks and shoes. While the scene represents the reality of the opposition to black troops on the part of many white officers, Glatthaar said it is not likely to have happened. The men were issued uniforms on reporting to their training ground in Readville, near Boston, and they lived in wooden barracks, not tents as shown in the film.

And, finally, the film shows Shaw blackmailing Brig. Gen. George C. Strong into allowing his men to fight by threatening to expose the general's activities in sending spoils of war North for personal gain. In reality, Glatthaar pointed out, Shaw respected Strong's military abilities and had written Strong that he was disappointed his regiment would have no role in the attack on Fort Wagner. It was Strong who asked that the 54th be transferred to his command so that it could lead the attack. Though Strong may have believed in the fighting worth of the black troops, the division commander, Maj. Gen. Truman Seymour, did not. Seymour consented to Strong's request, saying, "Well, I guess we will let Strong lead and put those d—d niggers from Massachusetts in the advance; we may as well get rid of them one time as another."

Once the battle was over (as the film shows), Shaw was buried in a common trench with his men, not in a separate grave as had been provided for the other white officers who had fallen. The Confederate general who ordered this is reported to have said "he is buried with his niggers," but another attested to his valor and that of his men, saying, "The Negroes fought gallantly, and were headed by as brave a colonel as ever lived." When Shaw's father learned that his son's body might be recovered for a more fitting burial, he asked that it be left where it was in tribute to the achievement of the 54th. And once the war was over, Burchard writes, Shaw's family contributed to the rebuilding of Darien.

It may be that most people who see "Glory" won't be concerned about the license the filmmakers take with historical fact. Certainly, the case can be made that the narrative exigencies of

filmmaking demanded the story be told a certain way. It may also be that most people—black members of the audience when I saw the film repeatedly cheered the exploits of the 54th Massachusetts—won't be concerned with the filmmakers' failure of imagination when it comes to depicting fully rounded black characters. And in the end, of course, nothing can diminish the achievement of the blacks who served in the 54th Massachusetts and who died at Fort Wagner.

At the beginning of the Civil War, few whites seriously believed that black men would make good soldiers. By war's end, some 180,000 black soldiers would have served in the Union Army, and the Confederates had begun to recruit blacks as privates. The importance of the battle at Fort Wagner, then, was not so much military as it was social and psychological—there and at Port Hudson and Milliken's Bend (where one black regiment lost nearly half its men)—black soldiers proved their worth in blood. Afterward, their valor and their fitness could no longer be questioned.

The conditions under which they served are almost unimaginable to us today. After the war was over, and the experiment of Reconstruction ended with the ascension of Jim Crow and the return of many blacks to peonage, it was clear that they received little reward. Glatthaar ends his book by telling of a black soldier who for nearly 60 years paraded with other Civil War veterans every Fourth of July: "Led by a dignitary or high-ranking officer, next came the white ex-soldiers, and at the tail end of the column marched black veterans. To James F. Mitchell and his friends, it was embarrassing to bring up the rear guard each year, yet they did it as long as they were able physi-

See GLORY, G7, Col. 1

GLORY, From G6

cally. . . . In their opinion it was much more important to endure the insult and participate in the parade, to remind the local citizenry that blacks sacrificed for the country and to show how proud they were to have taken part in the war for reunion and freedom, than to snub the opportunity and help them forget the role of the United States Colored Troops in the Civil War."

I suppose the final answer in all of this, the real reason for the reservations I have about the film, is that I want "Glory" to be more than it is, want it to be the story of black heroism and determination, of the black struggle to be allowed to be wholly American. That story is the story of the faith of our fathers. "Glory" gives us a sense of this, perhaps more than we have ever seen before on the screen, but the whole story is so much more than that.

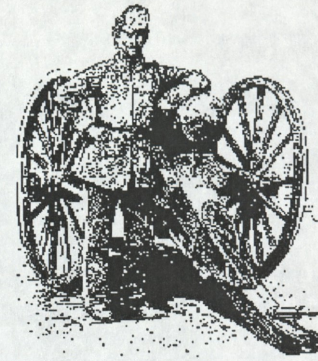
David Nicholson is a writer and editor for the Post's Book World Section and the former editor of the quarterly magazine Black Film Review.

Battery Wagner, the Assault of July 18, 1863

Part of [Civil War @ Charleston Website](#).

Contents:

1. [Capsule History](#)
2. [Period Accounts](#)
3. [Images](#)
4. [Units Engaged](#)
5. [Bibliography on Battery Wagner](#)



Capsule History

In early July, an amphibious federal force landed at Lighthouse Inlet at the north end of Morris Island and overran two thirds of the island before being stopped at Battery Wagner, a point which kept Federal guns just beyond range of Charleston, SC.

On July 18, 1863 General Quincy Gilmore threw an assault against Battery Wagner on Morris Island, which guarded the Southern approaches to Charleston Harbor. His goal was to capture the Battery and the remainder of the low, sandy, flea infested island (known locally as coffin island due to its use as a Lazzaretto and leper colony prior to the war). The fort was held by a small garrison of Confederate Infantry and Artillery and protected by a narrow approach up the beach, constricted by a marshy creek which funneled the soldiers onto a strip of sand a few hundred feet wide. After a heavy naval and land bombardment, an assault force led by the 54th. Massachusetts, an experimental black regiment of free men from the North went in with fixed bayonets to storm the fort. The bombardment had failed to destroy the sandbagged gun emplacements of the Fort and the assault column marched into a heavy artillery barrage and massed musketry. Much of the Fort's garrison consisted of troops from the Charleston area, including the [Charleston Battallion](#). The 1st. S.C. Artillery was positioned on the right flank of the fort, in the sand dunes so as to sweep the front wall of the Fort with Cannister. Fighting was fierce. The Federals were able to occupy a small portion of the fort and the 54th. planted its colors atop the parapet. After lengthy hand to hand fighting, the Federal troops were ordered to withdraw, leaving Wagner in Confederate hands. Losses were heavy.

Gen. Gilmore decided to attempt to take Wagner by siege, digging zig zag trenches towards the fort and moving his large guns to into ever closer range. The Navy also pounded Wagner from the sea, using a large calcium light at night to prevent Confederates from rebuilding the fort. On some days a shell was thrown into Wagner every 30 seconds for hours at a time. The Fort held out another 58 days under heavy bombardment before being abandoned in September. During this period the [shelling of Charleston began](#).

The July 18 Assault was featured in the movie *Glory*.

While portions of Morris Island still exist, most of the island eroded away after the war and the site of the Fort is today underwater. (The site of the Star of the West Battery/Battery Gregg on the North East end of the island has survived. The [Swamp Angel Battery](#) behind the island has been preserved.) The island's appearance now, however, is similar to that it had during the war, low, sandy and covered with scrub

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN, INC. (TAI)

THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

Due to the rigid pattern of segregation that prevailed in the United States during World War II, the training of 996 Black military aviators was concentrated at an isolated specially constructed Army Airfield near Tuskegee, Alabama and at Tuskegee Institute. The first contingent of the 99th Pursuit Squadron, (later designated as Fighter Squadron) was a group of enlisted technical and administrative specialists and five Aviation Cadets, all of whom were trained at Chanute Field, Rantoul, Illinois, the U. S. Army Air Corps Technical Training School. These individuals established a grade point average as a group, never equalled before or after, during their training period April to November 1941.

Four hundred and fifty Black fighter pilots, under command of Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., (later to become the USAF's first Black Lieutenant General), fought the aerial war over North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Southern France, and Europe flying P-40, P-39, P-47, and P-51 aircraft. These gallant men flew 15,553 sorties and completed 1,578 combat missions while assigned to the U. S. Army's XII (Tactical) and XV (Strategic) Air Forces. The 99th Fighter Squadron, already distinguished by its impressive combat record in North Africa, Sicily, and over Anzio beachhead, was joined by the 100th, 301st and 302nd Fighter Squadrons, comprising the 332nd Fighter Group.

This Group was labelled and recognized as the "Schwarze Vogelmenchen" (Black Birdmen) by the Luftwaffe. The American bomber crews called the 332nd the "Red Tails" because of the identifying brightly painted red tail assemblies. The 332nd earned an unequalled record for never having lost a single bomber under its escort cover, to enemy air action, during the en route, penetration and withdrawal phases of strategic bombardment operations all over the European continent. The Group flew four squadrons, each providing 16 aircraft plus two spares, totalling 72 fighters, an awesome force. Its combat achievement record comprises destruction of enemy aircraft in the air and on the ground, airfields, rail traffic and facilities, oil refineries, ammunition depots, barges, one destroyer and many assigned military targets. The Black aviators were awarded 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, many more Air Medals and Clusters, Legions of Merit, the Red Star of Yugoslavia and the Presidential Unit Citation. Not to be forgotten are the contributions of skilled dedicated mechanics, armorers, ordnance, and seldom mentioned technical and administrative personnel who made this impressive combat record possible.

Other Black pilots, navigators, bombardiers, gunners and maintenance personnel were trained and groomed as the 477th Medium (B-25) Bombardment Group, comprising the 616th, 617th, 618th and 619th Squadrons. The surrender of Germany and Japan precluded their commitment to combat, so they were never deployed overseas. However, they fought an equally important war in the States where hatred, prejudice and discrimination had grown to incredible levels during the greatest war ever experienced by mankind. Their stubborn and unrelenting resistance to demoralizing segregation, by high military and political officials, spearheaded the first action to smash armed forces discrimination and later led to the follow-on civil rights movements. Their success was marked by the elevation of three pioneers to flag rank: the late General Daniel "Chappie" James to four-star general; Lieutenant General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr (retired) to three-star level, and Major General Lucius D. Theus (retired) to two-star level.

Major achievements are attributable to Tuskegee Airmen, who returned to civil life and there again demonstrated their will to progress and succeed, earning prestigious positions of importance and respect as corporate executives, judges, lawyers, doctors, surgeons, engineers, educators, scientists, and political and religious leaders. The anonymity of the Tuskegee Airmen ended in August 1973, when, in Washington, D.C., the body voted and installed its first slate of National Officers and divided the continental U.S. into three functioning regions - Eastern, Central, and Western Regions respectively.

The common goal of all Tuskegee Airmen is to motivate, inspire and stimulate young people's minds to aspire to, seek and achieve successful careers in the fields of aerospace and aviation. To this end they devote time, effort and financial resources to capture young minds, to instill the undying will to learn, sacrifice and attain a self-sustaining status with marketable skills. The national organization of Tuskegee Airmen's Scholarship Fund awards \$30,000.00 in scholarships annually to young people across the country. The East Coast Chapter provides, in the Washington, D.C. area educational assistance grants of a total of \$10,000.00 to youths who have demonstrated an ability and desire to learn and progress, in aviation and aerospace careers. Other Tuskegee Airmen achievements include acquisition of its National Historical Museum at historic Fort Wayne, Detroit, Michigan, which serves as a repository for its archives and memorabilia; and a bronze statue of a Black World War II pilot, located on the grounds of the USAF Academy, Colorado Springs. There are thirty-two active Chapters located in major cities and military installations throughout the 50 States, all directed toward inspiration and motivation of our youth. All officers, directors, and board members of this tax-exempt organization serve without salary or fee.

SOURCE: SMITHSONIAN LECTURE, JULY 26, 1995 by Col. (ret)
William De Shields, historian & founder of the Black
Military Institute of America.

mortars. Making up a battalion quarters company, and a heavy machine guns, two .50 caliber ordnance included fourteen 60mm and six 81mm mortars,

ions, a regimental HQ, a head-company of 118 men, three .50 and an antitank company of 165 strength was 3,256; ordnance included machine guns, twenty-seven 60mm antitank guns, and six 105mm

ved 3 regiments, a divisional HQ, company, a 147-man ordnance 26-man signal company, an engine 461 men; div arty (divisional ar-caliber machine guns, thirty-six and a recon company of 155 men, tars, and 13 light armored cars. n .30 caliber and two hundred n and fifty-four 81mm mortars, n and twelve 155mm howitzers,

ventory of the American ground ne gun, weighing 33.5 pounds, 20 rounds per minute, and the fire a 33-pound shell to a range rounds per minute in sustained erican GI's on the ground was, at, with a speed of 320 m.p.h. and two 100-pound bombs. The Japanese Zero fighter plane. It 7.7mm machine guns and two

ervices of the United States and

s	Japan
	2,100,000
	—
	291,359
	—
	—
	2,391,359

Pearl Harbor: 1941

The Japanese strike on Pearl Harbor, nefarious as it may have been in the good-sport school of warfare because of its "sneak attack" without a declaration of war, was one of the most daring and successful surprise attacks in military history. The Japanese strike force under Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo (the attack was planned by Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto) consisted of 31 ships, including 6 aircraft carriers, 2 battleships, 2 heavy cruisers, 1 light cruiser, 9 destroyers, 3 submarines, and 8 tankers. Aboard the carriers were 432 aircraft—29 for the CAP (Combat Air Patrol), in defense of the fleet, 40 in reserve, and 353 available for the raid. An Advance Expeditionary Force of 28 submarines, 5 of which carried 1 midget sub each, joined the carriers' aircraft in attacking the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in Oahu in the Hawaiian Islands on Sunday morning, December 7, 1941. Although the American military had received considerable intelligence pointing toward a possible Japanese attack, the U.S. commanders, Lieutenant General Walter C. Short and Admiral Husband E. Kimmel, did not prepare their forces for imminent attack. Luckily, the three U.S. aircraft carriers, *Lexington*, *Enterprise*, and *Saratoga*, were not in anchorage, but the disaster was extensive as it was.

The first wave of 191 planes—40 torpedo bombers, 49 high-level bombers, 51 dive-bombers, and 51 fighters—came in at 7:55 A.M. A second wave of 170 aircraft followed and by 10:00 A.M. it was all over, with the U.S. Pacific Fleet left stricken. Of 96 ships in harbor, 18 were lost or seriously damaged. Of 394 aircraft—of which the U.S. Army had 93 fighters, 35 bombers, and 11 observation planes combat ready and the U.S. Navy had 15 fighters, 61 patrol, 36 scout, and 45 others available for action—188 were destroyed (96 Army and 92 Navy) and 159 were damaged (128 Army and 31 Navy). Another 5 planes from the *Enterprise* were later shot down by friendly fire, with 3 pilots killed.

The greatest loss was the battleship *Arizona*, which blew up and sank at 8:10 A.M., carrying down with her 1,177 of her crew of 1,543. Also sunk were the battleship *Oklahoma*, which lost 447 killed out of a crew of 1,354, the old battleship *Utah*, which had been converted to a target ship, and 2 destroyers, *Cassin* and *Downes*. Severely damaged but salvageable were battleships *West Virginia*, which lost 105 killed out of 1,500 aboard, *California*, which counted 98 dead, and *Nevada*, which lost 50 of its crew killed. The minelayer *Ogallala* was also demolished but later reclaimed. Also hit but less vitally damaged were battleships *Tennessee*, *Maryland*, and *Pennsylvania*, and cruisers *Helena*, *Honolulu*, and *Raleigh*.

Personnel losses were also heavy. The U.S. Navy lost 2,008 KIA, 710 WIA. In this one 2-hour-long attack, the American fleet had suffered three times as many casualties as it had incurred in the Spanish-American War and World War I combined. The U.S. Army counted 218 KIA, 364 WIA. The Marine Corps lost 109 KIA, 69 WIA. Losses at Hickham Field alone had been 163 KIA, 336 WIA, 43 MIA. The total number of military dead was 2,335 and the wounded 1,143. In addition, 68 civilians were slain and 35 wounded.

For this overwhelming triumph of air power over sea power, the Japanese lost only 29 aircraft (20 of them from the second wave)—9 fighters, 15 dive-bombers, 5 torpedo planes—55 airmen slain, all 5 midget subs with 9 crewmen aboard, and 1 conventional submarine, lost with its entire crew of 65, for a total of 129.

CRS C

Warfare and Armed Conflicts

*A Statistical Reference to
Casualty and Other Figures,
1618-1991*

by
Micheal Clodfelter

©1992

VOLUME II
1900-1991
*Bibliography
Index*

© Copyright Claimant. Reproduced
by CRS for use of Members of Congress
in their legislative duties.



McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers
Jefferson, North Carolina, and London

NINETY-SECOND INFANTRY DIVISION

....*World War II Buffalo Soldiers*

SOURCE: *Ninety-Second Infantry Division World War II Association and the Appendix to the Congressional Record, Volume 92 - Part 9, January 14, 1946 to March 8, 1946. Submitted by Spencer Moore, Magnolia, New Jersey. Mr. Moore, a former Captain with the 92nd Infantry Division, is currently Director of Public Relations of the 92nd Infantry Division Association*

The 92nd Infantry Division was reactivated for duty in World War II on October 15, 1942, less than a year after Pearl Harbor. Immediately after activation its units were distributed among four military encampments: Fort McClellan, Alabama; Camp Atterbury, Indiana; Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky; and Camp Robinson, Arkansas. Seven months later, all components of the Division arrived at Fort Huachuca, Arizona to continue training before deployment overseas. The division was composed of Black enlisted personnel and a mix of black and white officer personnel. All senior commanders were white.

During April, 1944, at the completion of Corps Maneuvers in the vicinity of Merryville and De Rider, Louisiana, the division commander, Major General Edward M. Almond, announced that the 92nd Division would join the Fifth U.S. Army in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations. The first unit to sail overseas was the 370th Combat Team (CT 370) which departed the United States on July 15, 1944.

The regimental combat team went into the line on the Fifth Army front in Italy in August, 1944. Ten minutes later they went into action against some of the best trained and seasoned troops Hitler had in his army.

From then on, until the Italian campaign finally ended with the surrender of a million crack German troops in April 1945, the 92nd Division fought in General Mark Clark's Fifth Army. Some of them were in the line as long as 68 days at a stretch, more that 2 months.

It is one of the marvels of the war that the 92nd Division with an enlisted personnel made up almost entirely of Black soldiers from the South, who had been sent out to work in the fields before they were even adolescents, and who in many cases never had a chance to learn to read or write. They had grown up in an area where they and their people were always treated as inferiors and sometime less than humans. Despite this stayed in there week in and week out, through some of the harshest fighting in the whole war, against Hitler's best, a superb army of self-assured German veterans fighting with all they had to protect their homeland from the attack rolling up from the South.

The 92nd Division consisted of approximately 12,000 officers and men, including some 200 white officers and 600 black officers. Its enlisted personnel was all black - a majority of them rated as IV and V, the lowest grades in the Army classifications. This was largely due to the fact that three-fourths of them came from Southern States, where educational opportunities for blacks were practically non-existent. And the 92nd Division was activated before the Army educational program - designed to carry a man only through the fourth grade in school - got under way. But these men - ill equipped as they were - did their job. They stayed in there, giving their best, day in and day out, seesawing back and forth through the rain and cold and mud, locked in a titanic death struggle with an experienced, magnificently trained enemy who knew all the tricks and who had never known defeat.

Through the whole bitter experience, the men of the 92nd Division were dogged by the racial prejudice

and segregation that had followed them from the Southern camps where they trained at home. Other troops might yield temporarily, but there was no comment. But if the 92nd Division lost a yard one day - even though they might gain it back the next day - the reports went back across the Atlantic and soon theirs from home would tell them of loud-mouths screaming, even on the floor of Congress, that the Negro soldiers were cracking, that the Negro soldiers were no good.

The Fifth Army in which the 92nd fought was made up of British, American, Brazilian, French, Italian, Greek, Polish, Palestinian, New Zealand, and East Indian troops. It was in this Fifth Army that the Japanese Americans so greatly distinguished themselves - the Japanese American 100th Infantry Battalion, one of the first outfits to receive a Presidential Unit Citation for fighting in Italy.

On April 30, 1945, General Clark announced that the long, weary, bitter campaign, begun on the beaches of Salerno in September 1943, had ended. His polyglot troops had so smashed the German armies in Italy that they had been virtually eliminated as a military force. Nearly 1,000,000 Germans in Northern Italy and Western Austria laid down their arms in unconditional surrender on May 2, 1945, at 2 p.m. The surrender had been signed in the royal palace of Caserta on April 29, by representatives of the German commander, Col. Gen. Heinrich von Vietinghoff-Scheel, and of the Allied Mediterranean commander, Field Marshall Sir Harold R. L. G. Alexander.

On the day the campaign in Italy ended, the 92nd Division had lost almost one-fourth of its men through casualties. Three hundred and thirty had been killed in action, 2,215 wounded, and 616 were missing in action.

A soldier of the 92nd Division, Private Woodall I. Marsh, of Pittsburgh, Pa., was the first Black to win the Silver Star in Italy. He got it for taking 12 wounded paratroopers from the front lines to safety in his truck, after officers said it could not be done.

When he was told that he could not make it because the water of a raging torrent he had to ford to get to the wounded paratroopers was too deep, Private Marsh replied: "Well, there's dirt underneath ain't there?" and he proceeded to ford it.

Under terrific enemy fire, he drove his truck through water up to the hubs of the wheels to get to the wounded men. On return trip, he tried another route, but it turned out to be just as bad. He had to dig his truck out of the muck and mire again and again. For 30 minutes during the trip, the Germans were trying to get him and his truck with heavy mortar and artillery fire.

Another hero of the 92nd Division was Second Lieutenant Vernon J. Baker, of Cheyenne, Wyoming, a rifle platoon leader. He won the Distinguished Service Cross for the bravery he exhibited in action on 2 days, April 5 and 6, 1945, near Viareggio, Italy. The citation reads: "Second Lieutenant Baker, demonstrated outstanding courage and leadership in destroying enemy installations, personnel, and equipment during his company's attack against a strongly entrenched enemy in mountainous terrain."

"When his company was stopped by the concentrated fire from several machine-gun emplacements, he crawled to one position and destroyed it, killing three Germans. Continuing forward, he attacked an enemy observation post and killed its two occupants."

"With the aid of one of his men, 2nd Lieutenant Baker attacked two more machine-gun nests, killing or wounding the four enemy soldiers occupying these positions. He then covered the evacuation of the wounded personnel of his company by occupying an exposed position and drawing the enemy's fire."

“On the following night 2nd Lieutenant Baker voluntarily led a battalion advance through enemy mine fields and heavy fire toward the division objective. Second Lieutenant Baker’s fighting spirit and daring leadership were an inspiration to his men and exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces.”

One of the officers of the 92nd Division awarded posthumously the Silver Star for gallantry in action was Captain Charles F. Gaudy, Jr., of Washington, D.C. On October 12, 1944, Captain Gandy was ordered to deploy his company in position on difficult mountainous terrain. His citation states: “He personally led his company out in broad daylight and, through further reconnaissance and by personal example and leadership, succeeded in getting his entire company across a canal, with an abrupt 12-foot wall. This was accomplished in rain and under extremely heavy enemy fire.”

“Halting the company at its intermediate objective, Captain Gandy went forward alone to reconnoiter the route of the next movement. While engaged in this activity, he was mortally wounded by enemy machine-gun fire. His outstanding gallantry and leadership in combat exemplifies the heroic traditions of the United States Army.”

Lieutenant Theodore O. Smith, aged 24 years, was killed in action in Italy on February 11, 1945, 1 month after he had been awarded the Silver Star for his bravery in leading a small patrol on a mission that netted the Americans two Nazi prisoners and four enemy dead. According to the citation, Lieutenant Smith led his 14-man patrol 2 miles across a mined area through enemy lines to climb up a mountain where the enemy was holding out.

Risking his life to lead the mission, his action made it possible for the Americans to accomplish their objective and capture a strategically important point on the Fifth Army front. Lieutenant Smith was a native of the District of Columbia. He was a graduate of the Dunbar High School and received the degree of bachelor of arts from Howard University, where he was a captain in the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps.

First Lieutenant John M. Madison was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action with the 92nd Division in Italy on February 8 and 10, 1945. The first action for which he was cited occurred after his company had taken its objective against light enemy resistance. Immediately afterwards the enemy subjected the position to terrific artillery and mortar fire which killed or wounded all officers except Lieutenant Madison.

“Extremely heavy casualties and the loss of leadership disorganized the company, and it sought to withdraw,” the citation said. “First Lieutenant Madison quickly gathered the remaining 15 men, and regardless of continuing enemy fire put them into positions to hold the hill. By sheer personal courage and disregard for his own life, First Lieutenant Madison inspired his men to repel three separate enemy counterattacks aimed exclusively at their position. He withdrew only upon orders. Two days later he captured seven enemy soldiers while leading his company in an attack routed through an extensive unmarked mine field.” Lieutenant Madison was killed in subsequent action with the 92nd Division on April 5, 1945.

First Lieutenant William E. Porter, of Indianapolis, Indiana, who was also awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action, exposed himself to enemy arms while his company advanced on its objective under a hail of machine-gun fire. With his unit pinned to the ground, Lieutenant Porter succeeded in eliminating the machine-gun nest, killing the German officer in command and forcing the gun crew to surrender.

During a patrol action Staff Sergeant Mansfield Mason, of Baltimore, Maryland, distinguished himself by heroic conduct. Acting on information that some Germans had been seen to enter a house near a village,

his patrol surrounded the building and effectively covered all of its approaches. Sergeant Mason then crawled to within 30 feet of the house in the face of withering machine-gun fire. He hurled three hand grenades into the building and shifted his position slightly. Out walked five Germans, including an officer, to surrender.

While overseas the 92nd received 12,096 decorations - including 2 Distinguished Service Crosses, 1 Distinguished Service Medal, 16 Legion of Merit awards, 7 Oak-Leaf Clusters to Silver Stars, 95 Silver Stars, 6 Soldier's Medals, 723 Bronze Stars, 1,891 Purple Hearts, and 7,996 combat infantry badges. It also received 205 commendations.

The 92nd came home during the latter part of 1945, landing in Boston, New York, and Norfolk. Only 4,000 were left of the once 12,000-strong 92nd Division whose ranks, like those of other Divisions that fought overseas, had been thinned by transfers, discharges, and deaths.

Please send comments or questions to:

LWF PUBLICATIONS
P.O. Box 26148
Trotwood, Ohio 45426-0148
E-mail: lwf@coax.net

Back to [Lest We Forget Home Page](#)



This site developed and maintained with assistance from COAX-NET Internet Services
Please send comments or questions to:
netmgr@coax.net

**AMERICAN FORCES INFORMATION SERVICE
NEWS ARTICLES****Truman's Order Begins Long Process of Desegregation**

By Douglas J. Gillert
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- When President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981 on July 26, 1948, he began a process that ultimately would create a racially integrated armed forces.

Truman was motivated by the convergence of a number of events, according to Joint Chiefs of Staff historian Mickey Schubert.

"America had just fought a war against militarism and racism overseas, making it hard to sustain a segregationist policy back home," Schubert said. Growing instability on the Korean Peninsula and the emerging Cold War with the Soviet Union also convinced the president and his advisers of the need for a large standing army.

In South Carolina, a sheriff went unpunished after he intentionally blinded Isaac Woodard, a black former Army sergeant. "This really touched President Truman," Schubert said.

Moved by tragedy and practicality, backed by political and military advisers, Truman issued his historic document, ordering equal treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed forces and establishing a committee to oversee military desegregation.

"It is hereby declared to be the policy of the president that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed forces without regard to race, color, religion or national origin," the order proclaimed. The document set in motion a process that over the next two decades would create the kind of military Schubert found when he was commissioned in the Army in 1965.

"I was a lieutenant. I worked for majors and lieutenant colonels who were black. There were specialists who were black and worked for me," said Schubert, who is white. "By 1965, the period [of integration] was completed."

Integration restored the armed forces to its pre-Civil War condition, Schubert said. "There were black people serving in the American Revolution, the War of 1812 and at other times, and they just served alongside whites," he said. Segregated, all-black units would come decades later.

Although thousands of blacks served with valor and distinction in the Civil War, they were assigned to segregated units of the Union Army. After the war, most blacks who served did so as stewards and mess men or in a number of other service and labor jobs. Those who were smart and talented and wanted to get ahead couldn't, Schubert said.

"After the Spanish-American War expanded the Army, there were

1,400 men commissioned from enlisted ranks and civil life. Two were black," he said. "Good, talented black enlisted men who should have had commissions weren't getting them, and couldn't get them no matter how hard they tried."

In the 20th century, blacks would again distinguish themselves in battle. All-black units like the 93rd Infantry Division of World War I, the 92nd and 93rd divisions and 99th Fighter Squadron of World War II, and the 24th Infantry Regiment in Korea proved their mettle and patriotism under fire.

Back in rear areas and stateside garrisons, however, black service members felt the brunt of racial prejudice in the inadequate housing and shabby treatment they endured because of the color of their skin and a national "separate but equal" policy that had been the law of the land since the last century.

"When World War II ended, it was pretty plain something had to be done," Schubert said. Integrating the armed forces "was morally right and politically necessary."

Army Air Forces officers like Col. Benjamin O. Davis, leader of the famed Tuskegee Airmen, and Lt. Gen. Jimmy Doolittle, who had recently returned to civilian life, were proponents for separate reasons. Davis wanted his fellow blacks to receive equal treatment and opportunity. Doolittle and other senior officers foresaw the long-term need for large standing forces for a protracted Cold War.

Not all military leaders agreed, but with the Air Force leading the way and under the mandate of Truman's executive order, the armed forces began tearing down racial barriers.

Truman's policy came on the heels of another important milestone in America's struggle toward racial equality: Jackie Robinson's introduction to major league baseball. Both events were of extreme importance to the country, Schubert said, because they laid the groundwork for the desegregation of society as a whole.

"The military didn't exist in a tennis camp, but side-by-side with racist communities throughout the country," he said.

"Ultimately, [the armed forces] had the effect of dragging those communities into the modern era. Because of its fairly early changes, the military was a very important agent for change nationally."

Could racial integration of the military have occurred faster? Schubert thinks so and gives the military a B-minus for its slow start following the desegregation order.

"Because it took so long for the processes to work," he added. "For the last generation, I think the grade is very good. Today, I'd say the military is one of the fairest of American institutions."

http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Jul1998/n07171998_9807163.html

Return to [Naval Historical Center home page.](#)  Return to [Frequently Asked Questions page.](#)



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY – NAVAL HISTORICAL CENTER
901 M STREET SE – WASHINGTON NAVY YARD
WASHINGTON DC 20374-5060

Ship's Cook Third Class Doris Miller, USN

Related Resources:

- [Transcript of Service](#)
- [Citation for Navy Cross of Doris Miller](#)
- [African American in the U.S. Navy: A Bibliography](#)
- [Ships Present at Pearl Harbor, 0800 7 December 1941](#)
- [National Archives: War in the Pacific: Mess Attendant First Class Doris Miller](#)

Doris Miller, known as "Dorie" to shipmates and friends, was born in Waco, Texas, on 12 October 1919, to Henrietta and Conery Miller. He had three brothers, one of which served in the Army during World War II. While attending Moore High School in Waco, he was a fullback on the football team. He worked on his father's farm before enlisting in the U.S. Navy as Mess Attendant, Third Class, at Dallas, Texas, on 16 September 1939, to travel, and earn money for his family. He later was commended by the Secretary of the Navy, was advanced to Mess Attendant, Second Class and First Class, and subsequently was promoted to Ship's Cook, Third Class.



Following training at the Naval Training Station, Norfolk, Virginia, Miller was assigned to the ammunition ship USS *Pyro* (AE-1) where he served as a Mess Attendant, and on 2 January 1940 was transferred to USS *West Virginia* (BB-48), where he became the ship's heavyweight boxing champion. In July of that year he had temporary duty aboard USS *Nevada* (BB-36) at Secondary Battery Gunnery School. He returned to *West Virginia* and on 3 August, and was serving in that battleship when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941. Miller had arisen at 6 a.m., and was collecting laundry when the alarm for general quarters sounded. He headed for his battle station, the anti-aircraft battery magazine amidship, only to discover that torpedo damage had wrecked it, so he went on deck. Because of his physical prowess, he was assigned to carry wounded fellow sailors to places of greater safety. Then an officer ordered him to the bridge to aid the mortally wounded Captain of the ship. He subsequently manned a 50 caliber Browning anti-aircraft machine gun until he ran out of ammunition and was ordered to abandon ship.

Miller described firing the machine gun during the battle, a weapon which he had not been trained to operate: "It wasn't hard. I just pulled the trigger and she worked fine. I had watched the others with these guns. I guess I fired her for about fifteen minutes. I think I got one of those Jap planes. They were diving pretty close to us."

During the attack, Japanese aircraft dropped two armored piercing bombs through the deck of the battleship and launched five 18-inch aircraft torpedoes into her port side. Heavily damaged by the ensuing explosions, and suffering from severe flooding below decks, the crew abandoned ship while *West Virginia* slowly settled to the harbor bottom. Of the 1,541 men on *West Virginia* during the attack, 130 were killed and 52 wounded. Subsequently refloated, repaired, and modernized, the battleship served in the Pacific theater through to the end of the war in August 1945.

Miller was commended by the Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox on 1 April 1942, and on 27 May 1942 he received the Navy Cross, which Fleet Admiral (then Admiral) Chester W. Nimitz, the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet personally presented to Miller on board aircraft carrier USS *Enterprise* (CV-6) for his extraordinary courage in battle. Speaking of Miller, Nimitz remarked:

This marks the first time in this conflict that such high tribute has been made in the Pacific Fleet to a member of his race and I'm sure that the future will see others similarly honored for brave acts.

On 13 December 1941, Miller reported to USS *Indianapolis* (CA-35), and subsequently returned to the west coast of the United States in November 1942. Assigned to the newly constructed USS *Liscome Bay* (CVE-56) in the spring of 1943, Miller was on board that escort carrier during Operation Galvanic, the seizure of Makin and Tarawa Atolls in the Gilbert Islands. *Liscome Bay's* aircraft supported operations ashore between 20-23 November 1943. At 5:10 a.m. on 24 November, while cruising near Butaritari Island, a single torpedo from Japanese submarine *I-175* struck the escort carrier near the stern. The aircraft bomb magazine detonated a few moments later, sinking the warship within minutes. Listed as missing following the loss of that escort carrier, Miller was officially presumed dead 25 November 1944, a year and a day after the loss of *Liscome Bay*. Only 272 sailors survived the sinking of *Liscome Bay*, while 646 died.

In addition to the Navy Cross, Miller was entitled to the Purple Heart Medal; the American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp; the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; and the World War II Victory Medal.

Commissioned on 30 June 1973, USS *Miller* (FF-1091), a *Knox*-class frigate, was named in honor of Doris Miller.

21 May 1998

25TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1996 Air Force Association
Air Force Magazine

March, 1996

SECTION: Pg. 52

LENGTH: 2681 words

HEADLINE: Tuskegee Airmen

BYLINE: By Col. Alan L. Gropman, USAF (Ret.); Col. Alan L. Gropman, USAF (Ret.), an instructor at National Defense University, has published widely on the topic of the Tuskegee Airmen. His most recent article for Air Force Magazine, a book review of *Eagle Against the Sun: The American War with Japan*, by Ronald H. Spector, appeared in the June 1986 issue.

HIGHLIGHT:

They did more than fight the enemy. They blew open the door to the Air Force for African-Americans.

BODY:

THE Army Air Corps in January 1941 contained no African-Americans. One decade later, tens of thousands were serving in a racially integrated Air Force, working in every specialty. This revolutionary reform was inspired by the success of America's first black combat pilots, airmen who flew in World War II and in the immediate postwar era. The aviators were trained at Tuskegee AAF, Ala., and have always been known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

The Air Force was the first service to integrate its ranks fully. It began the process in 1949 because the Tuskegee Airmen, despite suffering terrible discrimination in World War II, had demonstrated that they could fly and fight against Hitler's best. This achievement undermined the foundation of segregation -- the belief that blacks were inferior to whites. If blacks could arm, maintain, and fly airplanes as well as whites could, no one could assert a legitimate basis for segregation.

And on this last point, no question remained. During the last phase of World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen escort squadrons were employed as frequently as any other fighter squadrons in their theater, and they were uniquely successful in defending AAF B-17s and B-24s against German attack. In the post-World War II period, the service's lone black flying wing continued to be a competent fighter organization, often winning major awards.

Many who have studied the subject of armed forces integration credit President Harry S. Truman with this reform. The fact is, however, that the Air Force's racial integration announcement came in April 1948, months before the presidential decree. Only in July 1948 did the President announce his Executive Order 9981. At that, the order called only for equal opportunity and never mentioned integration.

The magnitude of the Air Force's decision to integrate is increased by the



LEXIS·NEXIS[™]
A member of the Reed Elsevier plc group



LEXIS·NEXIS[™]
A member of the Reed Elsevier plc group



LEXIS·NEXIS[™]
A member of the Reed Elsevier plc group

record of US military studies in the 1920s and 1930s.

Ten Times Wrong

Shortly after the end of World War I, the War Department asked the Army War College to study the possible military role of blacks, with an eye to expanding their participation in the combat arms. Between 1924 and 1939, the Army War College investigated the underemployment of blacks on ten separate occasions. Each time, racism kept the students and faculty from reaching rational, fair-minded conclusions.

It seems inane now, but these studies asserted that blacks possessed brains significantly smaller than those of white troops and were pre-disposed to lack physical courage. The reports maintained that the Army should increase opportunities for blacks to help meet manpower requirements but claimed that they should always be commanded by whites and should always serve in segregated units.

The Air Corps at that time did not employ blacks in any role. However, President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1940 directed the Air Corps to build an all-black flying unit. The presidential order propelled the air organization to create the 99th Pursuit Squadron. To develop the required pilot force, the Air Corps opened a new training base in central Alabama, near Tuskegee.

Central Alabama was a terrible place to train black pilots. The whites in the area were opposed to the very existence of a black flying training base and openly hostile to the trainees. Life off the post was often downright dangerous for the airmen.

Their first commander, Col. Frederick V.H. Kimble, was a poor choice for the job; he was at best indifferent and in all likelihood antagonistic to their success. Moreover, the flying instructors at the airfield during World War II, with the exception of Col. Noel F. Parrish, refused to socialize with the black pilots. All but Colonel Parrish refused to join the Tuskegee AAF Officers' Club. Once in the Mediterranean combat zone. Tuskegee Airmen were deliberately isolated in the 33d Fighter Group.

Because there was only one black fighting outfit, promotion in the organization was severely limited. There was only one colonel, and because he survived his combat missions, no others reached that rank. The same was true of squadron commanders in the four fighter units. If they managed to endure, nobody else could move up to their rank, and nobody did. A Tuskegee Airman could not fill a vacancy in any other fighter unit. Few Tuskegee Airmen rose above the rank of lieutenant from 1942 through the end of the war, despite the fact that many flew three times the number of combat missions required of fighter pilots before departing the combat zone.

Threat to Morale

All of these elements harmed morale, and the spirit of the 332d Fighter Group (which, by 1944, had united Tuskegee Airmen from the 99th, 100th, 301st, and 302d Fighter Squadrons) was somewhat damaged by segregation and the discrimination that accompanied it. However, the 332d's attitude and esprit were positive compared to that of the other Tuskegee Airmen flying unit, the 477th Bomb Group (Medium). The bomber group never got into combat as a result



LEXIS·NEXIS

Ⓜ A member of the Reed Elsevier plc group



LEXIS·NEXIS

Ⓜ A member of the Reed Elsevier plc group



LEXIS·NEXIS

Ⓜ A member of the Reed Elsevier plc group

of its white commander's bigoted personnel policies. The commander was eventually fired because he had sabotaged his unit but not before he did great damage to the spirit of his troops.

Given the daily indignities faced by the Tuskegee Airmen, it is something of a miracle that they accomplished all they did.

In the spring of 1941, the first African-American enlisted men began training to become maintainers and the first thirteen pilot candidates entered training. From that time until the end of the war, Tuskegee AAF graduated 950 pilots and formed four fighter squadrons and four medium bomb squadrons. About half the pilot trainees flew in combat.

These men flew more than 10,000 sorties. During 200 escort missions to heavily defended targets in Germany and Romania, the Tuskegee Airmen never lost a friendly bomber to an enemy fighter. In 1944 and 1945, they shot down more than 100 enemy aircraft in air-to-air combat and destroyed many more on the ground. They also sank a destroyer with machine guns (another unique accomplishment) and destroyed many locomotives and other transportation assets.

Because of the success of the 332d Fighter Group and several other much smaller units, the War Department again reexamined the role of blacks in the armed forces. This massive study, "Participation of Negro Troops in the Post-War Military Establishment," concluded that blacks with the same training and aptitude as whites performed satisfactorily.

One of the general officers who supervised this study was USAAF Brig. Gen. Idwal H. Edwards, who was fully aware of the accomplishments (and trials) of the Tuskegee Airmen. General Edwards had investigated racial problems affecting the Army and the Army Air Forces between 1944 and 1947 and believed segregation was inefficient and, worse, incited racial disharmony and often provoked riots. He later became the Air Force's first deputy chief of staff for Personnel.

Dead-End Policies

General Edwards believed that segregation was a defective personnel practice. The services were forced to place educated and high-aptitude blacks in all-black units, and almost all of these were support units. Thus, blacks who had sufficient education and aptitude to rise in rank and contribute in combat areas were prevented from doing so.

After the war, the number of highly skilled black officers and enlisted men exceeded the needs of the 332d Fighter Wing (which had succeeded the 332d Fighter Group), then based at Lockbourne AAB, Ohio. Despite their skills, they could not fill shortages elsewhere because no other flying organization used skilled and trained blacks. Conversely, vacancies in the units of the 332d could not be filled by personnel in the rest of the Air Force because these units had to remain segregated.

General Edwards knew this practice was wasteful, but he could do nothing about it so long as the Air Force was segregated. When the Air Force became independent in 1947, General Edwards directed Lt. Col. Jack F. Marr, a subordinate staff officer, to study racial segregation to see if abandoning it was advisable.



LEXIS·NEXIS
A member of the Reed Elsevier plc group



LEXIS·NEXIS
A member of the Reed Elsevier plc group



LEXIS·NEXIS
A member of the Reed Elsevier plc group

At Lockbourne, the all-black fighter wing's aircraft were flown and successfully maintained by blacks. Colonel Marr also found that competent blacks worked alongside competent whites (though the two groups never messed or billeted together) in a friction-free atmosphere at other bases, despite official segregation. The Colonel concluded that USAF could desegregate safely and that sound management called for discontinuing the separation of the races.

Colonel Marr's study confirmed General Edwards's thinking. In the spring of 1948, the personnel chief convinced Gen. Carl A. Spaatz, the first Air Force Chief of Staff, and Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, the vice chief, that sound personnel management practices demanded racial integration. These general officers had no trouble selling this idea to their civilian leaders, Secretary Stuart Symington and Assistant Secretary Eugene M. Zuckert, because both abhorred racial segregation. The Air Force, furthermore, was in harmony with the thinking of Defense Secretary James V. Forrestal, who also favored integration.

Secretary Zuckert and General Spaatz announced in April 1948 that USAF would soon integrate because it accepted no doctrine of racial superiority or inferiority.

The Air Force was the first service to announce this dramatic change. At the time that the Air Force was declaring its intent to integrate, Secretary of the Army Kenneth C. Royall was asserting that the Army had no intention whatsoever of racially integrating. He also formally complained to the Secretary of Defense that the Air Force was breaking the united front and demanded that Secretary Forrestal stop Air Force integration.

With hindsight, it is easy to see how Secretary Royall and the Army acted as they did; they had no experience comparable to the Air Force's success with the Tuskegee Airmen. During World War II, all-black Army units, except the 92d and 93d Divisions, were tiny, and all of them, including the two infantry divisions, had white leaders at the top and in many other supervisory positions. In the postwar military, there were no Army (or Navy or Marine) units like Lockbourne's 332d Fighter Wing, an outfit with a complex and highly demanding mission that every day gave the lie to the basis for segregation.

Selling the Policy

It took General Edwards about a year to carry out his policy because some senior officers had to be sold on integration. However, there was widespread support. In addition to the Chief and vice chief of staff, supporters included Gen. Nathan F. Twining, who commanded the World War II Tuskegee Airmen as Fifteenth Air Force commander, and Lt. Gen. Elwood R. "Pete" Quesada, who commanded the postwar Tactical Air Command, which included the 332d FW at Lockbourne.

Some senior Air Force officers claimed that the country was not ready for military integration, or that the military ought to wait for civilian integration, or that they and the troops would not cooperate.

A persistent contention was that whites would never tolerate black supervision, but even that objection was buried by Col. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., commander of the Tuskegee Airmen at Lockbourne from 1946 to 1949 and base



LEXIS·NEXIS
 A member of the Reed Elsevier plc group



LEXIS·NEXIS
 A member of the Reed Elsevier plc group



LEXIS·NEXIS
 A member of the Reed Elsevier plc group

commander.

It was Colonel Davis who led the 332d in combat in both ground-attack and escort roles, and it was he who demanded a level of professionalism and discipline that earned the praise of Gen. Ira C. Eaker himself. In the postwar period, therefore, Colonel Davis deliberately planned to overcome the old saw that whites would never work for blacks.

Although the 332d Fighter Wing at Lockbourne was all black, the tenant units at the base were white, and these outfits had to work with their black hosts for support. More significantly, the civilians employed by the 332d and Lockbourne were white and had black supervisors. Every inspector general inspection conducted by Tactical Air Command in this period determined that Colonel Davis and his post had smooth and harmonious personnel relations. Whites would indeed work for blacks.

Colonel Davis and his men thus had destroyed another myth.

The Air Force pressed on with integration. General Edwards briefed the uniformed leadership in April 1949, telling the senior commanders that the "Air Force [had] adopted a policy of integration under which Negro officers and airmen may be assigned to any duty in any Air Force unit or activity in accordance with the qualifications of the individual [and the need] of the service." This was done, he said, out of a need for efficiency, economy, and effective airpower.

The 332d was to be broken up, and its pilots and mechanics were to be sent to formerly all-white units based on the needs of the Air Force. According to General Edwards, blacks entering the Air Force would be asked to meet the "same standards as anyone else and will be classified, assigned, promoted, or eliminated in accordance with standards that will apply equally to all personnel."

A Single Criterion

General Edwards put no limits on the number of blacks who could qualify for integrated positions, and he insisted that the only criterion for employment was ability. He directed that commanders give this new policy their wholehearted support and undivided attention, for without their backing and care it would not work. General Edwards then promulgated several documents -- the regulation calling for integration and a classified supplement to the regulation that insisted the men be assigned according to their specialties (barring commanders from employing engine mechanics as janitors and so forth) and that told commanders that they were personally responsible for making the new policy work.

By the end of 1949, 7,402 African-Americans still were serving in all-black units. But 11,456 were serving in mixed-race units, and 7,033 were in transit to units that had formerly been all white. Blacks at that point made up seven percent of the enlisted force and twelve percent of the troops in Air Force basic training. By the end of 1951, the last all-black service unit was dissolved and the Air Force was officially integrated.

Colonel Davis departed Lockbourne for the Air War College and from there to the Pentagon and from there to command of a fighter wing in Korea, eventually



LEXIS·NEXIS

Ⓜ A member of the Reed Elsevier plc group



LEXIS·NEXIS

Ⓜ A member of the Reed Elsevier plc group



LEXIS·NEXIS

Ⓜ A member of the Reed Elsevier plc group

reaching the rank of lieutenant general. After General Davis retired, another Tuskegee Airman, Daniel "Chappie" James, became a four-star general and commander in chief of North American Air Defense Command.

Unquestionably, the Air Force benefitted from employing people of all races based solely on ability, and so did the United States. This essential reform began with the Tuskegee Airmen and their demonstration of discipline, skill, and courage. This reality was made explicit by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman at the Tuskegee Airmen Convention last August in Atlanta, Ga.

"In the end," said General Fogleman, "the men and the women of the Tuskegee experience broke forever the myths that allowed segregation, inequity, and injustice to exist with a thin veil of legitimacy.

"You engaged one of the most formidable military establishments in the world -- the Luftwaffe . . . When you engaged this force in combat and came away victorious, you carried not only your own pride and your personal accomplishments but also the idea that never again would anybody deny a man or woman the opportunity to serve our country in any capacity because of the color of his or her skin."

General Fogleman concluded, "We look back with pride on your outstanding accomplishments -- your skill in combat, your strength of character in the face of prejudice and racism. Despite the bigotry, you would not be denied the opportunity to serve your country in desperate times. 'Service before self' is a key concept of our modern-day Air Force. 'Service before self' was more than just a phrase to the Tuskegee Airmen. It was a way of life."

GRAPHIC: Picture 1, Col. Benjamin O. Davis led the way. In an address to the Tuskegee Airmen Convention in 1995, Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman, USAF Chief of Staff, recalled one mission on which Colonel Davis led fifty-four aviators on the first Italian-based bomber-escort mission to Berlin: "You fought off waves of German fighters and . . . made history because you shot down three German jet fighters while losing only one friendly fighter. No bombers were lost."; Picture 2, no caption; Picture 3, Col. Noel F. Parrish, the only instructor at Tuskegee AAF, Ala., who would socialize with the black pilots during World War II; Picture 4, Brig. Gen. Idwal Edwards, a personnel specialist, saw segregation as an inefficient and defective policy and sought to eliminate it; Picture 5, Once in Europe, General Fogleman noted, the Tuskegee Airmen in "a series of 200 bomber-escort missions over Germany . . . became known as the Red Tail Devils" and compiled an enviable combat record, which would not have been possible without top-notch maintainers like these; Picture 6, Colonel Davis put to rest the myth that whites would not work for black officers. General Fogleman credited Davis's men with proving "to people with unbiased eyes that the Tuskegee Airmen could fly and fight with the best of them."; Picture 7, General Fogleman closed by summing up the combat record: "By war's end, the Tuskegee Airmen had shot down 111 enemy aircraft and destroyed another 150 on the ground. They disabled more than 600 boxcars, locomotives, and rolling stock and sank one German destroyer and forty other boats and barges . . . and never lost a bomber to enemy fighters." In the process, they paved the way for Lt. Gen. Benjamin Davis; the US military's first black four-star general, Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James; and thousands of others.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH



LEXIS·NEXIS
Ⓜ A member of the Reed Elsevier plc group



LEXIS·NEXIS
Ⓜ A member of the Reed Elsevier plc group



LEXIS·NEXIS
Ⓜ A member of the Reed Elsevier plc group

LOAD-DATE: March 14, 1996



LEXIS·NEXIS
A member of the Reed Elsevier plc group



LEXIS·NEXIS
A member of the Reed Elsevier plc group



LEXIS·NEXIS
A member of the Reed Elsevier plc group



History of the 91st Division



The 91st Division has a proud history of military service dating back to World War I. Constituted on 5 August 1917 at Camp Lewis, Washington, the Division soon thereafter departed for England in the summer of 1918. In September 1918, the Division's first operation was in the St. Mihiel Offensive in France. Serving under the U.S. Army's V Corps, the Division fought in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive and successfully helped to destroy the German First Guard Division and continued to smash through three successive enemy lines.

Twelve days before the end of WWI, the Division, as part of the VII Army Corps, helped drive the enemy east across the Escaut River. The Division was awarded separate campaign streamers for its active role in the Lorraine, Meuse-Argonne and Ypres-Lys campaigns. In 1919, the 91st was deactivated at the Presidio of San Francisco.

After being reconstituted in 1921 as part of the Organized Reserves, the Division then served as an administrative control center for the next 21 years.

As the first battles of World War II were being fought in 1942, the Division was reactivated at Camp White, Oregon. Once again, the Division departed for the European Continent. There, the 361st Regimental Combat Team was detached to participate in the battles for Rome and the Amo River. It became the first 5th US Army unit to reach the river. In September, 1944, the Division crossed the Sievr River, outflanked the famous Gothic Line, and captured the Futa Pass. For its part in combat, the Division was awarded the North Apennines, Po Valley and Rome-Amo campaign streamers. The division was deactivated at Fort Rucker, Alabama, in December 1945.

In December 1946, the 91st was reactivated at the Presidio of San Francisco as part of the U.S. Army Reserve. In 1959, the Division was reorganized and redesignated as the 91st Division (Training). In 1993 the Division was again reorganized and redesignated as the 91st Division (Exercise).

send email to LTC Kenneth J. Gerchman: gerchmank@usarc-emh2.army.mil

Last updated June 98

[Back to the 91st Division Home Page](#)

see

Senator: This is additional information concerning Afro-Americans in our military not included in your speech that Margaret holds.

Included here are detailed numbers of blacks by rank and service in our military.

The next to the last page includes a copy of the document President Truman signed integrating our military.

The last page contains the 86 Medal of Honor recipients by Afro Americans and by war.

Frank

DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVE DUTY FORCES
BY SERVICE, RANK, SEX, AND ETHNIC GROUP
09/30/98

DMDC-3035E0

DOD

TOTAL PERSONNEL

GRADE	TOTAL											TOTAL	
	WHITE	%	AI/AN	%	AA/PI	%	BLACK	%	HISP	%	O/U		%
O-11	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
O-10	29	87.9	0	0.0	1	3.0	3	9.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	33
O-9	108	97.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	2.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	111
O-8	267	93.0	3	1.0	0	0.0	13	4.5	3	1.0	1	0.3	287
O-7	618	92.7	1	0.2	1	0.2	24	5.3	6	1.3	1	0.2	451
O-6	10616	91.4	50	0.4	179	1.6	500	4.4	172	1.5	79	0.7	11396
O-5	25082	87.6	137	0.5	694	1.7	1961	6.8	712	2.5	256	0.9	28642
O-4	37165	85.8	188	0.4	863	2.0	3299	7.6	1258	2.9	568	1.3	43341
O-3	61051	82.9	333	0.5	2249	3.1	5876	8.0	2405	3.3	1754	2.4	73668
O-2	21254	80.5	138	0.5	961	3.6	2301	8.7	1161	4.3	640	2.4	26415
O-1	18741	79.0	146	0.6	923	3.9	2057	8.7	1125	6.7	732	3.1	23724
OFF.													
TOTAL	174560	83.9	996	0.5	5651	2.7	16038	7.7	6822	3.3	6087	2.0	208154
WAR.													
W-5	387	89.6	0	0.0	3	0.7	34	7.9	7	1.6	1	0.2	432
W-4	1585	79.8	18	0.9	45	2.3	219	11.0	69	3.5	69	2.5	1985
W-3	3321	78.2	23	0.5	79	1.9	526	12.4	173	4.1	124	2.9	4246
W-2	6900	73.3	38	0.6	136	2.0	1098	16.4	328	4.9	181	2.7	6881
W-1	1391	67.2	14	0.7	41	2.0	450	21.7	119	5.8	54	2.6	2069
TOTAL	11584	75.2	93	0.6	304	2.0	2327	15.1	696	4.5	409	2.7	15413
D/M.													
TOTAL	186144	83.3	1089	0.5	5955	2.7	18365	8.2	7518	3.4	4496	2.0	223567
E.													
E-9	7091	67.8	66	0.6	461	4.4	2200	21.0	457	4.4	187	1.8	10462
E-8	16773	63.0	145	0.5	916	3.4	6615	24.9	1503	5.6	666	2.5	26618
E-7	63360	63.0	563	0.6	3330	3.3	25452	25.3	5472	5.4	2380	2.4	100557
E-6	102038	62.4	836	0.5	6214	3.8	42229	25.8	8765	5.4	3524	2.2	163606
E-5	154682	64.4	1302	0.5	8400	3.5	55724	23.2	15594	6.5	4383	1.8	240085
E-4	171187	65.1	2080	0.8	8921	3.4	53723	20.6	22360	8.5	4488	1.7	262759
E-3	121565	62.4	2112	1.1	7199	3.7	39975	20.5	20945	10.8	2990	1.5	194786
E-2	62626	63.3	1457	1.5	3245	3.3	19613	19.8	10549	10.7	1409	1.4	98899
E-1	45702	62.7	1219	1.7	2441	3.3	14666	20.1	7919	10.9	946	1.3	72893
ENL.													
TOT	745038	63.6	9780	0.8	61127	3.5	260198	22.2	93565	8.0	21223	1.8	1170931
GRAND													
TOT	931182	66.8	10869	0.8	47082	3.4	278563	20.0101083	7.2	25719	1.8	1394498	

LEGEND :

- AI = AMERICAN INDIAN
- AN = ALASKAN NATIVE
- AA = ASIAN
- PI = PACIFIC ISLANDER
- HISP = HISPANIC
- O = OTHER
- U = UNKNOWN

DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVE DUTY FORCES
BY SERVICE, RANK, SEX, AND ETHNIC GROUP
09/30/98

DMDC-3035E0

ARMY

TOTAL PERSONNEL

GRADE	TOTAL										TOTAL		
	WHITE	%	AI/AN	%	AA/PI	%	BLACK	%	HISP	%		O/U	%
O-11	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
O-10	8	80.0	0	0.0	1	10.0	1	10.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	10
O-9	41	95.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	4.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	43
O-8	91	90.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	9	8.9	1	1.0	0	0.0	101
O-7	138	89.6	0	0.0	1	0.6	13	8.4	1	0.6	1	0.6	154
O-6	3194	88.2	13	0.4	79	2.2	233	6.4	60	1.7	44	1.2	3623
O-5	7518	83.0	43	0.5	170	1.9	920	10.2	265	2.9	142	1.6	9058
O-4	11048	80.0	70	0.5	292	2.1	1715	12.4	423	3.1	262	1.9	13810
O-3	17267	77.9	109	0.5	793	3.6	2663	12.0	869	3.9	456	2.1	22157
O-2	7571	78.5	59	0.6	405	4.2	1027	10.7	412	4.3	168	1.7	9642
O-1	6452	77.8	47	0.6	403	4.9	865	10.4	400	4.8	129	1.6	8296
OFF.													
TOTAL	53357	79.7	341	0.5	2144	3.2	7449	11.1	2431	3.6	1258	1.9	66980
W-5	306	89.7	0	0.0	2	0.6	29	8.5	3	0.9	1	0.3	341
W-4	1096	81.7	14	1.0	17	1.3	135	10.1	45	3.4	34	2.5	1341
W-3	2403	77.9	20	0.6	58	1.9	370	12.0	141	4.6	92	3.0	3084
W-2	3745	72.7	33	0.6	122	2.4	842	16.3	262	5.1	166	2.8	5150
W-1	1259	67.2	12	0.6	38	2.0	416	22.2	98	5.2	51	2.7	1874
WAR.													
TOTAL	8809	74.7	79	0.7	237	2.0	1792	15.2	549	4.7	324	2.7	11790
O/W.													
TOTAL	62166	78.9	420	0.5	2381	3.0	9241	11.7	2980	3.8	1582	2.0	78770
E-9	1693	53.3	14	0.4	82	2.6	1079	34.0	183	5.8	127	4.0	3178
E-8	5175	48.8	57	0.5	213	2.0	3863	36.4	773	7.3	533	5.0	10614
E-7	17556	47.7	235	0.6	773	2.1	13852	37.6	2564	7.0	1854	5.0	36834
E-6	26557	48.3	350	0.6	1205	2.2	21041	38.3	3135	5.7	2649	4.8	54937
E-5	40360	55.6	477	0.7	1752	2.4	22652	31.2	4157	5.7	3155	4.3	72553
E-4	61083	59.7	799	0.8	2905	2.8	26487	25.9	8006	7.8	3101	3.0	102381
E-3	35957	59.1	508	0.8	1798	3.0	15368	25.3	5923	9.7	1290	2.1	60844
E-2	20736	61.7	308	0.9	894	2.7	7830	23.3	3291	9.8	563	1.7	33622
E-1	16485	61.6	230	0.9	772	2.9	6247	23.3	2658	9.9	368	1.4	26760
ENL.													
TOT	225611	56.1	2978	0.7	10394	2.6	118420	29.5	30690	7.6	13890	3.5	401983
GRAND													
TOT	287777	59.9	3398	0.7	12775	2.7	127661	26.6	33670	7.0	15472	3.2	480753

LEGEND :

- AI = AMERICAN INDIAN
- AN = ALASKAN NATIVE
- AA = ASIAN
- PI = PACIFIC ISLANDER
- HISP = HISPANIC
- O = OTHER
- U = UNKNOWN

DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVE DUTY FORCES
BY SERVICE, RANK, SEX, AND ETHNIC GROUP
09/30/98

DMDC-3035E0

NAVY

TOTAL PERSONNEL

GRADE	TOTAL										TOTAL		
	WHITE	%	AI/AN	%	AA/PI	%	BLACK	%	HISP	%		O/U	%
O-11	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
O-10	8	88.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	11.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	9
O-9	181	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	181
O-8	73	97.3	1	1.3	0	0.0	1	1.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	75
O-7	111	94.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	4.2	2	1.7	0	0.0	118
O-6	3130	93.7	11	0.3	43	1.3	96	2.9	44	1.3	15	0.4	3339
O-5	6753	91.2	32	0.4	150	2.0	261	3.5	146	2.0	66	0.9	7408
O-4	9173	87.1	43	0.4	269	2.6	534	5.1	370	3.5	145	1.4	10534
O-3	15608	82.4	76	0.4	725	3.8	1308	6.9	786	4.1	641	2.3	18944
O-2	5297	79.8	41	0.6	319	4.8	528	8.0	370	5.6	79	1.2	6634
O-1	4807	78.5	52	0.8	305	5.0	492	8.0	415	6.8	56	0.9	6127
OFF.													
TOTAL	44978	84.5	256	0.5	1011	3.4	3226	6.1	2133	4.0	802	1.5	53206
M-5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
M-4	298	75.3	4	1.0	27	6.8	42	10.6	12	3.0	13	3.3	396
M-3	503	76.7	2	0.3	16	2.4	96	14.6	8	1.2	31	4.7	656
M-2	578	76.0	1	0.1	7	0.9	142	18.7	8	1.1	25	3.3	761
M-1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
MAR.													
TOTAL	1379	76.1	7	0.4	50	2.8	280	15.4	28	1.5	69	3.8	1813
O/W.													
TOTAL	46357	84.3	263	0.5	1061	3.4	3506	6.4	2161	3.9	871	1.6	55019
E-9	2437	78.0	17	0.5	323	10.3	235	7.5	84	2.7	29	0.9	3125
E-8	5207	77.5	18	0.3	559	8.3	671	10.0	208	3.1	53	0.8	6716
E-7	18978	75.0	81	0.3	1797	7.1	3291	13.0	961	3.8	181	0.7	25209
E-6	39191	69.3	207	0.4	3960	7.0	9878	17.5	2987	5.3	365	0.6	56568
E-5	44010	62.6	343	0.5	4588	6.5	15416	21.9	5722	8.1	247	0.4	70326
E-4	39017	61.7	667	1.1	3605	5.7	12939	20.5	6744	10.7	214	0.3	63186
E-3	26931	55.3	916	1.9	3024	6.2	11326	23.3	6267	12.9	215	0.4	48679
E-2	15763	58.0	784	2.9	1403	5.2	5754	21.2	3346	12.3	129	0.5	27159
E-1	11663	55.4	768	3.6	1106	5.3	4638	22.0	2724	12.9	147	0.7	21046
ENL.													
TOT	203181	63.1	3801	1.2	20345	6.3	64148	19.9	29043	9.0	1580	0.5	322098
GRAND													
TOT	249538	66.2	4064	1.1	22206	5.9	67654	17.9	31204	8.3	2451	0.6	377117

LEGEND :

- AI = AMERICAN INDIAN
- AN = ALASKAN NATIVE
- AA = ASIAN
- PI = PACIFIC ISLANDER
- HISP = HISPANIC
- O = OTHER
- U = UNKNOWN

DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVE DUTY FORCES
BY SERVICE, RANK, SEX, AND ETHNIC GROUP
09/30/98

DMDC-3035E0

MARINES

TOTAL PERSONNEL

GRADE	TOTAL										TOTAL		
	WHITE	%	AI/AM	%	AA/PI	%	BLACK	%	HISP	%		O/U	%
O-11	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
O-10	4100	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4
O-9	11100	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	11
O-8	2496	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	4.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	25
O-7	3690	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	5.0	2	5.0	0	0.0	60
O-6	57492	7	0.2	3	0.5	29	4.7	12	1.9	0	0.0	0	619
O-5	162392	7	0.4	14	0.8	72	4.1	37	2.1	4	0.2	0	1757
O-4	305490	20	0.6	50	1.5	159	4.7	90	2.7	12	0.4	0	3385
O-3	437886	41	0.8	89	1.8	286	5.7	220	4.4	30	0.6	0	5044
O-2	220280	8	0.3	74	2.7	231	8.5	185	6.8	25	0.9	0	2725
O-1	192878	13	0.5	79	3.2	235	9.5	173	7.0	37	1.5	0	2465
OFF.													
TOTAL	13834	86.1	90	0.6	309	1.9	1015	6.3	719	4.5	108	0.7	16075
W-5	81	89.0	0	0.0	1	1.1	5	5.5	4	4.4	0	0.0	91
W-4	191	77.0	0	0.0	1	0.4	42	16.9	12	4.8	2	0.8	268
W-3	415	82.0	1	0.2	5	1.0	60	11.9	24	4.7	1	0.2	506
W-2	577	74.9	4	0.5	7	0.9	114	16.8	58	7.5	10	1.3	770
W-1	132	67.7	2	1.0	3	1.5	34	17.4	21	10.8	3	1.5	195
WAR.													
TOTAL	1396	77.1	7	0.4	17	0.9	255	14.1	119	6.6	16	0.9	1810
O/W.													
TOTAL	15230	85.2	97	0.5	326	1.8	1270	7.1	838	4.7	124	0.7	17885
E-9	760	62.7	3	0.2	16	1.3	323	26.7	94	7.8	16	1.3	1212
E-8	1950	57.5	16	0.5	55	1.6	1032	30.4	299	8.8	40	1.2	3392
E-7	5525	62.6	51	0.6	112	1.3	2334	26.4	725	8.2	81	0.9	8828
E-6	8529	61.7	81	0.6	277	2.0	3629	26.3	1161	8.4	144	1.0	13821
E-5	15664	66.0	188	0.8	526	2.2	4307	18.1	2773	11.7	287	1.2	23745
E-4	20184	68.5	279	0.9	652	2.2	3858	13.1	4108	13.9	402	1.4	29483
E-3	27400	67.4	488	1.2	949	2.3	5673	14.0	5549	13.6	604	1.5	40663
E-2	13855	67.9	271	1.3	451	2.2	2834	13.9	2668	13.1	341	1.7	20420
E-1	9504	69.4	162	1.2	296	2.2	1847	13.5	1676	12.2	209	1.5	13694
ENL.													
TOT	103372	66.6	1539	1.0	3334	2.1	25837	16.6	19054	12.3	2124	1.4	155260
GRAND													
TOT	118602	68.5	1636	0.9	3660	2.1	27107	15.7	19892	11.5	2248	1.3	173145

LEGEND :

- AI = AMERICAN INDIAN
- AM = ALASKAN NATIVE
- AA = ASIAN
- PI = PACIFIC ISLANDER
- HISP = HISPANIC
- O = OTHER
- U = UNKNOWN

DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVE DUTY FORCES
BY SERVICE, RANK, SEX, AND ETHNIC GROUP
09/30/98

DMDC-3035E0

AIR FORCE

TOTAL PERSONNEL

GRADE	TOTAL										TOTAL		
	WHITE	%	AI/AN	%	AA/PI	%	BLACK	%	HISP	%		O/U	%
O-11	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
O-10	9	90.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	10.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	10
O-9	38	97.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	39
O-8	79	91.9	2	2.3	0	0.0	2	2.3	2	2.3	1	1.2	86
O-7	133	95.7	1	0.7	0	0.0	4	2.9	1	0.7	0	0.0	139
O-6	3518	92.2	25	0.7	56	1.4	162	3.7	56	1.5	20	0.5	3815
O-5	9188	88.2	55	0.5	160	1.5	708	6.8	264	2.5	44	0.4	10419
O-4	13890	89.0	55	0.4	252	1.6	891	5.7	375	2.4	149	1.0	15612
O-3	23798	86.5	107	0.4	642	2.3	1619	5.9	530	1.9	827	3.0	27523
O-2	6184	83.4	30	0.4	143	1.9	515	6.9	174	2.3	368	5.0	7414
O-1	5554	81.2	34	0.5	136	2.0	465	6.8	137	2.0	510	7.5	6836
OFF.													
TOTAL	62391	86.8	309	0.4	1387	1.9	4348	6.0	1539	2.1	1919	2.7	71893
W-5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
W-4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
W-3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
W-2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
W-1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
WAR.													
TOTAL	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
O/W.													
TOTAL	62391	86.8	309	0.4	1387	1.9	4348	6.0	1539	2.1	1919	2.7	71893
E-9	2201	74.7	32	1.1	40	1.4	563	19.1	96	3.3	15	0.5	2967
E-8	4441	75.3	54	0.9	89	1.5	1049	17.8	223	3.8	60	0.7	5896
E-7	21301	71.9	196	0.7	648	2.2	5975	20.2	1222	4.1	264	0.9	29606
E-6	27761	72.5	198	0.5	792	2.1	7681	20.1	1482	3.9	366	1.0	38280
E-5	54648	74.4	294	0.4	1534	2.1	13349	18.2	2942	4.0	694	0.9	73461
E-4	50903	75.2	335	0.5	1759	2.6	10439	15.4	3502	5.2	771	1.1	67709
E-3	31277	70.1	200	0.4	1428	3.2	7608	17.1	3206	7.2	881	2.0	44600
E-2	12292	69.5	94	0.5	497	2.8	3195	18.1	1244	7.0	376	2.1	17698
E-1	8050	70.7	59	0.5	267	2.5	1934	17.0	861	7.6	222	1.9	11393
ENL.													
TOT	212874	73.0	1462	0.5	7054	2.4	51793	17.8	14778	5.1	3629	1.2	291590
GRAND													
TOT	275265	75.7	1771	0.5	8441	2.3	56141	15.4	16317	4.5	5548	1.5	363483

LEGEND :

AI = AMERICAN INDIAN
AN = ALASKAN NATIVE
AA = ASIAN
PI = PACIFIC ISLANDER
HISP = HISPANIC
O = OTHER
U = UNKNOWN

EXECUTIVE ORDER 9981

ESTABLISHING THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON THE EQUALITY OF TREATMENT AND OPPORTUNITY IN THE ARMED SERVICES

WHEREAS it is essential that there be maintained in the armed services of the United States the highest standards of democracy, with equality of treatment and opportunity for all those who serve in our country's defense:

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, by the Constitution and the statutes of the United States, and as Commander in Chief of the armed services, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin. This policy shall be put into effect as rapidly as possible, having due regard to the time required to effectuate any necessary changes without impairing efficiency or morale.
2. There shall be created in the National Military Establishment an advisory committee to be known as the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services, which shall be composed of seven members to be designated by the President.
3. The Committee is authorized on behalf of the President to examine into the rules, procedures and practices of the armed services in order to determine in what respect such rules, procedures and practices may be altered or improved with a view to carrying out the policy of this order. The Committee shall confer and advise with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Secretary of the Air Force, and shall make such recommendations to the President and to said Secretaries as in the judgment of the Committee will effectuate the policy hereof.
4. All executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government are authorized and directed to cooperate with the Committee in its work, and to furnish the Committee such information or the services of such persons as the Committee may require in the performance of its duties.
5. When requested by the Committee to do so, persons in the armed services or in any of the executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government shall testify before the Committee, and shall make available for the use of the Committee such documents and other information as the Committee may require.
6. The Committee shall continue to exist until such time as the President shall terminate its existence by Executive order.

Harry S. Truman

THE WHITE HOUSE

July 26, 1948

Civil War (1861 - 1865)

ANDERSON, AARON (A.K.A. SANDERSON)
ANDERSON, BRUCE
BARNES, WILLIAM H.
BEATY, POWHATAN
BLAKE, ROBERT (ESCAPED SLAVE)
BRONSON, JAMES H.
BROWN, WILLIAM H.
BROWN, WILSON

CARNEY, WILLIAM HARVEY
DORSEY, DECATUR (ESCAPED SLAVE)
FLEETWOOD, CHRISTIAN A.
GARDINER, JAMES
HARRIS, JAMES H.
HAWKINS, THOMAS R.
HILTON, ALFRED B.
HOLLAND, MILTON MURRAY

JAMES, MILES
KELLY, ALEXANDER
LAWSON, JOHN
MIFFLIN, JAMES
PEASE, JOACHIM
PINN, ROBERT
RATCLIFF, EDWARD
VEAL, CHARLES

Indian Campaigns (1861 - 1898)

BOYNE, THOMAS
BROWN, BENJAMIN
DENNY, JOHN
FACTOR, POMPEY (BLACK/SEMINOLE;
A.K.A. FACTON)
GREAVES, CLINTON
JOHNSON, HENRY

JORDAN, GEORGE
MAYS, ISAAH
MCBRYAR, WILLIAM
PAINE, ADAM (BLACK/SEMINOLE)
PAYNE, ISAAC
SHAW, THOMAS

STANCE, EMANUEL
WALLEY, AUGUSTUS
WARD, JOHN (BLACK/SEMINOLE)
WILLIAMS, MOSES
WILSON, WILLIAM O.
WOODS, BRENT

Interim (1871 - 1898)

ATKINS, DANIEL
DAVIS, JOHN
GIRANDY, ALPHONSE

JOHNSON, JOHN
JOHNSON, WILLIAM
NOIL, JOSEPH B.

SMITH, JOHN
SWEENEY, ROBERT AUGUSTUS
(1 OF 19 DOUBLE RECIPIENTS)

War with Spain (1898)

BAKER, EDWARD L., JR.
BELL, DENNIS

LEE, FITZ
PENN, ROBERT

THOMPSON, WILLIAM H.
WANTON, GEORGE H.

World War I (1914-1918)

(Awarded posthumously April 24, 1991)

STOWERS, FREDDIE (MEDAL ON DISPLAY AT PENTAGON EXHIBIT)

World War II (1941-1945)

(Awarded posthumously, except Vernon Baker)

* BAKER, VERNON J.
CARTER, EDWARD A., JR.
FOX, JOHN R.

JAMES, WILLY F., JR.
RIVERS, REUBEN

THOMAS, CHARLES L.
WATSON, GEORGE
(MEDAL ON DISPLAY AT PENTAGON EXHIBIT)

Korean War (1950 - 1953)

CHARLTON, CORNELIUS H.
THOMPSON, WILLIAM

Vietnam (1964 - 1973)

ANDERSON, JAMES, JR.
* ANDERSON, WEBSTER
ASHLEY, EUGENE, JR.
AUSTIN, OSCAR P.
BRYANT, WILLIAM MAUD
DAVIS, RODNEY MAXWELL
JENKINS, ROBERT H., JR.

JOEL, LAWRENCE
JOHNSON, DWIGHT
JOHNSON, RALPH
LANGHORN, GARFIELD M.
LEONARD, MATTHEW
LONG, DONALD RUSSELL
OLIVE, MILTON LEE, III

PITTS, RILEY L.
ROERS, CHARLES CALVIN
SARGENT, RUPPERT L.
* SASSER, CLARENCE EUGENE
SIMS, CLIFFORD CHESTER
WARREN, JOHN E., JR.

* Denotes Surviving Recipient, as of February 1997



Force Management
Policy

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
(FORCE MANAGEMENT POLICY)

4000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-4000

Facsimile Cover Sheet

To: MR FRANK KELLY
Office: SENATOR INOUE
Phone: (202) 224-3934
Fax: (202) 224-6747

From: Jimmy Love
Office: ODASD(EO)MEO
Phone: (703)697-6381
Fax: (703)695-4619

Date: 02/12/98

No. Pages with Cover: 8

Comments:

INFORMATION FOR SENATOR INOUE'S SPEECH

BLACK MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

VIETNAM (1964-1973)

*ANDERSON, James, Jr.
 ANDERSON, Webster
 *ASHLEY, Eugene, Jr.
 *AUSTIN, Oscar P.
 *BRYANT, William Maud
 *DAVIS, Rodney Maxwell
 *JENKINS, Robert H., Jr.
 JOEL, Lawrence
 JOHNSON, Dwight
 *JOHNSON, Ralph

*LANGHORN, Garfield M.
 *LEONARD, Matthew
 *LONG, Donald Russell
 *OLIVE, Milton Lee, III
 *PITTS, Riley L.
 ROGERS, Charles Calvin
 *SARGENT, Ruppert L.
 SASSER, Clarence Eugene
 *SIMS, Clifford Chester
 *WARREN, John E., Jr.

KOREAN WAR (1950-1953)

*CHARLTON, Cornelius H.
 *THOMPSON, William

WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

BAKER, Vernon J.
 CARTER, Edward A., Jr.
 FOX, John R.
 JONES, Willy F., Jr.

RIVERS, Reuben
 THOMAS, Charles L.
 WATSON, George

WORLD WAR I (1914-1918)

*STOWERS, Freddie

WAR WITH SPAIN (1898)

BAKER, Edward L., Jr.
 BELL, Dennis
 LEE, Fritz

PENN, Robert
 THOMPSON, William H.
 WANTON, George H.

INTERIM 1871 - 1898

ATKINS, Daniel
 DAVIS, John
 GIRANDY, Alphonse
 JOHNSON, John
 JOHNSON, William

NOIL, Joseph B.
 SMITH, John
 SWEENEY, Robert Augustus (1 of 19
 double recipients)

BLACK MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS (cont)

INDIAN CAMPAIGNS (1861-1898)

BOYNE, Thomas
 BROWN, Benjamin
 DENNY, John
 FACTOR, Pompey (Black/Seminole;
 also used last name of Facton)
 GREAVES, Clinton
 JOHNSON, Henry
 JORDAN, George
 MAYS, Isaiah
 McBRYAR, William

PAINE, Adam (Black/Seminole)
 PAYNE, Isaac (Black/Seminole)
 SHAW, Thomas
 STANCE, Emanuel
 WALLEY, Augustus
 WARD, John (Black/Seminole)
 WILLIAMS, Moses
 WILSON, William O.
 WOODS, Brent

CIVIL WAR (1861-1865)

ANDERSON, Aaron (a.k.a.
 Sanderson)
 ANDERSON, Bruce
 BARNES, William H.
 BEATY, Powhatan
 BLAKE, Robert (Escaped slave)
 BRONSON, James H.
 BROWN, William H.
 BROWN, Wilson
 CARNEY, William Harvey
 DORSEY, Decatur (Escaped slave)
 FLEETWOOD, Christian A.
 GARDINER, James

HARRIS, James H.
 HAWKINS, Thomas R.
 HILTON, Alfred B.
 HOLLAND, Milton Murray
 JAMES, Miles
 KELLY, Alexander
 LAWSON, John
 MIFFLIN, James
 PEASE, Joachim
 PINN, Robert
 RATCLIFF, Edward
 VEALE, Charles

Vietnam	20
Korea	2
World War II	7
World War I	1
War with Spain	6
Interim 1871-1898	8
Indian Campaigns	18
Civil War	24
TOTAL	86



FACSIMILE

OFFICE OF SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE

TO: CRS David Burrelli

FROM: FRANK KELLY PHONE: 4-6628

NUMBER OF PAGES FOLLOWING THIS PAGE: 3

DATE: _____ TIME: _____

COMMENTS: _____

I previously sent you a one pager with a list of questions for a speech my senator is giving. Since then he has dictated the 2 page speech he is going to give but left some blanks in the speech. It is these blanks that he needs the information about. Perhaps, this will clarify my earlier request and make it easier for you to respond by thursday afternoon.

Many thanks,

Frank Kelly
4-6628

EARLIER REQUEST

REQUEST FOR RESEARCH ASSISTANCE FOR SENATOR D.K. INOUE

The Senator would like the following information regarding blacks in our military:

There was a battle during WW I or II in which the Afro-Americans soldiers were heavily involved. A movie entitled "Glory" depicted this battle.

Were the black troops former slaves who fought for the Union?

What was the size of this black organization? Battalion or Regiment?

How many were KIA, WIA and MIA from this engagement?

When were a group of black pilots formed WWI? WWII?

Was it during the battle of Tuskegee?

~~Was~~ there an outstanding black organization during WWI?

In WWII the 91st and 92nd Division were black organizations. The 92nd Division fought in Italy. Where did the 91st Division fight? Can you give us a couple of sentences on each organization highlighting their accomplishments?

When was the military integrated? Where? During the Truman Administration?

How many blacks have been awarded the Medal of Honor in the history of the U.S.?

How many black flag officers serve in our military today. How many have served as four star officers?

THE SENATOR WOULD LIKE THIS INFO BY THURSDAY AFTERNOON IF POSSIBLE.

THANK YOU,

Frank Kelly

4-6628
Room 722 HSOB

DECEMBER 7, 1998 SPEECH

War is a great equalizer. A bullet or shrapnel does not discriminate. They are not racist. A piercing bullet wound or a tearing shrapnel wound are equally painful whether the wounded is African American, European-American, Asian-American or Native American. The blood that gushes from all is equally red. There is no black blood, white blood, brown blood or yellow blood. And history has demonstrated that in wartime, a person's commitment to a cause or dedication to the nation, often times referred to as loyalty or patriotism, is equal. One who is willing to stand in harm's way is just as loyal as another willing to do the same.

One of the great battles of the War Between the States was the Battle of _____ which was fought on _____ and involved the _____ regiment/battalion. This regiment/battalion, made up of former slaves, was given the mission to take over a heavily fortified fort manned by _____. On the fateful morning of _____, these men, without question, affixed their bayonets and moved forward into glory. When the gunfire ended, out of _____ men, _____ were wounded and _____ were dead. It was such an outstanding heroic moment in history that in later years this battle became the subject of a movie entitled, "Glory."

One must keep in mind in those days and in the years that followed to the end of World War II, military units were segregated. It is no secret that the finest officers were not assigned to African-American units. Nor were these units provided with the latest weaponry. But they were required to go into battle like everyone else.

In World War II, my regiment, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, was attached to the 92nd Division during the closing days of the war. It was a unit consisting of African-American enlisted men and a few African American officers. The senior officers were all white. Officers clubs were segregated and enlisted persons were required to attend their specially designated "For Blacks Only" enlisted clubs. They were almost daily subjected to propaganda from the Germans. Notwithstanding these factors, they fought well and added much luster to our nation's military history.

As a footnote, I should tell you as a result of my injury, during the first three days of hospitalization, I was given 17 blood transfusions. It was the practice in our sector that when a wounded American received blood transfusions, he was shown the bottle with the name of the donor and unit inscribed thereon. It was a way of indicating that there was someone, a

stranger, willing to give blood, so that the wounded would survive. Most ~~of the~~ blood I received was from men of the 92nd Division. I believe it is correct for me to say that if not for African Americans, I would not be standing before you today. I have always been grateful to the 15 men who shared their blood with me.

Today is December 7. Throughout the land there are gatherings, most small and almost forgotten. Of all the men who remembered that morning and part of the pain and suffering of that day, December 7th was for the most part the Navy's worst day in its history. _____ battleships and _____ cruisers were sunk and _____ battleships and _____ cruisers were damaged. Since the Navy for the most part was manned by European-Americans, one very seldom heard of the heroes and exploits of African-Americans.

A few minutes ago, I participated in a ceremony over the sunken hulk of the U.S.S. ARIZONA. When one speaks of the ARIZONA, one generally assumes all the men aboard the ship were European-Americans. But ~~these~~ are the facts--on that painful morning, _____ African-Americans ~~were~~ killed and _____ were wounded; and because of their heroics were awarded (list medals/awards).

As the war progressed, the heroism and sacrifices of African-Americans became a bit more pronounced. Our policy makers realized it was also their war. So on _____, President Truman took steps to integrate the military. Today we have had _____ flag officers, _____ four-star generals, _____ four star admirals, _____ (others). Many of the senior non-comms, sergeant-majors of units are African-Americans. Many of the heroes of Desert Storm were African-American. One of the most distinguished officers of this century served American as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is African-American--General Colin Powell.

On this day, let us once again recall that war is an equalizer and that our nation has finally recognized this common sense fact. But unfortunately, there are many more steps to be taken for all of us to finally recognize that life itself is an equalizer. It is well that on this day we remember 36 ~~words~~ Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence, "WE ~~hold~~ these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness..."