The press has already reported that five and white infantrymen are now fighting side by side in Germany. In France I visited some of the five plateaus before they were left for the front and talked with the men before trained at the Reinforcement Training Center. What I saw and heard was evidence that the Supreme Command in SHAEF was following in naval matters what must be the basic principle of our Army, to use our men, women, and material to defeat the enemy.

Such a policy is working. At the Training Center a white man named Minton, who was assisting in the training program, said graphically, if unpro- notional, about the five tactics: "Here they'll get along all right. It won't matter where they're going or what they're doing. In France, the battalion-size, battalion-sized command officer of the center was certainly that the tactics, all of whom volunteered for the training course with all noncommissioned officers taking a reduction to the grade of private, would be as in Korea. In each five, there is no difference between the white officers and the white soldiers in the center, where the two men were sent to an Army field branch. As the white men were trained in the center, training us that they had reported to him to fight."

The estimate of this officer has been confirmed by the report of an official observer who spent time with some of the plates at the fighting around Rouen, where the first of the units was consisted to attack. He reported that the five soldiers fought as well as any others and that the distances they could be the same as those made by other troops lacking battle experience.

This policy of making the best use of all soldiers is further evidenced in the excellent performance of the Service of Supply troops throughout the theater. These troops, a large percentage of whom are Negroes, regard themselves as soldiers performing vital jobs. They have a very real identification with the fighting front. In the Quartermaster Corps, served by Negro personnel, the first sergeant, when questioned as to why the men were working voluntarily among the others, replied: "We have got to keep the supplies coming and if we want to do our part we must be willing. The officers in this unit were white and were enthusiastic about their job and their work. Discussing their own, Negro officers in a Quartermaster Store Corps said that as new commanders were taken over the distribution of equipment to dangerous territory locates at night for in advance of the overland point known because "they had to be on the go all the time".

In the European theater of operations are the first units of Negro8 forces and there to assume the cares and duties of the American forces. The Negroes, stationed at a depot in the north of England, are Negro troops, trained American soldiers who have been wounded in action. They are described by their Commanding Officer as being the backbone of the war. The officers of this unit were white and were enthusiastic about their job and their work. Discussing their own, Negro officers in a Quartermaster Store Corps said that as new commanders were taken over the distribution of equipment to dangerous territory locates at night for in advance of the overland point known because "they had to be on the go all the time."

In both the Continent and in England, it was evident that the attitude of the Supreme Command was that there should be no discrimination against any soldier of any color and that all should be expected to perform their duties with the same efficiency as their white counterparts. As a result of our trip to the Mediterranean and European theaters I am impressed that such differences as exist between soldiers and their commanders are due to the personal characteristics of the commanders and not to any inherent characteristics of the soldiers. The story of our Negro soldiers gives the lie to any charge that Negro morals and will not fight.

Press Branch
War Department Bureau of Public Relations
April 1, 1945
11:30 A.M.