



## The Exclusion of Black Soldiers from the Medal of Honor in World War II: The Study Commissioned by the United States Army to Investigate Racial Bias ... of the Nation's Highest Military Decoration

By Robert K. Griffith, Robert H. Kohn

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The purpose of this study, commissioned by the Army, was to document the process by which the Congressional Medal of Honor was awarded from December 7, 1941, through September 1, 1948; to identify units in which African Americans served; to identify by name all black soldiers whose names were submitted for the medal and to document any errors in the processing of their nominations; and to compile a list of all black soldiers who received the Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest award. Based on this work, in January 1997 President Clinton awarded seven African Americans the Medal of Honor. The authors were selected by Shaw University of Raleigh, North Carolina, to conduct this study under a U.S. Army contract.

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### Review

"careful investigation" -- *Washington Times*

"examines the vagaries of the nomination process for the Medal of Honor in Europe, the Mediterranean and the Pacific, and highlights cases where exceptional bravery on the part of black combatants might have warranted higher commendation" -- *American Studies*

"investigates the reasons why no African American soldiers were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in World War II" -- *C&RL News*

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