

ATTITUDES  
OF NEGRO SOLDIERS

Early this year the Research Branch of the Special Service Division was instructed to survey the attitudes of Negro enlisted men in the Army. This study, completed in March, 1943, covered 7,000 Negro enlisted men who formed a representative sample of Negroes in 46 different Army organizations from Coast to Coast. Comparable data were obtained at the same time from a representative sample of white enlisted men.

The material reported here covers two of the several subjects studied. They are:

- a) Negroes' preferences in officers.
- b) Attitudes of Negro and white troops toward separation of the two races in the Army.



**WHAT KIND OF JUNIOR OFFICERS**  
**DO NEGRO SOLDIERS PREFER?**

Negro soldiers, expressing their opinions in an atmosphere of anonymity, leave no doubt as to the answer to this question.

**They prefer Negro lieutenants to white lieutenants.**

**They prefer Northern lieutenants to Southern lieutenants.**

A considerable minority of the Negro troops feel it makes no difference which type of officer they have, but the percentage favoring Southern or white lieutenants is insignificant.

The percentage saying it makes no difference is largest among the Southern Negroes, but even this group has a substantial majority favoring Northern and Negro lieutenants.

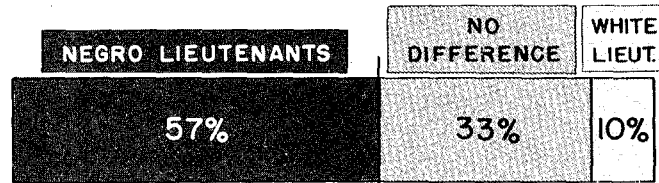


**NEGRO SOLDIERS**

**PREFER NEGRO LIEUTENANTS**

PERCENTAGE CHOOSING

QUESTION . . . . . Suppose your company could get its lieutenants from the North only, but they could be either WHITE or NEGRO. Which would you rather have?



QUESTION . . . . . Suppose your company could get southern officers only. If so, would you rather have WHITE or NEGRO lieutenants?

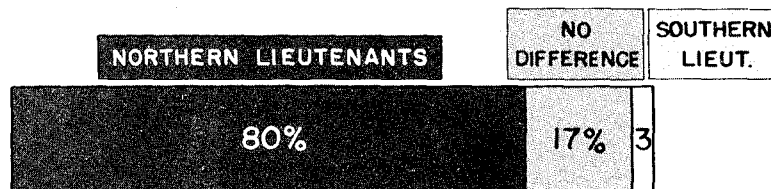


**NEGRO SOLDIERS**

**PREFER NORTHERN LIEUTENANTS**

PERCENTAGE CHOOSING

QUESTION . . . . . Suppose your company lieutenants were all white officers, but they could come either from the NORTH or from the SOUTH. Which would you rather have?



QUESTION . . . . . Suppose your company lieutenants were all Negro officers. Would you rather have them come from the NORTH or from the SOUTH?



RACE SEPARATION IN THE ARMY. . . AS THE NEGRO SOLDIER SEES IT

In response to each of three questions on separation of Negroes and whites in the Army, a minority of Negro soldiers--but a substantial minority, from 38 to 48 per cent--say they consider some form of separation a good idea.

About half favor separate service clubs; four in ten favor separate post exchanges.

Thirty-eight per cent believe that Negro and white soldiers should be in separate outfits; 36 per cent believe Negro and white soldiers should be in the same outfits; the rest are undecided.

Many of the Negroes and some of the whites who favor separation in the Army indicate by their comments that they are opposed to segregation in principle. They favor separation in the Army to avoid trouble or unpleasantness arising from race prejudice. This point is most often made in connection with service clubs, where social relations are most important.

Negroes who oppose segregation in the Army indicate most frequently that their reasons are related to the idea that we are fighting for democracy and equality.

\* \* \*

The longer a Negro has served in the Army, the less likely he is to favor separation of the races.

Most favorable to racial separation in the Army are the Southern Negroes with least education. Least favorable are the better educated Northern Negroes.

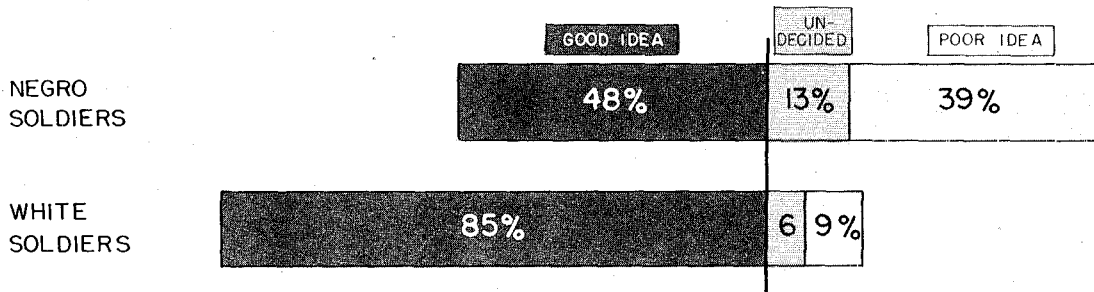
The chart at the right presents the answers of Negro and white soldiers to the three questions on racial separation in the Army.



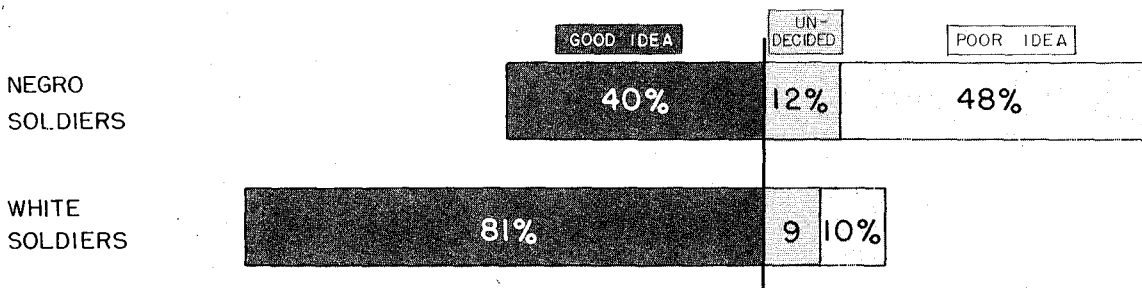
# NEGRO OPINIONS DIFFER ON RACE SEPARATION

QUESTION... "Do you think it is a good idea or a poor idea for Negro and white soldiers to have SEPARATE SERVICE CLUBS in Army camps?"

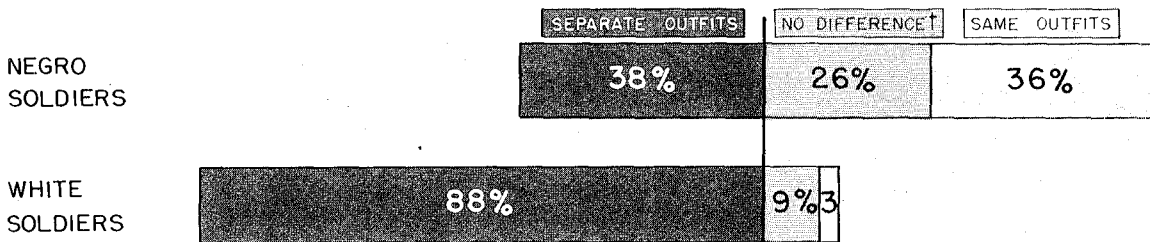
PERCENTAGE SAYING



QUESTION... "Do you think it is a good idea or a poor idea for white and Negro soldiers to have SEPARATE PX's in Army camps?"



QUESTION... "Do you think white and Negro soldiers should be in SEPARATE OUTFITS or should they be together in the SAME OUTFITS?"



† Includes men who are undecided