

Supplement B

WHO IS THE AMERICAN SOLDIER?

This information on characteristics of the American soldier is based, in the main, on tabulations of a five per cent sample of enlistment cards for all enlisted men in the Army as of March 31, 1943, made by the Machine Records Branch, A.G.O. Certain supplementary data were supplied by surveys made by the Research Branch of the Special Service Division.

The Machine Records Branch sample is believed to be representative of the entire Army, and the Research Branch data are believed to be representative of the white enlisted men stationed in the Continental United States. The Research Branch is responsible for the analysis of the data. All data are from the Machine Records Branch unless otherwise noted.



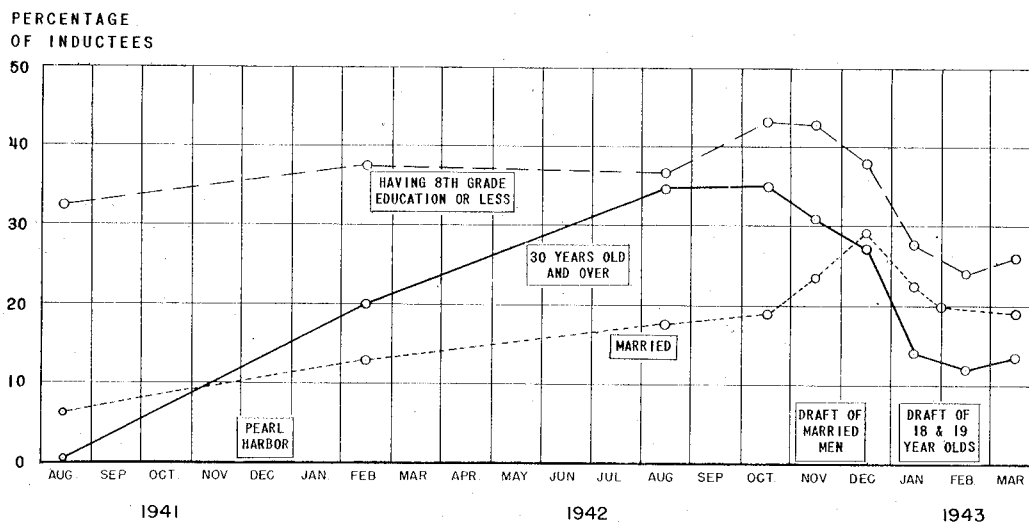
Characteristics of the American Soldier

Soldiers' attitudes toward their military role are closely related to personal characteristics. Age, marital condition, race, and education are important in this problem. Physical capacities of the men are closely related to age.

A commander seeking to improve the mental and physical stamina of his men is in need of information on such characteristics in his own command. These will frequently differ widely from the Army norm, and the norm is therefore useful as a yardstick of comparison.

The charts and tables presented in this section give the latest available figures on the over-all characteristics of the Army.

TRENDS IN CHARACTERISTICS OF INDUCTEES (August 1941 - March 1943)



The nature of the Selective Service process is such that the characteristics of the men inducted fluctuate violently from month to month. The percentage of men inducted in a given month who are 30 years of age and over had increased from 0.4 per cent in the period from August to September 1941 to 35 per cent in the fall of 1942, and then dropped to 12 per cent in February 1943. Large changes are also noted in the proportions of men that are poorly educated and the proportions that are married.

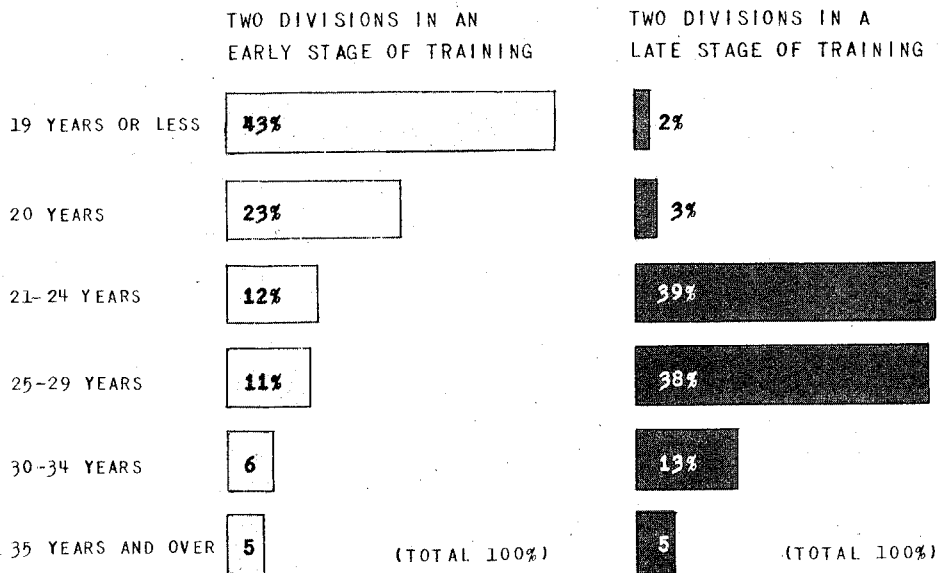


Variations in Composition of Outfits

Recent surveys by the Research Branch indicate that a tactical unit, such as a division, tends to be composed largely of men who entered the Army at about the same time. Such units are likely to reflect the characteristics of the inductee group at a certain period. Two divisions in an early stage of training and two divisions in a late stage of training were recently sampled on a cross-section basis. In the divisions in an early stage of training, most of the men had entered the Army in 1943. Most of the men in the divisions in a late stage of training entered the Army in 1941 or the early part of 1942.

Inevitably, therefore, the changes in the composition of the inductee group shown in the chart on the preceding page are reflected in the composition of the divisions. The early stage divisions were made up largely of men recruited after the 18 and 19 year old draft began; the late stage divisions, on the other hand, were made up of men recruited before this draft and before the induction of men 30 years old and over had become heavy.

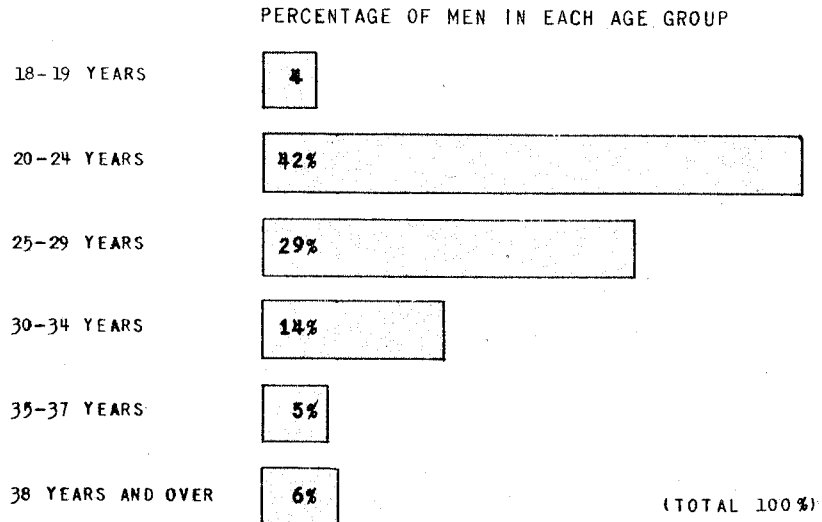
AGE COMPARISON OF TWO GROUPS OF DIVISIONS



This chart compares the age distribution of the two early stage divisions with that of the two divisions in a late stage of training. Of the men in an early stage of training, 66 per cent are 20 or under, but only 5 per cent of the men in the late stage divisions are 20 or under. The contrast between these two groups of divisions may be more extreme than would normally obtain; nevertheless, it is probably indicative of important variations in the composition of divisions. Such differences in characteristics of outfits may affect not only attitudes of men, but also the type of training which would be most effective.

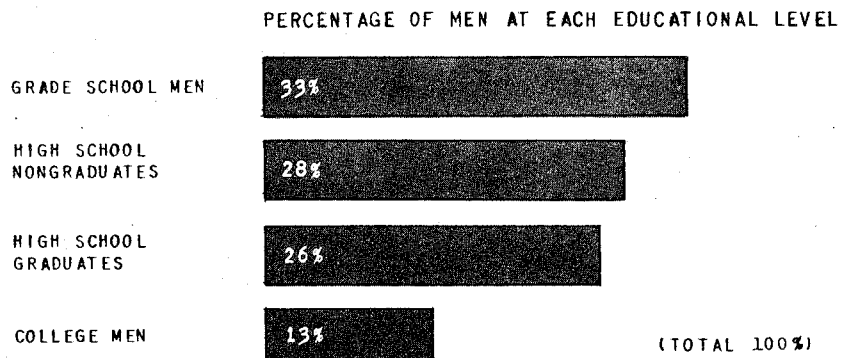
The Over-All Picture

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF ENLISTED MEN



This chart presents a percentage distribution of enlisted men by age groups as of March 31, 1943. It is possible that by July 1 the proportion of 18 and 19 year olds may have increased to as much as 8 per cent.

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF ENLISTED MEN

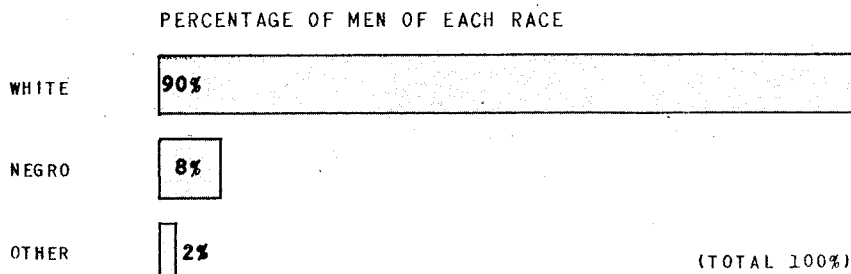


The American Army is the best-educated army in history. Two-fifths of the enlisted men are high school graduates, and one man in eight has attended college. In general, Northern men have had more formal education than Southern men.



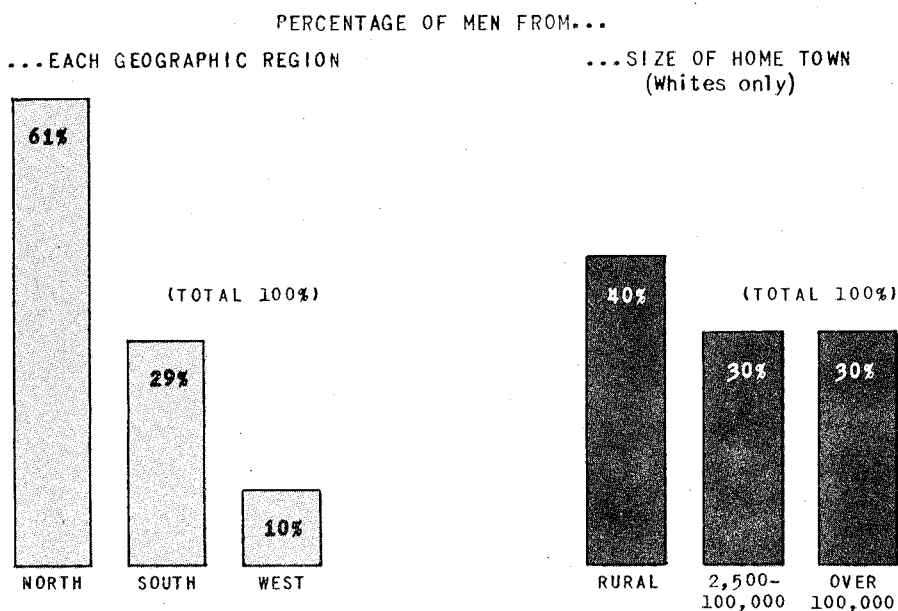
The Over-All Picture (continued)

RACE DISTRIBUTION OF ENLISTED MEN



Nine out of ten American soldiers are of the white race. The bulk of the Negro soldiers come from the South, and the bulk of soldiers of other nonwhite races come from the West.

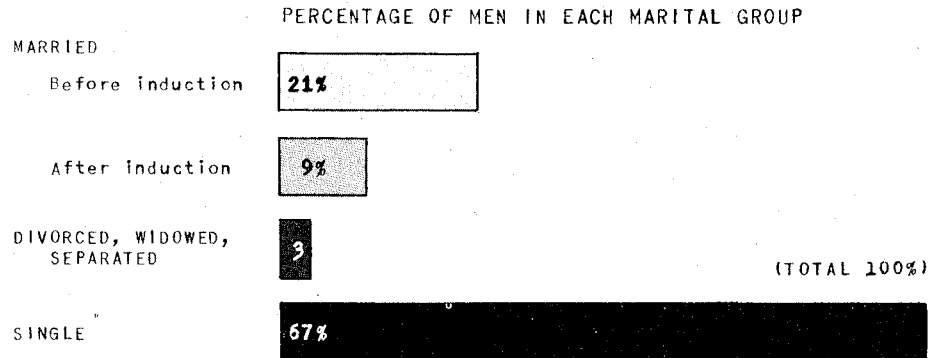
LOCALITIES FROM WHICH ENLISTED MEN COME



The distribution of enlisted men by region of origin and size of home town, as shown above, accurately reflects the distribution of the male population from 18 to 44 years as reported by the Census.

The Marital Picture

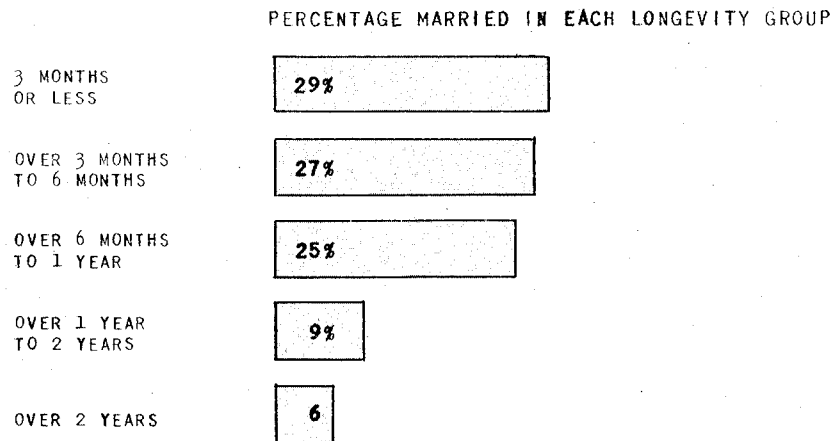
MARITAL STATUS OF WHITE ENLISTED MEN



Thirty per cent of our enlisted men are married. Almost a third of the married men married after induction.

Almost all old Army men were single when they entered the Army. In the last year the proportion of men married at the time of induction has increased sharply. As the chart below shows, more than a fourth of the men who have been in the Army a year or less were married before induction.

MEN MARRIED BEFORE INDUCTION: By Length of Service



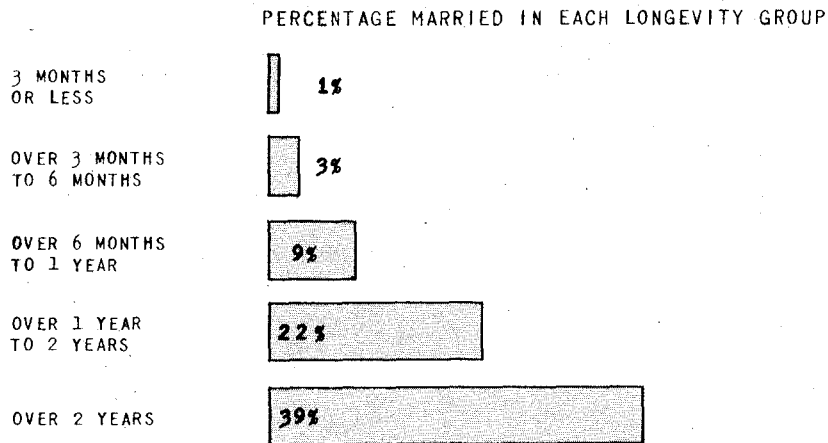
Data are for white men only



The Marital Picture (continued)

The reverse tendency is noted in connection with men married since induction. Very few men who have served a year or less have married since entering the Army, but two-fifths of the men with more than two years service who entered the Army single have since married. These facts are brought out in the chart below, which is based on Research Branch studies made in March, 1943.

MEN MARRIED AFTER INDUCTION: By Length of Service



Data are based only on white men who were single when inducted



This is The Army — as of April 1, 1943

(Percentage Distribution by Region of Origin, Race and Education)

	WHITE %	NEGRO %	OTHER %	TOTAL %
<u>NORTHERNERS</u>				
College graduates.	1.9	*	*	1.9
College non-graduates.	6.0	0.1	0.1	6.2
High school graduates.	17.4	0.4	0.1	17.9
High school non-graduates.	17.3	0.8	0.1	18.2
Grade school men	16.0	0.9	0.2	17.1
TOTAL NORTHERNERS	58.6	2.2	0.5	61.3
<u>SOUTHERNERS</u>				
College graduates.	0.6	0.1	*	0.7
College non-graduates.	2.1	0.2	*	2.3
High school graduates.	5.2	0.5	0.1	5.8
High school non-graduates.	6.1	1.1	0.1	7.3
Grade school men	8.9	3.3	0.2	12.4
TOTAL SOUTHERNERS	22.9	5.2	0.4	28.5
<u>WESTERNERS</u>				
College graduates.	0.3	*	*	0.3
College non-graduates.	1.2	*	0.1	1.3
High school graduates.	2.6	*	0.2	2.8
High school non-graduates.	2.4	0.1	0.2	2.7
Grade school men	2.7	0.1	0.3	3.1
TOTAL WESTERNERS.	9.2	0.2	0.8	10.2
<u>ALL REGIONS COMBINED</u>				
College graduates.	2.8	0.1	*	2.9
College non-graduates.	9.3	0.3	0.2	9.8
High school graduates.	25.2	0.9	0.4	26.5
High school non-graduates.	25.8	2.0	0.4	28.2
Grade school men	27.6	4.3	0.7	32.6
GRAND TOTAL	90.7	7.6	1.7	100.0

*Less than 0.05 per cent

Regional divisions follow U. S. Census divisions. Northerners are men from New England, Middle Atlantic and East and West North Central states. Southerners are from South Atlantic and East and West South Central states. Westerners are from Mountain and Pacific states.

