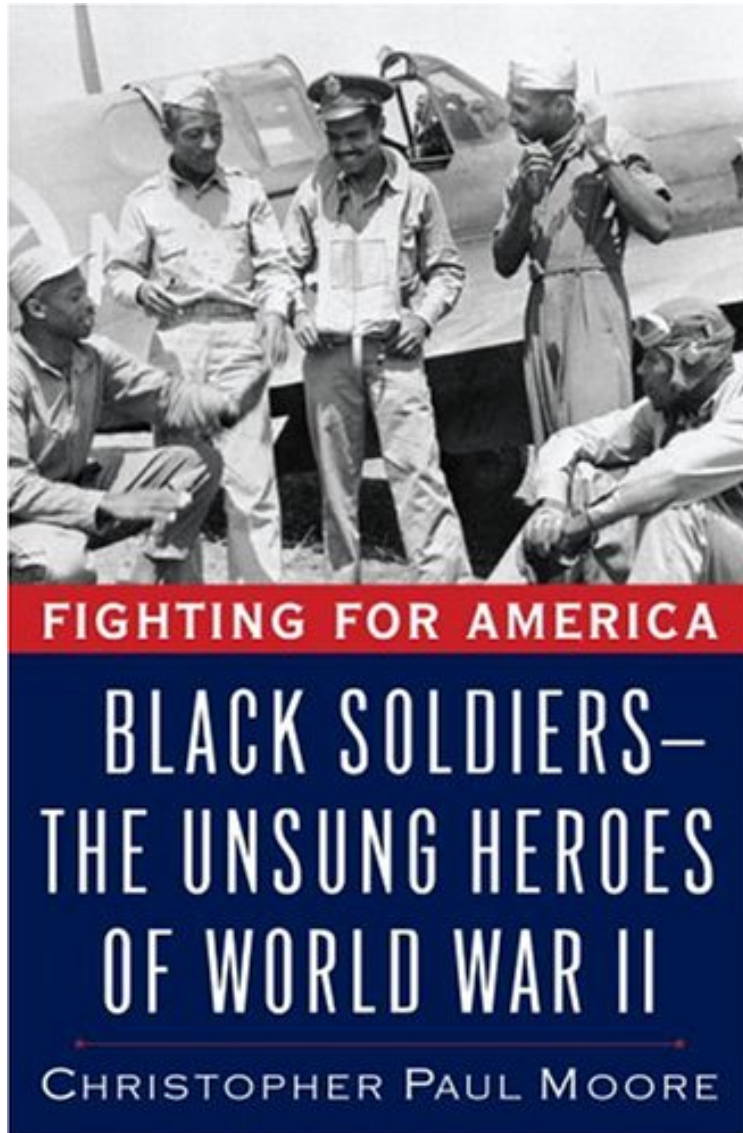


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# Fighting for America: Black Soldiers--the Unsung Heroes of World War II

Christopher Moore

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**Christopher Moore : Fighting for America: Black Soldiers--the Unsung Heroes of World War II** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fighting for America: Black Soldiers--the Unsung Heroes of World War II:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Page turner - valuable addition to any libraryBy Mickey DI loved this book. I was a bit skeptical at first thinking this would be one of those condemnations of the country and a cry for

reparations or something. It was not. What this book is a look into the history of our Black Soldiers who fought for America. From the Revolution on up into the later part of the 20th Century. It was also a personal history of the authors family and their contribution to our freedom. It made me both proud to be and American and ashamed of how our soldiers of color were treated. Back in the early 70's when I was in I had no issue serving side by side with Black Americans. After all, we all wore the OD and we were all family - a brotherhood of young men, serving our country. I had read about the heroism of the Buffalo Soldier during the Indian Wars and in the late 18 and early 1900's and was proud to serve with their descendants. What I never knew until just recently was the way these fine men were treated by our government and by their fellow citizens. For that I truly am ashamed however, the good fight was fought and for the most part, in the minds of most of us, we are all Americans - no matter what skin color. If you are a fan of American History, this book will be a welcome addition to your library. It was well written, interesting and easy to read. Believe me, most books take me weeks to get through, this one was hard to put down and I finished it in record time and sad that I had turned the last page. I wish to thank Mr. Moore and his family for their service to "our" country and hope that for once, at least this history will never repeat itself. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very good book. It is a shame (since I like ...By nleeVery good book. It is a shame (since I like military history ). All the documentaries I see have no black American soldiers in it what soever. 1.8 million blacks fought in WWII. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Leroy WilliamsThank You!!

The African-American contribution to winning World War II has never been celebrated as profoundly as in *Fighting for America*. In this inspirational and uniquely personal tribute, the essential part played by black servicemen and -women in that cataclysmic conflict is brought home. Here are letters, photographs, oral histories, and rare documents, collected by historian Christopher Moore, the son of two black WWII veterans. Weaving his family history with that of his people and nation, Moore has created an unforgettable tapestry of sacrifice, fortitude, and courage. From the 1,800 black soldiers who landed at Normandy Beach on D-Day, and the legendary Tuskegee Airmen who won ninety-five Distinguished Flying Crosses, to the 761st Tank Battalion who, under General Patton, helped liberate Nazi death camps, the invaluable effort of black Americans to defend democracy is captured in word and image. Readers will be introduced to many unheralded heroes who helped America win the war, including Dorie Miller, the messman who manned a machine gun and downed four Japanese planes; Robert Brooks, the first American to die in armored battle; Lt. Jackie Robinson, the future baseball legend who faced court-martial for refusing to sit in the back of a military bus; an until now forgotten African-American philosopher who helped save many lives at a Japanese POW camp; even the author's own parents: his mother, Kay, a WAC when she met his father, Bill, who was part of the celebrated Red Ball Express. Yet *Fighting for America* is more than a testimonial; it is also a troubling story of profound contradictions, of a country still in the throes of segregation, of a domestic battleground where arrests and riots occurred simultaneously with foreign service—and of how the war helped spotlight this disparity and galvanize the need for civil rights. Featuring a unique perspective on black soldiers, *Fighting for America* will move any reader: all who, like the author, owe their lives to those who served.

From *Publishers Weekly* The Allied victory in WWII was a triumph of logistics as well as combat power. Moore (*Jubilee: The Emergence of African American Culture*) looks deeply and broadly into those efforts and comes up with a major addition to the literature. He finds African-American units building the lion's share of the logistical infrastructure in Europe and the Pacific, as well as transporting everything from artillery pieces to bottles of plasma. Among combat units, the familiar Tuskegee Airmen and the Black Panthers of the 761st Tank Battalion are here, but so are the 93rd Infantry Division, which never fought as a unit in the Pacific, and the 92nd Infantry, much maligned for one failure in an otherwise respectable record in Italy. African-American WACS saved the European theater's mail system from total chaos. A great many black Americans who served endured incidents of racial discrimination; Moore vividly depicts their coping strategies. The son of two WWII veterans who met in Europe, Moore contributes a somewhat rambling essay on the development of his own racial identity, but scores of letters and photographs counterbalance that minor deficiency. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From *Booklist* Moore's painstaking research and personal history (his parents met while serving in the military in World War II) add enormously to this tribute to the contributions of black soldiers during that war. Moore focuses on the reluctance, and even resistance, to send black troops into military service, based on the myth of their incompetence and cowardice. Thus, black soldiers fought the war on two fronts—at home and abroad. When the war effort required the deployment of black troops, they were originally assigned only support roles of preparing roads and getting supplies to advancing troops, but they proved themselves to be brave fighters as their roles evolved into combat. Moore highlights individuals who distinguished themselves in the war, drawing on previously unpublished materials from individual soldiers and black platoons. Moore chronicles the bravery of the troops as well as their struggles for equality at home, where they continued to be treated as second-class citizens. Photos, newspaper clippings, and letters add to the rich portrayal of the heroic service by black soldiers during World War II. Vernon Ford Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved Praise for *Fighting for America* "A rare,

thoughtful, and easily readable account of America's invisible soldiers. This book speaks for the many thousands of men and women patriots whose stories remain untold."—JAMES MCBRIDERecollections from the author's father and mother"I think the first man in my life ever to call me an American, and say it like I was as good as any American he was likely to find, was a Jewish man. We took our trucks to get them out of the concentration camps. I had just got out of the truck, and a Jewish man, who looked like a dead man walking, came right up to me. He called me 'American,' and he fell into my arms. He hugged me like nobody ever hugged me in my life. I would like to think this man liked me for being a good Christian, but I think he loved me for being an American."—S. Sgt. BILL MOORE, (3438th Quartermaster Corp, 1943—45)"My four brothers already were serving and scattered abroad in the war— Charley was in the Philippines, Rick in Europe where he got a Purple Heart for injuries he suffered, Harry was in the Air Force, and Erskine was helping to build the Burma road where he got malaria. This was probably as much a reason as any that prompted me to think about going into the service myself. There was patriotism in my decision too, because we were a patriotic people." —Pfc. NORMA KAY DEFREESE MOORE (U.S. Army, 1943—45)