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ATTITUDES OF ENLISTED MEN
TOWARD
NEGROES FOR AIR FORCE DUTY

43

BASED ON A SURVEY OF A REPRESENTATIVE
CROSS SECTION OF 5872 WHITE ENLISTED MEN
IN 6 ARMY AIR FORCE TACTICAL UNITS
AND 3 ARMY AIR FORCE TRAINING SCHOOLS

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ATTITUDES TOWARD NEGROES
FOR AIR FORCE DUTY

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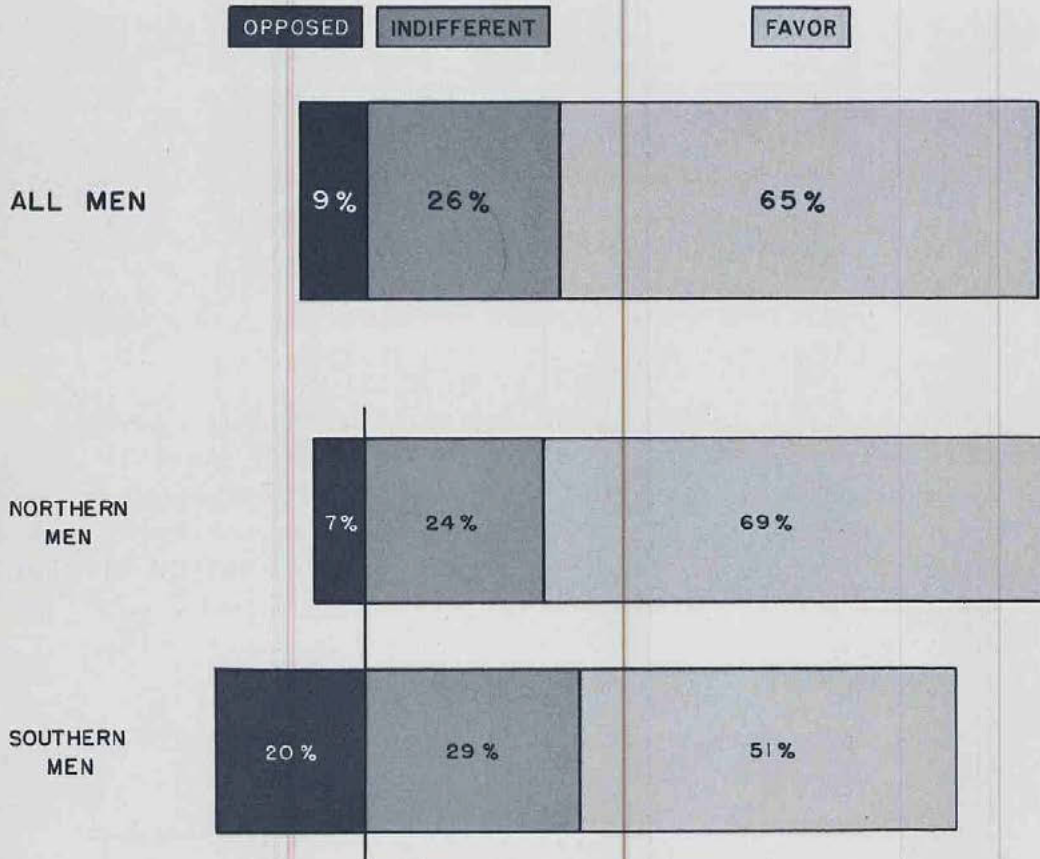
Prevailing opinion among 5872 typical white enlisted men in the Air Forces is: Train Negroes as pilots, bombardiers and navigators, but segregate the Negro both in training and in subsequent duty.

* * *

Differences in rank and amount of formal education have little effect on the enlisted man's attitude. There is high agreement among both Northerners and Southerners on the policy of having Negroes trained for Air Force duty and on segregating them. There are, as might be expected, sharp differences between Northerners and Southerners on the subject of working personally with Negro soldiers.

1. Two out of three men favor training the Negro, and only one man in ten definitely objects.
2. More than three out of four men favor separate training schools, combat and ground crews.
3. Less than one-half the men (44%) say they have a personal objection to working in the same ground crew with Negroes. Yet two out of three Southerners object to working with Negro soldiers, whereas only one out of three Northerners objects.

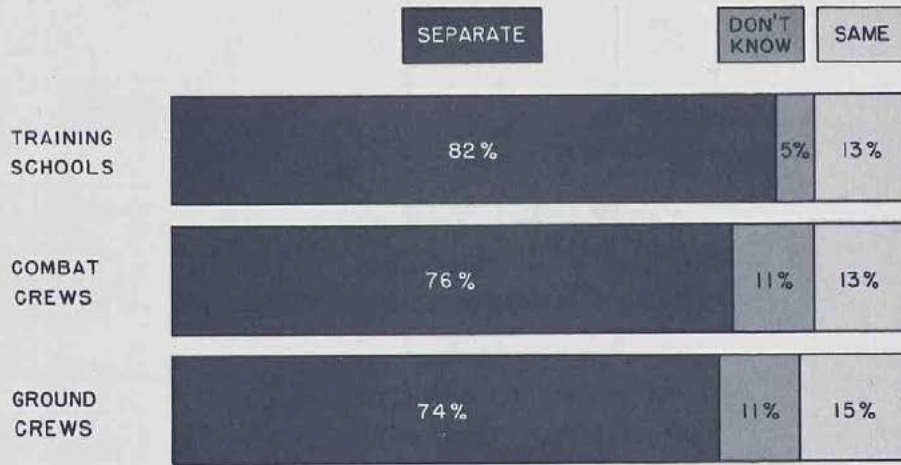
ONLY ONE MAN IN TEN IS OPPOSED TO TRAINING
NEGROES FOR ARMY AIR FORCE DUTY



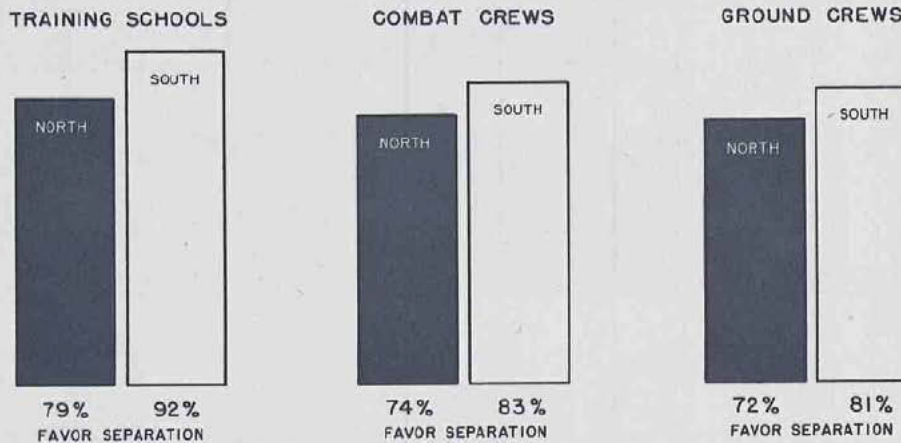
NOTE: The exact question asked was:

- Q. "Negroes are now being trained as pilots, bombardiers and navigators. How do you feel about this? (Check one of following) Highly in favor of it___, Moderately in favor___, Indifferent___, Opposed___, Strongly opposed___."

AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE MEN FEEL THAT NEGRO AND WHITE SOLDIERS SHOULD BE SEPARATED BOTH DURING AND AFTER TRAINING



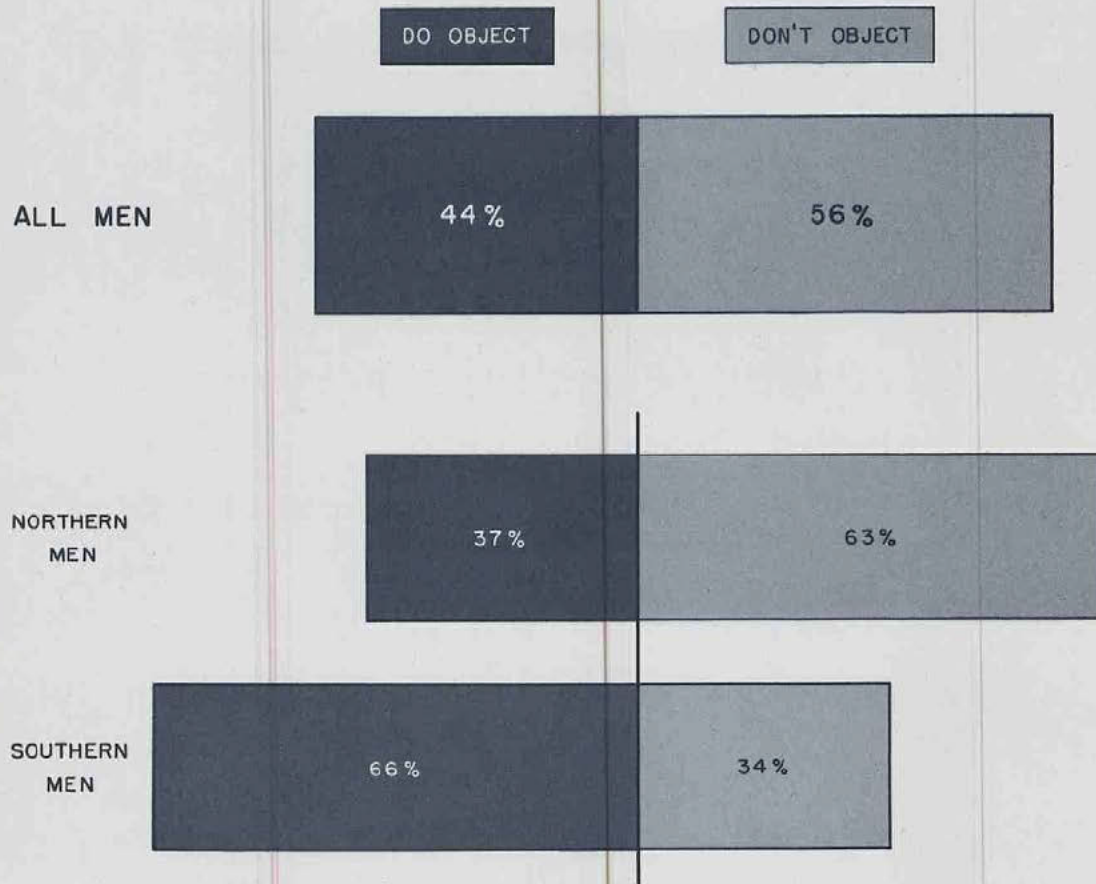
MEN FROM THE NORTH, AS WELL AS FROM THE SOUTH FAVOR SEPARATION



NOTE: The exact question asked was:

Q. "Do you think that white soldiers and Negro soldiers in the Air Force should be in the same or separate (a) training schools? (b) combat crews? (c) ground crews?"

LESS THAN HALF OF THE MEN OBJECT TO WORKING
IN THE SAME GROUND CREW WITH NEGRO SOLDIERS



NOTE: The exact question asked was:

Q. "Would you have any personal objection to working in the same ground crew with Negro soldiers? (Check one of the following) Yes ___ No ___"

APPENDIX

Effect of differences in soldiers'
rank and amount of formal education
upon attitude toward Negro soldiers.

ATTITUDES TOWARD NEGROES FOR AIR FORCE DUTY:

EDUCATIONAL DIFFERENCES

Differences in attitudes toward Negroes in the Air Forces attributable to education are small. There is some indication that better educated men are more favorable toward Negroes being trained and toward Negroes being in mixed schools and crews.

But the amount of education a man has does not appear to affect his personal willingness to work with Negroes. In fact, when the more important factor of the region from which the men come is held constant, contrary tendencies appear.

In the South, the men of least education are in contrast with the other education groupings, in having the more favorable attitudes toward Negroes, while, in the North, the college men are more favorable in contrast with the three lower groups whose attitudes are about the same. Personal willingness to work with Negro soldiers is about the same in all Northern groups, but among the Southerners, grade school men have much less objection.

It should be emphasized, however, that the educational differences are very slight when compared with regional differences. Southern college men are far closer to Southern grade school men in their attitudes than they are to Northern college men.

ENLISTED MEN OF DIFFERENT
EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUNDS COMPARED

"NEGROES ARE NOW BEING TRAINED AS PILOTS, BOMBARDIERS
AND NAVIGATORS. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS?"

(Percentages read across)

	FAVOR	INDIFFERENT	OPPOSE	TOTAL	
	%	%	%	%	NO.
Grade school.	62	31	7	100	609
Some high school.	63	28	9	100	1223
High graduate	64	26	10	100	2701
College	68	23	9	100	1339

"DO YOU THINK THAT WHITE SOLDIERS AND NEGRO SOLDIERS
IN THE AIR FORCE SHOULD BE IN THE SAME OR SEPARATE
(a) TRAINING SCHOOLS? (b) COMBAT CREWS? (c) GROUND CREWS?"

(percentages read across)

	SAME	SEPARATE	NO	TOTAL	
			ANSWER	%	NO.
	%	%	%	%	NO.
SAME OR SEPARATE TRAINING SCHOOLS?					
Grade school.	11	79	10	100	609
Some high school.	13	81	6	100	1223
High graduate	12	85	3	100	2701
College	17	80	3	100	1339
SAME OR SEPARATE COMBAT CREWS?					
Grade school.	11	68	21	100	609
Some high school.	13	74	13	100	1223
High graduate	12	78	10	100	2701
College	17	75	8	100	1339
SAME OR SEPARATE GROUND CREWS?					
Grade school.	13	67	20	100	609
Some high school.	14	73	13	100	1223
High graduate	13	77	10	100	2701
College	19	73	8	100	1339

[REDACTED]

**ENLISTED MEN OF DIFFERENT
EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUNDS COMPARED**

(Continued)

**"WOULD YOU HAVE ANY PERSONAL OBJECTION TO WORKING
IN THE SAME GROUND CREW WITH NEGRO SOLDIERS?"**

(Percentages read across)

	OBJECT %	DON'T		NO	
		OBJECT %	ANSWER %	TOTAL %	NO. NO.
Grade school.	40	57	3	100	609
Some high school.	43	55	2	100	1223
High graduate	45	54	1	100	2701
College	43	56	1	100	1339

**COMPARISONS BY EDUCATIONAL AND REGIONAL
BACKGROUND OF ENLISTED MEN**

**"NEGROES ARE NOW BEING TRAINED AS PILOTS, BOMBARDIERS
AND NAVIGATORS. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS?"**

(Percentages read across)

	FAVOR			INDIFFERENT			OPPOSE			TOTAL	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	NO.	
Southern Men:											
Grade school.	48	39	13	100	178						
Some high school.	50	32	18	100	271						
High graduate	53	24	23	100	646						
College	51	33	16	100	359						
Northern Men:											
Grade school.	67	28	5	100	431						
Some high school.	67	27	6	100	952						
High graduate	68	26	6	100	2055						
College	75	22	6	100	980						

**"DO YOU THINK THAT WHITE SOLDIERS AND NEGRO SOLDIERS
 IN THE AIR FORCE SHOULD BE IN THE SAME OR SEPARATE
 (a) TRAINING SCHOOLS? (b) COMBAT CREWS? (c) GROUND CREWS?"**

(Percentages read across)

	SAME	SEPARATE	NO ANSWER	TOTAL	
				%	NO.
SAME OR SEPARATE TRAINING SCHOOLS?					
Southern Men:					
Grade school	6	83	11	100	178
Some high school	4	91	5	100	271
High graduate	4	93	3	100	646
College	4	93	3	100	359
Northern Men:					
Grade school	13	78	9	100	431
Some high school	16	78	6	100	952
High graduate	14	82	4	100	2055
College	22	75	3	100	980
SAME OR SEPARATE COMBAT CREWS?					
Southern Men:					
Grade school	8	69	23	100	178
Some high school	7	85	8	100	271
High graduate	7	85	8	100	646
College	7	86	7	100	359
Northern Men:					
Grade school	13	67	20	100	431
Some high school	15	71	14	100	952
High graduate	13	77	10	100	2055
College	21	71	8	100	980
SAME OR SEPARATE GROUND CREWS?					
Southern Men:					
Grade school	11	66	23	100	178
Some high school	9	82	9	100	271
High graduate	7	84	9	100	646
College	8	84	8	100	359
Northern Men:					
Grade school	14	68	18	100	431
Some high school	16	70	14	100	952
High graduate	15	75	10	100	2055
College	24	68	8	100	980

COMPARISONS BY EDUCATIONAL AND REGIONAL
BACKGROUND OF ENLISTED MEN
(Continued)

**"WOULD YOU HAVE ANY PERSONAL OBJECTION TO WORKING
IN THE SAME GROUND CREW WITH NEGRO SOLDIERS?"**
(Percentages read across)

	OBJECT	DON'T OBJECT	NO ANSWER	TOTAL	
	%	%	%	%	NO.
Southern Men:					
Grade school.	52	44	4	100	178
Some high school.	64	35	1	100	271
High graduate	70	30	*	100	646
College	67	32	1	100	359
Northern Men:					
Grade school.	35	63	2	100	431
Some high school.	37	61	2	100	952
High graduate	38	61	1	100	2055
College	35	64	1	100	980

*Less than 0.5 of 1%

ATTITUDES TOWARD NEGROES FOR AIR FORCE DUTY:

DIFFERENCES BY RANK

Noncoms, both Southern and Northern, are less willing to work with Negro soldiers than are privates, although the attitudes toward training Negroes are much the same in both groups. Even when the comparison is limited to privates and noncoms from the same region (South or North) and with the same general educational background, the difference is still indicated--although the number of cases in the sub-groups then becomes too small to assure confidence in the reliability of the sample.

"WOULD YOU HAVE ANY PERSONAL OBJECTION TO WORKING IN THE SAME GROUND CREW WITH NEGRO SOLDIERS?" §

(Percentages read across)

	OBJECT	DON'T OBJECT	NO ANSWER	TOTAL	
	%	%	%	%	NO.
Southern Men:					
Noncoms.	72	27	1	100	253
Privates	65	33	2	100	410
Northern Men:					
Noncoms.	48	51	1	100	769
Privates	39	60	1	100	1310

"NEGROES ARE NOW BEING TRAINED AS PILOTS, BOMBARDIERS AND NAVIGATORS. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS?" §

(Percentages read across)

	FAVOR	INDIFFERENT	OPPOSE	TOTAL	
	%	%	%	%	NO.
Southern Men:					
Noncoms.	58	22	20	100	253
Privates	52	29	19	100	410
Northern Men:					
Noncoms.	69	24	7	100	769
Privates	70	23	7	100	1310

§ This table is based on a cross-section sample of 2,742 enlisted men in Air Force Tactical Units only, since there were too few non-coms in the Air Force Schools to permit comparisons in this group.