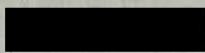


Armed Forces--Negroes



I & E Division

Headquarters, Army Service Forces  
Washington 25, D. C.

A PRELIMINARY REPORT

ON ATTITUDES OF NEGRO SOLDIERS IN ETO

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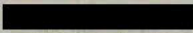
Headquarters  
European Theater of Operations  
United States Army

Research Branch, G-1 Division

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During November 1943 a theater-wide soldier opinion survey was conducted among a representative cross-section of about 3000 U. S. troops in the U.K. Included in this sample were 422 negro soldiers, representing ten different units. For the purpose of comparing attitudes of white troops with colored troops a sample of 422 white soldiers was drawn which matched the colored sample in pertinent background factor - home region in U.S., education rank and age. Differences found in the attitudes of these two groups could presumably thus be accounted for by the remaining factor of racial backdrop.

Many of the negro soldiers wrote in additional comments in a blank space in the questionnaire. Two-thirds of them making such comments wrote on subjects relating directly or indirectly to racial discrimination. These comments are presented in this report to supplement the statistical picture by providing some additional insight into the nature of and reasons for differences of colored and white attitudes.

1. The Colored Soldier's Orientation to the War.

What they say:

"My remark to question of why am I fighting. My answer was I did not know. Reason: I am a colored American soldier and I am told by our chiefs that we are fighting for democracy! And thats the American way of life. But here in Britain our 'civilized overlords' tell the British people not to associate with the colored soldier. He's ..... half-wild, ignorant and E.T.O. They preach racial hatred against the negro. And other dark people. Hitler preaches racial hatred about other non-Ayrans. One is called Nazism - the other called democracy. I can't see any difference in either policy - do I know why I am fighting?"  
(Northerner - High School education)\*

"Being a member of the negro race serving in the forces, supposedly for the preservation of democracy, I find it quite difficult at times to carry on with my white brother in arms. Freedom is the one virtue worth fighting or dying for. When this most vital item is so flagrantly

\* In each of the comments presented in this report the education level and home region of the man making the comment is reported. For this purpose men from states south of the Mason-Dixon line are classed as Southerners. Men from the rest of the country, including mid-west and west are classified as Northerners.



denied one, while under arms, what is to be expected when the perverbial peace comes. When the problems of post war days spread over the land, as a blanket. The fighting for the negro will really begin when the nation lay down its arms. The most disheartening and disallusioning experience of my life was the bold discriminating practices that are tolerated in the American Army. If one cant find 'democracy' in the body that is instituted for the preservation of that way of life, or principle, where else is it to be found? I know only too well why I'm fighting only it's like flying blind. We hope someday to reap the real benefits of our blood-sweat and tears. Which incidently flows as freely as our 'white brothers'." (Northerner - High School education).

"The black man is forced to fight in this war for what. When back in America he is give discrimination. We suppose to be fighting freedom and liberty all mankind. I am a negro over doing my part to help win this war and the American so then white man come here with his prejudice and narrow mind and spread properganda about the black man among the England people. He is everything but a American soldier and getlement. We black men have to teach him his lesson. You have train to respect his American black man you dont there gon a hell fight over this or before it is over, between black a white." (Northerner - High School education).

"If the English people would do more towards treating the colored soldiers like human beings it would out out some of the friction that has recently been rampant in the British Isle. We are treated not as soldiers but as something to be gaped at, and held up for ridicule not by the English people but by the American. They are the ones who are causing us all the trouble. I sometimes wonder just what I'n fighting for." (Southerner - College education).

How many feel this way?

The following questions were asked of both white and colored soldiers:

Do you ever get the feeling that this war is not worth fighting?

	"Sometimes" or "Very" often	"Once in a while" or "never"	No answer
NEGRO	52%	43%	5
WHITE	29%	69%	2



Do you feel that most of the men in your outfit have a full understanding of why we are fighting this war?

	Yes	No	Undecided and no answer
NEGRO	33%	50%	16%
WHITE	55%	30%	15%

There are others, of course, who may feel they are fighting for a good cause, but express a hope and imply a doubt that a world without racial prejudice is on its way.

"I hope some day we as people at America will all be in good fellowship with all mankind." (Southerner - Grade school education)

"To give the negro more equal right in the States without bloodshed or riots, that we all live in peace. A man a man regardless his creed or color race." (Southerner - Grade school education)

"All soldiers regardless of color should be brothers and sisters in this present war and be one big happy family." (Northerner - High School education)

These hopes and doubts are reflected in the responses to the following question:

Do you think you have as much of a personal stake in this war as anybody else?

	Yes	Think so but not sure	No	Undecided and no answer
NEGRO	35%	28%	25%	11%
WHITE	67%	21%	6	6



2. The 'Isolationist' Tendency of the Negro Soldier's Orientation.

What they say:

"If we have a democracy in America I would like to see it carried out, instead of making political speeches and always yelling to other countries about it and don't carry it out in our own country. Clean our own door step first and don't be telling the other countries how to run their country."  
(Northerner - Grade school education)

"The Army has taken me away from my family and the ones I love and has done something to me that cannot be corrected after the war. I am a negroe and I think very little of the way things are going as far as the negroes are concerned in the states. I feel that I should be over there fighting for the freedom of my people than to be here fighting for a people that does not give a dam for me and my people (I mean the American white race) of America. And as far as wars are concerned the negroe race has nothing to fight for on this side of the water. All our problems are in America and no other place we are treated better in England than we are in a country that is supposed to be our home." (Northerner - Grade school education)

"Why must we fight someone else's battle we as a whole don't see it at all I don't think it fair at all to leave home to help someone else fight the war reckon they started it themselves let them finish it by themselves. When Ethiopia needed help we would not go to help them but they can send us over to help some English people and we could not help our black brothers when the Italians was slaying them in Africa." (Home region not indicated - High school education)

Men were asked to agree or disagree with certain statements.

How many feel this way?

"After the war the United States should stay out of world affairs and stick to the problems we have in our own country."

	Agree	Disagree	No answer
NEGRO	62%	26%	12%
WHITE	43%	53%	4



While the colored soldier is interested in seeing a solution to his problems on the home front, he does not differ essentially from the white soldier in outlook toward an international organization after the war, as may be seen in the number of agreements to the following statement:

"After the war the United States should join a strong international organization of nations, even if it meant that this organization would have some control over how the United States deals with other countries."

	Agree	Disagree	No answer
NEGRO	52%	33%	15%
WHITE	53%	40%	7%

3. The Cause of the Difference in Attitudes: Race Prejudice.

What they say:

"I am an American negro, doing my part for the American Government to make the world safe for a democracy I have never known; nor do I as yet know. Ever since being brought to America, the negro has known all that has happened to the enslaved peoples of the world and even today we read and hear of race riots, lynchings, and new prejudices happening in America almost daily. Here in England we are the butt of white American insults wherever we go which the English themselves don't understand. My outfit is made up of Southern officers who voluntarily insist they have no prejudices but who allow us as few passes as possible and restrict us from many towns. I and most of the negro soldiers feel that this is the white man's war and regardless of the outcome the American negro's position will be the same. The progress made by the colored man in the past 75 years tops that of any nation and contributions to humanity have been great but I feel that it will take another 75 years of steady hard work and many trials to make the average white American believe that 'all men are created equal'." (Northerner - High school education)

"Why can't the negro soldier be treated as the white and get things as they do after all he wear the same uniform. Although the government say everyone is created equal but



as far as I am concerned they are not for one reason the hatred they have for the negro, always keeping him down."  
(Northerner - High School education)

"The Sothern white man should be taught how to ack and they certainly should be put in their place, before this war is over or America will be a very hard place in. The colored men are over here fighting the same as the white and there are no reasons why the colored men should go through the hell they are going through over hear. If something is not done soon there will be another war very soon after this."  
(Northerner - College education)

"Less practice what we preach. If we are a democricy have more talks on how the white colored soldier can best get along together. And talk to the white soldier about what he tell the English people about the colored soldier. Stop fighting each other and less fight the Germans."  
(Northerner - College education)

"I want to see the day when the white soldiers will leave colored soldier alone and have nothing to say to them especially in public places and places of recreation if they cant act civilized why they shouldnt say anything. It is terrible the way some of them act. Stop prejudice."  
(Northerner - Grade school education)

"I have ben a very good soldier to everyone but sometime the thing you run into make you hate your one fellow soldr. For the thing they say and the thing they do. All I can say I hope they will lern better som day."  
(Northerner - Grade school education)

"Instead of the army bringing about happy relations among its soldiers its strives to make a complete division among them. We are supposed to be fighting a war to stop Hitler and Japan from persecuting minorities and to allow every country to enjoy its freedom. Yet we have all the prejudice and curtailment of freedom. right in our own country. What is worse instead of leaving our problems of this sort at home the Americans (white) have tried to instill their ways and actions over here, and try to make the English do things like they have done and become terribly indignant when they all don't do things like they would see them done. The quicker we wake up and stop fighting a big battle between ourselves the quicker we will be able to finish this war. Instead of wasting time, men and money fighting and segregating our army into two groups, the officers would wake up to the fact that even when we do lick the enemy we are going to have a battle of our own, they would stop all their prejudice



[REDACTED]

action and get down to work to finish this war. 'Let clean our house so we can all together break up the axis house' and have a good clean free for all house that we can call our own". (Northerner - High School education)

"Being a colored American I wonder what this great war of democracy has to do toward helping my conditions or I should say the condition of my race. I am wondering will it help to break down some of the barriers of discrimination that some of the warp minded individuals in the southern part of our country and that they wake up to the fact that we are all human beings, that the constitution of our great republic have equal rights. We black Americans are among the loyalest of Americans for it is our home the only one we know, we love it. My reason for the above remarks is because of the way two Americans get along in the E.T.O. and I think that American, as a whole, should be ashamed of this condition for it is an out-standing feature and the British people are very much aware of it and they wonder too; This condition seems to be encourages by certain high ranking officers, which is deplorable". (Northerner - High School education)

"When I go out on pass the white American soldiers make remark about other soldiers in front of girls. They think they are so much better than other people are not all of the white Americans soldiers do that it just some of them and they call you names in front of people. I don't like that at all. If I had my way, Boy!" (Northerner - Grade school education)

"Do you think every man will get an equal chance after the war? An do you think we are just fighting for some one else? Put the answer in the Stars and Stripes". (Southerner - Grade school education)

"When giving allegiance to the flag I think a part off if could be corrected by making it or living up to what it says. 'For libity and justic for us all'. It look to the colored race that it is 'libity and justic for some'. White supermisy should be abolish all over the states". (Southerner - High school education)

"Stop the M.Ps from molesting soldier on the street by saying look at that nigger with that pretty 'white girl'".

The colored soldier's feeling that his race is being unfairly discriminated against appears in some measure to arise as a result of, or be reinforced by, the practice of having certain English towns and cities open to white soldiers but off-limit to negroes;



[REDACTED]

"All American soldiers located in the same section should feel free to visit near by towns while on pass instead of being told that the town is off-limit to you because the people of the town don't want you in it. The soldier knows who it is that doesn't want him in the town. Not the British but Americans. Another group of soldiers can visit the places thats restricted to others. That is not becoming nor fair to a democratic people. As long as a soldier conducts himself as a gentleman he should not be denied of priviledges other soldiers enjoy in the same location. I'm eager for the Allies to win, but I'm also eager for America to practice democracy. Stop kidding itself. I shall always be a soldier in the Army of Fair Play. Many conditions that exist in the E.T.O. were set up by Americans who are small and think in evil terms toward their countrymen. The British and the whole world would respect us more if we were fair one to the other". (Northerner - High School education)

"Why do we have to put off limits, there should be know such thing as off limites to a soldier in uniform. If the Americans do not want the race to mix, why don't you send us where there is our women only and there could not be any hard feelings then. Most of the white officers up to generals have know respect for a colored soldier, except trying to poison the minds of English against us. I call it sabotourering their own people." (Southerner - High School education)

"I don't see why we should be robbed of our great opportunity over here by white yanks. Why we colored soldiers have off limits to some place an white soldiers don't. Why shouldn't we kick. After all we are fighting together. They are no more important than we are". (Southerner - High School education)

"Well we colored soldiers have had more truck out off the white soldiers an the English people ever would. All weel they say that all American soldiere could go any place in England. But they don't want us in same place and we is all in the same army too". (Home region and education not indicated)

"Why's it given to us that when we move to a new place it's off limited for us, as perhaps we're there before then, an as soon as they come near then we are off limited". (Southerner - High School education)

A factor of less magnititude among the majority of negroes, but possibly of real importance to the educated and professional class negro, is the tendency to put all negroes in labor outfits. (34% of the negroes and 40% of the white feel that everything possible has been done to place them where they best fit the Army):

"I would like to know if the American negro will ever be given a better opportunity to show his ability to do things other



than digging ditches. And if segregation will ever stop, and what results or what chance for advancement will the negro have after the war". (Southern - High School education)

"What doesn't a colored man get more break in the Army. Why isn't their more of them flying planes instead of a ground crew. Our jobs is nothing but a labor outfit. Work hard and dont get no credit." (Northerner - High School education)

"Colored boys in the service are not being given an opportunity to really show what they can do. Given the opportunity they would make ideal soldiers in any branch". (Northerner - High School education)

4. The Negro Soldier and the English

Most comments on the British refer to attempts by white Americans to prejudice the British against the negroes:

"All subjects were rather well covered, all but that of racial segregation. I believe that will be one of the greatest problems after the war. If there were some way to correct the racial problem in our Southern states, the moral of the American negro soldier would be a darn sight higher. Here in England a due of the narrow minded possibly Southern white America soldiers have already poisoned the mind of a fue of the British people toward us. States that we were 'bears without tails', 'wide, sex crazy maniacs' etc. I have personally had the experience of being humiliated by having a young British child run and hide behind her mother, crying when she saw me approach". (Northerner - College education)

"The Americans (white) have begun to segregate their own soldiers (colored) here in England. They have done and are doing everything they can to convince the British people that is as regards the colored fellows being just about the lowest form of human beings. They (the colored) are presumed to be diseased and everything that is bad in general. This should be stopped". (Northerner - High School education)

As might be expected, the negro soldier has a more favorable opinion of the English people than does the white U.S. soldier

"What sort of opinion do you have of the English people?"

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No answer
NEGRO	80%	9%	11%
WHITE	68%	28%	4



5. Morale of Negro Soldiers and Attitudes toward Leaders

One of the very few complaints about working or living conditions:

"I don't think we should have to go to work when it is still dark you can't see how to work anyway. I think soldiers in the E.T.O. should be furnished with better clothes to work in the winter months. Our overalls are not heavy enough, and our hats are too thin. And our gloves have no lining they are very cold". (Home region and education not indicated)

Comments on officers are about as frequent as with white troops. Most of these comments, however, have to do with racial prejudice on the part of the officers:

"My opinion is to put your officers on the ball and stop making trouble for the negro soldier because we all are soldiers of the U.S. Army; we are all suppose to be fighting for the same thing, they are ones that are letting the Army down and showing the uncivilize background of the U.S.". (Northerner - High School education)

"I think that the officers should not go out and tell the people that we are not siverlised and that we have short tails and don't have anything to do with us". (Southerner - High School education)

"In our outfit there should be more of a cooperative spirit between the officers and enlisted men; by that I mean that the officers should forget their personal and hereditary prejudices and concentrate on the effort to end this war and make the world safe for that much talked of and very seldom seen democracy that we as a group had little of at home and none of here in the army and especially the E.T.O. Our officers seem to use the A.Rs to break a man spirit and his back and to fill all the disciplinary training centers with men who could be doing something worthwhile and have a greater desire to work and fight for a cause that could mean something to all free people but instead they have only the desire to get even for some form of mistreatment that they have suffered or that some of their friends have suffered. It seems that their principle desire (the officers) is to break the men's morale instead of building it. Where we may have one who will try to do his job as an officer or soldier there will be others who will tear down anything these fellows try to build up. It seems to me that the army has been but a good opportunity for most of our officers to bring into light that Barbaric Hatred for our group that swells in the Southern part of the U.S. and they are doing their best to sow the seeds of that Barbaric and Ignorant form of Hatred into the English



people so they will bar us even off the streets of the country we are here to help win the war against the Democratic way of life that has been promised to all of us by our Venerable President and the leaders of Britain and Russia". (Southerner - High School education)

"If we had more officers from the North that understood a colored man's opinion of things instead of these Southerners. They have come here and started Jim Crow. We can go to the dance hall no more, on the account of the white soldier. We are American. Why cant we be treated like one. We want to all the war over. But if things dont change for the colored races I guess we have two wars to fight". (Northerner - High School education)

"Many colored unit would like to have colored officers in charge. As many colored men as we have who have gone through high school and finish college, surely there could be more colored officers." (Southerner - High School education)

"Why every one say that what officer make the best for colled, thank colled officer make the best for colled".

Statistical analysis of negro response to key morale questions indicates that the negroes have, if anything, slightly higher morale than the matches sample of white troops.

Morale score (as based on the composite response to 6 questions which reflect the level of morale):

NEGRO

60%

WHITE

59%

Colored troops show, however, less favorable attitudes towards their officers:

"How many of the officers of your outfit are the kind who are willing to go through anything they ask their men to go through?"

	"All" or "Most"	"Half", "Few" or "None"
NEGRO	41%	59%
WHITE	57%	43%



6. The Home Front

A number of the colored soldiers are wondering what kind of treatment their race will get after the war:

"Our mothers and fathers would feel very bad after we have come over and help won the war some of our peoples have to go back down south and put up with the same thing on these plantations".

(Southerner - High School education)

"Do all U.S. personal have the same freedom? Will all races be treated the same? Why don't they do something with John S. Lewis who is he? Will the soldiers of this war be treated like the ones in the last war? What are we having riots for? What is the meaning of the words Equal rights? Why don't they draft all strikers?"

(Southerner - Grade school education)

There is a tendency, however, for the colored soldier more than the white to feel that the war has improved things for family and friends back home.

	War has made things better	War has made things worse or at least no better
NEGRO	36%	64%
WHITE	25%	75%



Negroes

By ---  
Date ---

Armed Forces--Negroes

Report 122 M-2

Prepared for

Chief, Preventive Medicine Branch, Medical Section, Headquarters, MTCUSA

by

Research Branch, Information and Education Section, Headquarters, MTCUSA

25 September 1945

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION.....	2
I. Main Findings.....	3
II. Detailed Findings.....	4
1. Frequency of Sexual Intercourse.....	4
2. Sexual Exposure and VD.....	5
3. Preventive Practices of the Men.....	7
4. The Probable Cause of Higher VD Rate Per 1000 Exposures Among Negroes.....	9
5. Other Differences Between Whites and Negroes.....	12
6. Ways in Which Whites and Negroes Are Alike.....	14
III. Conclusion.....	16



INTRODUCTION

1. This report for Negro enlisted men is a supplement to the report, VD Problems of White Enlisted Men in MTCUSA (Report 122 M-1). The only data reported in detail in this supplement are those where Negro and white troops are strikingly different. Therefore the report for white EM contains many topics not discussed here because the Negro data do not change the story.
2. This report is based on a survey of 863 Negro EM. It was made at the same time that the survey of white troops was made under exactly the same conditions as those outlined in the main report, with the exception that all assistants to the class leader were Negro EM. In administering the questionnaire all introductory speeches were made by trained white EM from the staff of the Research Branch, but aid to men on low literacy levels or others who might have questions was supplied individually by Negro EM trained for that purpose prior to the work in any Negro outfit.
3. The Negro data are treated separately because it soon becomes apparent that the Negro soldier is up against a different situation and he reacts to it differently than the white soldier. His sexual contact rates and VD (venereal disease) rates are so different that any average of the two is quite meaningless.



I. MAIN FINDINGS

1. Frequency of Sexual Intercourse

- ...96 per cent of the Negroes say they have had intercourse in Italy. (Their average overseas tour is about 16 months.)
- ...their average frequency of intercourse is 2 to 3 times per month.
- ...when age, education, or marital status is held constant, it is still true that Negroes are more likely to have had intercourse in Italy than whites, and to have had it more frequently.

2. Sexual Exposure and VD

- ...54 per cent of the Negroes say they have had VD sometime in their life, with 21 per cent reporting one or more infections since coming overseas (not necessarily Italy). (White figures; 15% and 8%, respectively).
- ...16 per cent of the men who have been infected overseas have been infected more than once while overseas (whites, 10%).
- ...approximately 7 cases of VD arise from each 1000 sexual contacts made by Negroes in this Theater (whites, 4 per 1000).

3. Preventive Practices of the Men

- ...although Negroes constitute only about 15 per cent of Theater strength, they contributed 36 per cent of the VD in the Theater during the months just preceding the study (May and June 1945).
- ...there is no indication that this is due to inferior prophylactic practices, for 65 per cent of Negroes (as compared to 43 per cent for whites) say they always use both condom and Pro.
- ...Negroes are less likely to "shack up" all night.
- ...Negroes are much more likely to say they must carry a rubber or Pro-Kit when on pass.
- ...Negroes are less likely to say they drink before having intercourse.
- ...Negroes indicate that they are less tolerant of a man who gets VD.

4. The Probable Cause of Higher VD Rates per 1000 Exposures Among Negroes

- ...as the Negroes point out in numerous freely written comments, the heart of the problem seems to be that the women to whom they have access are much more likely to be diseased on the average than the women that white contact.

5. Other Differences Between Whites and Negroes

- ...Negroes hear many more VD talks and see many more VD movies than whites
- ...although they get to town on pass as frequently as whites, Negroes get fewer overnight passes.
- ...when on pass, they are more likely to say they look for a woman and less likely to say they look for liquor than whites.
- ...they are more likely to think penicillin is a sure cure for VD than whites, but both groups lack information on this point.

NOTE: The Conclusion to this report will be found on Page 16.



II. DETAILED FINDINGS

1. Frequency of Sexual Intercourse

Practically all, 96 per cent, of the Negroes in this cross-sectional study report that they have had intercourse in Italy, whereas 73 per cent of white EM report intercourse in Italy. These facts are of major importance in understanding the higher VD rates that almost always characterize the Negro EM. When whites and Negroes are compared age by age, educational level by educational level, or marital status by marital status, it is found that the Negroes still are more likely to have had intercourse, and that they have intercourse more frequently than whites. It should be noted, too, that Negroes have been overseas an average of slightly under 16 months as compared to 21 months for whites. At the end of 16 months, it can be safely assumed that there would have been somewhat under 73 per cent of the whites saying that they had had intercourse in Italy, which would make the disparity between whites and Negroes even greater for any equivalent time period.

The Negroes who have had intercourse in Italy say they have had relations an average of 2 to 3 times per month, which is a higher rate of intercourse than that reported by whites (2.5 times per month for Negroes; 1.75 times per month for whites). One Negro in five says that he has relations at least once a week, as shown in Table 1:

Table 1

Per cent saying...	Negro EM	White EM
	100%	100%
At least once a week	21	10
Three or four times a month	21	8
Once or twice a month	43	34
Less than once a month	11	21
Not since I've been in Italy	4	27

This pattern of more frequent intercourse among Negroes can be expected to persist, for 91 per cent say they "expect" to have intercourse, or they "might" have intercourse in the future while in Italy.



2. Sexual Exposure and VD

a. Extent of VD. Fifty-four per cent of the Negro soldiers have had VD some time in their lives (whites - 15%), and 21 per cent of the Negroes have had VD while overseas (whites - 8%):

Table 2

Men reporting one or more infections...	<u>No. of Cases</u>	<u>Per cent</u>
Total overseas infected men	(182)	(21.1)
Overseas only	85	9.8
Overseas & in garrison* both	35	4.1
Overseas & in civilian life	41	4.8
Overseas, garrison & civilian life	21	2.4
Total infected men prior to overseas	(286)	(33.2)
Garrison only	66	7.6
Garrison & civilian life both, but not overseas	48	5.6
Civilian life only	172	20.0
Men not infected, or No answers**	<u>395</u>	<u>45.7</u>
TOTAL	863	100.0%

\*Garrison is defined as prior to overseas but while in the Army.

\*\*About 5 per cent of the men failed to answer the question. It cannot be assumed that all of these men have had VD, and are merely avoiding the question because many of them show low levels of literacy. Since they were all included in the table with the non-infected men, the 54 per cent who have been infected is conservative.

Sixteen per cent of these Negro soldiers who report an infection while overseas say they have been infected more than once while overseas, with an average of 1.3 infections per man in the group that has been infected while overseas. When the total number of infections they report is converted into 1000 men per annum a rate of 213 is obtained, which compares very closely with the Theater average rate of 219, as computed from medical reports. 2

2 The survey rate of 213 cases of VD per 1000 men per annum was obtained by reducing the total number of infections reported while overseas from a 16-month basis (which is the median number of months served overseas by these men) to a 12-month basis, and converting to a rate per 1000 men. The Theater rate of 219 is a simple arithmetic average of the rates reported for the period January 1943 through July 1945, which covers the period of overseas service for almost all of the men in the study, with a correction of 9.3 per cent applied to compensate for the fact that men who are diagnosed as having two or more types of VD at the same time are counted as two or more men in the appropriate tables of types of VD. This corrective factor for Negro EM was supplied by the Preventive Medicine Branch on the basis of a statistical study made by them. No attempt was made in the survey to differentiate between types of VD, nor were the men asked if they had more than one type of VD at the time of diagnosis.



The fact that the survey rate of 213 per 1000 per annum almost coincides with the Theater rates is an indication that this sample of Negro EM is representative of the men in the Theater, and that the men feel free to report intimate matters under the anonymous conditions of this questionnaire. This is a very important matter, for the Negro soldier is frequently reminded of his high VD rate in talks or lectures on VD, and could conceivably be very defensive and reluctant to tell the truth. This would be especially true if the circumstances under which he was being questioned suggested to him that there might be some sort of retribution should the facts about his individual behavior become known.

b. Relation of exposure to VD. Among Negro EM, there are about 7 cases of VD per 1000 sexual contacts, which is considerably higher than the 4 per 1000 for white EM. <sup>a/</sup>

As was true of white EM also, those men who have most frequent contact overseas have lower VD infection rates per 1000 contacts. Because they expose themselves much more frequently, however, the men, both whites and Negroes, who have most sexual contact have accumulated the largest proportion of VD during their entire overseas tour of duty.

The general relationships between frequency of exposure and VD are the same for whites and Negroes. The important difference is in the higher proportion of Negroes who make sexual contacts and in the higher VD rate that results from each 1000 exposures. These need further examination.

<sup>a/</sup> When the Theater strength of approximately 65,000 Negro EM during May and June (period for which most of the men were reporting frequency of sexual contact) is multiplied first by 96 per cent (proportion who have intercourse), second by 2.5 sexual contacts per man, and then by 7 cases of VD per 1000 contacts, it is estimated that about 1090 cases of VD should appear among Negro EM for one month in that period. In May and June an average of 1070 cases was actually reported by unit surgeons. This is substantial proof that both the rate of sexual contact, as reported by the men themselves and the rate of 7 cases of VD per 1000 exposures are reliable.



3. Preventive Practices of the Men

In view of the fact that Negro EM constituted only about 15 per cent of the Theater strength but contributed 36 per cent of the VD in the Theater during the months just preceding the study (May and June, 1945), it is possible that their preventative practices are the answer to the problem. However, a striking fact of this survey is that Negro EM indicate that they have better prophylactic habits than do whites (Table 3):

Table 3

Proportion who...	Negroes	Whites
<u>Always use a rubber AND,</u>		
Always take a Pro	65%	43%
Perhaps take a Pro	15	25
Usually don't take a Pro	1	7
<u>May or may not use a rubber AND,</u>		
Always take a Pro	7	9
Perhaps take a Pro	11	12
Usually don't take a Pro	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>
Total	100%	100%

There is a possibility that the Negro who says that he uses prophylaxis may still not use it as well as the white soldier, and that this accounts for all or part of his excessive VD rate per 1000 contacts. So far as the data of the survey are concerned, however, such a judgement is purely speculative. The indirect evidence of the study would suggest that the Negro probably knows how to use the procedures of prophylaxis as expertly as the whites for several reasons:

- (1) The techniques are not complex
- (2) He has seen the techniques demonstrated over and over again in movies especially -- much more often than whites in fact, as will be shown later
- (3) When it comes to exact information on VD, he scored as high on a 7-question quiz as did whites in spite of a lower average educational achievement, probably because he has heard the material repeated so often.

As was true of whites also, those men who have the most frequent intercourse and those who have had VD are more likely to say they don't always use the double precaution of condom and Pro, but none of the Negro sub-groups just referred to are ever as likely as whites to indicate that they don't take the double precaution

There are other lines of evidence pointing to the fact that Negroes have at least as good prophylactic habits or sexual practices as whites. Very briefly they are:



a. Negroes are definitely less likely to "shack up" all night with a girl than whites, which should work toward a lower VD rate per 1000 contacts. Among those who have intercourse in Italy, 67 per cent of whites and 82 per cent of Negroes say they "usually just stay a short time" with the girl. Therefore, the Negro would generally be better able to reach a Pro Station within 2 hours after intercourse.

b. Whereas only 12 per cent of white troops said that "Everybody must have one (rubbers or Pro Kits) before he goes on pass", 42 per cent of Negroes checked that response. Any excessive VD among Negroes cannot be traced to inaccessibility of supplies.

c. Negro and white EM are equally likely to say they drink in Italy (about 90% in each group), and those who say they drink most are also more likely to say they have intercourse very frequently. However, Negroes are much less likely to say they have a drink just prior to having intercourse (Table 4):

Table 4

Question: "When you have intercourse over here, do you usually have a couple of drinks first?"

Proportion saying...	Among men who have had intercourse in Italy	
	Negroes	Whites
Yes, I usually have a couple of drinks first	10%	25%
About half the time, I have a couple of drinks first	15	23
No, I hardly ever drink before sexual intercourse	41	30
No, I never drink before having sexual intercourse	<u>34</u>	<u>22</u>
Total	100%	100%

d. Negroes are less likely to be tolerant than whites of a man who gets VD. While 30 per cent of Negroes say they would hold it against such a man whether or not he went on sick call right away, only 15 per cent of whites made that reply. Thus, there is somewhat more social pressure among Negroes leveled at the man who is careless.



4. The Probable Cause of Higher VD Rates per 1000 Exposures Among Negroes

In spite of all these lines of converging evidence which should make for a lower rate of VD per 1000 sexual contacts, the Negroes' rate of 7 cases per 1000 exposures in this Theater is almost double that of the whites (4 per 1000). As was mentioned on page 18 of the report for white EM, the difference seems to be due chiefly to the fact that the women to whom the Negroes have access are much more likely to be diseased. Consequently, when prophylaxis fails or if the men do not take all the precautions necessary, then they are much more likely to be infected.

Many of the Negroes are well aware of this problem and in the blank space provided at the end of the questionnaire for further "comments, criticisms, or suggestions that you haven't had a chance to write about already", the problem of infected women was one of the main themes. As they see their problem, the Negroes' inability to have contacts with clean women is chiefly due to MP activity and to the remarks of white soldiers to the native girls which lead the more desirable women to avoid Negroes. They claim that if white EM would not arouse racial prejudice and if MP's would treat all soldiers alike, their VD rate would be no higher than that for white EM, if as high. The following comments are typical of the range of remarks written by the Negroes:

"How to stop VD? Stop segregation - period."

"This survey or any other does not explain the reason for high VD rates among negro troops. There are other principles which must be understood. Negro combat troops are new arrivals in Italy and our fellow "white" soldiers have so influenced the better group of civilians that nothing is left but the poor diseased Italian trash and all men will indulge in sexual affairs regardless. It is not a matter of our not knowing so much as it is that we have no alternative. O.K., put us in the woods - "jig crow" us to the civilians - and the American Army will remain disgraced. With your cooperation, though, we can wipe out V.D. Frankly, white officials have not dealt seriously so much with the control of V.D. as they have to keep us away from these Italian women. To combat V.D. it has not worked and you have failed. We are human, you know, and we do human things."

"Now as to the association of soldiers and Italian women: I have found that there has been quite a bit of propaganda and just plain lies concerning colored soldiers. This does serve to increase the association with the less desirable type of women than anything else. For instance, in Florence, the girls who are invited to the Rest Center were told that if they were seen dancing or otherwise associating with colored soldiers, they would never be allowed to return to the Rest Center. This I got from one of the girls who had been so "ostracized". This is both unfair and very detrimental to the morale of the colored soldier."



██████████

"The reason that so many soldiers have contact with V.D. is because when a fellow meets a nice girl from a nice family he likes to walk and talk with her and not always at home. But around here when a Negro soldier takes a girl out the MP's look upon her as a whore. They take her down to have a physical examination of her, which she does not like. Then a lot of the better class girls are afraid they might have to do the same thing, so most of the soldiers turn to whores which brings about a higher rate of VD."

"The one thing I would like to suggest is that our white brother, who in turn calls himself an American and fought this war to preserve the term democracy or its sacred meaning, would refrain from telling the Italian people that the Negro is no good. On many occasions the civilians ask us why our white brother speaks in such belittling terms of us, when in turn they observe our race and are not able to recall the bad they claim we possess. Remember, they witness the dying of our dark brothers also."

"I would like to state here that the treatment in the Fifth Army Rest Centers has been almost totally fair. There has been some outward signs of resentment when dances are held but even that shows signs of alleviation. It could help a lot if the 'blue-blooded' Americans would stop their wagging tongues in undermining the Negro. Their incessant 'soldati neri sono pacci tuoni' (the Negro soldier is not much good) does more towards the upheaval in this division of the VD rate than anything else. The better type girls are afraid of the insidious propaganda spread by our white soldiers. Therefore, if a drive to stop outlandish slanderings were started, we could stop the rush to the 'bastards' because there they draw no line. How about it?"

"I must criticize my fellow soldier, the white soldier, who goes around telling these Italian people about the American Negro soldier. I think it is the lowest, the least, a man can do. For it leaves me so, if I do want a girl or a friend, I must pick on what they have left over or something to take effect, so that lots me in for more venereal disease and so many other headaches. Let us pull more together and it will be better for me and my race."

"If all that men would pay more attention to their health if they were permitted to visit in more or less decent homes without being molested by MP's. Also, if men were permitted to ride their civilian girl friends to and from parties and dances, a better type of girl would be attracted to these affairs."

"I believe that the VD rate would be lower if the MP wouldn't classify all of the civilian girls as prostitutes that are caught with a colored soldier. Please note."



"If there could be something done about the gossip against the negro soldier to the Italian people, then a man wouldn't have to have sexual intercourse in the woods, or with anything that he may find. Personally, I haven't seen a (monkey) trail on any human, and it really hurts to hear those damned Italians ask where is it. With rumors like that, how can I associate with nothing but the scum of Italy, and this is the reason that we have such a high rate in VD. You figure it out."

"If the false rumors about the negro soldiers were wiped out it would be much better for him to get along without a high rate of VD. Those awful rumors are spread by our American white soldiers, which only shows ignorance on their part, for the negro is not to be laughed at or pitied, for he is an intelligent man. Resulting from these rumors, the colored soldier has to resort to the 'scum' of the women, or to have a sexual intercourse which he knows even before he starts is usually a VD nest, thus making our VD rate slightly higher than most troops."

In view of the facts, (1) that the Negro soldiers entered the Theater free of VD, as did the whites, (2) that they indicate that they have as good or better preventive practices as the whites, and (3) that they have definitely higher VD rates than the whites, the Negroes' claim that the much higher rates are the result of discrimination seems basically correct. It should be added, however, that as long as the Negro has more frequent sexual contacts than whites, then he would still have more total VD than whites as a result of the extra number of contacts, even if his rate were the same as that of white (4 cases of VD per 1000 exposures rather than 7). If he had access to women who are just as clean as those contacted in this Theater by white EM, it is entirely possible that his better preventive practices, if continued, would offset the risk of the additional exposure to which he subjects himself.

The possibility that the Negro soldier is not telling the truth about his present prophylactic practices can be discounted in view of two facts:

(1) It was demonstrated previously that he was telling the truth about his frequency of sexual intercourse and the number of times he has had VD. These admissions are just as damaging as admissions of inadequate prophylactic habits, should he feel that the survey was some sort of trap to catch him, personally. The frankness of the above free comments and many others not used in this report also indicate little fear on the part of the writers about possible consequences.

(2) The Negro knows that he is contacting women who are very likely to be diseased, and the fact that he reports better prophylactic practices than whites is to be expected.



5. Other Differences Between Whites and Negroes

There are certain other attitudes and practices associated with VD which have been discussed at length in the main report. The items that follow indicate those points where whites and Negroes differ significantly:

a. Negro soldiers are much more likely to say they thought the last movie on sex hygiene and VD was "very good" (Negroes - 75%; whites-44%). This was also true of the percentage saying the last talk or lecture was "very good" (Negroes - 68%; whites - 36%). This highly favorable reaction exists in spite of the fact that Negroes receive many more VD talks and movies than whites. While the average (median) white soldier said he had heard one talk and had seen one lecture in the previous six months, the average Negro reported about four movies and 10 talks on VD.

b. The only important difference between white and Negro GI in the way they make contacts with women in Italy is that Negroes are definitely more likely to say that, "I found her house or apartment by myself." Whereas 15 per cent of whites selected that answer, 36 per cent of Negroes did. This indicates a greater regularity of sexual contact among Negroes than was true of whites.

c. Negroes are able to get to a town or city on pass as frequently as whites, and they are as likely to say they get a fair share of passes. However, Negroes get fewer overnight passes than whites (17% of whites and 50% of Negroes have never had an overnight pass in Italy), but it is possible that Negroes request fewer overnight passes. Regardless of why this happens, it indicates that Negroes will have fewer "back jobs" and thus less exposure under these prophylactically undesirable conditions.

d. When they are on pass, Negroes frankly state that the search for women is the most common activity. Table 5 gives a summary of freely written comments on what they do when on pass for those items where whites and Negroes are significantly different. Whereas whites say they search for liquor and movies most frequently the Negroes' chief comment was about looking for women:

Table 5

What men say they do when on pass*..	Negroes	Whites
Look for a woman	45%	31%
Look for liquor	32	40
Go to Red Cross Club	30	24
Go to movies, sports, shows	20	40
Go on sight-seeing tour	17	24
Walk around town	17	24

\* Since the men could indicate any number of activities while on pass, the percentages total more than 100.



o. Negroes are less likely to suggest that the Army should sanction prostitution outright and take steps to control it in their response to the question, "What do you think is the best thing that could be done to keep the men from getting VD?" Whereas 51 per cent of whites make the suggestion, only 15 per cent of Negroes do. Instead, Negroes are more likely to emphasize carefulness and the traditional double precaution - use a condom; take a Pro (Negroes - 33%; whites - 17%).



6. Ways in Which Whites and Negroes Are Alike

Ordinarily, if two groups react alike to a series of questions, it is sufficient to state the general fact and ignore the detail. This will not be done in this section, however, because of the fact that some expected differences between whites and Negroes on many of the items failed to appear. A good example of this is item (a), that follows. Other items are included in order to complete the story as briefly as possible:

a. Negroes score just about as well on the 7-question VD information test as whites. While 90 per cent of whites got 4 or more right answers, 88 per cent of Negroes did. While the two groups are alike on total score, there is one question that stands out as an area in which both whites and Negroes seem to need education, but especially the Negro. That question asked, (a) "Have you heard or read about the new drug (penicillin) that is being used to treat venereal diseases?", and (b) "So far as you know, can it cure all cases of gonorrhoea and syphilis?" Only 50 per cent of whites and 30 per cent of Negroes got the pair of answers which are considered correct for the quiz ("Yes" to the first question and "No" to the second). This is a poor showing.

Conversely, 22 per cent of whites and 30 per cent of Negroes said that penicillin will cure all cases of gonorrhoea and syphilis. The remaining men indicated that they either had not heard of the drug or did not know what it could do. Those men who say positively that the drug will cure all cases of VD are a real problem for medical educators. It cannot be said that these men are relying only upon a quick cure, and are not using any prophylaxis, but it is possible that many of the men now have a feeling of security which leads them to carelessness in foreplay or afterplay if not during the actual act of intercourse. Some of the men insist that they have been told by medical men that penicillin will indeed cure all cases of VD. If they have been told this by Army or civilian physicians, then marking their answers to this question as incorrect on the quiz was an injustice to the men, for they have no recourse but to rely upon authority. It is quite likely, too, that they would prefer to believe that penicillin will cure all cases of VD if some medical men say that it will. This is an area of confusion which properly deserves attention from medical educators.

b. There is no important difference between whites and Negroes in the proportion who say they pay cash for intercourse (whites - 72%; Negroes - 76%), or in the proportion who definitely pay with cigarettes, food, or clothing.

c. Married Negroes have less frequent intercourse than single Negroes, older Negroes have less than the younger, the college bred less than those on lower education levels, church members, slightly less frequent intercourse than non-church members, and Northern Negroes slightly less than Southern. As was true of whites on these same points, none of these differences were very large they in no way wipe out the fact that the great majority of men in any of the various groups have intercourse while overseas.



d. With time overseas, the frequency of sexual contact and the per cent reporting VD builds up, as was true of whites.

e. Sergeants report less frequent intercourse and less VD overseas than corporals or privates as was true of whites, too. This is not an important finding in view of the likelihood that they are older, more likely to be married, and especially due to the fact that many ex-sergeants say they were "busted" because they had contracted VD. Now they are privates or corporals, and the infection is charged statistically against the lower rank. That this matter of "busting" may be a minor matter is indicated in the following comment by a Negro sergeant:

"In this battalion a man that catches a venereal disease is always busted and very often court martialled for that reason. He will try and cure it himself rather than turn it in."

f. Although there is a greater proportion of Negroes who say they left a girl behind when they expect to marry (Negroes - 56%; whites - 42%), it is a fact that having a "loyal" sweetheart does not stop the majority of this group from having intercourse. This is as true for whites as it is for Negroes.

g. Negroes who say they usually drink before intercourse have picked up significantly more VD while overseas, as was true of whites also. Related to this is the fact, as was true of whites, that they are much less likely to say they have good prophylactic habits. More important is the fact noted in item (c) of section 3 which points out that fewer Negroes say they drink before intercourse, which tends to reduce the danger for Negroes.

h. Negroes are as likely as whites to have bars in their units or somewhere "on limits" which they can patronize.

i. Negro outfits apparently have somewhat more dances or parties than white outfits (Negro - 44% have them once a week or more; White - 34%).

j. There are no significant differences in the requests of the two groups for more diversionary activities except that Negroes were more likely to request "Classes in different school subjects and training for civilian jobs", while whites more frequently requested "More movies."



III. CONCLUSION

The Negro soldiers have more frequent sexual contacts than white soldiers in Italy. That is a cardinal fact making for higher VD rates per 1000 soldiers even if it were true that their VD rate per 1000 sexual contacts were the same as whites. Just why the Negro has more intercourse is a matter of speculation; the survey provides no data on this subject.

His higher VD rate per 1000 soldiers is due to a combination of his more frequent sexual contact and the additional likelihood that he will contact women who are diseased. It is probable that his better prophylactic habits offset a proportion of this additional hazard, and it is possible that if the women to whom he had access were as free of disease as are the women to whom the whites have access, the Negro's better prophylactic practices (if continued) would offset the greater risk occasioned by his tendency toward greater frequency of intercourse.

The Negro soldier seems to be as well informed as the white on the facts and problems of VD. Therefore, if the task of getting him to reduce the frequency of his sexual intercourse seems unlikely to produce results, the big steps for reducing VD that were suggested in the Conclusion to the white report are equally applicable to the Negro. In addition, the Negroes' own suggestion that their situation with regard to VD could be improved if MPs treated them and the girls with whom they are seen in exactly the way they treat white soldiers who are seen with girls has considerable merit if the Army wants to reduce VD among Negroes. If it is true that Italian girls who are seen with Negro troops are likely to be taken by MPs for a physical examination simply because they are with Negro soldiers, then indeed the better class of girls will stay away from Negroes and they will have to resort to the women of the weeds, woods, and the out-of-bounds areas.

There is no evidence from the survey that such repressive MP activity reduces the Negro's frequency of contact, but there is evidence that it drives him toward a more infected class of women. It is possible that repressive activity does reduce his frequency of contact, but this is doubtful. It is just as possible that the Negro is stimulated to get around the MPs somehow, since he knows that many of the women of Italy find him quite acceptable sexually, even if the MPs disapprove of it. However, MP activity to date has probably influenced the Italian girl's behavior sufficiently so that it is too late to change her attitudes. Such policy-making with regard to the position and treatment of the Negro soldier would have to come early in the game.



[REDACTED]

The second major suggestion of the Negro to the effect that white soldiers should cease spreading stories among Italians alleging that the Negro is an inferior being, seems a real enough way of reducing VD in the sense that it would make available to him a better class of women. From a policy-making point of view, it is not clear just what the Army could do at this late date that would be effective. As in the case of MP activity involving Negroes and women, such steps to be effective must be taken before a local population which has little prejudice against Negroes to begin with, can come to acquire them.



Classified: [redacted]  
By Authority of [redacted]  
By: J.R. Pitt  
Date: 25 Sept 45

"V. D."

# Armed Forces-- Negroes

A STUDY OF ATTITUDES, ACTIONS, AND KNOWLEDGE  
RELATED TO VENEREAL DISEASE  
AMONG TWO GROUPS OF SOLDIERS IN C-B-I

## Contents

Introduction	
Summary of Main Findings and Conclusions	I
Sexual Intercourse	1
Prevention of Venereal Disease	2
Information "Quiz" on Venereal Disease	5
Venereal Disease Education	7

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Special Service Section  
Hq USAF CBI  
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A STUDY OF ATTITUDES, ACTIONS, AND KNOWLEDGE  
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AMONG TWO GROUPS OF SOLDIERS IN C-B-I

Introduction

This study was made at the request of the Theater Surgeon's Office to furnish some data that would be of value in focusing the educational aspects of the venereal disease control program in this Theater. The questionnaire used was devised in consultation with the Venereal Disease Control Officer and administered by the staff of the Research Department, Special Service Section, Hq, USAF, CBI.

The study was conducted in late July among a carefully randomized sample of Negro and white soldiers at two Army stations in this Theater.

At Station A, located about 90 miles from a very large city, 151 Negro and 134 white soldiers filled out the questionnaires.

At Station B, in Upper Assam, the questionnaires were administered to 142 Negro and 144 white soldiers.

It should be emphasized that, in each instance, the men drawn for the sample represented a cross-section of the literate, enlisted Negro and white soldiers in the outfits in which the study was conducted. The study does NOT represent findings for a cross-section of this Theater.

The immediate objective of the study was to obtain a statistically reliable picture of certain attitudes, actions, and knowledge of Army personnel, white and Negro, when the men are close enough to a large city to be able to spend some of their free time there, and when they are in an isolated area.



I

SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS

AND

CONCLUSIONS

Negro Soldiers in the Study

Among Negro soldiers in the groups studied, having intercourse while in C-B-I seems to have been a fairly common practice, for the great majority of these men. Approximately four times as many Negroes have had intercourse since being in C-B-I as have the white soldiers in the study. Among Negroes who have had intercourse, about half have had it once a month or more.

Among the Negro soldiers, having intercourse does not tend to be associated with drinking beer, wine, and liquor, in the majority of cases.

Considering the number of Negroes in the two groups that have had intercourse; the frequency of intercourse for these men; and the fact that it is not associated with drinking in the majority of cases, it may logically be concluded that among Negro soldiers, the psychology involved in having intercourse while in C-B-I, differs considerably from the psychology of the white soldiers.

In the station (A) near a large city, where the accessibility of females is greater, more of these men have had intercourse than among the men in the isolated station in Upper Assam.

Bawdy houses or individual "solicitors" probably represent the main source of sexual gratification since the great majority of these men always pay cash for intercourse.

There is little reason, from the findings in this study, to believe that future sex behavior for these Negro soldiers will differ in any great degree from what has prevailed in the past.

Over half (52 per cent) of the Negro soldiers were among the men who knew least on a brief test of knowledge used in the study. Regardless of their lack of knowledge, however, the preventive practices (use of condom and getting a "pro") of Negro soldiers, who have been exposed, are no different from those for white soldiers who have been exposed.

Among soldiers who have had intercourse in C-B-I the percentage of Negro soldiers having poor preventive practices is approximately the same as for white soldiers. It should be noted, however, that the number of exposures among Negro soldiers is about four times as great. Hence the number of Negro soldiers having poor preventive practices is a matter for concern.



CONCLUSIONS When all the facts brought out in this study are reviewed, the conclusions as to what should be most stressed, and in what seems to be the order of their importance to prevent venereal disease among the soldiers, in the groups studied, are as follows:

1. Place prophylactic stations where they can be easily reached, and be certain that the men know where they are located.
2. Make available a free supply of condoms, and so arrange the distribution of them that a soldier is certain to have condoms with him when away from camp.
3. Do everything possible to arrange for adequate recreational facilities for these soldiers.
4. Maintain a diversified, frequent, and continuous attitude-conditioning venereal disease educational program. The value of prophylaxis and the location of "pro" stations should be reviewed regularly, as should also the proper method of using a condom.

#### White Soldiers in the Study

Among the group of white soldiers in the study, having sexual intercourse since being in C-B-I has been the exception, rather than the rule. Of those that have had intercourse the greatest percentage say they have had it only "very rarely."

Among white soldiers, drinking beer, wine or liquor is more frequently associated with having intercourse, than it is for Negro soldiers. Two thirds of the white soldiers who have had intercourse say they have had it after drinking.

In the station (A) near a large city, where the accessibility of females is greater, more of these men have had intercourse than among the men in the isolated station in Upper Assam.

Bawdy houses or individual "solicitors" probably represent the main source of sexual gratification since the great majority of these men always pay cash for intercourse.

A majority (60 per cent) of the white soldiers were among the men who scored highest on a brief test of knowledge used in the study. Regardless of greater knowledge, however, the preventive practices (use of condom and getting a "pro") of white soldiers who have been exposed, are no different from those of Negro soldiers who have been exposed.

It is evident that a higher or low score on the factual knowledge tested does not seem to have any bearing on whether or not the exposed men, in the groups studied, make use of these two preventive measures.



III

There is, among the white soldiers in the study, a significant potential tendency to increase in the number having intercourse in the future while in C-B-I.

This increase in potential tendency is greatest among white soldiers stationed near a large city. It seems to be related to two factors:

1. The greater accessibility of females.
2. The fact that this group, since being in C-B-I, has had less attitude-conditioning education about venereal disease than other groups in the study. Because of this, it is believed, that a certain percentage of these men demonstrate less appreciation of the seriousness of venereal infections.

When all the facts are considered, the conclusions as to what should be most stressed, and in the order of their importance to prevent venereal disease among white soldiers, in the groups studied, are as follows:

1. A diversified attitude-conditioning venereal disease educational program. This program should be keyed to a level of obtaining a high degree of emotional conviction as to the seriousness of venereal infections. Such education should be carried on frequently and continuously, as long as the men are in C-B-I.
2. Do everything possible to arrange for adequate recreational facilities for these soldiers.
3. Place prophylactic stations where they can be easily reached and be certain the men know the locations.
4. Make available a free supply of condoms. Be certain the men know where to obtain them and know the proper method of using a condom.



I. SEXUAL INTERCOURSE

Among the soldiers in the groups studied, approximately four times as many Negro soldiers as compared to white soldiers, have had intercourse since being in the C-B-I Theater.

QUESTION:- "Have you ever had sexual intercourse with a woman since you have been in the C-B-I Theater?"

PERCENTAGE SAYING "YES"

Station A (near large city)	
Negro soldiers	93%
White soldiers	27%
Station B (Upper Assam)	
Negro soldiers	71%
White soldiers	17%

Where the men can get into a large city occasionally as at Station A, the percentage of men having intercourse is greater for both white and Negro soldiers, than it is for soldiers at Station B in Upper Assam. It should be noted however, that the ratio between the percentage of Negro and white soldiers having had intercourse remains approximately the same, regardless of location.

In the groups studied there is very little difference between married men and single men, in sex behavior in C-B-I.

Frequency of sexual intercourse. Among white soldiers who have had intercourse since being in C-B-I, the majority have had it only "very rarely." Among Negro soldiers, almost half of those who have had intercourse over here, have had it about once a month or more.

The great majority of men in both groups at both stations, who have had intercourse over here, say they have it less frequently than back home.

Paying money for intercourse. The great majority of all the soldiers who have had sexual intercourse over here, say they "always" pay cash for it. The natural conclusion is that bawdy houses and individual "solicitors" represent the main source of sexual gratification.

Drinking and Intercourse. Two thirds of all these men say they are drinking less beer, wine or liquor than they did back home.

Drinking seems to have no important relationship to sexual behavior among Negro soldiers. For the white soldiers, however, the association of drinking with having sexual intercourse seems highly significant:-

Two thirds of the white soldiers who have had intercourse say they "usually" or "sometimes" have it after drinking.



Future Sex Behavior in C-B-I. The question was asked:

"Regardless of what you have done in the past, do you think you will have sexual intercourse, in the future, while you are in C-B-I?"

Men who said "yes" or "I might, but I'm not sure" regarding possible future sexual intercourse, were grouped together by reason of the potentiality of having intercourse in the future while in C-B-I.

Among Negro soldiers the combined answers to this question are practically identical in number with those having had intercourse since being here. For white soldiers, however, there is a significant potential tendency to increase in the number having sexual intercourse in the future.

WHITE SOLDIERS

Station A		Station B	
Percent who have had intercourse in C-B-I	Percent having potential tendency to have intercourse in future in C-B-I	Percent who have had intercourse in C-B-I	Percent having potential tendency to have intercourse in future in C-B-I
27%	61%	17%	34%

The chart above shows that the increase in potential tendency for future sexual intercourse was greatest among white soldiers near a large city. For this particular group, the increased potentiality seems to be related in part, to two factors:

1. The greater accessibility of females due to nearness to a large city.
2. This group has had less "attitude-conditioning" venereal disease education since being in C-B-I than any other group of the other groups in the study.

II. PREVENTION OF VENEREAL DISEASE

Self-Protection. The soldiers in the study were asked these two questions:

"When you have sexual intercourse over here, do you use a condom (rubber)?"

"When you have sexual intercourse, how often do you get a "pro" (prophylaxis) afterward?"

The answers to these questions were tabulated for all men having intercourse since coming to C-B-I. The results were very similar for both groups at both stations. The table below represents a composite picture



of preventive practices for all men in the study who have had sexual intercourse in C-B-I.

Men who have had intercourse in CBI = 100%

Percentage who...

Always use a condom and always get a "pro" . . . . . 63%

Always use a condom but do not always get a "pro"; and those who always get a "pro" but do not always use a condom . . . . . 22%

Do not always use a condom, and do not always get a "pro" . . . . . 15%

So far as could be determined in this study the preventive practices which the men follow in each of the three categories of the above table demonstrate no significant relationship to such background characteristics as education, marital status, age etc.

The majority of men in all groups in the study say they know how to use a "V-PACKETTE prophylactic kit". If a great deal of dependence is to be placed on the use of this kit, however, some further instruction is in order for about 20% of the white and 10% of the Negro soldiers.

General Attitude toward Prevention. The soldiers in the study were asked what they considered the best way to prevent the men in their outfit from getting venereal disease. The answers given by more than ten per cent of the men in each group (considered separately) were:

White Soldiers

PERCENTAGE SAYING

- "Have more recreational facilities" . . . . . 33%
- "Put 'pro' (prophylactic) stations where they can be reached easily" . . . . . 29%

Negro Soldiers

- "Put 'pro' stations where they can be reached easily . . . . . 28%
- "Have a free supply of condoms for the men in the outfit . . . . . 19%
- "Have more recreational facilities . . . . . 18%



Approximately six per cent of the white and four per cent of the Negro soldiers made some comment such as: "Have Army-controlled houses where the women are inspected regularly."

Three per cent of the Negro and five per cent of the white soldiers said they thought the best way to prevent venereal diseases in their outfit was to: "Give severe punishment if a soldier gets a venereal disease."

To measure further the reaction of soldiers to punishment as a means of preventing venereal infections the question was asked:

"If a man gets a venereal disease and the record shows he did not get a 'pro' after intercourse, do you think he should be punished?"

Over half of the men in both groups (Negro soldiers 53 per cent -- white soldiers 57%) said "yes".

A most important general attitude concerning venereal disease prevention is "worry" about such infection. The question was asked "How much do you worry about getting a venereal disease?"

<u>Percentage saying</u>	<u>AMONG</u>	
	<u>Negro soldiers</u>	<u>White soldiers</u>
Worry a lot	61%	34%
Worry somewhat	18%	24%
Don't worry at all	18%	41%
No answer	3%	1%

The great majority of Negro soldiers in the study have been exposed to venereal infection, and tend to be exposed more frequently, than do white soldiers. This probably explains why 61 per cent of the Negro soldiers "worry a lot" about getting a venereal infection.

A sizeable group (41 per cent) of white soldiers say they "don't worry at all" concerning venereal infection -- presumably because they are not having sexual intercourse.



### III. INFORMATION "QUIZ" ON VENEREAL DISEASE

The questions below were devised as a short quiz on factual knowledge and certain misconceptions about venereal disease. Difference in location showed no effect on the answers to these questions. Therefore the results are presented for all Negro soldiers and for all white soldiers in the study.

		Percentage Answering Correctly	
		WHITE	NEGRO
		soldiers	soldiers
Having a case of gonorrhea (clap) is <u>no more serious</u> than having a bad cold. (FALSE)		93%	82%
A prophylaxis ("pro") taken more than two hours after sexual intercourse is of little value. (TRUE)		86%	76%
Gonorrhea (clap) is frequently caught from toilet seats. (FALSE)		83%	75%
Wearing a condom (rubber) during sexual intercourse, and getting a prophylaxis ("pro") afterward, will always prevent one from getting a venereal disease. (FALSE)		83%	49%
The only way a person can get syphilis or gonorrhea is to be infected with the germs which cause these diseases. (TRUE)		81%	77%
If a woman has a venereal disease she is certain to know about it. (FALSE)		80%	39%
The Wasserman and Kahn tests show whether a person has gonorrhea. (FALSE)		45%	33%

Grades on this quiz were divided into three categories:

- (1) Highest - those having six or seven questions correct.
- (2) Medium - those having five questions correct.
- (3) Lowest - those answering four or fewer questions correctly.



Distribution of grade scores on the quiz for the two groups according to this basis is shown in the chart below.

Percentage scoring	AMONG	
	NEGRO soldiers	WHITE soldiers
HIGHEST	25%	60%
MEDIUM	20%	19%
LOWEST	52%	21%
No answer to quiz questions	3%	—

When these three categories of grades on the quiz were cross-tabulated with other results on the study the findings were —

- a. The number of talks heard on venereal disease since being in C-B-I showed no relation to quiz scores. Also, there was no relationship between quiz scores and exposure to films about venereal disease while here. (These findings pertained for both white and Negro soldiers).
- b. The men's estimation of their own knowledge, especially for those who say they have "a complete knowledge" of subject of venereal disease, is not reliable, according to performance on this quiz.
- c. Among white soldiers, the tendency to worry about getting a venereal disease showed a relationship to quiz scores. The men having the highest grades also had the greatest proportion who say they "don't worry at all" about getting a venereal disease. Among those scoring lowest on the quiz, the greater proportion tended to "worry a lot" about getting venereal infections.

Only a small minority of Negro soldiers say they "don't worry at all" about getting a venereal disease. The number of Negro soldiers who "worry a lot", however, is proportionately less among those scoring highest on the quiz than it is for those scoring lowest.

In general, the scores on this quiz seem to bear little relationship to the men's sexual behavior since being in this Theater or to their potential sex behavior in the future, or to their preventive practices. It is a reasonable conclusion that, for the groups in this study, factual knowledge of the type represented in this quiz is not a strong determining factor in its operation to influence current attitudes and sex behavior.



IV. VENEREAL DISEASE EDUCATION

Talks and Films

A majority of the soldiers in the study have heard some talks on venereal disease by officers since being in C-B-I. The Negro troops, having been in the Theater longest, on the average, have heard proportionally more talks than white soldiers. Four per cent of the Negro and six per cent of the white soldiers say they have not heard any talks since being here.

The chart below indicates that the use of films, as part of the venereal disease education program, has not been as extensive as the lecture procedure.

	STATION A		STATION B	
	Negro soldiers	White soldiers	Negro soldiers	White soldiers
Percentage having seen films . . . . .	29%	13%	72%	45%

Sources of Information about Venereal Disease

The soldiers in the study were asked:

"How did you find out the things you now know about venereal disease?"

A check list was given for answering this question, in which the men were asked to check all sources from which they had learned about venereal disease. For this reason the figures in the table below add to more than 100 per cent.

Percentage saying:	All men = 100%
"I saw films about venereal disease" . . . . .	75%
"I heard lectures about venereal disease" . . . . .	73%
"I read about venereal disease in books and magazines" . . . . .	54%
"Other people who had a venereal disease told me about it" . . . . .	45%
"I talked to doctors about venereal disease" . . . . .	37%
"I read about venereal disease in newspapers" . . . . .	26%
"I had a venereal disease" . . . . .	16%
All other answers . . . . .	1%
No answers . . . . .	1%

The percentages in the above table represent the combined figures for



both groups at both stations. There were no significant differences except in the category of those saying they had had a venereal disease.

Among Negro soldiers, 25 per cent said they had had a venereal disease; among white soldiers, seven per cent.

No claim can be made for the percentages in the above table except that they represent a very rough approximation of the degree to which each medium of education tends to be recognized as a source from which these men have obtained information.

#### Self Evaluation of Knowledge

The men in the study were asked to evaluate their knowledge of venereal disease. Approximately 35 per cent, among both Negro and white soldiers, rate themselves as having "a complete knowledge of the subject." Results on the quiz indicate these judgments are not reliable.

Ten per cent of the Negro soldiers, and six per cent of the white soldiers, said they did not know "much" or "anything at all" about the subject of venereal disease.

Another question related to self evaluation was:

"How important is it to you to know as much as possible about venereal disease?"

Among both groups of Negro soldiers, as well as for the group of white soldiers at Station B, 90 per cent or more of the men said it was "very important" to know as much as possible about venereal disease. Less than one per cent in these three groups thought it was "not so important" or "not important at all."

Among the white soldiers at Station A (near a large city) only 78 per cent thought it "very important" -- and 11 per cent said it was "not so important" or "not important at all" to them -- to know as much as possible about such infections.

It is assumed that, basic to expressing an opinion that it is "very important" for one to know as much as possible about venereal disease; would be a keenly felt appreciation of the seriousness of these infections.

From the answers to this question by the white soldiers at Station A, one can reasonably infer that, for some reason, a significant percentage (as compared with the other three groups) of these men, do not recognize the seriousness of venereal infections.



As a possible explanation of this differential concerning attitudes about venereal disease between the two white groups of soldiers, the following facts about the men at Station A are presented, with an interpretation that seems to be justified.

1. This group of soldiers has been in the Theater a shorter time than other groups in the study. The great majority have been in C-B-I less than nine months, and many of the men have been here less than six months.
2. Only 13 per cent of these men have seen any films about venereal disease since being in C-B-I, and the majority have heard only one or two talks on this subject by officers while over here.
3. Regardless of having less venereal disease education, while in this Theater, as compared to other groups in the study, the scores on the venereal disease quiz for the white soldiers at Stations A and B are practically identical. It may be assumed, therefore, that basic understanding of certain general facts about venereal disease is comparable for these two groups.
4. With regard to future (potential) sex behavior, among the white soldiers at Station A, 61 per cent said, "Yes I probably will" or "I might but I'm not sure" have sexual intercourse while in C-B-I. At Station B only 34 per cent gave these answers.

This difference in potential sex behavior seems to be greater than could be accounted for solely on the basis of easier accessibility of women. It seems logical that at least a part of this differential in potential sex behavior is traceable to the lesser degree of appreciation among the men at Station A concerning the seriousness of venereal disease, as compared to the other group.

The inference may logically be drawn that the potential sex behavior of the white soldiers at Station A could be modified by an attitude-conditioning venereal disease educational program directed at making these men equally aware (as are the men in the other groups) of the seriousness of venereal disease.

When the above facts and interpretation are considered along with the



objectives and methods of venereal disease education, the following conclusions seem to be valid.

Venereal disease education in the Army has as its objective not only the dissemination of basic information, but even more important, it seeks to develop an attitude of keenly felt awareness as to the serious implications of venereal infections.

Obviously the general level of knowledge attained by soldiers is not going to be sufficient, in many cases, to generate attitudes strong enough to exert continued influence over sexual behavior (under the conditions which exist for these men in this country) for any great time period.

To offset this condition the logical procedure would seem to be the use of frequent and continuous attitude-conditioning venereal disease education.

Necessarily, if attitude-conditioning education is to be frequent and continuous, it must be diversified in its forms of presentation. Without such diversification its effectiveness will be greatly impaired.