

HEADQUARTERS UNITED KINGDOM BASE  
COMMUNICATIONS ZONE  
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
UNITED STATES ARMY

c/o Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

APO 413  
4 Oct 1944

Dear Colonel Cheyney,

I want to thank you for your very kind letter of 14 August, 1944, setting forth the good conduct of the colored soldiers in your area.

In connection with my broadcast from the United Kingdom I was trying to show that the white soldiers, particularly those from the south-eastern part of the United States, were more tolerant of the colored soldier in combat than they appeared to be while stationed in Great Britain.

From a military standpoint the colored soldier has well established himself as a combat soldier in all of the wars in which the United States has been engaged. During the present emergency there seems to be an attempt on the part of some of the folks who had to do with mobilization to eliminate the colored man from the Armed Forces as a combat soldier, and an effort was made by some, especially in and around the camps in the southeastern part of the United States, to make him feel uncomfortable.

Many white soldiers from the southeastern part of the United States on duty in the United Kingdom resented the association of these men with the English people. Some of them resented the English people exercising their right to do as they wish in their own country. It was to me a great surprise and a very agreeable one to find, with the combat team mentioned in my broadcast, such great respect shown by these white men from Mississippi and Alabama which developed for these colored soldiers as a result of the behaviour of these men in action. Unfortunately, our Army of today is mainly a civilian army. Many of its officers knew nothing about the military service prior to 1940. The old officers of the Regular Army, who by long service with the colored regular, along side of him, are mostly on the retired list or have passed to the Great Beyond. I feel highly encouraged over the good comradeship that has developed over here, particularly in the theaters of operations, and I hope that when this war is over that same comradeship and mutual respect is going to carry over into the post war period and that those responsible for policies will see that government of the people, for the people, by the people, will be a fact and not fiction.

Again I want to thank you for your letter and with kindest personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

B. O. DAVIS,  
Brigadier General, U.S. Army.

Colonel Waldron J. Cheyney, INF.,  
Camp Lockett, California.