

0. President Harry S Truman desegregates the armed forces - 1948 - Story Preface

**1. President Harry S Truman desegregates the armed forces - 1948**

2. Brown v Board of Education of Topeka, KS - 1954
3. Montgomery Bus Boycott 1955
4. The Little Rock Nine - 1957
5. The Freedom Rides - 1961
6. Sit-in Movement - 1960
7. March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom - 1963
8. The Civil Rights Act of 1964
9. Selma March for Voting Rights - 1965
10. Voting Rights Act of 1965



Blacks have volunteered for service in every war in America's history. Whites discouraged or banned their participation based on a variety of reasons: black men lacked discipline, patriotism, skills and courage. There was also tremendous fear that arming black men would result in a race war. When black men were accepted, they were assigned the most menial and dangerous tasks, and denied the opportunity for glory on the battlefield. They also faced tremendous racism and did not receive pay, supplies and working conditions equal to white soldiers.

On the eve of World War II the Army and Navy accepted black men in their ranks; the Army Air Corp and Marines did not. With prodding, the Army Air Corp developed the Tuskegee Experiment in which a small number of black men were accepted for combat training. In spite of a number of road blocks, the Tuskegee Airmen served with tremendous distinction.

In 1948 President Harry S Truman signed Executive Order 9981 desegregating the armed forces, and guaranteeing equal opportunity for African Americans.

**Footnotes:**

- 1) Truman, Harry S, Executive Order 9981, National Archives, Jul/26/1948, Jun/04/2015, <http://blogs.archives.gov/prologue/?p=12889>

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/President-Harry-S-Truman-desegregates-the-armed-forces-1948-The-Big-Ten-Crucial-Events-in-the-Modern-Civil-Rights-Movement0>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/President-Harry-S-Truman-desegregates-the-armed-forces-1948-The-Big-Ten-Crucial-Events-in-the-Modern-Civil-Rights-Movement0>

**Questions 2 Ponder**

**What is the Double V Campaign?**