

Our Nation's Negro Soldiers

by Doxey Wilkerson

THE Senate of the United States of America has again listened "courteously" to the lying and filthy voices of Bilbo and Eastland, both from the political cesspools of the Deep South. In the course of their filibuster to prevent a democratic vote on the FEPC appropriation, they sank to new depths in their slanders against the Negro people and especially against Negro fighting men in the Armed Forces of our nation.

Eastland, for example, had the insolence to declare: "I state that the conduct of the Negro soldier all over Europe was disgraceful to the flag of their country." (He also told a cock-and-bull lie about French Senegalese troops, Negro colonials, allegedly raping 5,000 German women in a Stuttgart subway—a completely irresponsible charge which the local French consulate has formally protested to our State Department).



This poison was spewed forth for days, completely tying up the urgent legislative tasks of "the greatest deliberative body on earth." Yet, not one voice was raised in the Senate to protest this most disgraceful performance ever witnessed in any democratic governmental assembly—anywhere!

Nor has our War Department spoken up to refute what it knows to be demoralizing lies against Negro soldiers, despite the fact that we are still in the midst of a hard war which will tax the morale and efficiency of all our fighting men to the utmost.

It is amazing that this could be. More than that, it is downright ominous. A Senate and a War Department that can tolerate such fascist racism as that preached by Bilbo and Eastland last week, without making vigorous and overwhelming protest, could very easily accommodate themselves to the ranting of an American "Hitler." They are, indeed highly unreliable guardians of the democratic liberties of the American people.

Generals Speak Up

But there is no dearth of expert testimony with which to re-

fute the Bilbo-Eastland slanders against our Negro soldiers. Listen to what some of our top-flight generals in the European War have had to say about Negro troops under their command:

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander: "I have seen Negro soldiers in this war and they have rendered valuable service. In late November, 2,000 of them volunteered for front-line service in Germany and they did good work."

Lieut. Gen. Mark Clark, Commander of the 15th Army: "Negro troops in the 15th Army Group have served in many roles during this campaign and have made a substantial contribution to its success."

Maj. Gen. M. S. Eddy, Commander of an army group with which the 761st all-Negro tank battalion fought: "The speed with which they have adapted themselves to the front under the most adverse weather conditions, the gallantry with which they faced some of Germany's finest troops and the confident spirit with which they emerged from their present engagements entitle them surely to consider themselves 'The Veteran 761st.'"

Maj. Gen. Terry Allen, of the famous mixed (Negro-white) 104th Timberwolf Division, who has just returned to America (while awarding heroes' medals to his fighting troops): "We are proud of you."

Brig. Gen. Charles Trueman Lanham, also of the 104th Timberwolf Division: "I have never seen any soldiers who have performed in combat better than you."

Lieut. Gen. Ira C. Eaker, under whose command the justly famous Negro flyers fought: "The 99th Fighter Squadron and the 332d Fighter Group have done well. By their efforts and performance they have won a place on the great Air Forces team. The fact of discouragement, doubts, and difficulties did not stop them any

more than did the Jerry aircraft or flak they encountered. They demonstrated the stuff from which champions are made. Anybody can coast along when the going is smooth. It takes heart and guts to push on when the way ahead is rough and rocky."

I wish I had space to supplement this contemporary testimony with that of American history. In every one of our wars, from the Revolution to World War II, Negro soldiers have always performed with heroism and gallantry, and have received the enthusiastic plaudits of their commanding officers. Incidentally, the Army knows this better than anyone else, and has recorded the glorious tradition of Negro fighting men in great detail for use in the training of white and Negro officers. So why don't they speak up now?

The People Must Speak

It is not enough for us to know and tell others that the disgusting pro-fascist Senators from Mississippi are deliberately lying about the performance of Negro soldiers. Their slanders must be officially repudiated. The overwhelming masses of decent Americans must speak up to demand it.

Write to Sen. Alben Barkley, Majority Leader, and to your own Senators. Insist that they act to have the Senate rebuke Bilbo and Eastland for their disgraceful performance during the anti-FEPC filibuster.

Write to Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War. Insist that he issue an official repudiation of these demoralizing slanders Negro soldiers.

And above all, do everything in your power to broaden the growing demand for a temporary FEPC appropriation and passage of the permanent FEPC bill. For the people to achieve victory on these issues will be the best of all possible answers to Bilbo and Eastland.

Worth Repeating

"DER FUEHRER" OF PORTUGAL is the title of an informative article on Salazar, appearing in the current (July 10) issue of the New York Masses, in which it is said:

Like Franco, Salazar grants asylum to fugitive Hitlerites and helps ship them on to Argentina. Portugal is also providing wide hospitality for German war criminals. For many months a constant stream of Germans has been arriving in Lisbon with large sums of money and, according to reports, they have bought up all sorts of real estate in Portugal. At the end of last year the American State Department demanded of Portugal that she cease providing asylum to Hitler war criminals."