

They were organized under one leadership, with one ideal, and one hope, facing a common peril and finishing a common task. The East and the West mingled as never before and learned to understand each other. The negro troops from the southern states and those from Algeria fought together against a common foe. According to the daily press the negroes of the United States have in this way surprised the world. It is said that when the colored troops left Birmingham, Alabama, they placed placards on the day coaches with this inscription: "This color will not run!" Every negro regiment made a record that places it high in the military values of Americanism. One white commander of a negro regiment was ordered by a superior officer to take his troops out of a dangerous position at the front, and the prompt answer was: "My men never retreat!" They went on and the wrath of the superior officer was consumed in cheers. The Eighth Illinois came back with twenty-two men among them wearing the American D. S. C., while sixty-eight wore the croix de guerre. Army officers who met their ship said there were more decorations visible among the Eighth, or Three Hundred and Seventieth infantry (as it is now designated), than in any other regiment which had so far returned to the United States.

The Indian soldiers proved their valor on every front. Bengalis, Pathans, Ghurkas won the Victoria Cross for gallantry, and never again will Kipling speak of these men as "lesser breeds without the law."