

Book Review by the Committee for Racial Healing

Courage Has No Color, The True Story of the Triple Nickles: America's First Black Paratroopers,
Tanya Lee Stone, grade 5+

During World War II while thousands of American soldiers were fighting overseas against the injustices brought on by Hitler, back on the home front, the injustice of discrimination against African Americans played out as much on Main Street as it did in the military. Enlisted black men were segregated from white soldiers and regularly relegated to service duties rather than being trained for combat duties.

The author examines the role of African Americans in the military through the history of the Triple Nickles, America's first black paratroopers, who fought a little-known attack on the American West by the Japanese. The 555th Parachute infantry Battalion, in the words of their commander, "proved that the color of a man had nothing to do with his ability."