

COURAGEOUS AFRICAN AMERICANS

Paying the ultimate price for freedom

One of the most heartbreaking stories ever to cross my path was an unnecessary order that resulted in the deaths of hundreds of soldiers from all-black 92nd Army Division in World War I.



by Ron Weber

The division was sent into a no-win situation to die for white soldiers who would follow in battle against the German enemy. If this doesn't anger one enough, the timing of this action will.

Only three hours before the end of the war, the brave soldiers of the 92nd were led to their slaughter. America's European commander, General Pershing had a plan. He knew the Armistice ending the war would be signed in just three hours on that day, Nov. 11, 1918.

Pershing said he wanted to "be sitting in his office," while America's soldiers

killed Germans right up to the very moment of the signing of the treaty. At one particular German stronghold, the only way to have that could happen was to first sacrifice hundreds of our soldiers.

Basically, the black division, bearing only bayonets and small arms, would go

soldiers were led out onto the field and forced to charge. They were shot down like lambs on their way to the market.

In doing so, the Germans exposed their positions and the white troops that would follow would overtake their positions, become heroes and go home



The brave soldiers were led out onto the field and forced to charge. They were shot down like lambs on their way to the market.

up against large-caliber German machine guns mounted on tanks and in stationary points out of American view. The brave

with the medals. Although many whites died too, the first wave of soldiers to attack were all black and stood no chance

at all.

Although Pershing was brutally confronted by the public after the war for his actions, he merely dusted the whole situation off and continued on with his prestigious career. All the dead men were simply "casualties of war," to him. No one was ever able to convince him otherwise.

For the millions of soldiers, family members, and other citizens around the world, the signing of the Armistice at 11 a.m. that day, would be remembered as one of the happiest days in their lives. For several thousand soldiers, including hundreds from the 92nd, it would be a day of mourning for all of eternity.

Almost a century later, people still ask why General Pershing sent out troops to fight those last few hours. For most of us, the whole thing is a heart-wrenching mystery, lost in the ego of one military commander.

The 92nd would continue to fight on for America and showed exemplary service in the wars that would follow, World War II as well as the Korea. They will always be remembered as some of the bravest fighters the world has ever seen.

Though hundreds gave up their lives for one arrogant and power-hungry general, America has not forgotten their ultimate sacrifice.

Honored for Helping Children

Kay Toran, president and chief executive officer of Volunteers of America, Oregon will receive the 2005 Urban Pioneer Award for Civic Leadership from the College of Urban and Public Affairs at Portland State University.

"Kay Toran has a long and distinguished career helping and supporting Oregon's children and families," said Lawrence Wallack, the college's dean. "Her legacy is one of giving back, to the people and the communities that propelled her professional life."

Toran said her parents passed on to her a sense of service — to give back to her community.

"To be recognized for my personal commitment of finding solutions for Oregon's high-need groups dealing with issues of class, poverty and race is so rewarding and a statement to those who share my passions and work tirelessly to help others," Toran said.

The award will be presented during a special ceremony next April.

Toran is a long-time public servant and a former administrator of the State Office for Services to Children and Families. Since 1999, she has guided Volunteers of America, Oregon, an organization that serves thousands of Oregon families, children, seniors and those needing rehabilitation services.



Kay Toran

Ask Deanna!



Real People, Real Advice
An advice column known for its fearless approach to reality based subjects!

Dear Deanna!

I don't want my father at the house for Thanksgiving because he gets drunk and causes a disaster. Last year, while drunk, he stuck his hand inside the turkey while we were praying; he used the bathroom in the closet and then started cursing everybody. It was embarrassing and all the guests left without eating and the food was wasted. How do I tell him to stay home? --Tonya M.; Norfolk, Va.

Dear Tonya M:

Holidays are for families even if

yours is from a Jerry Springer movie. If dinner is at your house, purchased with your money, then you make the rules. Instead of keeping him away, be firm and let him know he has to come sober or he can stay at home and eat a microwave meal.

Dear Deanna!

I have a girlfriend of about 4 months. I thought we were close, but over the past few days she's pulled a few disappearing acts. Come to think of it, I haven't seen or heard much of her in the past month and I don't

know what she's up to. What should I do? --Anonymous.; Charlotte, N.C.

Dear Anonymous:

A relationship is like a new job, it takes 6 months to learn it and another 6 months to get the hang of it. You haven't been with this woman long enough to build trust and respect or lay the foundation for a lasting relationship. Take the hint and realize you're not on the same page and she has other things on her agenda that doesn't include you. Don't wait around for Casper to

keep disappearing. Move on while you can.

Dear Deanna!

I'm involved in a love triangle and I can't get out. My fiancée has started seeing another female. He says he loves me and he wants to get the other girl out of the relationship and marry me, but he's trying to let her down easy. He needs to hurry up and quit playing games. --Tammy; Decatur, Ga.

Dear Tammy:

If I'm right, you're the type of female that studies for a blood

test. Leave your triangle and find a man that will really put a circle around your finger. The writing's on the wall. If he cheats as a fiancée, what makes you think he'll be committed as a husband? Unless you're desperate, or hard up for a man, — lose that zero and find your own hero.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or write: Deanna M, P.O. Box 88847, Los Angeles, CA 90009. Website: www.askdeanna.com



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