

Extra Credit for Ruben Rivers: Courage and Valor

About the 761st Tank Battalion “Black Panthers”

Book: Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem and Anthony Walton. *Brothers in arms: the epic story of the 761st tank battalion, WWII's forgotten heroes.* New York : Broadway Books, 2004.

Book: Sasser, Charles W. *Patton's Panthers: the African-American 761st Tank Battalion in World War II.* New York : Pocket Books, 2004.

Website: [The 761st Tank Battalion](#). Official website.

Website: [761st Tank Battalion](#). Provides a brief history and related articles of Ruben's unit.

About African-American soldiers

Book: Leckie, William H. and Shirley A. Leckie. *The Buffalo Soldiers: a Narrative of the Black Cavalry in the West.* Norman : Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 2003.

Book: Lardas, Mark. *African American Soldier in the Civil War: USCT 1862-66.* New York : Osprey Pub., 2006.

Book: Moore, Christopher. *Fighting for America: Black Soldiers -- the Unsung Heroes of World War.* New York : One World, 2005.

Website: [Soldiers for Liberty](#). Provides accounts of African-Americans as defenders of American liberty.

Website: [Fighting for Respect](#). Details the experiences of black soldiers willing to serve in the military during World War II.

About General George S. Patton

Book: Axelrod, Alan. *Patton: a Biography.* New York : Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.

Book: Peifer, Charles. *Soldier of Destiny: a Biography of George Patton.* Minneapolis , Minn. : Dillon Press, 1989.

Website: [Patton](#). Official website.

DVD: [Patton](#). Produced by 20th Century Fox, the film dramatizes the adventures of the controversial American general.

About D-Day

Book: Drez, Ronald J. *Remember D-Day: the Plan, the Invasion, Survivor Stories.* Washington , DC : National Geographic, 2004.

Book: Platt, Richard. *D-Day Landings: the Story of the Allied Invasion.* New York : DK Pub., 2004.

Book: Stein, R. Conrad. *The World War II D-Day Invasion in American History.* Berkeley Heights , NJ: Enslow Pub., 2004.

Website: [D-Day timeline](#). Maintained by The Memory Project.

About World War II

Book: Ambrose, Stephen E. *The Good Fight: How World War II Was Won*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2001.

Book: Bard, Mitchell Geoffrey. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to World War II*. New York : Alpha Books, 2004.

Website: [WWII Timeline](#).

Website: [WWII](#). Maintained by History.com.

About the Medal of Honor

Book: Wachtel, Roger. *The Medal of Honor*. New York : Children's Press, 2002.

Book: Mikaelian, Allen. *Medal of Honor: Profiles of America's Military Heroes from the Civil War to the Present*. New York : Hyperion, 2002.

Website: [Medal of Honor](#). Maintained by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

Fun Stuff

[Ruben Rivers Criss Cross](#)

[Ruben Rivers Words Search](#)

Teacher resources

- Why were Ruben and the 761st Tank Battalion unable to freely maneuver around the roadblock on the way to Vic-sur-Seille?
- What did Gen. George S. Patton believe kept a black man from being a good soldier? How was his attitude fostered and supported by the military?
- What characteristics did Ruben exhibit which sparked admiration among his brother soldiers and his company commander?
- After being injured, Ruben refused to leave the battlefield. What do you think motivated his decision to remain? Would you have done the same? Why or why not?
- Imagine you are Ruben's company commander, Capt. Williams, and must write a letter to his parents explaining the circumstances of their son's death. What would you say that might give meaning to his sacrifice?
- It took more than 50 years to award Ruben Rivers the Medal of Honor. Based on Ruben's example and those of countless other African-Americans, how has society's views changed regarding soldiers of color?