

Newsweek

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Braves in Khaki



*Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw:
the Indians are ready to fight*

In the World War 17,313 Indians volunteered for service in the American Army, about one-quarter of them went to France, and many of them, true to their fighting background, showed almost reckless courage. One of the red men, Walter Sevalia, was cited for "extraordinary bravery" in swimming the Meuse with a pontoon-bridge cable while under terrific fire. Another, Joe Young Hawk, on being captured by five Germans, is said to have slain three of them with his bare hands ("I broke their backs over my knee," he explained) and, despite wounds received in the scuffle, captured the other two and marched them back to the American lines.

In the present emergency, Indians have once again shown eagerness to defend their homeland. And last week the Office of Indian Affairs, reporting results of a sampling of 26 out of the 80 Indian jurisdictions, revealed that out of 7,407 Selective Service registrants, 574 had already volunteered against 37 actually drafted—a ratio of 15 volunteers for each draftee.

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