

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910454241503321
Titolo	The Good Fight Continues : World War II Letters From the Abraham Lincoln Brigade // Peter N. Carroll, Michael Nash, Melvin Small
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, NY : , : New York University Press, , [2006] ©2006
ISBN	0-8147-7297-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (305 p.)
Disciplina	940.540973
Soggetti	Anti-fascist movements - United States - History - 20th century Soldiers - United States - Correspondence Spain - History - Civil War, 1936-1939 - Veterans - Correspondence Spain. Eje rcito Popular de la Repu blica. Abraham Lincoln Battalion United States -- Foreign relations -- 1933-1945 World War, 1939-1945 - Participation, African American World War, 1939-1945 World War, 1939-1945 - Public opinion World War, 1939-1945 - United States World War, 1939-1945 - Public opinion - 20th century - United States World War, 1939-1945 - Participation, African American - United States World War, 1939-1945 - History - United States Anti-fascist movements Soldiers Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- Chapter 1: Before Pearl Harbor -- Chapter 2: At War with the Army -- Chapter 3: Problems in Red and Black -- Chapter 4: In the Combat Theaters -- Chapter 5: Premature Antifascists and the Postwar World -- Appendix : Biographical Index of Letter Writers -- Bibliography -- Index -- About the Editors

## Sommario/riassunto

Written with passion and intelligence, the letters of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in World War II express the raw idealism of anti-fascist soldiers who experienced the war in boot camps, cockpits, and foxholes, but never lost sight of the great global issues at stake. When the United States entered World War II on December 7, 1941, only one group of American soldiers had already confronted the fascist enemy on the battlefield: the U.S. veterans of the Lincoln Brigade, a volunteer army of about 2,800 men and women who had enlisted to defend the Spanish Republic from military rebels during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). They fought on the losing side. After Pearl Harbor, Lincoln Brigade veterans enthusiastically joined the U.S. Army, welcoming this second chance to fight against fascism. However, the Lincoln recruits soon encountered suspicious military leaders who questioned their patriotism and denied them promotions and overseas assignments, foreshadowing the political persecution of the postwar Red Scare. African American veterans who fought in fully integrated units in Spain, faced second-class treatment in America's Jim Crow army. Nevertheless, the Lincolns served with distinction in every theater of the war and won a disproportionate number of medals for courage, dedication, and sacrifice. The 154 letters in this volume, selected from thousands held in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives at NYU's Tamiment Library, provide a new and unique perspective on aspects of World War II.

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