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Book Review
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Houston, Ivan J. (2009). Black Warriors: The Buffalo Soldiers of World War II. Bloomington, IN: IUniverse.

This book is a memoir of World War II written by an African American participant who served with the 3rd Battalion, 370th Infantry Regiment Combat Team of the 92nd Infantry Division in Italy. The author was partly responsible for documenting the activities of the battalion at its headquarters and credits Sergeant Thomas T. Davis as chief compiler for the official journal that resides in the National Archives.

Ivan Houston provides a compelling account of the only black infantry division to fight in Europe in World War II. Composed of about four thousand men, predominantly southern African Americans of modest education, their mission was to cross the Arno River in Italy and break through the German lines. Mr. Houston's memoir provides autobiographical information of his life as a young black man attending college in California who was called to active duty and experienced segregation in the Armed Forces. The book is also a narrative of his service from combat training, transport via ship to Europe and then the day-to-day journal of the Buffalo Soldiers of the 92nd's WWII's march to valiantly push the Germans out of Italy and defeat the Italian fascists. Unfortunately, when the soldiers returned home, they faced the same segregation and prejudice as before.

The book includes World War II maps and archival photos.

Interestingly, Spike Lee's film "Miracle at St. Anna's" released in 2008 is the first film to tell the story of the 92nd Infantry's fighting history. It features four African American soldiers who after being cut off from their unit take refuge in an Italian village. While the film has been controversial due to the plot's subject matter and historical accuracy, the Buffalo Soldiers who fought in Italy won the hearts of Italians who they fought to free from the Nazis.