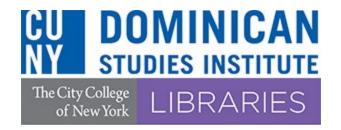# Curriculum

Unit – Global Impact of Dominican Veterans in World War II

Objective: SWBAT identify and reflect on the impact of Dominican veterans across the globe.

This sheet summarizes some of the key contributions of Dominican World War II veterans across the globe. Using your blank map, follow the directions and answer the questions below. You will probably need an atlas or a detailed world map for reference.

1. Most of these veterans were born in the Dominican Republic and moved with their families to New York City before World War II. **Label D.R. and N.Y.C. on your map.**

2. In 1944, Miguel Ángel Escalera was an infantry sergeant and led a platoon of 30 soldiers through Germany, saving their lives when they were ambushed. **Label Germany on your map.**

3. Victor Díaz Aponte served in the parachute infantry, dropping behind enemy lines in North Africa, Italy, France, Belgium, Germany and England. He and his patrol killed six Nazis in Italy in 1944. **Label Italy, England, and North Africa on your map.**

4. Before and after World War II, Aponte was a Latin bandleader in the state of Maryland. **Label Maryland on your map.**

5. Diego Ureña specialized in nighttime combat, engaging in military campaigns in France, Belgium, and Germany. **Label France and Belgium on your map.**

6. After serving in the U.S. Army, Dioris Valladares became a famous merengue musician in New York City. His records were sold throughout the United States and Latin America, including in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. **Label Puerto Rico on your map.**

7. Tito Enrique Cánepa Jiménez became a U.S. citizen on December 11, 1942 while training at Camp Robinson in Arkansas. He became a professional filmmaker while in the military and used his skills after the war to help organize rebellions against the Dominican Republic's Trujillo dictatorship. **Label Arkansas on your map.**

8. In 1945, Antonio Claudio Martínez was deployed to the Philippines where he served while the U.S. transferred control of the islands to the Filipino people. He later became New York's first Dominican lawyer. **Label the Philippines on your map.**

9. In 1945, Stephen Hotesse and 100 other black officers were arrested in Indiana for resisting the orders of white officers who wanted to maintain segregation. The charges were later dropped and the black officers were recognized as civil rights activists. Hotesse died tragically in an accidental plane crash in Indiana that summer. **Label Indiana on your map.**

10. José Adrián Trujillo, a veteran, argued with a Florida restaurant owner after he was refused service because he was black. Police shot and killed Trujillo when they arrived at the scene, provoking outrage among Dominicans and others in the U.S. **Label Florida on your map.**

11. Nicolás Silfa Canario was sent to South Carolina and Trinidad to train for jungle warfare. He then fought in New Guinea against Japanese forces. **Label South Carolina, Trinidad, and New Guinea on your map.**

12. After serving in the Pacific, Federico Henríquez Vázquez tried to overthrow the Trujillo dictatorship. In 1947, he participated in the Cayo Confites rebellion, in which rebels collected weapons and organized for an invasion in Cuba. Henríquez later invaded the Dominican Republic by airplane but was caught and executed by the Dominican military. **Label Cuba on your map.**
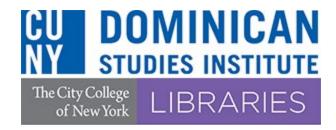
Reflection Questions:
Choose to respond to one or more of the reflection questions below:
- Based on what you have learned, how did Dominican veterans make an impact on society?
- Given that Dominican veterans' influence spanned the globe, how do you think they should be remembered?

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Note to teachers: You may choose to distribute this page for independent or small-group work, or you might opt to complete this activity as a full class, in which individual students come and label a blank map projected in the front of the classroom.

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