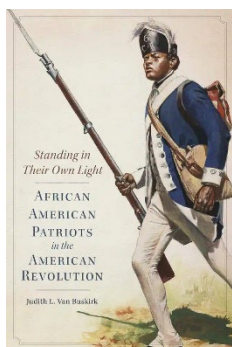


CRC Suggested Readings on African American History in the Armed Forces

This list highlights Black Americans serving or otherwise involved with U.S. Armed Forces. Topics vary and include biographies and memoirs, gender equality, race relations, and a multitude of experiences in various wars. These items are available for check out or interlibrary loan request at the Cyber Research Center.

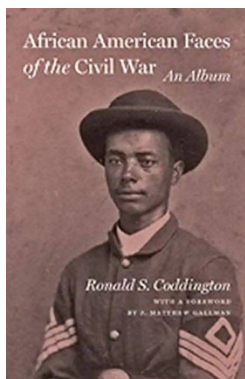


Standing in Their Own Light: African American Patriots in the American Revolution by Judith L. Van Buskirk

Call Number: E269 .N3 V36 2017

ISBN: 978-0806156354

Revolutionary era African Americans began their lives in a world that hardly questioned slavery; they finished their days in a world that increasingly contested the existence of the institution. Judith L. Van Buskirk traces this shift to the wartime experiences of African Americans. Mining firsthand sources that include black veterans' pension files, Van Buskirk examines how the struggle for independence moved from the battlefield to the courthouse—and how personal conflicts contributed to the larger struggle against slavery and legal inequality. Black veterans claimed an American identity based on their willing sacrifice on behalf of American independence. And abolitionists, citing the contributions of black soldiers, adopted the tactics and rhetoric of revolution, personal autonomy, and freedom.

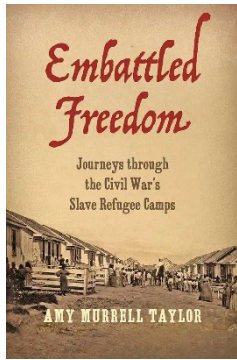


African American Faces of the Civil War: An Album by Ronald S. Coddington

Call Number: E540 .N3 C64 2012

ISBN: 978-1421406251

A renowned collector of Civil War photographs and a prodigious researcher, Ronald S. Coddington combines compelling archival images with biographical stories that reveal the human side of the war. This third volume in his series on Civil War soldiers contains previously unpublished photographs of African American Civil War participants—many of whom fought to secure their freedom. Coddington discovers these portraits—*cartes de visite*, ambrotypes, and tintypes—in museums, archives, and private collections. He has pieced together each individual's life and fate based upon personal documents, military records, and pension files. These stories tell of ordinary men who became fighters, of the prejudice they faced, and of the challenges they endured. *African American Faces of the Civil War* makes an important contribution to a comparatively understudied aspect of the war and provides a fascinating look into lives that helped shape America.

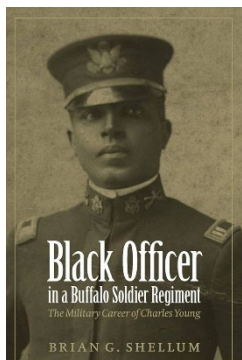


Embattled Freedom: Journeys through the Civil War's Slave Refugee Camps by Amy Murrell Taylor

Call Number: E453 .T18 2018

ISBN: 978-1469661599

The Civil War was just days old when the first enslaved men, women, and children began fleeing their plantations to seek refuge inside the lines of the Union army as it moved deep into the heart of the Confederacy. In the years that followed, hundreds of thousands more followed in a mass exodus from slavery that would destroy the system once and for all. Drawing on an extraordinary survey of slave refugee camps throughout the country, *Embattled Freedom* reveals as never before the everyday experiences of these refugees from slavery as they made their way through the vast landscape of army-supervised camps that emerged during the war. Amy Murrell Taylor vividly reconstructs the human world of wartime emancipation, taking readers inside military-issued tents and makeshift towns, through commissary warehouses and active combat, and into the realities of individuals and families struggling to survive physically as well as spiritually. Narrating their journeys in and out of the confines of the camps, Taylor shows in often gripping detail how the most basic necessities of life were elemental to a former slave's quest for freedom and full citizenship.

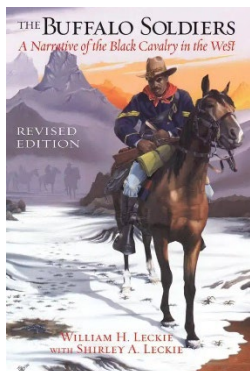


Black Officer in a Buffalo Soldier Regiment: The Military Career of Charles Young by Brian G. Shellum

Call Number: E185.97 .Y63 S54 2010

ISBN: 978-0803213852

An unheralded military hero, Charles Young (1864–1922) was the third black graduate of West Point, the first African American national park superintendent, the first black U.S. military attaché, the first African American officer to command a Regular Army regiment, and the highest-ranking black officer in the Regular Army until his death. *Black Officer in a Buffalo Soldier Regiment* tells the story of the man who—willingly or not—served as a standard-bearer for his race in the officer corps for nearly thirty years, and who, if not for racial prejudice, would have become the first African American general.



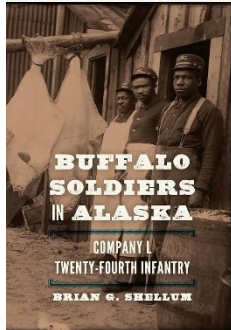
The Buffalo Soldiers: A Narrative of the Black Cavalry in the West (Revised Edition) by William H. Leckie & Shirley A. Leckie

Call Number: UA31 .L419 2003

ISBN: 978-0806138404

Originally published in 1967, William H. Leckie's *The Buffalo Soldiers* was the first book of its kind to recognize the importance of African American units in the conquest of the West. Decades later, with sales of more than 75,000 copies, *The Buffalo Soldiers* has become a classic. Now, in a newly revised

edition, the authors have expanded the original research to explore more deeply the lives of buffalo soldiers in the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry Regiments.

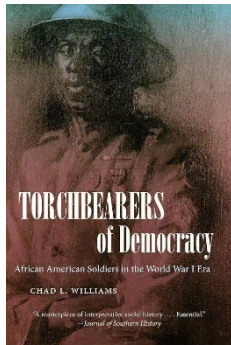


Buffalo Soldiers in Alaska: Company L, Twenty-Fourth Infantry by Brian G. Shellum

AULS eBook Link: [Click Here](#) / Search EBSCOhost eBooks database (AN 3035907) *Want the physical book? Request via interlibrary loan.*

ISBN: 978-1496228444

The town of Skagway was born in 1897 after its population quintupled in under a year due to the Klondike gold rush. Balanced on the edge of anarchy, the U.S. Army stationed Company L, a unit of Buffalo Soldiers, there near the end of the gold rush. *Buffalo Soldiers in Alaska* tells the story of these African American soldiers who kept the peace during a volatile period in America's resource-rich North. It is a fascinating tale that features white officers and Black soldiers safeguarding U.S. territory, supporting the civil authorities, protecting Native Americans, fighting natural disasters, and serving proudly in America's last frontier.



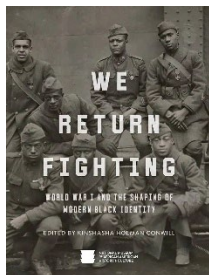
Torchbearers of Democracy: African American Soldiers in the World War I Era by Chad L. Williams

Call Number: D639 .N4 W497 2010

AULS eBook Link: [Click Here](#) / Search EBSCOhost eBooks (AN 343685)

ISBN: 978-1469609850

For the 380,000 African American soldiers who fought in World War I, Woodrow Wilson's charge to make the world "safe for democracy" carried life-or-death meaning. Chad L. Williams reveals the central role of African American soldiers in the global conflict and how they, along with race activists and ordinary citizens, committed to fighting for democracy at home and beyond. Using a diverse range of sources, *Torchbearers of Democracy* reclaims the legacy of African American soldiers and veterans and connects their history to issues such as the obligations of citizenship, combat and labor, diaspora and internationalism, homecoming and racial violence, "New Negro" militancy, and African American memories of the war.

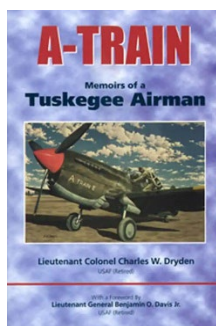


We Return Fighting: World War I and the Shaping of Modern Black Identity by National Museum of African American History & Culture, Kinshasha Holman Conwill (Ed.), Lonnie G. Bunch III (Introduction)

AULS eBook Link: [Click Here](#) / Search EBSCOhost eBooks (AN 2026010) *Want the physical book? Request via interlibrary loan.*

ISBN: 978-1588346728

This stunning book presents artifacts, medals, and photographs alongside powerful essays that together highlight the efforts of African Americans during World War I. As in many previous wars, black soldiers served the United States during the war, but they were assigned to segregated units and often relegated to labor and support duties rather than direct combat. Indeed this was the central paradox of the war: these men and women fought abroad to secure rights they did not yet have at home in the States. Black veterans' work during the conflict--and the respect they received from French allies but not their own US military--empowered them to return home and continue the fight for those rights. The book also presents the work of black citizens on the home front. Together their efforts laid the groundwork for later advances in the civil rights movement.

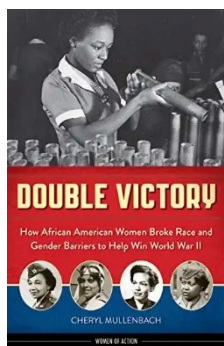


A-Train: Memoirs of a Tuskegee Airman by LTC Charles W. Dryden, Benjamin O. Davis Jr. (Foreward)

Call Number: D790 .D78 1997

ISBN: 978-0817312664

A-Train is the story of one of the black Americans who, during World War II, graduated from Tuskegee (AL) Flying School and served as a pilot in the Army Air Corps' 99th Pursuit Squadron. Charles W. Dryden presents a fast-paced, balanced, and personal account of what it was like to prepare for a career traditionally closed to African Americans, how he coped with the frustrations and dangers of combat, and how he, along with many fellow black pilots, navigators, bombardiers, and crewmen, emerged with a magnificent war record.

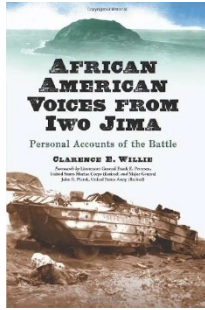


Double-Victory: How African American Women Broke Race and Gender Barriers to Help Win World War II by Cheryl Mullenbach

Call Number: D810 .N4 M85 2012

ISBN: 978-1613735237

Double Victory tells the stories of African American women who did extraordinary things to help their country during World War II. In these pages young readers meet a range of remarkable women: war workers, political activists, military women, volunteers, and entertainers. Some, such as Mary McLeod Bethune and Lena Horne, were celebrated in their lifetimes and are well known today. But many others fought discrimination at home and abroad in order to contribute to the war effort yet were overlooked during those years and forgotten by later generations. *Double Victory* recovers the stories of these courageous women, such as Hazel Dixon Payne, the only woman to serve on the remote Alaska-Canadian Highway; Deverne Calloway, a Red Cross worker who led a protest at an army base in India; and Betty Murphy Phillips, the only black female overseas war correspondent.

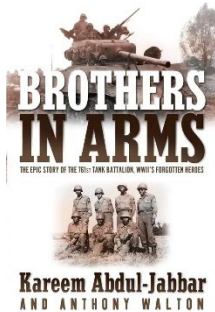


African American Voices from Iwo Jima: Personal Accounts of the Battle by Clarence E. Willie

Call Number: D767.99 .I9 W56 2010

ISBN: 978-0786441587

Nearly 900 African Americans fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima, but accounts of their service have gone largely unrecorded. This book seeks to correct that omission for the sake of the brave Americans who served and for the sake of a more inclusive American history. Eleven veterans contribute their memories and experiences, starting with their youth in the Depression, their enlistment, the battle itself, and their experience of returning to a nation that continued to treat them as second-class citizens. Appendices include a history of the Montford Point Marines, a history of the Army's 476th Amphibian Truck Company, a chronology of the Battle of Iwo Jima and a task organization chart for the participating U.S. forces.



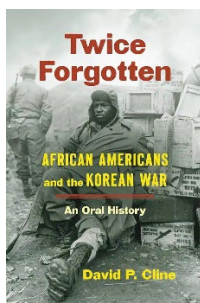
Brothers in Arms: The Epic Story of the 761st Tank Battalion, WWII's Forgotten Heroes by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anthony Walton

Call Number: D769.306 761ST A24 2005

ISBN: 978-0767909136

Trained essentially as a public relations gesture to maintain the support of the black community for the war, the battalion was never intended to see battle. In fact, General Patton originally opposed their deployment, claiming African Americans couldn't think quickly enough to operate tanks in combat conditions. But in the summer of 1944, following heavy casualties in the fields of France, the Allies—desperate for trained tank personnel—called the battalion up anyway.

While most combat troops fought on the front for a week or two before being rotated back, the men of the 761st served for more than six months, fighting heroically under Patton's Third Army at the Battle of the Bulge and in the Allies' final drive across France and Germany. Despite a casualty rate that approached 50 percent and an extreme shortage of personnel and equipment, the 761st would ultimately help liberate some thirty towns and villages, as well as several branch concentration camps. The racism that shadowed them during the war and the prejudice they faced upon their return home are an indelible part of their story. Shining through most of all, however, are the lasting bonds that united them as soldiers and brothers, the bravery they exhibited on the battlefield, and the quiet dignity and patriotism that defined their lives.

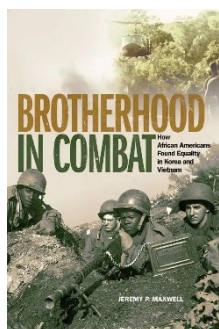


Twice Forgotten: African Americans and the Korean War, an Oral History by David P. Cline

Call Number: DS919 .C55 2021

ISBN: 978-1469664538

This collection of seventy oral histories, drawn from across the country, features interviews conducted by the author and his colleagues for their American Radio Works documentary, *Korea: The Unfinished War*, which examines the conflict as experienced by the approximately 600,000 Black men and women who served. It also includes narratives from other sources, including the Library of Congress's visionary Veterans History Project. In their own voices, soldiers and sailors and flyers tell the story of what it meant, how it felt, and what it cost them to fight for the freedom abroad that was too often denied them at home.

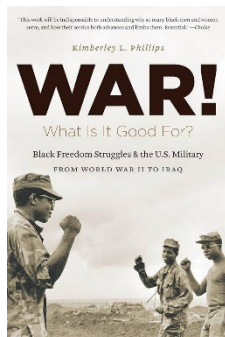


Brotherhood in Combat: How African Americans Found Equality in Korea and Vietnam by Jeremy P. Maxwell

Call Number: E185.63 .M38 2018

ISBN: 978-0806160061

Using a wealth of oral histories from black and white soldiers and Marines who served in one or both conflicts, Jeremy P. Maxwell explores racial tension—pervasive in rear units, but relatively rare on the front lines. His work reveals that in initially proving their worth to their white brethren on the battlefield, African Americans changed the prevailing attitudes of those ranking officials who could bring about changes in policy. *Brotherhood in Combat* also illustrates the schism over attitudes toward civil-military relations that developed between blacks who had entered the service prior to Vietnam and those who were drafted and thus brought revolutionary ideas from the continental United States to the war zone. More important, Maxwell demonstrates how even at the height of civil rights unrest at home, black and white soldiers found a sense of brotherhood in the jungles of Vietnam.



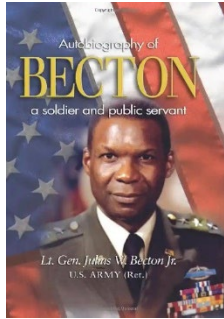
War! What Is It Good For?: Black Freedom Struggles and the U.S. Military from World War II to Iraq by Kimberly L. Phillips

Call Number: UB418 .A47 P45 2012

AULS eBook Link: [Click Here](#) / Search ProQuest eBook Central (by title)

ISBN: 978-1469613895

Using an array of sources—from newspapers and government documents to literature, music, and film—and tracing the period from World War II to the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, Phillips considers how federal policies that desegregated the military also maintained racial, gender, and economic inequalities. Since 1945, the nation's need for military labor, blacks' unequal access to employment, and discriminatory draft policies have forced black men into the military at disproportionate rates. While mainstream civil rights leaders considered the integration of the military to be a civil rights success, many black soldiers, veterans, and antiwar activists perceived war as inimical to their struggles for economic and racial justice and sought to reshape the civil rights movement into an antiwar black freedom movement. Since the Vietnam War, Phillips argues, many African Americans have questioned linking militarism and war to their concepts of citizenship, equality, and freedom.

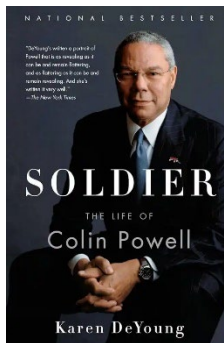


Becton: Autobiography of a Soldier and Public Servant by Lt. Gen. Julius W. Becton, U.S. Army (Ret.)

AULS eBook Link: [Click Here](#) / Search EBSCOhost eBooks (AN 663010) *Want the physical book? Request via interlibrary loan.*

ISBN: 978-1682471883

This autobiography, published in cooperation with the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), highlights Lieutenant General Becton's remarkable career, reflects on his youth, his almost forty years of service in the U.S. Army, and his subsequent civilian appointments. Devotion to leadership, education, service, race, and his spiritual upbringing are all central themes in the book.



Soldier: The Life of Colin Powell by Karen DeYoung

Call Number: E840 .P64 D49 2007

ISBN: 978-1400075645

Over the course of a lifetime of service to his country, Colin Powell became a national hero, a beacon of wise leadership and one of the most trusted political figures in America. In *Soldier*, the award-winning *Washington Post* editor Karen DeYoung takes us from Powell's humble roots as the son of Jamaican immigrants to his meteoric rise through the military ranks during the Cold War and Desert Storm to his agonizing deliberations over whether to run for president.