

U.S. Army Military History Institute  
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Ethnic Groups-Blacks

## **BLACK AMERICANS & U.S. ARMY**

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

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### **GENERAL SOURCES**

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See Chap 16, 35, 59 and 60.

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### **See also:**

-Bibliographies on Black troops in specific conflicts and time periods in Ethnic Groups-Blacks.

### **NOTE: Black Soldier Casualties**

#### **-Revolutionary War**

Franklin (p. 135, cited below) says of the 300,000 soldiers who served in the Continental Army, about 5,000 were black. Because most were integrated into white units, they are difficult to trace. Official figures of Army, Navy and Marine battle deaths total 4,435, with the Army accounting for 4,044 of those. If blacks made up 1/60th of the force, one can expect that they would have suffered about 1/60th of the battle deaths, namely, about 70. But that conclusion is purely a supposition. See:

Defense (Sep 1982): p. 46. Per.

Franklin, John Hope. From Slavery to Freedom. NY: Knopf, 1956. 639 p. E185.F825.

#### **-War of 1812**

The same Defense issue (cited above) lists War of 1812 battle deaths of 2,260, of which 1,950 were incurred by the Army. The major segregated black unit of the war was the Louisiana Battalion of Free Men of Color. Unfortunately, the major history of the unit contains no casualty total. See:

McConnell, Roland C. Negro Troops of Antebellum Louisiana: A History of the Battalion of Free Men of Color. Baton Rouge: LSU, 1968. 143 p. UA220.M3.

**-Civil War**

Totals of Civil War black casualties that appear in several sources do not agree. This source indicates about 180,000 blacks served in the Union Army with total losses of 68,178, which included 2,751 killed in action:

Cornish, Dudley T. The Sable Arm. NY: Longmans, Green, 1956. p. 288. E540.N3.C77.

**-World War I**

Of the 380,000 blacks who served in the Army during World War I, only about 42,000 were assigned to combat duty. The two major combat units were the 92<sup>nd</sup> and 93<sup>rd</sup> Divisions. Total casualties for the 92<sup>nd</sup> were more than 2,100, with 176 killed in action. The total casualties for the 93<sup>rd</sup> amounted to more than 3,000, including 584 killed in action. Reference:

Foner, Jack D. Blacks and the Military in American History. NY: Praeger, 1974. pp. 119 & 123.  
E185.63.F64.

Bernard Nalty, Strength for the Fight, E185.63.N34) notes that 750 blacks were killed in action, p. 123.

**-Vietnam**

-5,217 blacks were killed in actions per DOD's U.S. Casualties in Southeast Asia (VN-Casualties/Strengths).

-blacks accounted for 13% of all killed & wounded (Nalty, cited above, p. 298).