

**Blacks in the Military**

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPECIAL SECTION, PART II

**“Our Blood Runs Deep”**

Cetewayo

Cetewayo, nephew of Shaka  
and King of the Zulus

**Cetewayo - King of the Zulus (d. 1884)**

Nephew of Shaka, an earlier Zulu king, Cetewayo continued to maintain the rigidly disciplined army that his uncle had begun. The forces that had prompted Shaka still presented themselves to Cetewayo; i.e., the encroaching Boer and British settlers upon Zulu land.

Both the Boers and the British attempted to use the Zulus against the other, but Cetewayo wanted neither on his lands. Because Britain had the more formally trained military with sophisticated weaponry, they felt secure that they could eliminate any foe.

Several demands were forwarded to Cetewayo by the British: British subjects must be allowed to settle on Zulu lands; Zulu warriors must be allowed to marry and the draft eliminated. All were refused by the Zulu king. This arrogance on the part of the Europeans was to cause them to suffer some humiliating defeats and spend \$100 million before it was over.

They met in a bloody battle with 12,000 British trained and armed troops (led by Col. Durnford) pitted against 10,000 Zulus armed with the assegai — a short spear which the Zulu used as a bayonet.

Chanting their war song, they charged the British; wave upon wave of Zulus determined to fight until victory or death was achieved. At the end of the battle, all of the British had been slaughtered and their weapons and ammunition confiscated by Cetewayo's men. Thirty-five Zulus had lost their lives in this encounter.

Three more battles were won by Cetewayo and his men. The English desperately sought help from England. Fifteen thousand well-equipped troops were dispatched from Great Britain. Among the reinforcements was Napoleon's nephew who volunteered for service.

The forces met at Ulundi in August, 1879. This time Cetewayo was forced to retreat when one-fifth of his forces was killed. A few days later Prince Napoleon was mortally wounded when his group met in an encounter with a regiment of Zulus. Cetewayo was captured several days later and imprisoned for three years. The war was over.

During the king's imprisonment, his country was torn by inter-tribal conflicts and anarchy ruled. An appeal to Queen Victoria from Cape Colony and the Zulus effected his release, but only a small portion of his original kingdom was returned to him. He died in 1884.

**Europe**

Blacks have been recorded on the continent since ancient times. They were called "Ethiops" from the Greek "Aithiops" (meaning dark-skinned, i.e. African). Art objects dating from the 7th century B.C. indicate their presence on the Grecian peninsula and in European armies. In addition, writings from the Homeric period frequently mention them; in fact, Odysseus' herald, Eurybates, was black.

Many Africans were in the Moorish Army that invaded Spain in the 8th Century, A.D. According to G.K. Osei, Ghanaians that were part of this army led by General Ibn-Zeyed (for whom Gibraltar was named) were used extensively to prevent rebellion in southern Spain. General Usuf of Ghana entered Spain in 1086 and defeated King Alfonso VI. His army also defeated the kings of Seville and Granada. Yakub el-Mansur invaded the area in 1194 and acquired almost all of the Peninsula.

In 1578, of the three kings killed in the fierce battle of Alcazar, one was an African.

Thus, the Moors' (Muslims) existence on the European continent, and the Spanish-Portuguese peninsula in particular, persisted for over 700 years before they were expelled by force. They left behind a dark legacy, however, for centuries of constant reinforcements of manpower from, and trade with Africa helped to swell the mixed population of those European countries with whom the Africans came into contact.

In addition, Portugal and Spain continued to increase the strength of their navies. This resulted in frequent excursions to Africa, a broader exploration of the continent, and expansion into the New World: The Americas. The movement west, of course, eventually led to the slave trade with its historic, yet unfortunate, effect upon the world.

As earlier noted, slavery had been in existence for millennia with the conquered peoples taken as slaves. Many of these captives enjoyed rather special treatment, and often were accorded a status similar to that of their owners.

This format was continued in Europe, for slavery as an economic institution worked well in the Americas where an agrarian (and supposedly) classless society existed. In Europe, royalty made a mockery of slavery for these were the slaves (serfs) in their own homelands. Blacks, therefore, became a status symbol for their owners, and they often escaped the onerous tasks that befell their brothers in America.

**Abraham Hannibal (1692-1782)**

Taken from his parents during a slave raid in Africa, he became the slave of a Sultan in Constantinople. Here, at age ten, he was seen by the Russian

Turkey, purchased from the Sultan.

and taken back to the court of Czar Peter the Great. The Czar was so captivated by the young Abraham's mental skills that he adopted the boy, had him baptized and educated at the best schools in Paris.

During his long stay in Paris, war broke out between France and Spain. He was commissioned an officer in the French army, and remained so until wounded. Upon his return to Russia, his skill in engineering was noted and he became an officer in the Corps of Engineers. In addition, the Czar appointed him mathematics teacher to his son, the Crown Prince Peter.

Upon the death of Peter the Great in 1725, his

widow seized the throne; but the country was in fact, ruled by Prince Menshikov. The latter wanted to strengthen his hold upon the throne through a marriage of his daughter to the young Crown Prince. Hannibal was asked to intercede in this matter; his refusal forced Menshikov to send Abraham in exile to Tomsk, Siberia in order to dilute his influence with the Crown Prince.

Upon the death of Catherine the First two years later, Hannibal escaped from Siberia and returned to St. Petersburg, then the capital of Russia. Court intrigue continued to unsettle his life for the next decade.

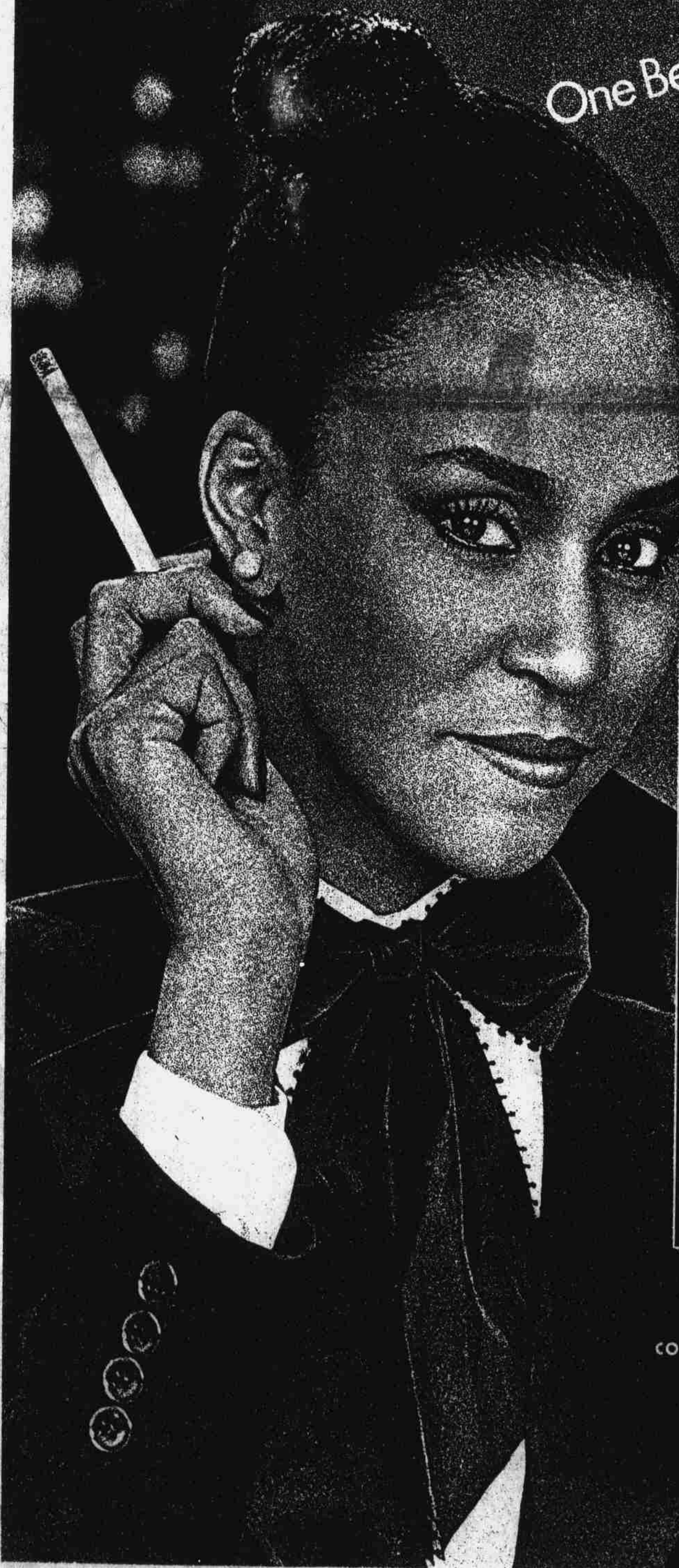
When Peter the Great's daughter, Elizabeth,

finally became the rightful ruler in 1741, she acknowledged his loyalty to Russia and appointed him Commander in Chief of the Russian Army. In addition, as the leading engineer in the country, he was assigned to survey the disputed border between Sweden and Russia. Hannibal was also a member of the commission to inspect Russian forts and the major in charge of the garrison at Tomsk — the city where he had been held captive in exile.

During his second marriage he sired eleven children. Two sons had military careers: Ivan, the oldest and a navy commander, was responsible for the defeat of the Turks at Navaria and Chesma. As

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