

THE TRIBUNAL AID

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**A VIABLE, VALID REQUIREMENT
RESPONDING TO
BLACK NORTH CAROLINA**

The 1976 Editions of THE TRIBUNAL AID will be dedicated to America's bicentennial Celebration, with emphasis on contributions our Race has made in the making of America, from birth to the present.
In 1976 there should not be a need to lift these contributions from isolated sources. Our past

should be interwoven into the fabric of our civilization, because we are, except for the Indian, America's oldest ethnic minority.

We have helped make America what it was, and what it is, since the founding of Virginia. We have been a factor in many major issues in our history. There have been many misdeeds

against us, yet we have been able to live through them and fight back. This is living proof of our history.

Our role in the making of America is neither well known or correctly known. Many positive contributions have escaped historians and have not found their way into the pages of many history books.

We will strive to give readers, Black and white, many little-known facts about our past and it is hoped that a proper perspective of our history will be of value to persons who may believe that as Black people we have an unworthy past; and hence, no strong claims to all rights of other Americans.

Faye Ashe, Black History Editor

BLACK AMERICANS IN THE CIVIL WAR

For two years the United States had been a nation divided, broken in two. Since 1861, the North and South had been in a bloody Civil War. At the beginning in 1861, young men in the North and South had been eager to get into the war. Southerners flocked to enlist in the Confederate Army, Northerners rushed to join the Union Army.

him. He felt that he needed their help to defeat the South. So for many reasons President Lincoln kept refusing to let Northern States form Black regiments.

Nevertheless, Blacks were so anxious to join the fight that they set up their own drill units in Boston, Providence, and New York. They bought their own equipment and

Army was not seriously considered until it was too late.

Many Blacks attempted to escape to Union lines, and by Sept. 1861, over 20,000 slaves had fled to the Union Army to become scouts, guides, spies, cooks, hospital workers, blacksmiths and mule drivers. Union warships picked up boatloads of runaway slaves along the Eastern Seacoast.

become soldiers in the Union Army, however, the decision to use Black troops had not been popular with everyone. Some officers refused to serve with Black troops. Even as the Blacks proved themselves to be excellent soldiers, they were discriminated against in pay, pensions and equipment. In 1862, white privates received thirteen dollars a month, Black privates seven dollars a month. Finally on January 1, 1864, Congress voted equal pay to Black soldiers. Most Black soldiers in the Union Army were in segregated all-Black fighting units supervised by a separate war office, the BUREAU OF COLORED TROOPS. They were organized into light and heavy artillery and engineers. Most of the officers commanding Black soldiers were white. There were only about 75 Black officers in the Union Army. One of these was MAJOR MARTIN R. DELANY, the first Black field-grade officer to serve in the Civil War.

Black Sailors made up one-fourth of the Union Navy during the Civil War. They served on the KEARSAGE, THE HARTFORD, THE MERRIMAC and aboard Rear Admiral David Farragut's Flagship in the BATTLE OF MOBILE BAY. During the Civil War, six Blacks, ROBERT BLACKIE, JOACHIM PEASE, AARON ANDERSON, WILLIAM H. BROWN, WILSON BROWN, JOHN LAWSON, won the Navy's Medal of Honor. Still it was not until 1872 that the first Black was allowed to enroll at the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis.

Black men fought in the front lines of many of the major battles of the Civil War. They served bravely at the BATTLE OF NASHVILLE, MILLIKEN'S BEND, PORT HUDSON, BAXTER SPRING, POINT LOOKOUT and FORT WAGNER.

In 1864, General Sherman's Union forces began their devastating march through Georgia, putting an end to the Confederate hopes of victory. Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy, fell six months later. Twenty Black soldiers were awarded Congressional Medals of Honor after the war for their charge on the Confederates at NEW MARKET HEIGHTS outside of Richmond.

Over 186,000 Black soldiers served in the Union Army during the Civil War, 38,000 of them gave their lives.

The Secretary of War Stanton said of the Army's Black Soldiers: "The hardest fighting was done by the Black Troops, the parts they stormed were worst of all They can not be exceeded as soldiers."

**REFERENCES FOR:
BLACK AMERS IN THE CIVIL WAR**

BLACK AMERICANS IN THE CIVIL WAR

Westein, Irving. The Storming of Fort Wagner, Black Valor in the Civil War. Firebird Books Scholastic Book Services. New York. 1970.



Teamsters With General Benjamin F. Butler. Library of Congress

After two years of fighting people became weary, they thought of the places where young men had lost their lives. Once the war started it seemed to go on and on. By the end of 1862 these young men were less eager in the North and South. Many had lost relatives and friends. The flood of volunteers slowed down. In despair, the South began to draft men into the Confederate Army. In the North President Lincoln was calling for 300,000 men to volunteer for the Union Army. After a time it became clear that 300,000 men would not volunteer.

Frederick Douglass urged as soon as the war began to "Let the slaves and Free Colored people be called into service, and form into a liberation army." He said to the whites, "We are ready, but you won't let us go." Black men wanted to fight as soon as the first shots had been fired, and the free Black men in Boston tried to enlist in the army, but were refused. Black men in New York formed their own regiments and offered their services, but were turned down by the United States Army and the government. President Lincoln's Secretary of War said, "This department has no intentions to call into service of the government any Colored Soldiers".

President Lincoln knew that the Black men wanted to fight to help kill slavery. But in his attempt to keep the question of slavery out of the war, he had to keep Black men out of the war. He knew that most white people in the North did not want Black men to be soldiers. As one Union man in the 74th New York Volunteers wrote, "We don't want to fight side by side with them. We think we are too superior a race for that." Mr. Lincoln was also thinking of states on the border between the North and the South, the States that had not yet joined the South. In these States bordering on the North there were Unionist, people who were on the side of the North. But, at the same time, many of the Unionist were slave owners, and Mr. Lincoln did not want to do anything that would turn Unionist in the border states against

supplies and trained themselves. But for the first year of the Civil War Black soldiers were not allowed to shoulder a musket in behalf of the Union. Black men were only allowed to labor behind the lines in non-military jobs. They worked as teamsters hauling supplies from camp to camp and the docks unloading army supplies. They built stockades and they served as camp attendants, waiters and cooks. The North had 200,000 Black Civilian laborers who assisted the Union Army, without their help it is believed the North could not have won the war.

The Confederacy used slave labor for building fortifications and for obtaining food from plantations. A few free Southern Blacks enrolled for military duty in New Orleans and a few slaves went into battle with their white masters. But the widespread use of Black soldiers in the Southern

An ex-slave who served with the Union Army in South Carolina was Harriet Tubman, the leader of the Underground Railroad, she served as a nurse and a spy.

The volunteer Black regiments were formed, but were not officially taken into the army or paid for their services. One of these was the FIRST SOUTH CAROLINA VOLUNTEERS, organized at Hilton Head in 1862. This regiment was used for patrol duty off the Georgia Coast. Another was the FIRST KANSAS INFANTRY, who fought the rebels at Island Mounds, Missouri. The regiments were later allowed to join the army. But widespread enlistments of Black soldiers did not occur until after the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863.

Blacks were urged to join the army by Black leaders. By the end of the Civil War over 186,000 Blacks had



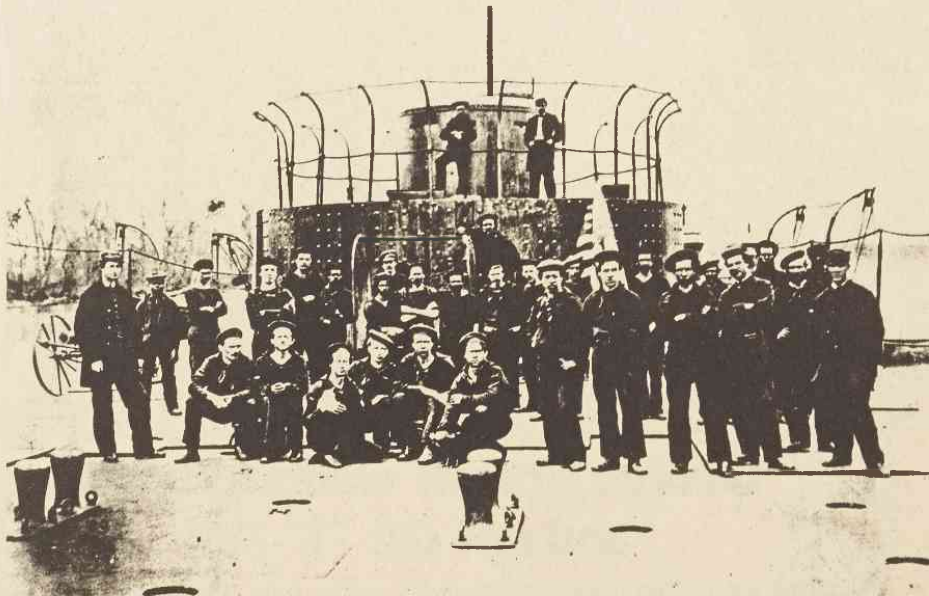
Unidentified Negro Soldier of the Civil War. Chicago Historial Society

CORRECTION

WHITNEY YOUNG'S BIRTH DATE IS JULY 1921 RATHER THAN 1931 AS PRINTED IN THE CAPTION OF LAST WEEK'S NEWSPAPER.



Sergeant F. L. Baldwin, A Soldier In The Civil War
Chicago Historial Society.



There were Negroes among the crewmen of the Union warship MONITOR, in its battle with the MERRIMAC. Library of Congress

1776 Honoring America's Bicentennial 1976