BLACK AMERICANS & U.S. ARMY

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

CONTENTS
General Sources....p.1
Black Soldier Casualties....p.4

GENERAL SOURCES


Excerpts from documents.


Authoritative, documented survey.


See Chap 16, 35, 59 and 60.

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:


-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:

-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:


-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 92nd and 93rd Divisions. Total casualties for the 92nd were more than 2,100, with 176 killed in action. The total casualties for the 93rd amounted to more than 3,000, including 584 killed in action. Reference:


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).