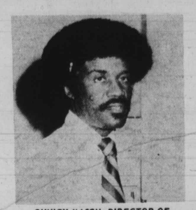
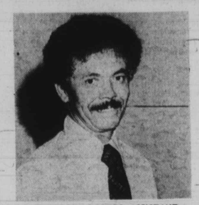
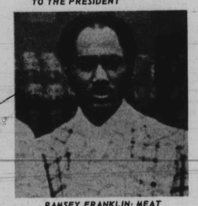

GUNICY MASON: DIRECTOR OF STORE OPERATIONS


THEODORE PETERS: ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

ALLEN SHEPPARD: CONTROLLER


RAMSEY FRANKLIN: MEAT SUPERVISOR

INEZ CARRINGTON: "MISS SUPER PRIDE"

DIANA EPPS: OFFICE MANAGEMENT

Ralph Cherry: Manager, Lafayette and Payson Super Pride Market

Oscar Smith: Manager, Patterson Park and Chase Super Pride Mkts.

Howard Matthews: Manager, West Belvedere Super Pride Market

Joseph Palmer: Meat Manager, Park Circle Super Pride

A Message To Black America

Blacks such as: Crispus not bow away from America's Bicentennial Celebration, for our contributions are etched upon the pages of time. Blacks of today are the same as they were yesterday, chief contributors to the success of America.

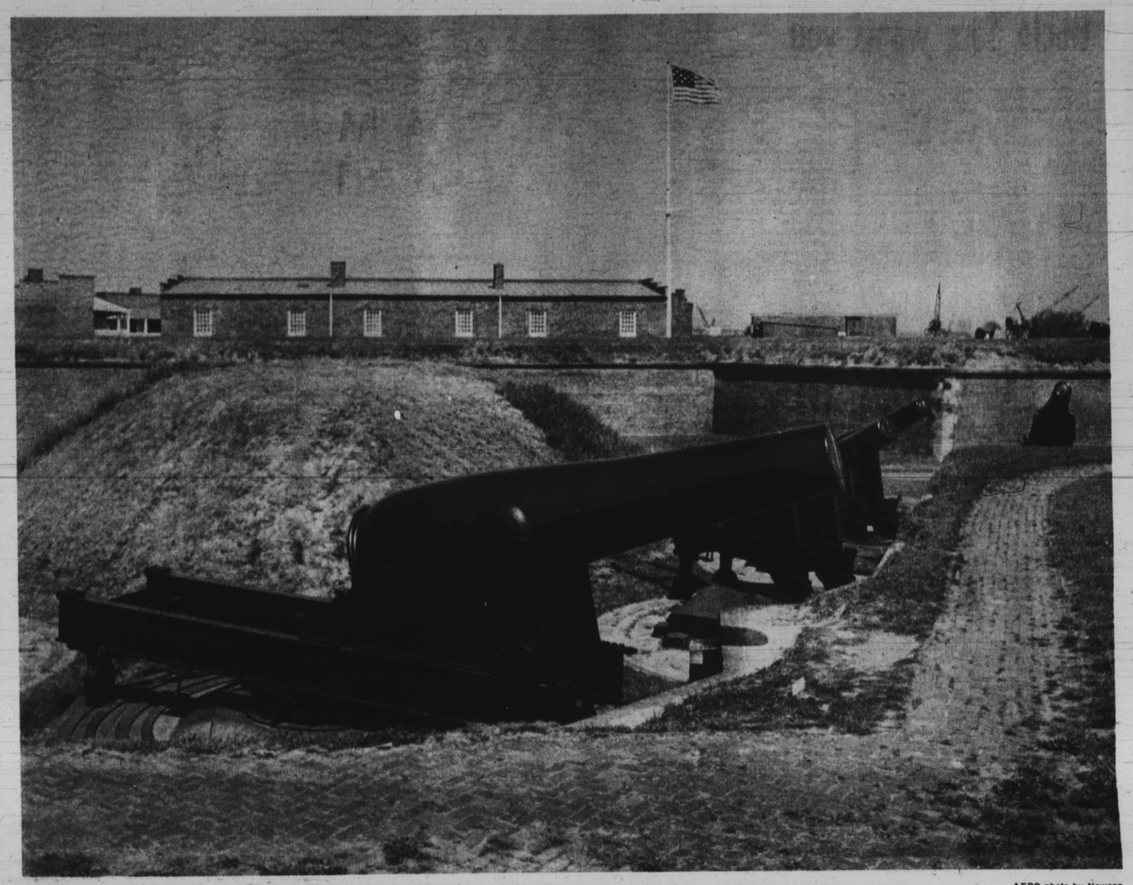
Black such as: Crispus Attucks, George Washington Carver, Harriet Tubman, Nat Turner, Malcolm X, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Lillian Jackson, just to name a few, gives us every right to stand up and be counted. America 1776-1976, we made it happen.

Making Tomorrow's Dreams A Reality, Today!

Charles T. Burns
PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SUPER Pride MARKETS

Super Pride



HISTORIC FT. McHENRY IN BALTIMORE HARBOR WHERE THE NATIONAL ANTHEM WAS PENNED BY A PATRIOT DURING A CRISIS

AFRO photo by Newson

Uncle Sam wants you--but only when necessary

By Lawrence D. Reddick

(This is a portion of an essay by Dr. Lawrence D. Reddick, professor of History at Temple University, entitled, "A History of The Elusive: A Fight For Freedom.")

It is courious that at the beginning of every major war of the U.S.A., blacks were not wanted for the fighting, but before the war was over, blacks had to be called upon to help achieve victory.

It is equally curious that the nation's great moral justifications of each war coincided with the goals of black Americans for their own freedom and equality; but each time, the nation seemed reluctant to admit this.

These propositions are illustrated rather clearly in the American Revolution.

At the birth of the nation, just after the colonies collectively declared themselves independent of England, the "mother country", General George Washington called a staff meeting on October 8, 1775. The question: what about blacks in the army that was being assembled?

The decision was reached not to accept either slaves or free blacks as soldiers. The vote against the recruitment of slaves was unanimous, and by majority vote against blacks who were free. Such exclusions were backed up by a committee of the Continental Congress.

It was clear where the "Founding Fathers" stood on this issue. Their rationale was that slaves were not properly "freedom fighters" and that, after all, the American Revolution really was a quarrel among Englishmen, at least Englishmen versus ex-Englishmen and their descendants (with a few other Europeans thrown in).

What happened to change the colonists' preference for an all-white American Revolution? For one thing, it seemed that the British enemy had a different perception of the military manpower situation.

John Murray, better known as Lord Dunmore, the Royal Governor of Virginia, issued a proclamation in which he said: "I do hereby further declare all indentured servants, Negroes, or others free, that are able and willing to bear arms, thus joining His Majesty's troops. . . ."

The Governor and other British officials from time to time called upon slaves to desert or slay their masters and join the British in crushing what they called the "colonial rebellion." Blacks by the thousands flocked to the British.

Such action threw the "Americans" into a state of shock. Impulsively they denounced the British and threatened the blacks, but upon second thought concluded that if the blacks could fight for Britain, why not have them fight for "American"? Accordingly, Washington revoked his exclusion order and the Continental Congress also changed its tune . . .

Developments during the war itself guaranteed that the numbers would increase as the war wore on. When the fighting first started, almost everybody seemed to assume that the war would end quickly, but as the struggle dragged on for several dreary years, bringing death and defeats as well as victories, many of the farmer-soldiers left "the ranks and went home to look after their crops and their wives. Desertion in some units amounted to one-third of their strength.

Accordingly, in the light of his mounting manpower shortages, George Washington laid aside his preferences and wrote to the new state governors, appealing for maximum recruitment and quotas. He made it plain that color was no bar to acceptability. The major response came from New England.

Washington realized that arming slaves in the South was a more ticklish matter, especially where blacks outnumbered whites and constituted the backbone of the plantation economy. Even so, he encouraged one of his aides to secure permission from the Continental Congress to go South and attempt to persuade slave holders in South Carolina and Georgia to permit their bondsmen to join the American forces.

This effort failed, for the masters seemed to fear slaves with guns in their hands more than they did the British enemy. Thus, racism and the fear of reprisal by armed slaves had a more persuasive appeal than patriotism for the American cause.

Overall, some 5,000 blacks served in the American Revolutionary forces. Most were mixed in with the white troops. There were, however, several distinct black units from Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Such units usually had white commanding officers but there was one, the Bucks of Massachusetts, that had a black commander, Colonel Middleton. Somehow the records for this unit appear to be less available than those of other units.

These black units acquitted themselves well and achieved their share of honors. There were also individual black heros. Perhaps the best known of these was Crispus Attucks, who played a leading role in the "Boston Massacre,", a prelude to the War for Independence.

Attucks had won his own freedom by running away from slavery to the town of Framingham, Massachusetts. As a dock worker and seaman out of Boston, he was well aware of the issues of the day. He shared the resentment against the British troops, whose presence was intended to intimidate the Bostonians.

On that fateful day, Attucks led a small group that attempted to drive a small number of British soldiers from the streets. He shouted: "The way to get rid of these (British) soldiers is to attack the main guard."

The soldiers fired, killing four "patriots" and wounding several others. Attucks reportedly was the first to fall.

The bloody incident and the subsequent trial of the soldiers became a symbol of the American Revolution, but few outside of Boston realized that one of the slain heroes was a black man.

Other blacks cited for valor during that period include Peter Salem, whose gun supposedly brought down the British commander, Major Pitcairn, in the Battle of Bunker Hill and Salem Poor, who shone in the battle of Charlestown.

Also worth noting is the then black-owned Fraunces Tavern in New York City, where General Washington and his fellow-officers relaxed and refreshed themselves when it was convenient to do so. There is also the story, not fully documented, that the daughter of this tavern's black proprietor saved Washington from an attempted assassination by poison.

Whose Freedom?

The American Revolution floated on a wave of idealism. There were eloquent appeals to mankind in manly defense of the broad universal principle that "all men are created equal . . . endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights."

But it seemed not to occur to those who penned these "immortal" words and the signatories to this historic document, that this was the very principle that enslaved blacks in America (and elsewhere) had long espoused.

They had not waited for Jefferson to tell them that slavery was a contradiction to equality. Even before he put pen to paper in 1776 to draft the Declaration, blacks had petitioned state executives and legislatures for their freedom — and remarkably, on the very grounds of the "Rights of Man."

Thus three years before the Declaration of Independence was issued, blacks in June of 1773, submitted a petition to Governor Thomes Hutchinson of Massachusetts, which said in part "that your Petitioners apprehend they have in common with other men and without molestation to enjoy such Property as they may acquire by their industry or by any other means not detrimental to their fellow men, and that no person can have any just claim to their services."

About a year later, under date of May 25, 1774 a more detailed petition was sent by blacks to Massachusetts Governor Thomas Gage, and to the state assembly. They protested being held "in a state of Slavery within the bowels of a free and Christian Country." The petitioners went on to insist upon being "a free born Pepel and have never forfeited this Blessing by aney compact or agreement whatever."

The misspelling no doubt confirms the authenticity of these historic documents. However, it should be remembered that most of the inhabitants of the thirteen original colony-

(Continued on B-2)

Black Americans active in the military

By Bryan D. Holt

Black Americans have served in the military institutions of the United States since the very beginnings of the Republic, starting with over 5,000 participating in the Revolutionary War.

As could be expected, blacks served in that war with as many ambivalent feelings as did white Americans. Several hundred served in Lord Dunmore's Regiment of Ethiopians in Virginia.

At the same time, historians reveal that many entered the services of the Continental Army. Unit rolls in Connecticut indicate that there was substantial participation by blacks in units from that state and even in Rhode Island where a Black Regiment was born to oppose King George.

The War of 1812 also saw black presence in the ranks of the Army. A strong group of Creoles, serving in a free black regiment, won the unstinting praise of Andrew Jackson for their role in the Battle of New Orleans. Black sailors also played a major role in the Battle of Lake Erie.

The Civil War witnessed even greater black involvement. Approximately 200,000 men fought between the years of 1862 and 1865.

Units such as the 54th Massachusetts Volunteers, the first all black regiment, and the First South Carolina Volunteers served with distinction and valor.

According to President Lincoln, these troops and others insured Northern victory and saved the Union.

The Civil War was important to blacks as it would determine their future and their freedom. Many were disillusioned as they saw discrimination continue throughout the war.

They were resentful of the fact that so few blacks were ever commissioned and that there was a reluctance to promote a black even to the rank of sergeant. While a great number were active in combat, a larger number of black troops were confined to labor duties.

The highest ranking black officers were eight medics, all of whom were majors and one who became a lieutenant colonel. Aside from chaplains, less than 100 blacks were commissioned officers.

The heroic efforts of the 9th and 10th Calvary and the 24th and 25th Infantry Regiments were decisive elements in the Western expansion between 1865 and 1900. The mentioned calvary units were honored by the Indians with the title of "Buffalo Soldiers."

At the turn of the century, these regiments also played an important role in the Spanish-American War. With Theodore Roosevelt, the 24th and 25th Infantry Regiments stormed up and conquered San Juan Hill.

More than 200,000 black Americans served the U.S. in World War I, with over 40,000 on front lines. The 369th Infantry Regiment was cited with the French Croix de Guerre Award for valor in the face of fire.

World War II saw the service of two all black divisions, the 92nd and 93rd, plus many other all-black units. Also at this time the first attempts at troop integration were made with astounding results.

Troop integration expanded throughout the Korean and Vietnamese Wars and the participation of black troops continued to grow.

Black Americans have made significant contributions to the traditions, luster, and pride of the American Armed Forces. Wherever the military forces of the U.S. have stood and fought in the country's 200 year history, blacks have been there.

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