

Willing Patriots: Men of Color in the First World War

By Robert J. Dalessandro, Gerald Torrence



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Willing Patriots tells the story of Black Americans who served in the U.S. Army in the First World War. The book provides the reader deeply researched treatment of the organization, combat history/battle participation of all black troops including the two infantry divisions, supporting organizations of the Services Of Supply, and the special troops. Additionally, the work contains an exhaustive bibliography of primary and secondary references for each unit informing the reader of sources for further study; lavishly illustrated with nearly 300 detailed color and war-era photographs of these valorous men. These rare and previously unpublished photographs are drawn from public and private collections nationwide providing a lens into this long forgotten aspect of World War I.



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Willing Patriots: Men of Color in the First World War By Robert J. Dalessandro, Gerald Torrence Bibliography

Sales Rank: #2099426 in Books
Published on: 2009-03-28
Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: 11.10" h x 1.00" w x 8.60" l, 3.04 pounds

• Binding: Hardcover

• 256 pages

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About the Author

Col. Robert J. Dalessandro, USA (Ret.), is chairman of the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission. He has been director of the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center and chief of military history at the U.S. Army Center of Military History, and is currently deputy secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission. He is revisor for Stackpole's Army Officer's Guide and author of Willing Patriots: Men of Color in the First World War, American Lions: The 332nd Infantry Regiment in Italy in World War I, and Organization and Insignia of the American Expeditionary Force. Dalessandro lives in northern Virginia.

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