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**Bibliography of  
Native Americans in the U.S. Military**

**Introduction**

From colonial times to the present, Native Americans from many tribes have served in the armed forces of the United States, in times of peace and war. In wartime, they have played key roles in military operations, including leadership in combat, reconnaissance (particularly in the wars taking place on American soil), and prevention of enemy interception of sensitive information. Sadly, too, until the United States' armed forces were integrated racially in the late 1940s, military service for Native Americans (and other non-white soldiers) also often meant relegation to lesser, menial duties far removed from the front lines.

This bibliography contains items in the Archives and Special Collections that document Native participation and influence in several major wars in American history, from the Revolutionary War through the Vietnam War. The entries are arranged in chronological order, and annotations are included to help the researcher further refine the search for information. (JA)

**REVOLUTIONARY WAR (1775-1783)**

**Carleton, Joseph (1754-1812).** Letter to Nicholas Fish, 7 October 1785. MSS 37.

During the Revolutionary War, Carleton had been the Assistant Secretary of War. He remained in the War Office after the war ended, focusing on such issues as prisoners of war and frontier conflicts. In this letter to Lieutenant-General Nicholas Fish (1758-1833) (then the Adjutant General for the state of New York), Carleton requested adequate provisions and transportation for some prisoners and Indians that were due to arrive at Fort Schuyler. He also asked to be informed of the exact number of prisoners and Indians that arrive at the fort. (JA)

**Connecticut. Register of Probate Records (Town of Stonington).** Records, (Thomas Sinnemon Probate) 1782; 1783; n.d. (ca. 1783). MSS 10.

These documents certify that Thomas Sinnemon (or Cinnemon) served in Captain Samuel Hait's Company of the Fifth Regiment of the Connecticut Line of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War and was due three pounds, thirteen shillings and three pence for his service. On 21 April 1777, after brief service on the privateer frigate *Oliver Cromwell*, he had enlisted in Captain Samuel Hait's Company of the Fifth Regiment of the Connecticut Line in the Continental Army. He likely fought in the unsuccessful battles of Brandywine (11 September 1777) and Germantown (4 October 1777), and then spent the following winter at Valley Forge, dying on 27 January 1778. The court at Stonington designated Paul Wheeler as the executor of his estate. The record shows that Sinnemon died intestate without designating an heir. (EC/TS/JA)

**Harris, William Wallace (19<sup>th</sup> cent.).** *The Battle of Groton Heights: A Collection of Narratives, Official Reports, Records, etc., of the Storming of Fort Griswold...on the Sixth of September, 1781.* New London: Charles Allyn, 1882. LHRARE E241 .G8 H32 1882.

During the Revolutionary War, the harbor of New London, Connecticut served as a base of operations for American privateers that preyed on British commercial ships. By the summer of 1781, seized loot filled the town's warehouses, presenting a tempting target for British retaliation. The opportunity

came in early September. As the Continental Army was preparing for its march from New York City to Yorktown, Virginia, the British Commander-in-Chief, Sir Henry Clinton, decided to attack New London to create a diversion. The planned assault would also eliminate the "Rebel pirate ships" and cripple a major supply center. Commanding the attack was Norwich native and erstwhile American war hero Benedict Arnold. On 6 September 1781, Arnold's force of British regulars burned the warehouses in New London (along with much of the rest of the town). Subsequently, another large force of British and Loyalist troops landed on the east side of the Thames River and attacked the small American garrison at Fort Griswold. The British overwhelmed the defenders, and (at least, according to American accounts) massacred them and their commander, Colonel William Ledyard. At the end of the day, the British forces withdrew. (This information was obtained from the pamphlet available at the Fort that was written by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.)

One of the surviving American defenders was a Pequot named Tom Wansuc. After receiving a bayonet wound in the neck, he was paroled by the senior British officer in the field, Major Stephen Bromfield, and sent home.

This book, assembled for the centennial observance of the battle, brings together contemporary accounts of it from various participants (including members of the Hempstead family, and Brigadier-General Arnold), as well as articles from the *Connecticut Gazette* that first appeared in September 1781. A list of American casualties includes Wansuc's name. (JA)

**Oneida Indian Nation.** Calendar, 1995. Accession Number 1997-0112.

Titled "Faces of a Nation," the calendar, which was made for the year 1995, features miscellaneous contemporary photographs of Oneida Tribal members. One of the photographs depicts a group of Revolutionary War re-enactors commemorating the battle of Oriskany (6 August 1777). (Of the six tribes then comprising the Iroquois Confederacy, only the Oneidas officially sided with the Americans during the war. The battle of Oriskany, which successfully turned back one of the three simultaneous British invasions of the state of New York that summer, was the first occasion in which Iroquois Tribal members opposed one another on the battlefield.) (JA)

**Walling, Richard S.** "Nimham's Indian Company of 1778: The Events Leading up to the Stockbridge Massacre of August 31, 1778." Unpublished research paper, March 1999. Signed by the author and presented to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, 27 November 1999. MSS 315.

Walling's study focuses on the short-lived "Indian Company," composed of Stockbridges, Pequots, Mohegans, and other northeastern Natives, which suffered heavily in the fighting near New York City in the summer of 1778. During the Continental Army's encampment at Valley Forge in the winter of 1777-1778, General George Washington proposed the creation of a special, highly mobile, unit of Indian soldiers to counter similar British tactics. Writing to the Committee of Congress with the Army on 29 January 1778, he remarked, "The enemy have set every engine at work against us, and have actually called savages and even our own slaves to their assistance; would it not be well, to employ two or three hundred Indians against General (William) Howe's army in the ensuing campaign?... Such a body of Indians, joined by some of our Woodsmen, would probably strike no small terror into the British and foreign (i.e., German mercenary) troops." Operations in southeastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey that spring and summer (culminating in the victorious battle of Monmouth on 28 June 1778) delayed the formation of this company until July, when it was placed under the command of Abraham Nimham of the Wappinger Tribe. Though the soldiers were primarily Stockbridges, combatant members of other northeastern tribes were transferred to this company from their respective states' regiments. The Indian Company's trial by fire came on 31 August 1778. After the battle of Monmouth, the British forces under Henry Clinton (who had replaced William Howe as their Commander-in-Chief) retreated to Manhattan, and the Americans encamped at White Plains to the north. Skirmishes in the "no man's land" between the two armies were frequent and brutal. On 31 August, an elite British infantry and cavalry regiment, the Queen's Rangers (comprised of Loyalists and Germans), ambushed the Indian Company at Kingsbridge (located at what is now the Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx). The Stockbridge Tribe suffered severe losses in the fierce battle; it

claimed the lives of nearly forty Stockbridge males. Because of its decimation at Kingsbridge, the Indian Company was disbanded soon afterward. Surviving soldiers returned to their previous units.

Elsewhere, Walling describes the Stockbridges' roles in the war's earlier battles in Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, and also their assistance to the Americans in negotiating the neutrality of the tribes of the Ohio River Valley. Appendices contain reprints of relevant documents, including letters written by American commanders and first-hand reports of the battle of Kingsbridge, and also a listing of "Native Men in the American Service, New England Region." (JA)

**Wheeler, Paul.** Letter, 20 February 1777. MSS 317.

Wheeler, an advocate for the Pequot Tribe during this turbulent era, wrote this note to Stonington Selectman Nathaniel Miner. It concerns a John Kindness, "an Inlisted (sic) Soldier in the Continental Service." Kindness had arrived from his unit's camp in Providence, Rhode Island, "complaining of a Pain in his head and back," and fearing that he had "taken the Small Pox." (JA)

**Whitney, S. H. (Seth Harding).** *The Kennebec Valley*. Augusta, ME: Sprague, Burleigh, and Flynt, Printers to the State, 1887. RARE F27 .K32 W55 1887.

This brief history of Maine's Kennebec Valley begins with a chapter on the "Kennebec Indian," and subsequently discusses the tribe's relations with the English colonists. A later chapter recounts Benedict Arnold's expedition to Quebec via the Maine woods (September - December 1775) and subsequent unsuccessful siege of that city (December 1775 - June 1776). Two Kennebec sachems, Natanis and Sabbatis, helped to guide Arnold's force through the wilderness, assisting it in navigating the region's treacherous waterways. Natanis was wounded and captured during the initial assault on the British garrison at Quebec on 31 December 1775, and subsequently released. Notably, according to Whitney, "they were the only Indians known to have been employed by the Americans in the Revolution." (JA)

## WAR OF 1812 (1812-1815)

**Fenton, William Nelson (b. 1908).** Research collection. Accession number 2002-0158.

This collection consists of photocopies from manuscript lists of Iroquois veterans of the conflict, a typed transcription of part of the lists, and an article about a portrait of Red Jacket (see below). In many cases, the soldier's Native name, as well as his Anglicized name, appears, as well as notes about his fate. Several Oneidas and Onondagas were wounded, killed, or captured at the battles of Fort George (27 May 1813), Sacket's Harbor (28-29 May 1813), and Chippewa (5 July 1814). Many are memorialized as the "Bravest of the Brave." One John Street is identified as the first American soldier to cross the Chippewa River in pursuit of British soldiers at the end of the battle of Chippewa. In addition, several tribal members lost their lives to smallpox, which they contracted during their service late in the war. (JA)

**Hubbard, John Niles (1815-1897).** *An Account of Sa-go-ye-wat-ha, or Red Jacket, and his People, 1750-1830*. Albany: J. Munsell's Sons, 1886. RARE E99 .S3 R3 1886.

Sagoyewatha (ca. 1756-1830) was a Seneca who had served the British as a messenger during the Revolutionary War (hence his Anglicized name). In the late 1780s, he became a chief of the Seneca tribe. In that capacity, he advocated peaceful relations with the newly independent nation, but opposed further white intrusion into Native lands and culture. During the War of 1812, he joined the American forces against the British, and fought with distinction at the battles of Fort George and Chippewa.

This biography, written forty-five years after William L. Stone's study (see MSS 46 below), borrows heavily from the earlier volume, but also claims to be more objective about its controversial

subject. (JA)

**Stone, William L. (William Leete) (1792-1844).** *Life and Times of Sa-go-ye-wat-ha, or Red Jacket.* New York: Wiley & Putnam, 1841. MSS 46.

This is one of the first significant biographical studies of the Seneca leader. John Niles Hubbard, in his 1886 biography (see above) acknowledges a debt to this earlier work. (JA)

## U. S. CIVIL WAR (1861-1865)

**Hauptman, Laurence M.** Collection, ca. 1850-1996. Accession Numbers 1996-0027 and 1996-0037.

This collection consists of photocopies abstracted from various primary and secondary sources. Many focus on Connecticut Indians who served in Colored regiments in the Union Army, and a couple discuss Natives from the Southern states who served in the Confederate Army. A short article published by the Michigan Civil War Centennial Observance Commission profiles Company K of the First Michigan Sharpshooters, "the only complete company of Indians in the Union Army that saw action against the Confederacy east of the Mississippi." They joined the Army of the Potomac in the spring of 1864 and fought in the battles of the Wilderness (5-6 May 1864) and Spotsylvania (8-19 May 1864). Several items treat Native participation in the Battle of the Crater (30 July 1864), an ill-fated Union attack that took place early in the siege of Petersburg (June 1864 - April 1865). Other items address such issues as medical care, desertion, and postwar pensions.

Courtesy of the National Archives are several photocopies of the enlistment, medical, and pension records of Austin George, a Mashantucket Pequot who served in the 31<sup>st</sup> Connecticut Regiment and was wounded during the siege of Petersburg. (JA)

**Morgan, Nathan D.,** photographer. Carte-de-Visite (Amasa Lawrence Photograph), n.d. (1864). MSS 2.

The inscription on the back of this carte-de-visite identifies Amasa Lawrence as "Chief of Pequots." He also had familial ties to the Narragansett Tribe. Substituting for one John D. Brewster, Lawrence enlisted in the 29<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteer Colored Regiment on 9 August 1864. (Colored Regiments included Native American, as well as African-American, soldiers.) Although he was 55 years of age at the time, he claimed to be only 41 years old (since those over 45 years of age were ineligible for combat duty). Although he was sent to the siege of Petersburg, Virginia, his actual age was soon discovered. Accordingly, he was discharged, without receiving a bounty payment, on 26 September 1864. (JA)

## SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR (1898) / PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN WAR (1899-1902)

**McGeehan, William O'Connell (b. 1879).** "The American Army's Debt to the Indian." From the *Quarterly Journal of the Society of American Indians*, October - December 1916. MSS 132.

This essay, reprinted from the *New York Tribune*, pays tribute to the Native American influence upon combat tactics, as demonstrated by the armies of the United States and other nations, as well. The author credits George Washington as the first American soldier to recognize the value of such Native tactics as using the topographical features of the battlefield for concealment from the enemy. McGeehan reminds the reader that, during the French and Indian War, Washington urged his commanding officer, General Edward Braddock, to adopt these tactics during the unsuccessful assault on Fort Duquesne in July 1755; Braddock ignored the Virginian, and paid for his mistake with half of his army and his life.

McGeehan devotes most of his attention to the military events of the previous twenty years. During the Spanish-American War and the Philippine-American War, he argues, "the tactics of the United States Army...were entirely the tactics of the American Indian." Deploying in skirmish lines and charging enemy positions unit by unit "baffled the Spaniards, and disgusted the Filipinos, who always protested that the American troops fought unfairly." McGeehan states that these tactics were "plagiarized directly from the Indian rush upon an immigrant train or a frontier stockade." He quotes Filipino Brigadier-General Gregorio del Pilar (1875-1899) as saying "(The Americans) attacked us in a different manner from the Spanish troops. And they were in our trenches before we knew it." Alluding to the current tensions between the United States and revolutionary Mexico (General John Pershing's Punitive Expedition against Pancho Villa was then in progress), McGeehan suggests that the Mexican forces have a similar tie to Native American warriors. Another armed conflict between the two nations would be "a case of the purely American tactics as demonstrated by United States troops as against the purely American tactics as demonstrated by the Mexicans, half brothers of the originators of those tactics."

The author also refers to the war then raging in Europe. Although he supposes that "what has happened in Europe during the past two years may entirely change the field tactics of the United States Army," he nevertheless asserts that the European armies have adopted some of the Native American combat precepts. For example, "the white clothing which the German armies in Russia used for advancing through the snow is an adaptation of the American Indian's scheme of making himself look like his background."

Notably, McGeehan argues that the only significant Native American legacy lies in the military sphere: this is "the American Indian's only streak of genius," and "his music does not amount to much, and his folklore is not worth preserving." Anticipating objections to this ethnocentric claim, the periodical's editor put a disclaimer at the beginning of the article, mentioning ethnologist George Wharton James' essay "What We May Learn From the Indian" (which, among other things, acknowledges the Native agricultural legacy). (JA)

**United States Indian School (Carlisle, PA).** *Indian Helper*, Volume I, Number I - Volume XV, Number 36 (14 August 1885 - 6 July 1900) (incomplete). MSS 133.

Inspired by the example of the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute (see MSS 128), Richard Henry Pratt (1840-1924) founded this school, exclusively for Native students, in 1879. It was the first federally supported school for Natives to be established off of a reservation. Pratt had been a cavalry officer in command of a unit of African-American "Buffalo Soldiers" and Indian scouts in the Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma) between 1867 and 1875. A devout Baptist who opposed incarcerating or exterminating Natives, Pratt resolved that the best policy toward them would be assimilation and detribalization. He believed that this would be best accomplished by removing Native youths from the reservations, and housing them at a boarding school where they would be immersed in white culture. He persuaded the federal government to give him an abandoned cavalry barracks in Carlisle, Pennsylvania (far removed from any reservation) for this purpose. Pratt became the school's first superintendent. Besides the federal government, Pratt relied on donations to keep the school solvent. A co-educational institution, its initial class numbered only 82, but enrollment soon grew to approximately 1,000 per year. These children came primarily from the Great Plains tribes, particularly the Lakota, Cheyenne, Kiowa, and Apache.

School life there closely resembled military life, with uniforms and strictly enforced disciplinary codes for the students. They could communicate only in English. Although the curriculum emphasized basic academics, industrial arts (for the boys), and home economics (for the girls), it also featured music and art programs. Students formed a school band that played at every Presidential inauguration during the school's existence, and student artwork still adorns the building of the Cumberland County Historical Society. The students also operated a printing office that published a school newspaper.

*Indian Helper* was a weekly newsletter published by the Carlisle School students. The issues contain

campus news, admonitions about "proper" behavior and grammar, word games, and brief reports about contemporary tribal, national, and world news. Selected issues from 1898 through 1900 allude to the wars with Spain and the Philippines. The edition from 1 April 1898 describes a classroom debate on the merits of declaring war on Spain (which the United States did later that month). An article appearing on 6 May 1898 (five days after the American naval victory at Manila Bay) boasts that a Native student corrected a white man who had thought that the Philippines were located in the Caribbean Sea. Issues from that summer mention alumni and other Indians who entered military service. Delia Randall, who had graduated from the New Haven Training School for Nurses in 1896, offered to serve as a nurse. Pawnee Tribal member William Pollock joined the First U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, known to history as the "Rough Riders." An article from 15 July 1898 quotes him as saying,

At last, I am going to see civilized people fight against half barbarians as they term Spaniards. Sometimes it seems hard, but I have put myself thus far and will stay with it. I am not going to predict any or do any boasting, but I'll only say that in the memory of our brave fathers, I will try and be like one of them, who used to stand single handed against the foes. Being the only full-blooded Indian in this troop, I am somewhat a conspicuous character. Some folks at home thought I was very foolish to put myself into such a situation where dangers of all kinds are inevitable. If my mother was yet living I would not take any such step; my brothers...will rather be somewhat proud of me even should I fail at my duty as a soldier under the service of the U.S. Government.

In his postwar account of the regiment's participation in the Cuban campaign (22 June – 17 July 1898), Theodore Roosevelt praised Pollock as "one of (the unit's) gamest fighters and best soldiers." Carlisle School alumnus Joseph Dubray enlisted in the Sixth Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, and participated in the invasion of Puerto Rico (25 July – 11 August 1898). The issue from 16 September 1898 quotes from a letter he wrote to his alma mater: "I thought it was my duty to enlist as a soldier of the United States and fight for my country as a good citizen of it."

On 4 February 1899, tensions between Filipino nationalists on the main Philippine island of Luzon and their erstwhile allies the Americans erupted into an armed struggle which soon became a protracted guerrilla war that spanned much of the archipelago. In November 1899, a veteran of this conflict named Abram L. Mumper visited the Carlisle campus and spoke candidly with the students operating the printing press. According to an article appearing on 17 November, "Mr. Mumper believes there will be no Waterloo or Gettysburg, but there will be a system of warfare continued for a long time which will take thousands of men and money to conquer." Despite this grim (and prescient) prognosis, Major William Ennis, the recruiting officer in Harrisburg, visited the Carlisle campus the following month, and was able to enlist several older male students who later served in infantry, cavalry, and artillery units. One Carlisle alumnus, William Colombe, served in Troop I of the Fourth Cavalry Regiment. At San Mateo on 19 December 1899, he witnessed the death by a sniper's bullet of the senior American field officer, General Henry W. Lawton. Writing back to his former classmates and teachers, he commented,

General Lawton was killed about twenty yards from where I was shooting at a man who was shooting from a tree, and I think that was the very man who killed the General. But we kept shooting until he fell from the tree. I don't think that he will live to tell the tale to his friends that he killed our good General. It is hard on this Island. Sometimes we do not get anything to eat for three or four days. I don't understand why the Filipinos don't quit fighting, because so many of them get killed in every fight that they go into, and not many are lost on our side. (JA)

**United States. Office of Indian Affairs.** *Annual Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.* Part of the *Annual Reports of the Department of the Interior for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1898.* Washington, DC: GPO, 1898. RARE E93 .U71 1897-99.

As part of his annual report on the Carlisle School submitted on 28 September 1898, Richard Henry

Pratt approvingly commented on the war's impact on the student body: "Early in the year, when the first rumors of war electrified our country, our young men were eager to prove their loyalty to the Government, and expressed their wish to enlist should there be a call for volunteer troops. The military government and drill used at the school especially qualified them for such service." Beyond immediate wartime exigencies, Pratt asserted that this "interest they show by asking to take an active part in the grave operations, even to laying down their lives if need be" boded well for their eventual assimilation into Euro-American society. (JA)

## WORLD WAR I (U.S. INVOLVEMENT, 1917-1918)

**Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.** *Choctaws: The Original Code-Talkers, in Defense of our Land and People.* (n.d.). Accession Number 2001-0039.

This pamphlet briefly describes the role that the Choctaw Code Speakers had in the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) during the Meuse-Argonne campaign at the end of the war (26 September - 11 November 1918). Retreating German forces had left their communication lines intact in the trenches they had occupied, in hopes that the Americans would use them (enabling the Germans to monitor their conversations). Fortunately for the Allies, Choctaw soldiers from Company E of the 142<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, 36<sup>th</sup> Division were the ones to use these lines, communicating in their Native language. Unable to decipher what these soldiers were saying, German intelligence agents "gained no benefit whatsoever from their wiretaps."

Elsewhere on the front lines, "at least one Choctaw man was placed in each field company headquarters" of the AEF. They wrote field orders in their Native language before sending them to company commanders, an important asset, since the Germans were capturing up to 25% of Allied "runners" who were relaying this information to the trenches.

This pamphlet identifies eighteen of the Choctaw Code Speakers. Sadly, recognition of their efforts came extremely late; many did not live to receive the gratitude they earned. In 1986, Medals of Valor were awarded to the families of Code Speakers who had since died. In November 1989, the French government awarded these heroes the "Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Merite," the highest honor that France can bestow upon the citizens of another nation.

The final page lists five members of the Choctaw Tribe who lost their lives in the First World War. Their names appear on a Choctaw War Memorial. (JA)

----- Photocopy Packet. Accession Number 2001-0039.

This photocopy packet contains excerpts from books, newspaper articles, and declassified documents from the branches of the United States armed forces. Many of these concern the Choctaw Speakers of World War I, and their participation in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. A postwar message from Colonel A. W. Bloor of the 142<sup>nd</sup> Infantry to the Commanding General of the 36<sup>th</sup> Division, dated 23 January 1919, praised the decision to use the Code Speakers to communicate sensitive information: "There was hardly one chance in a million that Fritz would be able to translate these dialects." Bloor also noted the difficulties of translating military terminology into the Choctaw language (for example, "machine gun" was loosely translated into the Choctaw equivalent of "little gun shoot fast"). One researcher of these heroes reminds his readers of the unfortunate truth that official recognition of their efforts came extremely late, and that, at the time, these soldiers could not even vote in the country for which they were fighting (suffrage for Native Americans was finally granted in 1924). (JA)

*Oglala Light.* Selected issues between January 1916 and December 1918. MSS 268.

Published by and for students at the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota in the early twentieth century, this periodical frequently featured articles and essays on national and world events. Accordingly, many of the issues cited here contain writings relating to the United States' efforts to

prepare itself militarily in 1916 and its subsequent participation in the war in 1917-1918. The January 1916 issue includes an article recommending military service as a disciplinary measure for any wayward youths (Native and non-Native). The May 1917 issue (appearing the month after the United States declared war on Germany) is more emphatic, featuring an article that asserts "Military Training is an Important Factor in Education." Several wartime issues list the names of Pine Ridge Natives serving in the armed forces of the United States.

**United States. Office of Indian Affairs.** *The American Indian in the World War.* [Washington, DC]: Office of Indian Affairs, [1927]. Accession Number 2003-0069.

Published as the Office of Indian Affairs' Bulletin # 15, this pamphlet describes the wartime heroism of several individual Natives from various tribes. During the Allied response to Germany's final offensive on the Western Front in the spring of 1918, Sergeant O. W. Leader of the Choctaw Tribe fought with distinction at Cantigny (28-30 May 1918) and Chateau-Thierry (31 May - 10 July 1918). Subsequently, he participated in the final Allied counteroffensives at St.-Mihiel (12-16 September 1918) and the Meuse-Argonne. Leader was twice wounded and gassed. The French government selected him as the representative original American soldier to be commemorated in an oil portrait in Paris' Federal Building. Another Choctaw, Private Joseph Oklahombi, received the Croix de Guerre after single-handedly capturing 171 Germans in machine-gun nests and holding an advance position on the front for four days, despite constant barrages of enemy artillery and gas shells. A Cherokee named Alfred G. Bailey, who had assisted General John Pershing during the Punitive Expedition against Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa (1916-1917), was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for advancing alone into German lines, killing two enemy machine-guns and capturing a third before losing his life.

This pamphlet ends by asserting that military service has helped to assimilate Natives who survived the war and returned home. It quotes an Indian school superintendent in California as saying, "In every case...I have found that the Indian young man was greatly bettered through his work in the Army, both physically and mentally." Also mentioned is a Cheyenne veteran who had been wounded, gassed, and shell-shocked in France. Upon returning to Oklahoma, he "reported to the agency office square-shouldered, level-eyed, courteous, self-reliant, and talked intelligently," successfully obtaining a job. Prior to the war, according to the citation, he had been a "no-account reservation Indian with long hair." (JA)

## WORLD WAR II (U.S. INVOLVEMENT, 1941-1945)

**Center for Military History.** Photographs, 1943-1944; 17 September 1992. CMSS 3.

These photographs show members of the Navajo Code Talkers, U.S. Marines who served in the Pacific theater, and communicated in a derived form of their native language in order to conceal their information from the Japanese (who never succeeded in "cracking" this "code"). This code remained classified until 1968. Wartime photographs show Navajo soldiers on Bougainville (December 1943), Saipan (July 1944), and Peleliu (September 1944). On 17 September 1992, the Pentagon unveiled an exhibit honoring these heroes. Four photographs show veterans attending the ceremony. (JA)

**Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.** *Choctaws: The Original Code-Talkers, in Defense of our Land and People.* (n.d.). Accession Number 2001-0039.

The final page of this pamphlet lists seventy-three members of the Choctaw Tribe who lost their lives in the Second World War. (JA)

----- Photocopy Packet. Accession Number 2001-0039.

The World War II-era documents in this packet depict a United States Marine Corps that used Navajo Speakers with great success in both theaters of the war, and a United States Army reluctant to avail

itself of this same assistance. Marine documents extolled the Navajo soldier, not only as a valuable defender of wartime communications, but as a fighter well-suited for combat in the Pacific: "Their work as runners is outstanding, and on their own in jungle or wooded area, they are much more hardy and self-supporting than the normal white man." Furthermore, in a document dated 10 March 1944, Sergeant Philip Johnston of the Field Signal Battalion Training Center at Camp Pendleton, credited the Navajo Code Talkers with maintaining the secrecy of Allied communications during the Anzio landings in Italy in January 1944.

In contrast, one Army document, dated 17 June 1944, reported the Army Signal Corps as "dead set against the adoption of the plan to use Indians (in this capacity), since it was felt that the security features inherent in the Navajo tongue were not sufficient enough to warrant development for general radio transmissions." The Cryptographic Branch of the Army Air Forces also demurred, arguing that existing War Department cryptographic measures sufficed for their purposes, and adding that "Native Indian tongues have been made available to philologists and paleologists through text books which are available at many of the large reference libraries (including those in the Axis nations)." Still, William F. Friedman, the Army's Director of Communications Research, acknowledged in a letter dated 1 May 1944 that "the Indians who were tried out in Army units were probably basically unqualified by lack of the necessary education upon which to superimpose the additional qualifications necessary to make good signal personnel out of them. In brief, it is quite possible that our people have reached erroneous conclusions because the experiment they made was faulty." (JA)

**Locke, Frank Winfield, Jr.** Family papers, ca. 1890-1984. Accession Number 2000-0013.

This collection of papers, photographs, medals, and memorabilia comes from the family of Frank W. Locke, Jr. He and his brother Harold served in elite United States Army units during World War II (Frank served in the Tenth Mountain Division and saw action in Europe, and Harold served in the Eleventh Airborne Division and saw action in the Pacific). The collection contains Frank's "dog-tags," unit photograph, military insignia and medals, guidebooks obtained during the 1945 campaign in northern Italy, and postwar discharge papers. It also contains Harold's posthumously-awarded Purple Heart medal and certificate (he had been killed during a Japanese counteroffensive on the Philippine island of Leyte on 6 December 1944), burial flag, a letter of condolence from General Douglas MacArthur, and a photograph of Harold's gravesite in the Manila American Cemetery. (CP/WN/JA)

**Navajo Code Talkers Association.** *We Talked Navajo: The Story of the Navajo Code Talkers, U.S. Marine Corps, World War II, Pacific Theatre*, 1992. Accession Number 1999-0094.

Originally published in 1986, this booklet provides brief chronologies of the war in the Pacific, and also of the organization and combat activities of the Code Talkers. Elsewhere are reprints of President Ronald Reagan's proclamation of "National Navaho Code Talkers Day" on 14 August 1982, wartime and veterans' photographs, and a brief biography of artist and honorary Code Talker Theresa Potter (1933-1986) (see below). (JA)

**Navajo Nation.** "The Navajo Nation Honors the Legendary Navajo Code Talkers." (Poster, 1999) Accession Number 1999-0131.

This large poster gives a list, alphabetized by surname, of all the Navajos who served as Code Talkers in the Marines during World War II. On the left border appear the insignias of the six Marine Corps divisions in which they served, in the upper right corner is the insignia of the Navajo Code Talkers Association, and in the upper left corner is the insignia of the Navajo Nation. Symbols alongside some of the names indicate the first 29 to join these units, those that were killed in action, and those that had died by the time this poster was created in 1999. A caption at the bottom says that "working around the clock on the first two days on Iwo Jima (i.e. 19-20 February 1945), six networks of Navajo Code Talkers transmitted more than 800 messages without error." Major Howard Conner is quoted as saying, "Without the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima."

(Ira Hayes (1923-1955), a member of the Pima Tribe, is one of the Marines in Joe Rosenthal's famous

picture of the raising of the United States flag atop Mount Suribachi on 23 February 1945. Hayes is the one in the far left of the photograph.) (JA)

**Potter, Theresa.** "A Salute to the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II." (Poster, 1982) Accession Number 1999-0115.

This poster, created on the occasion of National Navajo Code Talkers Day (14 August 1982), is a reprint of Potter's 1976 painting. It depicts two Navajo Code Talkers in the jungles of one of the Pacific islands, communicating with two other comrades in the distance. Its bottom border is signed by several veterans who also indicated their unit numbers. (JA)

**United States. Office of Indian Affairs.** *Indians in the War: Burial of a Brave.* Chicago: United States Department of the Interior, Office of Indian Affairs, 1945. Accession number 2003-0043.

Issued as part of the *Indians at Work* series (see MSS 104), this booklet salutes the Native men and women who contributed to the Allied victory. Selected individuals represent each branch of the United States armed forces: the Army, the Army Air Corps and Air Forces, the Marines, and the Navy. One essay describes the exploits of Lt.-Col. Edward Ernest McClish, a Choctaw. Stationed in the Philippines when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, McClish led a valiant defense against Japanese invaders on the island of Mindanao in the spring of 1942. After the archipelago fell to the enemy in May, McClish, together with Colonel Wendell Fertig of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, organized a guerrilla regiment comprised of Moro tribal members. Beginning in September 1942, this force launched 350 raids against the Japanese occupiers, often using watercraft whose engines were fueled by homemade alcohol and coconut oil. When forces under General Douglas MacArthur arrived in October 1944 to expel the enemy, McClish's regiment provided the Americans with valuable intelligence. Another section of the booklet honors Native women who served as WACs (i.e., members of the Women's Army Corps), WAVEs (i.e., members of the Women's Reserve of the Navy), nurses, and as factory workers. One of the last writings of famed wartime correspondent Ernie Pyle (1900-1945) describes southwestern tribal ceremonial dances in which soldiers of the First Marine Division participated during the campaign for Okinawa (April - June 1945). Lastly, this booklet lists the names of Natives (with their tribal affiliations) who were wounded or killed during the war. (JA)

**United States Navy Historical Center.** Biographical sketches. MSS 282.

This single leaf briefly profiles two Cherokees who served as naval officers during the war.

Admiral Joseph James "Jocko" Clark (1893-1971) became the highest-ranking officer of Native American lineage in the history of the United States. A member of the United States Naval Academy's Class of 1918, Clark assumed command of the aircraft carrier USS *Yorktown* (CV-10) in 1943. (The carrier USS *Yorktown* (CV-5) had been sunk at Midway in June 1942.) Clark contributed significantly to the American victory over the Japanese at the Philippine Sea (19-20 June 1944), and, in the summer of 1944, he spearheaded two initial raids on the Japanese airfields on Iwo and Chichi Jima. During the final stages of the Pacific War, he commanded the carrier USS *Hornet* (CV-12), and assisted the American assaults on Iwo Jima and Okinawa and final conventional bombing raids on the Japanese home islands between February and June 1945. For his wartime service, Clark received two Distinguished Service Medals, the Navy Cross, and the Legion of Merit. Subsequently, during the Korean War, he commanded the U.S. Seventh Fleet, before retiring in 1953.

Commander Ernest Evans (1908-1944) commanded the destroyer USS *Johnston* (DD-557) from the time it was commissioned in October 1943. On 25 October 1944, during the battle of Leyte Gulf, the *Johnston*, along with several other destroyers, successfully shielded American escort carriers from a much larger Japanese force of battleships and cruisers. Riddled by Japanese fire, the *Johnston* ultimately sank, taking Evans and 184 crew members with her. For his heroism, Evans was posthumously awarded the congressional Medal of Honor. (JA)

## **KOREAN WAR (1950-1953)**

**Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.** *Choctaws: The Original Code-Talkers, in Defense of our Land and People.* (n.d.). Accession Number 2001-0039.

The final page of this pamphlet lists fourteen members of the Choctaw Tribe who lost their lives in the Korean War. (JA)

----- Photocopy Pamphlet. Accession Number 2001-0039.

On 15 September 1950, the Indian Association of America sent a letter to President Harry S Truman (reprinted here), in which they proposed establishing reserve units of Native American soldiers who had previously had little or no contact with the "White World." Native veterans of World War II who had gained fluency in the English language would train these new units. This plan would simultaneously avert "a recurrence of mistakes made during the rapid mobilization in 1940-1941," and would also aid in assimilating these younger Natives into United States society. Although the Joint Chiefs of Staff were then giving this idea "favorable consideration," budgetary constraints threatened it. This letter was an effort to enlist the President's support for the plan. (JA)

## **VIETNAM WAR (1959-1975)**

**Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.** *Choctaws: The Original Code-Talkers, in Defense of our Land and People.* (n.d.). Accession Number 2001-0039.

The final page of this pamphlet lists twenty-two members of the Choctaw Tribe who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. (JA)

Introduction, overviews and annotations by Jonathan Ault (JA), William Newport (WN), Elliott Caldwell (EC), Timothy Spindler (TS), and Christine Pereira (CP).

This bibliography was first compiled in October 2000 and will be updated quarterly. Any omissions or errors are deeply regretted by the bibliographers who have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this document.

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