

Black Canadian Veterans

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Black Canadians have a long history of military service starting in 1780. The British offered them freedom, if they took part in the fight with the 13 colonies. A group named the "Company of Coloured Men", played a very important role in the battle of Queenston heights in 1812. About a thousand Black militia fought, in the battle of Toronto in 1837. William Hall earned the Victoria Cross award in 1857, one of the highest awards a soldier can earn.

In 1865 it was hard for Black men to join the army, due to ignorant attitudes from people who were running the military. Blacks wanted to play a big role in the war, to show that it didn't matter the color of their skin and that were all equal. On July 5, 1916 construction battalion Pictou, Nova Scotia became the first large Black Military unit.

WWII had many Black Canadians serve in the military. It was the bloodiest war, with both black men and woman serving. Black and white soldiers shared the same experiences in war while fighting in Italy, France, Belgium and the Netherlands. Black veterans had confidence in the value of freedom and being treated equally. WWII is a point of pride and respect because of Black Canadians who served in the war.

