

1-1-1919

State of Colored Troopers of the Firing Line

Thomas Montgomery Gregory

Follow this and additional works at: http://dh.howard.edu/tmg_regireleases

Recommended Citation

Gregory, Thomas Montgomery, "State of Colored Troopers of the Firing Line" (1919). *News Releases*. 2.
http://dh.howard.edu/tmg_regireleases/2

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Negro Regiments at Digital Howard @ Howard University. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of Digital Howard @ Howard University. For more information, please contact lopez.matthews@howard.edu.

FEARLESS ARTICLE III.
FEATS OF COLORED TROOPERS ON THE FIRING-LINE

SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE - A successful raid, planned by one of the majors of the old 8th Illinois regiment, whose home is at Metropolis, Ill., was made in the Voucharn sector, and with great daring. The motor battery of the regiment first took part in laying down a barrage fire. The barrage fire began at 4 o'clock in the morning - just as the first rays of the sun showed sluggishly, and but dimly, behind the horizon. At the hour named, every gunner was at his gun. The major flashed an electric signal, and within a minute or two thereafter every gun fired simultaneously, as if connected with and controlled by an electric battery. For fifteen minutes the Colored gunners kept up their barrage fire, and then a French company was sent out behind the barrage to make the raid. So surprising was the raid, and so quickly made, that but three of the Colored soldiers were wounded, and they but slightly, and but eight of the French, with whom they were fighting, while the German's casualty toll was eleven killed, three wounded, while the remainder were captured.

Stories of the fight in the Argonne Forest, and the splendid endurance and valiant fighting of the Colored soldiers continue to come in. It is reported that a company of the old Ninth Ohio Battalion, under command of its Colored captain from Dayton, Ohio, laid in an open field all night, awaiting orders to go into action, while all the time the Germans were dumping 210 shells and 88 machine gun fire into them. But even in the face of such a murderous fire, the Colored line stood as firm as if the huge shells and murderous machine gun fire was but the discharge of toy blow guns. Among their casualty was Anderson Lee and William Chenault, of Dayton, who were killed. The firmness of the line these khaki-garbed black soldiers maintained in the face a withering fire - a veritable hell, constitutes one more reason why the folks - the race, back home should be proud of these, their Colored soldiers over here, whose unyielding spirit and bravery is making history for the race.

I have learned that Hill 304, which the French so valiantly held, and which suffered such a fierce bombardment from the Germans that there is not a single foot of it but what is plowed up by shells, and whose sides, even today, are literally covered with the corpses of French soldiers who still lie where they fell, was later as valiantly held by the Colored soldiers from the United States, who fought with all the heroism and endurance the best traditions of the army has chronicled. The Colored soldiers, under their own captain from Dayton, Ohio, who so splendidly maintained their line in the Argonne Forests, and those who held that bloody and forever historical Hill 304, had the odds against them, but like Tennyson's immortalized "Six Hundred," they fought bravely and well, "firmed in the belief "it was not their's to reason why. It was their's "to do and die", and, like the patriots they were, they did DO, and this war's history will so record.