



ArchivesSpace

Black Military Photograph Collection

An inventory of the Black Military Photograph Collection at DC Public Library

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

DCPL Special Collections - MLK Library

901 G Street NW

Washington, DC

archives.dcpl@dc.gov

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Administrative Information	3
Controlled Access Headings	4
Collection Inventory	4
Series 1: Army	4
Series 2: Navy	5
Series 3: Marines	5
Series 4: Army Air Corps	6
Series 5: Coast Guard	6
Series 6: Printed Materials	6

Summary Information

Repository:	DCPL Special Collections - MLK Library
Title:	Black Military Photograph Collection
ID:	P033
Date [inclusive]:	1942-1946
Physical Description:	2 boxes
Language of the Material:	English
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[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

During World War II, fewer than one million African Americans served in the military, with the majority serving in support units including Transportation, Engineer and Quartermaster units.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

DCPL Special Collections - MLK Library

901 G Street NW
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Custodial History

Photographs were discovered in the staff office of the Black Studies Division in the mid 2000s by a staff member. There is no documentation pertaining to the donation of these images to the Library.

Processing Information

Original processing of the photographs included their removal from construction paper mounts and being organized by branch of service and subdivided into subject groupings. Each photograph was placed in protective sleeves and all attached labels were removed and photocopied. Subsequent processing further refined the collection

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- African Americans
- United States -- Armed Forces
- Photographs
- World War, 1939-1945

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Army, 1942-1946

Scope and Contents

Photographs depict soldiers serving in the United States Army in combat, receiving honors or awards, performing duties, training, recovering from injuries, and enjoying leisure activities. Some portraits of soldiers are also included. One of the most notable pictures is of Queen Elizabeth talking with a lieutenant, by his bedside, as he recuperates in an American hospital in England.

Title/Description	Instances	
Combat, 1943-1944	box 1	folder 1
Combat, 1945-1946	box 1	folder 2
Combat	box 1	folder 3
Individual and Group Pictures, 1943-1945	box 1	folder 4
Individual and Group Pictures, 1945-1946	box 1	folder 5
Individual and Group Pictures	box 1	folder 6

Honors and Awards, 1944	box 1	folder 7
Honors and Awards, 1945	box 1	folder 8
Honors and Awards	box 1	folder 9
Leisure, 1944-1946	box 1	folder 10
Patient and Hospitals, 1943-1944	box 1	folder 11
Patient and Hospitals, 1945	box 1	folder 12
Quartermaster Corps, 1942-1945	box 1	folder 13
Quartermaster Corps, 1946	box 1	folder 14
Quartermaster Corps	box 1	folder 15
Training, 1943	box 1	folder 16

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Navy, 1942-1945

Scope and Contents

Photographs depict soldiers serving in the United States Navy receiving honors or awards, performing duties, training, recovering from injuries, and enjoying leisure activities. Some portraits of soldiers are also included. A notable image shows Dorie Miller receiving his Navy Cross for Heroism for his actions during the Pearl Harbor attack.

Title/Description	Instances	
Individual and Group Pictures, 1942-1945	box 2	folder 1
Honors and Awards, 1942-1945	box 2	folder 2
Leisure, 1942	box 2	folder 3
Patient and Hospitals, 1943	box 2	folder 4
Training, 1942-1944	box 2	folder 5

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Marines, 1944

Scope and Contents

Photographs depict soldiers serving in the United States Marine Corps in combat, receiving honors or awards, performing duties, and enjoying leisure activities.

Title/Description	Instances	
Combat	box 2	folder 6

Individual and Group Pictures	box 2	folder 7
Honors and Awards, 1944	box 2	folder 8

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Army Air Corps, 1944

Scope and Contents

Photographs depict soldiers serving in the United States Army Air Corps receiving honors or awards, performing duties, training, and enjoying leisure activities. Some portraits of soldiers are also included. A notable image shows Colonel Benjamin O . Davis, Jr. standing on the wing of his P-51.

Title/Description	Instances	
Individual and Group Pictures, 1944	box 2	folder 9
Honors and Awards, 1944	box 2	folder 10

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Coast Guard, 1942-1946

Scope and Contents

Photographs depict soldiers serving in the United States Coast Guard performing duties, training, and enjoying leisure activities. Some portraits of soldiers are also included.

Title/Description	Instances	
Individual and Group Pictures, 1944	box 2	folder 11
Leisure, 1942-1946	box 2	folder 12
Training	box 2	folder 13

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Printed Materials, 1944

Scope and Contents

Materials include captions not matched to any photographs and lists of soldiers who served during the war and/or received medals for bravery.

Title/Description	Instances	
Printed Materials, 1944	box 2	folder 14

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)