



nj_armyguard



nj_armyguard February is Black History Month, dedicated to celebrating the contributions and achievements of African Americans throughout history. Despite the diverse makeup of the @NationalGuard, African Americans have made significant contributions to its success by serving their nation under their states' command. A remarkable example is the story of the 370th "black devils".

Although redesignated as the 370th Infantry Regiment during World War I, the unit's history begins nearly 20 years before entry into the war. Initially organized in 1895 as the 9th Battalion Infantry, the all-black National Guard unit was redesignated as the 8th Illinois Infantry in 1898. After federal service in the Spanish-American war, the unit was called again in 1916 for service on the Mexican Border.

As the 370th was assigned to the 93rd Division in 1917, the regiment arrived in France in April 1918 and after being attached to several French divisions for training and seasoning, was assigned to the French 59th Division which took part in the Oise-Aisne offensive where the Germans abandoned their defensive lines.

The 370th had the distinction of being the only Black regiment completely staffed with black officers. For its actions during the war, members received 21 Distinguished Service Crosses, one Distinguished Service Medal, and 68 Croix de Guerre.

After World War I, the regiment reorganized and is known today as the Illinois National Guard's 178th Infantry.

#blackhistory #blackhistorymonth #AfricanAmericanHistory

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