



NCR Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Cultural Observances, Awareness Information and Events

National African American/Black History Month

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Did You Know?

1. In February 1946, the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion returned to the United States where it was disbanded at Fort Dix, NJ.
2. Members of the 6888th Battalion were awarded the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal during their service.
3. On February 25, 2009, the battalion was honored at the Women in Military Service for American Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.
4. On March 15, 2016, the 6888th Battalion was inducted into the U.S. Army Women's Foundation Hall of Fame.
5. On November 30, 2018, Fort Leavenworth dedicated a monument to the women of the 688th Central Postal Directory Battalion.
6. On March 14, 2022, President Biden signed a bipartisan bill to award the 688th Central Postal Directory Battalion the Congressional Gold Medal.
7. The Central Postal Directory Battalion has been the subject of several films.

6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion

6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, nicknamed the "Six Triple Eight", was a predominantly black battalion of the Women's Army Corps (WAC). The battalion had 855 women who were organized into 5 companies. The unit was active from 1945 to 1946. Most were assigned as postal clerks, but others were cooks, mechanics, and held other support positions, so that 6888th was a self-contained unit. Their mission was to clear several years of backlogged mail in the European Theater of Operations. The group motto was "No Mail, Low Morale".

The 6888th were discouraged when they discovered warehouses crammed from floor to ceiling with an estimated backlog of 17 million items that had not been delivered for at least two years. Rats the size of cats had broken into Christmas care packages. The WACs set up a system of Army Postal Office (APO) carts to pitch mail that was delivered to APOs for further distribution. For soldiers with common surnames like "Smith" the clerks used special locator cards.

Working conditions were damp, poorly-lit warehouses without heat. They worked eight-hour rotating shifts, seven days a week. The project was supposed to take them six months but was completed in only three months.

For the women of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, World War II was truly a war of liberation. They served their country in trying conditions, accomplished their mission, and showed what African American women could do if given the chance.