

# African American Buffalo Soldiers stereoscopic photographs

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circa 1890s-1910s



## Title Statement

African American Buffalo Soldiers stereoscopic photographs  
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**Subtitle:** African American Buffalo Soldiers stereoscopic photographs

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## Publication Statement

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

C0539

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**Unit Date**

circa 1890s-1910s

**box**

1 (folder)

**Language**

English

**Abstract**

Thirteen stereoscopic photographs of African American Buffalo Soldiers.

**Creator**

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

**source**

Keystone View Company

**source**

H.C. White Co

**source**

Strohmeyer & Wyman

**source**

Underwood & Underwood

**source**

Webster & Albee Publishers (Rochester, New York)

**Extent**

.01 Linear Feet 1 folder

**Physical Location**

R 71, C 2, S 5

**Repository**

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

## Administrative Information

**Access Restrictions**

There are no access restrictions.

**Use Restrictions**

Public Domain. There are no known restrictions.

**Acquisition Information**

Purchased by Lynn Eaton from Max Rambod Rare Books in March 2025.

**Processing Information**

Processing and finding aid completed by Meghan Glasbrenner in December 2025.

**Preferred Citation**

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## Historical Information

In 1866, following an act of Congress, six all African American Army units were created: the 9th and 10th cavalry and the 38th, 39th, 40th, and 41st infantry divisions. The four infantry divisions were reorganized three years later, in 1869, to form the 24th and 25th infantry regiments. While African Americans had fought in military conflicts since the colonial era, these units, popularly known as the "Buffalo Soldiers" and which included both those formerly enslaved and freemen, were the first to serve during peacetime. Notably, the Buffalo Soldiers served among the country's first National Park Rangers and played a key role in Westward expansion, including escorting settlers, cattle herds, and railroad crews. The 9th and 10th cavalry regiments also participated in campaigns against Native American tribes across the Southwest and Great Plains, which is purportedly where the units gained the name "Buffalo Soldiers," although its exact origins are unclear. Additionally, the Buffalo Soldiers served a formal role in nearly all major American wars following the Civil War, including the Battle of San Juan Hill during the Spanish American War (1898), and World War I (1917-1918) along with the 369th Infantry Regiment, another all-Black unit known as the "Harlem Hellfighters."

First conceptualized by physicist and experimental philosopher Sir Charles Wheatstone (1802-1875) in 1832,

the practice of stereoscopy developed into an early form of three-dimensional photography by the mid-late 19th century. Stereographs consist of two photographs taken of the same scene from slightly different angles, that are mounted alongside each other on a single, standard-sized, stiff card. When viewed through a stereoscopic lens, the illusion of a three-dimensional image is achieved by mimicking the human eye's perception of depth, with each eye seeing a slightly different view of the field of vision, which is imitated through the stereograph's two mounted photographs. While popular throughout the early 20th century as entertainment, stereographs were also used in reporting and documenting current events, including parades, disasters, wars, and politics.

## Scope and Content

Thirteen stereoscopic photographs of African American Buffalo Soldiers circa 1890s-1910s, including during and after World War I (WWI). Seven published by the Keystone View Company depict members of the 15th Regiment, 369th Infantry; "Roosevelt Guard" and "Litter Bearers, Medical Detachment," 8th Regiment; 2nd Battalion, E., G., A and F, 24th Infantry; and unidentified troops in Europe during WWI. One photograph is attributed to Underwood & Underwood photographers and two additional photographs include detailed text printed on the back providing context and historical information about the Buffalo Soldiers and "colored troops." Two were published by H.C. White company, indicating a copyright of 1905, and depict members of Troop D, 9th Cavalry on the trunk of the Fallen Monarch, Mariposa Grove, California. Two were published by Strohmeyer & Wyman, indicating dates of 1898-1899, and depict an Industrial Parade at Booker Washington School, Tuskegee, Alabama and members of the 8th U.S. Infantry. The final two photographs were published by Webster & Albee Publishers (Rochester, New York) and Underwood & Underwood (European Publishers) depicting members of the 9th Ohio at Camp Alger, Virginia and "The original Buffaloes, 367 Infantry" during Rifle practice at Camp Upton, New York respectively.

## Related Materials

The Special Collections Research Center holds other collections related to World War I, including the Underwood & Underwood World War I press photographs, and other stereographic photographs can be found in the Randolph Lytton historic Washington, D.C. postcards and photographs collection.

## Keywords

United States -- Armed Forces -- African Americans  
World War, 1914-1918  
Photographs  
Photographic prints  
Photography, Stereoscopic  
World War, 1914-1918 -- African Americans  
African Americans  
Keystone View Company  
H.C. White Co  
Strohmeyer & Wyman  
Underwood & Underwood  
Webster & Albee Publishers (Rochester, New York)  
United States. Army. Cavalry, 9th  
United States. Army. Infantry Regiment, 24th (1869-1951)  
United States. Army. Infantry Regiment, 369th  
United States. Army. Infantry Regiment, 370th

## Bibliography

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Buffalo Soldiers National Museum. n.d. "Who Are the Buffalo Soldiers?" Accessed December 5, 2025. <https://buffalosoldiersmuseum.org/the-buffalo-soldiers/>.

National Museum of African American History and Culture. n.d. "Buffalo Soldiers." Accessed December 5, 2025. <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/buffalo-soldiers>.

National Portrait Gallery. n.d. "Stereoscopic Photographs in the Collection." Accessed December 5, 2025.  
<https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/about/photographs-collection/stereoscopic-photographs-in-the-collection/>.

## **Arrangement**

This is a single folder collection.