

Discharge & Final Statement for African American Soldier on the Western Frontier

Recruited by the Army after the Civil War, four regiments of African Americans served in the Western Frontier, building forts, hunting outlaws, protecting railroad workers and fighting Indians. The Indians called these men from the 24th and 25th Infantry, and the 9th and 10th Calvary, "Buffalo Soldiers" because their curly hair resembled that of the buffalo.

Discharge papers for Private Abram Day of the 24th Regiment, dated May 13, 1875, settle amounts due to the soldier and to the United States. This document, known as the "Final Statement," gives personal information about Private Day, including appearance, place of birth (Galatin, Tennessee) and prior occupation (farmer) along with a reiteration of the amount of pay due upon discharge. Private Day was discharged "...by reason of Expiration of time of service."

Final Statement of Abram Day, Private

Captain John W. Carr United Company [8] of the 24th Regiment of Infantry, born in Galatin, in the State of Tennessee, aged thirty seven years, five feet five inches high, light complexion, black eyes, black hair, and by occupation a Farmer, was enlisted by Capt. J. W. Carr at Fort Ruffin, D.C. on the thirteenth day of May, eighteen hundred and seventy, to serve for five years, who is now discharged by reason of Expiration of time of service

The said Private Abram Day was last paid by Paymaster Major J. A. Nichols to include the thirteenth day of April, eighteen hundred and seventy five, and has pay due from that time to include the 12 day of May 1875.

DUE SOLDIER.

For _____ years' continuous service under sec. 2, act August 4, 1854, \$ _____	per month.
For retained pay up to June 30, 1872, <u>Private five (25)</u>	<u>60</u> dollars.
For retained pay under act of May 15, 1872, <u>Private (70)</u>	<u>40</u> dollars.
For clothing not drawn in kind <u>Private (12)</u>	<u>65</u> dollars.
For deposits (the date and amount of each deposit to be stated)	<u>100</u>

DUE UNITED STATES.

For clothing overdrawn, _____	<u>100</u> dollars.
For tobacco <u>Five four cents</u>	<u>54</u> dollars.
For <u>Ordinance forty four cents</u>	<u>44</u> dollars.

He is indebted to _____, laundress of Company _____, Regiment of _____, _____ dollars.

Remarks: _____

I CERTIFY that the above Final Statement, given in duplicate at Fort Ruffin, D.C. this thirteenth day of May, 1875, is correct.

J. W. Carr
Capt. 24th Infantry
 Commanding Company.

[A. G. O. No. 94.]

Discharge & Final Statement for "Buffalo Solider" (side 2)

es) of these statements are to be y be discharged, that he may at ter the pay, &c., due him; and sioned officer commanding the uplicate statements; with these ed to his discharge, and should le paymaster to have the pay- scharge is to be given back to the latter only retaining as his demounts.

furnished with final statements, ne, should be taken up by the idler, and indorsed with a state- ficer. Such indorsement upon dicit a full statement of the time ved pay on his final statements, other charges against him or in complete exhibit of his account, be transmitted to the Company n case of soldier's death, see l the data necessary to a full account on the muster-roll upon is reported. The descriptive The object of this is, that the dier's account may be settled er-rolls, and the soldier receive y be due him at the time of his ; appear on his final statements ive list is incomplete. These re settled by the 2d Auditor of

ansfers his final statements, the n, and his signature witnessed n practicable, or by some other paymaster, and the witnessing act of transfer upon the soldier's the final statements that such has been made. This being urned to the soldier.

tional pay under act of August ertificate of merit, or in lieu of of August 4, 1854, and if en- act of May 15, 1872, it should s.

ever re-enlisted under act of o re-enlisted pay, even if years re-enlists. G. O. 51, A. G. O.

e of a soldier the date and of each deposit will be entered his deposit book will be taken kes final payments, and filed

n all cases, shall be written out figures in brackets. G. O. No.

y due should be computed to late of last payment only.

s or damage done to arms or oted.

stence of a Court Martial, with ic case, must be entered; also eference to the G. O. promulg- the soldier has been a deserter ent, the fact should be noted, prehension or surrender.

FINAL STATEMENT

OF

in Company

Regiment of

NOTE 11.—Amounts due the landress must be entered on the muster-roll on which the discharge, death, desertion, &c., is reported, as well as on the final statements, otherwise, the amount cannot be collected from the United States.

NOTE 12.—When a soldier DIES in hospital or on detached service, his descriptive list, if he has one, should be sent with his final statements, in duplicate, to the Adjutant General, Washington, D. C., and his Company Commander notified of his death, giving date, cause, &c., the disposition of his effects, and the state of his accounts.

NOTE 13.—To prevent payments on fraudulent discharge papers, paymasters are directed to refuse payment unless the identity of the soldier is properly established.

As discharged soldiers usually travel in advance of the mail, company commanders, adjutants commanding regimental bands and non-commissioned staff, and medical officers in charge of hospitals, will send to the chief paymaster the notification of discharge required several mails previous to date of discharge. These commanders will send with this notification the signature of the discharged soldier as additional proof of identity, if he can write his name; if he cannot write his name, this fact will be reported in writing on the notification of discharge. If the soldier prefers payment elsewhere, the notification will be sent to the paymaster to whom the discharged soldier will present himself. If not sent by mail, the notification must be sent through another channel than the hands of the man discharged. No payments will be made on discharge papers by any paymaster except upon receipt of such notification, unless he may be otherwise satisfied of their genuineness, and of the personal identity of the claimant. G. O. No. 8, A. G. O. of 1872.

NOTE 14.—If honorably discharged by special order from A. G. Office, before the expiration of his term of service, the soldier will be entitled to travel pay, unless said order sets forth that he forfeits travel pay. In the latter case the Company Commander will note on the final statement the forfeiture of travel pay.

NOTE 15.—This blank will be used for deceased soldiers, as well as for others.