

# The 6888 Central Postal Directory Battalion

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Junior Division

Group Documentary

Process Paper: 477 words

## Process Paper

When we were choosing our project topic, the Six Triple Eight Battalion stood out to us because of their incredible impact on communication at the time. After doing more research, we found that despite how hard they worked and how accomplished they were, the Six Triple Eight had little recognition. Our group wanted to learn more about the group of African American women who shaped how letters were delivered at the time of World War II, even while facing discrimination. The Six Triple Eight bridged the gap left in communication during World War II by delivering 3 years of backlogged mail to soldiers that hadn't had mail in many months.

To conduct our research, we first had to learn what kind of events happened, so we began with secondary sources. The secondary sources led us to find primary sources, like an interview with the leader of the Six Triple Eight and the medal they were awarded. Research was made difficult by how under-recognized the Six Triple Eight were in their time, as well as the limited technology in that time. This made it hard to find primary sources that are from the time of World War II. We still managed to find some sources from that time, including pictures of them working on sorting mail and running their own facilities.

Creating our documentary began by compiling our knowledge from research into a script that highlighted all of our major points that we wanted to make about the Six Triple Eight. In order to make that script into a cohesive documentary, we matched each part of the script to a picture that displayed what we were talking about. The documentary really came together when clips from an interview with the leader of the

Six Triple Eight were added in order to help convey our message better, as she has a unique first hand account.

The historical significance of the Six Triple Eight is how they influenced the delivery time of packages, as well as the racial, gender, and age barriers that they broke down. They influenced how long it took for mail to arrive at the time of World War II with their tracking system that got the time down from four weeks to only one. The Six Triple Eight continues to inspire generations after them as their medal of honor is on display in the Smithsonian Museum, remembering their hard work in the war effort.

The Six Triple Eight were an influential group of African American women whose goal was delivering three years of backlogged mail, but they managed to achieve so much more as they broke down racial and gender stereotypes and motivated future generations. This battalion proved that capability has nothing to do with color or gender, and anyone can make a difference, and that is what has left a lasting impact on the world.

## Annotated Bibliography

### Primary Sources

Alston, Charles. *Doing Their Share Too*. 1943.

This is a cartoon showing three African American Women equipped with tools.

America Comes Alive. *The 6888 Central Postal Directory Battalion*.

There are multiple pictures of the 6888 as a group on this website, as well as original WWII posters.

Britannica. *African American life During the Great Depression, and the New Deal*.

This has photos of African American life and struggles.

George C. Marshall Foundation. *All Who Wants to Serve: Charity Adams Earley*.

This website has multiple war-time photos of Charity Adams Earley, and the 6888 group, as well as footage of the Battalion serving.

LTC Charity Adams Early Oral History. 1990.

This is a video interview with Charity Adams Earley which has details about the 6888's struggles and successes.

Military History Now. *Hitler's Holdouts – Meet the Last German Troops to Surrender in WW2.*

This source has pictures of the American Troops conveying negative emotions.

National Park Service. *Colonel Charles Young.*

Has a picture from the First Officer Candidate Class at Wilberforce University.

Original People. *Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.*

This website has an old photograph of the sorority at Wilberforce University.

Segregation In America. *From Slavery to Segregation.*

This website has war-time images showing segregation against African Americans

Smithsonian. *National Postal Museum.*

This is a photograph of the National Postal Museum where the 6888's national medal will be on display.

Steven Ambrose Historical Tours. *Remembering the 6888 Central Postal Directory Battalion.*

This has photographs of the 6888 memorial located in Kansas.

The Dayton Foundation. *Dr. Stanley A. Earley, Jr., and Charity Edna Earley Family*

*Fund: Couple's Service to Their Country and Community Is 'Just What You Did'*

This website includes a picture of Charity Adams Early and her husband Stanley A. Early.

US Government Publishing Office. *Bill to pass the 6888 a Gold Medal. 2019.*

This is A detailed minute with the court session that passed the 6888 to get a Gold Medal.

The University of Washington. *Hoovervilles and homelessness. 1939.*

This website has photographs of Hoovervilles in the Great Depression.

West New Jersey History Project. *Camp Dix/Fort Dix. 1942.*

This source has photographs of Fort Dix, New Jersey.

Wright State University Libraries. *Wilberforce University.*

This source has original photos of Wilberforce University from the 1940s.

Women of the 6888 Photos and Videos.

This website has many pictures, and videos from the 6888 with dates ranging from 1944-1946.

Living History Farm. *Bank Failures during the 1930s Great Depression.*

This shows a picture of people milling about outside one of the failing banks during the great depression.

National Museum Australia. *Defining Moments: Equal pay for women.*

This shows women protesting in the streets to get equal pay.

The National Museum of the United States Army. *“Skirted Soldiers”: The Women’s Army Corps and Gender Integration of the US Army during World War II.*

This shows an authentic promotional poster for the Women's Army Corps. (WAC)

National Park Service. *Franklin Delano Roosevelt - Assistant Secretary of the Navy (US National Park Service)*

This website has pictures of Franklin D. Roosevelt in his time of presidency.

The Ohio State University. *Then and now*

This website has photos of how Ohio State University appeared back when Charity Adams got her masters of art degree there.

Secondary Sources

Bedel, Mary. *Employment and Income of Negro Workers.* 1940-52

This source shows the incomes of African American Women's compared to white women's salaries from the years 1940-1952

Bell, Perra S. *Charity Adams Earley: A Black Officer Remembers the WAC*

This Website has information on more struggles the 6888 faced due to their race, gender, and age.

Maurer School of law. *The Employment and Economic Advancement of African Americans in the Twentieth Century.*

This shows graphs of unemployment during the 1940s.

Klein, Christopher. *Last Hired, First Fired: How The Great Depression Affected African Americans.*

This article displays struggles African Americans faced through the years of the Great Depression.

Momodu, Samuel. *The 6888 Central Postal Directory Battalion.*

This article gives a brief summary of the timeline of events in the 6888's journey.

Spring, Dr. Kelly A. *Charity Adams Earley.*

This article gives details about Charity Adams Early's lifetime events, and accomplishments.

