



Andrew Carman Oral History, 1979

Andrew Carman, born in Jimtown, Kentucky, in 1895, was drafted by the United States Army in 1916 as part of the 801st Pioneer Regiment. When he was shipped to France, he became a member of the Fifteenth Engineers with the 369th Infantry Regiment, known as the "Harlem Hellfighters." The Harlem Hellfighters served alongside the French army, as African Americans were not allowed to mix with white units from the United States. Selected to fight in the trenches, Carman was wounded in battle. He waited sixty-three years to receive his Purple Heart. He passed away in 1983.

*Courtesy of Pogue Special Collections Library,
Murray State University*

War is not just a compilation of dates that represent a series of battles. "[Kentucky Military Treasures](#)," an online exhibition that illustrates the personal stories of bravery, innovation, heartache and perseverance, provides evidence of the people and artifacts history books often neglect. To learn more about this item and others in the military collections of the Kentucky Historical Society, visit "[Kentucky Military Treasures](#)."