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reason alone this book is worth having on the shelves of anyone interested in the Jacobite movement.

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25602/GOLD.bjmh.v5i1.831>

Robert A. Geake with Lorin M. Spears, *From Slaves to Soldiers: the 1st Rhode Island Regiment in the American Revolution*. Yardley, PA: Westholme Publishing, 2016. 184pp. ISBN 97-8159-4162-688 (hardback). £19.99.

Books, articles, monuments, and oral testimonies about The First Rhode Island Regiment, reorganized deep into the long American Revolution as the so-called 'Black Regiment', have attracted attention since abolitionists in the 1850s touted the valour of free blacks and former slaves in fighting against the British. A century later, Lorenzo Greene and Benjamin Quarles began to thicken the story of the Black Regiment. Now, in the last two decades, spurred by the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society and also by the efforts of white military historians, a clutch of new books and essays have presented new accounts of the integrated and then segregated First Rhode Island Regiment. The book under review here is the latest entry into what has become a controversial chapter of American military history.

Episodic and sparsely footnoted, *From Slaves to Soldiers* leaves the reader unaware of much of the First Regiment's history. For example, in Chapter 2, while diverting the reader with descriptions of the Stono Rebellion in South Carolina in 1739, the authors provide only the sketchiest details in the status and backgrounds of the Narragansett and other indigenous people recruited for the First Rhode Island Regiment after the Rhode Island Assembly reconstituted it in January 1778 by offering compensation to masters willing to free their slaves. One learns only that they were drawn from 'remaining indigenous people [who] were enslaved, indentured, or displaced from their traditional villages' (pp. 42-43). Also ignored is the enlistment of free blacks and indigenous males in the two years *before* the formation of the Black Regiment. Far from 'just a few blacks being integrated into a handful of regiments' in Washington's Continental Army, some fifty to seventy-five men of colour were among about five hundred rank and file soldiers in Rhode Island First and Second regiments that fought from Bunker Hill to Red Bank to Monmouth Courthouse from 1775 to 1777,

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constituting at least 10 percent of the enlistees when free blacks and Native Americans were less than half that percentage in the population at large.

Chapter 3 on the war experiences of the Black Regiment is limited to three combat actions: the Battle of Rhode Island on August 29, 1778, where the Black Regiment helped the Continental Army retreat from the swarming British and Hessians on Aquidneck Island; the disaster that befell one part of the regiment in April 1781, where its commander, Colonel Christopher Greene, was surprised at dawn and slaughtered with a number of black and white soldiers at their outpost on the Croton River in Connecticut; and the participation of part of the Black Regiment at Yorktown in October 1781. The gaps in this coverage - for 32 months from September 1778 to April 1781 the regiment spent much of this period guarding Rhode Island's coast and labouring in fascine production - are amply filled by the exhaustive accounts of Daniel G. Popek in his recent *They '... fought bravely, but were unfortunate; The True Story of Rhode Island's 'Black Regiment' and the Failure of Segregation in Rhode Island's Continental Line, 1777-1783* (2016).

Of special significance is the question of racially integrated versus segregated Continental Army units. This book skirts by the fact that enlisted free men of colour—African born, African American, mixed race, and indigenous—in Rhode Island's First and Second Regiments were integrated with white rank and file soldiers until January 1778; performed well in their integrated units at Fort Mercer and Fort Mifflin on the Delaware River; and in the winter of 1777-78 at Valley Forge deserted the Continental encampment in much smaller percentages than white soldiers. But when men of colour were transferred out of these integrated units and assigned in the early months of 1778 to the newly formed 'Black Regiment' (where all the officers and non-commissioned officers were white), their performance was less than glorious. In Geake and Spears's telling, they fought courageously in trying to repulse the advancing opponents at the Battle of Rhode Island. Other accounts have it differently, charging that they fled the field of battle in disarray. Though not mentioned in this abbreviated book, what is not in dispute is that the Black Regiment never mutinied, as did the white Second Regiment (three times in 1779 alone).

Also undisclosed in this book is that after Rhode Island's legislature mandated a new recruitment of six-month soldiers in June 1780, the rank and file of the Black Regiment, never numbering more than about 150, were assigned to two companies, the Sixth and Eighth, of the Rhode Island Continental Battalion. For Washington this marked the end of 'the name and appearance of a Black Corps.' But in fact, when the Rhode Islanders were sent south in the summer of 1781 as part of the Continental Army's showdown with the British at Yorktown, all but two or three men of colour fought in the all-coloured Sixth and Eighth. In this sense, the 'experiment in segregation', as one historian puts it, did not come to an end. What is agreed upon is that the black soldiers

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acquitted themselves admirably in the climactic siege of Yorktown, where some of them were at the point of the spear in attacking a key British redoubt.

Though far from comprehensive, this book extends our understanding of the First Regiment by tracing the lives of some of the long-suffering veterans who survived the war. Three appendices list whites, blacks, and indigenous Rhode Islanders who fought in the war along with a list of slaves who fled to the British and survived to be evacuated by the British ships carrying them from New York to Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1783.

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25602/GOLD.bjmh.v5i1.830>

Geert van Uythoven, *The Secret Expedition: the Anglo–Russian Invasion of North Holland, 1799*. Warwick: Helion and Company, 2018. 448pp. ISBN 978-1-912390-20-5 (hardback). Price £29.99.

The British military campaigns of the French Revolutionary War (1793–1802) are notoriously under-studied, and the invasion of Holland in 1799 is particularly so. The assault was Britain’s major contribution to the European theatre during the Second Coalition. While Austria and Russia challenged French incursions into Italy and Switzerland, a joint Anglo–Russian force composed of around 40,000 men landed at the Helder in North Holland and marched on Amsterdam. The immediate aim was to overthrow the French satellite state known as the ‘Batavian Republic’ and restore the hereditary Stadtholderate under Willem V. The invasion did not succeed: every retreat pushed the Franco–Dutch forces closer to their supply base in Amsterdam; the British and Russians rapidly fell out; and with the autumn rains approaching and no chance of a decisive battle, the Allies signed an armistice and evacuated. Anglo–Russian diplomatic relations were badly shaken by the debacle. Within months, Tsar Paul I pulled Russia out of the Second Coalition and founded an ‘Armed Neutrality’ of northern maritime powers in an attempt to undermine Britain’s naval supremacy.

The campaign’s failure helps explain why it has not been studied as much as it should have been, given its impact on British continental relations at a critical stage of the wars with France. A.B. Rodger’s *The Second Coalition: a Strategic Commentary* (Oxford: University Press, 1964) and Piers Mackesy’s *Statesmen at War: the Strategy of Overthrow* (London: Longmans, 1974) were for a long time the only major texts on the topic. A