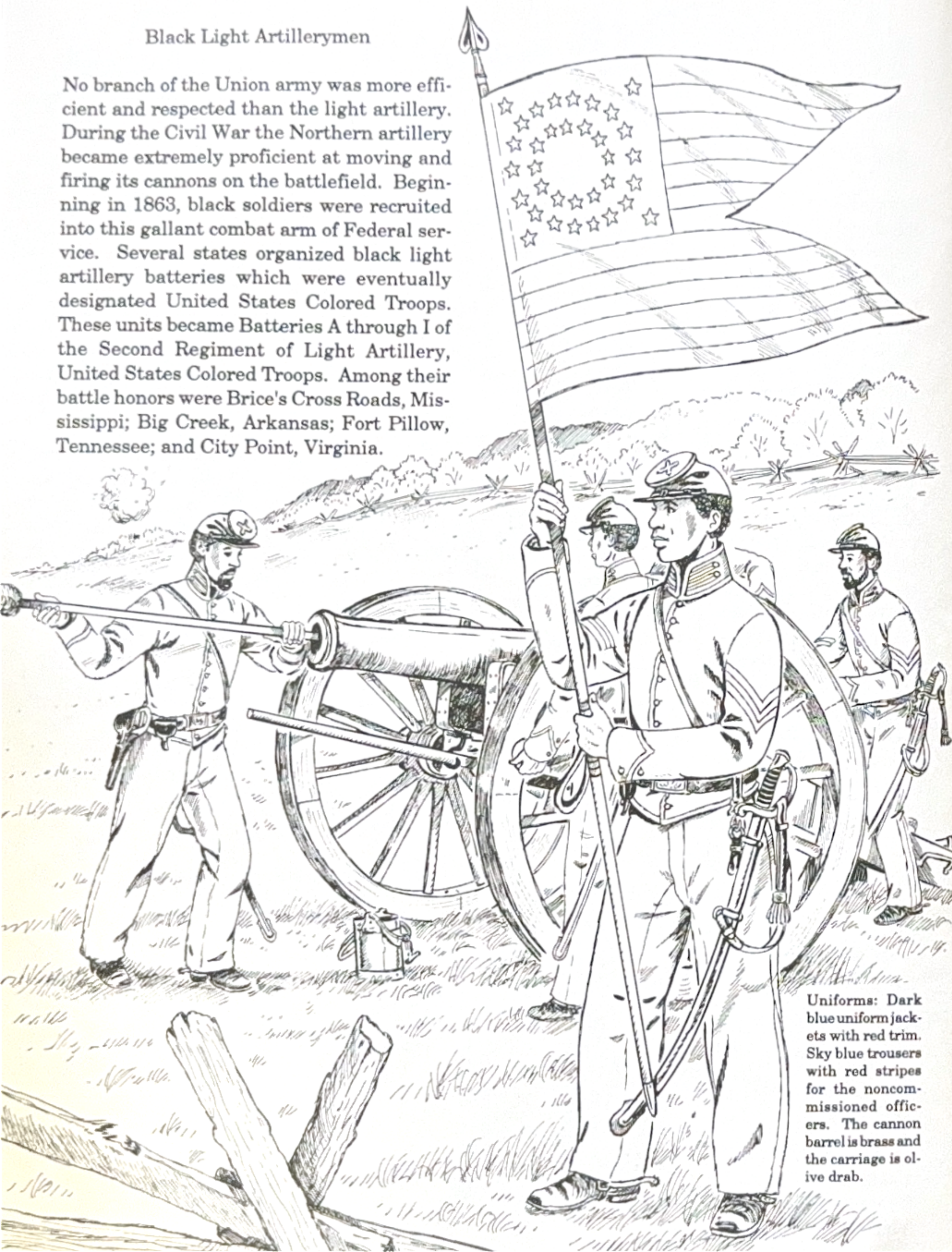


Black Light Artillerymen

No branch of the Union army was more efficient and respected than the light artillery. During the Civil War the Northern artillery became extremely proficient at moving and firing its cannons on the battlefield. Beginning in 1863, black soldiers were recruited into this gallant combat arm of Federal service. Several states organized black light artillery batteries which were eventually designated United States Colored Troops. These units became Batteries A through I of the Second Regiment of Light Artillery, United States Colored Troops. Among their battle honors were Brice's Cross Roads, Mississippi; Big Creek, Arkansas; Fort Pillow, Tennessee; and City Point, Virginia.



Uniforms: Dark blue uniform jackets with red trim. Sky blue trousers with red stripes for the noncommissioned officers. The cannon barrel is brass and the carriage is olive drab.

Music of the Black Soldiers

Black Americans have a rich musical heritage and this was reflected in the popularity of music among the ranks of the black units of the Union army. Black regiments became noted for singing in camp, on the march, and even on the battlefield. Black soldiers sang all the songs popular with their white comrades, but several songs were written by black soldiers to express their pride in their units. Among those songs were "Give Us A Flag" (Fifty-Fourth Massachusetts), "The Second Louisiana," "The Marching Song of the First Arkansas," and "They Look Like Men of War" (Ninth U. S. Colored Troops).

