

Harlem Hellfighters: Business & Creative Genius Behind the Scenes

James Reese Europe and Horace Pippin

Two backstories are illustrated by the musical genius of the regiment's leader, James Reese Europe and artist Horace Pippin.

Horace Pippin injured during his time as a Harlem Hellfighter, taught himself how to adapt, and continued to paint after returning home. His letters and notes are archived in the Smithsonian.

<http://www.biography.com/people/horace-pippin-9441456>

Europe's demise was a tragedy on many levels. Europe's interpersonal and leadership skills were thought to be the catalyst that could help influence the integration of the American military. And some historians believe his death delayed the process for decades.

References

James Reese Europe & The Hellfighters Band

<http://www.worldwar1.com/dbc/hhf.htm>

Brendan McNalley, Nazis & Dinosaurs

Lieutenant James Reese Europe

<http://tinyurl.com/lu58ceo>

Defense Media Network.com

"Lt. James Reese Europe:
The World Catches Jazz Fever,
Compliments of the U.S. Army"

<http://tinyurl.com/n28mcon>

Horace Pippin notebooks and letters, circa 1920, 1943.
Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.
<http://tinyurl.com/pmyxwu4>

A More Unending Battle:
The Harlem Hellfighters Struggle for Freedom in WWI...
<http://tinyurl.com/o8e6scm>