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Amazon: from pg 8

est in a series of Amazon-sponsored initiatives to boost and support early stage, underrepresented entrepreneurs. Amazon Web Services recently launched the AWS Impact Accelerator, investing \$30 million in a series of programs designed to help high-potential, pre-seed startups led by underrepresented founders succeed. Amazon chose North American startups to be part of its 2022 Black Founders Build with Alexa cohort, each receiving a \$100,000 Alexa Fund investment, as well as technology support. Additionally, in 2021, Amazon committed \$150 million to its Black Business Accelerator, an initiative to help Black business owners succeed as sellers in Amazon's stores.

Learn more about Amazon Catalytic Capital at amazoncatalyticcapital.com. Funds interested in receiving investment from Amazon can contact Amazon.

Hellfighters: from pg 2 fought the Germans off with a knife.

The Germans began to refer to members of the

Harlem unit as "the hell fighters" because they were such fierce fighters. The French, on the other hand, had called the regiment "Men of Bronze." The 369th Infantry Regiment was also described as the "Black Rattlers" because of the rattlesnake insignia on their uniforms.

The Hellfighters stood out not only for their skin color and fighting prowess but also because of the sheer amount of time they spent fighting. They took part in more continuous combat, or combat without a break, than other U.S. unit of the same size. They saw 191 days on the front lines of battle.

Seeing more continuous combat meant that the Harlem Hellfighters also experienced more casualties than other units. The 369th Infantry Regiment had more than 1,400 total casualties. These men sacrificed their lives for an America that had not given them the full benefits of citizenship.

Newspapers reported on their heroic efforts, and the Harlem Hell fighters' bravery in combat resulted in international fame in the U.S. and abroad. When the Hell fighters returned to the U.S. in 1919, they were welcomed with a massive parade on February 17. Some estimates say up to five million spectators took part. New Yorkers from a variety of racial backgrounds greeted 3,000 Hell fighters as they walked in the parade on Fifth Avenue, marking the first time African-American servicemen had received such a reception. It marked a drastic difference from the year before, when the regiment was excluded from the farewell parade before traveling to Europe.

The parade wasn't the only recognition the 369th Infantry Regiment received. When World War I ended, the French government presented 171 of the fighters with the prestigious Croix de Guerre medal. France honored the entire regiment with a Croix de Guerre citation. The United States gave some members of the Harlem Hellfighters a Distinguished Service Cross, among other honors.

Although the Hellfighters received praise for their service, they faced racism and segregation in a country in which racism and segregation was the law of the land. Moreover, their contributions to World War I largely faded from public memory in the years after the war. In recent years, however, these servicemen have been the subject of renewed interest.

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