

**UNITED STATES ARMY SERGEANTS MAJOR ACADEMY**

**SGM CHRISTIAN A. FLEETWOOD**  
**(NCO History Briefing)**

**BY**  
**MSG WILLIAM R. HUFFIN**  
**STUDENT #027**

**FA CSM JOHNSON**  
**M03**  
**10 Dec 04**

**FLEETWOOD, CHRISTIAN ABRAHAM** (1840-1914), editor, army officer, bureaucrat, and musician. Christian A. Fleetwood was born in Baltimore, Maryland on July 21, 1840. His mother and father name was Charles and Anna Maria Fleetwood. His parents were not slaves at this time during the 1840's. Fleetwood received most of his early education in the home of a wealthy sugar merchant. Over time, the Brunes became very fond of Christian A. Fleetwood. Some people even said they treated him like a son. This is hard for some to believe, this was before the start of the Civil War. During the time of Christian A. Fleetwood, most whites would have viewed him as a piece of property. Which he would not have been considered equal in this country during those times. He went on to further his education while attending the office of the secretary of Maryland Colonization Society. With the assistance of the Maryland Colonization Society, the school gave him the opportunity to briefly attend Liberia and Sierra Leone College in Africa. He only attended these colleges for a small amount of time. In 1860, he graduated from Ashmun Institute. Ashmun Institute would later be renamed Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. Christian A. Fleetwood and a few others began to briefly publish the Lyceum Observer in Baltimore. The Lyceum Observer was the first Negro newspaper in Baltimore. This was truly a remarkable feat during these times when black were consider property not equal. He started the first Negro Newspaper in Baltimore during the Civil War times in the south. Because Baltimore falls south of the Mason Dixon Line, Baltimore is considered a southern state.

The Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, during America's Civil War. The Emancipation Proclamation declared that all slaves from here on are forever free. In the beginning of 1863, many doors were opened for Negroes in every direction. With the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation the War Department, order

that blacks be allowed entrance in the Union Army. Maryland, Missouri, Delaware and Tennessee were caught off guard by the announcement from the War Department. All slaves that enlist from those states will declare free Ohio, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and New York your state. Blacks from all over rejoiced by singing, "Give us a flag, all free, without a slave." (Fleetwood) For over two years from the start of the Civil War in 1861, notable opposition had kept him out. However, because the rules had changed blacks enlisted by the thousands.

With the disruption of trade with Liberia Christian A. Fleetwood enlisted in the Union Army Aug 11, 1863. Christian A. Fleetwood enlisted in the Union Army as Sergeant. Sergeant Christian A. Fleetwood was assigned to Company G. 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment, U.S. Colored Volunteer Infantry. Training started the day he enlisted in the Army. Training consisted of learning basic instructions for how to fire a weapon. There was no formalize training you learned from the soldier to your left and right. You were trained by life's experience during war. Sergeant Christian A. Fleetwood was promoted to Sergeant Major on 19 Aug 1863. SGM Christian A. Fleetwood departed Baltimore in September 1863 en route to Yorktown, VA. In less than a week, from leaving Baltimore, they went on a raid. He left Baltimore heading to Yorktown, VA covering over thirty miles per day. Even with covering this distance in such a short amount of time, there were no stragglers. In May of 1864, we left Fortress Monroe, Virginia on the James River Expedition. Company G. 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment, U.S. Colored Volunteer Infantry was the first unit to come ashore at City Point and build works. They confined them, and made incursions from May until June 64. The first serious attack was made in Petersburg, Virginia losing almost two hundred and fifty men. This was of serious concern since there were only six hundred men at the start. SGM Fleetwood was instrumental in the siege of Petersburg. SGM Fleetwood was later transferred to Dutch Gap to help secure the canal. He arrive there under constant firing from the

rebel batteries. In the latter part of September were ordered to a place called Deep Bottom commanded by Major Gen Birney. On 29 September, we took New Market and Fort Harrison with 11 officer and 305 enlisted men. The commander was a field grade officer by the name of Major Boernstein.

The adjutant, Geo Allen charged on the right, and SGM Fleetwood charged the left. When the bugle sounded, the Color guard was full; two sergeants, (carrying the Colors,) and there were ten corporals. This was a difficult fight only one of the twelve made it off the field. Most of the soldiers lie still. In the initial rush on of the sergeants carrying the Colors were shot. The thing that bothered me most was I did not even know his name. A bullet broke his flagstaff in two, and continued through his body. The other Color sergeant Alfred B. Hinton pressed forward with them both. During the deadly hailstorm of bullets, many men were killed trying to advance. It was not long before Sergeant Alfred B. Hinton was cut down. He was shot in the leg causing him to fall, as he fell he shouted save the Colors. Before they touched the ground, Corporal Charles Veal had caught the blue flag, and I the American flag. Our lady friends presented the flags to us before leaving Baltimore. We had a taken over two thirds casualties from our available force. We remained entrenched in the lines just before Richmond, until Gen Butler's Expedition to Fort Fisher returned. SGM Fleetwood receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism in the critical battle of Chaffin's Farm. SGM Fleetwood saved the American flag during this battle. Chaffin's Farm was located on the outskirts of Richmond, Va, on September 29, 1884. In just a few days, we again embarked under Gen Terry successful expedition. We were a part of all marching and fighting encountered by "Terry Command." 4 General Joseph E. Johnston surrender in April. The 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment, U.S. Colored Volunteer Infantry is a subordinate unit of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Division saw action with the 10<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> Army Corps.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Division had major campaigns in Virginia and North Carolina. SGM Fleetwood was Honorably discharge on May 4, 1866.

There are many different types of weapons that were used; I will be talking about small arms and edge weapons. Small arms refer to weapons smaller than a cannon, and can be carried by the soldier. Here is a small list of the different types of weapons: muskets, rifles, carbines, pistols and revolvers. Small arms are designated by their caliber, method of loading breech or muzzle and the maker. There was much controversy and debate over breechloader versus muzzle-loaders. Breechloaders fired quickly therefore creating a larger demand for additional ammunition. Muzzle-loaders were very effective but you lost valuable time trying to reload. All small arms during this period were muzzle loaded or breech loaded.

The Mini ball was a half-inch lead rifle bullet that changed the way they fought. Military leaders were slow to adapt new tactics to adjust to this new technology. The mini ball was responsible for a great number of battlefield deaths. The average soldier could easily hit targets at 250 yards away. There have been reports stating that mini ball could reach distances as far as a half-mile away.

Edged weapons are just as it sounds these are weapons that resemblance of a knife. Let name a few of the edge weapons that were used: bayonets, sabers, swords, cutlasses, and bowie knives. Edge weapons were more a decorative possession than used to inflict casualties.

SGM Christian A. Fleetwood was born during a time when African Americans were only looked at as property not an equal. Because there was a disruption of trade with Liberia SGM Christian A. Fleetwood enlisted in the Union Army. After enlisting, his unit headed south Yorktown, VA to join in the war effort. His unit travel over thirty miles a day in a short amount of time to reach their destination and there were no stragglers. He received very little formal

training; most of the training he received was through life's experience. He was very discipline and followed order to the letter of the law. New small arms weapons were invented during the Civil War. The new small arms using the mini-ball changed the way they fought. The mini-ball could travel much farther and was more accurate than the previous weapons. Through all challenges placed before SGM Christina A. Fleetwood he still fought for his country in an exemplary manner. He received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic acts of bravery. The Congressional Medal of Honor is the highest medal you can receive in war.

Works Cited

Boaters, Mark M. "Weapons of the American Civil War" The Civil War Society's "Encyclopedia of the Civil War and Mark M. Boatner's" Civil War Dictionary. 5 Feb 2004.  
<<http://www.civilwarhome.com/weapons.htm>> 5 Feb 2004

Boston Publishing Company and Congressional Medal of Honor Society of the United States of America. Above and Beyond Boston Pub.Co., c1985

Fleetwood, Christian A. "The Medal of Honor" 21 Jan 2004.  
<<http://www.medalofhonor.com/ChristianAFleetwood.htm>> 21 Jan 2004

Haskins, Jim. Black Stars of Civil War Times Hoboken, NJ: 2003

Johnson, Charles Jr. "Fleetwood Biography" 21 Jan 2004.  
<<http://www.nps.gov/rich/flee~172.htm>> 21 Jan 2004

**UNITED STATES ARMY SERGEANT'S MAJOR  
ACADEMY**

**SGM CHRISTIAN A. FLEETWOOD  
NCO HISTORY BRIEF**

**M03**

**BY**

**MSG WILLIAM R. HUFFIN**

**STUDENT #027**

## SGM CHRISTIAN A. FLEETWOOD OUTLINE

### I. Introduction

1. Good\_\_\_\_\_. SGM Johnson and fellow classmates. My name is MSG Huffin and for approximately the next 15 minutes you will receive a brief on SGM Christian A. Fleetwood.
2. Type And Classification Of Briefing:
  - a. This is an Unclassified Information Brief.
3. Purpose And Scope
  - a. Purpose of this brief is to inform Sergeants Major on the history behind the Congressional Medal of Honor winner SGM Christian A. Fleetwood. This information can be informative and used to share some of their knowledge with their soldiers in their field.
4. Outline And Procedure
  - a. During this briefing I will be discussing Sergeant Major Christian A. Fleetwood early years through what led up to him receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor, 1865 during the civil war.

### II. Body.

- a. Overview
- b. Early Years
- c. Training
- d. Discipline and Duty
- e. Different types of weapons used

### III. Conclusion.

- a. Summary
- b. Questions
- c. Closing statement