

383rd ENGINEER BATTALION (SEPARATE) US ARMY
re-constituted in August 1944 as
1349th ENGINEER GENERAL SERVICE REGIMENT US ARMY

Holy Trinity Church Fleet is the Memorial Church for the 383rd Engineer Battalion (Separate) later to become the 1349th Engineer General Service Regiment of the US Army which were stationed in Fleet from 1943 until 1944 preparing engineering works for D-Day. They then went to France and later Germany continuing engineering duties.

These troops have the unique honour of being solely Afro-American, hence "Separate" in accordance with the Jim Crow laws then prevailing in the US.

It is believed that Holy Trinity is the only Memorial Church in England dedicated to WW II Afro-American troops.

The 383rd constructed camps, facilities, roads, vehicle hardstanding and the Weymouth LST ramps to enable the housing, transportation and shipping of the Allied troops for D-Day. They achieved this on schedule and then, in four days, increased the capacity in Weymouth to supply the troops in Normandy by 100%, ensuring that continuous vital supplies reached the troops there.

Following D-Day the 383rd landed in France to reconstruct battle damaged facilities and construct new ones to support the front-line troops. As they advanced the 383rd collected 3000 PoWs and supervised them to help in this rebuilding.

In August 1944, after much lobbying by their officers, the 383rd Battalion was re-constituted 1349th Engineer General Service Regiment thus acknowledging the troops were no longer considered "Separate".

They finished the War in Karlsruhe, Germany and were among the last troops to be repatriated to the United States.

The Records of this fine Battalion and Regiment are contained in this folder.

Please do not remove.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH FLEET