



Directions: as you watch Glory, please reflect on the movie by answering the following questions with specific evidence and thoughtful detail.

Robert Gould Shaw, the son of wealthy Boston abolitionists, was 23 years old when he enlisted to fight in the War between the States. He wrote home regularly, telling his parents of life in the gathering Army of the Potomac. These letters are collected in the Houghton Library of Harvard.

1. How does the attitude of Colonel Robert Gould Shaw toward African-Americans change and why?
2. What differences exist among the black soldiers who make up the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry? What does this tell you about the different experiences of blacks in 19th century America? Think about their region of origin, former status (free/slave), and educational background.
3. What attitudes did white soldiers have about the 54th? Did these attitudes change and why?
4. Were blacks treated equally to whites in the Union army? Explain.

5. What is significant about Colonel Shaw's decision to refuse his paycheck?

6. Did the movie end as you expected? What feelings/thoughts were you left with?

7. What do you think is the significance of the 54th and their leadership at Fort Wagner?

8. What scene affected you most and why?

9. Do you think this film accurately showed the experiences of the 54th? Explain

The 54th Massachusetts lost over half its number in the assault on Ft. Wagner. The supporting white brigades also suffered heavily before withdrawing. The fort was never taken.

As word of their bravery spread, Congress at last authorized the raising of black troops throughout the Union. Over 180,000 volunteered. President Lincoln credited these men of color with helping turn the tide of the war.

