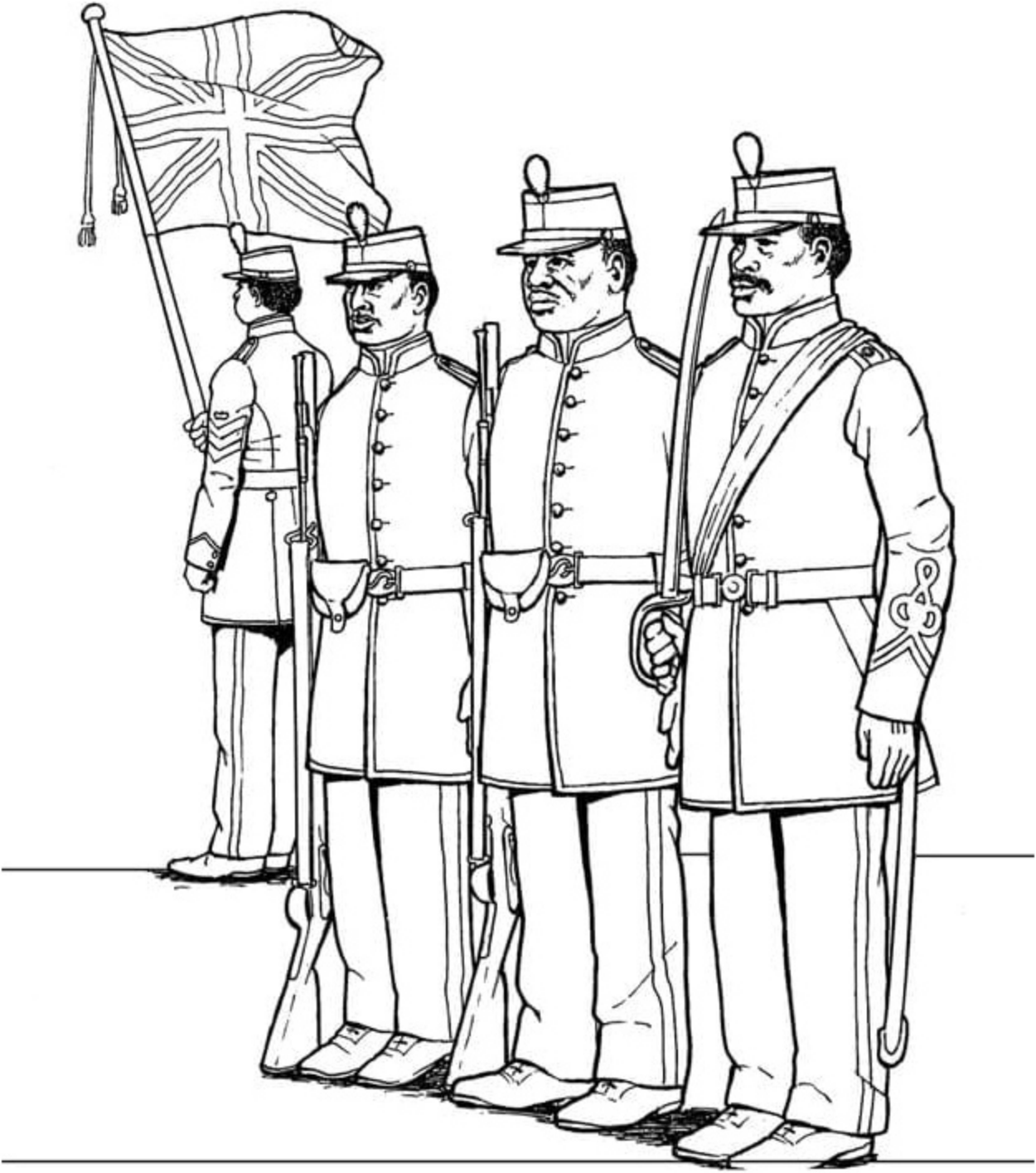


Black soldiers under the Union Jack in 1860. Black soldiers formed the African Rifles, part of the first military unit raised in British Columbia, the Victoria Pioneer Rifle Corps. The African Rifles were not paid; they built their own military drill hall and ordered their own uniforms. Their unit was created to help defend Canada against the U.S.