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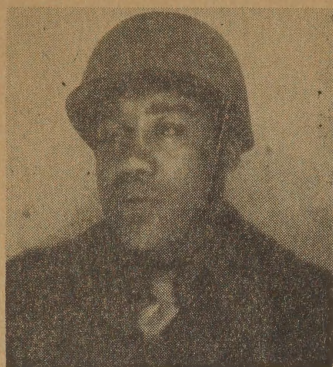






# WASHINGTON D. C.—SALUTES!

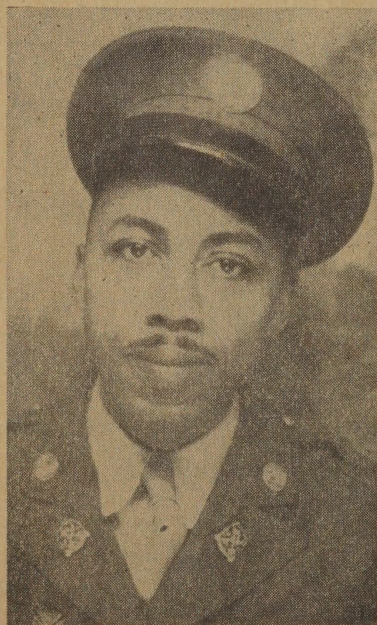
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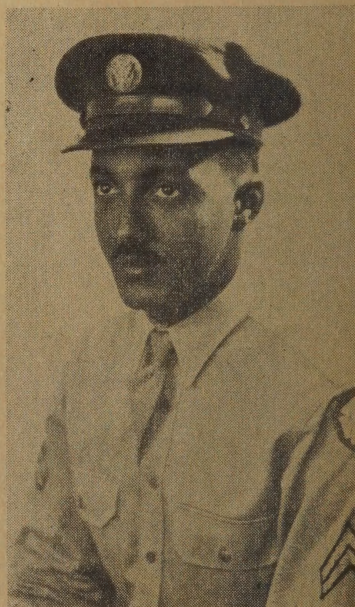
Pvt. A. M. Saunders



Sgt. James E. Saunders



Cpl. E. Leslie Hamm



Cpl. Louis Minor



*The Negro*  
*in*  
*World War II*

DEDICATION

To  
the sons and  
daughters of Negroes  
in America who have put self-  
interest behind them while they have  
helped to forge a chain of steel to bind the  
enemies of their country, this work is  
Dedicated.



**The Publishers**

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By  
The Sentry Publishing Co.,  
1934 Eleventh Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C.

# *The Negro* *in* *World War II*

Volume One

## FOREWORD

The History of the Negro in World War II begins with his emancipation from slavery in 1865. It isn't the purpose of this series to recount the part undertaken by Negroes in aiding this country to achieve world leadership. We make the statement that Negroes, by the manner in which they acquitted themselves to date in this war, World War II, have been able to accomplish more only as a result of their experiences in other generations. With or without tools of war, Negroes have always fought bravely, and died gloriously for their country.

It has been in World War II that Negroes have reached the position where they could demand, by virtue of their knowledge, higher positions of trust, more active participation in the administration and prosecution of war, on the fighting line and the home front.

The events recorded in the pages of this brief history, and the sources from which this material originated, are believed to be authentic.

The publishers extend appreciation to the War Department, Navy Department, Office of War Information, the Negro Press in general, and various other writers, contributors and organizations for their unstinted cooperation.

The Publishers

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ECONOMIC EQUALITY demands

**“EQUAL PAY  
FOR EQUAL WORK”**



The crusade for more JOB OPPORTUNITIES  
A wider use of the MERIT SYTEM as the yardstick  
for measuring qualifications — for jobs in  
FEDERAL — STATE and MUNICIPAL  
GOVERNMENTS  
are principles — vigorously upheld by

**THE SENTRY**

GOVERNMENT WORKERS' NEWSPAPER

1934 1th Street, N.W.

Washington 1, D.C.

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# *The Negro* *in* *World War II*

December 7, 1941 to February, 1944

## CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

(Note: This is the fifth year of World War II)

### December, 1941

- 7—While American and Japanese representatives were trying to find a solution to their problems, Japan declared war on the United States and Great Britain. Before the declaration reached Washington, between 150 and 300 Japanese carrier-based planes attacked American installations at Pearl Harbor in the Phillipines and other possessions in the Pacific.  
The attack occurred in the morning (7:55 Honolulu Time) (1:25 P.M., E.S.T.) and during the heat of the battle which followed, Doris (Dorie) Miller, messman, former football player of Monroe High School, Waco, Texas, exposed himself to enemy fire by dragging his wounded commanding officer to safety, then manned a machine gun. For this heroic action Miller became the first Negro in this war to win the Navy Cross. (Awarded by Admiral C. W. Nimitz aboard a warship at Pearl Harbor, T. H. May 27, 1942). The award, however, came only after four months of clamor in the Negro Press for some recognition.
- 8—Congress passed a joint resolution declaring war on Japan.  
Great Britain declared war against Japan. Japan attacked British Malaya, Wake Island, occupied Shanghai, Thailand, Guam, and shelled Midway Island, and Luzon in the Phillipines.
- 9—President Roosevelt in a world wide broadcast said: "We are going to win the war and we are going to win the peace that follows."
- 10—Manila was bombed by the enemy. . . and landings were made on the northern coast of Luzon.
- 11—Germany and Italy declared war on the United States.
- 19—Selective Service Act amended to include males from 20-44 and the registration of all men to 64 years of age.
- 22—Prime Minister Churchill with staff makes surprise visit to Washington.
- 25—Hong Kong surrenders to Japanese.

## January, 1942

- 5—Rationing of tires begins.
- 26—U.S. troops arrive in North Ireland.  
Battle of Macassar Strait.
- 28—Germans recapture Benghazi in North Africa.

## February, 1942

- 2—Rationing of automobiles begins.
- 15—Singapore falls to Japanese.
- 22—General Mr Arthur establishes headquarters in Australia.
- 23—Enemy submarines shelled coast of California, near Golata; no casualties.
- 27—Battle of Java Sea.

## March, 1942

- 3—Japanese on West Coast interned.
- 13—Rationing of typewriters.
- 16—United States forces arrive in Australia.
- 17—Third Draft begins.

## April, 1942

- 1—Heavy fighting continues in Bataan.
- 9—Bataan falls—death march begins.
- 10—India fails to get freedom—Cripps mission meets discord.
- 18—American flyers under Major Doolittle bomb Tokio.
- 25—American troops arrive in New Caledonia.
- 28—Rationing of Sugar begins.

## May, 1942

- 6—Corregidor, on Manilla Bay, surrenders.
- 7—Japanese troops crossed into India.

U. S. government asks Martinique for a guarantee that the island would not be made available to the Axis.

Nazi submarines sink ships off Florida and the mouth of the Mississippi.

Mohandas K. Ghandi, in a despatch from Bombay, said that Great Britian and the United State had no moral basis for waging war, and that to gain it, they should put their own house in order in Asia and Africa, and to cease racial discrimination.

U. S. troops arrive in North Ireland! tanks included.

British troops evacuated from Burma.

Spring drive starts in North Africa.

Mexico declares war against Germany and Japan.

Cologne bombed by 1,300 planes.

## June, 1942

- 7—Three Japanese Carriers sunk with all their planes reported by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz.
- 12—Molotoff, Soviet Secretary of Foreign Affairs,, and President Roosevelt plan for a second front.  
Japs land in Aleutians.  
U. S. planes bomb Rumania's oil field.
- 19—Prime Minister Churchill arrives for talks with Roosevelt.  
Stimson rules Joe Louis must complete basic training before having title bout.
- 22—Tobruk falls.
- 23—Joe Louis arrives at Fort Riley, Kansas.
- 26—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower takes up command in London.

## July, 1942

- 5—U. S. bombers hit Aleutians.
- 10—Army swears in first WAC group.
- 20—Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune inspects Negro WAC's at Fort Des Moines, Iowa.

## August, 1942

### September, 1942

- 92nd Division (infantry) activated at Fort McClellan, Ala.
- 3 colored soldiers, Julius Franklin, Charleston, S. C., Harvey Crandle, Grnaville, N. C., James Scott, Montgomery, Ala., awarded Soldielrs' Medal for heroism in saving liot's life in New Guinea.
- American Negro troops arrive in Egyptain threatre of operations.  
WPB orders plants to employ Negroes.
- Negro troops meets Japs at Port Moresby.
- Black soldiers face Rommel in North Africa.
- Hugh Mulzac, named captain of liberty ship Booker T. Washington.

## October, 1942

- Libert Ship Booker T. Washington, christened by Marian Anderson.
- Negro Red Cross workers arrive in London.
- British hail Negro U. S. troops in Liberia.
- Secretary of War Stimson declares 99th Pursuit Squadron is ready for action.
- Negro naval hero saves lives of 20 mates in Solomn Islands engagement. The hero was revealed as Charles J. French, Omaha, Neb.

## November, 1942

- United States Army, Navy and Air Forces started landing operations at numerous points on the shores of North Africa . . . Nov. 6.
- Algiers capitulates to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. German army occupies entire French territory in Europe.
- President Roosevelt signs bill drafting youths in 18-19 age groups.
- The "Legion of Merit" a new decoration announced by Secretary of War Stimson.
- Alcan highway completed.
- 3—Senator Bankhead (Ala) suggests that Army keep Negro troops in North.
- 9—Mohandas Ghandi arrested
- 11—American troops force landing on Solomons
- 13—Hampton Institute gets Negro bluejackets for advanced training.

## December, 1942

- Battle rages in Tunisia
- Allied ships and planes use Dakar.
- Sicily bombed.
- One year in World War II cost U.S. 58,307 casualties including 8,191 dead, 6,335 wounded.
- Allies smash foe at Gona, in New Britain Island. 15 French warships seized at Toulon.
- Cruiser San Francisco decorated for Solomons victory: first ship to win decoration in war.
- Allied planes batter Naples, Turin, Rome.
- 50,000 Senegalese ready to battle Germans; Felix Eboué, Negro Governor of Chad Province, French Equatorial Africa, defied Vichy government to support General De Gaulle. Fort Lamy described as the great "Allied Aerial Turntable" of Africa.
- Army-Navy announce use of Colleges for military training; V-12 program set-up in Negro Colleges. New U. S. gun turns tide for Allies in Libya.
- 27—New Liberty ship—SS Booker T. Washington praised by Capt. Hugh N. Mulzac, first Negro to command merchant ship; has mixed crew.

## January, 1943

- 2—Negro troops with American Expeditionary Forces in Italy receive high praise from General Dwight D. Eisenhower.
- 3—Mr Arthur announces Buna victory. Marines gain at Guadalcanal.
- 9—Rioting outbreak at Vallejo, Calif., said to have been caused by 'zoot-suiters'.



FEPC hearings involving railroads called off by War Manpower Commissioner Paul V. McNutt.  
Fortresses pound Bizerte.

Dr. George W. Carver, noted scientist, Tuskegee Institute, dies.

16—Judge William H. Hastie, civilian aide to the Secretary of War resigns. Reasons: "vacillating policy of Army Air Force" and "continued discrimination."

30—Cadets Clarence M. Davenport and Robert Tresville graduated from West Point, the latter into the Army Air Force.

—Roosevelt and Churchill with their staffs, map grand 1943 strategy at Casa Blanca, North Africa.

### February, 1943

6—President Roosevelt reviews famous 41st (Singing) Engineers in Liberia and gets hearty welcome from President Barclay who receives invitation to visit United States.

—American infantry drive Germans from Faid Pas (Tunisia).

—Eisenhower made supreme Allied commander in Africa.

—President orders 48 hour week in all war industries.

—Lt. Col. H. D. Queen named commander of 366th Infantry at Camp Devens. The 366th has a large complement of men from Washington, D. C.

—Truman K. Gibson, Jr., named to succeed Judge Wm. H. Hastie, as civilian aide to the Secretary of War.

War Department announced that there were 9,569 Negroes working in its civilian branches.

### March, 1943

—First contingent of Negro doctors and nurses arrive in North Africa. Engineers quit Liberia.

—Report—60,000 Negro troops on foreign soil.

—Fight on Anti-poll tax begins in Congress.

—Colored seamen aboard U.S.S. Boise win glory in battle of Guadalcanal.

—War Department predicts an army of 1,800,000 Negroes.

—Navy abolishes messman branch.

—'Work or fight' bills introduced in Congress.

### April, 1943

—Chaplain Luther Fuller exposes 'mistreatment of Negro soldiers in southwest Pacific.' Faces court-martial.

21 soldiers convicted for part in army riots at Phoenix, Arizona.

—Leonard Roy Harmon, Texas seaman, awarded Navy Cross for heroism in South Pacific.

- Fraternal Council of Negro Churches in America opens office in Washington, D. C., in order to assist in getting helpful legislation affecting all Negroes. The Council represents 11 denominations with a membership of over 6,000,000.
- Southern Negro leaders hold important racial unity conference at Atlanta, Ga.
- Tuskegee fliers transferred to Selfridge Field, Ill.
- First Negro soldiers arrive at Camp Tyson to start training at Barrage Balloon Training Center.
- Second Lieutenant Velma P. Owens becomes first Negro woman ever commissioned at Fort Benning, Ga. She is a Dietician.

### May, 1943

- Lieut. Wilmeth Sidat-Singh, attached to 332nd Fighter group at Selfridge Field, in a routine flight plunged to his death in Lake Huron.
- Inquiry by the House into the shooting of Pvt. William McRae by his commanding officer, Col. William T. Colman at Selfridge Field begun. The unwarranted affair after mass pressure by civic groups, resulted in his reduction in rank to Captain and final dismissal.
- Editors of Negro newspapers cover maneuvers of famous all-Negro 93rd Division in Louisiana, as guest of War Department.
- Imported Bahaman workers riot.  
First ship, The Marine Eagle, built by all-Negro labor at Sun Ship Yards in Chester, Pa.
- Destroyer escort vessel named in honor of mess attendant Leonard Harmon.
- President Barclay of Liberia arrives here, addresses Congress, is feted by notables in Washington, New York, et al.
- Anti-poll tax bill passed House 365-110.
- Captain Adrian Richardson, Negro, named captain of Liberty Ship S.S. Frederick Douglas.

### June, 1943

- President Roosevelt issues new edict for FEPC. Executive Order 9346 which add strength to old order 8802. Msgr. Francis J. Haas selected as Chairman of Committee.
- Judge Hastie awarded Spingarn Medal.  
“White Primary” case reaches U. S. Supreme Court for fourth time.
- NAACP holds Emergency Conference at Detroit, Mich. National Labor Relations Board ruled that pay schedule based on race are illegal.

18—99th Fighter Squadron in first test against German flyers. First blood drawn by Lieutenant Charles W. Dryden who damaged two German planes. This is the first time in the history of the United States that Negro pilots have ever been in combat. Secretary of War praises unit.

—Riots break out in Mississippi and Georgia. Camp Stewart a hot bed.

26—Rioting occurs in Detroit. 26 reported dead and 650 injured. Martial law established.

—Riots in Beaumont, Texas.

—Churchmen confer with President Roosevelt on questions vital to Negro.

### July, 1943

Lieut. Charles B. Hall, Brazil, Ind. becomes first Negro to actually shoot down an enemy plane. The action occurred over Sicily and his German opponent flew a Focke-Wulf 190.

—Liberty Ship named for John Merrick, founder of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Co.

—Investigation begins into causes of Detroit riot.

—6 soldiers injured in fight between Negroes and white M.P.'s War Dept. investigates.

—Congress votes to end National Youth Administration.

—Bishop John A. Gregg arrives in New Guinea as special emissary to war fronts from Fraternal Council of Negro Churches.

### August, 1943

—Harlem vandals run amuck—on Black Sunday.

—Liberty ship named in honor of Robert L. Vann, late publisher of Pittsburgh Courier.

—Michigan's governor blames rioting in Detroit on Negro Press.

—Pacific Parachute Company, owned by Negroes and doing war work awarded 1943 Spaulding award, by the National Negro Business League.

—In the South Pacific Negroes, serving in Infantry, Coast Artillery and Engineers. Port Battalion troops in India.

—Distinguished Service Cross awarded posthumously to Pvt. George Watsen, for meritorious behavior in South Pacific and received by his grandmother in Birmingham, Ala.

Sgt. Joe Louis starts tour of Army camps.

—Wendell Wilkie, defeated Republican presidential candidate, delivers nation-wide radio address on "Bill of Rights" for Negroes.

## September, 1943

- Lieut Col. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., commander of 99th Pursuit Squadron, returns to United States. from Sicily; succeeded by Capt. George S. Roberts.
- War Department confirms death of Lieut. Paul G. Mitchell and Charles S. Chisholm, both of Washington, D. C. and both pilots in the famous 99th. Killed in action in North Africa.
- 23 Railroads admit racial discrimination before FEPC hearing in Washington, D. C.
- 200 Negro soldiers and Roland Hayes, famous tenor, gave a 2-day concert with the London Symphony Orchestra; first of its kind ever given in the British Empire.
- 332nd Fighter Group—first All Negro U. S. Army unit skilled in skip bomb, dive bombing and general strafing . . . ready for action.
- War Department announces Negro cadets will learn how to handle B-26 airplanes and training of navigators and bombardiers.

## October, 1943

- Col. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., assumes command of the 332nd Fighter Group at Selfridge Field.
- Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson announces a change in training plans for Negro pilots because of a change in types of planes from B-26 to B-25. No other training changes contemplated for bombardiers and navigators except acceleration of program.
- President Roosevelt in a letter to the National Urban League's 33rd Annual Conference calls on the nation to practice what it preaches about the principles of democracy.
- Lieut. Clarence C. Jameson, Cleveland, Ohio member of 99th, killed in crash landing.
- Msg. Francis J. Haas, resigns as chairman of the FEPC.
- Liberty ship S.S. Frederick Douglas sunk by U-boat; Captain Adrian Richardson and crew saved.
- Liberty Ship Robert L. Vann launched in New England Shipbuilding yards in South Portland, Me.
- Malcolm Ross appointed new chairman of FEPC.
- John K. Caldwell, Kentucky, appointed by President Roosevelt as minister to Ethiopia, approved by Senate.
- Liberty Ship Paul Lawrence Dunbar launched.
- Ethiopia refuses to recognize Italy.
- Chicago surface lines hire first Negro street car motor-men.

## November, 1943

- FEPC holds hearings on charges of bias against West Coast Shipyards.
- First Negro WAC band makes debut at Des Moines, Iowa.
- Dr. W. H. Jernagin, Director, Washington Bureau, Fraternal Council of Negro Churches of America, forced from train in Virginia for refusing to enter Jim Crow car.
- Christopher Columbus Sheppard, cook, first class, Norfolk, Va., and Ernest Gardner, steward's mate 2-c, revealed as heroes on U.S.S. Borie in battle with Nazi submarines.
- Ethiopia forms strong alliance with Soviet Russia.
- FEPC finds railroads guilty of discrimination.
- Mark Rivers, Jr., 21, first Negro to gain rank of Corporal at West Point.
- 582, 681 Negroes in Army as of August 1, 1943.
- Abyssinia Baptist Church, Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Pr., pastor, celebrates 138 years of service.
- President Roosevelt insists that anti-discrimination clause be inserted in all U. S. contracts. This to refute Comptroller General, Lindsay Warren, who had said that Executive Orders were 'directives.'
- Blatta Ephrem Teweldi Medhem, Ethiopian minister to U. S. arrives to take up his duties in Washington.

## December, 1943

- Doris (Dorie) Miller reported missing in action.
- 64 Negro soldiers sentenced from one to five years at hard labor for 'unauthorized expedition.'
- Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin hold conference at Teheran; Discuss war and peace plans.
- Railroads defy FEPC—indicate non-compliance with order to resist discrimination.
- Navy promises upgrading to Negroes.
- S.S. James Weldon Johnson, another Liberty Ship in honor of famous Negroes, launched at Wilmington, Cal.
- Edgar T. Rouzeau, Pittsburgh Courier Correspondent returns from Africa.
- Negro Marines see combat in South Pacific—according to Fletcher Martin, NPA Pool Correspondent.
- Troopship sung in Pacific—reported by Vincent Tubbs  
—War correspondent for Afro-American Newspapers.
- Private W. Robert Ming, Jr., only private ever to argue a case before Supreme Court, represented Joseph E. Snowden v. Governor of Illinois, the State treasurer and the Secretary of State.

## January, 1944

Liberia declares war on Germany and Japan.

- Permanent FEPC urged by 45 organizations.  
555th Paratroop unit activated at Fort Benning, Ga.  
Sgt. Joe Louis and his party, end tour of boxing exhibitions on January 20, 1944. The tour started August 30, 1943.
- 99th Squadron since April 2, 1943 engaged in 236 missions of 1,156 sorties; lost 4 pilots, two by enemy action. 15 of original 28 pilots back in U. S. A.  
99th Squadron downs 12 Nazi planes in 2 days (January 27 and 28, 1944) in the vicinity of Nettuno, Italy.

## February, 1944

- Mitchell Billage, Federal Public Housing Authority Project opened at Tuskegee Army Air Field. The village is named in honor of Lieut. Paul Graham Mitchell of the 99th who was killed in action Sept. 11, 1943. 100 families will be housed in the project.
- By February 8, 1944, the 99th Pursuit Squadron had downed 16 planes in less than two weeks. Between Jan. 15-28, the Squadron made 231 effective sorties and dropped seven and one-half tons of bombs. Squadron casualties included one plane lost, two missing, and five damaged during this period.
- First Negro Navigation Cadets receive their wings Feb. 26, 1944 at Honod Army Air Field, Texas.  
555th Parachute Infantry Company makes their first jump on Feb. 5, 1944, at Fort Benning, Ga.
- Harry S. MrAlpin, Washington, D. C., becomes the first Negro White Correspondent. He represents the National Negro Publishers Association and the Atlanta Daily World. He attended his first press conference with the president Feb. 8, 1944.
- 23—Navy announces commissioning of Negroes as officers in U. S. Naval Reserve. The number of officers to receive commissions will be approximately 22. Twelve qualified enlisted men to serve as line officers, with the rank of Ensign. Ten professionally qualified to serve as staff officers, with the rank of Ensign or Lieutenant (junior grade), will be appointed from civilian life and have the following staff duties: Chaplain Corps, Dental Corps, Medical Corps, Civil Engineering Corps, and Supply Corps.
- 23—Navy Department announces the manning of two anti-submarine vessels by predominantly Negro crews. The two vessels are: a destroyer escort, with 160 Negroes and 44 whites; and a patrol chaser with 52 Negroes and 9 whites. The Navy anticipates making the crews entirely Negro eventually. Crews of both vessels will be specially trained.

# WHAT AM I FIGHTING FOR

(This article was adjudged one of the four best manuscripts submitted by men in our armed forces to the Servicemen's Christian League on the subject, What I am Fighting For, and is reprinted herewith because of its widespread use in Army camp papers)

What am I fighting for? Ask me why I was born; the same answer fits both questions. I'm fighting to live.

That document, which is almost religious in its simplicity, almost like a song in the beauty of its words, the American Declaration of Independence states my case accurately.

I was born with certain rights which are God-given and inalienable. Today, there are several men at large who would refuse me the free exercise of those rights. I am fighting those men. It's either them or me, and there are only two possible ways for this fight to end for me, sudden death or complete victory. And since there are millions more like me, there can be only one possible ending for those men—certain and utter defeat.

I am fighting because I don't like to believe everything I'm told, even if it is true. I want to be able to find out for myself. I demand my God-given right to make a damned fool of myself, to get my fingers burned and to learn, maybe, not to do the same thing the next time.

I am fighting because I like to believe that no man on God's green earth is any better than I am, physically, mentally, biologically or morally. I'm probably wrong a million times, but I don't want anybody to put me or my kids in a narrow social slot saying, "That's where we decide you belong."

I'm fighting because I like to feel that I am the government, just as much as a ward heeler or a President. I like to feel that my politicians can be "seen." I want to be in the game. I want to think that I can use my vote as a bludgeon or a baton, as my wisdom or my whimsy suits me, and I want to know that in the final analysis my vote does count as a candid expression of my own opinion. I want to be able to scorn the errors of big men. I want to argue at the polls and howl like a stuck pig when I pay high taxes.

I don't like order for its own sake. I want to enjoy the scolding or patient forbearance of my wife when I scatter my pipes or books or tools about the house. I feel that a certain amount of organized disorder is an index to a man's freedom.

But I do like a good batting average, high performance, well-used skill. And I want to be able to see the score and dam the umpires. The guys I'm fighting are against this.

I'm fighting for the right to go home where and when I choose; to go to any church I like; to join a labor union of my own choice and use the good old vote there too.

I want to read the books of my own choosing; to listen to music and see plays produced by artists who are good because they are artists who have something to say well, not because they are white-blooded Aryans.

I am fighting for the right to read my own newspaper and listen to my radio, secure in the knowledge that most of it is truth, some of it hokum and a little of it the kind of obvious lying that makes me mad enough to think straight.

I am fighting for the utter defeat of those men, so that never again, anywhere, will people with similarly warped minds have a chance to speak out of the mouth of the mob and bulldoze a nation into a fanatical belief in a nightmare scheme of world rule by them or world ruin for all.

For I believe as my father and his father believed, that a nation's destiny is the result of the bounty and freedom enjoyed by its people.

Those men use people as fuel for their engines of aggression. I am against the waste of generations of men on the barren fields of war. My country has always known that wars are wasteful. Those men have fooled their countries into believing that war is a good risk.

So I am fighting that never again will the enterprise of war be worth, for even the shortest time, the gain of conquest.

The only kind of aggressiveness I can appreciate is that shown by a salesman or a football player, and I want to be able to tell the salesman I don't like his product.

And finally I am fighting for the great privilege and duty of making the American dream a reality in my time.

—By Sergeant Frank G. Jennings.



# THE NEGRO SOLDIER

Excerpts from an Address

By

Brigadier General Benjamin O. Davis

At

Crispus Attucks High School

Indianapolis, Indiana

21 January 1944

. . . . . You are the parents, the relatives, the friends of these brave young people. The ties are very close. You are drawn together now in an expression of your pride that this community has assumed its appropriate share in the defense of ideals of liberty which have particular significance for our race and people.

These young people are your dearest possessions. You have given them freely. I know that each star in the flag which hangs here represents anxiety and heartache and sacrifice to some family. Yet it is only these stars, and the many others on similar flags in auditoriums such as this throughout the country, which guarantee that the 48 stars on the blue field of our Nation's flag may still shine forth in freedom.

This is total war. It has reached from foreign lands across both our protecting oceans to touch every phase of American life. No town has been too small to feel its influence. We do not need to have our cities devastated by attack from the sky to realize how urgent has been its threat to our entire civilization.

Colored men have gone out from our ports to man the lifeline of defense, and attack in distant places which were hardly names to us when the Japs struck at Pearl Harbor. New Guinea and Guadalcanal, Pantelleria and Gela on the shore of Sicily—these have become words which live in glory because Americans, colored as well as white, spent their blood there in defense of their country.

Last August 31—and no later figures have been announced—153,800 colored soldiers were serving overseas, which represents more than one quarter of the total number of colored soldiers in the Army.

On that same date, the War Department announced that the total number of colored persons in the Army, including officers, enlisted men, nurses, warrant officers, hospital dietitians, physical therapy aides, and members of the Women's Army Corps, was 582,861.

Of this colored personnel, 57,323 were in the Infantry, 58,328 in the Coast and Field Artillery, 92,171 were in the Engineers, and 9,750 were in the Cavalry. The remaining 360,000 were in the other arms and services—Army Air Forces, Chemical Warfare Service, Quartermaster Corps, Armored Command, which is Tanks, Tank-Destroyer Command, and Medical Corps.

There were 4,386 Colored Commissioned Officers. Of that number, 395 were Medical Corps Officers, 67 were Dental Corps Officers, 158 were Chaplains, and there were 202 nurses.

I mention these figures, because I believe that on such an occasion as this it is fitting to examine the great contribution which colored people are making to the powerful army we have created to meet the challenge of the Nazi and the Jap. And I hope that in this process I may contribute to your understanding of the many-sided army in which so many of our men and women are serving and fighting.

I have been a soldier all my life, and the army is my life. I take pride in it and I like to see others filled with that same sense of pride. There has been plenty of reason for enormous pride in the exploits of our young men during the past two years of battle. Colored soldiers were among the first to go out, both across the Pacific and across the Atlantic. There is not a major expeditionary force overseas today which does not contain colored troops.

Let me tell you about some of them. Over in New Guinea last Spring, Brigadier General Hanford C. Macnider paraded the troops on the occasion of the first anniversary of the landing of American soldiers on that embattled island. A colored General Service Engineer Regiment which had seen service under fire had the distinction of leading the parade, because it had been the first American unit to arrive in the Spring of 1942.

Speaking to the assembled officers, noncoms and enlisted men of the Unit, General Macnider said, and I quote, "Fellow soldiers, a year ago today when you stepped ashore as the first American troop unit in New Guinea you were making history. You've been making it ever since. You've had a part in the building and upkeep of all our air fields, and thus you've helped make possible the destruction of the convoy in the Bismarck Sea, the flying of the infantry over the mountains, a hundred enemy actions.

"You've contributed your share to every crack we've taken at the Japs," General Macnider continued. "You've built the causeways and the docks, even unloaded the ships so we could eat and fight. You've built roads and the mains

which bring us water and the lines which give us our light and power. Some of you have been to war with the tanks. You know all about bombs, from hanging them on planes to having them hung on you."

And then General Macnider gave these men his highest praise. He said, "You're one of the workingest outfits in this man's army. All of us over here are proud of you. All American will be proud of you when your record gets into the histories."

Yes, all Americans are proud of an outfit which calls forth such a commendation as that.

Or let me tell you about the four colored soldiers—Infantrymen, these were—who were awarded the Legion of Merit, our country's newest decoration, for acts of heroism they performed in Guadalcanal last March 27. The citation tells the story, and I should like to read it to you:

"For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services on March 27, 1943, at Guadalcanal, by leaving the comparative safety afforded by a slit trench and advancing some 250 yards over open terrain, exposed to bombing from an enemy air raid, in order to assist in evacuating casualties. This undertaking was accomplished although enemy action continued, causing impenetrable dust, and confusion prevailed. Exceptional coolness and efficiency during exposure to danger were displayed while evacuating the wounded."

Let me highlight the picture just a little for you. Here are four enlisted men, one a Private First Class and the others Privates, lying in a slit trench where they had sought shelter when the alarm was given. As the citation says, they were comparatively safe there. Except for a direct hit—when no one can protect himself—these men did not need to expose themselves.

But there were other soldiers nearby who were not so fortunate. The bombs that missed the slit trench where these four lay sought some of their comrades. Then, disregarding the danger to themselves, the Private First Class and his three companions left their shelter. I have no doubt that some of the wounded men they helped to evacuate owe their lives to the courage and unselfish action of these four men.

Not long ago, the 450th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion had the honor of being cited by the Commanding General of the Fifth Army in Italy, Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark, for "outstanding performance of duty."

This battalion was the first American colored combat

force to land on European soil, and it had been the first American colored combat force to land in North Africa.

The action which drew forth General Clark's praise happened in the harbor of Naples, even before the Unit had gone ashore. The troops were still aboard their ships when German bombers began a night attack on the American craft massed in the bay.

On board one vessel, the soldiers had been selected to man 40 MM. weapons that were part of the ship's armament. Because of the position of the hostile aircraft, the main anti-aircraft defenses of the ship could not be maneuvered to produce effective fire. But the men of the 450th could. An enemy bomber was picked up by searchlight, and the American crew began pumping shells at this target. Three hits were observed, and the third seemed to tear off the right wing of the Nazi plane. The bomber crashed into the sea.

During this same action, on a nearby ship that was carrying part of the men and equipment of this battalion, Master Sergeant Johnson Clark of Detroit, jumped into a truck which was lashed to the deck and opened fire at a second bomber with a .50 calibre machine gun mounted on the cab. The Nazi, struck by Clark's shots and by other fire being put up from the ship, crashed into the sea.

That is the type of quick thinking and quick shooting which warms the hearts of Americans. The bravery and accuracy of fire demonstrated by those colored troops definitely weakened the enemy's raid on important harbor shipping.

General Clark left no question of his own high opinion of these troops. In commending them he said, and I quote: "I am proud of the outstanding performance of duty of these soldiers in this baptism of fire. Their conduct was excellent and reflects the training and discipline of their unit. The Fifth Army welcomes such soldiers."

But the 450th was just beginning its exploits that night in Naples harbor. Not long afterwards we heard more about its men from a post somewhere in the front lines, and it was the same gun section that had accounted for the two bombers.

Another Detroit man, Sergeant Herbert C. Tyler, is its section chief. One afternoon an excited Italian farmer came running up to him, waving his arms wildly and pointing to a culvert about 800 yards from the position occupied by the section's gun. I don't believe Sergeant Tyler had much of any idea what the Italian said, but it didn't take him long to realize what he meant—trouble.

He picked up his Tommy-gun, ordered three of his men to follow with their rifles, and led the group to the culvert. Before long, they were back with four German prisoners, who had surrendered without a struggle. But hidden in the culvert with them, these fellows had assembled a vast stock of mines, grenades, carbines, and TNT. Later it was brought out that they were sent on a mission of sabotaging army material. By quick and fearless action these four enlisted men of the 450th had neatly upset their plans.

I am a little reluctant to speak of the 99th Fighting Squadron—Not, I hasten to say, because I do not take great pride in its achievements, but because during its operations from North African bases and later from bases established in Sicily last summer, my son, Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., had the honor of being its commanding officer.

But in this case, I feel that modesty should be overruled in favor of a word about the service of this Squadron, which first saw action during the early days of June in dive-bombing attacks on the Italian Island of Pantelleria. This was after the capitulation of the Germans and Italians in North Africa, you remember, but previous to the landings on Sicily.

It was on June 18, that a flight of six planes from the 99th first encountered enemy planes. Over Pantelleria they met a force of twelve German FW-190s protecting bombers bent on raiding Allied garrisons which, by that date, had taken over the island. Ten more German fighters hovered upstairs, flying over. In this baptism of fire, the 99th gave a praise-worthy account of itself. The American colored pilots parried the Nazi thrust and caused the other planes to retreat with two of the Germans damaged. The 99th suffered no losses.

During a bomber escort mission to Sciacca, Italy, the squadron accounted for its first enemy plane. On that date, the 99th was flying close escort for our bombers, absorbing all of the attack of more than 20 ME-109s, MACCHI 202s and FW-190s. The Americans lost two of their planes, but Captain Charles B. Hall of Barzil, Indiana, downed the first plane credited to a colored pilot. After the ships returned, General Eisenhower himself visited the airfield where the squadron was based and personally congratulated Captain Hall on his victory.

These few episodes, taken from the Army's records, are in the pattern of service which colored troops are performing on every American battlefront. But the Army is not all fighting. And before ever a man gets into combat there are many long—sometimes weary—months of training before he has accomplished that necessary transition from civilian to soldier.

That transition means far more than the exterior change of putting on a uniform. The uniform is his outward evidence of the new life to which he has dedicated himself. But his real dedication is a matter of the spirit.

To many men who pass through the processes of Selective Service and are sent to their first camp, I am afraid the army may seem for a time to offer a strange and sometimes unreasonable life. This is as true of the white man as of the colored man, but I have often felt that there are prejudices and resentments, grown out of old experience, which make the colored man somewhat more apprehensive of what is in store for him when he enters army life.

Without comment on the merits of these prejudices, I should like to point out some of the distortions and anxieties which they may create in the minds of parents back home when they are sifted through the letters which the new trainee may write.

The most important attribute of the soldier is a strong, healthy body. It must be trained to such a fiber of toughness as few civilians ever acquire. A healthy body is the soldier's first shield and resource. Without it, he can never surmount the hardships of enemy action in difficult terrain. The calisthenics, the drilling, the gradually stiffening marches and bivouacs under the open sky are not designed by the army for the purpose of making him uncomfortable. Some day, on some far field, he may bless them, for they are the source of his strength to endure.

War is not a soft thing. Even in such mechanized warfare as this, in the last analysis it is the soldier's strength which wins the battle. He may ride to battle in a truck, but he will fight on his feet, and his feet had better be good.

There are many complaints in letters back home during the first weeks of training. Do not take them too seriously. These men are just beginning to find aching muscles which they had never known existed before. They are beginning to know fatigue, but they have not yet mastered it. They are learning instant obedience to orders, but they have not yet discovered that this, again, is not some unreasonable compliance which the army demands, but is the basis of success in battle.

Battles move swiftly, relentlessly. There is no time to question, to argue a little, to consider whether you will obey when a commanding officer issues an order. He who hesitates may well have lost his life before he makes up his mind, and the disciplined soldier learns that instant obedience is both necessary and wise. Gradually the spirit of the soldier

is born during these months of training. A man acquires pride in himself, pride in his outfit, pride in the army, pride in his country which this army represents.

Many men will return to civilian life far better equipped to serve useful lives for what they have learned in the army. The army has need for many skills, and there are not enough who possess them to fill the need. So the army has instituted its many technical schools at which trades and skills are taught which will be as useful in civilian life later on as they are now in combat.

Many men, too, are learning for the first time through their army experience how to read and write and count money and approach the ordinary experiences of life with confidence. Illiterates who pass certain tests are inducted and then incorporated into special training units where these rudiments of education are taught. A large number of colored men are now undergoing this type of training, many from the agricultural regions of the South where they have never before had opportunities for schooling. To these lives, the army will have added incomparably. Upon the basis of learning which they are acquiring, they may move forward to knowledge which was beyond their reach before.

Army experience is also cutting the rate of venereal disease. Although initially the army would not accept a man with venereal disease, the regulation was changed sometime ago so that men were accepted first with uncomplicated cases of gonorrhoea and more recently with uncomplicated cases of syphilis. Inductees infected with venereal disease are sent to hospitals at the Reception Centers where they undergo treatment. From these centers they are assigned to various units of the army in the same manner as other soldiers.

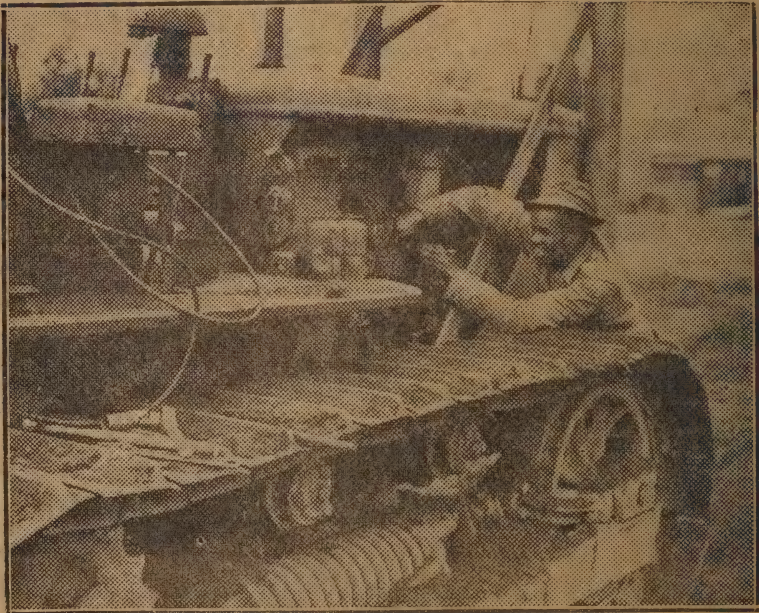
These facts should convince you that the army experience, on the whole, is not a life to be looked upon with apprehension. It is hard, it is tough sometimes. It must be, to prepare us for these grim months we are facing. No weaklings will come through them easily. But before he has finished his army career, a man acquires a new respect for himself.

Colored soldiers are honored members of the army. Guarding them—and all soldiers—against local prejudice, army justice operates to protect their interests when they may have been led astray in civilian communities.

I do not know that it is generally known, but the commanding officer of a soldier arrested in a civilian community is directed to ask the civilian authorities to surrender him for trial.

Not all such requests are honored, for a soldier, as well as a civilian, is under civil jurisdiction when he leaves the boundaries of his army post. But in those instances where civilian authorities do not comply, the refusal is transmitted to the War Department. Additional requests are made. The result is often—though not always—the surrender of the soldier to the custody of his commanding officer, to face the unprejudiced justice of military law.

I have said that I feel honored to be here. I want to repeat it. To the relatives and friends, I should like to offer my congratulations on the young men and women to whom you are dedicating this service flag. In such evidence of our single-minded devotion to one great cause lies the strength of this Nation. Victory will be ours. We cannot fail. You may read it in these stars.



Bureau of Public Relations, U. S. War Department

**COMMENDED FOR EFFICIENCY**—Master Sergeant Alphonse Perry, 34 Culver Street, Yonkers, New York, motor sergeant for an Engineer aviation battalion that is constructing airdromes in England, has been commended for the excellent manner in which he has handled the repair section of the battalion. (Photo U. S. Army Signal Corps).



## ***Soldiers Work For Record As Bombs Pound Sands At Anzio***

With The Fifth Army, Italy—Veterans of two campaigns in the Mediterranean theatre, three Negro soldiers who landed on the Fifth Army's Anzio-Nettuno beach-head early on the morning of invasion day, are working toward a record as champion ammunition loaders.

By the time the first enemy planes flew over the beach-head, the men had already loaded several trucks. And since that time they have withstood a score or more of enemy bombings.

"Some of the raids here are so quick there's no time to take cover," said Sergeant McKinley Horton, team leader, of 1933 Columbia Avenue, Philadelphia. Pa. "We just keep on working. And so far none of the bombs have hit any of the trucks we've loaded with ammunition, although they have hit the sands near us."

Working with Sergeant Horton are two other Philadelphians, Private Herman House, of 528 North 31st Street, and Private John Tucker, of 1014 South 20th Street. The soldiers have been overseas since April, 1943, and have been working 12 to 14 hours a day as an efficient team.

"Our present ambition," says Private House, "is to be the fastest team on the beach because then we know we are delivering more bombs to the



**LEGION OF MERIT** is the award recently presented to Staff Sergeant John M. Lewis, Jr., member of the 318th Antiaircraft Barrage Balloon Battalion at Camp Tyson, Tennessee, for his part in bringing to justice a ring of marijuana peddlers. Staff Sergeant Lewis is from Camden, New Jersey. (Photo by U. S. Army Signal Corps.)

enemy. We clock ourselves whenever we have the opportunity and figures on what we accomplish would seem amazing."

## *Lieutenant Has Many "Firsts" During His Army Career*

Lieutenant Shelton Reed, Columbus, Georgia, assigned to the 92nd Signal Company, Fort Huachuca, has the distinction of being the first Negro graduate of the Signal Corps Officer Candidate

craft Warning Company in the United States Army.

In addition, he was the first Negro officer to go on duty at the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., reporting for duty there on August 19, 1942, where he remained until he left on an overseas assignment.

Lieutenant Reed spent most of his Army career at Fort Benning, Georgia, with the 24th Infantry. He has held every enlisted grade from private to master sergeant, and had been permanently promoted to the latter rating at the time of his entrance to Officer Candidate School.

While at Fort Benning, he served for 11 years as Post Exchange manager, six years as battalion sergeant major and five years as court reporter.

In addition, he was first sergeant of the 24th Infantry band for six months, communications chief for two years and personnel sergeant for three years.



Lieutenant Shelton Reed

School at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey.

That, however, was not the only "first" destined to be achieved by Lieutenant Reed. Shortly after graduation, he was assigned to the Tuskegee Army Air Field, Alabama, where he organized and commanded the first Negro Air-



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**CAMP DEVENS, MASSACHUSETTS**—Lieutenant Colonel Howard D. Queen, Washington, D. C., commanding the 366th Infantry, looks over a bust of himself, sculptured by Staff Sergeant William E. Artis, Washington, North Carolina.



**2nd LT. ETHEL C. JOHNSON**  
 Setauket, N. Y.



**1st LT. SUSAN E. FREEMAN**  
 Stratford, Conn.

## *Sergeant Is Fifth Army's Most "Air Travelled" Ground Soldier*

With The Fifth Army, Italy—Perhaps the most "air travelled" ground soldier in the Fifth Army is Technical Sergeant William C. "Bill" Cheney, of Williamsburg, Virginia, who currently is having his full share of adventure and excitement.

One of the proudest members of the "Clark family" in Italy, the 49-year-old enlisted "aide" works, he says proudly, "For the finest chief on earth"—Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark, commander of the Fifth Army.

And Sergeant Cheney's job is an enviable one. He has toured thousands of miles with General Clark on land, in the air and on the sea. He joined the General's entourage in 1941, and believes he has kept his promise to Mrs. Clark to take good care of the General.

Besides meeting high-ranking officers in the Fifth Army, Sergeant Cheney is a familiar figure to the principal Allied leaders in the European and North African theaters.

He has numerous "first," being the first Negro American soldier to fly to Algiers (he landed with the Fifth Army commander and his aides at the Algiers airport amidst flak and heavy bombing as German planes made their first raid on North Africa) and later, a passenger on one of the first ships to plough its way into the Gulf of Salerno.

But the sergeant has an indelible impression of the landings at Salerno. Early on invasion day (September, 1943) Sergeant Cheney witnessed the battle for the Salerno beachhead from the headquarters ship, nerve center of the invasion fleet. He was shaken up by the concussion of exploding bombs as they raked the water near the ship.

He saw sleek ships pay a last hurried call to Davy Jones' Locker, and was standing nearby when an Italian submarine came up to surrender to the Allies.

He saw Nazi dive bombers speed to the attack and then cheered lustily when some of them swirled down into the sea, leaving black ribbons of smoke steaming behind them. And on the shore, he witnessed the crack and roll and thunder of the invasion battle in all its fury. This was Sergeant Cheney's greatest adventure.

Sergeant Cheney goes along on most of General Clark's longer trips, but he recalls there's one that he missed. It was the General's secret mission to North Africa just before the landings at Oran. The Sergeant remembers that his chief made a rapid exit from his London hotel one October morning (1942) but he figured it was only a routine trip. When news of the secret mission broke, Sergeant Cheney tho' proud of his chief's accom-

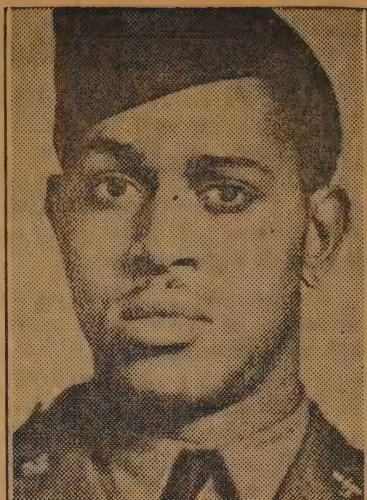
plishment, felt a bit hurt because he hadn't been invited to go along.

A bit weary of the life in London, where he had been stationed for several months, Sergeant Cheney had visions of remaining a London soldier while all the travel and excitement fell to the General. But those visions lasted only a short time, for a few days later he was headed for Gibraltar in a Flying Fortress.

"As soon as the General heard that the first airfield was taken at Algiers," Sergeant Cheney said, "We ran to our plane and were off in a cloud of dust. Then, after the Mediterranean flight, we had to fight our way into the Algiers field, Boy, that was a tough air raid, but the General didn't bat an eyelash!"

After serving for 14 months in North Africa and Italy, Sergeant Cheney has forgotten all about London and his hotel "soldiering." Now he's bivouacked in a tent along a lower ridge of the Appenines, from which he sloshes through the deep mud to the General's field quarters.

Although he has been honored with introductions to plenty of "gold braid" since coming overseas, all of Sergeant Cheney's acquaintances aren't confined to general officers. He has 17 years' service to his credit in the Army, most of which was spent in the cavalry. A woolly, untamed horse named "Tex" was his mount, and he has been tossed about by "Tex" more times than he has ex-



**SERGEANT HERBERT C. TYLER**

Sergeant Herbert C. Tyler, of 1031 Dubois Street, Detroit, Michigan, is section chief of a gun crew of a 40 mm. (Bofors) antiaircraft artillery battalion in Italy which is credited with the shooting down of two German planes and the capture of four Nazi prisoners. His battalion, the 450th Antiaircraft Artillery (Automatic Weapons) Battalion, is the first Negro combat organization to go into action on European soil. (Photo by U. S. Army Signal Corps.)

tended a hand to meet another general.

Before his days with "Tex" Sergeant Cheney was a cook in a hotel at Daytona Beach, Florida. The mess sergeant's course taken at Fort Slocum, New York, helped him then, as it does now when he sometimes steps into the General's kitchen to give a hand to the cooks, Corporal Lloyd Gist, 2359 8th Avenue, New York City, New York, and Corporal Hershel G. Baker, 324 3rd Street, Las Vegas, Nevada.

# EUROPEAN THEATER

With Fifth Army In Italy—Negro troops of Uncle Sam's fighting forces are "winning their spurs" in the battle for Italy. They were right up in front when Lieutenant General Mark Clark's Fifth Army overran the toe of the Italian boot and fanned out in the direction of Rome. They had front seats in the Sicilian campaign and were much in the thick of things in Africa.

Stories trickling back from the front reveal interesting anecdotes in connection with our soldiers. One concerns Staff Sergeant Milton Winkley, of Dallas, Texas, who was hit in the arm by German shrapnel at Gafsa in Tunisia. When asked by Major General Omar N. Bradley why he did not go to a hospital, his answer was: "It doesn't make good sense to me to quit working just because of a little hole in the arm when there is so much to be done." Winkley has been awarded the Purple Heart.

## Complain About Dull Routine

Complaining about the dull routine of their lives, three members of a Quartermaster battalion, suddenly found their "tedious" lives crammed with excitement.

Corporal George Baskerville, of 2239 Harlan Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Private First Class Clarence Swan, of 2 Flessler Place, Montclair, New Jersey, and Private First Class John Webb, of Oxford, North Carolina, stood on the sleek deck of a troopship on their way to invade Italy. They talked about their uneventful trip from the United States to North Africa last November and then started complaining about how uninteresting life had been for them since then.

"Wow!" said Corporal Baskerville, pointing to a geyser which suddenly rose close to the side of a ship in front of them. Soon there was a deafening explosion followed shortly by the command "Abandon Ship!"

Baskerville and Swan did what they could; they helped the sailors lower one of the lifeboats. Webb assisted with the rope ladder. Things went along smoothly.

It wasn't long before they were picked up by an English destroyer. Transfer to an American minesweeper followed, and soon they were aboard a British transport, finally to be placed ashore.

Private First Class Webb, who furnishes the humor for the trio, believes he has something to boast to his wife about. "At last we got something to talk about," he said. "The dull routine is broken. And I just know my wife, Mrs. Ruth M. Webb, who is a member of the Women's Army Corps at Fort Knox, Kentucky, won't have any experiences to equal mine."

## *Three Pile Up 111 Years Service In War Department*

Washington, D. C.—When William Phillips Robinson, chief messenger in the office of Under Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson, completed 44 years of service in the War Department on October 22, it was appropriately noted that two other federal employees were about to chalk up a combined total of 67 years on government jobs.

One of a large number of brothers and sisters, Robinson came to Washington from his native Richmond in 1892. His career in the War Department began on October 22, 1899, and very soon after he was assigned to the office of the Assistant Secretary of War. He became Chief Messenger quickly and moved up when the office of Under Secretary of War was created in 1941.

### **Recalls General Eisenhower**

Robinson recalls General Eisenhower as a young major in the Under Secretary's office. His eyes grow bright and he grins reflectively when he recalls "the Major." "Always knew he was going ahead," he says. "Well, he surely is going ahead in Italy these days, and he's going to go farther."

Robinson has served under more than a dozen Assistant Secretaries of War: Robert S. Oliver, Henry Breckenridge, William M. Ingraham, Benedict Crowell, William R. Williams, Jonathan Wainwright, Dwight F. Davis, Hanford MacNider, Charles Burton Robbins, Patrick J. Hurley, Frederick H. Payne, Harry H. Woodring, Louis A. Johnson, and Robert P. Patterson, now Under Secretary of War. Three—Mr. Davis, Mr. Rurley and Mr. Woodrunk — became Secretaries of War.

Personalities whose portraits occupied the place of honor in the halls of three temporary government buildings are Henry Coates, Jr., and Verner E. Bogan who have worked for the Quartermaster Corps for 37 and 30 years respectively.

### **Assigned To Canal Zone**

During his 37 years with the government, Henry Coates, Jr., has served in many capacities, including an assignment to the Canal Zone. Present working with the Fuels and Lubricants Division, he entered federal service in 1904 through a temporary appointment with the Library of Congress, later going to the Ordnance Bureau of the War Department. In 1908 he transferred to the Office of the Commissary General when the two departments were consolidated in 1911.

Coates is a native of La Plata, Maryland, and has lived in and around Washington all his life.

Appointed to the War Department from Civil Service register in 1913, Verner E. Bogan was assigned to the Mail and Records Division of the Office of the Quartermaster General. He is a native of Kentucky, and came to Washington in 1913 to accept a position in the War Department.

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**ARAWÉ, NEW BRITAIN.**—A Negro anti-aircraft unit goes into action near Arawé, New Britain. While the other crew members calculate the range and aim the gun, Technician Fifth Grade Jeff Stevenson, of Meridian, Mississippi, and Corporal John Meridian slip a shell into the breach of the weapon. (Photo by U. S. Army Signal Corps.)



## NEGROES HAVE WON MANY HONORS IN THIS WAR

In the current global war the Negro has definitely established himself in the hierarchy of distinguished soldiers. Pvt George Watson, of Birmingham, Ala., received the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in the Southwest Pacific on March 8, 1943.

For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services at Guadalcanal on March 27, 1943, four Negro youths received the Legion of Merit. They were Pfc. Ben W. Pettis, Senatobia, Miss.; Pvt. Jesse Harris, Tuskegee, Ala.; Pvt. Verna C. Neal, Ruleville, Miss., and Pvt. Henry Smith, Jr., Good Pine, La.

### Awarded Silver Star

Sgt. Charles M. Baynes, of Chicago, was awarded the Silver Star for heroic conduct exhibited on June 26, 1943, near an Algerian air base. Another Silver Star award went to Pvt. Mack B. Anderson, of Brenham, Texas, for bravery in India in 1942.

Many others have been honored in this war, their awards ranging from the Distinguished Service Cross to the Good Conduct Medal.

Between the years 1862 and 1926, soldiers serving in all-Negro outfits were awarded 31 Congressional Medals of Honor and 57 Distinguished Service Crosses. Since the War Department record of those honored makes no reference to race, it is presumed that there are others.

First authorized by act of Congress in 1862, the Medal of Honor, often referred to as the Congressional Medal of Honor because it was "presented in the name of Congress," is the highest decoration awarded by the United States Government.

The Distinguished Service Cross, the next highest honor, was instituted by executive order in January, 1918, and confirmed by Congress July 9, 1918.

First instance in history of the award of the Medal of Honor to a Negro was in 1863 when Sgt. William H. Carney, Company C, 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry, received the honor for conspicuous gallantry at Fort Wagner, South Carolina, on July 18 of that year.

### Heroic Soldier

The citation stated, in part, that "when the sergeant was shot down, the soldier grasped the flag, led the way to the parapet, and planted the colors thereon. When the troops fell back he brought off the flag, under a fierce fire in which he was twice severely wounded."

And so down through the years the number of Negroes who have won acclaim for valor has become legion.



Released by U. S. War Department, Bureau of Public Relations

**BERLIN-BOUND "BLOCK BUSTERS"**—In the midst of a driving snow storm a crane crew of the Eighth Air Force "somewhere in England" headed by Sergeant Antonio Johnson, of San Antonio, Texas (left) maneuvers a 2,000-pound "block buster" into the last truck of a large convoy being loaded. Others pictured at work are Corporal Clarence Brixter, of Chicago, Illinois; Corporal Horace Hines, of Birmingham, Alabama; Private Rome McGee, of Collins, Georgia; Private Arthur Franklin, of Detroit, Michigan; Corporal Marvin Thomas, of St. Louis, Missouri, and Private Jesse Eagle, of New Rochelle, New York. (Photo by U. S. Army Air Forces.)

## *Awarded The Soldier's Medal*

For heroic action which resulted in the saving of a burning P-38 Lightning fighter plane of the Fifteenth Army Air Force in the North African Theater, First Sergeant Oliver Keyes of Kurtwood, La., was awarded the Soldiers' Medal. The action took place August 29, 1943.

The General Order announcing the award to First Sergeant Keyes stated in part:

"On August 29, 1943, a P-38 caught fire while crash landing . . . and blocked the entire runway. Observing four other aircraft circling the field unable to land and learning that they were low on gasoline, First Sergeant Keyes immediately drove to the blazing plane and attempted to extinguish the flames.

"Although he was warned by the pilot to stand back as an explosion was imminent, this enlisted man continued his efforts and managed to subdue the flames sufficiently so that he could attach a short tow chain. He then pulled the still burning airplane off the runway with a half-truck and helped to put out the fire.

"The quick action and personal resourcefulness displayed by First Sergeant Keyes not only made possible the subsequent landing of four other planes, but also saved from destruction an aircraft which had been given up as lost. By his unflinching devotion to duty and unusual initiative, he has reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed forces of the United States."

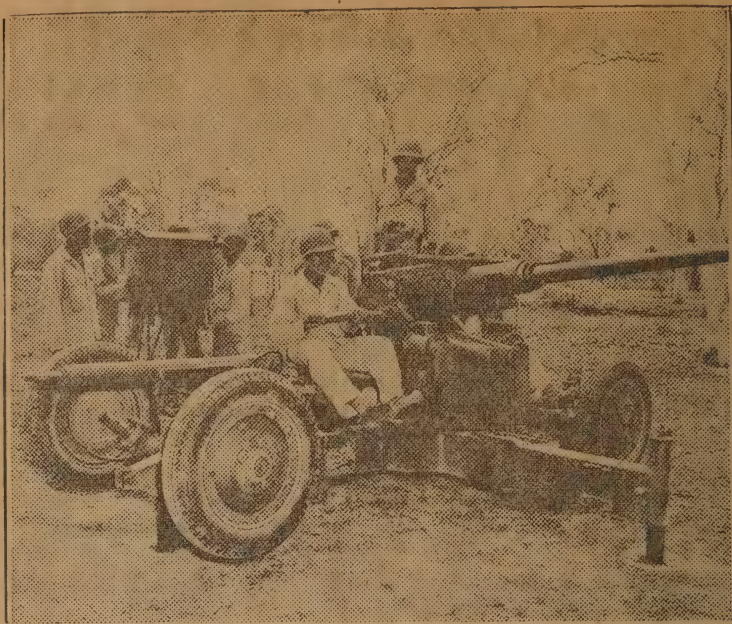
## *Squad Sets World Record*

In a routine demonstration of the 4.2-inch chemical mortar for Army officers, five Negro soldiers of the Fifth Chemical Company recently established a new record for speed, the War Department reported. The five man squad fired 20 rounds in 32 seconds. The 4.2-inch mortar is used to fire both smoke and high explosive shells.

The squad was composed of Sgt. Arthur Hayes, Port Arthur, Texas; Private First Class Charlie Wilson, Ward, Ala.; Private First Class Edward James, Chicago, Ill.; Private First Class Moses Oliver, Summerton, So. Carolina; and Private T. P. Warren, Fort Pierce, Florida.

### **First of 368th to receive Distinguished Cross**

Lieutenant Robert Lee Campbell, 368th Infantry, 92nd Division was among the first of a long list of Negro soldiers to receive the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action.



Released by U. S. War Department, Bureau of Public Relations

**NORTHERN AUSTRALIA**—A Negro anti-aircraft unit is now training for action in General Douglas MacArthur's offensive against the Japanese, which is pushing the American "bomber line" and bases northward. Sergeant Frank Flowers is directing operations of this Bofors 40 mm. AA gun. (Photo by U. S. Army Signal Corps.)

### **One of the 'Jones Boys'**

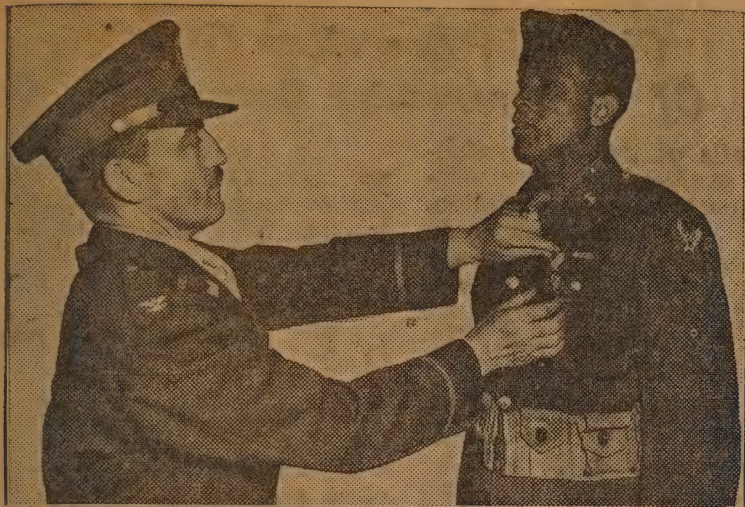
Captain Richard L. Jones, former vice-president and General Manager of a large department store on Chicago's Southside, a veteran of the first World War, is a Special Service Officer at Camp Ellis, Illinois.

He is credited with assisting the establishment of the first Negro owned bank in Louisville, Kentucky.

### **FIRST MAN TO BE KILLED IN THIS WAR**

The honor of being the first to die for his country in the Pacific Theater of Operations was a Negro. This fact was uncovered by the Press Branch of the War Department through published reports of the attack on the Philippines in 1941.

Brooks Field, parade ground at Fort Knox, Kentucky, is named in his honor. His name is Private Robert H. Brooks, Josephine, Kentucky, son of Roy Brooks, a Negro farmer, who now resides at Sadiesville, Ky. He enlisted in the infantry, March 15, 1941, and was killed December 8, 1941, in the Philippines, the first American casualty in this war.



**WINS SOLDIER'S MEDAL**—Private James H. Burnam, 325 West Hickman Street, Winchester, Kentucky, is shown receiving soldier's medal from his commanding officer, Colonel Ewart G. Plank, of Washington, D. C., at ceremonies conducted in England.



**FINAL BREAK-THROUGH ON ALCAN HIGHWAY**—Corporal Refines Sims, Jr., of Philadelphia, Pa., (left) and Private Alfred Jalufka of Kennedy, Texas, shake hands where their bulldozers met.

## *Chaplain Describes Feats Of Quartermaster Battalion*

Details of the accomplishments credited to his all-Negro Quartermaster battalion, which has seen service in North Africa and Italy, were reported by Chaplain (Captain) Edward A. Freeman, of 901 Park Avenue, S.E., Atlanta, Georgia.

In assisting the establishment of the initial breach in the German fortress wall by amphibious forces, the battalion was strafed, bombed and shelled day and night, according to Chaplain Freeman.

From draft vessels streaking ashore under hails of fire from high-ground German positions, the Quartermaster unit kept ammunition, fuel, vehicles, food and water moving up constantly in support of combat elements.

"The record of my unit," Chaplain Freeman wrote proudly, "has gained them commendations of higher headquarters, and is one which reflects great honor upon these men whose civilian abilities ranged from common laborers to the higher professions.

"A few graves have been left behind as well as a sprinkling of Purple Hearts throughout the battalion. The men have labored under conditions favorable and unfavorable, pleasant and unpleasant, but in all they have made the adjustments and worked on.

"Too much emphasis cannot be attached to the contribution being made by Negro troops. With soldiers of other races the Negro soldier is sharing equitably in the purchasing price of the democratic way of life for all peoples."

Assigned one year ago to the Quartermaster Battalion, Chaplain Freeman embarked on a several thousand mile pursuit when the unit left camp 12 hours before his arrival. He rejoined the outfit overseas when, quite by chance, he found it in bivouac near the unit to which he was temporarily attached.

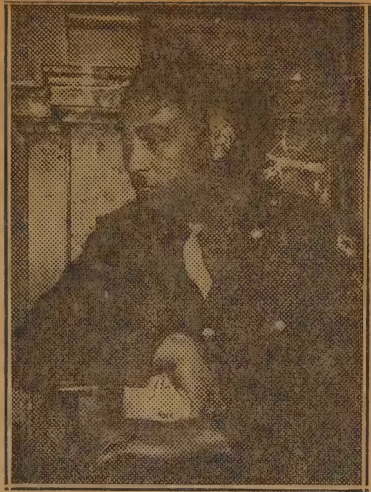
Overseas, the battalion acted in various military capacities, the Chaplain explained. As a port battalion it unloaded supplies and packed them in warehouses until ready for use. As a gas supply company it unloaded hundreds of gallons of gasoline into smaller containers for convenient usage by front line troops. As a railhead company it sorted rations, broke them into balanced proportions for each soldier, and segregated the stocks for handy distribution at all hours, day or night.

Members of the unit did guard duty at depots and other installations, drove and maintained vehicles, acted as checkers in loading and unloading at docks, worked on labor details, and as engi-

neers built and maintained roads under fire. The battalion mess prepared a complete holiday dinner of turkey, with accessories, and served it within 26 hours to fighting troops during lulls in combat.

The sports activities of the Q.M. Battalion, culminating in the winning of the baseball championship at Oran, enhanced the morale of the men considerably, said Chaplain Freeman. It was an indirect source of developing hitherto obscure members for non-commissioned officer material, and at one time two enlisted men of the unit were given commissions in the field.

Of National Baptist denomination, the 29-year-old Atlanta Chaplain entered service in March, 1942. He graduated in 1939 from Clark University, Atlanta.



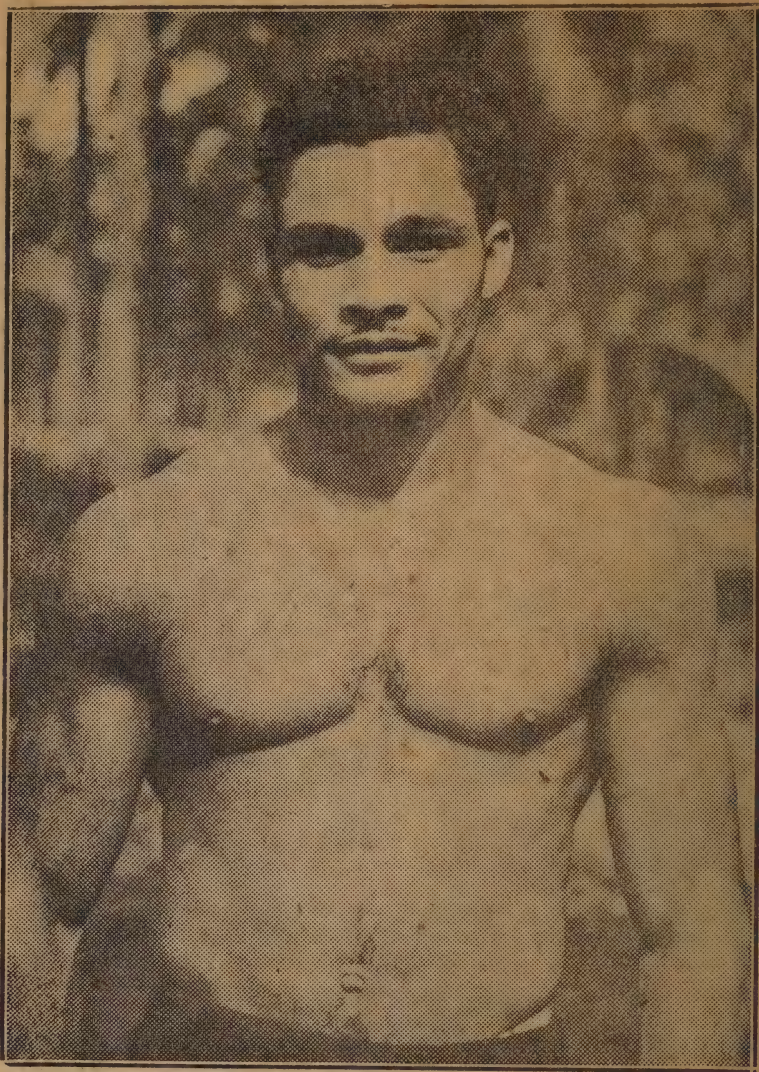
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Bureau of Public Relations

**CPL. GILBERT DE GROAT**, of Patterson, New Jersey, is a member of a Military Police Battalion stationed in Great Britain. An amateur boxer, he has won over 50 fights, including a Golden Gloves contest in the United States and three in Great Britain.



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**FORT CLARK, TEXAS**—Four regimental officers of the All-Negro 2nd Cavalry Division, who have been assigned to the 27th Cavalry are, left to right: Second Lieutenant John R. Ishmael, 4328 Garfield Street, St. Louis, Missouri, who attended Summer High School and was co-captain of the track team; Second Lieutenant Willis Porter, who formerly lived in Cleveland, Ohio, where he graduated from Central High School; Second Lieutenant William E. Becks, Beatrice, Nebraska, a graduate of Beatrice High School in 1936, and Second Lieutenant Oscar Evans, Indianapolis, Indiana, who attended Crispus Attucks High School, boxed in the Golden Gloves matches in Indiana, and won the middleweight championship in 1941.



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**SOUTH PACIFIC CHAMPION**—Corporal Jethro Jeffers, of 6611 Champlain Avenue, Chicago, Ill., is heavyweight boxing champion of the entire South Pacific area. He won the honor in a tournament held at Guadalcanal on December 24 and 25, 1943. Lieutenant Commander Gene Tunney, former world's heavyweight champion, presented him with the Alice Faye Gold Medal, donated by the film star. (U. S. Army photo.)





**U. S. ARMY MEETS LIBERIA**—Napoleon Edward Taylor, private first class of Baltimore, Maryland, first U. S. Engineer to land on African soil in Liberia, meets admiring native Liberians.

### **ANOTHER 'FIRST'**

The first Negro soldier to apply for aviation cadet training under the Army Air Forces' new air crew training program began his pre-flight training at Kessler Field, Biloxi, Mississippi, late in February, 1944. He is Private First Class Gordon E. Brown, Jr., New York City.

## AWARDS OF CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR — 1862 to 1926

(Awarded for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy.)

NAME	ORGANIZATION	YEAR	Place Achievement
Sgt. E. L. Baker, Jr.	10th U.S. Cavalry	1898	Santiago, Cuba.
Pvt. Wm. H. Barnes	38th U.C. Colored Troops	1864	Nr. Richmond, Va.
1st Sgt. P. Boaty	5th U.S. Colored Troops	1864	Nr. Richmond, Va.
Pvt. Dennis Bol	10th U.S. Cavalry	1898	Tayabacoa, Cuba
Sgt. Thomas Boyne	9th U.S. Cavalry	1879	Nimbres Mts. N.M.
1st Sgt. J. Bronson	5th U.S. Colored Troops	1864	Nr. Richmond, Va.
Sgt. W. H. Carney	54th Mass. Colored Inf.	1863	Fort Wagner, S.C.
Sgt. John Denny	9th U.S. Cavalry	1879	Las Ani. Can., N.M.
Sgt. Decatur Dorsey	39th U.S. Colored Troops	1864	Petersburg, Va.
Sgt. C. A. Fleetwood	4th U.S. Colored Troops	1864	Nr. Richmond, Va.
Pvt. Jas. Cardiner	36th U.S. Colored Troops	1864	Nr. Richmond, Va.
Sgt. J. H. Harris	38th U.S. Colored Troops	1864	New Mkt. Hts., Va.
Sgt. Thos. Hawkins	6th U.S. Colored Troops	1864	Deep Bottom, Va.
Sgt. A. B. Hilton	4th U.S. Colored Troops	1864	Nr. Richmond, Va.
Sgt. M. M. Holland	5th U.S. Colored Troops	1864	Nr. Richmond, Va.
Sgt. H. Johnson	36th U.S. Colored Troops	1864	Nr. Richmond, Va.
Cpl. Miles James	9th U.S. Cavalry	1879	Milk River, Colo.
Sgt. Geo. Jordan	9th U.S. Cavalry	1830-1881	Ft. Tulerse, N.M. & Carizo Canyon, N.M.
1st Sgt. Alex Kelly	6th U.S. Colored Troops	1864	Nr. Richmond, Va.
Pvt. Fitz Lee	10th U.S. Cavalry	1898	Tayabacoa, Cuba
Sgt. Wm. McBryar	10th U.S. Cavalry	1890	Arizona
1st Sgt. Rbt. Pinn	5th U.S. Colored Troops	1864	Nr. Richmond, Va.
Sgt. Thomas Shaw	9th U.S. Cavalry	1881	Carizo Can. N.M.
Sgt. E. Stance	9th U.S. Cavalry	1870	Kickapoo Spr., Tex.
Pvt. W. Thompkins	10th U.S. Cavalry	1898	Tayabacoa, Cuba
Pvt. Charles Veal	4th U.S. Colored Troops	1864	Nr. Richmond, Va.
Pvt. Aug. Walley	9th U.S. Colored Troops	1881	Cuchillo Negro Mountains, N. Mex.
Pvt. G. H. Wanton	10th U.S. Colored Troops	1898	Tayabacoa, Cuba
1st Sgt. M. Williams	9th U.S. Cavalry	1881	Cuchillo Negro Mountains, N.M.
Cpl. W. O. Wilson	9th U.S. Cavalry	1890	Sioux Campaign
Sgt. Brent Woods	9th U.S. Cavalry	1881	New Mexico

### *First To Receive Purple Heart In 99th Fighter Squadron*

First member of the 99th Fighter Squadron to receive the Purple Heart award is First Lieutenant Thomas M. Malone, Detroit, Michigan.

Lieutenant Malone served a supply officer of the 366th Service Group Squadron. Working with the British Eighth Army, supported by the 99th, the advance has been so rapid that the ground echelon had to move to another sector. The Germans in their retreat planted land mines, and the supply truck in which Lt. Malone was riding was rocked by a terrific explosion. Occupants of the truck were knocked unconscious. Lt. Malone regained consciousness in a hospital behind the lines. The supplies, however, got through and on time.

## AWARDS OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

(Awarded for extraordinary heroism in action under the provisions of the act of Congress approved July 9, 1918)

ALL OF THE FOLLOWING AWARDS WERE GIVEN IN 1918

NAME	ORGANIZATION	Place Achievement
Pfc. R. Breckenridge	Co. H 365th Inf.	Ferme de Del-Air, Fr.
Cpl. Russell Pollard	Co. H 365th Inf.	Bois-Frehault, Fr.
Pvt. George Bell	Co. E 366th Inf.	Lesseau, France
Sgt. Roy A. Brown	Co. E 366th Inf.	Lesseau, France
Pfc. Will Clincy	Co. F 366th Inf.	Frappelle, France
Pvt. Alex Hammond	Co. E 366th Inf.	Lesseau, France
Cpl. Van Horton	Co. E 366th Inf.	Lesseau, France
Pvt. E. L. Merrifield	Co. E 366th Inf.	Lesseau, France
Pvt. Tom Rivers	Co. G 366th Inf.	Bois-de-la-Voivrotte Lesseau, France
Pvt. Joe Williams	Co. E 366th Inf.	Binarville, France
Pvt. John Baker	Co. I 368th Inf.	Binarville, France
Pfc. T. H. Davis	San. Det. 368th Inf.	Binarville, France
Pfc. E. H. Handy	Co. B 368th Inf.	Binarville, France
Pvt. Joseph James	Hq. Co. 368th Inf.	Binarville, France
Pvt. Bernard Lewis	Co. A 368th Inf.	Eply, France
Pfc. Lewis Watkins	Co. A 368th M. G. Bat.	Maison-de-Champagne, France
Sgt. Wm. Butler	Co. L 369th Inf.	Ripont Swamp, Fr. Ripont Swamp, Fr.
Cpl. Elmer Earl	Co. K 369th Inf.	Pipont River, Fr.
Pvt. E. McCowin	Co. K 369th Inf.	Pipont River, Fr.
Pvt. Wm. Sandford	Med. Det. 369th Inf.	Mont de Sanges, Fr.
Sgt. Robert Barnes	Co. L 370th Inf.	Mont de Sanges, Fr.
Pvt. William Cluff	2nd M.G. Co., 370th Inf.	Mont de Sanges, Fr.
Pvt. Leroy Davis	Co. L 370th Inf.	F'me-de-la Riv'e, Fr.
Sgt. Lester Fossie	Co. M 370th Inf.	Guillimet F'm, Fr.
Pvt. James Fuquay	Co. H 370th Inf.	Beaume, France
Sgt. Ralph Bibson	Co. H 370th Inf.	Ferme Le Folie, Fr.
Pvt. W. B. Hurdle	3rd M.G. Co. 370th Inf.	Beaume, France
Pvt. Spirley E. Irby	Co. H 370th Inf.	Vauxaillon, France
Sgt. Mat. Jenkins	Co. F 370th Inf.	Mont des S'n'es, Fr.
Pvt. A. Johnson	Hq. Co. 370th Inf.	F'me de la Riv., Fr.
Pvt. Andy McCall	M.G. Co. 370th Inf.	Mont-de Sanges, Fr.
Pvt. C. T. Monroe	Hq. Co. 370th Inf.	Beaume, France
Pvt. H. L. Pearson	M.G. Co. 370th Inf.	Mont-de-Sanges, Fr.
Pvt. Tom Powell	Co. H 370th Inf.	Vraincourt, France
Cpl. E. Thompson	Co. L 370th Inf.	Rue Larcher and Pont-d'Any, Fr.
Cpl. Isaac Valley	Co. M 370th Inf.	Pont-d'Any, Fr.
Pvt. Alonzo Walton	3rd M.G. Co. 370th Inf.	Vauxaillon, France Beaume, France
Pfc. N. C. White	Co. F 370th Inf.	Ardeuil, France
Pfc. Alf. Williamson	Med. Det. 370th Inf.	Cham. sect., France
Pvt. Willie Boston	M.G. Co. 371st Inf.	Ardeuil, France
Pvt. Reuben Burrell	M.G. Co. 371st Inf.	Cham. sect, France
Pvt. Charles Butler	M.G. Co. 371st Inf.	Ardeuil, France
Sgt. Thomas Cooper	Co. K 371st Inf.	Trieres Farm, Fr.
Pvt. Junius Diggs	Co. G 371st Inf.	Ardeuil, France
Pvt. Burton Holmes	Co. C 371st Inf.	Nr. Hill 188, Fr.
Cpl. Sandy E. Jones	Co. C 371st Inf.	Nr. Champ, France
Sgt. L. McClelland	Med. Det. 371st Inf.	Ardeuil, France
Pvt. Ellison Moses	Co. G 371st Inf.	Ardeuil, France
Pvt. Walley Stewart	Hd. Co. 371st Inf.	Nr. Bussy Frm., Fr.
Pvt. Bruce Stoney	Med. Det. 371st Inf.	Ardeuil, France
Pvt. T. Webster	M.G. Co. 371st Inf.	Ardeuil, France
Pvt. C. Crawford	Hq. Co. 372nd Inf.	Nr. Bussy Frm., Fr.
Pvt. George Gross	Co. D 372nd Inf.	Nr. Sechault, Fr.
Pvt. S. H. Johns	Co. L 372nd Inf.	Nr. Bussy Frm., Fr.
Pvt. C. Merrimon	Co. L 372nd Inf.	Nr. Bussy Frm., Fr.
Sgt. Ira M. Payne	Co. A 372nd Inf.	Nr. Sechault, Fr.
Pvt. C. R. Van Allen	Co. L 372nd Inf.	Nr. Bussy Frm., Fr.

## *Aviation Engineers Given Much Credit For Pacific Successes*

A South Pacific Army Base—Much of the credit for American successes in this theater goes to an Engineer Aviation Battalion, a Negro unit that has been active at this base since the earliest days of the war in the Pacific. Difficult tasks of air field construction and building of road networks in a rugged terrain are examples of a long list of accomplishments that have paved the way for, and supported, devastating blows against the Japs.

The unit has been in the South Pacific since 1942. The organization was originally formed at Langley Field, Virginia, with a cadre of enlisted men from Fort Custer, Michigan. The remainder of the enlisted men were assigned from various reception centers in the southern states. Except for the cadre, the men were for the most part new to the Army, but they all pitched in with a willingness that made up for much of the inexperience.

Under officers from established Engineer units, training and organization progressed by leaps and bounds. In a short time the outfit was ready for the forthcoming order to move out to an unknown destination to do a real job overseas. Among the first forces sent to this area, the unit sailed in January, 1942.

Overseas since August, 1942, Sergeant Coy L. Vaughn, 120 White Street, Florence, Alabama, has been acting as an observer with a Coast Artillery regiment. He is the son of Mrs. Lizzie Thompson and attended Florence schools.

A veteran of 28 years service in the Army, Saint M. Kelley of San Antonio, Texas, has been promoted to the rank of first sergeant while serving with a Coast Artillery regiment.

Kelley originally volunteered for service in July, 1914, joining the 9th Cavalry at Fort Douglas, Arizona. He served in the Philippine Islands from 1916 to 1922. On his return to the United States, his home station was Jefferson Barracks, Missouri.

Private First Class John A. Stocker, son of James Stocker of Key West, Florida, has been in the South Pacific since the latter part of 1942. Now with an air base security battalion, he enlisted and trained at Camp Blanding, Florida, and later at Camp Siebert, Alabama.

First Sergeant James O. Taylor, brother of Miss Helen Bennett, 1133 South Hermitage Street, Chicago, Illinois, recently passed Officer Candidate Board at a Pacific base.



Bureau of Public Relations,  
U. S. War Department

**LT. JAMES A. McLENDON**

Recent recipient of an official commendation for his work in connection with the preparation and restatement of Army regulations, whose assignment to the Judge Advocate General's Department on September 9 has been announced by the War Department. Lieutenant McLendon, a graduate of Fisk and Northwestern universities, practiced law in Chicago for several years.



**FOR SILL, OKLA.**—Pvt. Willie Wright, Battery B, 31st Battalion, Field Artillery Replacement Training Center at Fort Sill, hasn't as yet had a chance to take a crack at the Axis with a gun but he just finished bombarding the enemy with \$9,202 worth—count 'em—of War Bonds. Converting all his assets into cash, Private Wright marched into his battery orderly room, planked down the money, and said he wanted to invest in a few bonds. Wright's is the largest single purchase of War Bonds yet recorded in the 31st Battalion, the Replacement Center's Negro training division. Inducted in the Army October 15, 1942, the affluent soldier hails from San Antonio, Texas.

Stationed in the South Pacific with a Coast Artillery regiment, Sergeant Virgle Humphrey, North Port, Alabama, is one of many Alabama men serving at an advance Army base. He enlisted in March, 1941, training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, before going overseas.

A native of Oxford, North Carolina, Private First Class Joseph Blue completed his first year overseas in August.

Private Robert Debnam, son of Charles Debnam, 1019 Trinity Street, the Bronx, New York, has also completed a year of active duty in the South Pacific with a Coast Artillery Regiment. He was inducted in October 1941 and trained at Fort Eustis, Virginia.

# THE 99th PURSUIT SQUADRON

As related

By Lt. Colonel

BENJAMIN OLIVER DAVIS, JR.,

First Commander,

at a press conference, Sept. 10, 1943

I have had the honor and the pleasure of commanding the 99th Fighter Squadron from August 27, 1942, until September 2, 1943. During that period I saw 27 pilots and 250-odd enlisted men develop from a relatively untrained state to a combat team of which anyone serving with the organization could justly be proud. I said that I had the pleasure to command this unit—actually that pleasure was realized only when it became apparent that the 99th Fighter Squadron had taken and could maintain its proper place in the Northwest African Theater of Operations. Very little pleasure existed prior to that time.

Just what a Negro pilot in a P-40 would do when anti-aircraft fire burst about his ship or when an enemy aircraft was strewing cannon shells and machine gun bullets about his cockpit was a matter that was really conjecture in the minds of some of these high-ranking officers in the AAF. The 99th Fighter Squadron therefore was an experiment to determine whether the Negro pilot was physically, mentally and emotionally suited to the rigors of combat flying. It is a very significant fact, I believe, that all members of this organization were impressed at all times with the knowledge that the future of the Negro in the Air Corps probably would be dependent largely upon the manner in which they carried out their mission. Hence, the importance of the work done by this squadron, the responsibility carried by every man be he ground crewman or pilot meant that very little pleasure was to be had by anyone until the experiment was deemed an unqualified success.

The 99th is a unique organization in the AAF. A large percentage of the enlisted corps was specially recruited from Negro colleges all over the United States and sent in a body to Chanute Field for training. The pilots, while not specially selected, had the advantage of going through all the stages of training with the best instructors, equipment and facilities that our Air Corps could provide. Outstanding officers of the Air Corps kept close and constant touch with the progress made by pilots and ground crews. Every effort was made by all concerned to insure that this unit would leave the zone of the interior equipped with every advantage that the Air Corps could provide.

In the meantime, the squadron received the attention of the press. When was the unit going to the combat zone?

## Smile Of Victory

1st Lt.

Leon C. Roberts

"I was following and was weaving a lot but I got a burst into his right wing and he flopped over on his back and into the ground," said this pilot of the 99th Fighter Squadron in Italy after he destroyed an enemy plane on January 27, the day his squadron downed eight Nazi aircraft. The 99th is equipped with P-40 Warhawks (fighter - bombers). U. S. Army Air Force photo.



Why the delay? Much attention was directed toward the segregated aspects of the Tuskegee Airfield. This publicity had a profound effect upon the individual member of the 99th. The eyes of the nation were upon this organization. It was true that he felt hurt to find that his training station at Tuskegee Army Airfield was being regarded by some persons outside the military establishment as being a discriminatory setup. However, he had the good sense to realize that the best means he had to defeat the end of supporters and philosophers who relegated him to a subsidiary role in the life of the United States was to do his job in such a way that the world would know that he was capable of performing a highly specialized and technical piece of work in a creditable manner.

The fact that his unit was an experiment became a challenge to him, a challenge which he has answered, and one which would set up tendencies to many things that were unpleasant to him and others of his race. If any single spark could be credited with the measure of success so far achieved by this squadron, it is this philosophy which exists explicitly in the minds of this organization. Every man in the 99th

will go through any ordeal concocted by combat or garrison existence to assure the successful completion of the experiment. At all times every man realizes that the pleasures and relaxations that are available to men in other organizations are not available to him because his task is far greater, his responsibility is much heavier, and his reward is the advancement of his people.

Now it is necessary that I invite your attention to this philosophy in order that you may better understand the reactions of the individual officer and soldier of this organization.

I shall now relate to you our experiences overseas. These same experiences would be indeed commonplace if they were related about a white fighter squadron. For this squadron every step was a dramatic one. I should like to state at the outset, and I consider this very important, that from the time this squadron left the continental limits of the United States, and that was on April 15, 1943, to the present time, there has not been a single circumstance or incident which could be regarded as discriminatory by the most rabid race leader.

The first act of the drama began the day before we sailed. The passenger list showed the transport commander that I was to be the senior line officer on board the transport. I was directed to pick a staff consisting of an adjutant, mess officer, police and prison officer, a provost marshal and then report to the transport commander as executive officer. This staff of colored officers carried out the orders and policies of the transport commander despite the fact that of the 4,000 troops on board, less than 15 per cent were colored. After the first 24 hours or so of curiosity and wonder at this unusual staff of the transport commander, everything proceeded smoothly and without incident for the remainder of the 8-day voyage.

During all this time the members of the squadron basked in the awe of the attention paid them by other soldiers on board and succeeded admirably in creating the impression that the colored pilot and colored soldier are not so very different after all.

It was here also that the entertainment section, which isn't in any Table of Organization, was born. This section, under the capable direction of the Acting Special Services officer, Lieutenant Letcher, went a long way toward effecting cordial public relations for the squadron. This entertainment section provided an excellent show for units within traveling range of all of our bivouac areas from the port of debarkation in Africa clear on through Sicily. Again the impression created in the minds of the audiences was that men who were giving these shows are just about the same as the men in "my outfit," and this was not by accident because the men who participated in that show are intelligent men

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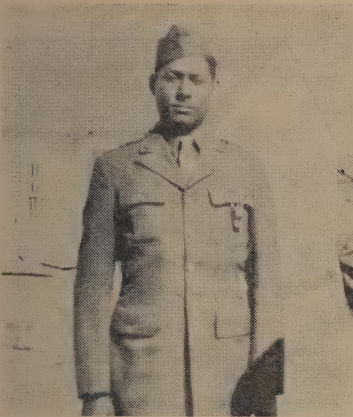
# WASHINGTON D. C.—SALUTES!



Pvt. Ralph C. Dewitt



Pfc. Martin Coleman



S-Sgt. Homer Lee Bigelow



Pvt. William H. Minor



S-1st Class James S. Reed



Pvt. James Clark

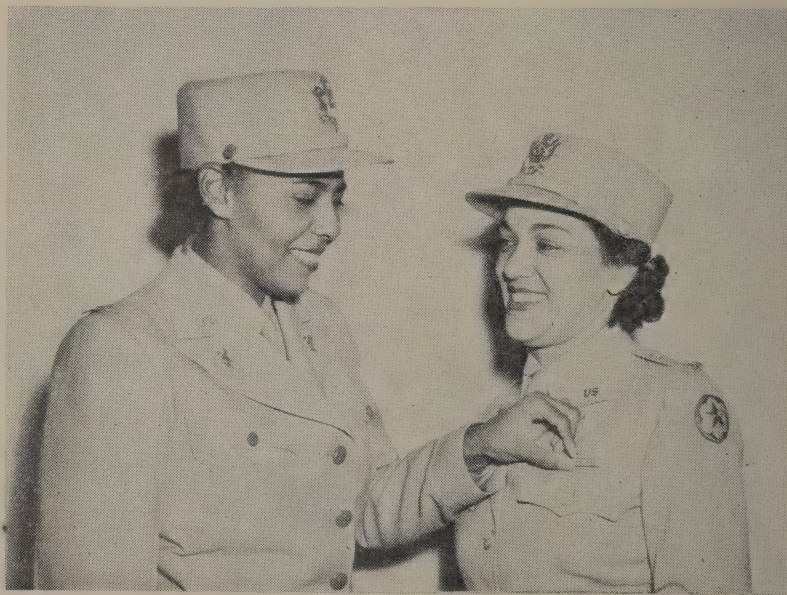
## WOMEN'S ARMY CORP

The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, first of its kind in American military history, was authorized by an Act of Congress (May 14, 1942). President Roosevelt, in an Executive Order (May 15) directed the establishment of the Corps with an enrollment of 25,000. Legislation for the Corps, introduced in Congress by Rep. Edith Nourse Rogers (Mass.) provides for an ultimate strength of 150,000 women between the ages of 21 and 45 years. By an Executive Order (Nov. 20, 1942) President Roosevelt increased the strength of the WAAC to 150,000.

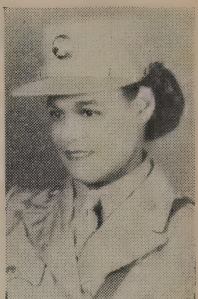
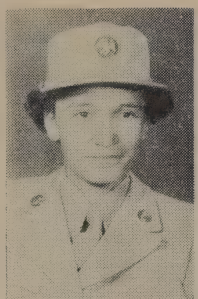
The purpose of the Corps is to enlist women volunteers for military service with the Army to replace and release for combat service men who are performing non-combatant duties.

Training Centers for the Corps were located at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, (opened July 20, 1942), Daytona Beach, Florida, and Fort Oglethrope, Georgia.

WAC officers are commissioned in grades similar to those of Army officers, who command companies and lesser units. First Officers in the WAC are similar to Captains; Second Officers to First Lieutenants; Third Officers to Sec-



FIRST NEGRO WAC MAJOR . . . Captain Charity Adams of Columbus, S. C. examines the WAC service ribbon worn by Major Harriet M. West of Washington, D. C. Major West is on the highest ranking members of the Women's Army Corp and the only Negro woman to hold that rank. Official WAC Photo



WAC Auxiliaries top row, left to right: Nettie M. Weaver; Florence E. Woodard; Mildred B. Reynolds; Mona E. Washington; Viola T. Willis; Mary E. Rogers; Zelma E. Malone; Clementine Carter; Hannah C. Powell; Christina Stone; Majorie V. Baker, and Audrey L. Fells, all of Washington, D.C.

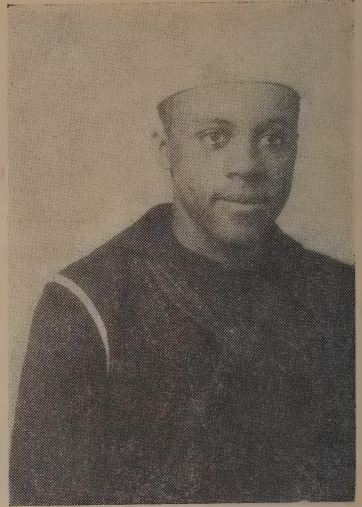
ond Lieutenants. Non-commissioned grades are designated First Leader, Leader and Junior Leader corresponding to Army grades of First Sergeant, Sergeant and Corporal. Three WAC specialists Ratings correspond to Army Technicians' ratings. The Corps receives benefits of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Act of 1940, and their schedules of pay are similar to soldiers of corresponding rank.

First Negro Major of WAC was Harriet West, Washington, D. C., who also was one of the first Negroes to enlist. She formerly worked in the NYA, as assistant to Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune.

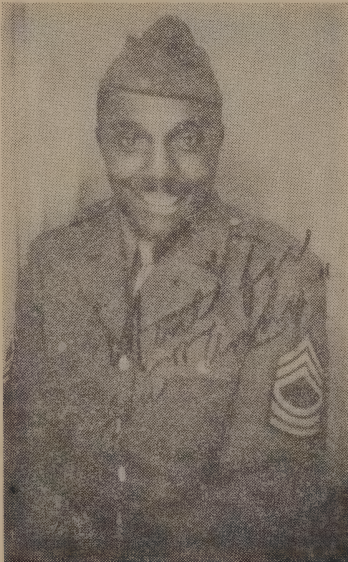
# WASHINGTON D. C.—SALUTES!



Pvt. Covert Smith



Vernon H. Clarke MUS 3-c



Ist. Sgt. Christopher Green



Cpl. James A. Deal



Released by U. S. War Department Bureau of Public Relations

**FIRST MEMBER OF THE NINETY-NINTH** Fighter Squadron to win the Purple Heart, First Lieutenant Thomas N. Malone, of Detroit, Michigan, is pictured here with Mrs. Malone during a recent visit to the Tuskegee Army Air Field, Alabama. First Lieutenant Malone had a truck blown out from under him by a land mine in Italy. (Photo by AAF Training Command.)

● Continued from Page 44

and they realized that at all times instead of just giving a show they were doing a job for the 99th.

Upon landing in Casablanca we were met by the Assistant A-3 of the Northwest Training Command, Colonel Allison, Air Corps. This officer, who is now on his way back to the States for a well-deserved rest, assured me that he would be available at all times for the solution of any problem that might arise.

The following day he took me and my operations officer, Captain Roberts, in to see General Camp who informed us that we would remain in the area until we would be satisfactorily equipped for combat and that we would not move into the combat zone until I felt that everything possible had

been done in the way of preparation. He sent us on a preliminary reconnaissance of our new station, located about 150 miles inland. This station was located in French Morocco. Nearby was a service command station and the Commanding Officer of this station, Colonel Phillips, now in Sicily, was most cordial in his offers to ease any supply problems that might arise. There was also at this station a fighter bomber group commanded by Colonel Stevenson, whom I had the pleasure to know at the Academy. We moved to this station by a French train and covered 150 miles in about 17 hours, and when we complained about the slowness of the train we were informed that we were lucky to move at such a fast rate of speed.

Our stay there was probably our most pleasant stay overseas. We were there about a month. Most cordial relations existed between the members of the squadron and the members of the fighter bomber group nearby. The pilots of the two organizations engaged in impromptu dogfights to determine the relative superiority of the P-40 and the A-36, and we were very happy to verify our belief that the P-40 was vastly superior in this phase of aerial combat. Enlisted men of the two groups got together very well in all types of athletic contests and other means of recreation.

The town of Fez was found to be one of the most delightful spots that any of us had ever visited. One unusual feature of our stay there was that members of my organization and members of these other organizations visited the town of Fez every night for a period of over a month and not one single unpleasant incident arose.

The officers of the squadron were made socially secure in the town by the visit of Josephine Baker. Miss Baker insisted on presenting several different groups of our officers to the prominent French and Arab families in the town. All in all, Miss Baker was very largely responsible for our most pleasant social relations in the town of Fez.

It was during our stay here that four P-39 pilots whom we had met on the boat on the way over, came to visit us. They were ferrying some P-39s from Oran to Casablanca and en route they, of their own volition, simply stopped over to pay us a visit. I mention this simply to indicate that a considerable bond exists among those who fly regardless of color or race.

Our equipment was of the best. We ferried in 27 brand new P-40's and all of us experienced for the first time the thrill of flying a brand new airplane. Lieutenant Colonel Philip Cochran—the Flip Corkin of "Terry and the Pirates"—was our most capable instructor. He imbued all of us with some of his own very remarkable fighting spirit, and in addition to that he taught us what to do and what not to do in aerial combat. We all remember with a smile his opening commentary on the slowness of the P-40. "The P-40



Bureau of Public Relations, U. S. War Department

**COMBAT UNIT IN NORTH AFRICA**—Negro crew of a 40-mm Bofors antiaircraft gun man their posts at Oujda, North Africa. Temporarily stationed near Fifth Army Headquarters, these members of a Coast Artillery regiment are on duty there at the request of the Sultan of Morocco. (U. S. Army photo).

pilot never yet ran away from a fight—because he couldn't." Yet we all know that the P-40 has a more remarkable combat record in this war than any other fighter airplane except possibly the British Spitfire. The P-40, we jokingly say, has three important characteristics. The first one is turn, which enables you to present a very difficult target to an enemy fighter; the second one is turn, and the third one is also turn. In aerial fighting this characteristic is naturally of great importance.

We had two other instructors who were with us until we left for Tunisia. A Major Keyes and a Captain Fachler. Both of these officers had had extensive combat training, one in England and one in the African campaign, and both had just been returned to the training command for in-

structional purposes. These officers, worked unceasingly to make us ready for the real test and all of us felt very grateful for their efforts.

On the 31st of May we took off for the Cape Bon peninsula and the final phase of the experiment. I personally believe that no unit in this war has gone into combat better trained or better equipped than the 99th Fighter Squadron. We were weak in one respect only and that was simply that the squadron commander, myself, and the flight commanders had had no actual combat experience. That is a very desirable feature because it gives a good bit of confidence to those who are led that the man who is in charge of the formation knows what he is doing and frankly I didn't know initially, nor did any flight commanders. On the other hand this deficiency was balanced by the fact that my pilots averaged about 250 hours in a P-40, and a young pilot in these days who has 250 hours in a P-40 before he goes into combat is a hard man to find.

All of us were a little on edge because we were going into something that we hadn't experienced before. This transition was eased by Colonel William Momyer, who commands a very famous fighter group which is now located up at the front. We were attached to his group for operations and attached for operations means just one thing and that alone, simply that every night the group operations officer telephoned to my operations officer the missions set up for the next day. I might explain that a little bit differently—the setup in the African theatre consists of the strategical air force and the tactical air force. We were members of the tactical air force. Under the tactical air force headquarters there is an air support command and this air support command does out the daily missions to the groups.

A squadron, although it is the basic fighting team in an air force, is actually a small unit, and consequently it would be much better for a single squadron to get its missions from a group headquarters rather than a large air support command headquarters. Colonel Momyer, in giving us the missions, treated us exactly as one of his squadrons. He had three of his own and we had one, that being four squadrons. We got one-fourth of the missions given by his air support command. Colonel Momyer suggested initially that my flight commanders and myself fly as wing men on one of his missions so that we might get some experience initially before attempting to lead our men into combat. He also advised me very completely on the details of running a squadron in a combat zone.

At that time, shortly after the first of June, the Panteliera show was going on and our first missions were over that island. We dive-bombed objectives on the island every day until its fall on the 11th of June. We had our first bomber escort, B-25s, B-26s, A-20s and some British Baltimores, to





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**ORAN, NORTH AFRICA**—After one of her performances at the Municipal Theater in Oran, Miss Josephine Baker, popular singer, fulfills some of the many requests for her autograph.

the island. Six of our pilots had their first brush with enemy aircraft during this show but the remainder of us experienced only some of the very inaccurate brand of flak that the Italians throw up. After Pantelleria, Colonel Momyer's group moved to the island and we received our operational control from a fighter group commanded by Colonel McNorris.

From the first of July to the 9th of July we escorted bombers to Sicily and these were our most active days. On every trip we were attacked by superior numbers of enemy fighters. The tactics employed by the enemy fighters were

to draw off the escorts so they could get to the bombers. Actually they were not particularly interested in shooting down enemy fighters, so we had to take some action to prevent them from shooting us down.

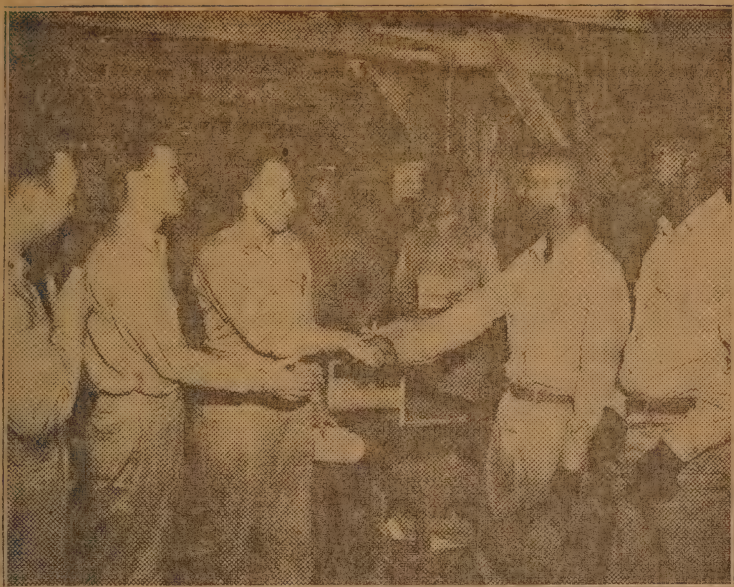
I would like to say just a word about the German air force. Its tactics have changed quite a bit since the Tunisian campaign. Its pilots are not as eager as they used to be: they have undoubtedly lost the best of them and they no longer press their attacks, as I hear they did in the past. Whereas formerly they would stay down and lap it up, they now make one ineffective pass and head for home. On the other hand, the pilots of my squadron who were initially uncertain of themselves, had now developed a very strong fighting spirit and were eager for an opportunity to meet the German and really fight it out.

An interesting sidelight in this connection is perhaps the growth of religious feeling among the pilots. Toward the end of the Sicilian campaign I had very little trouble getting together an audience for the visiting chaplain, Colonel Pinnel. He always had a nucleus of pilots to speak to. Lieutenant Bowling, one of my pilots, was shot down by flak in the Mediterranean and forced to sit in his dinghy for 24 hours and he said to me: "You know, Colonel Davis, when you sit out there that long, shivering from cold at night and trying to hide from the heat of the sun by day and always hoping against hope that somebody is going to see you and pick you up, you just pray automatically."

After the middle of July we had a squadron of pilots whose fondest dream were no longer about the girls back home. Instead they dreamed about a German pilot who would be foolish enough to slug it out in aerial combat. At our chosen altitude we had the better airplane, but the German has learned his lesson and now makes his pass from out of the sun, coming down at 350 or more miles an hour and gets on out. We get a fleeting shot as he passes by.

The most interesting engagement took place on a bomber escort mission to Sciacca, Italy. Actually, it probably shouldn't have been as interesting as it turned out to be. The controlling factor is that the leader of the bomber formation couldn't get his bomb bay door open on the first run over the target. This necessitated his going around two more times and it gave enemy fighters who didn't know we were coming the opportunity to get off their airdrome and come up and get us. We actually saw enemy fighters scramble and climb, and they really do climb.

Our ships were close escort for the bombers that day and we were right with them. The bottom, medium and top cover was provided by another group of fighters, so we absorbed all of the attack of this 20-plus ME-109s, Macchi 202s, and FW-190s, and on that day we lost a couple of aircraft. We definitely destroyed one of the enemy, probably destroy-



**SOMEWHERE IN AFRICA**—First Lt. John T. Lyle, Medical Administration Corps, is being congratulated by Civilian War Correspondents on his being commissioned from the ranks. Lt. Lyle was born in Lexington, Ky., and served in World War I and shortly after being discharged, he enlisted again and rose to the rank of Master Sergeant.

ed a couple more and damaged three. We believe that one of our pilots is a prisoner of war. Incidentally, on that day, General Eisenhower visited our field and during his stay congratulated Captain Hall, one of our flight commanders, on his and our first confirmed victory.

Our field was often visited by high-ranking officers of both the British and American army. Among the visitors were such men as Air Marshal Cunningham, in command of the Tactical Air Forces; Lord Trancher of the last war; General House, Commanding General of the 12th Air Support Command; General Doolittle, who is in command now of the Strategic Air Force; General Spaatz, Commanding General of the Northwest African Air Force, and many others which I won't name.

After ditto for the Sicilian attack the 10th of July, we provided cover for the landing beaches on southeastern Sicily. We escorted C-47s which moved the air echelon of the various units to new bases on the island. On the 19th of July we moved to a base on the southern coast and we provided air support for the group troops by dive-bombing. We strafed strong points holding up their advance, truck that

were bottled up on the very few roads on the northern part of the island.

After the fall of Sicily we devoted our time to training replacements that reached us from the States. We got new combat crews and the men in charge of the training got a good bit out of the new responsibilities of the responsible places in the formations which they had to fly.

On September 2, I received orders assigning me to the 332nd Fighter Group and left for the States. I believe that the men that I left behind instead of being the fledglings they were on the first of June are now seasoned veterans of a combat experience that all of us may well be proud.

That concludes the statement which I planned to make, except for the following remarks: I can tell you that the men of my squadron and my other comrades at the front are just as interested in what you are doing back here as what they are doing over there. They are hitting hard—all of them, of all races, colors, and creeds. To follow through, there is one big thing those at home can do. That is to "Back the Attack" with War Bonds. I earnestly hope ever Negro in America will do his part in the Third War Loan to keep their faith with our fighting men over there.

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**ENROUTE TO LIBERIA**—Left to right, Pvt. John Thomas of Lake Charles, La., in Army one year and three months, Corp. James J. Palmer of Brooklyn, N. Y., in Army nine months, and Pvt. Joseph L. Shephard of Bronx, N. Y., in Army seven months. They are shown on deck as they clean their Garand rifles.

## THE 99TH

How the 99th Pursuit squadron in North Africa, composed of Negro pilots weathered its first aerial combat test, six of its planes encountering a larger formation of German fighters and damaging two of the enemy without loss to themselves, is told in the following account:

This squadron, after careful training in this country and in North Africa, had previously been in action during the air siege of the island of Pantelleria. Its pilots did patrol duty, escorted heavy bombers and served as fighter bombers with other units of the tactical air force over Pantelleria and Lampedusa. However, during the first half of June they did not have much chance to show their ability in a test of strength against enemy fighters. During that time they were fired on only once and when they turned toward the enemy aircraft, the latter fled.

On the late afternoon of June 18 came the first engagement in the air. A flight of six P-40's, led by First Lieutenant Charles W. Dryden, 22 years old, of 800 Home Street, Bronx, New York City, was attacked over Pantelleria, then in Allied hands, by a force of twelve German FW 190's trying to raid the island. Ten more German fighters hovered above to protect the bombers which the FW 190's were escorting. In a lively encounter the American Negro flyers parried the Nazi thrust, damaged two of the German fighter planes and forced the remainder to retreat.

First Lieutenant Lee Rayford of Ardwick, Maryland, said he was more surprised than alarmed when his wing was struck by machine gun and cannon fire in this, his first flight under the guns of enemy aircraft. He brought his ship back safely.

Lieutenant Colonel B. O. Davis, Jr., Commanding Officer of the squadron, said, "It was the first time any of them ever shot at the enemy. They gave a good account of themselves considering the odds against them and, most important, they all came back safely."

Lieutenant Dryden who left City College, New York, where he was an engineering student, to become a pilot, said he thought the fight would give the flyers the confidence they needed, the confidence that could not be gained by mere training.

First Lieutenant Sidney P. Brooks of 3009 East J. Street, Cleveland, Ohio, sighted the enemy fighters above his formation and warned the others just as the FW's dived to attack.

"They attacked in formation of four," said Lieutenant

Dryden, "and we counted twelve coming down on us. Another ten stayed above as high cover for the enemy bombers. We turned into them and they made diving attacks on us individually. When they started back up we went with them and they began a wide circle, with us after them. Then they broke off and climbed above us and stayed there waiting for another chance to dive on us. We stayed around until the controller ordered us home."

Second Lieutenant Willie Ashley, Jr., of 212 West Bartlett St., Sumter, South Carolina, said his gas needle pointed to empty when he finally landed. The other planes were all low on gas also.

Lieutenant Rayford said his plane was hit while he was firing on two FW 190's. "While I was after the two," he said, "a third one got on my tail. That's the first time I've ever been shot at."

The Americans were too busy to get a close shot at the bombers although Lieutenant Dryden fired one fleeting burst at one of them. They were unable to state whether the bombers had reached their objectives but Lieutenant Rayford said he saw at least four bombs strike the water without doing any damage. Besides Lieutenant Dryden, Rayford, Ashley and Brooks, pilots participating in the engagement were Second Lieutenant Spann Watson of 122 J St., Hackensack, New Jersey, and Second Lieutenant Leon C. Roberts of Murphy and McGee Streets, Prichard, Alabama.

An advantage that the squadron has over many others is that nearly all its personnel, commissioned and enlisted, has worked together since the outfit was formed in 1941.

The pilots are enthusiastic in their praise of their P-40's, said Lieutenant Dryden. "I can honestly say I'd rather fly the Warhawk than any other ship I know of," he added.

Most of the pilots are college-trained, while a great many of the enlisted ground crew have had civilian training in flying and aircraft mechanics. The knowledge thus gained has in most cases been polished at air corps technical schools in the United States.

In addition to those mentioned above, the following are the pilot of the first squadron of its kind to see action:

Captain George S. Roberts, 317 Quarry Avenue, Fairmont, West Virginia.

Captain Lemuel R. Curtis, 67 Pliny Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

First Lieutenant Herbert E. Carter, Amory, Mississippi.

First Lieutenant Edwin B. Lawrence, 2068 90th Street, Cleveland, Ohio.

First Lieutenant Herbert V. Clark, 810 East 67th Street, Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

First Lieutenant Allen Giane, 205 Cherry Street, Demopolis, Alabama.

First Lieutenant James T. Wiley, 705 Woods Run Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

First Lieutenant Clarence C. Jamison, 2252 East 85th Street, Cleveland, Ohio.

First Lieutenant Sidney P. Brooks, 3709 East 142nd Street, Cleveland, Ohio.

First Lieutenant Charles B. Hall, 1034 East Hendrix Street, Brazil, Indiana.

First Lieutenant William A. Campbell, Tuskegee, Alabama.

First Lieutenant James B. Knighten, 1130 Mt. Greenwood Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Second Lieutenant Willie H. Fuller, Tarboro, North Carolina.

Second Lieutenant Graham Smith, Ahoskie, North Carolina.

Second Lieutenant Paul G. Mitchell, 908 Howard Road, S.E., Washington, D. C.

Second Lieutenant Louis R. Purnell, West Weaver Street, Germantown, Pennsylvania.

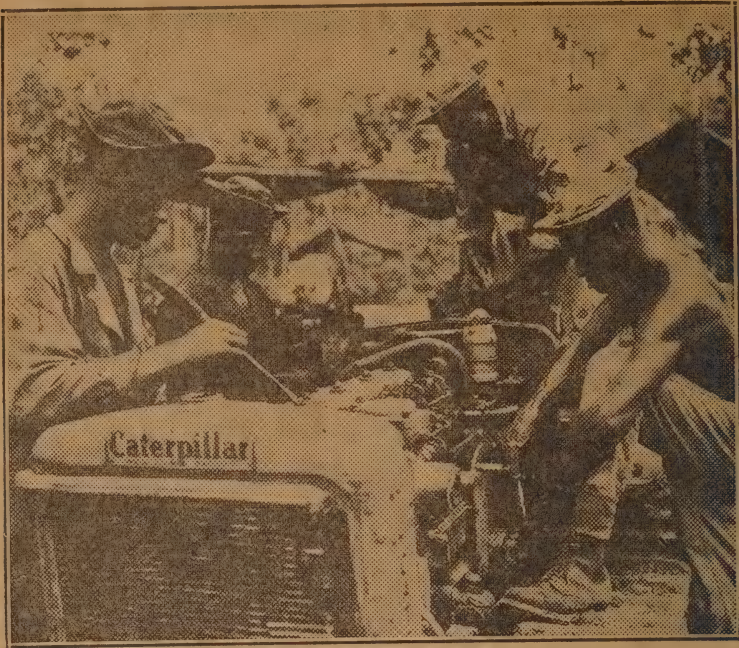
Second Lieutenant John W. Rogers, 1552 Linn Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Second Lieutenant Samuel M. Bruce, 319 - 12th Avenue, Seattle, Washington.

Second Lieutenant James L. McCullin, 3901 Enright Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri.

Second Lieutenant George R. Rolling, 24 Cummings Avenue, Phoebus, Virginia.

Second Lieutenant Walter I. Lawson, Newton, Virginia.



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**NEW GUINEA**—Sergeant John Kelly of Tullulah, Florida, instructing Corporal Amos Evans of Chattanooga, Tennessee; Private Nal Jenkins of Savannah, Georgia, and Sergeant Henry D. Moncrej of New Orleans, Louisiana, on the repair of caterpillar. All are members of an Engineers unit.



## *Negro Unit In Italy Downs Two Planes, Takes Four Prisoners*

The first Negro combat battalion to go into action on European soil has brought down two more enemy planes and captured four German prisoners, the War Department reported.

Now somewhere along the front lines in Italy, the 450th Antiaircraft Artillery (Automatic Weapons) Battalion which received commendation from Lieutenant General Mary W. Clark, Commanding General of the Fifth Army, for gallantry under fire, has further distinguished itself.

Sergeant Herbert C. Tyler, of 1031 Dubois Street, Detroit, Michigan, is section chief of the gun crew officially credited with destruction of the two planes.

This same gun section was at its post one afternoon when an excited Italian farmer came running up to Sergeant Tyler, waving his arms wildly and pointing to a culvert about 800 yards from the position occupied by the section's guns. Sergeant Tyler quickly came around to the realization that something was in the culvert.

Snatching up his tommy-gun, and ordering three of

his men to follow him with their rifles, Sergeant Tyler led the group to the culvert. In a short time they returned with four German prisoners, who surrendered without a struggle, and reported the existence in the culvert of a vast stock of lethal equipment, including mines, grenades, carbines, and TNT. It was brought out later that their mission was sabotage of army material.

The three men assisting in the raid on the culvert were Private Cleotha Robinson, of Calvert, Texas; Private Willie Wiley, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and Corporal James Austin, 1616 North East 8th St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Other members of the section include: Private James Robinson, Eastover, South Carolina; Private William Staley, 55 East 131st Street, New York, New York; Corporal Clay Connely, Marion, North Carolina; Private Fred Davis, Deberry, Texas; Private First Class H. D. Gober, 800 East Main Street, Gainesville, Texas; Private Booker T. Pollard, 2114 West Market, Fort Worth, Texas, and Private Simon Nixon, Palestine, Texas.

# NEGROES IN THE NAVY

## Before World War II

During the Revolutionary War the number of seamen employed ranged from 5,000 to 10,000, with an average of about 6,000 and a total around 15,000 of which 1,500 were Negroes.

During the War of 1812 there was an average of 7,500 seamen and a total of 15,000, of which over 1,500 were Negroes.

During the Mexican War there was a total of 12,000, of which 1,000 were Negroes.

During the Civil War the total was 118,044, of which 30,000 were Negroes.

During the Spanish-American War the total was 24,123, of which 2,000 were Negroes.

During the First World War enlistments in the Navy totaled 435,398 of which 5,326 were Negroes. These were divided as follows: U. S. Navy, 3,203; U. S. Naval Reserve, 2,099, and National Naval Volunteers, 26.

On April 7, 1942, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox announced that Negro volunteers would be accepted for general service in reserve components of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard and said that all ratings would be open to them in each of those branches of the Naval Service.

Negro sailors, he said, would be utilized for duty in District craft of various kinds, in maritime activities, around shore establishments, in Navy Yards, and in the Navy's new Construction or Seabee battalions to develop bases outside the continental limits of the United States.

Recruiting began June 1, 1942, at all recruiting stations throughout the country. More than 93,000 Negroes have joined the Naval Service.

On April 28, 1943, the Navy Department issued a release announced that increasingly greater numbers of Negroes would enter the Navy through the Selective Service procedure.

Camp Robert Smalls, Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Illinois, and the U. S. Naval Training Station, Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia, were established to train Negro recruits. The facilities at Great Lakes and at Hampton for training Negro sailors for technical billets carrying ratings was expanded to meet the needs occasioned by expansion of the enlistment of Negroes.

The first group of Negroes to complete basic training, 222 in number, left Camp Robert Smalls on September 3rd, 1942. Of these 102 were chosen for advanced training to become specialists. Ninety-seven Negro Bluejackets, the first of their race to complete instruction in the various trades

offered by the Navy, graduated from Service School at the U. S. Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, January 7, 1943. Subsequently similar classes have graduated from that school at regular intervals.

## THE NAVY

Prior to 1943 the United States Navy's Negro enlisted personnel was confined to the messmen's branch of the service.

In the Navy Department at Washington Negroes served in some of the technical branches, but most positions were in clerical and custodial capacities.

Following Pearl Harbor and the consequent expansion of Naval installations and the establishment of a 'two-ocean' navy, a change in Navy policy began to appear in early 1943. This change was first noticed when Camp Robert Smalls was established the latter part of 1942. Negroes began to secure training in other branches of service. They became Seaman, Yeoman and other specialized ratings. Negroes were taken on to help recruiting.

Early in 1944, the Navy announced that there were over 7,100 Negro Seabees (Construction Battalions) building a wide variety of shore installations at overseas bases. A special training center for this type of work was established at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va. They are taught to use the rifle, the grenade, the anti-aircraft gun.

The first Construction Battalion of Negro Seabees was sent to the Solomon Islands. Other detachments worked and fought on Florida, Guadalcanal, Tulagi and other islands. In this vital war theater they built a seaplane base, large storage facilities for fuel, storehouses, barracks, shops of all kinds, airplane landing strips, power plants, roads, water systems, electric distribution lines, telephone lines, gun emplacements and the very difficult art of unloading cargo.

These Seabees have received commendation of the highest order for the work they have done under the most grueling conditions.

On Tuesday, December 28, 1943, President Roosevelt said: "Your war effort is outstanding because you accomplish three great purposes which enable our fighting forces to carry on the offensive. You build, you fight, and you repair. You are prepared to repeat the operation whenever necessary—you go forward together."

Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox said:

"Every major amphibious operation of the Navy has found Seabees among the first to land. Almost every airfield, supply depot or other installations the Navy built since Pearl Harbor has been a Seabee record for speed and ingenuity. And in bitter battle like Guadalcanal or Tarawa, you have shed your blood to earn a share of victory."

Admiral Ernest J. King, Commander in Chief of the United States Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations, lauded them thus:

Your ingenuity and fortitude have become a legend in the Naval Service. With both tools and tommy-guns you have rendered vital aid on every assignment you have been given. Today, you may look with pride at the bases and airfields which you have helped to build throughout the world. Your achievements have aided in providing the Navy with strategic striking points for every major battle in the war to date. Despite the hazards of thick jungle, arctic storms or enemy assault you have carried on, constantly supporting our attacking forces."

Lieut. Gen. Thomas Holcomb, U.S.M.C., Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, paid this tribute to the Seabees:

"During the past two years the Seabees and the Marine Corps have developed a flourishing partnership devoted to the construction of a road straight into the heart of Japan. Our Marines returning from the fronts have had nothing but praise for the work of our Navy's rugged fighter-builders. Wherever Marines have gone they have seen their Seabee comrades performing miracles of construction and repair, often under heavy fire."

Such praise must be deserved.

In the training of Seabees there are 28 Negro instructors.

At the beginning of 1944 the Navy announced the formation of Negro Shore Patrolmen, another innovation. Students in the Shore Patrol attend an eight-week course which includes Naval law and customs, uniform regulations, boxing, wrestling, judo, drilling small arms and first aid. A class of 50 men was enrolled every two weeks, until every city in the country housing Naval establishments or entertaining large numbers of sailors on liberty will have its own permanent Shore Patrol. Graduate SP's are assigned to duty in Naval District wherein lie their home cities or towns. Up to the middle of February, 1944, five classes of SP's had graduated.

Some of the other ratings for Negro sailors include: Coxswain, Radioman, Gunner's Mate, Buglemaster, Ship's Fitter, Storekeeper, Carpenter's Mate, aviation machinist's mate, metalsmiths, quartermasters, signalmen, and on Wednesday, February 23, 1944, the Navy announced the commissioning of Lieutenants (junior grade) on anti-submarine vessels.

# NAVAL HEROES

## DORIS (DORIE) MILLER

First Negro Bluejacket here in this war was Dorie Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Conery Miller, Route 1, Box 161, Waco, Texas.

Miller, a strapping, 200 pound former fullback from Waco's Moore High School was awarded the Navy Cross by President Roosevelt for "distinguished devotion to duty, extraordinary courage and disregard for his own personal safety during the attack on the fleet in Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, by Japanese forces on December 7, 1941."

Miller also received a letter of commendation from the Secretary of the Navy and was advanced in rating from Mess Attendant, Third Class to Mess Attendant, First Class. In addition, he has received the American Defense Service Medal, the Fleet Clasp and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet, personally presented the Navy Cross to Miller in ceremonies aboard a warship in the Pacific on May 27th, 1942. Pinning the bit of ribbon and cross of bronze on the sailor's breast, he described his act of heroism on the USS Arizona during the Japanese attack on the Pearl Harbor naval base, and complimented Miller on being the first representative of his race to be so honored in this war. He then read the citation which said:

"While at the side of his Captain on the bridge, Miller, despite enemy strafing and bombing and in the face of a serious fire, assisted in moving his Captain, who had been mortally wounded, to a place of greater safety, and later manned and operated a machine gun directed at enemy Japanese attacking aircraft until ordered to leave the bridge."

In January, 1943, Miller, while visiting the Naval base at Great Lakes, Ill., told of his experience on that fateful day:

"It wasn't bad. I just pulled the trigger and she worked fine. I had watched the others with these guns. I guess I fired her for about fifteen minutes at those Jap planes. They were diving pretty close to us."

Miller was born October 12, 1919, and enlisted in the Navy on September 16, 1939.

Since Pearl Harbor, Miller had been assigned to various other naval vessels. He served aboard the Aircraft Carrier Liscome Bay, which was sunk by enemy action in the Southwest Pacific on November 24, 1943. A few weeks later he was reported missing in action and his next of kin notified.

Dorie Miller, mess attendant, first class, gave his last full measure of devotion, to the country that he loved.

## CHRISTOPHER SHEPPARD

Christopher Columbus Sheppard, cook first class, described by the Navy as 'a one-man gun crew,' covered himself with glory in a knock down drag out battle with Nazi submarines. The action took place in the North Atlantic.

While fighting the largest of two submarines at ranges from 10 to 40 feet, the gun crew at Sheppard's station became blinded by smoke. Sheppard immediately seized the gun and started firing away at the sub. Another Negro, Ernest Gardner, rushed from another station and started passing the ammunition. After a few minutes, however, Sheppard waved his assistant aside and became a 'one-man gun crew,' getting his own ammunition, loading the gun and firing continuously at the badly crippled submarine.

The Borie was part of the USS Card anti-submarine group, which consisted of the aircraft carrier, USS Card, the Destroyers, Borie, Barry and Goff, and the Card's aviation units, Composite Squadrons 1 and 9.

Sheppard is a native of Norfolk, Va., and Gardner lives with his wife at 914 Warner Street, Baltimore, Md.

## CHARLES W. DAVID, JR.

The central figure in the Coast Guard story of a Negro who gave his life to save his executive officer and others during dramatic rescue operation in the North Atlantic is Charles W. Davis, Jr., mess attendant, 1324 Prospect Ave., New York City.

David dived repeatedly into icy seas, in total darkness, to haul survivors to safety and finally rescued Lieut. Langford Anderson, the executive officer, who had gone overside to set an example for his rescue crews. The air temperature was below freezing.

'David was over the side on at least three occasions,' Lieutenant Anderson said, "and due to his extreme strength he facilitated the task of getting survivors aboard who were frozen to such a degree they were like logs."

Lieutenant Anderson, slight of build, was working on the lower net when he was seized by a desperate drowning man and pulled under the water. David sensed the situation, dived from the net, succeeded in breaking the survivor's strangle hold on his officer, and rescued both.

David died of pneumonia following his exposure and exertions.

## ELVIN BELL

Elvin Bell, Mess Attendant, Third Class, 20 years old of Jamaica, New York, on February 2, 1943, was awarded the Navy Cross and Marine Corps medal with the following citation:

"For distinguished heroism while serving aboard the USS Lexington during the Battle of the Coral Sea on May 8,

1942. Voluntarily joining a repair party fighting a fire in an area frequented by violent explosions of gasoline vapor and ammunition, Bell, although emerging in an exhausted condition, unhesitatingly entered the most dangerous section of the stricken carrier and assisted in removing injured personnel who had been trapped below decks. His courageous initiative and utter disregard for his own safety were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

### **JOSEPH CROSS**

The Secretary of the Navy, in the name of the President of the United States, awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal to Joseph Cross, Steward's Mate, First Class, 2510 Thalia St., New Orleans, La.

The citation says:

"For heroic conduct during four submarine war patrols in enemy controlled waters. Performing his duties with excellent judgment and conscientious skill, Cross contributed materially to the destruction by his ship of an important amount of Japanese shipping. His resolute courage was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

### **ELBERT H. OLIVER**

A Silver Star Medal was awarded Elbert H. Oliver, Steward's Mate First Class, USN, by the Secretary of the Navy, in the name of the President of the United States. Oliver, who has been wounded in action, resides at 1112 Locust Street, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

His citation reads:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving aboard a U. S. warship during a raid upon that vessel by approximately twenty-five Japanese torpedo planes in the vicinity of the Solomon Islands on June 30, 1943. When members of his 20-mm gun crew were severely wounded by a bursting projectile, Oliver quickly took over the station of the injured gunner and, although he himself was bleeding profusely, maintained accurate fire against the attacking planes until eventually compelled to give way to a relief gunner. His aggressive fighting spirit and grim determination to carry on in the face of acute pain and waning strength were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

### **CHARLES JACKSON FRENCH**

Charles Jackson French, Mess Attendant, Second Class, 23 years old of Foreman, Arkansas, was commended by Admiral William F. Halsey, U.S.N. Commander, South Pacific

Area and South Pacific Force, for heroism while serving on a destroyer in the Pacific area.

His commendation announced May 18, 1943, reads as follows:

"For meritorious conduct inaction while serving on board a destroyer transport which was badly damaged during the engagement with Japanese forces in the British Solomon Islands on September 5, 1942. After the engagement, a group of about fifteen men were adrift on a raft which was being deliberately shelled by Japanese naval forces. French tied a line to himself and swam for more than two hours without rest, thus attempting to tow the raft. His conduct was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Naval Service."

### **LEONARD ROY HARMON**

Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox on June 8, 1943, designated Mrs. Naunita Harmon Carroll, whose address was P. O. Box 381, Cuero, Texas, to sponsor the Destroyer Escort USS Harmon, which she did when the vessel was launched July 10, 1943, at Hingham, Mass.

The Harmon received its name in honor of Mrs. Carroll's son, the late Leonard Roy Harmon, Mess Attendant, First Class, U.S.N., who was awarded the Navy Cross posthumously for heroism while serving on the USS San Francisco. This is the first vessel to bear the name Harmon.

Hamon's citation issued with the award of the Navy Cross read as follows:

"For extraordinary heroism while serving abroad the USS San Francisco during action against enemy Japanese forces in the Solomon Islands area on November 12 and 13, 1942. With persistent disregard for his own personal safety, Harmon rendered invaluable assistance in caring for the wounded and evacuating them to a dressing station. In addition to displaying unusual loyalty in behalf of the injured Executive Officer, he deliberately exposed himself to hostile gunfire in order to protect a shipmate and, as a result of this courageous deed, was killed in action. His heroic spirit of self-sacrifice, maintained above and beyond the call of duty, was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave up his life in the defense of his country."

### **WILLIAM PINCKNEY**

The Secretary of the Navy, on behalf of the President of the United States, awarded the Navy Cross to William Pinckney, Cook, Third Class, on June 10, 1943. Pinckney, 28 years old, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Renty Pinckney,



Box 92, Beaufort, South Carolina. The Navy Cross was given with the following citation:

"For extraordinary heroism while serving aboard the USS Enterprise during the engagement with enemy Japanese naval forces near the Santa Cruz Islands on October 26th, 1942. When a heavy bomb exploded in the near vicinity, Pinckney, standing at his battle station in the ammunition handling room, was knocked unconscious. With several compartments completely wrecked and four of his five companions killed, Pinckney, regaining consciousness, groped his way through the burning and tangled wreckage to a point under an open hangar hatch. Just as he was about to escape he found a shipmate, the only other survivor of his party, struggling up through the hatch. When the man fell unconscious, either from his wounds or from smoke and fumes, Pinckney, unmindful of his own danger, lifted his comrade through the hatch to safety before he himself battled his way out of the burning and smoke-filled compartment. By his dauntless courage in saving his comrade's life at great risk to his own, Pinckney upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

## MARINE CORPS

The Marine Corps began active training of Negroes on September 1, 1942, with the intention of recruiting 10,000.

The first group of 1200 volunteers completed their training at Camp Lejeune, New River, N. C., and in six months began active duty in the Far Pacific.

Every Marine is potentially a fighting man first—a specialist later. Specialized branches include: Aviation, Line, Mess, Musician, Paymaster, Quartermaster and Communication. Negroes are serving in five of the seven branches. As of November, 1943, there were 8,500 Negroes in the Marine Corps. Most of them are in either line duty or in the mess service. Line duty is sub-divided into specific elements, such as infantry, artillery, anti-aircraft, air ground units, tank units, engineering, chemical warfare and the new Paramarines. Mess service includes the Cooks' and Bakers' School.

# Captain Hugh N. Mulzac

By Thelma Vass

Captain Mulzac was born in St. Vincent, British West Indies, 1884, went to sea in 1907 as an ordinary seaman on a bark. He is a slight man with a scholarly appearance and the demeanor of a professor.

In the last war, he served as first mate on British ships. He has been an officer on American flag vessels, but because of his color he could not obtain appointment as Master. His last job was on the intercoastal freighter, Montana.

He attended Swansea Nautical School in Wales and was graduated from the Shipping Board's School in Baltimore in 1918.

He was the first Negro to receive command of a merchant ship of the size of the SS Booker T. Washington, in the American Merchant Marine. He assisted the National Maritime Union (CIO) and various organizations in the selection of a mixed crew. 17 nationalities, 25% Negro, including chief engineer, four deck officers and the wireless operator, were represented.

## MARITIME COMMISSION

Liberty Ships named in honor of outstanding Negroes and the date of their launching:

SS Booker T. Washington .....	Sept. 19, 1942
SS George Washington Carver .....	May 2, 1943
SS Paul Lawrence Dunbar .....	Oct. 19, 1943
SS Frederick Douglass .....	May, 1943
SS John Merrick .....	July, 1943
SS Robert L. Vann .....	Oct. 1943
SS James Weldon Johnson .....	Dec. 12, 1943
SS John Hope .....	Jan. 1944
SS John H. Murphy .....	March, 1944

The Navy Department named a naval vessel, the Destroyer Escort Leonard Roy Harmon, in honor of a Negro messman who received the Navy Cross posthumously for heroic conduct at Guadalcanal.

## SELECTIVE SERVICE

According to the Office of War Information, Negroes joined the Army at rate of whites. They exceeded the exact percentage figure. To contradict reports in some areas of the country that "Negroes were not being inducted into the Army in comparable percentages" to the registration totals, the agency issued official records December 27, 1942, from Selective Service Headquarters.

The report stated: Although Negroes constitute 9.8 percent of the total population in the last census, Negro selectees and volunteers constitute 10.1 percent of all persons



Bureau of Public Relations, U. S. War Department

**SELECTIVE SERVICE AIDE IS PROMOTED**—Colonel Campbell C. Johnson, executive assistant to Selective Service Director Major General Lewis B. Hershey, discusses papers covering report of his recent tour of Army induction stations with his assistant, Captain Benson D. Mitchell, in his office in the Selective Service System Headquarters, Washington. Colonel Johnson was promoted to his present rank on September 21. (U. S. Army photo).

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inducted into the Army through Selective Service as of October 13, 1942.

In 9 out of 14 Southern and border states, the percentage of Negroes inducted into the Army through Selective Service, exceeded the percentage of Negroes registered for the draft in those states. During 1940-41 period, Negroes constituted 16.1 percent of the total number of volunteers.

Negro units of the Army were located in Great Britain, Ireland, North and West Africa (including Liberia) Hawaii, Australia, New Guinea, Alaska and West Indies.

Colonel Campbell Johnson and Capt. Doyle Mitchell were on the headquarters staff of Gen. Lewis B. Hershey. Both men are from Washington, D. C.



Bureau of Public Relations, U. S. War Department

**A HUDDLE IN THE ALEUTIANS**—Grouped around a fire on the beach at Massacre Bay in the Aleutian Islands, these members of the Port Harbor Battalion take time out from their arduous tasks of unloading landing barges to “warm up” for the first time in many days. They are Privates L. H. Lucas, M. H. Winston and O. L. Braflord. (Photo by U. S. Signal Corps.)



Note: The Publishers feel that the most important development of an organized group to stress the pitiful plight of Negroes in various fields of activity during the war, occurred when the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People held an Emergency Conference at Detroit, Michigan, June 3-6, 1943.

States ment To The Nation Adopted By The Emergency Conference On The Status Of The Negro In The War For Freedom Called By The National Association For The Advancement Of Colored People At Detroit, Mich., June 3-6, 1943 (Adopted by Vote of Delegates June 5, 1943, Detroit, Mich.)

## PREAMBLE

The NAACP and its members are appalled at the wide discrepancy between our professed war aims of democracy and freedom and the treatment meted out to the Negroes in nearly every part of our national life.

The issues with which we are concerned must be raised now. We refuse to listen to the weak-kneed of both races who tell us not to raise such controversies during the war. We believe on the contrary that we are doing a patriotic duty in raising them. A war in which discrimination has been banished from the armed forces, in which Negro manpower and ability are fully used in industry, and in which full rights of citizenship have been granted to the largest minority group of our nation will be fought more vigorously and wholeheartedly.

### SECTION 1

The treatment of Negroes in the Armed Services is marked by daily subjection to the indignities of segregation and discrimination, with a constant recurrence of brutalities and murders by civilian and military police. This evil condition reaches into the homes and hearts of every American Negro. It constitutes a serious and continuously existing breach in our national unity and is naturally reducing the

spirit and morale of the Negro citizen. It also furnishes material for Axis propaganda.

The continued ill treatment of Negroes in uniform both on military reservations and in many civilian communities is disgraceful. Negroes in the uniform of the nation have been beaten, mobbed, killed and lynched.

Discrimination is serious and rampant. In spite of the need for flyers only a few Negroes have been accepted in a segregated section of the Air Corps. There are no Negro commissioned officers in the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. Negro women have not been admitted to the WAVES and SPARS in spite of their excellent showing as WAACS. Negro soldiers frequently are denied equal opportunities for transportation facilities, although this is strictly contrary to law.

**(Editor's Note: Since this statement was made the Navy has commissioned Negro Officers.)**

Segregation is the iron clad rule in the armed forces except in the Officers Candidate School. Yet it is practiced against no other racial group.

We demand the ending of this discrimination and segregation. We pledge our support to Winfred Lynn in his effort to be recognized as a conscientious objector to serving in a segregated army. The President, as Commander-in-Chief, has the full power to end discrimination and segregation in the armed forces. We call on him to use that power now.

We hail the Four Freedom as our war aims but both American Negroes and colored peoples all over the world will justly regard the Four Freedoms as hypocrisy unless the President acts to end discrimination against Negroes in the armed forces of our nation.

## SECTION II

The NAACP stands wholeheartedly behind the government of the United States for the prosecution of the war to complete victory and an enduring peace. Among the rights guaranteed by its Constitution to all citizens of the United States is equality of opportunity which includes the right to work and to earn a living, qualified only by fitness for the job with no exception based on race, creed, color, or national origin. The government of our United States must observe this right and set the example through its own employment policies and the policies of Federal agencies.

We condemn the practice of our government in permitting both direct and indirect violation of the letter and spirit of the rules of the Civil Service Commission resulting in employment discrimination because of race, creed, color or national origin. We equally condemn the policy of the United States Employment Service in aiding and abetting discrimination through the application of sections three, four, and five of the U.S.E.S. Bulletin C-45 issued July 1, 1942. We

further deplore the failure of the Office of Education and other Federal agencies to accord to Negro youths opportunities for defense training on an equal basis with all other youth.

We believe that the spirit and letter of Executive Order 8802 as amended by Order 9346 should be fully enforced. To that end, we urge that the Fair Employment Practice Committee shall make adequate appropriations for the enlargement of its field personnel who shall be subject only to the committee. We urge the establishment of Regional offices, under the committee, throughout the nation. We urge the immediate appointment of competent, fair-minded persons to the committee. We further urge the holding of public hearings on discrimination in transportation and war industries including the rescheduling of the railroad, Washington Capital Transit and Detroit hearings.

We commend the upgrading policies established by some unions for full integration of Negro labor in industry. We urge similar action on the part of other unions for the preservation of unity in labor ranks now threatened by interests inimical to the war efforts of our country and its allies.

We condemn those branches of organized labor which, whether by constitutional proscription or ritualistic practice, deny membership to persons on account of race, color, creed or national origin.

Likewise we condemn the abominable practice of some labor organizations in setting up "auxiliary" unions for Negro workers. As a means of protecting their rights as workers we urge Negroes everywhere to become full fledged members of organized labor on a basis of equality with all other workers.

We feel that at present there is no need for conscription of labor because there are still thousands of men and women of various minority groups in the country who have not yet been given jobs commensurate with their skills. We oppose specifically the Austin-Wadsworth bill now pending in Congress.

We condemn the policies and directives of federal agencies which authorize the freezing of industrial and agricultural workers in a manner which permits arbitrary and discriminatory application of such policies and directives solely on the basis of race, color, creed and national origin.

We recommend that all Negroes exploit to the limit every avenue and facility to discover and correct abuses in the use of manpower. By constant protest and complaints to the proper sources, we can bring the full weight of our strength against offending parties who oppose our economic advance.

Notwithstanding our efforts in this direction which must be pursued persistently, we are aware of and do assume our collective and individual responsibility to perform

our jobs, whatever they are, well and to the best of our ability.

In line with our duties and opportunities now at hand, we call upon the Negro people to give their best performance, whether in industry or agriculture so as to promote the war effort. At the same time we strongly urge them to use their improved economic resources wisely and well.

### SECTION III

The full emancipation of the Negro in America has been obstructed by a continuous and deliberate program of propaganda to create a stereotype of the Negro as intellectually, socially, and biologically inferior. The Negro has been the pawn in the "divide and rule" technique of the controlling class. The myth of white superiority has been exploited as a wedge to destroy the natural unity between the white and Negro working masses. Opportunities, advantages, and prestige are assumed as the exclusive right of even the least competent, merely because they are white. By this exploitation of racial concepts and the degrading of the Negro, democracy remains a wordy fiction rather than a working fact.

The press, radio, and motion picture are the modern instruments by which this poisonous propaganda is spread.

We call upon the press, including newspapers, periodical and book publishers, to change its prejudiced policy in treatment of Negro subject matter. The Associated Press, United Press, and local editors should eliminate the designation of "Negro" in reporting crime news. We commend the New York PM and the Newspaper Guild for their efforts in exposing the distortion by the press of Negro participation in crime and the elimination of racial tags in news reporting. We recommend that the press employ qualified Negro journalists on their news reporting staffs. We urge a larger reporting of the Negro's contribution to American life and his participation in the total war effort.

We call upon the radio and motion picture industries to abandon their long established practice of depicting Negroes exclusively in servile roles and as buffoons, entertainers, shiftless ne'er-do-wells and religious fanatics. Negro artists and actors have a tremendous responsibility in shaping the public concept of the Negro. We, therefore, challenge them to refuse to prostitute their talents in fostering propaganda injurious to the Negro.

Because the government gives formal sanction to the fiction of white superiority by its policy of segregation in the armed forces, it is not surprising that the radio, press and screen propaganda of the Office of War Information follows the same pattern. We demand that the OWI abandon its policy of treating the Negro as a separate and isolated subject. We urge that the Negro be included as an integral



part of the whole American scene, with a fair reporting of his contributions to the war effort, and disseminated to all sections of the American people as well as abroad.

We feel that it is imperative that representatives of the Negro press be given equal press privileges in attending and reporting Congressional hearings as well as Presidential and other official press conferences.

## ON THE HOME FRONT

The Arsenal of Democracy offered a real challenge and an opportunity for Negroes.

Before Pearl Harbor the job of supplying Great Britain, China and Russia with the sinews of war found Negroes unready to fill important production positions. Skilled workmen for foundry, airplane plant, munitions factory and other other production centers were hard to find. The advent of NYA, the government sponsored training program for youths plus the introduction of training programs within industry itself, helped to overcome what war, at first, a major crisis in gearing the nation for 'all out' production.

The most significant contribution to war production was made by women. 'For Men Only' has disappeared from the labor market; women have done jobs during World War II that previously were denied, 'the weaker sex.' The U. S. Department of Labor reported: a Negro woman runs a steel-burning machine at the Bartlett-Hayward plant in Baltimore, Md. The machine is 25 feet long and 6 feet high, which cuts huge plates of steel for use in six different kinds of anti-aircraft guns. Its a precision machine with a dozen or more controls. Another rare job: (held by a Negro woman) one Rosalie Ivy is a 'Pan Man' in a giant Gary (Ind.) steel mill. She mixes a special mud used to seal the casting hole through which molten iron flows from a blast furnace. There are few women in the entire steel industry. In a Civil Service examination for positions at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, Evelyn Samuels received a rating of 99, highest among the 6,000 women tested.

First woman in the history of shipbuilding, to be employed as a chipper and caulker is Sarah T. Francis, who works for the Todd Shipyard in Hoboken, N. J.

Ethel Maxwell Williams, St. Paul, Minn., is assistant to the director of personnel at the Twin Ordnance Plant at New Brighton, Minn. Her work includes labor relations, personal adjustment, race relations and related spheres of administrative activity.

Women are employed extensively in aircraft, cannon and small arms plants, doing all manner of jobs.

## THE FEPC

The establishment of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice, an agency created to investigate discrimination in industry and government did much to gain for Negroes the opportunity to gain new skills, higher classifications on old jobs and access to positions long denied them because of color and race. The number of cases of discrimination reported and handled by the FEPC averaged more than 300 per month.

In June, 1941, a threatened March on Washington, led by A. Philip Randolph, head of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and supported by other organizations including the NAACP, culminated in the issuance of Executive Order 8802 by President Roosevelt. The directive banned discrimination on race, creed, color and national origin in defense industries. This order was later superceded by Executive Order 9346 which gave the committee more power.

### Race Relations

The use of Negroes in top-ranking advisory positions to represent the race in government has been wide-spread and effective. Outstanding as a consultant was Dr. Robert C. Weaver, of the War Manpower Commission staff. While consultant to the Public Works Administration, he recommended the elimination of discrimination in all Housing Authority contracts. Negro management of projects predominantly occupied by Negroes, as advocated by Dr. Weaver, has become the established pattern. He held similar positions with the Joint Committee on National Recovery, the War Production Board and the President's Committee on Education and the White House Conference on Children in a Democracy.

Others who have done meritorious jobs include: Theodore Poston, News Bureau of the Office of War Information; Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, National Youth Administration; Judge William H. Hastie, civilian aide to the Secretary of War; William J. Trent, Jr., Federal Works Agency; T. Arnold Hill, Office of Price Administration; Mrs. Crystal Byrd Faucett, Office of Civilian Defense; Frank Horn, Federal Public Housing Administration, and William Pickens, Treasury Department.

### War Bonds

The distinction of being the First Bond buyer in the 4th War Loan in Wisconsin went to a Negro, Price Collins, a pullman porter.

The Treasury Department utilized the services of Negroes in selling Bonds beginning in May, 1941. An Interracial Section was established with Dean William Pickens, noted orator and publicist, as director. Many outstanding

leaders in various fields were enlisted to aid in selling bonds to fraternal, labor, civic and church groups throughout the country.

In Florida during the Fourth War Loan over one million dollars was subscribed by Negroes. Negro Elks under J. Finley Wilson, Grand Exalted Ruler, and special Treasury representative, purchased over eleven million dollars. Up to the end of November, 1943, the National Negro Insurance Association, composed of 44 companies and 11 affiliated associations, representing 2,300,000 policy-holders, located in 26 states, invested over \$11,000,000 worth of War Bonds.

Beauticians in New York State during the second War Loan reported over \$100,000 and Negro women in Greater New York recorded 700 individual sales totaling \$1,225,000. Negroes in Jacksonville, Fla., since 1942, purchased Bonds amounting to \$1,425,000.

Stimulus to the Fourth War Bond Drive among Negroes was gained by a unique plan offered and adopted by the National Negro Business League, an organization founded by Booker T. Washington, the educator. The plan was the establishing of a chain of War Bond Savings Clubs in every Negro community.

"Keep Us Flying" a Fourth War Loan poster, depicted a Negro aviator, Robert W. Dietz, member of the famous 99th Pursuit Squadron. Over 150,000 of them were distributed throughout the country.

### **Agriculture**

On September 30, 1943, the Department of Agriculture reported 1,707 full-time Negro employees in Washington and the field service. There were, in addition, 583 farm and home demonstration agents and approximately 200 committeemen and collaborators.

In 1940, Negro farmers numbered 700,000 and operated over 30 million acres. The value of these farms was in excess of 836 million dollars and the value of farm implements and machinery was over 40 million dollars. Negro farmers in 1943 produced two billion pounds of milk, 100 million dozen eggs and sizeable quantities of beef, pork, fruits and vegetables.

In 1942 there were 217,708 Negro 4-H Club members.

## Civics

The contribution of civic groups to the war effort stands as a monument to the eternal vigilance that must be paid for the price of freedom. The establishment of new organizations such as The March On Washington movement, The Fraternal Council of Negro Churches, The Booker T. Washington Inter-racial Committee, The Interdenominational Minister's Alliance, and numerous local and sectional inter-racial councils, committees and groups, did much to focus attention on the part Negroes have played in the war and their expectations of a joint consideration in the peace to follow.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, The National Council of Negro Women, under the dynamic leadership of Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune; The National Urban League, The Postal Alliance, National Negro Business League and many others contributed mightily to the war waged by Negroes on the home front.



Released by U. S. War Department  
Bureau of Public Relations

### FORT BENNING, GEORGIA—

Lieutenant Velma P. Owens, staff dietician at the Station Hospital, holds the distinction of being the first colored woman ever commissioned at Fort Benning.



**NEGRO FIGHTER AWARDED SILVER STAR**—P. F. C. Mack B. Anderson, Brenham, Texas, who has been awarded the Silver Star, fourth highest combat medal for his heroic action during the recent Japanese bombings in the China-Burma-India area. Several instances of exceptional courage were reported. P. F. C. Anderson stood up in the middle of an airfield firing a machine gun while a Japanese Zero fighter repeatedly swooped over him. Eventually his gun jammed and Anderson then raced across the field, leaped into a trench, whipped out his pistol, and continued.



**SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND**—Negro graduates of Officer Candidate School in England. (Left to right) Samuel L. Coleman, New York, N. Y.; William H. Cox, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Richard W. Davis, Washington, D. C.; William F. Duckery, Philadelphia, Pa.; William A. Dyson, New York, N. Y.; Lester W. Gordon, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Lucius Gibson, Americus, Ga.; Earnest J. Harris, Neptune, N. J.; William Murphy, Valdosta, Ga.; Carl W. Pope, Columbus, Ohio; James P. Rux, Bloomsburg, Pa.; Robert L. Terrell, Houston, Tex.; Richard C. Wells, Washington, D. C.; Kenneth E. Wilson, Brooklyn, N. Y.. These Officers have received their commissions as second lieutenants.

# RED CROSS WORKERS



Center, top to bottom: James G. Tyson, Washington, D. C.; Charlene F. Wharton, Long Island, N. Y.; Peter S. Ridley, Washington, D. C.



Top to bottom: James L. Rodgers, Washington, D. C.; Camille K. Jones, Chicago, Ill.

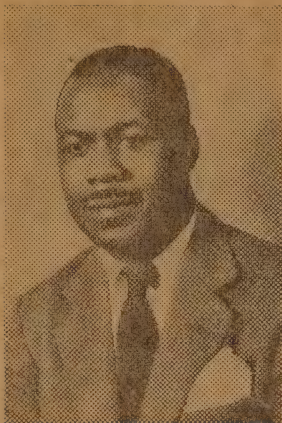


Top to bottom: Donald M. Wyatt, Washington, D. C.; Martha V. Stafford, Indianapolis, Ind.

# RED CROSS WORKERS



Top to bottom: Leonard Hill, Washington, D. C.; J. Pericles McDuffie, Washington, D. C.



Centre row, top to bottom: George Goodman, Washington, D. C.; Ligon Buford, Washington, D. C.; Aline L. Blackwell, Chicago, Ill.



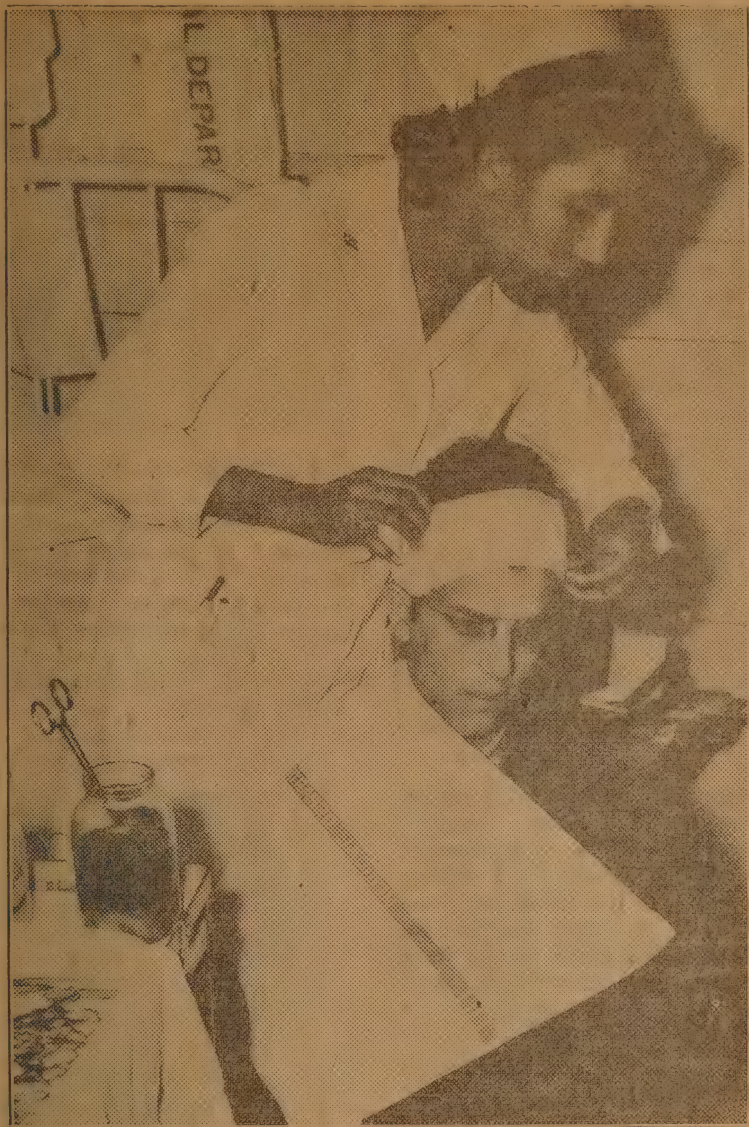
Top to bottom: Sylvester L. Reeder, Washington, D. C.; Geneva Holmes, Washington, D. C.



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**"THE PALACE" IN ITALY**—Private First Class Louis N. Cole, of Hernando, Mississippi, steps proudly from his makeshift but comfortable tent somewhere on the Fifth Army front. Private Cole is a living example of: "Left to his own devices, a Yank will always take care of himself." (Photo by U. S. Army Signal Corps.)





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**SKILLED HANDS**—Second Lieutenant Annie E. Phillips of Garner Road, North Carolina, a member of the Army Nurse Corps, dresses a head wound for Private First Class Michael P. Brigida at Station Hospital, Camp Livingston, Louisiana. (Photo by U. S. Army Signal Corps.)



Bureau of Public Relations  
U S. War Department

**EXPERT**--Aux. John Lawrence, a laboratory technician at Fort Bragg, N. C., is a member of WAAC Detachment No. 2. She is finding that the three years she spent at Southwestern College, Windfield, Kansas, is helping her a great deal in her work in one of Fort Bragg's hospitals where she has relieved an enlisted man for combat service. Her home is in Caldwell, Texas.



**WASHINGTON, D. C.**--First Lieutenant L. J. Conner of Chicago, Illinois, recently commissioned and assigned to the Judge Advocate General's office, is the first Negro to receive such an appointment. He graduated from school and college in Chicago and practiced law there until his induction at Fort Custer in 1942.



2nd LT. JESSIE M. EADS  
Plaquemine, La.



By Bureau of Public Relations, U. S. War Dept., Wash., D. C.

Affectionately dubbed "Beatrice," this heavy machine gun gets loving care from its crew against the day it may be used to blast enemy raiders from the sky. At their action stations, as they would be in case of attack, are, left to right, Corp. Harold T. Cooper, New York City, Pfc. Calvin Watson, Memphis, and Pfc. Francis Avery, New York City.

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## ARMY AIR FORCE

The establishment of Tuskegee Army Flying School was in 1941.

Located in South Central Alabama, 13 miles from Tuskegee Institute, the field was conceived in the fertile mind of architect Hilyard R. Robinson, Washington, D. C., and the engineering miracle evolved was the result of another Negro firm—McKissack & Co., Louisville, Ky. They had to level several hills. One spot on the field is exactly 54 feet less in elevation than formerly. Trees had to be uprooted and all vestiges of vegetation of every sort had to be obliterated before mile-long concrete runways could be laid down. The



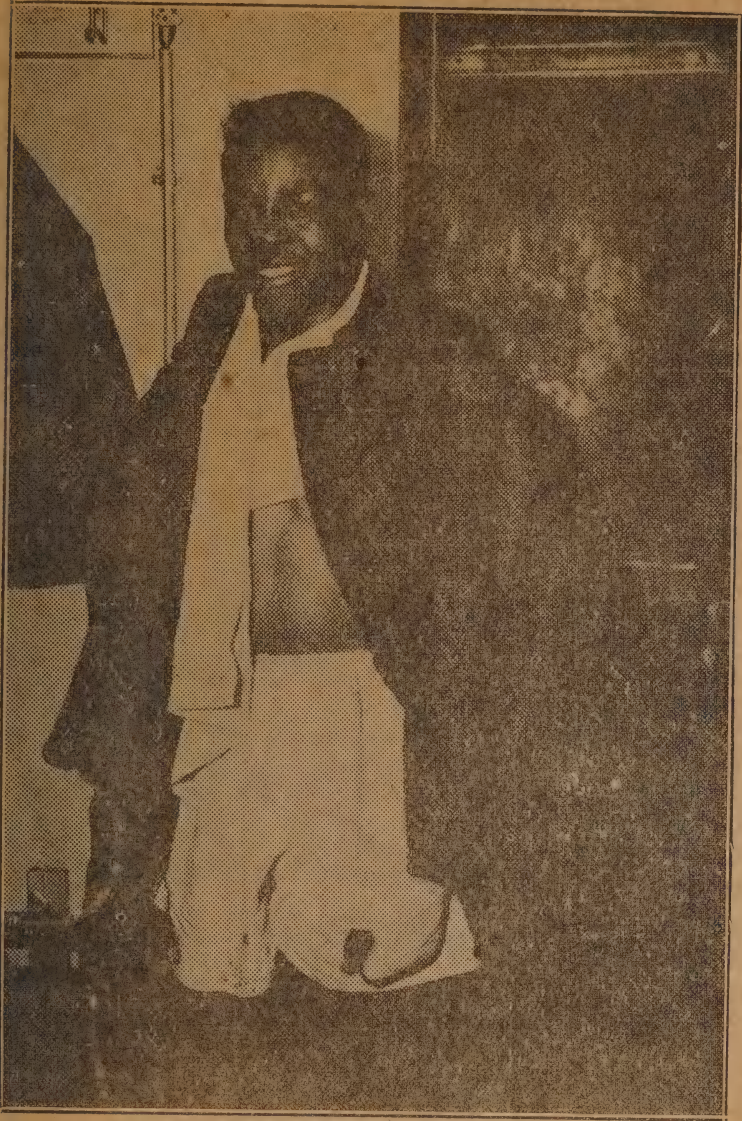
Bureau of Public Relations U. S. War Department

### FIRST NEGRO TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP SINGLES CROWN

in the history of Fort Jackson and the Columbia Army Air Base was won by Cpl. George R. Ledbetter of Winston-Salem, N. C., Section 2, Supply Detachment, Supply Division at Fort Jackson (left), who is about to receive the champ's trophy from Mr. E. C. Spurlock, Director of the Taylor Street USO in Columbia and promoter of the tournament (center)). Runner-up, Cpl. Eldridge Johnson of Baltimore, Md., and the 274th Q. M. Bn., at Fort Jackson, smiles approval in the best near-champ manner.

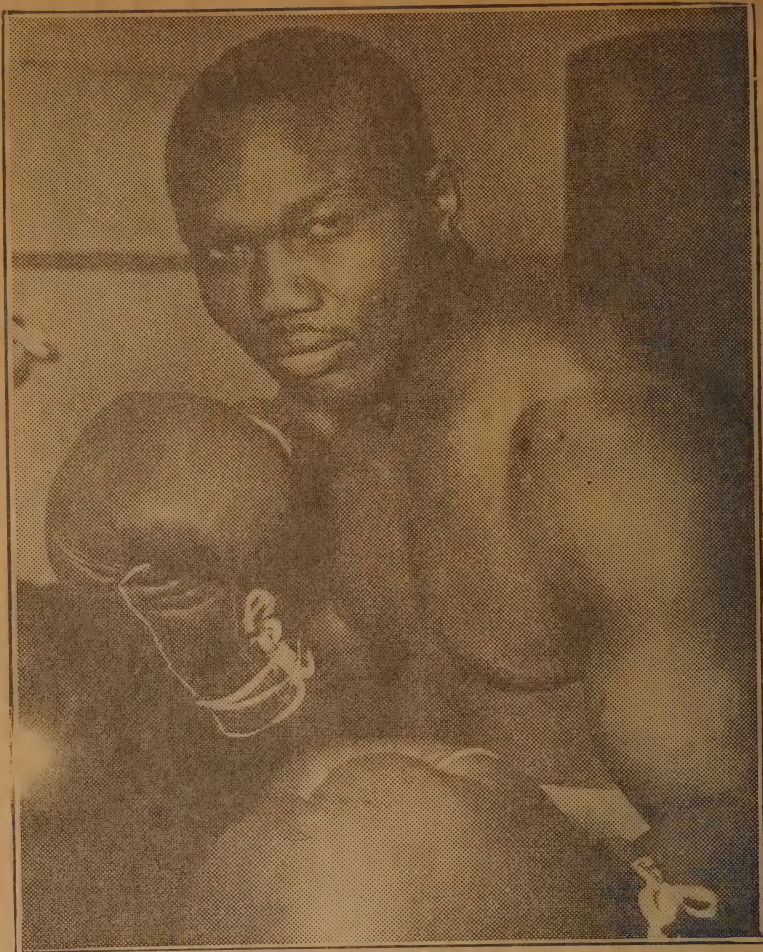
field now forms a big valley, man-made, a beautiful rolling valley that slopes back up toward the hill.

Training began under civilian pilots—Army personnel handled the administrative work. First troops arrived October, 1941. The initial ground crew for the so-called 99th Pursuit Squadron was composed of men who volunteered



Released by U S War Department Bureau of Public Relations

**WELTERWEIGHT CHAMPION**—Private First Class William Garrett, 106 Mill Avenue, Braddock, Pennsylvania, won the welterweight title of the U. S. Army, European Theatre of Operations, when he won a three-round decision over Corporal Bat Rossi, 240 North School Avenue, Oglesby, Illinois.



Released by U. S. War Department, Bureau of Public Relations

**FIFTH ARMY CHAMPION**—Corporal Horace Buford, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who once graced the boxing cards of Madison Square Gardens in New York City and the prize rings of Philadelphia and Buffalo, recently won the Fifth Army professional heavyweight boxing championship. He will fight in Africa against other champions of Army and Navy units in the North Africa Theater of Operations. He serves in a Fifth Army Quartermaster unit. (Photo by U. S. Army Signal Corps.)

and had been trained at Chanute Field, Illinois. Each man was eager to play his role in building up the first flying school of its kind for Negroes. The first commanding officer of the field was Major James A. Ellison (white). Lieutenant Colonel B.O. Davis, Jr., highest ranking Negro officer in the



**WAAC BASKETBALL TEAM PRACTICING FOR LEAGUE GAMES**—At Fort Huachuca, Arizona, these athletic girls have strenuous practice. Left to right: Captain Frances C. Alexander, 32nd Company Coach and Commanding Officer, Toledo, Ohio; Lacy Johnson, Little Rock, Arkansas; and Reba Caldwell, Pittsburgh, Kansas.

Army Air Forces, was the executive of troops. More than 60 percent of the total quota of officers at the flying school were Negroes.

Second Lieutenant Mac Ross, a graduate of the first flying class in March, 1942, was the youngest Squadron Commander. He became the C. O. of a newly activated fighter squadron—the 100th. He is a graduate of West Virginia State College and a native of Dayton, Ohio. He was the first American flying officer to become a member of the Caterpillar Club.



A keen edge on the appetite is no exception to the good mess provided for our soldiers everywhere is that served in Hawaii. Here enjoying their repast are, left to right, Corp. John L. Sellers, Columbus, Ga., Pvt. Joseph English, Greensboro, Ga., Pvt. Bennie W. Samuel, Albany, Ga., and Pvt. John Preston, Tampa, Fla.

With the Tuskegee Institute as Contractor the 66th Army Air Forces Training Detachment began operations in July of 1941, when it received its first class of Aviation Cadets. In addition to providing Primary Flying Training, the Pre-Flight School was also located at this detachment. Student flying training command began the latter part of August, 1941.

The General Manager of the school from the start has been Professor G. L. Washington, head of the Department of Mechanical Industries, Division of Aeronautics, Tuskegee Institute. A Massachusetts Institute of Technology graduate, Prof. Washington has been associated with the Tuskegee Institute for many years.

Charles A. Anderson, pioneer Negro pilot, has been Chief Pilot since the school opened.

Tuskegee is producing skilled technicians, air mechanics, photographers, weather men and many other technicians essential to the Army Air Forces. At one time at the base there were: the 66th Flying Training Detachment, 648th





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**SETS RECORD IN MARKSMANSHIP**—Private Emmett O. Smith, of Montgomery, Alabama, is shown in the kneeling position with his M-1 (Garand) rifle, the weapon with which he broke all marksmanship records at the Fort McClellan (Alabama) Infantry Replacement Training Center. He scored 206 out of a possible 210 on the rifle range, after only seven weeks of basic training. (Photo by U. S. Army Signal Corps.)

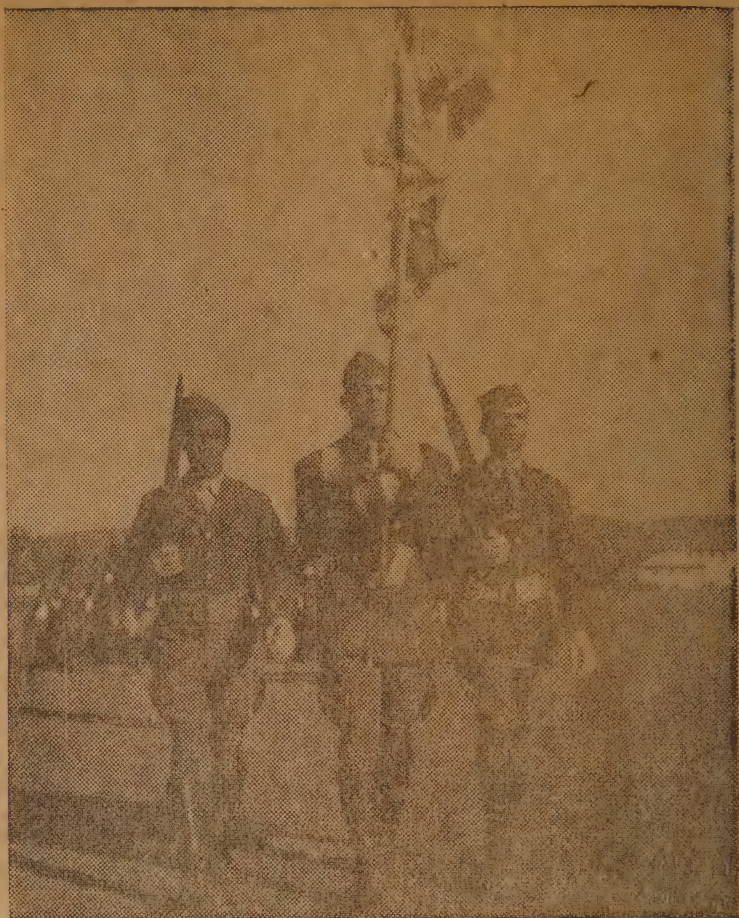


2nd LT. VALMA M. BROWN  
St. Louis, Mo.,



2nd LT. LUCIA A. RAPLEY  
Washington, D. C.

Ordnance Co., a Weather Detachment, 689th Signal Aircraft Warning Co., 1451st Quartermaster Co., the 941st Guard Squadron, 313th Army Air Forces Band, Medical Department, 1155th Single Engine Flying Training Squad-



**FORT RILEY, KANSAS**—Sergeant Joe Louis Barrows, back on the job after a short furlough, carries the colors in an evening review of the crack 8th Training Squadron. He is undergoing a 13-week basic training period at the Cavalry Replacement Center, after which he will be assigned to a regular unit of the Armed Forces.

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ron, 889th Basic Flying Training Squadron, and the 318th Base Headquarters and Air Base Squadron.

Added to the training that Negroes have received in the above, the Army has already started to commission Negroes as Bombardiers, Navigators, paratroopers, etc.

# ARMY NURSE CORPS

## THE NURSE'S CREED

" . . . I will do all in my power to maintain and elevate the standard of my profession, and will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping and all family affairs coming to my knowledge in the practice of my calling. With loyalty will I endeavor to aid the physician in his work, and devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care."

" . . . I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office upon which I am about to enter. So Help Me God."  
*(From the Regular Army Oath taken by all Army Nurses upon entering the service.)*

**N**EGRO Army nurses are doing their share of the work leading to victory, both at home and abroad. In the continental United States, they are presently stationed at Fort Clark, and Camp Howze, Texas; Fort Huachuca, Arizona; Tuskegee Army Air Field, Alabama; Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and Camp Livingston, Louisiana.

The first contingent of 29 Negro Army nurses to go overseas found its way to Liberia, in West Africa, in February, 1943. This group was headed by First Lieutenant Susan E. Freeman of Stratford, Connecticut, who is the second Negro nurse to enter the Army Nurse Corps. A graduate of Freedmen's Hospital, Washington, D. C., Lieutenant Freeman did volunteer work in 1937 at Louisville, Kentucky, during the time of the Ohio and Mississippi river floods. She has served as principal chief nurse of Station Hospital No. 1, Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

To the Southwest Pacific area in November, 1943, went the first group of 15 Negro Army nurses, headed by First Lieutenant Birdie E. Brown of New York City, New York. Lieutenant Brown was formerly personnel and assistant building supervisor at New York's Harlem Hospital.

**N**URSING in the Army includes the care, not only of officers and enlisted men, but their families and other patients entitled to admission to Army hospitals. Army nurses are assigned to evacuation planes and trains, to transport and other Army ships carrying wounded. They care for the injured abroad in mobile station hospitals, in evacuation hospitals, station and general hospitals, and nurse sick and wounded soldiers in all Army hospitals at home.

Army nurses may receive citations and awards for bravery under fire and meritorious service. Opportunities for promotion in rank, up to and including the rank of lieutenant colonel, await intelligent nurses who exhibit executive ability, judgment and tact.

Appointments in the Army Nurse Corps are made by The Surgeon General with the approval of the Secretary of War, through nine service commands, the Army Air Forces, and overseas departments.



1st LT. JOSEPHINE CHERRY  
Lisbon, Ohio



2nd LT. ANNIE JEFFERSON  
Richmond, Va.



1st LT. MARY LOUISE PETTY  
Chicago, Ill.



2nd LT. DORIS Y. EVANS  
Winston-Salem, N. C.



1st LT. BIRDIE E. BROWN  
New York, N. Y.



2nd LT. ALICE P. BINFORD  
Irwin, Va.

# WASHINGTON D. C.—SALUTES!



1st Sgt. Robert L. Payne



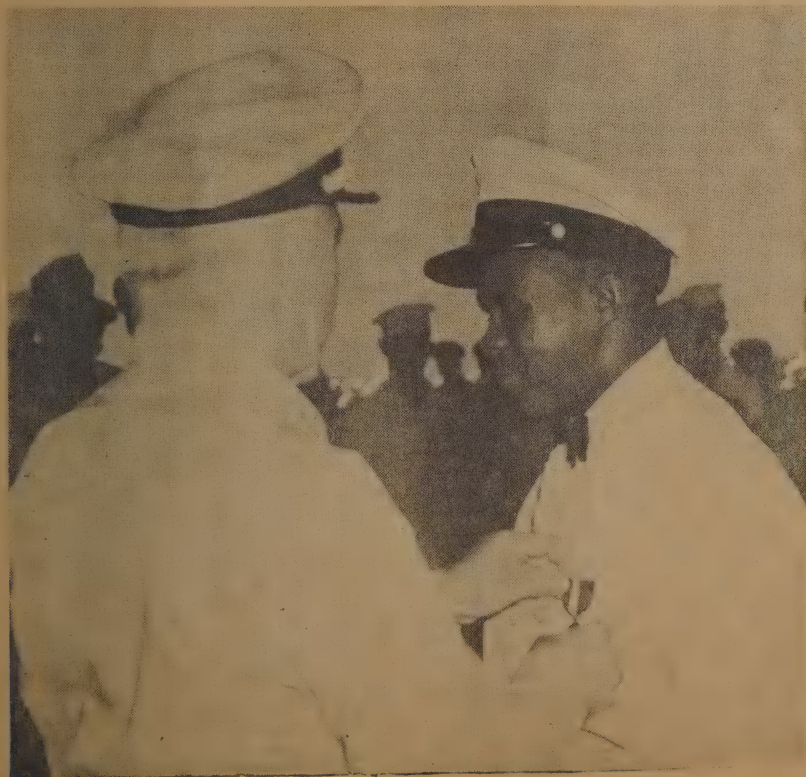
## HONORED BY THE NAVY

For having saved the lives of several men trapped in a bombed compartment on a U. S. aircraft carrier af-



Pfc. Wm. M. Miles, Jr.

ter an enemy aerial attack, the Navy honored William Pinckney, OC 3-c, USN, Beaufort, S. C., with the Navy Cross. He is shown receiving the medal (below) at the hands of Vice Admiral Audrey W. Fitch.



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Pictures of Soldiers - Sailors - WACS - Marines

*The Next Issue*

— Volume Two —

**"THE NEGRO IN WORLD  
WAR II"**

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