

Growing,
Thank You!

THE MONITOR

Lifting
Lift, Too!

A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans

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Entire Division of Colored Troops

Ninety-Second Division is to be commanded by Brigadier-General Charles Ballou.

OFFICIAL STAFF IS ANNOUNCED

Every Branch of Service to Be Represented; Company Commanders Will Be Colored Men.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 21.—Brigadier General C. C. Ballou, who had charge of the reserve officers' training camp at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, has been designated to command the 92d division, to be made up of 30,000 fighting troops of color. General Ballou was chiefly responsible for the military training of the 1,250 colored officers who attended the training camp at Fort Des Moines, nearly 700 of whom up to this date have received commissions in the United States army, including quite a number who have been commissioned since the closing of the training camp on October 15, 1917. General Ballou was at the war department for conference with officers of the general staff, and with Emmett J. Scott, special assistant to the secretary of war, who is advising the war department in matters relating to the colored troops in the national army, and with regard to the interests of the colored people of the United States generally.

It is announced by the war department that, included in General Ballou's staff, are to be three brigadier generals who will command the one artillery and two infantry brigades. In the largest measure possible General Ballou enjoys the respect and confidence of the men whom he trained as officers at Fort Des Moines, and his sympathetic attitude toward colored soldiers in general, together with his splendid ability as a commanding officer, make his selection as commanding officer of the 92d division an ideal one. The complete staff of the 92d division follows:

Commanders of Infantry Brigades—Brigadier General M. H. Barnum and Brigadier General W. H. Ray.

Artillery Brigade Commander—Brigadier General J. E. McMahon.

Adjutants to Brigade Commanders—Majors Edmund A. Buchanan and Herman S. Dilworth, infantry, and Harvey D. Higley, artillery.

Chief of staff, Lieutenant Colonel Allen J. Greer; assistant chief of staff, Major E. F. Graham; adjutant general, Major Sherburne Whipple; inspector general, Major Robert P. Harbold; division surgeon, Lieutenant Colonel Perry L. Boyer; assistant to division surgeon, Captain Homer Nicoll; sanitary inspector, Major Jonas S. White; signal officer, Major T. C. Spencer; commanding officer, headquarters troops, Captain E. B. Turgeon.

There still remains to be appointed to the staff a judge advocate, an ordinance officer and a quartermaster; also one chaplain for each of the five regiments not already provided with chaplains, there being eight regiments which will compose the 92d division, and the three chaplains thus far appointed being: Rev. A. E. Rankin, 349th field artillery; Rev. E. A. Love, 68th infantry, and Rev. E. O. Woolfolk, 351st field artillery.

Officers of color with the rank of captain and first and second lieutenant will be company commanders in all branches of the division. It will be noted that every branch of army service is to be represented in the 92d division of colored troops, and it goes without saying that this large fighting unit will uphold the honored traditions of colored soldiers who have fearlessly and gallantly fought in every war that has ever been prosecuted by our great and invincible republic.

ARKANSAS ELECTS COLORED BISHOP

The Venerable Edward Thomas Demby, Archdeacon of Colored Work in Tennessee, Is Unanimously Chosen.

WELL QUALIFIED FOR OFFICE

Little Rock, Ark.—At a special council of the Episcopal Diocese of Arkansas, held in Christ church, this city, December 12, the Venerable Edward Thomas Demby, archdeacon of colored work in the Diocese of Tennessee and principal of Hoffman-St. Mary Industrial Institute at Keeling, Tenn., was unanimously chosen on the first ballot as Suffragan Bishop of Arkan-

sas. In the event of his acceptance and consecration he will have charge of the work among the colored Episcopians of this diocese, with possible jurisdiction in the other dioceses and districts of the Province of the Southwest.

Last May, in order to adequately provide for aggressive missionary work among both races in Arkansas, these decided to elect a Suffragan Bishop for the white work and one for the colored work. Archdeacon Samuel Demby was elected for the former and Archdeacon Russell, principal of St. Paul's Normal and Industrial school of Lawrenceville, Va., for the latter field. Archdeacon Russell declined the election. This necessitated the calling of the special council which has just elected Archdeacon Demby, who received the second highest number of votes at the time of Archdeacon Russell's election.

Bishop-elect Demby is well qualified for the responsible position to which he has been chosen. He was educated at Howard and Wilberforce universities and at Matthew Hall, Denver. He was ordained deacon by Bishop Gailor of Tennessee in 1898 and ordained to the priesthood by the same prelate in 1899. He began his ministry as rector of St. Paul's, Mason, Tenn. Subsequent cures held by him were St. Augustine's, Kansas City, Mo.; St. Peter's, Key West, Fla., and Emmanuel, Memphis. In 1912 he was appointed by Bishop Gailor archdeacon in charge of the colored work in Tennessee, in which position he has shown tact and administrative ability of high order. As a young man he was a successful teacher in Delaware, Texas and British America. He is a man of wide experience and sound scholarship. He has not yet signified his decision, but it is believed that he will accept the election.

CALLS HOUSTON HANGING "MILITARY LYNCHING"

The Rev. George Frazier Miller, Rector of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Brooklyn, Expresses Opinion of Tragedy.

New York.—The recent hanging of the thirteen negro soldiers convicted of participation in the Houston, Tex., rioting was called a "military lynching" by the Rev. George Frazier Miller, speaking from the pulpit of St. Augustine's Protestant Episcopal church, Brooklyn, Sunday morning, December 16.

He referred to the soldiers executed as "the thirteen martyrs" and intimated that their "sacrifice to appease the people of Houston" would undermine the patriotism of American Negroes. He sharply criticized the military commander of that district who carried out the court-martial's death sentence.

Mr. Miller told his congregation that he had been warned he might be in jail by Monday night if he delivered his sermon. He said he had determined to say what was to follow and did not fear arrest.

He said that the law permitted a military commander in time of war to carry out a court-martial death sentence without getting the president's confirmation of the sentence. He referred to news dispatches which told that the thirteen had been hanged before President Wilson or high war department officials knew it.

"I am glad to know," he said, "that the authorities at Washington did not know anything about this. But if I were president that military commander down there would report to me before carrying out such an order. If I were secretary of war and the president didn't demand such a report I should resign my portfolio.

"The military commander who carried out that order was guilty of military lynching. It was done to appease the people of Houston. In order to appease them the commander took advantage of the state-of-war situation which made their execution possible without a report to Washington. If this thing had been reported to Washington we in this country would have had a chance to plead for mercy. Thirteen men in the United States army were denied the right of appeal, which is accorded to any criminal.

"We want the entire country to know that we of the negro race feel we have been seriously wronged, not because the thirteen were killed, but because they were denied the right of appeal—to appease Houston.

"These thirteen were sacrificed on the infamous altar of Southern prejudice. Yet we are still expected to glorify in patriotism. That deed is not calculated to enhance the patriotism of American Negroes, but to destroy it."

The 24th Infantry Tragedy

Comments by the White Press

Houston and East St. Louis. From the Pueblo (Colo.) Chieftain, Dec. 14.

"The people of the United States will generally approve of the sentences that were imposed on the members of the colored regiment who mutinied at Houston, Texas. At the same time the people of the country will demand that a similar punishment be meted to the white men who killed the Negroes in East St. Louis a few weeks before the occurrence at Houston. If anything, the acts of the white people in East St. Louis were far more grave than the acts of the Negroes in Houston. In no manner was either act excusable, and the military authority exercised wise judgment in inflicting a sure and quick punishment on the Negroes. If the civil population in East St. Louis fail to inflict a similar punishment on the men who were guilty of those murders and crimes, it will only go to show that our government falls down in certain circumstances, and it will only go to increase the feeling that punishment is not fairly meted out.

Uniform Should Have Protection.

From the Buffalo Courier, December 12, 1917.

The grim, melancholy sequel to the mutiny and riot of Negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth Infantry at Houston was enacted yesterday when on a government reservation thirteen of these, including five non-commissioned officers, with heads erect, untrembling, singing a hymn, as the dispatches recite, marched to the place of execution and on a great gallows were hanged until they were dead. As further prescribed by the court-martial findings, forty-one others will go to prison for life. A few received shorter sentences. Of the sixty-three tried, five were acquitted.

Hardly in the history of the American army is found a parallel of this tragic chapter. The men who have suffered death were guilty of disobedience of orders, and of lawless conduct, and of killing civilians. They were as guilty of murder as are the white lynchers of Texas who go unpunished. Justice and military discipline required that the extreme penalty be exacted. Probably with the military court procedure no fault can fairly be found. The judgment can be accepted as righteous and the execution as necessary.

Nevertheless, the Twenty-fourth Regiment of Negro infantry of the regular army has a long general record of efficiency and constancy which this gloomy episode may hardly impair. During the time when a battalion of the organization was in garrison at Fort Porter in this city, never was a complaint of misconduct heard. As far as department is concerned, never did any troops stationed here preserve a cleaner slate. There is no doubt that in the minds of the soldiers who mutinied at Houston passion and bitter resentment were stirred by continual abusive aggression by whites as low in the intellectual if not in the common social scale.

The states have authority within their territory. They may allow Texans to lynch a Negro because he is black, Georgians to lynch a Jew because of his race. But the uniform of the United States army should everywhere in the United States have both protection and respect, whatever be

HOME FROM CAMP FUNSTON FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Wynn D. McCullough and Elmer Morris came home from Camp Funston to spend Christmas with their relatives and friends. They are the picture of health and enjoy camp life. They report that the Omaha boys are well and getting on nicely.

the race or color or creed of the wearer, and, especially in this time of great war, the whole civil and military power of the nation should, if needful, be exercised to insure such protection and respect.

Mistreatment Not Excusable.

From New York World.

"The hanging of thirteen Negro soldiers, who participated in the Houston riot last August, was the most drastic military punishment in the history of the United States. Forty-one others were sentenced to serve shorter terms.

"It was a terrible crime that these men committed. It has been terribly punished, and justly and properly punished. No excuse could be made, no leniency shown to the men in the United States uniform who set out deliberately to commit indiscriminate murder. They were soldiers who had been trained to military discipline, and in defiance of officers they organized a mob under their own leaders for a general massacre or any and all persons who crossed their path.

"At the same time, the Houston riot and the events growing out of it should be a warning to Southern officials. At the start the Houston police were to blame. By their attitude toward Negro soldiers they created a feeling of bitter resentment that was finally responsible for the bloody outbreak that followed. The Negro soldiers who planned to do wholesale murder at Houston have been hanged or sent to prison for life, as justice requires, but nothing in the sentences imposed upon them can excuse the mistreatment of United States soldiers because their skins are black."

Had a Good Name Here.

Buffalo Daily Express, Dec. 13, 1917.

It is not so long since the Twenty-fourth infantry was quartered in Buffalo. That Negro regiment was not only tolerated by its white neighbors at Fort Porter, but it grew to be popular here. Not a complaint reached the police of misconduct on the part of the soldiers. Its baseball team played games with white clubs and was respected for its sportsmanship. Buffalo was sorry to see the Twenty-fourth leave and ever since has regarded it as a local institution, to be cherished in memory next after only the immortal Thirteenth.

"These were all soldiers of the regular army, men of the Negro race. We have not heard of any white men being punished for that riot though members of the Houston police department were under suspension at last accounts. Nor is it likely that any will be adequately punished. White civilians have privileges in Texas which are denied to black soldiers.

"Being soldiers, the dead men should have learned to keep their tempers. Being Negroes in a southern state they should have learned this, anyway, for their own personal safety. Then they might have saved their lives, though they lost their self-respect.

"But isn't it time that the war department started playing fair with its black troops? If it cannot protect them against southern mobs it should not order them to duty in the south. "By the way, how many able-bodied white citizens of Houston have enlisted for the war?"

NEW LIBRARY FOR KNOXVILLE

Knoxville, Tenn.—This city will have a library for persons of color costing \$21,000. Miss Mary Miller will have charge of the day work and Mr. Merchant the night work. The library will be maintained by the city. Andrew Carnegie gave the site upon this condition.

WILL HELP FAMILIES OF EXECUTED SOLDIERS

The National Colored Soldiers' Comfort Committee of Washington Plan to Provide Relief for Dependents.

ISSUES AN IMPORTANT APPEAL

Washington, D. C., Dec. 21.—The National Colored Soldiers' Comfort Committee, which has headquarters in this city at 1105 U street, and of which Prof. Kelly Miller of Howard university is president and J. C. Napier and Ralph W. Tyler, treasurer and secretary, respectively, have issued the following statement relative to its intention of providing relief for the families of colored soldiers executed at Fort Sam Houston last week:

"No calamity in many years has so depressed the colored people of this country as the execution of the thirteen soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States infantry at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, last week, and the sentencing of forty-one others to life imprisonment. It was a tragedy that could not but help to cut deep into our hearts.

"While at this time we are not questioning the right of the government to inflict so severe and summary punishment upon men who before had rendered valiant service to the country while wearing the uniform of an American soldier, and while we do not purpose to waver in our loyalty to the only country we know, we feel that it is the innocent who must suffer most; that the families of these executed and imprisoned soldiers will soon be suffering for the necessities of life.

"Unfortunately, and tragically unfortunate, the government that took from these families a support has no provision for caring for the families left dependent, so it is up to the race to offer these bereaved families support. The National Colored Soldiers' Comfort Committee has decided that out of the \$2,000,000 being raised for the relief of the dependents of colored soldiers, it will provide for the families of the men executed and imprisoned, under sentence at Fort Sam Houston last week, and we call upon the colored people of the country to respond quickly to our appeal for contributions, giving what they can, if but the widow's mite. Those thirteen colored soldiers met death stoically, as stoically as John Brown at Harper's Ferry; those forty-one sentenced to imprisonment for life met their fate unflinchingly. Now let us cheerfully, loyally and quickly respond to the appeals for funds to aid their bereaved and needy families. We owe this as a duty to the men who drank to the dregs from the cup of bitterness. Let every colored man, woman and child now show race loyalty by responding quickly."

GENERAL HARRIES PLEASED WITH COMMAND

Washington, D. C., Dec. 27.—General George Harries of Omaha, formerly at Camp Cody, but now in command of a Negro brigade at Camp Jackson, S. C., visited the capital today. He expressed himself as pleased with his new command.

"I believe my colored men will render a good account of their services for Uncle Sam," the general said. General Harries was well received at the Press club where he is an old time active member and where he is ranking officer of eighty members who are serving the country in the army and navy.



DELAYED CHRISTMAS MAIL ARRIVES

Paris, Dec. 27.—Four carloads of Christmas mail which arrived at a French port from the United States were forwarded today for delivery at the headquarters of the regimental units of the American expeditionary forces.

WILL REDUCE NUMBER OF PASSENGER TRAINS

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 27.—An immediate and radical curtailment of passenger service in the central west was predicted by railway men today as one of the first results of government control of the roads.

Omaha Goes Clear "Over the Top"

Nearly Doubles Quota in Red Cross Christmas Membership Campaign; Outruns All Competitors.

THE COLORED CITIZENS COUNT

Conservative Estimate Shows Membership to Exceed Fifteen Hundred; Final Count May Show Two Thousand.

Omaha has covered herself with glory in her Red Cross drive. Other cities of larger population competing with Omaha for the largest ratio of Red Cross members have been left far in the rear. In fact, they dropped from a race to an old fashioned funeral procession, which moved with painful steps and slow.

Denver in her ill-concealed pride and egotism, challenged Omaha to accomplish in a week what she would do in two days. Well, this was Omaha's answer to Denver: Christmas eve Omaha had turned in \$77,460 in cash to Denver's \$55,339, thus surpassing the wealthy mountain city by more than \$22,000.

The following table, compiled from campaign committee reports from cities which accepted Omaha's challenge, tells its own story:

City	Population	Members
Omaha	190,000	75,000
Denver	268,000	*58,283
Dallas, Tex.	174,000	48,986
Birmingham, Ala.	290,000	42,000
Minneapolis	411,000	68,393
St. Paul	263,000	46,500
Toledo	222,000	61,000

*Denver reports in amount of money turned in, so her members cannot number more than dollars received.

Omaha's quota was 40,000 members. When the returns are all in Omaha's total will be mighty close to 80,000 members. Isn't that great?

The Colored People's Share.

And what have the colored people of Omaha done? Have they been slackers? Not on your life! A conservative estimate places the colored membership at 1,500. When it is checked up it is the opinion of The Monitor that it will be pretty close to 2,000. The following incomplete returns have been tabulated by the general chairman of the special committee, as turned in by chairmen of committees:

Members	Amount
James A. Clarke	218 \$236
W. H. Robinson	104 113
Joseph B. Lacour	86 88
Nat Hunter	72 75
Dr. L. E. Britt	34 35
Mrs. L. B. Burton	31 31
Mrs. Isaac Bailey	20 20
Rev. John Albert Williams	16 16
Mrs. W. S. Metcalfe	10 10

Totals584 \$621

This shows a total of 584 members and \$621 paid in. To these returns must be added at least 1,000 more from the following sources: Union Pacific railway employes, 300; packing houses, 300; smelters, 300; various firms, stores, etc., 100. Two of these items are under rather than over the count.

The following are the amounts credited to the various individual workers, but included in the totals credited to the chairman of each group as formerly published: W. H. (Bob) Robinson, 104 and \$113; W. H. Lewis, 94 and \$100; James A. Clarke, 58 and \$62; Frank Blackwell, 40 and \$48; Miss Lena Paul, St. Philip's church, 36 and \$38; Dr. L. E. Britt, 34 and \$35; Mrs. L. B. Burton, 31 and \$31; Walter R. Brown, 26 and \$26; Mrs. M. H. Wilkinson, Mount Moriah Baptist church, 22 and \$22; W. J. Andrews, Bethel Baptist church, South Side, 21 and \$21; J. C. Belcher, 20 and \$23; Mrs. Isaac Bailey, 20 and \$20; Dr. Scott, 18 and \$19; Rev. J. A. Williams, 16 and \$16; Dr. Gooden, 10 and \$12; W. H. Ransom, 9 and \$9; Mrs. W. S. Metcalfe, 10 and \$10; Nat Hunter, 5 and \$6.

Scores of our people are 100 percenters, too, if you please. Mr. S. S. Caldwell was told that the colored Omahans could be counted on for at least 500 members, and he thought that would be a very good showing. The promise has been more than fulfilled.

If you haven't got your Christmas membership card and button yet, get one. We went "over the top" with a whoop!

ENGLAND WILL PAY DEBTS

London, Dec. 27.—Great Britain will not repudiate her war debt, declares A. Bonar Law, the chancellor of the exchequer, in an open letter.

Appoint Roosevelt Secretary Of War.

PRESIDENT WILSON:—The country at this time needs a strong and forceful personality as Secretary of War. Appoint Theodore Roosevelt. He is the man of the hour for the place. Appoint Roosevelt Secretary of War.