

First Negro Navigators on Final Cadet Long-Distance Flight

Feted by Negro Press and Organizations . . . Along Flight Route

HONDO ARMY AIR FIELD, Hondo, Texas—The Nation's first class of Negro navigation cadets, scheduled to be graduated on February 26, 1944, with commissions in the Army Air Forces, will navigate eight C-60 Lockheed Lodestar planes from Hondo Army Air Field to New York City the week of February 14. The War Department reported.

Constituting the final combat training phase of the cadets as AAF students, the flight will include landings at Chicago, Illinois and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The tentative itinerary calls for rendezvous at Chicago on Monday, February 14, at Pittsburgh on February 15, and at New York City on February 16, with one night layover in each city. The return trip to Hondo Army Air Field was made on February 17.

Colonel George B. Dany, Air Corps, commanding officer of Hondo Army Air Field, where the navigation cadets have already completed 16 weeks of an 18 week strenuous training program, announced that the unit of cadets, known as squadron 10, were the guests at colorful receptions given by two Negro newspapers, the Pittsburgh Courier and the New York Amsterdam News and the New York City Defense Recreation Committee, Inc.

24 navigation cadets participated in the flight. Other personnel consisted of 18 pilots under the command of Major G. B. Price, Air Corps, veteran pilot and commander of Group III at Hondo Field; 13 navigation officers (instructors), headed by First Lieutenant George F. McInerney, Air Corps, who has guided Squadron 10 as flight commander during its tour of training, and eight enlisted crew chiefs.

Lieutenant Colonel Cecil H. Childre, Air Corps, director of the training at the huge Texas airbase, piloted one of the training ships on the combat flight and served as commander of troops. Details of planning and directing the flight were the responsibility of Major Price until the destinations were reached.

Although the combat flight permitted participation by flight personnel in prepared celebrations, the training element involved was the first consideration, Colonel Day emphasized. He further pointed out that the fulfillment of all the flights depended on prevailing conditions along the routes flown.

Aviation Student Walter A. Arrington, of Washington, D. C. served as group marcher for the unit. He is a graduate of Michigan State College (BS, 1941), where he was an outstanding athlete. He also was a member of the All-American Track Team and recipient of the Illinois Relays All-Around Track Award in 1940.

Seven of the navigation cadets are from the state of New York. Other states represented by the group included Michigan, California, West Virginia, Iowa, Illinois, Idaho, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Wyoming and North Carolina.

Before entering the AAF navigation school, these cadets had many vocations, among them being the following: optical instrument assembler, photographer, air craft riveter, radio engineer, assistant medical technician, bacteriologist and junior statistician.

While training at Hondo Field, the class has "logged" 15,000 miles on training flights. Their training ships were C-60 Lockheed Lodestars and the AT-7 Navigator.

During the course the cadets gained proficiency in four phases of aerial combat navigation: dead reckoning (instrument flying); pilotage (familiar landmarks); radio (beam flying), and celestial (plotting a course by reference to celestial bodies).

Following graduation the Negro navigators will receive advance training as bombardiers.

COMPLETES TWIN-ENGINE TRAINING AT MATHERS FIELD

Pilot J. L. Harrison of Omaha, Nebraska was among the second contingent of Negro pilots to finish their courses at Mathers Field in Calif., on twin-engine planes. He has been ordered to Selfridge Field, Michigan, where he will join a medium bombardment group. He received his wings at the field at graduation exercises, Thursday, February 10th.

HAMPTON CHOIR TO GO ON AIR FEBRUARY 20TH

Hampton Institute, Va., "Songs for Soldiers," a program dedicated by the student choir of Hampton Institute to army personnel in the Tidewater Virginia area, will be broadcast over station WGH next Sunday (Feb. 20) evening at 10 o'clock on the Hampton Institute Forum of the Air.

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FIRST ACCREDITED NEGRO NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENT

Confusion Hampers Republ'n's 1st Session

"Negroes Only Hope in Republican Party" Says Wm. E. King

(BY LUTHER A. TOWNSLEY)

CHICAGO, Feb. 18, (ANP) Sectional clashes, politics within politics, resulted in the confusion that greeted Republican leaders from various parts of the nation who assembled here last Friday for the opening session of a scheduled two day conference at the Pershing hotel.

Although the objective of the conference was to outline a constructive program to be presented in behalf of the Negro at the Republican National convention here in June, the formation of such an organization for that purpose resulted in chaos, confusion and clashes from the floor to the apparent embarrassment of Judge Edward W. Henry of Philadelphia, who was chosen to serve as temporary chairman.

Even an effort to form the body into a permanent organization by the selection of temporary officers met with opposition, and hints of suspicion, which included charges that the selection was made in "railroad" style, were voiced. More than once the chair was given the task of determining who among five or six, had the floor. Mrs. Grace W. Evans, a delegate from Indiana opposed the move to make the temporary officers permanent officers of the organization. She branded the move as unfair, inasmuch as it did not give the delegates the benefit of democratic selection of officers of their own choice.

Probably the most tranquil moments of the opening session was during the fiery speech of Atty. William E. King, former Illinois state senator, who demanded justice, equality and freedom for the Negro while tracing the history of the Republican party back to the days of Abraham Lincoln.

"There will be no peace in this world until the rejected 13 million Negroes have been accorded their proper place," King prophesied. During the first world's war and present world's war both Presidents have been democratic, he pointed out, as he demanded equality in the sacrifices and the winning of the peace. While less than 10 percent of the Negroes voted for Woodrow Wilson, more than 50 percent of the Negro votes were cast for Franklin Delano Roosevelt, he said, reminding his listeners that colored soldiers are still being treated unjustly, are still being beaten and assaulted while wearing the uniform of their country.

King went on to attack the present administration, charging that it suffered from mal-administration. "The government is distinct from the administration," he said. "A man may be loyal to his government but may oppose the administration."

While the FEPC has been set up to protect the rights of minorities, including the Negro, King expressed doubt if it was really meant to work in behalf of our people. Wherever the FEPC has run into southern interest, the administration has backed up the solid south. He brought attention to the fact that the three-man committee selected by the President to investigate the wrangle between the southern railroads and the FEPC has made a report and now another committee has been selected to report on the three-man committee. The Negro's only salvation is in the Republican party, he declared, stating that although Negro valor

Randolph, Webster Speak Here Sunday

To Speak of Many Things



Official OWI photo by Roger Smith. FEPC MEMBER. Milton P. Webster, International Vice President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and labor representative of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice.

Who is Jones?

Who is Jones? If police could learn the true identity of the person who called and advised them to investigate the watch and clock repair shop murder at 1843 North 24th street, they might be able to obtain better clues in regards to the possible slayer of Thomas Douglas, found there Saturday afternoon, dead before his work bench with a cheap watch clutched in his hand.

This man, who gave to police no other information concerning himself other than that he was 'Jones' living at an address on Blondo, which proved to be false—might not have in anyway been concerned with the actual murder; but his just telling the police how he came to call them would be of great help in solving the mystery.

has been shown on every battlefield, from Crispus Attucks to Dorie Miller, his race is the most unpopular in America. "There isn't a single group that does not enjoy more privileges than our group," he asserted.

The conference declared itself in favor of pushing:

1. Integration of the Negro into American democracy.
2. Colored Americans in policy forming positions of the government.
3. The Negro in post-war politics.
4. Representation of the Negro at the peace conference as part of the American delegation.
5. Compulsory federal voting law, anti-lynching law.
6. Further extension of the social security and the old age pension benefits.
7. The stand of the Republican party; on universal franchise; on lynching; on poll tax and their attitude toward injustices.
8. Creation by congress of a statutory committee on fair employment practices.
9. Federal funds for public education.
10. Election of president and vice president by direct vote.
11. Jim crow law in all its phases.
12. The effect of a national service act on Negro labor.

The officers who guided the conference were Judge Edward W. Henry, Philadelphia, chairman; Charles W. Anderson, Jr., Louisville, 1st vice chairman; Mrs. Fannie M. Shanks, Minneapolis, 2nd vice chairman; Atty. George W. Lawrence, Chicago, executive secretary; Atty. Eunice H. Carter of New York, recording secretary and Charles H. Mahoney, Detroit, treasurer.

Local Brotherhood Sponsor Treat For Community at Zion Baptist Church, Sun., Feb. 20—3 P.M.

The Omaha Division of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, local No. 32, invites the members of organized labor, workers and friends to a public meeting, held under its auspices at Zion Baptist Church, 2215 Grant St., Sunday, February 20, at 3 pm.

Speakers at this meeting will be Mr. A. Philip Randolph, International President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and Mr. M. P. Webster, International First Vice President of the Brotherhood. This meeting is a series of meetings being held in the middle west under the auspices of the Brotherhood for the purpose of bringing workers and organized labor up to date on the various economic problems that confront Negroes today.

In this meeting Mr. Randolph will discuss the broader aspects of the economic problems that confront Negro workers of today with particular reference to the effect of the War situation on the problems that will confront Negroes in the orientation of the World-wide economic condition.

Mr. Webster, in addition to being Vice President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, is a member of the Post War Planning Committee of the American Federation of Labor, as well as a member of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice. In addition to discussing the immediate problems of the Brotherhood and Negroes in Organized Labor in general, he is expected to give some account of the Post-war planning program of the American Federation of Labor with particular reference to the part that the Negro workers must play in developing the post war plan. He is also expected to discuss some of the recent developments of the President's committee on Fair Employment Practice, with particular reference to the Railroad hearing in Washington, D. C. last September.

This is the first time in several years that Mr. Randolph has visited Omaha, and the Brotherhood invites and urges the citizens of this community to take advantage of the opportunity to hear these two outstanding leaders of organized labor.

SOME DANCE!

Well, they came around and got us in a taxi home, and took us to the Valentine Dance at Dreamland Hall, Monday evening, February 14th, and what a time we had. We knew it was going to be some blowout but never imagined it would be as great as it turned out to be. Talk about orchestras getting hot; talk about dancers being 'sent out of this world,' yes talk about it, and when you stop talking you'll find "you ain't said nothing yet!"

How so much fun and amusement could get jammed in one place even as large as Dreamland Hall is, just doesn't make sense. But they were there and stayed there until the last note of the trumpets and moans of the 'salty' saxophones. Yes, it was a mighty nice affair and much praise is due those responsible for it. But now we are wondering when a dance is a dance.

For all the four hundred or more folks we saw in Dreamland Hall, Monday night we suppose to have come to a dance. But when we stepped in they were having themselves a BALL. Well of course, maybe that only means an exceptionally good time. We hope there will be more such affairs.

CANDIDATE



Dr. J. B. Martin, one of the famous "Martin Bros. of Memphis, Tenn." and at present President of the Negro American Baseball League was chosen as a candidate for a member of the Sanitary District Board in the coming election by the Republican nominating Committee of Cook County. (Press Photo Serv)

ONLY 70,000 DRAFT AGE NEGROES ARE 'SAFE'

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12 (ANP)—Something of a jolt is contained in the figures collected by the Associated Negro Press which show how the Negro is stacking up in the face of the selective service system.

Of the physically fit and draft eligible men, not more than 70,000 of them out of the total registration of those between the ages of 18 and 37 military liable, are going to be around here to buy war bonds and salvage fat when the armed forces shall have met its full quota.

Paul V. McNutt, chairman of War Manpower commission, discussed manpower needs for the nation for the first half of 1944 on Monday last. He disclosed that the requirements of the military establishment have been hiked 800,000 and therefore will stand at 13.3 million in June. This does not take into consideration the need arising out of replacements for casualties.

On the basis of Mr. McNutt's figure and the proportion of 10 percent which Negroes are expected to provide, this means that the armed forces are looking for 1,130,000 men sound of body. The number of Negroes now in the services is rapidly approaching 800,000.

According to the selective service system there were 2.4 million Negroes registrants between the ages of 18 and 37 militarily liable for duty. Experience to date is that rejections based upon physical and educational deficiencies have represented "more than" 50 percent of these men called.

It is reasonable to conclude, then that with the reservoir of physically and mentally fit Negro men numbering less than 1.2 million, there is going to be less than 70,000 eligible men left outside of the draft when the full Negro proportion is deducted.

Further, according to the 1941-42 report of selective service, "the number of Negroes inducted is a little higher than the proportion of the population and of the registrations," which means they are going fast.

TO WHITE HOUSE

Attends First Press Conference Feb. 8th

Following rapidly on the visit of a Committee from the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association

with President Roosevelt, the first Negro Correspondent to be accredited to the White House, attended the President's Press Conference, Tuesday, February 8.

Harry S. McAlpin, former chief of the Chicago Defender Washington Bureau, is the accredited correspondent of the Atlanta Daily World, a Daily Negro Newspaper published at Atlanta, Georgia. McAlpin will serve also as Chief of the Washington Bureau of member papers of the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association.

Final arrangements for the accreditation of Mr. McAlpin were completed Monday, February 7, by John H. Sengstacke, President, Negro Newspaper Publishers Association and C. A. Scott, Atlanta Daily World. The Association White House Correspondent's Committee in addition to Sengstacke and Scott includes Louis Martin, Michigan Chronicle; William O. Walker, Cleveland Call Post and C. B. Powell, Amsterdam News.

Already the Association has two correspondents covering Negro units in the South Pacific and far eastern war theatres.

Harry S. McAlpin lives at 2394 Place, N. W., Washington, D. C., telephone Taylor 2158. Mr. McAlpin has lived in Washington for the past seventeen years, is married and has a daughter eleven years of age.

He studied Journalism and Advertising, University of Wisconsin, 1922-26. Worked three years as reporter, city editor and office manager for the Washington Tribune.

Handled all publicity and advertising for the National Benefit Life Insurance Company, for four years, 1929-33.

Worked in a supervisory capacity in the federal government for seven years, the last 1-2 years of which served as a chief of public relations—1935-42.

Since August, 1942, until the present has served as chief of the Washington Bureau of the Chicago Defender-1942.

He was one of three percent of the registrants deferred in Class II-A, which represents deferments of those in essential civilian occupations. Class II-B, jobs essential to the war effort, showed there to be (continued on page 2)

CIO to Distribute 'Races - Mankind'

The National CIO War Relief Committee announced that it will mail copies of the pamphlet "Races of Mankind," to all servicemen on its mailing lists who are stationed in this country; and that it will request permission from the War and Navy Departments to send copies of the pamphlet to men and women in the armed forces serving overseas.

The announcement was made jointly by Chairman Irving Abramson and National Director Leo Perlis of the National CIO War Relief Committee in reply to the recent action by the USO Board upholding its President's decision in banning the distribution of this publication in USO centers.

The Committee's officers said their action was postponed to give the USO Board an opportunity to reverse President Chester I. Barn-

Fellow Bomber Workers!

Within the next few days you are to determine your future in your plant quote: Glenn L. Martin, Nebraska Company to bargain as individuals and not accomplish anything or as to bargain collectively with a support of the great organization such as a (UAW-CIO) that has 1,250,000 paying members with an additional 300,000 members in the armed forces. Today you are in a position to enjoy better working conditions, job security, and higher wages that are enjoyed by the members of hundreds of other locals that are under the banner of the (UAW-CIO). You have in several instances been enlightened of what has been accomplished in the World's largest local, the Ford, River Rouge plant having a membership of 140,000. With you joining the (UAW-CIO) they secured \$2,600,500 in back wages and also received \$52,000,000 in wage increase which was equivalent to an average of \$406 per employee per year. As you know that the (UAW-CIO) stands for no discrimination between color, creed, race or religion or political affiliations, something that no other organizations believe in, including the Industrial Manufacturing Associations which is the richest organization in the world and of which Glenn L. Martin is a member. We plead for the benefit of you Bomber Workers, who so long have been discriminated against—to do away with such tactics as used by the latter, by voting (UAW-CIO) in your next election, which will be held in your plant, Wednesday, February 23, 1944.

A GENERAL, A BISHOP AND A "SARG"



At Fifth Army Field Headquarters, General Mark Clark greets Bishop A. Gregg, representing the Federated Council of Negro Churches of Christ in America. At the Bishop's left is T-Sgt. William C. Chaney of Williamsburg, Va., personal aide to Commanding General of the Fifth Army.

Absenteeism Tops Complaints Among Negro Workers

In 300 War Plants Urban League Finds

NEW YORK, Feb. 18 (ANP) . . . "Absenteeism" was listed as chief among the difficulties encountered by defense industries, in a recent report of the National Urban League's industrial relations laboratory. Three hundred plants furnished information which served as a basis for a project relating to the performance of Negro workers. The league has passed on the following findings.

In June, 1943, the WMC reported 6.7 percent of the 14,672,000 workers employed by industries reporting through the USES were Negroes. This report would include approximately 1,000,000 Negro workers. More recent figures, however place the percentage at 3.3 percent due to the increased employment of Negroes. According to still more recent figures, the Urban League estimates the number of Negro workers currently engaged in war production and other essential war employment; at 1,500,000.

Negroes are employed in skilled operations by 164 of the 300 plants, while semi-skilled workers were reported in 247 of the 300 plants, and all of them reported the use of Negroes for unskilled jobs. The majority of the plants employing skilled workers were located in the eastern seaboard and midwestern cities. Of the plants in the Chicago area, 15 out of 35 listed skilled workers. In the New York area, including Connecticut, 51 out of 80 industries included in the laboratory reported the employment of skilled Negro workers, while in the Cleveland-Detroit area, 24 out of 45 industries reported the employment of Negroes in skilled jobs.

Over 50 percent of the plants in this category reported that they had used the services of the Urban League in the selection and introduction of their first Negro workers and had sought the assistance of league officials when minor difficulties arose.

In 253 of the 300 industries, management declared that on the basis of current experience with Negro labor, they would continue to employ them after the war. No decision was reported from 12 plants, and the remaining 35 declined to make commitments. In the 142 plants which listed difficulties, the following complaints appeared most frequently: higher rate of absenteeism in 67 plants; race friction in 21 plants; over aggressiveness and "chip on shoulder attitude" in 11 plants; high turnover among Negroes in 13 plants. No answer to this inquiry came through the National War Fund.

formation was obtained, 288 reported that they had increased the number of Negro workers in their employ during the present emergency. The estimated total Negro employment of the 300 industries is 150,000. The total has not been broken down by sex, although Negro women are known to be employed in a number of the plants. Generally speaking, however, it is a known fact that the employment of Negro women has not kept pace with the employment of white women or of Negro men, it is reported that less than 4 percent of the 7,000,000 women workers in war production and essential war employment are Negroes.

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