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PARACHUTE WINGS are pinned on the first Negro paratrooper to graduate from the Parachute School, Fort Benning, Georgia, by Captain William V. Johnson. These airborne troops, first in the United States Army, are members of the 555th Parachute Infantry Company. Sergeant Roger S. Walden, of Detroit, Michigan, is the paratrooper receiving his wings from Captain Johnson. (Photo by U. S. Army Signal Corps.)

Negro Publishers Guest at Great Lake Navy base

by FRANK A. YOUNG

GREAT LAKES NAVAL TRAINING STATION ILL.—Officers and representatives of the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association were the three-day guests of Great Lakes Naval Training Station and Commander D. W. Armstrong, son of the founder of Hampton Institute, here on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 2 through March 4.

The trip here was a feature of National Negro Newspaper Week, which started Sunday, Feb. 27, with a broadcast which included several former Negro war correspondents in New York and a short wave broadcast by men now serving their papers in the European

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the various companies. MUSICIAN SMITH HONORED... Highlight of this program was the presentation to Willie Smith, saxophonist, clarinetist and soloist in the band, of a trophy and a \$100 war bond by Esquire's jazz expert, Paul Miller of New York City, for being one of the outstanding jazz artists in the country. Smith formerly played with several leading orchestras.

Saturday, a tour of the service school, the induction center, hospital and barracks occupied the morning. In the afternoon, the Great Lakes Negro Varsity basketball team, sparked by the 1943 Toledo university star, Charley Harmon, who made 12 field goals and two free throws, defeated the Chief Petty Officers quintet with Forrest Anderson, former Stanford university of California great in the lineup, 64 to 48. Anderson is coach of the Negro team and is assisted by Ozzie Simmons, former grid star at the University of Iowa, and 'Windy Wallace', former Michigan State cager. Wallace was one of the officials of the game. The Negro team has a record of 20 victories and three defeats this season.

EAT REGULAR 'CHOW'... The visitors were dined in the chief petty officers' mess hall. The food, well cooked, was the same as served all the sailors. There is a special effort made to see that all meals are well balanced.

The publishers were brought here in a Navy bus and returned to Chicago the same way.

Negro training quarters here include Camp Robert Smalls, Camp Moffett and Camp Lawrence. Commander Armstrong is assistant recruit training officer and in charge of Negro recruit training. Commander William H. R. Turck is the recruit training officer. Capt. J. S. Freeman is executive officer. The commandant of the Ninth Naval District is Rear Admiral Arthur S. Carpenter with headquarters at the station.

Lieut. Stein, graduate of Northeastern university in Massachusetts, spent the entire three days and two nights as chief guide and informant.

Comfortable quarters were furnished the men Friday night in barracks building 1811. Women guests were taken to homes of friends in Waukegan, Ill.

Members of the Publishers' Association who made the pilgrimage here were: Thomas and P. B. Young, Jr., Norfolk Journal and Guide; Miss Lucile Blufford, Kansas City Call; Eustace Gay, Philadelphia Tribune; Roscoe Dunjee of Oklahoma Black Dispatch; J. E. Mitchell, W. E. Mitchell, J. E. Cook and Belle Wyatt, St. Louis Argus; Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Newman, Minneapolis Tribune; A. Clayton Powell, People's Voice, New York City; Miss Olive Diggs and Mrs. Marion Baxter, Chicago Bee; William Walker and Augustus B. Parker, Cleveland Call-Post; Bishop A. J. Hamlett, Plaindealer, Kansas City, Kas. C. W. Cuba, Houston Informer; Howard H. Murphy and William Gibson, Afro-American newspapers, Baltimore; C. C. Galloway, Omaha Guide; Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Sweets, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Stafford and J. Arthur Turner, St. Louis American; John H. Sengstacke, Charles P. Browning, Clarence A. Taylor, Chicago Defender, Frank L. Stanley, Louisville Defender and William G. Nunn, Pittsburgh Courier.

Joining Commander Armstrong in the discussion were Frank L. Stanley, Louisville Ky., Defender; J. E. Mitchell, St. Louis Argus; Roscoe Dunjee, Oklahoma Black Dispatch and Miss Olive Diggs, Chicago Bee. Also featured on the broadcast were Rear Admiral Louis E. Denfeld, assistant chief of Naval Personnel from Washington, D. C., and Capt. Robert R. M. Emmett, commanding officer. On the program were the Negro regiments' band, Len Bowden, directing, and the octette, under the direction of Musician Wayman Hathcock of Chicago. Announcer was Charles Anderson, Los Angeles stage and radio actor, who is now seaman first class.

Friday, the publishers were guests at the regimental review at 1400 o'clock (2 o'clock civilian time in building 1400 which is the drill hall and recreation building. Friday afternoon an open discussion took place with Commander Armstrong, Lieut. Commander White, public relations officer; Lieut. Commander Van Ess, Lieut. Commander Allen Washington, D.C., and several other officers from the Great Lakes station answering questions of the publishers.

On Friday night was "Happy Hour." At no time was there any special effort made to entertain the publishers. While they were guests of the Navy, it was specifically understood that what the guests were being given was a 'look in' on the regular activities of the camp, its recreation, work, induction, graduation and food. No program, other than the broadcast, had been previously arranged.

The band, chorus, glee club and octette all took part in the "Happy Hour" program. Also entertaining were men with special talents from

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testimonial concert and meeting, including James B. Carey, CIO secretary; Willard S. Townsend, CIO board member and president of the United Transport Service Employees; Samuel Welchok, president of the United Retail and Wholesale Employees; John Green, president Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers; George L. P. Weaver, director CIO Committee to Abolish Race Discrimination; Walter Douthet, vice president, United Auto Workers, CIO; Abraham Miller, secretary-treasurer, NY Joint Board, Amalgamated Clothing Workers CIO.

Among the 300 sponsors are Claude A. Barnett, director of Associated Negro Press; William Rose Benet; Edward L. Bernays; Edwin R. Embree; William C. Handy; Fannie Hurst; Mordecai Johnson; Paul Kellogg; Freda Kirshwey; Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia; Thurgood Marshall; Newbold Morris, President of the City Council of New York; Ferdinand Pecora, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York; Rabbi David deSola Pool; C. B. Powell, publisher, Amsterdam News; Elmer Rice, Rev. Shelby Rooks, Msgr. John A. Ryan; Cecelia Cabanis Saunders; Norman Thomas; Judge Charles E. Toney; Mark Van Derea; Oswald Garrison Villard; James A. Welch; Roy Wilkins, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wilten; Samuel R. Zuck; Max Zaritzky and Charles S. Zimmerman.

REVEAL HOW NAVIGATORS BALKED GEN. COUZSENS' JIM CROW POLICY

Washington, March 8 (ANP) The story of how the first Negro navigator cadets coped with a Jim-crow policy instituted by an army air force ranking officer during the course of a field trip is going the rounds here and is winning admiration for the class and those which have followed. The men are now stationed at Selridge Field, Mich. where they comprise the 147th Bombardment group.

Late last fall the war department authorized and activated a group for training preliminary to the establishment of a Negro bombing outfit. The first class was sent to Mather field where, according to the best knowledge, they were permitted to mingle and eat with their white comrades all with the approval of the white commanding officer of the post.

During the training period Maj. Gen. Couzens of the army air force inspector-general's staff visited the base and observed the demeratic practice. He immediately ordered that the Negro fliers be segregated from the white fliers. So the story goes, the commanding officer called the boys together and broke the news.

The leader of the group, representing some 20 men, inquired whether they were being "ordered" to eat in a segregated mess to which

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PROMOTED TO COLONEL



COLONEL M. O. BOUSFIELD Ft. Huachuca, Arizona.—A greater percentage of our boys who are stationed at this post are rejoicing over the recent promotion of Lt. Col. M. O. Bousfield to full Colonelship, as was announced by the War Department early this week. Col. Bousfield was a former member of the Chicago'n Board of Education and Medical Director of the Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Co. (Press Photo Service.)

the reply was no. Told this, the group through their spokesman informed the commander that rather than submit to this practice they would eat elsewhere. Further, he explained, so determined were he and his comrades to fly the B-25s for which they were in training that if they were compelled to sleep in tents pitched in the middle of a dust road they would stick to it.

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ed them for their courage, and the white girl attendants themselves told the boys that whereas the exchange did not open until an hour after they were required to report for duty, that they would gladly see that they got warm meals before going to class. On Christmas day the girls agreed among themselves to see that the Negro cadets got a real meal even though the exchange was officially closed. Again the leader of the group spoke up and is reported to have said: "We're appreciative more than you know, but if we have got to go without eating, Christmas day is as good a time as any to do it."

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