

ANP FINDS MORALE SHOT AMONG 553RD FLIERS TRAINING IN SO. CAROLINA

RACE PREJUDICE, DISCRIMINATION RULES AMONG PILOTS, GROUND CREW AT DIXIE AIRFIELD

EDITOR'S NOTES Because of persistent reports that the 553D Pursuit Squadron had been "railroaded" from Selfridge field, Mich., to Walterboro Airbase, S. C., for protesting segregation at the northern training field, the Associated Negro Press sent a reporter to Walterboro to obtain the facts in the case for the readers of this newspaper. What this correspondent, Ernest Johnson, chief of the ANP Washington bureau, found is contained in three articles, the first of which follows.

BY ERNEST JOHNSON

WALTERBORO AIRBASE, S. C. July 24 (ANP)—Because morale of men at this airbase was reported low because a hero of the 99th Pursuit Squadron, back from overseas, had been dismissed from the service thru court-martial, and at least two other men have been court-martialed—

And because rumors of general unrest and discrimination had been reported, the Associated Negro Press undertook an on-the-spot investigation of the situation.

The outfit involved is what formerly was the 553D Pursuit Squadron, which had been stationed at Selfridge field, Mich., until May 7 when it was suddenly transferred to this South Carolina post, in the middle of Dixie and all it means.

The picture is not a happy one. There is indeed much room for improvement on the part of the army air forces if training and the establishment—yes, the establishment—of high morale are to be achieved among a group of men who in a relatively short time will be flying high over Germany for the cause of America.

By the same token, these men and related ground personnel have the responsibility of constantly exhibiting their diligence in accordance with army regulations, knowing as they do that despite the demonstrated capability of the 99th Pursuit Squadron, there is still a segment of the army which even now would prefer not to see Negroes develop in the air branch of this country's armed services.

The 553rd, flying P-47 Thunderbolts, hadn't cracked up yet, as Major Joseph B. Price, assistant director of flying operations and training noted. In fact, there hadn't been a fatality among the men since a short time before leaving Selfridge field, a favorable record.

The seed of discord took root at Selfridge. Six officers from the 99th had returned from overseas to work with the nucleus of the 553rd, which was activated last November at Selfridge Field and Osceola, Mich. They were 1st Lts. Walter Lawson, Graham Smith, Louis R. Purnell, Spann Watson, Charles W. Dryden and Lee Rayford. The outfit was ultimately to be officered with all Negro personnel.

In due course the men were united at Selfridge and for a time had a succession of commanding officers. The last of them, Lt. Col. Sam P. Triffy, came south with them. Under

While at Selfridge the issue of the officers' club arose and a plan to provide separate facilities for the races was thwarted after the Negro fliers had voted unanimously to refuse the separate club. The undercurrent of resentment developed among the colored officers and evidenced itself in sundry ways.

On May 5 the 553rd entrained for Walterboro Airbase. They were not told then or since then why they had been moved south. They accepted opinion among them, however, is that the move was made for the explicit purpose of subjecting them truly to the rigors of segregation as only the south can practice it, and thereby kill their spirit.

That spirit today is low, and the transfer is a contributing factor. None of the ranking officers with whom I talked, from Col. Ivor Massey, deputy commanding officer of the first air force, down knifer or was prepared to say why the transfer was made. An obvious explanation might well have been the conjecture made by William H. Hastie, for merely civilian aide to the secretary of war, a short time ago, namely that the main stream of flight straining is in the south, and that it proper that Negro trainees should receive their training where all other to-be flying officers are schooled. But not even this reason was advanced by the commanding officers. "I don't know was generally their reply to the question.

Incidentally, when the transfer was made, none of the colored boys was permitted to fly his craft down although the whites did. Reason given was that eating facilities might not have been available to them at intermediate stops enroute. "That was a slap in the face," was the comment of one of the fellows with whom I talked, "especially to the boys who had been overseas."

The fact remains that the 553rd, officers and enlisted men, arrived at Walterboro on Monday, May 7, found themselves no longer a complete organization but rather than the fliers were now a replacement training unit, and the ground crew a part of the base personnel and real segregation on an army post was staring them straight in the face.

Public relations officers at Walterboro explained that the post had previously been a sub-base of a base near Charleston but more recently had been given full base status. Further, it was explained that Walterboro had since the arrival of the 553rd, became a location for advanced training for

Inter-Racial Outing



A SUNDAY Outing Program has been recently inaugurated by community groups through the Thames Street USO, Newport, R. I., for patients of the U. S. Naval Hospital. The program consists of an ocean drive in private cars and a visit to the beach where sun umbrellas and free refreshments are provided. At the end of the day, the men are invited to private homes for supper and entertainment by the junior hostesses of the community. Above are a few of a group entertained at the home of Mrs. Abe Smith, pictured with her guests.

one of these commanders, Lt. Col. Charles Gayle, the men observed a tendency to place Negro officers as assistants to white supervisory personnel in the table of organization. Lts. Rayford and Purnell decided they preferred fighting and so went overseas with the 332nd Fighter group. Trainees of the 553rd stuck tongues in cheeks.

While at Selfridge the issue of the officers' club arose and a plan to provide separate facilities for the races was thwarted after the Negro fliers had voted unanimously to refuse the separate club. The undercurrent of resentment developed among the colored officers and evidenced itself in sundry ways.

On May 5 the 553rd entrained for Walterboro Airbase. They were not told then or since then why they had been moved south. They accepted opinion among them, however, is that the move was made for the explicit purpose of subjecting them truly to the rigors of segregation as only the south can practice it, and thereby kill their spirit.

That spirit today is low, and the transfer is a contributing factor. None of the ranking officers with whom I talked, from Col. Ivor Massey, deputy commanding officer of the first air force, down knifer or was prepared to say why the transfer was made. An obvious explanation might well have been the conjecture made by William H. Hastie, for merely civilian aide to the secretary of war, a short time ago, namely that the main stream of flight straining is in the south, and that it proper that Negro trainees should receive their training where all other to-be flying officers are schooled. But not even this reason was advanced by the commanding officers. "I don't know was generally their reply to the question.

Incidentally, when the transfer was made, none of the colored boys was permitted to fly his craft down although the whites did. Reason given was that eating facilities might not have been available to them at intermediate stops enroute. "That was a slap in the face," was the comment of one of the fellows with whom I talked, "especially to the boys who had been overseas."

The fact remains that the 553rd, officers and enlisted men, arrived at Walterboro on Monday, May 7, found themselves no longer a complete organization but rather than the fliers were now a replacement training unit, and the ground crew a part of the base personnel and real segregation on an army post was staring them straight in the face.

Public relations officers at Walterboro explained that the post had previously been a sub-base of a base near Charleston but more recently had been given full base status. Further, it was explained that Walterboro had since the arrival of the 553rd, became a location for advanced training for

pilots who would shortly thereafter leave as replacements for men of the 99th and 332nd. The only pilots at the base are colored, except for the various supervisory personnel (instructors). Total personnel at Walterboro was estimated at approximately 1,600 men of which about one-third are Negroes.

Until July 8, the day before my arrival, the Walterboro Airbase had been under the command of Col. William M. Prince. He was succeeded on that day by Col. Guy Kirksey.

Prior to the arrival of the former 553rd a cooled aviation squadron, (separate) had come in. The number was not large.

Altogether, separate facilities for almost everything but hospital care were provided. At first no attempt was made by public relations officers to make distinction between the character of the Negro personnel, preferring to refer to all of them as RTU (replacement training unit), and the reason offered as justification for separate facilities was that "the RTU has a schedule to make."

It finally developed, however, that as a means of getting around racial designations for the use of certain facilities, two classes of individuals were recognized and defined: RTU for the colored; base personnel for the white. Hence, when the sign was put up, upon orders of Col. Prince, over the entrance to a service center where sodas are dispensed, it said for "base personnel." It means "Negroes keep out." They have been refused service and so have kept out.

These definitions ignored the fact that both the aviation squadron (separate) and the ground crew which accompanied the 553rd, all Negroes, had become part of the base personnel. Col. Prince admitted later in my talk with him that these deductions were accurate. When he was asked about their actual inclusion, he said simply that "they should have been taken into the housekeeping," but reminded that "South Carolina has always been a state which believes in the separation of the races."

He was merely conforming. (To Be Continued)

FEPC CONSIDERS POLICY ON NEGRO LAY-OFFS

BY ERNEST E. JOHNSON

Washington, July 24 (ANP)—Exploratory conversations were begun at the offices of the FEPC last week looking to the establishment of a policy to be pursued toward restraining disproportionate lay-offs among Negro workers due to cutbacks and the introduction of reconversion programs.

These informal talks, it is learned unofficially, have not yet gone outside of the agency, but ultimately will be extended to include the viewpoints of other agencies which might conceivably have a finger in the matter, notably the War Manpower Commission, the war and navy departments, and perhaps the U. S. Maritime Commission.

FEPC is keenly aware of the saying that the Negro is generally the last hired and the first fired. Because this happens to be the demonstrated case in their own experience, the agency would like to find some way of altering this tradition and thereby aid Negroes in retaining some of the industrial gains which have been made in the period of the war. Admittedly, The Problem Is A Difficult One.

One of the ideas advanced at the initial discussions was one which would call upon employers to observe certain agreed quotas in the matter of lay-offs. For example, whereas Negroes may have come into the employ relatively late and so have little seniority, some basis might be found for retaining a number of these workers irrespective of seniority.

Obviously this is an approach which would have to have the sanction of labor unions which in many instances control or "police" hirings and firings of all workers.

The problem was also recognized that under such a quota arrangement, other "interest" groups might use the plan as a precedent, push their own claims for "special treatment". Further, because general quotas for the hiring of Negroes were originally developed and frowned upon, it might well be cause for wonder as to how FEPC could reconcile its acceptance

THE OMAHA GUIDE

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Published Every Saturday at 2420 Grant Street
OMAHA, NEBRASKA—PHONE HA. 0800

Entered as Second Class Matter March 15, 1927
at the Post Office at Omaha, Nebraska, under
Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

C. C. Galloway, Publisher and Acting Editor

SUBSCRIPTION RATE OUT OF TOWN

ONE YEAR	\$3.50
SIX MONTHS	\$2.00

All News Copy of Churches and all organizations must be in our office not later than 1:00 p. m. Monthly for current issues. All Advertising Copy on Paid Articles not later than Wednesday noon, preceding date of issue, to insure publication.

National Advertising Representative—
INTERSTATE UNITED NEWSPAPERS, INC.,
545 Fifth Avenue, New York City, Phone
MU-ray Hill 2-5452, Ray Peck, Manager.



"Help deliver the final blow!"

Dynamite

By George H. Davenport

Chicago, Ill July 16th, in the city of Chicago, the closing meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which name should read 'National Association for the Advancement of some Colored People' was held in Washington Park.

The presentation of the Spingarn Medal was one of the highlights. Dr. Drew, who received the medal, made one proud to be a Negro after listening to his acceptance speech. I cannot say the same of Walter White who reminded one of going to a ball game heavily advertised for Satchel Paige to pitch and suddenly Paige goes out of the game pitching but one inning. Walter White sold the Negro down the river, instead of talking about his subject matter "What's Happening to the Negro Soldier Overseas?" He talked Roosevelt, Eleanor and Wallace, and gave the Republicans Hell.

We were somewhat sore when we read an article in the Chicago Sunday Tribune of July 9th, when some Chicago Negroes of said branch accused white of planning to sell the NAACP to the New Deal. Now, we are convinced that Walter White is in favor of breaking all rules of said organization and doing his Master's bidding. What he told the audience about the Negro soldiers overseas could be written on a single page. He spoke of placards in Italy encouraging discrimination against Negroes—started primarily by an American born Italian. He also spoke of the American whites informing the English that Negroes had tails and barked like dogs and other minor incidents which could have been suppressed. He, like Bishop Gregg and the Gen. Davis, along with Truman Gibson, Jr., should take a plane somewhere—never to return! One thing, I noticed in White was—he either doesn't give a damn about the little Negro as long as he gets his salary and bonus from the New Deal, or he thinks the Chicago Negroes are a bunch of saps.

If that is all he saw after going overseas and plans another trip so he can bring back a story, he has accepted money under false pretenses. And if I had a newspaper and had sent White to get a story and he presented such rot to me, to publish, I would sue him for the return of salary and expense money. So, my advice to you little fellows is not to listen to such men as Dawson, Gibson, General Davis or any so-called leader who is holding a job on any of the political payrolls—Democrat or Republic-

an. Walter White is about to tour the Pacific area, this is his second trip abroad. A. Philip Randolph, who I believe would tell all he saw if he were allowed to go, has had an application on file for over a year for overseas inspection of Negro troops. Why has he been turned down? The answer is obvious.

This writer received 3 "V" mail letters—two from England and one from Italy, which carried more information about the treatment of Negro troops than in Walter "White lies" full report.

We Render . . .

The type of service requested regardless of creed or organization, so when the time for remembering comes it will bring only solace and consolation that the loved one was laid to rest with a dignified and gracious kind of funeral service—priced within the family's means.

Thomas' FUNERAL HOME
2022 Lake St. WE. 2022

LAKE SHOE SERVICE
2407 Lake Street
J. L. TAYLOR, Proprietor

EVERYBODY must have VITAMINS

Of course everybody gets SOME Vitamins. Surveys show that millions of people do not get ENOUGH.

A pleasant, convenient economical way to be sure that you and your family do not lack essential B Complex Vitamins is to take ONE-A-DAY brand Vitamin B Complex tablets.

An insufficient supply of B Complex Vitamins causes indigestion, constipation, nervousness, sleeplessness, crankiness, lack of appetite. There are other causes for these conditions, but why not guard against this one cause by taking a ONE-A-DAY brand Vitamin B Complex Tablet every day?

Important—Get your money's worth, always compare potencies and price.

ONE A DAY VITAMIN TABLETS



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

HIS NEGRO TROOPS DID WELL—Major General Raymond B. Lehman, Commanding General of the 93rd Infantry Division at Bougainville in the South Pacific—his troops "won their spurs" in the drive against the Japs. (U. S. Army Signal Corps Photo.)

Nervous, Restless

On "CERTAIN DAYS" of the Month?

Functional periodic disturbances make you feel nervous, tired, restless, "dragged out"—at such times—try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to relieve such symptoms. It helps nature! Pinkham's Compound is also a grand stomachic tonic. Follow label directions. Worth trying!

LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND

CHAS. E. SANDALL SAYS:

"WE MAINTAIN HIGH TAVERN STANDARDS BY EDUCATION"



This Committee's chief aim is to maintain good conditions in places where legal beer is sold. Since the best informed tavern keepers are generally those who best conduct their places in the public interest, we supply helpful booklets, bulletins and other educational matter, suggesting the best ways to conduct their places. As a result, Nebraska taverns have improved and, with our help, will continue to improve.

NEBRASKA COMMITTEE BREWING INDUSTRY FOUNDATION
CHARLES E. SANDALL, State Director • 710 FIRST NATIONAL BLDG., LINCOLN

MILDRED'S Sandwich SHOP
2409 Lake St. JA-0836

"A Clean Place to EAT at MILDRED'S"

HOT BAR-B-QUE, CHICKEN, FISH AND CHITTERLINGS.

"Patronizing Us is like making Love to A 'Widow'."

"You Can't Overdo It."



City pigeons that are fed by hand from day to day often go hungry when there is no feeding. Dependency deprives them of the will to feed themselves.

Something for Nothing the UN-AMERICAN way

Americans could never have built the greatest nation in the world by adopting the pigeons' policy of living on charity.

Instead, they succeeded because they have always cherished their right to work . . . to work at jobs of their own choice . . . to earn a fair reward for their labor, enabling them to build their own destinies.

"Something for nothing" sounds like a foreign phrase to American ears. It may be good enough for pigeons, but pigeons want to live on handouts.

Americans want FREE ENTERPRISE!

NEBRASKA POWER COMPANY
Copyright, 1944, Bostell & Jacobs

MR. AND MRS. CRAIG, — are Happy to Announce that MRS. GERALDINE CRAIG IS OPENING A Grill & Sandwich Shop IN HER COZY LITTLE HOME Saturday, June 17, —4 p. m. at 2615 N. 24th St. OPEN FROM 4 P. M. TO 4 A. M. CALL FOR RESERVATIONS—JA. 4336

JIM'S Place
—2701 "Q" Street—
LIQUOR BEER WINE AND LUNCH

We buy the best that can be obtained for your approval. We appreciate your patronage with prompt, courteous service to all, at all times.

GOOD READING Your Paper—the Guide