

Race Soldiers Bare Scandal Of Selfridge Air Field

MOVE NEGROES TO BARRACKS OUTSIDE CAMP

Say Drunken Race Sgts. Rule Troops With C.O.'s Approval

By JOHN WOOD

How Race soldiers stationed at Selfridge Field occupy summer barracks which are located beyond the camp proper, walk approximately 100 feet to latrines and showers in near zero weather and are subjected to the abuse of drunken sergeants was told to this reporter by a group of soldiers from the 44th Central Postal Directory this week.

These soldiers reported that Negro soldiers have been moved outside the camp but are forced to keep fires in the winter barracks which are empty.

In an interview the soldiers listed a number of grievances which they said they were afraid to complain about to the commanding officer who, according to the story they told, permits drunken Negro sergeants to "practically run the Negro end of the camp." Among the complaints were:

(1) Negroes were moved outside the camp in December to make room for white soldiers, but the winter barracks from which they were moved have been standing empty for weeks but the commanding officer refuses to move the Negroes back into them.

(2) That since they were moved outside the winter barracks they have been under jurisdiction of Mt. Clemens city police who have been instructed to keep an eye on these Negro boys.

(3) That Negro sergeants are permitted to remain on duty while drunk and are not subject to punishment.

(4) That these same men make it hard for soldiers to get passes to leave the barracks and report any complaints they make to the commanding officer.

Cites Irregularities
The spokesman for the group told the following story, to which the remainder of the group agreed:

"The boys (Negro) at Selfridge Field are not interested in soldiering. All they are doing is making the most of their situation until time to leave, and this is because they have been subjected to treatment that is unjust and does not conform to army regulations.

"We were moved out of the winter barracks in December, and although these barracks have been standing empty for weeks, they have refused to let us occupy them. Some of the boys keep busy every day firing the barracks to keep the pipes from bursting—firing empty barracks while we have to put up with summer quarters. The latrines and showers for the Negro quarters are at least 75 or a 100 feet away and many of our men have caught cold as a result of walking that distance back to the barracks after taking a shower.

Sergeants Get Drunk

"Two of our sergeants stay drunk practically all the time. One of them has a second grade education and thinks we should put up with everything that goes on without complaint. The other is physically unable to soldier and was made a sergeant because his wife works as maid for one of the white officers at the field. Both these men are favorites of the commanding officer and no matter how many complaints you make against them you don't get anywhere.

"Recently, when a girl from Detroit paid a visit and we had a social affair, one of these sergeants was so drunk he could hardly walk. He went around using all kinds of profane language and the CO just looked at him. He didn't even have him taken off duty.

"When we complained about Sgt. Luther Green and Sgt. Tom Rice giving orders while they were so drunk they could hardly stand up, the CO just looked at us and said 'You need a few more good men like them.' At another time the CO made the remark that we were the best 'nigger company' in this part of the country.

Tell of \$5 'Buck'

"Because they stand in so well with the CO, Green and Rice were permitted to open a non-commissioned officers club in one of the buildings that had formerly been an officers mess. They told the rest of the boys they would have to pay \$5 to join and \$5 a month. We complained about this and the CO made the assessment mandatory. But later gave us the privilege of refusing to join the club. Then he said anyone not belonging to the club indicated that he did not want to get anywhere in the army and our privileges were restricted.

"There were absolutely no benefits to be derived from belonging to this club. The sergeants took the first money and bought several cases of whiskey to be sold back to us on opening night. But before the opening the order came through that they could not have whiskey on the place, so they kept it for themselves and were drunk nearly every day until the whiskey was gone.

"There are a hundred other things wrong at Selfridge Field—things that make a man decide that it is useless for him to try to be a good soldier. But we are afraid to do too much complaining because we know what has happened to too many Negroes who protested mistreatment.

"We know that as long as we are in the army we can expect to be

RETURNS FROM THE EAST



Mrs. Nelle Dobson Plante, popular dramatic soprano, has just returned from New York City, where she appeared with the famous Eva Jessye choir. She also appeared with the Rochester, N. Y., symphony orchestra.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAIL TO OUR ARMED FORCES

Because of widespread misunderstanding of the manner in which mail for the armed forces is delivered, it is desired that the public be supplied with the following information relative thereto.

During recent months, complaints from the public of delayed or lost mail addressed to members of the armed forces indicate that there is wide misunderstanding of how this mail is handled and of the difficulties encountered in its delivery.

These complaints, incidentally, are far fewer than the number received during the first World War, although the volume of mail is much larger, according to veteran postal officials who have directed postal activities in both wars.

Mail for members of the armed forces is delivered by the postal service to army and navy authorities at post offices convenient to camps or stations in this country or to ports of embarkation when addressed to persons overseas. The postal service then has no further jurisdiction over the mail and responsibility for its delivery from that point on lies entirely with the army and navy. Likewise, the army and navy handle mail from members of the armed forces until it is delivered to civilian post offices in this country, and the postal service has no jurisdiction over the mail until so received.

Army and navy post offices are technically branches of civilian post offices in this country, but they are not under the jurisdiction of the postal service, being maintained and operated by the War and Navy Departments and manned by military and naval personnel. For instance, A. P. O. 1234, Postmaster New York, N. Y., would be a branch of the New York post office, although it may be located with troops in Africa or elsewhere. Mail deposited in that post office for delivery in this country would carry the return address of 'A. P. O. 1234, New York, N. Y.' although it came from abroad, and the postmark on the envelope is placed thereon at the overseas location and not at New York.

Directory service, through which improperly addressed mail is re-addressed and forwarded, is provided by the army and navy.

Delays in the mail to the armed forces may be caused by various factors. Transportation of the mail sometimes must be postponed so that more urgent needs, for arms, food, or more military and naval personnel may be filled first. Although mails are dispatched at every opportunity, at times the overburdened facilities cannot accommodate all the mail and it must be held until shipping space is available. Ships must travel in convoys in the interest of safety, and a convoy can start only when the last ship is loaded and can travel only as fast as the slowest ship in the group—all of which consumes much time. Transfers of personnel from one point to another also add to the time required for mail to catch up with the men. Shipped Consularship which is done by the Office of Consularship or military authorities, may also cause some delay, although this is held to a minimum. The Post Office Department does not have jurisdiction over the consularship of mail.

Ship strikes by the enemy account for much of the lost mail. Many thousands of letters and packages were different from the way while America are treated, but what gets down is that officers on our ships are permitted to break practically every regulation simply because they are what the CO calls 'gold boys.' When visitors of other races see them just drunk while on duty they lose respect for all Negroes whether in the army or out.

There are approximately 295 Negroes stationed at Selfridge Field.

Pickens Pays For Being Too American

By FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS (For ANP)

CHICAGO—Because Dean William Pickens is too American, he may be crucified for the second time within a year.

First it was the NAACP that nailed Pickens to the cross because Pickens loved America so well that he wanted Negroes and whites to stand united against the axis foes even though it meant easing the fight against discrimination here at home. To Pickens, America comes first.

And now congress may prepare a new Gogoltha for the distinguished leader because Pickens believed so strongly in the dream of American democracy that he once aided many liberal organizations formed to bring full democracy to America.

In other words, according to the NAACP board of directors Dean Pickens is too conservative because he would save America at all costs. But if you listen to Martin Dies and certain other of Hitler's helpers in congress, the highest ranking Negro war bond sales official is a dangerous radical bent on destroying America at all costs.

It's obvious that somebody's wrong. Pickens can't be a stooge for Stalin and a me-too-boss Uncle Tom at the same time. It doesn't make sense.

For years Pickens has traveled throughout America, preaching the doctrine of Americanism above all. He praised Fort Huachuca and the physical installation of the Tuskegee Army flying school. He hurled the cry of traitor at those Dusky-Americans who wanted the race question settled before they would aid the war effort.

On the open platform he has told thousands of America, both black and white, that as much as he hated Mississippi, he would give his life blood to save it because Mississippi was part of America. No intelligent Negro can have greater love for his nation than that.

But because Pickens is intelligent and a brilliant thinker, he has fought consistently for democracy. You see, Pickens has the crazy idea that the Declaration of Independence and the federal constitution should mean just what they say, that a Negro should be accorded the full rights and privileges to which he is theoretically entitled as a citizen of this great democratic nation.

Speaks Here

Dr. W. E. B. Dubois, outstanding scholar and lecturer, will speak at St. Antoine Y.M.C.A., Sunday, February 21.

Register And Vote Drive To Begin

W. O. Walker, editor of the Cleveland Call and city councilman, will speak for the NAACP monthly meeting, Dr. James J. McClendon announced. The meeting will be held Sunday, February 21, at St. Paul A.M.E. Zion church of which Rev. Lost Powell is pastor, at Palmer and Beaubien streets.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

From February 2 to February 8 Theodore O. Thwait, 33, and Virginia Patterson, 25, Crawford Hillfield, 53, and Elizabeth M. Conley, 36, Lionel Elock, 50, and Laura B. Smith, 46, Ernest J. Allen, 34, and Julia Hathorn, 26, Leslie Powell, 45, and Alberta Jackson, 40, David L. Jones, 25, and Lula M. Ramsey, 24, Jerry Brown, 36, and Mattie B. Bray, 26, Penny Boyer, Jr., 26, and Dorothy Brown, 20, William Slaughter, 19, and Sally Smith, 18, Robert L. Johnson, 24, and Helen Taylor, 21, John Anderson, 22, and Eulalia Hamilton, 21, Harry E. Manier, 19, and Elizabeth Freeman, 18, Clinton Franklin, 23, and Ann Stanfield, 19, Oliver W. Taylor, 22, and Mary R. Taylor, 17, Martin Thomas, 21, and Lula Gibbs, 17, Willard Haywood, 21, and Louise Sweeney, 21, James Dodd, 39, and Ethel Major, 39, James Rutledge, 18, and Bettie J. Browder, 18, Ballard Sams, 22, and Ernestine Harris, 22, Albert E. Merith, 29, and Isadora Lumas, 29, Russell E. Brown, 33, and Minnie L. Bellamy, 34, Marvin Holland, 23, and Alice Hamilton, 22, John Crisman, 35, and Ernestine V. Carter, 30, William Bracey, 23, and Mable C. Stanton, 23, Windsor Addy, 23, and Marion Rivers, 17, Lester Stevenson, 40, and Gertrude Cosby, 30, William Bryant, 38, and Claudia Johnson, 23, Hermer George, 20, and Ruth L. McGee, 16, Nathaniel Williams, 21, and Edith Martir, 17, Tom Hunter, 39, and Willie M. Pruitup, 30, Albert J. Dunn, 38, and Johnnie Pennix, 39, George Antonne, 31, and Vetress Stovall, 31, Nathan Clark, 42, and Alberta Simmons, 25, Vernon Maloy, 28, and Sarah Goggans, 26, Clinton T. Woods, 22, Minnie Roberts, 21, Samuel Ward, Jr., 19, and Quincy B. Bell, 19, James Jackson, 28, and Ella Upshure, 24, Benjamin C. Waller, 29, and Irene Austin, 22, John Jackson, 20, and Louise Jones, 16, Albert L. Watkins, 24, and Katie Blanchard, 27, and Rebecca Clark, 26, Joe Smith, 36, and Jessie Young, 35.

SEEN AT THE STATLER



The photographer caught these women being served punch at the Ellittorian's reception at Hotel Statler. The reception was held in honor of their guests, Hon. Chase Going Woodhouse, former secretary of state of Connecticut, and Miss Myrta Davis, regional director of YWCA-USA, and secretary of the National Y.W.C.A.—Photo by Sunny Edwards.

Attend Convention

When the annual convention of the National Lawyer's Guild convenes in Chicago this weekend, the Detroit chapter will be represented by the following lawyers: C. LeBron Simmons, Elvin Davenport, Henry S. Sweeney, Judge Ira Jayne, Judge Patrick O'Brien, Maurice Sugar, Patrick Nerney, Ernest Goodman, Cyril Bevan, Ned Smoker, Louis Brady and Judge Lila Nuenfelt.

Hollywood's Ire Aroused By Meat Bias

LOS ANGELES — (ANP) — "It's lost millions, sirloins and veal cutlets still in Hollywood, while our eastside citizens can't even get neckbones," indignantly declared the Negro Victory committee last week as it prepared to take determined action to correct this difference.

Labor Plan Announced By NAACP

At a meeting of the NAACP Labor Committee held at the offices of the UAW-CIO, Prince Clark and Walter Hardin, co-chairmen, announced plans for the '43 program of the Committee. The meeting was held Sunday, Feb. 14.

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NEGRO LAWYERS TO ATTEND CONVENTION

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