OPINION

We are Americans, and as Americans we would speak to America.—FREDERICK DOUGLASS.

An Independent Weekly Newspaper

THE AFRO AMERICAN

What the AFRO Stands for

1. Colored policemen, policewomen and firemen.
2. Colored representatives on city, county and State boards e. education.
3. Equal salaries for equal work for school teachers without regard to color or sex.
4. Colored members of boards of State institutions whose inmates are colored.
5. The organization of labor unions among all groups of colored workers.
6. A university and agricultural college for colored people supported by the State.
7. Closer co-operation between farmers and the State and Federal farm agents.

WOMEN IN WAR INDUSTRIES

Proof that women make efficient skilled workers was given in three different plants these past two weeks.

Andrew Jones, publicity manager of the Western Electric Company, maker of vital communications, in releasing photos of colored women at work at his Point Breeze plant, reported that several hundred now employed there are doing a splendid job of getting out ammunition for the Allies.

He said, too, that in his plant where colored and white persons work side by side and use the same facilities, colored women exhibit the same adeptness as other workers and that there has been little or no friction between the races.

Published last week were pictures of some of the fifty women, many of them war widows, who left household jobs to lend a hand in the Pennsylvania Railroad's East Baltimore roundhouse. There they are doing important maintenance tasks formerly performed by men.

In this edition are photos of other women engaged in loading mail at the Pennsylvania Railroad station.

In these instances, supervisors and managers report that they are pleased with the work of these women who left their homes or low-paying domestic jobs to get into vital war work.

These are only a few of the women who are making good in industry. We prefer to them because their work has come up for special commendation recently.

There are other war industries in the Baltimore area like the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company which are still allowing their race prejudices to deprive them of the help of available local labor supply which includes qualified colored women.

Eventually they must hire women if they are to meet their production schedules. Why not do it now?

SPOT ZONING ISSUE

The controversial Spot Zoning Ordinance No. 1325 which would enable an East Baltimore mortician to establish his business in his home at 1216 N. Caroline Street is now before the city law department.

After three months of argument, the city council in December passed the bill by a 11-5 vote over the protests of the NAACP and residents of the area.

The legal department is to determine whether the 11-5 vote is valid inasmuch as the law requires a 15-vote majority for passage. If it is legal, it will go to Mayor Jackson for his signature or veto.

The issue in this case is very clear. The 1200 block of N. Caroline Street is a quiet residential area. Passage of Ordinance No. 1325 will rate property at 1216 commercial and will be the opening wedge for other businesses to invade the area.

Residents of the block are opposed to this and carried their protests to the mayor and city council.

It is unfortunate that zoning laws are not strict enough to afford proper protection to property owners and residents of any city area.

The result is, commercial enterprises find easy loopholes in the ordinance and in a short time a purely residential area blossoms forth with one store, then several.

If it were possible that those who desire to live apart from commerce could move into new areas, the present Inida rubber zoning laws would work no hardship. But where can they move? No new homes or new neighborhoods are available. They must grin and bear it or organize community associations to keep out all business.

For the record, business enterprises find it equally difficult to find spots in commercial areas suitable for new enterprises.

Unless every residential block in town organizes a community club and pledges its members to keep their area residential, we shall continue to have cases like this one on Caroline Street which zoning laws are designed to regulate, but do not.

JUSTIFIED KILLING (?)

A three-man army board last week exonerated the guard who shot and killed a 29-year-old Edgewood Arsenal private.

Army officials ruled that the military policeman acted in line of duty when he shot the soldier who was being taken from the guardhouse to a post hospital for treatment.

One story is that the killing climaxed a feud between soldiers and guards.

Discipline is important and is sometimes difficult when officers are new, unaccustomed to handling men, and punctilious about enforcing rules. Sometimes enlisted men are at fault.

All of us know this is war. But it is a war in which we need to put all available men in the front lines.

A soldier killed at home is as dead as though he had been shot by a Jap or a Nazi. We can't kill men in the camps and build an effective fighting force at the same time.

Truer Words Were Never Spoken

What Afro Readers Say

(Readers are invited to write on any subject they desire. Only requirement is that letters not exceed 250 words. Be sure to sign name and address, which will be deleted upon request.)

Hanover Street Joke

Dear AFRO: One ride over Hanover Street will convince anyone that conservation of rubber and gasoline, at least as far as Baltimore City is concerned, is a joke.

During the rush hours any morning or evening from 2 to 12 cars can be seen by the roadside with flat tires, blown out by the bumps and cut by the car tracks which in some places are three and four inches above the pavement.

Why not stop cold patching this street and do a complete repaving job? It can be done, as it is in other cities, without disrupting traffic. If our city engineers are afraid of the job, it is time to import more capable men.

WALTER H. OAKES,
Chairman, Traffic Committee,
Local No. 31, I.U.M.S.W.A.C.I.O.
1702 Eastern Avenue

Hitlers in the South

Dear AFRO: Hitlerism is not incomparable to lynchings and other acts subversive to the morale and progress of our race. The people are just as ruthless and unscrupulous as Hitler, Mussolini and Hirohito.

Compare this picture of a lynching and see if Hitler is any more vile to Jews than the Southern whites have and are still being to us.

I am no antagonist—no revolutionist—but it reminds me of some words spoken by Dr. Mordecai Johnson of Howard University: "The colored soldier in the midst of battle may realize that he has nothing to fight for . . ."

GEORGE JOHNSON
941 Somerset Street

Pastors' Replies Bad

Dear AFRO: When I read the question asked in the Inquiring Reporter by Marcus Boulware in Tuesday's AFRO, I thought at first it was foolish.

The answers given by some of the so-called preachers were even worse. I am a sinner, yet I believe everything I have read in the Bible, and I have read it from beginning to end.

How can a man preach to people and not believe that the whole Bible is true? Is that why churches have card parties and dances? Is that why so many Christians can be found in cabarets and saloons?

M. DOUGLAS

[EDITOR'S NOTE: The question referred to was "Is Everything printed in the Bible true?" It was answered by five Baltimore pastors.]

Dangerous Bus Driver

Dear AFRO: I was on the No. 21 trackless trolley on Monday morning when a very young driver, who seemed to know nothing at all about operating the bus, was serving as motorman. At every corner his speed became faster, although he had been spoken to about the careless and dangerous way he was driving.

A passenger whose name I found out later was Miss Mary Clayton of Bennett Place boarded the car at Harlem and Arlington Avenues. It was a dreadful shame the way she was thrown to the floor as the driver came around the corner at such a high speed. He was definitely responsible for that accident.

I work in a slaughter yard but we do not drive the animals to the slaughter the way he was driving us to work Monday morning. I will be most happy to appear as witness in this case if the lady who was hurt should need me.

GEORGE GILMORE,
1642 Frances Court.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Miss Clayton, clerk at the Dunbar High School, sustained injuries of the back and legs when she was thrown to the floor of the trolley in the accident referred to above. She was treated at Provident Hospital, and is still confined to her home.

The Washington Scene

Highlights of 1942 Also the Lowlights

Official Blunderings Our New Congressman

By EDGAR G. BROWN

Gandhi's gallant defiance of the British and his steadfast demand for freedom for the Indian people NOW was the most dynamic force in the 1942 awakening of the militant fight of all darker peoples of the world for justice and equality.

The successful 3-month picket led by A. Philip Randolph, director of the March on Washington Movement, which eliminated segregation of colored employees of the U.S. Treasury Department in Chicago was an unprecedented achievement of the year.

Hats off to Miss Buck

Pearl Buck's ringing declaration demanding equality for all races provided the most heartening news stories of 1942.

The reneging of Mark Ethridge and other so-called "liberal" white Southerners on "social equality" and the fight for civil rights for colored people following the FEPC hearing in Birmingham, Ala., provided the year's sorriest spectable.

Enfranchisement of 450,000 colored service men through passage of the Soldiers' Vote Law in September proved one of the year's most potent steps forward in the fight for attainment of full constitutional rights for colored Americans.

Scoring the Infamy

Numerous tragic interracial conflicts, slayings of colored soldiers, assaults upon ministers of the gospel and others traveling on trains and buses, constant alleged brutalities practiced upon colored persons, especially in the South, marred the 1942 vista.

The failure of the U.S. Department of Justice to act upon these un-American conditions proved an even more disconcerting backdrop for their existence.

Sikeston, Mo., Shubuta, Miss., Alexandria, La., Fort Dix, N.J., and Washington were among the cities harboring the year's infamous incidents.

Democracy Stymied

Opposition of Southern Senators, led by Bilbo of Mississippi and Smith of South Carolina, to the non-discrimination amendment which would guarantee colored persons representation on OPA price, rationing and rent boards is another of the year's sad commentaries.

Similar opposition to the amendment for inclusion of domestics under Social Security and Old Age Pension benefits was equally abhorrent.

Infamous Incidents

The Rev. James A. Parsons, Tupelo, Miss., pastor, driven from pastorate in September because he became candidate for Congress opposing John E. Rankin, incumbent, at instance of the National Negro Council.

His daughter's teaching certificate was withdrawn and insurance on his church cancelled, according to his son who came to Washington.

The anti-poll tax bill, which passed the House by an overwhelming majority, was filibustered to death by the Dixie bloc in the Senate.

Congress adjourned before taking any action on the anti-lynching bill.

President Roosevelt bluntly refused to confer with A. Philip Randolph, Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, Walter White and Channing Tobias following the lynching of two 13-year-old boys in Mississippi and an alleged orgy of lawlessness about military camps in the South.

The War Department issued Order No. 5 setting up strict racial separation in theatres, trains, street cars and buses at Camp Lee, Va.

Politics and Elections

Public repudiation of New Deal Democratic Party at polls on November 3 when 208 Republican Congressmen were elected.

Governor John W. Bricker, who had appointed the first colored judge, Attorney Jackson of Cleveland, to the Municipal Court, was overwhelmingly re-elected.

Senator C. Wayland Brooks of Illinois,- where Governor Green had also appointed a colored lawyer, Patrick Prescott, to the judgeship of the Municipal Court, received the majority of colored votes.

Colored voters in New York City strongly supported the election of Governor Thomas E. Dewey who had proved by official action that there is no distinction on account of race between American citizens in his thinking.

The same was true of Governor John Martin of Pennsylvania.

New Blood in Congress

The voluntary retirement of Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell after four terms in the House of Representatives.

The third colored Congressman from Illinois, William L. Dawson, appeared on the scene with many colored citizens hoping the question: Statesman, politician, independent, partisan, race leader or stooge?

Behind the Scenes

Legislature Opens—Apathy of Voters Blamed for Lack of Colored Members

By MARSE S. CALLAWAY

The 1943 session of the Maryland Legislature has officially opened. It is all white, although Baltimore alone has about 150,000 colored citizens, and there are many more in the counties.

What does the absence of colored representatives mean, and what does this important session of our legislature mean to the thousands of colored citizens who reside in Maryland?

The absence of colored members is one fuel. We can blame nothing but the apathy of our own people.

There are 20,000 colored citizens entitled to vote in the Fourth Legislative District alone. There are perhaps as many more who would have a right to vote if they took the trouble to register.

In the last election, however, Linwood Koger, candidate for the State Senate, received 7,000 votes, and his Democratic opponent received 12,000. Not only sixty per cent of the colored voters on the books had gone to the polls, Mr. Koger would have been elected.

Not one Koger, but three candidates for the House of Delegates would also have been elected.

Dependent on Others

It is not the fault of the candidates. It is the responsibility of the colored voters of the Fourth District for failing to do their duty.

As a result we are still dependent on others to help us secure justice in this State which officially sanctions discrimination and segregation.

The Annapolis ferry, owned and operated by the State itself separates colored passengers. Every time the Court of Appeals gets a segregation case it decides against us.

What will our white friends in the legislature do about remedying these injustices? What will the Governor and his advisors, who sought and received many of our votes, do to remedy the situation?

Will the large Democratic membership of the legislature, which controls the State, have a change of heart this time?

Afro Honor Roll Out January 16

Who were the ten outstanding citizens in Baltimore during 1942?

The AFRO's annual honor roll which will be published in the issue of January 16 will list those persons from all walks of life who have reflected credit upon the community.

Service to colored people is the only criterion.

1941's honor roll included a Boy Scout leader, civic workers and labor leaders, all of whom had in their own way performed superior service in their particular jobs.

Perhaps the mother next door to you, your pastor, your fraternal leader or your fellow-worker has also excelled in his field. If you feel that someone you know is qualified, send his name along to the AFRO Honor Roll Editor.

For a Better 1943

Dear AFRO: Let us have faith that 1943 will be better than 1942 for the black man.

We have worked hard, some scrubbing floors, some in factories, yet all for victory. We have ploughed and harrowed and sown; we have done our best. Now we must leave the crop alone and let God do the rest.

(Mrs.) GRACE W. MARTIN
833 W. Franklin Street

He Missed 2nd Story

Dear AFRO: From information given the public on the front page of your paper in November, many people are under the impression that I am in jail and that my license has been taken from me.

This has militated against my practice to a great extent. I depend upon my practice to support my family and carry on my affairs.

J. H. WALTERS, M.D.N.L.,
2124 McCulloh Street.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: The story that Dr. Walters was arrested and held in jail on an alleged illegal operation count was published in the November 17 issue of the AFRO. However, in the following issue of November 21 a story was published that Dr. Walters had been released on $1,000 bail the previous Tuesday after a well of habeas corpus hearing to secure bail before Judge Eugene O'Dunne.]

Story Aided NYA

Dear AFRO: I wish to thank you for the wonderful co-operation the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers have given the National Youth Administration in its effort to recruit youths for war production training.

The articles and pictures published have indeed been effective in getting information to the public, and as a result our enrollment has increased considerably.

WELLINGTON S. ROSS,
Youth Personnel Field Representative
27 Commerce Street

In the Market for a Job?

Your Chances of Landing One Better Now Than Ever Before

By WILLIAM A. BROWER

If you are looking for a job, the chances of landing the best one you've ever had are greater now than ever before.

Many war industries, which six months or a year ago disdained the sight of a colored applicant, now welcome them in open arms. Furthermore, they pay them during preliminary training in many occational all skills.

For those war plants that are not offering preliminary training, you can still qualify for their jobs by enrolling at one of the vocational training schools.

More Trainees Needed

Spokesmen for these schools report that the industries are absorbing trainees much faster than they can supply them.

The American Hammered Piston Ring Division of the Koppers Coke Company, for example, which formerly limited colored employees, is now paying approximately 250 women to take machine shop training. When they complete their training, it is understood, more will be wanted.

Workers Making Good

Among the first firms that indicated a willingness to abide by the Presidential Executive Order No. 8802 were the Western Electric Company and the Eastern Aircraft Corporation.

From all reliable reports, they are greatly satisfied with their colored workers and both industries have received the coveted Army-Navy "E" for production efficiency.

Although they segregate colored workers, Glenn L. Martin Aircraft, Bartlett-Hayward Division of the Koppers Koke Company and Bethlehem-Fairfield Shipbuilding Company have also dipped into the colored labor supply—with beneficial results.

No Experience Required

Advertising daily for trainees in various kinds of war production are the Bendix Aviation Corporation, Pemco, makers of munitions; Crown Cork and Seal Company, Corkran Hill and Company, and Calvert Distilling Company.

All of these jobs require no experience to begin with and are open to persons between the ages of 18 and 40, and pay ranges upward from 52½ cents an hour.

Other Jobs Pay Well

All of the good jobs are not to be found in the war category.

Maintenance men, cooks, butlers, chauffeurs, maids and house handymen are being paid higher wages and offered better working conditions now than ever before.

Unlimited openings for store clerks in dry cleaning establishments, drug stores, grocery stores, etc., are now available. These jobs offer steady work and good pay.

Girls can earn as much as $30 a week as pin setters in bowling alley centers, offers open in a similar sum in the canning industry.

Now is your big chance to get a job. Why not make the most of it?

New Books

The following new books have been added to branch No. 1 of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Fremont Avenue and Pitcher Street:

FICTION

HOSTAGES—Stefan Heym
LOOK TO THE MOUNTAIN—LeGrand Cannon, Jr.
THE OF PEACE—Ben Ames Williams
WOLF IN MAN'S CLOTHING—Mignon G. Eberhart
CASE OF THE SMOKING CHIMNEY—Erle Stanley Gardner

NON-FICTION

BOMBS AWAY—John Steinbeck
WARNING TO THE WEST—Rajhanali Shridharani
LISTEN MAN—Dorothy Thompson
DARK ISLANDS—John Vandercook
HOW MONK COURAGEOUS—Stewart H. Holbrook
NEW PRONOUNCING DICTIONARY OF THE SPANISH AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES—Velasquez
LEFT LIEUTENANTS—Douglas S. Freeman.
REPORT FROM TOKYO — Joseph C. Grew

Optional Victory Tax

Employers who pay on a weekly, bi-weekly, semi-monthly or monthly basis, may use the optional method of deducting the five per cent victory tax from pay envelopes.

This method is being used by many employers, according to the collector of internal revenue, in lieu of withholding a straight five per cent of the employee's salary. A table showing the optional tax on weekly and semi-monthly salaries follows:

For Weekly Pay-Roll Period			For Semi-Monthly Pay-Roll Period		
If the wages are over	*But not over*	*Tax to be withheld*	*If the wages are over*	*But not over*	*Tax to be withheld*
$ 12	$ 16	$ .10	$ 26	$ 36	$ .10
16	20	.30	36	40	.40
20	24	.50	40	50	.90
24	28	.70	50	60	1.40
28	32	.90	60	70	1.90
32	36	1.10	70	80	2.40
36	40	1.30	80	100	3.20
40	50	1.60	100	120	4.20
50	60	2.10	120	140	5.20
60	70	2.60	140	160	6.20
70	80	3.10	160	180	7.20
80	90	3.60	180	200	8.20
90	100	4.10	200	220	9.20
100	110	4.60	220	240	10.20
110	120	5.10	240	260	11.20
120	130	5.60	260	280	12.20
130	140	6.10	280	300	13.20
140	150	6.60	300	320	14.20
150	160	7.10	320	340	15.20
160	170	7.60	340	360	16.20
170	180	8.10	360	380	17.20
180	190	8.60	380	400	18.20
190	200	9.10	400	420	19.20
200		$9 40 plus 5% of the excess over $200	420	440	20.20
			440	460	21.20
			460	480	22.20
			480	500	23.20
			500		$23.70 plus 5% of the excess over $500

Democratic Foolosophy

Soldier Slayings The Cause and Cure A "Guide to America" Fooling the Chinese

By JOSEPHUS SIMPSON

Due to the rapid rise in slayings of colored soldiers by white army guards and the increasing bitterness between colored and white soldiers, I take the liberty to suggest to the War Department that it issue a "Guide to America," similar to its "Guide to China," to white troops.

Only a fortnight ago, a colored soldier was slain by a white guard, a military policeman, at Edgewood Arsenal, resulting in a protest march on the guardhouse on the part of some thirty-five other colored soldiers who demanded an explanation. He was interfreed.

Say "Bad Blood" Existed

Reports were that "bad blood" had existed between the military cop and his victim and that they had had several quarrels during the day on which the soldier was killed. Thus, it seems, we need a guide to American democracy a little worse than we need a guide to China.

I am not sure whether the "Pocket Guide to China" is responsible for the fact or not, but I have not yet heard of one Chinese soldier being killed by an American soldier in spite of the fact that our troops have been in China fighting with the Chinese since shortly after Pearl Harbor.

One passage in the book states: "You are going to China. Have been ordered to China to help this gallant ally. Your job, fighting side by side with the Chinese, is to rid that country of the Japanese. No American troops anywhere have a more important assignment."

Consider Chinese Equals

It points out further that Americans who look down on non-white people are supporting the propaganda the Japanese have been dinning into Chinese ears ever since Pearl Harbor with broadcasts demanding: "Why fight for the white man?"

If Americans treat the Chinese like any other allies, as human beings on a basis of equality with themselves, the pamphlet points out, they refute the Japanese insinuations. The men are also warned to be extremely circumspect in relationships with Chinese women.

Americans of the white variety are proving day by day that they are those to whom Christ had reference when he warned against washing the outside of the cup and leaving the inside like a sepulchre filled with dead men's bones.

They are trying desperately to bamboozle Chinese into believing we are a democratic nation, without color prejudice, while at home the government itself is shot through with a Fascist ideology—jim-crowism and segregation is nothing but facism—that sticks out like a sore thumb.

LEST WE FORGET

December 7, year forty-one:
When we were quietly crept upon
With huge bombs and huge guns,
They thought that they were having fun.

So why not try to pay them back
For the stuff we took behind our backs;
I do not have to tell you who,
I mean the Japs.

Wherever you are, just do your part,
To it from your very heart;
A week's take long to do the job,
And make old Tojo wail and sob.

This is no joke, I tell you, folks,
As you can plainly see
The slip of your job can sink a ship or
We must always careful be

And don't forget the boys at the front
On land or on the sea
Will surely do the job for you and
Victory!

—PFC. VERNON COOK, 2453 Francis St.
Baltimore.

In This Corner

(In This Corner each week appears poems by colored authors. This week's writer is Ruby B. Goodwin and the poem is taken from her book, "Press My Kitchen Window.")

OLD THINGS

There's something sad about old things:
The aimless wanderings of a grandmother about the house,
The pitiful eagerness of an old man to lift burdens too heavy for his ebbing strength,
An outgrown, pointless toy, or a rusting wagon with only three wheels,
The stark leafless branches of a dry, dead tree,
A sagging old house with broken windows and creaking steps,
A broken gate slowly swinging on one hinge from a leaning fence,
A somber colored Pullman rusting on a siding as a brilliant colored Streamliner flashes by.
Yes, there is something sad about old things.

—RUBY B. GOODWIN

The Weather

North and Middle Atlantic States
FAIR — FROSTY

1943 JANUARY 1943						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Second week of the Year.
First Sunday after Epiphany, January 10.
Day's length 9 hours 34 minutes.

Davis Report on Troops in England Misleading?

Only Colored Gen. Whitewashed Report on Army Conditions

This Is the View of Joseph Julian, Whose Story of What He Saw in England Is Printed Below

By JOSEPH JULIAN

(Reprinted by Permission of The Nation)

The colored brigadier general, Benjamin O. Davis, was recently sent to investigate reports of trouble between colored and white American troops stationed in the British Isles.

After an inspection that lasted only a few days, he issued a statement to the effect that the situation had been greatly exaggerated, that generally the boys were getting along fine together; occasionally a few social difficulties might arise, but so far as the army was concerned there was no problem—"white and colored troops are treated as equal, having exactly the same rights and privileges."

It is hard to reconcile General Davis's report with my own observations during my recent two months' stay in England or with what colored soldiers told me.

Technically, it is true about the equal rights and privileges, but prejudice never respects technicalities.

Difficulties Not Isolated

Equality cannot be created by a manual of army regulations; the men must feel it and think it and act it. The difficulties mentioned by General Davis are not isolated cases and should not be considered of no concern to the army.

Bad feeling between colored and white troops has serious consequences.

Perhaps General Davis did not get around as much as he should have, or perhaps he did not consider it wise to make an issue of the matter at this time.

An ugly and dangerous situation does exist, and it impairs the efficiency of the troops and depresses the morale of the colored American population, already near the breaking-point.

It is particularly shocking to observe the jim-crow bacillus being injected into England, a country without prejudice, where the people regard colored Americans not as menials and comics but as human beings, and are guided in their regulations with them by their national relations to them as individuals, not as colored persons.

Jim Crow an Order

The prejudiced white American soldiers are not the only carriers of this germ. Sometimes it seems to have been introduced in England by order of the A.E.F.

In a recent issue of the London New Statesmen and Nation, a correspondent writes:

. . . Orders or requests have been issued by the American military authorities to the tourispeople to the effect that white and colored troops should not be permitted in the same civilian canteens.

In some cases the townspeople have refused to comply. Partly as a result of the latter some have become extremely unsuged at what is regarded as discrimination against colored soldiers. As a further result, scuffles between white and colored Americans have occurred when colored Americans have entered, or tried to enter, dance halls or bars where the white Americans were already disporting themselves.

Apparently in one case the white Americans remonstrated with a landlady for serving colored customers. The reply of the woman is significant:

"Their money is as good as yours, and we like their company."

The average Briton appreciates the complexities of the race question but sees it as purely an American problem. He resents being told that he must develop prejudices.

One Soldier's Reaction

One night I met a colored American corporal in Piccadilly Circus and after I left him jotted down our conversation almost verbatim.

I think he simply and eloquently expressed the thoughts and feelings of the average colored soldier with the A.E.F. in England.

Our conversation ran as follows:

"Got a light?"
"Here y'are."
"Thanks. You American?"
"Yeah."
"So am I. Where you from?"
"Pittsburgh. Where you from?"
"New York."
"I worked at the Savoy in Harlem for a while."
"Oh, I was up there just before I left."
(Brightening) "Yeah? Whose band was playin'?"
"I forget."
"They sent me first out to Oklahoma, an' then back to Fort Dix. I gotta gal in Brooklyn I went to see one night, just before I come over here. I was a sergeant and they busted me for it."
"Why?"
"A.W.O.L. She had a kid from me an' I wanted to see 'em both before I came over here. I didn't know if I'd ever come back again, so I wanted to see 'em. I made out an allotment to her."
"That's tough, being busted for that."
"Well, they gotta have rules in an army. I don't blame 'em. I'm a corporal now."

The Big Question

"How do you take it here?"
"Awright—cept not many colored boys over here. Ya get lonesome sometimes."
"How do they treat you over here?"
"Who, the English?"
"Yes."
"Oh, hell, they treat ya fine. It's in the camp and around—we get all the breaks and. I dated."
"You mean the American soldiers?"
"Yeah. We had three officers resign last week. They just didn't want nuthin' to do with us."
"White officers?"
"Yeah. Let of them white boys still look at us like we ain't nuthin'—just to shine their shoes. They walk away from me when I walk down the street. They go out when I come into a pub for a drink. They change their seats when I sit down in a bus. Well, sometimes I think maybe one of these guys'll be needin' a drink from my flask—maybe lyin' wounded an bleedin' and dyin'. I told one of my white officers this, and he growled at me and said, 'You just leave 'em there bleedin', don't touch 'em.' So I'll leave 'em. I'll leave 'em bleed and bleed till they die."

(At this moment two drunken white sailors staggered up to us. One of them plopped his arm on the corporal's shoulder and said, "Darkey, we're absolutely broke; could ya let us have something? We haven't a shilling 'our name." Without a moment's reflection he reached in his pocket, took out a half-crown, and put it in the sailor's hand.)

English Woman Abused

"I have a friend (he continued) who came over here in 1936 with a band—white fellow—married an English girl. I was talkin' to them one day. He went across the street to get a paper. I stayed talkin' to his wife. Three white American soldiers come by—seen that lady is a white girl, and they ripped her fur piece off an tore it up to pieces."

"Do you go into any of the American Service clubs here, Red Cross Club, and so forth?"

"I just keep to myself. I don't go lookin' for trouble no more. Sometimes I take a look-see in London overnight—see, I drive a truck down here from where I'm stationed in Birmingham bout once a week, an' when I gotta stay over—I go over to the British soldiers' club an' they put me up. They treat you much better than at the American clubs. When the Americans do give you a bed, they make you feel they don't want to give it to you."

"How do most of you boys feel about the war?"

"I think most of us feel it don't matter much what happens. We just know we have to fight, so we fight."

"I know there's a lot more that has to be done, but don't you think some progress is being made? Colored men are being trained as pilots now, and many more branches of the service are open to them than ever before."

"Yeah, that' right, an', well, maybe after America gets a little messin' around, and gets bombed up some, it'll be better. They just been having it too easy, too much to eat an' everything. Maybe after they get messed up some, they'll begin to understand, maybe it'll come out awright."

Englishmen Preferred

"You feel much more comfortable with English soldiers than Americans?"

"Sure, man, they drink with ya, they talk with ya. There ain't no difference with them. I'd like to stay here in the war, except the United States is still your home and you have a feelin' you wanna get back to your home there."

"Well, I hope it will work out better for you fellows. That's one thing this war's about—equal no matter how bad things are rights for all people. So long, soldier, I have to run along."

"So long."

Same Story Everywhere

It was the same story with each of the many colored soldiers I talked to: "The English treat us fine—it's in the camp and around we get all the trouble and riots."

Apparently nothing is being done by the army or any other government agency to remedy the situation except some clumsy attempts at segregation.

Instead of some kind of educational program designed to eradicate the color bias by driving home to white soldiers how silly it is to talk about fighting for democracy when they don't mix with colored troops in their own ranks, official policy seems to be, "Keep them apart—as far apart as possible."

"Applied Democracy" Needed

Both Russia and Germany have effectively used their ideological commissars to help build their powerful armies. Though we reject their systems of government, we could strengthen our own army tremendously by a similar technique of indoctrination.

Let us have in our army commissars of "applied democracy" to keep our own ideology alive in the minds of soldiers.

There is a vital need for such a department, not only as a means of overcoming jim-crowism, but generally to keep the original humane motives of our fighting men alive and integrated with their job of killing."

This Is One U.S. Soldier's Story

English ordered to exclude colored soldiers from certain canteens.

Three white officers with colored troops reported to have resigned.

Furs ripped from English girl who talked with colored friend.

Colored soldiers avoid U.S. soldiers clubs and prefer English clubs where treatment is better.

English treat us fine. It's in camp we have trouble and riots.

Santa Visits Soldiers

Santa Claus didn't forget troops of the supply detachment, supply division, at Fort Bragg, N.C., who are shown here receiving Christmas gifts from their commanding officer, Lt. V. Z. Jones. Pfc. Robert Stevenson is the soldier just getting his package, while standing at right are Lt. C. I. Armiger, assistant commanding officer, and First Sergeant A. A. Banks. Following presentation of gifts, troops enjoyed a big Christmas dinner. Guests at the affair included the ranking officers of the Fort Bargg supply division.

Yanks Saved Sweets for Arab Christmas

Soldiers Contribute $125 to Distribute Baskets to Poor in North Africa

By OLLIE STEWART
(Exclusive to Afro-American Newspapers.)

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WITH U.S. TROOPS IN MOROCCO (By cable, censored)—The spirit of Christmas—American style—in Morocco was spread by American troops who shared rationed sweets with their less fortunate French neighbors. They enhanced the fraternal feeling between the two nations by inviting French soldiers to holiday parties.

Members of an anti-aircraft outfit saved their rations of candy, chewing gum, and chocolate preserves for two weeks prior to Christmas, going without delicacies themselves to provide presents for a local orphanage.

Friendship Returned

The children reciprocated by inviting men to their Christmas service and saying prayers for the safety of the troops.

Men of a military police unit bought $40 worth of food for needy families, voluntarily contributing $125 from their own pockets to make purchases.

Additional baskets were distributed through the local clergy.

French officers were welcome guests at a Christmas party given by officers of a U.S. infantry regiment.

Neighboring Arabs and their children enjoyed "open house" at the American soldiers' camp, admired the brightly lighted Christmas trees and attended entertainments by soldier talent.

No Rule Yet to Draft Married Men with Kids

Local Boards That Call Such Men Act Without Instructions

By S. EDWARD SMITH

WASHINGTON

According to the United States News, a Washington magazine, dependency is still a factor in determining draft deferment, but the Allowance and Allotments Act has made it possible for men in the services to contribute more to the support of their dependents.

Selective Service policy is for boards to call single men with dependents ahead of married men. Some married men without children are being called now.

The calling of married men with children requires special authorization from the national director of Selective Service and he has not issued such authorization at this time.

In other words, if a man is maintaining a legitimate family relationship with his wife and has at least one child, he should not be called for the draft at this time.

Has Right to Appeal

Such a man has the right to take his case to the appeal board for an adjustment and if no satisfaction is reached at the appeal board he can appeal to the State advisor. If no adjustment is reached there, he can go to the Secretary of War and if need be, the President.

Married men with children are being drafted every month without authorization from the director of selective service.

Less than 10 per cent of all colored inductees, and volunteers have asked for deferments, and only about 2 per cent have been granted. The regulations for occupational deferment favor a very small portion of the colored race.

Stewart Finds Arabs Short of Sugar, Soap

U.S. Distributes Goods to Cement North Africans to Our Side—Arabian Meal Has 7 Courses

By OLLIE STEWART

War Correspondent of the Afro-American Newspapers, with U.S. Troops in Africa.

By Cable from Algiers

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CASABLANCA, Morocco, Africa.—(Censored)—With other newsmen, I was taken on a tour of inland cities to observe how U.S. food and materials will be distributed here to cement North African allies to our side.

The French Arabs are in need and will receive what we send gratefully.

I had tea with Pasha Marrakech Ex Elhad Thami El Glaoui, who said that farm machinery, medicine, cotton goods, tea, sugar and soap are needed most from the States.

The pasha is a thin, ascetic, looking, spiritual ruler of thousands of Arabs. After a recent illness he is well again and desires to visit America.

At Hamadna I saw the "souks" markets of Arabs where French supplies are rationed. Four other points will be used to distribute stuff purchased from America.

Each Family Known

I saw sugar, tea, candles, and cotton cloth handed out to families and tribes by one government official who knew them all. There is no likelihood of unfair distribution. The number in the family is known and each family receives rations according to the amount on hand.

Soap is always scarce. Cane sugar comes from Martinique and beet sugar from France when there are beets. With our coming, supplies have been increased, but there is still a lack of olive oil and French families are getting saccharin instead of sugar.

Nobody Goes Hungry

Aside from these shortages there is plenty of food. Nobody need be hungry. The souks have beans, corn, olives, dates, oranges, wheat, barley, carrots, eggs, chickens, goats, almonds for pastry, and milk. Doughnuts are made and sold on the spot.

French and Arabs were glad to welcome Americans and cooperate with occupation officials.

The Arabs all salute and do anything not conflicting with their religion. We looked at mosques but were not allowed to enter them. They leave their shoes at the door when they enter and we kept ours on.

Meal an Experience

An Arab meal is an experience if you are conscious when it ends. There are seven or eight meat courses, tea and cakes. You sit on a pillow, wash your hands, and eat with your fingers. The left hand is unclean and is never used—only the right.

The courses include: (1) whole roast mutton, (2) roast chicken, (3) chicken with onions, (4) almond pastries, (5) mutton in two forms, (6) kus dash kus, (7)—if you're still sitting up—several cups of native tea with mint flavor and cakes.

You wash your hands for meat and pull it apart.

You spray yourself with rose water, sit over an incense burner in order to smell good, and stagger to your feet to wonder how you ever managed to get along on an American meal of sandwich, or a hot dog and a milkshake.

Navy Asks Boards for Messmen Only

NASHVILLE, Tenn.— Colored men between the ages of 18 and 38 will be accepted from local draft boards as mess attendants only, Lt. Commander E. E. Keith, in charge of the local Navy Recruiting Station, announced last week.

Men 17 years old and over 37 are being accepted for enlistment in all other classifications and ratings, he said, but 1-A registrants are eligible from selective service rolls only if they wish to enlist as messmen.

Colored men wishing to volunteer as mess attendants can obtain the necessary information either from their local boards or from any Navy Recruiting Station. However, they must state their choice to their local boards prior to receiving notice of induction.

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