Do Your Part to Improve Transit Service, Write Now

Service on the lines operated by the Baltimore Transit Company suffers because of lack of sufficent motormen and conductors.

There are available in the city colored men and women who could be hired to relieve this shortage of workers, but Baltimore Transit will hire white workers only.

If you believe this situation should be remedied and that all available workers should be hired so that transportation of vital war workers will be improved, write to the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee (FEPC), 1006 U Street, Northwest, Washington, asking an investigation of the transit situation here.

CUT OUT THE ATTACHED BLANK AND MAIL TODAY

To the President's FEPC,
1006 U Street, Northwest,
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen: Transit service in Baltimore suffers because of the need for additional motormen and conductors. Colored men and women are available to fill these jobs, but are refused on account of race and color. I urge you to investigate this situation so that transportation of vital war workers in this city may be carried on without delay.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

CITY .....

White House Figure, Who Aided 8 Presidents, Dies

WASHINGTON

An octogenarian, well known on the local, national and international scene, passed from the picture this week when William J. Wilkins, 80, of 2417 Benning Road, Northeast, who served as personal attendant to eight presidents, died.

A native of Orange, Va., the late Mr. Wilkins became a familiar figure at the White House during his thirty-six years, assisting Presidents Harrison, McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, Taft, Wilson, Harding, Coolidge and Hoover.

Familiar with History

As the well-known employee of Chief Executives saw two eras pass and another begin, he travelled with the heads of State on yachts and presidential trains.

WILLIAM J. WILKINS

Before his retirement on July 31, 1932, he assisted Mrs. Hoover in compiling historical data on the White House for her book.

For a brief period, between his employment by President Harrison and by President McKinley, Mr. Wilkins worked at the Government Printing Office.

Family Survives

Funeral services will be held on Friday (tomorrow) at 1 p.m., at the McFarland Funeral Home. Interment will follow in Lincoln Cemetery.

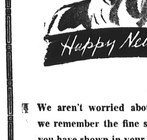
Mr. Wilkins is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mayme E. Wilkins; a daughter, Mrs. Grace Tyson, and a brother, Edward.

VETERAN N.C. PHYSICIAN DIES IN GOLDSBORO

GOLDSBORO, N.C.—Dr. Clarence Dillard, 56, who has practiced medicine here for about 20 years, died Monday at his home. Funeral services were held Wednesday at St. James Methodist Church.

SMART WEAR
WISHES YOU A
Happy, Victorious
NEW YEAR!
BUY BONDS
AND
STAMPS
FOR
VICTORY
SMART WEAR
128 Penna. Ave. Ve. 2158-W

Our Staff wishes you all a



We aren't worried about the New Year when we remember the fine spirit of cooperation that you have shown in your dealings with us in 1943! Surely, the American people cannot fail while such a spirit motivates their actions. We wish to thank you for your patience and understanding during these critical months.

Let's continue to work together
to make 1944 a year with
a proud history!

WATCH FOR OUR SENSATIONAL CLEARANCE ANNOUNCEMENT

NATIONAL
Clothing Company
TWO GREAT STORES
819 PENNA AVE. (Below Biddle)
1105 LAURENS ST. (Near Lafayette Market)

40 MM Gun Crew Praised by Commander

The above photo shows members of a 40-millimeter gun crew in the 866th Battalion, Anti-Aircraft, of Camp Stewart, Ga. They were praised recently by Brig. Gen. E. A. Stockton, Jr., commanding general, as the best of their kind in camp. The unit, so designated by Anti-Aircraft Command inspectors, is commanded by Lieut. Col. Collis P. Hudson. It was coached by Second Lieuts. Thomas Cook and James Stamps. Standing, left to right, are: Sgts. James F. Springer, Robert F. Mehane, Raymond A. Davis, Pvt. Roscoe E. Wiseman, Cpl. Corry W. Steppe, Sgt. Harry Fairly, Pfc. Wallace R. Brown, Cpl. Leon White, Pfc. Edward Sayers, Sgt. Charles G. Isaurez, Cpl. Arthur Henry, Pvt. Rance Whiteside, Cpl. Marcellous Wright, and S/Sgt. Nicholas Gumbe.

Overchargitis, Deadly Malady, Strikes Baltimore Taxi Drivers

Causes Victims to Snare Passenger, Leave Him Flatter in Disgust than Empty Wallet

By SIMEON BOOKER

Overchargitis is the form of jitters from which some Baltimore taxicab drivers suffer.

Typical of big towns where money flows like war bonds across sale counters, the disease causes its victims to snare a passenger and leave him flatter in disgust than his empty wallet.

Victims of one of the sufferers were the party-farmers who boarded a cab in Northwest Baltimore recently and sailed a distance of fifteen blocks, each party getting out at intervals of three blocks, for a total toll of $4.50.

Didn't Use His Meter

Meter not working, the driver charged each departing rider a higher fare than that of the preceding one.

Correct procedure, you ask? Heavens, NO!

Here's how the Public Service Commission's Taxicab Bureau Supervisor William F. Monaghan diagnosed the error.

Under commission regulations, the driver has no right to set a flat rate for any trip. The meter should show the amount of the ride. After each discharge of a passenger, the meter should have been reset for the new fare, the minimum rate being 25 cents.

In case two or more parties got off at the same stop, the fare should have been divided between or among them.

This is only one of the many regulations Mr. or Mrs. Taxicab Rider should know.

Technique at Stations

For instance, at a railway station or a public place of assembly, commission regulations rule that only four passengers may board a single taxicab, provided no one has engaged the cab, in which case, the driver must secure permission from the first rider.

How do you get a taxi at a crowded station? Mr. Monaghan told the AFRO that after a reasonable time has elapsed, or after the bulk of the crowd has been accommodated and you're still trying to get a ride, you should notify the starter.

The Starter's Duty

The duty of the starter is to assign cabs. Due to wartime conditions, taxicabs at stations usually try to get a load headed in the same direction before leaving. Not necessary, though, merely patriotic.

Scarcity of rubber tires and new vehicles limits the use of available passenger-jotters, making it advisable to carry as many persons in a cab as is legally possible.

However, whether you engage a cab at a station or hail one, before a driver can pick up another passenger, he must secure your consent.

Must Reset Meter

Drivers are forbidden to reroute your trip to load or unload passengers without resetting the meter once the other passenger has been discharged.

How do you know whether you're a victim of a sufferer from this modern disease?

Once the driver lets out the clutch and the cab jerks forward, he must throw down the flag to operate the meter.

If he doesn't, it's a violation. The light should be on the meter so that you can read the figures. If it isn't, it's a violation. Failure to pick up a passenger while "free" is also a just reason for Mr. Driver to be hailed before the Judge.

Report All Violations

Any violation of the commission's regulations should be reported to the Taxicab Bureau, on second floor at Central Police Headquarters, Fallsway and Lexington Streets, according to Mr. Monaghan.

There are four ways to identify the driver and cab:

1. Get the driver's badge number, worn on outside garment.

2. Get the number from his identification card, displayed in the cab.

3. Take the number of the cab (painted on both sides).

4. Get the licenses number of the cab.

Complaints are investigated thoroughly, Mr. Monaghan said.

However, don't hire a cab to sight-see, or go to the races or places of amusement outside of corporate limits of Baltimore. And don't forget to tip!

Taxi Hints

1—Make sure taxi driver starts the meter when you board a cab.

2—Don't pay any flat rate for rides; always use the meter for correct amount.

3—At a railroad or bus station, notify the taxicab starter if you are unable to secure a cab.

On Group Fares

4—Traveling in a group, driver must re-set meter every time a passenger or group of passengers alight. Passenger pays amount registered on meter at time of his discharge; in group, the amount should be divided.

5—Violations such as overcharging, meter not working or refusal of driver to pick up passenger should be reported to Taxicab Bureau of Public Service Headquarters, Fallsway and Lexington Streets.

Trained but Can't Work

Janitor at War Plant Denied Better Job Despite 272 Hours of Preparation

Do war plants really need additional workers?

You can't prove it by Lee Benson of 1408 McCulloh Street. For the past year, Mr. Benson, a janitor at Bethlehem-Fairfield Shipyard, has been trying to get promoted to an essential job but to no avail.

Seeing that there was a need for additional workers in the company machine shop, he studied at War Vocational Training School No. 453, where he completed 272 hours in machine shop work.

Worker Allegedly Given Run-Around

He then applied for upgrading but declares that his supervisors gave him the run-around.

This past November he completed 200 hours in auto mechanics so that he might have additional skills. He is still trying to secure a promotion.

Father of Four

In the meantime, he has filed a complaint with the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee in Washington, in the hope that some investigation will be made and he may be moved from a janitor's job to a job he has been trained to hold.

Mr. Benson is the father of four children and gave up a non-essential job in a private family to go into the war plant.

Watch Services Set by Churches

RICHMOND—Great Hope Baptist Church, of which the Rev. Freeman R. Berlack is pastor, will have New Year's Eve services from 11 to 12 p.m.

Services at Sixth Street Baptist, of which the Rev. Joseph Arrington is minister, and Moore Street Baptist, where Dr. Gordon B. Hancock presides, will begin at 10 p.m.

Many other churches have planned these special prayer services to mark the coming of a new year.

COUGHS DUE TO COLDS

If you have a wheezing and your chest feels raw, get a bottle of ROBINSON'S EXPECTORANT. It loosens the Phlegm and takes away that chilly, achy feeling. Sold with a money-back guarantee at ROBINSON'S CUT-RATE DRUG STORE, 2139 Pennsylvania Ave., Baltimore, Md.

H.U. Art Students Design Yule Story

WASHINGTON

Sophomore students designing, under the supervision of Miss Lois Jones, instructor in art, transformed the exhibit cases in the lobby of Founders' Library at Howard University into "stained glass" windows depicting a Yuletide story.

A unique feature of the display is that the paintings were done with Bon Ami and tempera colors.

Scenes portrayed are: The Annunciation, by Yvonne Newberry; The Shepherds, by Helen Wilson; The Madonna (after Botticelli), by Doris Johnson; The Flight into Egypt, by Phyllis Brandon; The Nativity, by Barbara Linger; and The Three Kings, by Adelaide Smith.

Best Fruit, Vegetable Buys Listed

The War Food Administration advises that homemakers shopping for fresh fruits and vegetables in the local markets and food stores of Baltimore and vicinity for this week end will find the best wartime buys in the vegetable line are snap beans, celery, carrots, cabbage, spinach, white turnips, rutabagas, sweet and white potatoes.

The very best buys are carrots without tops, cabbage, turnips, snap beans and white potatoes. In the high price class are peas, lima beans, cucumbers and tomatoes of good quality.

Chickens, Fowl Plentiful

The following fruits are on the market: apples, oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, lemons, limes, pineapples, avocados, bananas, grapes, pears and persimmons. The best buys are oranges, grapefruit, small apples and tangerines.

Small young chickens and small fowl are fairly plentiful, large roast and heavy fat fowl light. Guineas, ducks and turkeys very light. Prices on all kinds are unchanged. Fresh eggs are fairly plentiful and lower on small sized eggs.

Fresh fruits, vegetables, fish, eggs and poultry are not rationed.

WHITE GOP'S OF WEST DEBATE RACE ISSUE ALONE

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah—Although appeals to colored voters were discussed at the recent Republican "Save America Pow Wow" here, no colored leaders were present.

366th Infantry Now Stationed at Afterbury

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—(ANP)—The 366th Infantry Regiment, reincarnation of the original 366th which served in World War I, arrived at Camp Atterbury recently.

The present unit, commanded by Col. Howard D. Queen, has received commendations from the governors of Maine, Vermont, and Massachusetts for its handling of special continental assignments during this war.

The regiment, which was activated in February, 1941, at Fort Devens, Mass., came here after completing a course in field training at A. P. Hill Military Reservation, Va.

250 Finished OCS

The unit, which is composed mainly of men from Eastern Seaboard States, boasts the fact that approximately 250 of its enlisted men have completed officers' candidate school.

Col. Queen was an enlisted man in World War I, during which he was elevated to the rank of captain. He saw action in France and also served with the army of occupation.

Upon returning to this country he became a reserve officer. He was an electrical engineer and statistician in civilian life. He returned to active duty in July, 1941, as executive officer of the 366th, and became commander in February, 1942.

Commander's Assistants

Col. Queen is assisted by Lt. Col. Oscar Randall, executive officer; Maj. James H. Robinson, plans and training; Maj. Edward C. Johnson, supply; Capt. George F. Lawrence, intelligence; Capt. Charles Clark, special service; Capt. Marcellus H. Goff, regimental surgeon, and Lt. Charles A. Pratt, adjutant.

The battalion commanders are Lt. Cols. Alonzo G. Ferguson, Ernest H. Welch, and Maj. Truman Y. Chase.

Legation Bought for Ethiopian Minister

The legation located at 2134 Kalorama Road has been purchased by Ethiopia for its minister, Blatta Ephrem Tewelde Medhen, who presented his credentials to President Roosevelt November 9.

The building, which is near the former Embassy of France and the former Legation of Thailand, belonged to Frederick Sterling, former U.S. Minister to Sweden.

Sergeant Overseas

S-Sgt. Jerome L. Bunch, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester D. Bunch, of 831 Forty-eighth Street, Northwest, Washington, who is now serving with an aviation engineering outfit somewhere in England, Sergeant Bunch is a graduate of Cardozo High School of Washington, and of W.Va. State College.

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KERMISCH BUILDING
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1138-46 Pennsylvania Avenue
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ACHES and PAINS QUICKLY VANISH WITH RHEUMA-NOX. Thanks to a Doctor's Prescription, you can now relieve those pains and aches that cause you so much discomfort. RHEUMA-NOX drives the uric-acid out of the blood. Use Rheuma-Nox Now, under a money-back guarantee from ROBINSON'S CUT-RATE DRUG STORE, 2139 Pennsylvania Ave., Baltimore, Md.

Lieut. Albert Cephas Dies in Texas Hospital

First Lt. Albert Cephas, attached to a dental corps of the 92nd Infantry Division, Fort Huachuca, Ariz., died Sunday in the William Beaumont Hospital, El Paso, Texas.

His mother, Mrs. Annie Cephas, 1112 Clendenin Street, was at his bedside at the time of his death which resulted from acute leukemia (a disease of the blood stream).

Stricken While on Duty

He was stricken two months ago, while on duty at Fort Huachuca and was later moved to El Paso.

Lt. Cephas, a June graduate of Howard University School of Dentistry, was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1942. He was activated last August and promoted to the rank of first lieutenant.

Funeral Saturday

A native of Baltimore, Lt. Cephas, who was 25 years old on November 30, did his undergraduate college work at Morgan State College.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday at 1 p.m. at Holland Funeral Home, with burial in Mt. Auburn Cemetery. His sole immediate survivor is his mother.

LIEUT. ALBERT CEPHAS

"Hot" Radio, Clothing Get Man 18-Month Term at Cut

Accused of taking clothing and a radio valued at $90 from the home of Frank Thomas, 914 Madison Avenue, Preston H. Lennon, 21, of 1035 Eutaw Street, was given an eighteen-month term in the house of correction Wednesday by Judge Emory H. Niles in Criminal Court.

Patrolman Ralph Connors of Northwestern District testified that Lennon was arrested attempting to dispose of the articles in a Pennsylvania Avenue pawnshop.

Lennon Contended that Cledge Williams, also of 1035 Eutaw Street, gave them to him to pawn, but Williams produced evidence to show that he was at work at the time Lennon said he made the request.

KERMISCH'S
JAN 1944 ULTRA-VIOLET
SAVE UP TO 1/2 AND MORE!
ALL REGULAR MERCHANDISE FROM STOCK—

Dresses	Excellent values. Ceiling prices to $12.95.	$5.98
Coats	Fur trimmed and untrimmed. Ceiling prices to $29.50.	$10.00
Suits	Tailored and dressy styles. Ceiling prices to $59.95.	$14.98
Fur Coats	Jackets and full length models. Ceilings to $97.50.	$44.00
Men's Suits	Single and double breasted. Ceiling to $29.00.	$18.88
O'Coats	Single and double breasted. All colors. Ceiling to $29.00.	$18.88
Shoes	For ladies, men, and children. Ceiling to $5.95.	$2.95
Watches	Nationally known makes. Jeweled. Ceiling to $19.95.	$12.95
Rings	Brilliant diamonds set in yellow gold. Ceiling to $29.95.	$10.00
Furniture	Every item in bedroom, living room, kitchen and miscellaneous pieces marked down as much as 33%.	
Radios	CONSOLES, PORTABLES, COMBINATIONS — Nationally known makes — at ceiling prices.	
Stoves	Require pipes. Two burner models. Ceiling to $59.00.	$49.95

KERMISCH'S
1138-46 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
(CORNER DOLPHIN STREET) OPEN LATE EVERY NIGHT
CLOSED ALL DAY SATURDAY

Navy Hero, War Mothers and War Plant on '43 Honor Roll

Treasury Award — Made to AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, its newspaper boys, and subscribers for their patriotic support of the War Savings Program.

BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN

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Red Caps Say Ruling Makes Plight Dismal

Ask Supreme Court to Reconsider Okey of Lily-White Union

DECLARE IT MEANS ECONOMIC SLAVERY

Group Represented by Union to Which They Can't Belong

WASHINGTON

Asking the Supreme Court to reconsider its decision which dooms red caps to "economic slavery," the United Transport Service Employees of America told the court this week that "If this interpretation of the Railway Labor Act prevails, the plight of colored labor in the inter-State railway labor field is hopeless."

The court is asked to reconsider its decision of December 6 which had the effect of forcing the red caps to become bargaining agent the AFL Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, although they are barred from membership in the union because of their race.

Interest in the case is heightened because the race issue has been thrust out into the open by the action of the Fair Employment Practice Committee in ordering sixteen Southern railroads to grant colored rail workers equal employment opportunities with white workers.

Early Action Expected

Early action by the court on the case is expected, as under ordinary circumstances, the petition would be acted upon without undue delay.

The brief, filed with the court on behalf of forty-five red caps employed by the St. Paul Depot,

(Continued on Page 16, Col. 4)

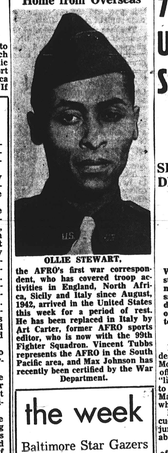
Chaplain Killed in South Pacific

The War Department this week confirmed that Chaplain Joseph D. Taylor had been killed somewhere in the South Pacific.

Lieut. Taylor, a graduate of Johnson C. Smith University, was a Presbyterian minister, having served pastorates in Greenville, S.C. and Wilmington, N.C.

His wife, Mrs. Lucia F. Taylor, and one child survive. Appointed in June, 1942, Lieut. Taylor was stationed at Camp Shelby, Miss., before going overseas.

Home from Overseas



OLLIE STEWART, the AFRO's first war correspondent, who has covered troop activities in England, North Africa, Sicily and Italy since August, 1942, arrived in the United States this week for a period of rest. He has been replaced in Italy by Art Carter, former AFRO sports editor, who is now with the 99th Fighter Squadron. Vincent Tubbs represents the AFRO in the South Pacific area, and Max Johnson has recently been certified by the War Department.

the week

Baltimore Star Gazers Some Opto-Pessimists

Johns Hopkin's Will Colored M.P.'s in Md.

By SAMUEL HOSKINS

There is no law, human or Hopkins, says predictions must be made at the beginning of each new year. But it is done. So have a look at the "1 predict" score.

War, race relations, economic opportunities and housing were the most discussed subjects. The majority opinions of the Baltimore prophets stack up like this:

The European phase of the war will end this year, but the scrap with Japan will drag on until some later date, at least until 1945; that Stalin—backed by the Red Army—will have a great deal to say about the peace of Europe; that colored soldiers will see action plenty, once the Western push gets under way.

No Curb on Racism?

But, unfortunately, the crystal gazers do not believe there will be an appreciable lessening of discrimination in the U.S. Army. They believe that there will be an increase in use of colored troops in engineer and service battalions,

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 3)

Here's Cause for News Tipsters

The AFRO each weeks pays $10 in cash to persons who first notify this newspaper of news happenings. Get cash for your news tips by calling Mulberry 6012 any time between 8:30 a.m. and 9 p.m. and ask for City Desk.

Red Cap Case in a Nutshell

1. Red caps form local 4 of United Transport Service Employees of America, petition company for union recognition.

2. Company tells them they have not been ruled "employees" by Interstate Commerce Commission.

3. Court rules later they are "employees" within the meaning of the Railway Labor Act, and company informs them (twenty years after agreement negotiated with AFL Railway and Steamship Clerks' Brotherehood) they are covered under contract with brotherhood.

4. Red caps appeal to National Mediation Board which sustains the company's contention.

5. Porters appeal to U.S. District Court which reverses board, orders UTSEA certified as bargaining agent for red caps.

6. Brotherhood appeals to U.S. Court of Appeals, but lower court is upheld.

7. Union appeals to Supreme Court which overrules lower courts, declaring them without jurisdiction, sustaining original Mediation Board order.

8. Red caps ask Supreme Court to reconsider its ruling which reduces them to status of economic "slaves," doomed to "live on the outskirts of civilization."

7 Messmen on U.S. Destroyer Sunk in N.Y.

Eyewitness Relates for AFRO Story of 3 Mystery Explosions

SHIP LITTERED WITH DEAD AND WOUNDED

Messman on Mattress Blown Over Side of Vessel

BULLETIN

The Navy Department said Wednesday that the ill-fated destroyer was the U.S.S. Turner, new 1,700-ton vessel. It also said that the destroyer torpedoed and sunk in the Atalntic on Christmas Eve was the 1,090-ton U.S.S. Leary.

By W. A. BROWER

BROOKLYN, N.Y.—The U.S. destroyer which blew up and sank Monday morning about 20 miles off the New Jersey coast was "literally an inferno," according to Steward Third Class Albert R. Malborough of Portsmouth, Va., who was aboard the ill-fated craft.

Malborough, despite heroic rescue work, escaped with minor injuries and was one of the last to abandon the stricken vessel.

Marlborough said that he knew of no colored shipmate who had lost his life.

The ship, according to the Third Naval District, had anchored at 3:30 a.m. and was preparing to lift anchor at 7. The first of a series of explosions, which rocked New York City, went off at 8:18. The ship was abandoned at 7:50.

The ship's status dropped to a lease a list of casualties. A total of 103 survivors were landed at nearby ports by coast guard cutters.

Malborough, one of seven colored men aboard, gave the AFRO an eye-witness account of the disaster at the naval receiving station where he is recuperating.

He said the crew was expecting liberty after the ship had reached its destination.

Malborough Tells of Blast

A veteran of nearly three years service aboard a battle wagon, Malborough said that the explosion was worse than the invasion of North Africa, in which he participated.

"The first explosion went off at 8:18 while I was in the after-head. I remained calm and rushed to get first aid bandages from my locker," he said, adding:

"A group of men came down with wounded shipmates and we

(Continued on Page 19, Col. 3)

Mrs. J. C. Carper Dies at Home; Rites Monday

Mrs. Ada Carper, wife of Dr. J. C. Carper of 1433 Madison Avenue, died at her home Thursday night after a year's illness.

Funeral services for the family will be held at the home at noon Monday, followed by final rites at 12:30 p.m., at James PE Church.

Besides her husband, survivors include a son, J. C. Harper, Jr., a daughter, Miss Helen H. Carper, and a brother, Manning G. Jones.

PROVIDENT'S 1ST 1944 BABY BORN SATURDAY AFTERNOON

First baby of the new year to be born at Provident Hospital was Paul White, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul White, 2434 Madison Avenue, who arrived at 3 p.m., Saturday, weighing a fraction over seven pounds.

Sailor Awarded Purple Heart

At shipboard ceremonies in a North African port, John R. Robinson, steward's mate second class, of Rochester, N.Y., is shown being congratulated by Rear Admiral Lyal A. Davidson, who presented a Purple Heart medal to him for his part in the action which immediately followed the bombing of the U.S.S. Savannah during the invasion of Salerno last September.

3 Million Ok'd for Permanent Federal Housing in S. Baltimore

Housing Officials Promise Removal of the Objectionable Features on Cherry Hill Site

Three million dollars has just been approved for construction of a 650-unit permanent housing project on the Cherry Hill site in South Baltimore, housing officials announced on Wednesday.

During a special meeting of the city plan commission, which was attended by Federal housing officials and civic representatives who had opposed use of the Cherry Hill site, the city housing authority promised that the project, when completed, would have every possible feature of advantage.

One of the main objections to this project was its proximity to the city garbage incinerator.

Revealing that experts had been sent to study how the incinerator is controlled in New York City under similar circumstances, Nathan Smith, city engineer, advised the group that the city would be

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

14 Officers Attached to North Africa Battalion

List Includes Morgan Athlete and Men from Md., N.Y., Pa., and D.C.

By ART CARTER

AFRO War Correspondent with U.S. Troops in North Africa

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ADVANCED AIR BASE, — (Censored) — Via Air Mail. — There is no glamor connected with their work, but the members of the hard-working port battalion which I met in North Africa just before hopping off to Italy certainly are among the busiest soldiers in the whirl of complex war business.

This unit has fourteen colored officers, including two warrant officers, among its commissioned personnel, and its commanding officer, Major Joseph E. Rector, white, Ridgewood, N.J., told me that he has not worked with a more co-operative group.

Work Hard, Few Complain

The men have tough assignments and work long hours but there are few complaints. They work sunshine and rain, mostly rain as the water falls almost daily during the winter season in North Africa.

The men live in tents not too far from the docks where their work is centered. There is no pink tea phase to their work though fundamentally they are in a behind-the-lines outfit.

The entire unit has been through air raids and some of its soldiers have been dive bombed.

All Trained to Fight

All of them are trained to fight,

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

H.U. Student with 4-F Draft Status Takes His Own Life

Police Report Law Student, 24, Grieved Because He Couldn't Join His 2 Brothers in the Army

WASHINGTON.

Grieved because he was unable to join his brothers in the army because of a 4-F classification, Nathaniel Owens, 24, a Howard University student, committed suicide Friday by hanging himself in his room at 2827 Thirteenth Street, Northwest.

Police records revealed that Owens had been brooding for some time over the fact that two of his brothers were in the armed forces and that, he too, wanted to serve his country in the same capacity.

Last Thursday he went to the local draft board here in an effort to have his classification status changed but the board referred him to his board in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Says He Asked for Gun

On arriving at his home here, he allegedly asked Prescott Jackson, another roomer in the house, if he knew where he could get a gun; he wanted to kill himself.

Becoming alarmed, Jackson informed Mrs. Lillian Stewart, landlady, who immediately phoned Dean William B. West of Howard University about Owens's actions.

Notwithstanding the fact that Dr. Paul Cornely and Dean West had an appointment with Owens relative to his condition Friday morning, they came to the home where they found the partly-clad body hanging by the neck from an iron pipe in the ceiling of the bed room. Dr. Cornely pronounced him dead from strangulations.

Made Noose of Shirt, Belt

The victim had improvised a noose out of his topshirt and belt, stood on a chair and, after adjusting the noose, apparently kicked it away and dropped the few feet to his death.

Mrs. Stewart told the AFRO that Owens had roomed at her house for three years, being a law student at Howard and one of the finest men she had ever met. He

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

Pacific Soldiers Want More Mail

By VINCENT TUBBS

AFRO War Correspondent with U.S. Troops in the S.W. Pacific

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SOMEWHERE IN NEW GUINEA (Via Air Mail) — Mail call still is, always was, and apparently always will be the most important interval in a soldier's day.

Never can too much emphasis be placed on the importance of home maintaining a steady stream of letters to soldiers overseas.

The contents of the letters are important. A soldier wants neighborhood and hometown news, a little gossip, and lots of encouragement. The contents, however, are not half as important as the letter itself.

Song Lyrics Sent

Some soldiers' letters shown this correspondent have contained nothing more than the words to a

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)

NEW LIBERTY SHIP JOHN HOPE TO BE LAUNCHED

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — A new Liberty ship to be named in honor of the late Dr. John Hope, former head of Atlanta University, will be launched soon.

2 Lieutenants Appeal $75 Fine

CAMP BRECKINRIDGE, Ky.—Two second lieutenants, members of an ordnance company here, who were among five fined $75 in November for "attempting to discredit duly constituted authority," have appealed their punishment to Lt. Gen. Leslie J. McNair, head of the army ground forces in Washington.

General McNair can reduce the fine or substitute a reprimand.

Baltimore Lootie Involved

The two lieutenants, Linwood Koger, Jr., of Baltimore, and Robert Bullock, Cincinnati, are mem-

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 7)

LIEUT. LINWOOD KOGER, JR.

500 Men Quit 372nd Infantry

NEW YORK — Five hundred men of the 372nd Infantry stationed at 110th Street, here, have been detached and sent to an MP guard at Camp Ord, California and Fort Sill, Okla.

The regiment, normally 2,000, has been recruited to 2,500, the overstrength being an allowance to provide for replacements and casualties. Since the 372nd has not been given combat duty it had grown too large and had to be cut.

The 366th Infantry, expanded in a similar manner, lost 900 men at one time.

Both the 366th and the 372nd are combat outfits. Men who leave these regiments after training will combat troops are sent to Chicago and Fort Sill non-combat units like quartermasters and military police.

Medic's Wife May Sue for Divorce

PHILADELPHIA

Mrs. Martha H. Baltimore, who last week accused her husband, Dr. Charles F. (Pete) Baltimore, of maintaining an apartment here for a woman he presented as his wife, said Monday that she is planning to sue for divorce.

Dr. Baltimore told her last week, the wife said, that he is going into the Army. He was commissioned upon graduation from Meharry Medical School in 1941 but was deferred. Mrs. Baltimore said, first while he served his internship at Mercy Hospital here and then later as chief resident physician of the institution.

Since the episode recently when she met the "other woman" face to face at the hospital, he has written Washington saying that he is ready to begin active Army duty, according to the wife.

The young physician tendered his resignation as chief resident shortly after the "incident" but stood that Mr. Randolph will base its facilities because of a law of the city liquor board which pre-

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 7)

Report York Hotel Sold to L. Randolph for $35,000

Proprietor of Smith's Hotel Purchases 37-Room Hostelry, Including Fixtures

Lloyal Randolph, proprietor of Smith's Hotel and Cafe, 437 Druid Hill Avenue, this week purchased the York Hotel, 1200 Madison Avenue, at the reputed price of over $35,000.

The four-story building was purchased from the York Realty Company, represented by Samuel Rosenthal, who has operated the hostelry since 1935.

The deal was consummated Wednesday and Mr. Randolph is scheduled to assume operation today (Friday). The law firm of Nicholas and Gosnell handled the transaction for Mr. Randolph.

The 1943 real estate tax assessment book values the land for the hotel at $3,840 and improvements at $13,500. The reputed price paid for the building is said to include present equipment.

The York has thirty-seven rentable rooms, dining room, bar, kitchen and basement entertainment room. Minor alterations to the basement room and a coat of paint were added in the latter part of last year.

To Lease Bar Facilities

The bar of the hotel has a beer and wine license and it is understood that Mr. Randolph will lease

Footpads Attack Rev. Richardson

NEW YORK — The Rev. Bert Richardson, assistant pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church, was attacked from behind while walking in Times Square on New Year's Eve and is confined to the Bellevue Hospital in a serious condition.

The office of Dr. A. Clayton Powell, Abyssinian pastor, said that the Rev. Mr. Richardson could not identify his attackers and that no reason could be advanced for the assault.

In addition to being assistant pastor of Abyssinian Church, the Rev. Mr. Richardson is also columnist on People's Voice, published by the Rev. Mr. Powell.

The Rev. Mr. Richardson is reported to have sustained a possible concussion. Bellevue Hospital reported his condition as serious on Monday. The church office said he was "critical."

AFRO Credits Services to 6 Women, 7 Men

Police Commissioner, Magistrate, White Attorney Included

WORKERS IN THREE CAMPAIGNS CITED

10 Other Persons, Health Center Earn Honorable Mention

(See photos and sketches on Pg. 6)

In keeping with the wartime theme, the AFRO Honor Roll for 1943 includes a navy hero, three war mothers and a war plant which maintained its democratic employment policy even in the face of a strike instituted by disgruntled white workers.

In this selected group of six women and seven men, tribute is also paid to the new police commissioner, a city magistrate and a white attorney, each of whom, through special endeavor in his particular field, has contrived to see that all citizens are given the benefits of equal protection under the law.

Community Service Noted

Chosen for specific community work in the industrial secretary of the Urban League, whose work has opened new job opportunities; a worker in the NAACP votes-for-victory campaign, and directors of the Community Fund and YWCA building drives.

Named on the Honor Roll are:

The management of the Western Electric Company for refusing to yield to demands of white workers for separate sanitary facilities.

Ernest Gardner, steward's mate second class, USNR, who received a navy citation for bravery while on duty; Mrs. Helen Waters, Mrs. Robert McNeal and Mrs. Willard Pinkney, who were collectively honored for having five sons in the armed services.

Magistrate Shows of Fairness

Magistrate Walter J. Dewees, who in serving at Northwestern Police Station has won a reputation as one of the city's most fair minded jurists; Mrs. Alice B. Farrington, YWCA executive secretary, and Mrs. Enna Payne, school vice principal, for their leadership in the campaign which netted $78,000 in the YWCA building drive;

Dr. A. J. Payne, pastor of the Rev. A. J. Payne, pastor of Enon Baptist Church, for directing the Community and War Fund Drive of District 8, which raised $18,000; Miss Ruth Yancey, who in his fight to save three war mothers and a war plant, drew valuable public attention to the low ratio of colored men called for duty service.

Aided Vote Campaign

Mrs. Lillian Jones, South Baltimore minister, who gave long hours of service to the NAACP votes-for-victory campaign; Police Commissioner Hamilton B. Atkinson who recently, for the first time, placed the city's three colored firemen in uniform and has since appointed another patrolman, and Alexander J. Allen,

(Continued on Page 6, Col. 7)

Michigan Supreme Court Denies Roxborough Plea

Joe's Boss May Appeal Numbers Conspiracy Sentence to U.S. Court

DETROIT—Appeals of John W. Roxborough, co-manager of Heavyweight Champion Joe Louis, and Everett I. Watson, from the two-and-one half-to-five-year sentences meted out to them on a numbers conspiracy charge, were denied by the State Supreme Court at Lansing on Wednesday.

The opinion of the eight-man body was unanimous. Arguments on the appeal had been held on October 14.

Lloyd Loomis and Cecil Rowlette, Roxborough's attorneys, have filed application for a stay of sentence, to permit more time for them to determine whether they will seek a rehearing in the State Court or take the case to the U.S. Supreme Court. Decision must be made within the next twenty days.

In this State there is no intermediate court between the State Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Richard Newman and Frederick Walker, attorneys representing Watson, had not decided by Tuesday what action they would take in behalf of their client.

41 Tried

Roxborough and Watson were among forty-one def