Sharp Contrast In Facilities For Pupils At School For The Blind

A deaf pupil at the Maryland School for the Blind solves an arithmetic problem on the blackboard as his teacher and the other pupils look on. Shown kneeling talking to another pupil is Francis M. Andrews, superintendent of the school. The State-supported school has both deaf and blind pupils. Facilities available to the colored pupils are markedly inferior to those available to whites.

Deaf youngsters at the school are using the centrally controlled hearing aids which enable them to hear recorded lessons and stories. All of the pupils enjoy this phase of their school work, because they can hear sounds usually impossible for them to distinguish. The device is a recent acquisition and the most modern appliance available to the pupils

COLORED-WHITE CONTRASTS NOTED:

Blind School Pupils Dirty; Poorly Taught

By BUDDY LONESOME

The colored pupils at the Maryland School for the Blind in Overlea, are dirty — and, in addition, they are taught bad English.

It is dangerously ironic, too, that blind white children, who ordinarily couldn't distinguish between the races, should have insidious prejudice demonstrated for them.

A gymnasium and a classroom building are being built for the pupils, but the aforementioned ills greatly overshadow the construction discussed in glowing terms by Superintendent Francis Andrews.

Heretofore, visits scheduled by the AFRO to the school, have been arranged far in advance.

Unannounced Trip

Just before Christmas, however, an unannounced trip was made to the school.

There are large, impressive dormitories for the white boys and girls, in addition to a large stately main building which houses classrooms, general offices, and an auditorium which seats at least 500 people.

The two old buildings allotted to the colored pupils, however, stand behind, and in segregation at least half a mile from the main buildings.

The colored deaf and blind children go to school, sleep, eat and stumble around these two buildings for the entire time they are at the school.

Seperate Xmas Party

Except for special occasions, such as a Christmas party which was graciously given for the COLORED pupils just before the holiday, their lives are dull and colorless. The white pupils had a separate date for their party.

On entering one of the two "colored" buildings, classrooms can be found on the first floor.

On the day of the visit, Mrs. Regina Hagna, was teaching an advanced class of deaf children in one of the classrooms.

The pupils, busily writing a 20 question English quiz, look just like any other class of school children.

This is good, for it is essential that these handicapped children learn to master the written English language, even though they can't speak it.

Broken English Used

A closer look at the blackboard however, revealed the following prime examples of broken English, under the heading—Long Answers:

Question No. 8—Whom do your mother love?

It seems such badly taught English is indicative of the general apathy shown by school officials toward their, colored pupils.

The pupils were disheveled, had dirty faces, and their hair—both boys and girls — needed combing badly.

One youngster is the previously mentioned Mrs. Hagna's class, wore a stocking cap—which he had evidently slept in—all during the class period.

Teacher Also Deaf

The teacher, a charming pleasant lady—also deaf—made no effort to have the lad take off the greasy rag.

The school officials, Dr. Andrews included, don't seem to have any malicious intent or feelings toward their colored pupils.

Evidently they just don't care, one way or the other, about their welfare or education.

The untidy condition of the children, which could be easily remedied by closer morning inspection and better housekeeping, seems to substantiate that viewpoint.

The white pupils are happy, well cared for, and clean.

Children Unaware of Injustice

Child-like, the colored children don't seem to realize the injustice of present facilities alloted to them at the school.

As the school had an afternoon recess for lunch, one blind girl had a smaller blind companion out of the building to the cafeteria.

As the children passed the reporter and photographer on the walk, the younger child sensed their presence and asked the other child: "Who is that?"

Hurrying to her meal, the older child replied: "I don't know and we don't have time to stop and . . . see.

This group of blind pupils listens attentively while the instructor teaches them phases of the braille system. Although their blind handicap prevents them from distinguishing the races, a strict segregation system insures these youngsters against contact with similarly handicapped colored pupils.

Older pupils at the school are enrolled in an office practice class, which teaches them familiarity with the various machines used in business offices. Although the class shown is composed of deaf pupils, many of the blind pupils are also enrolled in the course. The clerical field is particularly suited for most of these youngsters.

NAVY RECRUITING CIVILIAN WORKERS

The Atlantic Division of the Navy's Military Sea Transportation Service has begun a recruiting campaign in Baltimore to serve as civilian personnel for its fleet of ocean-going troops and military cargo ships.

Interested persons may contact Mr. Gessman, MSTS Recruiting Representative at the Maryland Division of Employment Security, 21 Hopkins Pl.

Two Charges Pending Against Officer Smith

Whether or not Officer James Smith will be prosecuted on remaining charges of bribery and malfeasance in office is undecided, State's Attorney Anselm Sodaro said Thursday.

The Northwestern district patrolman was cleared last week on a charge of numbers conspiracy for a lack of sufficient evidence. The bribery and malfeasance charges, brought in connection with the conspiracy accusation, still are pending.

Mr. Sodaro said that Officer Smith's is one of several cases which his office is studying relative to future action.

Flimflam Case Open

Others involve that of Louis Comi, white vending machine dealer, who was tried on a numbers conspiracy charge that resulted in a hung jury; and Oakey Jackson, a flimflam racket kingpen who turned the State's evidence that convicted two white detectives on bribery charges.

Jackson has a flim-flam charge pending against him. It was theorized that this one might be dropped in view of the part he played in the conviction of the officers.

3 Days of Trial

Patrolman Smith and Will Holland, market employee, were acquitted on the numbers conspiracy charge by Judge Emory Niles after three days of trial.

The two men were accused by Charles Green, admitted numbers writer, who declared that they had induced him to write numbers for Holland and took protection money from him.

Judge Niles ruled that there was no evidence to support Green's story. Holland has a single numbers charge pending against him.

Higher Tax Seen For Motorists

Due to recently enacted federal gasoline and automotive tax increases, the typical Maryland vehicle owner will pay a record breaking $99.50 tax bill in 1952, F. Lanigan, Executive Secretary of the Maryland Petroleum Industries Committee, predicted this week.

The car and truck owner's special tax bill will hit an all-time high because tax rates are now at their peak, Mr. Lanigan explained. Under the new scale of federal automotive excise taxes, which took effect on November 1, the gasoline tax is increased to two cents a gallon from the previous 1½ cents.

The excise tax on new passenger cars is up to 10 per cent, from seven per cent, and the former five per cent taxes on trucks, buses, truck-trailers, automotive parts and accessories, have been boosted to eight per cent.

Couple Claims $10,000 For Accident Injuries

Damages totaling $10,000 were claimed, this week, by a couple injured in a traffic accident nearly three years ago.

Filed in the Court of Common Pleas, the suit is on behalf of Mrs. Rachel Parks, 1424 Druid Hill Ave., and Elmer Dailey, 903 W. Franklin St., both of whom were passengers in the same car on Feb. 27, 1949.

According to the litigation, this car was struck at Green and Lombard Sts. by a car driven by William H. Morrison, Catonsville resident, who is the person sued. Each of the passengers asked $5000 damages. They are represented by Leonard Freedman, attorney.

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JC At Ft. Belvoir Harms School-Age Children Greatest

Separate Schools, Residential Areas Violate The President's Directive Ordering Integration

By JAMES L. HICKS
NNPA Correspondent On Tour Of Army, Navy And Air Force Installations

FORT BELVOIR, Va. — This military installation is located just a few miles across the Potomac River from the White House and even closer than that to the Pentagon Building.

Despite this fact, however, colored personnel, both civilian and military stationed here, are disgracefully segregated in direct violation of President Truman's directive and Pentagon officials' orders calling for integration in the Armed Forces.

Most flagrant violation at Fort Belvoir is the maintenance of a Jim-crow school for elementary grade colored children.

There Miss Laura McPhail is forced to try to teach 35 children of the first, second, and third grades in one classroom smaller than an ordinary bedroom, while at the same time serving as principal and secretary.

Could Build New School

The Jim-crow school is being maintained by Fort Belvoir officials despite the fact that after I visited the school, Department of the Army officials assured me that Federal funds are available for the establishment of a new school on the base.

The new school, I was given to understand, could be open to all Fort Belvoir personnel, if officials there wanted it that way.

Instead, however, Fort Belvoir officials even now are making plans for the establishment of a new school system at the fort which will maintain the pattern of Virginia Jim crow and still keep colored and white pupils separated.

Ft. Bragg's Example Cited

This is a direct violation of President Truman's directive and the orders of the Pentagon, which were sent out to implement the directive.

Only recently, Army officials at Fort Bragg, N.C., yielded to the directives of the Pentagon and set

STORY IN BRIEF

Hicks, on tour of Army and Navy installations, finds three classes crowded into one small room in "colored" school. White school is spacious.

Residential section for colored is "Cambodaria" Army; residential section for colored which also violates President Truman's directive, called "Union" Army.

up an integrated school for colored and white pupils after the AFRO-AMERICAN and other papers had pointed to the violations of a Jim crow school at a Federal installation.

Miss McPhail is one of two colored teachers at Fort Belvoir teaching some 70 colored children in the Jim crow section of the post known as "Young's Village." The other teacher is Miss Marie Britt.

Separate Communities

Five white teachers operate the white school for some 180 pupils in the "white" part of the fort known as "Gray Village," which is separated from Young's Village by Highway Route 1.

The condition of the white school in itself is deplorable, but the Young Village School is a disgrace to the U.S. government.

Miss McPhail's school consists of a two-story shack of which the second floor has been condemned by the post fire department, thus forcing all the classes to be held on the first floor.

3 Grades In Room

Only one room is available for these classes and in this one room she must herd the three grades and try to teach them.

On the occasion of my visit, a Fort Belvoir photographer went in with the writer to take a picture he was forced to put some of the children in back of the room to get him the picture because the size of the room would not permit him to stand in front of the class and bring 3 into focus at the same time.

Miss Britt, teaching the fourth, sixth and seventh grades, faces a like situation. There is no fifth grade class at the colored school.

Drive To State Laws

Fort Belvoir officials claim that the schools must be kept separate in accordance with the laws of the State of Virginia.

A few miles further down Route 1, however, the U.S. Marine Base at Quantico, Va., gives the lie to this statement.

Here the Marine base has defied the laws of the State (which do not apply to Federal property anyway) and set up an integrated school on the base which is operating without incident just as is the one at Fort Bragg, N.C.

The school situation is not the only violation at Fort Belvoir.

Housing JC Enforced

All colored people living on the base live in temporary quarters known as Young's Village, with the exception of a few student officers living in the backsides of officers' quarters on the "colored" side of Route 1.

Although officials stated that there is no segregation in housing at Fort Belvoir, not a single instance was found where a colored person lived on the "white" or headquarters side of the post where the permanent type, and thus better, housing is found.

The separation has reached the extent that the headquarters or white side of Route 1 is referred to by both white and colored soldiers as the "Confederate Army," while the Young's Village side of the highway is called "The Union Army."

Rebel Flags On Post

It might be noted in passing that during my stay at this base I pointed out to the officer accompanying me a Confederate flag waving from a parked car on the base, and a small pupil in the white school wearing a confederate cap.

Both were on the "white" side of the highway.

Though it is asserted that the service clubs are "mixed," it was found that the colored hostesses under Miss Carrie Louise Underwood are stationed at Club No. 1 on the colored side of the fort.

Persons for colored GIs are soldiers often drop in and dance with the colored hostesses provided from Rennaker Center and the YWCA in Washington, no colored men are permitted to drop in and dance with the white hostesses at dances given across the road.

Miss Underwood lives on the post. A former Red Cross worker, her home address is 857 Windham Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio. She is assisted by Miss Tynes, who lives in Washington.

Mixed Dance Planned

It should be stated, however, that an attempt will be made on New Year's to remedy this situation when a post-wide dance will be held where both colored and white hostesses will be brought in by the fort and interracial dancing held.

Much of the credit for this step must be given to Capt. Cecil G. Miller, post special services officer.

In bowing to the segretation laws of Virginia in these instances, Fort Belvoir is not even coming up to the "separate but equal" mockery which the law demands.

For instance, the "colored" service club doesn't have a snack bar in operation, while the white clubs have very excellent snack bars.

Guest Houses Differ

There are guest houses located near each service club for the families of service men who visit them at camp, but while the white service club guest houses have excellent facilities, the colored does not even have running water facilities.

As to the charge that the schools must be kept separate because Virginia white teachers will not teach colored pupils, I asked a teacher in a white school if she would object to teaching colored children if the schools were mixed. She stated that she had always been a part of a segregated school system and said "I had never considered it," but she added: "I work for the Army at Fort Belvoir and if they mix the schools I suppose I would teach them."

There are no colored people living at the present in the new Wherry housing project built outside the post and in the vicinity of Young Village.

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Holds Responsible Job

M/Sgt. Willie E. Valls, Jacksonville, Fla., a salvage warehouseman, shown at his desk, is one of the few members of a jim-crow service company at Fort Belvoir with a position of responsibility. At his right is Robert Godd, Hamilton, O., who assists Sergeant Valls. Sergeant Vails lives with his wife at 1769 T St., Washington.

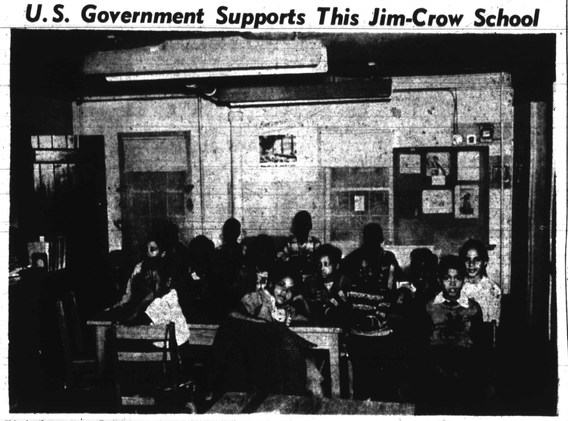
They Are Headed For OCS

Selected to attend Officer Candidate School, these three members of the 94th Engineer Construction Battalion look over a copy of their orders. Left to right, Sfcs. Charles H. Gillespie, Newburgh, N.Y.; Jerry Davis Jr., Oak Grove, La.; and John J. Collier, Philadelphia.

Says He Likes Jim Crow

M/Sgt. Willie Lewis, first sergeant of Company B, a jim-crow service company at Fort Belvoir, Va., erects flag which his company won over other companies of his battalion during inspection of company area. He is shown with 1st Lt. Olin I. Rayburn of Mississippi, his commanding officer. Sergeant Lewis told James Hicks, writer of the accompanying article, that he likes being segregated into an all-colored company. Colored photographer who snapped this picture and who is a member of 94th Engineers, another jim-crow unit, differed sharply with him on question. Two companies of Sergeant Lewis's battalion are white. Two other companies are colored.

U.S. Government Supports This Jim-Crow School



This is the one-room jim-crow school at Fort Belvoir, Va., where U.S. government bows to Virginia's segregation laws, and crowds these children of the first, second and third grades into one classroom. Because the room is so small Miss Laura McPhail, Alexandria, is forced to sit at side of the room instead of the front. White, families live on one side of Highway No. 1, colored on the other. School for whites is spacious and has five teachers. Federal funds are available for an integrated school but Army officials refuse to establish such a school. Floor above school has been condemned by fire department.

Head Confederate, Union Sides

Maj. Gen. Scott, at right, commanding general of Fort Belvoir who was too busy to see James L. Hicks, NNPA correspondent when he visited his jim-crow station at Fort Belvoir, despite the fact that Mr. Hicks was officially accredited by the Pentagon. When asked through his public relations office whether he had given consideration to integration of the 94th Engineer Battalion in line with President Truman's orders, General Scott sent back a curt, "no." At left is Brig. Gen. Lieber, commanding general of the Engineer Replacement Training Center at the fort whose command is thoroughly integrated. Both white and colored personnel stationed at the post refer to General Lieber's command as the "Union Army" while calling the jim-crow side of the fort commanded by General Scott as the "Confederate Army." Colored people on the post live on the "Union Army" side across the highway from "Confederate Side."

Risks In The Air And On The Ground

Recent news of the thrilling dog fights over Mig Alley mentioned the role of Lt. Dayton Ragland, Kansas City, only jet pilot with the Fourth Fighter Wing, now reported a Red prisoner, but what you probably did not know that these Sabre Jets are sometimes just as deadly on the ground as they are in the air. Some members of the ground crew have been killed while servicing these hot jets when their automatic machine guns suddenly start spitting death. For this reason, pilots are instructed to fly around over the ocean and empty their magazines before coming in. No you don't have to be a pilot to be a hero in the air force, everybody takes some kind of risks.

Army Seeks 200 Lawyers

RICHMOND

Opportunities for 200 Army enlisted men and civilians who are qualified lawyers to obtain Reconcurrent call to three years of serve commissions in the Judge Advocate General's Corps, with active military service, were announced recently by the Department of the Army.

Officers holding Reserve commissions in the Judge Advocate General's Corps in the grade of lieutenant and captain may also apply for active duty under this program.

Basically, to be eligible for selection, an applicant must be between the ages of 21 and 32, possess an LL.B degree from an approved law school, and be admitted to the practice of law before a Federal court or the highest court of a State.

Applications from individuals not on active military service may be submitted through the Virginia Military District Headquarters.

World War Widows Seek New Members

An intensive membership campaign is being conducted by the Baltimore Chapter No. 4 of World War No. 1 Widows.

The local group, organized just a month ago, is headed by Mrs. Cora White of 1020 Bennett Place. Mrs. Edith Nash is secretary and Mrs. Marjorie Brown, secretary; and Mrs. Mabel Gillis, publicity agent.

Seeking to strengthen their membership in order to work for beneficial Federal legislation, the group meets monthly at Federal Post No. 19 at 1502 Madison Ave. the next meeting will be held on Jan. 4.

Sgt. Bob Graves, Army boxing heavyweight champion, whose hitting ability dates at Fort Belvoir, according to his own statement to James L. Hicks, consist of working a detail who five furnaces on the post.

800 Children Christmas Guests At Camp Kilmer

CAMP KILMER — Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived here by helicopter Dec. 19 to attend a party for approximately 800 children.

The Army, Navy, Air Force and civilian agencies joined forces in providing transportation for the Classes and in making the party a success.

Santa and his wife were greeted at the plane by Major Gen. Charles F. Craig, post commander, and Col. E. Roth, commanding officer of the Air Force's 2225th Personnel Processing Group here.

One hundred of the children were brought to camp by the Salvation Army which also provided 800 stockings distributed by Santa and his wife.

In addition to the children of military personnel and civilian employees, there were 100 orphans from the vicinity and 75 children from New Brunswick schools.

Major Gen. A. R. Maynes, post special services officer, made arrangements for the party assisted by members of the National Recreation Association.

'FLY-BOYS' HAVE IT TOUGH, BUT:

Servicing Fast Sabre Jets Real Hazardous In Korea

By RALPH MATTHEWS, SR.

SOMEWHERE IN KOREA — When a soldier in the uniform of the Air Forces admits he is not a pilot or a gunner on a bombing plane some people might be inclined to say "Oh, you have it soft."

But this is not the case because there are sometimes just as many risks taken by ground crew men as by the boys in the air. This is especially true in the servicing of the tough Sabre jets which have been creating havoc over North Korea.

These powerful fighters are so souped up that their engines get overheated and the slightest jar might set their six automatic machine guns to popping off missiles of death and destruction all over the flying field.

Cut in Half

Some ground crew men have been cut in half by the blast and others have had their heads blown off without ever knowing what struck them. Because of this, pilots now fly around in empty thermos jugs CMPWYI CMPs F M magazines before returning to base.

First Lieutenant Dayton Ragland' son of Mr. and Mrs. Dayton Sr. of 2004 E. 27th St., Kansas City, Mo. is the only colored lad flying a jet and was credited 3 weeks ago with shooting down a MIG in a running dog fight and since then has been missing in action.

The air war is becoming more and more difficult with each month's reports. Formerly the UN pilots did not run into opposition until they were deep in North Korean territory, but now enemy planes are found south of the 38th parallel and are frequently menacing the city of Seoul.

General Van Fleet announced that the Reds, which were formerly restricted to ground warfare, now have from 1200 to 1500 planes—half of them jet-propelled, strategically located to strike anywhere in South Korea.

Away From Home

He also expressed concern over the fact that they also have enough airstrips far enough South to take the air war out of their "own backyard."

This means that now every time Lieutenant Ragland and his colleagues roar out over North Korea their chances of returning safely are being reduced in exact ratio to the enemy buildup.

He still has four more planes to shoot down before he can win the coveted designation as an ace and his opportunities are not as plentiful as they were when he had been flying wing position in most of his sorties which is equivalent to a guard on a football team.

He is seldom required to "carry the ball," but must cover and protect the other pilots.