Hero Of War 1812 Was Colored

Commodore Oliver Hazard (Don't Give Up The Ship) Perry With Crew One-Fourth Colored Defeated And Captured A British Fleet

By LYDIA BROWN and CARL MURPHY

Ten years ago, the only colored personnel on our Navy ships were messmen.

Today, all branches of the Navy, Coast Guard and Marines are open to all citizens.

The battleships, carriers, submarines, destroyers, cruisers, landing ships and big battle wagons—we man the ships in various classifications from seamen to officers.

The Navy's about-face under President Truman's order abolishing segregation in the armed forces and making colored seamen eligible for promotions, puts us in the position again to be proud of the U. S. sea forces.

24,000 On Duty

There are presently some 24,000 colored men and women in the Navy. They include 9,000 petty officers, and 60 commissioned officers on active duty, ten of whom are full lieutenants.

We have a tradition in the Navy which goes back to the American Revolution.

We can be especially proud of our services in the War of 1812, in which the hero, Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, and one-fourth of the men who served under him at the Battle of Lake Erie were colored.

No Prejudice Among Sailors

Dr. Usher Parsons, writing of the U.S. Navy of that day, said:

"I was a surgeon on the ship, Java, under Commodore Perry. The colored and white seamen messed together; about one in six or eight were colored.

"I was later surgeon of the Guerriere, under Commodore McDonogh; and the proportion of blacks was about the same.

"There seemed to be an utter absence of prejudice against the blacks as messmates among the crew."

"What I have said applies to the crews of other ships that sailed the squadrons." (Livermore, Pages 159, 160.)

Navy Neglected

Historians have been so busy recording exploits of colored infantrymen in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and the Civil War, that they have completely overlooked the brilliant services of colored men in the navy.

Brilliant Victory

The battle of Lake Erie was the most important victory of the War of 1812. It was outstanding because a whole British squadron was destroyed.

After Perry's victory, the Duke of Wellington, Napoleon's conqueror, refused to command an expedition to invade the United States, saying invasion was impossible unless Britain commanded the Great Lakes. The peace of Ghent followed.

20 Dead Listed On Perry's Ship Alone

Among the dead listed on Perry's log for his own ship, the Lawrence, alone, are the names of three colored men: Philip Sharbly, corporal of marines; James Caty, sail maker; Wilson Mays, quartermaster; Joe Lewis, quartermaster; John E. Brown, quarter gunner; William E. Johnson, boatswain's mate; and eight others

Navy tradition, coming down to it from 125 years ago, is the tradition of colored and white serving the ships together without race prejudice.

One-Fourth Colored

The historian, John Niles, in telling of the Battle of Lake Erie said:

"The British were superior in the length and number of their guns as well as in the number of men. The American fleet was manned with a motley set of beings, Europeans, Africans, Americans from every part of the United States. Full one - fourth were blacks.

"This fact is deserving of consideration. But supposing that a much less proportion consisted of blacks, it is evident from the result of the act, that they must have been an efficient force, for to believe the contrary, would be supposed that the fleet was but partially manned, as including all, there was no excess, but on the contrary, a less number of men, by nearly one hundred, than there was on board the British fleet.

Blacks Make Good Seamen

"It will not be contended that there was anything peculiar in this service, and of the blacks were active and brave on this occasion it is pretty good evidence that they can be usefully employed in naval service.

"Indeed, we believe it has generally been found that the blacks make good seamen. If this is correct, the free blacks in the United States, would constitute a most extensive resource for manning a navy, and maintaining a maritime power."

Perry Praised Black Sailors

Commodore Perry spoke highly of the bravery and good conduct of his colored seamen (Anolectic Magazine, Vol. III, P. 255.) He said, "They seemed to be absolutely insensible to danger."

When Captain Barclay, the British commodore, came on board Perry's ship, the Niagara, and saw the mixed races of the American conquerors, he was chagrined.

Perry Not Always Tolerant

But Perry didn't always think highly of colored sea fighters, although he was of one - eighth colored blood himself.

Ordered by his superior officer, Commodore Chauncey, to proceed to Lake Erie and build the ships with which to attack the British, he complained because the recruits sent him were chiefly "blacks, boys and soldiers."

Rebuked By Chauncey

Commodore Chauncey's immediate rebuke was stinging.

Under date of July 13, 1813, he wrote Perry that the men Perry called "blacks, soldiers and boys" were not surpassed by any seamen in the U. S. fleet.

Then Chauncey added this clincher, that was not only a reproof to Perry, but a warning to the race - baiting U.S. Navy heads of today.

Had 50 Blacks On His Ship

Chauncey said: "I have yet to learn that the color of the skin or the cut or trimming of the coat can affect a man's qualifications for usefulness.

"I have nearly fifty blacks on board this ship (The Pike) and many of them are among my best men."

Perry Is Reminded Of Colored Blood

In another letter to Perry, Chauncey reminded him that he (Perry) was colored. "Black people," said Chauncey, "look at your hands stained with the blood of your colored relatives."

The colored wounded on the Lawrence included John Newen, carpenter's mate; and 17 colored seamen.

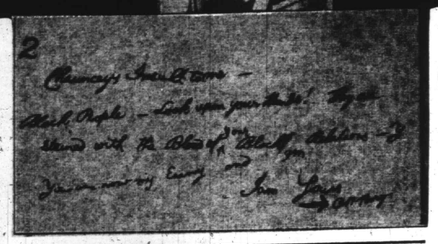
Chauncey's letters brought Perry to his senses. He took the "blacks, soldiers and boys" sent him and built his ships first, then sailed them to defeat a superior squadron.

THE END

Perry's Parentage

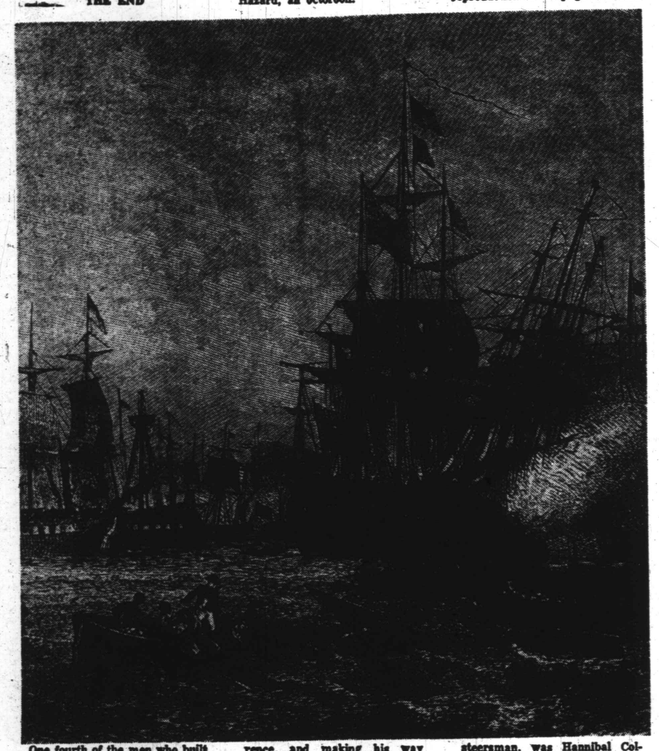
Commodore Perry's father was a sea captain who by attacking the Frence port of Jacmel, Haiti, in 1800, helped Toussaint L'Ouverture conquer the island.

Perry's mother was Mercy Hazard, a mulatto, daughter of Oliver Hazard, an octoroon.



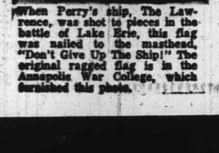
PERRY'S TREASURED BOOK—These photos show Commodore Perry's own volume of Shakespeare's poems. On the flyleaf, (Photo No. 1) written in Perry's own hand, "To O. H. Perry, "octroon.'" Octoroon which Perry misspells means one-eigth colored. Perry's photo which appears in the center panel does not do him justice. His hair was curly, his lips were generous and his complexion olive.

Written in the back cover of Perry's book in his own handwriting is a sentence from a letter written him by his superior officer, Commander Chauncey. The two frequently quarreled and Chauncey here taunts Perry with being colored, "Chauncey's Insult to Me—Black People—Look upon your hands. They are stained with the blood of your black relatives—you are my enemy and I am yours—O. H. Perry." A closeup reproduction of the page is at left.



One fourth of the men who built these ships on the Lake Erie and then sailed them out to destroy a British fleet were colored. Photo shows Perry abandoning his flagship, the Lawrence, and making his way through a hail of bullets to the Niagara, where he carried on the battle. Two men in this boat are colored. One of them, the steersman, was Hannibal Collins of Newport, R.I., who had the rating of a sailing master. Relatives of Collins gave the AFRO a buckle from the navy uniform the sailing master wore.

Perry's Flag



When Perry's ship, The Lawrence, was shot to pieces in the battle of Lake Erie, this flag was nailed to the mastheed, "Don't Give Up The Ship!" The original ragged flag is in the Annapolis War College, which furnished this photo.

Dieting Need Not Be Permanent

THE FAT BOY'S DIET

Variety Is Spice Of Meals, Too, Says An Expert

Try Omitting Butter From Bread And Using It On Vegetables

(This is the sixth of seven special articles giving menus based on Elmer Wheeler's "The Fat Boy's Book" calorie chart.)

BY ISABEL DU BOIS

CHAPTER 25

Getting on to this calorie counting?

It's really not difficult, is it?

Use a bit of imagination in planning your menus. There are many variations you'll think of and want to try.

Here's one suggestion. Omit the butter from the bread and use it on vegetable service, instead.

BREAKFAST

Orange juice, ¾ cup
Soft boiled egg, 1
Toast, whole wheat, 1 slice
Butter, 1 teaspoon
Coffee, no cream or sugar (Skim milk and saccharine may be used)

LUNCH

Roast beef sandwich
Bread, 2 slices
Lean roast beef only
Butter, 2 teaspoons
No gravy
Grapefruit, ½ small
Milk, skim, 1 glass (8 oz.)
Coffee or tea, no cream or sugar (skim milk or lemon juice and saccharine may be used)

DINNER

Liver, broiled, slice 4"x3"x½"
Tossed salad
Lettuce, ¼ head
Tomato, ½ medium
Celery, 1 stalk
Cucumber, ¾ medium
Carrot, ½ medium
No salad dressing but vinegar or lemon juice may be used.
Asparagus, 6 stalks, no butter
Sweet potato, baked, 1 medium, no butter
Raspberry sherbet, ½ cup
Milk, skim, 1 glass (8 oz.)
Coffee or tea, no cream or sugar (skim milk or lemon juice and saccharine may be used)

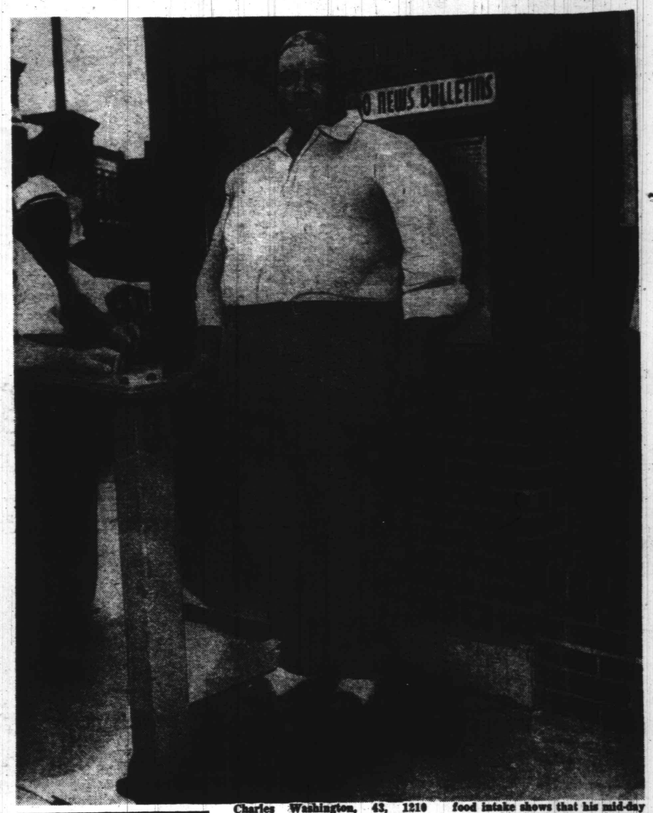
Total calories for day—1,415.

This is considered a safe diet, but before following any reducing program it is always advisable to consult your physician.)

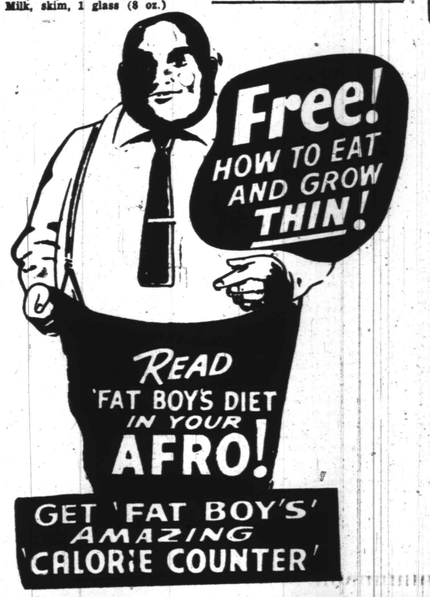
(From the Chicago Daily News Copr. 1951 General Features Corp)

Calorie Content Of Sample Foods

Cake	150
Candy bars	200
Cereals	100
Cheese	100
Chow Mein	200
Doughnuts	200
Egg, fried	100
Fish	150
Fruit	100
Meats—average	150
Pie	300
Potato	150
Salads	100
Sandwiches	300
Sausages	150
Soups	200
Spaghetti	200
Steak—med.	200
LIQUIDS	
Ale	300
Beer	200
Chocolate soda	400
Orange Juice	100
Milk	160



Charles Washington, 43, 1210 North ave., Baltimore, who won third place in the recent AFRO's heavyweight contest when he tipped the scales at 325½ pounds. According to the weight-for-age charts, he is 160 pounds overweight. An analysis of his daily food intake shows that his mid-day snack with its high calorie content makes his daily calorie intake 1,100 tiee many. He gets 4,285 calories a day. An avid reader of the AFRO, who prefers the news section, Mr. Washington is a construction worker.



BRAIN TWISTERS

By DON DOUGLAS

Anagrams

Add the given letter to the given word, rearrange all the letters, and come out with a brand new word. For example: BOAR with X. From this you can form the word BORAX. Now, try it with these:

1. BADE with O.
2. STEEL with C.
3. STIR with F.
4. VAIN with D.
5. VIAL with N.
6. MAPS with W.
7. DRUG with Y.
8. SKEW with E.

Are You Able?

The keynote of this twister is ABLE. In each case you use the letters in the word ABLE, combine them with the given letters, and form the defined word. For Example, we give you the letters CH — to whiten. Combine the letters in ABLE with C and H, and you'll arrive at the word BLEACH. Now, combine ABLE with these letters:

1. RR — a container.
2. LT — a dance.
3. GE — a dog.
4. TKN — a covering.
5. YR — a grain.
6. TT — conflict.
7. NUM — in an egg.
8. RIL — generous.

ANSWERS

ANAGRAMS: 1 Abode. 2. Select. 3. First. 4. Divan. 5 Anvil. 6. Swamp. 7. Gurdy. 8. Weeks.

ARE YOU ABLE: 1. Barrel. 2. Ballet. 3. Beagle. 4. Blanket. 5. Barley. 6. Battle. 7. Albumen. 8. Liberal.

Construction Worker 160 Pounds Overweight

Charles Washington, 43, 1210 North ave., Baltimore, who won third place in the AFRO's recent heavyweight contest, has no problem buying clothes providing he gets them at the Fat Man's store on Baltimore and Holiday streets.

Employed as a construction worker, he tips the scales at 325 pounds. He wears a size 52 in underwear; 60, belt; 19 shirt and 10-D shoe...

7 Pounds At Birth

At birth he weighed seven pounds and up until 1941 his weight remained average for his height. Prior to World War II, he noticed that he was gaining weight. He weighed 267 pounds when he should have weighed 158 pounds. By 1949 he had jumped to 387 pounds.

Lost 60 Pounds

All efforts to reduce were discouraging. His wife Gertrude, who weighs only 120 pounds, tried to help him, but it took three years to get him to lose only 60 pounds.

Should Weigh 164

According to the weight-for-age chart, Mr. Washington should weigh only 164 pounds. At the rate he has been losing weight, it would take him eight years to lose his excess 160 pounds which he has now...

According to Elmer's calorie counter, Mr. Washington's total calorie intake for three meals a day is the exact amount he needs for the work he is doing.

For breakfast he eats two eggs, two slices of toast with butter, six strips of bacon and two cups of coffee. Here are 760 calories.

At dinner he eats only two sandwiches and two cokes, but he has consumed 730 calories.

Supper Heaviest Meal

Supper is his heaviest meal. Here he gobbles up 1,685 calories by eating two to three helpings of meat, three vegetables, eight rolls, and all the potatoes he can hold.

The total calorie value is 3,185 and Elmer says that construction workers need between 3,000 and 3,200 calories.

Mid-Day Snack

Where does Mr. Washington put on weight? Through his mid-day snacks. A quart of ice cream a day and plenty of pie and cake gives him over 11 calories alone.

This jumps Mr. Washington's total number of calories per day to 4,285. And, according to Elmer, that's the class for gluttons.

Determined to lose weight and not suffer while doing so, Mr. Washington has sent for the calorie chart which is available to all readers. Now he can select foods with low calorie content and eat as much as he pleases. Now he will be ahead of his tummy in adding up his calories.