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Benjamin O. Davis Jr. Collection - [Godman Field] Newsclippings (see also oversized, Box 163)

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 ^[[1945 June 23 45]]
 NEW DEAL AT GODMAN FIELD
 The Journal and Guide
 Home Edition
 VOL. XLVI No. 25 NORFOLK, VIRGINIA, SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 1945
 PRICE 10 CENTS

**** Figure In House Cleaning at Godman Field ****

[[image: 3 photos—head shot of two-star general in uniform, standing man in uniform, head shot of man with glasses in a suit]]

LT. GEN. IRA C. BAKER
 Announced New Deal for 477th Bomber Group ;;

COL. B. O. DAVIS JR.
 New Commander of All-Negro Bomber Group ;;

TRUMAN K. GIBSON JR.
 Civilian Aide Accompanied Military

Ga. Primary Headed For Supreme Court

Registrar Is Named Defendant

Suit Follows Pattern Of Similar Case In Texas

By Cliff Mackey
 For Associated Negro Press
 ATLANTA, Ga.—Georgia's Negro Democrats, almost a year after they had been denied ballots in the last July 4 statewide primary, moved Wednesday in one bold stroke to smash the so-called "white primary" with the filing of a suit before Federal Judge Marvin E. Underwood.

Delay in bringing the civil action, according to officials of the Georgia Association of Citizens Democratic Clubs and the NAACP, sponsors of the suit, was caused by the belief that Atty. Gen. Francis E. Biddle would act on numerous affidavits sent to Washington by Negro Democrats after their rebuff in last summer's primary. Thus far, the attorney general's office has failed to institute criminal action.

OBJECT OF PETITION

The petition, naming T. E. Nettles, tax collector and registrar of Fulton county, [[?]] as defendant, would permanently enjoin him from "making any distinction as to race, creed or color in the sending of [[?]] of voters for use in Democratic primary elections in Fulton county."

Filed by Atty. A. T. Walden, president of the Georgia Association of Citizens Democratic Clubs, the action, if [[?]] by Judge Underwood, would have the effect of forcing Nettles to send the lists of all registered voters to precinct [[places?]] for both the primary and general elections. This was not done last July 4, the petition filed in the name of Wallace Van Jackson, secretary of the Citizens Democratic Club of Fulton county, points out. Nettles, complying with the regulations set up by the State Democratic Executive Committee, forwarded only the lists of white voters to the various polling places.

Walden and Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the NAACP, acting as attorney for Jackson, contend that the Fulton County Democratic Committee and the Georgia Democratic



(See GEORGIA, Page 2)

Democracy's Meaning

Death Levels

Barriers On

Pacific Isle

By Charles H. Loeb

NNPA War Correspondent

[[?]]

[[image: photo of Loeb in uniform]]

OKINAWA—Via Navy Radio. In this [[?]] Pacific warfare where "dead"

Japs

tion is placed

who in the

back? where

bombs rain down on quiet camp areas behind the lines and where [[?]]

and bombs are no respectors of race, creed, color, or rank, they paused

Thursday to bury Lt. Gen. Samuel Bolivar [[Buckner?]], commanding

general of the Tenth Army.

With misty [[gaze?]], high ranking staff officers, Army nurses,

correspondents, and just plain Joes watched the brief but [[poignant?]]

[[proceedings?]] that marked the passing of a beloved leader of fighting men.

When it was over I walked about the Seventh Division cemetery until I

came to a plain white cross marking the resting place of first Negro to

give his life on this Island, Capt. Clarence W. Griggs, [[B?]] New York,

Chaplain, U. S. Army.

Earlier dispatches listed his address as [[?]] Lafayette street, [[?]] N. Y.

and the date of his death as April 17. He was a native of Temple, Texas,

and a graduate of [[Rice?]] University and [[?]] Theological Seminary.

[[Editor]]

The general was killed in a forward [[?]]

Chaplain Griggs was killed while in his tent in a "peaceful" camp area near our assault beaches.

In the opening phase of [[?]] assault a stray [.29?] calibre shell, whose target was a Jap plane, slipped through the side of his tent, passed over the head of his tentmate Chaplain James R. Hurley, Detroit, Michigan, entering his head.

General and chaplain, white and black, they shared a common resting place in foreign soil.

(See DEATH LEVELS, Page 3)

Two Negro GIs Welcomed

Back Home With Gen. Ike

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA)—Monday was General Eisenhower

Day in Washington. The wheels of government, business, and schools

stopped to pay tribute to the conquerer of Germany.

In the general's party accompanying him from the battle fields of Europe

were two Negro GI's, part of the 29 colored men brought back by the

general. They were M. Sgt. Sylvester M. Buckner, and T. Sgt. Eugene Jackson.

They, with the rest of the party of officers and enlisted men, accompanied the general to the Pentagon Building from the airport, rode behind him in the parade to the Capitol, were guests at the civic luncheon at the Statler Hotel where they stayed and again were guests with the general at the buffet supper at the White House Monday evening where they were entertained by President Truman.

500,000 SEE GENERAL AND PARTY

Over 500,000 persons turned out to watch the general and his party ride in [??] from the Pentagon Building to the Capitol.

At his press conference Monday afternoon the general mentioned the [2,699?] Negro service troops who volunteered for combat duty with the Third and Seventh Armies in Europe. In answer to questions as to what he thought of the experiment and what it meant to the future of the Negro in the Army, he said he had formed platoons of these soldiers, gave them trained non-com and commissioned officers, and that they operated as platoons wherever there was a shortage of regular [?]
FORMED NO GENERAL CONCLUSION

"I have formed from my experience no general conclusions, which I would be ready to express now as to the type of organization for the future," he said. "Under the conditions, they fought well and did good work."

The general and his party left Monday night for New York.

Spaulding Declines

Liberian Post

WASHINGTON, D. C.— President Truman, a few weeks ago, tendered the post of United States Minister to Liberia to Dr. C. C. Spaulding, president of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, Durham, to succeed Lester A. Walton, resigned. Dr. Spaulding, who is also president of the Mechanics and Farmers Bank, the Bankers Fire Insurance Company and other enterprises, declined the appointment. Three days later the President repeated the offer of the post to Dr. Spaulding, through one of the North Carolina Congressmen, but the veteran Durham business man again declined.

To a representative of the Journal and Guide, Dr. Spaulding stated this week that the Liberian climate is too rigorous for him, and that his --image: photo, man in suit & tie]

DR. C. C. SPAULDING.

varied business and other interests required his presence in this country.

To the Journal and Guide Dr. Spaulding said that he greatly appreciated the confidence reposed in him by President Truman—and told the President so—but he felt that the post was better suited to a qualified man of less mature years.

The president expressed to Dr. Spaulding a desire to fill the post of Minister to Liberia with the best business man available.

Dr. Spaulding is treasurer of the board of trustees of Shaw University and a member of the executive committee of the board of Howard University.

(See LIBERIAN POST, Page [3?])

106-Year-Old Talks

Of Postwar Plans

ATLANTA, Ga.—NANP—[[Dawn?]] Darden of Meriwether County, who claims to be 106 years old, was in Atlanta Friday and dropped in the Capitol to see Gov. Arnell, but the governor was not in town. He told his mission to the governor's aides. It was to talk with the head man of the state about financial aid in building a church in his home town in Meriwether County where Darden states he was born in November, 1839.

Darden now draws \$11.50 a month age-old assistance from the state, but he said with things so high, he can't live on that and build a church too. He says he is too feeble to work and if he raises enough money to build the church he will name it "The Church of the First Born."

SHAEF Denies Rumor

On Relief Personnel

Staff Correspondence

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Forces, through the War Department last Friday denied that it has found any instructions, written or verbal, that colored personnel of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration were not to be used in positions of authority or in any other positions at displaced person camps in Europe.

Already overseas and qualified for such assignments are Jerome Robinson, Malcolm Johnson, and Jack Barnes.

The War Department queried SHAEF after publication of a report that CNRNA had revised an order from SHAEF that colored persons were not be assigned as heads of teams or directors of camps in assembly stations in France.

Two Die in

Rooming

House Fire

Two Others Injured

SERIOUSLY IN

Escaping Flames

By Clifton L. Williams

NORFOLK — The second fatal blaze to sweep through the interior of an East Main street lodging house within recent months, occurred early Tuesday morning when the three-story occupied building at 826 was gutted by flames which took a toll of two lives, bringing to three the number of persons who have died in raging fires in obsolete living structures in the same block within the past five months.

Tuesday morning's dead are listed as Jerome Peters, [[50?]], and Robert Faims, about [[68?]]. Their bodies were removed to Hale's funeral Home.

Two young men, Robert Prichard and [[Hollimen?]] Jordan, sustained injuries when they jumped from windows to the pavement, one making the leap from the third floor and the other from the second floor. Each received treatment at Norfolk Community Hospital. Six other occupants escaped without

(See TWO DIE, Page 2)

Lester Granger Named Civilian

Aide To Secretary Of The Navy

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA)—Lester Granger, executive secretary of the National Urban League, left here Monday in a special military plane for the West Coast to inspect Naval installations.

Mr. Granger undertook the trip after a conference on Monday with Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal.

Arriving in San Diego Thursday afternoon, Mr. Granger was expected to go from there all along the West Coast on his inspection trip. He is accompanied by a Navy spokesman.

[[image: photo of man in suit]]

LESTER GRANGER

Col. Davis Replaces

Commander Blamed

For Racial Friction

Bomber Group Reorganized, Promised

Action in Pacific By Late Fall;

All White Officers Are Removed

By [[Les?]] Goaves, Jr.

Guide War Correspondent

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GODMAN FIELD, Ky — Colonel Benjamin O. Davis Jr., former

commanding officer of the 332nd Fighter Group in Italy, assumed command here Thursday of the 477th Composite Group, formerly the 477th Bombardment Group (medium).

Present for the occasion was Lt. General [[Ian?]] C. Baker, acting commanding general of the Army Air Force, Truman K. [[Gehany?]] Jr., civilian aide to the Secretary of War, Major Homer R. Roberts, chief of the Negro section of the War Department, and a group of newspapermen.

General Baker flew out in his personal transport plane, bringing with him Mr. [[G?]] and other important officers and officials. In another plane with Major Roberts came newspapermen and War Department cameramen and a reporting crew.

Beginning at 11:00 a.m. EWT, Gen. Davis officially became the bomber group commander.

IMPRESSIVE OCCASION

While 4,000 officers and men of this post stood at attention a [[B-24?]] carrying Gen. Baker, Brig. General B.O. Davis Sr., Col. Davis, and Mr. [[?]], landed at Godman Field and taxied in the formation area in front of the group operations building where a reviewing stand had been set up. Alighting from the plane in the order of rank, the party went directly to the reviewing stand, where Gen. Baker made his forthright statement (see text on page 7.)

There was a brief parade lasting about ten minutes before the address by Gen. Baker. Brig. Gen. Davis was introduced by Gen. Baker and the father of the new commander made an address, the highlight of which was that "This [[?]] is a [[?]] soldier and is most [[?]] not to be killed."

CONGRATULATIONS

"I want to emphasize the point," Gen. Baker continued, "that it is necessary for you in your training and in your performance to give full support to the officers who command you. It has been my privilege to know something about our enemy having visited his country and observed him in training.

"The only people who know how to fight this war to the hard advantage are the people who have had actual combat experience with the enemy. I wish to congratulate you on the caliber of officers of the War Department. They have the respect of the men they have fought with and against."

In order to avoid the possibility that a Negro commanding officer would be over white subordinate officers, at 2 o'clock Thursday morning all white officers were replaced by colored officers here to command positions assigned on a temporary basis.

The men were called in and told "you are now commanding officer of your squadron." The men temporarily given command of the bomber squadron were Captain Charles R. Stanton, Portland, Ore., [[714th?]]; Captain [[Freddy?]] Newman, New York, N. Y., First Lt. James W. Carter, Winston-Salem, N. C. [[?]]; Captain Charles K. Williams, Lima, Ohio, [[?]]

GENERAL BAKER MEETS WITH OFFICERS

General Baker and Gen. [[?]] met with the 628 officers at 2:00 p.m. EWT in the post theater. He repeated the promise made in his earlier address that they would go to the Pacific in the late summer or early fall, and "would fly from Okinawa against the Japanese mainland."

The persistent reports that Colonel Davis would be made a brigadier general at Thursday's ceremonies here were not confirmed. Promotion to general rank are made by the President and approved by the Senate. In addition, he must have a "table of organization" [[?]] calling for a general officer. So far, the 477th command he has just taken does not qualify for a generalship.

There is a possibility that the group will be enlarged and that within a year, Davis' command will qualify him for a generalship and that he might be promoted. It is known that he is highly thought of in military

circles as a competent and inspiring leader.

MacARTHUR WANTS THE BOMBERS

At the meeting after the change of command. Gen. Baker further told the men of the group: "I am going to make it our business to give you adequate training, leadership and the best equipment available."

Gen. Douglas MacArthur, when asked if he would accept the Negro group in his theatre replied: "I'll take any group that has good training," Gen. Baker repeated in his informal talk to the officers of the bomber and service group.

At the same time that Gen. Baker authorized the change of command here, Under Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson announced it at a press conference in Washington as the "[[Outstanding?]] Information he had for the group.

Lt. Gen. James Doolittle, who will soon have a Pacific command, was present at the Patterson conference in the "[[?]]

Morale has already improved 100 per cent, according to observers here.

The three officers arrested since the Freeman Field "[[?]] officers' club incident on April "[[1?]] are still under confinement here. Disposition of their case was not indicated by inquiries here Thursday.

Colonel Robert R. Selway Jr. is still the post commander, but not entitled to retain that longer than is necessary to go through the details of transferring governmental property to Colonel Davis.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—What is described by informed sources as one of the most significant developments of the Negro's participation in World War II is scheduled to take pace at Godman Field, Ky., Thursday of this week.

[[image: head shot of man in uniform]]

GRAVES

There is every reason to expect that a general "house-cleaning" of the white command of the 477th Bombardment Group, which is held responsible for the many evidences of anti-Negro feeling which have helped destroy the morale of that group, is the main order of business. It is a certainty that Col. B. O Davis Jr., famous commander of the 332nd Fighter Group in Italy, will be the central figure in the reorganization and that he will take the bomber group into combat in the Pacific sometime in the late fall.

While Col. Davis, when interviewed in Washington last Saturday afternoon shortly after he had come out of a top-secret conference with high Air Force officials in connection with his new assignment, said he was unable to comment on the nature of that assignment, other reliable sources revealed certain facts in connection with the change.

These facts, while still lacking official confirmation, are as follows:

(1) Col. Davis was hurriedly returned from the Italian theatre of war for the purpose of relieving Col. Robert Selway, white, of command of the 477th.

(2) Key officer and enlisted personnel of the 332nd Fighter Group were returned to the States last week along with Col. Davis to form a nucleus of tried and tested personnel for the reorganization of the bomber group.

(3) There is a strong likelihood that a new Air Forces fer-
(See COL. DAVIS, P. 3)

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