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

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477th Wants Selway Removed; New Order Limits Promotions
 NEW YORK--Realizing that they are behind the proverbial "eight ball" officers of the 477th Bombardment Group, currently stationed at Godman Field Ky., last week voiced their demands through The Pittsburgh Courier, to the War Department to "re-move Colonel Selway from his present position as commanding officer of the group and release of three officers who were being held for court-martial." They know, too, that their position is a precarious one and being "clamped down by Army Regulation" they cannot openly demand an investigation by Congress which they believe is the only way that the unhappy affair, now existing at Godman, can be "satisfactorily ironed out."
SECRET LETTER

The officer, acting as spokesman for the group, said they had been moved to Godman Field with the understanding that the unit was to be commanded by Negroes, but a few days ago they seized an official secret letter dated April 27, addressed to Colonel Selway, "Sub-ject: Authorized White Officer Personnel." The letter stated that there would be no white officers below the rank of major and no Negro officers above that rank, which means, like the men said, that the group commander and squadron commanders and all key operation positions will be held by white officers, automatically eliminating the possibility of any Negro officer being in a position to give orders. The young officers also stated that Colonel Selway is responsible for the rumor that Negroes would man the group, despite the fact that he and several other officers (white) are known to have issued the unjustifiable statement that Negroes were unprepared and
 (Continued on Page 5, Col. 2)

What of Col. Selway--Courier... "Be Patient with Us!" --Patterson
 WASHINGTON-- When told by The Courier that it was believed to be general Army policy that whenever a superior lost the respect and cooperation of his subordinates the superior was removed from command, and asked why Colonel Selway was still in command of the 477th Bombardment Group at Freeman Field, Under-Secretary of War Patterson, in his regular Thursday press conference said that this was the same question he had been asked in a different form last week.
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[[newspaper clipping]]
 477th Wants Selway
 (Continued from page 1)
 incapable of handling the command of a bomber group. Although there have been no accidents during the regular period of operational training he (Sel-way) continues to maintain this view. He draws the conclusion, that there have been no accidents in the group, because it is being commanded by white officers. All the men in the group are agreed on three demands, which are: That the three officers now being held are released. That Selway be relieved of his duties. That the War Department eliminate discrimination. "We all want to know," one of the officers declared, "will the War Department decide whether we are first-rate or second-rate soldiers---or if there is going to be any differentiation, come clean and assert yourselves."

[[/newspaper clipping]]
 NASM PRESERVATION PHOTOCOPY - 19 APRIL 2001

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NO NEWSPAPER CLIPPING - 19 APRIL 2001

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