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Commanding Officer Praises Negro Personnel Who Served at Port Chicago After Explosion Monday Night

Negro Naval personnel attached to both the Naval magazine at Port Chicago, California, and the Naval ammunition depot at Mare Island Navy Yard, California, acquitted themselves with "great credit," during the explosion at Port Chicago recently, according to Captain Merrill T. Kinne, U. S. N. R., Commanding Officer.

"Under those emergency conditions," he said, "regular members of our complement and volunteers from Mare Island displayed creditable coolness and bravery."

Negro bluejackets comprise a large percentage of the Port Chicago Naval establishment enlisted personnel.

Captain Kinne said it was difficult to single out individuals who participated in rescue and preventive operations at Port Chicago. Four Negro enlisted men did, however, move boldly into a danger area around boxcars loaded with ammunition and quell flames, he said.

The Twelfth Naval District of the Navy Department this week made public the names of 213 Naval personnel missing and presumably dead in the explosion of the U. S. Naval Magazine, Port Chicago, Calif. The list contained the names of nine naval officers, 203 naval enlisted personnel and one Marine enlisted man. It did not include merchant ship, naval armed guard, Coast Guard or civilian personnel.

The list of casualties may be seen at the offices of the Portland Inquirer, 2736 N. E. Rodney Ave., or Vanport 2410 N. Cottonwood, apartment 505.

They were Richard L. McTere, seaman, first class, of Detroit, Mich.; William E. Anderson, seaman, first class, of Chicago, Ill.; E. S. Allen, seaman, first class, of Detroit; John Andrew Haskins, pharmacist's mate, third class, of Washington, D. C.

Some 200 Negro sailors volunteered at once at the ammunition depot, Mare Island, for service at Port Chicago during the emergency.

Declaring their conduct outstanding, Captain Kinne named the following men as having been observed in courageous pursuit of their duty: Richard E. Webb, gunner's mate, second class, of Chicago; Bernard N. Claggett, gunners' mate, second class, of Los Angeles; Ivan A. Hoyle, motor machinist's mate, second class, of Chicago; James A. Martinez, carpenter's mate, second class, of Shreveport, Louisiana; Floyd E. Scarborough, motor machinist's mate, third class, of Washington, D. C.; Harry Fortune, seaman, first class, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Wayman R. Nelson, motor machinist's mate, third class, of Kansas City, Kansas; Robert Lee Williams, electrician's mate, third class, of Lexington, Kentucky; William T. Harris, shipfitter, third class, of Bloomfield, New Jersey; William H. DeWitt, seaman, second class, of Pittsfield, Mass.; Edward Harrington, pharmacist's mate, third class, of New York City; Archie B. Covington, hospital apprentice, first class, of Chicago.

Statement of Rear Admiral Carleton H. Wright, U. S. N. Rear Admiral Wright, U. S. N., commandant of the Twelfth Naval District, stated today:

"I am gratified to learn, as was to be expected, Negro personnel attached to the naval magazine, Port Chicago, performed bravely and efficiently in the emergency

Blood Bank

Dr. Robert N. Joyner has asked that Volunteers call his office to have their Blood Typed in preparation for any emergencies that may arise when Blood Transfusions are needed for our people.

Transfusions will be paid for at the established rate.

For further information call WE 4404.

ELKS DONATE MEMBERSHIP

In a surprise event that will have far reaching consequences, the Billy Webb Lodge, No. 1050, I. B. P. O. E. of W. bestowed full membership in the Lodge on the Editor of the PORTLAND INQUIRER. The occasion was their regular semi-monthly meeting and followed the introduction of Mr. Faulk to the members present by their Exalted Ruler, Willie Lee Shine. The incident, unique in the annals of fraternization, was breath taking in its magnanimity and superbly executed by this branch of the world's largest Negro Fraternal Order.

High-lighting this surprise affair, was a speech by the Editor of the Portland Inquirer in which he stated that "ownership of this new and different newspaper rested wholly and solely with him, rumors to the contrary." Among other things the Elks were told that the colored population of Portland had not responded as they should have to a periodical that is attempting to do as much as the Portland Inquirer to promote the welfare of the Negro. The Elks then took the lead in the first mass subscription of their history. As the suggestion of their Exalted Ruler, the meeting was suspended while every man present took out a subscription to the Portland Inquirer. This is the kind of support that the I. B. P. O. E. of W. is famous for the world over. Let it be some worthy Negro enterprise within or outside of their ranks, the Elks can always be depended upon to give their whole-hearted support. It is for this reason that the I. B. P. O. E. of W. can claim the largest membership among Negroes of any fraternal organization in the world.

More power to the Elks of Portland, we need more people like them here.

First Negro Reserve Officers Assigned to Duty at Pearl Harbor

Pearl Harbor (Delayed) — The first Negro Reserve Officers of the U. S. Navy to be assigned to duty outside the continental United States have arrived in the Fourteenth Naval District.

The Negro officers on duty at Manana Naval Barracks, adjacent to the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard, are:

Ensign Jesse W. Arbor, U. S. N. R., 6220 St. Lawrence avenue, Chicago, Illinois, and Warrant Officer Charles B. Lear, U. S. N. R., 1010 White street, Canton, Missouri. Both were members of the first Negro officer class graduated from the indoctrination school at Great Lakes Naval Training Station, May 1, 1944.

Lieutenant Commander Grady Avant, U. S. N. R., Commanding Officer of the station, described Ensign Arbor and Warrant Officer Lear as exemplary officers, capable of handling their assignments.

A college graduate, Ensign Arbor looks upon his new duties in a practical as well as philosophical manner. He explained that he began his duties in the Navy as an enlisted man and understands the problems of the colored sailor.

The Ensign is a graduate of Arkansas State College, class of 1935, and played tackle on the varsity football team. He pursued post graduate courses in social sciences at Lewis Institute in Chicago, and prior to entering the service, July 11, 1942, conducted a tailoring establishment in Chicago. Before being commissioned he was on a mine sweeper along the eastern coast. He is 29 years old.

Warrant Officer Lear is a native of Keokuk, Iowa, and is 28. He is a graduate of the high school in this home town and entered the service June 26, 1942, and prior to being assigned to indoctrination school was a company commander at Great Lakes.

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JUNE-LILLY SEXTETTE TO APPEAR HERE

RADIO STARS

RESIDENTS OF PORTLAND

Portland music lovers will experience a rare treat Sunday evening, August 6, when the June-Lilly Sextette will make its initial appearance in a recital given at the Woman's Club Auditorium, 1220 S. W. Taylor street, at 8:30 P. M.

The group is made up of outstanding singers, some of whom have appeared with nationally known choirs throughout the states, while other members of the sextette are Portland's own, and exhibit a fine array of talent.

A pleasing variety of classical, semi-classical, patriotic numbers and spirituals will make up the program. Soprano soloists are Mrs. Clarine Smith, Portland, and Mrs. Mary Geneva Savage of New Mexico.

The sextette is under the direction of Mrs. M. L. Cabell, and represents stars of radio and stage



Reading from left to right are: Mrs. Mignon Cabell, Mrs. Jimmie Franklin, and Miss H. M. Lily. Miss Lily is the "lady of the ivories".

never before heard in Portland. The famous Lilly Trio is made up entirely of Portland's own, three sisters who are very well known here who have at last been persuaded to give a rendition of some of the "Numbers" that made them favorites on the radio stations of Oklahoma and Texas.

To miss these sisters is to miss the treat of a decade, we are not sure that they can be persuaded to reappear, it will be left to the public. So it is up to you.

For reserved seats call the Portland Inquirer, WE 7220, or Vanport Office, WE 1534, or Mrs. Clarine Smith, 322 S. E. 8th avenue.

TO THE NEGROES OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Portland and Vanport City

Registration Is Now Open at the County Court House, 5th Avenue and Salmon Street, Room 141

In order to VOTE in the Fall Elections you first MUST register. In order to register you will have to go to the County Court House.

To reach the County Court House take the Williams Ave. bus or the Alberta trolley car or the Sellwood bus. Get off at Salmon Street (1000 S. W.) and walk two blocks east.

From St. Johns or Interstate bus transfer at Oak Street to the Mississippi bus or Broadway trolley. Get off at Salmon Street and walk two blocks west.

From Vanport ride bus to end of line (9th and Oak), walk east on Oak to Broadway and take the Broadway trolley or Mississippi bus. Get off at Salmon Street, Walk two blocks west.

It costs you absolutely nothing to REGISTER. Just say you came in to register. Give your name and address and any other information that is asked of you. Say what party you want to register for (Republican or Democratic) and that is all there is to it.

You are free to choose either party for which you want to register.

DO NOT PUT IT OFF. REGISTER NOW. If you wait until later, you will probably have to wait in line. So REGISTER NOW while there is no rush. Even if you do not think you will be here for the election you can register now just in case you are here.