

# Portland Inquirer

Oregon's Negro Weekly

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## HEROISM OF COL. MARINES PRAISED IN S. P.

By Tech. Sgt. Paul G. Long,  
Marine Corps Comb. Correspondent  
formerly of the Chattanooga  
Times.

**PELELIU, PALAU ISLANDS—**  
(Delayed)—The Japs, entrenched  
on the ridge in the toughest fighting  
of this tough campaign, had all  
the advantages.

For two days the veteran jungle  
fighters of the First Marine Division  
had pushed stolidly upward,  
seeing their comrades killed and  
wounded. Now they were dug in,  
awaiting orders to advance again.

"Want to come out for a smoke?"  
A Negro Marine had crawled up  
to a white comrade in arms. He  
and the rest of his company of  
stretcher bearers were relieving  
men at the front, giving them a  
break in the tension of front-line  
combat.

In this campaign, these Negro  
Marines have performed gallantly.  
Day and night they have carried  
wounded back to aid stations and  
returned to the front with ammuni-  
tion and water. Rough, precipi-  
tous coral has made their job hard-  
er. One 200-pound wounded fight-  
er apologized for his weight, but  
they only smiled and groped on  
down the tortuous trail with him.  
Often they went beyond the front  
in search of wounded Marines.

But what the Negro Marines  
wanted most was a chance to kill  
the Japs.

This is the way, it happened to  
Ramey—Private First Class R. L.  
Ramey, 21, of Bluefield, W. Va. A  
wounded rifleman fell forward  
from an escarpment into a gulch.  
Without hesitation and without  
command, Ramey jumped headlong  
to save him.

"Come out of there," ordered a  
captain. "You haven't got a  
chance." "I'm coming out, Captain,  
soon as I get this Marine," replied  
Ramey.

He brought back the Marine.  
The captain recognized Ramey.  
"Want to shoot a Jap, Ramey?"  
The captain pointed out a sni-  
per's tree, and Ramey eagerly ac-  
cepted his Tommy gun. So it was  
that Ramey got his first Jap.

Trained for combat, like all other  
Marines, the Negroes know how to  
use weapons. Their non-commis-  
sioned officers saw to that, just  
as they taught them to drill so  
well that the Secretary of the Navy  
and the Commandant of the Marine  
Corps commended them at their  
New River, N. C. training base.

First Sgt. Nolan Marshall, 20,  
of 3421 Baronne Street, New Or-  
(Continued on Page 5)



**SO. PACIFIC** Red Cross Worker Doris Nordell, Seattle, Wash-  
ington hands E. Norfleet, Sfc. SeaBee of Ports-  
mouth, Va., a chocolate bar as he leaves U. S. Navy Hospital Ship  
Bountiful, which has just arrived at a Pacific base with casualties from  
Palau. Off. U. S. N. Foto.

## Portrait of Negro Flyer in Exhibit

A portrait of Capt. Charles B.  
Hall, fighter pilot of the 99th  
Squadron, now in Italy, is included  
in a representative list of Army  
Air Forces personnel paintings  
now on exhibit in the National Gallery  
of Art, Washington, D. C.

Capt. Hall, the first American  
Negro pilot to down a Nazi plane,  
is from Brazil, Ind., and was a  
pre-medical student before joining  
the Army Air Forces at Tuskegee  
Institute, Ala. He now has three  
German planes to his credit and  
wears the Air Medal and two Oak  
Leaf Clusters for bravery in ac-  
tion.

The painting is by Major Charles  
Baskerville, a veteran of the last  
war, who volunteered for service  
in the present conflict and was  
given the assignment to paint a  
gallery of Air Forces personali-  
ties. He recently returned from  
overseas.

All the paintings on exhibit are  
part of the historical record of the  
Army Air Forces. Their subject  
matter range from representative  
events and characteristic scenes to  
actual portraits of the men now  
fighting or directing air battles all  
over the world.

The collection eventually will be  
hung permanently in the headquar-  
ters of the Army Air Forces in the  
Pentagon Building.

## IT CAN HAPPEN HERE

A local housewife, smelling  
smoke, investigated and found that  
the roof of her home was ablaze.  
Rushing to the telephone she did  
not take time to hunt for the phone  
number of the Fire Department but  
called the Operator and placed an  
emergency call. She gave the ad-  
dress and told the talkative opera-  
tor that the house at the given ad-  
dress was on fire and was ready to  
hang up. But, the Operator had  
to have her name, had to know in  
what part of the house the fire  
was located and a few other minor  
details, finally saying she would  
send the fire engines which was all  
the housewife wanted in the be-  
ginning.

Now if this was an ordinary story  
we could say that the fire en-  
gines came and the firemen soon  
had the fire under control. But that  
is not what happened. What really  
happened was almost unbelievable  
in this day of speed and efficiency.

Five minutes later when the good  
woman was sure that the city fire  
department (which she helps to  
support by paying taxes) was on  
its way to save her newly pur-  
chased home,—the telephone rang.  
No, it was not the talkative opera-  
tor, it was the Fire Department.  
Following assurance that they had  
contacted the right number, a gruff  
voice inquired, "Whatve you got up  
(Continued on Page 5)

## HOUSING, WORK OPPORTUNITY STUDIED BY TWO AUTHORITIES

Last week we printed an Edi-  
torial on the subject on Post War  
conditions. The importance of  
this timely subject was empha-  
sized this week in a parley con-  
ducted here by Government offi-  
cials. We reprint this article  
from the Journal for the benefit  
of those who missed it. — Ed's  
Note.

Portland, like other war industry  
cities, can follow one of two courses  
in anticipation of war's end  
and its effect on thousands of im-  
migrant workers. The community  
can sit back and hope they will  
return where they came from or—it  
can take the lead in planning hous-  
ing and work opportunities.

The answer lies entirely with the  
community, in the opinion of two  
national housing heads who spent  
the past week conferring with local  
housing groups.

Frank Horne, racial relations ad-  
visor to the commissioner of the  
federal public housing authority,  
and B. T. McGraw, principal hous-  
ing analyst of the national housing  
agency, were here two years ago  
when Portland was just beginning  
to realize the extent of its war-  
boom population. Now they have  
returned in the course of a survey  
of west coast defense areas.

This city, they say, is experienc-  
ing much the same influx of minor-  
ity racial groups as did the cities  
of the middle east during the last  
war.

**Mistake Avoidance Desired**  
As in the last war, most of these  
migrant people plan to remain, and  
it is the hope of these housing ad-  
ministrators that the west will  
avoid the mistakes made by Chic-  
ago, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Cincinnati  
and other communities — mistakes  
which have brought baleful results  
in tenement and ghetto living for  
racial minorities and low-income  
groups.

Under the pressure of the war's

## Over 21,000 Negro Vets Receiving Pension

A total of 21,760 Negro veterans  
of the present war were receiving  
veterans' pensions from the Vet-  
erans Administration on Aug. 31,  
1944, for disability incurred in or  
aggravated by service in the armed  
forces, Brig. Gen. Frank T. Hines,  
Administrator of Veterans  
Affairs, announced this week. Negro  
recipients represented 8.7 per  
cent of all veterans receiving such  
pensions.

At the same time, General Hines  
revealed that 334 Negro veterans,  
disabled as a result of service in  
the present war, were taking voca-  
tional rehabilitation courses in  
educational institutions and in  
placement training designed to  
overcome the handicap of disability.  
These trainees represented 8.7 per  
cent of the total number of veter-  
ans receiving such training.

The training program for dis-  
abled veterans has been getting off  
to a slow start, General Hines said,  
because of excellent employment  
opportunities available to veterans  
in war production industries. Of the  
184,000 disabled Negro and White  
veterans notified of eligibility, 150,-  
000 have not applied. Only 34,000  
applications for training benefits  
had been received through October  
1, 1944, and more than half of this  
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early days, much of the housing  
provided in Portland and other cen-  
ters was just an extension of the  
industrial plant—putting a roof  
over the workers' heads. Many  
things were done that have no part  
in a sound housing program, Horne  
said. Now he and other leaders are  
interested in seeing what is being  
done to provide sound housing for  
workers on a permanent basis.

### Only 485 Permanent

Of the 18,600 housing units in  
Portland, only 485 are permanent;  
the rest are to come down after  
the war emergency.

Adequate housing provided by  
private enterprise for the thou-  
sands of workers who will re-main  
in Portland constitutes an insur-  
ance policy for the community, both  
Horne and McGraw believe.

## Insurance Co's Pledge Support

Nineteen members of the Na-  
tional Negro Insurance Associa-  
tion, representing 3½ million policy  
holders in 26 states, not only pledg-  
ed continued support to price con-  
trol, rent control and rationing,  
but outlined specific steps its anti-  
inflation committee will take to  
distribute information on these  
programs to the public, at a meet-  
ing last week with top OPA offi-  
cials in the agency's Washington  
headquarters.

From the report of D. C. Chand-  
ler, national chairman of the As-  
sociation's Anti-Inflation Commit-  
tee, which is going into its second  
year as one of the national organ-  
izations in most active support of  
OPA programs, the following pro-  
gram was outlined for next year:

1. A district speakers' bureau in  
each district to furnish speakers  
for clubs, church groups and other  
meetings.

2. Wherever possible local key in-  
surance representatives will become  
actively identified with ration  
boards, if possible on price and  
community service panels.

3. Anti-Inflation Committeemen  
will cooperate with OPA District  
Offices and local War Price and  
Rationing Boards in distributing  
information concerning ration and  
price control programs direct to  
homes.

4. Organization of consumer cost-  
of-living committees to educate the  
public to intelligent cooperation  
with the Government's rationing  
and price control programs.

5. Creation of a Public Informa-  
tion Campaign Committee, headed  
by Anti-Inflation Committee Sec-  
retary G. Norman Branch, Wash-  
ington, D. C., to have member com-  
panies' house organs carry slogans  
and put out literature aimed at  
keeping down the cost of living.

6. Mobilization of all representa-  
tives of Home and District offices  
and other individuals for direct ac-  
tion to check inflation.

One important result of the  
meeting was that individual letters  
will be sent from the national OPA  
in Washington to each of the re-  
gional Anti-Inflation Committee  
chairmen, with copies to regional  
and district OPA offices, identify-  
ing the insurance men as active  
volunteer participants in the OPA  
program and asking the OPA of-  
fices to aid the insurance commit-  
tee in every way possible.



**SO. PACIFIC** Negro choir broadcasting over Mosquito Network  
at Red Cross Service Center, at a Pacific base. Off. U. S. N. Foto

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