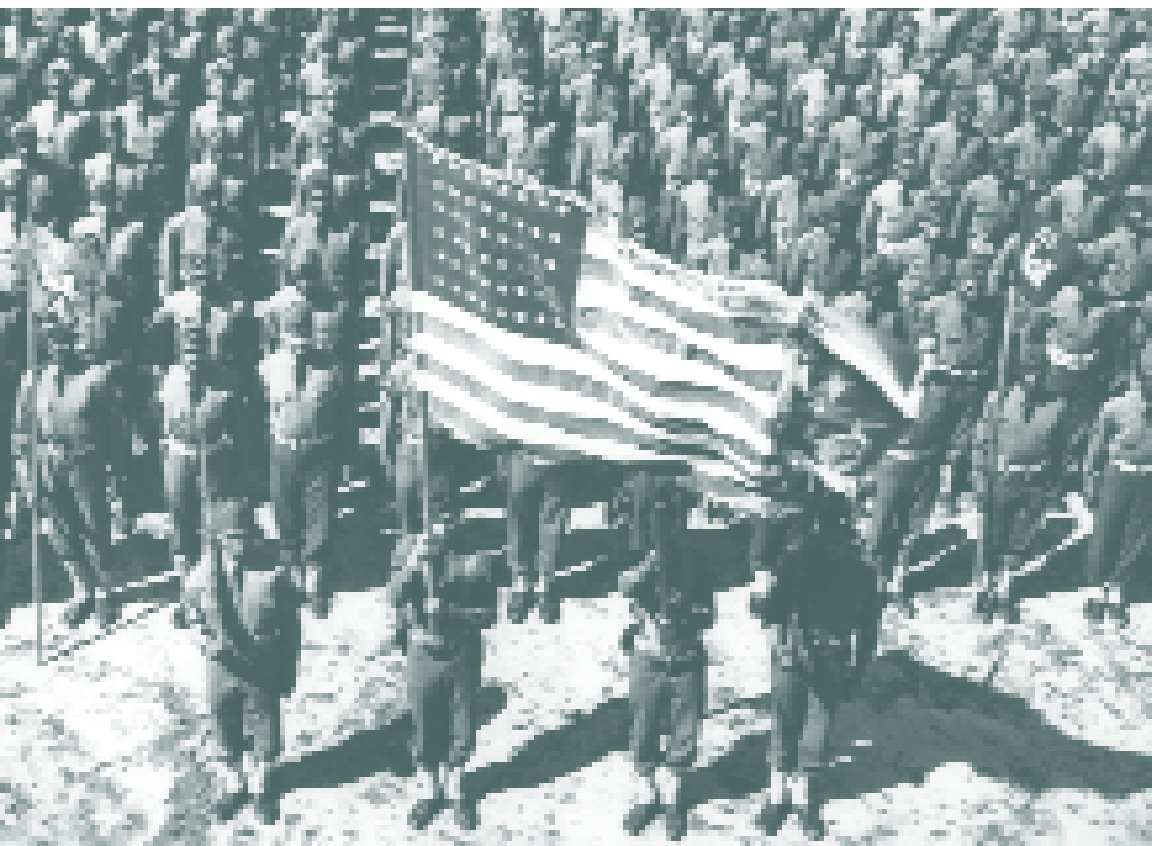


**Records of Military Agencies Relating
to African Americans from the
Post-World War I Period to the Korean War**



REFERENCE INFORMATION PAPER 105

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, DC
REVISED 2006

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to African Americans from the
Post-World War I Period to the Korean War**

COMPILED BY

LISHA B. PENN

REFERENCE INFORMATION PAPER 105

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, DC
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COVER: *“On parade, the 41st Engineers at Ft. Bragg, NC, in color guard ceremony.”*

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P r e f a c e

REFERENCE INFORMATION PAPER NO. 105

This reference information paper (RIP) describes records about African American military participation in World War I, World War II, and the Korean War held at the National Archives' facilities in Washington, DC, and College Park, MD.

Six decades ago, the National Archives began publishing reference information papers as part of a comprehensive descriptive program designed to help people find their way through the voluminous records in our holdings. Related topics addressed in other publications are *Black History: A Guide to Civilian Records in the National Archives*; *Guide to Records Relating to U.S. Military Participation in World War II*; *A Woman's War Too: U.S. Women in the Military in World War II*; *American Women and the U.S. Armed Forces: A Guide to the Records of Military Agencies in the National Archives Relating to American Women*; *Pictures of African Americans During World War II* (Select Audiovisual List 1, rev. 1998); *Data Relating to Negro Military Personnel in the 19th Century* (RIP 63, 1973); *Audiovisual Records in the National Archives of the United States Relating to World War II* (RIP 70, rev. 1992); and *Black Family Research: Records of Post-Civil War Federal Agencies at the National Archives* (RIP 108, rev. 2006). The National Archives and Records Administration's web site, www.archives.gov, offers access to more sources for military research as well as to the Archival Research Catalog (ARC), the online catalog of NARA's nationwide holdings.

As the nation's record keeper, NARA safeguards records of all three branches of the Federal Government. NARA meets an almost unlimited range of information needs, ensuring access to records on which both the credibility of government and the accuracy of history depend. We welcome any comments you may have on the information products and services NARA provides. You may e-mail your message to inquire@nara.gov.

Allen Weinstein
Archivist of the United States

Part I

Introduction

SCOPE OF THE PAPER

I.1 This reference information paper provides descriptions of more than 145 series of textual records that include information about African American service men and women from the period extending from the end of World War I through the Korean War. The boundaries of coverage were determined by a recognition that (1) successful efforts have been made to describe the records on this topic created prior to and during World War I and (2) the filing practices of military organizations that isolated records relating to race changed with the full integration of the U.S. Armed Forces during the Korean War. The paper focuses on textual records in archival facilities in the Washington, DC, area where most records relating to military policy and practice are housed. However, the paper includes an appendix with references to records in regional facilities of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) that document activities at several military installations where African Americans were assigned. The paper does not cover audiovisual records, again because relevant finding aids are already available for these records.

I.2 Descriptive entries in this paper cover Federal records in the National Archives of the United States as of August 1, 1996. Most of the records date from the period 1941–50, but there are references to materials dating as early as 1915 and as late as 1964. In identifying pertinent materials, the compiler benefitted from the consistent filing practices of military organizations. Prior to July 1948, when Executive Order 9981 required a racially integrated armed forces, most Army records relating to African Americans and other ethnic groups were filed under the War Department decimal file number 291.2 (Race). The Navy and Marine Corps adopted a similar filing practice, using file codes P1-4 and 1535-110 respectively. Records described in this publication are serviced by the textual reference units in the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, and the National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.

I.3 The compiler of this paper has sought to make it as inclusive as possible for the period covered, but it is not an exhaustive historical account or product. It supplements other NARA finding aids that provide information about African Americans in the military. These other finding aids include Reference Information Paper No. 63, *Data Relating to Negro Military Personnel in the 19th Century; A Woman's War Too: U.S. Women in the Military in World War II; Black History: A Guide to Civilian Records in the National Archives; Guide to Records Relating to U.S. Military Participation in World War II; American Women and the U.S. Armed Forces: A Guide to the Records of Military Agencies in the National Archives Relating to American Women; Select Audiovisual Records: Pictures of African Americans During World War II; and Audiovisual Records in the National Archives of the United States Relating to World War II*. In addition, researchers may wish to consult finding aids at the following National Archives' presidential libraries as they may contain relevant materials relating to African Americans in the military for the designated period: Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, Herbert Hoover Library, Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, and Harry S. Truman Library.

OVERVIEW OF PERTINENT RECORDS

I.4 The research methodology utilized by the compiler consisted of two approaches: an extensive examination and review of the current *Guide to Federal Records in the National Archives of the United States* (1995 edition) to ascertain archival series pertinent to the topic, and consultation with numerous staff reference archivists having subject matter expertise with the relevant records. A list was compiled of the series relating to African Americans in the military for the designated time period that was based on these research approaches. Topics contained in the paper regard the participation, training, and treatment of African American men and women in the U.S. Army, Army Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps who were chaplains, doctors, enlisted personnel, military policemen, nurses, officers, and pilots. Moreover, it documents race relations, racial incidents and disturbances, war atrocities, allegations of police brutality, courts-martial, and surveillances by the military and Federal Bureau of Investigation of military personnel and civilians. The records also document Congressional inquiries and interactions of various historically black colleges, sororities and fraternities, newspapers, parents, military personnel, general public, and civic and civil rights organizations with the President, the Congress, and the armed services. During World War II especially, African Americans had to combat the enemy overseas and confront racism on the homefront. Many of them saw the irony in fighting for the “four freedoms” while simultaneously enduring discrimination. Despite such factors, more than 2.5 million African American men and women served in the U.S. military while other blacks worked in many of the war industries.¹

PRINCIPLES OF ARRANGEMENT

I.5 All records described in this publication are arranged in cluster order (homogeneously grouped records) such as Modern Army and thereunder by record group. Although some record groups may contain records of more than one cluster—Record Group 77, Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, for example contains records from the Old Army and Modern Army clusters—they are listed only under one cluster in this finding aid. NARA arranges its holdings according to the archival principle of provenance. This principle provides that records be attributed to the agency that created or maintained them and be arranged thereunder as they were filed when in active use. At NARA, the application of the principle of provenance takes the form of numbered record groups with each comprising the records of a major government entity, usually a bureau or independent agency. For example, National Archives Record Group 105 is Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.

I.6 Most record groups include records of any predecessors of the organization named in the title of the record group. Some record groups combine the records of several small or short-lived agencies having an administrative or functional relationship with each other. The number assigned to a record group reflects the order in which it was established by the National Archives. Within each record group, the records of a government agency are organized into *series*. Each series is a set of documents arranged according to the creating office’s filing system or otherwise kept together by the creating office because they relate to a particular subject or function, result from the same activity, document a specific kind

of transaction, take a particular physical form, or have some other relationship arising out of their creation, receipt, or use.

I.7 Within each cluster, all record groups contain the *Administrative History* of the creating government entity, except for Record Group 338, Records of U.S. Army, Operational, Tactical, and Support Organizations (World War II and Thereafter). This administrative history documents the statutory provisions from which the governmental unit was created or abolished and its functions. A special *Historical Background* accompanies most, but not all, administrative histories in order to provide the historical context of the records. It is not however, a comprehensive history of all issues surrounding the employment of African Americans in the military. Moreover, it should be noted also that the historical context in which African Americans are referred to as either colored or Negro is reflected in each series description or historical background segment when applicable.

HOW TO USE THIS PAPER

I.8 Record descriptions usually consist of the following elements: record group number and title; finding aid number; series title and date span (**boldface, lowercase type font**); linear (or cubic) measurement or item count (cited with the series titles); arrangement; and subject narrative. Please note that entries listed in this publication are not entries within this finding aid, but refer instead to the original finding aid entry numbers. Researchers, when requesting records described in this finding aid, should cite the record group number, finding aid number, entry number with series title, records storage location, and box number(s).

KEY:

- (A) Record group number and title
- (B) Agency/program history
- (C) Historical overview of records content
- (D) Finding aid number
- (E) Subgroup heading
- (F) Series title (from Master Location Register of the Office of Records Service); date span;
linear measurement or item count of pertinent documents
- (G) Arrangement or structure of records
- (H) File number or title; records storage location (building and stack); box number(s)
- (I) Subject narrative of records

I.9 The following example, keyed to descriptive elements, illustrates the basic elements of the records description.

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established in the War Department by General Order 14, War Department, March 12, 1943. Its immediate predecessor agency the Services of Supply (SOS), 1942–43. The Army Service Forces (ASF) provided services and supplies to meet military requirements except those unique to the Army Air Forces. Abolished effective June 11, 1946, implementing E.O. 9722, May 13, 1946.

B

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

As the ASF (which managed service commands and posts) gained increased responsibility for Negro troops, it became extremely important to place the prevention of racial tension high on its list of priorities.

C

The RG 160 records demonstrate the treatment, training, entertainment, and utilization of African American soldiers.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: NM-25 ————— D

RECORDS OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR SERVICE COMMANDS ————— E

IV.160.2 Entry 13 Correspondence Files, 1943–45. 5 in. ————— F

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number. ————— G

a. Decimal File 000.5 (Crimes, criminals, offenses, and domestic subversive activities): — H

Loc: NAI; 390; 26/17/06; Box 1.

Description: The records pertain to an investigation of the alleged brutal treatment of Negro Army Pvt. Nelson M. Seals by a civilian policeman in Jackson, MS. Private Seals was reportedly beaten over the head and about the face with a blackjack. The incident culminated during the arrest of two colored soldiers on charges of drunk and disorderly conduct in which Seals did not participate. His stepfather, Zilford Carter, wrote a letter to the commanding company officer, Congressman Robert Grant, and the War Department. Carter noted in his letter “You as a commanding officer of the United States Army . . . should take a stand against that kind of treatment of Negro soldiers and should further see to it that the culprits who commit such acts of violence on Negro soldiers, receive just punishment.” Included also is a written statement of Private Seals describing the incident and affidavits of those involved. The investigative report concluded that Private Seals, whom his commanding officer believed to be a habitual troublemaker, may have been abused, but it was denied by the civilian policeman who made the arrest. Contained also in the file are affidavits of the investigating detective and others involved in the case.

I

A c k n o w l e d g m e n t s

I.10 The compiler, Lisha B. Penn, wishes to extend her sincere appreciation to the many National Archives staff members who provided invaluable assistance. Without their assistance, this publication could not have been completed. Special thanks are given to Sharon Thibodeau for seeing the value and need for creating this product, to Geraldine Phillips for believing in her capabilities to complete it, and to Ronald Swerczek for enduring the length of time spent away from her normal work duties. Additionally, special thanks are given to Patrice Brown, Janis Wiggins, and Wilbert Mahoney for providing indispensable constructive critiques of the draft manuscript, and to Fe Cojeen for designing the graphics for the marked up descriptive sample.

I.11 A debt of gratitude is owed to the numerous reference archivists having tremendous records expertise for responding to requests for information or pertinent series of military records concerning African Americans: Walter Hill (Black History specialist); David Giordano (Air Force); Kenneth Schlessinger (Air Force, Old Army, and Modern Army); Richard Boylan (Old Army and Modern Army); Frederick Pernell (Old Army and Modern Army); Mitchell Yockelson (Old Army and Modern Army); Richard Peuser (Old Army); Charlotte Palmer Seeley (Modern Army); Wilbert Mahoney (Modern Army); and Barry Zerby (Old Navy). A thank-you is also extended to those who provided information beyond to the publication's set time span: Michael Musick (Old Army), and Rebecca Livingston (Old Navy). The compiler is also grateful to Lawrence MacDonald, Justine Tolson, Robert Gruber, and Mitchell Stevenson for providing information or additional sources when learning of the project, and to the countless others who inquired about its progress. Also, a thank-you is given to Rosanne Butler for coordinating the request to NARA regional facilities for relevant records to include in the finding aid. Thanks are given to the many NARA regional staff members for conducting a search of their facilities: Robert Morris, James Owens, Diana Duff, Peter Schultz, Diane Nixon, Suzanne Dewberry, Gary Fulton, Daniel Nealand, Susan Karren, Robert Plowman, Martin Tuohy, Dennis Skentzisz, and Eileen Bolger.

I.12 This publication is dedicated in memory of the countless African American men and women who served valiantly or lost their lives in all the wars in which the United States participated but particularly World Wars I and II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

Part II

Air Force Cluster

Record Group 18 *Records of the Army Air Forces*

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established in the War Department, to consist of the Air Force Combat (AFCC) and the Air Corps, by revisions of Army Regulation 95-5, June 20, 1941. Provided advice and assistance to the Secretary of War and other elements of the War Department on all aspects of land-based air offense and defense. Coordinated the design, development, and procurement of aircraft and equipment. Constructed and maintained air bases and air support facilities. Provided training and administrative support to Army Air personnel. Abolished by Transfer Order 1, Office of the Secretary of Defense, September 26, 1947, implementing reorganization provisions of the National Security Act of 1947 (61 Stat. 495), July 26, 1947.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Although African Americans had long served in the racially segregated United States Army, prior to World War II there were no African American pilots in the Army Air Force (AAF) or its immediate predecessor the Air Corps. The AAF resisted previous efforts to enlist black airmen with the claim that there were no black pilots in the United States.² Within the War Department and the AAF in general, the belief prevailed that black males lacked the aptitude to be military pilots. It was not until the passage of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 (and pressure exerted from the black community) that the AAF along with other military services was required to enlist black males in proportion to their total population (about 10 percent).

The act of 1940 prohibited discrimination by race or color in the selecting and training of all males for the armed services. Reacting almost immediately to this new act, the War Department issued its own policy, which stipulated that “the services of Negroes will be utilized on a fair and equitable basis.”³ At the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor (Dec. 7, 1941), the AAF nevertheless was only instructing a small number of African American air cadets at Tuskegee Institute (Tuskegee, AL) under its Civilian Pilot Training Program. The AAF was the only military service to train African American males in racially segregated facilities.

Upon completion of basic training and advanced training that combined aerobatics and gunnery, these African American male air cadets, better known as “Tuskegee Airmen,” were assigned to the newly created 99th Pursuit (later Fighter) Squadron that was based at nearby Tuskegee Army Air Field. The War Department initially did not intend to use the 99th Pursuit Squadron in battle but wanted instead to send it to the west coast of Africa (Liberia in particular) to search for German submarines. Nevertheless, several factors forced the War Department to revisit this issue: Liberia was hesitant to admit Americans troops within its borders; Judge William H. Hastie resigned as the Civilian Aide to the

Secretary of War; and North Africa was invaded, which caused the Army to use African American tactical fliers against the Germans and Italians.⁴

Realizing that the 99th lacked experienced pilots and had received no systematic indoctrination upon arrival in North Africa, its training specialist, Col. Philip G. Cochran, assigned a few black airmen to fly with white units willing to accept them even though it violated rules governing segregation. Despite racial discrimination and skepticism, the 99th slowly rounded into shape and scored an aerial victory at the hands of 1st Lt. Charles B. Hall, who destroyed a Focke-Wulf Fw 190 while patrolling between Sicily and Tunisia.

As it gained more experience, the 99th squadron sharpened its skills and capabilities at dive bombing and strafing, and improved its flight discipline and aggressiveness as well. Following the combat success of the 99th (which first saw action in North Africa), more African American male AAF units such as the 100th, 301st, and 302d squadrons (combined to form the 332d Fighter Group) were subsequently formed, trained, and entered into aerial combat in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations in Europe. African American men were also trained in other areas such as base security detachments, aviation quartermaster truck companies, and airbase transportation platoons.

The history of the Army Air Forces policy governing race and the combat histories of the African American 99th Fighter Squadron and other units are well documented in the records of the Army Air Forces, Record Group 18. Moreover, the reactions of the African American communities to the utilization of black airmen and the opinions of white communities about having black airmen stationed in their localities are also included in the RG 18 records.

The records of particular interest to researchers are the War Department decimal correspondence files 291.2 (Race); 333 (Inspection); and 353 (Training) as related to African Americans in the AAF. Researchers will also find the project files of various air fields such as Tuskegee, MacDill, and Maxwell as pertinent sources for additional information on African Americans.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: NM-6

RECORDS OF HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES/OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

II.18.1 Entry 7a World War II Combat Operations Reports, 1942–46. 3 ft. 6 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by Army Air Force combat group and thereunder chronologically.

- a. 79th Fighter Group. Loc: NAI; 190; 59/11/02; Boxes 2339–2344.
- b. 332d Fighter Group. Loc: NAI; 190; 59/11/05; Boxes 2363–2364.
- c. 99th Fighter Squadron. Loc: NAI; 190; 59/23/07; Box 941.

Description: The records consist of consolidated mission or narrative mission reports, daily operations reports, and statistical summaries for the above-mentioned Negro fighter groups. They document the type of mission, mission report, time, date, AAF unit providing cover/protection for, number and weight of bombs aboard, target or area sighted, summary of results, and the number of sorties completed.

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES/AIR FORCE EDITORIAL OFFICE

II.18.2 Entry 52a Periodicals, 1932–46. 1 vol.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

- a. Volume 28, Number 2 (Feb. 1945) *Air Force* (Official Journal of the U.S. Army Air Force).
Loc: NAI; 190; 62/06/04; Box 7 (pp. 62–63).

Description: A short article on the 332d Fighter Group, “A picture-reporting job on one of the Mediterranean’s oldest fighter outfits.”

FINDING AID: NM-53

RECORDS OF HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES/OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

II.18.3 Entry 166 Central Decimal Files, 1917–38 [General Correspondence, 1917–38]. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

- a. Decimal File 322.9 (Negro Detachment). Loc: NAI; 190; 39/27/05; Box 505.

Description: The records relate to authorizations for Negro service detachment schools such as in artillery and infantry at various air camps and flying school detachments. There are references to the use of Negro males as laborers, bricklayers, and construction workers, and their temporary assignment to assist the British overseas in 1918. The records also contain information on the use of Negroes as “aerial observers” but not as pilots during the post-World War I and pre-World War II era. A recommendation was made that replies to inquires regarding the possible use of Negroes as pilots should stipulate that the Aviation Service was not presently organizing or contemplating any colored squadrons.

II.18.4 Entry 292a Central Decimal Files [General Correspondence], Oct. 1942–May 1944. 1 ft. 6 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

- a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 190; 53/14/02; Box 529.

Description: The records relate to training and training schools, public opposition to establishing Negro units in certain communities (such as Spokane, WA), and incidents of racial discrimination against Negro troops and Negro officers stationed at certain Army airfields such as Randolph Field, TX, and others. Also contained in the files are investigative reports and accident reports.

- b. Decimal File 333.1 (Miscellaneous). File labeled Tuskegee, Ala/Tuskegee Army Air Field.
Loc: NAI; 190; 53/24/02; Box 785.

Description: The records concern the communication and technical inspections of colored troops at Tuskegee Army Air Field (one inspection was done by Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis); and the training of colored pilots in reports that cite irregularities and deficiencies and conclusions and recommendations.

c. Decimal File 353 (Training Misc.). Loc: NAI; 190; 53/26/03; Boxes 888–889.

Description: The records pertain to the training of Negro troops (aviation cadets) at various Army airfields, and to the transfer and assignment of such troops once trained. There are references to the partially trained enlisted Negro men being retained at Kessler Field, MS; an outline of requirements for the Negro program; and a conference at Tuskegee in which Negro college presidents were invited to discuss formulating plans for integrating aviation education into public schools and colleges.

II.18.5 Entry 294a Central Decimal Files, Oct. 1942–1944 [Security-Classified General Correspondence, Oct. 1942–Dec. 1944]. 10 in.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 190; 54/18/02; Boxes 103–104.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

Description: The records are mostly concerned with allegations of discrimination lodged by Negro troops at various airfields such as Carlsbad, NM; Stockton, CA; Amarillo, TX; Sioux Falls, SD; Westover, MA; and Selfridge, MI; and subsequent reports following the investigations of such allegations. There are references to race riots at Camp Van Dorn, MS; Camp Stewart, GA; March Field, CA; and Fort Bliss, TX; training and assigning Negro troops; and the resignation of Judge William H. Hastie as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War. They also contain information on the “Negro Fighter Program” (especially the 99th and the 332d), and opposition to or support for the presence of Negro soldiers in mostly white communities.

II.18.6 Entry 294b Bulky Files, Oct. 1942–1944 [Security-Classified General Correspondence, Oct. 1942–Dec. 1944]. 2 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 190; 55/04/03; Box 54.

Description: The records are mostly concerned with allegations of discriminatory treatment of Negro soldiers at various Army airfields such as MacDill, FL; Brooks Field, TX; and Westover Field, MA.

II.18.7 Entry 295 Project Files: Air Fields, 1939–42. 1 ft. 2 in.

Note: Because only a sampling of project files are described in this finding aid, researchers should consult other AAF project files as certain contingents of African American troops were stationed at most airfields, camps, and forts.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by name of Army airfield and thereunder numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. MacDill Army Air Field: File labeled 333.1 (Inspection Reports). Loc: NAI; 190; 52/06/07; Box 1530.

Description: The records pertain to an investigation of the condition of colored troops at this airfield in Tampa, FL, and their treatment by civilian city police and white military police. They also relate to the inadequacy of transportation to and from the city and to distinctions made between white and colored soldiers stationed at the airfield. The records contain conclusions, recommendations, and testimonies.

b. Maxwell Army Air Field: File labeled 333.1 (Inspection Reports). Loc: NAI; 190; 52/07/05; Box 1567.

Description: These are two inspection reports for the colored troops at Maxwell Army Air Field, AL, with references to the units inspected; buildings and grounds; welfare and morale of troops; and conclusions and recommendations. Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis recommended moving the small portion of Negro troops at this airfield to Tuskegee, but the request was denied.

c. Tuskegee Army Airfield: Files labeled construction; inspections; landing fields; miscellaneous; roadways and runways; and training. Loc: NAI; 190; 52/12/07; Boxes 1826–1828.

Description: The records relate to the training of Negro troops at Tuskegee Army Air Field and the assignment of subsequent graduates. There are references to requests for civilian photographers to photograph civilian flying at Tuskegee (request denied); requisition and procurement of supplies and equipment repairs; internal requests desiring to know the need for Negro instructors; requests for colored medical administrators; and technical inspections of Negro units. The records also regard Tuskegee Institute's contract with Tuskegee Army Air Field; questionnaires "Memorandum of Personnel" of applicants (some photos included); and the construction of various buildings (housing, hospitals, etc.) and landing sites.

Record Group 340 *Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force*

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established in the National Military Establishment (NME), later designated the Department of Defense (DOD), to head the newly created Department of the Air Force (DAF), by the National Security Act of 1947 (61 Stat. 502), July 26, 1947. Develops policy and implements programs for the civil and military operations of the U.S. Air Force (USAF).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Achieving its independence from the Army in September 1947, the Air Force was a new service but also heir to a legacy of segregation. Most Air Force senior officers were trained in the Army and staunchly supported the Army's policy of segregated units and racial quotas. Yet, in less than two years as an independent service, the Air Force in late 1948, stood at the threshold of integration.⁵

This change in attitude was neither a consequence of sudden humanitarianism nor a reaction to the vociferousness of civil rights activists. Rather, with the subsequent reduction in military manpower and postwar budgetary cuts, the Air Force realized early on the parallel between military efficiency and racial integration. Moreover, racial distinctions imposed unacceptable administrative burdens that would impact the overall fighting proficiency of the Air Force.

During World War II, the Army Air Force was hard pressed to fill the needs of its black air units, and it became difficult to maintain adequate troop replacement levels (which impacted the morale of black airmen). Army policy stipulated that any replacements for pilots and ground support specialists, e.g., mechanics, supply clerks, and armorers, must be done with other blacks.⁶ Segregation became a waste of the Air Force's few African American pilots and specialists as well as its large number of unskilled recruits.

Following the outcome of World War II, the NME at the behest of President Harry S. Truman's Executive Order 9981 of July 26, 1948, sought to implement an integration plan for all armed services. This integration plan, to be developed under the auspices of the Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services (also known as the Fahy Committee), called for a policy of "equality of treatment and opportunity" in the armed services for all Americans without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin.

An armed services Personnel Policy Board (composed of representatives from all four military branches) was established by Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal to assist the Fahy Committee with the actual implementation of the plan. Because the representatives from the four military branches (Army, Air Force, Marines, and Navy) could not reach a consensus on how to implement this policy, each service developed a separate policy and not a common policy that would cover the entire military establishment.

The Air Force responded to the Fahy Committee's instructions by expediting or revising its antedated integration plan, which was submitted to Secretary of Defense Forrestal on January 6, 1949. In its plan, the Air Force proposed reorganizing itself and opening positions in all fields to African Americans subject only to individual qualifications and the needs of the service.

RG 340 records in the custody of the National Archives and Records Administration recount the implementation of the Air Force's integration plan and the work of the Personnel Policy Board from an administrative standpoint.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: NARS-A1 RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/ CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL DIVISION

II.340.1 Entry 3 Special Interest File, 1947–53. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by special file number.

a. Special File 35 (Negro Affairs). Loc: NAI; 190; 63/32/05; Box 26.

Description: The records relate to President Truman's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services, its mission, and the appointment of assistant secretaries from all four armed services to the committee. This committee was chaired by Charles Fahy and set in place a policy of "equality of treatment and opportunity in the armed services." The records document the Air Force's proposal to integrate its service and the subsequent reassignment of African American males to integrated units. They also address the Air Force's policy on Negro personnel, the "barracks problem" (proposed racially segregated housing facilities), and contain a copy of *A Study of the Negro in Military Service* from the Revolutionary War to World War II.

RECORDS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES/RECORDS OF THE AIR FORCE REPRESENTATIVE ON THE DOD PERSONNEL POLICY BOARD

II.340.2 Entry 60 Personnel Policy Board File, 1948–51 [General File by Organization and Subject, 1947–Jan. 1953]. 1 ft. 3 in.

Arrangement: Arranged by date of meeting.

a. PPB Files. Loc: NAI; 190; 78/02/02–78/02/03; Boxes 58–60.

Description: The records contain the minutes of meetings of the Personnel Policy Board and background material with regard to the action taken to implement the "equality of treatment and opportunity in the armed services" policy as set forth in the Executive Order 9981. The records discuss the Air Force's submission of its integration plan and opposition to the "parity of enlistment" (lowering Air Force's enlistment standards). There was also an opinion expressed that the Army and Navy had not complied with the "spirit or letter" of Secretary of Defense Forrestal's request dated April 6, 1949, to do so. It was agreed by those representing the four military services that each service might need a separate policy instead of a common policy covering the entire military establishment. Included are a draft proposal of the "Declaration of Personnel Policy for the Armed Forces of the United States" and a "Report Concerning Nomenclature of Enlistment Form as Pertains to Race," which discusses this problem with recommendations as to the appropriate terms to use without offending specific enlistees.

**Record Group 341 Records of Headquarters United States Air Force
(Air Staff)**

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established as Headquarters U.S. Air Force (HQUSAF) under the Department of the Air Force (DAF) in the National Military Establishment (NME) pursuant to the National Security Act of 1947 (61 Stat. 503), July 26, 1947, and implementing Transfer Order 1, Secretary of Defense, September 26, 1947. Redesignated Air Staff by the Air Force Organization Act of 1951 (65 Stat. 327), September 19, 1951. Provides advice and assistance to the Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force on all aspects of air defense and offense.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

After submitting its integration plan to the Secretary of Defense (Forrestal), the Air Force began the initial phase of implementing the plan by screening the service's 20,146 African Americans that consisted of 269 officers and 19,877 airmen. This was done for the purpose of reassigning eligible persons to formerly all-white units and training schools while eliminating those ineligible from the service entirely. Senior commanders were assembled at an Air Force Commanders' Conference held on April 12, 1949, to inform them of the integration plan's intent, and they were ordered to carry it out in the field as their own personal responsibility.

This is not to say that there was not any opposition to the implementation of such a policy. There were black and white enlisted men and officers who were skeptical of its success.⁷ The integration policy would be enforced only on Air Force bases and not within surrounding civilian communities. All Air Force personnel would conform to the laws and customs of local communities.

Part of the first phase included inactivating and dispersing the 332d Fighter Squadron from Lockbourne Air Field, OH, and subsequently reassigning qualified black men to formerly all-white units.⁸ Simultaneously, racial quotas used for recruitment purposes and Air Force school attendance were abolished. Black males would now enter the service under the same standards as white males, and they would be assigned, classified, promoted, or eliminated from the service in compliance with the policy of equal treatment and opportunity. The speed at which the integration plan was carried out followed a geographical line with southern Air Force bases being the last ones to implement it.

Once instituted the integration plan became universal fairly fast. By the end of the first year (1950), 95 percent of black airmen were serving in integrated units. In addition, the number of black officers and enlisted men rose as well. According to Fahy Committee member E.W. Kenworthy (who toured seven Air Force installations) in "A First Report on the Racial Integration Program of the Air Force," integration was widely accepted at all command levels with little or no problems.

RG 341 records in NARA's custody highlight the Air Force's implementation of the new integration plan. The records document the participation of African Americans from various fields such as journalism, law, higher education, and civil rights organizations in formulating this new policy.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: NARS-A1 **RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL/ DIRECTOR OF CIVIL LAW/MILITARY AFFAIRS DIVISION**

II.341.1 Entry 42b Legal Precedents File, 1942–48 [Security Classified]. ½ in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 190; 64/22/04; Box 22.

Description: The records relate to policies governing race in the Air Force and racial problems as it affects the Army (and Army Air Force) with State, Federal, and War Department policy implications. They include responses to congressional inquiries regarding racial intermingling of servicemen at certain airfields (all air personnel would follow the social custom in regard to race), and assigning colored troops in certain localities and communities (colored troops would be assigned only in localities with commensurate Negro civilian populations). There is also a response to an inquiry of renowned aviatrix Willa B. Brown that concerns Negro youth participating in the air program, and an investigation of discrimination against personnel of the 25th Infantry at Walla Walla, WA.

FINDING AID: NM-15 **RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL, PROCUREMENT, AND TRAINING**

II.341.2 Entry 157 Records on Racial Policies, 1944–50. 1 ft.

Arrangement: Arranged by subject.

a. Files labeled President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services; Trends in the Negro Press; National Defense Conference on Negro Affairs; etc. Loc: NAI; 190; 66/21/01; Boxes 782–784.

Description: The records pertain to information compiled in weekly reports prepared by the Analysis Branch of the News Division that highlight articles from the Negro press such as the *Chicago Defender*, *Norfolk Journal and Guide*, *Pittsburgh Courier*, *Philadelphia Tribune*, and the *Washington Afro-American*. Many of these articles detail the activities of various Negro military units such as the 477th Bombardment Group, 332d Fighter Group, and others. Other articles regard black WACs at Fort Devens, MA; awards received for meritorious service; and incidents of racial discrimination. Included are verbatim transcripts of meetings of the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services, with regard to the postwar utilization of black men in integrated units; and the National Defense Conference on Negro Affairs, which was established to assist the Department of Defense with the development of racial policies in the armed services. There are also copies of *A Study of the Negro in Military Service* that concerns the military service of African Americans from the Revolutionary War to World War II, written by Jean

Byers in June 1947, and U.S. Navy publication *The Integration of the Negro into the United States Navy, 1776–1947*, written by Lt. Dennis Denmark Nelson (USNR), and a report written by James Evans, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, titled “The Negro in the Army.”

Part III

Old Army Cluster

Record Group 77 *Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers*

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established in the War Department by a letter of Secretary of War John C. Calhoun to the Chief of Engineers, Brig. Gen. Jonathan G. Swift, April 3, 1818, transmitting President Monroe's directive that a headquarters office be established in Washington, DC, for the Corps of Engineers, which had been separately established as an element of the U.S. Army by an act of March 16, 1802 (2 Stat. 132). Supervises the activities of the Corps of Engineers. Provides advice and assistance to the Secretary of the Army, the Chief of Staff and other members of the Army Staff, and other Department of the Army organizations. Provides general and specialized engineering services for the Army, the Department of Defense, and other government agencies. Administers the civil works program, a comprehensive Federal program for water resources development, including river and harbor improvements, flood control, and hydroelectric power. Supervised the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY, 1802-66.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Under the guidelines announced by the War Department in October 1940, segregated Negro units were to be established in all of the arms and services of the Army. Many branches, however, remained exempt from this policy while other branches were forced to absorb Negroes in excess of their proportion of the draft.⁹ Such was the case with the Corps of Engineers. Although the Protective Mobilization Plan of 1940 had only provided for the creation of one Negro engineer general service unit (41st Regiment), by the end of 1942, 27 more such units were activated and one engineer aviation regiment and 19 battalions.¹⁰ Negroes also served in engineer water supply battalions and companies and in dump truck and aviation engineer companies. In the Corps of Engineers, approximately every sixth man was a Negro.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: UD

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS

III.77.1 Entry 106b General Correspondence, 1918-45. ¼ in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 390; 01/10/01; Box 140.

Description: The records concern War Department policies as related to Negroes and important questions arising thereunder that should be referred to Truman K. Gibson, Jr., Acting Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War. Other records (with cross-references) regard the assignment of Negroes to units such as the Camouflage Unit, and a reference to a construction company submitting a bid for the construction of Tuskegee Flying Field.

Record Group 92 *Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General*

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established in the War Department to head the Quartermaster Corps (QMC), effective July 15, 1920, by General Order 42, War Department, July 14, 1920, which implemented relevant provisions of the National Defense Act of 1920 (41 Stat. 766), June 4, 1920; restored the traditional name of the office; and assigned to it those quartermaster functions exercised by the Construction Division, Motor Transport Corps, Transportation Service, Purchase and Storage Service, and Real Estate Service. Supplied the Army with clothing, subsistence, and general-purpose equipment. Supervised the disposition of excess and salvaged supplies. Performed duties related to the disposition of combat dead, including maintaining the national cemeteries. Responsibility for procuring land for the Army, and for constructing and maintaining military buildings and utilities, transferred to Office of the Chief of Engineers, 1941. Responsibility for transporting troops and supplies transferred to Transportation Division, SOS, 1942. Responsibility for procuring general purpose automotive vehicles transferred to Ordnance Department, SOS, 1942. Joint service logistical responsibilities transferred to Defense Supply Service Agency, Department of Defense (DOD), effective January 1, 1962, by DOD Directive 5105.22, November 6, 1961. Abolished effective August 1, 1962, by General Order 44, DA, July 23, 1962.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The War Department, hoping to alleviate the problem encountered during World War I of not being able to mobilize adequate percentages of African Americans, studied the manpower problem again in 1937 as it had in 1931. This study recommended the mobilization of Negroes and whites in proportion to their total population, so as to avoid a racially unbalanced Army in time of war. These recommendations were incorporated into the Mobilization Regulations that were rewritten and later published in 1940.

An estimated 100,000 African Americans in the Army were assigned to the branches to which they were allotted according to the mobilization plans near the end of 1941. By April 1942, 34 percent of all quartermaster units were African American, and before the war's end there were 1,600 Negro quartermaster companies.¹¹ The Quartermaster General, along with the Corps of Engineers, were forced to enlist Negroes above the allotted percentage because some service units did not traditionally enlist them.

As the Army's demand for service units increased, more troops were sent overseas to certain theaters of operation. African American quartermaster units included truck, car, railroad, bakery, salvage repair, salvage collecting, laundry, fumigation and bath, gas supply,

sterilization and pack units that varied in size from regiments to detachments.

RG 92 records document the treatment of Negro troops and the Army's opinion of their skills and capabilities.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: NARS-A1 RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

III.92.1 Entry 1890a General Correspondence "Subject File," 1936-45. ½ in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Negroes, Policy, Precedent). Loc: NAI; 390; 03/32/02; Box 62.

Description: The records regard the treatment of Negro soldiers as outlined under Army Regulation 600-10, which was devised to help sustain and improve troop morale. This regulation forbade supervisors "to injure those under their authority by tyrannical or capricious conduct or by abusive language." Supervisors were further warned to avoid the use of racial epithets when addressing certain racial groups as well as to avoid differentiating between colored and white soldiers. All references to any policies pertaining to Negroes were recommended for referral to Judge William H. Hastie, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War.

b. Decimal File 322 (Negroes). Loc: NAI; 390; 03/33/04; Box 120.

Description: The records concern opposition to the integration of white and Negro enlisted personnel as expressed by various Army commanders. It was noted that a decrease in the overall efficiency of all-colored units would occur "due to the low percentage bracket for higher intelligence among Negro enlisted men," and that higher grades (because of the intelligence factor) would be allotted to white personnel thereby blocking advancement for Negro enlisted men. A suggestion was also made to use Negroes as "purely common labor." There are records that regard the use of Negro troops in Arctic regions citing observations in the field in Alaska and northwestern Canada, with a recommendation that the Army assign only those from the northern United States to the Arctic region as those persons are better suited to work under such conditions. A recommendation was also made that the Army adequately train and equip troops for combat in Arctic and sub-Arctic regions.

III.92.2 Entry 1890f General Correspondence "Subject File," 1955-56. ⅛ in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 390; 04/33/06; Box 75.

Description: The records concern the Fair Employment Program policy and procedure for

investigating complaints of discrimination. They highlight significant complaints of Negroes alleging discrimination in employment and hiring practices. There is a reference to responding to the President's Committee on Government Employment Policy on a one-time request for a report on the positions, grades, and supervisory assignments of Negroes in certain metropolitan areas. The purpose of this report was to appraise the effectiveness with which appointing officers are "carrying out the policies expressed in Executive Order 10590" in such metropolitan areas as Chicago, IL; Los Angeles, CA; Mobile, AL; Norfolk-Portsmouth, VA; St. Louis, MO; and Washington, DC.

III.92.3 Entry 1890aa Formerly Classified General Correspondence "Subject File," 1936-54 [1946-52]. ¼ in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 390; 04/29/02; Box 30.

Description: The records pertain to the topic of the extended use of Negroes as cooks and bakers in the U.S. Army as proposed by Secretary of Defense Forrestal in a discussion with Quartermaster General Feldman. They detail the dialogue regarding a study undertaken by the G-1 Personnel Staff to investigate this issue. Based, however, on President Truman's Executive Order 9981, concerning the "equality of treatment and opportunity without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin," any further expanded use of Negroes as cooks and bakers would not be desirable as it would not make good use of personnel resources. Moreover, it was evidenced that Negro cooks and bakers were in excess of the Negro unit requirement that forced the Army to subsequently reassign them to other tour-of-duty units.

**FINDING AID: NM-81
RECORDS OF THE CEMETERIAL DIVISION**

III.92.4 Entry 1942 Cemeterial Files, 1915-39. ½ in.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by surname of person.

a. File labeled Young, Charles Col. Loc: NAI; 370; 67/22/01; Box 5265.

Description: The records relate to the Army Quartermaster General's authorizing the erection of a cemetery monument on the plot of retired Col. Charles D. Young who was buried in the Arlington National Cemetery. Young died while on active duty as a military attache to the American Legation to Liberia and passed away in Lagos, Nigeria, on January 8, 1922. His grave was previously indicated only by a wooden marker. He was born and reared in Ripley, OH, received a military appointment to West Point, and later served honorably with the 9th Cavalry during the Spanish-American War.

Record Group 107 Records of the Office of the Secretary of War

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established by the act creating the War Department, August 7, 1789 (1 Stat. 49). Supervised all activities of the War Department. Responsible for naval affairs until 1798 and for military bounty lands, military pensions, and Indian affairs until 1849. Abolished effective September 18, 1947, by the National Security Act of 1947 (61 Stat. 501), July 26, 1947.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Hoping to placate African Americans who demanded integration of the armed services and to gain their favorable support for the utilization of black troops on a “fair and equitable basis,” President Franklin D. Roosevelt named Judge William H. Hastie, dean of the Howard University Law School, as the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War. Not unlike many African Americans who sought full integration of the armed services, Judge Hastie himself was “determined to break the racial logjam in the War Department” and was willing to exchange long-term goals for slower-paced progress.¹²

The War Department, nevertheless, envisioned that Judge Hastie would advise Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson on matters relevant to African Americans in the military. Judge Hastie received very little support or encouragement from Secretary of War Stimson or his Chief of Staff George C. Marshall, both of whom were cognizant of the military tradition of segregated units since 1863. Stimson was a proponent of civil rights but an opponent of social integration of the races and adhered throughout the war to the beliefs and opinions of the Army’s professional staff.¹³ With Judge Hastie’s resignation on July 31, 1943, his assistant Truman K. Gibson took over the position as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War.

RG 107 records demonstrate the working relationships among the Civilian Aide, the Secretary of War, and others in the War Department; black troops; various organizations such as the NAACP and the Urban League; and the African American public at large.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: NARS-A1

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR

III.107.1 Entry 99 Formerly Top Secret Correspondence of Secretary of War Stimson (“Safe File”), 1940–45. 3 in.

Arranged: Arranged alphabetically by subject.

- a. Files labeled Colored troops & problems; Negroes—Report of Judge Hastie; & Race Riots. Loc: NAI; 390; 08/32/05–08/32/07; Boxes 3, 10, and 12.

Description: The records regard the Army registration ratio for Negroes, and a summary of

issues relevant to “Negroes in the Army,” discussed during a conference between Judge William H. Hastie and Secretary of War Stimson. Other records concern Negro intelligence; combat experience of Negro troop units from the Civil War to World War I and references to individual Negro units’ combat performances thereof; an Office of Product Management notice of the complaints of Negro workers in defense production; a demand made by the March-on-Washington Committee for “jobs and justice in national defense and participation and equal integration into the Nation’s military and naval forces”; a meeting of Secretary of War Stimson with Negro and white representatives of the AFL, CIO, and railroad unions in response to the Detroit race riot; and a recommendation for an Executive order disallowing discrimination in all defense contracts. The records include a copy of Judge Hastie’s “Survey and Recommendations Concerning the Integration of the Negro Soldier into the Army,” covering issues such as segregation, troop morale, and conclusions and recommendations; and a report detailing the “Causative Factors of the Detroit Race Riot” of June 20, 1943.

III.107.2 Entry 102 Coordination & Records Decimal File, 1943–46 [General Correspondence]. 5 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Negroes). Loc: NAI; 390; 09/01/03; Boxes 86–87.

Description: The records consist mostly of cross-reference sheets used to access related files (with some original correspondence attached) summarizing an investigation requested by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) regarding a racial attack on a colored soldier at Camp Devens, MA, and his subsequent court-martial by the Army and other similar courts-martial; an investigation of a Negro private’s death while in the custody of civil authorities; a Special Inspector’s investigation of the professional qualities of officers assigned to Negro units (officers were of a mediocre caliber); and the segregation of Negro blood plasma. The records include references to Walter White’s report on the 93d Infantry Division in which he suggested the existence “of a deliberate campaign of disparagement of the division’s combat performance”; a review of the Gillem Board report; and an outline of the “participation of Negro troops in the Post-War Military Establishment.” They also contain a congressional inquiry regarding the disbanding of the 9th and 10th Cavalry (Negro) regiments without the direct consent of Congress, and an inquiry on plans for the organization of WAVES and Marine Corps for Negro women.

III.107.3 Entry 108 Secretary of the Army (Patterson) General Decimal File, 1946–47 [Formerly Security Classified Correspondence]. ¼ in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Negroes). Loc: NAI; 390; 09/03/05; Box 4.

Description: The records relate to the recommendation of the Gillem Board that the War Department enlist 10 percent of Negro soldiers, the retention of transfer of the 19th Military

Police Company (Negro), reports of racial tensions at Fort Benning, GA, and a response to the editor of the *Afro-American Newspaper* (Baltimore, MD) concerning complaints of mistreatment by 10 Negro trainees at the Manila Rehabilitation Center in the Philippines.

III.107.4 Entry 110 Coordination & Records Decimal File, 1946–47 [General Correspondence]. 2 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Negroes). Loc: NAII; 390; 09/05/05; Box 221.

Description: The records concern NAACP opposition to a War Department order that all Negro enlistees and reenlistees be sent to Fort Jackson, SC, contrary to the integration policy set forth in the Gillem Board report; the War Department's opposition report to H.R. 279 (80th Congress), a bill "to prohibit race segregation in the armed services" after the termination of hostilities in the present war and the beginning of demobilization; and plans for the utilization of Negro manpower. There are responses to matters regarding employment of Negroes in the Medical Corps, fraternization of Negro soldiers and German women during and after World War II, and Negro civilian employees of the War Department being displaced with the ending of the war. Included also is an inquiry of Walter White (secretary of the NAACP) on behalf of his son serving in the Army who wished to be transferred to Germany; allegations of cruel and inhuman punishment of prisoners in the stockades at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD; and a report of the mistreatment of a Negro veteran by civilian police in Aiken, SC, during an incident in which he was blinded (his eyes were gouged out with a billy club).

RECORDS OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF WAR

III.107.5 Entry 140 Formerly Security-Classified "Confidential" Correspondence, 1940–43. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race; Negroes). Loc: NAII; 390; 09/10/02; Box 2.

Description: The records regard an inquiry of the proficiency of Negro pilots trained at Tuskegee Air Base; requests for weekend military police presence in Bunkie, LA; and the treatment of Negro soldiers under Army Regulation 600-10 (specifically of treatment in the North and South). There are references to a race and labor situation at a magnesium plant in Las Vegas, NV (Negro labor was gradually being reduced); opposition to a proposed Executive order that would require all defense contracts to include a clause disallowing discrimination; recommendation of Judge William H. Hastie (Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War) concerning Negro troops and his opposition to the 1942 troop basis; and a Department of Justice investigation of an attack made upon Negro troops outside of Gurdon, AR, by white state troopers and civilians. The records also pertain to the training of the 93d Infantry Division at Camp Huachuca, AZ, with regard to the capabilities or attitudes of

white officers, Negro officers, and Negro enlisted men; the segregation of Negro blood plasma; and the opposition of some to the unanticipated use of colored troops to guard airfields, airports, and civilian aviation training schools.

III.107.6 Entry 141 Formerly-Security Classified Correspondence, 1943–45. ¼ in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race; Negroes). Loc: NAII; 390; 09/10/06; Box 236.

Description: The records pertain to preventive action to eliminate causes of civilian racial disturbances of concern to the War Department, detailing some of the principal causes of racial tension and action to counteract the effects of such problems. Included is a copy of “The Negroes’ Role in the War: A Study of White and Colored Opinions” compiled by the Office of War Information (OWI) in collaboration with the National Opinion Research Center of the University of Denver. This study was a part of a larger OWI research project designed “to serve as a basis for informational programs to and about Negroes,” the objective being to provide measures of Negro desires for increased participation in the war effort and “white willingness to accommodate to increased Negro participation.” Interviews were held with cross-sections of white and Negro populations in five cities: Birmingham, AL; Raleigh, NC; Oklahoma City, OK; Chicago, IL; and Detroit, MI.

III.107.7 Entry 143 General Correspondence “Decimal File” [Dec. 1940–Mar. 1943]. 6 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race; Negroes). Loc: NAII; 390; 09/12/05; Boxes 51–52.

Description: The records contain some cross-index sheets used to access related files with references to the employment of Negroes by corporations for war-related work, Negro induction into the Army, discrimination against Negro soldiers on public transportation in the South, use of Negroes as Special Service officers, and the alleged discriminatory attitude of the War Department in relation to Negroes in the Army Medical Corps. The documents concern the segregation of buses running between Washington, DC, and the Pentagon Building in Arlington, VA; segregation of Negro patients at Kennedy General Hospital in Memphis, TN; and the limited opportunity for Negroes to be trained as officers in the Army Air Forces. Other records include a request for access to organizational records to answer inquiries relating to Negro troops in the war, a progress report on the 93d Infantry Division, and a reference to alleged discrimination against furloughed Negro soldiers sent by the U.S. Employment Service to work for a mining company in Butte, MT.

III.107.8 Entry 144 Administrative Office–Decimal File, 1943–45 [General Correspondence]. 2 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Negroes). Loc: NAI; 390; 09/16/06; Box 447.

Description: The records concern the assignment of Negro nurses to the Army Nurse Corps, and the training of Negro army nurses at Fort Huachuca, AZ; alleged discrimination by the Western Cartridge Company in the employment of Negroes and mass layoffs at its subsidiary U.S. Cartridge Company, which hired Negroes; and the protection of Negroes at the Bethlehem Steel Ship Yards at Sparrows Point, MD. Included is a copy of Dr. Lawrence Kubie's report "The Negro Troops and the Negro Physician in the Armed Services" gathered during his visit to Selfridge and Oscoda Fields, MI; a copy of Walter White's OWI report "Observations and Recommendations on Racial Relations in the ETO," in which he visited 25 installations while on a 16-day tour; and abstracts of White's interview with Gen. Douglas MacArthur relating to the utilization of Negro combat troops (93d Infantry Division and others in the Pacific Theater of Operations). There are references to white workers at Packard Motor Company going on strike rather working with Negroes, and a slanderous statement made by Mississippi Senator James O. Eastland regarding the military service of Negro troops.

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR

III.107.9 Entry 180 Formerly Security-Classified Correspondence of John J. McCloy, 1941-45. 4 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Negroes; Race). Loc: NAI; 390; 09/32/05; Box 15.

Description: The records regard the assignment of Negro troops to theaters of operation and overseas stations, policy on promotions and assignments of Negro officer personnel, and a proposed plan to integrate small units of colored troops (the size of platoons) into white combat divisions. There are references to the combat performances of the 600th Field Artillery Battalion and the 761st Tank Battalion; a utilization plan for Negro combat aviation units such as the 477th Bombardment Group and the 332d Fighter Group; combat reports of Negro units such as the 24th and 25th Infantry Regiments and the 93d Infantry Division at Bougainville, Green Island, and Emirau Island; and data on colored troops in the Pacific Area and the use of Negro troops in occupational forces in Germany. Included are extracts from a radio message of General MacArthur stating "the 93rd is not a good Division. Everything possible is being done to develop it so that it can be used in combat with distinction as there is no possibility of using Australian troops earlier than the dates on RENO 5." Also included is a Gillem Board correlated copy of "Supplement Report of Board of Officers Proposals to Improve Race Relations in the Post-War Army."

III.107.10 Entry 183 General Correspondence of John J. McCloy, 1941-45. 1 ft. 9 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Negro Troops). Loc: NAI; 390; 09/34/04; Boxes 35-39.

Description: The records pertain to the condition, treatment, and utilization of Negro troops, with references to requests for reclassifications of Negro soldiers and postwar demobilization of the Negro; the resignation of Judge William H. Hastie as the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War, effective July 31, 1943; testimonies of chaplains as to the conditions in the 76th Coast Artillery (Negro); to an inspection tour of Gen. Benjamin O. Davis in the European Theater of Operation; and the assignment of Negro combat units to Hawaii. They include "A Study on the Colored Soldier in the U.S. Army" and a copy of "Survey and Recommendations Concerning the Integration of the Negro Soldier into the Army" that was submitted by the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War. Moreover, there is a reference to McCloy's belief that the Negro press should (when writing editorials and articles with references to Negro troops and whites) lessen the emphasis upon discriminatory acts and racial incidents. Other records relate to inquiries about Negro soldiers imprisoned in England and Mannheim, Germany; conversion of the 9th and 10th Cavalry into infantry service troops; Army/Navy limited experiment with partial integration of attaching Negro units with white units and of common training in the Officer Candidate Schools (OCS); an outline of the postwar Negro plan study; and films produced for the purpose of advising troops concerning postwar problems that did not adequately address problems of Negro soldiers.

III.107.11 Entry 186 Formerly Security-Classified Correspondence of Howard Petersen, 1945–47. 5 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Negroes). Loc: NAI; 390; 09/35/06; Box 20.

Description: The records concern the Armed Forces Leave Act of 1946, opposition to the continued segregation of Negroes in the post–World War II Army, and the War Department racial policy in the Panama Canal Zone following an article "Jim Crow at the Canal" published in the *Survey Graphic*. There are references to Negro veterans of World War II and their attempts to receive the "Terminal Leave Pay" before its expiration on September 1, 1947, and inquiries regarding paternity claims for "half-caste" babies born of U.S. Negro servicemen and British women. Other records pertain to the War Department policy on the enlistment and reenlistment of Negro personnel, the question of the integration of National Guard and reserve units, an investigation of discrimination at Fort Jackson, SC, and a transcript of a telephone conversation between Generals McClure and Parks discussing a pending lawsuit filed by a Negro group in Pittsburgh, PA, alleging discrimination in the Army recruiting program.

III.107.12 Entry 188 Civilian Aide to the Secretary—Subject File [General Correspondence (Judge Hastie File), 1940–48]. 35 ft. 4 in.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by subject. A subject list is available.

a. Files labeled Aberdeen Proving Ground through 761st Tank Destroyer Battalion. Loc: NAI; 390; 10/01/03–10/03/01; Boxes 176–260.

Description: The records pertain to post swimming pool regulations at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD, governing its use by whites and Negroes, and requests made upon the Civilian Aide's office to assist those seeking employment opportunities as chaplains, nurses, aerial observers, combat navigators, and aviation pilots. Also contained in the files is an exchange of correspondence between NAACP Secretary Walter White and Assistant Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War James C. Evans, regarding the NAACP employing Jean Byers to compile the history of Negro servicemen in World War II. There is a letter written by Mary McLeod Bethune requesting the Civilian Aide's advice as to how her grandson Albert Bethune could transfer from an Army infantry unit to the Air Corps. Many Negro soldiers also requested access to training in combat air intelligence and bomb disposal. Other inquiries were received from Negroes who expressed difficulties with placing applications to the Army Air Forces, such as Sgt. Douglas G. Brown of the 1964th Ordnance Company (Depot) Aviation, who was advised repeatedly to apply at the next station. Included also is an inquiry of renowned aviatrix Willa B. Brown, Coordinator of the Coffey School of Aeronautics (Oak Lawn, IL), who expressed an interest in establishing Army Air Force flight school training for Negroes in Chicago, IL, and reports such as "Observations and Recommendations of Walter White on Racial Relations in the ETO," as well as White's observations in the North African and Middle Eastern Theaters of Operation. Other records relate to the use of Negro teachers to teach illiterate soldiers; the proposed Negro March-on-Washington to occur on July 1, 1941; allegations of the WAAC practice of discrimination against colored women; racial discrimination complaints of Negro soldiers; racial disturbances such as in Alexandria, LA, and Moultrie, GA; NAACP inquiries (from Walter White, Thurgood Marshall and others) about the treatment of Negro soldiers; inquiries about Negro war casualties, and violence against Negro military personnel.

III.107.13 Entry 189 Civilian Aide to the Secretary, Racial Situation in Army, 1944-46 [Formerly Security-Classified Reports and Memorandums Concerning Race Relations in the United States and Overseas]. 2 ft. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged by subject.

- a. Files labeled Reports of Racial Situation; FBI; Extracts from Weekly Intelligence Reports; and Technical Intelligence Reports. Loc: NAI; 390; 10/03/01; Boxes 261-265.

Description: The records relate to reports on the racial situation at the Walterboro Army Air Field in Walterboro, SC, as a result of Negro officers being dissatisfied with certain administrative policies of the base; the arrest of a Negro soldier by Walterboro, SC, civil authorities for resisting arrest and aggravated assault; and a nonracial incident at a railroad station in Hamlet, NC, in which white and Negro soldiers were arrested for drunkenness. There is a reference to a disturbance involving three Negro WACS (of the 155th Service Command) during which they allegedly resisted efforts of a white military policeman to move them from the "white waiting room" to the "colored waiting room" of a Greyhound bus station in Elizabethtown, KY. Included also are weekly intelligence summaries on subversive situations, racial situations, riots, and other domestic disturbances; technical intelligence reports regarding Negro troops in Europe; a reported "near mutiny" in close proximity to Camp Shelby, MS; and racial problems at Camp Lee, VA.

RECORDS OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR FOR AIR

III.107.14 Entry 210 Classified Decimal File, 1940–46 [Formerly Security-Classified Correspondence]. 6 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Negroes). Loc: NAI; 390; 10/04/06; Boxes 94–96.

Description: The records pertain to responses to inquiries on the training of Negro flying cadets at Tuskegee Institute (Tuskegee, AL) and training in special ground and technical work such as meteorology, armament, and engineering; the activation of the 99th Pursuit Squadron; and indications of recruiting problems in Chicago, IL, due to Negro recruits not wanting to “wind up in a jim-crow, makeshift, outfit near Tuskegee. If the Army would develop an equitable plan we could secure over five hundred men in less than a week.”¹⁴ They also concern a decision made to reduce the strength of the 332d Fighter Group (Negro), and a statement of Judge William H. Hastie, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War, in reference to the graduation rate of colored pilots to white pilots (42 percent to 59 percent) that colored pilots qualified for one of the most difficult types of work— “pursuit pilots.” Other records relate to the use of Negro medical officers; references to the Tuskegee Airmen Association; and reports, testimonies, and investigations of racial discrimination at Walnut Ridge Army Air Field, Camp Deming, LA, and Harding Field, LA.

Record Group 111 *Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer*

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established in the War Department, to head the Signal Service, by General Order 56, War Department, August 1, 1866, pursuant to the act fixing the peacetime establishment of the Army (14 Stat. 335), July 28, 1866. Administered the U.S. Army Signal Service (Signal Corps), with overall responsibility for research and development in communications; procurement, testing, and operation of signal equipment; maintenance of signal security; and collection of communications intelligence. Served as principal adviser to the Secretary of War (after 1947 the Secretary of the Army) and the Chief of Staff on all aspects of communications. Provided Army motion picture and photographic service. Operated national weather observation system, 1878–90. Responsibility for aviation development, 1914–18. Abolished by General Order 28, Department of the Army, February 28, 1964.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

During the summer of 1940, the Organization and Training Division of the War Department endeavored to right the policy defects of the 1937 Protective Mobilization Plan. The division recommended that the list of black units be expanded because many of the provisions regarding African American military personnel were outdated. Moreover, the division

opined that all arms and service units except the Air Corps and Signal Corps be required to accept a reasonable proportion of African Americans.

However, the Divisions of Personnel and War Plans both opposed the restriction of African Americans from the Air and Signal Corps. War Plans Division noted that "it is neither desirable nor practicable in a major mobilization to exclude Negro manpower per se from any Arm or Service. Furthermore, it is the opinion of this Division that Negro manpower can be successfully employed in some capacities in both the Air Corps and the Signal Corps."¹⁵ Even though the Signal Corps believed that it would be difficult to secure such adequately trained and qualified personnel, it did enlist Negroes based on the fixed quota of 10 percent but in many instances enlisted less than the required quota.

The RG 111 records document the attempts made by African Americans to enlist in the Signal Corps and their subsequent training and treatment upon enlisting.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: UD RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER

III.111.1 Entry 1023a Unclassified Central Decimal Files, 1941–57 [1941–45]. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (General; Negroes). Loc: NAI; 390; 10/28/02; Box 474.

Description: The records concern a hearing held on a dismissal case of a Negro woman employed by the U.S. Army Philadelphia Signal Depot, who alleged discrimination due to her union-affiliated activities; discrimination complaints lodged by Negro men attempting to register as Signal Corps trainees in Cleveland, OH; St. Louis, MO; Chicago, IL; Minneapolis, MN; and Kansas City, KS; and a reference to attacks made upon colored officers in the Quartermaster and Signal Corps depots. Other records regard the employment of colored enlisted personnel under the quota stipulation, inquiries pertaining to the lack of colored lieutenants and captains in the Signal and Quartermaster Corps, and the requirement that employment applications under contract with the Signal Corps must disallow references to religious affiliations.

III.111.2 Entry 1023b Unclassified Central Decimal Files, 1941–57 [1946–48]. ½ in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (General). Loc: NAI; 390; 12/05/07; Box 124.

Description: The records pertain to the enlistment, training, and utilization of Negroes for special units under provisions of Memorandum 600-750-26; the assignment of Negro officers and noncommissioned officers to the European Command (EUCOM) specifically for "married officers"; a special report on Negro enlisted personnel at the Signal Corps Photographic Center on Long Island, NY; and a reference to the "Continuity of Unit Histories"

for preserving the history and traditions of former Negro units as enunciated in War Department Circular 124 of April 27, 1946.

Record Group 112 *Records of the Office of the Surgeon General (Army)*

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established in the War Department by an act of April 14, 1818 (3 Stat. 426), regulating the staff of the Army. Administers the Army Medical Department. Provides advice and assistance on medical matters to the Secretary of the Army, the Chief of Staff, and other elements of the Department of the Army. Exercises general oversight and control of all aspects of Army health services.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Medical Department experienced similar difficulties with providing units to meet the required enlistment quota of African Americans. This particular problem also centered around the utilization of black physicians, dentists, and nurses, and the initial use of African American officers. In October 1940, the Surgeon General proposed that black Medical Department officers (and nurses) be utilized in all units officered by other African Americans. These segregated medical companies, later renamed sanitary companies, were to provide ward and professional services for hospitals having 100 or more black patients.¹⁶ A provision was also included in the plan for the National Medical Association, the black counterpart to the American Medical Association, to indicate the names of African American physicians for use by the Medical Department.

It was deemed, nevertheless, impractical and uneconomical to implement the plan as originally envisioned, and the units instead were viewed as hospital service units. Black males were to replace white males who were used as chauffeurs, cooks, cooks' helpers, orderlies, and basics in a general hospital, and they would be housed, messed, and managed by other black officers. Medical sanitary companies were to be assigned to hospitals with 1,000 or more beds, but funding difficulties delayed their activation until a need arose to create new black units to absorb the Medical Department's quota. Two medical sanitary companies were activated in 1941 "because of pressure on G-1 (Personnel) to put colored medical personnel on duty."¹⁷ An additional 54 units were activated in 1942, and 31 more between 1943 and 1944, although many of those activated in 1943 were later disbanded.

The RG 112 records document the interaction of the Surgeon General and the Medical Department with the National Medical Association and the African American community concerning the use of black doctors, dentists, nurses, and others during World War II.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: NARS-A1 RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL

III.112.1 Entry 30a General Subject File, 1938–44 [Formerly Security-Classified General Correspondence, 1938–48]. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAII; 390; 14/34/03; Box 15.

Description: The records regard the assignment of Negro personnel to the Medical Department, utilization of Negro nurses, and the use of Negro physicians at induction stations. Included are references to the policy on the movement of Negro personnel from one station to another, publicity on Negro troops overseas, and officer candidate schools for Negroes. There is a synopsis of a meeting held between the Army Surgeon General (Magee) and representatives of the National Medical Association (NMA) to discuss the use of Negro physicians, dentists, and nurses in the national defense. In addition, the records relate to Secretary of War Stimson's press conference on the use of Negro doctors (and the NMA's response to it) and to the conference on Negro Health and Hospitalization. The records also contain summaries entitled "Racial Situation in the United States" and a checklist of current problems pertaining to colored troops.

III.112.2 Entry 30b General Subject File, 1945–46 [Formerly Security-Classified General Correspondence, 1938–48]. ½ in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAII; 390; 15/01/06; Box 137.

Description: The records pertain to problems of Negro military personnel, policy governing the assignment of Negro officers, utilization of Negro manpower in the postwar Army (specifically in the Medical Department), and summaries entitled "Racial Situation in the United States."

III.112.3 Entry 31ah WWII Administrative Records—ZI [Geographic File, 1917–49]. 4 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Negroes). Loc: NAII; 390; 16/08/04; Boxes 199–200.

Description: The records contain the minutes of the Negro Health Committee regarding the use of Negro doctors, nurses, and dentists by the Army's Medical Department. This committee was composed of Army Surgeon General Magee, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War William H. Hastie, dean of Howard's School of Dentistry Dr. Russell Dixon, president

of the National Medical Association Dr. A.N. Vaughn, and others. There are references to the employment, assignment, training, and housing of Negro medical sanitary companies; use of Negro over-age officers; use of Negro blood plasma; and establishment of a Negro hospital at Fort Huachuca, AZ. The records also contain various inquiries such as those from Eleanor Roosevelt and others relating to the use of Negro doctors and property in Arkansas, and a general inquiry of British Minister of Health Sir Wilson Jameson of Whitehall requesting information on the number of illegitimate colored children born in certain British counties where colored troops were stationed.

III.112.4 Entry 31ai WWII Administrative Records ETO [Geographic File, 1917–49].
½ in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Misc. Info. pertaining to Negroes). Loc: NAI; 390; 17/01/03; Box 119.

Description: The records concern the treatment Negro soldiers, employment of Negro sanitary companies, policy on the promotion and assignment of Negro officer personnel, and an investigation regarding Negro babies born of Negro troops and British women in Lancashire, Preston, and Manchester England. Also included is a "Paper on Psychology of Handling Colored Troops," with various tips from an Army commander on how to get the best performance out of Negro troops, and a reference to the control of colored troops stationed in the United Kingdom.

FINDING AID: NM-20

III.112.5 Entry 29d General Subject File, 1938–40. ¼ in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 390; 14/20/03; Box 18.

Description: The records pertain to the Medical Department's plan for the employment of Negro personnel with a recommendation that Negro medical officers be assigned to units officered by Negroes. This plan further noted that Negro medical officers would not be used on mixed wards (although segregation was not being planned) and warned against misuse or excessive use of Negro physicians so as not to disrupt the colored civilian population's medical practice. Included as well are inquiries concerning the contemplated use of Negro Army Medical Corps Reserve officers.

III.112.6 Entry 29e General Subject File, 1941–42. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race; General). Loc: NAI; 390; 14/22/02; Box 108.

Description: The records relate to a survey conducted by the Research Branch of the Special Service Division on a cross-section of 5,872 white enlisted men. This survey, titled "Attitudes of Enlisted Men Toward Negroes For Air Force Duty," discovered the prevailing opinion of "train Negroes as pilots, bombardiers, and navigators but segregate the Negro both in training and in subsequent duty." There are references to the Subcommittee on Negro Health (of the Health and Medical Committee) meeting to discuss health problems of Negroes in areas of defense and troop concentration; complaints of racial discrimination against Negroes in the Army Medical Corps; and the list of Negro physicians recommended by National Medical Association (NMA) for appointment in the Medical Corps Reserve; the placement of colored nurses in active service in the Army; and opposition to the segregation of Negro medical officers in the armed services. The records also concern an inquiry of the Selective Service System about psychiatrists at various induction centers who would ask Negro registrants their opinion regarding segregation and discrimination, and then afterwards reject them for speaking freely though prompted to do so. There is a reference to the censuring of Dr. M. O. Bousfield regarding methods used in establishing a station hospital at Fort Huachuca, AZ.

III.112.7 Entry 29f General Subject File, 1943–44. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race; General). Loc: NAII; 390; 14/26/02; Box 307.

Description: The records pertain to congressional inquiries on the rejection of Negroes by Army medical officers, segregation of the races in Army hospitals, and policy on promotion and assignment of Negro officer personnel. Included are references to Negro manpower in medical units in the postwar Army, a list of colored Medical Corps officers, a report of a visit to Fort Huachuca, AZ, and a copy of the Historical Division's monograph "Integration of Negro and White Troops in the U.S. Army, Europe, 1952–54," which described the program's planning, execution, and operation, and the motivation for integration.

III.112.8 Entry 29g General Subject File, 1945–46. ½ in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAII; 390; 14/31/02; Box 551.

Description: The records relate to racial discrimination against Negro nurses and physicians, suspension of the enlistment of Negro personnel (as of July 16, 1946), postwar utilization of Negro troops, and a congressional inquiry regarding the issue of housing whites and Negroes together in the same Army hospital.

RECORDS OF THE INSPECTION BRANCH

III.112.9 Entry 302 Interviews with Officers Visiting S.G.O. Installations, 1943–45.
Neg.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by interview report number.

a. Interview Report #39. Loc: NAI; 390; 18/25/02; Box 218.

Description: The records concern an interview held with Lt. Susan E. Freeman of the Army Nurses Corps. Lieutenant Freeman was the Chief Nurse of the 25th Station Hospital in Liberia for eight months. This particular station hospital was established to serve Negro troops, and it consisted of 17 colored medical officers, 30 colored nurses, and approximately 180 colored enlisted men in addition to some whites from other units being stationed there as well. Interviews were held (from Aug. 1943 to Sept. 1945) with selected officers who visited the Surgeon General's Office to ascertain constructive criticism of Medical Department activities in their field. During her interview, Freeman commented on the geography and climate, personnel and organization, medical situation, and supplies. She also noted that the nurses should be physically fit and "selected" (rather than being assigned automatically) for work in the tropics. Freeman said the 25th Station Hospital was "sort of a good-will mission" and they were told to befriend the Liberians.

Record Group 156 *Records of the Office of the Chief of Ordnance*

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established by the act organizing the Ordnance Department (4 Stat. 504), April 5, 1832, from a combined corps of ordnance and artillery. Developed, tested, maintained, repaired, procured, and distributed Army ordnance and ordnance equipment. Abolished by a reorganization of the Department of the Army, effective August 1, 1962.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Ordnance Department instituted ammunition companies for the enlistment of Negroes but did not provide for their overall enlistment in other areas of the department. Aviation ordnance depot and aviation ordnance supply and maintenance companies were attached to the Army Air Forces.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: NM-26

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL/CIVILIAN PERSONNEL DIVISION

III.156.1 Entry 664 General Administrative Correspondence of the Labor Branch.

4 in.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by subject.

a. Files labeled Discrimination—Racial. Loc: NAI; 390; 20/20/02; Boxes C-1-C-2.

Description: The records pertain to allegations of racial discrimination as lodged by Negroes employed or seeking employment with the Ordnance Department or with Ordnance Department contractors or subcontractors such as U.S. Rubber Company, U.S. Cartridge Company, General Tire Company, McQuay-Norris Company, and E. I. DuPont de Nemours. The President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices initiated investigations of these companies and others after receiving complaints made by either Negroes or labor unions, and in turn ordered such companies to accept available workers without race or color discrimination. The files also contain summaries and testimonies of the alleged discrimination complaints.

Record Group 159 *Records of the Office of the Inspector General (Army)*

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established in the War Department by an act of March 3, 1813 (2 Stat. 819). Transferred to the War Department General Staff as a special staff division, February 10, 1942; to the Army Staff as a special staff division in the reorganization of the armed services mandated by the National Security Act of 1947 (61 Stat 495), July 26, 1947; to the personal staff component of the Army Staff, 1972. Inspects, investigates, and reports on all matters affecting the efficiency, discipline, and welfare of the Army.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1943, the Inspector General recommended that white officers be considered for rotational training assignments with Negro troops although it was not a requirement. During an overall survey taken in the fall of 1943, the Inspector General determined that the status of Negro units had become difficult.¹⁸ The conclusion of the survey affirmed that the Army did not have a uniform policy governing the activation, training, and employment of Negro units and that the lack of such a policy led to the ineffective use of these units as well as a waste of manpower resources.

The RG 159 records recount the treatment of African American troops and the Army Inspector Generals' investigation of complaints of discrimination.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: NARS-A1

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

III.159.1 Entry 25c Index to Decimal Correspondence, 1917-54; Organization File [Company and Military Unit Index to the Unclassified and Formerly Confidential Correspondence, 1917-54]. 3 in.

Arrangement: Arranged by subject.

- a. Index cards labeled NAACP; Negroes; and Mistreatment. Loc: NAI; 190; 05/03/00; and 05/09/00-05/10/00; Boxes 11, 73, and 74.

Description: The index cards provide cross-references to War Department decimal file numbers, specifically 291.2 (Race) and 333.9 (Mistreatment) with regard to treatment of Negroes in the U.S. Army.

FINDING AID: NM-37

III.159.2 Entry 26d General Correspondence, 1939–47. 7 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

- a. Decimal File 291.2 (Negroes). Loc: NAI; 190; 07/03/00; Boxes 241–242.

Description: The records concern the suggested need for educating and training Negro soldiers; a congressional inquiry of alleged discrimination against Negro troops for crimes committed in Germany; harsh treatment of colored troops by German civilians and white military personnel on Furstenfeldbruck Airbase; discriminatory treatment of Negro Army officers in Lille, France; and discrimination against Negro civilian employees at Wright Field, OH; Brooke General Hospital (Fort Sam Houston, TX); and Norfolk Army Airbase, VA. One significant complaint of discriminatory treatment was lodged by 34 Negro officers stationed at Midland Army Air Field, TX. It was signed by 20 of the 34 complainants with a note that the others would express similar opinions upon their return to the base. Most Negro soldiers who wrote of their mistreatment requested transfers or discharges from the Army. Included in the records is a copy of War Department pamphlet 20-6, "Command of Negro Troops," dated February 29, 1944, the purpose of which was "to help officers to command their troops more effectively by giving them information which will increase their understanding of their men." Reverend J. L. Horace reported on his visit to nine southern Army camps to discover how Negro soldiers were being treated by white civilians (German POWs were treated better) and questioned the War Department's need for a "Jim Crow Army." Other records relate to inquiries on poor recreational facilities and other issues at Dalhart Army Airbase, TX; Amarillo Army Airfield, TX; and La Junta Army Airfield, CO; policy matters pertaining to Negroes; Executive Order 8802; and the utilization of Negro manpower in the postwar Army.

III.159.3 Entry 26e General Correspondence, 1939–47 [Formerly Confidential Correspondence, 1939–47]. 3 ft. 2 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

- a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 190; 11/29/00-11/31/00; Boxes 85–95.

Description: The records regard allegations of disorders among colored troops such as a

reported shooting affray at Fort Dix, NJ, in which one white soldier and two colored soldiers were killed and five other colored soldiers were wounded. This disorder occurred between white garrison military police and members of a colored regiment. The records also regard an inspection of engineer activities at Camp Claiborne, LA; and alleged discrimination against Negro soldiers at Fort Benning, GA; Fort Sill, OK; Fort Huachuca, AZ; Freeman Field, IN; and Manila Rehabilitation Center, Philippines. The issue of professional qualities of officers assigned to Negro units was addressed, and a reference to the "Negro problem" in the Army with respect to training, movement and stationing of troops, racial tolerance, and respect for the uniform. Included is a graphic account by a white Army officer (1st Lt., 25th Inf. George R. Britto) of an incident that involved a Negro couple and local civilian police in Columbus, GA, during which the woman was forced to partially disrobe. Other records concern the response to Civilian Aide William H. Hastie's draft report to the Secretary of War; racial disturbances at Barksdale field, AZ; the Detroit race riot of June 20, 1943, that culminated in 34 people being killed, 750 injured, and 500 jailed; and an alleged racially derogatory statement made by Maj. Harry E. Watson of the Air Corps. Watson reportedly made the remark during a telephone conversation with Lucille H. Bluford, managing editor of *The Call*, on the occasion of Negro navigators' flight to Kansas City, MO. One particularly racially inflammatory letter was sent by William Eben Moss, a civilian employee of the U.S. Air Corps Depot in Indianapolis, IN, to an Army Inspector General regarding the "Race Problem." Moss's letter eventually led to his being investigated by the Inspector General about his suitability for his civilian position.

RECORDS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE/MAIL AND RECORDS SECTION

III.159.4 Entry 29g Decimal File [Unclassified Through Secret Correspondence, 1947-62]. 9 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 333.9 (Inspections; Investigations—24th-25th Inf. Div.). Loc: NAI; 390; 71/31/04; Boxes 1013-1014.

Description: These are detailed Inspector General investigative reports of the 25th Infantry Division and the 24th Infantry Regiment during the Korean War, with overviews of the matters investigated, facts, conclusions, and recommendations. The investigative report on the 25th Infantry Division regards alleged irregularities in the administration of military justice in the division, which was prompted by a telegram from Walter White of the NAACP. White requested that Thurgood Marshall, legal representative of the NAACP, be permitted to visit the Far East Command to inquire about circumstances surrounding trials by court-martial of Negro troops. The Negro troops were being court-martialed for instances of straggling and misbehavior before the enemy during the period July to September 1950 in Korea. Consequently, Marshall visited and interviewed Negro troops of the 25th Infantry Division who were detained at the U.S. Army stockade in Tokyo, Japan, to obtain their statements on the alleged charges. Those conducting the investigation believed Marshall's long association with the NAACP made him sensitive to perceived racial discrimination incidents.¹⁹ The files also contain Marshall's summary reports of interviews with those

charged (and his memo to General MacArthur), summaries of trial arraignments, exhibit documents, and IG witness testimonies. The report on the 25th Infantry Division concluded that the administration of military justice was in conformity with the manual for courts-martial, that no instances of racial discrimination were revealed by the investigation, that straggling by troops reached alarming proportions, that there was a lack of evidence that the rights of the accused were jeopardized, and that a disproportionate number of Negro troops were tried and convicted. The investigative report on the 24th Infantry Regiment analyzed its combat inefficiency and that of Negro troops overall. This investigation resulted from Maj. Gen. W. B. Kean's letter of September 9, 1950, in which he recommended the regiment's removal from combat in Korea. Kean viewed the troops as being untrustworthy and incapable of carrying out the mission of an infantry regiment (the issue was straggling). The investigative report made a recommendation to disapprove removing the regiment from combat, to continue the present system of assigning Negro and white troops, and to provide additional junior and noncommissioned officers in units with an abundance of GCT test scores in Classes IV and V.

Record Group 165 *Records of the War Department General and Special Staffs*

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

The General Staff was established in the War Department, effective August 15, 1903, by an act of February 14, 1903 (32 Stat. 830), replacing the Provisional General Staff and the Headquarters of the Army. The Special Staff was also established in the War Department, effective March 9, 1942, by Circular 59 of March 2, 1942. Prepared plans for national defense and wartime mobilization. Investigated and reported on Army efficiency and preparedness. Provided advice to the Secretary of War, the War Department, and the officer corps of the Army. Exercised general supervision over the Army. Abolished by the National Security Act of 1947 (61 Stat. 495), July 26, 1947, which abolished the War Department and replaced it with a Department of the Army in the National Military Establishment, later the Department of Defense.

The RG 165 records highlight the utilization of African American troops in the postwar military establishment, military service of black WACs, allegations of racial discrimination, and the interaction of various black organizations with the Army.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: NM-84 RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF

III.165.1 Entry 13 Security-Classified General Correspondence, 1942-47. 5 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race; Negroes). Loc: NAI; 390; 30/07/03 (1944–45); 30/09/05 (1946); 30/10/07 (1947); Boxes 188–189, 299, and 364.

Description: The records relate to the participation of Negro troops in the postwar military establishment, employment of Negro lawyers as judge advocates, policy on the assignment of Negro officer personnel, and alleged discrimination against Negro WACs, nurses, physicians, and members of the 828th Tank Destroyer Battalion at Fort Hood, TX. Other records concern summaries of racial situations in the United States, Walter White's interview with Gen. Douglas MacArthur relative to the 93d Infantry Division, an inquiry relating to the availability of Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis and Sgt. Joe Louis (Barrow) for recruiting purposes in Philadelphia, PA, an inquiry of Eleanor Roosevelt regarding the interaction of Negro troops with the Irish, and responses to such congressional inquiries as the discipline of Negro soldiers at Camp Van Dorn, MS, stationing Negro troops in Spokane, WA, "illiterate" Negroes supposedly escaping military induction, and the court-martial of 13 Negro soldiers at the Northport Veterans Facility, Long Island, NY. The records also contain the recommendations of the "Advisory Committee on Negro Troops Policies"; a survey of midwestern camps and stations relative to racial matters; reports on Negro unrest and disturbances, on the condition of Negro troops in the 92d Infantry Division, and on the status of the 99th Fighter Squadron, and an investigation of the 76th Coast Artillery Antiaircraft Regiment following an inquiry from Walter White of the NAACP, who wrote that members complained of being denied opportunities to attend officer candidate school and of being verbally and physically abused by and with the knowledge of their commanding officers. One unnamed member of the 76th commented "it is quite a task to maintain the high standards of an American soldier especially while being depressed by these race hating officers." Also mentioned in the files is a claim that the 76th was inadequately trained to use weapons properly.

III.165.2 Entry 13a Cross-Reference Sheets [1946]. ¼ in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Index Cards 291.2 (Negroes). Loc: NAI; 390; 30/14/02; Box 128.

Description: The records are used to access related files but they briefly summarize the subject or topic, related topics, name of person or office from which the correspondence was sent, name of person or office that received the correspondence, dates, and any pertinent remarks made. Such subjects or topics covered by the index cards regard the retention of Negro nurses and officers in the Army, and enlistment and mistreatment of Negro troops. There are also references to the Gillem Board report concerning segregation in military service, organization of Negro manpower in the postwar Army, protests against the fraternization of Negro occupation troops and German women, and a Senate investigation of the conduct of Negro troops in Germany.

III.165.3 Entry 15 Top-Secret Correspondence, 1941–47. ½ in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Negroes). Loc: NAI; 390; 30/15/06; Box 6.

Description: The records summarize Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War Truman K. Gibson's report about the 92d Infantry Division (Negro) and of poor training on the part of replacements leading to "straggling" during offensive combat operations. A memorandum written by a person closely associated with the unit, dated May 1, 1945, notes that "though not definitely stated in writing, the real reason for the unit's comparatively poor showing, despite the excellent leader of General Almond, seems to be the inherent characteristics of the colored soldier (fear of the dark, fear of loneliness, lack of aggressiveness)." ²⁰ Gibson believed that the officers' club racially discriminated against Negroes, and that colored junior officers did not think much of the promotion policy. The records also contain war correspondent Walter White's report on the treatment of the 93d Division in New Guinea, in which he wrote that false statements levied against the 93d in particular and Negro combat troops generally suggested "a deliberate if not an organized campaign is being conducted by certain persons." ²¹ His comments were given at the request of Under Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson and Assistant Secretary of War J. J. McCloy. Rumors alleged that the 93d failed to take a beachhead at Bougainville even though it was later reported "at no time in its operations in the Pacific has the division been assigned to take a beachhead or anywhere else." ²² Furthermore, White noted that the Bougainville assault was made in late November 1943 and the 93d did not land there until April 1944. His report also includes a reference to "dumping" incompetent white officers onto to the 93rd, and statements of various officers attesting to the combat abilities of the 93d.

III.165.4 Entry 24 Papers of General O. L. Nelson (Deputy Theater Commander and Chief of Staff, Mediterranean Theater of Operations) Relating to the Unification of the Armed Forces, 1938–46. Neg.

Arrangement: Arranged by subject.

a. File labeled Integrated Personnel Plan (G-1). Loc: NAI; 390; 30/16/07; Box 937A.

Description: The records pertain to the "Integrated Personnel Plan" (IPP) that served as a "corollary" to the War Department's basic plan, in that "the latter plan furnishes guidance for the preparation of the detailed plans necessary to implement portions of the IPP." They include information on the utilization of Negro personnel and of plans being prepared that would (1) determine the MOS in overhead installations which Negro personnel could profitably fill and to develop assignment procedures to secure their selection, training, and assignment to such positions; (2) determine the units (including combat) which Negro personnel could man and to fix the proportion in each type of unit; (3) develop assignment procedures which would best assign Negro personnel to such units as are designated for Negro personnel; (4) develop selection criteria which could best be utilized in selecting Negro personnel for specialized schooling or training required for MOS in units designated for Negro personnel; (5) determine the criteria for selection of Army education as a part of Army training for Negro personnel; and (6) determine the criteria, if any, for selection among Negroes of successful combat personnel and successful combat leaders.

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION (G-1)

III.165.5 Entry 42b Cross-Reference Sheets to G-1 Security-Classified General Correspondence (Entry 43), 1941–48 [1942–June 1946]. 4 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race; Negroes). Loc: NAI; 390; 30/19/03; Box 57.

Description: These cross-reference sheets are used to access the G-1 Decimal File (Entry 43). They provide brief summaries with the subject, date, and correspondence to whom and from whom. Topics covered by the records pertain to the conditions affecting Negro officers and soldiers, promotion policies, court-martial investigations, surveys relative to racial matters, and Negro blood donation policy. There are references to the use of Negro judge advocates, mistreatment and misconduct of Negro troops, assignment of white officers to Negro units, utilization of Negro manpower in the postwar Army, recruitment of Negro WACs, and the trial of Negro officers at Freeman Field, IN.

III.165.6 Entry 42c Cross-Reference Sheets to G-1 Security-Classified General Correspondence (Entry 43), 1941–48 [June 1946–48]. 2 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race; Negroes). Loc: NAI; 390; 30/20/05; Box 125.

Description: The records regard the enlistment, inspection, training, mistreatment (by military police), and demobilization of Negroes troops and problems of Negro veterans. Included also are references to race discrimination and "Jim Crow" in the armed services, curtailment of Negro enlistments, marriage and paternity involving British subjects and Negro soldiers, utilization of Negro manpower in the postwar Army, and a riot at the disciplinary barracks, Fort Leavenworth, KS, that was caused by racial tensions between white and colored prisoners.

III.165.7 Entry 43 Decimal File, 1942–June 1946. 2 ft. 8 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race; Colored Troops). Loc: NAI; 390; 30/24/03; 30/31/02; Boxes 441–444 and 796–798.

Description: The records relate to an inquiry on the morale of Negro troops, policy on the promotion and assignment of Negro officer personnel, demobilization of Negro soldiers, and establishment of a training center for colored personnel at Kafertal, Germany. There are references to the recruitment of Negro WAC personnel in the Army Air Force, utilization of Negro psychologists, treatment of the 477th Bombardment Group, discrimination against Negro nurses and physicians, racial discrimination at Freeman and Godman Fields, IN, and organization of Negro bomb disposal squads. They also include a study prepared

by the Survey Division of the Office of War Information entitled "The Negroes' Role in the War—A Study of White and Colored Opinions," statistics on Negroes in the armed services, surveys of industrial racial tension areas and southern posts and camps, an investigation summary of racial conditions between Negro and white WACs at Fort Des Moines, IA, and a report on the conditions of Negro troops in Great Britain. The records also include an extensive list of "T/O Colored Units, Continental and Foreign" that participated in World War II.

**RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION (G-1)/
CAREER MANAGEMENT GROUP**

III.165.8 Entry 53 General Correspondence, 1946–47. ½ in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race; Negroes). Loc: NAII; 390; 31/02/04; Box 51.

Description: The records concern the assignment of Negro personnel to the European Command (EUCOM) and the establishment of a training center for Negro personnel at Kafertal, Germany. This center would process all incoming Negro personnel to the EUCOM. A stipulation was also made to provide more stable married officers and noncommissioned officers, who would thereby introduce "the stabilities of family life" for a positive effect on junior officers. Included also is a request for the assignment of a Negro liaison officer to the civil government of the Virgin Islands that was made by the Governor of the Virgin Islands, the Honorable William H. Hastie, former Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War.

**RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION (G-1)/
DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS**

III.165.9 Entry 54 Security-Classified General Correspondence, 1942–46. 7 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race; Negroes). Loc: NAII; 390; 31/04/03; Boxes 49–50.

Description: The records regard problems with Negro WACs, treatment of Negro WACs at Fort Oglethorpe, GA, congressional inquiries and other inquiries from Negro women, civic and civil rights organizations seeking information on WAC admission requirements, and discrimination complaints that Negro women were not being accepted as WAC candidates. There is a reference to white opposition to stationing a colored WAC company at Gardiner General Hospital, Chicago, IL, a list of Negro WAAC officers (as of Mar. 15, 1943), and a request made to assist a Negro woman minister (Irma L. Moore) to become a chaplain for a Negro WAAC unit. Moore graduated from Wilberforce University's School of Divinity with a doctorate of philosophy degree (Ph.D.) in theology and came highly recommended. The records also contain a transcript of a telephone conversation between General

Styer and Colonel Hobby on using Mary McLeod Bethune as a consultant, a letter to Eleanor Roosevelt on conditions at Fort Devens, MA, a letter from the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's National Non-Partisan Council on Public Affairs concerning segregation in the WAC, and an Intelligence Division report entitled "Domestic Racial Estimate."

III.165.10 Entry 55 Historical and Background Material Relating to the Legislation and Administration of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps and Its Successor the Women's Army Corps, 1942-49. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged by subject.

a. File labeled Negroes. Loc: NAI; 390; 31/08/03; Box 211.

Description: The records relate to 1st Officer Harriet M. West's report on her field trip to the 6th and 7th Service Commands in which she describes conditions impacting Negro WAACs and also on a trip to Chicago, IL, and Indianapolis, IN. Other records regard responses to inquiries on Negro WAACs and segregation and military discipline or the lack thereof demonstrated by Negro WACs; an investigation of WAAC activities at Fort Huachuca, AZ, and of the 4th WAAC Training Center at Fort Devens, MA; and a proposal to assign Negro WAAC companies for duty with the 92d Division (that was stationed at Fort McCellan, AL). There is an anonymous letter from a Negro WAC who recounts the experience of receiving officer candidate training at Fort Des Moines, IA, specifically of treatment, and opposition to segregation and overall acceptance by the wider community. The records also contain a radio broadcast statement of Harriet West in which she urges Americans to purchase war bonds and stamps and discusses WAAC history and its purpose and mission "to train women to do non-combat army jobs in an army way"; WAAC Director Oveta Culp Hobby's statement to the Negro press on Negro WAACs and her address entitled "The Role of Our Federal Government" at Howard University before the Non-Partisan Council of Public Affairs of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and two black and white photographs of colored WAACs at Fort Des Moines, IA, that show them marching in formation and donning gas masks.

III.165.11 Entry 56 General Correspondence of the Special Civilian Assistant to the Director, 1942-43. ¼ in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 390; 31/08/06; Box 172.

Description: The records pertain to an inquiry concerning the return of remains of dead Negro WAC World War II personnel, consolidation of postwar small colored WAC detachments, postwar utilization of Negro manpower, and policy on postwar Negro enlistment quotas.

RECORDS OF THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

III.165.12 Entry 65 Correspondence of the Military Intelligence Division Relating to “Negro Subversion,” 1917–41 [Security Classified Correspondence and Reports, 1917–41]. 6 rolls.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by master file number.

a. Microfilm Publication M1440: Master File 10218-1 to 10218-473.

Description: The records were compiled by the Military Intelligence Division (MID) to cover the activities of Negroes in both civilian and military life for the pre- and post-World War I periods. Documents reproduced in this microfilm publication are from a single file, 10218 “Negro Subversion,” from the MID correspondence files. Most of the records filed under the Negro subversion heading contain information on three subjects: (1) radical organizations and activities in the Negro community that had a potential impact on the military from press accounts and investigative reports; (2) discrimination against Negroes (military and civilian), including incidents leading to race riots from MID and FBI reports; and (3) treatment of and performance by Negroes in the Army from MID Military Morale Section reports. Records on the first subject cover both World War I and the entire inter-war period; information on the second and third topics is limited to the war and immediate postwar years.

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF DIRECTOR OF ORGANIZATION AND TRAINING (G-3)

III.165.13 Entry 211 Security-Classified General Correspondence, 1942–47. 1 ft. 4 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 390; 35/27/03; 35/29/07; 35/30/05; 35/33/01; Boxes 43, 172, 208, and 325.

Description: The records pertain to the estimated readiness of Negro units for overseas service; assignment of Negro officers, medical officers, and Negro enlisted personnel to the Army Service Forces; and the use of Negro quartermaster depot supply companies, antiaircraft units, and parachute or commando service units. Other records relate to racial discrimination, racial incidents at Camp Breckenridge, KY, behavior of colored troops at Fort Custer, MI, utilization of Negro manpower in the National Guard, and the activation of Negro military police battalions. Included is a copy of the draft report “Some New Statistics on the Negro Enlisted Man,” a copy of Walter White’s report “Observations in the North African and Middle Eastern Theatres of Operation,” and the Gillem Board report “Utilization of Negro Troops in the Postwar Army.”

**RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF ORGANIZATION AND TRAINING (G-3)/
COMMISSIONED PERSONNEL BRANCH**

III.165.14 Entry 218 General Correspondence, 1918–20. ½ in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race; Negro). Loc: NAI; 370; 74/04/05; Box 25.

Description: The records consist mostly of cross-reference sheets used to access decimal files but they briefly summarize the subject or substance of the reference. They regard the number of colored reserve officers; assignment of a colored chaplain to the 10th Cavalry; discrimination against colored physicians, dentists, and surgeons; discharge of colored casual officers to Camp Gordon, GA; and the charge that colored officers at Camp Meade, MD, did not receive proper information or treatment.

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF DIRECTOR OF SERVICE, SUPPLY AND PROCUREMENT (G-4)

III.165.15 Entry 234 Security-Classified General Correspondence, 1921–46 [March 1942–June 1946]. ½ in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 390; 36/02/07; Box 552.

Description: The records regard President Truman's policy on nondiscrimination, the use of Negro officers in special activities, the problem of Negro troops, and the use of Negro troops in Arctic regions.

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PLANS AND OPERATIONS

III.165.16 Entry 418 Security-Classified General Correspondence, 1942–45. 3 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 390; 36/23/03–36/23/04; Boxes 471–472.

Description: The records concern allegations of racial discrimination in Georgetown, British Guiana, and in Alaska and along the Alaskan Highway; racial conflict in the South; a race riot in Phoenix, AZ; and a survey relative to racial matters at Camp Van Dorn, MS. Other records pertain to the policy for the utilization of Negro manpower in friendly foreign territory and the postwar Army, movement of Negro personnel, augmentation of Negro personnel, and use of Negro troops in the South Pacific and the Caribbean. Included is a "Study of the Negro Problem in the Army," Paul Blanshard's report "Notes on the West Indian Negro and Racial Policy in Panama," and a copy of "The Negroes' Role

in the War—A Study of White and Colored Opinions” that was prepared by the Survey Division of the Office of War Information.

III.165.17 Entry 420 Card Index to Correspondence in Series 421 (“ABC” Files), 1940–48. Neg.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by subject.

a. Index Cards (Negroes): NAI; 390; 37/23/03; Box 47.

Description: These index cards are used to access information in correspondence described by Entry 421. The cards list the name of the person sending or receiving the correspondence, subject content, and date. They include a summary of a cablegram sent by General MacArthur to General Marshall about doing everything possible to prevent friction on the part of the Australian government and its citizens to the presence of American colored troops in the Southwest Pacific area in 1942. The cards also cover a request for an informal memo detailing the number of colored troops being sent to the British Isles (including Northern Ireland), the issue of proportionate acceptance of Negro selectees between the Army and Navy, the staff operations study “Victor Two,” and a petition advocating a racially mixed volunteer regiment.

**RECORDS OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT SPECIAL STAFF/PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION/
NEWS BRANCH**

III.165.18 Entry 498 Press and Radio News Releases, 1921–47. Neg.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically by date.

a. Files (labeled 15 May–30 June 1946). Loc: NAI; 390; 40/06/01; Box 112.

Description: The records pertain to the activities of Negro soldiers as reported in various War Department news releases. They cover such topics as the European tour of Army installations by the Negro newspaper publishers association, Negro reenlistees processed at Fort Benning, GA, calculated Negro strength in the Army, the command of a military police company by a Negro captain, the 320th Anti-Aircraft Balloon VLA (very low altitude) Battalion, and the reactivation of the 999th Field Artillery Battalion with Negro personnel at Fort Benning, GA.

RECORDS OF THE SPECIAL PLANNING DIVISION

III.165.19 Entry 501 Security-Classified General Correspondence, 1943–46. 11 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 390; 40/08/05–40/08/06; Boxes 32–34.

Description: The records relate to a response to a NAACP inquiry on the Universal Military Training Program as it pertained to Negroes, the use of Negro troops in combat, and the participation of Negro troops in the postwar military establishment. There are many informative reports included in the records that are relevant to Negroes such as "Attitudes of White Enlisted Men Toward Sharing Facilities with Negro Troops," "A Comparison of White and Negro Enlisted Men in the Army Air Forces," "General Discussion of Training of the Two Negro Flying Combat Units," and "MOSs in which Negroes Performed Most Satisfactorily." Also included are Truman Gibson's reports on his trips to visit the Mediterranean and European theaters of operation and the 92d Division; report of racial discrimination at Freeman Field, IN; and a National Urban League study, "Racial Aspects of Reconversion," that was submitted to President Truman.

Record Group 168 *Records of the National Guard Bureau*

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established as a joint bureau of the Department of the Army and the Air Force by order of the Secretary of Defense, effective April 27, 1948, and by Joint Army and Air Force Adjustment Regulation 1-11-20, May 4, 1948, implementing provisions of the National Security Act of 1947 (61 Stat. 495), July 26, 1947. The chief of bureau is a general officer serving jointly on the Air Staff and the Army Special Staff. Advises the Army and Air Force Chiefs of Staff, and serves as their liaison with the States, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia on matters concerning the National Guard.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1922, the key features of the War Department's policy on the use of Negro manpower in wartime were established, and they remained virtually the same until amended in 1938. The creation of Negro National Guard units was the responsibility of the States and most large American cities reserved National Guard units for Negroes between the world wars.²³ Negro units requested by the States were required to be separate organizations in conjunction with the other authorized National Guard units.

Prior to World War II, the combined strength of both the Regular Army and the National Guard was estimated at 360,000, of which 6,500 or 1.8 percent were Negroes.²⁴ To circumvent the likelihood of a racially uneven Army during military conflict, as was the case during World War I, a G-1 mobilization plan proposed the use of Negroes (and whites) in proportion to overall population (around 10 percent). This plan also removed the "Secret" classification on all policies concerning Negro manpower, and the subsequent assignment of Negro officers in the National Guard was restricted to those units that were authorized to receive them.

The RG 168 records document the difficulties encountered when African Americans attempt to enlist in various State National Guard units.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: NM-3 RECORDS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

III.168.1 Entry 344c Army-NGB Decimal File, 1946–48. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (General; Race). Loc: NAI; 290; 06/28/00; Box 808.

Description: The records are mostly index sheets that give brief summaries of the subject covered by the decimal file and the cross-reference to another decimal file. They list the correspondent, recipient, and date. The subjects covered by the records regard the integration of Negroes, utilization of Negro manpower, investigations of discrimination complaints, and enlistment procedures for Negro personnel.

b. Decimal File 322 (General; Colored Troops). Loc: NAI; 290; 07/04/00; Box 824.

Description: The records concern the organization of colored units in States as based upon a policy "to give every possible assistance to the several States in their efforts to utilize Negro man-power in the organization of the National Guard." Included also are inquiries concerning the National Guard's utilization of Negro manpower and a reference to staff studies for the President's Advisory Commission on Universal Training.

III.168.2 Entry 345 Army NGB Classified Decimal Files, 1922–54. Neg.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 322 (General; Segregation). Loc: NAI; 290; 14/03/00; Box 1736.

Description: The records pertain to the Department of Army (DOA) policy on nonsegregation laws of States in relation to the National Guard. Various laws were enacted in such States as Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York, although they were contrary to DOA policy on the assignment of whites and Negroes to military units. Under section 60 of the National Defense Act of 1916, as amended January 1, 1945, "the organization of the National Guard, including the composition of all units thereof, shall be the same as that which is or may be hereafter prescribed for the Regular Army."²⁵

Record Group 247 *Records of the Office of the Chief of Chaplains*

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established as an independent bureau in the War Department, effective July 1, 1920, by the National Defense Act of 1920 (41 Stat. 759), June 4, 1920. Before World War I, chaplains

were appointed to individual regiments. During World War I, the Chaplain of the American Expeditionary Forces coordinated chaplains' activities in the Army. Transferred to the Chief of Administrative Services, Services of Supply (SOS), effective March 9, 1942; to the Director of Personnel, Army Service Forces, May 1943; to the War Department as an administrative service, 1946; to Department of the Army as part of the reorganization of the armed services mandated by the National Security Act of 1947 (61 Stat. 495), July 26, 1947; to status as an independent administrative service of the Department of the Army, 1950. Provides and supervises religious activities for the Army.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Army authorized chaplains by denomination from the major church bodies in relation to their statistical standing in the censuses of religious groups. Negro chaplains "of the right sort" served as officers for Negro units under the guidelines of mobilization regulations. Seventeen Negro chaplains in the Reserve Corps and three in the Regular Army were available for service in 1940. Negro chaplains were leaders of spirituality and morality for Negro troops.

Most Negro chaplains were usually the first persons called upon to be conflict negotiators whenever disagreements of a racial nature arose, whether they were between officers or enlisted men.²⁶ In addition, they were required to have special techniques for fostering positive interaction between enlisted men and officers as well as providing the leverage upon which such an interaction could be based.

Although the Army sought to recruit large numbers of Negro chaplains for service during World War II, it never procured enough for usage with Negro troops due to their unavailability. The one chaplain per 1,200 officers and enlisted men hindered the assignment of chaplains as many Negro units were under the strength of 900 men and therefore they were not assigned any.²⁷ When the lack of available Negro chaplains proved to be a problem, white chaplains and in many instances local civilian Negro ministers or pastors ministered to the religious needs of Negro servicemen.

The RG 247 records highlight the interaction of the Army with key Negro religious organizations such as the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church on the procurement of Negro chaplains as well as the relationship between Negro clergymen, chaplains, and troops.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: NARS-A1 RECORDS OF THE OFFICE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

III.247.1 Entry 1 Decimal File [General Correspondence, 1920–62]. 3 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 080 (Methodist Episcopal, African). Loc: NAI; 290; 05/03/04; Box 76.

Description: The records concern requests for information or reference to applications made for chaplain positions, inquiries on separations or promotions of chaplains in the Army, the overall status of AME chaplain procurement status, lists of AME chaplains, and a request by the Secretaries of War and Navy made to the Fraternal Order of Negro Churches in America to designate a representative to travel overseas to visit Negro troops to stimulate the morale of Negro troops in Pacific war areas.

b. Decimal File 291.2 (Race; Negroes). Loc: NAI; 290; 05/06/01; 05/10/02; Boxes 199 and 405.

Description: The records relate to requests for the assignment of Negro chaplains for use with Negro troops, the morale and problems of Negro troops, a response to a complaint about the unexpected attendance of Negro chaplains at a church conference (First Methodist) held in Montgomery, AL, and a recommendation not to add every Negro chaplain to a list to receive the publication "A Monthly Summary of Events and Trends in Race Relations," because of a belief that some would regard the "magazine as propaganda and will misunderstand the motive of the Chief of Chaplains." There is a copy of a letter from a regimental chaplain describing an "old revival" meeting at Fort Sill, OK (and similar services at Camp Sutton, GA) that was organized for colored troops, and comments made by Negro chaplain Capt. Jason M. Cowan of the 91st Engineers on "The Negro Chaplain's Responsibility in Race Relations" that was written by an anonymous chaplain. According to Cowan, Negro chaplains had a responsibility in race relations for being aware of the subtle handiwork of those whites who supported racial supremacy and segregation. He recommended the use of a Negro chaplain as a consultant (with prior civilian and military experience) on the procurement and training of Negro chaplains, and the placement of a Negro chaplain on the staff of the chaplains school at Harvard University. Included also is a copy of the news release "The Negro and National Defense," Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War Marcus Ray's "Report of Tour of Pacific Installations," and a copy of "The Chaplain and the Negro in the Armed Services." In addition, there is a reference to a racially derogatory comment made by a white chaplain (Theodore V.L. Harvey of Fort Ord, CA) before a mixed church congregation, after which it was recommended to move him for service with white troops, and the investigation of Negro minister Rev. James A. Brown by the Atlanta Better Business Bureau for soliciting funds "for the education of Negro soldiers in the Army" under false pretenses.

FINDING AID: NM-3

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS/ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

III.247.2 Entry 484b Chaplains' Reports and 201 Files, 1920-50. 3 ft.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by surname of chaplain.

a. Files labeled as follows (for those Negro chaplains thus far identified):

NAME	LOCATION
Roosevelt A. Baker	NAII; 290; 05/18/04; Box 67
Louis Beasley	NAII; 290; 05/18/04; Box 67
John W. Bowman	NAII; 290; 05/20/04; Box 168
Nimrod C. Calhoun	NAII; 290; 05/22/02; Box 248
John A. DeVeaux	NAII; 290; 05/25/06; Box 424
Thomas O. Diggs	NAII; 290; 05/25/07; Box 433
Edward A. Freeman	NAII; 290; 05/28/06; Box 574
Luther M. Fuller	NAII; 290; 05/28/07; Box 583
Elmer Gibson	NAII; 290; 05/29/04; Box 610
James C. Griffin	NAII; 290; 06/24/01; Box 31 (2d Series)
Everett A. Hewlett	NAII; 290; 05/32/07; Box 773
Elder B. Hicks	NAII; 290; 05/32/07; Box 776
James R. Hinley	NAII; 290; 05/32/07; Box 776
Oscar E. Holder	NAII; 290; 05/33/04; Box 801
Andrew L. Johnson	NAII; 290; 06/24/03; Box 41 (2d Series)
Warren Jones	NAII; 290; 05/35/04; Box 899
Harlee H. Little	NAII; 290; 06/03/07; Box 1068
Matthew Lowe	NAII; 290; 06/04/02; Box 1085
Spurgen J. Mayfield	NAII; 290; 06/07/01; Box 1227
David J. Moore	NAII; 290; 06/08/03; Box 1284
Robert E. Penn	NAII; 290; 06/11/02; Box 1424
John E. Percy	NAII; 290; 06/11/02; Box 1426
Joseph D. Pruden	NAII; 290; 06/12/02; Box 1474
Daniel L. Smith	NAII; 290; 06/16/04; Box 1683
Robert J. Smith	NAII; 290; 06/16/05; Box 1691
Albert A. Thompson	NAII; 290; 06/18/06; Box 1798
Henry W.B. Walker	NAII; 290; 06/20/02; Box 1871
Charles T. Watkins	NAII; 290; 06/20/05; Box 1891
James S. Webb	NAII; 290; 06/20/07; Box 1900
John R. Wesley	NAII; 290; 06/21/02; Box 1916
Kenneth White	NAII; 290; 06/21/04; Box 1928
Walter S. White	NAII; 290; 06/25/03; Box 92 (2d Series)
Albert R. Williams	NAII; 290; 06/21/05; Box 1939
George W. Williams	NAII; 290; 06/25/04; Box 98 (2d Series)
Giles R. Wright	NAII; 290; 06/22/03; Box 1975
Otis J. Wynne	NAII; 290; 06/22/04; Box 1983

Description: The records relate to the overall military service of Negro chaplains of various religious denominations such as Baptist, African Methodist Episcopal, Roman Catholic, and others. They mostly consist of the monthly reports submitted by each chaplain, which list the person's name, date, denomination, military unit, and location. Furthermore, these reports note the chaplain's personal activities in military units, and joint or participating services; number of pastoral, educational, recreational activities held; activities in civilian communities; and remarks, recommendations, and other additional information provided

by the chaplain. Some records document the birthplace, birth date, name of spouse and parents, and education and work level experience of each chaplain.

FINDING AID: NM-42
RECORDS RELATING TO ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

III.247.3 Entry 2 Security-Classified General Correspondence, 1941–48. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 290; 05/13/05; Box 3.

Description: The records pertain to guidelines on the participation of Negro troops in the postwar military establishment, racial problems in the redeployment phase, and the prevention of racial disturbances in the various service commands. Other records concern a reference to segregated mass services at Fort Bragg, NC, inspection of facilities for and problems relating to Negro personnel at Camp Lee, VA, and Fort Benning, GA; and publicity policy on chaplains and their activities. There is also information on racial problems and the chaplains' activities, remarks made about the 92d Infantry Division, and a copy of "The Chaplain and the Negro in the Armed Services."

**Record Group 391 *Records of the United States Regular Army
Mobile Units, 1821–1942***

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

The 7th–10th Cavalry regiments were organized under an act of July 28, 1866 (14 Stat. 332), with the 10th Cavalry being reserved for black enlisted men.

RG 391 records provide insight into the regimental and combat history of one of the oldest African American cavalry units from its creation to abolishment.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: NM-93
RECORDS OF THE 7TH–10TH CAVALRY REGIMENTS

III.391.1 Entry 2123 Records of the Cavalry Regiments, 1920–41. 1 ft.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by cavalry regiment number.

a. Files labeled 10th Cavalry regiment. Loc: NAI; 390; 73/31/01; Boxes 9–10A.

Description: The records relate to the 10th Cavalry regiment, one of two regiments designated (and the 9th Cavalry) that were created for Negro troops under the Reorganization Bill of 1866. This regiment existed until the beginning of World War II, when it was abolished and the troops were reassigned to other Army units. The records concern inquiries on the regiment's battle honors, regimental history, military training, and cavalry marches (contained in a journal). Included also is a synopsis of the history of the 10th Cavalry (1866–1919) and a reference to 10th Cavalry troops being nominated and selected to receive the "Shipp Memorial Trophy," named for Lt. William Ewen Shipp, a regimental officer who was killed leading a platoon up San Juan Hill during the Spanish-American War in 1898.

Part IV

Modern Army Cluster

Record Group 160 Records of Headquarters Army Service Forces

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established in the War Department by General Order 14, War Department, March 12, 1943. Its immediate predecessor agency was the Services of Supply (SOS), 1942–43. The Army Service Forces (ASF) provided services and supplies to meet military requirements except those unique to the Army Air Forces. Abolished effective June 11, 1946, implementing E.O. 9722, May 13, 1946.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

As the ASF (which managed service commands and posts) gained increased responsibility for Negro troops, it became extremely important to place the prevention of racial tension high on its list of priorities.

The RG 160 records demonstrate the treatment, training, entertainment, and utilization of African American soldiers.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: NM-25

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

IV.160.1 Entry 1 Lt. Gen. Somervell's Desk File, 1942–44. ¼ in.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by subject.

a. Files (Negroes 1944–45). Loc: NAI; 390; 26/16/02; 26/16/06; Boxes 13 and 35.

Description: The records relate to a report on the racial situation in the United States (Oct. 15–28, 1944) covering military incidents by groups or individuals occurring at Camp Shelby, MS; Fort Jackson, SC; Alliance Army Air Base, NE; Midland Army Air Field, TX; Camp Pickett, VA; Eglin Field, FL; Aberdeen, MD; and Indiantown Gap, PA, where a white military policeman was punished for using unnecessary force while arresting three Negro AWOLs in Pottsville, PA. This report also contains references to civilian incidents such as cross burnings by whites resenting the importation of Negro coal miners in Smithfield, OH. Other topics covered by the records concern actions taken to improve the welfare and use of Negro troops and civilians working in war industries, an alleged racial state-

ment made by Somervell, a lack of transportation for colored troops at different posts in the South, and recommendations of the Committee on Racial Problems regarding redeployment training for Negro troops. This committee was organized to study and recommend ways or means to improve conditions and raise the morale and efficiency of Negro troops. Included also is Somervell's letter to a Negro soldier stationed in Germany who inquired about furloughs for troops to go home. He remarked to Pfc. Timothy Taylor of the 3203d Quartermaster Service Company, "I am sure that no real soldier would want to come home at once if he knows his job is not yet finished and that by doing so he may endanger the lives of his comrades and lengthen the war."²⁸ Somervell's letter also indicates how ASF troops would be deployed to other areas, used to establish new depots and equip troops, and eventually discharged from the service.

RECORDS OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR SERVICE COMMANDS

IV.160.2 Entry 13 Correspondence Files, 1943-45. 5 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 000.5 (Crimes, criminals, offenses, and domestic subversive activities).

Loc: NAII; 390; 26/17/06; Box 1.

Description: The records pertain to an investigation of the alleged brutal treatment of Negro Army Pvt. Nelson M. Seals by a civilian policeman in Jackson, MS. Private Seals was reportedly beaten over the head and about the face with a blackjack. The incident culminated during the arrest of two colored soldiers on charges of drunk and disorderly conduct in which Seals did not participate. His stepfather, Zilford Carter, wrote a letter to the commanding company officer, Congressman Robert Grant, and the War Department. Carter noted in his letter "You as a commanding officer of the United States Army . . . should take a stand against that kind of treatment of Negro soldiers and should further see to it that the culprits who commit such acts of violence on Negro soldiers, receive just punishment."²⁹ Included also is a written statement of Private Seals describing the incident and affidavits of those involved. The investigative report concluded that Private Seals, whom his commanding officer believed to be a habitual troublemaker, may have been abused, but this was denied by the civilian policeman who made the arrest. Contained also in the file are affidavits of the investigating detective and others involved in the case.

b. Decimal File 291.2 (Race; Negroes). Loc: NAII; 390; 26/18/01; Box 17.

Description: The records relate to racial problems in the redeployment phase with specific recommendations that Negro units be returned to the United States for redeployment training in proportion to their strength. There are reports of racial incidents involving possible mutiny at Camp Shelby, MS, and Camp Plauche, LA; German prisoners of war (POWs) at MacDill Army Airfield, FL, refusing to work in the hospital that allowed Negro patients to eat in the cafeteria; a verbal confrontation between colored soldiers and Italians at Fort Lawton, WA, that resulted in an Italian being hanged; and an attack upon Negro troops of the 3173d Quartermaster Company at Camp Butner, ND, by a civilian bus driver that ended in the death of one soldier. The records contain references to white opposition to Negro

WACs being housed in new barracks at Gardiner General Hospital on Lake Shore Drive in Chicago, IL; racial conditions at Fox Hill Terminal, NY (Stapleton, Staten Island vicinity), where "agitation is carried on by white civilians who are spreading rumors that Negro soldiers are committing crimes;" and opposition to the assignment and use of Negro troops at Sierra Ordnance Depot in Herlong, CA. Moreover, the records also include an investigative report concerning the special service activities at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, AR, in which Lena Horne, stage and screen star, was scheduled to appear. Horne encountered numerous mechanical problems with the equipment (public address system and microphone) and was dissatisfied with how her shows were arranged overall. It was further noted that Lena Horne complained of a "bad throat" and of the few number of Negroes who attended her performances as she had made a special request for them to receive preferential seating. Most of the Negro soldiers interviewed indicated that they did not know of the special seating nor did they think Horne's performances had been well publicized. Their interviews were in direct contradiction of special services officials' reported statements.

RECORDS OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

IV.160.3 Entry 21 Decimal Correspondence File, 1942-43. ¼ in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 390; 26/19/04; Box 2.

Description: The records concern the education and instruction of Negro troops with regard to those who were in the South for the first time and who were unaccustomed to the attitudes and traditions of southern communities. A recommendation was made to implement this training to counter racial antagonism and maintain peace. Included is an extract of "The Negro Problem and Its Factor" that examines the Negro situation in the United States and the implication of the "Double-V Campaign" of seeking equality at home and abroad. There is also a reference to an unauthorized questionnaire being distributed to Negro troops at Camp Lee, VA, by inexperienced persons. Questions asked in the questionnaire were "Do you think the Negro is getting a fair break in the Army and Navy?"; "Do you think the Negro has anything to gain by the war?"; and "Do you think Negroes favor Germans, [Japanese], and Communists?" Other topics covered by the records regard the availability of recreational and exchange facilities for Negro troops at Tuskegee Airbase, AL, and Fort Huachuca, AZ.

RECORDS OF THE PLANNING DIVISION

IV.160.4 Entry 28 Subject File, 1941-46. 2 in.

Arrangement: Arranged by subject.

a. Files labeled Negro Personnel; Participation of Negro Troops in PWME; ASF Study Concerning Participation of Negro Troops in postwar military establishment. Loc: NAI; 390; 26/22/02; Boxes 46-47.

Description: The records relate to the organization and policy of Negro manpower in the postwar Army, specifically in connection to grouping Negro units with white units as organic parts of larger units, the employment of Negro manpower with special skills or qualifications, and stationing Negro units in localities or communities where attitudes were most favorable to such stationing. There is a memorandum on the "Use of Negro Personnel in Transportation Corps Units" for which approval was given by the War Department to use only white personnel, and a recommendation of Maj. Frank Speir against such use of Negro troops. Speir believed that the Negro soldier was seldom capable of operating and handling a DUKW due to a lack of education, technical ability, and mechanical aptitude. The records also contain copies of "Historical Report of Performance of ASF Negro Troops Both in the U.S. and Overseas," "Historical Report of Actual Experience in Training," and a summary of the ASF position on the reconvening of the Gillem Board on Negro Manpower.

RECORDS OF THE CONTROL DIVISION

IV.160.5 Entry 81 General Correspondence Files, 1942–46. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race; Negroes). Loc: NAI; 390; 26/33/05; Boxes 240–241.

Description: The records regard the utilization of Negro manpower in the postwar Army as outlined in War Department Circular 124 (1946) and the demobilization of Negro soldiers with the end of World War II. They also concern NAACP activity in the "Columbia Riot Case" (Columbia, TN). An account taken from East Tennessee News (Negro press) reported Walter White as stating "There was strong indication that State highway patrolmen and militiamen had looted Negro business establishments" and "Governor McCord and his secretary Bayard Tarpley boast of tapping the telephone wires on all calls to and from the Negro district of Columbia." Other records pertain to the availability of religious services for Negro troops, copies of "Monthly Summary of Events and Trends in Race Relations," an NAACP complaint that Negro officers at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, had to use segregated mess facilities, a planned demonstration by the "United Negro Veterans" group to march on the city hall of Atlanta, GA, to advocate the use of Negro police in Negro districts and to protest police brutality against Negroes, and an NAACP report of its tours of Army installations such as Camp Livingston, LA; Fort Bragg, NC; Camp Gordon Johnston, FL; Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD; and Fort Dix, NJ. In addition, there are references to racial discrimination at Camp Shelby, MS; opposition to segregated dances at Fort Hancock, NJ; a congressional inquiry of Alabama Senator Theodore Bilbo on the policy of housing Negro patients with white patients at a hospital in Tuscaloosa, AL; and a letter from Cpl. J. C. Wilson, Jr., who wrote of the mistreatment of Bahamian and Jamaican prisoners confined at formerly abandoned Army Camp Murphy, FL. According to Wilson, a detachment of 180 enlisted men and officers were sent to Camp Murphy to "preserve order" among prisoners being processed for return to their islands. He wrote further, "Officers have had us confine several Negroes for minor offenses such as arguing . . . or

not moving fast enough when told . . . I am not a Negro lover but I do believe in justice for all and our constitution gives everyone a right of trial."³⁰

IV.160.6 Entry 82 General Correspondence Files, 1942–46 [Confidential]. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Negroes). Loc: NAII; 390; 27/02/01; Box 409.

Description: The records pertain to the utilization of Negro personnel and the participation of Negro troops in the postwar military establishment (with a brief summary of an ad hoc committee's recommendations). Others records concern problems of Negro personnel in the Army Service Forces, inspection of facilities, opposition to stationing Negro WACs at Gardiner General Hospital in Chicago, IL, and the redeployment of the 92d Division. In a letter to the President, Mrs. Addie Brooks Flowers refers to an incident that occurred at the Illinois Central Railroad Station in Jackson, MS, where a group of Negro soldiers who recently returned from overseas were beaten by civilian police officers while military policemen stood by and watched.

RECORDS OF THE INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

IV.160.7 Entry 103 General Decimal File, 1943–46. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAII; 390; 27/13/04; Box 50.

Description: The records relate to racial tension as reported by confidential informants. These reports include the Navy courts-martial of Negro sailors in San Francisco, CA, and a lecture by Eslanda Goode Robeson (Mrs. Paul Robeson), anthropologist and author of *African Journey*. An informant noted that Mrs. Robeson spoke on the topic of "the future of Africa" at the Asbury Methodist Church in Washington, DC, before a bookstore crowd of 350. At the Chrysler Corporation tank arsenal in Warren township, MI, a middle-aged white woman was believed to have been improperly approached by a Negro employee. Upon being informed of the incident Stanley Novak, a prominent CIO union leader at the plant, formed a noose from a rope and threatened to hang the Negro employee. Novak was discharged by the company for his actions. Included also is an extract from an intelligence report regarding comments made by white enlisted men who were annoyed about the "royal" treatment of American Negro soldiers in Scotland and their interaction with white women. Also included in the records is a reference to the desertion of 200 Negroes from Camp Kilmer, NJ, a strike at the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in Akron, OH, that resulted when three white women refused to work alongside a Negro woman, an investigative report of discrimination against Negroes at the New Orleans Port of Embarkation, LA, and a report of a racial incident at Maxwell Airfield, AL, involving four Negro women who sought service at a segregated cafeteria.

**RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL/
INDUSTRIAL PERSONNEL DIVISION**

IV.160.8 Entry 169 Central Decimal Files, 1942–44. 6 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Discrimination). Loc: NAI; 390; 29/05/01–29/05/02; Boxes 602–603.

Description: The records concern the investigation by the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices of a complaint filed by Negro women who were denied employment at General Cable Company in Kansas City, MO, in direct violation of Executive Order 8802. General Cable Company, a contractor of the Signal Corps, admitted to not hiring them because they were Negroes. Although this company had approximately 9.5 percent of its total personnel as colored, none were employed in production jobs, only janitorial and labor-related occupations. Other discriminatory practices were noted as occurring at the McQuay-Norris Manufacturing Company in St. Louis, MO; quartermaster depots at Fort Belvoir, VA, and Fort Jackson, SC; Richmond Army Depot, VA; and C.H. Treadwell at the Centreville Cantonment, MS. The records contain a report entitled "Developments in the Employment of Negroes in War Industries," which was prepared by the War Manpower Commission on October 16, 1943. This report acknowledged a need to remove discriminatory barriers in smaller individual establishments. There is also a reference to the constitutionality of employing State prisoners in War Department facilities.

IV.160.9 Entry 178 Race Relations Analyst Files, 1942–46. 1 ft. 3 in.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by subject.

a. Files labeled Aliens through Western Electric. Loc: NAI; 390; 29/09/03; Boxes 809–811.

Description: The records were compiled by Lemuel L. Foster in his position as race relations analyst in the Industrial Personnel Division of the Army Service Forces (ASF). Foster served as technical adviser and consultant on problems of racial and minority group relations for labor relations and civilian personnel officials of ASF, in an effort to prevent discrimination against members of minority groups (particularly Negroes) employed by the War Department or its contractors. Topics include boxing champion Joe Louis's visit to Wright Field, OH, where he met and dined with numerous Negro troops. There are observations and comments of Chauncey Spencer of the "Race Relations Institute Conference on Federal Policies," held July 9–14, 1945, at Fisk University in Nashville, TN. Many conference speakers were representatives of War Department organizations, and they spoke on present and future policies concerning their respective agencies before a racially mixed group of whites and Negroes. Included also is a copy of an extract from a *Washington Times-Herald* article titled "Negroes Petition for Removal of Gen. Somervell," which asked President Franklin D. Roosevelt to remove him due to his remarks about Negro soldiers. There is a reference to the Detroit race riot of June 21, 1943, racial discrimination complaints, and an investigation of the Packard Company, where, Foster believed, there was a group effort between the Packard Company and the Ku Klux Klan to keep Negro workers out of higher skilled jobs.

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL/SPECIAL SERVICES DIVISION

IV.160.10 Entry 196a General Records, 1941–45. 3 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAII; 390; 29/23/07; 29/27/04; Boxes 212 and 383.

Description: The records pertain to an inquiry of the Colored Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) on behalf of member colleges and universities such as Howard, Morgan State, Saint Paul, Shaw, Virginia State, and Virginia Union concerning the Army's policy of commissioning men for military service as physical fitness directors. Other records regard the Negro situation in Seattle, WA; summaries of racial situations in the United States; and an "Inspection of facilities for and problems relating to Negro personnel" at Camp Lee, VA, Ft. Benning, GA, Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, PA, and Camp Kilmer, NJ. There is a letter from David Jones, president of Bennett College in Greensboro, NC, that was sent to Secretary of War Henry Stimson. Jones discusses the inequitable distribution of funds for Negro troops' recreational facilities while thousands of Federal dollars and USO funds were spent on white soldiers. Also included is an anonymous letter from a Negro member of the 85th Aviation Squadron stationed at Sioux Falls, SD, who complained of harsh conditions and treatment. The investigation speculated that the allegations were unfounded and the anonymous writer was labeled a "rabble-rouser." In addition, the records also contain a report "Japanese Racial Agitation among American Negroes" that outlined racial propaganda aims, parallel efforts in Asia, and activities in the United States to cause tension and solicit support.

IV. 160.11 Entry 4 First Service Command, 1942–46. 1/2 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race; Negroes). Loc: NAII; 290; 38/25/01; 38/27/01; Boxes 8 and 84.

Description: The records pertain to allegations of discriminatory treatment of Negro patients at the West Roxbury Veterans Hospital in Boston, MA, "Negro Newspaper Survey" summaries, and "Summaries of Information" developed from reports of confidential informants. One such summary describes a speech given by Judge William H. Hastie, former Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War, before a Boston community hospital in which he said he knew from a conference held with "official big-wigs" that they did not intend to get to the core of the Negro problem. Other summaries report the Board of Directors' meeting of the Boston NAACP branch; A. Philip Randolph's speech given at the First Methodist Church in Boston, MA, on the topic of the impact of discrimination and segregation on Negroes; a speech given by Julian D. Steele at a Northeastern University forum on racial tensions in America; a speech by Chaplain Luther M. Fuller at the Peoples' Baptist Church in Chelsea, MA, on his being tried by a reclassification board due to his sermon "Morale and Brotherhood" that was preached in the Southwest Pacific; and meeting of the Frederick Douglass Branch of the Communist Party.

RECORDS OF THE FOURTH SERVICE COMMAND

IV.160.12 Entry 12 Fourth Service Command, 1942–46. 7 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race; Negroes). Loc: NAI; 290; 38/30/06; 38/35/01; Boxes 69–70.

Description: The records concern an investigation to determine the causes of disturbances, disorders, and conflicts between Negro soldiers and/or civilian law enforcement officers, white military police, and civilians, with findings on propaganda, social conditions, entertainment, and amusement. Other records regard racial difficulties in the Fourth Corps area as based on reports of undercover agents, white and Negro; summaries of racial situations in the United States; and recommendations to prevent racial conflicts. Included also are various reports of racial incidents at local transportation facilities involving Negro and white military or civilian persons that document the opposition of Negroes to segregated buses.

Record Group 319 *Records of the Army Staff*

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established in the Department of the Army by the Army Organization Act of 1950 (64 Stat. 263), June 28, 1950, as the collective name for all organizations responsible to the Chief of Staff, United States Army. Confirmed by General Order 97, Department of the Army, November 13, 1951. Provides advice to the Secretary, Under Secretary, and Assistant Secretaries of the Army. Supervises the planning, execution, and review of all Army programs, including organization, operations, supply, equipment, recruitment, training, mobilization, and demobilization. Investigates and reports on the efficiency and preparedness of the Army.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: NARS-A1 RECORDS OF ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF

IV.319.1 Entry 2a Decimal File, 1948–54 [Security-Classified General Correspondence, 1948–62]. 3 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Negroes). Loc: NAI; 270; 03/13/06 (1948); 03/15/02 (1949); 03/16/07 (1950); 03/19/01 (1951–52); 03/21/05 (1953); 03/22/04 (1954); Boxes 429, 499, 580, 682, 806, and 850.

Description: The records pertain to the utilization of Negro manpower, distribution of Negro enlistees and draftees, desegregation of “on-post” public schools following *Brown vs. Board of*

Education of Topeka, KS (1954), and the organization of an experimental unit of white and colored troops. There are references to a National Defense Conference on Negro Affairs to “present representative views of the Negro relating to service and treatment in the Armed Forces,” alleged discrimination against Negro civilian employees (embalmers) assigned to the Army Graves Registration Service, and responses to congressional inquiries regarding the establishment of a ROTC unit at Kentucky State College and training Negro personnel at Fort Ord, CA. Other records concern a request for an investigation (made by Walter White of the NAACP) on the refusal to permit Negro reserve officers from using the officers’ club at Camp Campbell, KY; a cross burning incident at Fort Benning, GA; a race riot in Columbus, GA, involving Negro troops of the 4th Infantry Division; and a racial disturbance at Camp Rucker, AL. Included are copies of “The Negro in the Armed Forces,” and “How Do Our Negro Troops Measure Up?,” statistics on the number of Negro West Point graduates in the Army, a list of Negro units worldwide (Mar. 1949) and a list of Negro units assigned or attached to white units.

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF INFORMATION

IV.319.2 Entry 47 General Correspondence, 1955–59. 2 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAII; 270; 18/05/06; Box 13.

Description: The records concern responses to requests for information on opportunities available to Negroes in the Army, on the 93d Infantry Division, and on the number of Negroes awarded the Distinguished Service Cross during World War II. The last question was deemed unanswerable “as the U.S. Army does not maintain its records on a racial basis.” Other subjects covered by the records are communism in the United States, status of racial integration in schools on military installations, a congressional inquiry about an alleged racial incident at Fort McClellan, AL, and difficulties encountered by an integrated band from Fort Bragg, NC, playing at an American Legion event in Durham, NC. There are references to “executing a public relations plan” in conjunction with using Army troops in the integration of Little Rock, AR, and an analysis of 40 newspapers “to determine if any editorial pressure” was being exerted to force the President to remove Federal troops from Little Rock.

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF MILITARY HISTORY/MAIL AND RECORDS SECTION

IV.319.3 Entry 142 Decimal File, 1943–50 [General Correspondence, 1943–60]. Neg.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Negroes). Loc: NAII; 270; 18/24/07; Box 9.

Description: The records regard a response to a request for material compiled by the Historical Division on the 9th and 10th Cavalry regiments, 24th Infantry Division, and

other Negro units. Other records concern the utilization of Negro manpower in the Army, and analyses (summaries) on the origin and racial characteristics of the American Negro.

**RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF MILITARY HISTORY/
HISTORICAL SERVICES DIVISION**

IV.319.4 Entry 145 Publications, Unpublished Manuscripts, and Supporting Records, 1943–77. 5 ft. 6 in.

Arrangement: Arranged by an U.S. Army Center of Military History alpha-numeric filing system.

- a. File 2–3.7 (AB-C to CJ5: Manpower—Utilization of Negro Manpower). Loc: NAI; 270; 19/03/02; 19/11/07–19/12/02; Boxes 75 and 501–513.

Description: The records contain some brief summaries on the use of Negro troops. Most of the records regard the draft manuscript (printer's copy) of Dr. Ulysses G. Lee's *The Employment of Negro Troops*. The book's purpose was "to bring together the significant experience of the Army in dealing with an important national question: the full use of the human resources represented by that 10 percent of national population that is Negro." The Assistant Secretary of War recommended preparation of the book in February 1944, due to national interest and great value for future military planning. Lee served as an education officer and editorial analyst in the field and headquarters of the Army Service Forces and was later the military history specialist on Negroes in the Army for seven years.

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF, ARMY RESERVE

IV.319.5 Entry 149 General Correspondence [1948–60]. 2 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

- a. Decimal File 291.2 (Genealogy; Race). Loc: NAI; 270; 18/28/04; 18/30/07; Boxes 38 (1948–54) and 4 (1957).

Description: The records pertain to a summary report prepared by the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War, James C. Evans, "The Negro in the Army: Policy and Practice." They also concern pre- and post- World War II historical sketches and the utilization of Negro manpower in the postwar Army.

FINDING AID: NM-3
RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF/G-1 (PERSONNEL)

IV.319.6 Entry 26 Decimal File, 1949–54. 1 ft. 7 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

- a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 270; 03/27/03–03/27/04 (1949–50); 03/35/06 1951–53); 04/09/03 (1953); Boxes 571–572, 985–986, and 1406.

Description: The records contain a copy of A Study of the Negro in Military Service, written in June 1947 by Jean Byers. This study traces the history of Negro participation in the military from the American Revolution to World War II. There appears to have been some controversy surrounding who authorized or provided Byers with access to Army departmental records for use in writing the study. Included are copies of a report and questionnaire on the utilization of Negro manpower, a study of Negro strength in the Army, and a report “The Integration of Social Activities on Nine Army Posts,” an exploratory phase of research dealing with Army policy and practice with regard to on-post social activities. Other records concern the discontinuation of racial enlistment quotas, Air Force/Navy comments on the proposed experimental unit, command of whites by Negroes, treatment and assignment of Negro soldiers, survey of public school facilities on military installations, and allegations of racial discrimination.

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INTELLIGENCE/G-2

IV.319.7 Entry 47b Decimal File, 1941–48. 1 ft. 11 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

- a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race; Negroes). Loc: NAI; 270; 04/26/04–04/26/05; Boxes 380 and 381A–381D.

Description: The records regard summaries of racial situations in the United States, President’s policy on nondiscrimination, evidence of the use of Negroes as informants to spy on other Negroes, and information concerning possible friction between Japanese and Negroes in California (9th Service Command) due to the return of Japanese from internment camps. Includes a survey of racial conditions in the U.S. Army, comments on racial tensions in War Production Centers, weekly intelligence reports, and MID or FBI intelligence reports (mostly from confidential informants) on such topics as “Intermingling of Races,” “Protest against Racial and Religious Intolerance,” “What Should We do Toward Preventing Mob Violence in Our City and Racial Strife in Our Work Places,” and “Alleged Movement among Negroes in Texas City, Texas to Fight for Hitler.”

b. Decimal File 350.09 (Intelligence). Loc: NAI; 270; 04/34/06; Box 780.

Description: This file contains a "Survey of Racial Conditions in the United States" that was compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for use by the U.S. Army for intelligence purposes. The documents provide information about localities with FBI field divisions such as Denver, Des Moines, Kansas City, Omaha, Phoenix, St. Paul, Salt Lake City, and Los Angeles. These reports cite estimates of each locality's Negro population, degree of foreign or racial agitation, influence of area Negro newspapers or organizations, and Negro communist participation. The survey also contains an appendix that summarizes such topics as "The Negro Press," "Programs Concerning Race Relations," "Japanese Influence and Activity Among the American Negroes," and "Communist Party Front Organizations and Negroes." This appendix contains an index of all persons, newspapers, and organizations referenced in the report.

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR ORGANIZATION AND TRAINING/G-3 (OPERATIONS)

IV.319.8 Entry 92 Decimal File, 1948–50 [Unclassified Through Secret General Correspondence Relating to Organization and Training, 1943–Feb. 1950]. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 270; 15/04/07; 15/08/03; Boxes 13 and 176.

Description: The records pertain to a policy on the integration of Negro troops on the platoon level (within the Constabulary), an experimental unit of Negro personnel, and the strength of Negro personnel such as at the Fort Sill, OK, artillery center. Included is a copy of a Military Intelligence Division (MID) report on the National Military Officers Association (NMOA), which was formed by Negro officers of the 7th Regiment California National Guard who served as officers in the U.S. Army. NMOA was formed to "promote the betterment of Negro reserve and National Guard officers and to integrate them into white units." This organization was supposedly infiltrated with Communist sympathizers and fellow-travelers. There are references to training Negroes in training divisions, planned utilization of Negro manpower in the expansion program and in units of the mobile striking force, opposition to the use of colored troops at Atomic Energy Commission installations, and the visit of the Fahy Committee on Social Relations to Fort Knox, KY.

IV.319.9 Entry 109 Bulky File, 1944–Feb. 1950 [Strategic Planning Records, 1942–Feb. 1950]. 3 in.

Arrangement: Arranged by subject.

a. Files labeled 92nd Infantry Division. Loc: NAI; 270; 15/14/03; Box 28.

Description: The records relate to the proceedings of a Board of Review on the subject "Combat Effectiveness of Negro Officers and Enlisted Men" (June 1945) that noted that Negro officers lack pride and aggressiveness, fail to meet minimum infantry combat stan-

dards, and have practically no command capacity above the grade of captain. In addition, noncommissioned officers were said also to lack pride, be careless and undependable, and be unable to get men under their command to follow them in danger. Likewise, soldiers were said to lack pride, distrust fellow soldiers, distort facts, be unreliable, and fear the unseen. Included is a reference to Truman Gibson's report on the 92d Infantry Division, in which he refutes negative comments regarding the division's combat performance.

RECORDS OF THE PLANS AND OPERATIONS DIVISION

IV.319.10 Entry 153 Decimal File, 1946–48, 1949–Feb. 1950 [Secret General Correspondence, 1946–Feb. 1950]. 4 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 270; 15/19/07–15/20/01; Boxes 171–175.

Description: The records concern the draft policy on the utilization of Negro personnel, reduction of Negro enlistment strength in the Pacific theater, and action taken in the alleged racial discrimination that grew out of a shooting incident at Coolidge Field, Antigua. There are references to racial segregation on public carriers, Negro personnel charged with sedition, a report of the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association on "Troops and Conditions in Europe," and the failure of U.S.S. *Croatan*, an aircraft carrier, to embark Negro personnel at Le Havre, France.

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF INFORMATION

IV.319.11 Entry 260a Unclassified Decimal File, 1949–50. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 270; 17/30/04; 17/31/06; Boxes 22 and 81.

Description: The records pertain to questions concerning casualty estimates for the 92d and 93d Infantry regiments during World Wars I and II, and other references to the 99th Fighter Squadron and the 332d Fighter Group. Other records relate to alleged racial discrimination in the 6th Army against colored troops in the 1401st and 1402d Engineer Combat Battalions, combat performance of the 24th Infantry Division during the Korean War (credited with the first sizable ground victory on 20 July 1950), and the racial situation in Germany. Included are copies of a fact sheet on the Negro combat soldier in World War II, and a list of Negro troops that received the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, and Soldier's Medal for acts of heroism in World War II.

Record Group 335 Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Army

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established by the National Security Act of 1947 (61 Stat. 501), July 26, 1947, to head the Department of the Army, a component of the National Military Establishment created by the same act. Transferred to the Department of Defense (DOD), formerly the National Establishment, by the National Security Act Amendments of 1949 (63 Stat. 579), August 10, 1949. Develops policy and implements programs for the civil and military operations of the U.S. Army.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: NARS-A1

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

IV.335.1 Entry 5 [General Correspondence, July 1947–Dec. 1964]. 1 ft. 6 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Negroes). Loc: NAI; 270; 21/28/02 (Jul. 1947–Dec. 1950); 21/30/07 (Jan. 1951–Jan. 1953); 21/35/03 (Jan. 1953–Dec. 1956); 22/16/01 (Jan. 1961–Dec. 1964); Boxes 71–72, 206, 427, and 1193–1194.

Description: The records regard inquiries about the U.S. Army's segregation policy, alleged racial discrimination against Negro troops stationed in Tokyo, Japan (as part of occupation forces following World War II), segregation in the Soldiers' Home in Washington, DC, and the burial of Negro troops in Arlington National Cemetery. Other records concern a reference to a racial situation in Gelnhausen, Germany, relative to the 547th Engineer Combat Battalion, utilization of Negro manpower, use of Negro chaplains and troops in World War II, allegations that Negro servicemen were denied access to educational courses, and criminal sentencing discrepancies between white and Negro soldiers. There are also comments made by Congressman Adam Clayton Powell on his trip to Europe (Oct. 1956), a copy of Gen. Dwight Eisenhower's testimony on the "Race Issue in the Army" given before the Senate Armed Services Committee (Apr. 1948), statistical data on Negro Army officers, a copy of Negro attorney Raymond Pace Alexander's "The Negro Soldier in the United States Army—With Certain Recommendations," and a summary of Alexander's visit to several U.S. occupation areas in Germany.

Record Group 336 Records of the Office of the Chief of Transportation

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established in the Services of Supply (SOS), War Department, to head the Transportation Division, effective March 9, 1942, by Circular 59, War Department, March 2, 1942, implementing a reorganization of the army authorized by E.O. 9082, February 28, 1942.

Provided transportation services and logistical support to the U.S. Army. Abolished as a technical staff, effective February 17, 1962, by Department of Defense Reorganization Order, June 10, 1962, under authority of Section 3(a) of the Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1958 (72 Stat. 514), August 6, 1958, and confirmed by General Order 8, Department of the Army, February 15, 1962, which continued OCT as an interim organization under the Department of the Army. Formally abolished, effective December 15, 1964, by General Order 39, Department of the Army, December 1, 1964.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: UD RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF TRANSPORTATION

IV.336.1 Entry 3 General Correspondence, 1940–46. ¼ in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAII; 190; 39/02/00; Box 119.

Description: The records consist of cross-index sheets that list the subject, date, and names of recipient and correspondent. They regard a minimum requirement for colored troops, transfer orders, segregation of white and Negro troops, alleged discrimination against military personnel by railroad employees and numerous other problems encountered by Negro troops and nurses when seeking railway transportation and meals on board trains such as in Jacksonville, FL, and Birmingham, AL. Other records pertain to an investigation of the sinking near Australia of a transport that allegedly was carrying colored troops, the Fair Employment Practice Committee's investigation of discrimination in employment practices by the railroad industry, and contractual agreements between the War Department and railroads including antidiscrimination clauses.

IV.336.2 Entry 4 Formerly-Classified General Correspondence, 1941–46. 3 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Negroes). Loc: NAII; 190; 41/32/00; Boxes 53–54.

Description: The records consist of summary sheets concerning racial discrimination, handling of racial incidents or disturbances, and requests for recommendations on the participation of Negro troops in the postwar military establishment. Included also are summaries of "racial situations in the United States" and minutes of the "Conference on Negro Naval Personnel" that provide opinions expressed by naval officers on training, morale, discipline, entertainment, competence, and interaction between racial groups.

Record Group 337 Records of Headquarters Army Ground Forces

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established in the War Department, effective March 9, 1942, by Circular 59, War Department, March 2, 1942, pursuant to E.O. 9082, February 28, 1942. Transferred to the Department of the Army, by Circular 1, Department of the Army, September 18, 1947, implementing Circular 225, War Department, August 16, 1947, issued pursuant to National Security Act of 1947 (61 Stat. 501), July 26, 1947, abolishing War Department and establishing Department of the Army as a component of the National Military Establishment. Organized, trained, and equipped ground force units for combat operations. Developed and tested weapons and other equipment for each of the combat arms. In collaboration with the Army Air Forces, developed ground-air support doctrine and training methods. Exercised, June 1946–March 1948, command over the six armies within continental United States. Abolished by Circular 64, Department of the Army, March 10, 1948.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: NM-5 RECORDS OF THE GENERAL STAFF/G-1/ENLISTED DIVISION

IV.337.1 Entry 8 Decimal File, 1946–Mar. 18, 1948 [Decimal Correspondence File, 1946–47]. ¼ in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Negroes). Loc: NAII; 190; 48/12/00; Box 54.

Description: The records relate to overstrength in Negro units, utilization of Negro school trained personnel, and enlistment of Negroes in the Regular Army.

RECORDS OF THE HEADQUARTERS, ARMY GROUND FORCES

IV.337.2 Entry 55 General Correspondence, 1942–48 [Confidential and Secret Decimal Correspondence File, 1942–54]. 4 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race; Negroes). Loc: NAII; 190; 58/02/00; Boxes 183–184.

Description: The records regard the participation of Negro troops in the postwar military establishment as reported in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations, enlistment proce-

dures for Negro personnel, basic training of Negro personnel, alleged discrimination against a Negro member of the Enlisted Reserve Corps (believed unfounded), segregation of Negro soldiers, and the alleviation of racial problem at Fort Lewis, WA.

**RECORDS OF THE HEADQUARTERS, ARMY FIELD FORCES/
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S SECTION/COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS DIVISION**

IV.337.3 Entry 55h Secret Decimal File, Mar. 17 to Dec. 31, 1948 [Confidential and Secret Decimal Correspondence File, 1942-54]. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Negroes). Loc: NAI; 190; 64/16/00; Box 4.

Description: The records concern the utilization of Negro personnel in the Organized Reserve Corps, a study on allocation of divisional and nondivisional units with Negro personnel (of Army Ground Forces), and comments on the overall utilization of Negro manpower.

RECORDS OF THE SPECIAL STAFF/HISTORICAL SECTION

IV.337.4 Entry 84a Manuscript File "History of AGF," 1942-45. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by study number.

a. File labeled Study #36. Loc: NAI; 190; 71/21/00; Box 29.

Description: The records pertain to a study of the Negro officer assignment and promotion policy as based on recommended changes in existing policy, a report of a visit to school establishments, and a rotation plan for white officers assigned to colored units. Other records relate to Army Ground Forces officer candidate school quotas, minutes of the Advisory Committee on Negro Troop Policies, and a summary of Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis's visit to colored troops at various military installations in which he wrote "the colored man in uniform is expected by the War Department to develop a high morale in a community that offers him nothing but humiliation and mistreatment." Davis submitted his report to John J. McCloy, Assistant Secretary of War and Chairman of the Advisory Committee for Special Troop Policies.

Record Group 338 *Records of the U.S. Army Operational, Tactical, and Support Organizations (World War II and Thereafter)*

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

**FINDING AID: NARS-A1
RECORDS OF GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, FEC, SCAP, AND UNC/
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF/G-1**

IV.338.1 Entry 42824 General Correspondence [1932–47]. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAII; 290; 63/01/07; Box 24.

Description: The records concern the assignment of Negro manpower, participation of Negro troops in the postwar military establishment. Also included is a grievance lodged by officers of the 92d Infantry Division on the status of Negroes in the U.S. Army and on the system of command of colored units claiming that Negro enlisted men and officers were mistreated by superior white officers. There are references to the treatment of soldiers at Fort Huachuca, AZ, Starkville, MS, and Camp Claiborne, LA. Also contained in the files are references to investigations to determine the correct racial identity of enlisted men such as Pvt. John Reilly, a soldier in a white unit who requested a transfer to a colored unit when he wrote “the masquerade is over for me. I can no longer give my time physically and mentally to the all important task of defeating Fascism while I live and work with men who are completely opposed to my race.” An investigation determined that although Reilly was white, he aligned himself with the Negro race because his wife was a Negro. Another such case concerned Pvt. Sidney Bowman, who enlisted in a white unit but upon being arrested for fraternizing with Negro troops and civilians was found to be colored (quadroon). Bowman, who was described in the investigative report as “looks like a white man, having fairly straight light brown hair and definite Anglo-Saxon features,” was subsequently transferred to an appropriate colored unit.

Record Group 389 *Records of the Office of the Provost Marshal General*

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established in the War Department, under the Chief of Staff, by War Department memorandum, July 3, 1941. Administered Army-wide programs relating to protective services, law enforcement, traffic control, and prisoners of war. Directed the military police and maintained security in privately owned industrial facilities important to national defense. Abolished effective May 20, 1974, by General Order 10, Department of the Army, May 8, 1974.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prior to the establishment of the Corps of Military Police on September 26, 1941, there were experimental usages of Negro military police on a limited local basis. These limited experiments determined that the use of Negro military police units in localities with sizeable Negro populations was beneficial in terms of bettering interactions among the military police and Negro and local citizens and maintaining order.³¹ The early Negro military police detachments were small in composition, and their general use ranged from special duty assignments to full-time assignments.

Following the directive that established the Corps of Military Police, base commanders were required to report in racial categories, the designation, station, and strength of each previously existing unit. In August 1942, ten Negro military police battalions and three companies were activated, and although two more such battalions were planned, the War Department decided to fill them with white personnel as were the two Negro prisoner of war escort companies authorized in the 1942 Troop Basis.³² Provost Marshal General Allen W. Gullion decided that because no Negro armies or corps were being planned, Negro military police units would be limited to colored divisions.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: NARS-A1

RECORDS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION/MAIL AND RECORDS BRANCH

IV.389.1 Entry 433a Classified Decimal File [1941–50], [Security-Classified General Correspondence, 1941–62]. 2 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 290; 33/15/03; Boxes 68 and 169.

Description: The records concern racial conditions in Houston, TX, as depicted in an editorial from the *Negro Labor News*, "As I See It" by Editor/Publisher C. W. Rice. Rice wrote that Negroes should not become pawns for Axis agents. There was an investigation made into the matter of military and civilian police control of soldiers in Negro neighborhoods in Houston, TX, subversive activity among some of the colored people of that area, and supposedly inflammatory and sensational Negro newspaper articles and editorials. Other records regard responsibility for the special protection of Detroit, MI, during the recent race riot. Included is a copy of "Survey on Domestic Racial Estimate" to determine possibilities for mass racial violence, causes of racial tension, military and civil measures, and action to reduce potentialities of racial violence. There is a particularly interesting congressional inquiry and related reports on the controversy surrounding a Negro guard accompanying a white prisoner from Fort Hayes in Columbus, OH, to Fort McClellan, AL, which caused quite a furor. It was reported that Negro Cpl. Charles Washington upon addressing a gathering crowd (mob) outside the Jefferson County jail in Birmingham, AL, "felt sure that some mistake had been made in delegating him to this task, and that he regretted

it.”³³ Some civilians felt that the assignment was deliberately intended to cause racial problems, but military officials believed that a mistake may have been made either in the unit designation or race of the prisoner.

IV.389.2 Entry 434a Unclassified Decimal File, 1941–54 [General Correspondence, 1941–62]. 1/2 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race; General). Loc: NAII; 290; 33/18/07; Box 245.

Description: The records regard a request made to detail a Negro soldier to assist in a narcotics investigation at Camp Davis, NC; a request for colored military police at Charleston, SC; and a response to Eleanor Roosevelt’s inquiry on the training of Negroes at the Army’s School of Military Government at the University of Virginia. There are references to racial conditions in Houston, TX; a congressional request to remove Negro soldiers stationed at Camp McCoy, WI, following an alleged attack made upon two young white women; rioting by Negro troops (4th QM Co.) in San Diego, CA; and a conference of Negro editors that was held in the War Department’s conference room. It was during this conference that Army Col. E. R. Householder made the infamous statement that the Army did not create the racism problem and is not a sociological laboratory to right societal ills.

RECORDS OF THE PRISONER OF WAR OPERATIONS DIVISION/OPERATIONS BRANCH

IV.389.3 Entry 451 Unclassified Decimal File, 1942–45 [Unclassified Decimal Correspondence File with Related Index, 1942–48]. 2 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race; General). Loc: NAII; 290; 34/08/06; Box 1268.

Description: The records relate to a discussion for an additional military police battalion for the Military District of Washington with the end of World War II, as racial tension and civil disturbances may occur given the housing shortage, unemployment, and the attitudes of Negro returnees. There is a list of “Race Riots After World War I” that includes information about the race riot in Washington, DC, on Saturday July 19, 1919. This riot, in which 12 persons were killed, culminated after attacks were allegedly made upon white women (a *Washington Post* article describes this riot). Other records refer to racial incidents or tensions at Walterboro Army Air Field, SC; Seattle, WA, and to a strike at the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company plant in Memphis, TN. Also included is the policy on the use of colored troops in prisoner of war and alien enemy guard companies, which was believed impracticable.

Records of the Internal Security Division

IV.389.4 Entry 473 Race Riots and Strikes, 1942–45 [Reports of Race Riots and Strikes, 1942–45]. 3 ft. 7 in.

Arrangement: Arranged by subject.

a. Files labeled Co. History on Seizure of Plants through Strikes in Key Plants. Loc: NAI; 290; 35/17/02–35/17/03; Boxes 1784–1792.

Description: The records pertain to standard operating procedures relative to the War Department operation of plants and facilities due to strikes or other labor disturbances. These Federal Government “takeovers” were vested in the President under several laws such as the First War Powers Act and the War Labor Disputes Act. During World War II, the President authorized the Secretary of War to take possession and assume control of a transportation system or plant until it was determined that “such possession and control are no longer needful or desirable for the effective prosecution of the War.” The War Department seized control of such facilities as the Bingham and Garfield Railroad Company (Salt Lake City, UT.), the Cleveland Graphite Bronze Company, and the Montgomery Ward Company. The records also contain references to several labor strikes that derived from racial causes such as the ones at Breeze Point plant of Western Electric Company near Baltimore, MD, and the Ford Motor Company plant in Dearborn, MI. Other records include a “Report on the Problem of Introduction of Negro Trainmen” in the Philadelphia Transportation Company and a “Report on Riot Duty” in Mobile, AL, at the Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company. There is also background information and material on the Detroit race riot of June 20–July 9, 1943, that began as a fight between a Negro man and a white man near Belle Island Park but quickly escalated into mob violence, looting, and rioting. A *Life* magazine article about the Detroit race riot is included.

Record Group 407 *Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1917–*

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established in the War Department under the direction of the Chief of Staff, by General Order 46, War Department, March 4, 1907, pursuant to the Army Appropriation Act (34 Stat. 1158), March 2, 1907. Provided administrative and support services to the War Department and, after 1947, to the Department of the Army. Maintained personnel records, developed data processing systems, and administered the nonunit reserve components of the U.S. Army. Oversaw the Army personnel statistical and accounting system, records management program, publications, postal services, historical activities, and special and heraldic services. Military personnel management functions were transferred to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, effective May 20, 1974. Abolished by memorandum, U.S. Army Chief of Staff (COS), November 17, 1986, removing the Adjutant General from the Army Staff, and assigning title and lineage to the Director of Personnel Service Support, Military Personnel Center (MILPERCEN).

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

Finding aid: NM-3

Records of the Administrative Services Division/Career Management Branch

IV.407.1 Entry 356 Classified Decimal Correspondence File, 1949-52. Neg.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAII; 270; 49/15/07; Box 23.

Description: The records consist of cross-reference sheets used to access the central decimal files. These sheets provide summaries of the subject, date, action taken and requested, reference to other decimal files, and the name of the action officer. They cover such topics as the assignment of Negro officers, and policies on the utilization of Negro manpower and Negro officers. There are also some letters sent in regard to various inquiries.

General Records of the Adjutant General's Office

IV.407.2 Entry 359a Central Decimal Files; Cross-Reference Sheets, 1946-48. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAII; 270; 38/13/01; Box 170.

Description: The records consist of cross-reference sheets used to access the central decimal files. They summarize the subject and list the date and name of person or office that the correspondence was sent to or from. The records also cover such subjects as the integration of Negro personnel in Reserve components, policies and practices of the War Department relative to civil rights, and the utilization of Negro military personnel. Other topics regard alleged discrimination and mistreatment of Negro troops, the number of Negro soldiers executed as a result of courts-martial, the report of the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association on troops and conditions in the ETO, and training received by Negroes in the Army during World War II.

IV.407.3 Entry 359b Central Decimal Files; Cross-Reference Sheets, 1949-50. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAII; 270; 38/20/05; Box 104.

Description: These are cross-reference sheets used to access the central decimal files. They contain a synopsis of the topic, date, and the name of office that the correspondence was sent to or from. The topics covered are racial segregation of draftees, Department of Army policy on integration, treatment of Negro soldiers, discrimination against Negro soldiers,

requests for data on Negro cadets and graduates of the U.S. Military Academy and for Negro military representation in Korea, and utilization of Negro manpower in the postwar Army.

IV.407.4 Entry 359c Central Decimal Files; Cross-Reference Sheets, 1951–52. 1 1/2 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAII; 270; 38/26/06; Box 111.

Description: The records are cross-reference sheets used to access the central decimal files. They contain the name of person or office that correspondence was sent to or from, date, and a brief summary of the topic. Such subjects are covered as the alleged movement against integration at Fort Riley, KS; an investigation of discrimination against a Negro soldier; a racial disturbance at Camp Rucker, AL; and the employment of Negro troops during World War II. Other subjects regard “miscegenetic” marriages; complaints of Negro troops stationed at Camp Polk, LA; allegation of Negro personnel of the 666th Transportation Truck Company being denied adequate meals en route from Louisville, KY, to Atlanta, GA; and an inquiry on awarding military decorations, particularly the Medal of Honor, to Negro troops fighting in Korea.

IV.407.5 Entry 359d Central Decimal Files; Cross Reference Sheets, 1953. 1/4 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAII; 270; 38/32/01; Box 60.

Description: The records consist of cross-reference sheets used to access the central decimal files. They contain the name of person or office that the correspondence was sent to or from, date, and summary of the topic addressed. The files concern complaints of an incident in Columbia, SC, lack of promotional opportunities for civilian Army personnel in the Special Services Branch, problems of Negro military personnel in the custody of civilian authorities, complaints of inappropriate or derogatory remarks made by a U.S. Army officer in Europe, and existing conditions for Negro troops in the Verdun, France, area.

Records of or Maintained by the Communications Branch

IV.407.6 Entry 360a Army-AG Classified Decimal File, 1940–47. 2 ft. 10 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAII; 270; 39/05/04–39/05/07 (1940–42); 39/33/03–39/33/04 (1943–45); 41/02/06 (1946–47); Boxes 147–150, 1507–1513, and 3437.

Description: The records relate to investigations of discrimination against Negro soldiers at Fort Worth, TX, Selfridge Field, MI, and Fort Leavenworth, KS, and against a Negro WAAC

at the 1st Interceptor Command in New York, NY. Other records regard racial or labor disturbances that occurred at such places as the Raritan Arsenal in Metuchen, NJ, Las Vegas, NV, and Brookley Field, AL. The records contain investigative reports on more serious racial incidents such as the alleged beating of Negro WAC Margueretta Nicholson by civilian police in Hamlet, NC; a "forced march" taken by Negro soldiers stationed at Fort Devens, MA, after which many officers were relieved of their commands; and the shooting of Negro soldier Reuben Pleasant by a civilian bus driver in Montgomery, AL, that was described as a vicious, unwarranted, and disrespectful attack upon a uniformed soldier. Included also are summaries of racial situations in the United States; allegations of Japanese exploitation of Negroes in Little Rock, AR; a reference to the controversy of preventing Negro soldiers from marrying women in France, Italy, and England; and a request by the Belgian government in Congo, Africa, that no colored troops be stationed or sent there because they have "a standard of living much higher than that of the natives [and it would] cause great difficulties there." There is a copy of "A Study of the Negro Soldier," a controversial treatise written by 1st Lt. Fred W. Adams, 25th Infantry on the poor performance, training, and capabilities of Negro troops, as well as a copy of a study titled "Negro Problem in the Army." The records also regard the utilization of Negro judge advocates, nurses, and Negro troops in parachute or commando services.

b. Decimal File 221 (Aviation Cadet: 10-1-44 — 12-31-44). Loc: NAI; 270; 39/32/02; Box 1449.

Description: The records concern the procurement of Negro civilian and military personnel for the Negro pilot training program (also referred to as the Negro air crew training program) and to the shortage of qualified applicants. They document the support or opposition to proposed recommendations, test score requirements (AGCT score of 100 or better), age group (ages 18-26), and physical qualifications (weight, height, vision, hearing, etc.) by which potential inductees would be selected. The Army Air Forces and the Army Service Forces were directed on January 19, 1945, to screen for qualified personnel to meet the prescribed training program quota.

IV.407.7 Entry 363a Army-AG Decimal File, 1940-45. 11 ft. 3 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 270; 41/35/03-41/35/06; Boxes 1062-1088.

Description: The records are mostly responses to letters from Negro soldiers, Negro parents, Congressmen, private citizens, and organizations such as the NAACP on the mistreatment or use of Negro troops and WACs. One such letter was written to the President from a Negro male who expected to be drafted soon, expressing his fear of serving with those disliking his race. He wrote "I have an unholy fear, not of the enemy; but strangely enough of my own fellow Americans . . . I pray that I will not hear on the morrow that one of my relations, or friends has been killed by a fellow citizen because his face was black."³⁴ Some other inquiries regard support for the placement of Negro WACs at Gardiner General Hospital in Chicago, IL; complaints against the courts-martial and dishonorable discharges of four Negro WACs at Fort Devens, MA; the courts-martial of Negro

soldiers at the Northport Veterans facility in Long Island, NY, who were charged with the mistreatment of patients; and Negro soldiers in Mannheim, Germany, convicted of violating Article of War 66 and sentenced to death. Other topics concern complaints against the treatment of Negro troops of the 3402 Quartermaster Truck Company near Florence, Italy; support of protests against the integration of Army facilities; a near mutiny near Camp Plauche, New Orleans, LA; riots in Harlem, NY, Nashville, TN, and Camp Shenango Replacement Depot, PA; and racial situations at Walla Walla Army Air Field, WA, and Camp Van Dorn, MS. Included is a copy of Walter White's report "What Caused the Detroit Riots"; a report submitted by William H. Hastie to the National Lawyers Guild titled "A Report on Civilian Violence Against Negro Soldiers," and Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis's report "Survey Relative Conditions Affecting Racial Attitudes at Fort Clark, Texas."

b. Decimal File 322 and 322.97 (Colored Troops). Loc: NAI; 270; 42/25/03; Boxes 2292–2293.

Description: The records are mostly responses to congressional inquiries regarding the training, treatment, and service of Negro troops. They document the opposition to stationing Negro troops in such localities as Saulte Ste. Marie, MI; Eagle Pass, TX; Camp Pickett in Blackstone, VA; Morehead City, NC; and Old Town, ME. Most of these localities cited the lack of recreational activities, housing facilities, and small Negro civilian populations as reasons for not stationing Negro troops in their communities. The records also include references to racial situations near Camp Robinson, AR, and Fort Bragg, NC, a request for an investigation against conditions affecting Negro troops stationed at the Quartermaster Replacement Training Center, Fort Francis E. Warren, WY, due to their exclusion from Officers Candidate School, complaints of inadequacy of training facilities at Tuskegee Army Airfield, AL; and a request made by a medical doctor for data on colored troops from southern states for a discussion of the colored races' physical fitness for military service. There are copies of various antidiscrimination resolutions passed by numerous civic organizations, a copy of "Report of activities of the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War," and telegrams from Brooklyn, NY, and from the YWCA protesting discriminatory practices in southern Army camps and the infamous recent lynching of a Negro in Skelton, MO.

IV.407.8 Entry 363b Army-AG Decimal File, 1946–48. 9 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 270; 44/16/02; Boxes 718–719.

Description: The records regard the Army segregation policy, an investigation to determine the race of two soldiers (one who enlisted as white later found to be a Negro), postwar utilization of Negro personnel, establishment of ROTC units in land-grant colleges for Negroes, and training Negro troops in training divisions. Other records relate to a requests for photographs of Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis and his son, Col. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr; for information on the 11 Negro graduates of the U.S. Military Academy for a published article; for data on World Wars I and II Negro Medal of Honor awardees; and for the policy on the burial of Negroes in national cemeteries. They also contain information on the death of a Negro soldier at Geiger Field, Spokane, WA, and on various racial discrimina-

tion complaints of Negro soldiers at Furstenfeldbruck Air Base, Germany; Manila, Philippines; and Fort Jackson, SC. Included is a copy of the Negro Publishers Association report "Troops and Conditions in Europe" about an inspection tour of the European and Mediterranean theaters of operation, and summaries of trends in the Negro press on conditions specific to Negroes in civilian and military life.

IV.407.9 Entry 363c Army-AG Decimal File, 1949–50. 3 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 270; 45/10/02; Box 363.

Description: The records concern the utilization of Negro personnel in the Army, abolishment of segregation in the National Guards of Minnesota and Illinois; and racial discrimination complaints about the treatment of World War II veterans stationed in Tokyo, Japan, and of Negro soldiers at Camp Roberts, CA, and the Korean battlefield. Other records pertain to the conduct of colored troops in the U.S. Occupational Zone of Europe, policy on Negro troops during Caribbean maneuvers, and a Fahy Committee visit to Fort Knox, KY, to check on all aspects of Negro problems in the Army.

IV.407.10 Entry 363d Army-AG Decimal File, 1951–52. 5 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 270; 45/32/02; Box 329.

Description: The records contain a reference to the August 23, 1917, insurrection of Negro soldiers at Camp Logan, Houston, TX, segregation of schools on Army posts, and various allegations of racial discrimination against Negro soldiers of the 83d Antiair Artillery Gun Battalion, and the 712 Antiair Artillery Gun Battalion. There is one particularly interesting Korean War–era letter from a Negro mother who requested an investigation of conditions affecting her son Rct. Louis Wilson in Company B of the 406th Engineer Construction Battalion, stationed at Camp Rucker, AL. Although the charges were later proven untrue, the mother alleged discriminatory treatment, and inadequate food and training. She wrote "when are they going to stop sending northern Negro soldiers to the South and throwing them on the tender mercies of the Southern civilian population? . . . I want my son transferred to a northern camp."³⁵ Included is a copy of "Memorandum of Conference" summarizing a meeting held at the Pentagon, and a request for medical data on southern Negro males to ascertain the acceptance or rejection rate due to high blood pressure during World War II and the present draft (Korean War).

IV.407.11 Entry 363e Army-AG Decimal File, 1953–54. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 270; 46/15/03; Box 129.

Description: The records pertain to complaints of alleged racial discrimination against Negro soldiers stationed in the vicinity of Kaiserslautern, Germany; at the Signal Corps Photography School at Fort Monmouth, NJ; at the Ordnance Course at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD; and in the integration of Negroes at the U.S. Military Academy's Mess Detachment of the 1802d Special Regiment. Other records regard the special court-martial of a Negro soldier in Korea that was later revoked due to jurisdictional errors, and a visit by Negro citizens to the Far East Command.

IV.407.12 Entry 427 World War II Operations Reports, 1940–48. 134.58 cu. ft.

Note: Only two samples of the combat operation reports are described in this finding aid due to the large volume of records. Researchers should consult the reports of other African American units for more information on their combat experiences and unit histories. A listing of the African American units can be found in RG 165 (War Department General and Special Staffs), Records of the Director of Personnel and Administration (G-1), Decimal File, 1942–June 1946 (291.2), NM-84, Entry 43, Box 443 (120 pages).

Arrangement: Arranged according to a numerical file designation and thereunder by date, except for nonorganic units which are filed first alphabetically by code, and thereunder by number and date. This filing scheme falls into three general categories of units (for purpose of classification): 1) theaters and their major commands; 2) organic units composed of Army groups, armies, corps, and divisions; and 3) nonorganic units composed of nondivisional arms and service troops. For each group there is a coding scheme peculiar to its category: for example, 300 (Divisions, Infantry, Mountain, Airborne); and FABR-15 (15th Field Artillery Brigade).

a. Files 324-0 to 324-TF-3.9 (24th Infantry Division). Loc: NAI; 270; 55/21/02-55/27/07; Boxes 7667-7990.

Description: The records highlight the lineage of the 24th Infantry Division, also known as the "Victory Division," from the Spanish-American War to World War II. This division was organized at Fort McKavitt, TX, in 1869 as one of four Negro regiments that was established by Congress. Some of the division's regiments date back to the Civil War. The 24th Infantry Division is an outgrowth of the Hawaiian Division and was one of the first two units (and the first Negro unit) attacked at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The records contain historical reports of the division's World War II battle campaigns in Hollandia, Leyte, Mindoro, Luzon, Corregidor, Mindanao, and Sarangani Bay and during the occupation of Japan. The files also contain a copy of "The Twenty Fourth Infantry Division: A Brief History," unit histories, general orders, and some photographs.

b. Files labeled 392.02 to 392-3.22 (92d Infantry Division). Loc: NAI; 270; 65/17/07; Boxes 13620A-13620B.

Description: The records contain the infamous “Report on Visit to 92nd Division (Negro Troops)” written by Truman K. Gibson, Jr, Negro Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War, detailing his March 1–8, 1945, visit that generated significant public response from those defending or condemning the division. Gibson visited the 92d Infantry Division to obtain, observe, and evaluate information concerning the “questionable conduct” of Negro officers and enlisted men during combat as well as to gather information about racial attitudes that may have influenced the division’s disappointing performance. His report noted the “panicky” retreats and the “melting away” of units, the division’s promotion policy, racial attitudes of the command, and conclusions and recommendations.³⁶ Other records regard responses of military officials to Gibson’s report; references to the treatment of the division while stationed at Fort Huachuca, AZ (examined in an August 1943 Inspector General’s report about racial attitudes at this fort); and replacements and training. The records also include narrative reports of the 366th and 370th Infantry Regiments (part of the 92d Infantry Division); inspection reports; and investigative reports about combat activities in the Serchio Valley sector by the 92d Infantry Division, and the loss of 22 tanks from the 760th Tank Battalion (with testimonies); lists of Negro enlisted men absent from their organizations; tabulated survey responses of 640 enlistees completed from February to March 1943; and other personnel related records.

IV.407.13 Entry 429 Army-AG Command Reports, 1949–54. 23 cu. ft.

Note: Only one sample of the command reports is described in this finding aid due to the large volume of records. Researchers should consult the reports of other African American units for more information on their combat experiences and unit histories. A listing of the African American units can be found in RG 165 (War Department General and Special Staffs), Records of the Director of Personnel and Administration (G–1), Decimal File, 1942–June 1946 (291.2), NM–84, Entry 43, Box 443 (120 pages).

Arrangement: Arranged according to a numerical file designation and thereunder by date, except for nonorganic units which are filed first alphabetically by code, and thereunder by number and date. This filing scheme falls into three general categories of units (for purpose of classification): 1) theaters and their major commands; 2) organic units composed of army groups, armies, corps, and divisions; and 3) nonorganic units composed of non divisional arms and service troops. For each group there is a coding scheme peculiar to its category: for example, 300 (Divisions, Infantry, Mountain, Airborne); and FABR–15 (15th Field Artillery Brigade).

a. Files 324–1.6 to 324TK (24th Infantry Division). Loc: NAI; 270; 67/29/06–67/35/03; Boxes 3469–3745.

Description: The records pertain to the combat participation of the 24th Infantry Division and its subordinate units during the Korean conflict as documented in narrative histories, war diaries, unit diaries, journal entries, and combat reports. This division was awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation “for outstanding performance of duty and extraordinary heroism in action against numerically superior forces in Korea” (July 2–Sept. 15, 1950). Finding aid: UD

IV.407.14 Entry 1427a Index to WW-2 Operations Reports, 1940–48. 1/4 in.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by subject.

a. File labeled colored troops. Loc: NAI; 270; 65/18/06; Box 27.

Description: The records are an index to the combat operations reports for World War II. They provide brief summaries of such topics as the assignment and training of Negro troops, the absorption of colored soldiers in white units, and white and colored troops working and fighting together. Other subjects are Negro troop convoys, disciplinary problems, casualties, arrests, and courts-martial.

**Record Group 492 *Records of Mediterranean Theater of Operations,
United States Army***

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Headquarters, North African Theater of Operations, U.S. Army (NATOUA)/Mediterranean Theater of Operations, U.S. Army (MTOUSA) functioned between February 4, 1943, and December 14, 1947, exercised administrative control over U.S. Army units, equipment, and installations within a geographical area first designated as the North African Theater of Operations (NATO), and after November 1, 1944, known as the Mediterranean Theater of Operations (MTO) under General Order 111 Effective same date, MTO boundaries defined as the former NATO boundaries minus southern France and Switzerland (both transferred to the European Theater of Operations). MTO boundaries redefined, effective March 1, 1945, by Adjutant General letter AG 323/113 GCT-O, HQ AFHQ, to exclude Atlantic areas, northwestern Africa, Turkey and Turkish islands, and Iberian Peninsula, with those areas transferred to newly established Africa-Middle East Theater. Following end of war in Europe, May 8, 1945, HQ MTOUSA engaged in redeployment training and in liquidating its affairs in MTO. HQ MTOUSA abolished effective December 14, 1947, by General Order 205. Residual command functions transferred to Commanding Officer, Headquarters Command, European Command, effective December 15, 1947, by General Order 206.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

**Finding aid: UD
Records of Mediterranean Theater of Operations, U.S. Army/Special Staff/
Adjutant General**

IV.492.1 Entry 84 General Correspondence (“Decimal File”), [1942–47]. 2 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAII; 290; 53/34/05; Box 912.

Description: The records pertain to the utilization of Negro manpower in the postwar Army (in the MTO), enlistment of Negroes, a request for information on colored troops to be given by colored and white officers of the 92d Infantry Division, and a reference to a "No Negroes" notice posted in a Naples, Italy, hotel by Col. James E. Manly that was reported by *The Afro-American*. Included also is a copy of NAACP secretary Walter White's memorandum to the War Department "Observations in the North African and Middle Eastern Theaters of Operation" written when he served as a war correspondent with the *New York Post*.

IV.492.2 Entry 85 Formerly Security Classified General Correspondence (Classified "Decimal File"), [1942–47]. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAII; 290; 54/09/02; Box 1379.

Description: The records contain a psychological paper about the leadership of colored troops in combat zones that was written by a commanding officer of such a unit stationed overseas, with recommendations on how to instill pride and how to get satisfactory performance from them. The records also concern complaints of discriminatory treatment lodged by Negro officers of the 99th Fighter Squadron, assignments of Negro correspondents to cover Negro units in the theater, and allegations of poor performance and censorship violations among colored Air Force units as being "potentially serious possibilities in discipline and loyalty." Also included are investigative reports on the 98th Engineer Regiment covering crimes of the alleged murders of two Negro soldiers by white officers (one shot, one hung), racial incidents, and inharmonious conditions between white and Negro enlisted men that were "existent facts of the social system in the United States." There is also a report on the "Combat Efficiency of the 99th Fighter Squadron" that was regarded as not being of the caliber of a first-class fighting organization.

**Record Group 493 *Records of U.S. Army Forces in China-Burma-India
Theaters of Operations***

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Headquarters, American Army Forces, China, Burma, and India (HQ AAF CBI), and its successor, Headquarters, U.S. Army Forces, China, Burma, and India (HQ USAF CBI), established with mission to support the Republic of China in its resistance to Japan by maintaining land and air supply lines, training Chinese air and ground forces in China and India, and providing air support to the Chinese Army; to bomb Japanese bases and formations in the theater; and to provide equipment and services to British and Indian forces operating in Burma and India. HQ AAF CBI was established in Chungking, China by

General Order 1, March 4, 1942, pursuant to Secretary of War's appointment of Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stillwell as commanding general of all U.S. Army forces in China, Burma, and India. A second AAF CBI headquarters was established in New Delhi, India, by letter of Commanding General AAF CBI, June 25, 1942, pursuant to War Department message 35. HQ USAF CBI was abolished, with functions transferred to newly established China and India-Burma Theaters, by Joint Chiefs of Staff message WARX 51593, October 24, 1944 (under same message that removed Gen. Stillwell from command), both of which were later abolished under separate orders in 1946.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

Finding aid: UD Records of India-Burma Theater/Adjutant General

IV.493.1 Entry 36 General Correspondence (Decimal Files), [n.d.]. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 290; 41/05/07; Box 57.

Description: The records regard the utilization of Negro personnel, participation of Negro troops in the postwar military establishment (specifically in the IBT), and various statements in relation to Negro troops units. Included is a copy of "The Utilization of Negro Infantry Platoons in White Companies" that contains affidavits of interviews with white officers and enlisted persons from seven infantry divisions, and a report "Attitudes of Patients Toward Care and Treatment Received in ETO Hospitals." Other topics covered are the policy on the use of colored troops in China, and the appointment of Negroes to the Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) as agents because of "inherent advantages."

Record Group 498 *Records of Headquarters, European Theater of Operations, United States Army*

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

HQ ETOUSA was established in London by General Order 3, June 8, 1942. Until the establishment of Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces (SHAEF) on February 13, 1944; HQ ETOUSA participated in the operational planning for the Allied invasion of western Europe. It performed administrative and service functions for U.S. Army troops, equipment, and facilities in the United Kingdom and Iceland, 1942–45; North Africa, November 1942–February 1943; and western Europe, June 6, 1944–July 1, 1945. Effective July 1, 1945, it was redesignated HQ U.S. Forces European Theater (HQ USFET) in accordance with HQ

ETOUSA General Order 130 of June 30, 1945. HQ USFET was discontinued and replaced by Headquarters European Command, effective March 15, 1947.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

Finding aid: UD Records of European Theater of Operations/Deputy Theater Commander

IV.498.1 Entry 1 General Correspondence, 1945. 1/4 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Negro Race). Loc: NAI; 290; 55/09/06; Box 6.

Description: The records pertain to the use of colored troops that were organized on the platoon level as volunteers for combat following their training as infantrymen, employment of colored reinforcements, and alleged discrimination against eight Negro enlisted men of the 923d Aviation Regiment, who upon reporting to OCS were told that the school was not accepting colored troops (reported by Brig. Gen. B. O. Davis).

Records of European Theater of Operations/Secretary General Staff/Administration Branch

IV.498.2 Entry 19 Classified General Correspondence, 1945–46. 4 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Problems re. Negro Troops). Loc: NAI; 290; 55/10/05; 55/12/01; Boxes 20 and 85.

Description: The records relate to ensuring that problems of Negro troops in the ETO were handled by competent personnel, responses to questions regarding the participation of Negro troops in the postwar military establishment, a study on the utilization of Negro infantry platoons in white companies as having “proved themselves effective combat troops in the eyes of white doughboys who fought alongside them in the same units,” and Chief of Staff William Bedell Smith’s letter to General Eisenhower on this policy. There is a reference to a request not to replace white troops with colored troops due to the shortage of housing, restricted recreational facilities, and the general nature of the mission. A news release describes the 761st Tank Battalion as “wiping out the equivalent to three or four German Divisions during combat in Europe.” This was the first Negro tank unit in combat, and its troops received many commendations: eight enlisted men received battlefield commissions, and eight Silver Stars, 62 Bronze Stars, four clusters, and numerous Purple Hearts were awarded. Also contained in the files are copies of a report (and a response to it) of

the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association's inspection tour "Troops and Conditions in Europe," a "Report of Investigation concerning Negro Troops Disturbances in Rotenburg, O.T., Germany," and a copy of a letter from an anonymous Negro soldier in the 6975 Infantry Regiment Provisional about conditions at the U.S. Army camp in Auerbach, Germany. He wrote "two weeks ago 10,000 German prisoners were here, they moved out and left all the filth and disease that these places usually carry . . . it seems as though Negro troops are being concentrated here."³⁷

Records of European Theater of Operations/Adjutant General's Section/Administration Branch

IV.498.3 Entry 372 General Correspondence, 1944–45. 1/2 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Negroes). Loc: NAII; 290; 56/08/03; Box 32.

Description: The records regard charges of alleged rape against a Negro soldier stationed with the American Expeditionary Forces in Germany, racial discrimination, a visit of Civilian Aide Truman K. Gibson to the ETO, utilization of Negro judge advocates, and a note that the "Negro Problem" in the ETOUSA was a command problem not a sociological one.

IV.498.4 Entry 373 General Correspondence, 1946. 1/4 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAII; 290; 56/14/01; Box 310.

Description: The records pertain to alleged discrimination against Negro civilian employees of the War Department in Germany (and the subsequent investigation of this matter), an inquiry made by Negro soldiers assigned to the armored command about being reassigned to the Corps of Engineers against their wishes, disorders in Ansbach, Germany, utilization of Negro manpower, and a survey of Negro troops to ascertain their criminal behavior.

IV.498.5 Entry 375 Classified General Correspondence, 1942–44. 1 1/2 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAII; 290; 56/17/01; Box 53.

Description: The records relate to a report about the racial problem in Great Britain with a suggested solution of segregating the races that was viewed as impossible to do, guidelines for "inter-national and inter-racial relations," policy on assigning Negro military personnel to the United Kingdom, the treatment of Negro soldiers, and a letter from a British

citizen of Somerset who complained of the treatment of such troops. There are also references to colored troops being refused admittance to a dance hall in Suffolk, England; a report titled "Negro in Bristol Channel Ports"; a survey concerning the friction between colored and white troops that was caused by "the resentment of certain white soldiers against the association of the British people, particularly the British women, with colored soldiers, and the absence of 'Jim Crow' practices"; and an investigation into the quartering or billeting of colored troops at Ditchingham Hall in Norfolk, England.

IV.498.6 Entry 376 Classified General Correspondence, 1945. 3 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 290; 56/23/04; Box 365.

Description: The records regard the participation of Negro troops in the postwar military establishment with responses to a questionnaire on this topic as it pertained to the ETO, a racial discrimination complaint of Negro officers who were asked to vacate the Hotel Bellvue in Lille, France, and a reference to the courts-martial of 11 Negro soldiers of the 406th QM Truck Company who were tried for various violations of Articles of War—article 64 (willful disobedience), article 66 (mutiny), and article 96 (insubordination). One person was acquitted, seven were sentenced to be shot to death, and three were sentenced to confinement for life. The events leading up to these sentences are not documented in the files.

Records of European Theater of Operations/Historical Division

IV.498.7 Entry 578 Administrative File [1942–Jan. 1946]. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. File 218 (Negro Troops). Loc: NAI; 290; 57/15/07; Box 43.

Description: The records relate to the policy on Negro troops in the European Theater of Operations (ETO), an inspection report of combat support wing installations of the 8th Air Force at Hill Farm and Grovelly Woods, treatment of troops, and opposition to placing Negro troops in white units. Other records concern plans for improving the conditions and morale of Negro troops, Lt. Gen. Dwight Eisenhower's statement on the presence of Negro troops in the British Isles and their interaction with British people, news releases "First Negro Nurses Arrive in England (with names and States that they hailed from) and "Performance of Negro Troops in France Praised" on Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis's tour of the ETO, a statistical report comparing white and colored troops (criminal offenses), and extracts from censored letters of comments pertaining to or made by Negro troops.

Records of European Theater of Operations/Public Relations Section

IV.498.8 Entry 1083 [General Correspondence] Decimal File, 1943–46. 2 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race—Negroes and Colored Troops). Loc: NAI; 290; 58/02/06; Box 3.

Description: The records concern the policy on promotion and assignment of Negro officer personnel; use of Negro troops to patrol streets in Manchester, England; racial disturbances or confrontations between Negro and white troops in Dudley and Leicester, England; alleged discrimination against approximately 12 Negro officers and troops attached to the 52d Quartermaster Base Depot, specifically of the town of Balleroy being “off-limits”; and a problem of not granting passes to Negro soldiers of the Motor Transport Brigade (operating on the “Red Ball” route) for them to go into Paris, France. There are references to criminal cases being processed by the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) near Cherbourg, France; a Negro soldier (possibly attached to the 27th Quartermaster Group Transportation Company being killed by “promiscuous firing” in Belgium; and a chaplain’s addressing Negro units on crime prevention. The records also include a copy of an illustration, “Let’s Look at Rape,” created by an anonymous Negro chaplain advising Negro soldiers on how to conduct themselves (by appealing to racial pride) in order to avoid charges of rape made by French women; an extract from the *New York Times* article “General Minimizes A.E.F. Race Friction” about Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis’s tour of the ETO; and a CID response to a request from the Duke of Marlborough on “Cases in which colored troops were involved,” which details the number of crimes committed, number of troops involved, and convictions and pending cases (Feb.–Sept. 1943).

Record Group 547 *Records of U.S. Army Forces in Alaska*

The Alaska Defense Command was established February 4, 1941, by authority of War Department letter AG 320.2, and activated on March 28, 1941. It was subordinated to the Western Defense Command until it was established as a separate theater of operations, and redesignated the Alaska Department in November 1, 1943 (pursuant to War Department letter AG 323.361). Effective November 15, 1947, the Alaska Department was redesignated HQ, United States Army, Alaska (HA USARAL), a service component of the unified Alaskan Command. HQ USARAL was disestablished on January 1, 1975 (later re-activated on July 2, 1994, as Headquarters, U.S. Army, Alaska).

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: UD **RECORDS OF THE ALASKAN DEPARTMENT/ADJUTANT GENERAL'S SECTION**

IV.547.1 Entry 6 Alaska Defense Command/Alaska Department, 1940–47 [Classified General Correspondence, 1940–1945]. 1 1/2 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAII; 290; 39/13/03 (1940–45); 39/16/04 (1946); 39/17/05 (1946); 39/18/05 (1947); Boxes 62, 215, 271 and 321.

Description: The records regard the participation of Negro troops in the postwar military establishment, utilization of Negro judge advocates, discriminatory treatment against Negro troops in Alaska, a request made for the assignment of colored female workers to recreational activities in Anchorage, AK, and the enlistment or replacement of Negro troops.

Record Group 549 Records of United States Army, Europe

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

The Headquarters, U.S. Ground and Service Forces Army, Europe was redesignated as the Headquarters, U.S. Army, Europe (HQ USAEUR) on November 15, 1947. In 1952, the functions of Headquarters, European Command (HQ EUCOM) reverted to HQ USAEUR.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

RECORDS OF HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY, EUROPE/WAR CRIMES BRANCH

IV.549.1 Entry 2239 War Crimes Case Files (“Cases Not Tried”), 1944–48. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by case file number.

a. Case File 6–102 (Wereth). Loc: NAII; 290; 59/19/05; Box 26.

Description: The case file contains information about the investigation of the unsolved massacre of 11 enlisted U.S. Negro soldiers (POWs) by German SS troops on December 17, 1944, in Wereth, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge. According to the sworn testimony of Belgian citizen Mathias Langer and two others, these troops were seen surrendering to the

German SS troops but “the next day they were found dead about 800 metres from my house, on a side road.”³⁸ The German SS troops were believed to be members of the 1st SS Panzer Division. The records also include the testimony of an U.S. Army officer (Maj. James L. Baldwin). His unit was in the vicinity searching for dead and missing American personnel and equipment and recovered the bodies on February 13, 1945. This case file identifies the names of the deceased soldiers and causes of death or types of wounds inflicted. Topographical maps of the location and a few photographs of the mutilated bodies are included.

Record Group 554 *Records of General Headquarters, Far East Command, Supreme Commander Allied Powers, and United Nations Command*

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

General Headquarters, Supreme Commander Allied Powers (SCAP) was formally established at Tokyo, Japan, effective October 2, 1945, pursuant to a directive of President Truman, August 14, 1945, designating General Douglas MacArthur as SCAP (he also commanded GHP, FEC & UNC), as agreed to by the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, the Republic of China, and the USSR. It was responsible for enforcing compliance with the instrument of Surrender, signed September 2, 1945. In the absence of established Allied machinery to supervise the occupation, the United States assumed primary responsibility for the occupation with the consent of the other powers due to the dominant role played by U.S. forces in the defeat of Japan; the U.S. Security interests in the Pacific area; and the ability of the U.S. economy to bear the financial burden of the occupation. GHQ Far East Command was established, effective January 1, 1947, pursuant to War Department classified message WARX 87793. GHQ SCAP was terminated following the conclusion of the Treaty of Peace with Japan on April 28, 1952. HQ FEC was discontinued June 30, 1957, by authority of a Joint Chiefs of Staff directive and announced by General Order 32, with functions transferred to Headquarters, U.S. Army Pacific. HQ UNC relocated to Seoul, Korea, July 1, 1957, and is an agency operating concurrently with the HQ, U.S. Forces, Korea; and the ROK/US Combined Forces Command (CFC).

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

**FINDING AID: NARS-A1
RECORDS OF GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, FEC, SCAP,
AND UNC/ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF/G-1**

IV.554.1 Entry 12a General Correspondence, 1948-51. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 290; 48/04/04; 48/06/02; Boxes 5 and 88.

Description: The records relate to reported discriminatory practices experienced by Negro servicemen in overseas commands such as Guam, equality of treatment in the armed forces, reenlistment of Negro troops not restricted by quotas, and the selection criteria for Far East Command (FEC) schools as it affected Negro personnel and an analysis of the program and procedures about Negro troops in the FEC. Also included is a copy of the radio message summarizing Circular 124, "Utilization of Negro Manpower in the Post-war Army" which concerned the status of Negro units, assignment of Negroes to white units, merit promotions, and the use of Negro military personnel in overhead installations.

RECORDS OF GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, FEC, SCAP, AND UNC/ADJUTANT GENERAL'S SECTION/OPERATIONS DIVISION

IV.554.2 Entry 79 General Correspondence, 1947-52. 2 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAII; 290; 48/18/06 (1949); 48/20/04 (1950); 48/31/05 (1951); Boxes 115, 204 and 747.

Description: The records pertain to the assignment of Negro personnel, and the revision of War Department Circular 124, which governed the utilization of Negro manpower and Negro leaders in the postwar Army. Other records regard replies to complaints of Negro servicemen of not being assigned to their primary military occupational specialties (MOS) in the FEC (most of whom requested transfers in order to work in areas that they were trained in). A copy of "Analysis of the Program and Procedures Regarding Negro Troops Effective in the Far East Command" contains information on the Negro ratio to the total enlisted personnel, types of units assigned to, and integration of Negro personnel in the FEC.

Part V

Defense and Related Activities Cluster

Record Group 225 *Records of Joint Army and Navy Boards and Committees*

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established by joint order of the Secretaries of War and Navy, July 17, 1903, published as General Order 136, Department of the Navy, July 18, 1903, and General Order 107, War Department, July 20, 1903, to serve as an advisory body for interservice coordination and cooperation. Reorganized by a new joint order, July 24, 1919, published as General Order 491 (Navy) and General Order 94 (War), both July 25, 1919. By military order July 5, 1939, effective July 1, 1939, placed under the direct control and supervision of the President as Commander in Chief. Functions and responsibilities largely absorbed during World War II by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Abolished September 1, 1947, pursuant to a joint letter to the President from the Secretaries of War and Navy, August 18, 1947.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: NM-43

RECORDS OF THE JOINT ARMY AND NAVY COMMITTEE ON WELFARE AND RECREATION

V.225.1 Entry 18 General Subject Files, 1941–46. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by subject.

a. Files labeled Negro Problems; Negro Troops and Problems. Loc: NAI; 190; 04/25/00; Box 10.

Description: The records include inquiries from persons and organizations (such as the YMCA) interested in nominating Negro men and women to various joint Army and Navy subcommittees, an invitation extended to the Director of the Joint Army and Navy committee (E. H. Crocker) to speak at the board meeting of the National Negro Congress, and a suggestion to establish a subcommittee on Negro problems. They document the discussions held at a small conference on October 8, 1941, on the topic of the welfare and recreation of Negro troops, with statements made by P. L. Prattis, managing editor of the *Pittsburgh Courier*; Walter White, secretary of the NAACP; Judge William Hastie, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War; and Dr. Tobias Channing, YMCA National Council on Segregation. Included in the files are copies of a summary of Gunnar Myrdal's book *The Negro in America*, a report titled "Consultants on Negro Affairs" analyzing the pros and

cons of using them as such, a draft “Memorandum Concerning Negro Attitudes Towards the War” outlining four policies for improving Negro military and civilian morale, and the radio transcript of a joint National Broadcasting Company–War Department broadcast “America’s Negro Soldier” (scheduled for airing on August 12, 1941).

Record Group 330 *Records of the Office of the Secretary of Defense*

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established by the National Security Act of 1947 (61 Stat. 495), July 26, 1947, to head the National Military Establishment, redesignated the Department of Defense (DOD) by the National Security Act Amendments of 1949 (63 Stat. 578), August 10, 1949. Administers DOD and assists the President in providing for the national security of the United States.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: NARS-A1

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (SUPPLY AND LOGISTICS)

V.330.1 Entry 160b Correspondence [Administrative Correspondence, 1956]. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Discrimination). Loc: NAI; 190; 28/18/04; Boxes 12–13.

Description: The records concern responses to various racial discrimination complaints that were lodged against the Technical Electronics Corp. (Culver City, CA.), Melpar Inc. (Arlington, VA.), Lockheed Aircraft Corp. (Marietta, GA.), American Tobacco Company (Durham, NC.), Dan River Mills (Danville, VA.), Hamilton Field Post Barber Shop (Hamilton Field, CA.), and other such businesses that were contractors of the Defense Department. These complaints were investigated by the President’s Committee on Government Contracts.

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

V.330.2 Entry 200b General Correspondence, 1953–54. ¼ in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAI; 190; 25/25/01; Box 35.

Description: The records pertain to a Department of Defense directive on nondiscrimination in employment (defense procurement), a response to an invitation to attend the "Eleventh Annual Institute of Race Relations" at Fisk University, an inquiry concerning the participation of colored athletes in recreational activities, and a Republican National Committee request for the appointment of qualified Negroes to Defense Department positions (no job openings). Other topics covered are the alleged discrimination against Negro merchant marine officers, abolishment of segregated schools on military installations, and a reference to the mass jailing and fining of 48 Negro soldiers in Columbia, SC, who were protesting segregated buses.

FINDING AID: NM-12
RECORDS OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE/MANPOWER, PERSONNEL AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS/MAIL AND RECORDS SECTION

V.330.3 Entry 66 Decimal File, 1949–54 [Decimal Correspondence File, 1949–54].
1 ft.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAII; 190; 26/32/02; Boxes 108–111.

Description: The records contain a copy of Jean Byers's *A Study of the Negro in Military Service* that traces such service from the American Revolution to World War II; the report "Findings and Decision on Questions of Parity of Mental Standards, Allocation of Inductees According to Physical and Mental Capabilities and Allocation of Negroes"; a report titled "Attitude of [Enlisted Men] Toward Integration of Negro Soldiers in the Army"; and related material such as Army publication "Army Talk" that was devoted to the topic of Negro manpower. Other records include a copy of the U.S. Navy publication *The Integration of the Negro into the United States Navy, 1776–1947* written by Lt. (D) Dennis Denmark Nelson, USNR, as based on his master's thesis submitted to Howard University; a report on the implementation of the Air Force policy concerning Negro personnel, and a transcript of the National Defense Conference on Negro Affairs of April 26, 1948.

RECORDS OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (MANPOWER, PERSONNEL AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS)/ARMED FORCES INFORMATION AND EDUCATION OFFICE

V.330.4 Entry 88 Central Subject File, 1943–48 [Decimal Correspondence File, 1943–52]. ½ in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race). Loc: NAII; 190; 27/07/07; Box 607.

Description: The records concern a reference to the proposed "Negro VD and Discipline

Indoctrination” trial testing at Camp Lee, VA; a copy of Gen. Dwight Eisenhower’s statement made before a U.S. Senate Committee on the utilization of Negro manpower; a reference to the lack of Negro USO troupes or performers at Camp Rucker, AL; and advice given to a white officer on how to befriend and command Negro troops as “show that you are free from prejudice and that you despise those who show prejudice” expressed in a personal letter to his father. Included also is a copy of a pamphlet “New World A-Coming” based on Roi Ottley’s book of the same title regarded as a penetrating analysis of the historical, social, and economic forces that shape the Negro American community, and a copy of “Report of Trends in the Negro Press” on Negro military and civilian newsworthy items.

RECORDS OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (MANPOWER, PERSONNEL AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)/RESEARCH DIVISION

V.330.5 Entry 90 Survey on Troop Attitudes, 1942–Jun. 1955 [Questionnaires used in Surveys and Studies to Determine Attitudes and Opinions of Military Personnel, 1942–54]. ½ in.

Arrangement: Arranged by subject or by an alpha-numeric filing scheme.

a. Files labeled Negro study; Negro soldiers. Loc: NAI; 190; 27/15/04; Boxes 972–974.

Description: These are the record sets of unmarked special surveys or questionnaires given exclusively to Negro soldiers or to both Negro and white soldiers to gauge their attitudes and opinions on such issues as troop morale, treatment by officers or fellow troops, job satisfaction, living conditions, postwar plans, and an experimental film about the Negro during World War II.

RECORDS OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (SUPPLY AND LOGISTICS)/MAIL AND RECORDS SECTION

V.330.6 Entry 160 Secret Decimal File, Jul.–Dec. 1953 [Decimal Correspondence File, 1953–55]. 3 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Discrimination). Loc: NAI; 190; 28/17/03; Box 128.

Description: These are responses to complaints of racial discrimination (in regard to the employment of Negroes) made against Defense Department contractors such as General Electric Company, McDonnell Aircraft Corp., Humble Oil and Refinery Company, Lockheed Aircraft Company, Reynolds Metals Company, Shell Oil Company, and numerous others.

**RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY/
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL SECTION**

V.330.7 Entry 200 Central Decimal File, Sept. 1947–Dec. 1949 [Unclassified Subject Correspondence, 1947–53]. 1¼ in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by War Department decimal file number.

a. Decimal File 291.2 (Race; Negroes). Loc: NAII; 190; 25/33/07 (July–Dec. 1950); 25/35/06 (1952); 26/01/05 (1953); Boxes 581, 672, and 744.

Description: The records regard a discrimination complaint lodged by a Negro recruit stationed at Camp Rucker, AL; a complaint made by the NAACP of racial segregation at naval bases in Charleston, SC, and Norfolk, VA; and alleged discrimination in the Panama Canal Zone. Also included are some congressional inquiries on racial practices and policies, a request for information on the number of officers and enlisted Negroes who served during World War II, and correspondence with A. Philip Randolph of the “Committee Against Jim Crow in Military Service and Training” about the Army’s segregation policy. Randolph candidly advised the Secretary of Defense to confess failure and resign, if unable to persuade the Army to embrace President Truman’s goal of integration. There are highlights of the Fahy Committee report on the Air Force racial integration program, references to the treatment of Negro troops in occupying armed services in Europe, a report prepared by Negro attorney Raymond Pace Alexander on his trip to visit several U.S. occupation areas in Germany, and the book written by Arthur Mann, *The Jackie Robinson Story*, that was cited as being useful to the military establishment because servicemen could see that democracy was working in the United States.

FINDING AID: UD

**RECORDS OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (LEGISLATIVE AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS)/OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION/ANALYSIS BRANCH**

V.330.8 Entry 135f Press Items, Re: Negro Newspapers, 1944–46. 7 ft.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

a. Files labeled 1944 through 1945. Loc: NAII; 190; 27/35/04–27/35/06; Boxes 253–269.

Description: These are mostly clippings of articles from Negro newspapers gathered by the Analysis Branch to ascertain Negro public opinion on military activities or related civilian news events.

Part VI

Old Navy/Modern Navy Cluster

RG 24 *Records of the Bureau of Naval Personnel*

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established in the Department of the Navy by an act of May 13, 1942 (56 Stat. 276). Exercises oversight responsibility for the Naval Military Personnel Command, Navy Recruiting Command, and Naval Civilian Personnel Center. Administers all personnel matters for the U.S. Navy. Preceded by the Bureau of Navigation (1882–1942).

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: NARS-A1

GENERAL RECORDS OF THE BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL

VI.24.1 Entry 1181 [Logs of United States Ships and Stations, 1801–1946] Logs: Ships, 1940–46 U.S.S. *Aaron Ward*—U.S.S. *Zuni*, ca. 1941–45. 2 vols.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by name of ship.

a. Log books U.S.S. *Mason* (Mar. 20–Dec. 31, 1944; Jan. 1–Oct. 12, 1945). Loc: NAI; 470; 34/14/02.

Description: The U.S.S. *Mason* (DE 529) was the first naval ship manned entirely by a Negro crew and officered by white men. This ship was placed in commission in accordance with orders of commandant, Navy Yard, Boston, MA, and commanded by Lt. Cmdr. William M. Blackford, USNR. The logbooks contain a list of officers and enlisted men (name and rank), references to disciplinary matters, and ship conditions, navigational data, and administrative and operational remarks.

FINDING AID: PI-123

VI.24.2 Entry 93 Subject Cards, 1903–43. 1¼ in.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by subject.

a. Cards (Negroes). Loc: NAI; 19E-4; 7/13/05; Box 62.

Description: These index cards serve as guides to the general correspondence files (entries 88–91). They summarize the subject and list the referenced file number. Topics covered by the cards regard include the appointment, enlistment, recruitment, training, and treatment and condition of Negroes in the Navy. Other subjects concern discrimination complaints, disciplinary actions, assaults, the Navy policy on the use of Negro WAVES, entertainment of colored recruits on board the U.S.S. *Maryland*, the Navy football team's not playing against Colgate University's integrated team, requests for information on the number of Negroes in the Navy and Marines, and the number of lives lost or distinguished in action, use of Negro musicians in the Navy, and a request that Negroes be afforded equal opportunities in the Navy (particularly in services other than messmen). Included also are references to advice about Negro war veterans (Spanish-American War and World War I), a conference on the problems of Negroes and Negro youth, the use of Negro librarians in the bureau, the heroic death of a Negro mess attendant, the proposed establishment of a Negro servicemen's community recreation center in Miami, FL, and courts-martials of Negro naval personnel.

RG 38 *Records of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations*

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established in the Department of the Navy by an act of March 3, 1915 (38 Stat. 929). Transferred with the Department of the Navy to the newly created National Military Establishment (NME), by the National Security Act of 1947 (61 Stat. 495), July 26, 1947; with the Department of the Navy to the Department of Defense (formerly NME) by the National Security Act Amendments of 1949 (63 Stat. 578), August 10, 1949. Advises the President, Secretary of the Navy, and Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) on the Navy and on naval warfare. Administers naval programs to support manpower, materiel, weapons, and logistical needs; research and development activities; strategic planning; and the organization, training, and readiness of forces.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: UD

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

VI.38.1 Entry 84 Central Administrative Correspondence, 1930–48. Neg.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by Navy Department alpha-numeric file designation.

a. File A9-6/ND3. Loc: NAII; 370; 14/28/06; Box 269.

Description: The records relate to summaries of "Communist Trends" reports submitted by FBI uncover agents or confidential informants. One includes a synopsis of Paul Robeson's statement given before the Free Browder Congress in Manhattan Center, New York, NY

(Mar. 28–29, 1942). An FBI agent believed Robeson's comment "the only real fighters for democracy against Fascism are members of the Communist Party" was omitted from the *Daily Worker* because the Communist Party did not want to frighten away noncommunist sponsors. Other records concern information on communist trends among Negroes in New Jersey; a racial incident at Fort Dix, NJ; allegations of police brutality against Negroes in Newark, NJ; and Japanese race propaganda among Negroes in New York, NY, that cited the Moorish Science Temple of America as the clearinghouse for possible recruits.

Record Group 52 Records of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established in the Department of the Navy by the act abolishing the Board of Naval Commissioners, August 31, 1842 (5 Stat. 579). Transferred with the Department of the Navy to the National Military Establishment (NME) by the National Security Act of 1947 (61 Stat. 500), July 26, 1947; with the Department of the Navy to the Department of Defense (formerly the NME) by the National Security Act Amendments of 1949 (63 Stat. 579), August 10, 1949. Provided medical and dental services to active duty and retired Navy personnel and their dependents. Abolished October 1, 1982, by realignment directive of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: NM-48

VI.52.1 Entry 16b Index to General Correspondence, 1942–46. Neg.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by subject.

a. Index Cards labeled Negro. Loc: NAI; 470; 15/20/03; Box 11.

Description: The records serve as an index "history card" to the general correspondence, 1942–46 (Entry 15b). They indicate the file number of the correspondence, date, name of person or organization sending or receiving such correspondence, and a brief synopsis of the inquiry or subject described therein. These index cards regard policies on giving commissions to Negro dentists and on the usages of Negroes as Navy nurses (women), civilian employees, and shore patrols. Other records regard the status of the Negro physicians entering the Navy (in comparison with the Army), the hospitalization of colored patients, percentage of colored selectees discharged from the Navy because of ineptitude, protests of discrimination against Negro women entering the Navy as nurses or WAVES, the segregation of Negro and white blood by the American Red Cross, and requests for authorization to use sulfonamide prophylaxis to treat Negroes with venereal diseases, and requests that special care be taken when designating the racial group of patients.

**Record Group 80 General Records of the Department
of the Navy, 1798–1947**

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established by an act of April 30, 1798 (1 Stat. 553). Advised the President on naval matters. Administered the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. Abolished by the National Security Act of 1947 (61 Stat. 495), July 26, 1947.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Contrary to the past participation of African American men in an integrated Navy from the Revolutionary War to the Spanish-American War, they were required to enter a racially segregated service during World War II. These men were barred from the general service itself and were segregated by occupation. They could only serve as stewards or mess attendants: preparing and serving food and waiting on white officers.³⁹ This practice was made very clear by Frank Knox when he assumed his position as Secretary of the Navy in 1940. The only exception to this policy was the limited few who had acquired specialties after many years of service prior to World War II.

However, as the war neared and the African American community clamored for increased participation and opportunity in the naval service, the U.S. Navy was forced to modify its racial policy. Secretary Knox organized a committee (general board) in September 1941 consisting of Navy and Marine Corps representatives and Addison Walker, Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Walker proposed assigning some black men to auxiliary vessels and patrol crafts, etc., which the majority of the committee members opposed, believing that it would upset the status quo.⁴⁰ Despite the Navy's continued reluctance and resistance to enlisting Negro men in the general service (other than stewards branch) and Negro women in the WAVES, it gradually began to loosen its policies regarding these enlistments by 1943.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: NARS-A1

RECORDS OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY RALPH BARD

VI.80.1 Entry 131d Correspondence Relating to Discrimination in the Navy, 1941–44. 8 in.

Arrangement: Arranged by subject.

a. Files labeled Addison Walker Misc. through Discrimination—Colonel Watson Committee.
Loc: NAI; 370; 19/26/05; Boxes 1–2.

Description: The records concern arrangements for Dorie Miller, Negro Navy messman and

hero of Pearl Harbor, to visit a number of U.S. cities on behalf of the Treasury Department's War Savings Bond Program. There are black-and-white captioned photographs of Miller being pinned with the Navy Cross at a ceremony aboard ship at Pearl Harbor (dated 5/27/42), and responses to inquiries (with newspaper coupons) requesting that President Franklin D. Roosevelt send Miller to the U.S. Naval Academy because of his heroic deeds. Included are copies of press releases announcing the Navy and Marine Corps new plan for recruiting Negroes, charts detailing Negro enlistment in the Navy's general service, minutes of two meetings of a committee organized to investigate the "extent to which enlisted personnel of the Navy and Marine Corps is Representative of all American Citizens" that named various reasons why it would be impracticable to offer further opportunities to Negro enlisted men, and an article from the *New York Amsterdam Star-News* entitled "U.S. Must Declare Self on Negro Question" by Pearl S. Buck. The records also contain a transcript of a telephone conversation between the Navy Secretary's Special Assistant Anthony Mitchell and Dean Ransom of Howard University's Law School regarding the segregated bus transportation between the Navy Building in Arlington, VA, and Washington, DC; the report of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice "The Employment of Negroes in the Federal Government"; photographs of the first Negro recruit (William Baldwin) in the new Navy program; a copy of an article entitled "National Defense" from the *Houston Informer* (Negro) that voiced the opinion that "Negroes must settle once and for always the fact that they will fight for the preservation of America, even as it is today"; and various editorials and clippings from Negro newspapers.

RECORDS OF SPECIAL ASSISTANT ADDISON WALKER

VI.80.2 Entry 131n Correspondence Concerning Discrimination in the Navy [1941-43]. 6 in.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by surname of correspondent.

a. Files labeled Discrimination "A" to "Z." Loc: NAI; 370; 19/28/01; Boxes 1-2.

Description: The records regard the Fair Employment Practice Committee's investigation of various racial discrimination complaints on the employment of Negroes in skilled trades of the shipbuilding industry or as civilian workers in navy yards such as Philadelphia, PA, Washington, DC, and Mare Island, CA. Included also is the report "A Plan for the Enlistment of Negroes in the Naval Service" written by D. W. Armstrong, son of the founder of Hampton Institute, proposing the use of Hampton Institute as a naval training facility for Negroes; responses to congressional inquiries and other inquiries on the use of Negroes in the Navy; and discrimination allegations. The records contain numerous personal letters written by Negroes and whites as private citizens or as representatives of organizations such as the NAACP or the National Urban League to President Roosevelt and Navy Secretary Knox voicing opposition to the Navy's overall policy on the employment of Negroes in its service.

VI.80.3 Entry 131o Correspondence on "Negroes" ("Negro Spindle File"), Feb.-Sept. 1942. 5 in.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by surname of correspondent.

a. Files labeled Negro "A"–"Z" to Negro Spindle. Loc: NAI; 370; 19/28/01; Box 1.

Description: The records pertain to responses to inquiries and suggestions from various organizations such as the NAACP, Negro newspapers, and others about extending opportunities for Negroes in the Navy and the Marines, and responses to those Negro males wishing to enlist. Contained also in the files are resolutions and petitions urging such usage of Negroes. There are requests for information on the enrollment status of Negroes in the Navy, a copy of the transcript of the "Conference of the Fraternal Council of Negro Churches of America" (with Navy Assistant Secretary Ralph A. Bard) to cooperatively plan to mobilize six million Negro churchgoers in support of the war effort, and a reference to using Hampton Institute as a Navy contract school.

FINDING AID: PC-31
GENERAL RECORDS OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

VI.80.4 Entry 23 Office File of Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, 1940–44. 2 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by Navy Department file designation.

a. Files 54-1–54-2. Loc: NAI; 370; 19/19/03; Box 37.

Description: The records consist mostly of correspondence sent or received by Navy Secretary Frank Knox concerning the use and enlistment of Negro men in the Navy and Marines, lack of opportunities, and various discrimination complaints such as that forwarded by Eleanor Roosevelt regarding conditions of Negro personnel at the U.S. Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi, TX. Adlai E. Stevenson's recommendation on commissioning 10 or 12 top-notch Negroes as officers, is contained in the files. There are responses to congressional inquiries of which one sought a commemorative memorial stamp for Negro scientist Dr. George Washington Carver, a letter blasting Knox for attempting to destroy the National Youth Administration, an invitation from A. Philip Randolph to speak at the "March-on-Washington," and other inquiries regarding a proposal to utilize the North Carolina School for Negroes to train students as administrators in countries with large Negro populations. The records contain a suggestion on how to quell race riots from a Chicago lawyer, recommendations on enlisting Negro women in the Women's Navy reserve and on using colored nurses, and advice for a reconsideration of the Marine Corps policy not to enlist Negro women in its reserve. Included also are Knox's comments on Walter White as one agitating for greater Negro participation in the Navy but who by no means is entitled to speak for the race itself. The files also reveal Knox's early justification for using Negroes only as messman and not integrating the Navy: "Somehow, some way, some day, we will have to meet and solve this problem, but I submit to you that during the progress of the most dangerous war in which we have ever engaged is not the time to take up a problem so filled with dynamite as this one."⁴¹ Also, there are references to the Red Cross segregating blood donations from Negro and white Army/Navy men, an unanswered letter from heavy-weight boxing champion Joe Louis soliciting funds to stage one last fight before

his retirement, and a letter from the Negro Chamber of Commerce in Memphis, TN, asking for a statement for use in presenting memorials to Gold Star mothers whose sons died in defense of Pearl Harbor (which Knox supplied).

Record Group 127 *Records of the United States Marine Corps*

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established under joint administrative control of the U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy, by an act of July 11, 1798 (1 Stat. 594). Transferred to exclusive jurisdiction of the U.S. Navy by an act of June 30, 1834 (4 Stat. 712); with the Department of the Navy to the newly established National Military Establishment (NME) by the National Security Act of 1947; with the Department of the Navy to the Department of Defense (formerly NME) by National Security Act Amendments of 1949 (63 Stat. 579), August 10, 1949. Provides amphibious forces for service with the fleet and conducts land operations essential to a naval campaign. Provides detachments to serve on naval ships, to protect property of naval activities, and to maintain security at U.S. diplomatic missions abroad.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Since its establishment in 1798, the Marine Corps followed a strict policy of not enlisting African Americans until it was forced to do so in accordance with Executive Order 8802 of June 25, 1941. This Executive order, which affirmed the full participation in the defense program by all persons regardless of color, race, creed, or national origin, directed that all departments of the Federal government (including the armed forces) “shall lead the way in erasing discrimination over color or race.”⁴² There is little doubt that this new policy met with early opposition from the Marine Corps leadership, particularly from Commandant Maj. Gen. Thomas Holcomb, who believed that the Corps would suffer a definite loss of efficiency.

Although the Commandant indicated that such black Marine units would need to be led by a white officer of the highest caliber, he also voiced his heartfelt opinion. Commenting before the General Board of the Navy on January 23, 1942, Holcomb declared “the Negro race has every opportunity now to satisfy its aspirations for combat, in the Army—a very much larger organization than the Navy or Marine Corps—and their desire to enter the naval service is largely, I think, to break into a club that doesn’t want them”⁴³

Nonetheless, a very reluctant Navy Department publicly announced that all naval components would accept 1,000 blacks per month for general service, beginning on June 1, 1942. Marine Corps Commandant Holcomb thereafter issued formal instructions for the recruitment of colored males (U.S. citizens ages 17–29), which was to begin on June 1, 1942, for combat service. All African American volunteers accepted for service by the Marine Corps would (as would whites) enter the reserve for the war’s duration plus an additional six months. Many of them served as specialists, cooks, clerks, etc. The first draftees, secured by the Selective Service System, entered the Marines in January 1943.

The Marine Corps organized a racially segregated defense battalion of 900 black males for boot camp training at the Montford Point Camp, adjacent to Camp Lejeune, NC. This 180-day training program was launched by Col. Samuel A. Woods, Jr., whom the Marine Corps believed ideally suited to command African Americans.⁴⁴ Woods's leadership skills soon earned him the respect and praise of his troops. In addition, the Marine Corps secured a black officer of the Army Reserve, Lt. Col. Campbell C. Johnson, as an administrator.

Those recruited early were required to be enlisted in Class III (c), Marine Corps Reserve, and assigned to inactive duty in an inactive General Reserve unit. Moreover, these Negro recruits were also commanded to ready the camp for those to follow. African American marines were trained and served in the defense battalions such as the 51st (organized in August 1942) and the 52d (organized in December 1943) in addition to serving in ammunition, antiartillery, depot, and combat support companies.

African American marines in defense battalion and support units saw action (some out of necessity) at Saipan, Guam, Peleliu, Okinawa, and Japan. Unlike their male counterparts, however, African American women were not able to serve in the Marine Corps until the passage of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948 (after World War II). Annie E. Graham of Detroit, MI, became to first black women to enlist in the Marines on September 8, 1949.⁴⁵

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

FINDING AID: NARS-A1 RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT

VI.127.1 Entry 18b General Correspondence, January 1939–June 1950. 1 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically by Marine Corps file designation.

a. File 1535-110 {Negroes—Asiatics}. Loc: NAI; 370; 22/11/03; Box 603.

Description: The records relate to inquiries on the enlistment policies for Negro men and women in the Marines, Negro recruit training load at Montford Point, and National Military Establishment implementation of Executive Order 9981 "Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services." Other topics concern the assignment of Negro males to the "stewards only" duty, the reassignment of Negro marines to other existing units as outlined by a Division of Plans and Policies study, the enlistment of Negro males with previous naval service, the condition of Negroes at Marine facilities, and advice given by Lt. Col. George A. Roll (Acting Executive Officer, Division of Reserve) on how to discourage colored males from applying to the Organized Reserve. Roll advised persons to not "use the lack of SSN billets, soft enamel on the teeth or flat feet as the excuses with a colored applicant. Sooner or later one who is perfect in all respects will come along and if he has the intent of making an issue over the subject, all your previous cases will blow up in your face."⁴⁶ Included also is the paper "The Marine Steward" used to inform prospective Negro applicants of "excellent" opportunities for duty, training, and advancement that would ultimately prepare them for comparable jobs as cooks and waiters in commercial establishments or private homes.

Special Note: During the preparation of this publication, NARA staff members at the College Park facility were processing some RG 127 records of the tentative series “Historians’ Background Files” from accession NN3-127-097-002 that relate to African Americans in the Marine Corps. These records will soon be available for research use. The records are approximately one inch of 5 x 8 index cards titled “Challenge to Authority” (1964–73) used in writing a history of the Vietnam War, regarding racism and disciplinary problems in the latter part of the war. Topics covered by these index cards pertain to the black marines’ role in this war, causes of racial unrest, summaries of racial incidents, ways to ease racial tension, excerpts from the Marine Corps publication *Blacks in the Marine Corps* (World War II to Vietnam War), and comments and statements on black cultural symbols and hairstyles, etc. Also included in this same accession is one cubic foot of background material used in the preparation of *Blacks in the Marine Corps*; comments, interview data, information on racial matters such as a copy of the “Report of Racial Turbulence Inquiry” of July 24, 1972, and some convention records and publications of the Montford Marine Association, an African American marine group organized in 1965.

Notes

1. *Select Audiovisual Records: Pictures of African Americans During World War II* (Washington: Compiled by Barbara Lewis Burger, National Archives and Records Administration, 1999), p. 1.
2. Elliot V. Converse; Robert K. Griffith; Daniel K. Gibran; Richard H. Kohn; and John A. Cash. "The Medal of Honor and African Americans in the United States Army During World War II." (Raleigh: Department of the Army Contract MDA903-93-C-0260 awarded to Shaw University, January 1995), p. 24.
3. Morris J. MacGregor, Jr. *Integration of the Armed Services, 1940-1965* (Washington: Defense Studies Series, Center of Military History, 1981), p. 18.
4. Bernard C. Nalty. *Strength for the Fight: A History of Black Americans in the Military* (New York: The Free Press, 1986), p. 149.
5. MacGregor. *Integration of the Armed Services*, p. 270.
6. MacGregor. *Integration of the Armed Services*, p. 271.
7. "A First Report on the Racial Integration Program of the Air Force," February 6, 1950; Records on Racial Policies, 1944-50; pp. 5-6; Records of Headquarters United States Air Force (Air Staff); Record Group 341; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
8. "A First Report on the Racial Integration Program of the Air Force," p. 1.
9. Ulysses Lee. *The Employment of Negro Troops* (United States Army in World War II Special Studies: U.S. Army, Center of Military History, reprint 1994), p. 111.
10. Lee. *The Employment of Negro Troops*, p. 129.
11. Lee. *The Employment of Negro Troops*, p. 129.
12. MacGregor. *Integration of the Armed Services*, p. 19.
13. MacGregor. *Integration of the Armed Services*, pp. 20-21.
14. Letter to William Hastie from H.D. Gould, May 3, 1941; Classified Decimal File, 1940-46 (Formerly Security-Classified Correspondence), p. 1 (Box 95); Records of the Office of the Secretary of War; Record Group 107; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
15. Lee. *The Employment of Negro Troops*, p. 47.
16. Lee. *The Employment of Negro Troops*, p. 130.
17. Lee. *The Employment of Negro Troops*, p. 131.
18. Lee. *The Employment of Negro Troops*, p. 469.
19. Memorandum to Commander-in-Chief, Far East "Report of Investigation Regarding Alleged Irregularities in the Administration of Military Justice in the 25th Infantry Division," March 27, 1951; p. 24 (Box 1013); Administrative Office; Mail and Records Section; Decimal File (Unclassified Through Secret Correspondence, 1947-62); Records of the Office of the Inspector General; Record Group 159; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
20. Memorandum for the Chief of Staff from Werneken, "Report on the 92nd Infantry Division for your

- information,” May 1, 1945; Top-Secret Correspondence, 1941–47; p.2 (Box 6); Records of the War Department General and Special Staffs; Record Group 165; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
21. Memorandum to the President, “Report from Mr. Walter White Concerning the Status of the 93rd Division and other Negro Combat Units,” February 12, 1945; Top-Secret Correspondence, 1941–47; p. 1 (Box 6); Records of the War Department General and Special Staffs; Record Group 165; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
22. “Report from Mr. Walter White Concerning the Status of the 93rd Division and other Negro Combat Units,” p. 2.
23. Lee. *The Employment of Negro Troops*, pp. 29 and 32.
24. Lee. *The Employment of Negro Troops*, p. 38.
25. Memorandum “Policy of the Department of the Army in Recent Non-Segregation State Laws Concerning the National Guard,” April 14, 1949; Army NGB Classified Decimal Files, 1922–1954; p. 1 (Box 1736); Records of the National Guard Bureau; Record Group 168; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
26. Lee. *The Employment of Negro Troops*, p. 225.
27. Lee. *The Employment of Negro Troops*, p. 227.
28. Letter to Pfc. Timothy Taylor from Comm. Gen. Brehon Somervell; April 4, 1945; Lt. Somervell’s Desk File, 1942–44 (Box 35); Records of Headquarters Army Service Forces; Record Group 160; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
29. Memorandum to Capt. J. B. Fletcher from Zilford Carter, March 27, 1944; Deputy Chief of Staff for Service Commands, Correspondence Files, 1943–45; p. 1; Records of the Headquarters Army Service Forces; Record Group 160; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
30. Letter to Inspector General (U.S. Army) from Cpl. J.C. Wilson, Jr., October 16, 1945; Office of Commanding General; Control Div., General Correspondence, 1942–46; p. 1 (Box 241); Records of the Headquarters Army Service Forces; Record Group 160; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
31. Lee. *The Employment of Negro Troops*, p. 131.
32. Lee. *The Employment of Negro Troops*, pp. 131–132.
33. Letter to Hon. Ben F Ray, American Legion from Thomas M. McCullough; October 16, 1946; Classified Decimal File {1941–50}; {Security-Classified General Correspondence, 1941–62}; p.1 (Box 169); Records of the Office of the Provost Marshal General; Record Group 389; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
34. Letter to the President from Seton Eversley, April 4, 1943; Army-AG Decimal File, 1940–45; p. 1 (Box 1070); Records of the Adjutant General’s Office; Record Group 407; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
35. Letter to Senator Earl Chudoff from Eva Mae Wilson, January 9, 1951; Army-AG File, 1951–52; pp. 1–2 (Box 329); Records of the Adjutant General’s Office; Record Group 407; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
36. Memorandum to Major General O. L. Nelson, D/TC, MTOUSA from Truman K. Gibson “Report on Visit to 92nd Division (Negro Troops);” March 12, 1945; p. 1 (Box 13620B); World War II Operations Reports, 1940–48; Records of the Adjutant General’s Office, 1917–; Record Group 407; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.

37. Anonymous letter to Mr. Walker, June 12, 1946; {European Theater of Operations} ETO; Secretary General Staff {Administration Branch}; Classified General Correspondence, 1945-1946; pp. 1-2 (Box 85); Records of the U.S. Army, Operational, Tactical, and Support Organizations (World War II and thereafter); Record Group 338; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
38. Affidavit of Mathias Langer, February 19, 1945; Records of Headquarters, U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR); War Crimes Branch; War Crime Case Files ("Cases Not Tried"), 1944-48; Exhibit "A" (File 6-102; Box 26); Records of the U.S. Army Operational, Tactical, and Support Organizations (World War II and thereafter); Record Group 338; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
39. Nalty. *Strength for the Fight*, p. 184.
40. Nalty. *Strength for the Fight*, p. 186.
41. Letter to Gifford Pinchot from Secretary Knox, January 19, 1942; Office File of Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, 1940-44; p. 1 (letter 54-1-15); General Records of the Department of the Navy; Record Group 80; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
42. Henry I. Shaw, Jr., and Ralph W. Donnelly. *Blacks in the Marine Corps* (Washington: History and Museums Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, 1975), p. 1.
43. Shaw and Donnelly. *Blacks in the Marine Corps*, p. 1.
44. Bernard C. Nalty, *The Right to Fight: African American Marines in World War II* (Washington: Marines in World War II Commemorative Series, 1995), p. 6.
45. Shaw and Donnelly. *Blacks in the Marine Corps*, p. 56.
46. Letter to Major Glass from Lt. Col. George A. Roll, January 30, 1948; Office of the Commandant, General Correspondence, January 1939-June 1950; p. 1 (Box 603); Records of the U.S. Marine Corps; Record Group 127; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.

Appendix

LIST OF PERTINENT NARA REGIONAL RECORDS

NORTHEAST REGION (NEW YORK, NY)

Record Group 181 Records of Naval Districts and Shore Establishments

1. 3rd Naval District: Historical Records of the Liaison Officer for Negro Personnel, 1944-45. Neg. (one file folder).

SOUTHEAST REGION (ATLANTA, GA)

Record Group 18 Records of the Army Air Forces

1. Death and Birth Certificates, Maxwell Field, AL, 1927-33. 0.428 cu.ft.
2. Field Installations, Maxwell Field, AL, 1925-40. 2.571 cu.ft.
3. Register of Letters Received, Maxwell Field, AL, 1933-39. 0.428 cu.ft.

PACIFIC REGION (LAGUNA NIGUEL, CA)

Record Group 181 Records of Naval Districts and Shore Establishments

11th District (San Diego, CA)

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT

1. Formerly Classified Files, 1921-47; File CF-40; Box 105. Use of Negroes in the military. (one file folder, 1943).
2. Central Subject Files, 1924-55; File P-8; Box 282. Racial discrimination in housing. (one file folder, 1943-49).
3. Central Subject Files, 1924-55; File P13-1; Box 314. Racial incidents. (one file folder, 1943).
4. Central Subject Files, 1924-55; File MM/P16-1; Box 415. Negroes in the labor force at Camp Elliot. (five file folders, 1942-43).

DISTRICT LEGAL OFFICER

5. Central Subject Files, 1921-54; File P16-1; Box 12. File on conference relating to supervision of Negro personnel.

ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR PERSONNEL

6. Central Subject Files, 1927-50; File P11/1944; Box 34. First Navy Negro shore patrolmen assigned at Los Angeles (with 10 8 x 10 glossy photographs).

PACIFIC REGION (SAN BRUNO, CA)

Record Group 181 Records of Naval Districts and Shore Establishments

1. 12th Naval District: General Correspondence (Formerly Classified), 1946; File 17.25. Port of Chicago. Records of the Special Court of Inquiry investigation of the causes of the Port Chicago explosion.

GREAT LAKES REGION (CHICAGO, IL)

Record Group 92 Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General

QUARTERMASTER DEPOT AT JEFFERSONVILLE, IN.

1. Decimal Correspondence Files, 1917-19; File 322.16. Performance requests for a black military band stationed at this depot.

Record Group 181 Records of Naval Districts and Shore Establishments

9th Naval District

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT

2. Central Subject Files, 1942-50.
3. Correspondence, 1942-48; File A2-11. Two reports: study of racial tensions at U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, IL; study of Negro racial situation at U.S. Naval Ammunition Depot, Hastings, NE).
4. Station Log Books, 1939-47.

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1st Service Command IV.160.11
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