

SMALL BUT VITAL POST AND SQUADRON JOBS ARE BY ENLISTED MEN WHO HAVE THOSE APTITUDES

MA, Tenn.—Army construction is not necessarily the exclusive work of big contractors. of the smaller, thoroughly satisfactory jobs are done by enlisted men, who, in addition, do similar work merely as a hobby. They are painters, printers, tinsmiths and carpenters at the Army Air Forces Combat Post here. Especially carpenters.

Field's Headquarters here are two non-commissioned officers, Sergeant Larry and Corporal Alfred A. who can hammer to. Early-American clothes library table, with equal their handiwork is in evidence in the orderly room, of professional looking desks, a mail booth, office and paneling for the

workshop is equipped to hold a box or a pool table. recently completed a huge shed in stout oak, identified Headquarters squadron. marna designed and painted sign which contains the Army Air Forces emblem with and "Prepare for Combat" insignia of the United States Air Forces, a pair of gold wings joined in the middle by a red centered white star. The effect is striking and is the cause of much admiration.

ant French is a native of N. C., and turned to carpentry when he had finished his military training as a matter of convenience. Cabinet making was a pastime in civil life and has been useful since he came to the

oral Ettamarna is from New Bedford, Mass., where he was employed as a leather milliner in military service. His hobby is drawing and art in general, particularly of a commercial nature. The success of the squadron is the direct cause of his being occupied at present, exclusively with the execution of desk nameplates, building designations and other works which require his services.

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Training News 10 Oct 1942, p. 6

*File: 4th
Aviation
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MAXWELL FIELD'S new drum bugle corps sounds off in martial strains as the post's aviation cadets pass in revue. The recently-formed corps is composed entirely of enlisted men of the 4th Aviation Squadron.

Hdq. & Hdq. Sqd. Wins Consolation

MAXWELL FIELD, Ala.—Winning over the Oderless Cleaners by a 10-6 score, the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, SEA AFTC, team of Maxwell Field last week won the consolation championship of the city softball program, sponsored by the Montgomery YMCA.

Finishing in a fourth-place tie in the fast Dixie League, the soldiers were entered in the consolation tourney in competition with teams of the three city leagues. They advanced to the finals with victories over Highland Baptist Reds, 3-1, and Foundation Plan, 16-13.

In the final game, Lieut. Charles Hebert's home run with the bases loaded was the pay-off blow and spelled defeat for the Cleaners. Hebert and Mobley led the batting attack for the Southeast team, each collecting two safeties including a round-tripper apiece.

All-Negro Drum & Bugle Corps Plays For Cadet Parades

MAXWELL FIELD, Montgomery, Ala.—The aviation cadets' newest joy and pride is the recently-organized post drum and bugle corps, composed of enlisted men of the 4th Aviation Squadron, which now sounds off in martial strains for cadet formations.

Composed of all-colored members, the drum and bugle corps came into being only a matter of two weeks ago but its subsequent development has been rapid indeed. Friday evening the corps got its first big-time opportunity, playing for the cadet parade when the regular band was away on recruiting duty. As the prospective flying officers passed in revue, it was the flourish of bugles and the cadenced rhythm of drums that ac-

Promoted

Captain Ralph E. Hollister, the Adjutant of the Central Instructors School at Maxwell Field, has been promoted a Major.

Major Hollister's service with the Army dates back to August 1915 when he served on the Mexican border. He went overseas in World War I with the 41st Division, later transferring to the Motor Transport Corps. A member of the Mississippi National Guard he was called to active duty before our entrance into the present war and came to Maxwell Field in December 1941.

Philadelphia cemeteries are salvaging old ornamental iron fences and railings for the scrap drive.

companied marching feet.

Wielding the directorial baton was Sergeant Cottman, drum major. Save for Privates, First Class, Jordan and Hill, the other performers had had little previous experience before joining up with the new corps.

In fact, most of the members are recent recruits. But this has no

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High School

Negroes at Maxwell Utilize Own Talent For Bright Revue

MAXWELL FIELD, Ala. — Utilizing its own talent, the Fourth Aviation Squadron at this post, composed of colored troops, has banded together a bright musical revue which, judging by recent successes, may be taken on a tour of neighboring camps.

The show is already booked for engagements at the post recreation Hangar No. 6, and also the Officers Club here.

Sponsored by Maj. Dwight M. Wilhelm, commanding officer of the Fourth Aviation Squadron, and actively directed by Lieut. Harry E. McCardell, it is comprised of soldiers who are veterans of the entertainment world. The unit prepares its own script and improvises many of the musical numbers.

The headliners are Pvt. Bethel Givson of Los Angeles, Cal., and Pfc. Rudolph Mills of Philadelphia, Pa., who call their act "Gib and Molly." Scion of a family of troupers and one-time performer in motion picture shorts and West Coast theaters, Gibson authors the routine for the team. He has tutored Mills, a graduate of amateur ranks, whose recent performances have had a "professional" ring.

The vocal portion of the revue is contributed mostly by the "Gold Brickers" Quartet and the Squadron's glee club composed of 15 voices. Corp. Troy R. Bartlett, baritone, is the soloist.

Master of ceremonies is Sergt. Eugene Edwards, the squadron's mess sergeant, who at one time was a singing waiter at the Hotel New Yorker's famed Manhattan room.

Basketball Is Top Sport At Napier

NAPIER FIELD, Dothan, Ala. — Basketball at Napier Field is fast becoming one of the top sport topics at the airbase.

The main reason is due to the interest which the out door Inter-Squadron League has aroused throughout the Post's personnel. A twelve team league has been functioning for the past month.

Previous to its formation a round-robin tournament was held with the Base Headquarters quin-



WELCOME TO A NATIVE SON—Major General Ralph Royce, commanding general of the Army Air Forces Southeast Training Center, is shown above on his visit to Michigan when Detroit gave one of the warmest welcomes ever extended to a returning son of Michigan. General Royce went to the one-time automobile capital to address the National Aeronautical Association, and the visit of the general, who made a daring raid upon the Philippines last year, almost eclipsed the other events that were to start the promotion of Detroit as the air capital of the world. General Royce created quite a bit of "air-mindedness" in his own right. Last week General Royce also went to Memphis to address the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools on what its membership can do for the Armed Services.

Camden Pilots Fly Equivalent Of 300 Times Round World

CAMDEN, S. C.—At the completion of twenty months of operation, students at 64th AAFTD, Southern Aviation School, Camden, S. C., had performed the equivalent of circling the globe three hundred times in their training, with only one fatality.

During the period since the first class arrived to the present, graduate students have flown approximately 6,841,800 air miles plus an additional 10% (estimated) for eliminated students. In this time nearly 1,000,000 gallons of gasoline and 10,500 gallons of oil were

tet copping the crown.

Staff Sergeant Raymond Swanson, member of the Physical Training Staff and former basketball player at Kansas University, is in charge of the sport at the field.

A post team was selected from the soldiers who participated in the tournament.

consumed, turning out headaches for Adolph, Benito and Hirohito at the rate of two or three a day.

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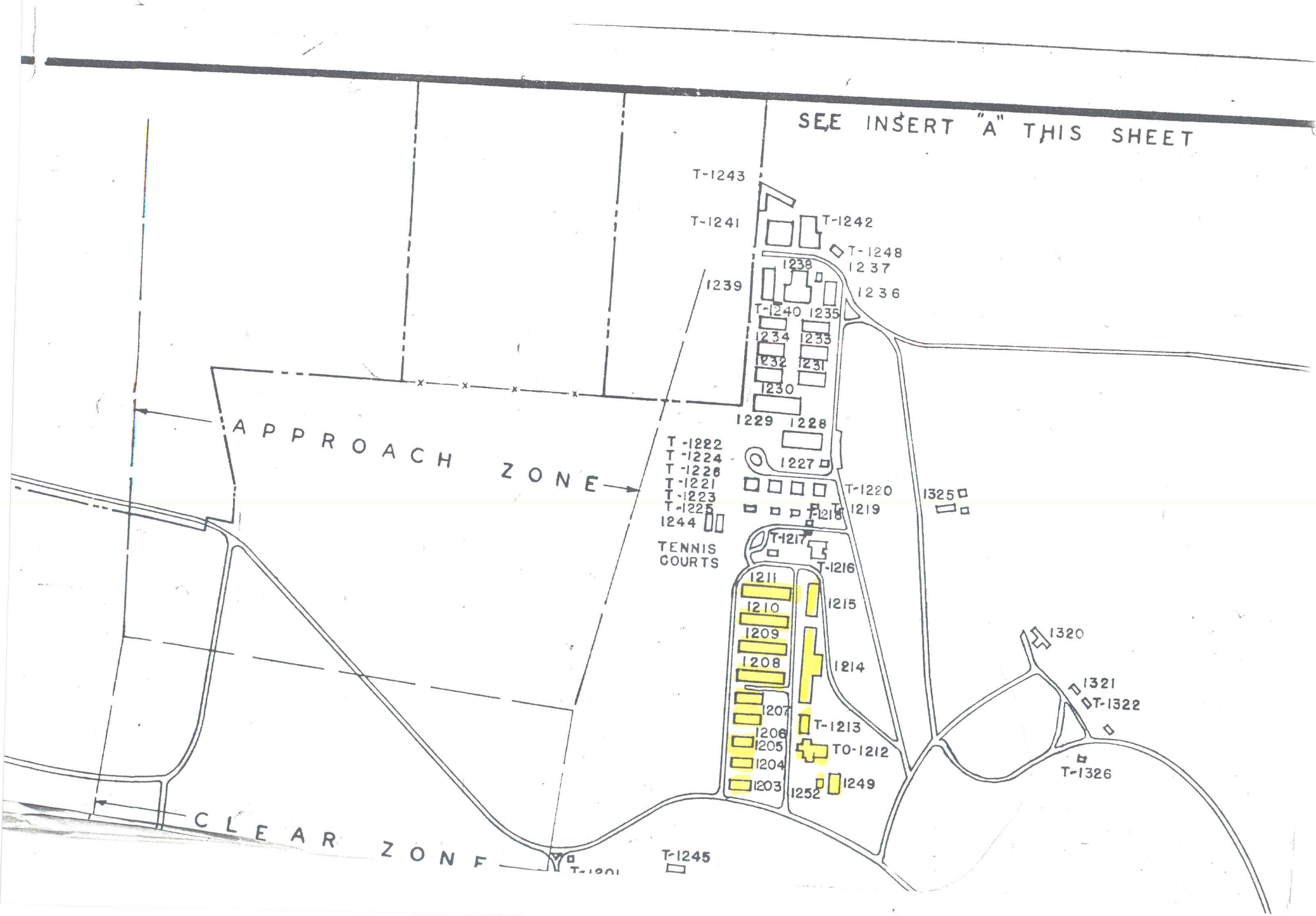
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APPROACH ZONE

CLEAR ZONE



Blurring the color line

Maxwell's first African-American troops take steps toward equality

BY ANDREW REESE
Dispatch staff writer

Years before Martin Luther King and the civil rights movement in Montgomery, a gradual process of integration had already started when 216 African-American troops arrived for their assignments at Maxwell Field.

The U.S. Army Air Corps formed the all African-American 4th Aviation Squadron at Maxwell just weeks before Pearl Harbor was bombed. Previously, black troops in the South were generally stationed on installations separate from whites. The 4th was one of the first units stationed on a white base. These troops from the 4th AS, in post war years, renamed F Squadron, changed Maxwell and Montgomery.

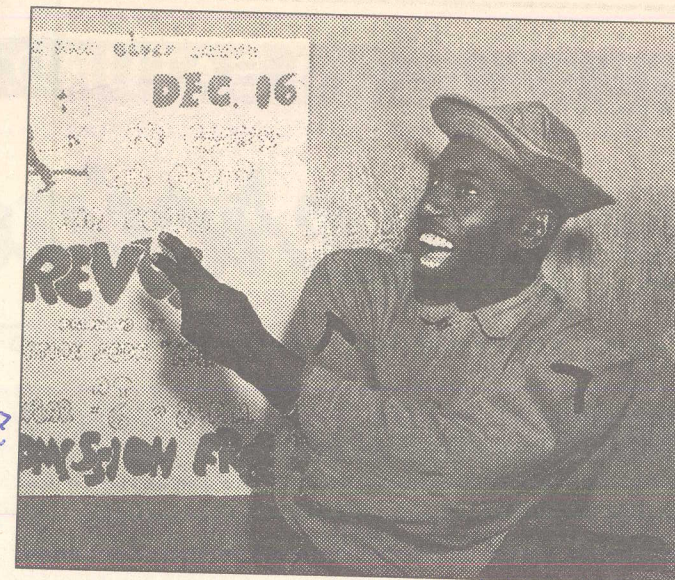
Prior to World War II, African Americans had played a relatively small role in the military. However, the need for more troops to help win a global war prompted an influx of people from all cultural backgrounds into uniformed service. It would prove to be an important step on

the long road to equality for everyone.

Although unique because they were stationed on a white base, the conditions the men of the 4th lived under were similar to those of African-American troops elsewhere.

Recruits fresh out of induction centers around the country, blacks assigned to Maxwell were billeted off the beaten path on the west side of the installation — right between the garbage dump and the federal prison. They did work no one else wanted to do — cleaning toilets and changing tires. But their leaders were determined to change this condition. The unit's white commander, Capt. Harry Aderholt (who later retired as a brigadier general), strove to better the lives of the men under his command, building a theater, a swimming pool and an exchange for his troops.

Another leader to join in this cause was Brig. Gen. Noel Parrish, commander of Tuskegee Army Airfield. Parrish proposed a plan designed to allow for easy integration of African-American troops into mainstream service. He allowed



Cut off from mainstream entertainment sources, the members of the 4th Aviation Squadron, often created their own entertainment. (Photo from Air University History Office)

members of the 4th AS to start attending functions at the United Services Organization.

At first, community response was hostile. Montgomery, like most of the South, had strict codes preventing blacks and whites from using the same public facilities. So, when 4th AS members entered the club for the first time, the result was a civilian walk out. But members kept going every Saturday night, and eventually they were able to share the club with whites, both military and civilians.

Efforts didn't stop there. Maxwell troops marched in integrated formations — white troops marching to music provided by the 4th's drum and bugle corps. Later, Maxwell boasted one of the first integrated intramural sports programs on a mili-

tary installation. The F Squadron basketball team never lost a game.

Although segregation kept members of Maxwell's African-American units mostly cut off from the mainstream of life at Maxwell, their service, along with others' in World War II, led to a change in the status of African Americans in the armed services everywhere.

Due largely to the efforts of African Americans during and after the war, President Harry Truman issued his Executive Order 9981 in 1948, formally ending military segregation.

Whites and blacks, who had worked together to fight for freedom, would now serve in the same units.

(Information compiled from Air University History Office sources)

Mr. Aderholt did this!

4th AS F!

completed!

and lieutenant in ordinary, 1918, 1919

USO Club For Negro Soldiers To Be Formally Opened Today

6-21

A USO club for negroes will be formally opened Sunday in Montgomery when service men and their friends dedicate the new unit at 215 Monroe Avenue.

The club occupies the first and second floors of the Charles A. Kohn property. It will be operated by the Y. M. C. A. and W. E. Hogan will be director.

The unit contains a lounging room, auditorium, writing facilities, check rooms, music room, library and shower baths.

Dr. H. C. Trenholm, president of State Normal College, will preside at Sunday's opening exercises, which begin at 6 p.m. Felicitations will be extended by these organizations:

Ministerial Alliance, Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, State of Alabama, City of Montgomery, citizens and merchants of Montgomery.

Special music will be rendered by the Fourth Aviation glee club and the State Teachers College choir.

Maj. Seward Phillips Reese, of the Southeast Army Air Forces Training Center, will deliver the principal address. He will be introduced by Cliff Green, who has assisted the negro committee in establishing the club.

The program for the week is as follows:

Monday: Dedication dance for married couples, 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday: Victory dance for service men, 8:30 p.m.; dedication broadcast, 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Field day, State Teachers College stadium, 4 to 8 p.m.; open house.

Thursday: Dedication dance for service men, 8:30 p.m.

Friday and Saturday: Card, ping pong, checkers and Chinese checkers tournament, 8 p.m.

Sunday: Vesper service, 6 p.m. Special program arranged by committee on religion; open house.

Governor Prods President In Airport Jimcrow Evasure

Adv. The burning of race barriers at Maxwell Field was laid directly at the door of President Roosevelt yesterday in a telegram of protest from Alabama's Gov. Sparks.

The Governor declared that the order, read Wednesday to civilian and army personnel at Maxwell, "breaks down an essential principle of race relationship in the South," and "grievously handicaps efforts to bring about better race relationships."

Text of the telegram, addressed to the President at the White House, follows:

"Local newspapers carry notice today to the War Department's order terminating segregation of races at the Maxwell Field post exchange here. As Governor of the State of Alabama, I protest such an order, which violates a

statewide practice and belief and aggravates rather than helps.

"It breaks down an essential principle of race relationship in the South and grievously handicaps those of us in leadership positions who are trying to bring about a better relationship between the two races and an improvement of both on equal bases.

"May I respectfully ask that you give this matter your personal attention and, before the order is made effective, that you give consideration to the opinions of those of us who are trying to be helpful—those of us whose efforts will be neutralized by such orders."

In making public his telegram, Sparks did not say whether he had seen a copy of the memorandum which the War Department said had been sent to all commands, calling attention to a general policy forbidding discrimination between negro and white personnel at army posts.

The War Department yesterday said the air forces sent to all its commands recently a memorandum calling attention to the policy. The Air Forces memorandum, dated Aug. 17, was based on a general army circular issued July 8 which restated a "long-standing department policy." This policy forbids discrimination at army posts and by any army-operated transportation facilities.

The July 8 order, issued over the signature of Maj. Gen. James A. Ulio, adjutant general, said:

"Exchanges — While exchanges and branch exchanges may be allocated to serve specific areas or units, no exchange will be designated for the exclusive use of any particular race. Where such branch exchanges are established, personnel will not be restricted to the use of their area or unit exchange, but will be permitted to use any other exchange on the post, camp or station.

"Transportation—Buses, trucks, or other transportation owned and operated either by the government or by a governmental instrumentality will be available to all military personnel regardless of race. Restricting personnel to certain sections of such transportation because of race will not be permitted either on or off a post, camp or station, regardless of local civilian custom.

"Army Motion Picture Theaters — Army motion picture theaters may be allocated to serve certain areas or units but no theater or performance in any theater will be denied any group or individual because of race."

Public relations officers in Montgomery declined to comment on the news article carried in The Advertiser or on subsequent developments. As far as could be learned from civilian employes and other sources no unusual incidents had occurred since the order was announced.

In Atlanta, however, Major Harold Tyler, public relations officer for the Fourth Service Command, said he had not heard of such an order recently, but pointed out that it is "traditional" in the army that recreational facilities are open to all personnel without respect to race. He was so quoted by the United Press. He added that the order issued in July had called "attention to the earlier regulation on this subject."

Race Division Terminated At Maxwell Field

Adv. — 8/24/44 War Department Order Calls Off Segregation In Post Exchange Cafe

Segregation of the races in the Maxwell Field post exchange was terminated yesterday on instructions contained in a War Department directive which was read to civilian and military personnel, by organization officers of the post, according to information brought into the city by civilian workers.

All attempts to obtain an official elaboration on the order, its extent, and its full effect were unsuccessful. Inquiries at post headquarters elicited the brief reply, "no comment."

From a trustworthy but non-military source it was learned that the directive reaching Maxwell Field was only one of others going to every other military post in continental United States. The directive, it was said, was restricted which means that it could not be released for publication. This explained the reticence of Maxwell Field officials who were described as in the position of having to carry out orders they could not publicly discuss.

The Advertiser's informant took a conservative view of the situation caused by the directive's going into effect. He said the commanding officers at Maxwell Field could, in his opinion, be trusted to carry out the order without imposing a hardship on civilian personnel.

While The Advertiser did not have access to the directive, it is understood that it requires the removal of all segregation devices on the post so far as military personnel is concerned.

Civilian workers at Maxwell Field have limited use of the post exchange facilities. They are entitled to buy food and soft drinks for on-premises consumption but when they buy cigarets and tobacco they pay the State tax which is turned over by the post exchange to the State Treasury.

Negro Soldiers Build Park; Name It For Maj. Wilhelm

Adm. *2/26/43*

COURTLAND, ALA., Feb. 25. —Maj. Dwight M. Wilhelm, executive officer of the Army Air Forces Basic Flying School, Courtland, Ala., was pleasantly surprised recently when he learned that a park built at Maxwell Field by negro soldiers formerly under his command has been given the name Wilhelm Park as a tribute to him.

The beautification of this once barren area was started by Maj. Wilhelm when he was stationed at Maxwell Field and was serving as the commanding officer of

Maj. Todd Attending Army Safety Meeting

Adm. *3-23-43*
Maj. Thomas M. Todd, commanding officer of the 68th Sub-Depot at Maxwell Field, is now attending a safety meeting conducted by the Air Service Command at the Warner Robins Air Depot, Macon, Ga., it was announced Friday. Accompanying Maj. Todd were Capt. William D. Mastin, depot engineering officer, Robert A. Reeves, general foreman of the engineering department, and Marshall Cunningham, warehouse superintendent.

Maj. Harry D. Immel, safety administrator of the Air Service Command, was scheduled to address the conference.

Schwaegler to Give Two Exhibitions At Maxwell Tuesday

Adm. *3-17-43*
Connie Schwoegler, one of the nation's top bowlers, is scheduled to give two exhibitions at Maxwell Field Tuesday, March 16. At 6:30 p.m. he will perform at the soldier bowling alleys, and at 7:45 p.m. at the aviation cadet alleys. Officers are requested to attend the latter exhibition, according to Capt. Arvin L. Payne, special service officer.

the negro organizations of that base. Seeing that the negro troops were willing to improve this tract which covers almost 38 acres of land and is located partly within their squadron area, he secured permission to acquire shrubbery from government owned land near the field.

Using their own time after duty hours each day and furnishing their own tools, men from these outfits sodded the tract and landscaped the area with trees, flower beds, and shrubs. Under the force of their initiative the land soon developed into a trim, well planned park. They built benches and constructed a large open air theater for concerts and out-door entertainment during the Summer months. Giving over a section of the park to sports, volley ball and basketball courts and the like have been constructed. All of this work, including time and material, was accomplished without cost to the government.

Before the park could be finished Maj. Wilhelm was transferred to the AAFBFS, Courtland, Ala. However, the men continued their work and when recently it was finished he received photographs of the completed project. Over the entrance is an arch with the words, Wilhelm Park.

While Maj. Wilhelm is pleased with the honor paid him by these

soldiers of his former post, he is particularly proud of the men for having such a splendid spirit and for displaying such fine initiative in bettering their squadron area.

Negro Killed By Maxwell Field MP

Adv. ————— 9-11-43
An unidentified negro soldier was fatally shot and a negro civilian was wounded in the leg by shots fired by a Military Policeman on Monroe between Perry and Lawrence Streets early last night.

Military Police at police headquarters said that they were unauthorized to give a statement of facts concerning the shooting, but admitted that an M. P. had shot a negro soldier and a stray bullet had struck a negro civilian.

The Provost Marshal at Maxwell Field was unavailable for details of the shooting. However, a witness to the shooting said that the M. P. had remonstrated with the soldier and after a conversation in which the negro is alleged to have cursed the M. P. and then charged him. The M. P. is said to have wielded his night stick until it was wrested from his grip by the soldier. He then pulled his service automatic and fired twice, one bullet striking the soldier below the chest and the other hitting the civilian in the leg.

It was believed that the negro was carried to Maxwell Field in an Army ambulance and the M. P. placed under arrest pending an investigation.
