

# IF THE GENERALS CAN'T REMEMBER, THE PEOPLE CAN

A voice of the dying past rose in the swamp lands of South Carolina last week to impugn the character of Negro soldiers. The voice belonged to General Mark Clark, head of the South's private West Point, the Citadel at Charleston, S. C. General Clark told an audience in that tidewater city last week that he did not feel that integration was wise from a military point of view from the very beginning, and added that he thinks it would be unwise for the South to desegregate now. He went on to say that his experience with Negro troops in the Italian campaign in World War II proved they were of little value and actually bolted in the face of the enemy. General Almond, one-time commander of the tenth corps in Korea which made the now historic and fatal march to the Yalu river in the winter of 1950, backed up General Clark's remarks, adding that Negro troops were the worst in his command.

Now we've heard many arguments against integration from southerners, from the claim that God intended Negroes to be forever servants of the white man down to the charge that all Negroes were either idiots or syphilitic. But this is the first time that we've ever heard that they were all cowards. To deliberately blacken the record of thousands of Negro soldiers who have been killed or maimed for life in the last two conflicts in which this nation has engaged sets a new mark in subterranean forensics. We wonder how the thousands of Negroes felt who were lucky enough to escape but lost close friends in the last two blood baths when they read the General's remarks. Or how the hundreds of cripples and amputees in veterans hospitals over the country reacted when they heard the voice of the great General brand them as cowards. And what about the hundreds of mothers and wives who have but a few snapshots, some well worn letters and a few memories left to remind them of their husbands and sons who went away to fight an unpopular "police action" in a country whose name they could not pronounce. How must they have felt.

It's a good thing that the country's memory isn't as bad as that of Generals Clark and Almond. For the people remember the young Navy cook, Dorie Miller, who manned the guns at Pearl Harbor and became one of the nation's first heroes in World War II. Durhamites won't forget John Baxter Robinson, first Durham man to die in World War II, the much decorated Lt. Ellison Wynn, an adopted son, nor Lt. Theodore Joyner, the first Durham man to die in Korea. In spite of Generals Clark and Almond,

the people will always remember the all-Negro 24th Infantry, credited with winning the first victory in the UN's initial counter-offensive in Korea.

To refreshen General Clark's memory, we thought it a good idea to cite the deeds of one of the units that outfit and particularly those of one of its members, the late Sergeant Cornelius H. Charlton, winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor, the greatest military honor this country can bestow. Here is part of a citation read by former Secretary of the Army Frank Pace, Jr., before Charlton's parents:

"... distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty... Wounds received during his daring exploits resulted in his death, but his indomitable courage, superb leadership and gallant self-sacrifice reflect the highest credit upon himself, the infantry and the military..."

General Clark, in the words of Lionel White writing for the May 1953 number of Redbook, here is what this young Negro and the other Negroes of his unit did to help protect this country so that people like you could have the freedom to defame them:

The last chapter in the life of Cornelius Charlton began on the morning of June 24, 1951, near Chipo, Korea. For two days his company had been storming a heavily defended hill.

On the third day of fighting, when Charlton's platoon was in an advanced position with no possibility of turning back, the platoon leader was killed by grenade fire.

Charlton took over command. The men were pinned down by a barrage from automatic weapons, fired from emplacements above them.

Motioning the others to stay back, the sergeant crept forward with several grenades hanging from his belt. He took the first two positions alone, killing more than a dozen of the enemy.

A moment later, a grenade exploded near by, and fragments penetrated his chest. Charlton fell, badly wounded. His men were driven back.

Charlton crawled back to his platoon and reorganized it. He again led his men forward; once more they were driven into retreat.

Taking time to send back a number of other wounded men, the sergeant ignored the wounds in his own chest.

Once more regrouping, he led a last assault, and this time succeeded in driving the enemy over the summit.

As Connie's platoon took the crest, an emplacement

hidden on the far side of the mountain opened fire on them.

This time, after again refusing medical attention, he advanced alone on the enemy position and routed them. But as he did, he was struck in the face by fragments of another grenade.

He died that night. The commanding officer of the Twenty-fourth Infantry was Col. Henry C. Britt, a West Point man who had fought throughout World War II in Africa and Italy and was in the Korean theater from the very beginning.

During the action in which Cornelius Charlton was killed, Col. Britt suffered extremely heavy losses of enlisted men and officers. Wounded himself, he has since described the fighting:

"It was tough. We fought the Commies back and forth, on the ridges and in the valleys. It was essential to hold the high places. And those hills are steep. Steep as the sides of hell."

Col. Britt has described Charlton as "A fine soldier, first because he wanted to be a soldier, also because he was clean, upright man—a fearless man who was not afraid to die."

We don't claim that Negroes were any braver soldiers than any others who faced death in the wars this country has fought. Negroes aren't supermen, just human.

But, likewise, Negroes are no greater cowards than any other soldiers. If anything, we'd be forced to give the edge in courage to the Negro soldier, for certainly if any soldier fighting for America has had less to fight for, it has been the Negro soldier.

Hundreds of Negroes who have risked and given their lives for freedom and democracy have had to come back home to states like General Clark's South Carolina where they and their brothers have been lynched, forced into peonage, denied the right of the ballot, herded into "shantytowns" across the railroad tracks, relegated to every inferior facility paid for by public money, seen their wives and daughters raped by white men with impunity, and watched while their children are denied the same chances to make their fortunes in the world as children of the same guy they had shared a "fox-hole" or a can of combat rations across the "pond." It requires a little more than the ordinary courage for a man to face death for a country which offers no more than the South does for the average Negro.

We hope General Clark's young military charges at the Citadel can escape the poison he must be spreading in those ancient halls.

## NAT KING COLE AND THE NAACP

According to latest reports, King Cole says he was misquoted by newspapers when they stated that he had expressed himself as being somewhat opposed to the program of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Cole emphatically denied the report and responded further by purchasing a life membership in the NAACP. This latest report will no doubt bring a sigh of relief to many admirers of the famous song stylist, a number of whom had begun to take somewhat of a cold if not antagonistic attitude toward him.

The Carolina Times withheld its fire against Cole because of confidential statements made to one of its representatives at the Raleigh-Durham Airport when he flew here for his engagement

ment after the Birmingham fiasco. That statement, which can now be told, made us see Cole in a different light and therefore we gave him the benefit of the doubt.

Said Cole last week: "I challenge anyone who claims I have not supported the NAACP. Only last November I not only played at an NAACP benefit affair, in Las Vegas, but I also gave them a sizeable check."

I stand on my record all the way. I am, have been and will continue to be dedicated to the complete elimination of all forms of discrimination, segregation and bigotry. And I have always supported the NAACP and other organizations fighting segregation and

discrimination."

Regarding the newspaper reports which quoted Cole as saying:

"I'm letting you know emphatically I don't intend to become a politician... I'm a performer... I'm crusading as a gentleman. I meant I only wanted to be an isolationist as far as politics are concerned, but not from a moral point of view."

we think the above statement and actions are sufficient to reinstate Cole within the good graces of all of his admirers. As far as we are concerned, we are now willing to write the whole matter off our books as closed.

## CAN'T NEGLECT COURT REMEDIES

By REV. EUGENE CARSON BLAKE

President, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America

Editor's Note: This is another in a series of articles written by outstanding leaders in American life supporting the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. in its efforts to obtain through the courts full citizenship and "equal justice under law" for all Negro Americans. Contributions to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund can be deducted from your income tax.

In general, there are two ways in which discrimination against racial or cultural groups is successfully attacked. One way is the educational process by which the attitudes of people are changed, leading ultimately to the enactment of fair laws and the enforcement of existing laws. The other way is by court action to win a right that has been denied extra legally.

Those who are interested in seeing justice done to racial or cultural groups dare not neglect either of these two ways of attack against discrimination. Public opinion is ineffective unless it is enforced in individual court cases. On the other hand, a victory in a court case may be rendered ineffectual by a hostile community opinion.

In general, the educational

process is being successfully carried on by political, social and religious bodies in the United States. The theory of non-discrimination has never been more generally held and applauded than it is today.

But all must be conscious of the fact that illegal discrimination on account of race does in fact exist in the whole nation, including those parts of the United States where in general public opinion is favorable to non-discrimination. Usually the victims of racial discrimination do not have sufficient money to press for their legal rights in the courts. It is for this reason that the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund is such an important part of the machinery needed to establish the civil rights of all racial groups in the United States. If the fund had not existed and been financially supported, it is not likely that the clear Supreme Court decisions of May 17, 1954, and November 7, 1955, ending legal segregation in the nation's public schools and parks would have been secured.

It is quite certain that the financial support of the Legal Defense and Educational Fund must be continued if these decisions are to be implemented in American life.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor

Dear Sir:

A recent editorial in the papers told of a Mrs. O'Neal Greenhow, who served as a Confederate spy during the so-called Civil War.

The editorial erroneously states that she was "the only woman, aside from nurses, who gave her life while actually serving the south. The writer of this editorial forgets that Mary Surratt, the woman convicted in the trial of the eight conspirators who brought about the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, died at the end of a rope for her crime.

The editorial states that Mrs. Greenhow was "a widow living in Washington, D. C. at the time the war began. Mrs. Greenhow made no pretense of being loyal to the United States Government, and remained in Washington for the sole purpose of getting information for the Confederate Government. She was finally arrested and held prisoner by the U. S. Government for nine months, but this did not keep her from communicating with the Confederacy."

Then the article states that she was buried from St. Thomas' Church in Wilmington, N. C. This is a Catholic Church, and as the Catholic Church does not accord heretics "Christian burial," this shows that she was a Catholic. Her disloyalty to her government is in line with the Catholic Church's teaching that she has the right to absolve citizens from allegiance to "tyrannical governments" not "ordained of God" (meaning approved by the Church).

Mrs. Greenhow's confinement "did not keep her from communicating with the Confederacy" much information which she had, since her "Father confessor," who visited her at the prison, was able to convey it to the South.

The Catholic Church regarded the Federal Government as although "unrighteous," and Lincoln as a "tyrant." This explains why Booth, when fleeing across the stage of Ford's Theatre after shooting Lincoln, shouted, "Sic semper tyrannis," Latin for "So ever to tyrants." John Wilkes Booth and Mary Surratt and all the convicted conspirators were Catholics.

J. J. Walsh  
Durham

Dear Editor:

Your editorial concerning the possibility of drafting young white women graduating from college to teach in the public schools so as to help liquidate the current teacher shortage was very interesting to me. It seems that you favor the idea but have little hope such a thing might ever be done.

I suggest that there is a simpler and more practical way of practically liquidating the teacher shortage in practically all the Southern states, certainly here in North Carolina. If North Carolina would fall in line and seriously try to implement the decision of the United States Supreme Court and immediately integrate or desegregate the public schools through the high schools, to problem would be solved. That is, if Colored teachers, of whom there is a surplus, were integrated in the schools along with the pupils of both races there would be enough of these colored teachers to complete the number required to staff all the schools in the state.

There is no logical reason why this should not be done. The white people of this state have employed colored women from the days of slavery to nurse their children and practically rear them. Why no employ colored women and men to teach these same children in the school room. The colored teachers are just as well prepared academically as the whites. This is due to the fact that practically all colored college graduates in the South have gone into teaching because prejudice denied them other occupations commensurate with their training. Then, too, the colored teachers are better prepared spiritually to teach certain courses such as Civics than the whites. Because if a white teacher in North Carolina teaches the true principles on which this nation was founded she is teaching what she does not practice, and her white fellow-citizens do not practice, and the children know this. Why not solve the teacher shortage by giving the colored teachers a chance to teach in any school, white or colored, where teachers are needed?

Dr. A. H. Gordon,  
Salisbury, N. C.

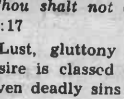
DESERVING OF A PLACE



## Spiritual Insight

### "LUST: A DEADLY SIN"

By REVEREND HAROLD ROLAND  
Pastor, Mount Gilead Baptist Church



"Thou shalt not covet..." Ex. 20:17

Lust, gluttony or inordinate desire is classed as one of the seven deadly sins among us human beings. The passion of lust causes untold unhappiness and misery among men. We long for things which are against our happiness and spiritual well being. Someone has said that desire, after all, is the root of sin. This idea may not be the whole truth; however, there is a lot of truth in it. All of us have been in trouble because of the lust of passionate desire. Lust is indeed an enemy of man's spiritual life. Lust has marred the peace of individuals and families, Lust interferes with the harmony of the individual and the harmony of society.

Lust's unholiness leaves the soul hungry and empty. May it not be true that much of our restlessness is due to the soullessness left by lustful passion? Lust cannot become a fitting substitute for the deep hunger and thirsts of the human soul. There is no fitting substitute for God and spiritual things. We are unsatisfied drinking at the fountain of lustful passion. Millions feasting at the table the lustful passions are left with deep hunger unsatisfied. What is the result? We are left with emptiness of soul that brings untold misery and unhappiness. We see the tragic results in the daily headlines. Yes, the unholiness of lust leave our souls empty and hungry.

Lust, the deadly sin, robs us of the peace of God. Why? This thing mars or disrupts our relationship with God. What hope is there for the branch when it is cut off from the vine? "Apart from me ye can do nothing..." It leaves the soul cut-off, isolated from its true source of life—God the creator. Lust also strains and disrupts our relationship with our fellowman. It breaks the sense of community so essential to happy living. Lust is the root of so much of our interpersonal conflict. Yes, lust robs us of peace because it cuts the vital ties of human and Divine relations.

## Capital Close Up . . .

BY CONSTANCE DANIEL

Mark Clark and the "Black Phalanx"

On April 27, Gen. Mark Clark, president of "The Citadel," South Carolina's private West Point, told the Southern Regional Conference of State Governments, then meeting in Charleston, he was opposed to the integration of white and Negro troops, from a military point of view.

Gen. Clark, the former Supreme Commander of UN Forces in the Far East, based his opinion, he said, on his experience with the 3rd Army, in Italy, during World War II. Obviously reviving the story of the 92nd Division, commanded by Major Gen. Edward Almond (now retired) which created much furore at the time the charges were made, Gen. Clark, according to press releases, declared, last week, that Negro soldiers could not be relied on, and bolted in the face of the enemy. "The worst division I had was a Negro division," said Gen. Clark. The documented refutation of the results of troop integration, by Civilian Aide to the Secretary of Defense James C. Evans, (New York Post, April 30), is one of many which will be forthcoming.

ana Native Guard Volunteers, the 54th Massachusetts Volunteers, and first Negro member of the National Council of Administration of the Grand Army of the Republic, whose Department of Virginia, in 1882, designated him to write the history. The volume, entered in the office of the Librarian of Congress, in 1887, was published by the American Publishing Co., of Hartford, Conn., in 1890.

Camden and Guilford Courthouse

From this volume we comment on the project to raise Negro troops, during the Revolution—a project zealously pushed by Col. John Laurens of South Carolina, whose "services in Rhode Island had given him an opportunity to witness the conduct and worth of the Negro soldier." "Statesmen, both South and North, as they talked about it, became free to express their approbation of the measure. They had witnessed the militia from Virginia and North Carolina, at the battle of Camden, throw down their arms before the enemy; they had seen black and white troops under command of (British) Gen. Provoost occupy Savannah." The same chapter cites Grimshaw's U. S. History to the effect that at the battle of Guilford Court House, the following year, "the North Carolina militia...fled at the first fire," and the Second Maryland Regiment deserted.

As swallows, neither the 5th Army's 92nd Division in the Italian Campaign, nor the Virginia, Carolina and Maryland troops at Camden and Guilford

Courthouse, 165 years earlier, make a summer, in terms of the courage of soldiers—Negro or Southern white.

More from "The Black Phalanx"

"As early as 1652, the militia law of Massachusetts required Negroes, Scotchmen and Indians,—the indentured slaves of Cromwell, who encountered his army at the battle of Dunbar,—to train in the militia. Nor was it an uncommon occurrence for them to be manumitted for meritorious and courageous action in defending their masters' families, often in the absence of the master, when attacked by the red men of the woods. They fought with a desperation equal to that of the whites, against the common enemy."

John Cadwater of Annapolis, Maryland, in a letter to Gen. Washington, (June, 1781) wrote: "We have resolved to raise, immediately, seven hundred and fifty Negroes, to be incorporated with the other troops; and a bill is now almost completed."

"It does not appear," writes Wilson, "that the Negroes were formed into separate organizations in this State, but filled the depleted ranks of the Continental regiments, where their energy and daring was not less than that displayed by their white comrades, with whom they fought, shoulder to shoulder. The advocates of arming the Negroes were not confined to the Eastern and Middle sections; some of the best men of the South favored and advocated the enlistment of free Negroes."

(Please turn to Page Seven)

## Sixth District Meeting Of Omegas At Charlotte

CHARLOTTE

Nearly 300-men attended the 21st annual meeting of the Sixth District of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity held here last week, April 27-29.

The event, drawing on memberships in the fraternity in North and South Carolina, broke all attendance records for district meetings which have been conducted by the Omegas over a 24-year span.

The prime feature of the three-day confab was the annual Talent Hunt, celebrating the 10th anniversary at the

site of its founding, in 1946. A pretty and talented high school senior, Miss Doris Jean Duncan, Asheville, took top honors in this event as she sang herself into the hearts of an audience of more than 1000-and the judges. She completely captivated the throng which crowded the Northwest Junior High School Auditorium on Saturday evening with the "Binou Song" from Faust. She was accompanied by Mrs. Ollie M. Reynolds, The winner had placed third in the competitions held in Spartanburg last year.

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