

When The Sisters Came Marching Home

How Black Women Fought Back

This edition of "Tony Brown's Journal" exposes a missing chapter in American military history: the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. "When The Sisters Came Marching Home" examines the history of the only group of Black military women to serve overseas during WW II.

After uncovering the contributions of this extraordinary "Trapper John, M.D."

Andy Murray, a macho athlete type, has big plans for his infant son until Gonzo has to break the stunning news that little Andy Jr. is really a girl, on "Trapper John, M.D.," Sunday, January 9 at 10 p.m. on WBTV, Channel 3.

While treating Andy Jr. for another problem, Gonzo accidentally discovers that the baby is a boy only externally and that internally he is a normally formed female, and he strongly urges Andy and his wife, Jeanette, to okay the surgery necessary to complete the child's female identity and to then rear her as a girl.

Andy Sr. is disbelieving and outraged, which complicates the already confused feeling of Jeanette even more.

inary group of women, host Tony Brown wrote a letter to a White House official. "This superb group of women was the only Black WAC unit to serve overseas during WW II. They were cited for doing a job that no one else had succeeded in doing. The 6888th also holds the dubious distinction of being the only all-female unit to serve overseas which did not receive a citation. Do help this Administration to recognize and legitimize these victims of racism - and sexism," he challenged.

The program follows the exploits of the women of the 6888th as they battled to share in the dangers and triumphs facing America's Black fighting men. Like the men, the "sisters" fought the enemy and racism. However, they also had to face the additional burden of sexism.

Novella Auls, one of the women in the unit, retired from the Army after serving more than 20 years. She is writing a book on the contributions of Black servicewomen. "In the beginning, when they first established the Women's Army Corps, they said that we would be authorized overseas duty also, but it would have to be at the

discretion of the overseas commander, and at that time it was General Eisenhower," recalls Auls. "He did not want Negro WACs in the theater. But the Negro press, the NAACP and several other civil rights groups finally forced the government to send us over and General Eisenhower had to accept us."

Mary Rozier enlisted in the Women's Army Corps in 1943. She was instrumental in forging the first reunion of the 6888th to commemorate and cele-

brate the unit's service to America. She joins Novella Auls in telling the little-known story of the unit's achievements.

"Tony Brown's Journal" is the nation's longest-running, Black-Affairs television series and has been sponsored by Pepsi-Cola Company for eight consecutive years. Televised nationally on public television, the program will be seen in this area on WTVI, Channel 43 and WUNG, Channel 58 at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 8th.

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