

# FUTURE OUTLOOK

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## "Shoot the Gas To Me, Tojo!"

Yank, the army newspaper, visits a Negro decontamination unit in Australia. Sgt. F. J. Corbett, of Rocky Mount, describes the purpose of the unit thus: "If and when the Japs ever dust off poison gas bombs, we move. We hop right up to affected areas and decontaminate 'em so the gas will do a minimum of harm." Yank also visits with a few of the boys from Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, D. C. This is the second of a series of feature stories which the news bureau, OWI, in co-operation with Yank, will make available at regular intervals to the Negro press.

Somewhere in Australia (By Cable)—"Shoot the gas to me, Tojo." That's the challenge of a Negro decontamination unit here, the only one of its kind in the United States army.

Here's the purpose of the unit, as described by Sgt. F. J. Corbett, Rocky Mount, N. C., its supply sergeant: "If and when the Japs ever dust off poison gas bombs, we move. We hop right up to affected areas and decontaminate 'em so the gas will do a minimum of harm."

Months before war began, these colored men left jobs as railroad men, school teachers, cab drivers, barbers, mechanics, and tap dancers, to answer Uncle Sam's call. Classed as "special class," they were picked out from the ranks of the decontamination unit.

Setting a reception center tents in new, still-rumpled uniforms, those picked asked each other with puzzled faces, "What's this decontamination? Today as members of a crack outfit that won a citation for efficiency on maneuvers, they can rattle off such words as "lacrimator," "vesicant," "chlorpicrin," and "sterculator."

They're so good that some of them find Australia demonstrating defense against gas attack and decontamination to Australian and American soldiers and civilian defense workers.

Their clothes would make Frankenstein look like a sissy. Their suits are gasproof and cover the body from head to toe with a window in the front for their eyes. Wearing these suits and looking like deep-sea divers, they can work for hours in gassed areas. The unit, completely mobile, is used to affected areas in special trucks equipped with hose and tanks for various gases. In territory where a truck can't travel they use portable cylinders of decontaminating chemicals over their shoulders and spray while walking. The operation of the chemical spray is a military secret.

The philosophy is to take our gas seriously, but not ourselves," says Corbett. Chemical warfare is combined with Harlem vernacular in small talk. They call it "gas" because in large doses it kills. If a man is "gassed," he has to drive a truck.

Corbett's B1B airplane is in the command. And in the command, Wall Street, Wall Street, Wall Street. (Continued On Page Eight)



**TOKIO OR BELIN NEXT STOP**—This young Negro worker in a large midwest airplane plant "degreases" a powerful aircraft motor before it is shipped for assembly for one our our fighting planes. He is one of several hundred Negro workers engaged in airplane manufacture in this plant.

## A. and T. Choir To Give Usual Xmas Concert

Under the direction of Prof. Charles Colman, the A. and T. College A Cappella Choir will give its annual Christmas concert on Sunday, December 20, at 5:30 p. m., in the Richard B. Harrison auditorium of the college.

Music lovers of the nation will hear the choir in a coast-to-coast broadcast over the Columbia Broadcasting System through Radio Station WBIG, of this city, on Thursday, December 24, at 9:15 a. m.

The choir has included the following selections on its Christmas concert: "Break Forth O, Beauteous Heavenly Light" (Bach); "White I Did Watch My Sheep at Night," a Seventeenth Century tune (Jungst); "I Wonder As I Wander" (Niles); "Christmas Bells" (Ozood); "Lullaby on Christmas Eve" (Christiansen); American Christmas carols; "The Holly and the Ivy" and "The Wassail Song," English folk music.

The modernists represented on the program will be Alfred Donhill, with his "To the Queen of Heaven" and Willian with his mystical "The Three Kings." These two numbers will be the choir's featured selections.

Prof. Bernard Lee Mason, director of the college band, will play a violin solo. This young violinist has been acclaimed by critics and audiences throughout the country as a master of his instrument, and his annual appearance on the Christmas program is considered by those who attend as an essential part of the concert.

To remove cooking stains from your aluminum pots and make them shine like new, try boiling water and vinegar in them. It will do the same job as a cleanser and save wear and tear on the precious cookers.

## Soldiers May Send Gifts Duty Free

Men in the United States armed forces abroad can now send gifts or souvenirs to the value of \$50 back home duty-free. Formerly such gifts from the men overseas were subject to customs duties.

The bill—signed by President Roosevelt on December 5—became law in time to save service men and their friends and relatives the payment of customs duties during the busy Christmas season.

The bill does not change the regulation covering packages sent to servicemen abroad. Such packages are duty-free when addressed to the soldier through his army post office address, the sailor car of his ship or navy number address and the marine through his unit number.

## Youths Begin Registration In Guilford County

Registration of "teen age youths got off to a steady start today at Greensboro's three local draft boards as youths who have reached the age of 18 since June 30 or will become 18 before January 1 began to list themselves as available for military service under the selective service act.

Although the registration was somewhat lighter up to mid-afternoon than the boards had expected, more activity was expected later this afternoon and tomorrow.

Actual registration total for boards Nos. 1, 2 and 3 reached 64 early this afternoon.

Registration will continue at the respective board offices through December 31, and thereafter every youth will register with his local board on his 19th birthday.

The boards are urging the 18-year-olds to register early as possible, despite specific dates set for listing the various age groups.

## Religious Emphasis Week Celebrated At A. and T.

A. and T. College celebrated Religious Emphasis Week with Rev. W. E. Carrington, of the Howard University School of Religion, Washington, D. C., as principal speaker for the services, which were held daily from Sunday, December 6, to Wednesday, December 9.

The speaker used the following subjects in his talks, "Living at Peace with One's Self," "Handicaps of Our Fellowman," "The Purpose of Religion" and "Reaching for the Stars." The main points brought out by Reverend Carrington during the week were as follows: 1. "One does not have peace in the world and does not make a contribution towards the establishing of peace unless he first comes to grips with himself and makes peace with himself." 2. "When one attempts to judge another, he should take into account all the facts about that person's life." 3. "The primary purpose of religion is to help an individual live a full life." 4. "Religion serves the individual by keeping before him unattainable goals."

The college choir under the direction of Prof. Charles Colman, Calvin Lumpley, college organist, and Mrs. N. C. Webster furnished music for the occasion. Prof. B. N. Roberts and Rev. David Spellar, both of the college faculty, had charge of the services.

Miss Rose Jenkins announced that the Beta Epsilon chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and Alpha Phi chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority sold 1,029 defense stamps in their recent Victory Week program.

One hundred and twenty-five different types of vacuum windshield wiper motors are required to service cars made in the last 12 or 15

## Senegalese May Join the Allies

From the land of Battling Siki—French West Africa—may come to reinforce the United Nations armies some 50,000 of the most feared and effective soldiers of France, the dreaded Senegalese.

These black troops are particularly formidable in desert fighting at close quarters, with the bayonet, rifle and machine gun. Already (under Fighting French command in the Chad region, Negro troops have confirmed the almost legendary reputation they earned on the battlefields of France in the last war.

If supplied by the United States and British with new equipment, the Senegalese along with other veteran French colonial troops, it is believed, can constitute a formidable addition to the armies now at the disposal of General Eisenhower in the African war.

Fighting French sources in Washington estimate that there are about 25,000 Senegalese at Dakar and an additional 25,000 scattered throughout French territory.

It was French colonial troops, including Senegalese who in the Chad province struck one of the first blows for French liberation by severing a junction between the Italian Libya army under Marshal Graziani and the fascist Ethiopian force under the Duke of Aosta in the early days of the French armistice.

This stroke was engineered by Felix Eboue, South American-born Negro governor of the Chad province. A native of French Guiana on the South American coast, and a brilliant graduate of French schools, Eboue was the first of the colonial administrators to defy the new Vichy government and announce the determination of Africa to fight for a Fighting France. His declaration played a part in the subsequent actions of other administrators in French Congo, Cameroons, and Gabon-Shari who later joined the Fighting French movement. When General Charles de Gaulle visited the Fighting French colonies in September, 1940, he appointed Felix Eboue governor general of Fighting French Africa.

Equatorial Africa has since become an important reservoir for military manpower for the allies. A Fighting French army has been built up in these regions under the direction of General Leclercq, one of de Gaulle's ablest officers. These troops have already proved their excellent fighting spirit in daring attacks on Italian outposts in Libya and Eritrea and thousands were rushed to the western desert when General Rommel's forces threatened the conquest of Egypt.

Of equal importance to the allied cause was the immediate use of Fighting French Africa as an important cornerstone in the United Nations defense system through the construction of a network of hidden airports there. British and American pilots were able to ferry much needed bombers and fighting planes across the African continent to the Egyptian battlefront, to the Nile, East and to India, Port Moresby, and Guadalcanal. In the great aerial battle of the Mediterranean, the Senegalese and other veteran colonial troops