

99th PURSUIT SQUADRON

3 January 1945

Miss Erna Clardy
Assistant Girls' Worker
Phyllis Wheatley House
809 Aldrich Avenue North
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Miss Clardy:

Inclosed is a money order for \$12.00 which you sent me last spring to be forwarded to the 99th Fighter Squadron. I sent this money order overseas but that Squadron had, in the meantime, been included in the 332nd Fighter Group and the money order was consequently returned. Just recently I tried again to give the money order to Lt. Colonel George S. Roberts. He would not take it because of the difficulty in its use.

I am, therefore, returning the money order to you. However, I wish you would thank the members of your organization for their thoughtfulness in contributing this gift.

Sincerely yours,

Truman K. Gibson, Jr.
Expert Consultant to the
Secretary of War.

Incl

*Erna Clardy
99th*

WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.

1 June 1944

Miss Erma Clardy
Assistant Girls' Worker
Phyllis Wheatley House
809 Aldrich Avenue North
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Miss Clardy:

Because of absence from the city I have just received your letter of 4 May in which you inclosed a money order for \$12.90 to be used for the benefit of the 99th Fighter Squadron.

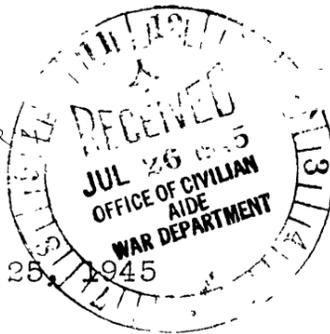
The sentiment behind this gift will, I am certain, be a source of constant inspiration to the entire personnel of this organization. Please express my thanks and the thanks of all the men to your fine organization. You will undoubtedly hear directly from the Squadron Commander.

Sincerely yours,

Truman K. Gibson, Jr.,
Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War.



GIVEN SPRINGFIELD
MOUNT KISCO
NEW YORK



July 25, 1945

Dear Mr. Gibson:

I personally think that it would be a good idea to give the Award of the UAW-99th Pursuit Squadron to Mrs. Will Clayton. She certainly worked very hard and did a fine job. The fact that she is a Southerner is also an important point.

Do let me know what Tappes says about the idea for, if he agrees, we ought to start planning the ceremony.

Yours sincerely,

Agnes E. Meyer

(Mrs. Eugene Meyer)

Mr. Truman K. Gibson jr
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War
War Department
Washington, D.C.

*Princeton speech going
under separate cover.*

Ca. 99th

C
O
P
Y

SEVEN SPRINGS FARM
MOUNT KISCO
NEW YORK

July 25, 1945

Dear Mr. Gibson:

I personally think that it would be a good idea to give the Award of the UAW-99th Pursuit Squadron to Mrs. Will Clayton. She certainly worked very hard and did a fine job. The fact that she is a Southerner is also an important point.

Do let me know what Tappes says about the idea for, if he agrees, we ought to start planning the ceremony.

Yours sincerely,

s/ Agnes E. Meyer
(Mrs. Eugene Meyer)

Mr. Truman K. Gibson jr
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War
War Department
Washington, D C

23 July 1945

Mrs. Agnes E. Meyer
Seven Springs Farm
Mount Kisco, New York

Dear Mrs. Meyer:

Inclosed is a copy of a very interesting letter I received from Bill Trent of the United Negro College Fund, Inc. What do you think of his proposal about the UAW - 99th Pursuit Squadron Award being given to Mrs. Will Clayton? I personally believe the suggestion has considerable merit.

I have sent a copy of the letter to Mr. Shelton Tapps and will forward his comment to you.

I was very much interested in the press accounts of your talk at Princeton and would like to see the full text if at all possible.

Sincerely yours,

Truman K. Gibson, Jr.,
Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War.

IKG/mjb Ext 2431

19 July 1945

Mrs. Agnes E. Meyer
Seven Springs Farm
Mount Kisco, New York

Dear Mrs. Meyer:

Inclosed is a copy of a very interesting letter I received from Bill Trent of the United Negro College Fund, Inc. What do you think of his proposal about the UAW - 99th Pursuit Squadron Award being given to Mrs. Will Clayton? I personally believe the suggestion has considerable merit.

I have sent a copy of the letter also to Mr. Shelton Tapps and will forward his comment to you.

I was very much interested in the press accounts of your talk at Princeton and would like to see the full text if at all possible. Apropos of the references to migration, you will be interested in the inclosed study.

Sincerely yours,

Truman K. Gibson, Jr.,
Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War.

2 Incls.

*Card Meyer
99th*

19 July 1945

Mr. Shelton Tapps
Recording Secretary
Ford Local #600
10550 Dix Avenue
Dearborn, Michigan

Dear Mr. Tapps:

Inclosed is a copy of a very interesting letter I received from Bill Trent of the United Negro College Fund, Inc. What do you think of his proposal about the UAW - 99th Pursuit Squadron Award being given to Mrs. Will Clayton? I personally believe the suggestion has considerable merit.

I have sent a copy of the letter to Mrs. Agnes Meyer and will forward her comment to you.

Sincerely yours,

Truman K. Gibson, Jr.,
Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War.

SEVEN SPRINGS FARM
MOUNT KISCO
NEW YORK

June 29, 1945

Dear Mr. Gibson:

You will not be surprised to hear that Mr. McCloy thought it advisable not to accept the award which you, Mr. Tappes and I wished to give him, as the person who had contributed the most toward racial good will and understanding or advancement of the Negro, on behalf of Ford Local No. 600, U.A.W.-C.I.O. and the Ninety-ninth Fighter Squadron. I enclose herewith a copy of his letter.

We ought to select someone else. I hope you and Mr. Tappes can think of someone who really deserves to be singled out for this award. To tell you the truth, I cannot think of anyone who is outstanding in this field of endeavor.

Yours sincerely,

Eugene E. Meyer
(Mrs. Eugene Meyer)

Mr. Truman K. Gibson, Jr.
Office of the Secretary of War
The War Department
Washington
D.C.

C
O
P
Y

VA DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Washington, D.C.

26 June 1945

Mrs. Eugene Meyer
Seven Springs Farm
Mount Kisco, New York

Dear Mrs. Meyer:

I am sorry that I have not had a chance to reply to your letter of June 8th before this. Apparently it was misaddressed and I have only recently received it.

I am very much honored and pleased with the thought that the award committee should think I was worthy of the award mentioned in your letter. I have thought about it a good bit, and I have come to the conclusion that because there is so much yet to be done in working out Army policies in connection with the utilization of negroes in the Army, both during the war and in the post-war period, that I could be more effective if I were not singled out for such an award while this work is on.

I may be wrong, but I think the announcement of such an award might make people in and out of the Army feel that I was in some way a chief spokesman for the Negro in the Army, and thus possible discount some of the influence I might otherwise have. I have tried to approach these matters purely from the point of view of military considerations, and because of this I think I have been able to accomplish things that otherwise would have been very difficult.

General Eisenhower said the other day when he was asked about the contribution of the Negro soldier, that he looked upon himself as a commander of all soldiers, and not as a commander of Negro, or British or American soldiers, or as a leader of particular groups. I think the thought that he had is about the thought that I am trying to express.

After my service is completed and all that I can do has been done, if this group felt that in retrospect an award were justified in the light of all the other considerations, I would be very happy to receive it. But I think that under present circumstances I would prefer not to be designated at this time.

Sincerely,

(signed) John J. McCloy

UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND, INC.

38 EAST FIFTY-SEVENTH STREET, NEW YORK 22, N. Y. • PLAZA 5-9613

1945 CAMPAIGN
NATIONAL OFFICERS

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PAUL FRANKLIN, *Campaign Director*
W. J. TRENT, JR., *Executive Secretary*

July 10, 1945

Mr. T. K. Gibson, Jr.
1717 T Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Gibson:

I'm not sure just what procedure is proper in submitting names of persons to be considered for the UAW - 99th Pursuit Squadron Award for extraordinary work in the field of race relations; hence this letter to you.

This year, we had an unusually fine campaign for the United Negro College Fund in Washington, D. C. Its success was due almost entirely to the inspiring leadership of a wealthy southern white woman--Mrs. Will Clayton. During the planning stages of the Washington campaign, Mrs. Clayton was invited to a luncheon in behalf of the Fund by Mrs. Gifford Pinchot. The purpose of the luncheon was to secure a city chairman. When Mrs. Clayton's name was suggested, she demurred on the grounds that she knew very little about the colleges and even less about raising money. However, she did not entirely shut the door and she was persuaded to think it over. After a great deal of thought she agreed to do this job. She gave generously of her time and money; she persuaded her friends to give liberally; she paid all local office expenses out of her own pocket; she worked closely with Mr. Howard Long, the Co-chairman, and insisted right along that the committee be interracial in character; she spoke over the radio, attended interracial luncheons and served to bring the educational problems of Negroes to the attention of high-placed persons. Mrs. Clayton served to bring white and Negro citizens together in an endeavor for the benefit of Negroes. Last year we raised only \$11,000 in Washington. This year we raised nearly \$35,000.

We here at headquarters are firmly convinced that she has done a great deal to get the problems of the

Mr. T. K. Gibson, Jr.

-2-

July 10, 1945

Negro across to friends who are in a position to help mould public opinion. Under these circumstances, then, I would like to suggest that the name of Mrs. Clayton be given consideration by the Committee.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Most sincerely,



W. J. Trent, jr.
Executive Secretary

WJT/aal

Ex 2431
JCE:mw

December 5, 1944

Mr. Eddie Rickenbacker,
President,
Eastern Airlines,
Rockefeller Centre,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Rickenbacker:

Reference is made to our conversation on
Wednesday evening, November 29, 1944, aboard the
"Crescent" southbound to Atlanta and the Tuskegee
Army Air Field.

As stated then, I hope to elicit your further
interest with regard to our pilots of the 99th and
others. I will be in New York on Friday, December
8, 1944, and will call your office regarding the
possibility of a brief interview.

Sincerely yours,

James C. Evans,
Assistant Civilian Aide to the
Secretary of War.

*Call on
99th*

Ex 2431
JCE/mw

September 18, 1944

Attorney George W. Crockett, Jr.,
618 Maccabees Building,
Detroit 2, Michigan.

Dear Attorney Crockett:

Immediately upon receipt of the new APO address of Major George S. Roberts I transmitted to him the information contained in letters received from you and from Mr. Tappes concerning the \$1,000 fund and the 99th Fighter Squadron trophy. As soon as I hear from him I will be glad to work with you in further carrying out the wishes of our flyers.

Mr. Andrew King, a West Virginian with considerable experience in industrial relations, will call to see you on or about September 20, 1944. For your own expanding program, as well as on behalf of Mr. King, I hope you will give full attention to his representations.

Please call me whenever you are in Washington as I have been entertaining hopes of coming to Detroit again under less hasty circumstances.

Sincerely yours,

James C. Evans,
Assistant Civilian Aide to the
Secretary of War.

*Case of
99th
Roberts*

UNITED AUTOMOBILE · AIRCRAFT · AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS
of AMERICA (UAW-CIO)



INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS • 411 WEST MILWAUKEE AVENUE • DETROIT MICHIGAN

R J THOMAS
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
GEO F ADDES
INTERNATIONAL SEC. & TREAS

RICHARD T. FRANKENSTEIN
INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT
WALTER P. REUTHER
INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

PHONE TRINITY 1-6600

Please reply to:
618 Maccabees Building
Detroit 2, Michigan

September 2nd, 1944

Mr. James C. Evans
Assistant Civilian Aide to the
Secretary of War
War Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Evans:

The engraving of the trophy, which we presented to Major Roberts for the 99th Squadron, has been completed. Please let me have your suggestions as soon as possible relative to the manner in which it should be packed for shipment and the person and place to which shipment should be made.

I understand, too, that a resolution is to be presented to our forthcoming Convention requesting a donation of \$1000 to supplement the sum already earmarked by Ford Local 600 for the creation of the "99th Squadron Fund".

With best wishes to you and Truman, I am

Cordially,

Geo. W. Crockett, Jr.

GWC:n
uopwa
cio26

EDCSW - Ext. 2431
TKG/mjb

August 23, 1944

Mr. George W. Crockett, Jr.,
618 Maccabees Building,
Detroit 2, Michigan.

Dear George,

I have your letter of August 3, and am very glad that Major Roberts' visit to Detroit produced good results. I share your concern about present racial tensions and you may be assured that we, in the War Department, will be only too glad to cooperate with you and your Union in any effort that will make for better relations between the races.

I am very sorry that I was not able to come over for the entertainment. However, no transportation was available to me even though I had planned until the last minute to come into Detroit.

Congratulations on your having passed the Michigan bar. Bob Ming told me the little time you had for study.

Sincerely yours,

Truman K. Gibson, Jr.,
Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War.

994

UNITED AUTOMOBILE · AIRCRAFT · AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS
of AMERICA (UAW-CIO)



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INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
GEO F ADDES
INTERNATIONAL SEC & TREAS

RICHARD T FRANKENSTEEN
INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT
WALTER P REUTHER
INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Please reply to:
618 Maccabees Building
Detroit 2, Michigan

August 3, 1944

PHONE TRINITY 1-6600

Mr. Truman Gibson
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War
4E943 Pentagon Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Gibson:

Please accept the sincere thanks of our organization for your assistance in making it possible for us to have Major George S. Roberts as our guest here in Detroit during the past week-end.

We are confident that the visits made by Major Roberts to our workers at the Ford Rouge Plant, Willow Run and Murray Corporation not only will strengthen the morale of our members and, thus tend to increase production; but also will serve to stimulate a wholesome respect between these workers each for the other and without regard to race or color. The result is bound to be a further decrease in tensions, thus, making possible even more continuous was production.

We are receiving commendations on his visit from various civic organizations here, and the officers of our International Union join me in expressing to your office our sincere thanks for making this possible.

Cordially,


Geo. W. Crockett, Jr.
Consultant

GWC:n
uopwa
cio26
cc: Mr. George Addes
cc: Mr. Victor Reuther

No. 1

★ ★
★ ★ UAW-CIO BANQUET ★ ★
★ ★ In Honor of THE 99th SQUADRON and ★ ★
★ ★ MAJ. GEORGE S. ROBERTS, Commanding Officer ★ ★
★ ★ Saturday, July 29, 1944-7 P.M. ★ ★
★ ★ WAYNE ROOM -- STATLER HOTEL ★ ★
★ ★ Sponsored by War Policy Division -- UAW-CIO ★ ★
★ ★ PRICE \$ 2 . 7 5 ★ ★
★ ★

UNITED AUTOMOBILE · AIRCRAFT · AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS
of AMERICA (UAW-CIO)



PHONE TRINITY 1-6600

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS · 411 WEST MILWAUKEE AVENUE · DETROIT, MICHIGAN

R J THOMAS
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
GEO F ADDES
INTERNATIONAL SEC & TREAS

RICHARD T FRANKENSTEEN
INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT
WALTER P REUTHER
INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Please reply to:
618 Maccabees Building
Detroit 2, Michigan

July 20, 1944

Mr. Truman Gibson
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War
c/o Midwest Country Club
Grass Lake, Michigan

Dear Mr. Gibson:

The attached communication will serve to acquaint you with our plans for a banquet in honor of the 99th Squadron and its Commanding Officer, Major George S. Roberts. We should like very much to have you present and seated at the Speakers Table. A complimentary ticket is enclosed and an immediate response from you would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Geo. W. Crockett, Jr.

GWC:n
uopwa
cio26
encs.

99th
Cand Crockett
" " " "

Please reply to:
618 Maccabees Building
Detroit 2, Michigan

July 21, 1944

Air-mail--Special

Mr. James C. Evans
Assistant Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War
War Department (Pentagon Building)
Washington, D. C.

Dear Evans:

A check with our Ford local indicates virtual certainty that Major Robert's visit to Willow Run will be on the morning of the 29th. I have listed your name and that of Truman as members of his party.

Mr. Wright says he will be pleased to have you as his house guest during your visit here. He reports also that your friend, Dr. Jenkins died four months ago.

Please let me have the requested material for citations by Monday sure. I am considering the advisability of having the citations engraved on a scroll suitable for framing.

Sincerely,



Geo. W. Crockett, Jr.

GWC:n
uopwa
cio26

cc: Mr. Truman Gibson
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War
c/o Midwest Country Club
Grass Lake, Michigan

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PHONE TRINITY 1-6600

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS • 411 WEST MILWAUKEE AVENUE • DETROIT 2 MICHIGAN

R. J. THOMAS
PRESIDENT

GEO. F. ADDES
VICE PRES.

RICHARD T. FRANKENSTEN
SECRETARY

WALTER P. REUTHER
TREASURER

July 19, 1944

To: Presidents of all UAW-CIO Local Unions in the
Detroit Area

Dear Sir and Brother:

Major George Spencer Roberts, Commanding Officer of the famous 99th Squadron, will be in Detroit on July 28, 29, and 30, at the invitation of the War Policy Division and Ford Local 600.

The 99th Squadron is an all Negro group of American flyers who have distinguished themselves in the Mediterranean Theatre--North Africa, Sicily and Italy.

We expect Major Roberts to arrive in Detroit on Friday morning, the 28th, and Local 600 will sponsor a luncheon in his honor on that day. On Friday afternoon he will visit the Rouge Ford plant, and such other Ford plants as time will permit. Saturday will be devoted to touring Willow Run and visiting any other Local Union or plant as may be arranged through Local Unions participating in this event.

We would like your Local to indicate participation by assisting in underwriting a banquet planned in honor of Major Roberts. The banquet is scheduled for Saturday evening, the 29th, at the Hotel Statler, and the price per person for the five course dinner will be \$2.75.

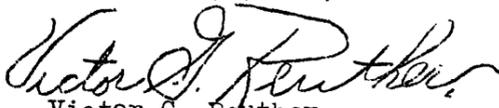
We are requesting that your Local assume responsibility for disposing of as many tickets as possible. It is anticipated that 300 UAW-CIO members will be in attendance at the banquet so tickets must be apportioned among the Locals according to size.

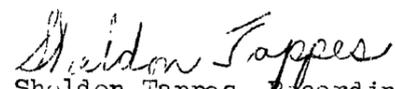
All arrangements for the banquet are being handled by the War Policy Division and your request for tickets, your remittances and inquiries should be addressed to Vane Pickering of that Division (Trinity 1-6600). Replies should be received by Monday, the 24th, at noon.

It is suggested that your Local dispose of its tickets in a manner that will insure the presence at this banquet of representatives of all groups in your Local--men as well as women, and white members as well as colored members.

A feature of the banquet will be the presentation by the International Union of suitable gifts to the 99th Squadron and to Major Roberts. Local Unions desiring to present tokens may also do so at this time.

Fraternally yours,


Victor G. Reuther
Assistant Director
WAR POLICY DIVISION, UAW-CIO


Sheldon Tappes, Recording Secretary
Local 600, UAW-CIO


George W. Crockett, Jr.
Consultant, UAW-CIO

ig
uopwa-cio-26

August 9, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Truman K. Gibson, Jr.

1. I mentioned to Mr. J. J. McCloy, Assistant Secretary of War, on Monday, August 7, 1944, that Major George Spencer Roberts, Commanding Officer, 99th Fighter Squadron, was in the Pentagon Building en route back to his squadron in the Mediterranean area. Mr. McCloy suggested that he would like to meet Major Roberts.

2. When I returned in the afternoon with Major Roberts, the greetings were extended to a rather lengthy conference. Three of the items, meriting further consideration, are now listed for your information:

- a. The history of discussions which lead to War Department recognition of the value of training: (1) Observational (2) Photographic reconnaissance service of light airplanes (this covers the plane type used in the collegiate civilian pilot training program which produced the first Negro Army aviators).
- b. The need for more rapid turnover replacement of ground personnel for the 99th Fighter Squadron.
- c. Possibilities of Major Roberts and others continuing as regular Army aviators after the war.

3. Mr. McCloy, relating some of his own experiences as a pilot, expressed a definite interest in all the observations of Major Roberts.


James C. Evans,
Assistant Civilian Aide to the
Secretary of War.

Handwritten notes:
C. Evans
99th

To Mrs. C 950

For Filing

All relates to

Maj Geo S. Roberts

Paul

M CP-OSW-21
REVISED 15-43)

Telephone Message

FOR Mr. Evans
FROM Lt. Mason
TEL. NO. WD EXT. 3309
DATE 7/19/44 TIME 11:40 AM/PM

WOULD LIKE YOU TO CALL

WILL CALL AGAIN

LEFT NO MESSAGE

RESPONSE TO YOUR CALL

LEFT FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

He had a wife
from Maj. Roberts (The Major)
requesting housing for Mrs. Roberts
in Atlantic City on 8 August.
Arrangements have been made.
Please let the Major know
in your next conversation
with him.

(INITIALS)

E. J. C.

WAR V WU A189 93 7 EXTRA

WUX DETROIT MICH JUL 18 1944 120P

TRUMAN GIBSON

CIVILIAN AIDE TO THE SECRETARY WAR WASHDC

OUR WORKERS HERE IN THE DETROIT AREA ARE ANXIOUS TO HAVE MAJOR ROBERTS OF THE 99TH SQUADRON VISIT THEIR PLANTS THE INTERNATIONAL UAW CIO REQUESTS THAT YOU MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH NECESSARY AUTHORITIES TO HAVE MAJOR ROBERTS VISIT DETROIT JULY 28TH THROUGH 31ST WE WILL BE GLAD TO COOPERATE IN ARRANGING HIS ITINERARY SO AS TO INCLUDE THE MAJOR PLANE FACTORIES IN THIS AREA WE THINK THIS WILL GREATLY AID THE MORALE OF OUR WORKERS IN THESE PLANTS AND IN DETROIT GENERALLY THUS CONTRIBUTING TO INCREASED PRODUCTION

VICTOR G REUTHER ASSISTANT DIRECTOR WAR POLICY DIVISION

UAW CIO.

139PM

99TH UAW CIO 28TH 31ST.

22 July 1944

Mr. George W. Crockett, Jr.
618 Maccabees Building
Detroit 2, Michigan

Dear Crockett:

Information contained in your letter of 21 July 1944 is appreciated.

I am inclosing official War Department press releases which should furnish adequate data for the two citations which you are drafting.

In talks with Major Roberts yesterday, and with others concerned, I am assured that details are being concluded in accordance with your wishes. The Tuskegee Army Air Field officials have been asked to arrange reservations for his arrival in Detroit on Friday morning, July 28th, or the preceding night.

I plan to arrive on the Red Arrow over the Pennsylvania on Friday morning and depart on the same train Sunday afternoon. My last talk with Mr. Gibson indicated that he might respond to your insistent invitation that he participate in some part of your program.

Please call me if there is further occasion.

Sincerely yours,

James C. Evans
Assistant Civilian Aide to the
Secretary of War.

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of AMERICA (UAW-CIO)



PHONE TRINITY 1-6600

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS · 411 WEST MILWAUKEE AVENUE · DETROIT, MICHIGAN

R. J. THOMAS
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
GEO. F. ADDES
INTERNATIONAL SEC. & TREAS.

RICHARD T. FRANKENSTEIN
INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT
WALTER P. REUTHER
INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Please reply to:
618 Maccabees Building
Detroit 2, Michigan

July 21, 1944

Air-mail--Special

Mr. James C. Evans
Assistant Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War
War Department (Pentagon Building)
Washington, D. C.

Dear Evans:

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Please let me have the requested material for citations by Monday sure. I am considering the advisability of having the citations engraved on a scroll suitable for framing.

Sincerely,

Geo. W. Crockett, Jr.

GWC:n
uopwa
cio26

cc: Mr. Truman Gibson
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War
c/o Midwest Country Club
Grass Lake, Michigan

Pontine 20 June 44 Mil Pers Div HB:ecs

Maj George S. Roberts 0441127 AC 5595
317 Quarry Ave Fairmount W. Va.

Herman Black
1st Lt Air Corps

PMP Dash Four

Maj George S.

Roberts 0441127 AC WP on or about 21 Jun 44 to
Capt Glenn Adcox Industrial Sv off Fifth sv Comd
Room 1114 Terminal Tower Bldg Cleveland Ohio Thence
Proceed to Pittsburgh Pa thence proceed to Detroit
Mich thence to Tuskegee Ala thence to Dallas Tex
thence to Ft Worth Tex thence to Kansas City
Mo on Temp Dy approximately 45 days Purpose
Engage in Public Relations Industrial Services
Activities upon completion thereof Ret to AAFRS No 1
Atlantic City NJ for Processing and Reassignment Pd
Authority granted to Make Variations in Itinerary and
to Proceed to such add Places as Necessary Pd
WD Cir Sixty 1944 Applies Pd TDN Pd ONE Dash
Five Two Five Zero P Four Three Two Dash Zero Two
CMA Zero Three A Zero Four Two Five Dash Two Four

ARNOLD

Distribution

- (1) Orders Sec
- (1) 201 File
- (1) AFBFO (?)
- (1) AAF Pers Dist Comd
- (1) AAFRS #1

Adgr AAF
Orders Request

18 June 1944

Roberts George S

(in red) Frankie OR (w-HB??) 20 June 1944

Major Roberts will engage in vital industrial services activities in Negro interests at Cleveland from 22 June 1944 to 2 July at Pittsburgh on 4 July, and in the Detroit area from 5 to 22 July; from 23 to 26 July at Tuskegee Alabama, and 27 July to 7 August 1944 in Dallas, Fort Worth and Kansas City, Mo areas. Entire program has been coordinated with Mr. James C. Evans of Secretary of War's office and a complete memorandum has been forwarded to Major Roberts, covering itinerary. Request his orders be radiated to 317 Quarry Ave. Fairmont, W. Va.

Signature of requesting officer

Robert T Rees. Major AC

Rm.
2E854

Ext
74104

7-21-44

Major G.S. Roberts called from Chicago 9:50 AM
Departing for Tuskegee 1 PM Saturday Arrive Montgomery 10:10 AM ^{23rd} Send
Ask Tuskegee to get reservations to arrive Detroit Monday of 28 weather
~~ask~~ make reservations in Tuskegee - and meet train.
Notified Atlantic City reservations for Mrs Roberts Aug 8 OK
Have Crockett make reservations to Fairmont Aug 11 not B+O

Gen. Crockett, Detroit, called by me at 10:35 AM
Arrival ~~in~~ AM for May GSR Willow Run Bomber definitely scheduled
for Sat AM JCS there Sat AM to Sun night.

Mrs. G.W. Washington called to relay to Col Parish and others
✓ Meet Roberts 10:10 AM Sunday at Montgomery or room at Tuskegee
✓ Arrange living accommodations preferably at Tuskegee Institute
✓ Pullman reservations to arrive Detroit early 28th or late 27th.
✓ Floyd Thompson - Mac Ross

7-20-44

Geo. Crockett phone from Detroit 2:30 P
Phone (new) TEmple 13912

Wants data for presentation:

1. Citation for 99th Fighter Squadron
 2. Citation for Maj. Roberts
- and from these inscription for plaque to be presented

Tell Roberts he will stay at home of John Williams Ed Pitt Courier
320 E Boston Blvd TRinity 14949 - and Mrs. Roberts

Tea there Friday Evening etc

Monday NAACP + Inter-Racial Council

Call Crockett 7-21-44 re arrival of Roberts
Willow Run Bomber Plant Trip

1-17-44

Phone from Detroit 4:50 PM

UAW - CIO

Atty. Geo. Crockett

Room 730 Maccabees Bldg, Woodward Ave

Phone Temple 1-8323

Detroit 2 Mich.

Maj. Geo. Spencer Roberts wanted in Detroit July 28-29-30 etc
Proposing 28th Fri. noon luncheon Rouge tour afternoon, night vacant
29 Sat. Willow Run Plant AM - Open PM - Banquet at night.
30 Sunday All day Field Day at Belle Isle.
31 Monday Civic groups and labor leaders WMC - USES offices
1 August Tuesday concluding contacts and departure

Requests phone call from us about 2:20 PM Tuesday July 18

called situation & consulted

51-1

17
12:10
16

UNITED AUTOMOBILE · AIRCRAFT · AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS
of AMERICA (UAW-CIO)



PHONE TRINITY 1-6600

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS • 311 WEST MILWAUKEE AVENUE • DETROIT 2, MICHIGAN

R. J. THOMAS
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
GEO. F. ADDES
INTERNATIONAL SEC. & TREAS.

RICHARD J. FRANKENSTEIN
WALTER P. REUTHER

Please reply to:
618 Maccabees Building
Detroit 2, Michigan

July 25, 1944

Mr. James C. Evans
Assistant Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War
War Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Evans:

I have the material; and thanks very much. The telegram signed by Mr. Victor Reuther was actually sent by me so no further reply is needed--unless you want to respond for the sake of the record. In that event, address your response to 411 West Milwaukee Avenue, Detroit 2.

There are so many people and organizations here who want to be in on Major Roberts appearance, that I am being kept fairly busy. Everything, however, seems to be proceeding according to plan.

The address for Mr. Arthur Wright is:
505 East Hancock
Phone: Temple 1-2816

Sincerely,

Crockett

Geo. W. Crockett, Jr.

GWC:n
uopwa
cio26

WDOSW - Ex. 2431
JCE/res

24 June 1944

Major George Spencer Roberts
% Captain Glenn Adcox
Industrial Services Officer
Fifth Service Command, Room 1114
Terminal Tower Building
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Major Roberts:

I am assuming that you received the preliminary outline of your new tour of duty as addressed to you on 19 June 1944 by Lieutenant George Mason and that the confirming orders duly followed.

I will spend this weekend in West Virginia, returning early Monday, June 26. I plan to make preliminary contacts concerning the latter part of your tour now and work out further details next week. Therefore, please call me at your convenience by the middle of the week.

Sincerely yours,

James C. Evans
Assistant Civilian Aide to the
Secretary of War.

WDOL - Ex. 2431
JCE/res

21 June 1944

Mr. Edgar T. Rousseau
746 Washington Building
Fifth War Loan News Desk
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rousseau:

In brief outline the forthcoming tour of Major George Spencer Roberts is as follows:

22 June 1944 - 2 July 1944 in the Cleveland Area;
% Captain Glenn Edcox, Industrial Services Officer,
5th Service Command, Room 1114, Terminal Tower
Building, Cleveland Ohio.

2 July 1944, Boydston Post, American Legion, Cleve-
land, Ohio.

4 July 1944, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania under sponsor-
ship of Soho Community Association of Pittsburgh.

5 July 1944 - 22 July 1944, Chicago and Detroit Area;
% Major Hale Nelson, Industrial Services Officer,
6th Service Command, Room 2146, Civic Opera Building,
Chicago, Illinois.

23 July 1944 - 26 July 1944, Tuskegee Army Air Field,
Tuskegee, Alabama.

27 July 1944 - 7 August 1944, appearances before civic
organizations in aircraft centers extending from Dallas -
Fort Worth, Texas to Kansas City, Missouri. The details
of this item and the preceding items are to be arranged
through this office.

Sincerely yours,

James C. Evans
Assistant Civilian Aide to the
Secretary of War.

97

19 June 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Assistant to the Director of Bureau of Public
Relations for Army Air Forces

Attention: Lt. George W. Mason, Jr., Room 2-B-868

Re: Major George S. Roberts, 0441127 AC

1. Major Roberts is due to report to AAF Redistribution Station #1 Atlantic City, New Jersey on 23 June 1944 in accordance with Special Orders No. 139 issued at Reception Center RS #3, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, on 31 May 1944, copy attached.

2. Major Roberts has given a considerable part of his 22 days delay enroute to public events of patriotic and morale service import.

3. It is proposed that his orders be so modified as to provide for an additional 4-5 days beyond 23 June 1944 (extending to 7 August 1944) this period to be devoted to travelling under orders in the interest and for the purpose of stimulating war bond sales rallies and war production drives in certain selected centers and areas.

4. We request that at the conclusion of present tentative commitments ending on July 22, Major Roberts be detailed to the Office of the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War for duty as follows:

- a. 23-26 July, 1944, Tuskegee Army Air Field, Tuskegee, Alabama for services relating to training and morale of aviation cadets.
- b. 27 July to 7 August 1944, appearances before civic organizations in aircraft production centers extending from Dallas - Fort Worth, Texas, to Kansas City, Missouri.

James C. Evans
Assistant Civilian Aide
to the Secretary of War

S-1 Jul 44
nc/4141

AGPF-A 201 Davis, Willie A.
(15 Jun 44).

17 June 1944.

SUBJECT: Report.

Commanding General,
Third Service Command,
Post Office and Court House Building,
Baltimore 2, Maryland.

1. Attention is invited to the inclosed signed statement of
Private First Class Willie A. Davis, 38,391,360, Company D, 2nd Group,
ASF Replacement Depot, Camp Reynolds, Pennsylvania.

2. It is desired that steps be taken to identify the military
policeman referred to therein, and that this office be furnished a report
relative thereto with the least practicable delay.

By order of the Secretary of War:

John B. Richmond
Adjutant General.

1 Incl.
Signed statement of Pvt. Davis.

COPY FOR:

Mr. Truman H. Gilson, Jr.,
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War,
Room 4L 945, The Pentagon.

for his information.

IMMEDIATE ACTION

(From FBIS Daily Report, January 24, 1944, p. D1)

O F F I C I A L G E R M A N B R O A D C A S T S
N O R T H A M E R I C A N A F F A I R S

U. S. NEGRO PILOTS MAKE POOR SHOWING

German, in a Danish-language commentary broadcast to Europe, states that among the troubles of the U. S. is the problem of Negro soldiers. A summary of the broadcast follows: The U. S. naturally wanted to spare American lives as much as possible by making use of Negroes, but the Negroes had become too enlightened to be willing to accept the honor of becoming cannon fodder in a struggle from which they would derive slight benefit.

Negro Fighter Squadron Nonetheless there existed the 99th Fighter Squadron consisting solely of Negroes, and commanded by a Negro, named Lt. Col. Davies. This squadron was created for propaganda purposes in order to lure Negroes by a grand uniform, good pay, slight personal risk, and by hinting that Negro pilots would be on a basis of equality. The uniform and the suggestion of equality made a definite impression, and the squadron was created. It appears, however, from a speech made by Lt. Col. Davies that this equality has been somewhat lacking, and this Davies demanded in strong terms.

On Atlantic Coast The magazine, TIME, in this connection pointed out that the 99th squadron had not contributed satisfactory results on the Mediterranean front. The U. S. Command had then in mind the withdrawing of this squadron from all area where they might come into contact with the German Air Force, and instead put it to convoy work on the American coast.

Chance for Equality This problem concerning Negroes was solved in the last war by putting Negro soldiers to do labor service, but the Negroes were not satisfied with this arrangement. A "leading Negro paper" stresses the fact that this war is the American Negroes' great chance to put through their demand for equality. This sounded threatening and did not, of course, help relations between blacks and whites in the U. S. (Germany, in Danish to Europe, Jan. 22, 2:00 p. m. EWT)

7 February 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO: General H. H. Arnold, Commanding General,
Army Air Forces

I read in the press yesterday with interest and gratification excerpts from your letter to General Eaker commending the 99th Fighter Squadron.

Your expressions will have a most salutary effect and will, I am sure, be a source of inspiration to all of the Negroes in the Army Air Forces.

Truman K. Gibson, Jr.
Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

99th

5 February 1944

Mr. Jonathan Daniels
Executive Assistant to
The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Daniels:

I thought you might be interested in the attached picture.

Sincerely yours,

Truman K. Gibson, Jr.
Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

~~11~~
99-16

99 P. 51

527 West 127 St.
New York, N.Y.
Sept. 28, 1943

Dear Truman,

Your letter dated 21 Sept. was incorrectly addressed and I didn't receive it until yesterday.

I am supposed to report to Mitchell Field on the 1st and will leave here Sunday night. I hope that you haven't left before I arrive.

I had the pleasure of seeing your mother, wife, Harry and his family last Saturday for a short time. Harry has changed quite a bit, but your mother looks just the same.

I've had a good time doing absolutely nothing, and consequently I feel very much like going back to work. If I don't see you at Selfridge, I shall very probably be flying down to Washington in the near future and will see you then.

Sincerely,
Ben. ~~Davis~~ ^{same}

24 September 1943

Lieutenant Colonel B. O. Davis, Jr.
527 West 152nd Street
New York City

Dear Ben:

With further reference to the Lousy Time story I am sending you herewith a copy of a memorandum I have received from Colonel Westlake and also a copy of a letter I have written to Earl Brown who is on the Time's staff.

If there is any consolation to be gotten out of the whole affair it is that the Army Air Forces did not back up and for once is not responsible for the lie that was published in the Time.

Yours very truly,

Truman K. Gibson, Jr.,
Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON, D. C.

20 September 1943

MEMORANDUM

TO: Colonel William Westlake, Army Air Forces,
Bureau of Public Relations

The Afro-American has invited attention to the following paragraph in an article under the caption "Training" on pages 66-67 of TIME, September 20, 1943:

So little operational data on the 99th had reached Washington that it was impossible to form a conclusive opinion about its pilots. It has apparently seen little action, compared to many other units, and seems to have done fairly well; that is as far as anyone would go. But unofficial reports from the Mediterranean theater have suggested that the top air command was not altogether satisfied with the 99th's performance; there was said to be a plan some weeks ago to attach it to the Coastal Air Command, in which it would be assigned to routine convoy cover.

The Editor of the Afro-American inquires whether the Army Air Forces have received any operational data on the 99th Fighter Squadron indicating: (1) the action it has seen in comparison with other units operating in the North African Theatre; (2) whether the Squadron's performance has been satisfactory; and (3) whether there is any plan under consideration to attach it to the Coastal Air Command.

May this information be furnished this office in order that it may advise the Afro-American.



Truman K. Gibson, Jr.
Acting Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War



WAR DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
WASHINGTON

20 September 1943.

MEMORANDUM TO TRUMAN K. GIBSON, JR.,
Acting Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War.

Subject: 99th Fighter Squadron.

1. For record of the performance of the 99th Fighter Squadron, reference is made to a statement by the Squadron's commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., at a press conference in the Pentagon on 10 September 1943. A clipping of a newspaper story of the press conference is attached, and you are respectfully referred to transcript of Colonel Davis' statement, available in the Press Branch, War Department Bureau of Public Relations.

2. As to the question of attachment of the 99th Fighter Squadron to the Coastal Air Force, the office of the Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Operations, Commitments and Requirements, states that it has no knowledge of any such proposal.

William Westlake

WILLIAM WESTLAKE,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Assistant to Director for Army Air Forces.

Inclosure.

Washington Star Clipping.



24 September 1943

Mr. Earl Brown
Time, Incorporated
Time and Life Building
Rockefeller Center
New York City

Dear Earl:

I am sending you inclosed herewith a copy of a memorandum I have received from the Air Forces about the 99th Fighter Squadron. After reading the Time Magazine article on Davis and his Squadron I requested an official clarification of the doubts that were raised in my mind in this matter. It would appear specifically that the Time correspondent was in error in intimating that because of the poor record of the Squadron it was to be confined to coastal patrol duties.

Not only did the article personally distress Colonel Davis, who has been my close friend over a period of years, but it raised serious doubts about the activities of young fellows who have been getting by for months on three or four hours sleep a night to put in enough air hours to win the air medal with an oak leaf cluster.

I will greatly appreciate your calling the inclosed memorandum to the attention of the military editor for his future guidance in dealing with the 99th Fighter Squadron.

I will drop you a note before I come up to New York next month. I am about to go out on another field trip Monday.

With best wishes, I am

Yours very truly,

Truman K. Gibson, Jr.,
Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War.

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Negro Flyers' Record Proves Their Worth, Col. Davis Asserts

The 99th Fighter Squadron, with its proven fighting record in North Africa and the Mediterranean, furnishes ample evidence that "the use of Negro flyers in combat should no longer be regarded as an experiment." Lt. Col. Benjamin O. Davis, jr., of Washington, its former commander, told a press conference today.

The 30-year-old pilot commander, a son of Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, the only colored officer of general rank in the Army, returned here under assignment to the 332d Fighter Group of Selfridge Field, Mich. Like his father, a Regular Army officer with many years of

service, he is a graduate of West Point.

Unit Flew 800 Sorties.

Col. Davis said his former squadron had flown 800 combat sorties over Tunisia and Sicily after it had completed its "experimental" period of training at the front.

"I am satisfied the men I left behind me over there," he said, "are now seasoned veterans with combat experience of which all can be proud."

Before going into action, Col. Davis said, each of his 26 pilots had at least 250 flying hours to his credit and six of them had had brushes with the enemy in other groups. Every man in the squadron has received the Air Medal with Oak Leaf cluster.

In one of the squadron missions over Sicily, two of his pilots failed to return and still are missing, he said. They are: First Lt. Sherman W. White of Montgomery, Ala., and Second Lt. James L. McCullin of St. Louis, Mo.

Like other officers returning from

the front, Col. Davis highly praised the P-40s for their fighting capabilities. He said they have three characteristics—"turn, turn, turn."

German fighter pilots have lost their fighting heart, Col. Davis said. Now, instead of staying and fighting with the Americans they make one long dive and get away quickly.

Col. Davis never was wounded during his own numerous missions but he cracked up once in a small field in Africa, slightly damaging his plane. "I didn't see a ditch. It's a little embarrassing now," he laughed.

Men Want to Fly Bombers.

His men would like to fly in bombers where there is a lot of company on board, Col. Davis said. Colored pilots are now put into pursuit groups but the War Department recently announced colored airmen are soon to be trained as bomber crews.

In the most difficult mission of the squadron over Sicily, he said, it definitely destroyed one German

bomber, probably destroyed two others and damaged three more planes. In this engagement Col. Davis' squadron lost only one plane.

Col. Davis said the men of his squadron got along well with everyone.

"There is a bond between flyers regardless of race, color or religion," he remarked.

24 September 1943

Lieutenant Colonel B. O. Davis, Jr.
527 West 152nd Street
New York City

Dear Ben:

With further reference to the lousy Time story I am sending you herewith a copy of a memorandum I have received from Colonel Westlake and also a copy of a letter I have written to Earl Brown who is on the Time's staff.

If there is any consolation to be gotten out of the whole affair it is that the Army Air Forces did not back up and for once is not responsible for the lie that was published in the Time.

Yours very truly,

Truman K. Gibson, Jr.,
Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War.

49 PS

20 September 1943.

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Acting Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War.

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WILLIAM WESTLAKE,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Assistant to Director for Army Air Forces.

Inclosure.

Washington Star Clipping.

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