

Index to
Reminiscences of
Justice William Sylvester White



Alves, A.

Enlisted Navy man who went through officer training with the Golden Thirteen in early 1944 but was not commissioned, 68-69

Arbor, Jesse W.

Golden Thirteen member who had experience as a quartermaster before undergoing officer training at Great Lakes, Illinois, in early 1944, 38, 60; assessment of, 71-72

Armstrong, Captain Daniel W., USNR (USNA, 1915)

As officer-in-charge of Camp Robert Smalls, oversaw the training of black officers and enlisted men at Great Lakes, Illinois, during World War II, 45, 52, 74, 76, 78, 88-89, 106, 109-110; aristocratic in manner but sincerely interested in advancing the status of black naval personnel, 56-57, 83-85, 93-95

Army, U.S.

Fort Sheridan, north of Chicago, was involved in a lawsuit concerning hand grenades in the early 1940s, 12; the Army was the preferred service for black enlistees during World War II, far ahead of the Navy, 33; pushed for unification of U.S. armed services at the end of World War II, 41

Athletics

Black sailors were permitted only limited participation on the sports teams at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station during World War II, 22, 100; several of the members of the Golden Thirteen were excellent athletes, 99-101, 104-105

Barnes, Phillip G.

Golden Thirteen member whose sister fed information to the black officer candidates at Great Lakes, Illinois, in early 1944, 36-37, 54-55, 91; assessment of, 73

Barnes, Samuel E.

Golden Thirteen member who was quiet and studious while undergoing officer training at Great Lakes, Illinois, in early 1944, 74, 101-102

Barnett, Claude

As head of the Associated Negro Press, talked with White during World War II about the training of black Navy men, 55-56, 90-91

Baugh, Dalton L.

Golden Thirteen member who had gone to a small segregated college in Arkansas before undergoing officer training at Great Lakes, Illinois, in early 1944, 79-80

Black Naval Officers

See Golden Thirteen; National Naval Officers Association

Camp Robert Smalls

Location of recruit training for White at Great Lakes, Illinois, in late 1943, 18-25; location of officer training for the first black officers in early 1944, 28-31, 36-37, 45-47, 51, 57-69; public relations for the black sailors in the camp in 1944-45, 31-33; black singer Lena Horne provided entertainment for Navy men at the camp during World War II, 78-79

Chicago, Illinois

Site of White's education and upbringing in the 1920s and 1930s, 1-7; White began his practice of law in Chicago in the late 1930s, 7-10; White worked as an assistant U.S. attorney in Chicago from 1939 to 1943, 10-15

Cooper, George C.

Golden Thirteen member whose back was injured during officer training at Great Lakes, Illinois, in early 1944, 67; a serious, cerebral person, 91-93; helped bring the group back together in recent years, 108

Depression

Economic conditions in the 1930s forced White's parents to make sacrifices so he could go to college and law school, 2-3; White found it difficult to get a job as a lawyer in 1937 because the Depression was still in effect, 7-8

Destroyer Escorts

The USS Mason (DE-529) was commissioned in World War II with a crew of black enlisted men, 36, 38-40

Destroyers

The Navy got excellent publicity from a Golden Thirteen reunion on board the USS Kidd (DDG-993) in 1982, 48

Dickerson, Earl B.

Noted Chicago lawyer for whom White worked in the late 1930s, 5-6, 8, 10

Dille, Lieutenant (junior grade) John F., Jr., USNR

Served as a battalion commander for training of black sailors at Great Lakes, Illinois, in 1944 and provided moral support for members of the Golden Thirteen, 28-29, 107-109

Education

White's education in Chicago public schools in the 1920s and at the University of Chicago in the 1930s, 1-2, 7; White's parents stressed to him the value of education, 6; literacy training for black recruits at Great Lakes, Illinois, in 1944, 45, 90

Eniwetok Atoll

Site of a Pacific Navy base that employed black naval personnel during World War II, 45, 87, 90

FBI

See Federal Bureau of Investigation

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Did not have black agents in the early 1940s, 16; conducted an investigation in 1943 of the black enlisted men who were being considered for officer training, 70-71, 81

Forrestal, James V.

Secretary of the Navy who sent former National Urban League official Lester Granger on a tour of Navy facilities near the end of World War II to see how well the service's policy on integration was being implemented, 42-43, 85-88

Fort Sheridan, Illinois

Army post north of Chicago that was involved in a lawsuit concerning hand grenades in the early 1940s, 12

Golden Thirteen

Black enlisted men who received officer training in segregated Camp Robert Smalls at Great Lakes, Illinois, in early 1944, 28-31, 36-37, 45-47, 51, 57-69; assessments of individual members of the group, 36, 45-47, 71-85, 89-104; the Navy got excellent publicity from a Golden Thirteen reunion on board the destroyer Kidd (DDG-993) in 1982, 48; Life magazine published a photo of the group in an April 1944 issue, 70; the assignments given to the group following their commissioning generally did not take advantage of their qualifications, 105-106; role of the group in Navy recruiting in the 1980s, 125-126; in 1987 the Great Lakes Naval Training Center dedicated an in-processing building to honor the group, 126-128; assessment of the group's achievements, 129-130

Goodwin, Reginald E.

Golden Thirteen member who served in leadership and communication roles for the black enlisted men who were undergoing officer training at Great Lakes, Illinois, in early 1944, 45-47, 74-79, 103

Granger, Lester B.

Former National Urban League official who made a trip to Navy facilities near the end of World War II to see how well the service's policy on integration was being implemented, 42-43, 85-88

Gravelly, Vice Admiral Samuel L., Jr., USN (Ret.)

As the Navy's first black three-star admiral, he achieved a status not accorded blacks in private industry, 49-50; assessment of, 106-107

Great Lakes (Illinois) Naval Training Center

Dedicated in 1987 an in-processing building to honor the Golden Thirteen, 126-128

Great Lakes (Illinois) Naval Training Station

Location of recruit training for White in late 1943, 18-25; location of officer training for the first black officers in early 1944, 28-31, 36-37, 45-47, 51, 57-69; White remained at Great Lakes as a public information officer following his commissioning in March 1944, 31-35, 86, 112; literacy training for black recruits at Great Lakes in 1944, 45, 90; black singer Lena Horne provided entertainment for Navy men at Camp Robert Smalls during World War II, 78-79; White calmed black naval personnel who didn't want to obey an order because of the prejudiced attitude of the officer who gave it during World War II, 120-122

Hair, James E.

Golden Thirteen member who served in the USS Mason (DE-529) in 1945, following commissioning as an officer in 1944, 36, 39; was reunited with other members of the Golden Thirteen on board the USS Kidd (DDG-993) in 1982, 48; assessment of, 95

Hastie, William H.

Federal judge who served as governor of the Virgin Islands from 1946 to 1949, 114-115

Hazard, Rear Admiral Roberta L., USN

As Commander Great Lakes Naval Training Center, presided at the 1987 dedication of an in-processing center to honor the Golden Thirteen, 126-128

Horne, Lena

Black singer who provided entertainment for Navy men at Camp Robert Smalls during World War II, 78-79

Integration

See Racial Integration

Kauffold, Lieutenant Vance A., USNR

An officer who was involved in the training of black naval personnel at Great Lakes, Illinois, during World War II, 110

Kerner, Otto

Illinois governor in whose cabinet White served in the early 1960s, 116-117

Kidd, USS (DDG-993)

The Navy got excellent publicity from a Golden Thirteen reunion on board this destroyer in 1982, 48

Knox, Frank

As Secretary of the Navy, announced in 1942 that blacks would be enlisted in general service ratings but not commissioned as officers, 17-18; Knox's stated policy changed in late 1943 to permit commissioning of black officers, 26-27

Law

White chose in the 1930s to seek a legal career because it depends on the powers of reasoning, 4; noted lawyers who served as role models, 5-6; White began the practice of law in the late 1930s in Chicago, 7-10; White worked as an assistant U.S. attorney in Chicago from 1939 to 1943, 10-15; highlights of White's post-Navy legal career, 116-119

Lear, Charles B.

Golden Thirteen member who underwent officer training at Great Lakes, Illinois, and apparently committed suicide shortly after his release from the Navy following World War II, 82, 95-99

Legal Profession

See Law

Life Magazine

Published a photo of the Golden Thirteen in an April 1944 issue, 70; published letters to the editor a few weeks after the publication of the photo, 128-129

Marine Corps, U.S.

Lagged initially behind the Navy in commissioning black officers during World War II but has made considerable progress since then, 49

Martin, Graham E.

Golden Thirteen member who was quiet, polite, and an excellent football player, 99-101

Mason, USS (DE-529)

Destroyer escort that was commissioned in World War II with a crew of black enlisted men, 36, 38-40

National Naval Officers Organization

An association of black naval officers in the Navy of the 1980s, 47-49

Navy Department, Washington, D.C.

White served as a public information officer for the Navy in 1945-46, 41-44, 112-115

Nelson, Dennis D. II

Golden Thirteen member who underwent officer training in 1944 at Great Lakes, Illinois, and exhibited a great deal of pride in everything he was connected with, 44-45, 89-90; provided literacy training for black recruits at Great Lakes, Illinois, in 1944, 45, 90; disliked Commander Daniel W. Armstrong, who oversaw training of black Navy men during World War II at Great Lakes, 84-85, 94

News Media

White alerted a Chicago reporter when he entered the Navy in 1943, 25-26; White worked with newspapers and radio stations as a Navy public information officer in 1944-45, 31-35, 112-113; newspapers near a Navy facility in the South were reluctant to cover routine Navy news during World War II, 42-43; the Navy got excellent publicity from a Golden Thirteen reunion on board the destroyer Kidd (DDG-993) in 1982, 48; black newspapers attacked the Navy during World War II over its utilization of black personnel, 53; Life magazine published a photo of the Golden Thirteen in an April 1944 issue, 70; Life published letters to the editor a few weeks after the publication of the photo, 128-129

Ninth Naval District

White served as a public information officer at the district headquarters at Great Lakes, Illinois, in 1944-45, 32-35, 86, 94-95, 112

Officer Candidate School

Members of the Golden Thirteen received officer training in segregated Camp Robert Smalls at Great Lakes, Illinois, in early 1944, 28-31, 36-37, 45-47, 51, 57-69
See also Golden Thirteen

Personnel

Segregated training of enlisted men and officers at Great Lakes, Illinois, during World War II, 20-22, 28-31, 36-37 45-47, 51; manning of the USS Mason (DE-529) with a crew of black enlisted men during World War II, 38-39; members of largely black ammunition-handling gangs were killed in an explosion at Port Chicago, California, in 1944, 39-40; concern over effective utilization of personnel near the end of World War II, 42; Lester Granger visited a number of Navy facilities near the end of World War II to see how well the service's policy of integration was being implemented, 42-43; black newspapers attacked the Navy during World War II over its utilization of black personnel, 53; role of the Golden Thirteen in Navy recruiting in the 1980s, 125-126

Pinkney, J. B.

Enlisted Navy man who went through officer training with the Golden Thirteen in early 1944 but was not commissioned, 68-69

Preston, Chief Photographer's Mate Moses, USN

Served as a photographer at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station during World War II, 34, 79

Public Relations

White served as a public information officer at Great Lakes, Illinois, in 1944-45, 31-35, 86, 112; White served as a public information officer for the Navy Department in Washington, D.C., in 1945-46, 41-44, 112-115; the Navy got excellent publicity from a Golden Thirteen reunion on board the destroyer Kidd (DDG-993) in 1982, 48; White was asked in 1943 if he could support the Navy's policies when dealing with black newspapers, 53; coverage of visit to Great Lakes by black singer Lena Horne during World War II, 78-79

Racial Integration

Black and white Navy enlisted men worked together much more toward the end of World War II than they had at the beginning, 34-35, 40; Lester Granger visited a number of Navy facilities near the end of World War II to see how well the service's policy of integration was being implemented, 42-43, 85-88; black naval personnel have achieved a status beyond that accorded blacks in private industry, 49-50

Racial Prejudice

White calmed black naval personnel who didn't want to obey an order because of the prejudiced attitude of the officer who gave it during World War II, 120-122

Racial Segregation

Black and white sailors went through segregated boot camps at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station in 1943, 20-22; black officer candidates were trained at segregated Camp Robert Smalls at Great Lakes in early 1944, 28-31, 36-37, 45-47, 51, 57-69; manning of the USS Mason (DE-529) with a crew of black enlisted men during World War II, 38-39; members of largely black ammunition-handling gangs were killed in an explosion at Port Chicago, California, in 1944, 39-40, 86

Reagan, John W.

Golden Thirteen member who underwent officer training at Great Lakes, Illinois, in early 1944, 80; assessment of, 102-103

Recruiting

Role of the Golden Thirteen in Navy recruiting in the 1980s, 125-126

Recruit Training

White went through boot camp at Camp Robert Smalls, Great Lakes, Illinois, in 1943, 18-25; literacy training for black recruits at Great Lakes, Illinois, in 1944, 45, 90

Religion

White has been a member of a number of different religious groups, 124

Segregation

See Racial Segregation

Sheridan, Fort

See Fort Sheridan, Illinois

Sublett, Frank E.

Golden Thirteen member who underwent officer training at Great Lakes, Illinois, in early 1944 and later became an auto repair supervisor and a professional model, 103-104

Training

White went through boot camp at Camp Robert Smalls, Great Lakes, Illinois, in 1943, 18-25; black officer candidates were trained at segregated Camp Robert Smalls at Great Lakes in early 1944, 28-31, 36-37, 45-47, 51, 57-69; literacy training for black recruits at Great Lakes, Illinois, in 1944, 45, 90

Unification

The Navy fought against the formation of a Defense Department in the years right after World War II, 41

University of Chicago

White earned bachelor's degree here in 1935 and law degree in 1937, 1, 7

Van Ness, Lieutenant Commander Donald O., USNR (USNA, 1935)

An officer who was involved in the training of black naval personnel at Great Lakes, Illinois, during World War II, 110-111

White, William Sylvester

Birth in 1914, early years in Chicago, and education at the University of Chicago, 1, 7; parents of, 1-3, 6, 9, 122-124; choice of a career in the legal profession, 4; role models in the legal profession, 5-6; began the practice of law in the late 1930s in Chicago, 7-9; worked as an assistant U.S. attorney in Chicago from 1939 to 1943, 10-15; enlisted in the Navy in 1943 and reported to Great Lakes, Illinois, for recruit training, 15-26; children of, 19-20, 65, 124-125; unsuccessfully applied for a Navy commission prior to entering the service, 27; received officer training at Great Lakes, Illinois, in early 1944 along with 15 other black enlisted men, 28-31, 36-37, 45-47, 51, 57-69; following his commissioning as an ensign in March 1944, White remained at Great Lakes as a public

information officer, 31-35, 86, 112; served as a public information officer for the Navy Department in Washington, D.C., in 1945-46, 41-44, 112-115; made a trip with Lester Granger near the end of World War II to look into the implementation of Navy integration policy, 42-43, 85-88; process of questioning and notification of selection for officer training, 51-55; was nearly appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court in 1988, 116; highlights of post-Navy legal career, 116-119; served in cabinet of Illinois Governor Otto Kerner in the early 1960s, 116-117; White has been a member of a number of different religious groups, 124

Williams, Lewis R.

Close friend of White's who in 1942 was one of the first blacks enlisted in the Navy for a general service rating, 17-18; went through officer training at Great Lakes, Illinois, in early 1944 but was not commissioned, 28-29, 62, 77, 81

