

**Index to the Oral History of
Mr. Jesse W. Arbor, Member of the Golden Thirteen**

Alcohol

Freely available to naval officers who served in the Pacific during World War II, 15
Arbor demonstrated a great ability to hold his liquor while on Guam in World War II, 65-66

Alves, A.

Played basketball in school before joining the Navy, 92-93
Black petty officer who went through officer training with the Golden Thirteen at Great Lakes in 1944 but was not commissioned, 12-13, 60, 92, 130, 152

Arbor, Jesse W.

Grandparents were born in slavery, 33-34, 36
Parents, 1, 29-39, 51, 84-85, 99
Siblings, 1, 30-32, 37-39, 97
Wife Autry, 107, 141
Children, 36, 81-84, 107-108, 145
Grandchildren, 81-82
Growing-up years and education in Cotton Plant, Arkansas, in the 1910s and 1920s, 29-36, 84-85
Attended college and played football in Arkansas in the 1930s, 8-9, 13-14, 38, 47-50
In the 1930s worked as a Pullman porter on railroads, 40-41, 45-47, 51-52, 69-70, 74, 113
Lived and worked in Chicago in the 1930s until he entered the Navy in 1942, 1-2, 31, 37-41, 69-91
In 1940 read speeches in Chicago on behalf of possibly dubious groups, 71-75
Enlisted in the Navy in September 1942 to avoid being drafted into the Army, 1-3,
Recruit training and service school at Great Lakes, Illinois, Naval Training Station in 1942-43, 3, 52-57, 77-79, 95-97
Based in Boston on board two ships in 1943, 3-6, 57-58, 99-112
Received officer training at Great Lakes, January-March 1944, 4-13, 60-62, 119-143, 148-150, 158-159
First assignment as an officer was to Pearl Harbor in 1944, 14-15, 27, 56, 66-68, 79-80, 115-119, 153-158
During the latter part of World War II was stationed on Guam, 15-21, 63-66, 113-114, 157
Inquired about staying in the Navy after the end of World War II but decided not to, 20-22
Except for his time in the Navy, ran a clothing and dry cleaning business in Chicago from the early 1940s to the late 1960s, 21, 41-42
From 1968 to 1984, worked as a boiler engineer in a Chicago school, 42-45
In his later years advised prospects for military service and helped with recruiting, 81-84, 143-147

Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal (AM&N) College, Pine Bluff

In the 1930s Arbor and fellow Golden Thirteen member Dalton Baugh attended the school, 8-9, 13-14, 38, 45, 47-50, 86-89, 147-148

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

Served as officer in charge of Camp Robert Smalls at Great Lakes, Illinois, in early 1944, 10, 12-13, 27-28, 119-120, 150

Later served at Pearl Harbor, 27

Army, U.S.

Arbor's uncle served in the Army in World War I, 32-33

Arbor's relatives convinced him not to go into the Army in World War II, 1

Avant, Lieutenant Commander Grady, USNR

While stationed at Pearl Harbor in World War II, was Arbor's commanding officer and made a racial slur during a poker game, 66-68, 115-119, 158

Bamford, Lieutenant (junior grade) Robert T. Bamford, USN (Ret.)

While stationed in Boston in early 1944, advised Arbor about the officer training program, 10-11, 57-58

Barnes, Phillip G.

Member of the Golden Thirteen who underwent officer training at Great Lakes, Illinois, in early 1944, 9-12, 92, 130, 134

His sister, who worked in Washington, D.C., provided information on the training program, 9-10

Barnes, Samuel E.

Member of the Golden Thirteen who underwent officer training at Great Lakes in the early 1944, 9-10

Baugh, Dalton L.

Attended a small black college in Arkansas before joining the Navy, 13-14, 45, 124, 147-148

Service in a Boston-based minesweeper in World War II as an enlisted man, 109

Member of the Golden Thirteen who had a hand in getting the group back together in 1977 and made up special stationery to honor the group, 12-13, 121-122, 126, 160

Was close with Arbor during the officer training period in 1944, 124, 130, 151-152, 160

Boston, Massachusetts

Arbor was based there in 1943 while serving on board two ships and attending navigation school at Harvard, 3-6, 99-112

Camp Robert Smalls

Site of training for black enlisted men and the first black officer candidates at Great Lakes, Illinois, in early 1944, 3-13, 22, 27, 52-57, 60-62, 77-79, 95-97, 119-143, 148-150, 158-159

White entertainers were given priority over talented black professional performers, 94-95

Carl Vinson, USS (CVN-70)

In 1986 Arbor made a talk on board this aircraft carrier about his Golden Thirteen experiences, 25-26, 59

Chicago, Illinois

Minimal recognition for Jean du Sable, who settled in what became Chicago in 1779, 28-29

This city was Arbor's home base from 1930 onward, 1-3, 20-22, 28, 31, 37-50, 69-71

In 1939, Arbor recalled, he had a tryout with the Chicago Cardinals of the National Football League, 50-51

In the late 1930s-early 1940s Arbor worked at the Chicago Beach Hotel, 39-40

Atmosphere for servicemen in World War II, 104

Arbor lived and worked in the city after being released from the Navy after World War II, 21, 41-45, 81-84, 143-147

Chicago Defender

In the 1930s Arbor's football exploits were covered in this black newspaper, 38, 86

Cooper, George C.

Member of the Golden Thirteen who was a chief petty officer during training, later the first of the group to wear an officer's uniform, 11-12, 128, 130-131, 135, 151-152

Saved documentary material about the Golden Thirteen, 27-28

In the late 1980s Cooper and his wife visited the ballistic missile submarine *George Washington Carver* (SSBN-656), based in Holy Loch, Scotland, 135

Dille, Lieutenant John F., Jr., USNR

Reserve officer who provided valuable moral support when the members of the Golden Thirteen were undergoing officer training at Great Lakes, Illinois, in early 1944, 59, 139-140, 151-152

Had a role in getting a building at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, named for the Golden Thirteen, built and commissioned in 1987, 140

Draft

Until the middle of World War II, individuals entered the Navy as volunteers, then as draftees thereafter, 25, 93-94, 100

Du Sable, Jean Baptiste Pointe

In 1779 settled in what is now Chicago and was later recognized as its founder, 29

Enlisted Personnel

In June 1942 the Navy began accepting blacks in general service ratings, 26
Crew members of the minesweeper *Hawk* (AM-133) and auxiliary *Guinevere* (IX-67) in 1943, 99-1121

In early 1944 enlisted Navy men were trained at Great Lakes, Illinois, to become the Navy's first black line officers, the Golden Thirteen, 4-10, 27, 61-62, 92, 119-140, 142, 146-150, 158-159

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In the early 1940s investigated the backgrounds of black men who were potential Navy officer candidates, 71-72, 75-76

Football

In the 1930s Arbor played right tackle for Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal (AM&N) College, Pine Bluff, 38, 49-50, 86-89

In 1939, Arbor recalled, he had a tryout with the Chicago Cardinals of the National Football League, 50, 88-91

Several of the members of the Golden Thirteen had played football before entering the Navy, 92-94

Gambling

While stationed at Pearl Harbor in World War II, Arbor's commanding officer made a racial slur during a poker game, 66-68, 115-119, 158

Golden Thirteen

Enlisted Navy men who were trained at Great Lakes, Illinois, in early 1944 to become the Navy's first black line officers, 4-10, 27, 60-62, 92, 119-143, 146-150, 158-159

Several of the members of the Golden Thirteen had played football before entering the Navy, 92-94

In March 1944 the 13 men were commissioned individually with no graduation event after passing the course of study, 11-13, 150

Not allowed to use the BOQ or officers' club at Great Lakes after commissioning, 13, 154

A building at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, named in honor of the Golden Thirteen, was commissioned in 1987, 140-141

Great Lakes, Illinois, Naval Training Station

Site of boot camp and service school for Arbor in 1942-43, 3, 52-57, 77-79

Site of officer training for the Golden Thirteen in early 1944, 4-10, 27, 60-62, 119-143, 146-150, 158-159

Members of the Golden Thirteen were not allowed to use the BOQ or officers' club at Great Lakes after commissioning, 13, 154

Commander Donald G. Gumz commanded Camp Robert Smalls late in World War II, 22

A building at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, named in honor of the Golden Thirteen, was commissioned in 1987, 140-141

Guam, Mariana Islands

In the latter part of the war Golden Thirteen members Jesse Arbor and Charles Lear were stationed on the island, 16-20, 63-68, 113-114, 157

A white officer was upset when he learned that he and Arbor had slept in the same BOQ one night, 114-115

Guinevere, USS (IX-67)

Boston-based auxiliary schooner in which Arbor served in 1943, 4, 110-112, 125

Gumz, Commander Donald G., USN (USNA, 1936)

Late in World War II served as officer in charge of Camp Robert Smalls at Great Lakes, 22

Hair, James E.

Member of the Golden Thirteen who attended Bethune-Cookman College and Xavier University in the 1930s, 92

Was close with Arbor during the officer training period in 1944, 124, 130, 152

Confusion over the spelling of his last name, which was H-A-R-E during his time in the Navy, 122-124

Hawk, USS (AM-133)

Boston-based minesweeper in which Arbor served in 1943, largely black crew, 4, 99-109, 112, 124-125

Hazard, Rear Admiral Roberta L., USN

As Commander Great Lakes Naval Training Center, presided at the 1987 dedication of an in-processing center named in honor of the Golden Thirteen, 141-142

Hope, Lieutenant Commander Edward S., Civil Engineer Corps, USNR

Highest-ranking black officer to serve in the U.S. Navy during World War II, 19

Kidd, USS (DDG-993)

Guided missile destroyer that served as the site of a Golden Thirteen reunion in April 1982, 59

Lear, Charles B.

Member of the Golden Thirteen who was made a warrant boatswain in 1944, 14, 152

First assignment as an officer was to Pearl Harbor in 1944, 14-15, 153

During the latter part of World War II was stationed on Guam, 15-16, 113

Leave and Liberty

In 1943, while based in Boston, Arbor seldom went on liberty with white shipmates, 112

Lehman, John F. Jr.

As Secretary of the Navy in the 1980s attended a convention of the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA), 24

Life Magazine

When members of the Golden Thirteen were commissioned in March 1944 they were featured in a newsreel and *Life*, 11, 149, 151

Marine Corps, U.S.

Compared with the other services, the Marines were latecomers to accepting black personnel in World War II, 157

Martin, Graham E.

Member of the Golden Thirteen who went through officer training at Great Lakes, Illinois, in early 1944, 130, 135

Mason, USS (DE-529)

Destroyer escort to which Arbor was initially assigned before he received orders to officer training in 1944, 4-5, 58, 124

Medical Conditions

In 1945 Lieutenant (junior grade) Jesse Arbor used an allergy to citrus fruits to keep from going back to the Western Pacific, 20-21

National Naval Officers Association (NNOA)

At annual conventions of NNOA in the 1980s Arbor counseled serving black naval officers about career potential, 23-25

Nelson, Dennis D. II

Flamboyant member of the Golden Thirteen who went through officer training at Great Lakes, Illinois, in 1944, 7, 11-13, 22, 128, 131

After World War II received a regular Navy commission, the only one of the 13 who stayed for a full career, 22, 126-128

In 1951 wrote a book on the racial integration of the Navy, 26, 122

In 1977 joined with Dalton Baugh in getting the Golden Thirteen together again, 127, 160-161

News Media

In the 1930s Arbor's football exploits were covered in the *Chicago Defender*, a black newspaper, 38, 86

When members of the Golden Thirteen were commissioned in March 1944 they were featured in a newsreel and *Life* magazine, but most coverage was in the black press, 11, 149, 151-153

Pearl Harbor (Hawaii) Naval Base/Naval Station

In 1944 Jesse Arbor and Charles Lear became the first two black officers assigned to Pearl Harbor, 14-15, 56, 79-80, 115-119, 153-158

While stationed at Pearl Harbor, Arbor's commanding officer made a racial slur during a poker game, 66-68, 115-119, 158

Pinkney, J. B.

Black petty officer who went through officer training with the Golden Thirteen at Great Lakes in 1944 but was not commissioned, 12-13, 60, 121, 131, 151-152

Port Chicago, California

Site of an ammunition explosion in July 1944 that killed many black sailors, 105-106

Racial Issues

Arbor had no racial problems growing up in Arkansas in the 1910s and 1920s because his home county's citizens were almost all black, 34

At Camp Robert Smalls in World War II, white performers were given priority over talented black professional performers, 94-95

In 1943, while based in Boston, Arbor seldom went on liberty with white shipmates, 112

Members of the Golden Thirteen were not allowed to use the BOQ or officers' club at Great Lakes after their 1944 commissioning, 13, 154

In 1945 a lieutenant commander in Pearl Harbor issued a memo saying that black officers were to be treated the same as their white counterparts, 14

A white officer was upset when he learned that he and Arbor had slept in the same BOQ on Guam one night late in the war, 114-115

Compared with the other services, the Marines were latecomers to accepting black personnel in World War II, 157

Following the Golden Thirteen commissioning in March 1944, the Navy commissioned dozens more black officers later in the war, 18-19

Recruiting

A recruiter enlisted Arbor in the Navy in September 1942, 1-3

In his later years Arbor advised prospects for military service and helped with recruiting, 81-84, 143-147

Religion

Role in the Arbor family from the 1910s to the 1930s, 85

Richmond, Lieutenant (junior grade) Paul D., USNR (USNA, 1942)

Reserve officer who supervised the curriculum for the training of the Golden Thirteen at Great Lakes, Illinois, in early 1944, 131-132, 151-152

Sublett, Frank E. Jr.

Member of the Golden Thirteen who had been at service school in Hampton, Virginia prior to the group's during training period at Great Lakes, Illinois, in early 1944, 4, 7, 9

Overseeing Golden Thirteen memorabilia at the building at Great Lakes named for the group, 140-141

Uniforms-Naval

In 1944 members of the Golden Thirteen wore enlisted Navy uniforms during their training and then bought officer uniforms shortly before they were commissioned in March, 11, 129-130, 148-152

Members of the group have donated their old uniforms to the building at Great Lakes that honors the Golden Thirteen, 141

White, William Sylvester

Member of the Golden Thirteen who earned a law degree before undergoing training at Great Lakes, Illinois, in early 1944, 61, 92, 130, 134-135, 140, 151-153

Williams, Lewis R.

Black Navy enlisted man who went through training with the Golden Thirteen in 1944 but was not commissioned as an officer, 12-13, 59, 69, 92, 120, 128, 130, 140, 151

