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NEGRO DRAFTS WILL REPORT TO CAMP HERE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8—(Spl)—Negroes included in the draft in northern states will be trained at Des Moines, Yapsank, Wrightstown, Annapolis Junction, Chillicothe, Rockford and Fort Riley, the War Department announced today.

A regiment of negroes at each cantonment will be commanded by white officers of rank above captain.

Six hundred and twenty-six captains, first and second lieutenants and negro reserves, who complete their training at Fort Des Moines this week, will be assigned to the seven cantonments.

No decision has yet been reached with regard to negroes drafted in southern states.

Neither has the department definitely outlined from what states each of the seven negro regiments will be selected.

Nearest Camp

But indications point to orders soon being issued to negro conscripts to report to the cantonments nearest their homes.

The negro graduates at Fort Des Moines have been ordered to report at the cantonments Nov. 1, indicating that all northern negroes will be called at that time.

Lieut. Col. W. T. Johnston, chief of the division of training camps of the War Department, left Sunday for Fort Des Moines to present the commissions to the graduates.

This is the first time that the department has deviated from the plan of issuing all commissions direct from Washington.

To Give Oath

Colonel Johnston, attached to the adjutant general's office, is empowered to commission the Fort Des Moines graduates, administer oath of allegiance, extend to the men a furlough of two weeks and designate the cantonment to which they are to report.

The commissions bear the date of Oct. 15.

The 626 students are all of the infantry arm of the service. The medical training school at Fort Des Moines will continue for another month at least.

Maj. George R. Logan, Iowa quartermaster corps, is relieved from his present duties, and is assigned as assistant quartermaster of the Thirty-sixth Divisional Staff, at Camp Bowie, Fort Worth, Tex.

Maj. Van Buren Knott, and Capt. R. V. Smith, Iowa medical corps, is assigned to the ambulance companies of the Thirty-fourth Division at Camp Cody.

Capt. Floyd A. Rikard, ordnance department, National army, has been assigned as ordnance officer at Camp Dodge.

Private Wilbur T. Mitchell, Company D, Thirty-Fourth Infantry, Camp Dodge, is transferred to the permanent school detachment, school for bakers and cooks.

Special to THE CAMP DIX, N.

to all colored draftees that the colored regiments to be stationed here will be officered by white men. Up to a short time ago the spectacle of colored captains and lieutenants marching at the head of their respective companies was a common sight, but from present indications the artillery and infantry regiments, made up of colored draftees, will have all white officers.

But Camp Dix is not the only cantonment where the colored commissioned officer is conspicuous by his absence. At Camp Meade, Md., commissioned officers and many of the non-commissioned officers of colored units are white.

It is estimated that up to August 5 of this year over 300,000 colored men have been called to the colors. Of this number 1,000 have been commissioned as officers.

It is said that nearly 400 colored men are being trained for commissions, but this number will not go very far toward officering colored regiments with Negroes.

Colored men are being trained at the following camps for commissions: Camp Pike, Ark., infantry; Camp Taylor, artillery, and Camp Hancock, machine gun.

White officers who aspire to command colored troops have been heard to remark that colored men did not make good officers because many Negroes from the South were not used to taking orders from their own people. This was one of the absurd arguments made months ago when the question of establishing an officers' training camp for Negroes was under consideration. The fallacy of such a contention was shown by the remarkable showing of the 367th, 368th and other regiments with colored officers.