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McDaniel, Robert W. M. - 1944 (holograph)

MSRC Staff

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Office of the Secretary
Howard University
Washington 1, D.C.

My Dear Sir:

The letter accompanying your questionnaire was a source of great pleasure to those of us from Howard who are serving here. We sat around in our dugouts and for a brief time were able to forget the strain and unpleasantness of the job we are doing here. You may be assured that such a letter is very welcome here.

There are quite a few alumni of Howard serving over here in the South Pacific. All are doing a fine job upholding the traditions and reflecting the training we received there, despite extremely unpleasant conditions.

Besides the normal factors that place great strain on men at the front during war, the colored officers here have borne a very bitter and insidious pressure put on them by prejudice and discrimination... Because of a lack of rank, they are powerless to improve the condition to any extent. As a result, they get our share of dangerous assignments and missions, and of course receive no promotions above 1st Lieutenant in the line regardless of merit.
In spite of these serious handicaps, they are doing a job that their race and their school can justly be proud of.

I along with Capt. J.P. Gibson, Claude D. Walker, and George J. Thomas, send fond regards and best wishes for continued service and prosperity of Howard U.

Sincerely yours,

Robert W. McDaniel
Capt. M.C.