

Loeb, Chas
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WHITE MIGRANT WORKERS WALK OUT AS WAR PLANT UPGRADES NEGROES

THE 93RD INFANTRY IN ACTION!



FUEL FOR THE GUNS—An unidentified soldier of the 93rd Infantry Division at Bougainville heads for the forward area with machine gun ammunition. The 93rd is proving itself in battle against the Japs who have learned that the world produces no finer fighting men than the American Negro.



ENROUTE TO THE FRONT—The above photo shows something of the natural obstacles provided by jungle growth and rushing streams that the 93rd Division must conquer at Bougainville. Here a combat team crosses the Laruma River over a newly constructed bridge built by the engineers, carrying ammunition and supplies on their way to the front.



LUNCH IN A FOXHOLE—A mortar squad of the 93rd Infantry eats lunch in a foxhole emplacement on Bougainville. Mortar shells are readily available. Note those held in the crook of the eating soldier's arms. (Photos by U. S. Army Signal Corps.)

EUCLID-CASE SHELL OUTPUT THREATENED

BY CHAS. H. LOEB

The War Labor Board in the Cleveland area this week began to reap the whirlwind they planted some 18 months ago when they lowered the barriers against the importation into Ohio of thousands of southern immigrant workers.

Under the expediency of "war necessity" the southern hills of Kentucky, Alabama and Tennessee were scoured for southern poor whites who were induced to come North, bringing with them their died-in-the-wool prejudices against Negroes. Meanwhile there were hundreds in every Ohio city who were, and still are being denied upgrading to skilled and semi-skilled jobs in war plants, the FEPC to the contrary notwithstanding.

In Cleveland, out at the Euclid-Case Foundry where they manufacture shells for 105 mm. Army guns, a number of these migrants were placed in the Casting Department. They were happy there ... at \$15.00 per day, until dire necessity forced the company officials to place Negro workers in the
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Spokesman for the striking workers are reported to have offered as their reason for striking their distaste for Negroes generally, and to have voiced strong opposition to the prospect of having to share a shower room with Negro workers.

The plant employs about 2000 workers, with the jobs being held by Negro workers confined to the dirty, back breaking work of charging furnaces. There are no shower facilities provided for Negro workers in the plant, because their "southern white brothers" long ago protested that use of the showers by Negroes "uses up all the hot water from the whites," so that Negro workers must be content to "wash up" in face bowls before boarding street cars enroute home.

Neither company officials nor union is entirely guiltless in the stalemate now confronting Uncle Sam's effort our boys on the battle fronts supplied. They have sidestepped the issue of upgrading Negro workers, and used every device possible, including the importation of the southern workers, to evade friction between white and Negro workers, and now they're caught in the pincers of Jim-Crow because Uncle Sam just must have those shells.

The affair is now in the hands of Army Ordnance Department officers, who have made every effort to keep the matter quiet. They found that on Monday morning one Negro worker was placed on the first shift in the Casting Department. The white workers promptly, and without notice, walked out.

Three Negroes were present for work on the second shift, and second shift white workers also walked out. The procedure was repeated on the third shift.

On Tuesday morning the company issued its "return to work or be discharged" ultimatum, and white truck drivers in the plant

walked out in sympathy with the strikers.

Needless to say, Negro workers at the plant are boiling mad, and are watching with none too much optimism the action to be taken by the War Ordnance Officials and War Labor Board in the strike. If the white workers should be returned to their jobs under their own terms it will mean that the recently upgraded Negro workers will be thrown out of their newly-won jobs... and it will very likely mean that there will be a walk-out in the charging department of the plant which employes Negro labor almost impossible to replace.

Meanwhile, at presstime, five furnaces were idle, production bottle-necked in the entire plant, and white and black soldiers, also without benefit of showers, are blasting away with 105 mm. guns at a foe who simply laughs when our propogandists tell him that we're fighting for democracy.

White Migrants

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department.

So—while our armies in Italy blast away with 105 mm. shells at the Nazi foe, and ammunition stocks are rapidly depleted, the replacements that should be flowing from the Euclid-Case plant have been bottle-necked by Old Man Jim-Crow. The southern workers have walked out of the plant, refusing to work beside the fathers of sons now giving their lives at Anzio, at Bougainville, in New Guinea.

Officials of Local 633, Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers have expressed distinct distaste for their erstwhile members, and company officials have threatened to fire all the workers who did not return to their jobs Tuesday at noon.