

Op-16-C-2
Pl-4/Pl4-2(400921)

Mr. Bland

October 14, 1940

5. At present there is no available data in answer to the remainder of your questions. Negroes of a variety of classifications and are included in a number of Bureaus and Offices at the Navy Department but I have no statistical information on this subject.

Dear Mr. Bland:

Trusting that this material will meet your needs, I am regarding your recent inquiry for survey purposes on the economic, social, and employment conditions among Negroes as certain questions apply to the Navy, you are advised as follows:

1. The present policy of the Navy Department permits the enlistment of Negroes in the Messman Branch only. In that branch, they are given every opportunity for advancement to Officers' Cooks and Stewards, which ratings receive the pay and allowances of petty officer ratings.

2. On June 30, 1940, there was a total of 4,007 Negroes in the Navy, the majority of which hold ratings in the Messman Branch. The following ratings, other than the Messman Branch were held by Negroes during the fiscal year ending 30 June, 1940:

Chief Commissary Steward	- eight
Machinist's Mate,	
first class	- seven
Ship's Cook, " & second	
class	- nine
Musician, first class	- one.

3. There is no Negro enlisted personnel in the Marine Corps in view of the small size of that organization and because no provision is made for a separate Negro unit.
4. Negroes are eligible as candidates for flight training if they pass the regular physical and mental requirements. At present there are no Negroes in Naval Aviation other than in the Messman branch.

File
Negroes in Navy

October 14, 1940

Mr. Bland

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5. At present there is no available data in answer to the remainder of your questions. Negroes are employed in a variety of classifications and are included in a number of Bureaus and Offices at the Navy Department but I have no statistical information on this subject.

Trusting that this material will meet your needs, I am

Sincerely yours,

Dict: Lt. Comdr. Berry
Typed: Womack

Chief Commissary Steward - eight
Machinist's Mate,
First class
Ship's Cook, " " " " " "
class
Bosun, first class - one.

R. W. Berry
Lieutenant-Commander, U.S. Navy
Press Relations Officer

Mr. Bertram C. Bland
Capital News Service, Inc.
2588 Seventh Avenue
New York City

4. Negroes are eligible as candidates for flight positions if they pass the regular physical and mental requirements. At present there are no Negroes in flight positions other than in the Messman branch.

In reply address not the signer of this letter, but Bureau of Navigation, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.
Refer to No. **Nav-1461-EC**

1 extra

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

26 October 1939.

Memorandum for Commander Lovette:


As an administrative practice negroes are enlisted as mess attendants only. They are sent to Norfolk and San Diego training stations for the regular recruit period during which they receive special training as mess attendants. Their promotion schedule with base pay is listed below:

Mess Attendant, third	\$21.00
Mess Attendant, second	36.00
Mess Attendant, first	54.00
Officer's Cook or Officer's Steward, third	60.00
Officer's Cook or Officer's Steward, second	72.00
Officer's Cook or Officer's Steward, first	84.00

They are all eligible for training in the Officers' Cooks and Officers' Stewards' School at San Diego.

They are entitled to the same increments of pay due to longevity, extra hazardous duty, etc., as other ratings.

Their retirement or transfer to Fleet Reserve is given by the same laws as all other branches.


W. E. MOORE,
Lt. Commander, U. S. Navy.

Revised