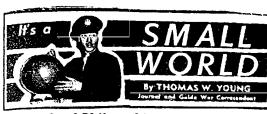
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## **Battle of Philosophies**

one of the jolliest diversions we had in Africa and Spelly was the unfinished conflict between the philosophies of "The New Negro" and "The Bandanna Heads." That is the way 1st Lieut. James B. Knighten of Tulsa, Okla., named the sides for this debate.

And Knighten—that riotous, witty, amiable fighter phot of the 99th who is known far and wide as "The Eel" Lis as fit a person as I know to supply the titles for this show For show it was, aided and absted by the eternally amustic for this battle of the philosophies.

its unpolished com edy was as good as any I've paid \$3.30 Sometimes I used to think that when



Knighten, Vincent, Watson and Purnell, tleft to right; call themselves "New Negroes," serenade their opposition one of Knighten's songs.



the "Bandanna Heads," as Knighten called them, listened grace ully. Shown (left to right) are Campbell, Lane, Mitchell, Carter, Thompson and Davis.

we called Knighten the insano genius, we really hadn't done collect injury to the meaning of the words.

## Good For Morale

During those uncertain, critical case when the 99th "experiment" to setting its Patitic Pt., and the size over Africa and Sicily, "The size over Africa and Sicily, "The size over Africa and Sicily, "The Ft," more than any other person or circumstance—except, of course, letters from home—kept the spirits of the pilots and ground officers and crews high. That is an envisible accolade to below on any single individual. But Knighthen deserved it, without question, And all those who were there to observe the 99th course there to observe the 99th course those trying first six months will unhesitatingly agree. I am sure

The argument goes back to illege days, "The Eel" ent to Dillard University in

New Orleans and quarter-backed the football team. I don't think it was a world-beating aggregation, however, because the other boys used to laugh when references were made to it. Even Knighten subtly advised against my writing about his football record.

Yet he was quite insistent about its scholastic superiority, especially over the alma maters of the "Bandanna Heads." Knighten indiscriminately pushed into the mythical organization which he opposed all graduates and former students of Hampton and Tuskegee Institutes.

## Accepted Substitutes

Harvard, Yale and Dillard," Knighten often would say in on mean. That was his concept of scholastic preeminence. There each no floward and Yale men among us, he accepted as his constituents the Howard and Lincoln University men in the squadron.

Thus Capt. Cornelius Vincent, of Boston College, and Licuts. Spann Watson, Howard, and Louis R. Purnell, Lin became active members in Knighten's "New Negro" orga-tion.

Inferior, despised, degenerate—because they didn't read and applicate Thoreau, as he did—were 1st Lieuts, William A. Campbell, Alen G. Lane and Herbert Eugene Carter of Tuskegee, and Paul Graham Mitchell (deceased), and William R. Thompson of Hampion Institute. They were the "Bandanna Heads," sometimes talled the "Handkerchief Heads."

One evening when the "New Negroes" called the "Bandanna Heads," together to serenade them with a new song written especially for their benefit by "The Eel," (see cut) Lt. Col. B. O. Davis Jr. commanding officer, alligned himself with the "Bandanna Heads" because he had once taught military science and tactics at Tuskegee.

On Borrowed Music As I have pointed out, the chief wit was Lieut. Knighten who was far more witty than classical in his composition of verse about the opposition. However, in his more serious moods "The Eel" has written poems that are highly regarded, although I don't feel he will acquire immortality by reason of his verse.

The following ditty was sung to the tune of "The Shores of Tripoli."

From the cotion fields of 'Skegce to the Shores of Sicily We must wear our Red Bandannas for our leader, Booker T. Booker T. says plant more cotion, Booker T. says plant more corn. We must never leave the cotion fields Where old Uncle Tom was born.

Just as the laughing and would strike up a fresh sere straw." Here are the words: kidding died down, the "New Negroes" nade to the tune of "Turkey in the

It was all in fun, of course. But you had to know the par-timants in this apparently violent conflict of philosophies to under-mand that there wasn't a harsh thought on either side against the