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MS
with
HST
Mr. Arana
Clalto
Smith / Road
Doubleday / Litch
Parker

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Mr.
690-7613

Franklin man fights to clear name in WWII Navy mutiny

By KARYN COLOMBO
Courier-News Staff Writer

FRANKLIN (Somerset) — For 45 years, Joseph Small told few people about his trial and conviction in the Navy's largest mutiny trial.

But now the Somerset resident is sharing his role in a little-known incident of World War II.

Small and 49 men refused to load ammunition several weeks after two ammunition vessels exploded at a California port in July 1944.

The event came to be known as the Port Chicago Mutiny.

Small spoke last night at the Somerset Community Action Program, where 13 people watched a documentary, which first aired in San Francisco Feb. 17, chronicling the events that led to the 1944 trial.

Gloria Strickland, executive director of the Somerset Community Action Program, said she will organize similar events at which people can watch the documentary and ask Small questions.

She also plans to start a letter-writing and petition campaign to get Small's discharge under honorable conditions changed to an honorable discharge.

His present discharge is a step below the standard honorable discharge but not as serious as a dishonorable discharge.

Two California congressmen are considering reopening the case to clear the records of Small and the other 49 men convicted in the trial.

"He is an unsung hero," said Strickland, who said she will talk with the congressmen to see what she can do to support Small. "He needs to tell his story," she said.

Goldie Thomas of New Brunswick has known Small for 15 years. "I can see it coming," Thomas said, referring to the investigation to clear Small's record. "But I can see it plodding along. I think a community (involvement) can hasten it."

In July 1944, two naval ammunition vessels docked near the San Francisco Bay exploded, killing 320 men. It was the United States' worst home-front disaster.

Several weeks later, 50 black ammunition loaders refused to continue their work because of unsafe conditions imposed on them by white superiors. They were court-martialed and sentenced to up to 15 years in prison.

The loaders said their superiors created unsafe conditions by holding competitions to see which crews

could load ammunition fastest.

Small, then a 24-year-old seaman, was named the mutiny's leader. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison but served only 16 months.

Small, 68, started talking about his involvement in the mutiny in 1982, when a California author, Robert L. Allen, wrote an article that became the basis for the book, "The Port Chicago Mutiny."

"God spared me to be able to talk about it," Small said. "Sometimes it brings tears to my eyes."

Small said he told his commanding officer that the competition was creating a hazard. "His answer was if it (the ship) blows up, you won't know anything about it," he said. "He was wrong. It blew up, and I knew about it."

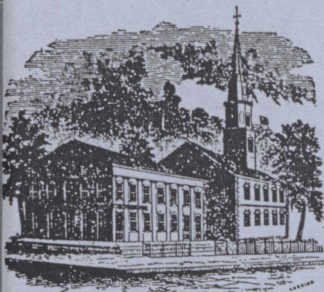
In his job as a winch operator, Small would operate the machine that hoisted the ammunition onto the ship.

Often he would start the machine when there were people near the load about to be lifted because he could not see the loading area.

His superiors refused to cordon off the area.

"It was 45 years ago, but it still bothers me," Small said. "I came close to killing men."

Just to keep you abreast of.
what's happening on this side
Joe & Louise



Moses W. Dodd, founder of Dodd, Mead & Company, opened his first office in the Brick Church Chapel in New York City, near the present City Hall, in 1839. *

Agreement

made this fifth

day of February 19 87

by and between

ROBERT L. ALLEN

whose address is

c/o Marie Brown, Agent
412 West 154 Street
New York, New York 10032

hereinafter termed the Author (hereinafter also referred to as "he") of the one part, and DODD, MEAD & COMPANY, Inc., whose address is 79 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016, hereinafter termed the Publishers, of the other part. ***This Agreement is a co-publishing venture between DODD, MEAD and AMISTAD PRESS, INC.**

Whereas, the Author is Proprietor of the literary work at present entitled

THE PORT CHICAGO MUTINY

which work the Publishers agree to publish on the terms and conditions hereinafter appearing and for valuable considerations by each to the other paid, it is hereby agreed between the Author and the Publishers as follows:

AUTHOR'S GRANT. 1. In consideration of the stipulations and covenants of the respective parties hereto, the Author hereby grants to the Publishers and their successors, representatives, and assigns, the sole and exclusive right of printing, publishing, and selling in book form the above work in the United States of America and its Dependencies, also Canada and the Philippine Islands, during the full term of copyright and all renewals thereof, and also grants to the Publishers the right to license publication in book form in Great Britain and other foreign countries. The Publishers shall have the right to sell in territories outside of the United States and its Dependencies and the British Commonwealth their editions of said work, as well as those licensed by them to other publishers; also the right to sell in the aforementioned territories any other rights in said work which they control under this Agreement. All rights not herein specifically granted to publisher are reserved

AUTHOR'S WARRANTY. 2. ^{by the author} The Author warrants to the Publishers that the work has not heretofore been published in book form, that he is the legal Author and sole proprietor of said work, that said rights are not subject to any prior agreement, lien, or other claims or rights which may interfere with the rights herein granted, and that the said work is in no way whatsoever a violation of any copyright belonging to any other party, and that it contains nothing of a libelous character and does not infringe upon or otherwise violate any rights whatsoever of any person, firm, or corporation or violate any law, statute, ordinance, rule, or regulation of the United States of America or any political subdivision thereof, and that he and his legal representatives shall and will hold harmless and keep indemnified the Publishers from all suits and all manner of claims, proceedings, and expenses, including their attorneys' fees, which may be taken or incurred on the ground that the said work is such violation, or contains anything libelous or otherwise unlawful by reason of any breach of any of the foregoing warranties, and until such claim, demand or suit has been settled or withdrawn, the Publishers may withhold any sums due the Author hereunder. The Author undertakes for himself, his heirs, and assigns to execute at any time, on request of the Publishers, any document or documents to confirm or continue any of the rights defined herein, and to take all proceedings necessary to enforce the copyright in the United States and elsewhere. The provisions of the foregoing shall survive the termination of this Agreement. The Author shall not, without the consent of the Publishers, publish any abridged or other edition of the said work or any book of a similar or competing character.

DELIVERY OF MANUSCRIPT. 3. The Author agrees to deliver to the Publishers on or before the ^{/two copies of} thirtieth day of ~~July~~ ¹⁹ 1987, the manuscript containing approximately 80,000 words, complete and ready for press, together with all drawings, photographs, charts, and maps, which are a necessary part of the text. If the Author fails to deliver the manuscript within the specified time, unless extended by the Publishers, they may decline to publish the work and recover any and all amounts which may have been advanced to the Author, but the Author shall not be free to cause its publication elsewhere until he shall have re-offered it to the Publishers on the terms of this Agreement. It is agreed that no duty shall devolve upon the Publishers under this Agreement until such time as the manuscript has been completed and edited to the satisfaction of the Publishers. **Author agrees to retain a copy of the manuscript.**

INSURANCE. 4. The Publishers shall exercise the same care of any manuscripts, illustrations, or other similar property belonging to the Author in their hands under this Agreement as they take of their own. They shall be responsible for its safety from fire or water or loss only to such an amount (if any) as the Author shall request them in writing to keep it insured for at his expense.

COPYRIGHT. 5. The Publishers agree to copyright the said work in the United States of America in the name of the Author and to take all the usual precautions to protect said copyright. The Author shall notify the Publishers promptly of any arrangement that he may make for publication of said work, or any part thereof, prior to book publication. If any copyright is registered prior to book publication, the Author shall give the Publishers the date of said copyright and provide a suitable assignment certified by the Register of Copyrights. The Publishers shall also have the right to effect any renewals of copyright provided by law and the right to any assistance from the Author or his executors, heirs, assigns, or next of kin, essential thereto.

COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL. 6. The work shall contain no material from other copyrighted works without the written consent of the owner of such copyrighted material. Such written consent shall be obtained by the Author and filed with the Publishers. The Author agrees to pay any fees necessary to secure this consent.

NOTICE OF FOREIGN PUBLICATION. 7. If the Publishers do not control the right to sell the work in book form in foreign countries or to license publication in book form to foreign publishers (see Clause 1), then the Author agrees to give the Publishers notice in writing of the first publication in any foreign country in ample time to enable the Publishers to comply with the provisions of the Copyright Law of the United States of America, in order to protect their own interests and those of the Author. If no such notices have been received within six months after publication, the Publishers shall have the right to sell copies of the American edition in foreign countries and to license publication in book form to foreign publishers.

AGREEMENT TO PUBLISH. 8. The Publishers agree to publish and place the said work on sale within twelve months after receipt by them of the finally revised and approved manuscript.

PUBLISHING DETAILS. 9. All details as to the style, time, and manner of production, of price, publication, and advertisement, and the number and distribution of free copies, shall be left to the discretion of the Publishers, who shall bear all expenses of production, publication, and advertisement. If an index is required for said work, or a revision after original publication, it shall be prepared by or at the expense of the Author and such editorial expenses ~~charged to his royalty account~~, but the Publishers shall not be obligated to bring out a revised edition.

AUTHOR'S OBLIGATIONS. 10. The Author agrees to deliver to the Publishers final revised copy satisfactory to them in content and form, ready for the printer. The Author agrees to read the galley and page proofs of the work, if or when submitted, returning these to the Publishers within fourteen days of the receipt thereof. The cost of the alterations required by the Author in galley proofs and page proofs, other than corrections of printer's errors, in excess of 10% of the original cost of composition, shall be charged to the Author.

AUTHOR'S COPIES. 11. The Author shall be entitled to receive on publication ten free copies of the work, and shall have the right to purchase further copies of the trade edition for personal use at a discount of 50% from the Publishers' retail price, provided they are not for resale.

BOOK ROYALTIES. 12. The Publishers shall pay to the author the following:

(a) on all copies sold through regular trade channels (less returns) within the geographical limits of the United States of America and subject to full royalty, a royalty of _____ percent of the Publishers' retail price, of the regular edition in hard bound form **.....ten.....**

on the first 5,000 copies; twelve and one-half percent (12½%) on the next 5,000 and fifteen percent (15%) thereafter, with an advance of Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$12,500) on account of all earnings due under the terms of this Agreement, payable \$6,250 on signing hereof and \$6,250 on acceptance for production of a satisfactory manuscript.

Royalties on Publishers' Trade Paperback Edition: 12% of net amount received by Publisher on the first 40,000 copies and 15% of net amount received by Publisher thereafter.

***In the event this Work is priced by the Publishers in accordance with its Freight Pass-through Plan it is understood that the retail price shall mean the invoice price which is the retail price less the Freight Passthrough allowance; on books priced up to \$24.95, the retail price will be reduced by fifty cents (50¢); on books priced over \$25, the retail price will be reduced by One Dollar (\$1).**

(b) on copies sold at a special discount of 50% or more from the Publishers' retail price, a royalty of 10% of the net sum actually received by the Publishers.

(c) ~~on copies of reprint paperback editions issued by the Publishers, a royalty of 7% of the list price.~~

(d) on books and sheets sold for export outside the United States of America, a royalty of 10% of the net sum actually received by the Publishers.

(e) on copies sold by the Publishers direct to the consumer through coupon advertising, radio or television advertising, direct-by-mail circularization, house-to-house solicitation, a royalty of 5% of the actual cash received by the Publishers.

(f) on printings of 2,500 or fewer copies made one year or more after publication, a royalty of one-half of the last prevailing rate. If, however, the trade sales from such a reprint exceed 750 copies in any six months' accounting period, the royalty on these sales shall be reinstated to the original rate.

(g) If a revised edition is published, the royalty rates shall return to the original scale.

(h) Sales made at a loss, such as damaged and imperfect books sold for clearance, overstock, or remainders sold below or near the cost of production, or salesmen's samples, editorial review copies, or copies otherwise used to promote the sale of the book, shall not be subject to payment of royalties.

OTHER RIGHTS. 13. The other rights referred to in Clause 1 are defined to include the rights listed below. The net proceeds from the sale or license therefrom shall be shared by the Publishers and the Author in the percentages indicated:

	Author's Share	Publishers' Share	
(a) First serialization in North America.	<u>90%</u>	<u>10%</u>	
(b) Digest, abridgment, condensation, anthology, selection.	<u>50%</u>	<u>50%</u>	Author shall be consulted on all rights sales by publisher.
(c) Second serialization and syndication.	<u>50%</u>	<u>50%</u>	
(d) Book clubs or similar organizations.	<u>50%</u>	<u>50%</u>	
(e) Reprint edition through another publisher.	<u>50%</u>	<u>50%</u>	
(f) The right to sell or license throughout the world:			
1. Motion picture	_____	_____	
2. Dramatic	_____	_____	
3. Radio	_____	_____	
4. Television	_____	_____	
(g) The right to sell or license mechanical rendition and/or recording.	<u>50%</u>	<u>50%</u>	
(h) The right to sell or license translation and foreign language publication.	_____	_____	
(i) The right to sell or license publication rights in:			
1. The United Kingdom, book rights and first serialization.	_____	_____	
2. British Commonwealth (exclusive of Canada), book rights and first serialization.	_____	_____	
3. Other foreign countries (in English), book rights and first serialization.	<u>40%</u>	<u>60%</u>	

PUBLICATION IN BRAILLE. 14. The Publishers shall have the right to grant the free use of the work for transcription into Braille, or photographing, recording, and microfilming for the physically handicapped.

PAYMENTS AGAINST ALL EARNINGS. 15. All payments made by the Publishers to the Author under the terms of this Agreement shall be chargeable against and recoverable from any or all monies accruing to the Author from the book or books covered by this Agreement.

ACCOUNTINGS. 16. On or before the first day of May and November of each year the Publishers shall render to the Author a statement of the number of copies sold and subject to royalty, and then shall make payment for these royalties, subject to adjustment for returns, and for all other earnings under this Agreement accrued during the six calendar months preceding February first and August first, respectively; but whenever the semi-annual amount due falls below \$100.00, accountings will be made on an annual basis and rendered on the first day of November of each year.

TERMINATION. 17. If at any time during the continuance of this Agreement the work shall be out of print for six months in all editions, including reprints, whether under the imprint of the Publishers or another imprint, and if, after written notification from the Author, the Publishers shall fail to place the work in print within six months from the date of receipt of such notification, then this Agreement will terminate and all of the rights granted to the Publishers hereunder shall revert to the Author. The Author shall have the right for thirty days after such termination to purchase from the Publishers all copies or sheets (if any) remaining at the cost of manufacture and the plates and engravings of illustrations (if in existence) at one-half their cost to the Publishers, including composition, all f.o.b. point of shipment.

OPTION. 18. In consideration of this Agreement the Author agrees to make the first offer of his next ^{book} to the Publishers on terms to be arranged. **Publisher agrees to respond within 60 days after submission.**

ASSIGNMENT. 19. This Agreement and the interest, property, and liabilities of either party under it may be assigned but only in entirety and shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the executors, administrators, and assigns of the Author and upon and to the successors and assigns of the Publishers. No assignment shall be valid without due evidence thereof in writing.

AGENT. 20. All sums due under this Agreement shall be paid to the Author's agent, **Marie Brown,**
412 West 154 Street, New York, New York 10032

whose receipt shall be a full and valid discharge of the Publishers' obligations and who shall act with the authority of the Author in all matters arising out of this Agreement.

INTERPRETATION OF CONTRACT. 21. This Agreement shall be interpreted under the laws of the State of New York regardless of the place of its physical execution.

DODD, MEAD & COMPANY, INC.

By

Lynne A. Lumsden
Lynne A. Lumsden, Publisher

AMISTAD PRESS, INC.

Charles F. Harris
Charles F. Harris

AUTHOR(S)

Robert Z. Allen
Signature

USA
Citizen of (Country)

259-62-7232
Social Security Number

.....
Signature

.....
Citizen of (Country)

.....
Social Security Number

Arthur L. Phillips

New Brunswick

1/30/89

Joe's attorney

Joe Mentore - Cinetide Films, NY
Angus Deay - Audlin Entertainment
~~John Bratt~~
Gail Weyher - Takecom
Suzanne Sumrell - King World, NY
David Brink - Paramount Pictures
Jim McLoughlin - El Siglo, CA
Cly Billie - Screen Pictures, LA
Lee Rich Productions - Los Angeles
David Richard -
Don Morrison (could be copy)??

199 Montecito Ave. #201
Oakland, CA 94610
August 20, 1987

Ms. Suzanne Locke
Photo Library
San Francisco EXAMINER
110 Fifth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Ms. Locke:

Per my telephone conversation with you today, I am writing to follow up on my request for access to photos concerning the Port Chicago disaster of 1944.

I am a free-lance writer and former editor of THE BLACK SCHOLAR magazine. I am completing a book-length manuscript on the Port Chicago explosion of July 17, 1944 and its aftermath. The book, which is based on primary documents and interviews with survivors, will be published by Amistad Press/Dodd, Mead & Co. in New York. I am looking for photos of the following --

--The damage done by the explosion at the Port Chicago Naval Station on July 17, 1944.

--Photos of the Navy Mutiny Court Martial held at Treasure Island in September/October 1944. (The trial was open to the public and one or two photos were published in the Examiner.)

-- Any photos of Thurgood Marshall from the 1940-1950 period. (Marshall handled the defense appeal in the mutiny case.)

--Any photos of James Frank Coakley from the same period. (Coakley was the prosecutor.)

--Any photos of the town of Port Chicago in the 1950s and 1960s. (The town was later purchased by the Navy and razed to the ground, but not before citizens staged protest demonstrations.)

--Photos of the Concord Naval Weapons Station today. (This is the name by which the Port Chicago base is presently known.)

I would be extremely grateful if you could identify such photos and inform me whether they are available and at what fee. If possible, please send me xerox copies I may review in making selections.

Thank you very much for your assistance. If you have any questions about my project, I can be reached at 893-7914.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Allen

199 Montecito #210
Oakland, CA 94610
July 8, 1987

Marie Brown
412 West 154th St.
New York, NY

Dear Marie,

Enclosed is a complete copy of the rewritten Port Chicago manuscript. There are some changes made in most of the chapters, beginning with Chapter 2, and major rewriting from Chapter 7 on.

I feel good about the book as it looks now. I think this is the book I originally set out to write 10 years ago. I hope you and Charles will be pleased with it, too. (I'm sending Charles two copies separately.)

Alice and I are going to the upcoming international book fair in Nicaragua, which begins on July 18th and runs through the 25th. We're excited about it. We'll have a chance to see the new, struggling society in Nicaragua, and meet writers and editors from many Latin countries. Maybe find some new work to publish, as well.

Enclosed is some correspondence from Doubleday concerning reversion of rights on BLACK AWAKENING. Looks like they may be ready to move on it.

Will call you before we leave for Nicaragua.

Doubleday

March 5, 1987

Robert L. Allen
199 Montecito Avenue #201
Oakland, CA 94610

Dear Mr. Allen:

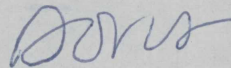
RE: BLACK AWAKENING IN CAPITALIST AMERICA

I am in receipt of your letter of February 25, 1987 to Gerald Gladney regarding a reversion of rights in the above.

I have initiated the reversion of rights process. Each title is given a good deal of consideration before rights are reverted and various approvals are necessary, therefore, the reversion process can take up to six months to complete.

Your patience is appreciated.

With best wishes,



Doris Hartmann
Contracts Department

cc: Marshall De Bruhl
Gerald Gladney



MARIE BROWN ASSOCIATES
LITERARY SERVICES ♡ ♡ ♡ ♡

March 3, 1987

Mr. Robert Allen
199 Montecito Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610

Dear Robert;

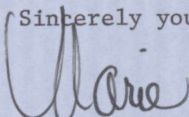
I received the copy of your letter to Gerald Gladney. And, yes, the contracts did arrive. I am returning them to Dodd, Mead and Charles today. As Charles may have mentioned to you, they have moved their offices. The actual move took place Friday so I thought that I would wait until after the move to send the contracts in, so that they would not be "packed away". Everything in this business takes long enough under normal circumstances.

For your information Charles' new address is Amistad Press
Dodd, Mead & Co.
71 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10003
(212) 627-8444

Finally, I must tell you how good it was to have had an opportunity to meet with you while you were here. I am very pleased and happy that we were able to conclude the deal with Charles. I am looking forward to a very positive and prosperous professional relationship with Amistad.

If you have any questions or comments, do get in touch. All the best.

Sincerely yours,



Marie D. Brown
412 W. 154th St.
New York, New York 10032

199 Montecito Ave. #201
Oakland, CA 94610
February 25, 1987

Mr. Gerald Gladney
Doubleday & Co.
245 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Gladney:

I am writing to you with regard to my book, Black Awakening in Capitalist America. I understand that this book is now out of print and I assume that Doubleday/Anchor has no plans to reprint it. I would therefore like to have a letter officially re-assigning all rights to me as per our agreement.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Allen
SS# 259-62-7232

October 8, 1984

Ms. Janell E. Walden
Assistant Editor
Howard University Press
2900 Van Ness St., NW
Washington, DC 20008

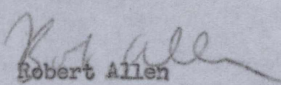
Dear Janell:

Greetings to you, and thank you for your recent letter.

I realize that the Port Chicago manuscript will require considerable revision to appeal to a more general audience, and I am open to rewriting it. However, this academic year will be extremely busy for me because of other obligations and projects. (I had hoped to be able to work on any revision this summer.) I don't know if a publication date has been set, but you should know that I have applied for a leave of absence from Mills for the academic year 1985-86 partly with the idea of using that period for editing and rewriting the manuscript. In other words, I am doubtful that I can undertake any major work on the Port Chicago project before June.

I hope that this fits in with your plans for the book. In any case, I look forward to hearing from you and working with you on the project.

Sincerely,


Robert Allen



HOWARD UNIVERSITY PRESS

2900 VAN NESS STREET, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

TELEPHONE: (202) 686-6696

24 September 1984

Dr. Robert Allen
P. O. Box 9926
Mills College
Oakland, CA 92613

Dear Dr. Allen:

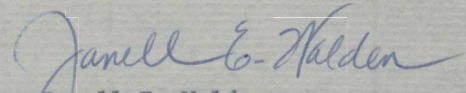
Season's greetings to you! I imagine you have begun your fall course work and are meeting a new group of students. It is an energetic time of year for me, as well, now that the publishing institute has ended and I have turned my full attention to several book projects.

I called the other day to report that I am reading "The Port Chicago Disaster and Its Aftermath," and that I will be sending you a blueprint next month to suggest changes in the manuscript.

As Renee Mayfield has informed you, we have accepted your dissertation topic as a substitute project for "Waking Up From the American Dream." This is not the same, of course, as accepting the manuscript itself as "satisfactory" per our contract terms. I will list my specific comments on the manuscript in a blueprint, which I will complete and forward to you next month. Most of my concerns stem from the nature of the work. It seems to me that the dissertation must be sufficiently revised to increase its value and readability for a more general, scholarly market. Some other comments deal with stylistic matters.

I am pleased to be working with you again to produce another outstanding work of scholarship.

Sincerely,


Janell E. Walden
Assistant Editor

JW/rg

cc: Renee Mayfield

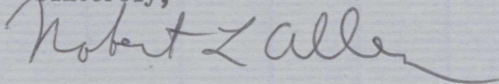
1010 Ashbury Street #3
San Francisco, CA 94117
August 25, 1986

Ms. Marie Brown
Literary Agent
412 West 154th Street #2
New York, NY 10032

Dear Marie:

This letter will authorize you, and any publishers or other agents, to pay directly to Pamela Allen, 717 Lakeview Ave., San Francisco, CA 94112, any and all monies owed to me as a result of the sale of the publishing rights or any subsidiary rights related to my manuscript, REMEMBER PORT CHICAGO?, with the exceptions that (1) it is understood that you, as my literary agent, are entitled to retain a 10% commission on any rights sold, and (2) the 15% of royalties which I agreed to give to Joseph Small should be sent directly to him at 449 Lewis Street, Somerset, NJ 08873.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Allen

Telephones: Pam Allen 415 587-8219
Joe Small 201 545-3199

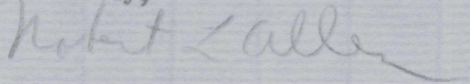
1010 Ashbury Street #3
San Francisco, CA 94117
August 25, 1986

Ms. Marie Brown
Literary Agent
412 West 154th Street #2
New York, NY 10032

Dear Marie:

This letter will authorize you, and any publishers or other agents, to pay directly to Pamela Allen, 717 Lakeview Ave., San Francisco, CA 94112, any and all monies owed to me as a result of the sale of the publishing rights or any subsidiary rights related to my manuscript, REMEMBER PORT CHICAGO?, with the exceptions that (1) it is understood that you, as my literary agent, are entitled to retain a 10% commission on any rights sold, and (2) the 15% of royalties which I agreed to give to Joseph Small should be sent directly to him at 449 Lewis Street, Somerset, NJ 08873.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Allen

Telephones: Pam Allen 415 587-8219
Joe Small 201 545-3199

199 Montecito #201
Oakland, CA 94610
August 19, 1987

Mr. Jack Crittenden
4337 Sunnybrook Drive
Montgomery, AL 36108

Dear Mr. Crittenden:

The book I have written on Port Chicago, and which contains excerpts from my interview with you, will be published in a few months by Amistad Press/Dodd, Mead & Co. of New York City. I am now seeking photographs that could be used to illustrate the text. If you have any photographic memorabilia that might be suitable, please let me know. In particular, do you have any photos of yourself in the Navy? Could you provide a recent photo of yourself? I could pay for the cost of copying any photos you could send, and I would return the originals to you promptly.

I have enclosed an envelope for your reply. Thank you very much for your continuing assistance.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Allen

also sent to Sheppard, Budenave, ^{Kurt}
Robinson, ~~Crittenden~~

Call Cr. Henderson
next Friday/Sat

called
9/20/86
he said ok

Call Cr. Henderson
next Friday/Sat

Called

9/20/86

he said okay

25% COTTON CONTENT

Permalife

205 288-0775

Letter sent again 10/3/86

Verbal OK

1010 Ashbury Street #3
San Francisco, CA 94117
August 22, 1986

Mr. Jack P. Crittenden
4337 Sunnybrook Drive
Montgomery, AL 36108

Dear Mr. Crittenden:

You may recall that in 1977 I interviewed you for some research I was doing on the Port Chicago explosion and its aftermath. Over the years I have continued my research, locating and interviewing ^{others} other men -- including Joe Small -- who were there with you. I have just completed a book-length manuscript which tells the story of the explosion and so-called "mutiny" from the point of view of the black enlisted sailors who worked at Port Chicago. My hope is that this book will help set the record straight as to what really happened at Port Chicago.

In the text of my manuscript I quote from the interview I did with you. At present the quotation is anonymous -- your name is not used as per our original agreement. However, I think it will make the story more believable to readers if at least some of the quotations are attributed to the men who actually said them. Joe Small, for example, has agreed that I can use his name throughout the book. I have enclosed some pages from the manuscript with quotations from your interview, with your name pencilled in where I propose to use it. If this is agreeable to you, please sign and return the enclosed release. If not, I will leave the quotation anonymous as it is.

Thank you for your help. As a token of my appreciation I will send you a copy of the book when it is finished.

published

Sincerely,

Robert L. Allen

RELEASE

I, Jack P. Crittenden, hereby grant permission to Robert L. Allen to attribute the following quotations to me in his book on the Port Chicago disaster:

On Page 59 of the manuscript, line 15, a quotation beginning with the words "They told me..." and ending with the words "came by the Navy."

On Page 96, the last paragraph, a quotation beginning with the words "Remember Pearl Harbor..." and ending on Page 97 with the words "the same opportunity."

On Page 102, Line 20, a quotation beginning with the words "I'm over there..." and ending on Page 103 with the words "no nothing."

On Page 112, Line 9, a quotation beginning with the words "I was there..." and ending with the words "it was awful."

On Page 144, first paragraph, a quotation beginning with the words "I remember being ..." and ending with the words "when I came out of there."

Signed: _____
(Jack P. Crittenden)

Date: _____

neither one of us answered. He just grabbed a stamp and went bam. He looked at it and then said, 'All right, move out soldier.' My buddy happened to be ahead of me and so he got the Army, and I got the Navy."

"I didn't have any choice," another draftee remembered. "I wanted to go in the Army. I think it was about thirteen of us that went down to the induction center at the same time and all of us was running right behind one another -- we were all trying to stay close so we could be together. No two went to the same place. When they got to me they just sent me over to the Navy office there and the next thing I know I'm in the Navy. I didn't want to be in it."

Jack Critchfield
Another draftee selected the Navy as the lesser evil. "They told me I had a choice between the Marine Corps and the Navy. The man said, 'Hey, we'll take a skinny guy like you, fatten you up and make a fine Marine out of you. And remember, the Marines are the first to land, they'll make history right away.' I said, 'First to land?' He said, 'Yeah.' So I said 'Where's the Navy?' And that's how I came by the Navy."

Some of the draftees did indeed want to be in the Navy -- the Navy was their first choice. But as one man explained, there was really little chance for draftees to determine which branch of the service they were sent into: "The branch that needed you the most at the time, that's

ships. And the water just came right up to... all the way back. The driver couldn't go no farther. Just as calm and peaceful. I didn't even see any smoke."

Lying in his bunk, Joe Small was not yet asleep when he heard both explosions: "I didn't know what the first one was -- and the second one just disintegrated the barracks. It picked me up off the bunk -- I was holding onto my mattress -- and flipped me over. I hit the floor with the mattress on top of me. That's why I escaped injury. The glass and debris that fell hit the mattress rather than me. I got one minor cut.

"Other fellows were cut and bleeding all over the place. I helped some of the men that were injured. One fellow's feet were bleeding and I gave him my shoes. Another fellow had a cut all the way down his arm and I put a tourniquet on it to try to stop the bleeding. There were no medics around; it was chaos."

Jack ConHender
 Another man, who was scheduled to do guard duty that night, had just walked into the administration building: "I'm over there with the petty officer, sitting there in the window, telling him my name and all that. Then this damned thing happened. talk about light travelling faster than sound.... Well, the first thing was this great big flash, and something must have hit me. I found myself outside of that building and I don't remember going out of no window or

climbing out of it. But I was outside and with only one little scar on my arm. You're talking about torn up. Everybody felt at that point that it was another Pearl Harbor -- not that the ships had blown up, because you didn't think about that at that point, because of the building that you had been in and the barracks and all that -- caved in, windows busted out, blown out and all that kind of thing. People running and hollering. You know a bunch of guys were sleeping in the barracks. The barracks had a lot of windows, lower and upper deck, whole side was windows. And they were blown to pieces. Some guys lost their sight; others were badly cut. Finally they got the emergency lights together. Then some guys came by in a truck and we went down to the dock, but when we got there we didn't see no dock, no ship, no nothing."

One man who was blinded by the explosion described what happened: "When taps was sounding that evening I put my writing gear away and went to wash up and put on my Noxema -- being a teenager I had some of those blemishes on my face. I came back and I was lying on my bunk. It would usually take about 20 minutes to quiet the men down after lights out. And shortly after, probably 10:20 p.m., there was this tremendous explosive sound. I was looking to my right, I had my head pillowed on my arm looking away from the explosion. I quickly jumped up to look and see what was going on and there

had exploded it might well have set off a chain reaction of explosions in nearby boxcars and possibly killed more men.

During the night and early morning the injured were removed to hospitals and many of the enlisted men were evacuated to nearby stations, mainly to Camp Shoemaker in Oakland. Others remained at Port Chicago to clear away debris and search for what could be found of bodies.

The search for bodies was grim work. One survivor¹ recalled the experience: "I was there the next morning. We went back to the dock. Man, it was awful; that was a sight. You'd see a shoe with a foot in it, and then you would remember how you'd joked about who was gonna be the first one out of the hold. You'd see a head floating across the water -- just the head, or an arm. Bodies... just awful. A piece of the ship the size of a table went into the concrete where the officers lived. We couldn't move it. That was quite an experience the next day. That thing kept you from sleeping at night. You had buddies of yours that left your division and were transferred to the division that worked on the ship that night. Then again this is just one of those tragedies of war. I'm saying that now. But it wasn't that way then -- it was awful."

Some 200 of the surviving enlisted men volunteered to remain at the base and help with the clean-up operation.

Three days after the disaster Captain Kinne issued a

"I remember being interviewed by an officer from Port Chicago who said he was my

friend and all this kind of thing," another man ^{Jack ConHendon} recalled.

"He said, 'Jack, I'm here to help you. You're in trouble and I'm here to help you.' I said 'Yeah, it looks like I'm in trouble -- I got a big 'P' on me.' He said, 'Tell me what happened on the barge.' I said, 'Lieutenant, I don't know what went on on the barge. I was a scared jack rabbit on the barge.' He said, 'Now Jack you know what went on on that barge.' Well, we had this fellow, X,

in our division -- an unintelligent country boy who would try to please anyone, say anything they wanted, if they claimed to be his friend. Linton was questioned before me. So the lieutenant told me, 'Jack, you're not being very cooperative.

X told me you spoke at the meeting, and that you were one of the guards.' 'Me?' I said, 'Not me. I was too scared to move. I thought certain that any minute the Marines were gonna call me out and shoot me.' I'm just telling the lieutenant this because I know damn well that he wasn't my friend. He was wearing a uniform and he was a lieutenant in the Navy. I was wearing a 'P' and I was a prisoner. He wasn't there to help me. So I wasn't cooperative, I didn't say the things he wanted to hear. That made the marine guard so mad I thought he was going to beat me up when I came out of there."

Another man, who described himself as coming "out of a gang oriented situation in Chicago," said that he refused to name the so-called leaders in the ~~any more~~ belief that if no one was named then all would be released,

simply fell into apathy, feeling that nothing could be done about their grievances. As one man put it: "We knew the situation shouldn't have been that way but it appeared that it was out of our reach." "There were a lot of complaints," said another, "but we were powerless to do anything about this."

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE WAR

The enlisted men's attitudes toward the war effort ranged from patriotism to indifference. The men's patriotism was often tied to their hopes of improving the situation of blacks in the U.S. One survivor, who volunteered for the Navy, said that he wanted to "get in there and help to prosecute the war." He added that he hoped to have a "hand in making this a better place for blacks to live in this country." He felt that many enlisted men were disappointed at being denied the "privilege" of combat duty. "We came to fight, let us fight," was their attitude, he said.

A variation of this theme was reflected by another survivor, ^{Jack Conner} a draftee, who recalled a patriotic oration he delivered at his high school graduation: "Remember Pearl Harbor. It was Dorie Miller* who was not trained to fight but picked up a gun and fought for his

*Dorie Miller, a black Navy mess attendant, was one of the first heroes of the War. During the attack on Pearl Harbor, Miller manned a machine gun on the WEST VIRGINIA and shot down four enemy planes. He was later awarded the Navy Cross for bravery.

country. He proved himself capable. And when more black men are given the opportunity to serve their country they will prove themselves worthy of the trust placed in them. Give them a chance! Let previous condition of servitude be no hold back. A man is still a man! All our men are facing the same enemy under the same flag. America owes it to them to see that they come back to the same opportunity."

Another man, who was initially assigned as a mess attendant aboard a yard mine sweeper, voiced dissatisfaction with the Navy's earlier common practice of assigning black men to the Steward's Branch. "When I come to fight," he said, "I don't want to come fighting with pots and pans." Subsequently he requested a transfer to Great Lakes where he went to gunnery school and then, to his dismay, he ended up at Port Chicago loading ammunition.

For many of the men the war was remote, both physically and psychologically. "It wasn't discussed," one man said. "We weren't concerned about it. I mean, I wasn't. I knew that my job supported the war, but this was what I was expected to do in my job. It was my job and I did it. If the Japanese and the Americans got in trouble over in Iwo Jima or Okinawa or somewhere, we knew about it but we weren't concerned. I had no brothers over there; I had no close friends over there. We were more concerned about our own little clique, working, and not being punished for not doing enough work. We were just loading ammunition. My concern with

RELEASE

I, Cyril Sheppard, hereby grant permission to Robert L. Allen to attribute the following quotations to me in his manuscript on the Port Chicago disaster:

On Page 59 of the manuscript, line 5, a quotation beginning with the words "I didn't have any choice...." and ending with the words "I didn't want to be in it."

On Page 101 of the manuscript, Line 4, a quotation beginning with the words "I was sitting...." and ending on Page 102 with the words "I didn't even see any smoke."

Signed: Cyril Sheppard
(Cyril Sheppard)

Date: 9-27-86

212 234-3905

1010 Ashbury Street #8
San Francisco, CA 94117
September 17, 1986

Mr. Cyril Sheppard
171 West 133rd Street #1R
New York, NY

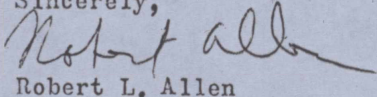
Dear Mr. Sheppard:

You may recall that in 1977 I interviewed you for some research I was doing on the Port Chicago explosion and its aftermath. Over the years I have continued my research, locating and interviewing nine other men -- including Joe Small -- who were there with you. I have just completed a book-length manuscript which tells the story of the explosion and the so-called "mutiny" from the point of view of the black enlisted sailors who worked at Port Chicago. My hope is that this book will help set the record straight as to what really happened at Port Chicago.

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Thank you for your help. As a token of my appreciation I will send you a copy of the book when it is published.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Allen

Copy of J have sent
3/15/85

C/o Candy Store

212 234-3945

Call
3/18/82
w/ 1000 800

neither one of us answered. He just grabbed a stamp and went bam. He looked at it and then said, 'All right, move out soldier.' My buddy happened to be ahead of me and so he got the Army, and I got the Navy."

"I didn't have any choice," another draftee, *Cyral Shepard*, remembered. "I wanted to go in the Army. I think it was about thirteen of us that went down to the induction center at the same time and all of us was running right behind one another -- we were all trying to stay close so we could be together. No two went to the same place. When they got to me they just sent me over to the Navy office there and the next thing I know I'm in the Navy. I didn't want to be in it."

Another draftee selected the Navy as the lesser evil. "They told me I had a choice between the Marine Corps and the Navy. The man said, 'Hey, we'll take a skinny guy like you, fatten you up and make a fine Marine out of you. And remember, the Marines are the first to land, they'll make history right away.' I said, 'First to land?' He said, 'Yeah.' So I said 'Where's the Navy?' And that's how I came by the Navy."

Some of the draftees did indeed want to be in the Navy -- the Navy was their first choice. But as one man explained, there was really little chance for draftees to determine which branch of the service they were sent into: "The branch that needed you the most at the time, that's

THE EXPLOSION

In the enlisted men's barracks it was quiet; many men were in their bunks. Shortly after 10:18 disaster struck.

Cyril Sheppard
One man described what happened in the next moments: "I was sitting on the toilet -- I was reading a letter from home. Suddenly there were two explosions. The first one knocked me clean off... I found myself flying toward the wall. I just threw my hands up like this, then I hit the wall. Then the next one came right behind that, Phoom! Knocked me back on the other side. Men were screaming, the lights went out and glass was flying all over the place. I got out to the door. Everybody was... that thing had... the whole building was turned around, caving in. We were a mile and a half away from the ships. And so the first thing that came to my mind, I said, 'Jesus Christ, the Japs have hit!' I could have sworn they were out there pounding us with warships or bombing us or something. But one of the officers was shouting, 'It's the ships! It's the ships!' So we jumped in one of the trucks and we said let's go down there, see if we can help. We got halfway down there on the truck and stopped. Guys were shouting at the driver from the back of the truck, 'Go on down. What the hell are you staying up here for?' The driver says, 'Can't go no farther.' See, there wasn't no more docks. Wasn't no railroad. Wasn't no

ships. And the water just came right up to... all the way back. The driver couldn't go no farther. Just as calm and peaceful. I didn't even see any smoke."

Lying in his bunk, Joe Small was not yet asleep when he heard both explosions: "I didn't know what the first one was -- and the second one just disintegrated the barracks. It picked me up off the bunk -- I was holding onto my mattress -- and flipped me over. I hit the floor with the mattress on top of me. That's why I escaped injury. The glass and debris that fell hit the mattress rather than me. I got one minor cut.

"Other fellows were cut and bleeding all over the place. I helped some of the men that were injured. One fellow's feet were bleeding and I gave him my shoes. Another fellow had a cut all the way down his arm and I put a tourniquet on it to try to stop the bleeding. There were no medics around; it was chaos."

Another man, who was scheduled to do guard duty that night, had just walked into the administration building: "I'm over there with the petty officer, sitting there in the window, telling him my name and all that. Then this damned thing happened. talk about light travelling faster than sound.... Well, the first thing was this great big flash, and something must have hit me. I found myself outside of that building and I don't remember going out of no window or

2 12

~~281-6066~~

281-6066

← broken Don Sheppard

212 234-3095 3905

1010 Ashbury Street #3
San Francisco, CA 94117
August 22, 1986

Mr. Cyril Sheppard
158 West 132nd Street
New York, NY 10027

Dear Mr. Sheppard:

You may recall that in 1977 I interviewed you for some research I was doing on the Port Chicago explosion and its aftermath. Over the years I have continued my research, locating and interviewing nine other men -- including Joe Small -- who were there with you. I have just completed a book-length manuscript which tells the story of the explosion and so-called "mutiny" from the point of view of the black enlisted sailors who worked at Port Chicago. My hope is that this book will help set the record straight as to what really happened at Port Chicago.

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Thank you for your help. As a token of my appreciation I will send you a copy of the book when it is finished.

published

Sincerely,

Robert L. Allen

yellow

STRATHMORE WRITING

25% COTTON FIBER USA

Called Jack

Crittenden again

12/4/86

9:10 pm

205 284-0775

He said he was ill
in bed and had not been
able to return home. He
said I had his permission
to use his name with
his guitar in the Port
Chicago book.

H.G.

RELEASE

I, Cyril Sheppard, hereby grant permission to Robert L. Allen to attribute the following quotations to me in his manuscript on the Port Chicago disaster:

On Page 59 of the manuscript, line 5, a quotation beginning with the words "I didn't have any choice...." and ending with the words "I didn't want to be in it."

On Page 101 of the manuscript, Line 4, a quotation beginning with the words "I was sitting...." and ending on Page 102 with the words "I didn't even see any smoke."

Signed: Cyril Sheppard
(Cyril Sheppard)

Date: 10-1-86

213 291-1000

1010 Ashbury Street #3
San Francisco, CA 94117
August 22, 1986

Mr. Martin Bordenave
5017 Onaknoll Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90043

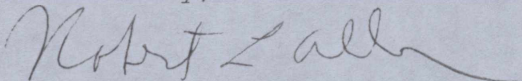
Dear Mr. Bordenave:

You may recall that in 1980 I interviewed you for some research I was doing on the Port Chicago explosion and its aftermath. Over the years I have continued my research, locating and interviewing eight other men -- including Joe Small -- who were there with you. I have just completed a book-length manuscript which tells the story of the explosion and so-called "mutiny" from the point of view of the black enlisted sailors who worked at Port Chicago. My hope is that this book will help set the record straight as to what really happened at Port Chicago.

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Thank you for your help. As a token of my appreciation I will send you a copy of the book when it is published.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Allen

copy of book
sent 3/15/89

RELEASE

I, Martin Bordenave, hereby grant permission to Robert L. Allen to attribute the following quotations to me in his book on the Port Chicago disaster:

On Page 60, Line 12, of the manuscript the words "Another man" will be replaced with the words "Martin Bordenave"

On Page 125, Lines 17-18, the words "one man" will be replaced with the words "Martin Bordenave."

Signed: Martin Bordenave
(Martin Bordenave)

Date: Sept 16 - 1986

where you were sent."

Some volunteers also found themselves in the Navy quite by accident. "I was going to volunteer for the Army," one Port Chicago survivor recounted. "I wanted to get into the Army cavalry. But on the day I went down to volunteer, the Army recruiting office was closed. I guess they closed at 5 p.m. and my father and I got there shortly after five. I peered around the corner and the Navy office was standing wide open. I shouted to the guy down there, 'Will the Army open up any more today?' He waved to me and said 'Come on down here.' And I did."

Martin Borden
Another man volunteered for the Navy in 1942 when he was only sixteen years old. He wanted to follow in the footsteps of his four older brothers who had all enlisted in the Navy. He managed to get in, and the fact that he was underage was not discovered for seven months -- whereupon he was promptly discharged. He re-enlisted in 1944.

Most of these young draftees and enlistees were from the rural areas and towns of the South, or from the northern cities. Most were in their teens or early twenties. Some were high school graduates and a very few had attended college. All were sent to the U.S. Naval Training Center at Great Lakes, Illinois.

GREAT LAKES TRAINING CENTER

Located on a sprawling facility near Lake Michigan and

At some point several men approached Small, who was a kind of informal leader and highly respected by the others. They asked him what he intended to do. Small made it plain that he did not intend to go back to loading ammunition. Some also approached another man who was considered knowledgeable, with the same question. He responded that he didn't care what anyone else did, but he wasn't going back to loading. Other men also expressed their opposition to returning to loading ammunition. Gradually the notion of a collective work stoppage -- a strike if you will -- began to take shape. Indeed, some in the group came to believe that if all or the overwhelming majority of the enlisted men refused to handle ammunition then the Navy would be compelled to change the working conditions or transfer the men to other stations.

Significantly, not everyone who was to join the work stoppage participated in these early discussions. One ~~man~~ ^{was} ~~man~~ ^{man} had been injured in the explosion and hospitalized for some days afterwards. By the time he was released he had already decided not to return to work: "I didn't talk to nobody. I didn't conspire with nobody. I just made up my mind I was tired of it. I wanted to be a sailor."

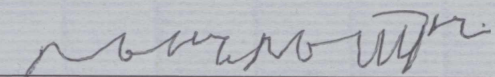
Someone came up with the idea of drawing up a petition, a list of all the men who were unwilling to continue handling ammunition and wanted a transfer of duty. Some 50 or 60 men

RELEASE

I, Robert Routh, hereby grant permission to Robert L. Allen to attribute the following quotations to me in his book on the Port Chicago disaster:

On Page 60, Line 3, a quotation beginning with the words "I was going to..." and ending with the words "And I did."

On Page 103, Line 17, a quotation beginning with the words "When taps was..." and ending on Page 104 with the words "leave me completely."

Signed: 

(Robert Routh)

Date: Sept 2, 1986



Robert
Kutner, Jr.

Sept 2, 1986

Dear Mr. Allen,

Would it be too much of an imposition to ask for a few more of those magazines or send me the subscription information.

On page 104, line 8 my wife says that the fluid should be viscous
retroous rather than introic.

It is a pleasure hearing from you and I am looking forward to the book. You may quote me as freely as you like. I would like to have your phone number so that we can keep in touch.

Bob Spent L/CP



Robert
Rum, Jr.

Sept 2, 1986

Dear Mr. Allen,

Would it be too much of an imposition to ask for a few more of those magazines or send me the subscription information.

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Bob Rum, Jr.

213 733-3269

1010 Ashbury St. #3
San Francisco, CA 94117
September 9, 1986

Mr. Robert Routh, Jr.
3605 Country Club Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90019

Dear Mr. Routh:

Thank you so much for permission to quote you in my book on Port Chicago. I will make the correction in the text pointed out by Mrs. Routh.

The magazine issue you wanted is out of print, but I have enclosed a copy of that article. Please feel free to make as many copies as you may need for your use.

My phone number at home is 415 566-2346 and my work number is 707 895-3681.

I will keep you posted on developments with the book.

Sincerely,

Robert
Robert Allen

Copy of book sent 3/15/89

1010 Ashbury Street #3
San Francisco, CA 94117
August 22, 1986

Mr. Robert Routh
3605 Country Club Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90019

Dear Mr. Routh:

You may recall that in 197⁸⁰ I interviewed you for some research I was doing on the Port Chicago explosion and its aftermath. Over the years I have continued my research, locating and interviewing eight other men -- including Joe Small -- who were there with you. I have just completed a book-length manuscript which tells the story of the explosion and so-called "mutiny" from the point of view of the black enlisted sailors who worked at Port Chicago. My hope is that this book will help set the record straight as to what really happened at Port Chicago.

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Sincerely,

Robert L. Allen

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GREAT LAKES TRAINING CENTER

Located on a sprawling facility near Lake Michigan and

climbing out of it. But I was outside and with only one little scar on my arm. You're talking about torn up. Everybody felt at that point that it was another Pearl Harbor -- not that the ships had blown up, because you didn't think about that at that point, because of the building that you had been in and the barracks and all that -- caved in, windows busted out, blown out and all that kind of thing. People running and hollering. You know a bunch of guys were sleeping in the barracks. The barracks had a lot of windows, lower and upper deck, whole side was windows. And they were blown to pieces. Some guys lost their sight; others were badly cut. Finally they got the emergency lights together. Then some guys came by in a truck and we went down to the dock, but when we got there we didn't see no dock, no ship, no nothing."

Robert R. Ruth

One man who was blinded by the explosion described what happened: "When taps was sounding that evening I put my writing gear away and went to wash up and put on my Noxema -- being a teenager I had some of those blemishes on my face. I came back and I was lying on my bunk. It would usually take about 20 minutes to quiet the men down after lights out. And shortly after, probably 10:20 p.m., there was this tremendous explosive sound. I was looking to my right, I had my head pillowed on my arm looking away from the explosion. I quickly jumped up to look and see what was going on and there

was a second explosion -- all these tremendous beautiful flashes in the sky. That's when the flying glass hit my face and entered my eyes. It did it in such a strange way, inasmuch as I never felt any pain from it. It lacerated the left eye so badly that it was removed that night. The right eye had a laceration, just one laceration in the eye itself that traveled across part of the pupil and cornea allowing the vitriolic fluid to drain, which left me with split vision in that eye. They were able to put a suture in there. Of course, sutures leave permanent scar tissue, and the scar tissue eventually caused the sight to leave me completely."

Captain Kinne was in his room at the BOQ when the explosion occurred: "I was sitting there reading when the first blast went off. The first blast impressed me more as the slamming of an enormous door. At any rate, it jarred me out of my chair or I jumped up, and started for the door. The lights, of course, had gone off, and before I got to the door I turned around and felt my way into my bedroom to find a flashlight. A second blast went off while I was going into the bedroom. The flashlight was missing, I started out through the door again and fell down through a hole made by a five-inch low order which was next morning found in an upholstered chair in the BOQ. I then made my way down the stairs, which faced toward Port Chicago. I noticed a fire burning out in the vicinity of the railroad tracks in Port Chicago.

RELEASE

I, Percy Robinson, hereby grant permission to Robert L. Allen to attribute the following quotation to me in his book on the Port Chicago disaster:

On Page 64, Line 11, a quotation beginning with the words "This is where..." and ending with the words "racial prejudice in the Navy."

Signed:

Percy Robinson
(Percy Robinson)

Date:

9/20/86

MR. PERCY ROBINSON
7626 S. LA SALLE AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90047



MADD

1010 Ashbury Street #3
San Francisco, CA 94117
August 22, 1986

Mr. Percy Robinson
7626⁵ La Salle Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90047

Dear Mr. Robinson:

You may recall that in 1980 I interviewed you for some research I was doing on the Port Chicago explosion and its aftermath. Over the years I have continued my research, locating and interviewing eight other men -- including Joe Small -- who were there with you. I have just completed a book-length manuscript which tells the story of the explosion and so-called "mutiny" from the point of view of the black enlisted sailors who worked at Port Chicago. My hope is that this book will help set the record straight as to what really happened at Port Chicago.

In the text of my manuscript I quote from the interview I did with you. At present the quotation is anonymous -- your name is not used as per our original agreement. However, I think it will make the story more believable to readers if at least some of the quotations are attributed to the men who actually said them. Joe Small, for example, has agreed that I can use his name throughout the book. I have enclosed a Page from the manuscript with a quotation from your interview, with your name pencilled in where I propose to use it. If this is agreeable to you, please sign and return the enclosed release. If not, I will leave the quotation anonymous as it is.

Thank you for your help. As a token of my appreciation I will send you a copy of the book when it is published.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Allen

*copy of book sent
3/15/89*

program in which the recruits participated, including swimming and rowing. There was no training in ammunition handling.

Most of the young recruits arrived at Great Lakes full of curiosity and enthusiasm. Most of them also expected to be trained to go to sea, to become sailors. But this expectation was not to be met for the vast majority of the early recruits.

Moreover, some of the northern recruits were immediately disillusioned by the practice of segregation at Great Lakes. "This was where I first ran into discrimination," recalled one man who grew up in Chicago. *Percy Robinson* "When we went to eat, they had a big white house out there where we went. There was two lines. Obviously you stood in one line because all your friends was in this line. So you look around there and there's another line over there that's all white. They were going to eat upstairs on the main floor. All the blacks were going downstairs. It dawned on me that these people were discriminating against me. You see, I grew up in the black belt of Chicago where I wasn't affected by it as much. This was my first experience of racial prejudice in the Navy."

After completion of their basic training the men were shipped out for regular duty. Most would be shipped to

MARIE BROWN ASSOCIATES

LITERARY SERVICES

#####

July 21, 1986

Robert Allen
Wild Trees Press
Post office Box 378
Navarro, California 95463

Dear Robert;

I have completed my reading of REMEMBER PORT CHICAGO? and find that I am very impressed with your telling of this story. Perhaps, what is most satisfying in the reading of this work is that you have given the men a real sense of humanity and that this was not just an incident involving a mass of casualties during war time but these were people. Certainly Joseph Small's recollections and writings makes that point even more poignant.

As I mentioned to you during our last telephone conversations, I wanted to share with you some of my initial editorial responses. In many instances these were questions that came to mind while I was reading the manuscript. A few of the others (comments) have to do with form and style.

In the final version to be submitted to publishers, I think that all references to the work as a dissertation should be deleted. Also, the use of the phrase "according to my informants" and likewise, "according to my respondents" should be limited to only when absolutely necessary. After a while, it becomes too repetitive and slows down the "telling of the story".

*hand
study*

A bit more information on blacks in the navy and what was happening in black America as you have done to some extent on pages 67 thru 70 would add more background "color" to the story.

✓ P.56---lines 4 and 5 --Give specific numbers if possible. Military buffs appreciate that kind of detail.

U p. 57--58--Set apart in text memorandum from Captain Milton Davis

Was Naval Magazine defined earlier in the ms? I may have missed it. If not, then it should be defined or described.

✓ P. 61---Problems and pressures---"scanty training of any type"--can this be described in a bit more detail/ Examples?

two.

MARIE BROWN ASSOCIATES

LITERARY SERVICES

#####

- ✓ P. 63---By 1942, "as noted earlier"---delete as noted earlier.
- ✓ P. 70/71---Overuse of the words "would," "would be," "could be."
- ✓ p. 72--Can this footnote be somehow incorporated into the body of the narrative for "color"
- ✓ P. 77--last line--Can this be re-written so that the point can be made more directly?
- ✓ p.80--delete I mean in the first sentence
- Page 118---Chaplain's statement is repeated
- ✓ P. 143--Is it possible to get more of courtroom atmosphere, description, does Smalls recall his "feelings" during the trial and what was going on in the courtroom?
- ✓ P. 144--last line--delete "told me" and substitute another phrase.
- ✓ p.162/163--Is all of this personal info on the minister necessary to the telling of the story. It may be libelous.

Somehow, I think that much of the narrative analytical material included now in the appendices can be moved forward into the body of the book. It will require some editing and of course, reorganization but I think that it will contribute to the appeal of the book in the trade as well as in specialized markets.

Finally, I would like to suggest that you think about reorganizing somewhat--pages 165 thru 169., ending this chapter with Smalls statement beginning on page 165, "I don't find nothing wrong....." and ending with.....and I still think that out of the three military branches the Navy's the best." The material that follows can be integrated into the section in the early part of the chapter where Smalls is discussing his life since the navy.

Okay, Robert, Do you think that I got too carried away? Usually, I really don't get this involved on a first reading but this is so good.....

Do be in touch and let me know what you think. I will be out of town until the 30th. Take care. All the best to you and Alice.

Sincerely,

Alice

B.S. Pls. excuse typos.

Dear Robert--

I very much enjoyed Remember Port Chicago? I loved the way you managed to capture and maintain the drama involved in an event where I already knew the outcome. The real sense of being there and reliving the build up to the explosion and the explosion itself, the trial etc.

The only real problem I had was all of the dissertation like stuff that was required to indicate that you had done the research and set it in the proper methodological framework. Since the story and what you do with it stands so well on it's own, I found a lot of that got in the way.

The other comments are more in the way of questions, having I suspect to do with the fact of being female and not knowing much about the military from direct knowledge or experience. So in places I found myself wondering how typical this was of the general conditions for Black soldiers. Were the Navy officers in charge of Black troops, like the Army officers--who I understand were very often white Southerners??

I also wondered, and maybe I missed it--what was happening generally amongst Black People during the period. For instance, was the NAACP's efforts to quickly mobilize such mass activity an indication of general ferment.

And finally, is it possible to upgrade some of the Appendix info into footnotes in the general text where relevant. Again the heavy social psychological emphasis, I had a tendency to want to skip over.

Oh, one more finally, I wished that you and not Small had had the final word, in the body of the book. Maybe some of Appendix II can allow for some of that.

I loved the references and integration of your father, I loved Joe Small's dream and the interpretation and I loved the way the origin of the pamphlet was revealed.

I REALLY ENJOYED THE BOOK AND WILL BE HAPPY WHEN IT'S PUBLISHED!!!

Love
Bob (vi)

August 8, 1986

Mr. Jim Erbe
Reuben Cannon Associates
2020 Avenue of the Stars, 4th Flr.
Los Angeles, CA 90067

Dear Mr. Erbe:

As per our telephone conversation on August 5th I have enclosed a copy of my manuscript on the Port Chicago incident. If you have any questions about this material please feel free to call me in San Francisco at (415) 566-2346 or here at (707) 895-3681.

My agent is Marie Brown, 412 West 154th Street, New York, NY 10032; phone (212) 690-7613.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Allen

cc: Marie Brown

Classic Letter

PETER VOGEL
3831 East Camelback Road, Apt. 218
Phoenix, AZ 85018
(602) 224-0869

July 31, 1986

Robert L. Allen
1010 Ashbury St. #3
San Francisco, CA 94117

Dear Robert:

Since speaking with you last I have been in contact with a group of people in L.A. seeking original material for possible development as a movie for television or theater release.

They've expressed an interest in the Port Chicago material; I am reluctant to pick up the tomahawk again -- too much trouble over too many years already, and without having made allies or friends is like stale. Old injun saying, "Lone wolf good for nothing but howling at the moon."

Unless something real is coming my way, I'm not going to be interested, but you might be; your material is controversial enough to get people interested, and it's a good story which doesn't attack basic historical truths.

If you want to find out more, call Jim Erbe at (213) 557-6042. He's associated with some people who did the casting for "A Soldier's Story," "The Color Purple," and "Jo Jo Dancer."

Best,

Peter

Peter

Reuben Cannon Assembly
2020 Ave of the Stars 4D Al
LA 90067

212 690-7613

July 7, 1986

Ms. Marie Brown
Literary Agent
412 West 154th Street, #2
New York, NY 10032

Dear Marie,

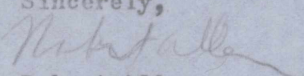
It was wonderful to talk with you today, and I'm so glad that you are interested in handling the Port Chicago project.

I think this book will appeal to people who bought Studs Terkel's book, THE GOOD WAR (in fact, one of my informants, Joe Small, was interviewed in that book). It will also interest readers of books such as BLOODS: Blacks in Vietnam. There are other World War II books with which it can be compared such as BLACK AMERICANS IN WORLD WAR II (Russell Buchanan), or THE DERELICTS OF COMPANY K (Tomatsu Shibutani; an account of Japanese-American soldiers), or THE AFRO-AMERICAN AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR (Neil Wynn). The Port Chicago explosion was the worst home-front disaster of World War II, and the mutiny trial the followed it was the largest mass mutiny trial in the history of the U.S. Navy. This is the first account of these events told from the point of view of the men who experienced them most intimately, the black enlisted men who were ammunition loaders at Port Chicago. I think it will appeal to general readers as well as World War II buffs and those with an interest in black history. I have a collection of photographs and maps that can be included with the finished text.

It also has film potential. Robert Hooks, the actor who now has his own production company, contacted me late last year about the possibility of doing a made-for-TV movie of the Port Chicago story.

Please let me know what you think can be done with it. (And please ignore the many typos in the text; am correcting these now.)

Sincerely,


Robert Allen

Phones: 415 566-2346 (San Francisco)
707 895-8681 (Mendocino)

212 690-7613

July 7, 1986

Ms. Marie Brown
Literary Agent
418 West 154th Street, #2
New York, NY 10032

Dear Marie,

It was wonderful to talk with you today, and I'm so glad that you are interested in handling the Port Chicago project.

I think this book will appeal to people who bought Studs Terkel's book, *THE GOOD WAR* (in fact, one of my informants, Joe Hall, was interviewed in that book). It will also interest readers of books such as *BLOODS: Blacks in Vietnam*. There are other World War II books with which it can be compared such as *BLACK AMERICANS IN WORLD WAR II* (Russell Buchanan), or *THE UNBELIEVERS OF COMPANY K* (Toratsugu Shibutani; an account of Japanese-American soldiers), or *THE AMERICAN SOLDIER AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR* (Neil Wynn). The Port Chicago explosion was the worst home-front disaster of World War II, and the mutiny trial that followed it was the largest mass mutiny trial in the history of the U.S. Navy. This is the first account of these events told from the point of view of the men who experienced them most intimately, the black enlisted men who were ammunition loaders at Port Chicago. I think it will appeal to general readers as well as World War II buffs and those with an interest in black history. I have a collection of photographs and maps that can be included with the finished text.

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Please let me know what you think can be done with it. (And please ignore the many typos in the text; am correcting these now.)

Sincerely,


Robert Allen

Phones: 415 566-2346 (San Francisco)
707 825-3681 (Mendocino)

1010 Ashbury St., #3
San Francisco, CA 94117
May 28, 1986

Michael Larsen
Elizabeth Pomada
1029 Jones Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

Dear Mr. Larsen and Ms. Pomada:

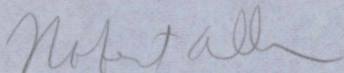
I am writing to request your advice and representation concerning a manuscript I have just completed.

THE PORT CHICAGO STORY (working title) tells the story of the worst home-front disaster of World War II and the mutiny that followed it. (See Prologue chapter enclosed.) I have spent several years collecting official documents pertaining to these events and interviewing survivors, especially from among the men accused of mutiny. The result is a draft of 169 pages which includes extensive eyewitness accounts. I also have many B&W photos, maps and diagrams that could accompany the text.

Howard University Press has expressed an interest in publishing the book, and Robert Hooks, the actor who now has his own production company, has contacted me about the possibility of doing a made-for-TV movie of the Port Chicago story. The situation with Howard University Press is somewhat unclear. I have published one book with them, and subsequently they contracted with me to do a second book. An advance was paid, but I never completed the book. Later I asked if they would consider substituting the Port Chicago book and they agreed, but no new contract was issued. Now I am not certain that a university press would be the best placement for this book. In any case, I think that I need professional advice in determining how to proceed in developing this project.

I would be pleased to send you a copy of the manuscript draft, if you wish. I am also available to discuss the matter. I can be reached at 566-2346 (h) or 707 895-3681 (w). I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Robert L. Allen

PROLOGUE

During World War II a U.S. Naval Ammunition Magazine located on the Suisun Bay at Port Chicago, California, was the most important facility for shipping munitions to U.S. armed forces in the Pacific. On the night of July 17, 1944, two transport vessels were loading ammunition at the base. Witnesses said that suddenly there was a small blast followed quickly by a gigantic explosion. The incredible blast destroyed the two ships and the loading pier, wrecked the naval base, and heavily damaged the small town of Port Chicago, located 1 1/2 miles away. Some 320 American sailors were killed instantly by the explosion. In addition, several hundred military personnel and civilians were injured, and millions of dollars in property damage was caused by the huge blast. Windows were shattered in towns 20 miles away, and the glare of the explosion could be seen in San Francisco, some 35 miles distant. It was the worst home-front disaster of World War II. In fact, it was probably the most powerful man-made explosion prior to the atomic bomb detonated over Hiroshima a year later.

Of the Navy personnel who died in the disaster, most -- some 200 ammunition loaders -- were black. Indeed, every individual manually handling ammunition at Port Chicago was black, and every commissioned officer white. This was the standard operating procedure in the racially segregated Navy at that time.

Three weeks after the disaster, 328 of the surviving ammunition loaders were ordered back to work loading ammunition; but 258 of these men refused to work, saying they feared another explosion. All of the refusers were immediately incarcerated and during the next few days naval officers interrogated the resisters and threatened them with being shot. Finally, 50 men were singled out, charged with mutiny, court-martialed, convicted, and given sentences ranging from 8 to 15 years imprisonment.

A letter-writing and petition campaign to gain the release of the men was organized by the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (NAACP LDF) which criticized the severity of the charges and the sentences. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, then a special council for the NAACP LDF, headed up the legal team which appealed the court-martial decision. Finally, after more than a year of public pressure and a biting legal attack by Marshall -- the Navy relented and announced that it would set aside the remainder of the sentences of the "Port Chicago Boys". Subsequently the men were released from prison, but they were all immediately sent overseas for a year of "rehabilitation" before being discharged from the Navy. In effect, they were sent into exile before being allowed to return to their homes and families. Thus ended one of the most dramatic but least known incidents of World War II.

NAME <i>Robert Allen</i>		CO. or DEPT.
ADDRESS <i>1010 Ashbury</i>		
CITY <i>San S.F.</i>	WORK PHONE	HOME PHONE <i>566-2346</i>



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Berkeley, CA 94704

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Instructions	# of Orig	Quantity	Total	Sides	Size	Rate	Cost
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SPECIAL STOCK:			<i>SMOKE GRAY COVER</i>				
Collate yes no							
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Order taken by: **mg** Done by: **mg** Checked by: _____ Cashier: **P.R.**

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Special Binding Instructions:							
3 hole drill yes no							
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customer signature

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ROBERT L. ALLEN

THE PORT CHICAGO MUTINY

The Story of
the Largest
Mass Mutiny
Trial in
U.S. Naval
History



THE MARCOSES,
THE AQUINOS, AND
THE UNFINISHED
REVOLUTION

IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

SANDRA BURTON

C O N N E C T I O N S

THE PORT CHICAGO MUTINY

ROBERT L. ALLEN

The dramatic story of the worst domestic U.S. military disaster of World War II—a tragedy that led to history's largest mass mutiny trial, the Naval cover-up that ensued, and a miscarriage of justice that is still unrectified.

- March
- National print advertising
- National author publicity
- Coop advertising
- 0-446-71004-0/\$19.95 FPT

An Amistad Book

IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

THE MARCOSES, THE AQUINOS, AND THE UNFINISHED REVOLUTION

SANDRA BURTON

A distinguished *Time* magazine journalist gives an eyewitness account of the Aquino assassination and the Philippine revolution it sparked—and a portrait of the lifelong personal relationships and rivalries of the Marcoses and Aquinos, based on interviews with all four principals.

- March
- Publicity campaign
- Coop advertising
- 0-446-51398-9/\$24.95 FPT

Warner Books ad. PW 1/13/89

fyi (3) mdp

these matters. Illustrations not seen by PW. (Mar.)

NURTURE: Poems

Maxine Kumin. Viking, \$17.95 ISBN 0-670-82438-0

In her ninth volume of poetry, Kumin warns of impending eco-catastrophe and summons up nurturing, conservationist instincts that might yet save us. She observes the rituals of Antarctic birds, warns reindeer against eating radioactive wastes and pens heart-breaking lyrics on the endangered manatee, trumpeter swan, white fox. Occasional and autobiographical poems in this collection carry over the theme of our disrupted relationship with nature. Kumin pays homage to vegetarian George Bernard Shaw and to Georgia O'Keeffe. Alert, conversational, ever-questioning, she muses on a Cape Canaveral shuttle launch, middle age, the possibility of an afterlife, the technology that may destroy us. In travelogue-poems she searches for her roots in Salzburg, Austria, "for some thin line of comfort that binds us." One long, notably candid piece, "Marianne, My Mother, and Me," traces changes in America's mindset over seven decades through the intertwined destinies of poet Marianne Moore and Kumin's mother. (Mar.)

THE VOCATION OF A TEACHER:

Rhetorical Occasions 1967-1988

Wayne C. Booth. Univ. of Chicago, \$19.95 ISBN 0-226-06582-0

The art and the craft of teaching, particularly as viewed from the aspect of the teacher of English, are examined from many angles and positions in this eloquent collection of articles and speeches by a professor of English at the University of Chicago. Booth, who has written extensively on the subject, pursues the thesis that the "calling of a teacher and the calling of a rhetorician" are almost identical. From the rich, 40 years' experience of his vocation, and taking due cognizance of recent challenges that liberal arts education is in serious disarray, Booth speaks to teachers and students. He places rhetoric—the arts of reading, writing, speaking and thinking—at the center of English teaching, inseparable from good writing and speaking. Demonstrating the uses of rhetorical strategies in teaching, Booth is not unaware of the diverse populations that educators on all levels face. This collection illuminates the disparaged word "rhetoric." (Mar.)

THE VOICE OF LIBERAL

LEARNING: Michael Oakeshott on Education

Edited by Timothy Fuller. Yale Univ. Press, \$20 ISBN 0-300-04344-9

This collection of the major writings of

Oakeshott, a leading British political philosopher of this century, emphasizes the distinctive features of his educational philosophy. Quick solutions, cultural checklists, great books canons, such as advocated by prominent contemporary educational reformers, are not among his recommendations. Instead, as noted in the informative introduction by Fuller, political scientist at Colorado College, Oakeshott concentrates on "the elusive features inherent in good teaching and learning without obscuring the great variability in manners of teaching which defy generalization." "Conversation," as it is experienced in liberal learning, is the alternative vision Oakeshott offers. The educational reflections of a modern philosopher, whose exemplar is Socrates, are anchored in his own happy schooldays and presented in his lucid contributions to the philosophy of education. (Mar.)

THE PORT CHICAGO MUTINY

Robert L. Allen. Warner, \$19.95 ISBN 0-446-71004-0

One of the most egregious examples of racial discrimination and persecution in the U.S. military was the so-called mutiny at Port Chicago, Calif., in 1944. On July 17 at the naval ammunition depot there, an explosion rocked the area, killing 320 and injuring 390; most of the dead and injured were black Navy men who, in the segregated armed forces of the time, worked as stevedores loading explosives aboard ships, with no hope of transfer or advancement. After the blast, 258 enlisted men voiced either reluctance or refusal to return to their duties; 208 were court-martialed and 50 were found guilty of mutiny and given prison sentences of up to 15 years. Resurrecting the scandal, Allen (*Black Awakening in Capitalist America*) writes a gripping exposé of a shocking injustice. Photos not seen by PW. (Mar.)

APPOINTMENT IN VIENNA:

An American Psychoanalyst Recalls Her Student Days in Pre-War Austria

Esther Menaker. St. Martin's, \$18.95 ISBN 0-312-02542-4

Menaker's deftly written memoir offers a gripping, vitriolic firsthand glimpse of Vienna's psychoanalytic subculture in its heyday. In 1930, the author, then 23, and her husband Bill, 34, both eager Freudian converts, set out from New York to train at Vienna's Psychoanalytic Institute. Menaker retrospectively turns the tables on her analyst, Anna Freud, whom she found belittling, domineering and bluntly insensitive. Her husband's psychoanalysis with Helen Deutsch was equally disappointing. Surrounded by poverty, unemployment, beg-

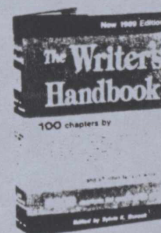
gars and rampant anti-Semitism, Menaker was appalled at her mentors' seeming lack of social or political concern, their noninterest in the way cultural factors impinged on the individual. Author of *Otto Rank*, psychology professor at New York University and a practicing psychotherapist, Menaker believes that the classical therapist-patient relationship is nonreciprocal and tends to make the patient passive and dependent. Her withering profiles of Vienna's Freudian elite reflect her stance. (Mar.)

TARGET: PRIME TIME: Advocacy Groups and Entertainment TV

Kathryn Montgomery. Oxford Univ., \$22.95

Starting with black activists' attempt in 1951 to force CBS-TV to drop *Amos 'n' Andy*, this briskly readable study by a UCLA professor reviews the campaigns of various pressure groups to influence prime-time network entertainment programming. Highlights include a protest by gays of a *Marcus Welby* script; the furor caused by an episode of the sitcom *Maude* in which the pregnant, middle-aged heroine decides to have an abortion; the New Right's drive to "clean up" television; controversy surrounding *Beulah Land* and the nuclear holocaust movie

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