

Bethpage.

A STRANGE LIGHT

To the Editor:

The naming of the Tullahoma camp after Nathan Bedford Forrest sheds a strange light on the nature of a defense program which already excludes Negroes from many of its activities. If one wanted a symbol for the antithesis of democracy, one could find nothing better than the name of General Forrest.

It is well established that many of the soldiers in the Confederate Army were sincere in the belief that they were fighting for their homes. Many of these were working-class people who loathed slavery as cordially as any "Yankee."

It is also well established that the motives of many of the Northern industrialists were certainly not of the purest.

Yet there is no real doubt that the basic issue in the Civil War was abolition of the institution of slavery.

Forrest fought for slavery; Forrest violated a military truce; Forrest murdered prisoners of war; Forrest led the Klan; Forrest was a party to the burning of schools during reconstruction; Forrest conspired against his country.

It is also well known that Governor Peay, for whom the camp was originally named, was no friend of Boss Crump, so that this recent maneuver of the Crump-McKellar-Cooper combination is to be added to their already long list of attacks upon lovers of democracy, white as well as Negro, of the Volunteer State.

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