

CONFIDENTIAL - 291.2 Race, Negro (Army)

Globe-Wernicke

March 8, 1943

MEMORANDUM For Files

Subject: 93rd Division

This Division has been in training at Camp Huachuca for about 10 months. The following is a summary of the impressions of an officer who has served there since it was activated.

A large number of the company officers who were assigned there were R.O.T.C. graduates of Southern colleges. They were apparently chosen alphabetically, without reference to their qualifications for leadership of colored troops. Practically all of these men came to camp with the usual Southern feeling in reference to negroes and resentful of the fact that an effort was being made to train negroes as combat troops. Many of them feel that the Army is unwittingly lending itself to an effort to improve the status of the negro race and that this is part of a scheme being engineered by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt. They openly express their disapproval of any such policy.

These Southern officers, and indeed practically all the officers at the camp, are eager to get relieved from duty and methods to accomplish this is the main subject of conversation among them.

The feeling among the company officers is that there is bad leadership on top. The Regimental Commanders of the three regiments—368th, 369th and the 25th—have not inspired the confidence of the Junior officers. These commanding officers are known among the men by the nicknames of "Lazy", "Hazy" and "Crazy". There are only a handful of white officers who are graduates of O.C.S. and aside from the very few regular officers the balance are R.O.T.C. men with little experience.

Recently, a new Assistant Division Commander (Brig. Gen. Lauer) arrived about February 1st after service at Casablanca. He is the first Senior Officer at the post who has inspired the confidence of Junior Officers. He is the first Senior Officer to come around and visit the Companies and actually gets with troops.

Among the colored officers there are a few who are doing fine work. They are mostly graduates of negro colleges. The balance of them, however, exhibit a total lack of responsibility; are disinterested in their work, are inefficient, lazy, and unable to learn some of the most

MEMORANDUM

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March 8, 1943

elementary things. Most of them do not want to fight and are utterly unable to understand the attitude of those white officers who are eager to get into combat duty.

The spirit of the officer personnel is reflected among the enlisted men. Practically none of them want to fight and most of them would rather be in the guard house or in a labor battalion than on active duty. The caliber of N.C.O is very low and there are not more than two or three in a company who should have this grade. The men as a whole have no pride in the outfit and no real desire to serve. After 10 months of service, as many as a hundred men drop out of a regiment on a 15-mile hike.

The intelligence of the men is indicated by the following figures, showing classification of men in the 369th Infantry:

Class 1	4
Class 2	30
Class 3	105
Class 4	1450
Class 5	The balance - about 1800.

About 550 men in this regiment were discharged for physical reasons shortly after induction.

The weapons and equipment are good. M-1 rifles were issued from the start and an ample quantity of anti-tank 37 mm.'s. A full complement of artillery weapons was available from the start. The ammunition has been good and there has been little difficulty experienced either from shorts or prematures. Other equipment is good also. The food is excellent, plenty of it and generally throughout the camp well cooked.

In spite of the fact that there are the usual recreation facilities at the camp there is no place to go off post. There is a strong desire, both on the parts of officers and enlisted men, to have recreation facilities off the post. The "Prelude to War" picture made a fine impression when it was exhibited, but there are no more of these pictures that have been shown. A special Service Unit has recently been established but has not yet had time to do anything much. Its work is eagerly looked forward to at the camp. A detachment of WAACS is now at the Post and this has had a wholesome effect. They have a field house and dances have been held. The erection of a roller skating rink off the post is in progress. There are good bands in each regiment.

The discipline throughout is extremely loose. There are a large number of AWOL cases, most of which have been tried before special courts. Until recently, there were practically no summary courts held and even now, many more cases are tried by special court than by summary court.

MEMORANDUM

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March 8, 1943

Among the white officers the outstanding question is as to whether the division will ever be able to perform combat service. The feeling is that it will not and that nobody on the staff would dream of sending it to combat duty. The result of this feeling is that the officers and men who do not want to fight are just marking time in a spiritless way and those who do want to fight feel that they are in a blind alley.

Edward S. Greenbaum
Colonel, Ord. Dept.

ESG/mt

*Cy to Col. Edwards
3/8/43*

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

3-10

M. R.

March 8, 1943

MEMORANDUM For Files

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The intelligence of the men is indicated by the following figures, showing classification of men in the 309th Infantry:

Class 1	4
Class 2	30
Class 3	105
Class 4	1450
Class 5	The balance - about 1800.

About 550 men in this regiment were discharged for physical reasons shortly after induction.

The weapons and equipment are good. M-1 rifles were issued from the start and an ample quantity of anti-tank 37 mm.'s. A full complement of artillery weapons was available from the start. The ammunition has been good and there has been little difficulty experienced either from shorts or prematures. Other equipment is good also. The food is excellent, plenty of it and generally throughout the camp well cooked.

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Edward S. Greenbaum
Colonel, Ord. Dept.

*Cy. to Col. Edwards
3/8/43*

Edward S. Greenbaum

Honorable Homer M. Adkins,
Governor of Arkansas,
Little Rock, Arkansas.

My dear Governor Adkins:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of April 29th, reference the use of colored troops for the defense of Army Air Bases.

It is not planned to utilize colored troops for the interior guard or military police of the air fields or for military police purposes in the nearby communities. The Air Forces are now providing Military Police Companies (White) for this purpose. It is believed that this misunderstanding was occasioned by the use of the term "Air Base Defense Unit." Air Base Defense units are for the defense of the Air Base against air attacks, parachute troops, airborne infantry or mob violence. Their functions more nearly correspond to an anti-aircraft unit than to a military police unit. It is not planned that they will do guard duty at the Army Air Fields. Only Military Police Units are now scheduled for that purpose.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON

Robert P. Patterson,
Under Secretary of War.

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MAY 1 1942
WAR DEPARTMENT
SERVICES OF SUPPLY



HOMER M. ADKINS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ARKANSAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LITTLE ROCK

April 29, 1942

Lt. General Brehon Somervell
War Department
Washington, D. C.

My dear General Somervell:

Inclosed please find letter which is self-explanatory.

Please take any action you deem consistent.

With kindest personal regards and very best wishes, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Homer M. Adkins
Homer M. Adkins
Governor

MAY 1 - 1942



WAR DEPARTMENT
COMMANDING GENERAL
SERVICES OF SUPPLY

Incl.

HMA:wc

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April 29, 1942

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Hon. Robert P. Patterson
Under Secretary of War
Washington, D. C.

My dear Judge Patterson:

It has come to my attention that a plan is in the making to use colored troops to guard air fields, airports and civilian aviation training schools.

This matter was discovered at the Southern Governors' Conference at Hot Springs where seven out of the ten southern governors were in attendance and it was the unanimous opinion that this would be a grave mistake. If colored troops are put to guard these properties and young students at these training schools come in contact with them and are required to take orders from the guards, and white people generally are required to present their passes or credentials to them, it is inevitable that serious trouble will result.

We have previously had some colored troops at Camp Robinson and had one very unfortunate incident where serious trouble was narrowly averted and as the result, these troops were moved to another location. I understand now that it is contemplated to have 5,000 colored troops at Camp Robinson in the near future. With our large negro population in greater Little Rock and the fact that there is considerable agitation amongst the negroes by subversive groups and several fiery negro newspapers further agitating the cause for equal rights, etc. this in itself will create a tense situation, much less to use colored troops on guard duty for our airports and flying fields.

We will do the best we can to control the situation insofar as the negro troops are concerned if and when they are located at Camp Robinson by conferring with the better leadership of the negroes, namely, preachers, educators and professional men and try to allay any trouble which might result by reason of their presence.

I want to impress upon you with all of the emphasis at my command that it is dangerous and inadvisable to place negro troops to guard these facilities throughout the south. I want to make a further observation that if negro troops are to be sent to Camp Robinson, please send the southern negroes and not the northern negroes. These should be staffed by white southern officers.

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Page #2

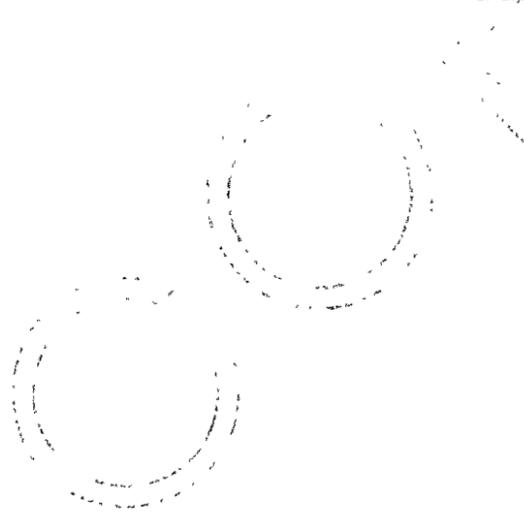
I am not relying upon my own judgment entirely in this matter as I have called together a group of outstanding men of all walks of life from various sections of the state and it is the unanimous opinion of these present that colored troops should not be used as guards at the above named places.

Thanking you to give this your most earnest consideration, and with high personal regards, I am

Respectfully yours,

HOMER M. ADKINS

HMA:dh



CONFIDENTIAL

May 5, 1942

WTK

Honorable W. C. Cuthings
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cuthings:

Your receipt is acknowledged of your letter of May 2nd, reference the use of colored troops for the defense of Army Air Bases.

It is not planned to utilize colored troops for the interior guard or military police of the air fields or for military police purposes in the nearby communities. The Air Forces are not providing Military Police Companies (White) for this purpose. It is believed that this misunderstanding was occasioned by the use of the term "Air Base Defense Unit." Air Base Defense units are for the defense of the Air Base against air attacks, parachute troops, airborne infantry or mob violence. Their functions more nearly correspond to an anti-aircraft unit than to a military police unit. It is not planned that they will do guard duty at the Army Air Fields. Only Military Police Units are now scheduled for that purpose.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON

Robert P. Patterson,
Under Secretary of War.

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*John
WTK*

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May 8, 1942

Honorable W. C. Cathing
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cathing:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of May 2nd, reference the use of colored troops for the defense of Army Air Bases.

It is not planned to utilize colored troops for the interior guard or military police of the air fields or for military police purposes in the nearby communities. The Air Forces are now providing Military Police Companies (White) for this purpose. It is believed that this misunderstanding was occasioned by the use of the term "Air Base Defense Unit." Air Base Defense units are for the defense of the Air Base against air attacks, parachute troops, airborne infantry or mob violence. Their functions more nearly correspond to an anti-aircraft unit than to a military police unit. It is not planned that they will do guard duty at the Army Air Fields. Only Military Police Units are now scheduled for that purpose.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON

Robert P. Patterson,
Under Secretary of War.

Rep' memo

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THINGS
ST. ARKANSAS
COMMITTEE ON
MILITARY AFFAIRS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES U. S.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

GRACE L. BULLA
SECRETARY

EVELYN McELROY
JEANNE HINE
ASSISTANTS

May 2, 1942

MAY 4 42 PM

Hon. Robert P. Patterson
Under Secretary of War
Washington, D. C.



Dear Judge Patterson:

In the past several days it has been brought to my attention that the War Department is considering the use of colored troops as guards for vital areas in Arkansas and other Southern states.

Permit me to join with the officials of the State of Arkansas in their protest of this contemplated action. Past experience with the use of colored troops for this purpose in Arkansas, particularly, has shown that it is not the best plan.

This is especially true where northern negroes are sent into the southern states. The officials of the State of Arkansas are ready and willing to cooperate with the War Department in every way, but feel that unless it is absolutely necessary the colored troops should not be utilized as guards.

I will thank you to give this matter your deep consideration. With assurance of highest esteem, I am

Respectfully yours,

E. C. Gathings
E. C. Gathings

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CONFIDENTIAL

May 8, 1942

WPK

Honorable Wilbur D. Mills
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Mills:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of April 30th, reference the use of colored troops for the defense of Army Air Bases.

It is not planned to utilize colored troops for the interior guard or military police of the air fields or for military police purposes in the nearby communities. The Air Forces are now providing Military Police Companies (White) for this purpose. It is believed that this misunderstanding was occasioned by the use of the term "Air Base Defense Unit." Air Base Defense units are for the defense of the Air Base against air attacks, parachute troops, airborne infantry or mob violence. Their functions more nearly correspond to an anti-aircraft unit than to a military police unit. It is not planned that they will do guard duty at the Army Air Fields. Only Military Police Units are now scheduled for that purpose.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON

Robert P. Patterson,
Under Secretary of War.

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CONFIDENTIAL

J. J. Ash

CONFIDENTIAL

May 8, 1942

Honorable Wilbur D. Mills
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Mills:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of April 30th, reference the use of colored troops for the defense of Army Air bases.

It is not planned to utilize colored troops for the interior guard or military police of the air fields or for military police purposes in the nearby communities. The Air Forces are now providing Military Police Companies (white) for this purpose. It is believed that this misunderstanding was occasioned by the use of the term "Air Base Defense Unit." Air Base Defense units are for the defense of the Air Base against air attacks, parachute troops, airborne infantry or mob violence. Their functions more nearly correspond to an anti-aircraft unit than to a military police unit. It is not planned that they will do guard duty at the Army Air fields. Only Military Police Units are now scheduled for that purpose.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON

Robert P. Patterson,
Under Secretary of War.

as per attached

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MILLS
KANSAS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

April 30, 1942

COMMITTEE ON
BANKING AND CURRENCY
MAY 2 42 PM



MAIL AND RECORDS
WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF
UNDER SECRETARY



WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF
UNDER SECRETARY

Honorable Robert P. Patterson,
Under Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Patterson:

The Governor of my State, The Honorable Homer M. Adkins, has called to my attention that it is possibly the plan of the War Department to use negro troops to guard war facilities in the Southern States. For your information I desire to point out why such action should not be taken by the War Department.

First, it is dangerous to civilian moral to place negro troops in a position of the authority that a guard must have in dealing with the white population that will be employed at such facilities. Second, it is likewise dangerous, from a physical standpoint, to place negro troops in a position where unavoidable arguments may occur.

It is, in my opinion, unjustifiable to attempt, by policy of Government, to radically change conditions that have prevailed for many years and to force individuals to submit, by Government edict, to social arrangements that, in the minds of these individuals, are objectional.

This view is not only shared by the members of the white race in my State and throughout the South but I am certain must be shared by the better leadership among the negroes, namely; the preachers, teachers and professional men.

MILLS
ARKANSAS

COMMITTEE ON
BANKING AND CURRENCY

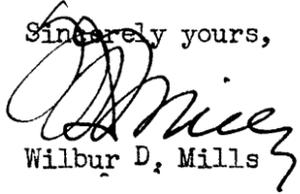
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

- 2 -

It is trusted, in view of the unanimous disapproval of such a plan, that it will not be placed in operation in the Southern States.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration of these recommendations, and with genuine esteem, I am

Sincerely yours,



Wilbur D. Mills

WDM:LL

CONFIDENTIAL

May 8, 1942

WJK

Honorable Paul B. Johnson
Governor of Mississippi
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Governor Johnson:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of April 30th, reference the use of colored troops for the defense of Army Air Bases.

It is not planned to utilize colored troops for the interior guard or military police of the air fields or for military police purposes in the nearby communities. The Air Forces are now providing Military Police Companies (White) for this purpose. It is believed that this misunderstanding was occasioned by the use of the term "Air Base Defense Unit." Air Base Defense units are for the defense of the Air Base against air attacks, parachute troops, airborne infantry or mob violence. Their functions more nearly correspond to an anti-aircraft unit than to a military police unit. It is not planned that they will do guard duty at the Army Air Fields. Only Military Police Units are now scheduled for that purpose.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON

Robert F. Patterson,
Under Secretary of War.

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May 2, 1942

Honorable Paul B. Johnson
Governor of Mississippi
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Governor Johnson:

Your receipt is acknowledged of your letter of April 30th, reference the use of colored troops for the defense of Army Air Bases.

It is not planned to utilize colored troops for the interior guard or military police of the air fields or for military police purposes in the nearby communities. The Air Forces are now providing Military Police Companies (White) for this purpose. It is believed that this misunderstanding was occasioned by the use of the term "Air Base Defense Unit." Air Base Defense units are for the defense of the Air Base against air attacks, parachute troops, airborne infantry or mob violence. Their functions more nearly correspond to an anti-aircraft unit than to a military police unit. It is not planned that they will do guard duty at the Army Air Fields. Only Military Police Units are now scheduled for that purpose.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON

Robert P. Patterson,
Under Secretary of War.

CONFIDENTIAL

all papers attached

RECEIVED



PAUL B. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JACKSON

April 30, 1942

Honorable Robert P. Patterson
Under Secretary of War
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Patterson:

I have recently been informed that it is the intention of the War Department to use negro troops to guard air fields, airports and civilian aviation training schools in the southern states.

I hope the report is erroneous. I know that such an act would be a very serious mistake on the part of the War Department. Half of the people in my state are negroes. We are getting along exceedingly well. Since I have been Governor there has not been one lynching in the State of Mississippi. The relation between the negroes and the whites is exceedingly good. My administration has done more to promote the welfare of the negroes than has been done in this state in many years. The negroes seem to be appreciative and very cooperative with the administration.

We are cooperating with the Federal Government in every possible way in doing everything we can to promote the welfare of our country. We are willing to spend the last penny and give the last life in defense of our country if necessary to save our form of government. I cannot understand why the War Department would make such a mistake as to place negroes in the positions I have just mentioned. It will certainly stir up trouble when there is absolutely no use in doing it.

I am sure that if you knew and understood the situation which exists you would see to it that the order, if there be one to place negroes in the positions I have just related, be revoked. Since we are getting along so well in Mississippi I certainly hope that nothing will be done to disturb the good feeling that exists between the negroes and the whites.

With great respect, Sir, I am

Yours truly,

Paul B. Johnson
Governor

PBJ:ejd

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MID 353.8 Morale
3-3-42

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WAR DEPARTMENT
M. I. D.

G2/CI
NSB

March 17, 1942

(Date)

Subject: Undercover Investigation of 76th
Anti-Aircraft Regiment

Summary of Information:

Complaints having reached this office that a decided decline in morale among the troops of the 76th Regiment, stationed at the Philadelphia Municipal Stadium, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was evident, this agent was instructed to make an investigation in order to determine the strength of these reports, and, if so, to ascertain the cause motivating the display of a change of morale among said troops.

According to the basic communication, the following observations had been made by officers:

1. A flagrant disregard for orders.
2. An attitude of disrespect.
3. General carelessness and un-soldierly conduct.
4. Untidiness of quarters and personnel.
5. Attempts to get letters to B.O. Davis (General)
6. Writing of a note to an officer in which the author minced no words in getting said officer "told".

The 76th is the first Negro anti-aircraft unit and most of the men were formerly stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. It has been supplemented by recruits from Fort Eustis, Virginia. According to information received, most of these men now stationed in Philadelphia were under the same command at Fort Bragg, at which place they were respectful and gave no evidence of dissatisfaction. In the light of this fact, it was thought that outside agencies in this city might be attempting to promote dis-unity and dissatisfaction among the troops. It is further evidenced that the majority of the men who make up this unit were recruited from the deep south, and

Previous Distribution:

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Evaluation

-of source		-of information
X	Reliable	X
	Credible	
	Questionable	
	Undetermined	

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MID 353.8 Morale (Continued)
3-3-42

according to classification reports, lack the I. Q. required for men who making up such a regiment. This being true, if outside forces were at work attempting to destroy the morale of the 76th Regiment, they might find easy victims among these men who were not in the habit of, or possessed of the ability to think independently and reach desirable conclusions for themselves.

A survey of the cantonment revealed a general untidiness about the whole place. It must be considered that the men were trained in camps where the facilities were entirely different; that this is the first time the Regiment has been broken up into small units; that the men are on shifts covering a twenty-four day; that they are at present housed in tents; that the entire setup is a new experience for the majority of the men. While this offers no excuse for the lacadaisical attitude which is allegedly being exhibited by the men, the question of adaptability must be considered.

The Basic Communication revealed most of the observations of morale delinquency to be in Battery "D" of the Regiment. The Officer commanding this Battery was the recipient of the note found pinned on his tent and attached hereto as exhibit "A". When the Officer was interviewed by this Agent he avowed he had no idea who wrote the note or why anyone should send such note to him. However, he regarded the note as conclusive evidence of poor morale among the men, and added that they did not respond as readily as they should to orders.

This Agent gained the confidence of the men in the Regiment and learned that all of them are quite happy over being given such an important assignment in the city of Philadelphia. They expressed satisfaction over being stationed here and hope they will be fortunate enough to remain here. When questioned casually concerning the Officer in Battery "D", they shrugged their shoulders and referred to him as a "hand man".

The men in Battery "D", when interrogated relative to their Commanding Officer, did not hesitate to express their dislike for him. They referred to him as a "Southern cracker" who doesn't like us. He thinks this place is too good for Negroes and has even tried to get us moved out of here". One soldier stated that the Officer referred to above told them at Fort Bragg, "You'all are not in New York, or Philadelphia Now. You're in the Army and you're at Fort Bragg. You know what I mean." This Agent was unable to get proof of any of the above actions attributed to the Officer, so he does not recommend these reports as authentic. However, the soldiers volunteered this information. This Agent learned that most of the other Officers in the Regiment are Southern men, but, according to the soldiers, "they treat us all right." Learning that the same Officer had commanded them at Fort Bragg, this Agent attempted to find a reason for the sudden change in the attitude of the men toward him since their arrival in Philadelphia. The soldiers contacted were of the opinion

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that aforementioned was even more resentful of the reception accorded them by the people of Philadelphia.

Investigating the rumor that outside agencies might be influencing the morale of the troops, nothing tangible could be found to substantiate this assertion. However, the following information uncovered is recorded for its significance.

For the past four or five months the Negro leaders of Philadelphia have been divided over an issue concerning a U. S. O. center for Negro soldiers. A committee composed of MRS. SADIE ALEXANDER, a DR. TURNER, a MR. FAUSET, principal of a school in Philadelphia, ATTORNEY SHALDING, and a DR. MILLER, supposedly representing the Negro citizenry of Philadelphia, has been agitating for a "mixed" U.S.O. Center for the use of "all" soldiers, rather than accept the "segregated" center proposed by the city. Being unable to sell the idea that the one center should serve all soldiers, this group refused to accept the alternative and a bitter contest ensued, resulting in the Negro soldiers being forced to go without a U.S.O. center all this time. These people, through their churches, the Negro Press, and other organizations, have continued to agitate for the "mixed" center using "soldier neglect" as their general theme.

Sergeant Ramey, Battery "D", 76th Regiment, informed this Agent that on Sunday night, February 22, he took the Regiment Quartette to Shiloh Baptist Church where he was to make a talk on "The Negro Soldier", and the quartette was to sing several selections. According to RAMEY he impressed the audience with the seriousness of our present war effort and spoke of the Negro's part in the defense effort. Following his talk, speeches were made by DR. C. A. LEWIS and Rev. W.H. R. FOWELL. RAMEY stated that both speeches completely discredited everything he had said and these two speakers referred to the inability of Negroes to obtain employment in defense industries and of their denial of opportunities. RAMEY averred that both men spoke disparagingly of Negro participation in the war. There were weven other soldiers present. RAMEY informed his Battery Commander that he never wanted to take the quartette to this church again. When this Agent asked RAMEY if any individuals had ever approached him directly speaking hostilely of the position of Negro soldiers or the status of Negroes in America he answered negatively. No other soldiers admitted that they had ever been talked to regarding their treatment in the Army.

In the light of observations made at the 76th Regiment, it is the opinion of this Agent that the morale of the troops may be considered good. The trouble in Battery "D" and the subsequent addressing of a note to the Battery Commander seems to indicate a dislike on the part of the men for this particular Officer. This dislike had its origin at Fort Bragg and reached a head here in Philadelphia, where the men probably feel, for obvious reasons, that they can express without fear,

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reactions which have heretofore been suppressed. The above mentioned Officer impressed this Agent that he is very conscientious, and takes a great deal of pride in the efficiency of his Battery. He seemed to have the idea that he "understands and knows how to deal with Negro soldiers". In this respect he might be laboring under a misapprehension, since he has the idea that he needs to use a "certain psychology" on them.

This Agent found no evidence to indicate that subversive groups are at work among the troops. The agitation on the part of the citizens of Philadelphia, the U.S.O. situation, etc. are characteristic of the general unrest which seems prevalent at this particular time among the entire Negro population. Nothing indicates a liaison between this agitation and subversive elements. However, it is the observation of this Agent that this attitude is more prevalent in Philadelphia than any of the other cities in which he has worked. Separate U.S.O. centers have been accepted all over the country, but as one individual expressed to this Agent, "liberty had its birth here in Philadelphia, and we feel it our duty to fight issues like the U.S.O. problem. If we let it get by here, you know what will happen everywhere else." So the "neglected soldiers of our liberty loving city" is used as a theme in group discussion, churches, etc. However, in an interview with Chaplain Williams, 76th Regiment, this Agent was informed that the men are more than adequately entertained. WILLIAMS said some group entertains the soldier practically every night in the week. On numerous occasions he has had to apologize for the scarcity of soldiers at these various entertainments. Since the Regiment is on Twenty-four hour duty, only 15% of the men are allowed passes at any one time. The men are not compelled to attend any event, so they attend the ones they wish. According to WILLIAMS, "Still the people of Philadelphia are 'in arms' because of soldier neglect."

WILLIAMS said he knew the men were well provided for; in many instances they are dealt with too liberally in view of our present crisis. He would not commit himself on the Officer in question, but admitted that on occasions he had overheard uncomplimentary discussions of the Officer by some of the soldiers. However, he felt that the entire staff of Officers had been "put on a spot", commanding a colored regiment, being southern officers, in a northern city where sentiment might be naturally against them. He felt that they had done a magnificent job. He further stated that it is a tendency for some of the men to "Take advantage of their color". WILLIAMS is of the opinion that if the people of Philadelphia stop worrying about the "poor, neglected, soldiers" there will be no problems at the 76th.

Since this investigation was begun the Commanding Officer of Battery "D" has been transferred to Camp Davis, North Carolina. Many of the troops expressed satisfaction and stated that things "would be better now."

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PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT INTELLIGENCE OFFICE
UNITED STATES ARMY
United States Custom House Building
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

HCW:MON
March 9, 1942

File: III - 8991

Subject: Undercover Investigation of 76th Anti-Aircraft Regiment.

To: Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
Headquarters Third Corps Area
Baltimore, Maryland.

1. Additional material on this subject has come to our attention, and is transmitted herewith.

2. Mr. William Reese, who is a volunteer Lieutenant of the Colwyn Police, and who is the gentleman who arranged for this Office to provide a speaker at Colwyn last Tuesday night, reported at that time that disturbances among the Anti-Aircraft Regiment were as follows:

This particular unit is located on South Third Street in Colwyn. Reese said that almost every night the whole encampment was in an up-roar with liquor and women. At one time the girls, all colored, were so drunk that they could not get home by themselves, and were loaded into an Army truck and taken home. This particular incident, Mr. Reese says, is not hearsay, but an absolute fact. The situation got so bad that the citizens of Colwyn got upset and took steps to clear it up themselves, and this was done. Reese reports, however, that only last night (March 8) he got another report that these activities are going on again and as badly as ever. Reese says there is no Commissioned Officer in charge of this particular detachment, it being left in charge of the Sergeant, who is just as bad as the rest of them.

3. This Office considers Lieut. Reese a reliable informant.

(Signed) HENRY C. WHITTLESEY
2nd Lt., M.I.
Acting Dist. Intell. Officer

Handwritten notes:
T. J. ...
5/11/42

Vertical handwritten notes on right margin:
1311 77.5.1941 050.1 110th ...

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WAR DEPARTMENT
PRIMARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, G-2
COUNTERINTELLIGENCE BRANCH
3544 Munitions Building

Date APR 3 1942

TO:

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY OF WAR
Lt. Col. John C. Mechem
Lt. Col. Joseph F. Battley
Lt. Col. H. G. Reynolds
Maj. T. A. Lane

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR
Lt. Col. R. H. Tate

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF AIR CORPS
Col. J. G. Taylor
Maj. C. R. Blake

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ORDNANCE
Lt. Col. A. L. Johnson
Capt. Marshall Purvis

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER
Executive Officer

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
Lt. Col. J. S. Seybold

OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
Intelligence Officer

OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL
Intelligence Officer

OFFICE OF CHIEF, CHML. WARFARE SERV.
Lt. Col. John C. MacArthur

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COAST ARTILLERY
Lt. Col. J. D. Moss

BUREAU OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
Lt. Col. W. M. Wright
Col. S. J. Grogan

FOR:

Information; file Remark
Necessary action Note and return
Recommendation


MID 353.8 Morale 3-3-42 &

FILE NO.: MID250.1 76th Anti-Aircraft
2 -Enclosures Regiment 3-18-42
Feb 17, 1942

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