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HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY

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RFF/DGB/rfs

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:Auth CG, ETOUSA :
:Initials RG :
:Date 25 October 1943:
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AG 250.1 MDCS

SUBJECT: Racial Problems.

TO : Commanding General, Eighth Air Force.

1. Increasing density of troops in certain areas of the theater is resulting in an increase in instances of friction between soldiers of different troop units, especially between colored and white soldiers.

2. The varying conditions to be met by local commanders preclude the issuance of detailed instructions by this headquarters. The prevention of such incidents is the responsibility of the commanders of the units involved, through effective discipline and control. There must be close and continuous supervision by all commanders to insure the effectiveness of subordinate commanders in the discharge of their responsibility. Weak and inefficient leaders must be sought out and summarily relieved prior to demonstrated failure.

3. No discrimination will be permitted against either white or colored personnel. Equal opportunities for service and recreation are the right of every American soldier, regardless of branch, race, color, or creed.

4. Segregation of races in localities where such practice is contrary to custom and accepted practice is not in accord with theater policy. However, in the interest of military discipline and avoidance of public disorder, the following measures to ameliorate overcrowding of facilities should be considered:

a. Rotation of pass days in towns near which two or more different units are stationed.

b. Allocation of public recreational facilities such as dance halls and public houses to units through control of pass privileges or by placing such places off limits for certain units.

5. The rights of a soldier who is on pass or furlough to be at the place designated on the pass or furlough form in his possession, will be respected at all times.

6. In towns to which both colored and white soldiers are given passes at the same time, auxiliary military police, including officers from all units giving passes, properly identified by MP brassards, will be on duty during hours for which passes are granted. They will be responsible for normal police duties with respect to soldiers of their units, under supervision of the commander responsible for military police of the area.

7. Prevention of improper actions by soldiers of either race is the definite and urgent responsibility of the immediate commanders of troop units.

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All officers and soldiers will be instructed immediately on arrival in this theater, and at such intervals thereafter as required by conditions, that the making of derogatory remarks concerning soldiers of another race, or engaging in any altercation with soldiers of another unit, whether resulting in physical violence or not, constitute serious offenses in the Theater of Operations. Officers exercising court-martial jurisdiction will insure trial by the highest court required to exact the maximum penalty for such offenses.]

8. In connection with proper safeguarding of arms and ammunition your attention is invited to Section IV, Circular 76, this headquarters dated 18 September 1943.

/s/ JACOB L. DEVERS
/t/ JACOB L. DEVERS,
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army,
Commanding.

250.1

1st Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, EIGHTH AIR FORCE, APO 633, 1 November, 1943

TO: CG, VIII Air Force Service Command.

For your information and compliance with instructions contained in basic communication.

/s/ IRA C. BAKER
/t/ IRA C. BAKER,
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army,
Commanding.

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2nd Ind.

Hq, VIII AFSC, AAF-586, APO 633, 4 November 1943

TO: See Distribution.

1. The attention of all officers of this Command is called to letter of Commanding General, ETO, subject: Racial Problems.

2. The responsibility for preservation of good order and military discipline rests upon every officer in the military service wherever he may be. An additional responsibility rests upon Commanding Officers of every echelon of a command containing members of races endowed by nature with dissimilar mental, physical and psychological attributes. Such conditions impose upon these officers the additional burden of intelligent leadership to the end that natural deficiencies of members of their command may be countered with appropriate measures for control, assistance, and education. Disturbances indicate a failure in these respects.

HUGH J. KNERR,
Brigadier General, U.S. Army,
Commanding.