

*File
negro file*

August 6, 1942

Honorable John H. Bankhead,
United States Senate.

Dear Senator Bankhead:

Thank you for your letter of July 29 and inclosures regarding the stationing of negro soldiers in the South.

Since the earliest days of the emergency the War Department has earnestly endeavored to station negro troops in areas where harmonious relationships and reciprocal interests could develop between the military service and the civilian population. This has developed into the general practice of stationing negro soldiers in localities in which there is a sufficient number of civilians of that race in nearby communities to afford opportunity for recreational contact between the soldiers and civilians.

It is the policy of the War Department to station Northern negroes in Northern posts and Southern negroes in Southern posts in all cases where military necessity does not require a deviation from this policy.

The exigencies of the current military situation must determine the assignment of every Army unit, and the above policies are carefully observed within that limitation. The Army is fully aware of the importance of troop assignments both to the surrounding civilian communities and the soldiers themselves.

I appreciate the sentiments prompting your remarks and trust the policies as outlined meet with your satisfaction.

Faithfully yours,

Chief of Staff

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