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MID 291.2
Alexandria,
Louisiana.
4/18/42

MAY 8 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, OPD:

Subject: Negro Civilians & Military Personnel
Alexandria, Louisiana, and Vicinity.

From a study of reports from the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Fourth Corps Area, on racial disturbances at Alexandria, Louisiana, it is evident that the serious problems created by Negro troops in the South can be corrected to a great extent by the application of certain measures that are not revolutionary and would not be considered anti-Negro.

The reports develop certain basic facts:

1. Three-way friction exists in the South; namely, between the whites, southern Negroes and northern Negroes. Southern Negroes resent the "high and mighty ways" of the northerners of their race and are jealous of their better financial status and social acceptance at home. Any corrective action must take into account that the Negroes themselves are in opposing camps.
2. Liquor and the liquor-woman combination are immediately responsible for the outbreak of disturbances.
3. Colored troops are not taught the rudiments of discipline at camp.
4. What subversive activity there may be (the reports disclaim the existence of such) feeds on and is fomented by existing conditions which will need to be corrected to minimize whatever such activity might exist.

Correction of the present unhealthy condition, which may be expected to become more dangerous rather than improve, resolves itself into two channels of approach; first, within

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the Army itself; and second, the owners of the saloons and other resorts where most disturbances arise.

I. Within the Army

1. Northern colored troops should not be stationed south of the Mason Dixon Line. What colored troops from the North are already located at camps in the South should be removed.
2. Colored troops should be given stricter disciplinary training in camp.
3. More intelligent and intensive vigilance by the Military Police in towns near camps is needed.
4. It would be advisable to work troublesome troops harder during the day so as to dissipate the excess energy which is a source of trouble at night.
5. More strict disciplinary action is necessary for unsoldierly behavior in town.

II. Control of the Resorts

1. The Army possesses virtual licensing power over any resort in a nearby town. At will it can declare "out of bounds" any place frequented by troops. This power can be exercised by making the individual proprietor responsible for the conduct of soldiers in his place. Each can be given a detailed list of instructions that must be followed if soldiers are to continue to be permitted to visit his establishment. These instructions should include the following rules:
 - a. No soldier can be sold liquor who is already under its influence.
 - b. Each establishment must be brightly lit. No dark or dimly lit corners or rooms are permitted.
 - c. Each establishment must be kept clean and sanitary.