

WAR DEPARTMENT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NEGRO TROOP POLICIES
Washington

May 25, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR:

Subject: Treatment of Negro Personnel.

1. In compliance with your request, the following comment is submitted on the inclosed memorandum of Mr. T. K. Gibson, Jr., Acting Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War, of May 14, 1943, on the subject of announcing the War Department policy on the treatment of Negro personnel in the Army.
2. War Department policy on this subject is announced in the following letters:
 - Restricted letter, AG 322.97 (2-11-42) MSC-C-M, subject: Treatment of Negro soldiers, February 14, 1942.
 - Confidential letter, Office Chief of Staff, subject: Professional Qualities of Officers Assigned to Negro Units, August 10, 1942, which was published as an inclosure to confidential letter, AG 210.31 (8-10-42) MS-SPEX-M, on the same subject, August 12, 1942.
 - Restricted letter, AG 353.8 (3-5-43) OB-S-A-M, subject: Recreational Facilities, March 10, 1943.
 - Confidential letter, AG 210.31 (1-4-43) OB-S-A-M, subject: Policy on Assignment of Negro Officer Personnel, January 10, 1943.
 - Confidential letter, AG 210.31 (3-16-43) OB-S-A-M, subject: Amendment No. 1 to Policy on Assignment of Negro Officer Personnel, March 17, 1943.
3. These letters state the War Department policy on the treatment of Negro personnel in the Army. They include,



in addition to the general statement of policy recommended by Mr. Gibson, specific instructions on pertinent subjects such as use of recreational facilities, promotion of officers, etc. However, investigations of incidents have disclosed that the provisions of these letters have not been known and applied by the commanding officers concerned.

4. In order to make the War Department policy better known and observed in the service, I recommend that a new letter not be issued, but that when members of the Inspector General Department make their routine administrative inspections of commands having Negro personnel, they be directed to inquire as to whether or not the letters referred to in paragraph 2 above are available to the command, and also whether or not the provisions of these letters are being complied with.



/s/ J.B. Leonard
/t/ J. S. Leonard,
Colonel, Infantry.

Incl.