

*File
William Batt*

WILLIAM L. BATT, JR.
8483 PINEY BRANCH COURT
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND
SL160 0366

January 22, 1950

Dear Ned,

I need your help. Is this still Army policy? If not, what can be done to put it right?

It was great fun meeting you and your good wife at the Blaisdells. Let's do it again soon.

Sincerely,

Bill
Bill Batt *per dl*

Attachments



Mr. Edwin W. Kenworthy
5525 Nebraska Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

January 22, 1950

Dear Ted,

I am distressed to hear of the separation of Capt. Martin from my old unit. He was one of the most valuable and respected officers in the entire outfit.

Didn't I see an article last week that this kind of practice was going to end in the Army?

I am sending this correspondence over to a friend of mine who is working on this problem at the Pentagon to see if he can help in any way.

Thanks for letting me know. Please tell Martin that I am deeply sorry this has occurred, and will do my level best as a fellow member of the Reserve to straighten it out.

With all best wishes.

Sincerely,

Bill Bett



Mr. Theodore Spaulding
Attorney-at-Law
154 N. Fifteenth Street
Philadelphia 2, Penna.

THEODORE SPAULDING
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
154 N. FIFTEENTH STREET
PHILADELPHIA 2, PA.

January 14, 1950

Mr. Louis Johnson
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D. C.

Re: I. Maximilian Martin, 15 North 40th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - Serial #0-504944
Captain - Finance Dept Reserve - U.S. Army

Dear Secretary Johnson:

I am taking the liberty of writing directly to you on a matter of principle relating to your efforts and that of President Truman toward the integration of Negroes in the armed forces of the United States in accord with our democratic form of government. The subject matter of this correspondence is about the above captain, but in a larger sense, it involves the entire army.

Mr. Martin holds a commission as captain in the Finance Department Reserve of the Army. From March 21, 1949 to December 13, 1949, he was assigned to the Finance Section of the 304th Civil Affairs Military Government Group at the Schuylkill Arsenal, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, commanded by Colonel Allen B. Michell. His assignment orders carried the term "C Off" designating him as the only colored officer in the unit which has a complement of approximately sixty officers. Mr. Martin's training as a professional accountant and auditor is consonant with the plane of other officers in the unit most of whom have technical professional skills in their civilian occupations as well as in their military specialties. Mr. Martin's relations with the members of the organization have been pleasant at all time. Because of his aptitude, he was given the responsibility of preparing all payrolls and other specific responsible duties in the Group.

On December 13, 1949, Mr. Martin was advised by Colonel Michell that he had been informed by Headquarters, Eastern Pennsylvania Military District, Robinson Building, Philadelphia, that it was against army policy for a Negro officer to be assigned to a white unit and that Headquarters, Second Army, Baltimore, Maryland, had directed that Martin's assignment with this Group be terminated at once. Subsequently, on December 13th, two special orders were issued, one, removing Captain Martin from the unit and the second, transferring him to the 391st Field Artillery Battalion of the 79th Division Artillery, "a Negro Unit".

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I am informed that transfer of officers in the Reserve is usually made either for failure to attend drills; when the officer requests an assignment or when a new unit is organized in which there is a Table of Organization vacancy calling for an officer in the individual's branch of service and occupational specialty. I am further informed that in this case, none of these apply and the 304th Civil Affairs Military Government Group is not up to strength. In addition, the special skill of Captain Martin together with his experiences in the regular army during the last war in which he served in the Finance Department as Post Fiscal Officer, Post Finance Officer and finally as Director of the Fiscal Division in Fort Huachuca, Arizona, with no knowledge whatsoever of field artillery, would appear to make this a patent case of racial discrimination. This is completely at variance with the expressed intent of integrating all persons together in the services without regard as to race or religion.

Many Negroes who served in the war would like to participate in the Reserve but do not wish to endure in the peacetime the same discrimination and segregation they were forced to suffer during the war.

I trust that something can be done to rectify this particular matter.

Respectfully yours,

William H. Batt, Jr.



TS:p

CC: Mr. William Batt, Jr.