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CONDUCT OF TROOPS
JAN. 1946

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AG/16/39/LG.

Tel: 478706

SUBJECT : Conduct of Troops.

19 January 1946

TO : ACT. ADJT., Hq. 2675th Regiment AG.

Reference your 250.1 of 18 January 1946. Paragraph 1 has been
complied with.

IRE/wv

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

3626

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

HEADQUARTERS ROME AREA MTOUSA
APO 794, US ARMY
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

CLD/jlc
15 January 1946

MEMORANDUM

TO : Commanding Officers, each Unit, this Command and
Chief of each Staff Section, this Headquarters.

1. Reference paragraph 6 of the attached letter, Unit Commanders and Section Chiefs will read this letter to all officers of their command. The underlying principles covered by paragraph 1 and 3 will be made clear to all enlisted personnel by Unit Commanders.

2. This letter will not be posted on bulletin boards.

3. Each Unit Commander will report to this Headquarters prior to 1200, Wednesday, 23 January 1946, their compliance with the above.

Chas. L. Dasher
CHAS. L. DASHER
Brigadier General, US Army
Commanding

1 Incl
Ltr CG MTOUSA, 10 Jan 46

1st Ind.

APO U.S. ARMY, January 1946

TO: Commanding General, Rome Area, MTOUSA, APO 794, US Army

The provision of the above Memo has been complied with by this organization.

Commanding

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

3625

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
U. S. ARMY
Office of the Commanding General

10 January 1946

Dear

1. As the result of unusually rapid redeployment, the military structure of the Army has suffered. This is evident from widespread reports of discontent. Obviously, soldiers are not following the proper procedure, established by regulations and honored by long military tradition, of seeking information from their immediate commanders and appealing for redress of grievances, if any, through military channels. With numerous and almost continuous changes in the chain of command, there arise many opportunities for troublemakers. Our first duty, therefore, is to check and test the chain of command constantly to be sure that our company officers and their immediate battalion or group commanders are not only aware of their own duties and responsibilities, but that they acquaint their soldiers with what is expected of them. It is the right of a soldier to see his immediate commanding officer and, if denied such right, to appeal to his next higher commander and/or to the Inspector General at first opportunity. Each and every soldier should know, by name, who such commanders are and be informed of each Inspector General visit.

2. I am writing to you and other major commanders in this Theater to give this matter your personal attention, to be sure that there are no forgotten units, and that all of the company units and detachments under your orders are commanded by officers familiar with the Articles of War, Army Regulations, and customs of the Service. It is also necessary that the chain of command be verified and tested throughout this Theater, and retested repeatedly.

3. In fairness to all our fine enlisted personnel, and especially to the younger men of shorter service, they should be reminded by their commanding officers of their soldierly status. As soldiers wearing the uniform of their country, and especially in occupied territory, our officers and enlisted men have temporarily given up, for the duration of their service, certain rights which they enjoyed as civilians, such as: the right of unrestrained criticism, and of assembly to the possible discredit of the military establishment or other lawful authority. Such activities for a member of the military service may be properly punishable under the Articles of War, for conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline. Certain reported activities as seen to have occurred elsewhere, according to press notices, would not, in my opinion, have occurred were the officers and men serving in good organizations under an effective chain of command. They were probably victims of too-rapid redeployment, and possibly other adverse influences.

4. It is to be expected that subversive influences will be found in this Theater, as elsewhere, seeking to exploit any opportunity of likely discontent.

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Our splendid military personnel should not be permitted to become victimized and exploited by such influences. Where such influences are discovered, our commanding officers must take prompt measures to place them under restraint, and conduct immediate, full, and impartial investigation, followed by prompt report of action taken or recommended.

5. One of the surest ways of retaining and improving discipline in any organization is to see that the officers and men are usefully and fully employed. This is another task for the chain of command. Nor am I unaware of the difficulties which face you, and our successive commanders, in this Theater. However, it is clearly our mission to employ our military strength fully and efficiently. Where we can replace them, under ITO regulations, with civilian or surrendered personnel, we must do so and promptly assign or transfer the released soldiers to other essential duty. And finally, we are authorized to continue returning to the U.S., without delay, personnel we do not actually need, while observing, of course, the rule of sending back in order, those with longest service and greatest number of points.

6. While I do not desire to have this communication published, either on your bulletin boards or in the press, I am sending you additional copies so that it may be transmitted, as you see fit, to your subordinate commanders. It is my hope that it will be read by or to every American commissioned officer in this Theater, and that the underlying principles, especially those in paragraphs 1 and 3, will be made clear to all enlisted personnel.

JOHN C. H. LEE
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Commanding

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS
2675th REGIMENT
ALLIED COMMISSION (OVERHEAD)
APO 394

WDC/ag

File: 250.1

18 January 1946

SUBJECT: Conduct of Troops.

TO : Director, Local Government Sub-Commission, ALCOM, APO 394, US Army.

1. Attached is a copy of a letter from the Commanding General, Mediterranean Theater of Operations, US Army, which will be read by all American officers of your section.
2. In passing the letter care will be taken to preserve its confidential nature.
3. Report must be made to this headquarters not later than 0900 hours on Wednesday, 23 January 1946, that Paragraph 1 has been complied with.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

Ward D. Carpenter Jr.
WARD D. CARPENTER, JR.
1st Lt. Inf
Acting Adjutant

1 Incl:

- #1 - Memo Hq Rome Area MTOUSA dtd 15 Jan 46
- #2 - Ltr Hq MTOUSA dtd 10 Jan 46.

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