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HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY  
Office of the Commanding General  
APO 758 US Army

AG 014.13-A

25 December 1944

SUBJECT: Non-fraternization.

TO : All Unit Commanders, Seventh Army.

1. The most important problem facing us now is the destruction of the German army. Following the winning the war on the battlefield, total victory must be won over Germany itself.

2. To achieve the first goal we have to kill Germans, --to achieve the second goal we have to adopt a policy that we are fighting not just the German army but the entire German nation. We must make the German populace feel that we blame it as well as the German army for the atrocities that have been committed. Therefore, we must adopt a strict non-fraternization policy.

3. Non-fraternization is the avoidance of mingling with Germans on terms of friendliness, familiarity, or intimacy, either individually or in groups, in official or unofficial dealings. However, non-fraternization does not demand rough, undignified or arrogant conduct, nor the insolent overbearing attitude which characterized Nazi leadership. Personnel of this command will maintain a high standard of self discipline and so conduct themselves as to command respect. Acts of violence and pillage will not be tolerated.

4. The following restrictions are therefore placed in effect:

- a. Troops will not be billeted in homes of German people.
- b. Marriage with Germans or personnel of other enemy countries is prohibited.
- c. Visiting German homes, drinking with Germans, attending German social events or accompanying Germans on the street, in theaters, taverns, or elsewhere, except on official business is forbidden.

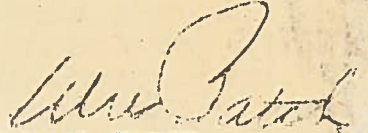
5. It is probable that the German people will not admit that they belong to or sympathize with the Nazi party. They will express disapproval of the atrocities which have been committed. Some will tell us that they were ordered to commit atrocities. This is not an excuse. American soldiers would not have committed such atrocities even if ordered to do so. Not only the Nazis, but all Germans, are responsible for the war. The Germans relish war. They respect only force of arms and a dictatorial form of government. Hitler's rise to power was not an accident. The German people have demonstrated that they can be counted on to produce such a leader whenever they consider the time ripe for conquest.

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6. It must be made clear to our soldiers that non-fraternization is a necessity not only for safeguarding their own well-being but to make the German nation realize that only by many years of proper conduct will it merit consideration and be worthy of being accepted as a member of the family of civilized nations.



A. M. PATCH,  
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.,  
Commanding.

DESCRIPTION: "C"

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*(M/C #27)*