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Item 11
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342.18 J.A. - VOLUNTEERS (Hawaiian)
ASW 353.8 J.A. - Morale (Hawaiian)

29 August 1943

Personal ~~Confidential~~

Dear Colonel Pence:

From a recent MID report, I learned that the 442nd Infantry Combat Team has made commendable and favorable progress. The report indicates a general improvement in morale and an understanding of the social conditions confronting it in its Southern station. However, one sour note does appear in this report.

In the relations between the Mainlanders and the Hawaiians, there appears to be one thing which might cause some interior dissension and which might adversely effect both the training and the general esprit d'corps. Resolved to a basic factor, it seems that the Hawaiians resent the fact (if it is a fact) that most of the key non-commissioned officer positions are filled by Mainlanders, although they, the Hawaiians, are in the majority.

I feel certain that you are entirely cognizant of this situation, and it is not my intention to suggest that this report conveys the presently existing condition nor to suggest a course of action to you; but I feel it is only fair to let you know what the information is up here.

Since this same note has been sounded by virtually everyone who has looked over the 442nd Infantry Combat Team there must be some correctness to the current MID report.

The latest direct information this office has had about the matter came from Mr. John Terry, correspondent for the Honolulu Star Bulletin, who recently was a visitor at Camp Shelby. Mr. Terry, in an oral report to me, said that the condition did exist but it was his feeling that the matter was being adjusted gradually by the promotion of qualified Hawaiians.

The Assistant Secretary, Mr. McCloy, is pleased with the reports he has seen and has expressed his desire to make a visit to Camp Shelby and see the organization upon the first available opportunity.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

WILLIAM P. SCORY
Colonel, General Staff
Executive to Asst Secretary of War

Colonel C. W. Pence
Commanding
442nd Infantry
Camp Shelby, Miss

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