

carefully watched, both for efficiency of the command and the morale of the junior officer, for at times deserving promotions have been passed over in order to keep an efficient junior officer in a position where he can do the work of the senior.

Problems of promotion and demotion among the enlisted men is complicated by the general temperamental nature of the Puerto Ricans. An efficient First Sergeant may be reduced without hesitancy for a minor offense and a week later recommended for promotion back to a high NCO grade.

Another characteristic annoying to Continental officers is a somewhat different standard of veracity. In general this will show in statements that something is known to be true when in fact it has merely been told to the officer, or that something has been done when only an order has been given and no check has been made to see that it was actually done. This tendency complicates both command inspections and investigations, as upon a witness-stand an officer or enlisted man will give a much less colorful account of the incident than he has given in preliminary investigation. While it is considered that in the majority of cases such statements are not made with the intent to deceive, there is some tendency in a higher percentage of officers than would normally be expected to pad the truth in order to give a more favorable impression or to avoid at least for the time being, undesirable consequences.

All of the Puerto Rican officers speak English, many of them quite fluently from either visits to the states or schooling there. Continued contact with Continentals has to a great extent minimized the original differences in the nature of the two and if proper command inspections are made, they will function quite efficiently.

Puerto Rican soldiers in general are hard working, loyal and intelligent although the latter often appears otherwise cause of their difficulty in understanding English.

Finally, it is desired to impress that Puerto Rican officers and men are white. The Puerto Rican standard of differentiation between white and colored, while distinct, is on an entirely different basis from that of the average Continental. To a Continental, a person with any colored blood is colored. To the average Puerto Rican, a person who has any white blood is white. There is only close fraternization among a relatively small upper class. It can therefore be expected that the Puerto Rican soldiers will fraternize among a relatively small upper class. It can therefore be expected that the Puerto Rican soldiers will fraternize with colored natives. On the other hand, they will resent discrimination from Service Club activities. There is no objection to separation of dance and other social activities on the basis of running them as organizational affairs, but the Service Club facilities should be open to Puerto Ricans at all other times. In fact, social contacts and intermingling between Continental and Puerto Rican soldiers is highly desirable to develop better understanding between the two groups.