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ARMORY
CO. H, 372nd. Inf.
31 1/2 N. Erie St. Toledo, Ohio.

January, 25th. 1927.

Mr. Harry Jennings
Chief of Police,
Toledo, Ohio.

Dear sir:

During my absence from the armory on Saturday evening January, 22nd. 1927, I learned that the armory was visited by members of your department by reason of a report made to you that gambling was going on in my armory.

It happened to be the occasion of the midwinter meeting of the Officers of the 2nd. Battallion, 372nd. Infantry, who were gathered at the armory for a two day session and it caused no little embarrassment and comment.

I am very sorry that I was not called in personally by you on any report of such a nature as heretofore we have had the utmost cooperation from your department and hope that the same may continue, as being the head also of a company that is one of the law preserving part of our state I feel it my duty to do all I can to help preserve and observe law and order.

My armory which is the finest in the state among of Colored Units is now rented by various organizations, such as lodges, bands, societies and clubs and daily and nightly is the gathering place and scene of many activities.

Among my tenants I have a Waiters and Bellmans Club and some of the Incorporators are William Harrison formerly headwaiter at the Waldorf but now at the Commodore Perry, Joseph Chichester, for many years head Bellman at the Secor and Ed Manly one of the captains and waiters at the Green Mill Cafe. So you can see the class of men who gather here almost daily besides many others. Their Club is regularly incorporated and their part is almost universally open. As Toledo is becoming a better City and place for Colored Hotel men it affords the employers a central place where at all times they can locate their men and gives the men themselves a place for recreation and enjoyment as we have bath, shower, and other features that is so much denied the Colored Man here as he has no Y.M.C.A. and if he does not come to the Armory to spend a little leisure he must necessarily go to some "Joint".

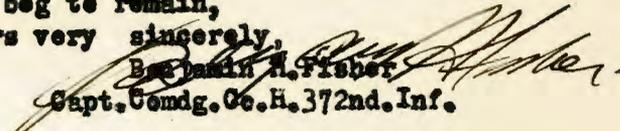
The lease under which we operate by the State of Ohio specifically gives the commanding officer the right to rent and sublease his armory for such purposes and in fact the State encourages such a programme.

You can see now how it would be impossible for me since I am not always present to absolutely guarantee that during my absence some of the more pleasure loving Boys would play a little "African Golf" or a little Poker but I have a standing order against Gambling and Liquor.

I shall be only too glad to call and see you personally in a few days and give you any other information or assurance that you may desire.

Thanking you for the assistance given in rounding up delinquent soldiers on Drill Nights and with very best wishes, I beg to remain,

Yours very sincerely,


Benjamin H. Fisher
Capt. Comdg. Co. H. 372nd. Inf.

P.S. I forgot to state that members of your department often in an unofficial capacity often come up to the armory and the same has been very much appreciated as it has helped me considerably in maintaining law and order especially on Dance Nights and I hope the practice will continue.