WB:GMS:ERS

March 6, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Re: Fatal Shooting of Private Raymond Carr /Negro Military Police/ by State Trooper Dalton McCollum in Alexandria, Louisiana

Pursuant to your request the Criminal Division has been in constant contact with the State prosecutive authorities of the State of Louisiana, endeavoring to have a State grand jury hear the facts in this case and return an indictment for murder.

The State grand jury, sitting in Alexandria, Louisiana, is to convene March 23, 1943, for the first time since October, 1942. I am informed that Mr. Ben Thompson, the prosecuting official for the Alexandria district, plans to present this case upon convening of the grand jury. I am further informed that Mr. Thompson is not enthusiastic about the case and has made very little preparation for a vigorous prosecution. I am further informed that Mr. Thompson will present the case to the grand jury upon instructions from authorities at Baton Rouge. No doubt these authorities are the Governor and the Attorney General.

The Department has a full and complete file, which contains

full statements from all of the witnesses as well as copies of the testimony taken before the Line of Duty Board of the United States Army. I am sending Mr. G. Maynard Smith of my staff to Alexandria to discuss the case with Mr. Thompson and to give him the benefit of the information he acquired during his investigation in December and to offer to Mr. Thompson the use of the Department's file. I feel that if the facts are made known to the prosecuting officer and with the use of the Department's file, a more vigorous effort will be made to obtain an indictment.

Respectfully,

WENDELL BERGE
Assistant Attorney General