

An Index to the Microfilm Edition of

U.S. Military Activities and Civil Rights

Part 4: The Little Rock Integration Crisis, 1957-1958



Primary Source Media



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Guide Compiled by
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Cover photograph: On September 25, 1957, the nine black students entered the school under the protection of 1,000 members of the 101st Airborne Division of the United States Army.

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

“We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of ‘separate but equal’ has no place
...it is so ordered.”

United States Supreme Court,
Brown v. Board of Education, 1954

Events in the fall of 1957 drew international attention as Little Rock became the epitome of state resistance when Arkansas Governor Orval E. Faubus directly questioned the sanctity of the federal court system and the authority of the Supreme Court’s desegregation ruling when nine African-American high school students sought an education at Little Rock Central High School.

The controversy in Little Rock was the first fundamental test of the United State’s resolve to enforce African-American civil rights in the face of massive southern defiance during the period following the Brown decisions.

When President Dwight D. Eisenhower was compelled by white mob violence to use federal troops to ensure the rights of African-American children to attend the previously all-white Little Rock Central High School, he became the first president since the post-Civil War Reconstruction period to use federal troops in support of African-American civil rights. As a result, the eyes of the world were focused on Little Rock in 1957 and the struggle became a symbol of southern racist reaction, as Governor Faubus created a constitutional crisis.

This publication covers President Eisenhower’s use of Federal troops and the Arkansas National Guard in the Little Rock integration crisis of 1957-1958. The operation is detailed from the planning for intervention prior to deployment, up to the withdrawal of troops at the end of the school year. Records include a journal of events, an ODCSOPS summary of the operation, a historical report prepared by the Office of the Chief of Military History, papers on Governor Faubus’ actions with regard to integration, press reports and observations by Army officers on the reaction of the community, and congressional correspondence. The records document official concern over the legality and ramifications of the operation and provide an insight into the problems surrounding this early attempt at school integration.

SOURCE & EDITORIAL NOTE

The documents reproduced in this publication are records of Records of the Department of the Army, in the custody of the National Archives of the United States. This publication consists of documents comprising RG 319: Records of the Army Staff, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations, Domestic Disturbance Files: Records of Operation "Arkansas," 1957-1958, Boxes 1-5, MLR Entry 116. All documents have been filmed in their entirety.

REEL INDEX

The following is a listing of the folders comprising the microfilm publication entitled *U.S. Military Activities and Civil Rights, Part 4: Little Rock Integration Crisis, 1957-1958*. The Reel Index lists the folder number, folder title, as well as a listing of the major subjects for each folder.

REEL 1

Folder#

1 Journal Book 1, Entries 1-349.

Major subjects: Arkansas National Guard; Students; African American students; Army, U.S.; Bates, Daisy; Blossom, Virgil; Faubus, Orval; Guthridge, Amos; Holt-Kunst case; King, Robert Case; Little Rock high schools; Integration; Local police; Military police; NAACP; Operation Arkansas; Segregationist Club; Senator Russell; State police; Student demonstration; Students.

2 Journal Book 2, Entries 350-621.

Major subjects: African American students; Press; Arkansas National Guard; Army news service; Army, U.S.; Baptist prayer service; Blossom, Virgil; Camp Robinson; Censorship; Demonstration; Eisenhower, Dwight D.; Faubus, Orval; Holt-Kunst case; Jet Film Processing Company; King, Robert case; National Guard.

3 Journal Book 3, Entries 622-883.

Major subjects: African American students; American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); Arkansas National Guard; Blossom, Virgil; Brown, Minnie; Demonstration; Integration; Local police; Mother's League; NAACP; Army, U.S.; Riots; Thomas, Jefferson; White backlash; Williams, Betty; Students; Operation ARKANSAS.

4 Journal Book 4, Entries 884-1310.

Major subjects: Public opinion; Press; Army, U.S.; Bates, Daisy; Blossom, Virgil; Brown, Minnie; Coakley, Dr. Robert W.; Green, Ernest; Guthridge, Amos; Moral Re-armament Group; Mother's League; NAACP; Operation ARKANSAS; Operation LITTLE ROCK; Parker, Sammie Dean; Students; Student altercations; African American Students; Bomb threat.

REEL 2

Folder#

4 cont. Journal Book 4, Entries 884-1310 cont.

Major subjects: African American Students; American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); Public opinion; Press; NAACP, Arkansas; Army, U.S.; Blossom, Virgil; Bomb threat; Brown, Minnie; Capital Citizens Council; Coakley, Dr. Robert W.; Comic strips; Faubus, Orval; Army, U.S.; Green, Ernest; Guthridge, Amos; Jonesboro School Board; Local Police; Moral Re-armament Group; Mother's League; Operation Arkansas; Operation

LITTLE ROCK; Parker, Sammie Dean; Students; Student altercations; Marshals, U.S.; White backlash; Williams, E.F.

5 Journal Book 5, Entries 1311-1567.

Major subjects: African American Students; Press; NAACP, Arkansas; Arkansas National Guard; Blossom, Virgil; Bomb threat; Brown, Minnie; Camp Robinson; Capital Citizens Council; Central High School; Confederate Underground; Dunbar Junior High School; FBI; Green, Ernest; Hales, Billy; Hardship cases; Jackson v. Walker; Johnson Amendment; Local Police; Operation ARKANSAS; Parker, Sammie Dean; Patillo, Melba; Roberts, Terrance; Students; Student altercations; Summer school; District court, U.S.; White student violence.

6 Journal Book 6, Entries 23 September 1957 thru 2 June 1958, Emergency Journal of Events.

Major subject: Chronology of events.

7 Operation ARKANSAS Plans and Studies.

Major subjects: Arkansas National Guard; Camp Robinson; Operation ARKANSAS; Army, U.S.; Students.

8 Congressional Correspondence: Operation ARKANSAS.

Major subjects: 101st Airborne Division; Alert forces; Arkansas National Guard; Secretary of the Army.

9 De-Federalization of Arkansas National Guard.

Major subjects: 101st Airborne Division; Alert forces; Arkansas National Guard; Federal troops; Korean War; Operation ARKANSAS.

REEL 3

Folder#

10 Command Reports.

Major subjects: Arkansas National Guard; Faubus, Orval; Central High School; Local Police; Army, U.S.; NAACP; Operation ARKANSAS; White backlash.

11 Reports of Investigation.

Major subjects: African American Students; Blake, Clifton E. ; Civilian injuries; Downs, Paul C.; "Elusive Band" case; King case; Holt-Kunst case; Blakes-Downs case; King, Robert; Roberts, Terrance; Sgt. Holt, James D.; Thomas, Jefferson; Operation ARKANSAS; White backlash.

12 Command Reports.

Major Subjects: Faubus, Orval; Operation ARKANSAS; US Army.

13 Summary of Operation ARKANSAS.

- 14 **OPN Operational Orders, Go's General Orders, etc.**
Major subjects: Army, U.S.; Little Rock, AR; Central High School; Faubus, Orval;
State Police.
- 15 **Congressional Material.**
Major Subjects: Press; Eisenhower, Dwight D.; NAACP; Operation ARKANSAS;
Parker, Sammie Dean.
- 16 **DA Department of the Army Plan.**
Major Subjects: Arkansas National Guard; 101st Airborne Division.
- 17 **Walker Plan.**
Major Subject: Federal troop operation plans.
- 18 **Photographs: Central High School and Vicinity.**
- 19 **Briefing: Army Commanders.**
Major subjects: Arkansas National Guard; Little Rock, AR.
- 20 **NAACP Correspondence.**
Major subjects: Wilkins, Roy; Central High School.
- 21 **School Board Petition, Hearings.**
Major subject: Faculty and staff.
- 22 **Texts of President, Secretary of Defense, Secretary of the Army Orders, Release Orders.**
Major subjects: Arkansas National Guard; Eisenhower, Dwight D.; McElroy, Neil R.;
Wilber, Brucker M.
- 23 **Miscellaneous: Rosters, Reports, etc.**
Major subjects: Arkansas National Guard; Commencement program; Media roster.
- 24 **Index.**
Major subjects: Arkansas National Guard; Federalization of Arkansas National Guard;
Lewis, Anthony; Press; Federal troop use; Operation ARKANSAS.

REEL 4

Folder#

- 25 **US Army Military District, Arkansas Command Report, 24 September 1957 thru 30 November 1957.**
Major subjects: Arkansas National Guard; Camp Robinson; Duncan, Vernon;
Eisenhower, Dwight D.; Walker, Edwin A.; Little Rock, AR; Media roster; Operation
ARKANSAS; Army, U.S.; Wilson, Charles E.

**26 US Army MIL DIST Military District, Arkansas Command Report, 1 thru 31
January 1958.**

Major subjects: Operation ARKANSAS; Army, U.S.

**27 US Army MIL DIST Military District, Arkansas, Command Report, 1 thru 29
May 1958.**

Major subjects: Arkansas National Guard; Little Rock, AR; Operation ARKANSAS;
Roster of Students and Parents; Army, U.S.

SUBJECT INDEX

The first number after each entry refers to the reel, while the number following the colon refers to a folder number on that reel. Hence 1:1 directs the researcher to folder 1 on reel 1. Each folder is located on the reel in numerical order and introduced with a folder tab. These subjects will not necessarily be found at the beginning of the designated folder, but will be located within it. This Subject Index is best used in conjunction with the Reel index, which lists not only folder numbers, but folder titles as well.

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