RACE RIOT FEARED AS
SHERIFF ELAYS SOLDIER;
ASK REMOVAL OF REGIMENT

JACKSON, Miss. (ANP)—Fearing serious race riots as the result of killing of a Negro soldier Sunday, Gov. Paul B. Johnson has asked the war department to move the 364th Infantry regiment to a northern station.

The 364th was recently ordered to Camp Van Dorn near here from Phoenix, Ariz.

Gov. Johnson asked for a war department investigation following the incident, accompanied by a request for action from Centreville’s Mayor Omer Carroll.

The governor said he also asked Sen. Bisso and Eastland to advise Secretary of war Henry L. Stimson to seek an immediate investigation and not only the removal of the 364th, but a promise that no more northern Negro soldiers would be sent to this area.

City Marshal Robert J. Knighton in a report Wednesday said sheriff Richard Whitaker shot and killed a Negro private from Camp Van Dorn when the latter resisted arrest by military police and attempted to take the military policeman’s gun. All military police in this area are white.

Accompanying the request of Gov. Johnson was a telegram from Mayor Carroll which reads:

“Urgently request that steps be taken to have the 364th Infantry recently ordered here removed by war department to northern station. This regiment is fomenting race riots and openly boasts that they have come to clean Mississippi out. Have had no trouble with other colored troops until arrival of this regiment from Arizona some days ago. Consider this request of utmost urgency as serious race riots are expected if this regiment is allowed to remain her.”

Col. R. E. Guthrie, commanding officer of Camp Dorn described the trouble as an individual incident and said that there had been a little emotional disturbance among the colored troops and some among the people of Centreville.

Following the shooting of the unarmed soldier Sunday night, state guards and highway patrolmen are reports to have been ordered to Centreville, but were met near Brookhaven, Miss., by military officers who informed them that the situation was under control.