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Authority NND 735027

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY SERVICE FORCES
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



SPJGI 12-811

6 July 1945

SUBJECT: Interrogation of 2d Lt. Stratton M. Appleman

TO: Commanding General, Eighth Service Command, Santa Fe Building,
Dallas 2, Texas
ATTENTION: Director, Security and Intelligence Division

1. It is requested that Second Lieutenant Stratton M. Appleman, O-673709, 1857 Service Command Unit, Reception Station, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, be interviewed and that his testimony regarding war crimes be taken under oath in question and answer form, as indicated in paragraphs 6, 7, and 8 of the letter dated 2 June 1945 from the Commanding General, Army Service Forces, on the subject of "Interviews with Repatriates from Enemy Territory re War Crimes".

2. The attention of Lieutenant Appleman should be directed particularly to the alleged execution of a number of American and British air force officers who were at Camp Buchenwald and who were removed therefrom on or about 19 October 1944. Extracts from a letter prepared by Walter S. Joy, Special Agent, CIC, and a forwarding letter from the Staff Judge Advocate, ETO, are inclosed to assist the examiner.

3. In view of the apparent importance of this matter, it is requested that the interrogation be expedited as much as possible.

4. If Lieutenant Appleman has left your area, this request should be forwarded to the headquarters of the service command in which he is located, directed to the attention of the Director, Security and Intelligence Division, and information regarding the reference should be communicated to this office.

FOR THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL:

Martin G. White

2 Incls
2 letters as stated

MASTIN G. WHITE
Colonel, JAGD
Deputy Director
War Crimes Office

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SPLIB 8S - WC 1290531
(6 Jul 45)

1st Ind

MAP/WES/lr

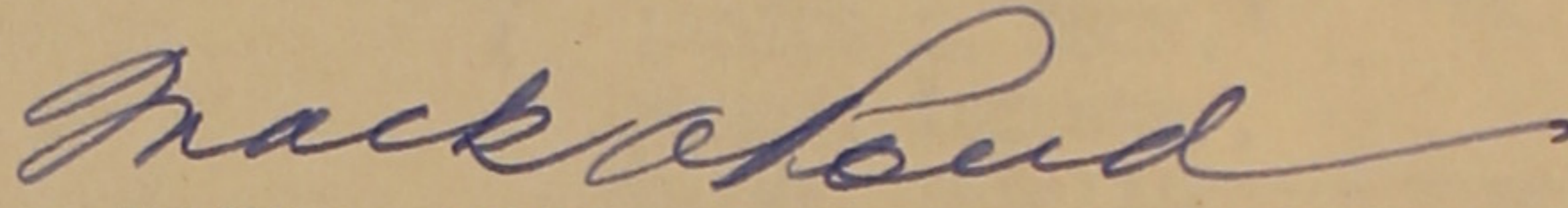
Headquarters, Eighth Service Command, ASF, Dallas 2, Texas, 24 July 1945

TO: Commanding General, Fourth Service Command, Atlanta 3, Georgia
ATTENTION: Director, Security and Intelligence Division

1. Subject was transferred to Army Air Forces Redistribution Station # 2, Miami Beach, Florida, per Par 22 of SO 153 dated 2 June 1945, to report Miami Beach on 5 August 1945.

2. Forwarded for compliance with basic communication.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:



MACK A. POND
Major, CMP
Asst Director, Intelligence Div, S & I

2 Incls
n/c

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SPIIB (6 July 45)

2d Ind.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTH SERVICE COMMAND, ASF, Atlanta 3, Ga., 26 July 1945.

TO: Special Agent in Charge, P. O. Box 328, Miami 3, Fla.

Forwarded for compliance with basic communication at the earliest practicable date pursuant to instructions contained in letter, Headquarters, Army Service Forces, file SPX 000.5 (28 May 45) OB-S-SPINT-M, subject: "Interviews with Repatriates from Enemy Territory re War Crimes," dated 2 June 1945, and 1st indorsement thereto, this headquarters, dated 9 June 1945.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL BROOKS:

Lucius L. Deck
LUCIUS L. DECK,
Major, Infantry,
Chief, Intelligence Branch,
Security & Intelligence Division.

2 Incl.

n/c

3rd Ind.

SIC, MIAMI FIELD OFFICE 54-56, P. O. Box 328, Miami 3, Florida, 17 Aug 45.

TO: Chief, Intelligence Branch, S & I Div., Hq. Fourth SvC, ASF, Post Office Building, Atlanta 3, Georgia.

Basic communication complied with.

Lawson P. Calhoun
LAWSON P. CALHOUN
Special Agent in Charge
SIC Field Office 54-56

5 Incls: #1-2 n/c
3-5- 3 Depositions added

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For The WAR CRIMES OFFICE

Judge Advocate General's Department -- War Department

United States of America

my the original

In the matter of failure to provide quarters for American prisoners of war at Buchenwald, Germany.

Perpetuation of Testimony of Stratton M. Appleman, O-673709, 2nd Lt.

Taken at: Dorchester Hotel, Miami Beach, Service Base, Miami Beach, Fla.

Date: 8 August 1945

In the Presence of: Green H. Cleveland, Special Agent, Security Intelligence Corps, Fourth Service Command

Reporter: Mary L. Moore, Clerk-Typist, Miami Beach Service Base, Miami Beach, Fla.

Questions by: Green H. Cleveland, Special Agent, Security Intelligence Corps, Fourth Service Command

- Q. State your name, rank, serial number, and present home address.
- A. Stratton M. Appleman, 2nd Lt., O-673709, P. O. Box 267, Aransas Pass, Texas.
- Q. What were you engaged in prior to entering service?
- A. Student of Journalism at University of Texas.
- Q. When did you join the Army?
- A. 21 January 1942.
- Q. When did you first become a prisoner of the Germans?
- A. 6 June 1944.
- Q. What provisions were made for quarters for the 160 American and British officers who were taken to Buchenwald on 20 August 1944.
- A. We were forced to sleep in the open on stone paved area, no shelter or blankets. It was in August but we were on a mountain and it was cold at night. This lasted for two weeks.
- Q. What kind of clothing did you have?
- A. When we first arrived all of our clothing was taken away from us. We were shaved from head to foot and then we were issued a shirt and a pair of pants each, which clothing was taken from Jewish prisoners who had been exterminated.
- Q. Was it known by the German authorities that you were prisoners of war?
- A. The German commandant of Buchenwald remarked to Squadron Leader Lambson of the New Zealand Air Force that he knew we were prisoners of war, but there was nothing he could do about it at the time. This remark was made two days after we were taken to Buchenwald.
- Q. Were any protests made by your group?

*12-811-28
sent to ETO
10-16-45*

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A protest was made by the Senior British Officer, Squadron Leader Lamason, ~~Capt. Larson (FNU)~~ Senior American Officer with the request that the protest be transmitted to Berlin and request that we be moved to a regular prisoner of war camp. The protests were made at least three different times. Each time they were rejected and usually with the remark that we were Luftwaffe gangsters and were lucky to be treated as well as we were.

- Q. Do you know who the Commandant of Buchenwald was?
- A. No.
- Q. Do you know the name of any other responsible German officers at Buchenwald?
- A. No.
- Q. What food were you given at Buchenwald?
- A. A bowl of soup daily, 1/6 loaf of bread, and potatoes twice a week. We didn't receive any Red Cross parcels.
- Q. After the two week period without shelter, what kind of quarters were you given?
- A. We were given quarters which were formerly occupied by about 500 Gypsy children. These children were moved out and according to rumor were exterminated. These barracks were about the size of an ordinary barracks in a U. S. Army post, and had 4 tiers of bunks which were merely shelves about 5 feet wide and separated by a 4' x 4'. These shelves ran along the walls the full length of the barracks on both sides. There were no mattresses, but there were two blankets to every 4 men. There were 750 persons in this barracks, including our group. The others were not prisoners of war, but included people of all nationalities.
- Q. Were there any protests made about these quarters?
- A. Yes, we protested at being kept at this camp. We also requested that we be kept in separate barracks from the other people, so as to be allowed to set up our sanitation system and take precautions against disease. The requests were never granted, except that we were finally moved to a prisoner of war camp.
- Q. Do you know why the 120 men were taken to Buchenwald.
- A. Yes, because all of them were in civilian clothes when captured.
- Q. Did these men have anything to prove they were prisoners of war?
- A. Most of these men had dog tags.

Stratton M. Appelman
Stratton M. Appelman, 2nd Lt. AAF

State of Florida)
) SS
County of Dade)

I, Stratton M. Appelman, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my interrogation and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Stratton M. Appelman
Stratton M. Appelman, 2nd Lt. AAF

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____ 1945.

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CERTIFICATE

I, Green H. Cleveland, Special Agent, Security Intelligence Corps, Fourth Service Command, certify that Stratton M. Appelman, O-673709, 2nd Lt., personally appeared before me on 8 August 1945, and testified concerning War Crimes; and that the foregoing is an accurate transcription of the answers given by him to the several questions set forth.

It is noted in compliance with request contained in [unclear] that the inclosure is forwarded to the fact that inclosure #5 is improperly captioned. An attempt was made to have Subject [unclear] but it was ascertained that he had already been assigned to the 4888 Central Postal Directory, APO Base Unit, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. In view of the fact that the inclosure is valuable mainly because of the lead it contains, it is necessary to send it to the Fifth Service Command for correction.

Green H. Cleveland
Special Agent, Security Intelligence
Corps, Fourth Service Command

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

Charles A. Palmer
CHARLES A. PALMER
Major, GSC
Member, Security &
Intelligence Division

3 Incls:
#1-3 n/c
#4-5 - n/c (1 cc en v/3)

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APPLEMAN, Stratton M.
SPIIB
(6 Jul 45)

4th Ind.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTH SERVICE COMMAND, ASF, Atlanta 3, Georgia, 24 August 1945.

TO: Director, War Crimes Office, 4732 Munitions Building,
Washington 25, D. C.

1. Forwarded in compliance with request contained in basic communication.
2. Attention is invited to the fact that inclosure #5 is improperly executed. An attempt was made to have Subject properly sign this deposition, but it was ascertained that he had already been transferred to ATSC, 4020th AAF Base Unit, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. In view of the fact that the deposition is valuable mainly because of the leads it contains it was not deemed necessary to send it to the Fifth Service Command for correction.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

Callie H. Palmer
 CALLIE H. PALMER,
 Colonel, GSC
 Director, Security &
 Intelligence Division

5 Incls:
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 #3-5 - n/c (1 cc ea w/d)

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