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For The WAR CRIMES OFFICE

Judge Advocate General's Department -- War Department
United States of America

(Handwritten initials and signature)

In the matter of improper transportation of American prisoners of war by Germans from Paris to Buchenwald.

* Perpetuation of Testimony of
* Stratton H. 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 H. Appleman, 2nd Lt., O-673709, P. O. Box 267, Aransas Pass, Texas.
- Q. What were you engaged in prior to entering the 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. When were you recaptured by the Germans?
- A. 19 July 1944.
- Q. Where were you taken after your recapture?
- A. I was taken to St. Quentin prison for 8 days and then to Prison Fresnes in Paris. I stayed there about three weeks before being moved to Buchenwald.
- Q. Where you wearing civilian clothes at that time?
- A. Yes.
- Q. How many men in your group were removed from Prison Fresnes to Buchenwald?
- A. 160.
- Q. How were they transported to Buchenwald?

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- A. There were 70 men, a ratio of about 60 French and 10 American prisoners of war. We were placed in 40 - 8 boxcars.
- Q. How many days did the train ride require?
- A. Five days.
- Q. Were any provisions made for sanitation?
- A. A five gallon can was placed in each car.
- Q. Any prisoners allowed to leave the train?
- A. On one occasion we were allowed to leave the car for about an hour and given hot coffee.
- Q. Any other time?
- A. On another occasion it was necessary for us to change trains because a tunnel had been blown up. This time we were out of the train 6 hours.
- Q. Were any of the men ill during this trip?
- A. Everyone was ill with stomach trouble and improper ventilation. No medical attention was given, however.
- Q. What food was given you during the trip?
- A. A loaf of bread, and a can of meat for the entire trip. French Red Cross and French civilians along the way donated adequate food.
- Q. Do you know who the German officer in charge of this trip was?
- A. No, I do not know his name. He was a major, however, about 38 years old, about 6 feet tall, dark hair, turning slightly gray. He carried a heavy cane with which he hit many of the prisoners on the back. He was apparently an SS man, as he wore a green uniform with the black skull and crossbones insignia.
- Q. Were the American and British prisoners of war on this train the same ones who were removed from Buchenwald 19 October 1944?
- A. Yes, however, 12 of them were left at Buchenwald when the group was moved.
- Q. Who were the Senior allied officers in this group.
- A. Capt Larson(FNU), and Squadron Leader Philip Lamason was the Senior British Officer.

Stratton M. Appleman, 2nd Lt., AAF

State of Florida))
County of Dade) SS

I, Stratton M. Appleman, 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. Appleman, 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. Appleman, 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.

Green H. Cleveland
Special Agent, Security Intelli-
gence Corps, Fourth Service Command

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