

(4)

17 April 1972

Mr. R. W. Koch

[Redacted]

Dear Mr. Koch

In reply to your letter of 8 April 1972, I can confirm that the OSS packing station was at Holme, England, not Holmby.

My files do not reflect the designation of the squadron that supported the drop operations. The airplanes used were not C-47's, but specially equipped B-24's and A-26's. In these files there is no mention of the "Liberator" pistol.

OSS did not change its name to Special Forces Headquarters. That designation was given to the Special Operations Branch and the British SOE (Special Operations Executive) that worked together in air supply activities. Special Forces Headquarters, whose personnel were both British and American, came into being on 1 May 1944.

Your information that OSS did not operate in the Philippine Islands during World War II is correct.

Sincerely yours

[Redacted]

Executive Secretary

STATINTL

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8 April 1972



Pertaining to the research being conducted on the FP-45 "Liberator" pistol which you mentioned in your last letter to me dated 18 February 1972 concerning several of these pistols being transferred to CIA in 1959 from the Raritan Arsenal a check was made on the Raritan Arsenal and it was determined that the arsenal was discontinued as a Department of the Army installation on 30 June 1966. Because of this, no information was obtained from Raritan.

Now, during the first part of this April, two hundred and fifty of these pistols were placed on sale by International Firearms Ltd, Montreal, Canada at \$50 each. I am presently attempting to trace the origin from where they obtained these weapons which brings up the following facts...and a question or two.

During World War 2 OSS in England changed its name to Special Forces Headquarters in May 1944. To support its operations, four C-47's of the 856th Squadron were placed under the direct control of Special Forces Headquarters and flew landing sorties to twelve partisan held airfields in France and the Holland areas. The 856th squadron transported many of these pistols to the Resistance via these airfields from July to late December 1944. These facts I have already documented through other sources. OSS had many packing stations in the various parts of the world which made ready arms and equipment for airdrop and delivery. My question is...would you have in your files (which should relate to OSS operations) any information which shows that Special Forces Headquarters utilized 856th squadron? Or possibly, any information mentioning Holmby, England which was an OSS packing station and their possible reference to the "Liberator" pistol?

Also, I was told by other sources that OSS did not operate in the Philippine Islands during World War 2. Could you possibly verify this for me also.

Lastly, I review of the book, "Rearming the French" by former OSS Lieutenant Marcel Vigneras fails to show that this pistol was given to the French Resistance. His book does have a list of equipment which was packed by OSS and delivered to the Resistance from January to October 1944 and again the "Liberator" pistol was not mentioned. Any information on this matter which you are allowed to release would be greatly appreciated. And thanks again for the prior assistance.

Sincerely, STAT

R.M. Koch

