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CONTROLS  
UNCLAS BONN 24197

VISAS DONKEY, EUR

FOR CA/VO/L/C AND EUR/CE

E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

TAGS: CVIS, GE (WETEKAM, HANS-JOACHIM)  
SUBJECT: SAO REQUEST - POSSIBLE 212(A)(33)

REF: (A) BONN 14876, (B) USBERLIN 01934

1. VISAS DONKEY
2. WETEKAM, HANS-JOACHIM
  - 9 DECEMBER 1920 OBERHOF, FRG
  - RETIRED ENGINEER
3. HANS-JOACHIM WETEKAM, DPOB: DEC 9, 1920, OBERHOF, FRG, GAVE THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF HIS MEMBERSHIP IN THE HITLER YOUTH AND THE WAFFEN SS.
  - 1933 - 1939
4. WETEKAM CONFIRMED THE BDC FINDING THAT HE JOINED

~~FOR~~ COORDINATION WITH <sup>ed</sup> State

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THE HITLER YOUTH ON MARCH 1, 1933 AND REMAINED A MEMBER OF THE ORGANIZATION UNTIL NOVEMBER 15, 1939 - 15 DAYS BEFORE HE JOINED THE WAFFEN SS. HE CLAIMED THAT A NUMBER OF CIRCUMSTANCES AND PRESSURES COMBINED TO COMPEL HIS ENTRY INTO THE HITLER YOUTH. HE WAS ONLY THIRTEEN YEARS OLD WHEN HITLER ASSUMED THE CHANCELLORSHIP, AND HIS NORMAL PATRIOTIC ENTHUSIASMS AND YOUTHFUL IDEALISM WERE SUBORNED BY THE NAZI PARTY. HE SAID THAT THE PATRIOTIC AND SOCIAL PRESSURES TO JOIN THE HITLER YOUTH, AND LATER SOME FORM OF MILITARY SERVICE, AND THE POLITICAL CONDITIONING HE WAS SUBJECT TO, WERE ENORMOUS. AS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS PRESSURE/CONDITIONING, WETEKAM POINTED OUT THAT IN 1934, THE GYMNASIUM (ACADEMIC HIGH SCHOOL) HE ATTENDED IN THE BERLIN SUBURB OF LICHTERFELD WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A NATIONAL SOCIALIST POLITICAL SCHOOL (QUOTE NAPOLA UNQUOTE, NATIONALPOLITISCHE ERZIEHUNGSANSTALT). WETEKAM EARNED HIS DIPLOMA (I.E. HE COMPLETED HIS ABITUR) FROM THIS SCHOOL IN 1939..

- 1939 - 1940

5. WETEKAM ALSO CONFIRMED THAT HE JOINED THE WAFFEN SS VOLUNTARILY IN 1939. HE EXPLAINED THAT HIS GYMNASIUM STUDIES WERE REGULARLY INTERRUPTED BY SPECIAL EXTENDED LEAVES, GRANTED TO HIM FOR THE PURPOSE OF HELPING OUT ON THE FAMILY FARM. HE TOOK SUCH A LEAVE OF ABSENCE IN OCT - NOV 1939, AND WHEN HE RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL HE WAS INFORMED BY THE SCHOOL'S EXECUTIVE OFFICE THAT ALL HIS CLASSMATES HAD VOLUNTEERED FOR THE MILITARY DURING HIS ABSENCE; HE WAS THE LAST CIVILIAN. WISHING TO AVOID THE APPEARANCE OF INDECISIVENESS OR COWARDICE IN THE EYES OF HIS CLASSMATES AND THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION, HE JOINED THE WAFFEN SS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN IMMEDIATE MILITARY STATUS. HE CLAIMED THAT SS RECRUITS WERE ACCEPTED IMMEDIATELY, WHEREAS WEHRMACHT RECRUITS HAD TO WAIT AROUND FOR A FEW WEEKS AS CIVILIANS PENDING RECRUITMENT PROCEDURE.

- 1940; TRAINING AND WESTERN FRONT

6. UPON JOINING THE WAFFEN SS WETEKAM WAS ASSIGNED TO THE FIRST SS ARTILLERY REGIMENT, SS LEIBSTANDARTE **ADOLF HITLER**. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HIS RECRUITMENT HE WAS BILLETED IN HIS OLD SCHOOL BUILDING IN BERLIN-LICHTERFELDE, WHERE HIS BASIC TRAINING COMMENCED. SOMETIME IN THE SPRING OF 1940 HE WAS SENT TO THE MUNICH AREA FOR CONTINUED TRAINING. HIS UNIT ARRIVED IN OSNABRUECK, LOWER SAXONY, IN TIME TO STAGE FOR THE MAY 1940 INVASION OF FRANCE. ACCORDING TO WETEKAM, HE WAS A COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN/DRIVER. HIS IMMEDIATE COMMANDING OFFICER WAS AN OFFICER NAMED SUCKAU(?). IN COMPAIGNING THROUGH HOLLAND AND BELGIUM INTO FRANCE, THE ONLY STOUT RESISTENCE THAT HE COULD RECALL WAS OFFERED BY FRENCH TROOPS IN THE AREA OF MARNE.

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7. FOLLOWING THE BLITZKRIEG IN FRANCE WETEKAM'S UNIT WAS WITHDRAWN TO METZ, FRANCE, FROM AUGUST 1940 UNTIL EARLY SPRING 1941. WHILE STATIONED IN METZ, HE ONCE AGAIN WAS ASSIGNED COMMUNICATIONS DUTIES, AS WELL AS CAR AND AMBULANCE DRIVER.

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 BONN 24197

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- 1941 - BALKAN CAMPAIGN

8. IN EARLY SPRING 1941, ACCORDING TO WETEKAM, THE LEIBSTANDARTE **ADOLF HITLER** PARTICIPATED IN THE BALKAN CAMPAIGN. HIS UNIT WAS SENT BY TRAIN TO THE AREA OF PLOESTI, RUMANIA. THERE THE LEIBSTANDARTE WAS MOTORIZED AND DISPATCHED THROUGH THE SOUTHERN BALKANS, CAMPAIGNING THROUGH YUGOSLAVIA AND GREECE. THE ONLY HARD RESISTANCE THAT WETEKAM CLAIMED TO RECALL WAS OFFERED BY GREEK TROOPS IN THE MOUNTAIN-PASS BATTLE OF KLIDI(?), IN GREECE. ALTHOUGH WETEKAM STATED THAT THE BATTLE INVOLVED HIS ARTILLERY REGIMENT, HE CLAIMED THAT HIS PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION THROUGHOUT THE CAMPAIGN WAS TO DRIVE A TRUCK AND/OR AMBULANCE. IN JULY 1941 WETEKAM WAS TRANSFERRED WITH HIS UNIT TO PATRAS; THE ARMISTICE IN GREECE FOLLOWED TWO OR THREE WEEKS LATER.

- 1941 - RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN

9. FROM PATRAS, WETEKAM'S UNIT WAS TRANSPORTED BY RAIL TO BRUEN (BRNO), CZECHOSLOVAKIA. FOLLOWING A THREE WEEK REFIT, THE LEIBSTANDARTE **ADOLF HITLER**, NOW CALLED THE SS-DIVISION **ADOLF HITLER**, JOINED THE MASSIVE GERMAN ASSAULT ON THE SOVIET UNION. WETEKAM SPECIFICALLY RECALLED CAMPAIGNING IN THE KIEV AREA BY LATE SUMMER 1941. THE FRONT WAS THEN EXTENDED TO THE SOUTHEAST; BY AUTUMN HIS UNIT WAS IN TAGANROG ON THE SEA OF ASOV. HE SAID THAT DURING ALL OF THIS CAMPAIGNING HE WAS ONLY A DRIVER OF TRUCKS OR AMBULANCES.

10. IN THE FALL OF 1941 WETEKAM DEVELOPED HEPATITIS AND WAS TREATED AT A LARGE SS MILITARY HOSPITAL IN DNEPROPETROVSK. FOLLOWING FIVE OR SIX WEEKS OF TREATMENT HE RETURNED TO TAGANROG, WHERE THE DIVISION SPENT THE WINTER FOLLOWING THE SHORT-LIVED OCCUPATION OF ROSTOV. DURING THE WINTER OF 1941-42 HE SPENT TIME AS A STAFF AID AND ALSO PARTICIPATED IN AN ADVANCED ARTILLERY RANGEFINDING/APPLIED MATHEMATICS COURSE. HE

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STATED THAT THE DIVISION REMAINED IN THE TAGANROG AREA UNTIL EARLY SUMMER 1942.

- JUNE 1942 - APRIL 1943

11. ON JUNE 4, 1942 UNTIL THE SPRING OF 1943 WETEKAM WAS ASSIGNED TO A WAR RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING COURSE, (KRIEGS-RESERVEFUEHRER ANWAERTERLEHRGANG) IN BAD TOELZ, GERMANY. FOLLOWING THIS COURSE, HE SAID, HE WAS ASSIGNED TO AN ADVANCED ARTILLERY SCHOOL IN MEINSINGEN, BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG. THE BDC SUMMARY INDICATES THAT HE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE SS ARTILLERY REPLACEMENT REGIMENT (SS ARTILLERIE ERSATZREGIMENT) UNTIL APRIL 20, 1943.

12. FOLLOWING ALL THIS TRAINING, WETEKAM WAS SENT TO THE COGNAC REGION OF FRANCE TO TRAIN WITH THE NEWLY FORMED SS DIVISION FRUNDSBERG, WHICH CONTAINED A LARGE CONTINGENT OF NON-GERMAN WESTERN EUROPE VOLUNTEERS. ALTHOUGH HE HELD THE RESERVE RANK OF SS LIEUTENANT (UNTERSTURMFUEHRER), HIS NEW FIELD GRADE WAS SS SERGEANT (FELDWEBEL). THE SS DIVISION FRUNDSBERG REPORTEDLY TRAINED IN FRANCE UNTIL THE FALL OF 1943.

- FALL 1943 - JUNE 1944, EASTERN FRONT

13. AFTER TRAINING IN FRANCE THE NEW DIVISION WAS DISPATCHED TO THE RUSSIAN FRONT, BEGINNING THEIR CAMPAIGNING IN THE AREA OF BRESTLITOVSK. WETEKAM STATED THAT, FOR THE NEXT YEAR, THE DIVISION'S ACTIONS CONSISTED OF LITTLE MORE THAN A SLOW RETREAT THROUGH POLAND, WITH FREQUENT STOPS TO FIGHT HOLDING ACTIONS. AS AN ARTILLERY SERGEANT HE COMMANDED A BATTERY OF APPROXIMATELY 100 MEN, CONSISTING OF FOUR HOWITZERS AND VARIOUS LIGHTER WEAPONS. HIS ARTILLERY SECTION COMMANDER WAS AN OFFICER NAMED JOBST.

- JUNE - OCTOBER 1944 - NORMANDY

14. IN EARLY JUNE 1944 THE ENTIRE SS DIVISION FRUNDSBERG WAS TRANSFERRED TO NORMANDY. WETEKAM SAW ACTION IN CAEN, LISIEUX (HILL 307) AND FALAISE AGAINST THE INVADING ALLIED FORCES. DURING THE SUMMER OF 1944, IN THE AREA OF FALAISE, HE WAS WOUNDED IN THE KNEE BY GRENADE FRAGMENTS AND EVACUATED TO A FIELD HOSPITAL IN DOUAI, FRANCE, NEAR THE BELGIAN BORDER. FOLLOWING INITIAL TREATMENT HE WAS EVACUATED TO BAD KISSINGEN, UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 BONN 24197

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GERMANY, TO A REHABILITATION HOSPITAL, WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL OCTOBER 1944.

- OCTOBER 1944 - MAY 1945

15. FOLLOWING HIS CONVALESCENCE HE WAS ASSIGNED TO HOLLAND. IN OCTOBER 1944 HE WAS TRANSFERRED EASTWARD (PRESUMABLY AS PART OF THE 3RD SS PANZER ARMY); BY THE WINTER OF 1944-45 WETEKAM WAS SERVING IN THE AREA OF STETTIN (SZCZECIN) IN POMERANIA. FROM STETTIN HE MOVED SOUTH INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA; THOUGH THE SPRING OF 1945 THE GERMANS WERE PUSHED BACK GRADUALLY INTO THE SUDETENLAND. ON THE EIGHTH OF MAY 1945, HE WAS INJURED WHEN A LOW-HANGING BRANCH KNOCKED HIM FROM THE TOP OF THE ARMORED CAR ON WHICH HE HAD BEEN RIDING. SHORTLY AFTER HIS INJURY WORD OF THE GERMAN CAPITULATION CAME OVER THE RADIO AND WETEKAM, AS THE SENIOR NCO, ORDERED HIS MOTORIZED ARTILLERY BATTERY TO LAY DOWN THEIR WEAPONS. THE NEXT DAY, REPORTED WETEKAM, HE ENCOUNTERED RUSSIAN SOLDIERS WHO, RATHER THAN TAKING HIM INTO CUSTODY, TOLD HIM TO GO HOME. HE THEORIZED THAT THE BANDAGES AROUND HIS HEAD, THE LEGACY OF HIS INJURY THE PREVIOUS DAY, MADE HIS INJURY APPEAR TO BE MORE GRISLY THAN IT ACTUALLY WAS; PERHAPS THE RUSSIANS CONSIDERED HIM TO BE A FAIRLY UNPREPOSSESSING POW PROSPECT.

- POST-WAR

16. WETEKAM STATED THAT FOLLOWING HIS BRUSH WITH THE RUSSIAN SOLDIERS HE MADE HIS WAY ON FOOT BACK TO GERMANY, ARRIVING IN AROLSSEN, WEST OF KASSEL, WHERE HE FOUND WORK ON A FARM FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS. IN MARCH 1946 HE BEGAN STUDYING MINE ENGINEERING IN DORTMUND, AND FROM THEN HE MADE HIS CAREER. AS HE WAS NEVER A MEMBER OF THE NAZI PARTY HE NEVER EXPERIENCED ANY DE-NAZIFICATION PROCESS OR LENGTHY INTERNMENT.  
BURT

ADMIN  
END OF MESSAGE

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