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CONTROLS
UNCLAS FRANKFURT 10592

VISAS DONKEY

FOR CA/VO/L/C (ATTENTION: FRED SMITH) AND EUR/CE

E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

TAGS: CVIS, PGOV, PREL, GE (ROTHE, GERHARD LUDWIG KARL)
SUBJECT: SAO REQUEST

REF: USBERLIN 001213

1. VISAS DONKEY
2. ROTHE, GERHARD LUDWIG KARL GERMAN
07 JULY 1913 STRASSBURG, FRANCE
BUSINESSMAN (RETIRED)
B-2 VISA
NO PREVIOUS VISA

3. ROTHE IS LISTED IN AVLOS UNDER CODE 83, PRESUMABLY DUE TO HIS MEMBERSHIP IN THE WAFFEN SS DURING THE NAZI REGIME.

~~FOR COORDINATION WITH~~ State

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4. THE FOLLOWING CHRONOLOGY OF ROTHE'S ACTIVITIES RELATING TO HIS 83 STATUS IS BASED ON HIS ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS DURING AN INTERVIEW AT POST, SUPPLEMENTED BY WRITTEN EVIDENCE HE PRESENTED AT THE SAME TIME. HE APPEARED TO TRUST HIS MEMORY ON NEARLY ALL POINTS AND READILY ADMITTED HIS FAILURE TO RECALL CERTAIN DETAILS, MAKING NO ATTEMPTS TO GUESS. HE MADE USE OF A PREPARED CHRONOLOGY THAT HE SAID HE HAD WRITTEN FOR PROCEEDINGS CONCERNING HIS PENSION PAYMENTS. HE ALSO PRESENTED SEVERAL DOCUMENTS REGARDING HIS WARTIME ACTIVITIES, USED IN THE SAME PROCEEDINGS. HE ALSO HANDED OVER HIS DE-NAZIFICATION PAPERS.

5. 1933: THE PFADFINDER GROUP TO WHICH HE HAD BELONGED TO SINCE 1929 IS ABSORBED INTO THE S.A.; HE BECOMES AN ANWAERTER FOR THE ALLGEMEINE SS.

6. 1934: HE BEGINS HIS WEHRPFLICHT IN NOVEMBER WITH THE VERFUEGUNGSTRUPPE LEIBSTANDARTE SS **ADOLF HITLER**; THIS SERVICE LASTS THROUGH APRIL 20, 1936.

7. 1936: IN APRIL HE IS MADE AN OFFICER, AN SS-UNTERSTURMFUEHRER, OF THE VERFUEGUNGSTRUPPE; LATE IN APRIL HE IS ORDERED TO KOENIGSBERG, WHERE HE REMAINS THROUGH APRIL 1937; IN THE FALL HE APPLIES TO BECOME A POLICEMAN, TO GET AWAY FROM THE SS, HE SAID.

8. 1937: IN MAY HE JOINS THE SCHUTZPOLIZEI DES DEUTSCHEN REICHES IN FRANKFURT AM MAIN WITH THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT; FROM MAY THROUGH AUGUST HE RECEIVES POLICE TRAINING IN FRANKFURT-PRAUNHEIM AND BERLIN-SCHOENEUBURG; SOMETIME DURING THIS YEAR HE OFFICIALLY JOINS THE NSDAP

9. 1938: FROM JANUARY TO THROUGH MAY HE TAKES PART IN A TRAINING COURSE FOR POLICE LIEUTENANTS HELD IN BERLIN-KOEPENICK; IN AUGUST HE IS TRANSFERRED TO THE POLICE ADMINISTRATION IN HANNOVER, WHERE (FROM THEN UNTIL OCTOBER 1939) HE SERVES FIRST AS ADJUTANT TO A SECTION COMMANDER (ABSCHNITTSKOMMANDEUR) AND (BEGINNING JANUARY 1939) IN THE SAME POSITION TO THE POLICE COMMANDER.

10. 1939: JANUARY: IS PROMOTED TO OBERLEUTANT OF THE SCHUTZPOLIZEI AND AT THE SAME TIME IS PROMOTED TO SS-OBERSTURMFUEHRER OF THE ALLGEMEINE SS; IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH HE ATTENDS A POLICE SKI SCHOOL IN SUDELFELD; HE ATTENDS A SCHOOL FOR FUTURE POLICE INSTRUCTORS IN BERLIN-KOEPENICK FROM JUNE TO JULY; OCTOBER: SECONDED TO THE 2ND POLIZEI-SCHUETZEN REGIMENT OF THE SS POLIZEI DIVISION BEING CREATED AT FRANKFURT/ODER, WHERE HE BECOMES LEADER OF THE 7TH COMPANY.

11. 1940: JANUARY TO MAY: ON THE OBERRHEINFRONT; MAY: TAKES PART IN THE INVASION OF FRANCE AS PART OF THE HEERESGRUPPE GUDERIAN; JUNE 10: INFANTRY ENGAGEMENT NEAR VONCU; JUNE 14: INFANTRY ENGAGEMENT AT LES ISLECTES; JUNE/JULY: 4 TO 8 WEEKS AS THE LOCAL COMMANDANT AT SAINT DIZIERS, WORKING, HE SAID, WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO ESTABLISH QUIET AND ORDER (RUHE UND ORDNUNG); ESTABLISHES

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CAMP FOR FRANCE REFUGEES RETURNING TO THE AREA AFTER THE INVASION; JULY: MOVES WITH COMPANY AS PART OF OCCUPATION FORCE TO PARIS (WHERE HE REMAINS TILL MAY 1941); JULY TO SEPTEMBER: SERVES AS LOCAL COMMANDANT OF VERSAILLES, WHERE, HE SAID, THERE WERE NO NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS; NOVEMBER: STILL TECHNICALLY A POLICEMAN, HE RECEIVES LIFETIME TENURE AS A CIVIL SERVANT (BEAMTER AUF LEBENSZEIT).

12. 1941: JUNE: TRANSFERRED TO THE EASTERN FRONT AT UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 FRANKFURT 10592

VISAS DONKEY
FOR CAVO/L/C (ATTENTION: FRED SMITH) AND EUR/CE

E.O. 12356: N/A
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SCHLOSSBERG, AND TAKES PART IN THE INVASION OF THE SOVIET UNION, ADVANCING THROUGH LITHUANIA AND LATVIA TO PUSHKIN IN THE SOVIET UNION; OCTOBER 5 TO DECEMBER 22: TAKES PART IN A BATTALION COMMANDERS TRAINING COURSE HELD AT OFFICERS' SCHOOL IN KANKAANPAEAE, FINLAND.

13. 1942: RETURNS TO PUSHKIN, IS PROMOTED TO CAPTIAN OF THE SCHUETZPOLIZEI AND SS HAUPTSTURMFUEHRER, AND TAKES POSITION AS REGIMENT'S ADJUTANT OF THE 2ND REGIMENT; APRIL 1: HIS SCHUETZEN REGIMENT IS ABSORBED INTO THE WAFFEN SS; JUNE 1: BECOMES BATTALION COMMANDER (HIS SUPERIORS WERE, TO THE BEST OF HIS RECOLLECTION, GENERAL MOELDERSTEDT, GEN.-MAJOR KRUEGER AND GENERAL ALFRED WUENNENBERG); FALL INTO WINTER (1943): ENGAGEMENTS SOUTH OF LAKE LADOGA.

14. 1943: JANUARY 23: WOUNDED NEAR LAKE LADOGA; MOVED THROUGH A SERIES OF FIELD HOSPITALS AND IS EVENTUALLY EVACUATED TO BERLIN IN MARCH, BEING THEN MOVED ON TO TRAUNSTEIN IN BAVARIA FOR TREATMENT TILL MAY; APRIL: PROMOTION TO SS-STURMBAHNFUEHRER AND POLICE MAJOR; JUNE TO SEPTEMBER: RECUPERATION IN MILITARY HOSPITAL AT CELLE; SEPTEMBER THROUGH DECEMBER: ASSIGNED TO SS JUNKERSCHULE AT TOELZ TO TEACH TACTICS.

15. 1944: JANUARY: MADE LEADER OF A COURSE OF INSTRUCTION (LEHRGRUPPENKOMMANDEUR) AT TOELZ, WHERE HE SERVES THROUGH JUNE; JULY THROUGH SEPTEMBER: HOLDS SAME POSITION AT NEW WAR SCHOOL IN PRAGUE; OCTOBER THROUGH DECEMBER: TAKES PART IN TRAINING COURSE FOR REGIMENTAL LEADERS AT THE TANK TROOPS SCHOOL AT BERGEN, GERMANY.

16. 1945: JANUARY THROUGH MAY: JOINS 19TH GRENADIER TANK REGIMENT OF THE 9TH SS TANK DIVISION HOHENSTAUFFEN IN THE EIFEL, WHICH IS MOVED TO NEAR RAAB, HUNGARY (NOW GYUR) TO COUNTER THE RUSSIAN OFFENSIVE BEGINNING IN MARCH; APRIL: REMOVED TO REGENSBURG TO COMMAND THE 2ND FIELD REPLACEMENT BRIGADE (FELDERSATZBRIGADE), WHICH IS THEN POSTED NEAR REMAGEN ON THE RHEIN; LATE APRIL: TRANSFERRED BACK TO THE

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19TH REGIMENT, WHICH BY THEN HAD BEEN MOVED TO NEAR GRATZ, AUSTRIA, WHERE HE IS CAPTURED MAY 8.

17. 1946: PRISONER OF WAR (THROUGH DECEMBER 23, 1947).

18. A COMPARISON WITH THE DATA CONTAINED IN THE BDC'S (REFTEL) SUMMARY SHOWS THAT, WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS, ROTHE PROVIDED POST WITH A RELATIVELY ACCURATE PICTURE OF HIS DOINGS DURING THE WAR. DURING THE INTERVIEW HE PRESENTED HIMSELF AS A SOLDIER, WHO SPENT HIS TIME FIGHTING THE ARMED TROOPS OF HIS COUNTRY'S OPPONENTS.

19. ROTHE'S EARLY INVOLVEMENT WITH SA THROUGH HIS STILL EARLIER MEMBERSHIP IN THE PFADFINDER SEEMS SOMEWHAT SUSPECT. AND HIS SUBSEQUENT EARLY MEMBERSHIP IN THE SS TENDS TO ADD TO THE PICTURE OF A YOUTHFUL TRUE BELIEVER, A CONCLUSION THAT HARDLY SITS EASILY WITH HIS CLAIMS TO HAVE JOINED THE POLICE AS A MEANS TO GETTING AWAY FROM THE SS. IN VIEW OF THE VERY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SS AND THE REICHPOLIZEI AT TIMES, IT BEGS THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THIS ISN'T JUST AN EXCUSE, OFFERED UP TO ANOTHER GENERATION 50 YEARS LATER.

20. ROTHE WAS ASKED POINT BLANK IF HE WAS AT ANY TIME INVOLVED IN ANYTHING, WHICH, IF WE WERE TO UNCOVER IT, WOULD SMACK OF PERSECUTION. HE OBVIOUSLY GOT THE POINT AND ANSWERED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING AT ALL. LOOKING AT HIS WARTIME ACTIVITIES, AND CONSIDERING WHAT HE OFFERED IN THE INTERVIEW, IT NOW WOULD SEEM A MATTER OF COMBING THE RECORDS TO SEE IF HIS UNITS WERE INVOLVED IN SUCH PERSECUTION.

21. OBVIOUSLY A POLICEMAN DURING THE IMMEDIATE PRE-WAR YEARS COULD NOT HELP BUT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THINGS THAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED PERSECUTION, BUT NEITHER IN HIS ANSWERS AT THE INTERVIEW WITH POST NOR IN THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN HIS 1948 DE-NAZIFICATION TRIAL/HEARING (HE WAS JUDGED A GROUP 4 MITLAEUFER AND NOMINAL NAZI RATHER THAN A GROUP 1 HAUPTSCHULDIGER) IS THERE ANYTHING POINTING TO SUCH A SUSPICION. WHETHER HE WAS ONE OF THE 700 OR SO MEMBERS OF THE LEIBSTANDARTE SS **ADOLF HITLER** WHO WERE ORDERED TO MUNICH TO CRUSH THE SA IS UNKNOWN. THE INTERVIEWING OFFICER DIDN'T KNOW OF IT IN TIME TO ASK THE QUESTION.

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 FRANKFURT 10592

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21. ROTHE'S GENERAL ATTITUDE DURING THE INTERVIEW WAS WHAT ONE MIGHT REASONABLY EXPECT OF A FORMER INFANTRY OFFICER BEING INTERVIEWED BY A VICE-CONSUL 40 YEARS AFTER THE

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FACT. HE WAS CORRECT, MANAGED TO COVER MOST OF HIS GENERAL CONTEMPT FOR THE PROCEEDINGS AND COOPERATED WITH A MIXTURE OF IRONY AND CURIOSITY. HE WAS NOT NERVOUS. THE INTERVIEWING OFFICER FEELS NO SPECIFIC LINE OF INQUIRY WAS UNCOVERED BUT SUGGESTS THAT, IN VIEW OF THE SUBJECT'S INTIMATE INVOLVEMENT WITH THE SS AND OTHER ARMS OF THE NAZI REGIME, WASHINGTON HAVE A CLOSE LOOK.

22. ROTHE WAS INITIALLY INTERVIEWED IN LATE MAY AND THE INTERVIEWING OFFICER SUGGESTED A FOLLOW-UP INTERVIEW, EVEN THOUGH ROTHE SAID HE HAD CHANGED HIS TRAVEL PLANS (HE HAD WANTED TO ATTEND HIS SON'S GRADUATION FROM A US UNIVERSITY) AND WOULD NOT BE TRAVELLING IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THIS SUBSEQUENT INTERVIEW NEVER CAME TO PASS (ROTHE DID NOT HAVE THE TIME AND THE SUBMITTED MATERIAL TURNED OUT TO BE MORE EXTENSIVE THAN INITIALLY BELIEVED) AND SO THE CASE IS NOW BEING SUBMITTED. PLEASE PARDON THE DELAY. RATTRAY

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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