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TEXT
TAGS: CVIS, GM (ASMUSSEN, KARL HEINZ)
COMBINE: COMPLETE

FOR COORDINATION WITH State

SUBJECT: ADVISORY OPINION: POSSIBLE 212(A)(3)(E)(I)
CASE

REF: BERLIN 0131

GROUNDS FOR INQUIRY

1. POST RECEIVED AN APPLICATION FOR A TOURIST VISA ON BEHALF OF KARL HEINZ ASMUSSEN ON JANUARY 11, 1994. APPLICANT HAD BEEN REFUSED ENTRY TO THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE VISA WAIVER PILOT PROGRAM IN HOUSTON ON JANUARY 7, 1994. AVLOS SCREENING INDICATES POSSIBLE INELIGIBILITY ON THE BASIS OF INA 212(A)(3)(E)(I). CONOFF REQUESTED BDC SUMMARY AND CONDUCTED AN IN-DEPTH PERSONAL INTERVIEW.

APPLICANT'S STATEMENTS REGARDING WARTIME ACTIVITIES

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

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2. ASMUSSEN'S STATEMENTS TRACK CLOSELY WITH THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE BDC. THE ONLY MAJOR DISCREPANCY NOTED INVOLVES THE BDC SUMMARY'S NOTATION THAT ASMUSSEN BELONGED TO THE SS-OPERATIONAL OFFICE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1943. ASMUSSEN DISPUTES THIS, PROVIDING DETAILED INFORMATION OF HIS WHEREABOUTS AT THIS TIME. HE DID ASSERT, HOWEVER, THAT HIS NAME WOULD HAVE SURFACED IN SS-OPERATIONAL OFFICE AT ABOUT THIS TIME, AS HE WAS IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING HIS FIANCE "RACIALLY CLEARED" FOR MARRIAGE.

A. PERIOD PROIOR TO MILITARY INVOLVEMENT:

KARL HEINZ ASMUSSEN WAS BORN ON JANUARY 13, 1919, IN HAMBURG, GERMANY. HE IS A GERMAN NATIONAL. ASMUSSEN JOINED THE HITLER YOUTH IN 1933 AT THE AGE OF 14, BECAUSE IT WAS "WHAT OTHER 14-YEAR-OLD BOYS WERE DOING." ASMUSSEN STATED THAT HE TRANSFERRED FROM THE HITLER YOUTH TO THE JUNGSVOLK AFTER ABOUT 6 MONTHS WITH THE HITLER YOUTH.

ASMUSSEN SERVED IN THE REICHSARBEITSDIENST FROM APRIL THROUGH OCTOBER 1936. HE ALSO PARTICIPATED IN SEVERAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSES, AND EVENTUALLY BECAME A "STELLVERTRETENDER JUNGBANNFUEHRER" (ASSISTANT GROUP LEADER) IN JUNGBANN 420. ASMUSSEN SAYS THAT IN THIS POSITION HE LED 2,000 TO 3,000 PEOPLE. ASMUSSEN STATES THAT, AS A MEMBER OF THE HITLER JUGEND/JUNGSVOLK, HE AUTOMATICALLY BECAME A MEMBER OF THE NSDAP AFTER HIS EIGHTEENTH BIRTHDAY. ASMUSSEN COULD NOT EXPLAIN WHY HIS "AUTOMATIC" MEMBERSHIP IN THE NSDAP DID NOT BEGIN UNTIL SOME SEVEN MONTHS AFTER HIS EIGHTEENTH BIRTHDAY.

B. APRIL 1939 THROUGH MARCH 1943

THIS PERIOD OF ASMUSSEN'S CAREER WAS CHARACTERIZED PRIMARILY BY SUCCESSIVE TRAINING COURSES AND RELATIVELY RAPID PROMOTIONS, EVENTUALLY TO THE RANK OF STAFF SERGEANT.

ASMUSSEN SAYS HE VOLUNTEERED FOR THE GERMAN ARMY IN APRIL 1939. HE JOINED THE 1ST COMPANY, AIRFORCE SIGNAL REGIMENT 11, IN HILDESHEIM/HANNOVER BEMERODE. ASMUSSEN RECEIVED BASIC TRAINING AS A RADIO OPERATOR UNTIL THE FALL OF 1939. AT THIS POINT, ASMUSSEN INDICATES THAT HE SERVED IN OSTFRIESLAND AS A RADIO OPERATOR IN A FLAK UNIT.

ASMUSSEN SAYS THAT HIS COMPANY WAS SOON DISSOLVED AND THAT HE WAS RETRAINED AS A TELEPRINTER OPERATOR. HE WAS ASSIGNED TO LUFTKOMMANDO XI IN HANNOVER AND HAMBURG AS A MEMBER OF THE 2ND COMAPNY/H.Q. SIGN. RGT. 11. BDC REPORTS INDICATE THAT, WHILE HE WAS ASSIGNED TO LUFTKOMMANDO XI, ASMUSSEN RECEIVED

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PROMOTIONS TO PRIVATE (FEBRUARY 1, 1940) AND PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (APRIL 1, 1941).

FROM APRIL 7, 1941, THROUGH JUNE 15, 1941, ASMUSSEN ATTENDED THE LLTH NCO CANDIDATE COURSE IN PINNEBERG. ASMUSSEN WAS PROMOTED TO SERGEANT ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1941. FROM OCTOBER 4, 1941, THROUGH DECEMBER 13, 1941, ASMUSSEN ATTENDED THE 6TH SELECTION COURSE FOR WAR OFFICERS-CANDIDATE IN PINNEBERG, AND WAS NOMINATED AS A WAR OFFICER ASPIRANT ON DECEMBER 20, 1941. ASMUSSEN CLAIMS THAT HE AT NO POINT WANTED TO BECOME AN OFFICER, BUT STATES THAT, AS AN "ARBITURIENT," OR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE, HE WAS FORCED TO BECOME AN OFFICER.

ASMUSSEN ATTENDED THE 11TH WAR OFFICER SIGNAL COURSE AT THE AIRFORCE SCHOOL IN HALLE FROM MAY 25, 1942, UNTIL AUGUST 1, 1942. UPON COMPLETION OF THIS COURSE, HE WAS PROMOTED TO STAFF SERGEANT. ASUMSSEN CONTINUED TO SERVE IN THE LUFTGAUKOMMANDO IN HAMBURG THROUGH NOVEMBER 1942.

FROM NOVEMBER 1942, THROUGH THE END OF JANUARY 1943, ASMUSSEN RECEIVED ADDITIONAL TRAINING IN MOURMELON-LE-GRAND IN FRANCE, WHERE HE WAS TRAINED TO BE A PLATOON LEADER IN A MACHINE-GUN COMPANY. UPON COMPLETION OF TRAINING, ASMUSSEN WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE NEWLY ORGANIZED 6TH AIR FORCE FIELD DIVISION IN FEBRUARY 1943 (NOTE: BDC REPORT INDICATES THAT ASMUSSEN JOINED THE 20TH AIR FORCE FIELD DIVISION AT THIS POINT. CONOFF DID NOT EXPLORE THIS DISCREPANCY WITH ASMUSSEN, BUT NOTES THAT ASMUSSEN INDICATED THAT THE 6TH DIVISION HAD BEEN RECENTLY REORGANIZED. PERHAPS THE 20TH DIVISION BECAME THE 6TH OR VICE VERSA. END NOTE.)

IN THE BEGINNING OF MARCH 1943, ASMUSSEN DIVISION MOVED TO JUETLAND IN DENMARK, AND ASMUSSEN'S BATALLION RECEIVED ADDITIONAL TRAINING IN SKAGEN.

C. APRIL 1943 THROUGH AUGUST 1943

IN EARLY APRIL 1943, ASMUSSEN STATES THAT HE RECEIVED ORDERS TO LEAD A TRANSPORT OF APPROXIMATELY 600 NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS TO BERLIN. THE TRANSPORT EVENTUALLY ARRIVED IN BERLIN, WHERE IT WAS MET BY SS-OFFICERS AND LED TO THE BARRACKS IN LICHTERFELDE. ASMUSSEN MAINTAINS THAT, BASED ON AN

AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOERING AND DIETRICH, HIS ENTIRE TRANSPORT GROUP WAS INVOLUNTARILY CONVERTED TO THE WAFFEN-SS. DURING HIS INTERVIEW, ASMUSSEN DID NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION THAT HE BECAME A MEMBER OF THE "LEIBSTANDARTE SS ADOLF HITLER," A NOTORIOUS DIVISION, BUT FREELY ADMITTED THAT HE BECAME A MEMBER

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OF THE SS PANZERDIVISION, REGIMENT 1, THE OFFICIAL NAME OF THE DIVISION.

ASMUSSEN REPORTED TO THE OFFICERS' CANDIDATE COURSE IN GROSS-BORN, POMERANIA, IN MID-APRIL 1943. ASMUSSEN STATES THAT HE ATTENDED THIS COURSE UNTIL THE END OF JULY 1943, AND WAS TRANSFERRED TO SAARBRUECKEN. WHILE NEAR SAARBRUECKEN, HE RECEIVED SPECIAL LEAVE TO LOCATE HIS FAMILY AFTER THE BOMBING OF HAMBURG. ON HIS WAY TO HAMBURG, HOWEVER, ASMUSSEN RECEIVED ORDERS TO RETURN TO HIS DIVISION FOR DEPLOYMENT TO RUSSIA.

C) JULY 1943 THROUGH NOVEMBER 1943

EN ROUTE TO RUSSIA, ASMUSSEN CLAIMS THAT HIS DIVISION RECEIVED NEW ORDERS TO GO FIRST TO THE BATTLE HEADQUARTERS OF THE SS-PANZER REGIMENT 1 (LED BY PEIPER) IN REGGIO NELL'EMILIA, ITALY, AND THEN TO S. ILARIO D'ENZA, ITALY.

DURING THIS TIME, ASMUSSEN SERVED AS THE ORDERLY OFFICER. HE STATES THAT HIS RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDED LIAISON WITH THE FOURTH COMPANY, WHICH HE INDICATES WAS A TRAINING COMPANY. ASMUSSEN ALSO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCATING HIS BATTALION'S RECORDS REGARDING ITS ACTIVITIES IN RUSSIA. AT THIS POINT, ASMUSSEN'S RANK WAS THAT OF A STAFF SERGEANT (OFFICER CANDIDATE).

IN MID-AUGUST 1943, ASMUSSEN'S BATTALION MARCHED TOWARDS MILAN IN ORDER TO DISARM ITALIAN TROUPS (PRESUMABLY INFILTRATED WITH COMMUNISTS) IN THE VICINITY. ASMUSSEN'S BATTALION SECURED SEVERAL BARRACKS, AND ASMUSSEN DID RECONNAISSANCE WORK THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT, BUT NOTES THAT HE DID NOT HAVE TO USE ANY FORCE. ASMUSSEN STATES THAT THE ITALIANS CAPTURED IN THE BARRACKS WERE TRANSPORTED TO GERMAN PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMPS. ASMUSSEN DOES NOT REMEMBER

THE NAME OF THE PERSON WHO DIRECTED THE ENTIRE BATTALION AT THIS TIME, BUT NOTES THAT GROSS WAS IN CHARGE OF HIS REGIMENT (SS-PANZER REGIMENT 1). DURING HIS DUTY IN MILAN, ASMUSSEN WAS PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF SECOND LIETENANT. HE STATES THAT HIS DUTIES REMAINED THE SAME, WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT HE WAS NO LONGER RESPONSIBLE FOR LIAISON WITH THE FOURTH TRAINING COMPANY.

AT THIS POINT, ASMUSSEN'S STORY DEPARTS FROM THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE BDC SUMMARY. THE BDC SUMMARY STATES THAT, AT THIS POINT, ASMUSSEN BELONGED TO THE SS-OPERATIONAL MAIN OFFICE. ASMUSSEN DISPUTES THIS, STATING THAT HE NEVER SERVED IN THIS OFFICE. HE SURMISES, HOWEVER, THAT HIS NAME WOULD HAVE SURFACED IN THIS OFFICE AT ABOUT THIS

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TIME, AS HE WAS PLANNING TO MARRY SOON AND BOTH HE AND HIS FUTURE WIFE NEEDED TO BE "RACIALLY VETTED" BY THIS OFFICE BEFORE THE MARRIAGE COULD BE APPROVED. (COMMENT: GIVEN ASMUSSEN'S SURPRISE AT THE SUGGESTION THAT HE SERVED IN THIS OFFICE, AND THE DETAIL IN WHICH ASMUSSEN WAS ABLE TO DESCRIBE HIS FOLLOWING DUTIES AND ACTIVITIES, CONOFF IS INCLINED TO BELIEVE ASMUSSEN'S ASSERTIONS. END COMMENT.)

IN THE SECOND HALF OF SEPTEMBER 1943, ASMUSSEN'S BATTALION MOVED TO NOVI LIGURE SOUTH OF MILAN, WHERE IT REMAINED IDLE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. FROM HERE, ASMUSSEN TRAVELLED TO THE FIRST TANK REGIMENT OF THE ARMY (PZ.RGT. 1 DER WEHRMACHT) IN TRIESTE TO COLLECT TANKS FOR THE TRAINING DIVISION OF HIS BATTALION. WITH THESE TANKS, ASMUSSEN CLAIMS, HIS BATTALION REACHED FULL STRENGTH, AND THE TANKS WERE TRANSPORTED TO RUSSIA. AT THIS POINT, ASMUSSEN CONTRACTED JAUNDICE, AND REMAINED IN A MILITARY HOSPITAL IN RIJEKA UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF NOVEMBER 1943.

D. NOVEMBER 1943 THROUGH MAY 1944

AFTER ASMUSSEN HAD RECOVERED, HE RETURNED TO THE SECOND BATTALION, SS-PANZER REGIMENT 1 IN SHITOMIR, RUSSIA. THE BATTALION WAS STILL LED BY GROSS, AND WAS CHARGED WITH REPELLING SOVIET ATTACKS. ASMUSSEN NOTES THAT, WHEN HE REJOINED THE BATTALION, HE AGAIN SERVED AS THE BATTALION'S ORDERLY OFFICER.

IN THE BEGINNING OF 1944, ASMUSSEN BECAME THE PLATTON LEADER OF THE 6TH COMPANY OF THE SS-PANZER REGIMENT 1. IN FEBRUARY/MARCH 1944, ASMUSSEN'S COMPANY WAS DEPLOYED TO WINNIZA, WHERE THEY ATTEMPTED TO REACH OTHER SS DIVISIONS THAT HAD BEEN SURROUNDED BY SOVIET TROUPS.

DURING THIS WINTER, ASMUSSEN STATES THAT HIS REGIMENT SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES, AND WAS REORGANIZED, REARMED AND TRANSFERRED TO BELGIUM IN THE AREA OF HASSELT. DURING THIS TIME ASMUSSEN WAS THE BATTALION'S ADJUTANT. HIS MAIN DUTY, HE CLAIMS, WAS TO MAINTAIN THE BATTALION'S WAR DIARY. AT THE END OF MAY 1944, ASMUSSEN WENT ON LEAVE TO GET MARRIED ON JUNE 8, 1944.

E. JUNE 1944 THROUGH NOVEMBER 1944

ASMUSSEN RETURNED TO HIS BATTALION IN LATE JUNE/EARLY JULY 1944, IN THE AREA OF LISIEUX, BELGIUM. AT THIS POINT, ASMUSSEN NOTES THAT THE BATTALION WAS LED BY KLING, AND THAT HIS REGIMENT WAS LED BY PEIPER. ASMUSSEN WAS PLATOON LEADER OF THE 6TH COMPANY, SS-PANZER REGIMENT 1. THE FIRST ACTION THAT ASMUSSEN SAW IN BELGIUM WAS WHEN HIS BATTALION WAS CALLED UPON

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TO STABILIZE THE FRONT ALONG THE CAEN-FALLAISE ROAD, WHICH WAS UNDER ATTACK BY CANADIAN AND BRITISH FORCES.

IN MID-JULY, ASMUSSEN'S UNIT WAS RELIEVED BY ARMY TROUPS AND DEPLOYED TO SAINT LO, WHERE HE WAS TO STOP THE AMERICAN ARMY'S ADVANCE. AT THIS POINT, ASMUSSEN WAS THE COMPANY'S FIRST PLATOON LEADER. WHEN RESISTANCE BECAME POINTLESS, ASMUSSEN AND HIS COMPANY ABANDONED THEIR TANKS AND CROSSED THE SEINE INTO FRANCE.

ASMUSSEN'S REGIMENT EVENTUALLY REGROUPED IN HASSELT, BELGIUM. IN THE BEGINNING OF AUGUST 1944, ASMUSSEN WAS CALLED UPON TO LEAD A SPECIAL UNIT, WHOSE PURPOSE WAS TO TAKE POSSESSION OF A DELIVERY OF NEW TANKS IN THE TOWN OF LUETTICH. ASMUSSEN STATES THAT, AT THIS POINT, HIS SPECIAL UNIT WAS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE ARMY, NOT HIS REGULARY BATTALION.

BY THE TIME ASMUSSEN'S UNIT HAD TAKEN DELIVERY OF THE TANKS, HOWEVER, THEY WERE ALREADY BEHIND THE FRONT LINE. HIS UNIT TURNED POSSESSION OF THE TANKS OVER TO THE ARMY, AND RETURNED TO HIS OWN BATTALION IN THE AREA OF SIEGBURG. AT THIS POINT, ASMUSSEN'S COMPANY LEADER WAS JUNKER, AND POETSCHKE WAS THE HEAD OF THE BATTALION.

F. NOVEMBER 1944 THROUGH FEBRUARY 1945

IN NOVEMBER 1944, ASMUSSEN WAS IN WITZENDORF, GERMANY, WITH HIS COMPANY TO REGROUP AND TO RECEIVE TRAINING ON THE NEW TANKS HIS COMPANY HAD RECEIVED FROM A FACTORY IN LINZ, AUSTRIA. JUNKER REMAINED HIS COMPANY LEADER, AND POETSCKE WAS THE BATTALION'S COMMANDER. PIEPER WAS THE COMMANDER OF HIS REGIMENT.

IN EARLY DECEMBER 1944, ASMUSSEN'S COMPANY MOVED EASTWARDS TOWARDS DUEREN TO PREPARE FOR A NEW DEPLOYMENT. IN MID-DECEMBER 1944, ASMUSSEN'S REGIMENT MOVED INTO BELGIUM AND NEAR ST. VITH AND BEGAN A COUNTERATTACK ON ANTWERP.

ASMUSSEN WAS HEAD OF THE LEAD PLATOON. HIS PLATOON BROKE THROUGH ENEMY LINES AND SOON REACHED THE TOWN OF ROTH. AT THAT POINT, ROTH WAS OCCUPIED BY AMERICAN FORCES, AND ASMUSSEN STATES THAT HIS TROUPS QUICKLY WENT THROUGH ROTH AND STOPPED A FEW KILOMETERS FURTHER TO AWAIT NEW ORDERS.

EVENTUALLY, ASMUSSEN RECEIVED NEW ORDERS TO CONTINUE THE OFFENSIVE. HE LED HIS TROUPS TO ST. VITH, WHICH THE AMERICANS HAD JUST LEFT. HIS GROUP CONTINUED ON TOWARDS BASTOGNE, WHERE IT MET HEAVY RESISTANCE. HE THEN RECEIVED ORDERS TO SECURE THE TERRITORY HE HAD

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GAINED. AT THIS POINT, ASMUSSEN WAS INJURED WITH A BULLET TO HIS CHIN. HE GAVE UP COMMAND UP HIS UNIT, AS HE COULD NO LONGER SPEAK, AND WAS EVACUATED FROM THE FRONT. IN ADDITION TO HIS BULLET WOUND, ASMUSSEN WAS ALSO DIAGNOSED TO HAVE DIPHTHERIA, AND WAS TRASPORTED TO A MILITARY HOSPITAL IN VALLENDER. HE REMAINED IN VALLENDER FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. AFTER HE LEFT THE MILITARY HOSPITAL, HE RECEIVED A SHORT SICK LEAVE.

G. MARCH 1945 THROUGH MAY 1945

WHEN ASMUSSEN RETURNED FROM SICK LEAVE IN MARCH 1945, HE JOINED HIS BATTALION IN HUNGARY. HIS BATTALION WAS QUICKLY OVERWHELMED BY THE ATTACKING SOVIET FORCES, AND RETREATED WESTWARD, EVENTUALLY REACHING NEULENGBACH. HERE, ASMUSSEN HELPED TO ORGANIZE FLEEING GERMANY SOLDIERS INTO A BATALLION-SIZED UNIT. HE SERVED AS THIS UNIT'S SECOND-IN-COMMAND. THE UNIT WAS ABLE TO HOLD THE SOVIETS AT NEULENGBACK FOR A FEW DAYS.

ON MAY 8, 1945, ASMUSSEN RECEIVED ORDERS TO REPORT TO THE AMERICAN PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMP IN ENNS/DONAU. HE REPORTED TO THIS CAMP, BUT EVENUALLY ESCAPED. HE RETURNED TO HAMBURG, ARRIVING THERE ON JUNE 8, 1945. ASMUSSEN EVENTUALLY WAS CAPTURED BY THE BRITISH SECRET SERVICE, AND IMPRISONED IN NEUENGAMME FROM MARCH 6, 1946, UNTIL OCTOBER 2, 1947.

POST-WAR DENAZIFICATION

3. IN POW CAMP, ASMUSSEN WAS ACCUSED OF HAVING ORDERED THE EXPLOSION OF AN APARTMENT BUILDING IN BELGIUM, WHICH RESULTED IN A LARGE NUMBER OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES. ASMUSSEN WAS FOUND NOT GUILTY OF THESE CHARGES, AFTER DEMONSTRATING THAT HE WAS SERVING IN A DIFFERENT REGION AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT. HE PRESENTED A DOCUMENT FROM THE POW CAMP DATED SEPTEMBER 25, 1947, WHICH STATES THAT CHARGES AGAINST HIM HAVE BEEN DROPPED.

ASMUSSEN ALSO PRESENTED A DENAZIFICATION CERTIFICATE ISSUED ON FEBRUARY 27, 1948, BY THE STATE COMMISSIONER FOR DENAZIFICATION AND CATEGORIZATION OF HAMBURG. THE DENAZIFICATION CERTIFICATE PLACES ASMUSSEN IN CATEGORY 5.

PURPOSE OF TRIP AND TRAVEL PLANS

4. ASMUSSEN'S SON AND HIS FAMILY CURRENTLY LIVE IN

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TEXAS. ASMUSSEN WOULD LIKE TO OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT HIS SON AND GRANDCHILDREN, AS THEY PLAN TO LIVE IN TEXAS FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

CONOFF'S PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

5. ASMUSSEN HAS PROVED TO BE VERY WILLING TO COOPERATE AND HAS BEEN WILLING TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHEN ASKED. ASMUSSEN HAS SUBMITTED THREE SEPARATE WRITTEN ACCOUNTS OF HIS WARTIME ACTIVITIES -- EACH WITH PROGRESSIVELY MORE DETAIL REGARDING HIS CASE -- IN WHICH HE PRESENTS A FAIRLY DETAILED ACCOUNT OF HIS ACTIVITIES. ASMUSSEN DENIES HAVING BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY TYPE OF PERSECUTION OR WAR CRIMES, AND INSISTS THAT HE WAS NOT AT THE SCENE OF SOME OF HIS BATALLION'S MORE HEINOUS CRIMES.

JONES

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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