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CONTROLS
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VISAS DONKEY, EUR

DEPT. FOR CA/VO/L/C

E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT
TAGS: CVIS, GE (DIETZ, ERICH)
COMBINE: COMPLETE

SUBJECT: SAO REQUEST-POSSIBLE 212(A)(3)(E)(I)
INELIGIBILITY

REF: (A) BERLIN 001B95, (B) BONN 13159

1. VISAS DONKEY
2. DIETZ, ERICH
- AUGUST 20, 1925, SOLMS, GERMANY
- PENSIONER
- B-2 VISA

3. SUMMARY: ON JULY 21, 1994 CONOFF INTERVIEWED SUBJECT ABOUT HIS SERVICE IN THE WAFFEN-SS. AFTER A FEW MONTHS

~~FOR~~ COORDINATION WITH ed State

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OF BASIC TRAINING, SUBJECT SPENT MOST OF 1943 UNTIL THE END OF THE WAR EITHER IN COMBAT OR RECOVERING FROM WOUNDS SUFFERED IN BATTLE. SUBJECT SAW ACTION IN THE UKRAINE, POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA BEFORE SURRENDERING TO THE RED ARMY ON THE PENINSULA HELA. THE HIGHEST RANK HE REACHED WAS ROTTENFUEHRER (CORPORAL). FROM MAY 1945 UNTIL NOVEMBER 1949 HE WAS IN SOVIET CAPTIVITY. SUBJECT CLAIMS HE NEVER PARTICIPATED IN NOR WITNESSED ANY ACTIVITIES THAT WOULD RENDER HIM INELIGIBLE UNDER 212(A)(3)(E)-(I).

PRE-SS YEARS, RECRUITMENT AND BASIC TRAINING

4. SUBJECT CONFIRMS THE INFORMATION IN REF A INDICATING HE WAS IN THE JUNGVOEK FROM 1935-39 AND THE HITLER YOUTH FROM 1940-42. HE SAYS HE DECIDED TO JOIN THE WAFFEN-SS IN 1942 AS A RESULT OF A VISIT TO HIS SCHOOL OF AN SS RECRUITER. HE KNEW HE WOULD BE DRAFTED INTO MILITARY SERVICE ANYWAY, AND THE SS PROMISED HIM THE CHOICE OF SERVING IN A TANK UNIT, WHICH WAS HIS PREFERENCE.

5. WHEN HE RECEIVED HIS ORDERS, SUBJECT WAS DISAPPOINTED TO FIND HE HAD BEEN ASSIGNED NOT TO A TANK UNIT, BUT TO THE SS-PIONIER ERSATZ-BATAILLON 1 (SS PIONEER FIRST REPLACEMENT BATTALION). AS SUBJECT DESCRIBES THEM THE PIONEER UNITS WERE SOMETHING LIKE A CORPS OF ENGINEERS, RESPONSIBLE FOR BUILDING BRIDGES, BUNKERS, ETC. ON OCTOBER 15, 1942 SUBJECT BEGAN HIS BASIC TRAINING IN DRESDEN. THIS LASTED UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR, WHEN HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE SS-PANZER-DIVISION LEIBSTANDARTE ADOLF HITLER / PIONIER-BATAILLON 1 (SS TANK DIVISION HITLER'S BODYGUARD / FIRST PIONEER BATTALION) IN ARGENTAN, FRANCE, NORTH OF PARIS. FOR TEN DAYS, FROM JANUARY 1-10, SUBJECT WAS TRAINED IN THE USE OF THE 8CM GRENADE LAUNCHER.

COMBAT EXPERIENCE

6. AFTER HIS TRAINING IN FRANCE, SUBJECT WAS TRANSFERRED TO CHARKOW IN THE UKRAINE, A TOWN THE GERMANS WERE FIGHTING TO RETAKE FROM THE SOVIETS. HE WAS AT CHARKOW FROM FEBRUARY 1 UNTIL THE END OF MARCH 1943. HIS JOB WAS TO DELIVER AMMUNITION TO THE FRONT LINES. SUBJECT REMEMBERS THIS AS A TIME OF INTENSE AND BRUTAL COMBAT. IN FACT, HE SAYS, WITHIN MINUTES OF ARRIVING IN CHARKOW BY TRAIN, THE FIRST OF HIS COMRADES HAD ALREADY DIED IN BATTLE. SUBJECT'S MOST VIVID SPECIFIC RECOLLECTION OF THIS PERIOD WAS HIS TAKING OF TWO SOVIET PRISONERS. HE WAS WALKING THROUGH THE VILLAGE ONE EVENING WHEN TO HIS SURPRISE TWO SOVIET SOLDIERS APPEARED FROM BEHIND A HOUSE AND SURRENDERED TO HIM. SUBJECT SAYS HE WAS SO NERVOUS AND INEXPERIENCED THAT HE BARELY REMEMBERED TO DRAW HIS WEAPON WHILE LEADING THE PRISONERS BACK TO CAMP.

7. ON MARCH 6, SUBJECT SUFFERED A LEG WOUND. THEREAFTER, HE SPENT THE REST OF MARCH IN A FIELD

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HOSPITAL IN CHARKOW. ON THE FIRST OF APRIL, HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO AN SS MILITARY HOSPITAL IN PRAGUE-BRANIK, CZECHOSLOVAKIA UNTIL MAY 15, 1943.

8. FROM MAY 16 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1943 SUBJECT WAS ON "RECOVERY DUTY" (GENESUNGSDIENST) WITH THE SS-PIONIER ERSATZ-BATAILLON 1 (SS FIRST PIONEER REPLACEMENT BATTALION) IN DRESDEN. THIS CONSISTED OF BARRACKS DUTY AND DRILL FOR THOSE WHO WERE STILL RECOVERING FROM WOUNDS OR ILLNESSES.

9. SUBJECT RETURNED TO PRAGUE FROM OCTOBER 1, 1943 UNTIL FEBRUARY 28, 1944 WITH THE SS-PIONIER BAU-BATAILLON 1 (SS FIRST PIONEER CONSTRUCTION BATTALION). THE TASK OF THIS BATTALION WAS TO BUILD WOODEN BUNKERS A FEW KILOMETERS BEHIND T

HE FRONT LINES. SUBJECT SERVED PRIMARILY AS AN OFFICE CLERK AND SECRETARY DURING THESE MONTHS, AND WAS PROMOTED TO STURMMANN (LANCE-CORPORAL).

10. FROM MARCH THROUGH JULY 1944 SUBJECT WAS WITH THE SAME CONSTRUCTION BATTALION IN BREST-LITOWSK ON THE BORDER BETWEEN POLAND AND THE SOVIET UNION. HERE THE BATTALION WAS ASSIGNED TO BUILD A FORTIFICATION ON THE MAIN SUPPLY ROAD AND TO HELP SECURE THAT ROAD AGAINST PARTISAN ATTACKS. WHEN NOT ENGAGED IN CONSTRUCTION WORK, SUBJECT AND HIS COMRADES GUARDED SUPPLY TROOPS AS THEY TRAVELED DOWN THE ROAD, OFTEN PATROLLING THE WOODED AREAS NEAR THE ROAD AS WELL. SUBJECT REPORTS THAT THIS MISSION WAS NOT VERY SUCCESSFUL. SINCE THE PARTISANS WERE FAMILIAR WITH THE SWAMPY TERRAIN OF THE AREA, THEY COULD ATTACK AND THEN DISAPPEAR VIA A COMPLEX NETWORK OF PATHWAYS. SUBJECT SAYS HE NEVER EVEN SAW A PARTISAN FACE-TO-FACE.

11. BY THE END OF JULY, THE GERMAN TROOPS IN BREST-LITOWSK WERE SURROUNDED BY SOVIET TROOPS. ON JULY 31, SUBJECT AND SOME OF HIS COMRADES BROKE OUT OF THE POCKET ON FOOT THROUGH APPROXIMATELY THIRTY KILOMETERS OF SWAMPY TERRAIN. BY THE BEGINNING OF AUGUST, WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION HAD REGROUPED IN PRAGUE, WHERE THEY PULLED RUN-OF-THE-MILL BARRACKS DUTY ("NORMALER KASERNENDIENST") THROUGH NOVEMBER 1944.

12. IN DECEMBER 1944 SUBJECT WAS AGAIN TRANSFERRED TO DRESDEN WHERE THE SS-PIONIER ERSATZ-BATAILLON 1 (SS FIRST PIONIER REPLACEMENT BATTALION) WAS BEING REPLENISHED AFTER ITS HEAVY LOSSES. IN MID-JANUARY SUBJECT RETURNED TO THE SS FIRST CONSTRUCTION BATTALION WHICH WAS NOW STATIONED SIXTY TO SEVENTY KILOMETERS SOUTH OF DANZIG AND BUILDING WOODEN BUNKERS. ONCE AGAIN, SUBJECT DID MAINLY OFFICE WORK. HE WAS PROMOTED DURING THIS PERIOD TO ROTTENFUEHRER (CORPORAL). HIS COMMANDING OFFICER AT THIS TIME, UNTERSCHARFUEHRER (SERGEANT) MISCHNICK, IS THE ONLY ONE OF ALL HIS COMMANDING OFFICERS WHOSE NAME HE CAN REMEMBER.

13. BY MID-FEBRUARY SOVIET TROOPS HAD SURROUNDED THE

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GERMANS NEAR DANZIG, AND A LONG, CHAOTIC RETREAT TOWARD DANZIG BEGAN UNDER ALMOST CONSTANT FIRE FROM THE SOVIETS. BY THIS TIME, SUBJECT SAYS, ALL PRETENSE OF MILITARY ORGANIZATION HAD CEASED AND IT WAS EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF. FINALLY, IN EARLY MAY, THE GERMANS REACHED THE PENINSULA HELA FROM DANZIG-SCHIEFENHORST IN FLAT-BOTTOMED BOATS AND SURRENDERED IN HELA ON MAY 9, 1945. FROM MAY TO SEPTEMBER, SUBJECT AND THE OTHER PRISONERS OF WAR WERE MARCHED 270 KILOMETERS TO DEUTSCH-EYLAU IN WESTERN PRUSSIA, FROM WHERE THEY WERE TRANSPORTED TO VARIOUS PRISON CAMPS IN THE SOVIET UNION. SUBJECT WAS NOT RELEASED UNTIL NOVEMBER 1949.

COMMENT

14. SUBJECT MADE A QUITE POSITIVE IMPRESSION DURING HIS INTERVIEW WITH CONOFF. HE WAS VERY RESPONSIVE AND COOPERATIVE THROUGHOUT THE INTERVIEW, AND SEEMED FULLY IN AGREEMENT WITH THE CONCEPT OF VISA INELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPANTS IN NATIONAL-SOCIALIST CRIMES. HE ALSO TALKED WITH UNUSUAL ELOQUENCE AND PROFUNDITY ABOUT THE DEEP SADNESS HE FELT UPON RETURNING FROM HIS IMPRISONMENT IN THE SOVIET UNION AND LEARNING OF THE TRUE EXTENT OF THESE CRIMES, ESPECIALLY THE CRIMES AGAINST THE JEWISH PEOPLE. SINCE APPLICANT INTENDS TO TRAVEL IN EARLY OCTOBER, POST WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S PROMPT DECISION ON THIS CASE.
WARDLAW

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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