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TEXT

TAGS: CVIS, GM (HOLLATZ, GUENTER, GUSTAV, ROBERT)  
COMBINE: COMPLETE

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

1. CONOFF INTERVIEWED GUENTER GUSTAV HOLLATZ (DPOB: 15 APRIL 1922 SZCZECIN, POLAND) ON 24 NOVEMBER 1997 REGARDING HIS POSSIBLE 212 (A)(3)(E)(I) INELIGIBILITY. HOLLATZ WISHES TO TRAVEL TO THE US AS A TOURIST SOMETIME THIS YEAR. HE IS EAGER TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION WHICH RESULTED IN HIS BEING DENIED ENTRY INTO THE US UNDER THE VISA LOOKOUT SYSTEM AT THE LA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN JUNE OF 1997. POST REQUESTS A FORMAL FINDING SINCE WE HAVE A PENDING NIV APPLICATION.

2. HOLLATZ WENT OVER HIS WARTIME RECORD IN GREAT DETAIL AND IMPRESSED CONOFF WITH HIS EXCELLENT RECALL OF EVENTS GOING BACK NEARLY SIXTY YEARS. HE STATED THAT HE FINISHED HIGH SCHOOL IN SZCZECIN (STETTIN) IN OCTOBER OF 1940 AND ON THE 15TH OF THAT MONTH, HE VOLUNTEERED FOR THE WAFFEN SS. HE WAS INTERESTED IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE AND SINCE HE HAD TO GET HIS MILITARY SERVICE OUT OF THE WAY BEFOREHAND, HE

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BELIEVED THAT SERVICE WITH THE WAFFEN SS WOULD GET HIM FURTHER ALONG IN HIS GOAL. HIS INITIAL TRAINING WAS AS A RADIO OPERATOR IN NUERNBERG FOR THREE MONTHS. HE CONTINUED HIS RADIO TRAINING FOR ANOTHER MONTH IN METZ UNTIL THE END OF FEBRUARY 1941. AT THAT TIME HE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE FIRST PANZER DIVISION OF THE WAFFEN SS AND PARTICIPATED AS A RADIO OPERATOR IN THE SPRING INVASION OF GREECE FROM SERBIA. HE SPENT SOME TIME IN KASTORIA, PATRAS AND CORINTH BEFORE HIS TRANSFER TO THE RUSSIAN FRONT. HE WAS WITH THE FIRST PANZER DIVISION (LEIBSTANDART ADOLF HITLER) FROM THE VERY FIRST WEEK OF THE INVASION OF THE SOVIET UNION AND ADVANCED ALONG WITH THIS FORCE THROUGH ZITOMIR, KIEV AND KHARKOV. FROM THE 26TH OF OCTOBER 1941 UNTIL THE SECOND OF APRIL 1942, HOLLATZ WAS SENT FOR OFFICER TRAINING AT THE SS JUNKER SCHOOL IN BRAUNSCHWEIG. AT THIS TIME HE WAS PROMOTED FROM PRIVATE FIRST CLASS TO A SUBLIEUTENANT. BEFORE RETURNING TO THE RUSSIAN FRONT AT THE END OF JUNE 1942; HOLLATZ RECEIVED ADDITIONAL TWO MONTHS OF OFFICER TRAINING IN ELLWANGEN, WUERTEMBERG AND IN MUENSIGEN, BAVARIA. HE WAS WITH A MOTORCYCLE RECONNAISSANCE SECTION OF THE FIRST SS PANZER DIVISION UNDER THE COMMAND OF CAPTAIN OLBOETER. DURING THIS TIME HE WAS PROMOTED TO SECOND LIEUTENANT. IN MARCH OF 1943, HOLLATZ HAD TO HAVE AN EMERGENCY TONSILLECTOMY THAT BROUGHT ABOUT HEART COMPLICATIONS FORCING HIM TO RECUPERATE FOR OVER FOUR MONTHS IN BERLIN, THEN BAD NAUHEIM NEAR FRANKFURT AND FINALLY AT HOME IN STETTIN. MEANWHILE HOLLATZ'S FIRST PANZER SS DIVISION HAD GREAT LOSSES ON THE EASTERN FRONT AND WAS REGROUPING IN NORTHERN ITALY. WHEN HOLLATZ RETURNED TO HIS UNIT IN SEPTEMBER 1943 HE WAS ASSIGNED TO GARRISON DUTY IN TURIN AND THEN MILAN. IN MID NOVEMBER 1943 HE WAS SENT BACK TO THE UKRAINIAN FRONT AND SAW FIGHTING IN AND AROUND BELAJA CERKOV AND VINNICA (CENTRAL UKRAINE). HIS COMMANDING OFFICER AT THIS TIME WAS MAJOR KNITTEL. IN DECEMBER OF 1943 HOLLATZ WAS SHOT IN THE HIP AND SENT TO LODZ, THEN BERLIN AND FINALLY STETTIN UNTIL MAY 1944. AT THIS TIME HE WAS REASSIGNED TO RIGA, LATVIA TO TRAIN RECRUITS FOR THE WAFFEN SS. HE CLAIMS TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN NO FIGHTING AT THIS TIME AND WAS PROMOTED TO FIRST LIEUTENANT ON 21 JUNE 1944. AFTER HIS LAST PROMOTION, HOLLATZ WAS ASSIGNED TO THE 18TH PANZER DIVISION IN NORTH CENTRAL HUNGARY. THIS WAS A NEW SS DIVISION AND HOLLATZ WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR TRAINING INCOMING RECRUITS. AT THE END OF JULY 1944 HE CONTRACTED HEPATITIS AND WAS SENT TO A MILITARY HOSPITAL IN STETTIN AND THEN FOR TWO MONTHS OF RECUPERATION IN WILDFLECKEN, BAVARIA UNTIL THE END OF SEPTEMBER 1944. AT THIS TIME HE RETURNED TO HUNGARY AND FOUGHT WITH THE 12TH SS PANZER DIVISION "HITLER JUGEND" WHICH WAS PART OF THE SIXTH ARMY. HE WAS COMMANDER OF A RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY FIGHTING THE RUSSIANS IN WESTERN HUNGARY IN AND AROUND GYOR/RAAB WHEN HE WAS SHOT IN THE LEG ON THE 15TH OF MARCH 1945. HE RECOVERED IN A RESERVE HOSPITAL IN FREISTADT NEAR LINZ TILL MAY 1945. WHEN THE AREA WAS OCCUPIED BY THE SOVIET ARMY AT THE WAR'S END, HOLLATZ BECAME A POW. IN MID MAY HE ESCAPED FROM THE RUSSIANS AND HID ON A FARM FOR ABOUT A YEAR IN OBERKLINGEN IN THE ODENWALD NEAR DARMSTADT. ALTHOUGH HOLLATZ WAS A MEMBER OF THE NSDAP, HE DID NOT UNDERGO DENAZIFICATION AFTER THE WAR.

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3. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE HAD PARTICIPATED IN OR WITNESSED THE PERSECUTION OF ANY PERSON ON THE BASIS OF RACE, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN OR POLITICAL OPINION DURING THE PERIOD OF 23 MARCH 1933 TO 8 MAY 1945, HOLLATZ STATED UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT HE DID NOT. WHILE FREELY ADMITTING HIS MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICE IN THE WAFFEN-SS, HOLLATZ INSISTED THAT HIS DUTIES WERE PURELY MILITARY IN NATURE. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO CONTRADICT HOLLATZ'S ASSERTION THAT IN OVER FOUR YEARS OF FIGHTING ON VARIOUS EUROPEAN FRONTS, HE SAW AND DID NOTHING WRONG. HE APPEARS TO BE WELL EDUCATED AND CERTAINLY IS NOT SUFFERING FROM ANY DIMINUTION OF HIS MENTAL POWERS. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE NOTORIOUS REPUTATION OF THE VARIOUS SS DIVISIONS THAT HOLLATZ SERVED IN, IT IS DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT AT FACE VALUE HIS OFTEN REPEATED STATEMENT THAT HE WAS JUST A REGULAR SOLDIER WHO WITNESSED VIOLENCE ONLY DURING ACTUAL COMBAT. SINCE HE OPERATED FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME IN ONE OF THE MOST BRUTALIZED AREAS OF NAZI OCCUPIED EUROPE (THE UKRAINE), HIS STATEMENT IS SUSPECT. GIVEN HIS LACK OF CANDOR IN DISCUSSING HIS WARTIME EXPERIENCES, HOLLATZ DOES NOT APPEAR TO OVERCOME THE PRESUMPTION OF INELIGIBILITY. PLEASE ADVISE.  
HAMILTON

ADMIN  
END OF MESSAGE

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