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DATE: 4 Nov 1946

CHISEL REPORT (COVER SHEET)

Report No 198

CIC-5507

Date: 2 Nov 1946

(b)(1)
(b)(3)
(c)

SUBJECT: Trip to the Russian Zone

SOURCE : [REDACTED]

SUBSOURCE: [REDACTED]

DATE OF INFORMATION: [REDACTED]

DATE OF REPORT: 15 Oct 46

EVALUATION: B - 2

COMMENT: As result of illegal border crossing into Russian Zone, [REDACTED] was arrested and interrogated under suspicion of being American spy. The Russians even attempted to "plant" someone in his cell to get a confession. Not fed, no bed, no covers, and was not permitted to relieve himself for 44 hours. Finally released and returned to Frankfurt.

Persons being "dienstverpflichtet" to Junkers plane plant in Dessau. RE WASH DC BY AUTHORITY OF COL D. C. ERSKINE, BY *Chl Doster* 1ST LI, HQ 66TH CIC DET, 14 JULY 1950

CHISEL
Production Officer

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: APR 2001

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

UNAUTHORIZED TRIP TO RUSSIAN ZONE

[REDACTED] I tried to cross the border into the Russian Zone alone on my bicycle. I wanted to get my winter clothing and also to visit [REDACTED]. I was stopped by a Russian guard who took me to a guard detachment where everything including my bicycle, a small knife, a pair of scissors and all my papers were taken from me. Enroute to the guard detachment the guard who first stopped me tried to buy my bicycle. I was considered by them as a spy. I told them that it was only by mistake that I had run into Russian hands, and that my only purpose in being in that territory was to buy potatoes near that little village which belongs partly to the Russian Zone. Because I wanted to [REDACTED] I did not mention to my captors that I planned to visit him.

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I was then brought with about eight other people to the town of GEFALL (L51/N69), arriving there about 1700 hours on [REDACTED]. Enroute I observed nothing special on the border except a number of watchtowers. During the morning hours we arrived in PLAUEN (M51/K12), and I with the others was put in the basement of a GPU Building.

[REDACTED] I was interrogated by a GPU Kommissar for about two hours beginning at 10:00 hours. Most of the questions concerned my political background, and whether or not I was a KPD member before 1933. I was also questioned about the time I had spent in the Wehrmacht. I was only a Pfc, a Gefreiter, in the Wehrmacht. Throughout the interrogation I stuck to my "potato story". I expected to get hit in the face any time because there was always a soldier with a raised fist standing next to me. My interrogators shouted at me, "You are lying!" I was never questioned about what I did to earn a living, and there were no queries about the American Zone in general. They tried to trick me into admitting that I was able to speak several languages, especially Russian. The interrogators talked among themselves, probably about what they planned to do with me, and while doing so watched the reaction on my face. I was searched very carefully for concealed messages, etc.

Later I was put in a single room in a basement again, and was told that I would get nothing to eat or drink until I had said what my intentions were, that is, to admit that I was a spy. They also wanted me to admit that I had been a member of the SS. Another man was later put into the room with me, and he spent the night in the cell with me. This individual tried in an "innocent" way to get information from me. I was not permitted to leave the cell, not even to go to a bathroom.

1954
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COL D. G. ERSKINE, [Signature]
HQ 66TH CIC DET, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

The next morning, [REDACTED] I was turned over to the German Kripo and allowed to go on my way. I was given no food nor drink from [REDACTED] during the morning hours, a period of about 44 hours. I had no bed and no blanket during my confinement. After my release I came to Frankfurt because I had the Zuzugsgenehmigung.

During the journey I talked with one man who said he was working in THALE am Harz (M52/D25) in a big factory. He stated that about 6000 army messkits and other supplies are being manufactured in this factory monthly. I also heard that several men from the village of EICHIGT (M51/K10) were "Dienstverpflichtet" by the Russians to work in the JUNKERS Aeroplane factory in DESSAU (M52/E17).

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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