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VISAS DONKEY, EUR

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TEXT
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COMBINE: COMPLETE

SUBJECT: SAO REQUEST - POSSIBLE 212(A)(3)(E)(I),
FORMER 212(A)(33) INELIGIBILITY

REF: (A) BERLIN FAX OF JUL 21, 1994; (B) FRANKFURT
008501

1. VISAS DONKEY
2. STILLER, GERHARD
 - 15 DECEMBER 1921, BERLIN, GERMANY
 - RETIRED TEACHER
 - B-2 VISA
3. SUMMARY: ON AUGUST 9 CONOFF INTERVIEWED SUBJECT

~~FOR~~ COORDINATION WITH State

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

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

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CONCERNING HIS ACTIVITIES AS A MEMBER OF THE WAFFEN-SS FROM 1940 TO 1945. ALTHOUGH SUBJECT WAS ORIGINALLY A MEMBER OF THE ELITE SS DETACHMENT WHICH GUARDED THE MOST IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN BERLIN, HE SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME IN COMBAT, TANK WARFARE TRAINING, OR RECOVERING FROM WOUNDS SUFFERED IN COMBAT. SUBJECT CLAIMS NEVER TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN ANY ACTIVITIES WHICH WOULD RENDER HIM INELIGIBLE UNDER 212(A)(3)(E)(I)(I). END SUMMARY.

SUBJECT'S PRE-COMBAT DAYS

4. FROM 1933 UNTIL HE ENTERED THE SS IN 1940, SUBJECT WAS A MEMBER OF THE JUNGVOEK OR THE HITLER YOUTH. FROM SEPTEMBER 1936 TO NOVEMBER 1940 HE BELONGED TO THE HITLER YOUTH MEDICAL SQUAD (FELDSCHERSCHAR) IN WEDDING-REINICKENDORF, BERLIN. HERE HE RECEIVED TRAINING AS A MEDICAL ORDERLY WHICH HE WOULD LATER USE ON THE BATTLEFIELD. IN OCTOBER 1939 SUBJECT JOINED THE GERMAN RED CROSS AND RECEIVED ADDITIONAL MEDICAL TRAINING.

5. ON NOVEMBER 15, 1940 SUBJECT JOINED THE FIRST REPLACEMENT COMPANY / SS **ADOLF HITLER'S** BODYGUARD (1. ERSATZKOMPANIE / SS-LEIBSTANDARTE **ADOLF HITLER**). SUBJECT SAYS HE WAS A VOLUNTEER, AND THAT HE BELIEVED IN NATIONAL SOCIALISM AT THE TIME. HIS EXPLANATION FOR HIS FERVOR WAS THAT ANYONE WHO HAD EXPERIENCED THE CHAOS OF WEIMAR WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THE ORDER OF NATIONAL SOCIALISM. SUBJECT'S BASIC INFANTRY TRAINING TOOK PLACE IN POSEN-TRESKAU AND LASTED UNTIL FEBRUARY 2, 1941. HIS COMMANDING OFFICER WAS CAPTAIN (HAUPTSTURMFUEHRER) WITT.

6. FROM FEBRUARY 3, 1941 UNTIL THE END OF APRIL SUBJECT WAS WITH THE TRAINING PLATOON / 17TH COMPANY / SS **ADOLF HITLER'S** BODYGUARD (AUSBILDUNGSZUG / 17. KOMPANIE / SS-LEIBSTANDARTE **ADOLF HITLER**) IN BERLIN-LICHTERFELDE. HERE, UNDER HAUPTSTURMFUEHRER JAHNKE, SUBJECT RECEIVED FURTHER BASIC TRAINING AS WELL AS SENTRY AND PARADE TRAINING.

7. FOLLOWING THE ABOVE TRAINING SUBJECT WAS PROMOTED FROM SS CANDIDATE TO SS PRIVATE (SS-SCHUETZE) AND TRANSFERRED TO THE 16TH COMPANY OF THE SS-LEIBSTANDARTE **ADOLF HITLER**, WHICH WAS ALSO STATIONED IN BERLIN-LICHTERFELDE. DURING THIS PERIOD, ROUGHLY THE MONTH OF MAY 1941, SUBJECT PULLED GUARD DUTY AT THE BERLIN SS GARRISON HEADQUARTERS (STADTKOMMANDANTUR) AND THE STATE CHANCERY (REICHSKANZLEI). HE ALSO UNDERWENT FURTHER MEDICAL ORDERLY TRAINING AND MOTORCYCLE TRAINING. HIS COMMANDING OFFICER WAS HAUPTSTURMFUEHRER KLINGEMEYER, WHO SUBJECT REMEMBERS AS A LIKABLE AND CAPABLE LEADER.

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THE EASTERN FRONT

8. FROM JUNE UNTIL MID-AUGUST 1941 SUBJECT SERVED AS A MEDIC ON THE EASTERN FRONT. HE WAS STILL WITH THE 16TH COMPANY, IN THE MEDICAL DETACHMENT OF THE FIRST PLATOON (1. ZUG / ZUGTRUPP). THE 16TH COMPANY FOUGHT IN THE UKRAINE AND SAW ALMOST CONSTANT COMBAT. IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER, SUBJECT NAMES THE FOLLOWING PLACES WHERE THE 16TH COMPANY FOUGHT: LUCK, OLYKA, ZITOMIR, LOPYLOV, POPOWKA, KONELSKA, ROTINOVKA, JAROWADKA, ZIBERMANOVKA, BERESTOWEZ NEAR UMAN, NOVO-ARCHANGELSK, WOSSNESENSK, PERWOMAISK, OLGOPOL, KIRJAKOWKA AND NEU-DANZIG. ON AUGUST 15 SUBJECT WAS SEVERELY WOUNDED IN NEU-DANZIG. HE SPENT THE NEXT THREE MONTHS RECOVERING IN A MILITARY HOSPITAL IN FREUDENTHAL NEAR BESIGHEIM IN WUERTTEMBERG. WHILE RECOVERING, HE WAS PROMOTED TO LANCE-CORPORAL (STURMMANN).

9. FROM NOVEMBER 1941 UNTIL FEBRUARY 1942 SUBJECT WAS IN BERLIN-BRANDENBURG WITH THE RECOVERY PLATOON / 3RD REPLACEMENT CO
MPANY / SS **ADOLF HITLER'S** BODYGUARD
(GENESENENZUG / 3. ERSATZKOMPANIE / SS-LEIBSTANDARTE **ADOLF HITLER**). THIS PLATOON WAS FOR SOLDIERS WHO WERE NOT YET FULLY RECOVERED FROM WOUNDS OR ILLNESSES, AND MOST OF SUBJECT'S TIME WAS SPENT DOING LIGHT DUTY AND CHORES. HIS COMMANDING OFFICER AT THIS TIME WAS LIEUTENANT (OBERSTURMFUEHRER) ZESSLER.

TANK TRAINING

10. FROM FEBRUARY 9 TO MAY 26, 1942 SUBJECT RECEIVED TANK AND MOTORIZED MESSENGER TRAINING WITH THE FIRST TANK COMPANY OF THE SS-LEIBSTANDARTE **ADOLF HITLER**. HE WAS STATIONED FIRST IN WILDFLECKEN AND THEN IN PADERBORN UNDER HAUPTSTURMFUEHRER MANFRED SCHMIDT. IN JUNE SUBJECT ENTERED THE SS OFFICER CANDIDATE'S SCHOOL IN BRAUNSCHWEIG (SS-JUNKERSCHULE BRAUNSCHWEIG) AND WAS TRAINED AS AN INFANTRY PLATOON LEADER (ZUGFUEHRER). HIS COMMANDING OFFICERS WERE SENIOR COLONEL (OBERFUEHRER) BALLAUF, THE HEAD OF THE SCHOOL, CAPTAIN (HAUPTSTURMFUEHRER) NIESCHLAG, AND LIEUTENANT (OBERSTURMFUEHRER) FRIEDRICH. MUCH OF THE TRAINING TOOK PLACE ON THE MILITARY TRAINING GROUNDS AT BERGEN NEAR THE CONCENTRATION CAMP BERGEN-BELSEN, BUT SUBJECT CLAIMS HE NEVER SAW ANYTHING OF THE CAMP ALTHOUGH HE KNEW OF ITS EXISTENCE.

11. AFTER FINISHING THE PROGRAM IN BRAUNSCHWEIG SUBJECT WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE THIRD TANK TROOP SCHOOL IN WUENSDORF (PANZERTRUPPENSCHULE III WUENSDORF) FOR TRAINING AS TANK PLATOON LEADER UNDER COMMANDING OFFICER MAJOR STERN OF THE WEHRMACHT. THIS LASTED

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FROM DECEMBER 6, 1942 UNTIL EARLY MARCH 1943.

12. IN MARCH 1943 SUBJECT WAS PROMOTED TO 2ND LIEUTENANT (SS-UNTERSTURMFUEHRER) AND SENT TO BITCHE IN ALSACE. HERE HE SERVED FIRST AS PLATOON LEADER AT THE MILITARY TRAINING GROUNDS OF THE 2ND TANK TRAINING AND REPLACEMENT COMPANY OF THE SS TANK REPLACEMENT REGIMENT (2. PANZERAUSBILDUNGS- UND ERSATZKOMPANIE / PANZER-ERSATZREGIMENT). HIS COMMANDING OFFICER WAS SENIOR COLONEL (OBERFUEHRER) HARMEL, AND HIS DIRECT SUPERIOR WAS UNTERSTURMFUEHRER FALK. HIS RESPONSIBILITIES WERE MAINLY TO SEE TO IT THAT THE BARRACKS AND GROUNDS WERE KEPT CLEAN AND IN GOOD ORDER.

13. FROM MAY 1943 UNTIL THE SPRING OF 1944 SUBJECT WAS ASSIGNED TO TRAIN SOLDIERS WHO WERE PREPARING FOR ENTRY INTO SS OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL. UNTIL MID-AUGUST SUBJECT REMAINED IN BITCHE OVERSEEING TANK TRAINING WITH THE LST TANK OFFICER CANDIDATE PREPARATORY TRAINING COURSE / 2ND COMPANY (1. PANZER-JUNKER-VORBEREITUNGSLEHRGANG / 2. KOMPANIE). HIS COMMANDING OFFICERS WERE HAUPTSTURMFUEHRER FLINSBERG AND HAUPTSTURMFUEHRER HERZIG. FROM AUGUST UNTIL NOVEMBER SUBJECT WAS STATIONED AT THE TANK FIRING SCHOOL (PANZERSCHIESSSCHULE) IN PUTLOS WITH THE LST TANK OFFICER CANDIDATE SPECIAL TRAINING COURSE / 3RD INSPECTION (1. PANZER-JUNKER-SONDERLEHRGANG / III. INSPEKTION), ONCE AGAIN SUPERVISING THE TRAINING THAT TOOK PLACE THERE. WEHRMACHT OFFICER MAJOR WOLF WAS IN CHARGE OF THE SCHOOL IN PUTLOS AND SUBJECT'S DIRECT SUPERIOR WAS WEHRMACHT FIRST LIEUTENANT (OBERLEUTNANT) JACOBS. FROM PUTLOS SUBJECT WAS SENT TO THE MILITARY TRAINING AREA IN FALLINGBORSTEL, WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL APRIL 4, 1944 IN THE SAME FUNCTION HE HAD PERFORMED IN BITCHE AND PUTLOS. HIS COMMANDING OFFICERS DURING THIS 2ND TANK OFFICER CANDIDATE SPECIAL TRAINING COURSE IN FALLINGBORSTEL WERE WEHRMACHT OFFICER LIEUTENANT-COLONEL (OBERSTLEUTNANT) WOLF, AND SS OFFICER HAUPTSTURMFUEHRER GEIPEL.

COMBAT IN FRANCE

14. AFTER A SHORT VACATION SUBJECT WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE LST SS TANK REGIMENT / **ADOLF HITLER'S** BODYGUARD / 7TH COMPANY (1. SS-PANZERREGIMENT / LEIBSTANDARTE **ADOLF HITLER** / 7. KOMPANIE). SERVING AS A TANK PLATOON LEADER UNDER COMPANY COMMANDER LST LIEUTENANT (OBERSTURMFUEHRER) WOLFF, SUBJECT WAS ONE OF THE REINFORCEMENTS SENT TO THIS REGIMENT TO REPLENISH ITS RANKS IN GENK, BELGIUM. FROM GENK THE REGIMENT ADVANCED TO URSEL NEAR GHENT, FROM WHERE IT WAS TRANSFERRED TO FRANCE AND SENT INTO COMBAT NEAR CAEN IN NORMANDY ON JUL Y 10, 1944. UNTIL AUGUST 10,

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SUBJECT FOUGHT WITH THE 7TH COMPANY AGAINST BRITISH AND CANADIAN FORCES NOT ONLY IN CAEN BUT ALSO IN BULLY AND TILLY-LA-CAMPAGNE. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, WHEN CONOFF ASKED IN GENERAL TERMS WHETHER SUBJECT HAD PARTICIPATED IN OR HEARD OF ANY ATROCITIES DURING THIS PERIOD, SUBJECT ANSWERED VERY SPECIFICALLY, "NO, NO PRISONERS WERE SHOT."

15. ON AUGUST 11, 1944 SUBJECT TOOK COMMAND OF THE 5TH COMPANY OF THE LST SS TANK REGIMENT IN MORTAIN. UNTIL HE WAS SEVERELY WOUNDED ON AUGUST 20, SUBJECT AND HIS COMPANY SAW COMBAT AGAINST AMERICAN FORCES IN JOUE-DU-BOIS, LA CHAUX, ST. GEORGES, FAVEROLLES, ST. HILAIRE DU BRUIZE, CHAMBOIS, WHERE THE AMERICANS SURROUNDED THEM, AND ST. LAMBERT, WHERE THEY BROKE OUT OF THE CHAMBOIS POCKET. HIS COMPANY'S JOB WAS TO COVER THE GERMAN RETREAT. HE SAYS THE SOLDIERS OF THE 5TH COMPANY WERE ALWAYS THE LAST GERMAN TROOPS TO HOLD THEIR GROUND. WHEN THEY RETREATED, THE AMERICANS WERE ALWAYS RIGHT BEHIND THEM.

16. DURING THIS ENTIRE TIME WITH THE LST SS TANK REGIMENT, SUBJECT'S UNIT COMMANDER (ABTEILUNGSKOMMANDEUR) WAS MAJOR (STURMBANNFUEHRER) KLINK, ABOUT WHOM SUBJECT HAD LITTLE TO SAY. HIS REGIMENTAL COMMANDER WAS LIEUTENANT-COLONEL (OBERSTURMBANNFUEHRER) JOCHEN PEIPER, WHO IS NOTORIOUS FOR THE DECEMBER 1944 MASSACRE OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AT MALMEDY COMMITTED BY TROOPS UNDER HIS COMMAND. SUBJECT CLAIMS THAT NO ATROCITIES WERE COMMITTED WHILE HE WAS UNDER PEIPER'S COMMAND, AND DESCRIBES PEIPER AS HAVING BEEN "TOUGH, BUT HUMANE...ONE OF THE MOST LIKEABLE COMMANDING OFFICERS...OPEN AND HONEST."

THE FINAL DAYS OF THE WAR

17. AFTER BEING WOUNDED, SUBJECT SPENT SEVERAL MONTHS IN VARIOUS MILITARY HOSPITALS IN BRUSSELS, MARBURG AND BERLIN. ON NOVEMBER 18, 1944 SUBJECT REJOINED THE LST SS TANK REGIMENT / 5TH COMPANY AS COMPANY COMMANDER, A POSITION HE RETAINED UNTIL THE END OF THE WAR. HIS COMMANDING OFFICER WAS STURMBANNFUEHRER GUHL, A MAN SUBJECT DISLIKED PERSONALLY ALTHOUGH HE SAYS HE HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF GUHL'S HAVING BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY WAR CRIMES.

18. MOST OF THE 5TH COMPANY'S TIME FROM NOVEMBER 1944 TO THE END OF MARCH 1945 WAS SPENT IN DEFENSE READINESS IN CASE OF POSSIBLE LANDINGS BY ENEMY AIRBORNE TROOPS. THEY WERE STATIONED IN RMADEN-OPPENDORF, WESTPHALIA. THEN, ON MARCH 27, THE REGIMENT WAS TRANSFERRED BY RAIL TO NEUWEIDENBACH, WHERE THE 5TH COMPANY, FOR LACK OF TANKS, WAS RE-EQUIPPED AND RETRAINED AS A LIGHT INFANTRY

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COMPANY. FROM APRIL 13 TO MAY 8 THE REORGANIZED COMPANY SAW COMBAT AGAINST SOVIET FORCES IN AUSTRIA, FIRST COUNTER-ATTACKING IN POELLAU, STEINHOF AND STEINBERG AND THEN RETREATING VIA GRABENWEG, MUGGENDORF, PERNITZ AND GUTENSTEIN. FROM THERE, THE COMPANY WAS TRANSPORTED TO KLEINZELL WHERE THEY OCCUPIED THE HOCHSTAFF MOUNTAIN SOUTH OF ST. POELTEN AS PART OF THE LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST THE SOVIETS. AFTER GERMANY'S SURRENDER SUBJECT MANAGED TO ESCAPE THE SOVIETS AND GET TO THE AMERICAN LINES, WHERE HE WAS TAKEN PRISONER.

COMMENT

19. SUBJECT APPEARS VERY CONFIDENT AND DOES NOT SEEM TO BE AWARE OF EVEN A TRACE OF PERSONAL GUILT IN CONNECTION WITH THE CRIMES COMMITTED BY THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST REGIME. WHEN ASKED AT THE END OF THE INTERVIEW WHAT HE HAD TO SAY IN SUMMARY, SUBJECT REPLIED THAT HE IS NOT ASHAMED OF HIS WAR RECORD AND THAT HE WAS ONLY DEFENDING HIS FATHERLAND. HE BLAMES HIS HAVING BELIEVED IN NAZISM ON THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES IN WHICH HE WAS BROUGHT UP, AND CLAIMS HE WAS "JUST AS SHOCKED AS EVERYONE ELSE" UPON LEARNING AFTER THE WAR OF WHAT HAD REALLY HAPPENED IN THE DEATH CAMPS. IN KEEPING WITH THIS LACK OF REMORSE, SUBJECT WAS VERY OPEN AND INFORMATIVE ABOUT HIS SERVICE IN THE SS, BRINGING A VERY DETAILED, SIX-PAGE SUMMARY OF HIS MILITARY SERVICE TO THE INTERVIEW. THIS SUMMARY DOES NOT DIVERGE FROM THE INFORMATION IN REF A EXCEPT IN MINOR DETAILS. CONOFF BELIEVES SUBJECT IS THO ROUGHLY CONVINCED OF HIS INNOCENCE, BUT CONOFF QUESTIONS THE STANDARDS SUBJECT USES TO MEASURE INNOCENCE. THEREFORE, DEPARTMENT IS URGED TO CHECK CAREFULLY THE VERACITY OF SUBJECT'S VERSION OF EVENTS, ESPECIALLY REGARDING HIS SERVICE IN FRANCE UNDER OBERSTURMBANNFUEHRER PEIPER.

20. SUBJECT WISHES TO TRAVEL ON SEPTEMBER 7. A PROMPT RESPONSE FROM DEPARTMENT, IF POSSIBLE, WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
WARDLAW

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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