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Subject: Case History.

Mann, Klaus

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T/3 Klaus Mann
(32697270)
825th Signal Repair Service Co.
Camp Crowder, Mo.

SUBJECT: Case History.

TO: Whom It May Concern.

- 1.) On December 28, 1942, I was inducted into the U.S. Army, and on January 4, 1943, I reported for active duty at Fort Dix, N.J. From there, I was transferred to Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Arkansas (on February 2, 1943), where I took my basic military training.
- 2.) After a stay of about 3 weeks in Camp Robinson, I was called for an interview with Major Weaver from Washington, D.C., who informed me that I was going to be assigned to a newly activated unit - a "C o m b a t - P r o p a g a n d a C o m p a n y" - which was to be stationed in Washington, D.C., in connection with the Office for Strategical Services.
- 3.) I finished my basic training at Camp Robinson (a 8-week cycle plus one preparatory week) and, on April 6, 1943, received order to leave for Camp Ritchie, Maryland. I arrived there on April 8, 1943, and joined the unit which was subsequently called F i r s t M o b i l e R a d i o B r o a d c a s t i n g C o m p a n y. This was indeed the outfit about which Major Weaver had spoken to me; but it had meanwhile changed its name and was no longer connected with Strategical Services. The First Mobile operates now - if I am not mistaken - under the Headquarter of the Signal Corps and is staffed and supervised by Military Intelligence.
- 4.) I had been for about three weeks in Camp Ritchie, as a member of the First Mobile Radio Broadcast=ing Company, when we were informed that our unit was on the point of moving out, to the Post of Embarkation. My name was included in the shipping list, although I was not yet an American citizen. However, the Post Intelligence Officer of Camp Ritchie - Major John M. Phillips - seemed con=

fident that I could be naturalized in due time.

- 5.) On April 30, 1943, I was appointed Technician Third Grade, in my capacity as a linguist and propagandist in the First Mobile Radio Broadcasting Company.
The same day, the Post Intelligence Officer sent me to Baltimore, Md., in a staff car - together with two other enlisted men - under the presumption that my citizenship papers were ready and that I could be naturalized without any further delay.
In Baltimore, however, the acting Judge informed me - a few minutes before the ceremony began - that he had received some "special information" concerning my case, which compelled him to "withhold recommendation", for the time being. My case - according to the Judge - had to be investigated again.
- 6.) The following day - May 1, 1943 - my company (the "First Mobile") moved out to the Port of Embarkation. I had to be left behind - not yet being naturalized. However, the officer in charge of my particular section - Captain Martin F. Herz, Chief of the Propaganda Section - promised me that I would rejoin the unit, either at the Port of Embarkation or overseas - as soon as my naturalization comes through.
- 7.) I remained in Camp Ritchie - waiting for my citizenship. On May 17, I was ordered to attend the Eighth Class of the Ritchie Military Intelligence School, but after 3 days was notified that my name had to be dropped from the school roster as I "still belonged to the First Mobile Radio Broadcasting Company." During the following weeks I worked temporarily for Major John M. Phillips - the same officer who handled my naturalization affair.
- 8.) On June 7, 1943, I was informed - most surprisingly - of my assignment to the 825th Signal Repair Service Company, Camp Crowder, Mo. Major Phillips, and other officers in Ritchie acquainted with my record, agreed with me that this new assignment was evidently a mistake, as I am not a technician and could not be of any use in a repair service company.

- 9.) My departure from Camp Ritchie was delayed for three days. On June 9, I was told by an officer at Post Headquarters that I was not supposed to go to Camp Crowder, as a Second Mobile Radio Broadcasting Company was to be activated - stationed at Camp Ritchie - to which I would be assigned. The next day, however - June 10 - I was definitely ordered to leave Camp Ritchie for Camp Crowder, Mo.
Before leaving Ritchie, I had a final interview at Headquarters with Assistant Adjutant, Major Julian H. Zimmerman, who advised me to apply for a re-transfer to Camp Ritchie as soon as I arrived in Camp Crowder.
- 10.) In Camp Crowder, the situation turned out to be almost exactly as the Ritchie officers and I had anticipated: there is absolutely no place or function for me in the organization to which I am assigned.
A few days after my arrival, I was interviewed by the officers of a new "confidential" unit ("Company X"), for which linguists are needed. The interviewing lieutenant had to inform me, however, that I am out of the question as only American citizens are admitted to this particular outfit.
- 11.) I applied, therefore, for re-transfer to Camp Ritchie - first in a personal letter to Major Zimmerman (as he had encouraged me to do); subsequently in a formal application which went out "through channels" on July 3 (according to information I obtained from the personnel officer of my company).
- 12.) The main reason for my wish to return to Camp Ritchie is, that my naturalization could be arranged there more speedily than it would be possible here. To forward my pending case to Camp Crowder would undoubtedly result in new delay.
What I really want is, to become a citizen as soon as possible and then to rejoin the First Mobile Radio Broadcasting Company overseas. The V-Mail letter from Captain Herz, of which I enclose a copy, seems to indicate that the

officers of that unit are also interested in my rejoining their organization. As for myself, I am positive that there is no second outfit in the Army where I could be as useful as in the company to which I was originally assigned.

13.)

The fact that the Post Intelligence Officer of Camp Ritchie has failed, so far, to forward the files of my pending naturalization case, seems to suggest that he expects my eventual return to Ritchie; for I do not believe that he would make me lose 6 precious weeks when he knows how anxious I am to become a citizen and go overseas at last.

On the other hand, I am naturally perturbed as the weeks pass by, while I - sidetracked and misplaced - am left without news about the development of my pending affairs.

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I do not know whether the officers of this Post are in a position to speed up my re-transfer to Camp Ritchie and to recommend me to Signal-Corps Headquarters in Washington for a re-assignment to the First Mobile Radio Broadcasting Company. I want to make it clear, however, that it is this re-assignment for which I intend to apply as soon as I am naturalized, and that I shall infinitely appreciate any help that can be given to me in my effort to straighten out my status and find the place in the Army where my services could be most effectively used.

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