

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

**[In der Army. Bericht über Wedegang u. Bitte um
Rückkehr nach Camp Ritchie.]**

Mann, Klaus

um 1944

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T/3 KLAUS MANN (32697270)
P.W.B., HQ 5th Army, APO 464,
U.S. Army

9 August, 1944

SUBJECT: Change of Status

TO : Lt.Col. E.M. CULLIGAN, CO, PWB, Italian Theater, HQ
(through, Lt.Col. F.A. McCULLOCH, CO, PWB, Fifth Army)

1. As I am approaching the end of my 38th year (I was born on 18 November, 1906), and presuming that the War in Europe will be over in the not too distant future, I take the liberty to inquire under what conditions I could apply for a discharge from the U.S. Army and at the same time for a job with P.W.B. (as a civilian on overseas duty).

2. My reasons for this request are as follows: It will be in Allied-occupied Germany or Austria that my services as a propagandist may prove of some value to the cause of the United Nations; it is there -- in Germany or Austria -- that I expect to be stationed, as soon as the War is over. There are various jobs for which I might be considered qualified, considering my personal background, professional experiences and present assignment; I could be used in the field of German political intelligence, or as a radio commentator, public speaker, lecturer, journalist, newspaper- or magazine editor, theatrical director, or general cultural adviser and contact man. In all of these capacities, however, my present status as an enlisted man could not but be a serious handicap -- especially since my name happens to be fairly well-known in the German-speaking countries. That is why I am of the opinion that it would be in the interest of this organization to employ me as a civilian, rather than to keep me in my present status of an enlisted man.



- 8.) 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 (German Section), but after three 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 P h i l l i p s - the same officer who handled my naturalization affair.
- 9.) On June 7, 1943, I was informed - most surprisingly - of my assignment to the 825th Signal Repair Service Company, Camp Crowder, Mo. Major P h i l l i p s , and several 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 unit. My departure from Ritchie was delayed for three days. On June 9, I was told that my new assignment had been canceled 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 Camp Ritchie, I had a final interview with Major Julian H. Z i m m e r m a n , Assistant Adjutant, who advised me to apply for a re-transfer to Camp Ritchie as soon as I arrived at Camp Crowder, and promised to take care of my application personally.
- 10.) In Camp Crowder, the situation turned out to be exactly as the Ritchie officers and I had anticipated: there was absolutely no function for me in the organization to which I was 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 explained to me, however, that I was 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 Assistant Adjutant Major Z i m m e r m a n (as he had encouraged me to do); subsequently in a formal application "through channels", which was endorsed by my Commanding Officer on July 3, 1943. My Commanding Officer - Lt. P e t r i t i s - told me, however, a few days ago, that my application was returned to him by Headquarters. That is why I take the liberty to submit this history of my case and explain the reasons on account of am desirous to return to Camp Ritchie.
(which)
- 12.) The two main reasons are these:
a.) I believe that my naturalization could be arranged more speedily in Camp Ritchie than it would be possible here. To forward the files of my pending case would undoubtedly result in new delay. The fact that the Post Intelligence

Officer of Camp Ritchie has failed, so far, to forward my papers to the Camp Crowder Post Intelligence office, seems to suggest that he expects my eventual return to Ritchie. For I do not suppose that Major Phillips, who has always shown the most gracious interest in my trouble, would make me lose so many precious weeks when he knows how very anxious I am to become a citizen and go overseas at last.

- b.) It is my wish and ambition to rejoin the First Mobile Radio Broadcasting Company overseas. I am positive that there is ^{no} second place in the Army where I could be as useful as in that particular organization - a belief which is shared by the officer in charge of my special section, as indicated in the letter from Capt. Martin F. Herz of which I enclose a copy.
- According to Capt. Herz, the personnel of the "First Mobile" is being sent by MITC (i.e. Camp Ritchie) to the headquarters under which the unit operates (i.e. Signal Corps Headquarters). It is, therefore, from Camp Ritchie that I would be assigned (or rather, re-assigned) to my old company, if at all.
- But even in case that this re-assignment should turn out to be infeasible, I have a better chance in Ritchie than anywhere else to get the kind of assignment for which I am suitable - for instance, an assignment to the Second Mobile Radio Broadcasting Company, if and when such a unit will be activated.

- 13.) This application, then, has a double purpose: to repeat and explain my request for re-transfer to Camp Ritchie, and to announce my intention to apply for my re-assignment to the First ~~Radio~~ Mobile Radio Broadcasting Company as soon as I am naturalized.
- The second point - my re-assignment to the "First Mobile" - is highly important to me; but the first one - my naturalization - is vital. For, while I would gladly accept, of course, and try to fulfil any assignment the Army might think me fit for, I don't see how I could be of any use in the Army without being a citizen. It is not that I insist on my naturalization as a recompensation for my services as a soldier in the American Army. But the Army insists - very rightly - on the citizen status of those whom it entrusts with any responsible duties.
- Camp Ritchie happens to be the place where my case has been most thoroughly examined. It is there that I hope to be naturalized, or at least to be explained why I cannot become a citizen. In the latter case (which seems almost inconceivable to me) I may have to reconsider my decision to serve in the American Army - which is of course a voluntary decision, on the part of any foreigner - ; in the former case (which I would like to take for granted) I would try to rejoin my old unit, or, if this cannot be done, to do my duty in any other organization where the Army wishes to use whatever capabilities and experiences I may have to contribute.

Just reading instructive, realistic book - "The Invasion of Germany." by Curt Riess (of German origin...)

Thinks that German morale is perfectly intact; that battle for Germany will have to be fought on German soil....

Unduly pessimistic (though pessimism better, perhaps, than wishful thinking...)

Yet, German morale must crack, sooner or later...

Today's news about 3 German Warships - Scharnhorst, Tirpiz, Luetzow - sabotaged by own crews, following Italian example....

Not yet quite clear.... Yet, significant, even ~~so~~ if only rumor... Remember that 1918 Revolution started in German Navy....

Fall of Nazism may come suddenly, like fall of Kaiser Wilhelm, collapse of Fascism. Don't expect civil war in Germany.

Feeling of tremendous relief, more likely....

Mother-Child-Story:

"THANK GOD...."