

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Request for Transfer to German Radio Section.

Mann, Klaus

1944-06-21

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T/3 KLAUS MANN (32697210),
P.W.B., 5th Army Forward

Italy, June 28, 1944

SUBJECT: Request for Transfer to German Radio Section

TO : CO., P.W.B., HQ Fifth Army

1. As Captain Herz may have told you, and as I confirmed to you in our recent conversation, I am interested in the possibility of getting transferred from my present assignment to a P.W.B. radio station broadcasting in German from Florence or some other North-Italian city. This idea originated from Mr. Rayner, who mentioned it to me when I saw him, with your permission, in Rome, on June 16. Besides Capt. Herz -- who has been my direct chief in this section and is particularly familiar with my work and my abilities -- always agreed with me that I could be most useful as a regular German radio commentator.

2. The job I would like to do for a German radio station, is a twofold one: first, I would want to read my own regular comments on current events and the international situation, with special emphasis on the developments in Italy and on the Italian front; second, I have certain ideas about introducing and building up a German radio character -- namely, a German soldier in American captivity, who would disclose to his German listeners, in a series of regular speeches, his "personal history" and his anti-Nazi message.

3. The man with whom I would like to work out this particular feature, is the German deserter HANS REISER -- formerly an actor; now held in Rome as a PW. Following my interviews with REISER, in Civitavecchia and at "Rainmakers," I have outlined a tentative scheme of his potential radio program and have also drafted a first, tentative version of his introductory speech. (See the material attached to this letter.)

4. As we may hope to occupy Florence, or other big North-Italian cities, within the next two or three weeks, I feel that

there is not much time to lose, if I am supposed to begin working as soon as the local radio installations are at our disposal. While it would take me long, perhaps, to prepare my own comments, I would need at least a week or ten days to edit Reiser's material and to study with him some of his opening speeches.

5. May I suggest, therefore, that I be given the opportunity of going to Rome, for a day or two, in order to discuss the matter with those in charge of the preparatory work for the future German broadcasts. It seems desirable (also in the interest of this Section) to clarify the situation and to find out whether I am actually wanted for the radio job. Also, I would like to know Mr. RAYNER's reaction to my idea of presenting a German prisoner's voice as a regular feature and find out if REISER proves indeed the right man for our purposes.

Klaus
Hann

T/3 KLAUS MANN (32697270),
P.W.B., 5th Army Forward

Italy, June 28, 1944

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