

14 May 1987

Dear John:

I received your May 87 news letter. You have my new address via my last letter, but here it is again.

Reference C.A. Williamson letter concerning the SAO at LUCKENWALDE-STALAG IIIA.

I was there at the same time. I arrived in the tarp covered Gondola car with the first group of sick POW's from SHUBIN POLANO-OFCEAG 64. About one week or so the second group of sick POW's arrived. In that group was LT. COL. ROY HERTE who was very sick and unable to take care of himself or to feed himself. He occupied a bunk next to mine and I forced fed him and "nursed" him the best I could for a week or so until he could take care of himself. COL. HERTE was in fact the SAO, but for reasons I do not know, he did not take command after his recovery. LT. COL. WALTER M. OAKES was the "Acting" SAO, and assumed the duties until the very end of our imprisonment by the Russians. After our "Liberation" or imprisonment by the Russians we were free to explore and visit other sections of STALAG IIIA. LT. COL. HERTE spent most of his time with the Norwegian Officers who were POW's since 1940.

I departed STALAG IIIA on 5 May 1945 with the patrol that came to take out LT. AMON CARTER JR, who departed with the liberated Russian POW's to fight forward to capture BERLIN. I went out on a scout car, and arrived at the 30th Inf. Div HQ. late that same night, and LT. GENERAL SIMPSON, the 9th U.S. ARMY COMMANDER interviewed each of us about the conditions of STALAG IIIA.

In June 1945 as a Administrative N.C.O. inspector with the USAREUR I.C. (Acting as a D.A.I.C.) I was in BERLIN with the I.C. team I was assigned to. I was told, one afternoon to go to a door, knock, enter. When I did so I entered a large room with a few Officers off to the right wall, and in the middle was a very large desk.

with a American Standard and a Generals Flag behind the desk. Next to the desk stood LTCOL HERTE. I approached him, saluted, shook hands, and then he gave me a very "fatherly bear hug" that did not last very long. We had a very short talk before we ever separated and returned to my normal duties. I did talk to my Officers, COL SACCARO and GOODWIN who told me that COL HERTE was attached to the BERLIN Post I.G. Office with no assigned duties, and that COL HERTE received one superior and two NORWEGIAN Medals for his work with the Norwegian Officer P.O.W.s in LUCKENWALDE after the Germans departed.

39 years later I still have some questions about what happened in BERLIN in 1948, exactly 3 years almost to the day when LTCOL HERTE was in Berlin the nearest U.S. Army HQ to LUCKENWALDE, with no apparent duties. Why? Was he there just to receive the Norwegian Medals? or Was a D.A. Board appointed to look into the leadership of LUCKENWALDE? or to establish some "sound rules" about the duties of a SOA when he is ill or when he recovers enough to assume his duties? There are other questions concerning the duties of a SOA like, can a SOA refuse to take on the duties of a SOA? or what happens when the "acting" SOA refuses to give up the duties of the SOA when the actual SOA recovers from his illness and is able to take over the duties of the SOA?

I am sorry that this letter probably opens up more questions than it answered. Perhaps someone else can clear some of them up. I hope so.

Sincerely Yours

Robert Jay Miller