

F.W. von Lindeiner gen.  
von Wildau.

Hermannstein über Wetzlar. (16.)  
Wetzlarer Strasse 194.  
Gross-Hessen, Deutschland.  
Amerikanische Zone.  
Den 22. Juni 1948.

Colonel Air Corps Delmar T. Spivey.  
Headquarters Air University.  
Maxwell Field, Alabama.  
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Spivey,

Please allow me to thank you very sincerely for your kindness, first of all for your so very kind letter and then for the two lovely parcels. The first reached me on the 21st of April, then I received your letter of May the 21st on the 29th of the same month and on June the 8th your second parcel arrived. Very many thanks for everything and please transmit my wife's hearty thank and mine Mrs. Spivey. I would have written much sooner, had not my health been so bad of late, in consequence of which I had to go to the sanatorium Hens Mark at Oberursel near Frankfurt. Now the devaluation of the Reichsmark and our resulting proletarianisation obliges me to leave this place and to return to Hermannstein.

The contents of your parcels surpassed all expectations. My underwear and the pants fit beautifully, the shoes are too small, but I shall try to barter them at the "Tauschzentrale". What a very great joy the tins with eatables are, I can hardly describe. The soap too is almost an unknown luxury for us. I am not such a passionate cigar-smoker as you seem to think, my great joy are cigarettes, but these may not be sent.

I now want to express my special thanks for the way you have gone my way of having treated the POW. - I have tried to do justice to my parents' education as well to that of the old Prussian Army. Therefore I tried also to impress upon the German staff, that an unworthy conduct towards defenceless POW's was cowardly and at once dishonourable. I reminded each of my inferiors or subordinates of the fact, that a POW had a mother or a wife or children, who were anxious about him, that not one individual waged war against the other because he had happened to be born under another flag, but that his government obliged him to fight, often against his will. The increasing instigation made it very difficult for me to keep up my principles and procured me much enmity, but I am aware of having been faithful to the dictates of both my parents and teachers.

Your observations concerning an employment with the U.S. Military Government interested me very much. Dr. Simeleit had already let me know, how kindly you helped him. Some months ago he asked me to give him a certificate for his liberation from nazism. When I fulfilled his request I wrote under other items:

"In the court martial against me (Lindeiner) I was reproached for having removed all the reliable members of the party. Without refuting this I must confess, that I would not have made Dr. Simeleit to one of my most intimate collaborators, had he shared the opinions of Germany's tyrants. .... In 1941 Dr. Simeleit already refused one of the highest positions in the administration of the occupied Eastern territories, as he was not willing, to follow the instructions of the then ruling people. .... I became thoroughly acquainted with Dr. Simeleit and knew him to have a very noble and - I should like to say - a very clean character, who impitiously rejected every idea of injustice and violence, but who defended justice and humanity." -

As to myself, I opposed the penetration of nazism in the many clubs and societies of which I was either a president or a member of the board in the Netherlands, during my stay there from 1919 till 1932. After my return to Germany I refused every connection with the party till 1937, although it inflicted commercial disadvantages upon me and that I was removed from the upper German sport-board on that account. Only in spring 1937 my re-connection to the party as an "Anwärter" ensued, as I belonged to the central-staff of the Firm "Schenker & Co. G.m.b.H.", which had been swallowed by the German Government. I do not know, whether I was a real member. I left the firm at the end of 1937. When I accepted an appointment in the Airforce Ministry in 1938 I was influenced by a wish to get rid of my connection with the party.

Within my office I soon found several people sharing my opinion condemning the actions of the reigning clique. From 1940 onwards leading men from other ministries joined our circle, among them several, who were paid later for their conviction by being strangled, well-known people like envoy Kiep, navy captain Kranzfelder, colonel Hansen. I myself was transferred to Sagan in May 1942. These, able to judge of the circumstances, think I owe my life to the general breakdown.-

Having returned from my imprisonment to the British Zone on the 10th of July 1947, I was ranged into Category V as seen on the 25th of the same month by the British Public Safety Special Branch in Westphalia. I notified my return immediately to the competent German committee for the liberation of nazism and militarism which on the 2nd of October 1947 certified, that I had been cleared under the provisions of Military Government No. 79.

In November 1947 I was allowed to move into the American Zone where my wife was living. There, after nearly 5 months, on the 23rd of April 1948, in opposition to the clearance in the British Zone, I was declared a "Mittläufer" (Category IV) and put to a penance of Rmk.2.456 by the German court for denazification at Wetzlar. I do not consider myself as a "Mittläufer" but on the contrary as "persecuted by the Nazi regime", so I brought an action against it, with the result, that the first decision was annulled and the British clearance acknowledged. I never asked for the acknowledgement as having been persecuted by the Nazi-regime, as I did not want to be rewarded by higher rations and other advantages at the cost of suffering countrymen, for only having been faithful to the principles, I was taught and to which I have of course always kept.-

In your letter of May 21st you suggest that I should relate my adventures after the escape of 76 officers of the RAF from Stalag Luft 3. Of course I will gladly do so after my return to Hermannstein very soon. Today's missive is so long already and I wish to dispatch it today, else you will consider me very ungrateful indeed. And my wish is to make you feel my great gratitude for all your kindness and interest.

Please accept my wife's and my own kindest regards for yourself as well as for Mrs. Spivey, and

Believe me, dear Mr. Spivey,

Yours very sincerely,

