

MAAG Germany  
Box 340  
APO New York 09080  
22 August 1967

Mr. Robert Thompson  
Box 454  
Springdale, Arkansas 72764

Dear Bob,

Just a short note to keep you informed of the latest action here.

Today, I had my interpreter call Mr. Beckisch, the German who volunteered the information about his friend finding the box, and requested that he forward your address to his friend in Chicago. Although he has already written about your visit, he agreed to sending your address right away. I hope you hear from him soon.

During the course of the phone call, Mr. Beckisch provided some additional information. His friend was a displaced person and shortly after the war worked for the Americans in Hammelburg. He found the box in 1945 while in the process of cleaning out the building. He was the only one in a detail of several men actually working. When he found the box the others wanted to share it with him, but he refused. Mr. Beckisch had nothing else to offer.

I am leaving here the 29th of August for a few days of leave and then on 6 September will fly to Korea. Please keep me informed of any interesting developments. With best personal regards, I remain

Sincerely,

  
ANTHONY J. DeSANTO  
Colonel, USA

MAAG Germany  
Box 340  
APO New York 09080  
17 August 1967

Mr. Robert Thompson  
Box 454  
Springdale, Arkansas 72764

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Sorry we missed seeing you all before your return to the States. On Saturday, the day of your departure, I went to the Guest House (0930) to see you off and at the same time to thank you for the beautiful flowers. Unfortunately, you had already checked out. It was a thoughtful gesture on your part and both Renate and I appreciated it very much.

I have some additional interesting information with respect to the purpose of your trip to Hammelburg. Yesterday (16 August) I received a call from Colonel Knoche, the German officer who escorted us through the camp. He stated that he just had a visit from a civilian from the village of Hammelburg. Apparently, this civilian had heard that recently some Americans were in the camp looking for a box that contained some valuables. The civilian stated that many years ago a friend of his, working as fireman (coal stoker) at the camp, found the box. The box contained a watch, two cut rings, and another ring, which appeared to be very valuable. The building where the box was found is the same one that you identified.

The interesting part of the story is that the man who found the box now lives in Chicago. The civilian said that each year at Christmas time he hears from his friend. The civilian would not release the name of his friend until after he had written him and explained the situation. Colonel Knoche said that as soon as he received the name of the individual he would send the information to Mr. Gaertner, the interpreter who went with us to Hammelburg, who would, in turn, forward it to you.

For your information, Colonel Knoche seemed to think that the civilian was sincere and that the information he provided was true and not something that was fabricated. I am sure you are in

Mr. Robert Thompson

a better position to determine the validity of the story from the description of items he said were in the box.

I have inclosed the address of the civilian, Colonel Knoche, and Mr. Gaertner in case you desire to contact them directly, or through Jack Armstrong. Jack has been briefed on the latest development and will assist in any way possible.

Although I am leaving for Korea shortly, I am curious and anxious to hear of the outcome of this interesting and amazing story. My new address is on the envelope.

It was a pleasure meeting you, Mr. Christopher, and Danny. Please pass my best regards to them.

Sincerely,

*Anthony J. DeSanto*  
ANTHONY J. DeSANTO  
Colonel, USA

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Kampfruppenschule I  
Germany

- German Colonel

Meister Beckisch  
8783 HAMMELBURG, Ufr.  
Lager Hammelburg  
Standortverwaltung  
Germany

- Civilian

Herr Ulrich Gaertner  
MAAG Germany  
American Embassy  
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Germany

- my Inkpassport