

„A“Hoppes Aid.doc-G115k
Arbeitsgruppe Task Force Baum
Letter of the adjutant of Oberst Hoppe to Mrs. Hoppe.

Copy:

Oberweilersbach/Oberfranken 22.6.1945

Esteemed most gracious madam!

I should like to send a short message to you, esteemed most gracious madam, because Mrs. Glatz is travelling home (and is forwarding this note)

I certainly believe, that you already received notice, about the death of your husband. I myself was not able to write to you earlier, because of the circumstances. Take my deep condolence for you, esteemed most gracious madam, and for your family for the loss you all suffered.

On the ground of different received orders your husband believed to have acted in wrong ways and he ended his life by shooting himself on 7.4.(1945) in the evening hours in the West camp of training ground in Grafenwoehr. Later examinations showed, that he was instantly dead. Herr Oberst (colonel) was heavily moved (by the uncertain situation) as also were Herr captain Wagmeier and staff officer Popp, but he never spoke about his thoughts. Around 22:30 hour he retired and went to his room. Not before next day, when your husband didn't show up in the late morning hours, we became uneasy and then we found him dead in one of the air raid shelter corridors.

Together with the commandant of training ground Grafenwoehr and General (Names were omitted) and is adjutant cleared the state of affair and the commandant wrote down, that your husband took his life out of honorable motivation and in an exaggerated soldier's sense of honor. In a "Last message" he declared, that he did not find a way out of the different contrary orders, and that he rather would draw the conclusions for his wrong (?) actions, before they (German secret service) were going to capture him. For instance there were orders like this: "One order was to hold on to the last man, and the other was: to retreat and save all weapons and move the command post to an other place. These Orders, from higher leaders, only were irritating. These last days caused me to yield." I do not remember the exact text. The documents remained with the KdR.Tr. Üb.Pl. Grafenwoehr (commander of troupe training ground in Grafen woehr). I don't know, what happened to them,

Your husband was buried in Auerbach with military honors. His legacy was given by Mr. Popp to a veterinary surgeon, I am very sorry that I forgot his name. We could not find a notice for you.

I believe , if your husband had talked about his secret thoughts, he and I were alone for some time in our room, or if he had spoken with one of the other commandants, who were present, this deep regrettable case would not have happened. But you know yourself, esteemed most gracious madam, the colonel was hard to others and in this case also

against himself.

I might report from us: Wagmeier, Popp and I, as well as the noncommissioned officers stayed a few days more in Grafenwoehr. Then we officers were transferred to the leading reserve of the OKH (Oberkommando des Heeres = supreme command of the army) in Weiden, and there we were detailed to Feldjägerkommando (military police). Our duty was agreeable, and slowly we arrived in Arlberg/Tyrol (In Northwestern Austria). From there I wandered over the mountains to this place (Oberweilersbach near Forchheim) without officially released from the army. In Tyrol our command was decomposed, and each one was on his own what to do next. I very much regret, that I transferred my family from Hlbg =Hammelburg, even if we were not able to stay in the Kasino. But certainly we would have found other ways for an accommodation.

I hope, to make a personal visit at your home. Once again, take my deep condolence for you esteemed most gracious madam and for your family and many regards

From your loyal

Bassler with family