



## **Norman R. Berkman**

**\*World War II  
U.S.Army-970th CIC—Germany  
Staff Sergeant**

**\*Cold War  
U. S. Army, 532nd MI—Germany  
Master Sergeant**

## **Norman R. Berkman**

**Veterans  
History  
Project  
Transcript**

**Interview conducted  
July 14, 2009**

**Niles Public Library  
Niles Public Library District  
Niles, Illinois**



Niles Public Library District  
Veterans History Project Transcript

Veteran: Norman R. Berkman

Rank: Master Sergeant

Branch of Service: U. S. Army

Theater: World War II - Europe  
Cold War Occupation

Units: 970<sup>th</sup> Counter Intelligence Corps, Germany, June 10, 1945-Jan. 14, 1947

532<sup>nd</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion, Germany, Aug. 14, 1950-Aug. 13, 1953

Interview Dates: July 14, 2009 2-3:30 p.m.

Place: Group Study Room,  
Niles Public Library

Equipment: Philips Digital Pocket Memo Recorder

Interviewer: Neil O'Shea

*This Veterans History Project interview is being conducted on a Tuesday, July the 14th, in the year 2009 here at the Niles Public Library in the group study room in the reference services department. My name is Neil O'Shea. I'm a librarian here at the Niles Library, and I'm speaking with Judith A. Carlson.*

*Judith is here on behalf of her father, Norman Berkman, who was born on the 20th of August 1917 and, sadly, passed away on March the 31st, 2008. His memoir of service is interesting and unique to our collection at this time. It is really unfortunate that we are not able to interview Mr. Berkman, but we heartily concur with his daughter that his story is well worth knowing about and remembering and learning from. Judith's remarks here are based on her possession and command of extensive files and documentation which her father compiled over the years relating to his two tours of duty in Europe. She also benefited from a special experience with her dad when he told her all about his experiences in the war shortly before he died in March of 2008. Judith has prepared for this interview by developing a statement based on her dad's recollections which I think is a great way to lay out the salient facts before we discuss them in greater detail. So, at this point, I'd like to ask Judith if she could read in her outline of her dad's record of service. (Interviewer's words in italics)*

My father enlisted in the Army at the Army's request in June of 1945. He said he was "drafted to enlist." He told me that a friend of his, whose name he never told me, but I think was from his old neighborhood, was in the Counter Intelligence Corps, and they were apparently looking for people who could speak Russian and/or German. The friend named my father, who understood Russian well, spoke it a little, and spoke and understood Yiddish very well. (Veteran's daughter's words)

So when my father agreed to enlist, they sent him up to a farm in Northern Wisconsin to turn his Yiddish into German. After that, he was deployed to Germany and under the cover of being a musician as his German identity, -- one of his German identity cards names him, he became a spy.

The highlight of that tour of duty was his participation in the retrieving of some German crown jewels in 1946. I have the documentation and pictures of those crown jewels. Also, sometime during that tour of duty, he was issued a German identity card showing that he was placed in Dachau as a political prisoner. He never was in Dachau. Apparently, though, he was in a displaced persons' camp. I have a German identity card showing that his German identity was Normann Bergmann. They changed the "k" to a "g" and added an n to both first and last names. He didn't say too much about this tour of duty except that part of his job in the Displaced Persons camp was to ferret out German spies who were, as he put it, and this is a direct quote from him, "on the wrong side of the divide," and identify mid to high ranking officers as, again a quote from him, "hiding in the DP camp."

He also often went undercover in the civilian sector. In this last, he said something about stopping sabotage, but I'm not at all clear about that. Also, during that particular time in the civilian sector, he met the woman, who ended up being my stepmother, when he needed cover of a wife. She was working for the United States Army, and she was his cover. And she did, in his second tour of duty, did, in fact, become his wife.

He also did finally admit that he was an interrogator, but would say nothing more about it. And it wasn't until after his death that I believed this gentle man really was. The Army documentation was very clear about that. However, from what I've read regarding some of the interrogation techniques used by the Army during the Cold War and, you know, during World War II, I, I'm pretty sure why he wouldn't say anything more. He didn't want his oldest daughter to know what he might have done.

After he was discharged in 1947, he remained in the Army Reserves at 5th Army Headquarters in Chicago. During that time, from what I can glean from the papers I have, he might have worked as an instructor and lecturer. I do remember a couple of times going to headquarters with him because he said he had to give a talk. I never heard the talks, however, as I was put in an office with a coloring book, crayons, and books to keep me occupied until he was finished with whatever it was he was doing. I also have papers that show he was schooled in military law and in the Geneva Convention.

He then returned, at his request, probably to go back and get my stepmother, to active duty in August of 1950. I have Army correspondence indicating that, from about February to April of 1951, it was requested that he be returned to the Counter Intelligence Corps. I'm not positive I understand these papers very well. They're written in Army abbreviations, but it seems that he was refused, and, in the end, was deployed to Germany again under the auspices of the Military Intelligence Service. All he would say about that tour of duty was that he gathered intelligence that was useful to the United States, alluding to the fact that he couldn't say anything more as it was all still, quote, "top secret."

He was then discharged finally in August of 1953 and that was the end of his Army tours of duty. I will say he was so proud of being a spy that, when he got on the Internet, sometime in the late 1990s, his screen name was [exspion.webtv.web](http://exspion.webtv.web).

Wow. Thank you.

You're welcome.

*Now, when your dad entered the Service, was he living in Chicago?*

Yes, he was. 817 West Cornelia.

*That would be Lake View or--*

He was still married to my mother. Yes, Lake View

*Do you know where he went to high school or--*

Actually, no, I do not, but I can find that if you want me to bring that.

*No--*

I'll just call my uncle.

Yes.

He knows the school. Actually, his discharge papers show he went to Marshall.

*It is interesting to see the neighborhoods and where people came from. And do you know what he was doing at the time he was joined up?*

Oh, yes. He was a musician and he was also teaching music at the Wurlitzer Piano Company downtown.

*Yes. So, he was, having been born in 1917 and then entering the Army in 1945, he would have been, I think, almost 28. He was 27 years of age?*

Yes.

*Is that right?*

Yes. He had a wife and a child, so he was too-- he was not eligible to be drafted. That's why he was drafted to enlist.

*On the recommendation of this friend of his.*

Of his friend. I do not know the friend's name.



*Do you know if the friend was skilled in languages, also?*

Yes. He said that that was why, because they used to speak a little Russian with each other and a lot of Yiddish. The friend was also Jewish.

*Yes. So, in Germany at that time after the war, with the Russians and the allies sharing the occupation of Germany and Berlin, his language skills must have been very-- must have been needed?*

They were very much needed.

*So did your dad ever talk about boot camp, or anything like that, or training experiences, or adjusting to life in the Army?*

Basically, he said his boot camp went by so quickly that he didn't even notice it. Apparently, because he was basically going almost directly into CIC.

Yes. I mean, he got the training,

*The training, and then when he comes out in 1947, he's already - he comes out as a staff sergeant.*

Correct.

*Yes. So do you know where he went for his basic training or anything like that?*

Both times, Fort Riley.

*Fort Riley, Kansas.*

From what I understand, yes.

In fact, I remember telling him, one of my grandsons lives in Kansas, and when I told my father, I says, "Hey, one of your great-grandsons lives in Kansas!" He says, "Oh, Kansas," he says, "Fort Riley. Both times." That's all he said!

*And then he's posted to Germany?*

Yes

*I wonder if he went over on a ship or a plane?*

He did go over on a ship. He said the ship came out of, I think he said Maryland or Maine, I'm not too positive of that. He took a train, I know, east, because he tried calling my mother from the train station when he was being deployed and she didn't answer. And, of course, we now know why.

*Yes. So he was posted to the-- or his unit was the 970th Counter Intelligence Corps.*

Counter Intelligence Corps, that's their battalion badge.

*And that was in, which we will add to this transcript, it looks like it's a sleeping lion or something like that.*

To me, it looks like a lion.

*Yes. Kind of--*

In fact, his license plate in Florida, okay, was that. They only demand a rear license plate, so his front license plate was a copy of that. That's how proud he was.

*I was going to say that indicates that it was something he was proud of, wasn't it? Yes.*

Oh, very much so.

*Yes, and not too many people could have done that job either, I suspect. So, then his initial mission in Germany, so he was posted to Berlin, I suppose?*

Yes, started out there.

*His initial mission was to kind of go undercover with these identification papers?*

Yes.

*And see if he can sniff out any German who--*

Sniff out any Germans and sniff out any--

*Nazis who are--*

He did say traitor Russians, but Russians aren't traitors, so I don't know.

*Oh, Russians who might have collaborated?*

Well, remember-- right, collaborators.

*Or, yes, yes.*

But, of course, he would never believe there were any. I mean, you know, Russian background himself. At that time, according to him, Russians were wonderful and Germans were horrible across the board, but I can't blame him.

*So when he's on duty then in his first tour, he's in civilian clothes, right?*

Yes, he is, even up to and through the retrieval of the crown jewels.

*Yes, so I wonder, does he, for example, have an apartment or does he--*

He did have an apartment. He said it was in a half bombed out--

*Probably a lot of those places--*

Oh, yes. Three stories, no running water. And that was at the time Olga was covering as his wife. Okay, he was out in the nightclubs playing music. He played music on the street. My father played the accordion.

*So he used his musicianship as part of his cover?*

As part of his cover., very, very definitely.

*So, Olga, did she have an interesting history in Germany? Had she lost her family during the war and needed to protect herself with the Americans or something?*

No Her mother was alive. They were, oh, from what Olga told me at one time, but this was many years ago, her mother escaped. Her brother was SS. She did not like the fact that her brother was SS, and she went over to the American side. She did not like what the Nazis were doing. And, of course, this would bear fruit in the fact that she married an American Jewish GI.

*Yes. So she was not from a Jewish background?*

Oh, absolutely not.

*Yes. And then did the brother survive the war, the SS man?*

No, he did not. He did not survive the war.

*The-- so, we mentioned it, the, your dad had described--*

By the way, her mother survived the war, but the brother did not.

*But she remained in Germany, did she?*

She remained in Germany. She came for a visit. It was an interesting visit, I will say that.

*You remember it?*

Oh, yes.

*What year would that have been?*

Oh, I don't know, but I do remember my grandmother, my father's mother, being introduced to her. And she spoke enough English to get across, and they were talking about their sons, my father, and, of course, my stepmother's brother who was SS, and the old lady was so proud, she showed a picture to my grandmother of her son in his SS uniform. I give my grandmother credit. My grandmother looked and said, "He's a handsome boy," went to the bathroom, and threw up.

*Yes. Yes.*

So I don't think that my stepmother's mother was an American collaborator. I think she just survived the war. Now, whether she survived the war because her daughter was an American collaborator, I have no idea.

*Yes.*

But I did meet the woman. She gave me the chills – that should be off the record.

*Wow.*

*So the highlight, I think your dad used the expression or described it as such, and you did too, the highlight, probably, of this first tour of duty was this recovery of the crown jewels?*

*Yes.*

*How did that come about?*

What happened was he was apparently stationed at the border, okay, as he called it, "the correct side of the divide." And the, that account, kind of, okay, we're not sure. Well, he's sure. Correct.

*So these were the crown jewels?*

Those were the crown jewels of Duchess Theodora of Saxony-Weimar-Eisenach.

*Wow.*

Okay, apparently the duchess had hired a mercenary, a smuggler or whatever, to come and get her crown jewels. He got caught at the border.

*Bringing them out to her?*

Bringing them out to her.



*She had fled the zone?*

She had fled the zone. He got caught by the Americans and the Russians coming out. And he told them what was going on. And my father said that the Russian command right there and the American command said, you know, "She got out. She really didn't do anything. Why don't we get them to her?" That was done without, really, the permission of my father's commanding officer, whose name I do not know. Apparently, someone said, "Okay, we're going to do this," and since the Russians said, "Naw, we don't want to do it", "Why don't one of you Americans go?" So one of the Americans went back with the smuggler, because he already knew where everything was. And they got them all out. My father alluded to the fact that he was the one. A newspaper account doesn't name who and a book in which there is a chapter regarding Weimar crown jewels also does not name the actual person. I don't know. However, in my entire life, my dad died when I was 66, I'm now 68, I've never known him to tell a lie. So, I don't know, but it is possible, because that was the type of adventurous thing my father would have done. "We're going back. Let's go get them," Yes. (The exciting episode is described in Chapter 29 "Bribes and Crown Jewels" of the 1995 book, Dear God, I'm Only a Boy by Menno Duerksen.

*He had the language skills to do it.*

And he had the language skills to do it.

Yes.

You know, and, as you can see from the pictures on his German passport, or German identity papers, he also had, you know, he could look Russian, he could look German, he could look American.

Yes.

So they managed to get out. And they did get all the crown jewels. He said it took three trips, the original smuggler who was caught, and then two more trips with whomever went back with the smuggler to get them out. And they did get them all out, according to the duchess.

*I wonder how far it was, whether it was an overnight kind of --*

Yes, it was.

*It was overnight.*

Yes. He said it took them about six hours, seven hours, to get into the, whatever small town, I imagine - she was the crown duchess of, you know, Saxony-Weimar-Eisenach, so he did say Saxe. But I don't know what that means, okay, I have no clue! I have no idea.

*So your dad earns a World War II victory medal, victory ribbon, and then he is discharged in 1947?*

Yes.

*January of '47, and he comes--*

The Reserve.

*back to Chicago and joins the Reserves.*

Back to Chicago with my stepmother, joined the Reserves.

*This is after the first tour of duty, is it?*

Oh, no. I'm sorry, I'm confused.

*Yes?*

No, he came back and joined the Reserves, divorced my mother.

*When he came back?*

Right.

*So there is always a question like when a veteran returns from a combat situation to civilian life, sometimes there is a difficulty adjusting, but--*

Yes, he moved back with my grandparents for a little while.

*He really changed his life then?*

Oh, he totally changed his life. Before he enlisted on that first tour of duty, he owned a music shop. They sold music records, Victrolas, everything. And he left--

*Is that on Cornelia, in the area of Cornelia?*

Halsted and Cornelia, right on Halsted. In fact, I have pictures of that shop, which I didn't-- I didn't think that's important. And he left my mother to take care of it. One of the things that caused the divorce, not only was that she cheated on him, but the fact that her father decided a woman should not be working, put up a horrid fuss about her trying to keep that little radio shop open. And ended up, it failed. So my father comes back from his first tour of duty, his business is kaput. It's gone.

*It's gone.*

And that did not help, you know, the divorce at all.

*No money, and then, yes, the Reserves might have helped a little bit, I suppose?*

Yes. So when he came back, he moved, he and my mother, moved in with my maternal grandparents, along with me. And that did not last long. And I do remember my father leaving. I remember the day he left, and my mother was screaming and hollering, "What do you mean? You were unimportant! You didn't do anything in the Army!" And that was it. And he moved, and I think he moved up north to Elston Avenue. I'm not sure he, oh, no, I take it back. I am sure. He moved in with his middle brother, the one who is now still living, into Albany Park. And he stayed with him while he was in the Reserves. And then, from there, he enlisted into a second tour of duty. And then when he got out of the Army, he and my stepmother moved up to Elston Avenue near Elston and Lawrence.

*Yes, he had a pretty exciting life in the, an exciting life in the final days of World War II and the beginning of the Cold War, and status, and then he comes back to Chicago And the business has failed.*

And finds everything is gone.

*Everything is gone, so-- yes.*

Yes. The man my mother was cheating with, his name was George. So, for years, any time something that we didn't, anyone in my father's family, you know, me, whatever, anytime there was something that we really didn't like, we said, "Well, by George, it happened again!"

*What a great sense of humor*

Yes.

*So the second time he's not - he doesn't get into- he isn't accepted into Counter Intelligence. He winds up in Military Intelligence.*

Correct.

*And that's when he completes all these special courses, these various courses?*

Yes, basically. this, yes, (Judith refers to documents which are appended.) December 1950, April 1953. Let's see, when was this dated? August 4th, 1953, guest speaker to the Troop Information Program, pertaining to Europe. So his experiences, apparently, subject material, narrative, he was a pretty good talker. The Army General School, June 1951 to August 1951, as an interrogator. So when he went back and then, of course, we have that-

*So he was posted again to Germany, when he goes back?*

He was posted again to Germany.

*With his language skills, and he was interrogating?*

At his request. I think with his skills he didn't really need to request it.

Yes.

But he did request it, because there was Olga sitting there, and he promised he would come back for her. And, of course, everybody says he's never coming back to get her.

*Oh, so that's-- do you think your, I mean, I--*

What?

*The question just suggests itself. I hope it's not rude.*

Oh, not at all.

*Do you think your father returned to America after the first tour of duty and he really did think he was going to go back and get her?*

No.

*It was an option?*

No. I asked him that question.

*Oh, wow.*

I did ask him. I said, "Dad," I said, "I know my mother was cheating on you," I said, "but did you go back for your second tour of duty to get Olga, and were you planning on doing that?" And he said, "No, I wasn't planning on doing it," he said, "but when I came back, found the business gone."

Yes.

"Found out I had to move in with my in-laws, things were not working out, it was confirmed that your mother was still cheating on me with George," he said, "I was already in the Reserves," he said, "and I decided to go back into active duty and go back and get Olga." He says, "I was going to forget about her," he told me, he said, "but the circumstances."

*Yes. So, I wonder he would have been in, when he was, so he's back in, back in Germany.*



Yes.

*In 19--?*

1950.

*And on this second tour of duty, he serves until 1953?*

Correct.

*And then, did he marry, he married when he was in Germany?*

He married on December 2nd, where is it here? I have it. I just had it in my hand. Yes, he married on December 4th, 1952, in Passau.

*So then they had to live together--*

Yes

*For another ten months?*

I have absolutely no idea of what all these abbreviations mean.

*Yes. But he was married--*

Okay. Moved dependent below from Paussau, Germany, to Dependents' Assembly Area, etc., with a report date of December 4th, oh, 1942, no, he married her before that. I'll have to get--

*'52, right?*

I mean '52.

*Yes. Yes.*

Yes, yes, so I will have to--

*Did he ever--Did he say who he was interrogating there? Were they Germans or Russians?*

He said he was mostly interrogating Germans. It was mostly Germans, some German civilians, but, as I said, you know, in that one, he was-- he didn't talk much.

*Yes. I suppose by that time--*

He gathered information.

*The chill of the cold war was really setting in?*

Yes. And I asked him, I said, at that point, I said, "What about communism? Did you-- Was communism any part of what you were taking place in?" And he said, "No, not really. Not really." I said, "Well, I thought that, by then, as far as the SS or the Germans," I says, "I thought that it was basically over." And he said, "No, it wasn't." But he says, "But I can't tell you much about that," he said. Because I think it's still top secret.

*Yes.*

So I have no idea.

*Of course, there were still all kinds of German war criminals to hunt down in 1950.*

And I think that was what he was probably doing.

*Yes. Yes.*

Because he said, "No, it had nothing to do with communists."

*So then your dad comes back, he comes back to the United States, back to Chicago with his new German bride, and then he adjusts to life.*

Very well.

*Yes.*

Eventually moved out to Carpentersville, remained a musician for the rest of his life.

*On the accordion. Accordion, yes.*

He played anything that had a keyboard and put the addition of a harp, because all that is is a piano without the keyboard.

*Yes.*

Yes. And he taught piano. He, I have been told, don't know, I would have to check with Harper College, that he helped institute the adult music classes at Harper College.

*Yes.*

At the college level.

*Did he-- So he never had to consider using the GI bill or anything like that, did he?*

No.

*And did he meet like-- Did he have any wartime buddies or military service friends?*

No.

*That he stayed in touch with, or?*

No I asked him about that. However, when he married my stepmother, she already did have a daughter. Ellen married, who is now, of course, my brother-in-law, Abe. And Abe was a survivor of the camps. So it was, you know, it was really strange, the only wartime friend he had was Abe, who was liberated, okay, and continued to work for, you know - and my mind is so messed up, this is my sister and brother-in-law, which I can't remember their last names!

*Well--*

This is weird!

*It's okay for reasons of privacy.*

My father, no, because I did ask him about that. I says, "What about the guys?," he says, "You know," he says, "I don't know if any of them survived."

*So Abe was a survivor and he was in a camp? Was he Jewish?*

He was in a camp. Oh, yes.

*He was Jewish?*

Yes. He was Jewish.

*So, Olga who wasn't Jewish--*

Who was not Jewish, her daughter married a Jewish gentleman. In fact, Ellen converted.

*Yes, and then Olga marries a Jewish man, so it's--*

Well, Olga married a Jewish man first.

*Yes, so it's kind of fascinating.*

Strange. Olga never converted.

Yes.

Never converted. In fact, you know, I have a half brother, a half sister, and a step-sister. We don't refer to each other that way.

*Yes.*

You know, we're sisters and brother, and this is it.

*So those are the, yes, those are the new social relationships as a result of World War II.*

Right. It's very interesting.

*Yes.*

But no--

*So he wasn't joining veterans' organizations or--*

No.

*Yes.*

And I did ask one thing of my father that I found very interesting, because I had heard that many, many, many World War II veterans refused to talk about it. And I asked, "You know, Dad," I says, "Here I am. I am 66 years old. Why now? Why are you telling me now?" And he said, "Because I want it to not all die with me." "Why didn't you tell me before, Dad?" He said, "I don't know. It brings back such terrible, terrible memories." And when he was speaking to me about many of the things, the crown jewels, a little bit about the interrogation of civilians, he actually did have tears in his eyes.

*Sure.*

I know there is a lot he said that he really never wanted to talk about it.

*Yes.*

*Can you, speaking for your father here, how do you think, well, his military service and experiences greatly affected his life?*

Oh, very, very much so. Very much so. As I said, his email address was exspionwebtv.web. Very, very much affected his life.

He would not watch any movies or read any books, basically, having to do with the SS, Hitler, I remember that very, very distinctly, very distinctly.

*Yes.*



It affected him so badly. I'm not too sure if it affected him that badly because he was Jewish or because of his personal experiences.

*Maybe both, yes.*

Probably both would be my guess.

*Did-- how do you think his military experiences influenced his thinking about war or about the military in general?*

He hated it.

*He hated--*

War altogether.

Yes.

As far as he was concerned, every single country in the world should dissolve its military. He said war, he fully agreed with the - what was it, the hippie philosophy, you know, or who was it, Patton, or Sherman, who said "war is hell"?

You know, make love not war.

Yes.

War is no good for any living being. If there are any living beings left afterwards. My father was totally against war. In fact, my father wouldn't even have an argument with somebody that was heated.

*Yes. His parents would probably subscribe to that view also, right?*

Oh, absolutely. I have papers, if I can wrest them from my cousin. My grandmother wrote some stories about some pogroms when she was a child. Only two have been translated from the Russian.

Yes.

My cousin has the rest, and they have not been translated.

*Because I think socialists of that--*

Oh, yes.

*generation or that time, they were very much internationalists.*

Well, I remember two boxes in my grandmother's house, okay, one for the socialist charity and the other one for the Zionist charities. Okay, and when I was a child, they used to take me out to the Indiana Sand Dunes to - they had a permanent quote, unquote tent that was shared. Well, my mother's family found out that it was actually a socialist camp, and they wouldn't let me go anymore. But it was so much fun!

*Yes.*

*Yes.*

*Is there-- thank you for being so generous with the details of your father's life.*

Thank my father for finally being so generous.

*Yes. Is there anything else you feel like we should add to the interview? I know you already typed everything out, and we've discussed some general questions that we ask the veterans.*

Really not-- I mean, he told me a lot.

*Yes.*

I took notes. They didn't have to be copious notes, because he had a memory that was unbelievable. And so do I, right along with it.

*It is evident. It is evident, yes.*

Yes. And he had all this documentation that when I looked at it, I went, whoa, wow!

*So if I can get these documents scanned and properly captioned, that, and your remarks here today, will give us some understanding--*

Right.

*and appreciation.*

And these are the ones from the second tour of duty--

*The second tour.*

that need scanning. This does not.

*Okay.*

So we can do that.

*Well, then, at this point, then, I thank you very much for coming in and giving us a very interesting interview--*

Thank you for having me.

*about a very interesting man who served his country twice.*

An extremely interesting man. Served his country twice, although I really do think the second time he served his country was a little bit more towards my, the woman who was going to be my stepmother, but again he was going to be an honorable man until he came home, and, you know what hit the fan, and he wasn't about to do that.

*Well, I'll hit the button now.*

Yes.

## **Reader's Note**

The following 26 pages of scanned material in chronological order illustrate Mr. Berkman's two tours of duty in Germany. Included are his undercover identity documents and 7 pictures of the crown jewels he rescued with his own annotations in bold type.

Staff Sergeant Norman Berkman  
during his 1st tour of duty  
July 12, 1945-Jan. 14, 1947



Incl # 31

In reviewing this scanned material, Judith recalled asking her father, "Why didn't you become an officer?" He explained that he had qualified for Officer Training School, but given his assignment to the Counter-Intelligence Corps with language skills, the Army said he was more useful as an enlisted man and would have more freedom of movement.



Mr. Bergmann's "Special Identity" document, showing that he had been imprisoned in Dachau for 9 months for political reasons

Ausgestellt am  
issued on 3.1. 1946

DER POLIZEIPRÄSIDENT  
CHIEF OF POLICE  
Politische Abteilung  
Political department  
i. A.

Dienstsegel  
Official seal

GROSS-HESSISCHES  
STAATSMINISTERIUM  
DER MINISTER DES INNERN  
(Zentralstelle für politisch, rassisch und  
religiös Verfolgte)  
Ministry of State Greater Hesse, The Minister of  
interior.  
Central service for people persecuted for political  
and racial reasons.  
i. A.

Dienstsegel  
Official seal

K0666

SONDERAUSWEIS  
für Personen, die während des Nazi-Regimes  
aus politischen, rassischen oder religiösen  
Gründen in Haft waren

Ausweis / Certificate  
Nr. 22 0738

Ehemaliger Häftling / Former Prisoner  
Nr. DA -16123 - 43

Inhaber:  
Holder:

Familiennamen  
first name

Vorname  
Christian names

Beruf  
occupation

Geb. am 20.8.17  
date of birth

Geburtsort AUGSB. GOGGINGEN  
place of birth

Wohnort / home address  
ESCHWANG

Straße / Hausnummer Bahnhofstrasse 2  
Pl. n. / street

Kreis / district Reg. Bez. KASSEL

Eigenhändige Unterschrift  
Signature of holder

Inhaber dieses Ausweises war aus politischen / rassischen / religiösen Gründen in Haft und hat — Jahre, 9 Monate in DACHAU zugebracht. Da er sich sonst einwandfrei betragen hat, stehen ihm alle Vorteile zu, die solche Personen von der Regionalen amerikanischen Militärregierung und der Großhessischen Regierung zugesichert werden. Es wird gebeten, den Inhaber bei allen Ämtern bevorzugt zu betreiben und ihm weiterzuhelfen.

The holder of this certificate was imprisoned for political / racial / religious reasons and has spent — years 9 months in DACHAU. As, otherwise, his conduct was free from objection, he is entitled to all privilege assured to such persons by the Regional American Military Government and Government of Groß-Hessen. All officials are asked to care for the holder of this certificate and to assist him in every possible way.

Le porteur de ce passeport a été détenu pour des motifs de politique, de race, de religion à DACHAU et y a passé — ans 9 mois. Comme il s'est conduit en général sans reproche il bénéficie des avantages qui sont accordés par le Gouvernement Militaire Américain, ainsi que par le Gouvernement de Groß-Hessen, à toute personne de sa catégorie. Les Autorités sont priées d'accorder soins et aide de toute préférence au porteur de ce passeport.


Владелец этого удостоверения находился на за политических, расовых, религиозных причин — лет, 9 месяцев под арестом. Но так как его поведение впрочем было безукоризненно, то ему полагаются все льготы, которые были общими этим лицам DACHAU региональным американским военным правительством и Великим Гессенским Правительством. Просят, владельцы этого удостоверения на всех присутственных местах оказывать предпочтительную помощь.



A German identity-card for the undercover Sgt. Berkman, a.k.a. the German civilian  
"Mr. Bergmann."

1	Von der zuständigen Behörde einzutragen!	<h2>Deutsche Kennkarte</h2> <p>German identity-card Carte d'identité allemande Германское Удостоверение Личности</p> <p>Zur Beachtung</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Der Inhaber der Kennkarte hat diese stets bei sich zu führen und sie auf Verlangen allen Behörden sowie den Beamten des Polizeidienstes ohne Verzug vorzuzeigen.</li> <li>Es ist strafbar, den Inhalt der Kennkarte zu entstellen oder sie in irgendeiner Weise zu verändern, die Kennkarte einem anderen zum Gebrauch zu überlassen oder eine fremde Kennkarte zu benutzen.</li> <li>Der Verlust der Kennkarte ist der nächsten Ortspolizeibehörde sowie der Behörde, die sie ausgestellt hat, unverzüglich zu melden.</li> <li>Die Kennkarte ist ausschließlich ein Inlandsausweis.</li> </ol> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Kennort Place of issue Lieu d'émission Место выдачи</td> <td>Körschwegen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kenn-Nummer Number Numéro Номер</td> <td>G 709580</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gültig bis Expires on Expire le Действительно до</td> <td>15. September 1944</td> </tr> </table>	Kennort Place of issue Lieu d'émission Место выдачи	Körschwegen	Kenn-Nummer Number Numéro Номер	G 709580	Gültig bis Expires on Expire le Действительно до	15. September 1944
Kennort Place of issue Lieu d'émission Место выдачи	Körschwegen							
Kenn-Nummer Number Numéro Номер	G 709580							
Gültig bis Expires on Expire le Действительно до	15. September 1944							
2	Ämliche Entscheidung auf Grund des Gesetzes zur Befreiung von Nationalsozialismus und Militarismus vom 5. März 1942.							
3	Official decision pursuant to Law for liberation from Nazism and Militarism of 5 March 1942.							
4	Décision officielle en vertu de la loi pour la libération du Nazisme et du Militarisme du 5 Mars 1942.							
5	Официальное решение на основании закона для освобождения от национал-социализма и милитаризма, 5 Марта 1942 г.							
6	Meldebogen							
7	Nr. 2027							
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								


Druck: W. Kohlhammer, Stuttgart / Werkstoff: Kaliko, Göttingen

Name Name Nom Фамилия	Bergmann	 <p>Rechts- / Zeigefinger Right / Indicating Index-finger Правый / указывающий палец</p> <p>Links- / Zeigefinger Left / Indicating Index-finger Левый / указывающий палец</p> <p>Unterschrift des Kennkarteninhabers (Signature of the cardholder)</p> <p>Norman Bergmann (Unterschrift des Kennkarteninhabers)</p> <p>Körschwegen, den 15. Sept. 1944</p> <p>Der Bürgermeister des Ortspolizeibehörde (Ausstellende Behörde)</p> <p>Unterschrift des ausstellenden Beamten</p>
Vorname Christian name Prénom Имя	Kennan	
Geburtsort Date of birth Date de naissance Дата рождения	20. 8. 1917	
Geburtsort Place of birth Lieu de naissance Место рождения	Göppingen	
Staatsangehörigkeit Nationality Nationalité Подданство	Deutsch-Österreich	
Beruf Occupation Profession Профессия	Musiker	
Gegenwärt. Wohn- od. Aufenthaltsort present place of residence and address résidence permanente ou séjour Настоящее место жительства	Körschwegen	
Wohnsitz am 1. 9. 1938 domicile on 1. 9. 1938 domicile le 1. 9. 1938 Место жительства 1. 9. 1938	Mingsburg	
Größe und Gestalt height and figure hauteur et taille Рост	180 cm mittel	
Farbe der Augen Colour of the eyes couleur des yeux Цвет глаз	blau	
Unveränderl. Kennzeichen invariable distinguishing marks marques permanentes Постоянные особые приметы	Farbe bl. Fingerringe	
Veränderliche Kennzeichen variable distinguishing marks marques variables Временные особые приметы	keine	
Bemerkungen Remarks Remarques Замечания	keine	



Staff Sergeant Berkman's U.S. Army identification card during his first tour of duty in Germany.

<p>If found, finder will promptly return this card to CG, USFET, APO 757.</p> <p>WARNING — This card is issued for official use of the holder designated hereon; its use by any other person is unlawful.</p> <p>This card will be voided if altered in any manner.</p> <p>ET Form 1-9 AGL 6-46-500 000-5027-34474</p>	<p><b>ENLISTED-MAN'S IDENTIFICATION CARD</b></p> <p>U.S. FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER</p>
--	---

<p>Not a Pass — For Identification only U. S. FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER 970th CIC DETACHMENT REGION III (Issuing Agency)</p> <p><b>Identification Card</b></p> <p><u>NORMAN R. BERKMAN</u> (Name)</p> <p><u>S/SGT.</u> <u>46031082</u> (Grade) (ASN)</p> <p><u>Norman R. Berkman</u> (Signature)</p>	<p>Validating Officer <u>Max B. H.</u> (Name)</p> <p><u>1st Lt.</u> <u>6001</u> (Rank) (Branch)</p> <p>Birthdate <u>20 Aug 1917</u> Height <u>5</u> Ft <u>7</u> In Weight <u>170 LB</u> Color Hair <u>BLACK</u> Color Eyes <u>BLUE</u> Other Identifying data <u>SCAR-LF-RH</u></p> <p></p> <p>Identification Card No. <b>C 67172 *</b></p>
---	--

Mr. Berkman's Displaced Persons' Card showing his  
undercover identity of

"Normann Bergmann"

Eschwege Displaced Persons' Camp  
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE  
D. P. INDEX CARD  
F 00623998  
1. (Registration number) 10-32306-1  
2. (Family name) BERGMANN (Other given names) NORMANN  
3. (Signature of holder) *Normann Bergmann* D. P. 1

MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF GERMANY

Reg. No. 7654

TEMPORARY REGISTRATION

Zeltweilige Registrierungskarte

Name Bergmann Normann Alter 28 Geschlecht male  
Name Age Sex  
Ständige Adresse Eschwege Bahnhofstr. 2 Beruf Musiker  
Permanent Address Occupation  
Jetzige Adresse  
Present Address

Der Inhaber dieser Karte ist als Einwohner von der Stadt Eschwege vorschriftsmässig  
registriert und darf es ihm oder ihr strengstens verboten, sich von diesem Platz zu entfernen. Zuwiderhandlung dieser  
Massnahme führt zu sofortigem Arrest. Der Inhaber dieses Scheines muss diesen Ausweis stets bei sich führen.

The holder of this card is duly registered as a resident of the town of \_\_\_\_\_ and  
is prohibited from leaving the place designated. Violation of this restriction will lead to immediate arrest. Registrant  
will at all times have this paper on his person.

None

Legitimations Nummer  
Identity Card Number

*Normann Bergmann*  
Unterschrift des Inhabers  
Signature of Holder



Right Index Finger

(Dies ist kein Personal-Ausweis und erlaubt keine Vorrechte.)  
(This is not an identity document and allows no privileges.)

*Frank R. Musgrove*  
Name and Rank  
Major, U.S. Army  
OFFICIAL  
Allied Expeditionary Force  
Military Government  
Date of Issue  
15.4.46  
Military Government Offices

Mr. Bergman's registration as a "civilian" with the military authorities in Germany in 1946.



Mr. Berkman, who entered the Russian Zone with the smuggler Heinrich Mueller to retrieve the rest of the Grand Duchess's jewels in May, 1946, provided this reading note for the May, 1947 newspaper article below.;

"Original newspaper disclosure by Menno Duerksen, was datelined May 29, 1947. The reporter was ordered by Intelligence (G-2) headquarters to hold up this report until things settled down after the zone borders were established. Then we could see how the Russians might react so we could edit the report to keep the peace for the time being."

1947

## Million in German Gems Seized in Smuggling Plot

By Menno Duerksen.

United Press Staff Correspondent.

ESCHWEGE, Germany, May 29.—The U.S. Army permitted the disclosure today that it was the reluctant custodian of a royal treasure valued at \$1,000,000 to \$6,000,000 which was seized as it was being smuggled out of the Russian zone and into the American occupation zone of Germany.

The glittering hoard of jewelry, silver and heirlooms belonged to the royal German family of Sachsen-Weimar Eisenach. It now is under American military guard.

The treasure was trucked over the U.S.-Soviet zonal border in August, 1946.

### Value Set at a Million.

Appraisers for the U.S. Army said the gems and other articles there were worth a conservative \$1,000,000. Unofficial sources said the value might be as high as \$6,000,000. The Sachsen-Weimar Eisenach family called the latter figure exaggerated.

More than two years ago, in the Allied onrush that broke the back of Nazi resistance, the Russians approached the Sachsen-Weimar Eisenach estates at Heinrichan, Silesia.

### Duchess Hides Treasures.

The Grand Duchess Feodora—who celebrated her 57th birthday today—gathered up the treasure and fled to her estates at Zillbach in Thuringia. The U.S. Army moved in on Zillbach, but before it arrived the duchess had the valuables buried in cellars and sandpiles. When the occupation zones were finally fixed the duchess found her treasure was in the Russian area.

Then she herself moved to the family estate at Detmold, in what is now the British occupation zone.

Last August she heard of a

successful young smuggler who operated across the Soviet-American zonal border.

The duchess asked him to bring out her jewels. He was to get 2 per cent of their value in cash and another 5 per cent in jewels. Under bales of Communist propaganda one truckload came over the border unhindered. The second truck was stopped by German border police. Suspicious of his literature, they dug into it, found the valuables, and called Army Intelligence agents.

### Army Seizes Treasure.

A U.S. armored column with machine guns mounted came one October day to Eschwege, got the treasure and took it to Bad Nauheim. It was inventoried and transferred later to a depository for safekeeping.

Only when field agents forwarded the receipt for the treasure to intelligence headquarters did the word reach high level of officers.

They wrote a note to the grand duchess telling her what they knew of the case. She considered the note as official acknowledgment of her ownership. But she feared the Russians would demand the return of the treasure to its original estate, and took no action to reclaim it for the time being.



The next 9 pictures pertain to Mr. Berkman's role in the recovery of the Crown Jewels of the royal German Family of Sachsen-Weimar Eisenach for the Grand Duchess Fedora who had fled her estate in Silesia upon the Russian advance.

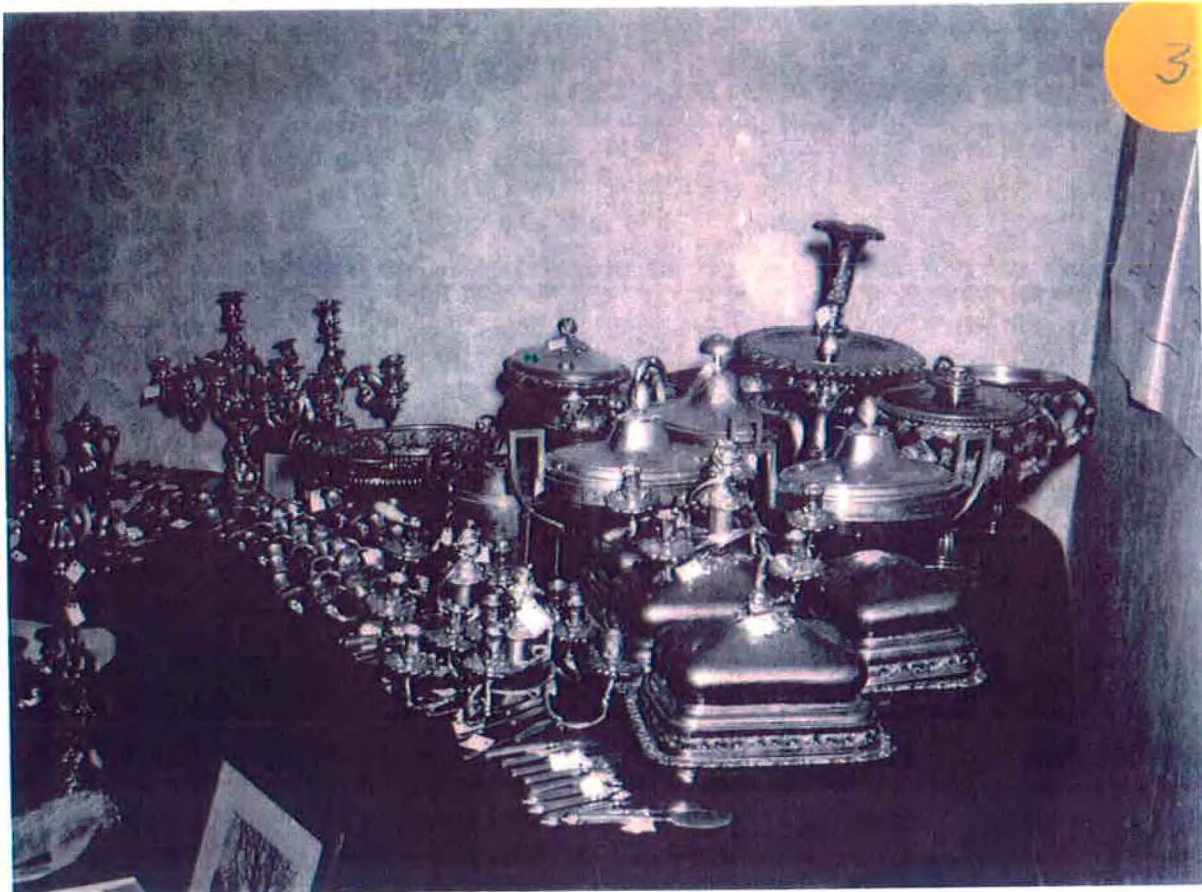
Mr. Berkman comments:

**“A corner and part of a wall in the CIC office at Eschewege where the treasure was displayed. Note that all the items were already tagged. Also note flatware chest on the floor. See item for details.”**



Menno Duerksen, the United Press Staff Correspondent, who penned the newspaper article, would later write the book Dear God, I'm Only a Boy, published by Castle Books in 1986 with a revised 1995 edition by Wordsworth.

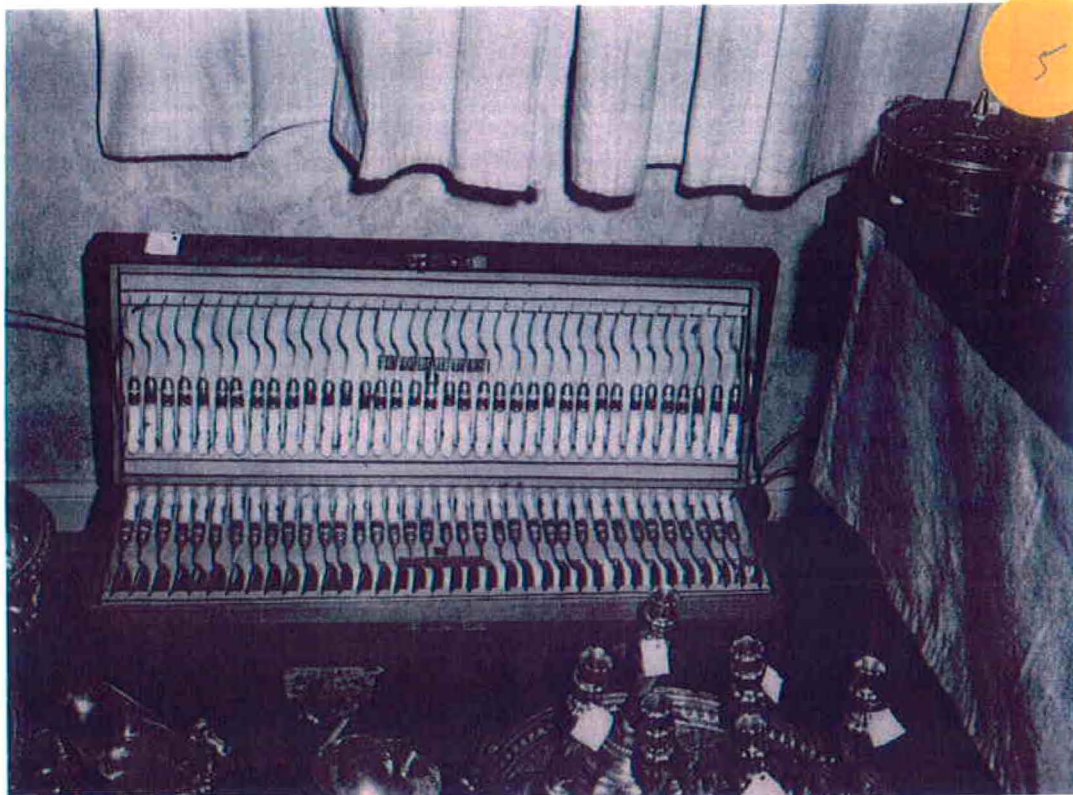
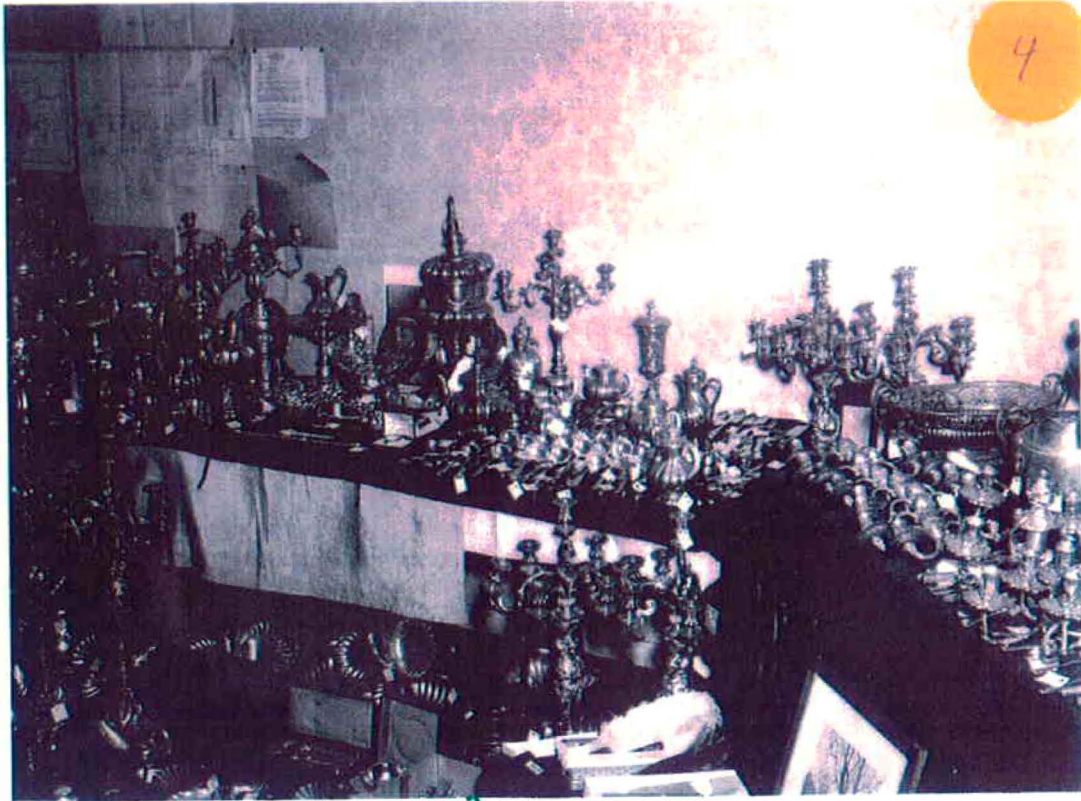
Its Chapter 29- "Bribes and Crown Jewels" provides his account of the retrieval of the jewels and the delay in publishing his newspaper account due to the Postwar politics of the day and the need to "respect" the zones of the occupying Allies.



Mr. Berkman captioned "More of the treasure covering top of grand piano."



**“Additional pictures of the treasure displayed in another part of the office and resting on the grand piano on the right. The crown jewels can be seen.”**



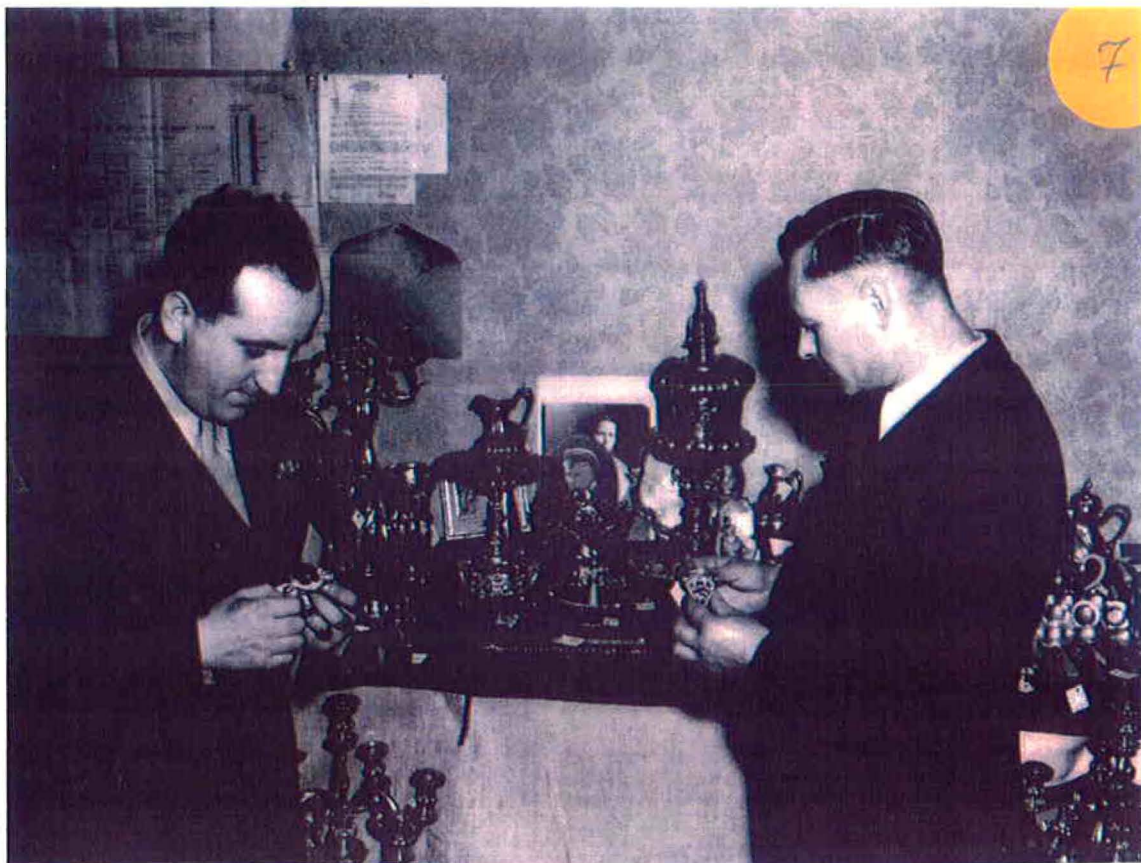
**“the flatware service for 36 featured gold-plated silver with delicately hand-painted porcelain handles.”**



Mr. Berkman wrote: "Closer look at crown jewels. Rear photo is the Grand Duchess of Sachsen (Saxony)-Eisenach-Weimar."



"From left, Senior agent, Eschwege CIC detachment.  
Mayor of Eshwege (a converted ex-communist. Very Useful!)"

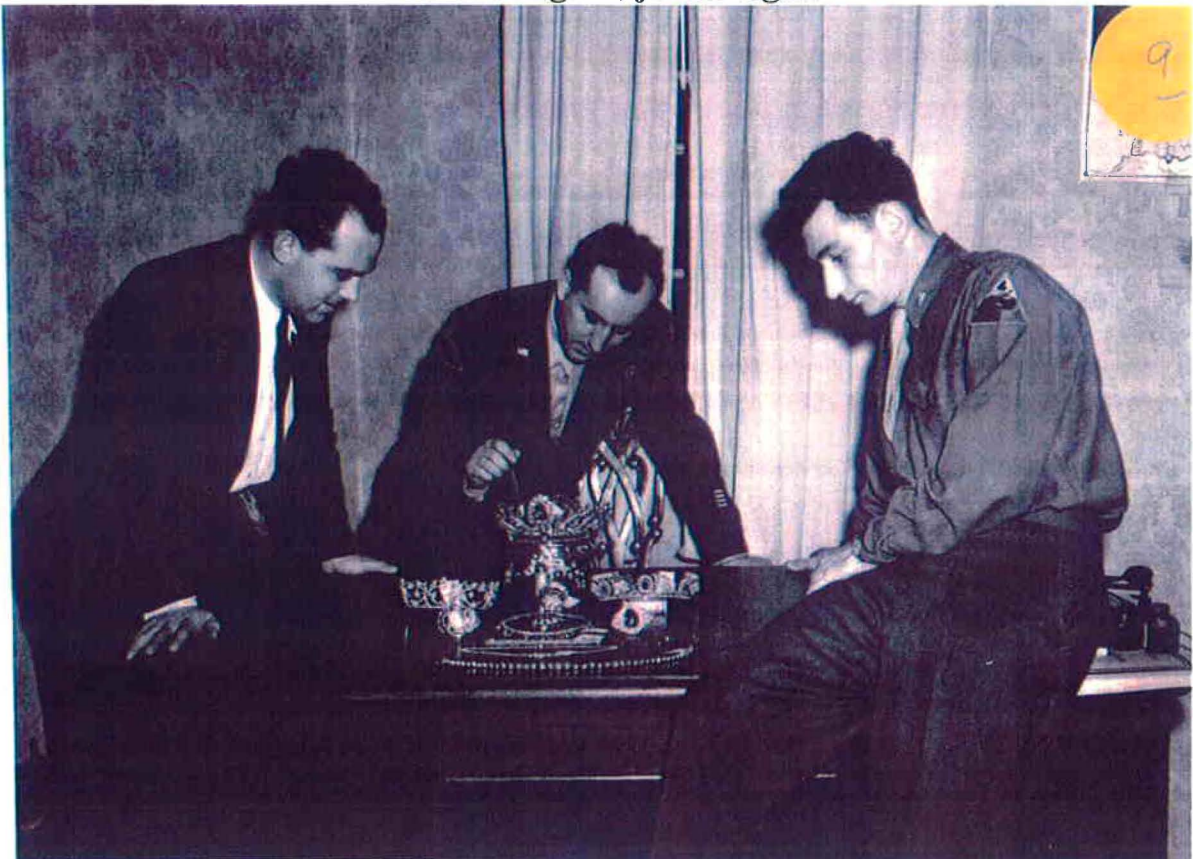




**“Real closeup of crown jewels.”**



**“Full Eschwege CIC detachment. From left, me in civilian clothes, senior agent, junior agent.”**



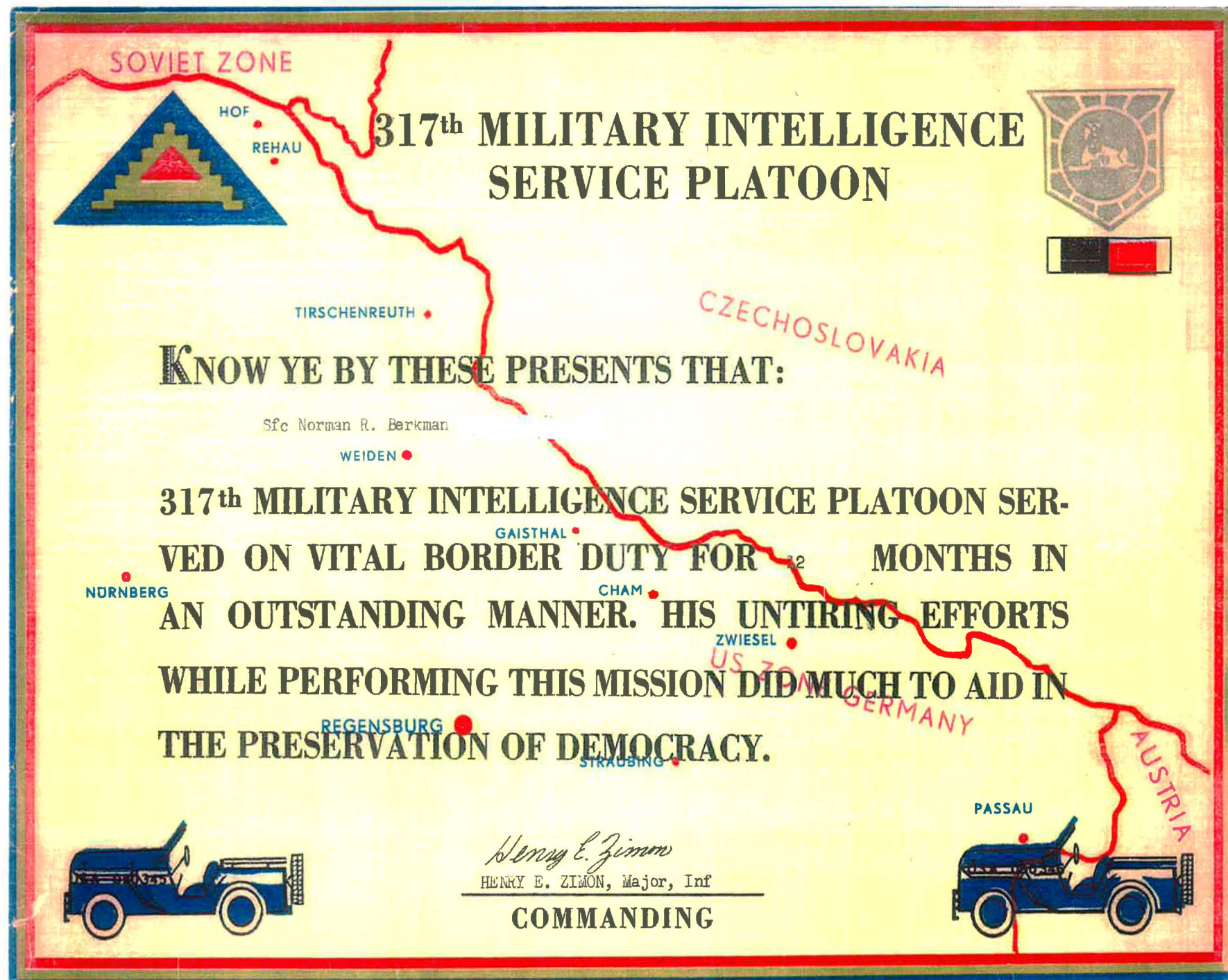
Mr. Berkman's own description

**"a bit of levity. Here I am again, standing between two guests from  
our sub-regional CIC office in Kasssel."**





Certificate given to Sfc Berkman for 12 months on "vital border duty."







Mr. Berkman's Army service patch as a member of the Military Intelligence unit. The sphinx is the symbol of the military intelligence branch of service device, suggesting wisdom and silence.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES EUROPEAN THEATER  
Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment #970  
Office of the Ass't Deputy Commander

Date 12 Nov 46

R E C E I P T

This is to certify that BERKMAN, NORMAN R. Special Agent, CIC, Turned in Credential No. 6569 and Badge No. ~~6569~~ C-5063 to this Headquarters on date indicated.

for: A. D. Donahue  
JAMES E. TATE  
RICHARD G. COLLINS  
Capt. 1st Lt. AUS  
Ass't Deputy Comdr.

Receipt issued November, 12, 1946 to Mr. Berkman, confirming that he turned in his credential and badge to his Counter Intelligence Headquarters in Germany.

Staff Sergeant Norman R. Berkman's Honorable Discharge after 1st tour of  
duty in Germany.



**Honorable Discharge**

*This is to certify that*

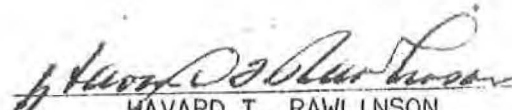
NORMAN R. BERKMAN, , STAFF SERGEANT,  
970TH COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS DETACHMENT,  
UNITED STATES FORCES EUROPEAN THEATER ,  
**Army of the United States**

*is hereby Honorably Discharged from the military  
service of the United States of America.*

*This certificate is awarded as a testimonial of Honest  
and Faithful Service to this country.*

*Given at* SEPARATION POINT, FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND.

*Date* 14 JANUARY 1947.

  
HARVARD T. RAWLINSON  
COLONEL A.G.D.



Mr. Berkman's "Enlisted Record and Report of Separation,"  
dated January 14, 1947

ENLISTED RECORD AND REPORT OF SEPARATION  
HONORABLE DISCHARGE

1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL BERKMAN NORMAN R		2. ARMY SERIAL NO.	3. GRADE SGT	4. ARM OR SERVICE NO	5. COMPONENT AUS
6. ORGANIZATION 970TH CIC DET USFET		7. DATE OF SEPARATION 14 JAN 47	8. PLACE OF SEPARATION SEPARATION POINT FORT GEORGE G MEADE MD		
9. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES CORNELIA AVE CHICAGO (COOK CO) ILL		10. DATE OF BIRTH 20 AUG 17		11. PLACE OF BIRTH CHICAGO ILL	
12. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE SOUGHT SEE 9		13. COLOR EYES BLUE	14. COLOR HAIR BLACK	15. HEIGHT 5'8 1/2"	16. WEIGHT 175 LBS.
17. NO. DEPEND.	2				
18. RACE WHITE	19. MARITAL STATUS SINGLE	20. U. S. CITIZEN YES	21. CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND NO. SALESMAN 1-87.26		

MILITARY HISTORY

22. DATE OF INDUCTION 12 JUL 45		23. DATE OF ENLISTMENT 12 JUL 45		24. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE CHICAGO ILL	
25. SELECTIVE SERVICE DATA YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		26. LOCAL S.S. BOARD NO. 114		27. COUNTY AND STATE COOK ILL	
28. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE SEE 9		29. MILITARY QUALIFICATION AND DATA (i.e., infantry, aviation and marksmanship badges, etc.) MKM M1 CARBINE EXP SMG			
30. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS NONE					
31. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS WORLD WAR II VICTORY RIBBON					
32. WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION NONE					
33. LATEST IMMUNIZATION DATES SMALLPOX JAN 46 TYPHOID JUN 46 TETANUS JUN 46 CHOL TYPH JAN 46					
34. TOTAL LENGTH OF SERVICE CONTINENTAL SERVICE: YEARS 0 MONTHS 7 DAYS 17 FOREIGN SERVICE: YEARS 0 MONTHS 10 DAYS 16					
35. PRIOR SERVICE NONE					
36. REASON AND AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION TWX WDGPA WASHINGTON D C DTD 17 OCT 46 & AR 615-365 DTD 15 DEC 44 (C OF G)					
37. SERVICE SCHOOLS ATTENDED CIC HOLABIRD MD EUROPEAN THEATER INTELLIGENCE SCH GER					

PAY DATA

43. LONGEVITY FOR PAY PURPOSES YEARS 1 MONTHS 6 DAYS 3			44. MUSTERING OUT PAY TOTAL \$300.00 THIS PAYMENT \$100.00		45. SOLDIER DEPOSITS NONE		46. TRAVEL PAY \$39.70		47. TOTAL AMOUNT, NAME OF DISBURSING OFFICER 90.45 S GADDIS MAJOR FD	
---	--	--	---	--	------------------------------	--	---------------------------	--	---	--

INSURANCE NOTICE vou 12684 Jan 47 acct

IMPORTANT IF PREMIUM IS NOT PAID WHEN DUE OR WITHIN THIRTY-ONE DAYS THEREAFTER INSURANCE WILL LAPSE. MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER OF THE U. S. AND FORWARD TO COLLECTIONS SUBDIVISION, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON, D. C.										
48. KIND OF INSURANCE Nat. Serv. U.S. Govt. None			49. HOW PAID Allotment Direct to V. A.		50. Effective Date of Allotment Discontinuance 31 JAN 47		51. Date of Next Premium Due (One month after 50) 28 FEB 47		52. PREMIUM DUE EACH MONTH \$ 6.90	
53. INTENTION OF VETERAN TO Continue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quotions Only <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue <input type="checkbox"/>										

54. RIGHT THUMB PRINT		55. REMARKS (This space for completion of above items or entry of other items specified in W. D. Directives) RECOMMENDED FOR FURTHER MILITARY TRAINING LAPEL BUTTON ISSUED NO DAYS LOST UNDER AW 107 (35) ELU NOV 45 ASR SCORE 0	
56. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED [Signature]		57. PERSONNEL OFFICER (Type name, grade and organization - signature) J W MARTZ CWO USA [Signature]	

WD AGO FORM 53-55  
1 November 1944

This form supersedes all previous editions of WD AGO Forms 53 and 55 for enlisted persons entitled to an Honorable Discharge, which will not be used after receipt of this revision.

Mr. Berkman's Separation Qualification Record with breakdown of his duties over his 13 months as an "Investigator"



# SEPARATION QUALIFICATION RECORD

USE THIS FORM. IT WILL NOT BE REPLACED IF LOST

This record of job assignments and special training received in the Army is furnished to the soldier when he leaves the service. In its preparation, information is taken from available Army records and supplemented by personal interview. The information about civilian education and work experience is based on the individual's own statements. The veteran may present this document to former employers, prospective employers, representatives of schools or colleges, or in any other way that may prove beneficial to him.

1. LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—MIDDLE INITIAL				MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS		
BERKMAN, NORMAN R.				10. MONTHS	11. GRADE	12. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY
2. ARMY SERIAL NO.	3. GRADE	4. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.				
	S SGT	UNKNOWN		2	PVT	ARMY BASIC TNG (521)
5. PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS (Street, City, County, State)						
CORNELIA AVE CHICAGO, COOK CO., ILL.				2	PVT	STUDENT (629)
6. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE	7. DATE OF SEPARATION	8. DATE OF BIRTH				
10 JUN 45	19 DEC 46	20 AUG 17		13	S SGT	INVESTIGATOR (301)
9. PLACE OF SEPARATION						
SEPARATION POINT FORT GEORGE G. MEADE MARYLAND						

## SUMMARY OF MILITARY OCCUPATIONS

### 13. TITLE—DESCRIPTION—RELATED CIVILIAN OCCUPATION

INVESTIGATOR:--SERVED WITH THE 970TH CIC DETACHMENT IN THE EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATION CONDUCTED INVESTIGATIONS OF CRIMES, ACCIDENTS, SABOTAGE, SEDITION, ESPIONAGE, AND SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES IN WHICH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL OR PROPERTY WERE INVOLVED.



2nd page of Staff Sergeant Berkman's 1947  
Separation Qualification Record

MILITARY EDUCATION

NAME OR TYPE OF SCHOOL—COURSE OR CURRICULUM—DURATION—DESCRIPTION

CIC SCHOOL, HOLABIRD SIGNAL DEPOT, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, STUDENT  
INVESTIGATOR, 1945.

EUROPEAN THEATER INTELLIGENCE SCHOOL, ORIENTATION, GERMANY, 1946.

CIVILIAN EDUCATION

1. HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED 4 YRS H S	16. DEGREES OR DIPLOMAS DIPLOMA	17. YEAR LEFT SCHOOL 1935	OTHER TRAINING OR SCHOOLING	
18. NAME AND ADDRESS OF LAST SCHOOL ATTENDED JOHN MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL CHICAGO, ILL			20. COURSE—NAME AND ADDRESS OF SCHOOL—DATE	21. DURATION
			NONE	
19. MAJOR COURSES OF STUDY ACADEMIC				

CIVILIAN OCCUPATIONS

TITLE—NAME AND ADDRESS OF EMPLOYER—INCLUSIVE DATES—DESCRIPTION

SALES CLERK:--WORKED FOR THE WALKER JIMIESON COMPANY IN RADIO PARTS.  
WAITED ON CUSTOMERS AND FILLED MAIL AND PHONE ORDERS. ARRANGED,  
DISPLAYED AND STOCKED, HANDLED MONEY, WRAPPED PACKAGES AND MADE SUB-  
STITUTION ON OUT OF STOCK ITEMS.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. REMARKS

NONE

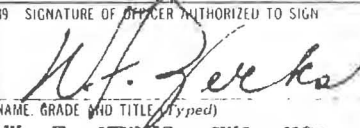

1. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED

25. SIGNATURE OF SEPARATION CLASSIFICATION OFFICER

(NAME OF OFFICER (Typed or Stamped))

J W MARTZ  
CWO USA

**Mr. Berkman's Enlisted Record and Report of Separation**  
**Honorable Discharge after second tour of duty**

CHARACTER OF SEPARATION <b>HONORABLE</b>		REPORT OF SEPARATION FROM THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES			DEPARTMENT <b>ARMY</b>	
SEPARATION DATA	1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME <b>BERKMAN NORMAN RALPH</b>		2. SERVICE NUMBER <b>1</b>	3. GRADE - RATE - RANK AND DATE OF APPOINTMENT <b>M/SGT (T) 7 APR 53</b>	4. COMPONENT AND BRANCH OR CLASS <b>USAR-UNASG</b>	
	5. QUALIFICATIONS SPECIALTY NUMBER OR SYMBOL <b>NOT APPLICABLE</b> RELATED CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND O. O. T. NUMBER <b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>		6. EFFECTIVE DATE OF SEPARATION DAY MONTH YEAR <b>13 AUG 53</b>		7. TYPE OF SEPARATION <b>DISCHARGE</b>	
	8. REASON AND AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION <b>EXPIRATION OF TERM OF SERVICE</b>		9. PLACE OF SEPARATION <b>HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, FIFTH ARMY, CHICAGO 15, ILLINOIS</b>			
	10. DATE OF BIRTH DAY MONTH YEAR <b>20 AUG 17</b>		11. PLACE OF BIRTH (City and State) <b>CHICAGO, ILLINOIS</b>		12. DESCRIPTION SEX RACE COLOR HAIR COLOR EYES HEIGHT WEIGHT <b>MALE CAU BLACK BLUE 5' 7" 176</b>	
SERVICE DATA	13. REGISTERED YES NO <b>X</b>		14. SELECTIVE SERVICE LOCAL BOARD NUMBER (City, County, State) <b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>		15. INDUCTED DAY MONTH YEAR <b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>	
	16. ENLISTED IN OR TRANSFERRED TO A RESERVE COMPONENT YES NO <b>X</b>		17. MEANS OF ENTRY OTHER THAN BY INDUCTION <input type="checkbox"/> ENLISTED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REENLISTED 3 YRS <input type="checkbox"/> COMMISSIONED <input type="checkbox"/> CALLED FROM INACTIVE DUTY		18. GRADE - RATE OR RANK AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE <b>SERGEANT E-5</b>	
	19. DATE AND PLACE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE DAY MONTH YEAR PLACE (City and State) <b>14 AUG 50 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS</b>		20. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE (St., R.F.D., City, County and State) <b>SOUTH KENWOOD AVENUE, (COOK COUNTY), CHGO ILLINOIS</b>			
	21. NET ( ) SERVICE COMPLETED FOR PAY PURPOSES EXCLUDING THIS PERIOD <b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>		22. NET SERVICE COMPLETED FOR PAY PURPOSES THIS PERIOD <b>3 0 0</b>		23. OTHER SERVICE (Act of 16 June 1942 as amended) COMPLETED FOR PAY PURPOSES <b>1 6 3</b>	
SERVICE DATA	24. TOTAL NET SERVICE COMPLETED FOR PAY PURPOSES <b>4 6 3</b>		25. ENLISTMENT ALLOWANCE PAID ON EXTENSION OF ENLISTMENT, IF ANY DAY MONTH YEAR AMOUNT <b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>		26. FOREIGN AND/OR SEA SERVICE YEARS MONTHS DAYS <b>1 2 6</b>	
	27. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, COMMENDATIONS, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED <b>ARMY OCCUPATION MEDAL (GERMANY)</b>					
	28. MOST SIGNIFICANT DUTY ASSIGNMENT <b>HEADQUARTERS, FIFTH ARMY, CHICAGO 15, ILLINOIS</b>		29. WOUNDS RECEIVED AS A RESULT OF ACTION WITH ENEMY FORCES (Place and date, if known) <b>NONE</b>			
	30. SERVICE SCHOOLS OR COLLEGES, COLLEGE TRAINING COURSES AND/OR POST-GRAD. COURSES SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED <b>MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SCHOOL HEADQUARTERS, FORT RILEY, KANSAS</b>		31. SERVICE TRAINING COURSES SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED DATES (From-To) MAJOR COURSES <b>JUN 51-AUG 51 MILITARY INTELLIGENCE INTERROGATOR</b>		32. SERVICE TRAINING COURSES SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED <b>NONE</b>	
INSURANCE & PAY DATA	GOVERNMENT INSURANCE INFORMATION. (A) Permanent plan premium must continue to be paid when due, or within 31 days thereafter, or insurance will lapse. (B) Term insurance not under waiver same as (A) above. (C) Term insurance under waiver - premium payment must be resumed within 120 days after separation. Forward premiums on NSLI to Veterans Administration District Office having jurisdiction over the area shown in Item 17. Forward premiums on USGLI to Veterans Administration Washington 25 D C (See VA Pamphlet 9-3). When paying premiums give full name, address, Service Number, Policy Number(s), Branch of Service, date of separation. Contact nearest VA office for information concerning Government Life Insurance.					
	33. KIND & AMT OF INSURANCE & MONTHLY PREMIUM <b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>		34. ACTIVE SERVICE PRIOR TO 26 APRIL 1951 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN		35. MONTH ALLOTMENT DISCONTINUED <b>NONE-WAIVER</b>	
	36. TOTAL PAYMENT UPON SEPARATION <b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>		37. TRAVEL OR MILEAGE ALLOWANCE INCLUDED IN TOTAL PAYMENT <b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>		38. DISBURSING OFFICER'S NAME AND SYMBOL NUMBER <b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>	
	39. REMARKS (Continue on reverse) <b>NO DAYS LOST UNDER SECTION 6A, APPENDIX 2B, MCM 1951 BLOOD GROUP "O" ITEM -3- SERGEANT E-5 (P) 27 JUNE 1950</b>					
AUTHENTICATION	40. V A BENEFITS PREVIOUSLY APPLIED FOR (Specify type) COMPENSATION PENSION INSURANCE BENEFITS ETC <b>NONE</b>				41. SIGNATURE OF OFFICER AUTHORIZED TO SIGN  NAME, GRADE AND TITLE (Typed) <b>W. F. YERKS, CWO, USA PERSONNEL OFFICER</b>	
	42. DATES OF LAST CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT FROM TO <b>1947 1950</b>		43. MAIN CIVILIAN OCCUPATION <b>MUSICIAN, INSTRUMENTAL</b>		44. NAME AND ADDRESS OF LAST CIVILIAN EMPLOYER <b>ANDREE'S 213 CLUB, 213 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS</b>	
	45. UNITED STATES CITIZEN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		46. MARITAL STATUS <b>MARRIED</b>		47. NON-SERVICE EDUCATION (Years successfully completed) GRAM. MAR. HIGH SCHOOL COL. LEGE DEGREE(S) MAJOR COURSE OR FIELD <b>8 4 0 NONE ACADEMIC</b>	
	48. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES AFTER SEPARATION (St., R.F.D., City, County and State) <b>5143 SOUTH KENWOOD AVENUE, (COOK COUNTY) CHICAGO, ILLINOIS</b>				49. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED 	

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY	
CERTIFICATE OF TRAINING	
<i>This is to certify that</i>	
SERGEANT NORMAN R. BERKMAN	
NAME	
<i>has satisfactorily completed the course of</i>	
Military Law and Administration of Military Justice - Basic Course A	
TITLE OF COURSE	
<i>Given at</i>	
Fort George G. Meade	
Maryland	
	<i>Charles M. Kuttnecke</i>
	CHARLES M. KUTTNECKE
December 6, 1950	Lt Colonel, JAGC
DATE	Instructor TITLE

DA AGO FORM 87 1 JAN 49 REPLACES WD FORM 87, 1 JUN 45, WHICH IS OBSOLETE.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY	
CERTIFICATE OF TRAINING	
<i>This is to certify that</i>	
NORMAN R. BERKMAN	M/Sgt
NAME	
<i>has satisfactorily completed the course of</i>	
Military Justice Basic Course # "A"	
TITLE OF COURSE	
<i>Given at</i>	
Headquarters Fifth Army, Chicago 15, Illinois	
	<i>A.F. Berol</i>
13 April 1953	A.F. BEROL
DATE	Maj. Inf
	Commanding TITLE

DA FORM 87 (Formerly DA AGO) 1 JAN 49 REPLACES WD FORM 87, 1 JUN 45, WHICH IS OBSOLETE.



Sergeant Berkman's certificate for successful completion of the nine-week "Enlisted Intelligence Course" for **Interrogator** before his return to Germany.

# Army · General · School

FORT RILEY, KANSAS

This is to certify that **SERGEANT NORMAN R. BERKMAN**

*has successfully completed the Course of Instruction  
Prescribed by the Department of the Army for the  
\* Enlisted Intelligence Course \**


**Interrogator (1266)**

**TERM: 8 JUNE 1951 TO 11 AUGUST 1951**

  
**COLONEL, ARMOR  
ASSISTANT COMMANDANT**

  
**BRIGADIER GENERAL, U. S. A.  
COMMANDANT**



  
**COLONEL, ARMOR  
DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENT INSTRUCTION**

  
**LIEUTENANT COLONEL, INFANTRY  
SECRETARY**

*Given at Fort Riley, Kansas, this 11th day of August 1951*



Letter of Commendation received by Master Sergeant Berkman,  
shortly before his 2nd honorable discharge.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION OFFICE  
HEADQUARTERS COMPANY  
F I F T H    A R M Y  
5020 S. CORNELL AVENUE  
CHICAGO 15, ILLINOIS

4 August 1953

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff  
G-2 Section  
Headquarters Fifth Army  
1650 E. Hyde Park Blvd  
Chicago 15, Illinois

1. This office wishes to express appreciation for the services of M/Sgt Norman R. Berkman, ER made available to us through your cooperation, as a guest speaker for the Troop Information Program on subjects pertaining to Europe. The presence of a well informed, interesting speaker has added immeasurably to the success of the program.

2. M/Sgt Berkman is to be commended for his ability to deliver to an audience the full import of the subject material, and to hold the full interest of an audience with his casual, narrative method of discussion.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER :

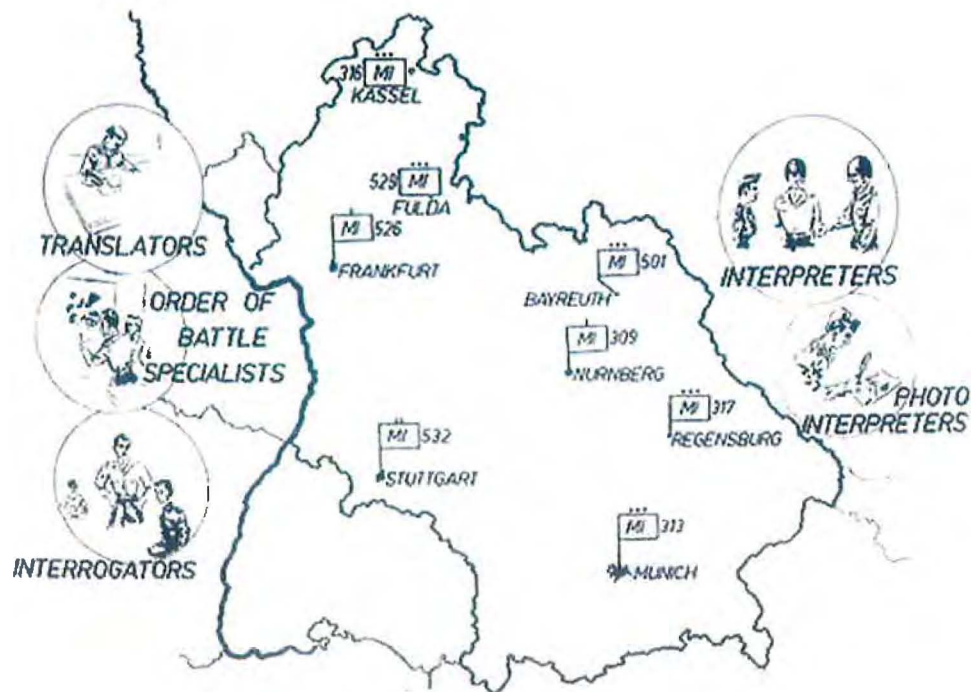
*H. R. Hinderliter*

H. R. HINDERLITER  
2d Lt. QMC  
I & E Officer

## 532nd Military Intelligence Battalion

Sgt. Berkman's unit during his 2nd tour of duty.

MAJOR 532d MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION SUBORDINATE ELEMENTS (U)



**US ARMY BORDER OPERATIONS IN GERMANY, 1945-1983,**  
by William E. Stacy

[http://www.usarmygermany.com/Sont.htm?http&&www.usarmygermany.com/Units/Military%20Intelligence/USAREUR\\_532ndMIBn.htm#45th](http://www.usarmygermany.com/Sont.htm?http&&www.usarmygermany.com/Units/Military%20Intelligence/USAREUR_532ndMIBn.htm#45th)

A third Certificate of Training for Mr. Berkman upon his satisfactory completion of  
a course on the Geneva Convention.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CERTIFICATE OF TRAINING

*This is to certify that*

Norman R Berkman M/Sgt  
NAME

*has satisfactorily completed the course of*

Geneva Convention  
TITLE OF COURSE

*Given at*

Headquarters Fifth Army, Chicago 15, Illinois

13 April 1953  
DATE

A. F. BEROL  
Maj. Inf  
Commanding

TITLE



# Honorable Discharge



from the Armed Forces of the United States of America

*This is to certify that*

NORMAN RALPH BERKMAN,

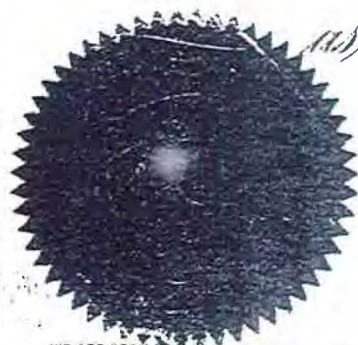
MASTER SERGEANT, UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE

*was Honorably Discharged from the*

## Army of the United States

*on the* 13TH *day of* AUGUST 1953 *This certificate is awarded*

*as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service*



*Henry J. Brown*

HENRY J. BROWN  
Major Inf  
Commanding

Master Sergeant Norman R. Berkman's Honorable Discharge after his 2nd tour of duty in Germany.





This photograph of Mr. Berkman and his daughter, Judith Carlson, was taken in the last year of his life in Florida. Mrs. Carlson interviewed her father for this project in March, 2008, shortly before he passed away.