

Oak Tree Cottage,
Beer Green,
Bucks.

30th December, 1946.

Dear Mr Lee,

I am writing to you as the result of having received a letter from Robert Stauch, ex-burgomaster of the town of Katsenelbogen in Western Germany, in which he asks for your help.

As a consequence of having belonged to the Nazi party he is due to appear very shortly before a denazification court in the French zone, and he would like you to verify the statement which I quote verbatim on the attached sheet, since, if you agree that it is a correct statement of the facts it would obviously constitute a valuable piece of evidence in his favour.

To quote the rest of his letter, he goes on:
"Would it be possible for you to find out the address of Sgt. Lee and ask him in my name for a certificate in which he gives his opinion concerning my conduct? This not in the way of special thanks, for what I did was my duty as a Christian, but I am compelled to prove my attitude at that time. It is indeed absurd when the man who wanted Lee handed over is now in the police as a "social-democrat" whereas those officials who saved him from the worst possible fate are having to struggle to justify themselves. Pastor Kinsel and myself together buried the six dead from the aircraft in the Klingelbach cemetery."

I knew Robert Stauch well before the war and always regarded him as a good type who was only in the Nazi party because he had to be as burgomaster. . . I feel that I should like to help him if possible and if the attached statement is correct you will no doubt feel the same towards the man who saved you from being lynched. If you agree with the facts as stated I should be very grateful if you would write a short statement stating as much (and if possible sealed and attested by a commissioner for oaths) and return the statement to me. I should be glad to bear any expense you incur.

I hope that you have quite recovered from any ill-effects you may have suffered as a P.O.W. You might perhaps like to bring to the attention of the Air Ministry the last sentence quoted above.

I should be very grateful if you could let me have the statement back by the end of the week, as his case is due to come up very shortly.

With many thanks, in anticipation for your trouble.

Yours sincerely,

A. G. C. Dryden

Lt.-Col.

STATEMENT BY ROBERT STAUCH, ERSTWILHE BURGOMASTER OF THE TOWN
OF LAZERNELNBODEN, TAUNUS, GERMANY, CONCERNING HIS TREATMENT
OF NR 1320246 Sgt. A. LEE AFTER THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE
LATTER'S AIRCRAFT ON 27 JANUARY, 1944.

On 27th January, 1944, an English bomber was shot down here. Six of the crew were burnt to death and one, Nr 1320246 Sgt. A. Lee, taken prisoner near the "dicke Buche". It was about 11 o'clock at night.

I proceeded at once to the scene of the incident and together with Gendamerleiwachtmaster Strack took the prisoner under my personal protection. On the way to my office a group of men wanted him handed over to them in order to "remove" him, according to the instructions of the Party. I decidedly rejected this demand, and took the prisoner with me into my office.

There I bound up his considerable burns, gave him food and held him under the protection of Gendamerleiwachtmaster Strack during the night in my office. After he had received the attention of a doctor in the morning, I had him taken to the heated casualty room in the school, where under the protection of two reliable auxiliary watchmen he was safe from the clutches of the Party. My wife sent him more food there.

On the afternoon of the 28th January an officer of the Luftwaffe took him to the Prisoners of War Camp at Oberursel.

The Party demanded exemplary measures against me on account of my intervention for Sgt. Lee, but Landrat Dr. Verpmann and Regierungsdirektor Römer were able to prevent these.

K 51 - 1115

Klingelbach *Handwritten*

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ARTHUR LEE

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RUSSELL JONES & WALKER,
 324 Grays Inn Road,
 London, W.C.1.
Solicitors.

...of ...
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 ...of ...

I, ARTHUR LEE of 48 Rugby Road, Kingsbury, London, N.W.9, make oath and say as follows:-

1. During the war I held the rank of Sergeant in the Royal Air Force, my number being 1320246.
2. On the night of January 27th 1944 the Lancaster aircraft of which I was the navigator was shot down over Germany. I escaped by parachute, and landed by the edge of a wood on a hillside. The time was shortly before eleven o'clock at night. Almost at once I was captured by a group of men and taken to a nearby small town or village. On reaching the village, the party halted and after some discussion, split into two groups, I and two or three men going to the burgomaster's office and the remainder in the opposite direction.
3. Of the men in the burgomaster's office, I can give a description of three. One was dressed in a bluish green uniform, aged about fifty to sixty, heavily built and wearing, I believe, a moustache. The second, dressed in dark civilian clothes and I believe wearing riding breeches, was tall and, I believe, slightly younger than the uniformed man. The third was a young man in army uniform, aged about twenty-two, fresh complexioned and of a friendly nature.
4. On reaching the burgomaster's office, I was given food and drink and the elderly uniformed man had made numerous telephone calls which seemed to cause him considerable trouble and agitation. The two older men then bound up my turned hands and made me as comfortable as possible. Later a small man entered, wearing leather gaiters, spectacles and a Hitler-type moustache, and with the aid of phrase books endeavoured to interrogate me. He was completely unsuccessful and left shortly afterwards.

5. About one o'clock, the men left the office with the exception of the young man who stayed with me during the night. He made up a bed for me on the floor using my parachute etc. and covering me with his overcoat.

6. In the morning I was taken to a doctor, where my burned hands were attended to and redressed. From here I was taken to the centrally heated basement of a building which I believe to have been a school and a plentiful supply of sandwiches and coffee were sent me. Here I was visited by the same two elderly men who, by signs, informed me that the other members of my crew were dead and that they would see that they were buried. They also bought me a pair of flying boots to replace those I lost when abandoning the aircraft and several tins of emergency rations which all British aircraft carry. I recognized the boots as belonging to the bomb-aimer of my aircraft.

7. I remained in the building until some time during the afternoon, when I was taken by a Luftwaffe officer by lorry to the prison camp at Aberursel.

8. The names of all persons concerned are completely unknown to me.

9. I do not know the name of the town to which I was taken immediately after capture. I have, however, made enquiries at the Air Ministry in London who state that the Lancaster of which I was the navigator was shot down in the parish of Klingelbach, the map reference being given to me as M51 M18.

10. I can give no account of any discussions, conversations etc. which I heard as these were conducted in German and I have no knowledge of that language.

11. I wish to state that my treatment by the three men already described was of a most considerate and kindly

nature and I have no complaints whatsoever. The kindness was not equalled by anyone in the remainder of my captivity.

12. With regard to the statement made by Robert Stauch, that he saved me from being "removed" according to the instructions of the party, I cannot say whether this is true or not. Discussions certainly took place but as I do not understand German I did not know what was being discussed.

Sworn by the above named)
deponent ANTON LEE at)
324 Grays Inn Road, London)
W.C.1, this 3rd day of)
January 1947)

Before me

A Commissioner for Oaths.

Oak Tree Cottage,
Soen Green,
Bucks.

21st February, 1947.

Dear Mr. Lee,

I am sorry to have been so long in acknowledging your letters and your statement, but the latter arrived on the morning of my departure for an official tour of half Europe and I have only just got back.

In the course of my travels I was able to hand the statement to Robert Stauch, who is extremely grateful to you. I have not heard the result of his appearance before the denasification court, but he was sure that your remarks would greatly assist him.

It might interest you to know that a few weeks ago some sort of R.A.F. War Graves party visited the village and examined the graves of the rest of your crew, which I was myself unable to see as I passed through late one evening.

I will let you know how Stauch's case goes. In the meantime very many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

