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THOMAS R. PEASNER
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SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

DATE
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PREPARING OFFICE
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Military District of Washington, Washington 25, D. C.

SUBJECT ~~SUMMARY OF PHASE II INTERROGATION~~
PAGE, Frank J.
Sgt RA 13163949
311 1/2 Grove Street
Kingston, Pennsylvania
Dossier # C8054070

CODE FOR USE IN INDIVIDUAL PARAGRAPH EVALUATION	
OF SOURCE:	OF INFORMATION:
COMPLETELY RELIABLE A	CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES 1
USUALLY RELIABLE B	PROBABLY TRUE 2
FAIRLY RELIABLE C	POSSIBLY TRUE 3
NOT USUALLY RELIABLE D	DOUBTFULLY TRUE 4
UNRELIABLE E	IMPROBABLE 5
RELIABILITY UNKNOWN F	TRUTH CANNOT BE JUDGED 6

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION
COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 5-7-95 BY 57068 SLD/MSR
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Received from G2
Date 12/1/53

PAGE, a rifleman, MOS 1745, in Company C, 38th Regiment, 2d Infantry Division, was surrounded by an unknown Chinese unit and captured at Mug-gol, 22 May 1951. After his capture, PAGE was interned in Camp #1 from October 1951 until his release at Panmunjom, Korea, 17 August 1953.

Prisoners were organized into units at the "Mining Camp" on the day of PAGE's arrival. Unit leaders were chosen by the Chinese Communist Forces (CCF), apparently without regard to qualifications, and were retained until replaced by the Chinese for failure to perform their duties, or for infraction of camp rules or other reasons. PAGE performed duties in the Company Club for eight months, and was in a study group from 1952 to 1953 (dates not given).

Initially, roll was called by the CCF, but later the platoon sergeant took a head count and reported his findings to the Chinese platoon leaders. Armed guards were the only means of physical security employed by the CCF. Chinese seemed to know what was going on in camp, but PAGE has no knowledge of any counterintelligence system being employed.

Upon arrival at Camp #1, PAGE was photographed by the CCF and was required to hold a plaque bearing his name and serial number, but he was never fingerprinted. In November 1951, prisoners in the camp were forced to participate in a propaganda movie. They were completely equipped with United States equipment and simulated the storming of a hill. The prisoners were told they would not eat if they refused to participate in making this movie. In November 1951, the CCF asked for volunteers to make a movie in Pyoktong, North Korea. Frank Noel took numerous photographs of the men and camp life, they were propaganda pictures and were supervised by the CCF.

PAGE was interrogated approximately fifteen (15) times by the CCF. Normal interrogation lasted approximately two (2) hours. PAGE filled out a general questionnaire of approximately twenty-five (25) questions concerning PAGE's unit, parents, financial status, etc. The CCF were interested in artillery personnel, reason unknown, and were always attempting to detect CID and CIC Agents among the prisoners, results unknown.

The following organizations existed in Camp #1:

Camp Peace Committee - formed prior to PAGE's arrival, size of committee unknown, and sponsored by the CCF. This club embraced all phases of camp life, including studies.

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DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Company Club - consisting of seven men elected to membership by the prisoners and sponsored by the CCF. This club took care of all company matters concerning sports, mess, study groups, sanitation and the library.

PAGE did not observe a magazine called the "New Life;" however, "New China," "Soviet Union," "National Guardian," "New York Daily Worker," "London Daily Worker," and the "Shanghai News," were all available to the prisoners.

H.A.A.

No newspapers were printed in Camp #1; however, the paper "Towards Truth and Peace" was distributed in Camp #1. PAGE voluntarily wrote approximately three articles for this paper; one article was on the Korean War, asking for a cease fire. Richard R. Tenneson, wrote numerous articles for this paper. Thomas Peasner, Bobby DeGraw, John Ford and Atkins (fnu) also wrote articles. Generally these articles concerned the Korean War, the cessation of hostilities and prisoner exchange. Usually no retribution was given for the writing of these articles; however, PAGE, on one occasion, received a half-carton of cigarettes.

Radio Moscow and Radio Peking were heard over the camp public address system. These consisted of news broadcasts and music. No US broadcasts were heard by anyone in the camp.

In 1951 and 1952, all prisoners were required to attend indoctrination lectures, movies, broadcasts and company meetings. These were compulsory political discussions as low as squad level and periodically monitored by the CCF. In the summer of 1952, this program was greatly curtailed, with only occasional compulsory group study. Books, magazines, movies, pictures, charts and personal contacts were used by camp authorities in conducting indoctrination. Books, magazines and movies were the most effective methods employed. Books and magazines were of CCF choice and all contained propaganda material.

Prior to 1952, voluntary study groups were formed by the progressive elements in Camp #1. Each company had a voluntary study group that met at regimental headquarters for meetings. The CCF set aside a room in which the study group would meet during the evenings. When studying, the prisoners would receive tea and cigarettes from the CCF. The composition, as known to PAGE, was as follows:

- 1st Company - Bobby R. DeGraw, McMillen (fnu) - group leaders, Patterson (fnu) - member.
- 2d Company - John Ford - group leader; Thomas Peasner - member.
- 3d Company - Arlie H. Pate - member; John R. Bowers and Charles R. Boyd - one of which was the group leader, the other was a member.

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Korea
4th Company - Richard R. ~~Tennessee~~ - group leader; Jack D. ~~Noble~~ - second in command; Arthur P. ~~Miller~~, Earl D. ~~Gorka~~, Frank J. PAGE, ~~Reese~~ (fnu), Vaughn (fnu), Richard H. ~~Morris~~, ~~Wills~~ (fnu), Sam ~~Banuelos~~ and ~~Walter G. Adelmann~~ - all members.

5th Company - Thomas ~~Davis~~ - group leader; ~~Jamen~~ (fnu) - member. Both were British soldiers.

Study group leaders were designated by the CCF; however, the following prisoners were elected to office as indicated:

Korea
June V. ~~Gaskins~~ - Platoon Sergeant, 1st Platoon, 4th Company.

John T. ~~Harbour~~ - Platoon Sergeant, 2d Platoon, 4th Company.

Sam ~~Banuelos~~ - Librarian, 4th Company.

Mike ~~Tontazious~~ - Assistant Librarian, 4th Company.

~~Farley~~ (fnu) - In charge of mess and sanitation committee.

Clyde R. ~~Farmer~~ - Member of sports committee.

Donald E. ~~Paul~~ - Member of sports committee.

Arthur P. ~~Miller~~ - Mail Clerk and member of sanitation committee.

Paul ~~Vrable~~ - In charge of bulletin board (wall newspaper).

Frank J. PAGE - Assistant to Vrable.

Korea
PAGE further indicated that ~~Roberts~~ (fnu) was the camp electrician and Peterson (fnu) broadcast over the public address system and was a radio operator. Both worked at Regimental Headquarters, Changsong, North Korea. James V. ~~Vosberg~~ was a Company Club member.

PAGE made the following comments concerning progressives in Camp #1:

Richard R. Tennessee attempted to influence other prisoners to follow and accept theories of Communism by furnishing answers to questions on Communism, of which PAGE was in doubt. Tennessee was a leader of the Company Club and study groups, a member of the Regimental Club, and worked directly under the Chinese in the "inside the company" committee for mess, bulletin board, mail, sports, study group, etc. Tennessee frequently reported to camp officials, either during the course of his duties or while attending study groups. Tennessee appeared to have leanings toward Communism and voluntarily circulated and signed petitions, attended study groups, held office, and made recordings. Tennessee received all around better treatment from the CCF than the other prisoners did. Tennessee expressed the desire to be placed in neutral hands and did not desire repatriation. Tennessee was in good health when last seen by PAGE at Camp #1, in July 1953.

Jack ~~Noble~~ attempted to influence other prisoners to follow and accept the theories of Communism by furnishing answers to questions on Communism. Noble reported frequently to camp officials, either during the course of his duties or

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while attending study groups. Noble appeared to have leanings toward Communism and also appeared to be sincere in his support of Communism, but at times acted like an opportunist.

Bobby DeGraw, in charge of study group for 1st Company, is believed to be the top man of "clubs" at camp level, having charge of all phases of life for prisoners at Camp #1. DeGraw reported frequently to camp officials, either during the course of his duties or while attending study groups. DeGraw appeared to have leanings toward Communism and also appeared to be sincere in his support of Communism. DeGraw expressed the desire to be placed in neutral hands and did not desire repatriation. DeGraw was in good health when last seen by PAGE at Camp #1 in July 1953.

Koara
Miller, PAGE, Morris, Gorka, Wills, Vrable, Reese, Adelmann, Banuelos, Vaughn, Ford and Bowers, all frequently reported to camp officials either during the course of their duties or while attending study groups and appeared to be sincere in their support of Communism. John Johnson, McMillen (fnu), Patterson (fnu), Thomas R. Peasner, Pate and Charles Boyd all appeared to have leanings toward Communism and also appeared to be sincere in their support of Communism.

Tennessee, Wills, DeGraw and Ford intimated to PAGE that they would join the Communist Party upon their return to the United States. Progressives were encouraged to join the Communist Party after return to the United States, but were not told how this was to be accomplished. Prisoners also were encouraged to subscribe to the "Daily Worker" upon their release.

Kearl
Wills (fnu) expressed the desire to be placed in neutral hands and did not desire repatriation. Wills was in good health when last seen by PAGE, in Camp #1 during July 1953.

DeGraw, McMillen and Thomas Davis were absent from Camp #1, in 1952, and in the spring of 1953, when they attended a meeting of prison camp officials in Pyoktong. In June 1953, two men from each company were elected to attend a meeting in Pyoktong, for the purpose of expressing the desires of the prisoners. Those attending the meeting from Camp #1 were: Clyde R. Farmer, Charles C. Madison, and Charles H. Loutitt.

PAGE has no personal knowledge concerning any prisoners being held at places and under circumstances affording camp authorities an opportunity to influence them to accept a foreign ideology. PAGE does not know of any prisoners having been sent outside of North Korea. There were no prisoners living in town.

All progressives were on good terms with the CCF. PAGE has no information on any exchange of addresses. Frequently progressives would receive lesser punishment for infraction of camp rules than other prisoners. For instance, smoking

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marijuana was punishable by a jail sentence of fifteen days; however, progressives were cautioned against this practice but it was condoned. If these progressives got into trouble, the punishment would not be as harsh as that experienced by the "reactionaries." Tenneson particularly collaborated with camp authorities.

For infractions of camp regulations or the creation of disturbances, prisoners were required to sign a confession of the crime or infraction. At times, prisoners were required to read these confessions over the public address system, usually dependent upon the gravity of the offense. Prisoners were jailed until they agreed to sign confessions. "Peace" letters were on the basis of voluntary signatures with the document being placed where everyone in the company could read it. This was usually in the library.

The following persons were imprisoned for alleged crimes, sentences and charges as indicated. PAGE believes the following will be returned either on or before the sixty day deadline imposed by the terms of the current truce.

Raymond L. Frazier - sentenced to two or three years for being drunk, escaping camp, and attempting to rape a Korean.

Thompson Lively - sentenced to two or three years for administering a beating to Vernon S. Rea, a prisoner. A. P. Miller was named by the Chinese as having informed that Lively had threatened Miller and subsequently lead to Lively's imprisonment. This was told to PAGE by Lively.

Harry W. Fulks - same as for Lively.

On or about 20 July 1953, Hughes (fnu) was transferred to 4th Company. Reason given for this transfer was that Hughes was a homosexual.

The following prisoners were transferred from the 4th Company to a labor camp, location unknown:

Donald R. Bittner and Raymond Goodburlet - both of 1st Platoon, were transferred in 1952 for allegedly burning down the Company Club.

Douglas (fnu) - transferred in July 1953, reason unknown.

The following prisoners were transferred from the 4th Company, destination unknown:

Bobby E. Rains - reason for transfer unknown, transferred in summer of 1952.

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Woods (fnu) - transferred during the summer of 1952 for agitation against the Chinese.

Carter (fnu) and Wilred J. Ruff - transferred during early months of 1952 allegedly for being the leaders of a Ku Klux Klan (KKK) organization in Camp #1.

According to a confession made by Flowers (fnu), the following prisoners had conspired to beat up Miller, PAGE, Morris, Vaughn, Adelman and Tenneson:

Flowers (fnu), Albert Coccia, Richard K. Makua, Andrew Mendoza and Beaver (fnu).

PAGE believed that the other prisoners in the company thought that PAGE was responsible for turning these men in to the camp officials. PAGE claims that he does not recall what actually happened on the night these prisoners were apprehended as he was "out of his head." PAGE further claims that Vaughn told other prisoners that PAGE had informed on the reactionary group in order to bring the alleged plot into the open and that Vaughn later admitted to Beavers, Mendoza and Brooks, that PAGE was not guilty of informing to the Chinese.

Jimmy South was mistreated by the Chinese. In early 1953, the CCF selected men in the company for interrogation in order to determine the names of prisoners who smoked marijuana. South told PAGE that he was taken from the company area one night and detained until the following night. South was forced to stand at attention for a period exceeding 24 hours. He passed out three times, was revived each time, and was forced to resume the position of attention. South was exceptionally weak when returned to the company but apparently did not suffer any ill effects. Marijuana was available from Korean civilians but the Chinese constantly tried to stamp out this practice. Adelman, William Warden, Noble and Peasner were heavy smokers.

Collins (fnu), an airman and acquaintance of PAGE in 1952, stated that he (Collins) was frequently interrogated on all Air Force activities. Of major interest to the Chinese, at that time, was the radio code used by aircraft. Collins did not inform PAGE of the information or if any information had been divulged to the CCF.

Some prisoners kept diaries for the purpose of keeping records of prisoners who died in the PW camp. PAGE does not know if these diaries were confiscated by the CCF.

PAGE, Tenneson and Miller circulated petitions in the camp. PAGE believes that the circulation of petitions helped to accomplish a cease fire. PAGE believes that Communism has some good points, namely collective farming. "If all

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people in the world could apply the Communist doctrine, it would be good as it would feed all persons, not a few." PAGE says he does not know if Communism would work in the United States and "would not advocate a change in the United States until he knew it was correct."

PAGE made a recording in January 1953 requesting UN forces to refrain from bombing the PW camp. PAGE was aided by Tenneson in the preparation of the text. PAGE made another recording in March 1953 concerning the cease fire, the text of which was prepared by PAGE. The CCF asked him to do it - no threats were used. PAGE made the recordings voluntarily and they were transmitted over Radio Peking.

In 1952, PAGE observed six uniformed Russians passing the camp in a truck. There were no Russians stationed at Camp #1.

PAGE does not know of any prisoners who were not repatriated from Camp #1. No American prisoners were encouraged by the Communists to remain in North Korea or to go to Red China or the Soviet Union.

PAGE did not personally attend any lectures by USAF personnel concerning bacteriological warfare; however, PAGE heard recordings and stated that "if an American officer made recordings and speeches on germ warfare, on his own accord, it might be true."

PAGE spent his off-duty time studying, playing chess, checkers, swimming, walking and reading.

Camp officials who had daily contact with the prisoners were:

Kop
*Shin (fnu) - interpreter for the Regimental Commander.

*Wong (fnu) - in charge of sports activities.

*Lin (fnu) - in charge of study groups, 4th Company.

Agent's Notes: PAGE was inclined to contradict himself on several occasions. At one time, PAGE stated that Tenneson, Wills and DeGraw expressed desires to be placed in neutral hands and not to be returned to the US. PAGE later stated that he was unaware of anyone not repatriated from Camp #1. PAGE also stated that Tenneson, Wills and DeGraw were in good health when he last saw them in Camp #1. PAGE further stated that Tenneson, Wills, DeGraw and Ford intimated that they would join the Communist Party "upon their return to the US." All of these statements are contradictory.

G-2 Comment: Information in this summary was not evaluated because the interrogations from which information in summary was extracted were not evaluated in their entirety.

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