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DECLASSIFIED
NND 50119
AUTHORITY
BY ZT NARA DATE 6-1-19

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

ALLEGED COMBAT ACTIVITIES OF MR. ERNEST HEMINGWAY (COLLIERS)

2401

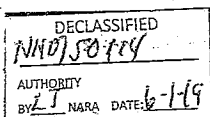
CASE NO. 8 - Alleged Combat Activities of
Mr. Ernest Hemingway (Colliers)

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AUTHORITY	
BY: 1	DATE: 6-1-79

All inclosures and allied papers pertinent to the case of Ernest Hemingway were returned to G-1, 12th Army Group as were comments and recommendations, by F. G. R.

23 September 1944

L. I. C.
L. I. C.



CARRIER SHEET

#8

1. G-1 AG-P 13 Sep 1944

SUBJECTS: Alleged Combat Activities of Mr. Ernest Hemingway (Colliers) 333.5

Action desired?

JJL

2. IG G-1 14 Sept 1944

1. Attached is report of Inspector General, Third U S Army, re alleged combat activities of correspondents Ernest Hemingway, (Colliers).

2. Paragraph 5 of the letter accompanying the report indicates that no evidence was found to support the accusations against Mr. Hemingway. However, paragraph 6, d, indicates that further investigation is justified.

3. Request your comments and recommendation.

/s/ E. J. O'HARE
Colonel, GSC
AC of S, G-1

3. G-1 IG 22 Sept 1944

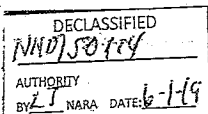
1. The attached report of investigation concerning the alleged activities of Mr. Hemingway was directed by this Headquarters based upon a telegraphic report received from Lt. Col. K. A. Hunter, PRO, 3rd Army, wherein it was stated "from information received from correspondents" that Hemingway was violating his credential rights as a war correspondent. (Exhibit C).

2. Col. Hunter's testimony clearly indicates that he sent the above mentioned telegram primarily based upon oral statements made to him by his assistant, Major J. P. Owens, who had recently and incidentally met Mr. Hemingway while in company with a Mr. E. D. Ball, a war correspondent assigned to 3rd Army.

3. Col. Hunter's testimony further discloses vital details at issue in this case alleged by Major Owen but which were not disclosed by the latter when interrogated by the investigating officer. Neither did he include such matters in his "formal" written report dated 2 September 1944 requested by Col. Hunter. (Exhibit B (Owens) and Exhibit C).

4. Attention is invited to the fact that Major Owens journeyed to Rambouillet, France with Mr. Ball (correspondent assigned to 3rd Army) and there met Mr. Hemingway who was residing in a hotel with other correspondents while waiting for the troops to get into Paris and in which location he is alleged to have carried on his unauthorized activities. Mr. Ball knew Hemingway and considered him "peculiar" and believed that he was living the role of one of his plays, presumably

CASE No 82



"For Whom the Bell Tolls". Nevertheless, Ball's testimony indicates that Hemingway might well have been violating the restrictions placed upon correspondents as did other witnesses. In this connection, it is believed that Ball may have influenced Major Owens and that the statements he (Owens) made to Col. Hunter were based on what Ball told him and not that of his own knowledge. This question may be cleared up by re-interrogation of Major Owens with particular reference to testimony of Col. Hunter. If it is then ascertained that Major Owens had no other basis for making his oral report, re Hemingway to Col. Hunter, then he (Owens) should at least share admonishment with Col. Hunter if not be relieved from his assignment as assistant PRO for he would have thus demonstrated unreliability for such an important duty.

5. A review of the sworn testimony of witnesses thus far obtained in this case, reasonably indicates that the activities and associations of Mr. Hemingway are at least questionable and generally it would appear that he may have violated the credential rights of a war correspondent. However, it is not believed that this headquarters should make a decision as to the disposition of the report of investigation of this matter at this time, until testimony is obtained from other witnesses who have personal knowledge which the investigating officer failed to secure for the reason he could not locate them. Such important witnesses are vital to the issue. Chief among these is Colonel David Bruce, USA, Commanding Officer, OSS Det., ETOUSA, who apparently was intimately associated with Mr. Hemingway during the period in question in connection with OSS activities in and around Rambouillet prior to the fall of Paris.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the report of investigation be returned to the Commanding General, Third Army, by second indorsement substantially as follows:

"1. In connection with the report of investigation attached hereto concerning the alleged combat activities of Mr. Hemingway, it appears that sub-paragraphs 7a and 7b are inconsistent. Cognizance is taken of the fact that Col. Hunter originally made his report to higher authority of the matter in question, based only upon the oral statements of his assistant, Major Owens. However, a review of the testimony of the witnesses involved in this case indicates that Col. Hunter had reasonable cause for such action which also is apparently the view of the investigating officer in that he recommends additional investigation rather than that no further action be taken.

2. A comparison of Major Owen's testimony and also that of his formal report, (Exhibit D) with that of Col. Hunter's concerning the statements of the former, indicates that Major Owen did not testify to the vital details of Mr. Hemingway's activities he previously had reported to Col. Hunter and upon which this investigation was initiated. It is desired that Major Owens be interrogated in this connection and if it is determined that he cannot substantiate the statements he originally made to Col. Hunter, that appropriate action be taken against him and that Col. Hunter be exonerated accordingly.

3. A review of the sworn testimony of witnesses submitted in connection with the case, reasonably indicates that the activities and associations of Mr. Hemingway

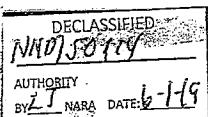
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By <u>1</u>	NARA DATE <u>6-1-69</u>

3. Continued

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are questionable but the evidence thus far obtained is insufficient. It is therefore desired that an Inspector General on the staff of your headquarters obtain the testimony of the personnel who have knowledge as so listed in sub-paragraph 3 of the report of investigation herewith"

FOR



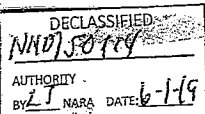
Note 3 to G-1:-

1. The attached report of investigation concerning the alleged activities of Mr. Hemmingsway was directed by this Headquarters based upon a telegraphic report received from Lt. Col. K. A. Hunter, PRO, 3^d Army wherein it was stated "from information received from correspondents" that Hemmingsway was ~~grossly~~ violating his editorial rights ^(as a former correspondent).

2. Col. Hunter's testimony clearly indicates that he sent the above mentioned telegram primarily based upon oral statements made to him by his assistant, Major J. P. Owens who had recently and incidentally met Mr. Hemmingsway while in company with a Mr. E. S. Ball, a war correspondent assigned to the 3^d Army.

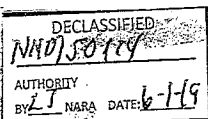
3. Col. Hunter's testimony further discloses vital details at issue in this case alleged by Major Owens but which were not disclosed by the latter when interrogated by the investigating officer. Neither did he include such matters in his "formal" written report dated 2 Sept 44 requested by Col. Hunter. (Exhibit B/Owens) and Exhibit C).

(over)



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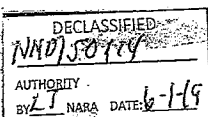
4. Attention is invited to the fact that Major Owens journeyed to Ramfouillet France with Mr. Ball (correspondent assigned to 3rd Army) and then met Mr. Hemingway who was residing in a hotel with other correspondents while waiting for the troops to get into Paris, Mr. Ball knew Hemingway and considered him "peculiar" and believed that he was living the role of one of his plays, presumably, "For Whom the Bells Toll". Nevertheless, Ball's testimony indicates that Hemingway might well have seen violations of the restrictions placed upon correspondents ^{as did other witnesses}. In this connection, it is believed that Ball may have influenced Major Owens and that the statements he (Owens) made to Col. Hunter were based on what Ball told him and not that of his own knowledge. This question may be cleared up by re-interrogation of Major Owens with particular reference to the testimony of Col. Hunter. If it is then ascertained that Major Owens had no other basis for making his oral report, re-Hemingway, to Col. Hunter, then he (Owens) should at least share admonishment with Col. Hunter if not ^{be} relieved from his assignment as assistant PRO. For he would



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have thus demonstrate unreliability for such an important duty.

5. A review of the known testimony of witnesses thus far obtained in this case, reasonably indicates that the activities and associations of Mr. Hemmingsway are at least questionable and generally, it would appear that he may have violated the credential rights of a war correspondent. However, it is not believed that this Headquarters should make a decision as to the disposition of the report of investigation of this matter ^{at this time} until testimony is obtained from ~~other~~ ^{other} witnesses who have personal knowledge which the investigating ~~has~~ failed to secure for the reason he could not locate ^{these} ~~such~~ important witnesses ^{are} vital to the issue. Chief among these, is Colonel David Bruce, U.S.A., Commanding Officer, OSS Det., 5 TO USA who ~~was~~ ^{was} apparently ^{during the period in question} intimately associated with Mr. Hemmingsway ^{in connection} with OSS activities in and around Rambouillet ~~for some period~~ prior to the fall of Paris.



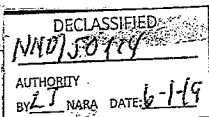
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6. RECOMMENDATIONS:-

That the report of investigation be returned to the Commanding General, Third Army by 2^d indorsement substantially as follows:—

1. In connection with the report of investigation attached hereto concerning the alleged combat activities of Mr. Hemmingsway, it appears that sub-para. 7a and 7b are inconsistent. Cognizance is taken of the fact that Col. Hunter originally made his report to higher authority of the matter in question, based ^{only} upon the oral statements of his assistant, Major Owens. However, a review of the testimony of the witnesses involved in this case indicates that Col. Hunter had reasonable cause for such action which also is apparently the view of the investigating officer in that he recommends ^{additional} investigation rather than ^{that} ~~no additional~~ ^{further} action be taken.

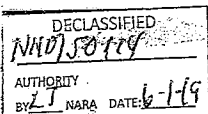
2. A comparison of Major Owens' testimony and also that of his formal report (Exhibit II) with that of Col. Hunter's concerning the statements of the former, indicates that Major Owens did not testify to the vital details of ~~Mr. Hemmingsway's activities~~ ^{He previously had reported to Col. Hunter} concerning the activities of Mr. Hemmingsway and upon which this investigation was initiated. It is (over)



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desired that Major Owens be interrogated in this connection and if it is determined that he cannot substantiate the statements he originally made to Col. Hunter, that appropriate action be taken against him and that Col. Hunter be exonerated accordingly.

3. A review of the sworn testimony of witnesses submitted in connection with this case, reasonably indicates that the ~~activities~~ ^{alleged conduct} and associations of Mr. Hemmings are ^{but the evidence that has been obtained is insufficient} questionable. It is therefore desired that an Inspector General or ^{of your headquarters} staff obtain the testimony of the personnel who have knowledge as so listed in ^{sub-} paragraph 3 of the report of investigation herewith.



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ert: Alleged Combat Activities of Mr. Ernest Hemingway (Colliers).

333.5 - GHEGI
(8 Sep 44)

1st Ind

HEADQUARTERS THIRD U. S. ARMY, APO 403, U. S. Army.

To: Commanding General, Central Group of Armies, APO 655, U. S. Army.

1. This report of investigation was directed by the message from Headquarter 12th U. S. Army Group which is included as Exhibit "A-3" of the report.

2. Appropriate action will be taken against Lt. Col. Hunter.

3. Attention is invited to Par. VI, sub-par. 7b.

For the Commanding General:

R. E. GUMMINS,
Colonel, A.C.D.,
Adjutant General.

*Balance of file returned
to SI for transmittal
to SHAF for further
investigation -*

- 1 -

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DECLASSIFIED
 NND 50779
 AUTHORITY
 BY L J NARA DATE 6-1-99

Alleged Combat Activities of Mr. Ernest Hemingway
 (Colliers)

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Case # 6

1. G-1 AG-P 31 Oct 1944

Action desired?

E.H.K.

2. IG G-1 1 Nov 1944

GCB/Ext 551

1. For comment and recommendation.
2. It is considered that when report is complete it should be forwarded to SHAEF in compliance with Exhibit A 1.

J. J. O'HARE
 Colonel, GSC
 AC of S, G-1

G-1 (Misc) IG 4 Nov 1944

1. In reviewing this case, the testimony and exhibits of the original report of investigation dated 8 September 1944 and the supplemental report of investigation dated 25 October 1944 (inclosure No. 1) is the basis upon which the following is submitted in that the original report was incomplete and was returned for the testimony of the principals concerned including Mr. Hemingway.

2. There are two distinct aspects to this case:

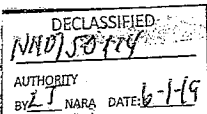
a. Whether or not the original report of the alleged activities of Mr. Hemingway was submitted by Lt. Col. Hunter, the Public Relations Officer, Third Army, based on facts he could substantiate.

b. Whether or not the activities of Mr. Hemingway in or near Rambouillet, France were in violation of the Geneva Convention as applies to war correspondents.

3. a. With respect to the report submitted by Col. Hunter alleging violations by Mr. Hemingway of his war correspondent credentials, Col. Hunter admits it was based on "gossip and rumor" and not "only" upon the oral statements of his assistant, Major Owens. Although Major Owens may not have formally reported to Col. Hunter "as factual knowledge" (exhibit D, basic report) the activities he observed on the part of Mr. Hemingway, nevertheless the testimony of Col. Hunter clearly indicates that he (Hunter) was greatly influenced by what Major Owens did tell him informally and to such an extent that it is believed, it

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it actually initiated this investigation.

b. It is apparent that the investigating officer has and will only consider the sworn testimony and written report of Major Owens (Exhibit D, basic report) and not the testimony of Col. Hunter wherein he (Hunter) positively states he sent the first (telegraphic) report (Exhibit C) alleging violations of the Geneva Convention on the part of Mr. Hemingway after he had received an oral report from Major Owens of Hemingway's activities at Rambouillet, France.

c. Particular attention is invited to Questions 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12 and 13, testimony of Col. Hunter, Exhibit B, Supplemental Report (Incl. No. 1) which emphasizes that Major Owens would only make statements under oath "that he could prove" and "that anything that might have been an impression on his part that he would use in conversational recounting of the things, might not be things that he could prove or would be prepared to consider as a formal statement." "What he was willing to put in the formal record was personally from eye-witness observation, swear to of his own knowledge."

d. It is significantly noted that after Major Owens made his oral report following his return from Rambouillet, that Col. Hunter requested him to submit a written report of Mr. Hemingway's activities. This, he did not do until further requested by the investigating officer. I believe he purposely hedged in this matter because he knew that he could not reconcile his original oral (conversational) report to Col. Hunter with a formal written report or to that which he (in the interim) had testified to under oath to the investigating officer.

e. (1) I therefor conclude that Major Owens primarily caused Col. Hunter to initiate this investigation by an oral report to the latter involving allegations against Mr. Hemingway which he could not substantiate as a basis of fact.

(2) That by his own admissions, Col. Hunter accepted such report from Major Owens and, combined with other "gossip and rumor" he made an official report of the allegations without first making an effort to determine the true facts.

4. As to the alleged activities of Mr. Hemingway at or near Rambouillet, the sworn testimony of witnesses concerned indicates that he did NOT violate his war correspondent credentials as pertains to the Geneva Convention. I therefor recommend no further action as relates to him other than to so advise by SHAEP as recommended by the investigating officer. *he be*

5. Recommendations:

1. That the entire report of investigation be forwarded to SHAEP by 4th Indorsement viz.

"1. The conclusions and recommendations of the investigating officer contained in Sections V and VI of the Supplemental Report of Investigation (Incl. No. 1) Headquarters Third Army, dated 25 October 1944 are concurred in except paragraphs 7a (1) and 8a respectively concerning which this headquarters is of the opinion that Major J. P. Owens, the Assistant Public Relations Officer, Third Army should be admonished for making an oral report to his superior officer adversely reflecting upon the conduct of Mr. Earnest Hemingway a war correspondent attached to the Third Army which he subsequently failed to substantiate under oath and which influenced the initiation of an unwarranted investigation relative thereto.

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 BY L J NARA DATE 6-1-9

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2. A letter has been addressed to the Commanding General, Third Army directing him to admonish Major Owens to be more careful in the future with respect to comments and remarks he may make to his superiors which might readily lead to an official investigation."

6. Suggest a letter as concerns Major Owens be addressed to the Commanding General, Third Army substantially as follows:

"1. In connection with a Report of Investigation and a Supplemental Report thereto, Subject: "Alleged Combat Activities of Mr. Ernest Hemingway (Colliers)," submitted by your headquarters, dated 8 September 1944 and 25 October 1944, respectively, the conclusions and recommendations contained in paragraphs 7a (1) and 8a of the Supplemental Report concerning Major James P. Owens, are not concurred in by this headquarters.

2. It is the opinion of this headquarters as adduced from the testimony accompanying the report of this case, that Major Owens made an oral "conversational" report to his superior officer adversely reflecting upon the conduct of Mr. Hemingway at Rambouillet, France which he subsequently failed to substantiate under oath but which nevertheless considerably influenced the initiation of an investigation relative thereto. The result proved the allegations to be unfounded to the embarrassment of all concerned.

3. It is considered that as the assistant Public Relations officer of the Third Army that Major Owens is in a position of responsibility and influence which requires sound judgement in evaluating his operations prior to reporting informally or otherwise the purported activities on the part of others and that he prepared to substantiate any adverse allegations made in connection therewith. This he has failed to do in the instant case and it is desired that he be admonished to be more careful in such matters in the future."

F. C. R.

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