

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785015

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D.O. FILE, LT COL H S GERRY
DEC. 1943

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785015

From: MAJ GEN AAB DOWLE CB

4/2

20, ALL
A108/61

HQ NO. 2 DISTRICT
C.M.F.

16 Dec 43

Dear Gerry,

I am sorry I was away
when you called the other day, but I
would like to thank you for your kind
gift of the batteries. They were,
I can assure you, very welcome indeed.

Yours sincerely
as above

Lt Col H.S. Gerry,
S.S.O. (U.S.),
A.M.G.,
15 Army Group,
C.M.F.

1-81

785015

1/2
H.Q., A.M.C.,
15 Army Group,
C.M.P.

ME/89/

29 Dec. 1943

My Dear KLEPACI:

Your letter of 29 November asking for a transfer was referred to me by Group Captain Benson on 7 Dec. 1943. I regret that it has not been possible to reply until now owing to my absence in Naples.

You have probably learned in the meantime of your promotion to the grade of first lieutenant, and I do not know whether you wish your request for transfer to stand. If so, please let me know. We all realise that the question of promotion has been a difficult one, but I feel it is only proper to point out that this has in no wise been due to lack of sympathetic interest on the part of your immediate commanding officer.

Under the circumstances, it must be mentioned that the tone of your letter to him, particularly your comments with respect to his policy on promotions, was not appropriate, although I trust that you did not intend anything of a disrespectful nature. No matter how you may feel on the subject of advancement I believe it better not to air your views as this has a tendency to lower morale at a time when it is important for good morale to be maintained.

I shall count on you to maintain the high standards of the American Army in our common cause.

Sincerely yours,

1/2
Lt. Col. A.V.S., 1-83
For the D.C.C.A.O.

2nd Lieut. Paul M. Klepaci Jr.

Your letter of 29 November asking for a transfer was referred to me by Group Captain Benson on 7 Dec. 1945. I regret that it has not been possible to reply until now owing to my absence in Naples.

You have probably learned in the meantime of your promotion to the grade of first Lieutenant, and I do not know whether you wish your request for transfer to stand. If so, please let me know. We all realise that the question of promotion has been a difficult one, but I feel it is only proper to point out that this has in no wise been due to lack of sympathetic interest on the part of your immediate commanding officer.

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I shall count on you to maintain the high standards of the American Army in our common cause.

Sincerely yours,

2nd Lieut. Paul M. Kiepaed Jr.,
C.A.O. Capello-Montesodorio.


Lt. Col. A.U.S., 1-81
For the D.C.C.A.O.

785015

CONFIDENTIAL.

H.Q., A.M.G.
Eighth Army.

OA/3

7 Dec 43.

Dear *Harvey*.

I am sending the enclosed letter to you privately and have not spoken to Klepacki. Frankly had it been written by any experienced Army officer (which it certainly never would have been) I would have put him under arrest.

Klepacki is young and conscientious, and I have never considered him as being one of my better officers. He was the C.A.O. who down in Calabria issued passes to Italians to return to their homes in places behind the enemy lines, for which he was duly admonished by me.

I realize, just as you do, the trouble and the difficulty about the promotion of American officers, but I cannot countenance an expression of it in this form, particularly in view of such expression being very detrimental to morale and it showing such a complete lack of appreciation of service spirit.

I should like your advice on this letter and how to handle it. If he wishes to transfer I would not oppose it, but I could hardly be expected to write a glowing recommendation.

*Yours
Cov.*

1479

Lieut-Colonel Harvey S. Gerry,
D.C.G.A.O.
H.Q., A.M.G.
15 Army Group.

*P.S. Will you return the letter
when you reply.*

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