

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPUTY THEATER JUDGE ADVOCATE'S OFFICE
WAR CRIMES BRANCH
UNITED STATES FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER

AFG 757
20 SEPT 1945

SUBJECT: Summary of Case 12-1709, GLOTHE (P).

1. NATURE OF OFFENSE: Murder of a captured American aviator.
2. PLACE AND DATE: GLOTHE, Germany (OSGS Series 4346, Sheet M52, Coordinates D77), on or about 29 June 1944.
3. FACTS AS ALLEGED: On or about 29 June 1944, an American aviator parachuted to the ground in the vicinity of LOBNITZ, Germany (OSGS Series 4346, Sheet M52, Coordinates D76). He surrendered to German nationals who turned him over to Werner SCHWENKE, Ortsgruppenleiter, and Hermann BERTRAM, a farmer and member of the home guards. They took him to GLOTHE where he was shot and killed. Only SCHWENKE and BERTRAM were present at the time of the murder. The latter, who is in custody, states that SCHWENKE is responsible for the murder. SCHWENKE, in his official report, states both of them fired. The body of the victim is buried in the cemetery at said GLOTHE. There is testimony in the file by Doctor Albert HALLENSLEBEN who examined the victim right after the shooting as to the cause of death.
4. ACCUSED: Werner SCHWENKE, Ortsgruppenleiter, has not yet been apprehended. A Wanted Report has been forwarded to CROWCASS on him. Hermann BERTRAM, a former member of the home guards, is in custody of the Seventh United States Army. The file does not disclose where he is held. A Wanted Report has been forwarded to CROWCASS on him.
5. VICTIM: The victim has been identified as James R. MURRAY, grade unknown, ASN 35274235. Request has been made of the Director General, U S Theater Graves Registration Service for evidence to confirm this identification.
6. ACTION CONTEMPLATED: An effort is being made to apprehend Werner SCHWENKE and to determine the present place of confinement of Hermann BERTRAM. When both things have been accomplished, appropriate steps will be taken to bring them to trial.

airman, shooting of

EDWARD F. LYONS, JR
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Examination Subsection

APPROVED:

12-1819-1

HENRY H. NIZE
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