

24. Rose at this time was engaged searching prisoners and their belongings, assisted by a German. Rose told me that he did this. He and Gallagher and Welsh shewed me watches which Rose had stolen by this means, the excuse being that they were military property. Two of the watches, worn by two of the three, were American Official issue. Rose remained in plain clothes until a week or two before I left, when he went into uniform too.

25. During the time I was at Luckenwalde, I took no part in any activities such as these of Rose, Welsh and Gallagher. But on one occasion I was directed to pose as a company Sergeant Major to an American Air Force Officer who had asked to see an Allied Officer or Senior NCO. I put a Crown on my sleeve and saw the American who wanted to give some information. I told him to wait until he got to a Stalag.

26. I had made it known to Helmrich that I wanted nothing to do with the activities at Luckenwalde and wanted to be sent back to a Stalag or the front. When I first mentioned this they would not let me go, but about a week before I left Schappe said to me, "Are you interested in joining the Legion of St. George?" I asked what it was and he said there were several brigades of Englishmen under a Brigadier who had been formed to fight against Communism. I shewed agreeance and a few days later Souderfuhrer Lange arrived.

27. Lange told me more or less the same thing Schappe had and that I would go first to a Camp that had been formed to pass prisoners of war through to this new Legion. He also said it had been formed by John Amery and that Brigadier Parrington had given it his support. I agreed to go to the new camp to join the Legion. My reason was to get a kick back at "Jerry".

28. About a week later one of the guards at Luckenwalde took me to the new Camp which I found was at Geushagen near Berlin. I left Rose, Welsh, and Gallagher at Luckenwalde still doing the same jobs.

29. I arrived at Geushagen about the middle of September 1943 in uniform I there met for the first time Tom Cooper (who is now in custody with me). This was immediately on my arrival. What actually happened was that when I arrived my guard handed me over to the German Camp NCO who took me into a living-room in the German guards barracks and told me to wait until the interpreter came back. There was a Souderfuhrer in the room (I forget his name, but he had been a schoolteacher) and I was left in his charge.

30. About half an hour later Cooper came in. He was dressed in SS Uniform, with no Legion or Free Corps attachments. He straight away held out his hand and said, "I'm Bottcher." I remembered I had seen him and Corporal Blewitt riding along on bicycles when I was on my way into Geushagen.

31. Cooper immediately changed into civilian clothes, left the room, and when he returned about ten minutes later, I asked him for more information about the Legion of St. George. He told me he was an Englishman who had come over to Germany just prior to the war. He said his creed was National Socialism and that the idea of the Legion of St. George was a good one. He said that some of the men in the Camp were in the Legion, but a lot of them weren't and I would have to be careful what I said. He said that the object of the Legion was the protection of Europe against Bolshevism and furthering the cause of National Socialism. He thought at first I was an American but when I told him I was a Canadian he said it was a good idea to have the whole of the British Empire represented. He struck me as being extremely fanatical about National Socialism.