

RA 13 786 982

SUBJECT: Request for Separation as Conscientious Objector (Cont)

(3) Participation in Organizations

(a) I have never before been a member of any military organization or establishment.

(b) I am not a member of any religious sect or organization. I believe religion to be of a deeply personal and private nature.

(c) The only other organizations to which I have belonged have been a Little League baseball team in Falls Church, Virginia, in 1956, for which I played third base, and the Kaiserslautern, Germany, Community Theater, for which I did set construction and other work, and provided musical accompaniment for plays from Sept 64 to Mar 65.

(4) The following people can attest to my sincerity in the matter (listed by name, occupation, address, and relationship):

(a) Sp4 Roger W. Anderson, US Army, 7th Army CCIS Unit, APO New York 09046, friend

(b) Miss Wendy Sibbison, student, 3840 Lorcom Lane, Arlington, Virginia, friend

(c) Mr. Richard M. Lamborne, student, 808 Juniper St, Alexandria, Virginia, friend

(d) Mr. Dale E. Stewart, student, 712 Biltmore Dr. Las Vegas, Nevada, friend

(e) Mr. Robert F. Engs, student teacher, Princeton Cooperative Schools Program, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, friend

(f) Chap (Capt) Bernard J. Patterson, Army Catholic Chaplain, Hq Sp Trps 7th US Army, APO New York 09046, spiritual counsellor.

2. I have been in the army for nearly two and a half years. My enlistment expires 5 Feb 66, and I fully realize that I could easily ride out the rest of it with little difficulty, perhaps even be granted an early release to attend school. However, in light of the sudden fusion within me of a lot of fragments of ideas into a deep and uncompromising belief in nonviolence as taught, and commanded, by Christ, I can be of no further use to the army, and silently serving the rest of my enlistment could be pardoned neither by my conscience or by Jesus Christ.

Francis da Cruz Jr.

FRANCIS DA CRUZ JR.
Sp4 E4, RA 13 786 982
7th Army CCIS Unit
APO US Forces 09046

1 Incl

1. DA Form 19-24

PERSONNEL ACTION
(AR 340-15)

21 June 1963

FILE REFERENCE

SUBJECT

Request for Separation as Conscientious Objector

TO: Commanding Officer
7th Army CCIS Unit
APO US Forces 09046

FROM: Sp4 E4 Francis da Cruz Jr. RA15786982
7th Army CCIS Unit
APO US Forces 09046

NR

PROCESSING ACTIONS

1. Under the provisions of AR 635-20, I request to be separated from the military service for reasons of conscientious objection.

a. The following information is submitted in accordance with para 4, AR 635-20.

(1) General Information:

- (a) Full name: Francis da Cruz Jr.
- (b) Military service number: RA 13 786 982
- (c) Selective service number: 44-9-44-919
- (d) Service address: 7th Army CCIS Unit APO New York 09046
- (e) Permanent home address: 3111 N. 20th St, Arlington, Va.
- (f) Schools attended: (name, location, dates attended, type)

- 1. Chesterbrook Elementary School, Falls Church, Va.
Sep 51 - Jun 56, public
- 2. Williamsburg Junior High School, Arlington, Va.
Sep 56 - Feb 59, public
- 3. Frankfurt American High School, Frankfurt a.M. Germany
Mar 59 - Jun 61, American overseas dependent school
- 4. Yorktown High School, Arlington, Va.
Sep 61 - Jun 62, public
- 5. University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.
Sep 62 - Jan 63, state university

(g) Except for military service, I have held only one job. I was a clerk for the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington DC from Jan to Sep 1962.

(h) I have lived at the following addresses:

- 1. Nov 44 - Jan 46: 312 19th St NE, Washington, DC
- 2. Jan 46 - Apr 47: 2304 N Glebe Rd, Arlington, Va.
- 3. Apr 47 - Jun 56: 5433 Kirby Rd, Falls Church, Va.
- 4. Jun 56 - Feb 59: 4839 N 23rd St, Arlington, Va.
- 5. Mar 59-- Jun 59: 27 Raimundstrasse, Frankfurt a.M., Germany
- 6. Jun 59 - Jul 61: 2231 Platenstrasse, Frankfurt a.M., Germany
- 7. Jul 61 - Sep 62: 4839 N 23rd St, Arlington, Va.
- 8. Sep 62 - Feb 63: 310 Humphries Hall, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.
- 9. Feb 63 - Present: US Army

USE PLAIN PAPER FOR CONTINUATION OF COMMENTS

(i) Both my parents are living. My father, Mr. Francis F. da Cruz, resides at 3111 N 20th St, Arlington, Va. My mother, Mrs. Vivian M. da Cruz, lives at 1149 E Carson Apt 1, Long Beach, Calif.

(j) My mother is a Lutheran. My father has no religious preference.

(k) I did not apply to the selective service system for classification as a conscientious objector prior to my entry into the armed forces.

(l) I have served more than 180 days on active duty in the military service.

(2) Religious Training and Belief:

(a) I do believe in a supreme being.

(b) I believe in an essentially Christian god, and I believe in Jesus Christ, who has told us, "Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also," "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, and them that hate you," "But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest; for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil," and when asked which were the greatest commandments, answered that the first was to love God above all else "and the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." There is none other commandment greater than these," and "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me." I feel that it is my duty to obey his words, even at the risk of being regarded as unpatriotic or even cowardly, for I feel that his words transcend the laws of mankind, that his love of mankind does not know national boundaries; I believe that service to one's country, inasmuch as it serves the interests of only a certain group of people, often at the expense of another group, is a disservice to humanity as a whole. I further believe that the human body is sacred, and is not meant to be sacrificed by one thousand and millions in the furtherance of national aims, whether by political action or in pursuit of even the highest ideals. An ideal, no matter how noble or admirable, attained through violence and killing, has been defiled through the unpeace means of its realization. I believe that there is a peaceful solution to every problem.

I have studied the works of many of the world's religions, and I have found that nearly all of them stress nonviolence and love of one's fellow man. Some very similar to Christ's in spirit are to be found, for instance, in the works of the Mohists, of the fourth century BC in China. Mo Tzu enumerated the great harms of the world: "attacks on small states by large ones, inroads on small families by large ones, plunder of the weak by the strong, oppression of the few by the many, deception of the simple by the cunning, and disdain toward the humble by the honored: these are the harms of the world." When things, however, are as they should be, "one is as much for other states as for his own; one is as much for families as for his own. Therefore, if the princes love one another, there will be

no war. If the ministers love one another, there will be no riot. If men love one another, there will be no plunder... Consequently, there will be no harm in the world, for all men will love one another." The Tao Teh King, of an even earlier period in China, contains the same feelings: "The more sharp weapons there are, the more benighted will grow the land;" "He that works through violence may get his way, but only what stays in its place can endure;" "He who delights in slaughter of men will never get what he looks for out of those that dwell under heaven. A host that has slain men is received with grief and mourning; he that has conquered in battle is received with rites of mourning."

The basic principles of behavior toward one's fellow man embodied in the religions of the West, of Europe and Asia, and of other areas of the world provide a way for all the people of the world to live together in peace and mutual aid. If rather than following political and military leaders, people followed their religious beliefs and their hearts and communicated with one another, all the trouble that we now seek to avert (by meeting force or potential force with more of the same) could be easily and finally ended.

I believe that any step in this direction, however small, is a significant step toward peace, brotherhood, and universal love; in short, toward the salvation of mankind. I believe that even the most seemingly insignificant gesture against the morass of misunderstanding, distrust, prejudice, hatred, violence, and bloodshed in which we live today, by anyone who recognizes the wrongness of it all, is not only right, it is necessary. Christ commands it.

The army consists of combat troops and support elements. Combat troops kill. Support elements make it possible for them to kill with the greatest efficiency. The support elements are as much, if not more, in defiance of God's Law as the combat troops. I therefore state my wish to be entirely disassociated with the whole system, and state that in any event, I will not bear arms against my fellow man. I will not kill and I do not want it upon my conscience that I have helped others to kill.

(c) My beliefs were formed through teaching, observation, reading, and meditation. I received training in the basic Christian principles as a child in church and Sunday school, and from my parents and elders. Since childhood I have observed with shock and disbelief the remarkably un-Christian way in which "Christians" often tend to treat their fellows. This holds true of members of other faiths as well. Since I was raised in a military community, it was more difficult for me to form any definite opinions on world affairs that might have coincided with ~~the~~^{the} what I had been taught about Christianity, because I was simultaneously taught, as are all Americans, that whatever we, as Americans, do, is right; that God is on our side. However, in travelling, I have met people of all races, of many national and religious backgrounds, and from my experiences, I have found that America's (and Germany's, and Japan's, and Russia's, and everyone else's) periodic campaigns against nations or ethnic groups, resulting in the death, disfiguration, injury, and personal loss of countless people, were senseless, pointless, stupid, and that God is not on anyone's side, but on the side of all mankind, if they would just realize it. Wars are waged on the principle that one is somehow better than one's enemy, and that the enemy, for his inferiority, deserves to die. National boundaries don't mark a dropping-off point for human qualities; nor do rivers or oceans or mountains. Christ commanded us to love our

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neighbors as ourselves. We were created with physical endowments that allow us naturally to construct, to love, to create new life. It is only through cunning and avarice that man has invented the tools, alien to his body, of destruction and violence, and the men that are responsible for them are relatively very small in number. Those that wish with all their hearts to live peacefully among their brothers form by far the greatest portion of the earth's population.

I have read a great deal, and have formed my own conclusions. I am a particular admirer of the Rev. Martin Luther King and his methods. Dr. King points out, "that the nonviolent resistance of the early Christians had constituted a moral offensive of such overriding power that it shook the Roman Empire. America's history had taught that nonviolence in the form of boycotts and protests had confounded the British monarchy and laid the basis for freeing the colonies from unjust domination. Within this century, the nonviolent ethic of Mahatma Gandhi and his followers had muzzled the guns of the British Empire in India and freed more than three hundred and fifty million people from colonialism." People have been fighting among themselves since the beginning of recorded history, and have accomplished nothing. There will never be a war to end all wars, unless its result is total annihilation. Everlasting peace can only be established through faith, communication, nonviolent action against injustice, and passive resistance to tyranny.

I have been spurred to the thought resulting in these conclusions for the most part by the daily newspapers, which fairly reek of examples of the atrocities committed by men in the name of God, Country, or Cause. The simple fact is that God's law is, "Thou shalt not kill," and willfull killing can not conceivably have his blessing.

(d) The individual upon whom I presently rely most for spiritual guidance is Chaplain (Captain) Bernard J. Patterson, Hq Sp Trps 7th AB Army, APO New York 09046.

(e) Force may be said to be justified in repelling force, but if force were never employed in the first place, there would never be need of repelling it. In my opinion force between human beings is only justified when it brings about more good than harm to the individual upon whom it is employed, for instance, when used to extricate someone against his will from a situation that may be harmful to him.

(f) Other than the fact that I have never killed a human being or animal, nor wished to do so, there are few deeds outstanding in my life that exemplify my beliefs. Since I have only recently crystallized them, I haven't had a great deal of opportunity to put them to much use. My ideas consist principally in "not doing" rather than "doing." However, I have held many conversations and written many letters in attempts to persuade others to my way of thinking.

(g) I have not made my views public, i.e. through any means of mass communication. They are in no way unique, and there are far more eloquent spokesmen for them than I. However, I would not hesitate to commit myself to them publicly.

21 Jun 65

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