**John Lucid**

October 14 [1942]

Dear Archie [Brown],

Didn’t get a chance to see you when I dropped by on my way out. At the time I was considerably cheered up because it seemed that I would stop putting on fat as my contribution to the defeat of fascism. Altho I knew the outfit here was a Quartermaster company, even truck driving or warehousing is better than sitting on your ass--if you can’t stay in a combat outfit.

However, I hadn’t looked forward to being in the Wehrmacht. And that is what I am in here, in effect. Altho it is called the 358 Quartermaster, it consists largely of German nationals or people of German extraction. There are a few Italians. Moreover, these people are I am sure not a cross-section of German-Americans. Anti-semitism is the core of their intellectual processes. Not all of them perhaps, but most of them certainly. One bastard, perhaps the smartest character in the bunch, ran for congress with Coughlin backing some where in the middle west. He is a veritable sewer of Fascist ideology. Another guy, a well educated bloke! apparently, spent the hour before lights out last night spewing out filth that marks him as a careful student of Streicher and Goebbels.[[1]](#footnote-1) And from down the line of double-tiered bunks came appreciations of his efforts.

There are also some anti-fascists here. Besides a small cadre of soldiers assigned to start the company--it is only a month or so old--there are three veterans of the International Brigades--you may know Morris, for one. And there is a guy named Spencer from Philadelphia who was active in the unemployed movement. And one from Wisconsin, a left-winger in the youth movement is here--his name is Hudson. Altogether ten or a dozen anti-fascists I think.

So, naturally it is necessary that these Nazi sympathizers and so on be put on ice. I would even say they are getting too good a deal here, as most of them are quite glad to be out of danger. There is little enough to do, and the sonsofbitches are far from downhearted. But, of course, the handful of antifascists want to do our part in the war and hate like hell to rub elbows with such a bunch. Or so I think.

Best Regards,

Jack

Jack Lucid (1915-77), a student at the University of Washington before going to Spain in 1938, eventually fought with the Rangers in Italy, earning a Silver Star at Anzio, and participated in the liberation of a Nazi concentration camp in Germany.

1. Julius Streicher and Joseph Goebbels were leading Nazi propagandists. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)