

Notes 125N, Copy 2

Sgt. Boleslaus Mschichowski

Vancouver, Washington

November 5, 1960

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Sgt. Boleslaus Mschichowski, Nov. 5, 1960, showed me over Vancouver Barracks. (Notes and summary of remarks by F C Pogue)

Mschichowski lives at 2610 Grant Street, Vancouver, Washington. He took me over the old fort. Dressed in trench coat and VFW overseas hat, festooned with various medallions. Under his coat he had a dozen Kennedy buttons of various sizes. His old car was covered with Kennedy posters. As he took me around he made campaign speeches. Born in Poland. He entered the US army in 1910; retired in 1953. Served in Siberia after the First World War Naturalized in 1918. Still speaks with terrific accent. At Vancouver since the 1920 understood him to say he had lived here for 34 years. After retirement stayed on for time as civilian employee. Had proprietary air about the whole place. Took me in and out of buildings, sometimes without by your leave. Rustled up various officers for me to talk to. Called me "my dear Dr. Pogue"; spoke continually of "my dear General Marshall". Had voted for Ike, but felt it was a mistake to have him. Showed me dozens of dog-eared letters from various officers under whom he had served. Gave me notes he had gathered from numerous people of the town who had once served at Vancouver and knew something of Gen Marshall. M. had served with 7th Inf and 15th Inf (in China--1913-17); also in Ph Is.

Post now used by X U S Army Corps (Reserve). Headquarters in long frame building; gabled at each end. Brick dwellings.

Marshall's quarters are a great frame building. From it one can see the river which lies to the south. Also in that direction and slightly to the west is the airfield where the Russians landed. Still used by Nat'l Guard air people. Old fort somewhat to west of the field. The Red Cross now owns the building. M/Sgt Chester E. Beaver, Post Sgt. Major, married to a German girl, now lives in the top of the Marshall place. House built in 1887 or 1888. Six bedrooms, five baths, huge dining room, large kitchen. Looked on parade ground which was later a golf course. Many trees. Pearson Air Park lies in front. Looking eastward from parade ground one sees Mt. Hood. I gather that Mr. Adams lies to rear of house.

At east end of house is a round sort of room and running off from one corner of it was his study. Big window in room. Porch. About 2000 yards to river. (Frank I. Jones, photographer, 1010 S. W. Sixth Ave., Portland has photos of Russian fliers, June 21, 1937)

Reservation covers two miles. Lies just east of town along river. Evergreen trees and magnolias. Large trees. Roses.

The old fort is extension of SE corner of Pearson Park. (Man here is William R. Sampson, Ft. Vancouver National Monument, Vancouver, Wash.)

The old fort was about a quarter of a mile front and west. To east is Mt. Hood. Kaiser shipyard to east. Apple tree, supposedly planted in 1825, is still here. Said to have been saved by Marshall.