

Mayor.

Lübbecke, 17th July 1945.

To His Honour the Mayor of Lübeck
165 Town Major
L ü b b e c k e .

re: private gardens.

In the name of all owners of gardens at Lübbecke I herewith beg to thank you for the orders given by you. Since then I received no complaints anymore that British soldiers might have harvested in any of the gardens.

Fruits are still being stolen however. I have observed myself, that a male employee of one of the messes harvested potatoes in various gardens. After my remark that this was forbidden it did not happen anymore.

Yesterday in the morning my wife was in the fruitgarden which is situated behind the flowergarden of my house 8 Osnabrückerstraße. A woman, employed at _____ appeared and on seeing my wife, remarked with astonishment that she thought, my garden would belong to the property _____ Wittekindstraße. As she asked to be allowed to gather some flowers, my wife did not object, thinking that these flowers were for the billets of British soldiers.

When the two ladies, the teacher miss Gellhausen and the wife of the dentist Dr. Stümmer, who both cultivate a small part of my garden, arrived, they found that their green beans and peas had been harvested already.

Afterwards my wife inspected her own part of the garden to find, that of one of the appletrees - the apples would not have been ripe within a fortnight - apples had been stolen.

The woman, who came into my garden to gather flowers, as she said, has a very bad reputation. In this respect the Kreisbauernführer Kemper could better be heard, for it is on his estate Renkhausen, where she lives. The garden of _____ Wittekindstraße and my garden are separated by a hedge, which is intercepted for a few metres by house-building by neighbours and a cable-trench, dug out by British Troops.

From various parts it was reported that so-called German employees make use of the opportunity of being employed within the British perimeter to steal vegetables and fruit and I take it for granted that the above-mentioned woman has stolen vegetables from the two ladies and apples from me.

I believe that many of these employees go stealing in the gardens during dinner-time of the British officers and men.

As it is not to be found out for certain in all cases that German employees are the thieves, British soldiers might be suspected of not obeying your orders and I think it would therefore also be in your interest, to provide this thievery.

Mr. Mayor, Lübbek, 17th July 1947

Only this morning my wife found that all the peaches of three of my trees had been stolen. These peaches have to ripen another fortnight and the thief has no use for unripe fruit.

Jm
The Mayor of Lübbek.

This letter being finished my wife told me, that she saw the employee of the Officers Mess No. 10 Osnabrückerstr. My wife knows this man, as he has been an apprentice in a shop, where my wife used to buy cloth. He collected currants and declared, the sergeant of the Officers Mess No. 10 Osnabrückerstr. ordered him to do so. Answering that he thought it was forbidden to collect fruit and vegetables in the gardens he was told by the sergeant, that his Lt.-colonel of the Gauleiter School ordered, that all fruit, needed by the messes have to be taken out of the garden 8, 10, 12 Osnabrückerstr.

I point out once more, that I am able to provide the Officers Messes with all fruit and vegetables out of the gardens and greenhouses of Nolte, Kerk r etc., if I will receive the order early.

I kindly request, if you will consider this affair.

Jm