

1941-05-30

SENDER

Ernest Mancoba

RECIPIENT

Mr. Fletcher

FACTS

Document type:

Letter

Date explanation:

Dated in letter.translated 2025-02-07

General comment:

Ernest Mancoba was interned in a concentration camp during World War II due to his British citizenship. Most of the time, he was in the camp La Grande Caserne, St. Denis (Seine), but he also stayed for a shorter period in Drancy, from where letters from May and June 1941 have been preserved in the Ferlov Mancoba archive, see letters from 08.05.1941, 30.05.1941, and 27.06.1941.

[Note by W. Sze] In audio files

(particularly Audio files 18-1 and 64-1), Ernest Mancoba tells that the camp commandant makes an inquiry and chastises the soldier.translated 2025-02-07

Sender's location:

Drancy

Recipient's location:

Drancy

Archive:

Ferlov Mancoba archive.translated 2025-02-07

DOCUMENT CONTENT

Letter from Ernest Mancoba to a Mr. Fletcher, presumably a camp leader or similar at the Drancy internment camp. Mancoba has been disparagingly called a "black pig" by one of the German guards. Mancoba has lost his composure and some incident has occurred. He is now asking for advice for the future in similar situations. The letter may have been sent to preempt any potential reprisals. Attached to the letter is a German translation of the writing.translated 2025-02-07

TRANSCRIPTION

Mr. Fletcher

Drancy

-

Drancy. 30th May 1941.

Dear Mr. Fletcher,

Today while I was working with a corvée group the German soldier who was in charge, while speaking in German with on the working party referred to me as a "black pig" – and was generally xxxxxx [abusive] for no reason at all. I might have lost control of myself and an unfortunate incident might have taken place. I therefore ask you what to in such a situation in future.

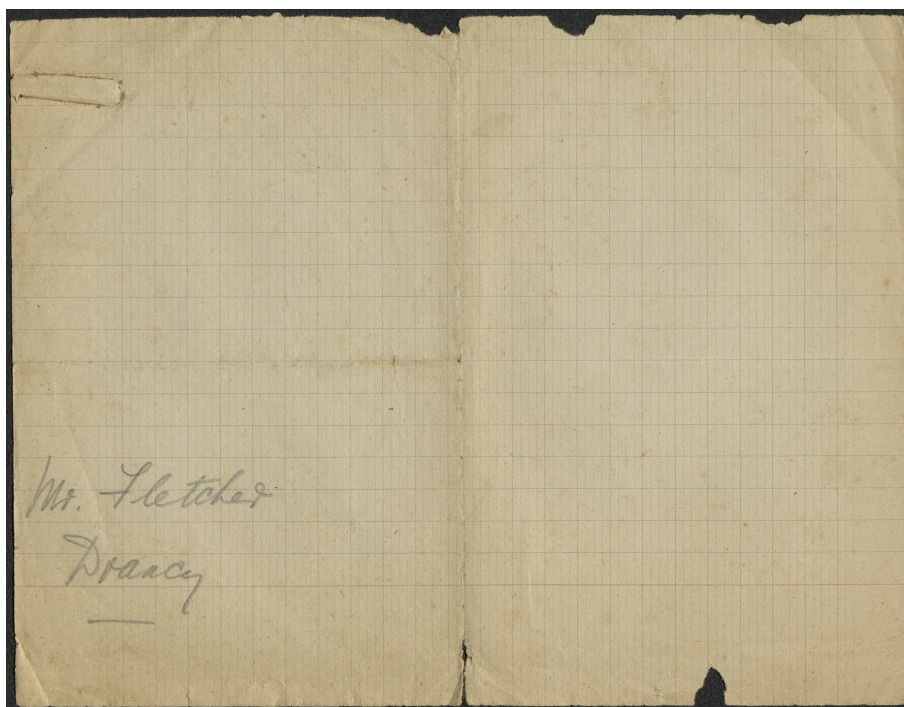
Yours respectfully.

Ernest Mancoba (870, Z.I.¹)

¹ Z.I. står for Zone d'Internement og referer til den sektion, hvor Ernest Mancoba var interneret i i Drancy-lejren.

KILDER TIL
DANSK
KUNSTHISTORIE

NY CARLSBERGFONDET



Drancy - 30th May 1941.

Dear Mr. Fletcher,

Today while I was working with a Corvée group the German soldier who was in charge, while speaking in German with one of the working party, referred to me as a "black pig" and was generally ^{abusive} ~~offensive~~ for no reason at all - I might have lost control of myself and an unfortunate incident might have taken place - I therefore ask you what to do in such a situation in future -

Yours respectfully -

Ernest Mancoba (870, 21)

Stancy den 30. Mai 1941.

Gehørte Herr Flatscher:

*Indlagt
1976 41.*

Wie ich heute mit einer Arbeits-
dienstgruppe beschäftigt war, äußerte sich
der wachhabende deutsche Soldat an sich
auf deutsch an einen Kameraden richtete,
in grober Weise über mich und gebrauchte
namentlich den Ausdruck „schwarzes
Schwein“.

Da ich ihm zu dieser Ausdrucksweise
absolut keinen Anlaß gab, hätte es ja
geschehen können, daß ich mein kaltes Blut
verloren hätte, was zu einem unglücklichen
Frischenfall hätte führen können.

Ich erlaube mir deshalb, Sie hiermit um
Rat zu fragen, was ich bei eventueller
Wiederholung dieses Falls in Zukunft zu
tun hätte?

Lb. hat am 30. 5. unter Aufsicht
des Stb. Gießwerks
gearbeitet

576.41.
Joh. Lühr.

Vorachtungswort:

gcs: ERNEST MARCOBA

Z. I. N^o 870.

*Neu am 1. 6. 41.
Präsident*