

GUARD TRADED WITH MCVEIGH

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IDABEL (AP) - A German national says he shredded the labels from uniforms traded to him by bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh, according to a published report.

In the days before the bombing, McVeigh, 27, made at least one phone call to Andreas Strassmeir, 36, at a northeastern Oklahoma white-supremacist enclave.

Strassmeir said he met McVeigh at a gun show in Tulsa in 1993, where he traded McVeigh a knife for some of McVeigh's old U.S. Army uniforms, according to the McCurtain Daily Gazette.

McVeigh and fellow suspect Terry Nichols face federal murder and conspiracy charges in the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. The bombing killed 169 people and injured more than 500.

Strassmeir told the newspaper that he shredded the uniform labels after McVeigh was arrested for the bombing.

Strassmeir, who is now back in Germany, lived for several years at Elohim City, a white-separatist compound in rural northeastern Oklahoma. McVeigh made at least one phone call to the compound before the bombing. Strassmeir said he gave McVeigh a business card with the group's phone number.

``All of this sounds like a witch hunt to me," Strassmeir said

this week in an interview with The Dallas Morning News.

Strassmeir told the Morning News that he did not remember meeting McVeigh and did not recognize a photo of the suspect shown to him by an investigator hired by McVeigh's lawyers.

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