

EX-GERMAN SOLDIER TELLS NEWSPAPER HE MAY HAVE MET MCVEIGH



The Buffalo News (Buffalo, NY)

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A German citizen who lived with a U.S. white separatist group assumes he met Oklahoma City bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh but knows nothing about his activities, the Dallas Morning News reported Thursday.

Andreas Strassmeir, a former German soldier, told the newspaper in an interview in Berlin that he did not remember meeting McVeigh but apparently bought equipment from him at a gun show and gave him a business card.

News reports have said Strassmeir is being investigated for possible ties to McVeigh, formerly of Pendleton, N.Y., accused along with Army buddy Terry Nichols of blowing up the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City April 19. The blast killed 169 people.

"All of this sounds like a witch hunt to me," Strassmeir, 36, told the Morning News.

Strassmeir said he was living at Elohim City, a camp of white separatists near Muldrow, Okla., when he apparently met McVeigh.

He said he believes he gave McVeigh a business card with a phone number there. The FBI reportedly has been investigating a call McVeigh made to the camp April 5 a few minutes after he rented the truck used to carry the bomb.

Stephen Jones, attorney for McVeigh, told Reuters Monday that he has hired a London firm to investigate possible links between the Oklahoma City bombing and German neo-Nazi groups.

The Times of London reported Sunday that both Jones and the FBI were looking into connections between McVeigh and European groups. The investigation, the newspaper said, centered on the possibility that the Oklahoma City bombing was retaliation for the Arkansas execution of white separatist Richard Snell.