

McVeigh Uniforms Traded

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A German national who met Timothy McVeigh at a Tulsa gun show in 1993, traded him a knife for some of McVeigh's old U.S. Army uniforms, the McCurtain County Gazette reports.

Andreas Strassmeir, 36, told the newspaper that he tore the labels off the clothing and shredded them after the bombing.

Strassmeir, now back in Germany, lived for several years at Elohim City, a white-separatist religious compound in rural northeastern Oklahoma. McVeigh may have tried to call Strassmeir there on April 5.

Strassmeir's attorney, Kirk Lyons, of Black Mountain, N.C., told the Tulsa World that his client had given McVeigh a card at the gun show with the compound's number and the name "Andy" written on it.

McVeigh is charged in the April 19 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building that killed 169 people.

Stephen Jones, McVeigh's chief attorney, has said that he is investigating the possibility that European neo-Nazis engineered the bombing to avenge the execution of white supremacist Richard Wayne Snell, who is buried at Elohim City. Snell was executed in Arkansas about 12 hours after the bombing.

Lyons, who represented Strassmeir in residency matters, said his client is a former German Army officer, with an interest in the Civil War and the Old West, who has no neo-Nazi ties.

He said Strassmeir never adopted the compound's belief structure and that he had nothing to do with the bombing.

Strassmeir told the Dallas Morning News that "all of this sounds like a witch hunt to me."

Lyons said that initially Strassmeir did not recall meeting McVeigh and did not recognize a photograph shown to him by a McVeigh investigator.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.