

CAPT. CHAS. F. STEVENS,  
Co. G, STATE RANGERS,  
MERCEDDES, TEXAS

*Ranger*  
May, 25th, 1918.

Maj. Walter F. Woodul,  
Assistant Adjutant General,  
Austin, Texas.

Dear Sir:-

In regard to the cases which were filed against Rangers Saddler, Sittre and Lock: I had a talk with judge Wells, yesterday, May 24th, in regard to this matter, and he is friendly to the Rangers. I also talked with Attorney Jones in regard to representing these three Rangers, but it seems that Attorney Jones wants a pretty good fee to represent these men, and these men have not much means to employ Jones to defend them. I talked to Sheriff Vann, and he asked me to have the men there June 1st, for examining trial. If this had been in any other County, there would never have been an affidavit even filed against them. It would have been left for a grand-jury investigation. Sheriff Vann blames the Mexican Consulate, claiming that the Mexican who was found dead, was a Mexican citizen and that Consulate Garza was the one who was active in the filing of these affidavits.

It seems to me that it is not so much in finding a dead Mexican, but ever since I have been active in breaking up some of this German spy work and German-propaganda in this valley, there has been a kind of underhand work being done against my Company, either to hurt my Company, or to hurt Gov. Hobbys candiacy for Governor, for having Rangers breaking up and interfering with this German propaganda. I do not accuse any-one directly, but some times money has great influence on some people, and causes them not to stop at any-thing. I would suggest that the Adjutant general would send consul here to represent these men, and if there is any such work going on in this country, it is time to show it in these examining trials and get to the bottom of the origination of some of this underhand work. The reason that I would prefer to have an out-side lawyer represent these men is this: I would like to develop matters in this examination through some Attorney who is not tied up in local politics.

I also have information that the report which was gotten up for the State in regard to the Big Bend affair, was given to the Mexican Consulate at Brownsville. I am just mentioning this because I do not want to see the Administration double-crossed for some ones personal interest, and that is one of the things which I have been strictly watching. I will try and come to Austin the first part of July. I would come there sooner but I believe it is more to the interest of the Administration and the state for me to stay closely in this territory. When I come to Austin I have things of interest to talk over with you, which it is better not to write.

Yours very respectfully,

Capt. Co. G, State Rangers.

*Chas. F. Stevens*