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29th Brigade Deserter To Make Home in Sweden

A soldier who deserted from his 29th Infantry Brigade unit at Schofield Barracks in December is in Sweden and has told his family he probably will make that country his home.

He is 25-year-old Spec. 5 Herbert Rains, who was in the Islands planning to enter the University of Hawaii when his reserve unit, the 100th Battalion, was called to active duty last May.

Rains' name has been listed by the Swedish Aliens Commission among the most recent 16 American military deserters to be granted asylum in that country. There have been 203 known desertions to Sweden.

A spokesman for the 29th Brigade said Rains was declared a deserter in December, after he was absent without leave for 30 days.

The spokesman said the Army learned some time ago that he had fled to Sweden.

Rains was married when he was called to duty, but the Army said it understood he either had separated from his wife or was divorced before his desertion.

Rains is from Lake Charles, La. His family now lives in Ponca City, Okla.

In Ponca City, his mother — Mrs. Norman Rains —

told United Press International of hearing from her son since he went to Sweden.

"I now can kill a man in about 25 different ways," she quoted one letter as saying. "I just couldn't bring myself to kill."

Rains' aversion to killing and his concern about the slaying of "civilians, especially children," in Vietnam caused him to desert, his mother said.