

LINE, an old friend of mine; will ship my two suitcases, which have arrived in M. S. GRENANGER February 7th, 1940 marked Dr. HERMANN F. ERBEN, Ship Surgeon, from Buenos Aires, to me to New York c/o PANAMA LINE, Pier 65, North River, New York City.

"(signed) HERMANN F. ERBEN, M.D. bled

On 4/11/40 [redacted] turned over to Special Agent [redacted] copies of letters from subject to S. A. PAGE, Passenger Traffic Manager, PANAMA LINE, PANAMA RAILROAD COMPANY, dated respectively on 3/14/40 at Seemann's Mission, 64 Hudson Street, Hoboken, New Jersey, and on 4/13/40 on Board S. S. PANAMA. The letter dated 3/14/40 reads as follows:

" Dr. H. F. ERBEN
Seemann's Mission, 64 Hudson Street,
Hoboken, N. J.

"3/14/40

"Mr. S. A. PAGE,
San Francisco, Cal.

"My dear Mr. PAGE:

"Since I have not heard from you, I am very much worried that my letter of March 1st 1940, asking you to do all in your power to have my 2 suitcases landed upon arrival of the "GRENANGER" on or about March 7th 1940, in San Francisco never reached you. Since they contain my entire uniforms and equipment you will realize, what it would mean to me, should they have gone on another 3 months trip around South America. I sure hope everything turned out all right and they are safely on the dock, waiting for me. Please be so kind and just drop me a line, so that I can discontinue to worry about my earthly belongings. Thanking you again for all your kindness and hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience,

"I beg to remain most gratefully yours

"(Signed) H. F. ERBEN M. D. "

The letter dated 4/13/40, consisting of three pages reflects subject as still attempting to secure possession of his two suitcases. He stated that upon his arrival in New York he had neither found the suitcases, nor a letter from GEORGE WILLIAMS. He informed that he must have the luggage by 4:00 P. M. on April 18th, sailing day.

He requests Mr. PAGE to expedite their shipment to New York. He stated that if it were impossible to make connections with him in New York on 4/18/40, Mr. PAGE should attempt to send the luggage on to either Cristobal, Colon by 4/28/40 or to the Panama Canal by 4/28/40. He advised if this should be impossible he desired that the luggage should be awaiting him in New York upon his arrival on May 4, 1940.

[redacted] also turned over to Special Agent [redacted] a copy of a telegram from subject to Mr. PAGE dated 4/15/40 reading as follows:

"Disregard air letter. Don't forward luggage. Arriving myself to San Francisco."

He also turned over to Special Agent [redacted] a copy of a telegram from Mr. PAGE to subject, dated 4/15/40, reading as follows:

"Your suitcases forwarded New York via AMERICAN RAILWAY EXPRESS April 10th. Key air-mailed April 13th. Contact Collector Customs, New York."

On 4/29/40 the writer contacted Assistant United States attorney AL ZIRPOLI, in the absence of assistant United States Attorney LOUIS MERCADO, who is handling the proceedings instituted by the Government to cancel subject's naturalization. The Bureau file was reviewed with Mr. ZIRPOLI. Upon the completion of the review he stated that the Immigration authorities had taken a similar statement from subject as that reflected in the report of Special Agent [redacted] New York City, dated 3/18/40. He is of the opinion that subject's attorney will stipulate to the greater portion of subject's statement. u

He informed that although the trial proceedings had been re-set for 5/7/40 it was presently anticipated that the trial should be continued until some time in June, subject having informed his

attorney, CHAUNCEY TRAMUTOLO, that he would be in San Francisco in the early part of June. U

Mr. ZIRPOLI stated that Mr. MERCADO would return from his vacation prior to the date on which it was anticipated the trial would be continued. As a result, he suggested that Mr. MERCADO be contacted upon his return and the information in the Bureau file concerning subject reviewed with him. U

On 5/8/40 at the Office of the Clerk of the Federal District Court, Case number 21006 W, the United States vs. subject, representing proceedings to cancel naturalization, reflected that on 9/23/38 the United States had filed a petition to cancel subject's naturalization certificate number 3,446,093, secured at San Francisco on 11/10/30, based on his petition made on 8/1/30, due to the fact that the certificate of naturalization was illegally and fraudulently procured in that subject had not resided continuously in the United States for five years previous to the filing of his petition, nor had he resided continuously in the State of California for one year prior to the filing of his petition. U

It was specifically alleged that he had not resided in the United States from the Spring of 1925 to October 13, 1926. The Government's petition was based on Exhibit A, an affidavit sworn to by JOSEPH SAVARETTI, Attorney, United States Immigration and Naturalization Service in which it was stated that the records of the Immigration Service reflect that subject had filed his declaration of intention in Morristown, New Jersey on 3/25/24, his petition on 8/1/30 at San Francisco and had received his certificate of naturalization on 11/10/30 at San Francisco. In his petition, subject alleged he had legally entered the United States at New York on 3/10/24 on the S. S. ESPERANZA, and had continuously resided in the United States from that date and had also resided continuously in San Francisco since 8/15/28, he making the exception that he had visited his family in Austria from December, 1928 to March, 1929, and from November, 1929 to February, 1930. U

The aforementioned exceptions were made by subject in a preliminary examination held before the Immigration authorities on 8/1/30. U

Mr. SAVARETTI alleged that in fact subject had been absent from the United States on the following dates: from the Spring of 1925 to October 13, 1926, having been admitted on this latter date in transit twenty days at Brownsville, Texas; from August 1, 1928 to 7/20/29, having been admitted to the United States on this latter date as a member of the crew of the S. S. MARGARET JOHNSON at San Diego, California; from 8/15/29 to 6/19/30, having been admitted to the United States at San Francisco on this latter date as a returning legal resident, upon representation of a re-entry permit issued on 8/15/29 upon the false representation that subject's last entry to the United States had been on 3/10/24. u

In addition, Mr. SAVARETTI alleged that subject had served as a surgeon on the S. S. MARGARET JOHNSON from 2/15/29 to 7/25/29; on the S. S. PARRAKOOLA from 8/15/29 to September, 1929, and on the S. S. TANDA in 1928, on a 23 day trip from the Philippines to Australia, all of these vessels being ships of foreign registrations. u

Mr. SAVARETTI alleged further that subject had never been legally admitted to the United States as a permanent resident subsequent to his absence from the Spring of 1925 to 10/31/26. u

Subject answered these allegations on 2/16/39, filing a general denial to the allegations of his failure to establish residence in the United States. u

On 11/28/39 the trial of the above proceedings was set for 2/6/40. On 1/20/40 the trial was continued to 5/7/40. On 5/7/40 the trial was continued to 8/8/40. u

A photograph of subject has been secured from Confidential Informant [redacted] by Special Agent [redacted] and is being retained in the files of the San Francisco Field Division. u 70

678 = UNDEVELOPED LEADS

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION:

- * At Los Angeles, California: Will tactfully interview ERROL FLYNN relative to the background and activities of Dr. ERBEN. u
- * Will endeavor to ascertain from FLYNN the present location of ERNEST HEMINGWAY, whom the subject has named as the other indi-

vidual to whom he would turn in the United States for assistance. u

NEW YORK CITY FIELD DIVISION:

At New York City, New York: Will keep in touch with the Bureau of Navigation and Marine Inspection to determine when Subject ERBEN obtains his seaman's papers for departure from the United States.

Will make arrangements with ELMER J. LEWIS, Supervising Customs Agent in New York City, to have an Agent of this Bureau present at the time subject's luggage is opened by the Customs Officers, as requested in San Francisco letter dated 4/11/40 to the New York Field Division.

Will advise the San Francisco Office whether the photograph transmitted them by Bureau letter 4/29/40 is identical with that of subject ERBEN, as requested in the aforementioned Bureau letter. u

Will at the Bureau of Narcotics review the files of WILLIAM GARLAND, District Supervisor, 810 Federal Office Building, for the purpose of securing information relative to the investigation reportedly conducted by the Narcotics Bureau between 1932 and 1936 concerning subject, as reported in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Washington, D. C., dated 3/26/40. b7c

SAN FRANCISCO FIELD DIVISION:

At San Francisco, California: Will contact assistant United States Attorney LOUIS MERCADO upon his return from his vacation, and review with him the information concerning subject contained in instant file, which may be of value to him in the conduct of the proceedings to revoke subject's naturalization. u

Will follow and report the results of the proceedings to revoke subject's naturalization. u

P E N D I N G

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

1300 Biscayne Building
Miami, Florida

Pr:rd
65-884

May 25, 1940

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: Dr. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN
Espionage

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at the Canal Zone, February 19, 1940, and Bureau letter dated March 9, 1940, addressed to the New York Office, copies of which were designated for interested auxiliary offices, Bureau file #65-682, which reflects at the present time there is no investigative attention that can be given to this matter by the Miami Field Division.

b7c

In view of the fact the Canal Zone Field Division has been closed, and that the activities of this individual are known to the investigative organizations in the Canal Zone, the case is being considered Referred upon completion to the office of origin.

Very truly yours,

Percy Allen
PERCY ALLEN, Jr.
Special Agent in Charge

CC: San Francisco

RECORDED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/1/79 BY SP3TEK/fg

65-682-164

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
4 MAY 28 1940
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ONE file

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

June 4, 1940

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Egan	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: Dr. Herman Frederick Erben,
Espionage.

Jimmie Fox of the Washington Star came in personally and showed me a letter from one of the Star's contacts stating that Dr. Herman Frederick Erben, formerly ship's physician on the tanker Picoma, supply ship to the German pocket battleship Graf Spee, is being held by military authorities at Fort Moultrie; that an investigation is being made by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. An officer at Fort Moultrie is also being held on the charge of having made information available to Dr. Erben. U

The letter recites that Dr. Erben was born in Austria, naturalized in the United States November 10, 1930, is a licensed physician in several states, and was a ship's physician in the United States Maritime Service, the last time being in 1939. U

It is alleged that he was in Spain assisting the Loyalists; that he has two sons in the German Army, one being killed in the present war. He joined a CCC Corps in New York and was subsequently assigned from New York to Sebring, Florida. U

Mr. Fox asked to be called and advised if Bureau has any information available. U

Respectfully,

S. J. Tracy
S. J. Tracy.

RECORDED & INDEXED 65-682-64X

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 AUG 22 1940

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COPY DESTROYED

197 JUL 29 1970

Bureau file #65-682 discloses an investigation was made of one Dr. Hermann Frederick Erben, San Francisco being the office of origin, concerning a possible espionage

TOLSON
TRACY
Egan

violation. The case is still pending. u

The State Department reported early in 1940 that Dr. Erben made suspicious contacts in Valparaiso, Chile and engaged in considerable photography through the Canal Zone. Steps were taken in San Francisco with regard to possible revocation of his citizenship papers.

The Narcotic Service advised May 4, 1940, Dr. Erben appears on their confidential list of narcotic violators. On May 5, 1940 Dr. Erben wrote the Attorney General inquiring as to whether the Federal Bureau of Investigation is investigating him. He was informed by a letter signed by the Director May 15, 1940, that he voluntarily furnished information to the New York Office of the FBI regarding his background and travels. That this information furnished by him was made a matter of record in the official files of this Bureau and further than this the Bureau was unable to make any further comment. u

The New York Office advised on May 20, 1940 that Dr. Erben was offered an appointment as contract physician by the CCC at Fort Moultrie, South Carolina. Also that the trial on the cancellation of his naturalization has been continued to August 8, 1940. u

If approved, I will advise Mr. Fox that the Bureau has no comment to make with reference to Dr. Erben. u

Fox will call me & I will advise him the Bureau has no comment

S. J. Tracy.

ST

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

San Francisco, California
June 6, 1940

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: DR. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN,
with aliases;
ESPIONAGE

Dear Sir:

b7c Reference is made to the report of Special Agent [redacted] San Francisco, California, dated May 15, 1940, in the above captioned case, reflecting on page 2 that on March 31, 1940, [redacted]

There is transmitted with this letter a photostatic copy of said letter in order that the Bureau may have specimens of Subject's handwriting on record.

Very truly yours,

N. J. L. Pieper

N. J. L. PIEPER
Special Agent in Charge

*search thru file -
✓ place copy there*

NJA:MR
65-31
Encls.

I ENCL. on [redacted] w/ [redacted] appeal

RECORDED & INDEXED

6-12-40 mty

65-652-65

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
5 JUN 10 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
<i>FIVE</i>

6:15

June 19, 1940

AIR MAIL

RECORDED - 65-682-63 ✓

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

Re: Dr. Hermann Frederick Erben,
with aliases; Espionage.

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above entitled matter and received in the Bureau June 10, 1940.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/11/79 BY SP7EK/g

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ JUN 19 1940 ★
F. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

JLG:IMS

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

#

36009

Laboratory Report

June 19, 1940

Case:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Number:

Dr. Hermann Frederick Erben,
with aliases; Espionage.

65-682-63

Specimens:

See attached sheet

Examination requested by:

Date received:

San Francisco

Examination requested:

June 10, 1940

Result of examination:

Document

Examination by:

b7c

[REDACTED]

b1

CLASSIFIED AND
EXTENDED BY... SP3.TEK/af
REASON FOR EXTENSION
FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW FOR
DECLASSIFICATION... 6/1/89
6/1/79

gld

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF
DATE 6/1/79

- 1-Bureau
- 2-San Francisco
- 1-Laboratory

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Specimens: 65-682-65 XI. Known handwriting of Dr. Hermann Frederick Erben, with aliases, consisting of the following:

Photostat of front and back of an air mail envelope addressed to Mr. George Williams.

Photostat of front and back of a letter addressed to Mr. George Williams, beginning "I am coming to you today to***".

Photostat of front and back of a letter beginning "I have made arrangements***".

Photostat of the front of a page dated March 28, 1940 bearing message beginning "This is to certify that Mr. George Williams***".

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NDW:MAL
65-16113-6
65-682-71

RECORDED

July 25, 1940

[REDACTED]

b7c,d

Dear [REDACTED]

Your recent telegram to the Honorable Claude Pepper, United States Senate, relative to one Dr. Herman Frederick Erben, has been referred to me.

I wish to express my appreciation for the interest you have taken and you may be assured that this matter will receive appropriate action.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/4/79 BY SP3 TEL/gj

65-16113-6

ORIGINAL FILED IN

NDW:MAL
65-16113-6
65-682-71 ✓

RECORDED

July 25, 1940

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SOLICITOR GENERAL

As a matter of interest to you,
I am transmitting herewith copies of a telegram
addressed to the Honorable Claude Pepper by

~~_____~~ relative to one

Dr. Herman Frederick Erben.

b7c, d

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/4/79 BY SP37EK/g

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Foxworth _____
- Mr. Nathan _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Egan _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Miss Gandy _____

NDW: MAL
65-16113-6
65-682-71

RECORDED

July 25, 1940

Honorable Claude Pepper
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

I wish to acknowledge your recent communication enclosing a copy of a telegram transmitted to you by [REDACTED]

Your courtesy and interest in transmitting this information to me are sincerely appreciated and you may be assured appropriate action will be taken in this matter.

For the completion of your file I am returning herewith the telegram from [REDACTED] copies having been made for my files.

Very truly yours,

Enclosure

b7c
11-3-6
ORIGINAL FILED IN 15

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Foxworth _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nathan _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Egan _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Miss Gandy _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/14/79 BY SP37EK/5

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

This Case Originated at: ALBANY, NEW YORK File No. 65-219 RFM

Report Made at : Date When Made : Period for : Report Made By :
: : which made :
ALBANY, NEW YORK : 6/6/40 : 5/29/40 : [REDACTED] b7c

Title : Character of Case
HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, alias :
Dr. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN : ESPIONAGE

Synopsis of Facts: Information received from New York State Department of Education that ERBEN was employed on Supply Ship to German battleship Graf Spee as Surgeon, which was sunk during the summer 1939, at which time Subject lost New York State Doctor's license. Subject reapplied for license March, 1940. Photograph of Subject obtained and does not resemble person whom he represents himself to be. Subject presently employed on Panama Railroad Steamship Line between New York City and Panama Canal.

-P-

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/10/79 BY SP37EK/6

Details:

AT ALBANY, NEW YORK:

[REDACTED] New York State Department of Education, b7c, d

advised that one, Dr. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN 64 Hudson Street, Hoboken, New Jersey had come to the attention of the Department of Education and had caused quite a little concern among the officials of the Medical Board, in view of the

COPY DESTROYED
197 JUL 29 1970

Approved and Special Agent :
Forwarded by [Signature] in Charge:

Copies of this report : JUN 26 1940
5-Bureau :
2-San Francisco :
3-Miami :
1-ONI :
1-G2 :
2-Newark :
2-New York City (Encl):
5-Albany :
FIVE BARBO [Signature]

65-219

fact that he has recently applied and has been furnished with a duplicate certificate of license to practice medicine in the State of New York after he substantially proved that he was the Doctor HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, who applied for a license to practice medicine in New York State on October 1, 1936, and was granted certificate No. 32382. In this connection [redacted] stated that the reason this individual had been suspected of espionage activities was because of the fact that he was employed on the supply ship to the German battleship Graf Spee which was sunk during the summer or fall of 1939. Both ships were sunk and scuttled by act of the German Government, whereby, Dr. ERBEN allegedly lost his medical license certificate and consequently was reapplying for a duplicate certificate. Since that time ERBEN has substantially proved to the Medical Board by means of handwriting and interview that he is the original Dr. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, who was licensed to practice medicine by the New York State Department of Education, October 1, 1936 as indicated heretofore. b7c, d

In this connection Dr. HEISLER gave the following information concerning this individuals background:

He graduated from the University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria July 23, 1926 with a degree in medicine. He was born 11/15/1897 at Vienna, Austria. After having graduated from the University, he immediately came to the United States where he first was licensed to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana in 1927. Subsequent to that time, Subject has practiced medicine in California, State of Washington, New Jersey and New York. It was noted on Subject's application for license that the following persons recommended him as to character fitness:

Dr. RUDOLPH SCHARF
850 Park Ave.,
New York City.

Dr. BENJAMIN SHALETT
424 Madison Avenue,
New York City.

[redacted] produced a photograph of Subject and one of Dr. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, which was supposedly taken shortly prior to 1936 and it was noted that there is no physical resemblance in these photographs, excepting the hair line on the forehead. b7c, d

A letter was also contained in [redacted] file which indicated that it was the belief of the New York State Medical Board

65-219

that the original Dr. ERBEN was shipwrecked off the Coast of So. Africa around 1937, since which time there has been no record of him.

Subject is presently employed by the Panama Railroad Steamship Line on the S.S. Panama in the capacity of Ship's Surgeon, this being the most recent information available concerning this individual, which was in March, 1940.

He at that time also gave his address as being 64 Hudson Street, Hoboken, New Jersey.

In this connection the file further disclosed that Subject was employed by Dr. FREDERICK M. ALLEN, Physiatrie Clinic, Morristown, New Jersey as a Laboratory Assistant in 1936. Subject also gave an address in 1936 as being 407 West Street, New York City.

It was learned through [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] had personally interviewed Subject on March 7, 1940, whereupon the writer deemed it advisable to interview [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that he knew Subject personally, in that he had interviewed him on March 7, 1940 in his office in New York City and Subject at that time stated to him that he had been on the supply ship to the German battleship Graf Spee in the fall of 1939 when this ship was sunk in the Carribean Sea. At that time his personal effects were lost and likewise his license to practice medicine in New York State and as a consequence of this loss, Subject had applied for a duplicate license. In this connection [REDACTED] also advised that Subject had requested of the Department to be furnished with a copy of the list of licensed physicians in New York State, which was a very unusual request for an unregistered physician to make. [REDACTED] pointed out that there was a distinction between a licensed physician and a registered physician; subject being the former, and the Medical Board had come to be of the opinion that this Subject was possibly engaged in espionage or sabotage activities.

65-219

b7c,d

[redacted] described this Subject as follows:

Name	Dr. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN
Height	5'9"
Weight	165
Build	Medium
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Unknown; wears eyeglasses
Complexion	Dark
Occupation	Physician
Speech	Accent
Nationality	Naturalized American
Dress	Ordinary
Characteristics	Foreign

b7c,d

[redacted] stated that it was his personal opinion that this individual looked much more like an ordinary seaman than he did a physician, and that he was probably up to no good in the United States.

b7c,d

[redacted] was requested to prepare photostatic copies of Dr. ERBEN's handwriting, who was licensed to practice in the State of New York, License No. 32382, which handwriting was displayed in the form of a long-hand letter written in 1936 and he was also requested to prepare a photostatic copy of the present Subjects known handwriting submitted in the form of a long-hand letter to the Medical Board, New York State in March, 1940. These photostatic handwriting specimens will when received be submitted to the Bureau's Technical Laboratory for appropriate handwriting examinations for the purpose of determining whether the writers of these letters are one and the same person.

It was ascertained that Subject's California State Medical License was issued 11/26/30, Certificate No. AO 5450. The address of the individual to be contacted for information from the Medical Board is 420 State Office Building, Sacramento, California and [redacted]

[redacted] is the appropriate official [redacted] b7c

ENCLOSURES: New York City Field Division; one photograph of HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, M.D. taken about January, 1940.

65-219

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE NEW YORK CITY FIELD DIVISION

AT NEW YORK CITY

Will contact appropriate officials of the Panama Railroad Steamship Line and will make discreet inquiries concerning Subject, who is presently employed on the S. S. Panama in the capacity of Ship's Surgeon.

Will at this company obtain a list of Subject's prior employment and set out appropriate leads covering this employment. This lead should be conducted with a view of developing any information which might indicate that Subject is engaged in espionage or sabotage activities.

THE NEWARK FIELD DIVISION

AT HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY

Will conduct appropriate neighborhood investigation at 64 Hudson Street, Hoboken, New Jersey, where Subject allegedly resides at the present time, with a view of developing any information concerning his activities which might indicate that he is engaged in espionage.

AT MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY

Will interview [REDACTED] at the Psychiatric Clinic, who employed Subject during 1936 as a Laboratory Assistant. Will discreetly question him concerning Subject's habits and activities along the lines indicated above. b7c, d

THE MIAMI FIELD DIVISION

AT PANAMA CANAL ZONE

Will on the receipt of more definite information from the New York City Field Division conduct appropriate investigation in the Panama Canal Zone where the S. S. Panama docks, for the purpose of ascertaining Subject's activities and associates in the Panama Canal Zone, which might indicate that he is engaged in espionage activities

65-219

THE SAN FRANCISCO FIELD DIVISION

AT SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Will contact [REDACTED] b7c 420 State Office Building, Secretary to the California Medical Board and will secure all information in his files relating to Dr. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, California Medical Certificate No. AO 5450.

THE ALBANY FIELD DIVISION

AT ALBANY, NEW YORK

Will upon receipt of photostatic copies of handwriting from the New York State Department of Education forward the same to the Bureau's Technical Laboratory for appropriate handwriting examinations as indicated in the body of this report.

Will again contact [REDACTED] b7c, d, for the purpose of obtaining any more information which he may have concerning this Subject.

- P E N D I N G -

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

JDS:BGS
65-149

Savannah, Georgia
June 8, 1940

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: DR. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN
ESPIONAGE

Dear Sir:

[REDACTED] b2, d
at Fort Moultrie advised Special Agent [REDACTED] of this office that Dr. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, who was at Ft. Moultrie for a short time, would probably bear looking into by the Bureau.

Y
According to [REDACTED] b2
[REDACTED] had an occasion to speak to this man and stated that he certainly showed evidence of strict German discipline and that he had made a comment to this effect to him. He stated further that ERBEN is now on duty at the CCC camp at Seabring, Florida, and as he is presently employed as a contract surgeon and not a reserve officer, his personnel file would not be available at Ft. Moultrie. [REDACTED] stated that according to the information he has in hand ERBEN is alleged to have admitted having been recently on a supply ship of the Graf Spee and is supposed to have entered the United States in 1923 and to have become a citizen in 1930. Since that time, he is alleged to have been working in south Africa for the German government. He is also alleged to have two sons presently in the German army.

The file of Confidential Informant [REDACTED] (whose name is already known to the Bureau) reflects that this man has been around New Orleans and Los Angeles at different times and reflects further that the Bureau has a complete file on this man. b2

Due to the fact that it appears that the Bureau has complete information with reference to this man, no leads are being set forth for the Miami Field Division to conduct an investigation at Seabring, Florida. This information is being furnished merely to inform the Bureau as to this man's present whereabouts.

Very truly yours,

J. B. SHILEY

Acting Special Agent in Charge

NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.,

65-1715
AL:CD

August 21, 1940.

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California.

Re: HERRMANN FREDERICK ERBEN
alias Dr. Hermann Frederick Erben.
ESPIONAGE.

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith a photostatic copy of the Sebring American, newspaper published at Sebring, Florida, Tuesday, June 25, 1940, carrying an article relative to the discharge of DR. ERBEN from the CCC Camp at that City.

DR. ERBEN called at the New York Field Division on June 26th and July 1st in connection with this matter, and stated that his discharge had been occasioned through inquiry made at the Civilian Conservation Corps by the Bureau and DR. ERBEN subsequently has re-contacted the New York Field Division on several occasions and finally on July 29th stated that he was leaving for the West Coast in order to attend the hearing on his naturalization matter, which was scheduled for August 8th, the details of which are already known to the San Francisco Division.

With reference to the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated June 6, 1940 at Albany, N.Y., it is noted that two leads have been set out for the New York Field Division, the first relating to an inquiry to be made of the Panama Railroad Steamship Line and the other in connection with his previous employment. No investigation is being conducted relative to these leads at this time inasmuch as previous investigation has already set forth the details of DR. ERBEN'S employment with the Panama Line as well as his previous industrial history and the case is, accordingly, being considered RUC at this time.

Very truly yours,

Enclosure
(cc) - Bureau
cc - Albany

65-682-
R. E. SACCHETTI INVESTIGATION
Special Agent in Charge
AUG 22 1940
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA**

NY FILE NO. **65-1715**

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 6/7/40	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/3/40	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE DR. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, with aliases			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Bureau of Narcotics, NYC, has no file on Dr. ERBEN. CUSTOMS AGENCY SERVICE has file beginning in 1935 relating to a shipment of monkeys brought in by ERBEN on the SS City of Rayville. Dr. ERBEN left Hoboken, NJ about 2 weeks ago leaving no forwarding address, probably at present working for CCC. **u**

AGENCY **ICC - State Dept**
 REQ. REC'D **4-20-50**
 REP'T FORW. **5-21-50**
 BY **RVA - iia**

* RUC -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent **[REDACTED]** New York, N.Y., dated 5/20/40.
 Report of Special Agent **[REDACTED]** San Francisco, Cal., dated 5/15/40. **b7c**

DETAILS:

AT-NEW YORK, NEW YORK

COPY DESTROYED

197 JUL 29 1970

[REDACTED] Administrative Officer, Office of District Supervisor, District #2, Bureau of Narcotics, 810 Federal Office Building, caused a check of his records and indices to be made and reported that his office had no file concerning Dr. **u**

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 2 - San Francisco 2 - Washington Field 3 - New York	65-168-168	JUN 2 1940
	JUN 10 P.M.	
	FIVE BARBO	

65-1725

ERBEN. He also telephonically contacted the office of District #3, Bureau of Narcotics, which covers that portion of Manhattan North of 23rd Street, and ascertained that there was likewise no record of any file relating to Dr. ERBEN in that District. U

Customs Agent [REDACTED] Customs Agency Service, 803 Federal Office Building, who is familiar with the search of Dr. ERBEN'S baggage recently, stated that his office had an extensive file on Dr. ERBEN beginning in 1935. However, he explained that the first matter with which the file was concerned was the arrival of Dr. ERBEN at New York on the S. S. City of Rayville with a shipment of monkeys, some of which were dead. Aside from this matter, the file contained no investigation or data concerning ERBEN until the recent search of his baggage. Both of these matters have heretofore been set forth herein in detail and will not be repeated here. b7c

Agent [REDACTED] stated that Dr. ERBEN had at one time been listed as a suspected smuggler of narcotics, but although his effects were rigidly searched at every opportunity, no narcotics except those to which he was entitled as a physician were ever found, and accordingly Dr. ERBEN'S name had been removed from such list. [REDACTED] characterized Dr. ERBEN as an individual who was somewhat eccentric and who went out of his way to get himself into trouble by his loose talk and aggressive personality, but one who was basically harmless.

Inasmuch as Dr. ERBEN had not appeared at the New York Division for several weeks, a telephone call was made to the SEEMANNSHAUS DEUTSCHE, 64 Hudson Street, Hoboken, New Jersey, where the room clerk informed the writer that Dr. ERBEN left about two weeks ago, going South somewhere. The clerk stated that no forwarding address was left, and he was uncertain as to ERBEN'S whereabouts, hazarding a guess that he might be in Florida. U

Since Dr. ERBEN has previously advised the New York Division of the offer made to him to become a contract surgeon for the Civilian Conservation Corps, Division 1, Fort Moultrie, South Carolina, which offer had to be accepted by May 18, it appears probable that the offer was accepted by Dr. ERBEN, and a lead is being set out for the Washington Field Division to check with the headquarters of the Civilian Conservation Corps to determine his present whereabouts. U

65-1725

UNDEVELOPED LEAD:

THE WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION, at Washington, D. C. will conduct appropriate investigation at the headquarters of the Civilian Conservation Corps to determine whether Dr. ERBEN accepted the appointment offered him as a contract surgeon, Division 1, Fort Moultrie, South Carolina, and determine his present whereabouts. u

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
65-682-69

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
ALBANY, NEW YORK

June 24, 1940

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

ATTN: TECHNICAL LABORATORY

RE: HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN,
alias Dr. Hermann Frederick Erben.
ESPIONAGE.

Dear Sir:

There are transmitted herewith photostatic copies of two letters; the first being dated December 5, 1926 and consisting of one page; the second being dated April 14, 1940 and consisting of three pages. The former document is signed "Dr. HERMANN F. ERBEN," while the latter is signed "H. E. Erben, M. D.". These two documents are supposed to have been written by one and the same individual, having been directed to and received by the New York State Department of Education, Board of Medical Examiners. However, the photographs submitted in each instance for identification purposes bear no resemblance. u

Inasmuch as it becomes important to determine if the documents were written by the same person, it is respectfully requested that an appropriate handwriting examination be made of these documents in the Bureau's Technical Laboratory, and that this office be advised of the conclusion reached. u

This material should be returned to the Albany Field Division after it has served its purpose at the Bureau. u

RECORDED - 165

Very truly yours,

G. A. STEVENS
Special Agent in Charge

JUN 25 1940

UNIT
ORIGINAL TO LABORATORY

ENCLOSURE

COPY DESTROYED
19 AUG 12 1970

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/22/79 BY SP3/TJK/16

WHC:MH
Enclosures
65-219

April

6-27-40

SWM:EG

July 9, 1940

65-682 -70

REGISTERED MAIL

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge
Albany, New York

Re: Hermann Frederick Erben, alias
Dr. Hermann Frederick Erben;
Espionage.

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above entitled matter and received in the Bureau

June 25, 1940.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/4/79 BY SP3TEK/16

Enclosure:

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
San Francisco
MAILED
JUL 10 1940
F. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MA

Handwritten signatures and initials: Allen, vgn, [unclear], [unclear]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

36270

SWM:EQ

July 8, 1940

Laboratory Report

Case: Hermann Frederick Erben, alias
Dr. Hermann Frederick Erben; Espionage.

Number: 65-682-70

Specimens:
See attached page

Examination requested by: Albany

Date received: 6/25/40

Examination requested: Document

Result of examination: Examination by: [REDACTED]

It has been concluded that Hermann Frederick Erben, KI, also wrote specimens Q1 through Q4. Specimen K1 was submitted by the San Francisco field office June 6, 1940

The original evidence is being returned herewith.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/4/79 BY SP3TEK/g

- 1 - Bureau
- 2 - Albany
- 1 - San Francisco
- 1 - Laboratory

Page 2

Laboratory Report #36270

Specimens:

65-682-70 The following listed specimens are photostats:

- Q1. Letter dated December 5, 1926 beginning "I received your letter of Nov. 30**".
- Q2. First sheet of three-page letter dated April 14, 1940, first page beginning "May I at first thank you**".
- Q3. Second sheet of letter beginning "1.) What is the cost of a**".
- Q4. Third sheet of letter beginning "I wish to apologise, therefore, for**".

Copy - dc

UNITED STATES SENATE

June 21st, 1940

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Attached is a telegram from [redacted] which is self-explanatory.

6746

I am sure that the information conveyed will have appropriate action.

With all good wishes to you, I am

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ CLAUDE PEPPER

CP:Ja
Encl.

ORIGINAL FILED 17

ENCLOSURE

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

63-682-71
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 8 1940
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WESTERN UNION

WA 199 77 DA CIKKECT XC-SEBRING FLO 19 1132A

US SENATOR CLAUDE PEPPER

SUGGEST IMMEDIATE SENATE INVESTIGATION CIRCUMSTANCES PERMITTING EMPLOYMENT
OF FORMER GRAF SPEE TENDER SURGEON DR. HERMAN FREDERICK LUBER WHO IN
BROAD GERMAN ACCENT TODAY TOLD HE LOST HIS JOB AND TOLLS WHEN GRAF SPEE SANK
STOP SOON AFTER WAS EMPLOYED AND ASSIGNED TO GOVERNMENT CAMP HERE THOUGH
ADMITTEDLY CITIZEN OF BOTH GERMANY AND UNITED STATES AT THE SAME TIME STOP
HOW CAN THIS BE POSSIBLE STOP HIS EMPLOYMENT HERE PUBLIC SCANDAL AND REFLECTION
ON AGENCIES THAT WILL PERMIT THIS.

[REDACTED]

b7c, d

65-682-71

RECORDED 67-692-81
JHW:ECR

December 16, 1940

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

RE: **HEINRICH FREDERICK KUBER, was**
ESPIONAGE

Dear Sir:

For your information and possible aid in the investigation of this matter, I am transmitting herewith copies of strictly confidential Report No. 667 of the United States Legation at Montevideo, Uruguay, that was forwarded to me by letter dated December 5, 1940, from the State Department.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

cc Mount

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ DEC 16 1940 ★
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Handwritten signatures and initials

REC'D EXH: JHK
65-682-7

August 26, 1940

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

Re: DR. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, with
aliases; ESPIONAGE.

Dear Sir:

b7c

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Albany, New York, on June 6, 1940, in the above entitled matter. U

Please be advised that the San Francisco Office is the office of origin in this case rather than the Albany Office as was reflected in the aforementioned report. U

For the benefit of the San Francisco Office, I am transmitting herewith two copies of a letter dated at Buenos Aires, June 21, 1940, addressed to the Secretary of State at Washington, D. C., by Mr. Norman Armour, the American Consul at Buenos Aires. A copy of the aforementioned letter was transmitted to the Bureau by the Department of State by letter dated July 2, 1940.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Foxworth _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nathan _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Egan _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
 Enclosure
 MAILED
 *cc New York
 Miami 1940 *
 Newark
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Handwritten signatures and initials:
 [Signature]
 RPD
 [Initials]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
ALBANY, NEW YORK

August 3, 1940

12
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, with alias;
ESPIONAGE

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the letter from the Miami Field Office to the Albany Field Office dated July 19, 1940, wherein it was pointed out that the Bureau by letter dated March 9, 1940 directed that the San Francisco Field Office be designated as the office of origin in the instant case.

Accordingly, therefore, it is being requested by this office that the Bureau consolidate the cases of the above title with the case wherein the San Francisco Office is office of origin and the case wherein the Albany Office is origin in the case entitled "HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, alias Dr. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN".

It is pointed out that the only report at the present time in the Albany case is the report of Special Agent ██████████ Albany, New York, dated June 6, 1940.

b7c It should be noted that said report indicates that San Francisco received copies of it, thereby furnishing that office with all information in the possession of the Albany Field Office.

Very truly yours,

G. A. Stevens
G. A. STEVENS
Special Agent in Charge

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no

65-682-73
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
5 AUG 5 1940
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/4/79 BY SP37EK/16

TJJ:PK
65-219
cc New York
cc San Francisco

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Newark, New Jersey

CONFIDENTIAL

August 13, 1940

LJQ:RBT
65-190

ij

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Re: HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN,
with alias - ESPIONAGE

Dear Sir:

[REDACTED]

B1

Very truly yours,

A. P. Kitchen

A. P. KITCHIN,
Special Agent in Charge.

cc - Albany

CLASSIFIED AND
EXTENDED BY *SP3TEL/g*
REASON FOR EXTENSION
FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW FOR
DECLASSIFICATION *6/14/89*

6/4/79

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INDEX DIVISION

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF
DATE *6/14/79*

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65-682-75
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
4 AUG 14 1940
U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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HER:MOL

October 30, 1940

RECORDED

65-682-75X

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.

[REDACTED]

CB

Please refer to file IE-ATBI-730624

My dear Sir:

[REDACTED]

With expressions of my esteem, I am

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. Nathan _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Foxworth _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Egan _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Hendon _____
- Mr. Meluire _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Pennington _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Adm. File _____
- Per. File _____
- Trng. Sec. _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Miss Gandy _____

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OCT 31 1940

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DATE OF REVIEW FOR
DECLASSIFICATION... 6/4/89
6/4/79

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ OCT 30 1940 ★
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CONFIDENTIAL

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA**

FILE NO. **65-26**

REPORT MADE AT Washington, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 9/18/40	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6-28, 9-13-40	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] FVM:KL
TITLE DR. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, with aliases			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE b7c

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Dr. ERBEN was appointed surgeon in District I, CCC, Fort Moultrie, on May 18, 1940 for the balance of the fiscal year. His contract was not renewed June 30, 1940. His present address is Seaman's Mission, 64 Hudson Street, Hoboken, New Jersey. *u*

AGENCY *100-5111-11*
REC. REC'D *4-30-58*
REP'T FORW. *5-21-58*
BY *[Signature]*

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent **[REDACTED]** at New York, New York dated June 7, 1940. *u*

DETAILS:

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

On June 27, 1940, Dr. ERBEN called at the Washington Field Office, desiring to speak to Special Agent **[REDACTED]** regarding information that he had furnished to **[REDACTED]** concerning himself on a previous visit to the Washington Field Office. *u*

Dr. ERBEN was advised that Agent **[REDACTED]** was not in the office, at which time he informed the writer that he has had difficulty in keeping any position in connection with the United States Government. He stated that recently he was advised that his services would not be needed in the Civilian Conservation Corps where he has been employed in South Carolina. Dr. ERBEN indicated that he was of the opinion that the Naval Intelligence and the Federal Bureau of Investigation had something to do with his services being terminated in the Civilian Conservation Corps and desired information concerning his status with the Federal Bureau of

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

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197 JUL 29 1970 COPIES OF THIS REPORT

- 5-Bureau
- 2-San Francisco
- 3-New York
- 3-Washington Field

SEP 20 1940

Investigation. He also displayed a letter dated May 27, 1940, from the Bureau regarding his visit to the New York Field Division, at which time he desired information concerning any investigation as to his activities. The writer informed Dr. ERBEN that the letter which he has received from the Bureau explained his status as far as the Federal Bureau of Investigation was concerned and that the writer had no information which could be added to the Bureau's letter. Dr. ERBEN also displayed a letter from the Naval Intelligence which also indicated that he had made inquiry there concerning his status, and the letter from the Naval Intelligence contained approximately the same information as the Bureau letter dated May 27, 1940. u

Dr. ERBEN was very interested in wanting to know if the writer was making any note of his visit to the Washington Field Office. It is to be noted that Dr. ERBEN was very persistent in attempting to obtain information concerning any files relating to him in this office. However, no information was given Dr. ERBEN along these lines. He stated that he was leaving Washington on the afternoon of June 27, 1940 and his address would be Seaman's Mission, 64 Hudson Street, Hoboken, New Jersey. u

On September 13, 1940 at the Adjutant General's office, CCC, Munitions Building, the file showed that Dr. ERBEN was appointed surgeon at District I, CCC, Fort Moultrie, May 18, 1940 for the balance of the fiscal year. His contract was not renewed June 30, 1940 for official reasons stated availability of officers more suited to the duty. The files also revealed that among other references he gave the one of Dr. B. SHALETT, 424 Madison Avenue, New York City.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN - u

Los Angeles, California
September 21, 1940

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/14/79 BY SP3 JEM

Re: DR. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN
ESPIONAGE

Dear Sir:

b7c [redacted] Reference is made to report of Special Agent dated New York City, March 18, 1940, in the above captioned matter.

You were advised that through the assistance of his agent, WALTER HEINZE, and his attorney, OSCAR CUMMINS, ERROL FLYNN, motion picture actor, was interviewed at the Warner Bros. Studio, Burbank, California, by Special Agent in Charge R. B. HOOD.

Mr. FLYNN at the outset of the interview, admitted being acquainted with DR. ERBEN and regarded him highly. They have been acquainted for about ten years and have traveled extensively together all over the world. They first met in Guiana. FLYNN believes that DR. ERBEN has a very brilliant mind and is an excellent physician; that he is the type of person who would do everything in his power to make it appear that he was in fact an espionage agent. FLYNN was of the opinion that DR. ERBEN has the propensity for getting into trouble.

Mr. FLYNN stated that heretofore ERBEN had been very much opposed to Nazism and Communism and from what he, FLYNN, knows of his background, he does not believe ERBEN would now be a devout Nazi. FLYNN informed that he had several letters in his possession from ERBEN which he would turn over to Mr. HOOD for examination.

As evidence of ERBEN'S ability, FLYNN stated he had gone to Australia about 1932 or 1934 as the head of an expedition for the Rockefeller Institute, where he has seen the doctor work twenty-four hours at a stretch entirely without compensation. ERBEN recently advised FLYNN of his difficulties with the Immigration Bureau and as a result thereof FLYNN communicated with Mrs. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT in an effort to have her do anything possible for ERBEN.

INDEXED

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
F. B. I.
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SEP 23 8 11 AM '40

5-682-768
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
5 SEP 23 1940
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FIVE

San Francisco

-2-

September 21, 1950

Subsequent to this interview, FLYNN was again contacted on several occasions in order to secure the letters which he promised. However, they have not been forthcoming, and at the present time it is understood that he is on an extensive tour. No further effort will be made to secure these letters unless so advised by the office of origin.

There being no further investigation in this matter, it is being referred upon completion to the office of origin.

Yours very truly,

ARTHUR CORNELIUS, JR.
Special Agent in Charge

RECEIVED
SEP 22 1950
FBI
cc- Bureau
cc- New York