

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CONFIDENTIAL

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

FILE NO. **65-229**

REPORT MADE AT ALBANY, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 9/25/40	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7/2/40, 9/11/40	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE ERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN alias Dr. Hermann Frederick Erben			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: [REDACTED] b7c, d [REDACTED] advised that the last information he had concerning the Subject of instant case was at the address given him on June 25, 1940, was Camp 453 Sebring, Florida. Results of Laboratory examination set out. AGENCY 100-2206-V-a REQ. REC'D 4-30-52 REP'T FORM 5-21-58 -R.U.C.- b7c BL RKS - 220			
Reference: Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Albany, N.Y. dated 6/6/40. Letter from Miami to Albany 7/19/40. Letter from Bureau to San Francisco dated 8/26/40			
Details: AT ALBANY, NEW YORK On July 2, 1940 [REDACTED] telephonically communicated with the Albany Office and advised that he had received information to the effect that as of June 25, 1940, the new address of the Subject in the instant case is Camp 453, Sebring, Florida.			
By Laboratory Report dated July 9, 1940, it is reflected that the handwriting specimens submitted by the Albany Office on June 24, 1940, to the Technical Laboratory which consisted of two documents			

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.

COPY DESTROYED

07 JUL 29 1970

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 65-229-77 SEP 27 1940
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5-Bureau 2-San Francisco 2-Newark 2-Albany	APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF DATE SEP 26 P.M. FIVE HARBOR

CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY SP3 [Signature]
 REASON FOR EXTENSION FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2
 DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION 6/19/89

65-229-77

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

65-219

signed "Dr. HERMANN" and "H. E. ERBEN, M.D." were identical with the known handwriting specimens of the Subject, which were submitted by the San Francisco Field Office on June 6, 1940.

b7c
1

By letter dated July 19, 1940, the Miami Field Division advised the investigation requested by the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Albany, N.Y., dated 6/6/40; in the instant case has been completed and was reflected in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Canal Zone, dated February 19, 1940.

[REDACTED] B1
(c)

A letter from the Bureau to the San Francisco Office dated August 26, 1940, reflects that the San Francisco Office has been designated the Office of Origin in this case.

b7c,d

[REDACTED] referred to above was reinterviewed on September 11, 1940, at which time he advised that he has received no further information concerning the activities of the Subject ERBEN.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

*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.

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

65-219

THE SAN FRANCISCO FIELD DIVISION

AT SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Will contact [REDACTED]

and

will secure all information in his files relating to Dr. HERMANN
FREDERICK ERBEN, California Medical Certificate No. AO 5450.

b7c/d

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

CONFIDENTIAL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

Transmit the following Teletype message to: SAN FRANCISCO AND NEW YORK

FBI NEWARK OCTOBER 7-1940 6-20 PM GLP

SAC SAN FRANCISCO AND NEW YORK

HERMAN FREDERICK ERREN, WITH ALIASES, ESPIONAGE. 



b7c, d

KITCHIN

END

ACK PLS

SAN FRANCISCO OK FBI SAN FRANCISCO

NEW YORK OK FBI NEW YORK CITY

DISCONNECT

cc Bureau
cc Seattle
cc Nwk, File #65-490

65-490

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/4/79 BY SP3TEK/2

INDEXED

65-673-77k
SEAL OF INVESTIGATION

OCT 8 1940

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CONFIDENTIAL

This case originated at: SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

File No. 65-490 P/LP

Report made at: NEWARK, NEW JERSEY	Date made: 10/8/40	Period: 6/11, 12/40; 8/28/40; 10/7/40	Report made by
Title HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, with alias		Character of Case ESPIONAGE	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS

Handwritten notes:
X-2
AC
215
201
L P

Handwritten: B1

Handwritten: State, Va
REC'D 4-30-58
REC'D 5-21-58
BY 19-222

- P -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent ED and New York, dated June 6, 1940. EXTENDED BY SP-3 *Handwritten initials*

DETAILS:

AT HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY.

REASON FOR EXTENSION
FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION 6/4/89

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

advised that the DEUTSCHE SEMMENS HOME was located at the above address He subsequently advised that Subject never resided at the home but used it merely as a mailing address, and that his mail was presently being forwarded from that point to Civilian Conservation Corps Camp 453, Sobring, Florida. could not recall the name of the man who had volunteered the above information to

COPY DESTROYED

197 JUL 29 1970

Approved: <i>Atkinson</i> SAC	65-682-78	OCT 12 1940
Copies of this report: 5 - Bureau 5 - Albany 2 - New York (info) 2 - Miami 2 - Detroit (info) 2 - Seattle (info)	2 - San Francisco (info) 2 - Los Angeles (info) 2 - Chicago (info) 2 - Wash Field (info) 2 - Savannah (info) 2 - Newark	APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF DATE 8/19/79

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

65-490

him but advised that that person know nothing further about ERBEN inasmuch as the latter had never lived at the homo.

[REDACTED]

AT MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that DR. FREDERICK M. ALLEN had not practiced at Morristown since 1933 or 1934. She had no knowledge as to where he was presently located. Efforts were made through several doctors in Morristown to develop information concerning DR. ALLEN'S whereabouts but with negative results. Agent consulted the 1938 Physicians' and Surgeons' Directory and therein it was found the name of DR. FREDERICK MADISON ALLEN and listed his office as 1031 - 5th Avenue, New York City, New York. He was also listed as a Diabetic Specialist, and in that connection it should be noted that [REDACTED] advised that when DR. ALLEN was practicing in Morristown, persons suffering from diabetes composed the greater number of his patients.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____ was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies): _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
65-682-78 pg 3-5

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

65-490

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

B1

b7c, d

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION.

AT NEW YORK CITY

At 1031 - 5th Avenue will determine if DR. FREDERICK M. DISON ALLEN is identical with the DR. ALLEN set out in reference report, and if so, will conduct investigation in compliance with lead set out for this office in that report.

NEWARK FIELD DIVISION.

AT HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY

[REDACTED]

B1

- PENDING -

CONFIDENTIAL

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

137993

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OTHERWISE

October 16, 1940

WFO:GLP
65-490

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY

Re: HERMANN FREDERICK BRUBE, with alias
ESPIONAGE

Dear Sir:

[REDACTED]

B1

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF DATE 11/19/79

CLASSIFIED AND
EXTENDED BY SP3 TRL/g
REASON FOR EXTENSION
FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW FOR
DECLASSIFICATION 6/4/89
6/4/79

INDEXED

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65-682-78X
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
3 OCT 16 1940
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Letter to SAC, San Francisco
65-490

137974

Newark, New Jersey
October 16, 1940

[REDACTED]

BY
C

Very truly yours,

A. F. KITCHEN
Special Agent in Charge

cc Bureau
cc New York City

Los Angeles, California
October 27, 1940
P.O. Box 631

CONFIDENTIAL

137992

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

Re: BERNHARD FREDERICK BERN,
with alias: ESPIONAGE

Dear Sir:

[REDACTED]

B1

This is being furnished to you for
your information.

Very truly yours,

CLASSIFIED AND
EXTENDED BY: SP3TER/...
REASON FOR EXTENSION
FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW FOR
DECLASSIFICATION: 6/4/89
6/4/99

D. D. Egan,
Special Agent in Charge

AM:Hol
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SEARCHED
INDEXED

65-1082-78X1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

2 OCT 31 1940

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FIVE

ALL FIELD AGENCIES
AND OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP OF
DATE

E B I

RECEIVED - MAIL ROOM

OCT 31 8 31 AM '40

CONFIDENTIAL

65-682-78x2
CHANGED TO
65-48912-1

JUL 25 1957

(Duplicate)

by g

Seattle, Washington

October 28, 1940

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

RE: FRIEDRICH HERMAN URDEN, with alias;
ESPIONAGE.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to my letter dated October 23, 1940, captioned "FRIEDRICH HERMAN URDEN, with alias; ESPIONAGE".

You are advised that my letter refers to HERMANN FREDERICK FRESH, with alias, the subject of an espionage investigation, of which San Francisco Office is origin.

Yours very truly,

S. J. DRAYTON,
Special Agent in Charge

RECEIVED - LETTER
NOV 5 1940

SPB:MC
65-1537
cc Bureau

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

15-682
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
3 NOV 2 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BUVANCE
62-482

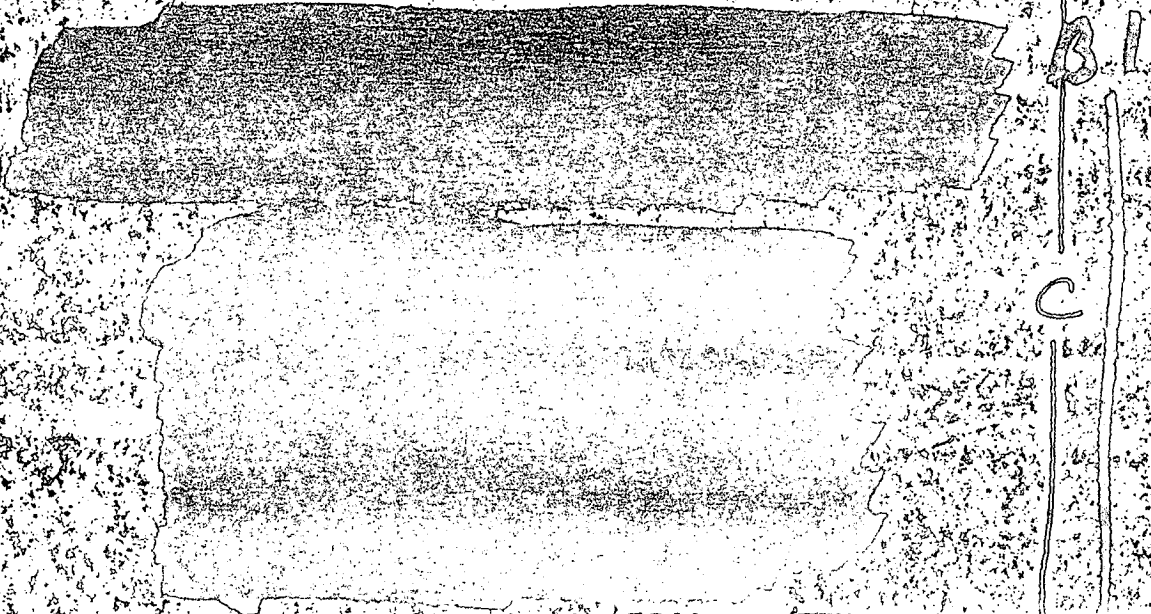
October 30, 1940

CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY *SP3 TOK/af*
REASON FOR EXTENSION *(1)(3)*
FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION *6/4/89*
6/4/79

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

Please refer to File # FBI-79052A

Dear Sir:



B1
C

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E.A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease
- Mr. G. L. Thomas
- Adm. Files
- Pers. Files
- Training
- Mr. Tamm
- Miss Gandy

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF DATE *11/1/40*

RECORDED
Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

65-1682-79
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
4 NOV 2 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Seattle, Washington

137989

CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY 614179 SP3TEK/...
REASON FOR EXTENSION (1)
FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION 6.14.89

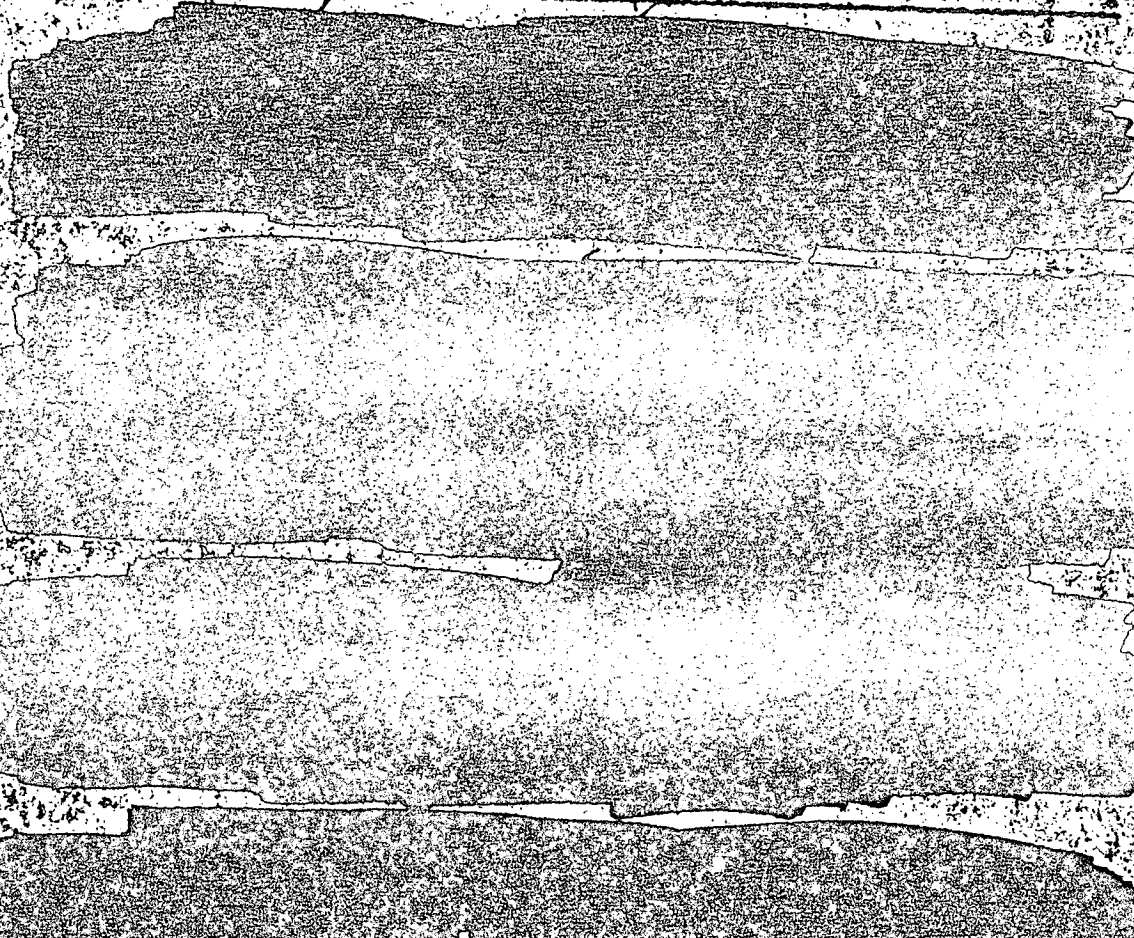
~~SECRET~~

October 23, 1940

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

Dear Sir:

RE: FRIEDRICH HERMAN URBEN, with alias, Hermann
Friedrich Urban,
ESPIONAGE



APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF DATE

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-684-19X

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

OCT 25 1940

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

~~SECRET~~

FIVE

~~SECRET~~

SAO, San Francisco -2-
Re: FRIEDRICH HERMAN URBEH, wa;
ESPIONAGE.

10/23/40

[REDACTED]

It is noted that on October 2, 1940 Special Agent [REDACTED] of this office telephonically contacted the San Francisco Bureau Office and was advised by Special Agent in Charge W. J. L. PIEPER that there was no basis for detaining URBEH, and that investigation of his activities at Seattle, Washington was not requested. In view of this advice, no further action is contemplated by the Seattle Office. U

Yours very truly,

S. J. DRAYTON,
Special Agent in Charge

EEB:MC
65-1537
65 Bureau

~~SECRET~~

JWS: mm

November 24, 1940.

137988

65-682

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6/4/79 BY SP3TEK/g

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

DR. HERMANN FREDERICK BIRTH,
RE: with aliases
ESPIONAGE - C.

Dear Sir:

The Bureau desires that it be advised as to
the exact status of this case at the present time.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Handwritten notes:
65-682-80
65-682-80
65-682-80

See New York
List

RECORDED

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ NOV 28 1940 ★
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

65-682-80
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
6 NOV 29 1940
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Handwritten signature

Handwritten initials: JWS

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
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For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
65-682-81

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FOR THIS PAGE
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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

San Francisco, California
December 18, 1940

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

RE: DR. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN,
with aliases -
ESPIONAGE - G

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated November 28,
1940, Bureau file 65-682, which requested information as to
the exact status of this case at the present time.

This is to advise that a report has been dictated,
and will be forthcoming in the near future.

Very truly yours,

N. J. L. Pieper
N. J. L. PIEPER
Special Agent in Charge

DCS:CC
65-31

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/4/79 BY SP3TEK/9
RECORDED

65-682-82
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
6 DEC 26 1940
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FIVE *HW*

81

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Form No. 1

This Case Originated At SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

File No. 65-3

Report Made at
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

Date Made
12/19/40

Period
9/19, 30; 10/4,
8, 10, 18, 21;
12/6/40

Made by
[REDACTED]

Title

DR. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, with alias

Character of Case

ESPIONAGE - G

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
On August 20, 1940 Dr. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN called at the San Francisco Office and advised he is residing at 733 Howard Street, San Francisco. DR. ERBEN returned several times subsequently and stated that he has obtained employment on various ships only to be discharged when the shipping line learned of his identity. On September 23, 1940 ERBEN departed from San Francisco on the ship Admiral Nulton of the Admiral Lines as the ship's doctor bound for Vladivostok. He was discharged from the ship at Seattle and returned to San Francisco. ERBEN made an effort to leave on a boat scheduled to touch various U. S. Naval bases, but upon learning of this the U. S. Attorney reportedly issued a warrant based on a pending hearing to prevent his departure. The hearing involves an effort to cancel his naturalization certificate, and the trial is now set for December 1940.

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CLASSIFIED AND
EXTENDED BY SP3 TEK/af
REASON FOR EXTENSION
FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW FOR
DECLASSIFICATION 6/14/89
6/14/79

AGENCY ICC - State - VLS
REQ. REC'D 4-30-58
REP'T FORW. 5-21-58
BY BKS - [initials]

- P -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] San Francisco, California, May 15, 1940.

DETAILS:

o dms
ref 1-16-57

Reference is made to Bureau letter, Bureau file 65-682, dated April 29, 1940 which contained the following information as to Dr. ERBEN. It seems that Dr. ERBEN for three years was ship's doctor with the Dollar Line's Steamship Company, and was discharged from the S. S. Garfield because of suspicion that he was

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197 JUL 29 1970

Approved: [Signature] SAC

- 5 - Bureau
- 2 - New York City
- 2 - Newark
- 1 - Seattle (Inf.)
- 2 - San Francisco

65-682-183 JAN 3 1941

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ DEC 26 1940

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S)
DATE 6/19/79

FIVE HARBO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

engaged in trafficking narcotics. He was subsequently reported practicing medicine in Shanghai, and alleged to have associated with a group of doctors who were handling narcotics. He was also said to have connections at Manila and Singapore, and to maintain a residence at III Arenbergring, 19 Vienna. His description is set forth as follows:

Nationality -	American (Naturalized)
Place of birth -	Vienna, Austria
Date of birth -	November 15, 1897
Address in U.S. - (1930)	St. Josef's Hospital, Buena Vista and Hill Avenue, San Francisco, California
Height -	6 feet
Weight -	About 200 pounds
Hair -	Blond
Eyes -	Blue
Occupation -	Physician.
Scars & Marks -	Scar on right thumb and on left cheek;
Speech -	Speaks English, Russian, German and French; claims to be a Russian and a member of the "White Russians" (Anti-Soviet)

b2
The Bureau pointed out that this information had come from a confidential source. Further it was pointed out that the letter from the New York City office dated March 20, 1940 stated that Dr. ERBEN had stated certain papers delivered to him at Buenos Aires by the German Consulate were turned over to the Gestapo Agent at Antofagasta, Chile to be transmitted by registered mail to Dr. ERBEN's friend, Dr. RUDOLPH SCHARF, 850 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y. These documents were not received by Dr. SCHARF, according to Dr. ERBEN, which had caused him undue anxiety. The Bureau pointed out that it may be that the mailing of these so-called communications might involve Dr. ERBEN's narcotics activities. The Bureau forwarded photographs of Dr. ERBEN to New York, and by letter to the Bureau dated May 10, 1940, the New York City office advised that Special Agent [redacted] of that office, who interviewed Dr. ERBEN, had identified the photograph as that of Dr. ERBEN.

By letter dated June 30, 1940 the Bureau transmitted copies of depositions dated April 17 and 26, 1940 received by the State Department by the American Consul at Antofagasta, Chile, pertaining to DR. ERBEN. The report from Antafagasta dated April 17, 1940 stated that Dr. ERBEN had been signed on the American S. S. Nightingale at Antofagasta, Chile in the capacity of messman for the voyage to New York. It had been determined from Captain LAURENCE B. PARKER, the master of the Nightingale, certain information regarding Dr. ERBEN's activity while enroute to New York, and subsequent to his arrival there. Dr. ERBEN persisted in his effort to effect his discharge from the vessel at the Panama Canal, and despite his statement to Mr. GEORGE H. ADAMS, American Vice-Consul at

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Antafagasta that he was without funds, offered to post a cash bond of \$150 to induce the authorities to permit his leaving the vessel. However, his petition was not granted, and he continued as a member of the vessel's crew until it reached New York. The purser of the Nightingale reported that when the vessel reached New York on February 20, some agents of the F.B.I. were on hand to talk to Dr. ERBEN. DR. ERBEN appeared on the Nightingale on March 14, 1940, the day it sailed from New York for the west coast of South America. Captain PARKER reported that ERBEN had taken out a Seaman's Service or Identification book, and that his purpose was to have made in it by the Master an entry regarding his service on the Nightingale. When asked what he was doing, he told Captain PARKER that he had signed on a Norwegian ship in the capacity of Ship's Surgeon, but that it had tied up, and he had not been able to sail in it.

It was further reported by Captain PARKER that two or three persons had told him that DR. ERBEN had actually sailed out of New York in a Norwegian vessel, but that his informants had no information regarding the vessel's route or destination. As to whether DR. ERBEN was still dressed in his khaki uniform when he returned to the Nightingale on March 14, the ship master stated no, that he was well but not elaborately dressed in civilian clothes. This matter indicated, if true, that he had more money than that which he earned on the voyage to New York.

Mr. RENWICK S. McNIECE, American Consul at Valparaiso, Chile received an undated letter from Dr. ERBEN requesting that DR. ERBEN's mail be forwarded to him. He stated that while in Valparaiso he had learned that some mail had been forwarded for him to the San Francisco Bank, San Francisco, California, but that he had been informed by the Bank that there was no mail for him. He requested that all communications be addressed to his permanent New York address, Dr. H. F. ERBEN, M.D., care of Dr. RUDOLF SCHERF, 140 East 81st Street, New York City. He further stated that he had succeeded in obtaining a position as surgeon on the Panama Liner "Panama". He stated that he had a trying time in New York, and that the Naval Intelligence as well as the F.B.I. had run down his friend to force them to divulge any facts they might know about ERBEN. He then explained in detail how innocent and misunderstood he is.


By letter dated August 26, 1940 the Bureau forwarded information from the State Department originating from Mr. NORMAN ARMOUR, the American Consul at Buenos Aires, South America. In this report it is stated that a member of the staff of the American Embassy at Buenos Aires in a conversation with Mr. ERROL FLYNN verified that DR. ERBEN and MR. FLYNN are close friends. MR. FLYNN stated that he had known DR. ERBEN for about ten years and that they had worked together in Spain during the Spanish civil war. He spoke very highly of ERBEN as a "magnificent physician" who, unfortunately, had a way of getting himself into all sorts of minor difficulties. He stated that the word that most aptly described Dr. ERBEN was "screw-ball". He added that ERBEN had been arrested in India for carrying a pistol and had almost gotten both of them shot in Spain.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

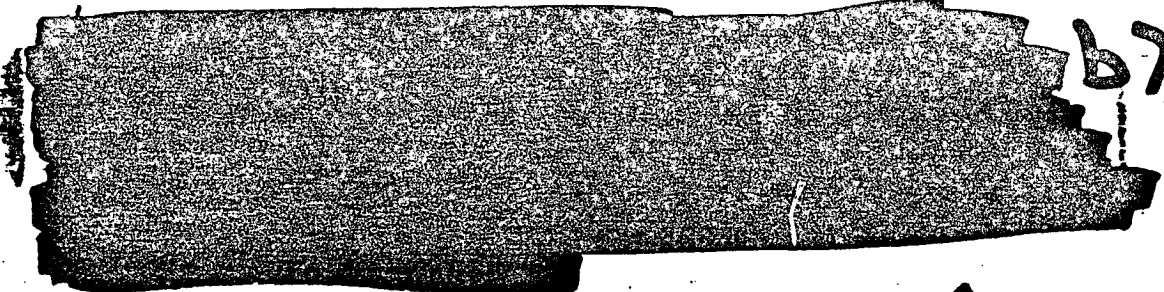
He took a very strong stand with respect to Dr. ERBEN's character and integrity, and stated that ERBEN would be "the last man in the world to work for the Nazis, as he hated them with all his soul". Dr. FLYNN went on to say that he valued Dr. ERBEN's friendship very highly and that he was a man who certainly could be trusted. However, he stated that the doctor's doing the wrong thing at the wrong time had often created a bad impression on those who did not know him very well. As for being a German agent, he stated that Dr. ERBEN would probably make the worst agent in the world for any nation, since "they have the finger on him in every port in the world". By this he explained that he meant that in a great many places Dr. ERBEN had been guilty of some minor infraction of local rules, such as not having the proper papers at the proper time, or saying the wrong thing at the wrong time.

Mr. FLYNN added that he understood that Dr. ERBEN's citizenship had been revoked, and remarked that he had taken the doctor's case up with Mr. HOOD of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Los Angeles and with Mrs. ROOSEVELT, and that Mrs. ROOSEVELT had acted in ERBEN's behalf, but to no avail.

Finally, Mr. FLYNN stated that he sympathized deeply with DR. ERBEN, since he now was a man without a country, and that he felt that an injustice had been done the man in believing him to be a German agent, but that no one was to blame but DR. ERBEN himself. As an indication of Dr. ERBEN's lack of responsibility, it may be mentioned that during his stay in Argentina he made a trip to Montevideo at the time of the Admiral Graf Spee incident, despite warnings that his position in Argentina was precarious and he would probably have difficulty in re-entering the country. Upon his return from Montevideo he was imprisoned for want of proper documentation.

 B/

The following information was furnished to Special Agent in Charge N. J. L. PIEPER on August 14, 1940:

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[REDACTED]

b2

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7c

The following information was furnished to Special Agent
on August 19, 1940:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

One of the letters from ERBEN was on stationery of the Panama
Line, Panama Railroad Company, and was written on board the
SS Panama.

By letter dated May 5, 1940 addressed to the Honorable ROBERT
H. JACKSON, Attorney General, Washington, D. C., DR. ERBEN requested

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that a letter be written to him showing whether or not the U. S. Government's investigation against him was completed, and if so whether he is permanently barred from going to sea, and if not, how long he will be barred from making a living, and if the investigation has cleared him what steps he can take. The Bureau replied by letter dated May 14, 1940, addressed to Dr. ERBEN, care of Seeman's Mission, 64 Hudson, Hoboken, N. J., stating that Dr. ERBEN was assuming that the Bureau is conducting an investigation, and that the information furnished by him at the New York City Office was merely accepted as a matter of record.

By letter dated August 21, 1940 the New York City Office transmitted information contained in a newspaper at Lebring, Florida relative to the discharge of Dr. ERBEN from the CCC Camp at that city. This letter further indicated that DR. ERBEN called at the New York Field Office on June 28 and July 1 in connection with this matter; that he subsequently recontacted the New York Field Division, and finally on July 29 stated he was leaving for the West Coast, in order to attend the hearing on his naturalization matter which was scheduled for August 8.

The following information was furnished to Special Agent [redacted] on August 20, 1940:

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Dr. ERBEN FREDERIEK ERBEN called at the San Francisco Office at which time he advised that he had called to obtain some advice as to the proper manner in which he might stop newspaper publicity concerning his fifth column activities, and whether or not the U. S. Attorney had any right to grant an interview concerning his activities. He was advised that this office could not and would not offer any advice concerning the question he wished answered; further that he should consult with the United States Attorney concerning any act that he did not approve of on their part; that while this office was a branch of the Department of Justice, it was not associated with the U. S. Attorney's office, and would not make any comment concerning any act of the U. S. Attorney. DR. ERBEN also wanted to know whether or not it would be advisable to go before the Dies Committee. Agent refused to advise.

DR. ERBEN stated that he wanted it made a matter of record that he now was living at the Arcade House, 66 Clay Street, Cubicle 105, and had formerly resided at New York Rooms, 753 Howard Street, when he arrived in San Francisco, August 6, 1940, Cubicle 395. He is presently attempting to gain employment in the picket line placed at the S. S. Noye in Oakland, California.

The following information was furnished to Special Agent [redacted] on September 16, 1940:

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[REDACTED]

telephonically advised that he had signed DR. HERMANN ERBEN on the S. S. President Garfield as an ordinary seaman. This ship was sailing Wednesday, September 18, 1940 for a trip around the world.

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Since this time Dr. ERBEN has called at the San Francisco Office on several occasions. On September 19, 1940 he called and reported that he had previously been in the New York City office. He referred to the letter he had received from Mr. HOOVER which he stated did not restrict his movements or his type of employment. He also referred to a similar letter he had received from the Naval Intelligence. He wanted to know whether there was any subsequent restriction on him, and was advised that the information contained in the letter he got from the Bureau still holds true.

He pointed out that Judge MARTIN J. WELSH is handling his case, and has stated that there are no restrictions on ERBEN's efforts to obtain employment or his movements. He further stated that Mr. LOUIE MERCADO, the prosecuting attorney, had also placed no such restrictions. He quoted the Judge as stating that he still has the rights of an American citizen until proved otherwise. He then explained that he had been sent by the Sailor's Union of the Pacific to accept a position as an ordinary seaman on the S. S. President Garfield on Monday September 16, 1940, but that subsequently Captain WESTDAHL had had him removed. Captain WESTDAHL is Marine Superintendent of the American President Lines. Dr. ERBEN produced various papers which he claimed would show his innocence and integrity. He stated he was embarrassed by being removed from the ship, and believed the situation could have been avoided if he had been informed that the government preferred not to let him work.

He quoted the San Francisco Chronicle issued September 19, 1940 as in turn quoting Captain WESTDAHL as stating that the investigation of the F.B.I. has removed him from the list of possible employees. He quoted Mr. REINLANDER of the U. S. Shipping Commission as stating that the government has nothing against him. He advised that his citizenship hearing will be November 12, 1940 after the necessary briefs have been filed. He pointed out that he has a mother, a sister, and two sons all in Germany who are depending upon him for his support, and that some of them hold high ranking positions in the government. He wanted again to know whether there were any restrictions or desires that he not try to get employment on any ship. He was, of course, advised that his answer to all such questions is contained in the Bureau letter.

On September 27, 1940 it was ascertained from the [REDACTED] of the Admiral Lines that DR. ERBEN had shipped out as a sailor on the Admiral Nulton, which had proceeded to Seattle, and was to take a cargo of wheat to Vladivostok. On October 7, 1940 [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] advised Special Agent in Charge N. J. L. PIEPER that he had just recently found out who DR. ERBEN was, and instructed his captain of the ship Admiral Nulton to persuade ERBEN to quit at Seattle, in turn giving him an extra month's salary. As a result of this, DR. ERBEN returned to

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San Francisco and re-appeared at the San Francisco Office October 8, 1940 and complained about having been pulled off the ship, and stated that he had matters arranged to sail on the Staghoward of the Grace Line and would leave from Pier 37 on the following Friday; that the last port of this ship would be Valparaiso, and that he would be back within sixty days.

On October 9, 1940 [redacted] advised Special Agent [redacted] that ERBEN was sailing on the S. S. Staghoward of the Grace Line to South America as an ordinary seaman on that date. On October 10, 1940 DR. ERBEN appeared at the San Francisco Office and stated that he had been given his pay and invited to leave the ship, and had, therefore, not sailed with the Staghoward.

b2id

On October 15, 1940 DR. ERBEN again appeared at the office stating that he now plans to go to the Phillipines to work in the lepper colony, and wanted to know how he could retain his status as a U. S. citizen. He was advised that this matter was entirely up to the Immigration Department. He stated he would advise if and when he departed.

On October 24, 1940 [redacted] telephonically advised that he was concerned over the fact that DR. ERBEN was proceeding to the Phillipines on a ship which would touch various U. S. Naval bases. He then referred the matter to the office of Naval Intelligence, and was advised they could do nothing about it. As a result he talked to Mr. McCONNELL in the U. S. District Attorney's office who advised that it was necessary that DR. ERBEN be in San Francisco November 12, 1940 for his trial in regard to his citizenship status, and therefore, the District Attorney's office would put him under subpoena.

At the office of the Clerk of the U. S. District Court, Room 355, Post Office Building, Docket 21006-W Civil Docket, was examined and found to be the case of the U. S. vs HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN in a case to cancel his naturalization certificate. The docket showed the following entries:

- May 7, 1940 - Order continued until August 8 for trial.
- July 17, 1940 - File Praecipe, Petitioners Demand for Admission of Facts by Respondent, etc.
- July 20, 1940 - Filed notice of time and place of trial.
- July 26, 1940 - Ordered that Defendant have until August 2 to answer certain sections
- Aug. 2, 1940 - Filed answers to interrogatories.
- Aug. 8, 1940 - Ordered the case continued from Aug. 8, 1940 to Aug. 13, 1940
- Aug. 9, 1940 - Filed Affidavit of FREDERICK HERMANN ERBEN.
- Aug. 12, 1940 - Filed Plaintiff's memorandum of points and authorities.
- Aug. 13, 1940 - Ordered case continued to Sept. 3, 1940 for trial.

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- Sept. 4, 1940 - Ordered Trial Evidence introduced by Plaintiff. Trial continued to September 5, 1940.
- Sept. 5, 1940 - Ordered trial resumed evidence introduced Plaintiff's motion for judgment on pleadings submitted. Ordered Briefs filed Oct. 10, 1940. Time to commence on filing of deposition of E. J. HOUEV. Ordered case continued to Nov. 12, 1940.
- Oct. 23, 1940 - Filed Praecipe. Issued subpoena.
- Oct. 28, 1940 - Ordered case dropped from Protest Conference Calendar.
- Nov. 2, 1940 - Received and filed deposition of ERNEST J. HOUEV.

On November 7, 1940 [redacted] of the U. S. Marshal's Office advised that they have not yet located DR. ERBEN to serve the subpoena on him, having been unsuccessful in efforts to find him at the Sailor's Union of the Pacific offices. They were told that he is supposed to have gone out on a boat. However, it is necessary for him to obtain a card from the Sailor's Union of the Pacific before he ships out. He stated that the subpoena was returnable November 12, 1940. b7c

A continuation of the Civil Docket shows the following:

- Nov. 12, 1940 - Filed subpoena for witness unexecuted (ERBEN) Ordered case continued to November 26, 1940
- Nov. 16, 1940 - Filed Petitioner's opening Brief.
- Nov. 26, 1940 - Ordered case continued to December 2, 1940.
- Dec. 2, 1940 - Ordered case continued to Dec. 9, 1940.
- Dec. 5, 1940 - Defendant's reply brief filed.

A letter dated September 21, 1940 was received from [redacted] b2

This letter stated that DR. ERBEN was ship doctor [redacted]

[redacted] that after ERBEN was kicked off the ship for seducing a young girl passenger, he took passage on another Dollar Line ship to visit his family in Germany or Austria. He stayed there about two or three months, and came back to the U. S. on the Garfield as a passanger. [redacted] continued that on ship board, ERBEN was a very ruthless man with the women; that he might possibly have been foolish enough to have married more than one of them. Further, that as a doctor, he was responsibility shy. b1

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b2 In connection with the lead contained in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated at Albany, New York June 6, 1940 to check with the California Medical Board as to DR. ERBEN at Sacramento, this lead will not be necessary as the same information has already been obtained at San Francisco in previous reports.

- UNDEVELOPED LEADS -

THE NEW YORK OFFICE

At New York City: At 1031-5th Avenue will determine if DR. FREDERICK MADISON ALLEN is identical with the DR. ALLEN set out in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Albany, New York dated June 6, 1940.

THE NEWARK OFFICE

[REDACTED] b7c (B)

THE SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE

At San Francisco, California: Will contact Assistant U. S. Attorney LOUIS MERCADO and review with him the information concerning subject contained in instant file, which may be of value to him the conducting proceedings to revoke subject's naturalization. (This file was last reviewed with him on April 29, 1940)

Will follow up and report the results of the proceedings to revoke DR. ERBEN's naturalization.

- PENDING -

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