

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

NY FILE NO. **65-1715 VAD**

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK CITY</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>JUL 10 1943</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>6/7, 8/43</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b>
TITLE <b>Doctor HERMANN FREDERICH ERBEN, was</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE (G)</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

[REDACTED] recalls subject [REDACTED] ALLEN could furnish no specific details of subject's activities but recalls subject unfavorably.

RUC  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/5/79 BY SP3 TEP/16

**REFERENCE**

- Bureau file 65-682
- Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] at Albany, New York dated 6/6/40.
- Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] at Newark, New Jersey dated 10/8/40.
- Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] at San Francisco, California dated 2/14/41.
- Bureau letter dated 6/27/41.

*cc state  
JRM 7-4-43*

**DETAILS**

[REDACTED]

He advised that he recalled [REDACTED] one Doctor ERBEN, ascertained to be identical with the subject from a description furnished by [REDACTED] could furnish no specific details of the subject's activities as he was very seldom associated with or had very seldom come into contact with ERBEN.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED

*[Signature]*  
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

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65-1682-117

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19 JUL 28 1943  
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- 2 - San Francisco
- 2 - Newark (Info.)
- 2 - New York

**32 JUL 15 1943**

INDEXED

**50 JUL 28 1943**

b7c/d  
On occasions when he had contact with the subject [redacted] advised that he gained the impression that the subject was an offensive type of German, unruly and hard to get along with. He did not believe that he would ever trust Doctor ERBEN, and that if the occasion occurred, [redacted] thought that subject would certainly be pro-Hitler, although he never in his speech or actions indicated that he had any connection with Hitler or Nazism.

Doctor ERBEN [redacted] is for his being licensed to practise medicine. [redacted] advised that he could furnish no information regard this fact or to the training which the subject has obtained.

He did believe that Doctor ERBEN had returned to Germany for additional training at some time following his first coming to the United States. This was merely an impression that [redacted] had.

[redacted] suggested that [redacted] might be able to furnish some information pertaining to Doctor ERBEN's activity.

[redacted] did not know of any associates of Doctor ERBEN's and could furnish no specific details as to ERBEN's activities [redacted] but that his entire recollection of Doctor ERBEN was unfavorable as an individual.

No further investigation is to be conducted by this office, and this case is being referred upon completion to the office of origin.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

NY 65-1715

Copies of this report are being furnished the Newark  
Field Division in the event that it is desired to interview

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

b7c,d

NOT USED

65-682-218

CHANGED TO

100-195500-6

GENERAL

65-692 - 119

Date: January 4, 1946

To: SAC, San Francisco

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: DR. HERMAN FREDERICK ERBEY was  
ESPIONAGE - C (San Francisco file 65-31)

Reference is made to the letter from the San Francisco Field Division dated November 8, 1945, which placed this case in a closed status for the reason that Subject was thought to be permanently away from the United States and living in Shanghai, China. U

The Office of Naval Intelligence has advised that a confidential informant repatriated to the United States who returned to this country on December 1, 1945, aboard the S. S. Gripsholm, stated that he was imprisoned at the same center in Shanghai as Subject, and that all other Allied prisoners suspected Subject of being a Japanese "plant". Subject allegedly asked the informant to get in touch with [REDACTED] b7c

after the personal effects of Subject, among which were expensive cameras and films, at the Seaman's Union in Brooklyn. The informant has not and does not expect to take any action on this request.

For your information there is no indication that Subject arrived in the United States on the S. S. Gripsholm. The S. S. Gripsholm arrived at Jersey City, New Jersey on December 1, 1945.

In view of the allegations made that the Subject is suspected of being a Japanese "plant", it is requested that [REDACTED]

The Bureau files contain no information relative to this individual. It is also suggested that New York determine, if possible, what is included in Subject's personal effects at the Seaman's Union in Brooklyn. This matter should be given expeditious attention by the New York Field Division in order that the Bureau and the office of origin may be advised of any significant results.

A review of this file indicates that the New York Field Division is in possession of pertinent information which has been included in reports relative to the activities of Subject when he was previously investigated. U

The San Francisco Field Division is requested to reopen this case, re-view this file thoroughly, and furnish the New York Field Division with any pertinent information relative to Subject which is not already in the possession of that office. U

- Olson \_\_\_\_\_
- A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Akers \_\_\_\_\_
- Carsen \_\_\_\_\_
- Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Laughlin \_\_\_\_\_
- Starnes \_\_\_\_\_
- Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Wandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
JAN 4 1946 P.M.

HM

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### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

- Deleted under exemption(s) \_\_\_\_\_ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you as the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) Navy 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:  
65-682-119

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

San Francisco, California  
January 22, 1944

Director, FBI

Re: DR. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN,  
with aliases  
ESPIONAGE - C

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated January 4, 1944, Bureau file 65-682. In this letter the San Francisco Field Division was requested to reopen the instant case, review the file thoroughly, and furnish the New York Field Division with any pertinent information relative to Dr. ERBEN which is not already in the possession of that office.

A review of the file has shown that eight of the first reports were not designated for the New York City office, and one copy of each of these is being sent to that office with copy of this letter. Two additional reports are also included. However, the review of the file discloses that for the past four years the New York City office has not only received all reports, but also copies of all important letters. The following is a list of the reports being sent to the New York City office:

Report of SA	[REDACTED]	dated 2/25/37 at Los Angeles;
Report of SA	[REDACTED]	dated 2/23/37 at Washington, D.C.;
Report of SA	[REDACTED]	dated 3/6/37 at Washington, D.C.;
Report of SA	[REDACTED]	dated 3/18/37 at San Francisco;
Report of SA	[REDACTED]	dated 3/19/37 at Los Angeles;
Report of SA	[REDACTED]	dated 4/7/37 at San Francisco;
Report of SA	[REDACTED]	dated 5/27/37 at Los Angeles;
Report of SA	[REDACTED]	dated 6/16/37 at San Francisco;
Report of SA	[REDACTED]	dated 9/25/40 at Albany;
Report of SA	[REDACTED]	dated 4/25/41 at Miami.

b7c

In regard to RUDOLF SCHARF, 850 Park Avenue, New York City, mentioned in the referenced letter, a search of the San Francisco office indices failed to show any record under the name as written. However, references were found to Dr. RUDOLF SCHARF, 860 Park Avenue, Columbia University, New York. One reference is contained in the case entitled [REDACTED] in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated April 4, 1941, at San Francisco, California. The reference, on page 5, shows the name of DR. RUDOLF SCHARF, with the address as noted directly above.

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65-682-120

29 JAN 31 1944



54 FEB 8 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/15/00 BY [REDACTED]

EX-11

BM

Re: DR. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, was  
January 22, 1944.

[REDACTED]

It is noted that the New York City office is the office of origin in the [REDACTED] case.

The other references to Dr. SCHARF are all in the instant case, and are found as follows:

The report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated March 18, 1940, at New York City indicates that ERBEN gave his address as care of Dr. RUDOLF SCHARF, 850 Park Avenue, New York, at the time he was interviewed by the American consul at Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Another reference, contained in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated June 6, 1940, at Albany, New York, indicates that on Dr. ERBEN's application for a license in the State of New York he was recommended by Dr. RUDOLF SCHARF as to character fitness.

[REDACTED]

The above summarizes all information available in the San Francisco office concerning Dr. SCHARF.

Very truly yours,

*A. J. L. Pieper*  
N. J. L. PIEPER  
SAC

DCS/pkh  
65-31

cc New York (Encl)



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

65-1715  
EJM:PS

New York, New York

February 7, 1944

Director, FBI

Dear Sir:

RE: DR. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, WAS  
ESPIONAGE (G)

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated January 4, 1944, to the San Francisco office concerning the above-named subject, in which it is alleged that the subject was thought to be a Japanese "plant" in an imprisonment center in Shanghai.

The Bureau states that a confidential informant of the Office of Naval Intelligence advised that the subject had asked him to get in touch with [redacted] to look after the personal effects of subject, among which were expensive cameras and film at the SEAMEN'S UNION in Brooklyn. b7c

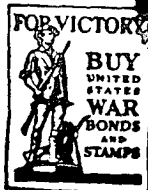
In the same letter, the Bureau asked the New York office to make a preliminary check to determine the background, and if possible, the nationalistic tendencies of the above-mentioned RUDOLF SHARF, inasmuch as the Bureau files contained no information relative to that individual. It was also suggested that the New York office determine, if possible, what is included in subject's personal effects at the Seamen's Union in Brooklyn. u

From a review of the New York file, it is apparent that the RUDOLF SHARF, referred to in the Bureau letter, is identical with RUDOLPH SCHARF of 850 Park Avenue, New York, New York, concerning whom a preliminary investigation was conducted in some detail by Special Agent [redacted] of this office, and a report dated February 15, 1940 at New York, New York, entitled, DR. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, with aliases; ESPIONAGE. u

The New York telephone directories do not list a Seamen's Union in Brooklyn. u

197 JUL 29 1970

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5 FEB 9 1944

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65-1713

February 7, 1944

Director

RE: DR. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN

The Source of Information file for the New York Field Division contains no listing for a Seamen's Union in Brooklyn. *u*

A review of the New York file concerning the above-named subject indicates that during his stay in the New York area, he resided at the Seamen's House, YMCA, 550 West 20th Street, New York, and also at 507 West Street, which is the Seamen's House, annex. *u*

Inquiry at 550 West 20th Street [redacted] revealed that the subject had left no trunks, bags, or cameras in the baggage room of the Seamen's House, YMCA. At the Seamen's House, annex [redacted] reviewed his records and informed the writer that the subject had not left any bags, baggage, trunks, or cameras at that establishment. The only other place where the subject is known to have stayed while in the New York area in 1940 is at the German Seamen's Mission, 64 Hudson Street, Hoboken, New Jersey, and the Newark Field Division is being requested to ascertain whether the above-named subject left any trunks, bags, or cameras at that establishment prior to his departure in 1940. *u*

For the information of the Bureau, the articles referred to by the subject [redacted] are probably the same articles which were inspected during the active investigation of this case by the San Francisco office with the assistance of the Customs authorities; a complete list of which should be in the possession of the Bureau. *b7c, d*

This case is being considered referred upon completion to the office of origin. *u*

Very truly yours,

*E. E. Conroy*  
E. E. CONROY  
Special Agent in Charge

C: San Francisco  
Newark

-31

RE: DR. HERMAN FREDERICK ERDEN, with all  
ESPIONAGE - G

Inspector BRANTLEY:

A review of this file reflects that the Bureau by letter of November 1, 1941, suggested a review of this file and the closing of it if all necessary investigation had been completed. Serial 129 is a copy of your letter of November 23, 1941, to the Bureau stating that the case is being considered closed. No copy of this letter and no teletype was sent to the New York Office, to discontinue investigation although they had a lead outstanding. The New York Office on July 10, 1943, submitted an RUC report which indicates that two days' work was spent covering the lead in that area when in fact said lead was not necessary.

SAC FIERSON:

Copies of the letter of November 26, 1941 to the Bureau should have been designated for New York. Care will be taken to avoid such mistakes in the future.

INSPECTION REPORT  
San Francisco Office  
February 8, 1944  
Dwight Brantley  
JCS:lh

61 MAR 3 1944

*File 6-47*  
*File 65-152*  
MAR 6 1944

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

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

FILE NO. **65-490 DET**

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEWARK, NEW JERSEY</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>4-4-44</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>2/29; 3/18/44</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b>
TITLE <b>DR. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, was.</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - G</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** Investigation at German Seamen's Mission, Hoboken, New Jersey, fails to disclose any record of RUDOLF SHARP'S ever residing at this place, and no mail or baggage ever received for him.

RUC

**REFERENCE:** Bureau File No. 65-682.  
Letter from New York City dated 2-7-44.

**DETAILS:** [REDACTED] German Seamen's Mission, 64 Hudson Street, Hoboken, New Jersey, advised that his records failed to reflect that any one by the name of RUDOLF SHARP ever resided at the German Seamen's Mission from 1939 to date.

He also advised that he had no record of SHARP'S ever receiving mail there, and that no luggage had ever been left for him at the Seamen's Mission.

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/5/79 BY SP.3 TEK/6**

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT Bureau San Francisco Newark		65-682-122	RECORDED & INDEXED
PR-17 1037 COPY IN FILE		20 APR 11 1944	

wlf;wos

65-682-123

RECORDED

65-92134

Date: April 15, 1944

TO: SAC, New York

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: Dr. Irbin; ESPIONAGE S.

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_ Reference is made to Richmond letter dated March 30, 1944, a copy of which is enclosed.
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_ Apparently Dr. Irbin is presently interned in the Foo Tung Internment Camp at Shanghai, China. However, in view of the possibility that he may speak for the Soviets, it is desired that you interview \_\_\_\_\_ for such additional information concerning Dr. Irbin as may be available.
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATION SECTION  
 by letter. E.V. 10  
 M.A.  
 Enclosure  
 4 P.M.  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 6/5/79 BY SP3TEK/6

317



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

P. O. Box 2218  
Richmond 17, Virginia

March 30, 1944

Director, FBI

Dear Sir:

Re: Dr. ----- IRBIN  
ESPIONAGE - G & I

*NI*

[Redacted] submitted the following information:

A man known as Dr. IRBIN and who posed as a doctor of medicine, appeared in Shanghai, China about the time of America's entry into the war or shortly thereafter. He was believed to have been in possession of American seaman's papers and to have been with the crew of the SS President Harrison. Before the internment of the President Harrison's crew Dr. IRBIN treated some of the crew members and attempted, and may have succeeded, in getting remuneration for same through the Swiss Consul.

[Redacted] It seemed significant to [Redacted] that IRBIN was the only person interned at that time, whereas, usually several people were brought in together.

While in the internment camp IRBIN seemed to be a stool pigeon for the Japanese. He attempted to stir up racial trouble in the internment camp where colored seamen from the SS President Harrison were interned along with the whites. It was observed that IRBIN associated only with the agitators in the camp and that he seemed to be listening and prying into the conversations between American internees, although most of the Americans definitely shunned him. [Redacted] remarked that any racial disturbances which IRBIN might have succeeded in stirring up as an agent provocateur would have made excellent propaganda for the Japanese.

[Redacted] further advised that soon after IRBIN came into the camp the Japanese located certain contraband articles, including electric hot plates which the Americans had succeeded in keeping hidden up to that time. When this confiscation occurred, the Japanese seemed to know exactly where to look for the hidden articles.

IRBIN attempted to be recognized as an American, although the American camp representative refused to recognize him as such. It was further reported that IRBIN had been deported from the United States

*Dr. Hermann Friedrich Ebert*



*cc NY*  
*Dr.*

RECORDED & INDEXED  
65-682-423  
APR 1 1944  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-15-82 BY [Redacted]

Director, FBI

March 30, 1944

at about the same time that FRITZ WEIDEMANN left in the summer of 1941.

It was the general impression in the camp that IRBIN had been mixed up in some sort of subversive activities, probably on the West Coast.

The subject was described by [redacted] as follows:-

Name	Dr. IRBIN
Age	50
Height	5' 11" or 6'
Weight	220 lbs.
Build	Heavy frame, fat
Glasses	Wears glasses
Eyes	Beady, blue grey
Hair	Grey, high forehead
Characteristics	Very hairy bodied

b7c, d

[redacted]

The above information is submitted with the idea that the Bureau may desire to get further information concerning this individual with a view to advising the Immigration and Naturalization Service in the event that IRBIN may attempt to re-enter the United States at some future date.

Very truly yours,

*W. A. Murphy*  
W. A. MURPHY *W.A.M.*  
Special Agent in Charge

JEJ:CP

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
New York, 7, New York

JGH:FMQ  
65-1715

May 4, 1944

Director, FBI

RE: DR. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, WAS  
ESPIONAGE-G  
(Bureau File 65-682)

*A. F. ...*

Dear Sir:

*OK*

Reference is made to Bureau letter to the New York Field Division dated April 15, 1944, re DR. IRBIN, ESPIONAGE-J, Bureau file 65-62454. Reference letter enclosed a copy of a letter to the Bureau from the Richmond Field Division which reflected that [redacted] had furnished information regarding Dr. IRBIN to the effect that he was interned in the Poo Tung Internment Camp in Shanghai, China, where he appeared to be a stool pigeon for the Japanese and an agent provocateur. [redacted] indicated to the Richmond Field Division that [redacted] would have further information concerning Dr. IRBIN. Reference letter requested that the New York Field Division interview [redacted] and furnish the results of the interview to the Bureau by letter.

*KX*

Information obtained from [redacted] will be subsequently set out in this letter definitely identifies Dr. IRBIN as being identical with DR. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, who is the subject of the above entitled case, in which the San Francisco Field Division is office of origin (San Francisco file 65-31).

[Large redacted block]

[redacted] was interviewed by Special Agent [redacted] on May 2, 1944, at which time he furnished the following information:



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DATE 6/5/79 BY SP3TEK/...

*EX-47*

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65-682-124  
B  
19 MAY 8 1944  
*Robert ...*

*ad. JUN 23 1944*



NY 65-1715  
Letter to Director

May 4, 1944

b2  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] furnished the following information with reference to the subject:

Dr. [REDACTED] IRBIN's true name is HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, which was the name he was known by in the Far East and accordingly the spelling Dr. [REDACTED] IRBIN as furnished by [REDACTED] must have been a phonetic spelling. Dr. ERBEN first appeared in Shanghai several months prior to Pearl Harbor. He associated himself in the practice of medicine with one Dr. MIORINI, M.D. (mentioned in instant case file as Dr. MIRONINI) an alleged Nazi agent.

Shortly after Pearl Harbor the Japanese captured the crew of the S.S. President Harrison which crew they regarded as a prize crew. Shortly after this the Japanese threw this crew on the American Community in Shanghai to support. Dr. ERBEN immediately began to solicit medical business from the crew members himself but actually turned them over to Dr. MIORINI for treatment. [REDACTED] understands from information he acquired from various members of the crew that Dr. ERBEN got a kickback from Dr. MIORINI for the business thus acquired.

The American Association in Shanghai had agreed to pay for the medical care of crew members from the S.S. President Harrison. However, WILLIAM M. GREY III, and HENRY KAY, of American President Lines, who were representing the American Association in the protection of American interests, had selected the ship's doctor from the S.S. President Harrison as the doctor who was to treat the crew members. Due to ERBEN's agitation amongst the crew members which agitation took the form of pitting labor (the crew members) against capital (the American Association) resulted in about 70% of the crew members going to Dr. MIORINI for treatment. The American Association took the position that they would refuse to pay the medical bills for crew members unless they went to the doctor or doctors selected by the American Association. The American Association regarded Dr. MIORINI as being a Nazi. When the above facts came to Dr. ERBEN's attention he stated that the American Association had no right to brand the doctor as a Nazi and threatened to cause trouble with the Japanese authorities if the American Association did

NY 65-1715  
Letter to Director

May 4, 1944

b7c, d  
not refrain from interfering with the crew members' selection of doctors. Dr. ERBEN continually sided with the crew of the S.S. President Harrison as against the desires of the American Association.

Information also reached [redacted] attention to the effect that sometime after Pearl Harbor Dr. ERBEN went to Tientsin, China on an Italian boat. He came back to Shanghai sometime later. [redacted] stated that it does not appear to him that Dr. ERBEN would have been permitted to make this trip unless he was cooperating with the Japanese. [redacted] does not know the purpose of this trip however.

On January 31, 1943 the first group of Americans started being interned at the Poo Tung Internment Camp in Shanghai. On May 2, 1943 Dr. ERBEN was brought into the internment camp escorted by four Japanese "gendarmes."

[Large redacted block]

citizenship [redacted] had the following to say: With regard to Dr. ERBEN'S

ERBEN [redacted] had admitted that the United States District or Circuit Court in San Francisco, California, had denaturalized him in about April, 1941. However, ERBEN claimed that his denaturalization was because of his labor union activities. ERBEN also claimed that his denaturalization was not legal because of technical grounds, these grounds apparently being the fact that ERBEN skipped the country and was not present in court at the time he was denaturalized. [redacted] understands that at the time he was denaturalized there was a warrant out for ERBEN'S arrest and that because of this ERBEN decided to leave the United States. According to the story ERBEN tells he contacted his good friend, ERROL FLYNN, the movie star and FLYNN hid him on his yacht. From FLYNN'S yacht he went to Mexico and from Mexico he went to China.

[Large redacted block]

NY 65-1715  
Letter to Director

May 4, 1944

b7d  
[REDACTED]  
still claimed [REDACTED] that his denaturalization was illegal. ERBEN

ERBEN told [REDACTED] he had been born in Austria and had served in the Austrian Medical Corps during the first World War. According to ERBEN'S story he came to the United States several years after the war and was naturalized as a United States citizen. After arriving in the United States he started work as a seaman on American ships, eventually serving as the medical doctor on ships, of various American companies including the American President Lines. ERBEN'S story was that the American President Lines discharged him because of the fact that he condemned food as being unfit for the crew to eat. ERBEN told [REDACTED] the American President Line then black listed him. Following this ERBEN went to sea as an ordinary seaman.

There was considerable rumor to the effect that the subject had been mixed up in some kind of a narcotics racket. However, the subject denied this in his conversations with [REDACTED]. ERBEN stated that once when he returned to Austria after having become an American citizen he was arrested for having some dope in his possession. However, ERBEN claimed that this dope was left over from his World War medical kit and that accordingly he was let off with a small fine. However in repeating this story to [REDACTED] ERBEN apparently forgot what he had originally told [REDACTED] that he had been very thankful that he was an American citizen when arrested in Austria inasmuch as it resulted in his being able to get a seven year penitentiary sentence suspended. ERBEN claimed that he had never been arrested at any other time. He admitted that many people accused him of handling narcotics but he denied that this was true.

In still later conversations [REDACTED] ERBEN told [REDACTED] he had been arrested for labor union activities in San Francisco, prior to the denaturalization proceedings being instituted against him. ERBEN claimed to have worked with the Communists on the continent of Europe and claimed to be an expert in the field of sabotage. When [REDACTED] asked him why he had endeavored to stir up trouble with the crew members of the S.S. President Harrison ERBEN claimed that he was only trying to protect the interests of the crew members inasmuch as he always helped the underdog.

After being admitted to the Poo Tung Internment Camp ERBEN told the following story:

He claimed he was first taken to the Lungwa Internment Camp outside of Shanghai, where he was kept for one day. ERBEN claimed that he was then taken to the Bridge House where he was kept for two weeks prior to being

NY 65-1715  
Letter to Director

May 4, 1944

b7c,d brought to the Poo Tung Camp. [redacted] pointed out that the Bridge House is a well known Japanese torture chamber. [redacted] knows from his own observations that individuals released from the Bridge House ordinarily show definite physical signs of their suffering.) ERBEN looked to be perfectly healthy and in good physical condition. [redacted] does not believe that ERBEN was ever in the Bridge House. ERBEN told how badly he had been treated in the Bridge House but his appearance belied his story.

[redacted]

The crew of the S.S. President Harrison were also interned in the Poo Tung Camp. They welcomed ERBEN with open arms upon his arrival in the camp.

Many of the internees in the camp talked about the fact that they believed ERBEN was probably a Japanese spy. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] knows that on four different occasions the subject had private conferences with the Japanese camp Commandant. He also knows that the subject had one or two private conferences with the Japanese "gendarmes." [redacted] does not know what was discussed at these conferences inasmuch as they were held in a private room [redacted]

[redacted]

Incidents like this, as well as ERBEN'S activities among the crew members of the .S.S.President Harrison clearly reflected to [redacted] subject's efforts to cause trouble among the American internees and to allegedly pit capital against labor and white against black.

NY 65-1715  
Letter to Director

May 4, 1944

b7c, d [redacted] recalled that after one of the subject's talks with the Japanese Commandant seven electric plates which American internees had been successful in hiding up to that time were confiscated by the Japanese guards.

[redacted]

[redacted]

ERBEN at all times claimed to be a good American, but he continually stated that the social structure in America was all wrong. He even told [redacted] he wanted to be repatriated to America. However, [redacted] does not believe he was sincere in this.

[redacted] definitely believes that the subject was a stool pigeon for the Japanese. Although he regards the subject as a "wind bag", he believes he is potentially dangerous.

[redacted] stated that [redacted], who was also interned in the Poo Tung internment camp and who was repatriated, would be able to furnish further information concerning the subject. [redacted] did not know [redacted] address [redacted]

[redacted] furnished the following description of the subject as he looked when [redacted] last saw him.

Age	Approximately 50
Height	5' 11"
Weight:	230 lbs.
Hair	Bushy white
Eyes	Blue (?)
Complexion	Light
Build	Fat and sloppy
Speech	Austrian accent coupled with a hissing sound

NY 65-1715  
Letter to Director

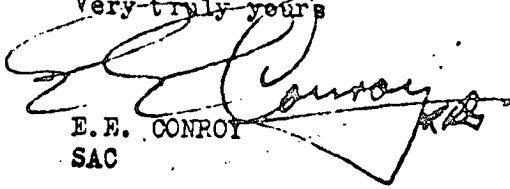
May 4, 1944

Teeth	Separation between front teeth on upper jaw
Characteristics	Is knock kneed, wears glasses, and was wearing a gray beard in the camp.
Marital Status	Believed single
Relatives in U.S.	None known.

It is noted that the subject's description, name, background, alleged friendship with ERROL FLYNN etc. all identify him as being identical with the subject of instant case.

b7c d  
A copy of this letter is being forwarded to the San Francisco Field Division inasmuch as they are office of origin in this case. It is believed they may desire to interview [redacted] for further information. It is also believed they may desire to place a stop notice on the subject's future entry into the United States in the event such has not already been done. Inasmuch as there appears to be no further investigation at this time within the territory covered by the New York Field Division, this case is being considered referred upon completion to the office of origin.

Very truly yours

  
E. E. CONROY  
SAC

cc-San Francisco

FU-72

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

SAN FRANCISCO

65-31

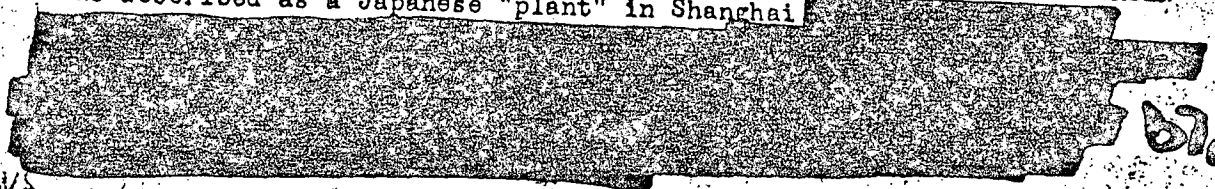
FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT <b>SAN FRANCISCO</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>5/10/44</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>4/28, 29/44</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b>
TITLE <b>HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, with alias, Dr. Hermann Frederick Erben</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - G</b>	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** Investigation concerning RUDOLF SHARP negative. Dr. HERMAN FREDERICK ERBEN described as closely associated with leading Gestapo agent in Shanghai. Dr. ERBEN refused repatriation to the United States. u

**REFERENCE:** Bureau File 35-682.  
Letter from the Bureau dated January 4, 1944.  
Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated April 4, 1944 at Newark, New Jersey. u b7c

**DETAILS:** AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA  
Referenced Bureau letter requested that this case be reopened due to the receipt of a report that Dr. HERMAN FREDERICK ERBEN was described as a Japanese "plant" in Shanghai



*cc Lvs*  
*Hermann Erben*  
*7/1-76-7*  
*cc state*  
*87M 4-4-49*  
The letter from the New York office to the Bureau dated February 7, 1944, indicated the completion of investigation by the New York office and set forth a lead for the Newark office to check the German Seamen's Mission, 64 Hudson Street, Hoboken, New Jersey, to determine if Dr. ERBEN had left any of his personal belongings there prior to his departure from the United States in 1940. Referenced report indicates that this investigation was completed at Hoboken, New Jersey, with negative results. u

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <b>65-1682-125</b>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 2 ONI, San Francisco 2 C-2, San Francisco 3 San Francisco	RECORDED INDEXED <b>38 MAY 16 1944</b> <b>169</b>
<b>CC ONI</b> COPY IN FILE <i>AL 12144</i>	

On April 17, 1944, Source of Information [redacted] furnished the following information to Special Agent [redacted] b7d

[redacted] advised that subject was first interned at the time of general internment in Shanghai during February or March, 1943, in the Lung Hua Camp, a British camp in Shanghai. The Executive Committee of the American Association requested that ERBEN be interned separately from the crew of the SS PRESIDENT HARRISON, which was sent to the Poon Tung Camp. Despite this, according to [redacted] ERBEN immediately was transferred to the Poon Tung Camp and, according to his advice, was rapidly organizing a dope ring among the PRESIDENT HARRISON crew for operation after the war. u b7d

[redacted] also advised that Dr. ERBEN was closely associated with Dr. ALBERTO MIORINI, who was generally believed to be the Number One or Number Two man in the Gestapo in Shanghai. u

[redacted] stated that ERBEN registered as an American with the American Association for repatriation. He said that ERBEN presented a United States Seaman's Certificate of Identification in registering but that the Swiss Consul General later ascertained that ERBEN was not an American citizen. [redacted] stated that the Swiss Consul General wrote ERBEN a letter, copies of which were sent to the Japanese Consulate and to the American Association, pointing out that ERBEN knew he was not an American when he registered. He said that in this letter the Swiss requested the Japanese to withdraw ERBEN's American armband, which request was refused. He said also that the American Association requested ERBEN to return the American armband but he also refused them. u

[redacted] advised that ERBEN was originally scheduled for repatriation to the United States on the first announced sailing date of the GRIPSHOLM from Shanghai, on September 9, 1942, but that his true citizenship was ascertained in the meantime and he was denied this repatriation. [redacted] stated that in registering with the American Association ERBEN gave as his only reference in the United States: "ERROL FLYNN, Hollywood, California." u

The New York Field Division advised by letter dated April 1, 1944 of information obtained through Source of Information [redacted] concerning the subject. This information is as follows: u

[redacted] advised that he knew a Dr. ERBEN (first name unknown to him) who resided on Bubbling Well Road in Shanghai, and who was closely associated with a Dr. ALBERTO VON MURINNE (MIRONINI). Information coming to the attention of [redacted] concerning Dr. ERBEN was



that he was a Nazi agent but he could furnish no specific information concerning this Dr. ERBEN's activities in Shanghai or any other information effecting his identity other than he believed Dr. ERBEN was an American citizen. u

In view of the fact that Dr. ERBEN referred to by [redacted] resided on Bubbling Well Road, Shanghai, China, and was associated with Dr. MURINNE (MIRONINI), it is believed that the Dr. ERBEN so referred to by [redacted] is identical with the subject in instant case. u

AT SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA

Source of Information [redacted] had advised that Source of Information [redacted] would be of assistant in furnishing information concerning Dr. ERBEN. [redacted] and Source of Information [redacted] advised that they have known of Dr. ERBEN's activities in Shanghai. They stated that he was definitely tied in with Dr. ALBERTO MIORINI. According to [redacted] MIORINI was definitely a member of the German Gestapo, and it was the belief of [redacted] that Dr. ERBEN likewise was a member of the same organization. They explained that these two individuals are very close to each other and that this information was known to the American Consul at Shanghai before the war started. u

[redacted] related how the crew of the PRESIDENT HARRISON, which reached Shanghai after the war started, had been the victim of the activities of these Doctors. Dr. ERBEN had ingratiated himself with the members of the crew through the fact that he could produce seaman's papers. He was also well versed in union activities and had a common understanding with the crew. ERBEN, working with MIORINI, went to the foreign YMCA where the crew were stopping and arranged for them to go to MIORINI's office for medical attention. They would not be charged for medical services, but were bilked through the writing of expensive drug store prescriptions. The doctors would then receive a handsome percentage of the prescription price. They also prevailed upon the crew members to bother the American Association and the Swiss Consul in matters of minor importance. u

Dr. ERBEN then attempted to return to the United States as a repatriate, and it is the belief of [redacted] that if he had been successful in doing so he would definitely have been acting in the United States as an agent of the German government. u

ERBEN listed on his repatriation application form his only contact in the United States as being ERROL FLYNN. Both of these sources of information stated that they know of absolutely no other contact of Dr. ERBEN in the United States. u

continued that Dr. ERBEN is somewhat erratic, and is considered somewhat of a "nut" by some, but that, on the other hand, he is very smart. u

Dr. ERBEN gave several talks in Shanghai. He wanted the Japanese to insist that payments for medical services be given priority over other debts. He was unsuccessful in this endeavor. It was actually a clique headed by Dr. MIORINI and Dr. ERBEN. The former was a lecturer who showed films at various clubs and organizations. u

stated that to his knowledge there was no collaboration with the Japanese on the part of Dr. ERBEN. u

Dr. MIORINI had gained a position of prominence in Shanghai through his marriage to a well known Chinese girl. He charged exorbitant fees for his operations performed on Chinese. Prior to the war, Dr. MIORINI made numerous trips to Europe. He is a very shrewd man. u

Both sources of information stated that Dr. ERBEN made a practice of sneaking dope into the crew members while they were interned. u

-- C L O S E D --

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 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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- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
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# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM SAC, SAN FRANCISCO

DATE: May 27, 1944

SUBJECT: DR. HERMANN FREDERICK ERREN, W.C.S.  
ESPIONAGE - C  
(Bureau file 65-682)

Reference is made to letter from New York City to the Bureau dated May 4, 1944, in regard to the above-captioned subject. In this letter the New York City office suggested that it might be desirable to interview [redacted] for further information concerning Dr. ERREN.

*b7c, d*

By reference to the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated May 10, 1944, at San Francisco, it will be noted that [redacted] has already been interviewed in connection with this case. It is not believed that he would be able to furnish additional information. It is noted that the status of this case is closed.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/5/79 BY SP3 TLL

DCS/pkh  
65-31

RECORDED  
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INDEXED

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EX-57

*W.S.*  
54 JUN 6 1944