

JOD:MK

65-482

SAC, New York

June 9, 1944

John Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

HENRIK FREDERICK ERBE, with alias; ESPIONAGE - C.

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated April 13, 1944, entitled "Dr. Irbin; ESPIONAGE - J," enclosing a copy of a letter from the Richmond field division dated March 30, 1944, and requesting that one [redacted] be interviewed for additional information concerning Dr. Irbin.

This individual is identical with Hermann Frederick Erben, the subject of investigation by the San Francisco field division, and he has been investigated by your office, your file 65-1713.

Any information obtained from [redacted] concerning this matter should be furnished to the San Francisco field division for its information.

cc San Francisco

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

RECORDED

65-682-127

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 2 1944

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*hg*  
*WJ*  
*WJ*

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 14  
JUN 10 1944 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED READING ROOM  
JUN 8 10 55 AM '44

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

JUN 14 1944

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



LAL:GRM  
65-1715

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice June 22, 1944  
New York, New York

DIRECTOR, FBI

RE: HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, wa.  
ESPIONAGE - G

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated June 9, 1944 relative to furnishing the San Francisco Field Division with information obtained from one, [redacted] concerning Dr. ERBEN. *blkd*

Reference is also made to letter dated May 4, 1944 concerning this matter, to the Bureau reporting the results of an interview with [redacted] a copy of which was furnished to the San Francisco Field Division. *f*

Inasmuch as no further investigation remains to be conducted by the New York Field Office, this matter is being considered referred upon completion to the office of origin. *nsw*

Very truly yours,

*E. E. Conroy*  
E. E. CONROY, SAC *RCB*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6/5/79 BY SP-1/TM/c



71 JUL 6 1944

cc:San Francisco *28*

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED  
28

165-682-128  
JUN 26 1944

EX-1037 JUN 26 1944  
*Edk*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

Re: **HERMANN FREDERICK ERREN,**  
**alias Dr. Hermann Frederick Erren.**  
**ESPIONAGE.**

Lab. # **36270**  
File # **65-682-70**


Examination requested by: **Albany**

Date of reference communication: **Jan 24, 1940**

Date blocked: **6/23/40 etc**

Examination requested: **Document**

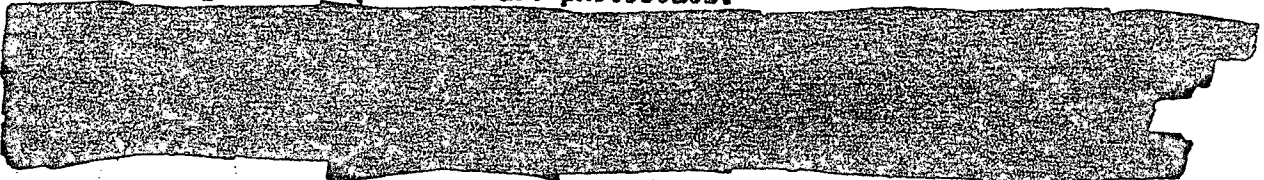
Result of examination:

Examination by:   
**b7c**

Specimens submitted for examination

The following listed specimens are photostats:

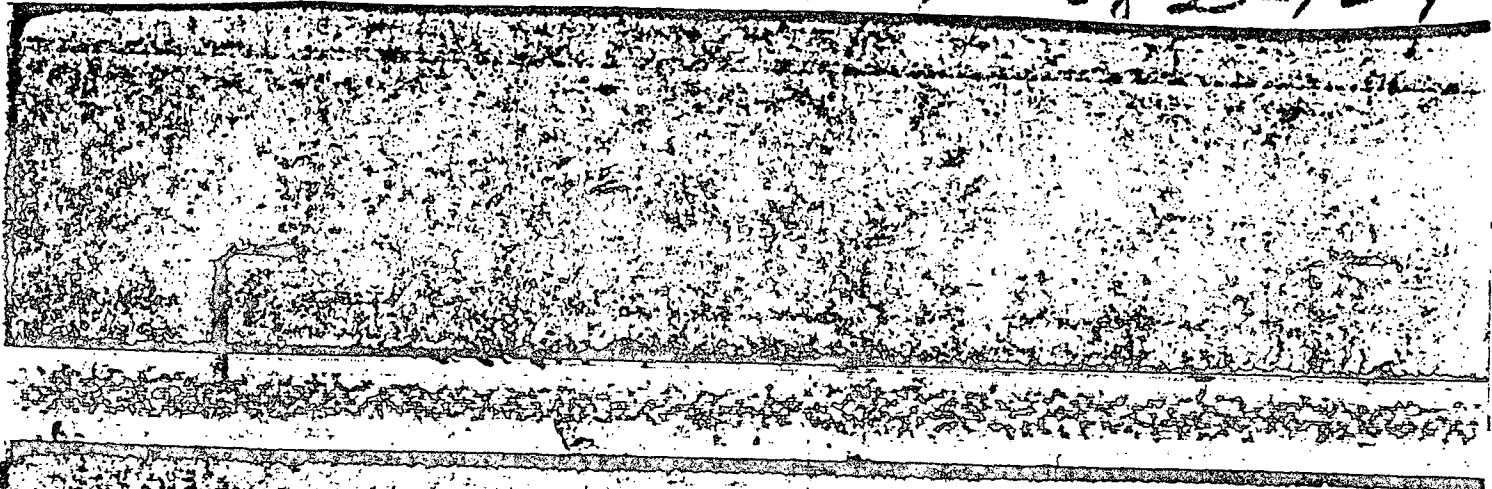
- 1
- 2
- Q 3
- Q 4



Upon completion of examination RETURN above listed specimens to Albany

Evidence has NOT been sent to photography.

**9-682-127**



65-682-130

EX-10

October 24, 1946

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/15/79 BY SP3TER/10

[Redacted]

b7c id

Dear [Redacted]

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated October 12, 1946, and I want to thank you for your interest in communicating with me.

I have determined that the matter which you mention was handled by the War Department and I am taking the liberty of furnishing that agency a copy of your letter.

Your interest in writing me is indeed appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED

OCT 24 1946 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- 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. Harbo
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

NOV 21 1946

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. D. M. LADD *[Signature]*  
 FROM : MR. C. H. CARSON *[Signature]*  
 SUBJECT: DR. HERMAN EHRBEN or ERBEN

DATE: October 24, 1946

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

The attached letter from [redacted] to information [redacted] was concerning subject. It has been determined by [redacted] that this matter was handled in Shanghai by SSU of the War Department.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the attached copy of [redacted] letter be furnished to SSU for their information. In the event SSU desires further data from [redacted] it is suggested that our New York office conduct the interview.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 6/5/79 BY SP37EK/6 *[Signature]*

Attachment  
LLT:AK

*Handwritten:*  
 New York  
 11-21-46  
*[Signature]*

EX-10

105-682-13

10 OCT 26 1946  
*[Signature]*

EX-10 336

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XXXXXX  
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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) b7c, b7d with no segregable material available for release to you.
- 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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For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

*up bgr  
1-92*

TO : D. M. Ladd *[Signature]*  
FROM : E. G. Fitch *[Signature]*  
SUBJECT : DR. HERMAN EHRBEN or ERBEN

DATE: November 15, 1946

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

Reference is made to Mr. Carson's memorandum to you dated October 24, 1946, in which you were advised that a letter had been received from [redacted] that Dr. Erben had been apprehended in Shanghai by CIG representatives.

This is to advise that a copy of [redacted] letter was furnished to [redacted] of CIG and he was informed that in the event further data was desired from [redacted] that the New York FBI Office would conduct the interview. [redacted] stated that he did not desire an interview at this time and would like to check with the CIG supervisor handling this case. He stated that in the future if CIG desires [redacted] to be interviewed, he would inform this Bureau.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the above information be forwarded to Mr. Carson's Section for the attention of Supervisor Tyler.

*HANDLED  
PAGE DE*

JFD:OME

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/5/79 BY SP3 TEL/9

RECORDED  
INDEXED

165-612-131  
F B I  
7 NOV 20 1946  
*[Signature]*

56 NOV 27 1946

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. D. M. Ladd *DL*

FROM : Mr. R. W. Wall *RW*

SUBJECT: HERMANN FREDERIC ERBEN was  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G

DATE: December 31, 1947

On December 8, 1947, [redacted] Central Intelligence Agency, requested Agent [redacted] of the Liaison Section to furnish any information in Bureau files concerning the specific reason why an application for United States citizenship on the part of Hermann Frederic Erben was turned down just prior to the date on which it normally would have been granted. *b7c*

A review of Bureau files reflects that the legality of subject's naturalization was examined in the United States District Court, San Francisco, California, before Federal Judge Martin I. Welsh on September 4 and 5, 1940. On January 29, 1941, the said Court rendered a decision that citizenship of Erben should be revoked on the grounds it was illegally procured. *u*

Further information included in Bureau files reflects that an Immigration and Naturalization document dated June 18, 1941, points out that Hermann Frederic Erben's Certificate of Naturalization was cancelled on March 12, 1941, on grounds of procuring Naturalization by means of false statements. Subject was named as the Medical Officer of the German Supply Ship, "Graf-Spee," and was on board this ship in Montevideo when it was scuttled. In addition subject was named as being in sympathy with German causes.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the above information be released to Central Intelligence Agency, if permissible. *u*

CDD:cg,jas

*ab per Mr. Ladd*

*1-2-47*

*advised of above 1/5/48*

*42*

*EX 57*

*b7c*

165-682-2375

F B I

37 JAN 10 1948

*S. R. E.*

317

50 JAN 21 1948



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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

*WB*

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: January 17, 1951

FROM : SAC, Charlotte

SUBJECT: HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN  
SECURITY MATTER - C

*G.I.R. - 8*

In connection with the routine contacts with Mr. JENNINGS OTTS, Inspector, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Wilmington, North Carolina, he recently advised SA [redacted] that he is in receipt of instructions from his District Office to detain the above-mentioned subject in the event he should arrive at the Port of Wilmington, North Carolina. According to Mr. OTTS, subject is reportedly coming from the East and is to arrive in the United States at an eastern port.

*67c*

Mr. OTTS advised that HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN was born November 15, 1897, Vienna, Austria, and was naturalized November 10, 1930; his citizenship subsequently being cancelled March 12, 1941.

No description was available through Mr. OTTS and the above information is being submitted to the Bureau, Washington Field and the New York Division for an indices search and indicated action.

The indices of the Charlotte Division with regard to ERBEN are negative.

100-  
CWB:WH

cc: Washington Field  
New York

*Let to Charlotte  
cc - WFO  
NY*

RECORDED - 65

EX-123 165-682-136

JAN 18 1951

*Hendrick*

*21 11 45 AM 2001  
JE D [unclear] 11 21*

SAC, CHARLOTTE

February 1, 1951

DIRECTOR, FBI

HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN  
ESPIONAGE - C

Reurlet 1/17/51 entitled "Hermann Frederick Erben,  
Security Matter - C." U

Subject of referenced letter is identical with  
above-captioned subject. No investigation predicated on  
information in referenced letter is desired at this time. U

The Immigration and Naturalization Service has  
advised that an order has been signed by the Attorney  
General under Section 175.57, Code of Federal Regulations,  
excluding subject from entry into the United States on  
the ground that subject's entry would be prejudicial to  
the public interest and that subject is to be permanently  
excluded from the United States.

RECORDED - 61

65-682 - 136

EX-132 cc: Washington Field (Information)  
New York (Information)

JED:bar:jas

Note: Information concerning the order to exclude subject  
permanently from the United States was received from  
INS by [REDACTED]

279

- Leon \_\_\_\_\_
- Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Laughlin \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMM - FBI  
FEB - 2 1951  
MAILED 18

50 FEB 7 1951

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F B I  
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RECEIVED READING ROOM  
FEB 1 4 47 PM '51  
U S DEPT OF JUSTICE

LWROtel  
65-26

*[Handwritten flourish]*

*[Handwritten initials]*

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Egan	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

WASH AND NEW YORK FROM WASH FIELD  
DIRECTOR AND SAC, NY

1-13-51

10:50 AM

URGENT

DR. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, INFO CONCERNING RE BOSTON TEL OF  
JAN. ELEVEN, LAST, CAPTIONED AS ABOVE. THIS INDIVIDUAL UNDOUBTEDLY  
IDENTICAL WITH SUBJECT OF NY FILE SIX FIVE DASH ONE SEVEN ONE FIVE.

HOTTEL

*B. Huo*

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

RECORDED : 47

JAN 18 1951

8

REC'D BELMONT

50 FEB 5 1951

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*  
65-1682-137  
5-6

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

JAN 18 1951  
*Lib*  
 TELETYPE

*X*

*W. H. ...*

*Colbert*

WASHINGTON AND WASHINGTON FIELD 11 NEW YORK 6 FROM BOSTON  
 DIRECTOR AND SACS URGENT  
 RE DR. WERDNER ERNDLICH ERDEN INFO CONCERNING. INS BOSTON REPORTS  
 SUBJECT TO ARRIVE BOSTON SUNDAY JANUARY FOURTEENTH NEXT ON S. S.  
 STEEL SEAFARER. ERDEN BORN NOVEMBER FIFTEENTH, NINETY-SEVEN,  
 VIENNA AUSTRIA AND CITIZEN OF AUSTRIA WHO IS TRAVELING ON AUSTRIAN  
 PASSPORT. SUBJECT REFUSED US VISA IN VIENNA AND WAS ATTEMPTING TO  
 LAND AT HONG KONG, INDONESIA AND SUEZ CANAL AND REFUSED PERMISSION  
 IN EACH INSTANCE BASED UPON HIS BEING A QUOTE HIGH SECURITY RISK  
 UNQUOTE. INS BOSTON ADVISED BY INS NEW YORK NOT TO PERMIT ERDEN  
 TO DISEMBARK UNDER ANY CONDITIONS. HE IS NOT CONSIDERED A  
 STOWAWAY. WILL BE REQUIRED TO CONTINUE HIS TRAVELS AWAY FROM THE  
 US. IF CONDITIONS NECESSITATE HIS LEAVING THE BOAT AT NEW YORK,  
 HE WILL BE DETAINED BY INS. BOSTON INDICES NEGATIVE. BUREAU AND  
 NYC REQUESTED TO ADVISE NEW YORK OF ANY SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION  
 RE ERDEN AND EXISTANCE OF LOCK OUT OR STOP NOTICES. NO FURTHER  
 ACTION WIFE.

RECORDED - 47  
 THORNTON

65-682-138  
 JAN 18 1951

*del. was Bond  
 1-16-51  
 DFXC/...*

65-682  
 5-22

WA HOLD FILE  
 57 0 FEB 5 1951  
 NY BS R 6 NYC JLM

DISC. BLS. TWO COPIES WFO

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

Transmit the following message to: JANUARY 16, 1951. URGENT

Transmit the following message to: SAC'S: NEW YORK CITY  
WASHINGTON FIELD  
BOSTON

82818

DR. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, MISCELLANEOUS DASH INFORMATION  
CONCERNING. REFERENCE BOSTON TEL JANUARY TWELVE. BUFILES  
REFLECT ERBEN IS SUBJECT OF NEW YORK FILE SIX FIVE DASH  
ONE SEVEN ONE FIVE. NO INDICATION SUBJECT IS OF CURRENT  
INTEREST TO BUREAU. NO OUTSTANDING STOP OR LOOKOUT  
NOTICES LOCATED. (FOR YOUR INFORMATION CENTRAL OFFICE,  
INS PLACED LOOKOUT NOTICE AGAINST SUBJECT FOR THEIR OWN  
SERVICE BASED ON INFORMATION IN THEIR FILES AND THAT RECEIVED  
FROM CIA. CENTRAL OFFICE, INS IS HANDLING CASE AND ALL  
RELEVANT INFORMATION IN BUFILES BEING FURNISHED TO THEM)  
NO BUREAU ACTION NECESSARY.

HOOVER

CC - WASHINGTON FIELD (BY SPECIAL MESSENGER)

DFIC:cal  
COPY DESTROYED  
197 JUL 29 1970

Note: Erben was investigated extensively by the  
Bureau from 1937 to 1944 as a possible German  
espionage agent. On January 29, 1941, the United  
States District Court at San Francisco, California,  
ordered the United States citizenship of Erben  
revoked on the grounds that it was illegally  
procured. Erben left the United States some time  
in 1941 and is not known to have returned. State,  
CIA, G-2, ONE and the Treasury Department are aware  
of his identity and background. INS being furnished  
with summary information through liaison channels  
today in response to request.

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 16 1951

JAN 18 1951

RECORDED - 47

165-682-139  
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FEB 5 1951 TELETYPE

SENT VIA \_\_\_\_\_

Per \_\_\_\_\_



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For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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# German Agent Tells of Spy Ring in China

Shanghai, Oct. 1 (AP)—Herman Frederic Erben, German-born physician who was a naturalized American until his citizenship was revoked in 1941, says today that he was a German spy in China during the war.

Erben testified for the prosecution in the trial of the alleged spy ring of Dr. Erben, German exchange agent with American authorities, and said he passed the Japanese all military information long after the German surrender.

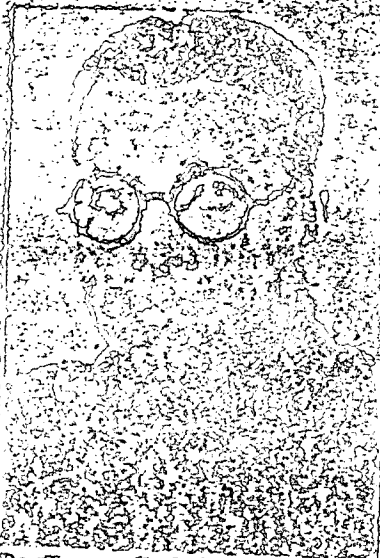
Erben boasted that he used to accompany most of the top German spies aboard the German ship. He said he became a German spy in Mexico City early in 1940 and later was sent to Shanghai to get information on American air movements.

Still later, he said he was assigned to work on the underground railway by which American spies, including Dr. Erben, were to be smuggled from Mexico to China.

Asked if he had any other information, Erben said he had no other information to offer.

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## Another Nazi Scuttles Off



Dr. Norman Frederick Erben, medical officer of the scuttled German battleship Graf Zeppel's supply ship, was deported after revocation of his American citizenship in Sacramento, Calif. The Federal Court found he had not resided in the United States five years or in San Francisco the six months before filing petition for citizenship in 1930.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

# Doc Erben Faces U. S. Ban Adventurer's Status as Afon Sifted

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Jan. 29.—The notorious Dr. Herman Fredrick Erben faced deportation today after the State Department made statements when he applied for his passport in 1933, that he would say about his past as an American citizen only that it was for nothing but unhap-

py. The blackbearded specialist on tropical diseases, who for 24 years and more has been an un-  
checked adventurer, said he

investigated by the Dept. of Jus-  
tice, U. S. authorities here said,  
and if the findings consider him  
an undesirable alien he will be  
deported. Although he is a na-  
tive of Vienna, it was doubtful  
that Germany would accept him,  
even though she had wanted  
him when revolution broke out  
in 1918, and he had been a mem-  
ber of the Nazi youth organiza-  
tion, Dr. Erben said.

Dr. Erben came to the U. S. in  
1914 on invitation of the  
Rockefeller Foundation, to work  
in an authority on tropical  
diseases. He was also considered  
of a ghost, having been officially  
reported killed in the World War  
while fighting with the  
British.

His first brush with govern-  
ment officials came in 1933  
when he brought a shipment of  
1200 monkeys into New York  
from India. He had 30 monkey  
skulls packed in boxes and re-  
fused to declare them as such.  
That year he was official-  
ly reported dead for the second  
time, supposed victim of a heart  
attack aboard the Steamer Cal-  
ifornia. The State Depart-  
ment had reported so seriously  
that in 1933 he was denied a visa  
to go to Britain with a company



DR. HERMAN ERBEN  
Too many joints

Dr. H. E. Erben  
U.S. Revokes  
Citizenship

No U. S. citizenship for soldier- fortune Dr. Herman Frederick Erben, whose activities range from tropical diseases to German navy service, United States District Court Judge Martin L. Wolf, decided yesterday.

The citizenship of the Austrian doctor was revoked yesterday on the complaint of Government attorneys that it was obtained through concealment of facts and false statements.

Dr. Erben, who has been seen in a hotel and has been seen around the harbor since several months. He had tried to pass as an ordinary seaman, but all his papers were refused.

His attorney, Clarence Gramsola, said he believed his client was in Los Angeles seeking employment and would communicate with him when he saw the court's decision.

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Los Angeles, California  
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