JHM:JM

March 19, 1936

RECORDED 7-1001-9

Mr. R. Whitley,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
607 United States Court House Building,
Foley Square,
New York, New York.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of March 11, 1936, transmitting fingerprints of Jack Dempsey, [redacted] for elimination purposes in connection with the case entitled, [illegible]; JOAN [illegible] DEMPSEY - Victim; [illegible], your file [illegible].

Please be advised that the fingerprints submitted have been compared with the four latent impressions previously developed on the original letter beginning "Hello Jack Just a line..." and two of the latent impressions have been eliminated from further consideration by identification with the right thumb and left thumb impressions, respectively, of Jack Dempsey.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

SPECIAL DELIVERY

cc-Trenton

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
MAR 21 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

b7c

JAM 10.30

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK CITY — N.Y. FILE NO. 7-265 — ES

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
NEW YORK CITY	3/11/36	3/6 - 11/36	[redacted] b7C

TITLE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS
JOAN HANNAH DEMPSEY - Victim

CHARACTER OF CASE: KIDNAPING

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Warning letter dated at New York City, March 2, 1936, received by Jack Dempsey, former World's Heavyweight Champion, advising that his daughter was to be kidnaped. Investigation of a suspect mentioned in such letter, 112 East 104th Street, New York City, proved fruitless. Dempsey is disinclined to treat matter seriously, and has engaged no bodyguards. Fingerprints of persons who handled letter, obtained and forwarded to Bureau for elimination purposes. Pending subsequent developments, the case is closed.

DETAILS: The following is a joint report of Special Agent [redacted] b7C and the writer.

During the morning of March 6, 1936 JACK DEMPSEY, former World's Heavyweight Champion, telephoned to Special Agent in Charge R. Whitley of the New York Office to advise of the receipt of a letter indicating DEMPSEY'S baby was to be kidnaped.

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: R. Whitley — Special Agent in Charge

7-1581-10

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

RECORDED AND INDEXED: MAR 18 1936

MAR 17 1936

COPIES OF THIS REPORT FORWARDED TO:
3 Bureau
3 Trenton - Encl.
4 New York

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTED TO: — FILE

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Mr. DEMPSEY was interviewed at the Dempsey Restaurant, 50th Street and Eighth Avenue, New York City, by Agents. Mr. DEMPSEY stated that his secretary had handed him the warning letter after DEMPSEY'S return from Atlantic City on March 5, 1936; that the envelope in which the warning letter was received had been destroyed by the secretary; that he cannot identify the handwriting or the signature of this letter; that he does not know whether the signature is SAMMY [illegible]er BONJY [illegible]; that he is not inclined to treat the letter seriously; that he is of the opinion that it represents the activity of a crank; that he has no intention of providing a bodyguard for his child; that his wife is temporarily stopping at the President Hotel, Room 431, Atlantic City; that his permanent residence is Apartment 20-J, Century Apartments, 25 Central Park West, New York City (Columbus 5-3038); that he does not intend to inform his wife (the former HANNAH WILLIAMS) of the nature of this letter; that his daughter, JOAN HANNAH, was nineteen months old on March 5, 1936; that during the afternoon, about 2.30 p.m., he received a telephone call from some girl who claimed she was MARION DAVIES, the movie actress; that he was aware she was not who she claimed to be, but did not indicate he knew she was not Miss DAVIES; that this woman caller inquired as to where his family was, whether they were still in Atlantic City, and it is his recollection that he replied in the affirmative.

Mr. DEMPSEY further advised that between 8.30 and 9 p.m. on March 5, he received a telephone call from a man whose name he did not request, who desired to know whether DEMPSEY was going to Atlantic City, and the caller was informed that DEMPSEY was leaving that night; that he had no intention of going to Atlantic City until Saturday, March 7, but did not consider it was any of the anonymous caller's business as to what DEMPSEY intended to do; that he does not know whether these two telephone calls have any significance in connection with the warning letter.

Mr. DEMPSEY further advised that his picture appeared in local New York newspapers a few days previous, showing him pushing his daughter in a baby carriage out of an elevator; that such item had news value because of the present elevator strike; and that it is possible some crank saw the picture, and such event occasioned the letter. It was also disclosed that Mrs. DEMPSEY is expecting another child about June 1936.

The following is a copy of the letter delivered to Agents by DEMPSEY:

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"March. 2nd - 36
New York, Ny.

Hello Jack,

Just a line to warn you that your child is an object of a snach. I am an ex fighter whom you once did a great favor and therefore I don't want any harm to come to you and your family.

You are being followed nearly every time you take you_ child out in the park so be careful. I know one of the plotters a Spaniard who I think lives at 112 East 12th St. his name I know only as Alvo.

Take this matter seriously and investigate it in your own way.

Sincerely

Sammy F.

For the information of the Trenton Office, a photostat of this letter is being forwarded with copies of this report to Trenton.

The original letter was forwarded to the Bureau for laboratory examination with letter from the New York Office dated March 6, 1936. A teletype from the Bureau, dated March 7, 1936, advised - "Four latent fingerprints of value developed on original warning letter." A second teletype on the same date advised - "Extortion letter no watermark except 'laid line,' measures approximately 8½ x 11. White rock as is used for typewriter. Believe wording to be Sammy F." Supplemental letter of March 9, 1936 was received from the Bureau, advising of the above.

Newspaper items of Monday, March 9, reflect that two postal cards had been received in Atlantic City, also warning [redacted] of an alleged plan to kidnap his daughters. Telephone conversation between Special Agent in Charge Whitley of the New York Office and Special Agent in Charge A. H. Richmond of the Trenton Office reflected that the two post cards had been furnished to agents of the Trenton Office.

In connection with the address of 112 East 12th Street, New York City, furnished by the sender of the letter as the address of a person believed to be involved in the alleged plot, and whose name,

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according to the sender, is NLVO, investigation was conducted at that address and in the vicinity, it being determined through inquiries of storekeepers and others of the neighborhood, that the premises at 112 East 104th Street have been vacant for a period of about two months, and that the premises were originally occupied as a synagogue. The investigation also disclosed that the neighborhood is composed of residents of several nationalities, including Porto Ricans, Spaniards, Italians, Negros, and Hebrews. During the investigation in that neighborhood, efforts were made to elicit information which would indicate whether or not anyone of an eccentric nature, who might be concerned in the writing of such letters, lived in the vicinity; and inquiries were also made with respect to whether or not any known ex-pugilist was a resident of that neighborhood. All of the information in this respect proved negative, and in furtherance of the same line of inquiry, the two postal carriers whose routes include that street, were interviewed, and they were likewise unable to supply any information that might have any bearing upon this matter.

Night Assistant Superintendent [redacted] Post Office Station U, 226 East 106th Street, New York City, exhibited to Agents the official change of address book which was carefully examined, but no name similar to that appearing in the warning letter, was found. b7C

During the neighborhood inquiry and visits to the neighborhood small stores, an examination was made of the stationery on sale, but the few types available in these stores were distinctly different from that used in the warning letter.

Mr. DEMPSEY was again interviewed by Agent [redacted] and the writer, at his apartment during the morning of March 11, 1936. Fingerprints were taken of DEMPSEY, his wife, and his daughter, JOAN HARMAN. With respect to the cards received at Atlantic City, DEMPSEY reiterated that he still was disinclined to treat the matter seriously. Regardless of newspaper comments, he stated he had not and did not intend to engage any bodyguard. Also, his wife is still unaware of the receipt of the original letter quoted above. He also reiterated his previously expressed intention of cooperating in all respects with this Bureau. His remarks reflect that any subsequent letters of interest will be carefully treated so as to eliminate fingerprints of handlers. No further letters have been received. b7C

At the Dempsey Restaurant, the fingerprints were obtained of Miss [redacted], the young lady employed in a secretarial capacity in the office of the Dempsey Restaurant. The

started to work for DEMPSEY on March 4, 1936, and is concerned over the fact that the letter was received on her first day of employment. She opened the warning letter but could furnish no worthwhile information as to the nature of the envelope. She is of the impression that it was written in longhand, but such envelope had no printing, return address, or other identifying features, but probably was of similar type paper as was the letter. She can only guess that it possessed a New York City postmark. She readily agreed to having her fingerprints taken for elimination purposes. She made note of the New York Office telephone number and address, and will promptly inform as to the receipt of any additional items of interest. She possesses cellophane envelopes previously furnished by Agents to DEMPSEY for use in handling further interesting items.

Miss [redacted] had remarked about having received and destroyed a few items, the number not recalled, from unknown persons who solicited the position of bodyguard, and from some woman who had offered her home as a safe refuge for the child. Miss [redacted] was instructed, and she readily agreed, to preserve all such items and to promptly forward same to the New York Office. b7C

[redacted] general manager for Dempsey, also permitted the taking of his fingerprints. He could furnish no information as to the nature of the envelope which had contained the warning letter as he had not treated the letter seriously, and never saw the envelope. He readily agreed to treat all future items with consideration and preserve same for Bureau Agents. b7C

Six fingerprint cards are being forwarded to the Bureau under separate cover--one each for DEMPSEY, Mrs. DEMPSEY, Miss [redacted] and two for JOAN HANNAH DEMPSEY. The warning letter of September 2 had been handled by Miss [redacted] and DEMPSEY, and the fingerprint cards of these persons are to be used for elimination purposes, the fingerprint cards of Mrs. DEMPSEY and the baby, JOAN HANNAH DEMPSEY, to be filed for possible future reference. b7C

The description of DEMPSEY'S daughter, based on the observations of Agents, is as follows:

Name	Joan Hannah Dempsey
Age	19 months
Height	30 to 30½ inches
Weight	Approximately 30 lbs.
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown
Features	Full face
Complexion	Fair

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Copies of this report are being furnished to the Trenton Office for its information, inasmuch as it is understood such office had conducted investigation at Atlantic City in connection with the post cards previously mentioned.

If and when subsequent events occur requiring additional investigation, this case will be reopened.

-CLOSED-

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Report

Case:

Number:

Specimens:

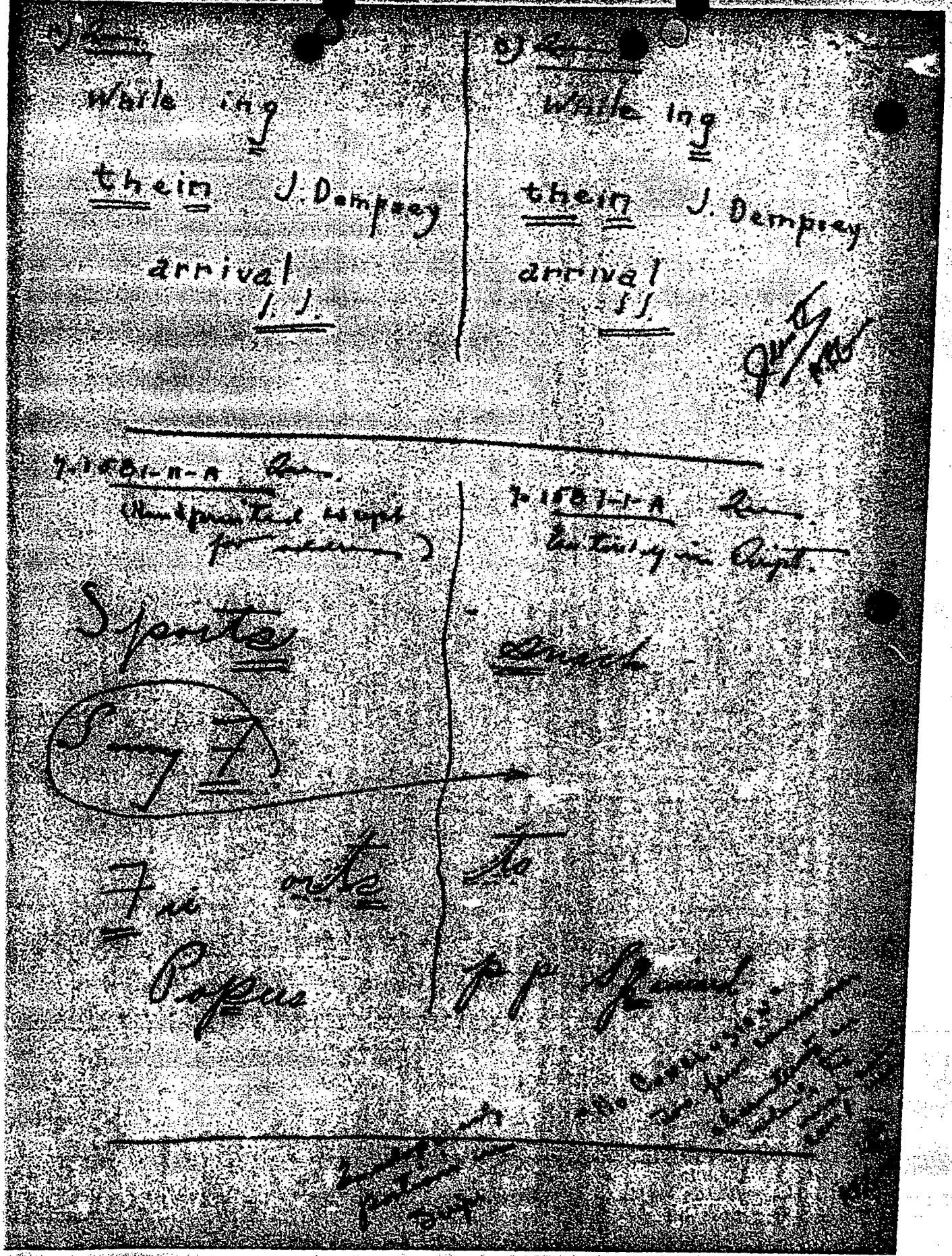
Examination requested by:

Date received:

Examination requested:

Result of examination:

Examination by:



1) [illegible]	2) [illegible]
While ing	While ing
thein J. Dempsey	thein J. Dempsey
arrival	arrival
J. J.	J. J.

7-1581-11-A [illegible]	7-1581-1-A [illegible]
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Sports	Snack
Sorry I	
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