Dist 3/18
Dist 3/18

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION #8559
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Report

Case: RE: PLOT TO KIDNAP JOAN HANNAH DEMPSEY. Number: 7-1581-11

Specimens:

7-1581-11 A. One postal card addressed to L. Greenberg, Sports, Press-Union Papers, postmarked, 1 Atlantic City, N. J., Mar. 6, 1936, 7 PM.
" B. One postal card addressed to Captain, Detective Bureau, City Hall, postmarked, 1 Atlantic City, N.J., Mar. 6, 1936, 5 PM.

Examination requested by: Trenton

Date received: 3-13-36 jwp 10:55 AM

Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint

Result of examination: Examination by: [redacted] b7c

TWO PHOTOGRAPHIC COPIES OF "A" AND "B" TO THE NEW YORK AND THE TRENTON OFFICES.

CC: New York

(Spec Cat)

3/17 Two postals are by same hand
f h Hey J Lari q Tie

Script on 11A address
No conclusion as to comparison
with 1A
favor great

Dec 3-14-36

TRENTON STATE GAZETTE - Trenton, New Jersey

March

DEMPSEY KIDNAP THREAT IS PROBED

Infant Guarded at Shore Hotel—Federal Agents Enter Case

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., March [illegible]—Federal agents and local police were reported investigating tonight an alleged kidnaping threat made against Joan Hannah, 19-months-old daughter of Jack Dempsey, former heavyweight boxing champion.

The child is reported under guard in a suite at a local hotel where her mother, the former Hannah Williams, also is living during the service employes' strike in New York City.

The precautions were taken, it was learned, after a friend of Dempsey and Jack himself had received postcards on which an anonymous writer warned them that "two Polish gentlemen" were overheard planning the kidnaping.

While authorities were inclined to regard the incident as the work of a crank, it is learned that two Federal agents have been sent to the city to investigate.

ATLANTIC CITY PRESS - Atlantic City, N. J.

March

Guard Dempsey Baby

Take Precautions After Abduction Tips; Believed Work of Crank

Joan Hannah, chubby 19-months-old daughter of Jack Dempsey, former heavyweight champion, is under close guard at the Dempsey suite in the President Hotel here while shore police and Federal agents probe a tip she would be the target of kidnapers.

From meager details available, the precautions were taken after an Atlantic City friend of Dempsey and Jack himself had received postcards on which the anonymous writer gave the message "Two Polish gentlemen" were overheard planning the snatch. The cards were received Friday night.

Dempsey brought his wife and daughter here last week for the duration of the service strike in New York. He has been commuting.

While the former heavyweight king and authorities believe the cards are the work of a crank, it is reported Dempsey sent a bodyguard from New York to be constantly near the child. Department of Justice men were notified by shore police and two agents are here working on the case.

The family and police refuse to comment on the case. The Federal men are keeping under cover.

March 9, 1936.

MEMORANDUM FOR SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE, E. L. RICHMOND

Acting on your instructions, I proceeded this morning at 6:15 A. M., to Atlantic City to investigate the report of a plot to kidnap the daughter of Jack Dempsey. Upon arrival there I contacted [redacted], of the Atlantic City Police Department, and was informed that two post cards had been received on Saturday morning, March 7, 1936, one by Mr. L. Greenberg, of the Press Union Newspaper, and the other by Captain [redacted] of the Atlantic City Police Department. Detectives [redacted] and [redacted] were immediately assigned to investigate. They went to the President Hotel, where Jack Dempsey is registered with his wife and daughter Joan (two years old), and made arrangements to guard the child while in the hotel, and shadow the child while it was being taken for an outing on the boardwalk.

b7c

Accompanied by Detective [redacted], I proceeded to the President Hotel and interviewed Jack Dempsey. It was Mr. Dempsey's opinion that this matter was a hoax and that the cards were written to cause him annoyance, and did not represent a threat to his child's safety. Detective [redacted] concurred in this opinion. Mrs. Dempsey is very much upset over the thought of the child being kidnaped, and this is especially harmful because of the fact that she is expecting another child in June. Mr. Dempsey mentioned the fact that he had received two cards in New York City and had turned them over to the New York Bureau office. He stated that in the New York instance he believed the cards were written by a former sparring partner of his, and mentioned that they had actually included in their contents the name and address of the person suspected of the plot to kidnap his daughter. He believed that the New York threat was a serious one, and stated that he had given all the facts in his possession to the New York office.

b7c

Mr. Dempsey was very appreciative of the cooperation given him by the Bureau. He spoke very highly of the Agents themselves, and was especially complimentary in his remarks about the Director. He stated that he could not conceive of anyone these days kidnaping a child, because "Mr. Hoover will catch them and burn them sooner or later, and anyone with an ounce of sense would know that that's what is going to happen to him."

The two post cards which are attached to this memorandum are as follows:
(1) Regular U. S. Post Office, one cent post card, postmarked "Atlantic City, N. J., March 6, 1936, 5 P. M.," addressed to Captain, Detective Bureau, City Hall." On the reverse side is the following message printed in green ink: "Pri. While coming in on a train from N. Y. I overheard in Polish a conversa-

1-15-1-11

tion between two women and a man. While J. Dempsey is out of the city for the week-end would be a swell chance to go for the kid to take quarters on the same floor and watch as the nurse takes it out of the Hotel. Also that Confederates are in the vicinity since their arrival." These cards were signed by a character which resembles two small "Ls."

(2) Regular U. S. Post Office, one cent post card, postmarked "Atlantic City, N. J., March 6, 1936, 7 P. M., addressed to L. Greenberg, Sports, Press-Union Papers." On the reverse side is the following message printed in black ink: "Fri. While coming in on a train from N. Y. I overheard in Polish a conversation between two women and a man. While J. Dempsey is out of the city for the weekend would be a swell chance to go for the kid. To take quarters on the same floor and watch as the nurse takes it out of the hotel. Also that Confederates are in the vicinity since their arrival." This post card was also signed by a character resembling two small "Ls."

The pencil writing on card (1) was put there by Captain of Detectives Yates, of Atlantic City.

I made an effort to determine how many persons had touched the above-mentioned two cards, but could secure no definite list. However, I did find out that both cards were handled by reporters and detectives, as well as Mr. and Mrs. Dempsey.

Respectfully submitted,

[redacted]

Special Agent (A)

CMS

cc:Bureau
cc:N. Y.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice

827 Broad Street National Bank Building
Trenton New Jersey

March 11, 1936.

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: PLOT TO KIDNAP JOAN HANNAH DEMPSEY

Dear Sir:

In confirmation of my telephonic information conveyed to Mr. E. A. Tamm on March 9, 1936, I wish to advise you that at 2:30 A. M., on June 9, 1936, Mr. [redacted] who stated he was a reporter for the NEW YORK NEWS, called up at my home and stated that he had been advised that two letters had been received at the Police Department in Atlantic City, and that these letters stated that the daughter of Jack Dempsey was to be kidnaped by Polish-speaking persons. Mr. [redacted] wanted to be advised as to whether this office was taking any action in this matter. I, of course, told Mr. [redacted] that I knew nothing of it. I immediately communicated with Acting Captain Farley, of the Detective Bureau of the Atlantic City Police Department. Captain Farley stated that there were two post cards received, one by the Police Department, and one by a friend of Dempsey's; that these post cards were unsigned and contained merely warning, apparently from a disinterested person, that a plot was in the process of being formulated to kidnap the child of Jack Dempsey. Captain Farley's conversation appeared to be on no violation of the Extortion law. Captain Farley also advised that Detectives [redacted] and [redacted] were assigned to this case. Accordingly, the writer deemed it advisable to have Special Agent [redacted] contact these two detectives, who are personal friends of his, for any information they may have relative to a possible violation over which this Bureau has investigative jurisdiction.

Agent [redacted] submitted a memorandum, two copies of which are being forwarded to the Bureau, and two copies to the New York office. This memorandum is self-explanatory. The card received by the Police Department, and the one received by Mr. Greenberg, are being transmitted to the Bureau for whatever examination the Bureau desires to make in this case. It is requested, however, that four photostatic copies of each of these cards be made, two of these copies to be forwarded to the New York office, and two copies to this office, for the completion of their respective files. There are also being transmitted to the Bureau three newspaper items taken from the ATLANTIC CITY DAILY WORLD, ATLANTIC CITY PRESS, and TRENTON STATE GAZETTE. It will be noted that these articles all state that Federal Agents are investigating this case. Inasmuch as these articles

RECORDED & INDEXED
MAR 19 1936

7-1581-11

Copy and Specimen Retained in Laboratory

all appeared in the morning paper, before Agent [redacted]ms in Atlantic City, the writer believes that these articles were based on no foundation or fact whatever.

In accordance with Mr. Tamm's instructions, this office is, of course, conducting no investigation in this matter. The fact concerning the receiving of the post cards in Atlantic City were communicated telephonically to Mr. R. Whitley, Special Agent in Charge of the New York Bureau office, upon the instructions of Mr. E. A. Tamm.

Very truly yours,

E. L. Richmond

E. L. RICHMOND
Special Agent in Charge

ELR:CMS
Encl. #516991 (6)
cc N. Y.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Report

Case: RE: PLOT TO KIDNAP JOAN HANNAH DEMPSEY.

Number: 7-1581-11

Specimens:

7-1581-11 A. One postal card addressed to L. Greenberg, Sports, Press-Union Papers, postmarked, 1 Atlantic City, N. J., Mar. 6, 1936, 7 PM.
B. One postal card addressed to Captain, Detective Bureau, City Hall, postmarked, 1 Atlantic City, N.J., Mar. 6, 1936, 5 PM.

Examination requested by: [redacted]

Date received: 3-13-36 [illegible] 10:55 AM

Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint

Result of examination:

Examination by: [redacted]

TWO PHOTOGRAPHIC COPIES OF "A" AND "B" TO THE NEW YORK AND THE TRENTON OFFICES.

CC: New York

One latent on B; 3 on A.
Dict 3/20/ JPann

Acc. 3.20-36

[redacted]

March 27, 1956

[redacted]

Special Agent in Charge
[redacted]

[redacted]

Dear Sir:

With reference to Laboratory Report [redacted] in connection with the above entitled case, there are [redacted] the following specimens which you forwarded for examination:

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Very truly yours,

[redacted]

Director

Enclosure [redacted]