FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

8685

APG:EG

Laboratory Report

March 27, 1936.

Case: Unknown Subjects; Joan Hannah Dempsey - Victim; Kidnaping.

Number: 7-1581-19

Specimens:

A. One original threatening letter beginning "Hello Jack, So you". Also one piece of plain, unmarked stationery. B. One envelope addressed to Mr. Jack Dempsey, postmarked "Times Square Station, New York, 1, March 18, 1936, 7 A. M.". C. One original letter beginning "I have some very". D. One envelope addressed to Mr. Jack Dempsey Restaurant, postmarked "New York, New York, 7, March 17, 1936, 11:30 P. M.".

Examination requested by: New York Office.

Date received: 3/21/36.

Examination requested: Fingerprint - Document.

Result of examination: Examination by [redacted] b7c

The first page of the original extortion letter designated as specimen A above is handprinted in ink on a sheet of plain white rough finish writing stationery measuring 7.[illegible]x[illegible].[illegible]" and bears the watermark "Fifth Avenue Linen" which appears on paper sold by the F. W. Woolworth Company.

The envelope designated as specimen B above has a plain white rough finish, measures 5.[illegible]x[illegible].[illegible]x.[illegible]", and bears no watermark. The address appearing thereon is handprinted in ink.

The first page of the original letter designated as specimen C above is handwritten in ink on a sheet of plain white stationery folded in half, bearing no watermark and measuring [illegible]. The address appearing thereon is handprinted in ink.

The envelope designated as specimen D has a plain white rough finish, measures [illegible]x[illegible].[illegible]x.[illegible]" and bears no watermark. The address appearing thereon is handwritten in ink. Additional physical characteristics of the above four specimens have been recorded in the Laboratory [illegible] for comparison with possible future specimens.

RECORDED & INDEXED 7-1581-21

It is the opinion of the examiner that the handprinting and handwriting appearing respectively on letters designated as specimens A and C above are not identical with that of other original extortion letters [illegible] in this case. The original handwritten letter designated as C above contains foreign handwriting characteristics indicating that this might have been written by a French woman.

APR 2 1936

The original extortion letters will be searched through the Laboratory's anonymous letter file and in the event an identification is effected you will be so advised. A specimen copy showing the characteristics of the writing of these letters has been placed in the Laboratory's file for comparison with other anonymous writings of this character.

Photographic copies of the evidence submitted will be forwarded to your office within the next several days.

A report on the fingerprint examination will be submitted separately.

THE ORIGINAL EVIDENCE IS BEING RETAINED IN THE LABORATORY FOR USE IN ANY SUBSEQUENT EXAMINATIONS WHICH MAY BE DESIRED. SHOULD YOUR OFFICE DESIRE THIS ORIGINAL EVIDENCE FOR USE IN ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS WHICH MAY DEVELOP THE BUREAU SHOULD BE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE TIME TO PERMIT TRANSMITTAL.

1 - [redacted]
1 - New York
1 - Laboratory

APG:EO

March 27, 1936.

RECORDED 7-1561-[illegible] 21

Special Agent in Charge,
New York, New York.

Re: Unknown Subjects;
Joan Hannah Dempsey - Victim;
Kidnaping.

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above entitled matter and received in the Bureau March 21, 1936.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure: #1121160.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
MAR 23 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

P&F:CW

April 2, 1936.

Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Ms. Keith
Mr. Lucas
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR.

Time - 1:30 P. M.

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS -
JACK DEMPSEY - Victim;
Extortion

While talking with Mr. Whitley on other matters, I asked him what the status of the above matter was. He stated there are no further developments; that he is watching it and everything has been reported up to date on same; that he thinks it was a "crank" case in the beginning but it is being given very prompt and expeditious attention all the way through.

RECORDED 7-1581-22

Mr. [redacted] alias [redacted]

APR 11 1936

Mr. Whitley also called my attention to the above matter. He is the man the New York office had under surveillance over a year ago in New York. He is supposed to have been a contact for [redacted] which is the only interest the Bureau had in him. He subsequently, several months ago, showed up at Reno, Nevada, [redacted] and it was learned he was with activities out there and wrote the Bureau concerning him, said this individual was associating with [redacted] and other local men out there. Mr. Whitley said they identified [redacted] immediately from the description and data contained in the field office file. Shortly after this, Inspector [redacted] of the New York City Police Department made inquiries about [redacted] saying that he had him identified in connection with a jewel robbery, which is the Radio City robbery of January 1st, 1936. Mr. Whitley stated he did not tell Inspector [redacted] where [redacted] was. The Bureau was advised of the inquiry by letter and the fact that there is no process out against him and the Bureau wrote back and instructed not to advise Inspector [redacted] as to [redacted] whereabouts for the time being, as [redacted] was trying, through to make some discreet inquiries to see if he could get any line on whether [redacted] might have taken some of the jewelry out there. Inspector [redacted] has again contacted the New York office and stated he has [redacted] positively identified as one of the participants in the robbery; that [redacted] has been secretly indicted and that he is extremely anxious to find him.

Mr. Whitley stated, in view of this development, which has also been reported to the Bureau by letter, it occurs to him that the Bureau should consider very carefully the advisability of withholding that information any longer from the New York Police; in other words, they have an indictment out for a man on a serious charge and there is a possibility he

We should reconsider this. [redacted] NYC ltr 4/1/36

may have transported some of the jewelry out of the state but the Bureau has no information whatever indicating that. Mr. Whitley stated that if the Bureau should lose track of him at Reno and it would later come out that the Bureau knew where he was and had not told the New York Police, it would be a bad position to be in; before they did not have an indictment but now they do have.

Mr. Whitley suggested that I review the correspondence outlining this matter and consider whether the New York office should sit tight on the information. I advised him I would recommend to you that the New York Police be advised of [redacted] whereabouts, as the Bureau's relations are pretty good now, especially with Inspector [redacted] who is handling this case personally. I also advised him I would let him know the outcome of my talk with you relative to same. b7C

Mr. Whitley also suggested that Inspector [redacted] will probably want the Bureau to pick up [redacted] and hold him until the New York Police can have him removed or extradited and believes the Bureau should also approve this step. Mr. Whitley stated [redacted] is very dangerous; that apparently he is acting as body guard for [redacted] at Reno and if he is associating with [redacted] in Reno it means that he has a direct inside track on everything there, in other words local officials wouldn't pick him up. b7C

RE: [redacted] w. a.
et al - Bank Robbery

Mr. Whitley also advised that at the time they were talking to [redacted] while he was in custody at New York, he told them about a bunch of getaway charts he had buried in Connecticut, also a rifle. He said that those charts were for jobs which he and his associates had pulled and for a number of jobs which have not been pulled but which have been contemplated. He gave the best descriptive data he could as to the location of them and Mr. Whitley said he sent Agents [redacted] and [redacted] up there Tuesday to try to locate the charts. They found eighteen getaway charts buried in a thermos jug. The charts are very elaborate, they are typewritten and they show the exact directions and mileage, being prepared by [redacted] himself. Mr. Whitley stated these charts have not been identified as to just what jobs they relate and [redacted] may have to identify them as they relate to past and contemplated jobs. The charts are all being photostated today and will be sent to the Bureau - the originals and one set of photostats. They have not been touched and have been put in cellophane envelopes; that he has in mind different parties whom [redacted] named and who helped him in some of these jobs, who might have handled these charts and the Bureau could probably get a number of good latent prints off of them. b7C

Mr. Whitley advised that in addition to the charts they found a half gallon container buried at the same place full of roofing tacks used to sprinkle on the roads and also an old Remington single shot what is known as a "40-70" or an old buffalo gun, which will be an addition to the Bureau's collection. It was stuffed in an inner tube and very well protected. There was also a half gallon container of ammunition for this gun. All of this material is being sent to the Bureau tonight. He said there were also about five or six sets of different kinds of license plates, all being 1935 ones, which are not being sent to the Bureau with the above-mentioned articles.

Respectfully,

P. E. Foxworth.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK CITY, N. Y. FILE NO. 7-36 CMS

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY	4-17-36	3/9-10-/36	[redacted] b7C

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
UNKNOWN SUBJECTS JOAN HANNAH DEMPSEY - Victim	KIDNAPING

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Two identically worded post cards received Atlantic City, N. J., 3-7-36, one by L. Greenberg, Press Union Newspapers, and other by Captain [illegible], Detective Bureau, informing of alleged plot to kidnap daughter of Jack Dempsey. Dempsey believes cards sent to annoy him, and daughter in no danger. Both cards turned over to Agent by Dempsey sent to Bureau with letter 3-11-36. Dempsey family returned to New York 3-7-36. Detective [redacted] Atlantic City, reports conversation [illegible] overheard about Dempsey by informant in bar room run by [redacted] near Pleasantville, N. J., [illegible] Polish people. [redacted] has criminal record. b7C

-- NUC --

DETAILS.

This case is predicated upon a telephone call made by Special Agent in Charge S. L. Richmond, Trenton Bureau office, to Captain of Detectives Farley, Atlantic City Police Department, regarding a rumor communicated to Mr. Richmond by a newspaper reporter, that the Police Department in Atlantic City had received a post card informing of a plot to kidnap Joan Hannah Dempsey. Captain Farley

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: E. L. Richmond SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

7-1581-23

APR 20 1936

APR 22 1936

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3 - Bureau
3 - New York (Enc.)
2 - Trenton

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

informed Mr. Richmond that he had received such a post card and that his detectives were investigating the matter.

AT ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY:

Agent ascertained at Atlantic City Police Headquarters, that Detective [redacted] was handling the case, and Agent immediately contacted him. He advised that two post cards had been received on Saturday morning, March 7, 1936, one by Mr. H. Greenberg, of the Press Union Newspapers, and the other by Captain Yates, of the Police Department. Mr. Greenberg turned his post card immediately over to the Police Department.

Detective [redacted] accompanied by Detective [redacted] contacted Jack Dempsey at the President Hotel, where he was registered with his wife and daughter Joan Dempsey, and made arrangements to guard the child while at the hotel and while being taken for an outing on the boardwalk.

Agents, accompanied Detective [redacted] to the Ritz-Adair Hotel and there interviewed Jack Dempsey. Detective [redacted] remained in the lobby. Mr. Dempsey stated that he did not take the post cards seriously as he believed they were sent for the purpose of annoying him rather than with the idea of their being a real plot. He was unable to secure this information from Mrs. Dempsey, however, and she was very upset over the thought of her daughter being kidnaped. This caused Mr. Dempsey some concern because of the fact that his wife 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. In the New York instance, however, he believed the threat to be a serious one because of the fact that the person writing the cards had actually mentioned the name of the alleged kidnaper.

Mr. Dempsey's faith in the Department of Justice was unbounded, and he said that he felt quite secure in having

the matter in their hands. He expressed great appreciation at the cooperation extended to him by the Bureau, and was especially complimentary in his remarks regarding the Director.

The two post cards were forwarded to the Bureau on March 11, 1936 in a letter written by Special Agent in Charge E. L. Richmond. They were 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: "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 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."

It was ascertained from Mr. Dempsey and Detective [redacted] that both post cards were handled by reporters and detectives, as well as by Mr. and Mrs. Dempsey. It was impossible to obtain a list of the names of these people. b7C

Detective [redacted] informed Agent that an informant of his had, while drinking at a bar room near Pleasantville, N. J., on March 6, 1936, overheard a conversation between b7C

some Polish people regarding Jack Dempsey. No mention was made, however, of any plot to kidnap his daughter. Detective [redacted] advised that this [illegible] was run by a man by the [redacted] and bears a very poor reputation. He states that [redacted] had a criminal record, and furnished Agent with a picture of this man, showing his incarceration in the Atlantic County Jail on February 16, 1932 under the number [redacted] for the violation of the National Prohibition Act. This picture is being forwarded to the New York office with copies of their report for their disposition.

b7C

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FORM NO. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK, N.Y. N.Y. FILE NO. 7-265 MT

REPORT MADE AT:	DATE WHEN MADE:	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE:	REPORT MADE BY:
NEW YORK CITY	4/27/36	4/22/36	[redacted]

b7c

TITLE:	CHARACTER OF CASE:
UNKNOWN SUBJECTS JOAN HANNAH DEMPSEY - Victim	KIDNAPING

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Miss [redacted] secretary to Jack Dempsey, reports no additional items of interest received; also, that Dempsey is leaving on 4/25/36 for a ten day trip as far as Louisville, Kentucky.

b7c

P.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] New York City, 3/19/36.

b7c

DETAILS: Miss [redacted] secretary to JACK DEMPSEY, was contacted by telephone on April 22, 1936, at which time she advised that no letters or other items of interest had been received. She expressed the opinion that Mr. DEMPSEY was inclined to forget about this matter. She also advised that Mr. DEMPSEY was making a southern trip beginning Sunday, April 26, 1936, in connection with the Jack Dempsey Chocolate Bar enterprise; that he would be making personal appearances in various places; that so far it was intended to visit Wheeling, West Virginia, Evansville, Indiana, Louisville, Kentucky; that he would be gone at least ten days and would travel by train. She promised to promptly advise the New York Bureau office of any subsequent developments of interest.

b7c

UNDEVELOPED LEADS: NEW YORK OFFICE - Will maintain contact with DEMPSEY'S office for later developments.

PENDING.

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: R. Whitney

7-1581-24

RECORDED AND INDEXED: APR 28 1936

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3 - New York

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 28 A.M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OFFICE OF
APR 29 1936
INDEXED

ROUTED TO: FILE

June 4, 1936

JAS:LL

7-1581
[redacted]

Special Agent in Charge,
New York, New York.

Re: [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Dear Sir:

The [redacted] has noted that the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at New York City, [redacted] b7C

[redacted] b7C

[redacted]

Very truly yours,

[redacted]
Director.

NOT RECORDED 7-1581

[illegible] BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK [illegible] N.Y. FILE NO. 7-265 RK

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
NEW YORK CITY	6/[illegible]/36	5/29/36	[redacted] b7C

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
UNKNOWN SUBJECTS JOAN HANNAH DEMPSEY - Victim	KIDNAPING

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS

No additional threatening letters or other items of interest have been received. Case is being closed, awaiting subsequent developments.

C.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] New York City, dated [illegible] b7C

DETAILS:

Miss [redacted] secretary to JACK DEMPSEY, was contacted by telephone on May 29, 1936, at which time she advised that Mr. DEMPSEY and the entire office has substantially forgotten about this case. She said Mr. DEMPSEY was no longer worried and considered the letters previously received to be the work of [illegible]. She still possesses the cellophane envelopes furnished her by the Bureau and will retain same for use in the event subsequent items of interest are received.

The case is being closed at this time, subject to being reopened should subsequent developments so warrant.

CLOSED

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: R. [illegible] 1581-25

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3 - Bureau

1 - Trenton (Information)

3 - New York

JUN 6 1936

JUN 8 1936

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice

WEM:HK
7-263

607 U. S. Court House,
Foley Square,
New York, N.Y.

June 12, 1936.

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

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS,
JOHN HANNAH DEMPSEY - VICTIM.
KIDNAPING.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter of June 8, 1936, (Bureau file 7-1581), containing suggestion that [redacted] furnish handwriting specimens and [redacted] for comparison with items previously submitted in the above case. b7C

Special Agent [redacted] who had contact with [redacted] in another case, is decidedly in his opinion that [redacted] while not being on friendly terms with Jack Dempsey, is not the type to resort to threatening letters or other means of worrying Dempsey. Also, that [redacted] did not appear to be vindictive in his remarks concerning Dempsey. b7C

While the New York Office has previously closed this case for want of leads, it is believed that the possibility of [redacted] being involved is so remote as to warrant asking the Bureau to reconsider its suggestion. b7C

Accordingly, unless further is heard from the Bureau no attempt will be made to re-contact [redacted] b7C

Very truly yours,

E. WHITNEY, Jr.
Special Agent in Charge.

RECORDED & INDEXED

7-1581-26

JUN 13 1936

JUN 17 1936