

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

**CONFIDENTIAL**

FILE NO. 65-490 BLK

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEWARK, NEW JERSEY</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>1-22-41</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>12-18-40</b>	REPORT MADE BY 
TITLE <b>HERMAN FREDERICK ERBEN, wa</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - G</b>	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent San Francisco, California, 12-19-40, and report of Special Agent Newark, New Jersey, dated 10-8-40.

DETAILS:

**COPIES DESTROYED**

197 JUL 29 1970

EXTENDED BY... *SP3 T.../...*  
REASON FOR EXTENSION  
FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW FOR  
DECLASSIFICATION *6/14/89*

APPROVED AND FORWARDED  
*E. E. Conroy*  
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

- COPIES OF THIS REPORT
- 5 - Bureau
  - 2 - San Francisco
  - 2 - New York (Infor.)
  - 2 - Chicago (Infor.)
  - 2 - Newark

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

JAN 23 1941

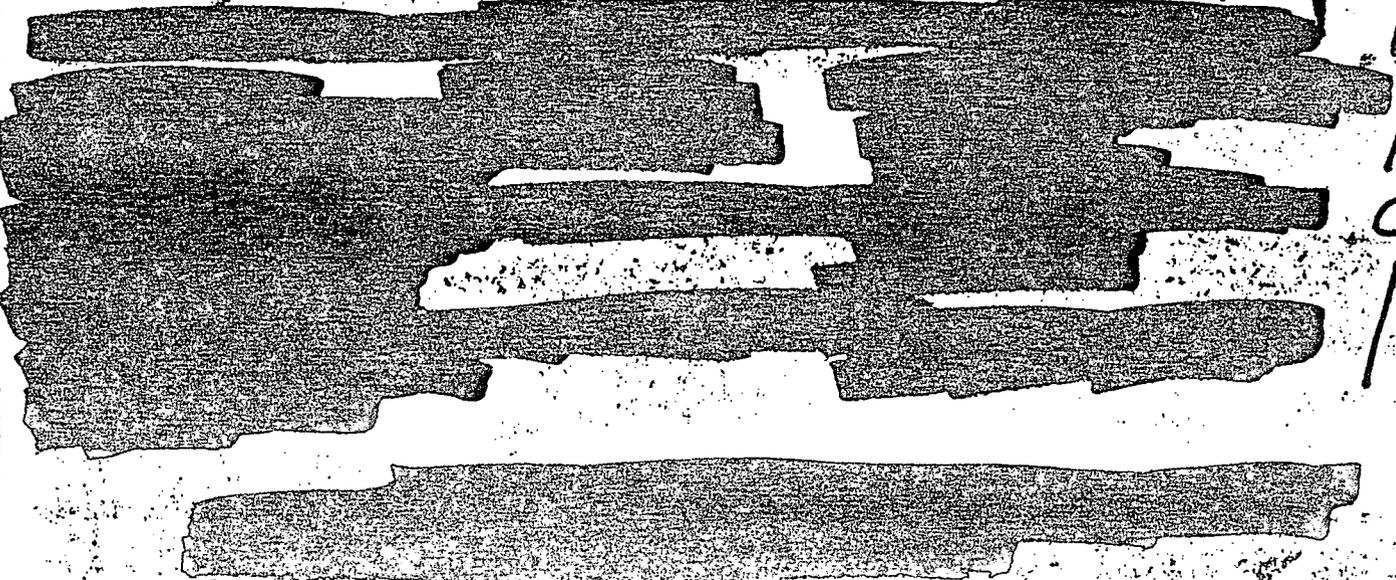
**CONFIDENTIAL**

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES

*Class*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

5-490



No leads are being set out for the Chicago and New York Offices to attempt to ascertain the nature of the correspondence had with subject, this being left to the discretion of the office of origin.

Inasmuch as there is no further investigation to be conducted in the Newark Field Division, this case is being referred upon completion to the office of origin.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
New York, N. Y.

EFE:EL  
65-1715

January 28, 1941

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

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

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter to the San Francisco Division dated November 28, 1940, (Bureau file 65-682) in which information was desired as to the exact status of this case at the present time.

Please be advised that in view of the expedite nature of other investigative matters presently pending in this division, together with the shortage of personnel, I have been unable to assign this matter for investigative attention. It is my expectation, however, that in the near future I will be able to assign this case and that a complete investigative report will be furnished promptly thereafter.

Very truly yours,

*B. E. Sackett*

B. E. SACKETT,  
Special Agent in Charge.

cc: San Francisco

RECORDED

65-682-95  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
6 JAN 29 1941  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/4/79 BY SP3TEK/LG

FIVE  
AWW

91

[REDACTED]

b7c, d

Feb 7/41

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington DC

Dear Sirs

Herewith I send you clipping regarding a  
German who is using the name of Herman F.  
Erben.

Herman F<sup>o</sup> Erben

This is an uncommon name, and so the  
name of [REDACTED] <sup>b7c, d</sup>  
who is unable to take the matter up with  
you himself. <sup>now retired</sup>

[REDACTED]

and this German is undoubtedly using that  
name for a cover for the customary activities  
of these people.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Yours truly 65-682-86

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ENCL. <sup>d</sup>  
N

ack  
2/20/41

letter  
for

FILE

nd said p...  
thau Jr., through which Mr. ...

### His Citizenship Revoked Doctor Faces Deportation



DR. HERMAN F. ERBEN

SACRAMENTO, Jan. 31.—Dr. Herman Frederick Erben, medical officer of the scuttled German raider Graf Spee's supply ship and a shadowy international figure for 20 years, faces deportation. Federal Judge Martin I. Welsh here revoked Dr. Erben's citizenship because he had not resided in the United States for five years, or in San Francisco for six months, before he filed his petition for naturalization on Aug. 1, 1930.

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DATE 6/4/77 BY SP3/TW

PJW:MAL  
65-682-86

RECORDED

February 20, 1941

[Redacted]

b7c, d

Dear [Redacted]

I wish to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated February 7, 1941, together with its enclosure, and to express my appreciation for your interest in making the information contained therein available to me.

You may be assured the content of your communication has been carefully noted and will receive appropriate consideration.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/4/79 BY SP3 TEX/6

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Foxworth \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nathan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
 MAILED  
 ★ FEB 20 1941 ★  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*[Handwritten signature]*

~~SECRET~~

ERBEN, HERMANN FREDERICK  
Alias: DR. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN  
DR. HERMAN F. VON ERBEN

GERMAN

CCC Camp  
Seabring, Florida - 7-1-40

In connection with Nazi propaganda in the U. S. about 1933 and 1934 German literature distributed bore the name: "Hermann Erben, Hamburg." (Special Agent 62-26760-582, P. 7)

Possibly identical with Dr. Herman S. Erben, Surgeon of S. S. West German Army. From which position he was discharged for neglecting a military order of suspension of working and communicable responsibilities. Offenses of this nature are considered violations on American activities abroad.

Ref. S. A.

62-26760-2

62-692-97 (2, 2)

Inadequate evidence for prosecution on above grounds according U.S.A. New Orleans, Louisiana, Los Angeles, California.

*Handwritten notes:*  
6/14/89  
6/4/79

CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY: SP3 TFC/...  
REASON FOR EXTENSION: (U) (cont. 2)  
FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION: 6/14/89  
6/4/79

SEARCHED & INDEXED

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62-682-8  
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FIVE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

**HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN**

- 1A -

Records of Military Intelligence, Naval Intelligence, and Far Eastern Division of State Department reveal subject is very eccentric and deported from various countries but do not show much basis for fact that he might be a communist or soviet spy. (Report 2/23/37 65-682-7)

He was a great admirer of Hitler and while aboard the S. S. West Mahwah he would mount the bridge, give the Nazi Salute, and shout "Heil Hitler" when passing a German ship. (65-682-8)

Acted as physician on the supply ship to the German battleship Graf Spee which was scuttled in 1939 off South American coast. (New York State Department of Education 100-2-17, P. 15)

By C. H. Palmer, British Naval Control Service stated Dr. Erben considered a "one man" of suspicious activities by British Intelligence. (State Department Memo 4/23/40 65-682-21)

State Department reports reflect Subject was stranded in Antofagasta, Chile in February 1940 but secured job as physician on S. S. West Mahwah 2/2/40 through assistance of American Consul, Santiago de Chile, Chile. (Very important information of State Dept.)

(continued)

b7c

~~SECRET~~

H5

~~SECRET~~

ERBEN, HERMANN FREDERICK (continued)

GERMAN

activities en route to New York, he being very active with camera, taking photographs and being met at various ports by German organizations and treated as very important personage. He attempted to obtain discharge in Canal Zone claiming no clothing to face rigors of New York winter. Discharge not allowed. Statements made by him at that time relative to lack of funds apparently false. (See State Department report of 4/17/40 65-682-59)

Subject according to own statement has two sons in German Army and was in Germany prior to Munich; was in German organization in Medical Corps and reached South America on German ship, the Usukama. (Report S.A. Roger F. Gleason 65-682-29 State Department Report 65-862-26)

Subject voluntarily called at New York Office furnishing account of activities, claiming he is motivated by a desire to maintain his good standing in the eyes of German government in order that the safety and freedom of his mother and two sons who now reside in Germany may be protected. Denied espionage activity and espionage credentials with various German agencies due to his avowed loyalty to Germany. (Report S.A. 65-682-73)

During above interview Subject stated that at Bahia Blanca, Argentina, Buenos Aires, Valparaiso, Chile, and Antofagasta, Chile, he reported dutifully at each place to the Gestapo representative stationed there usually at the German consulate. In New York City he reported to Gestapo headquarters in Room 7 of the German consulate building, by Eitzen Place, telephone 632-74.

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HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN

- 2 A -

stated Subject was very Pro-German in attitude but never discussed politics, and was more of an international than of one nationality and could not be classed as a Nazi. (3/18/40 65-682-40) *BA*

~~SECRET~~

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **San Francisco, California**

FILE NO. **65-31**

REPORT MADE AT <b>San Francisco, Calif.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>2/14/41</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>2/3-5/41</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED] MR. [REDACTED]</b>
TITLE <b>DR. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, with alias</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE (G)</b>	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On 1/29/41, the U. S. District Court at San Francisco ordered the U. S. citizenship of Dr. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN revoked on the ground it was illegally procured. ERBEN reported in Los Angeles en route to San Francisco on 2/5/41.

*AGENCY 100 - State Visa  
REQ. REC'D 4-30-48  
REP'T FORW. 10-21-58  
BY B. [REDACTED]*

**REFERENCE:**

Report of Special Agent **[REDACTED]** San Francisco, Calif., dated 12/19/40

**DETAILS:**

At San Francisco, California.

By letter dated December 16, 1940 (Bureau file 65-682), the Bureau submitted a confidential report of the United States Legation at Montevideo, Uruguay, that had been forwarded to the Bureau from the State Department. This report contained information as to the activities of Dr. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, the report originating from the Montevideo British intelligence officer, to the effect that when ERBEN passed through Panama Canal aboard the SS NIGHTINGALE he was kept under observation and

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
<b>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</b>	MAR 11 1941
3 Bureau 2 New York 1 Los Angeles (Infor.) 2 San Francisco	FEB 18 1941 FBI OFFICE LIFE SECTION 175775

is believed to have arrived in New York aboard that ship. Further information submitted from this source is as follows:

"February 1933 to October 1933. Travelled in the Far East doing research work in tropical disease.

"December 1933 to April 1935. Postgraduate study in medicine in Vienna, Austria.

"April 1935 to September 1935. In India as surgeon with the Austro-American Trans-Asiatic expedition; returned to the United States in November 1935.

"March 1937 to November 1937. War surgery work with the British Red Cross in Spain.

"December 1937 to March 1938. War surgery work with the Chinese Red Cross in China; returned to the United States in May 1938.

"October 1938 to April 1939. Visited his family in Germany.

"May 1939 to July 1939. Visited fiancée in Belgium.

"July 1939 to November 1939. Ship's surgeon on the USSUKUMA of the Deutsche-Ost Afrika Line, left ship in Bahia Blanca, went to Buenos Aires, thence Chile, where he boarded Japanese ship HEVIO MARU but left her at Calleo, returned to Valparaiso in SS NIGHTINGALE. In Valparaiso signed on as member of crew of NIGHTINGALE and sailed with her to New York.

"January 1940 to April 1940. Address in New York reported to be c/o Dr. RUDOLF SCHARFF, 140 East 81st Street, New York. Was reported to be collecting funds to return to San Francisco.

"Other ships on which Dr. ERBEN has served as a surgeon are WEST NOTUS December 1930 to April 1931; PRESIDENT GARFIELD September 1931 to January 1933; WEST MAHWAH September 1936 to February 1937. On this last vessel he was taken off in Rio de Janeiro and sent to the United States (New Orleans) on a ship of the Mississippi Shipping Co. on account of activities on board the ship in favor of the Nazi Government. It was said that he was met on his arrival in New Orleans by officials of the Immigration Department and the Department of Justice.

"He was deported from India in 1935 on the suspicion of being involved in the narcotics and arms trade. He was also accused by the United States Government of trading in drugs, was however proved innocent and removed from their black list.

"He used to hold United States passport No. 248,504 issued in Washington on December 7th 1935, and on its expiry was given United States passport No. 272 dated 1st December 1939, serial No. E. 242,708 by the United States Consulate, Buenos Aires. This passport was only valid until 1st March 1940."

On January 30, 1941,

[redacted] called at the San Francisco Office and advised Special Agent [redacted] that early in November 1940 the ADMIRAL HUTTON, a Maritime Commission ship left San Francisco.

[redacted] He stated that DR. HERMAN ERBEN was on board as ordinary seaman bound for Vladivostock, Siberia, Russia, having a "trip card", meaning he was shipping for one passage only. [redacted] recognized ERBEN from a photograph in the San Francisco Chronicle, dated January 30, 1941, which he exhibited. [redacted] stated that ERBEN had only a gunny-sack as if he had just come in off the road, and was said by the sailors to have been on the GRAF SPEE. [redacted] said he recognized ERBEN as soon as he saw the picture, the only change being that ERBEN's hair is longer and

has more wave than is shown in the picture. He says he is positive the man on board the ADMIRAL HUTTON was ERBEN. [redacted] was well dressed, spoke good English, seemed sincere and intelligent and talked convincingly. u

In connection with the case entitled [redacted] New York City origin, San Francisco file 97-81, the Bureau has requested that Dr. ERBEN be located and interviewed in regard to information he furnished regarding the Gestapo. In an effort to locate ERBEN'S present whereabouts, Special Agent [redacted] contacted [redacted] of the U. S. Marshal's Office. [redacted] showed the Marshal's record which notes a subpoena issued October 23, 1940 for ERBEN to appear as a witness for plaintiff (US). The Marshal's number on the subpoena was 148. The only address given for ERBEN was [redacted]

Deputy Marshal [redacted] attempted to serve the subpoena on October 23, 24, 28, and 29, 1940, and it was returned non est on November 9, 1940. u

[redacted] advised the office by telephone on February 4, 1941 that he had seen Deputy [redacted] stated that he had gone to [redacted] and that [redacted] had sent him to the Sailors' Union of the Pacific. At the union office, the exact whereabouts of ERBEN was not divulged but it was said that his last address had been at a place on Bush Street near Pine. [redacted] at this address, according to [redacted] told him that ERBEN had sailed to Seattle and had there been taken off his boat for some reason and had returned to San Francisco. u

Agent [redacted] examined the records of the Clerk of the U. S. District Court, contents of Civil Docket 21006-W, U.S. District Court of the Northern District of California, Southern Division, UNITED STATES v. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, and items appearing since December 5, 1940, are summarized as follows: u

PLAINTIFF'S REPLY BRIEF filed 12/7/40 by FRANK J. HENNESSY, United States Attorney. The decree of naturalization issued to the defendant is attacked on grounds of (a) illegality and (b) fraud.

- (a) 1. After first absence in 1925-26 defendant was never legally admitted to the United States for permanent residence, and so his stay here after entry at Brownsville 10/3-26 did not constitute legal residence for naturalization purposes.
2. Absence in 1925-26 was for more than a year, which broke residence under terms of statute.
3. On 10/13/26 and after, his entries were only permitted for temporary periods.

(b) Subject fraudulently concealed certain absences. He endeavored to avoid mentioning any extended absences for fear it would be disclosed he was not entitled to be naturalized.

OPINION AND ORDER FOR JUDGMENT 1/29/41, Judge MARTIN I. WELSH. Found:

Plaintiff has established right to decree divesting Subject of citizenship on ground it was illegally procured.

Defendant had not at time of petition for naturalization August 1, 1930, resided continuously in the United States for at least 5 years immediately prior thereto or in the County of San Francisco for at least 6 months prior to filing.

Defendant in application for naturalization and petition for citizenship, and while under oath before naturalization examiners and before this court during proceedings for admission to citizenship, knowingly concealed and made false statements concerning material facts relating to absences from U. S. subsequent to original entry March 10, 1924.

It was ordered that the plaintiff be given the judgment as prayed for, and that findings of fact and conclusions of law be prepared by the attorney for the plaintiff. This order was signed January 29, 1941. On January 30, 1941 notices from the clerk of the U. S. District Court were sent to FRANK J. HENNESSY, United States Attorney, and CHAUNCEY TRAMUTOLO, Alexander Building, San Francisco. u

CHAUNCEY TRAMUTOLO, Room 706 Alexander Building, 155 Montgomery Street, Subject's attorney, advised on February 5, 1941, that he had just received a letter from Dr. ERBEN post-marked at Los Angeles, California, but bearing no return address, indicating that ERBEN was presently en route to San Francisco and would contact Mr. TRAMUTOLO upon his arrival. Arrangements were made for Dr. ERBEN to call at the San Francisco Office in case he returned to San Francisco, and further that if he should not come to San Francisco, Mr. TRAMUTOLO would ascertain his whereabouts and will inform the San Francisco Office. u

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UNDEVELOPED LEADS.

THE NEW YORK OFFICE.

\*At New York City: At 1031 5th Avenue will determine if Dr. FREDERICK MADISON ALLEN is identical with the Dr. ALLEN set out in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Albany, New York dated June 6, 1940. u

b7c

THE SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE.

At San Francisco, California: Will report the  
eventual departure of Dr. ERBEN from the United States. u

PENDING.

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**  
1300 Biscayne Building  
Miami, Florida

March 12, 1941

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

RE: HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN,  
with aliases  
ESPIONAGE - G

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter to all field offices dated January 27, 1941, and to Bureau teletype to all offices dated March 3, 1941, relating to the cards being prepared by the Bureau listing individuals for custodial detention in event of national emergency.

A review of the Miami Field Division file in the above referred to case discloses that the last known address of Subject is care of CHAUNCEY TRAUMTOLO, Alexander Building, San Francisco, California.

Since the last known address of Subject is within the San Francisco Field Division, the photostatic copies of cards prepared by the Bureau on Subject are being forwarded to the San Francisco Division with a copy of this letter.

Very truly yours,

*Percy W. Wylie, II*  
PERCY WYLY, II  
Special Agent in Charge

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/5/29 BY SP3TEK/g

DCB:blh  
65-284

cc-San Francisco-Enc. RECORDED & INDEXED

65-6827-89  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
6 MAR 24 1941  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FILED

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3/20/41

VJW:HG  
65-682

March 28, 1941

Mr. Earl J. Connelley  
Assistant Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice  
607 U. S. Court House, Foley Square  
New York, New York

RE: DR. HERMANN FREDERICK ARDEN,  
with alias;  
ESPIONAGE - C.

Dear Sir:

The Bureau desires that it be advised as to  
the exact status of this case at the present time.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover  
Director

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

RECORDED

65-682-90  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
4 APR 1 1941  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- Mr. Tolson.....
- Mr. Clegg.....
- Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
- Mr. Foxworth.....
- Mr. Nathan.....
- Mr. Ladd.....
- Mr. Egan.....
- Mr. Glavin.....
- Mr. Rosen.....
- Mr. Tracy.....
- Miss Gandy.....

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED  
★ MAR 28 1941 ★  
P. M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

KAS  
VS

BR:LM

April 3, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. L. M. C. SMITH  
CHIEF, SPECIAL DEFENSE UNIT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/5/79 BY SP3TDM/C

There is transmitted herewith a dossier showing the information presently available in the files of this Bureau with respect to HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN with aliases whose address is CCC Camp, Seabring, Florida

It is recommended that this individual be considered for custodial detention in the event of a national emergency. The information contained on the attached dossier constitutes the basis for appropriate consideration in this regard.

It should be understood, of course, that additional information may be received from time to time supplementing that already available in the Bureau's files, and as such data are received they will be made available to you so that the dossier in your possession may be supplemented thereby.

It will be greatly appreciated if you will advise this Bureau at your earliest convenience as to the decision reached in this case.

Very truly yours,

RECORDED

65-682-91

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED  
★ APR 4 1941 ★  
P. M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
2 APR 7 1941  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Enclosure

97

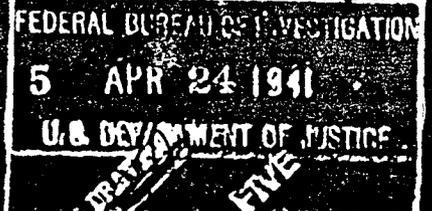
No. 224

March 31, 1941

Dr. HERMAN FREDERICK ERHEN

His address at Dec. 3, 1940 was given as

Calle Guanahemoc 23,  
Coyocacan, D. F.



LL:VK

CONFIDENTIAL

RECORDED 65-682 - 92 May 29, 1941

Special Agent in Charge  
San Francisco, California

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/15/79 BY SP3TAP/9

Re: Dr. HERMANN FREDERICK  
ERBEN, with alias;  
ESPIONAGE - G.

Dear Sir,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

B1

Erben's address as of December 3, 1940, was given  
as Calle Guanabacoa 23, Coyocacan, D. F.

These data are being furnished to you for your in-  
formation and completion of your files.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

CLASSIFIED AND  
EXTENDED BY... SP2 TAP/9  
REASON FOR EXTENSION  
FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW FOR  
DECLASSIFICATION... 8-1-89  
8-1-79

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Foxworth \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Los Angeles  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
Assistant Director E. J. Connelley, New York  
MAY 29 1941

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OTHERWISE.

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RECEIVED - DIVISION  
MAY 30 1941

Handwritten signature/initials

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

New York, N. Y.

EFE/NTP  
65-1715

April 29, 1941

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: DR. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN,  
with alias;  
ESPIONAGE - G

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter of March 28, 1941, Bureau File 65-682 in which you request to be advised as to the exact status of the investigation in the above entitled matter.

Please be advised that in view of the shortage of personnel in this Division, it was impossible for me to assign this matter to date. I am, however, now in a position to assign this case to Special Agent [redacted] who, it is expected will complete the investigation in the near future and furnish a complete report to the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

*T. J. Donegan*  
T. J. DONEGAN, Acting for  
E. J. CONNELLEY  
Assistant Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/5/79 BY SP3TER/JS

RECORDED

65-182-98  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
7 APR 30 1941  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FIVE . CLK. 11 19

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

FILE NO. **65-284**

REPORT MADE AT <b>Miami, Florida</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>4/25/41</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>4/18/41</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b> JFO:EE
TITLE <b>HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, with alias</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE (G)</b> <i>b7c</i>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Investigation at CCC Camp #453, Sebring, Florida, disclosed that subject took numerous pictures with an elaborate camera and had appeared very pro-German while acting as Camp Doctor. Enrollees state subject attempted to instill the spirit of revolt and disregard for authority.

*AGENCY 100-Statu-Vuoa*  
*REQ. REC'D 4-30-58*  
*REP'T FORM 5-21-58*  
*BY BRS*

- R U C -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent **[REDACTED]** Newark, New Jersey, dated October 8, 1940.

DETAILS:

It is noted in the reference report that subject had at one time been forwarded mail from the Deutsches Seamen's Home, Hoboken, New Jersey, to CCC Camp #453, Sebring, Florida.

AT SEBRING, FLORIDA

**[REDACTED]** was contacted by Agent with a view of determining the background and activities of subject while the latter was engaged as a Camp Doctor. **[REDACTED]** stated that he had only been at the Sebring Camp for about two months, but there were several enrollees at the camp that were very familiar with the subject, and that he had, himself, heard many things concerning subject, although it was merely hearsay.

**[REDACTED]** was interviewed by Agent

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6/5/79 BY SP3TEL/g

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <i>[Signature]</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <b>165-1682-44</b>	RECORDED <b>MAY 8 1941</b>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 3 - San Francisco 2 - Miami	APR 28 1941 <i>cc DNS</i> <i>JE 1-16-57</i>	JHM <i>[Signature]</i>

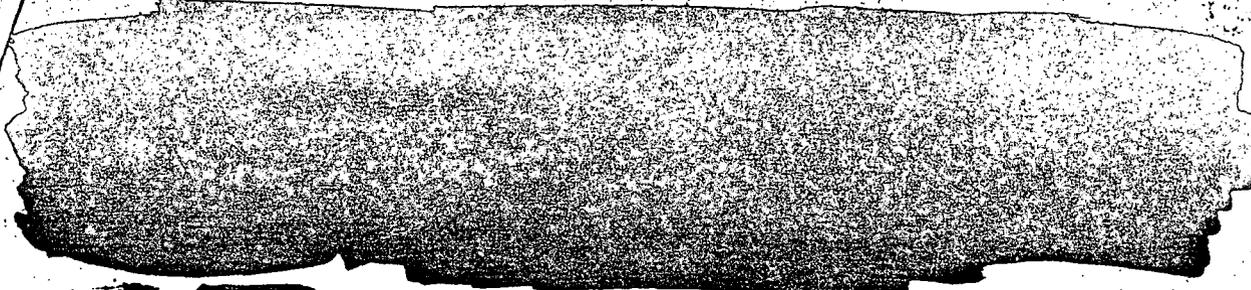
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regarding subject. [redacted] stated that ERBEN had been there for about 30 days during the month of June, 1940, and that he had made himself very unpopular with everyone in camp during that period of time.

[redacted] was questioned regarding any un-American tendencies that subject may have possessed and he stated that he could not recall anything specific, but that subject had given the impression that he was strongly pro-German, and further that everyone had the impression that subject was a German spy. [redacted] did recall that on the day of Hitler's march into Paris, subject made the remark "I wish I were there". [redacted] said he further gave the impression of being a deserter from the German Army, and that that was his reason for not returning to his homeland, which he apparently loved so well.

[redacted] said that subject had come from Fort Moultrie in South Carolina, and when he, subject, was quizzed regarding his activities at Fort Moultrie and his not being able to spy at Fort Moultrie because there was nothing at that fort to spy on, subject was heard to make the remark "Sometimes when there's nothing there it makes an interesting report - there's only six soldiers and a white regular there". [redacted] said that he had personally heard this remark, but did not remember who else may have overheard it.

[redacted] said that subject had a camera which he estimated to be valued in the neighborhood of \$200. and that he was constantly taking pictures with it. [redacted] said that the lens on the camera was a powerful microscopic type, and that when the lens was removed from the camera, it was strong enough to be used as a field glass.



[redacted] said that subject was very eccentric and had absolutely no regard for authority around the camp. He stated that subject called the War Department Book of Regulations the "son of a bitch".

[redacted] further said that subject instilled the spirit of scorn in all of the enrollees for their superiors. [redacted] said that by this he meant that subject at no time attempted to enforce the rules and regulations and often suggested to the boys that they go downtown and get back