

~~SECRET~~

52/10/2  
Form No. 108.



**NEW ZEALAND POLICE.**

*Subject:* G. CURTIS writes to Defence Dept alleging A.R. LEUSCHKE is a spy

100,000/5/56-30241

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~~SECRET~~ 37/10/2.

27th May, 1937.

Colonel Sir Vernon Kell,  
Box No.500,  
Parliament Street, B.O.,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

Dear Sir Vernon,

I am forwarding for your information a copy of a letter forwarded to me by the Defence Department for attention.

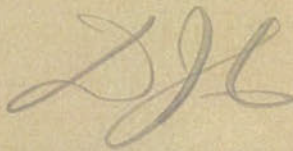
The writer no doubt refers to Arthur Richard Leuschke referred to in my letter No.35/569 as then being President of the German Club in Auckland.

Leuschke is the proprietor of a prosperous bacon curing business in Auckland. I am advised that whenever a German ship calls at Auckland he makes a point of entertaining the officers at his home and generally evinces a warm interest in his native country, although a naturalized British subject. He is still a member of the German Club.

I have been unable to carry the matter further than this, but shall be pleased to advise you of any further information obtained.

The writer of the letter is unknown and has not been traced.

Yours sincerely,



Commissioner of Police.

34/10/2 37/23

~~SECRET~~

General Headquarters,  
New Zealand Military Forces,  
Wellington, C.3,

IN YOUR REPLY
M.I.S. 8/49.
please quote this number.

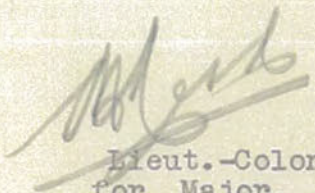
31<sup>st</sup> MARCH, 1937.

~~SECRET.~~

MEMORANDUM for :

The Commissioner of Police,  
WELLINGTON, C.1.

With reference to your memorandum Secret 37/23 dated 24th March, I have to state that no communication was sent to G. Curtis of Palmerston North.



Lieut.-Colonel,  
for Major,  
GENERAL STAFF (O. & I).

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37/10/2  
37/23

~~SECRET~~

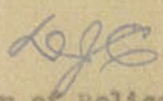
~~SECRET~~ 57/23.

24th March, 1937.

Lieutenant-Colonel O.H. Mead,  
Adjutant-General,  
Defence Headquarters,  
WELLINGTON.

Further to my secret memorandum 57/23 of the 19th February last concerning information supplied by G. Curtis, I have to inform you that inquiries have been made by this Department regarding the identity of G. Curtis, but without success. He is not known to the Police at Palmerston North.

Might I inquire whether you communicated with Curtis by letter, as it would be of interest to know whether he collected the letter ?



Commissioner of Police.

in

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**NEW ZEALAND POLICE.**

Subject: Secret enquiry re "G.CURTIS" c/o Post Office, PALMERSTON NORTH.

100,000/7/35-59181

The Inspector.

Report herewith.

*Chamberlain*  
Det. 2384.  
for Det-Sgt.  
21-3-37.

*The commissions  
submitted for  
information*

*J. Cunningham*  
*Inspr*  
*22.3.37*

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NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

[Police—100A.

Police-station: Palmerston North.

Date: March 21st. 1937., 193

REPORT of Detective E. Barling., No. 2384.

relative to Secret enquiry from Defence Dept. re "G.CURTIS"  
c/o Post Office, PALMERSTON NORTH. Vide attached.

The Inspector.

Palmerston North.

I have to report that I made confidential enquiries re this matter. Curtis is not known at the G.P.O. Palmerston North nor has he been receiving letters. He is not known to the Postal Staff.

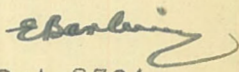
The following people named CURTIS live in Palmerston North.

F.J.CURTIS, Butcher, Hopwoods Buildings, Main St. E.  
T.J. Curtis, Railway Porter, 46 Ferguson St.  
Edward Curtis, gardener, 95 Grey St.  
Richard Curtis, 63 Wood St. laborer.  
R.P. Curtis, 23 Linton St. Painter.  
A.F. Curtis, 7 Worcester St. Plasterer.  
R.G. Curtis, 101 Shamrock St. Laborer.

So far as I can at present ascertain there is no connection between these people and the person enquired for.

I respectfully suggest that perhaps the Defence Dept. could say if they replied to Curtis's letter and if so, if it was received or returned. The Auckland Police apparently have some information that may assist the enquiry at this end.

I am continuing discreet enquiries in the meantime and will report at once if I get any information of value.

  
Det. 2384.

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~~SECRET~~

37/10/2



If any reply, please quote this number:

~~SECRET~~ 32/23.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WELLINGTON, C. 1. 26th February, 1937.

MEMORANDUM for

The Inspector of Police,  
PALMERSTON NORTH.

The Defence Department recently received a letter from one G. Curtis, whose address was given as C/o. Post Office, Palmerston North, in which information was offered regarding a former German subject now residing in Auckland. The writer came to certain erroneous conclusions, but nevertheless showed that he was not entirely misinformed.

Is Curtis known to you ?

It is not desired that he be questioned on the subject, or that it be made known to him that the Police know he wrote to the Defence Department, but if an opportunity offers, a suitable member of your staff might engage him in any discussion that would lead to the cause of his letter to the Defence Department.

It was considered by the Auckland Police that Curtis is in touch with a source of information there which, if it were known, might be of value to them.

*D. J. Cummings*

Commissioner of Police.

*Mr. Barling*

*for inquiry please*

*D. J. Cummings*

*Inspector*

*4. 3. 37*

Detective Barling.

Is Curtis known to you. If not, for discreet inquiries please.

*J. B. Archer*  
*Det. Barling*  
*2/3/37*

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~~SECRET~~ 37/14/2

[N.Z.—397.]

General Headquarters,  
New Zealand Military Forces,  
Wellington, C.3,

IN YOUR REPLY
M.I.S. P/49.
please quote this number.

24<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 1937.

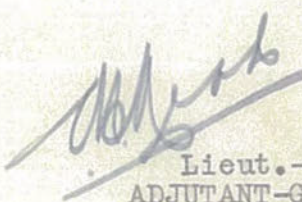
~~SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM for :

The Commissioner of Police,  
WELLINGTON, C.1.

I have to acknowledge receipt of your memorandum, Secret 37/23, dated 19th February, 1937, and thank you for the information contained therein.

With reference to the query in the last paragraph of your memorandum, it is regretted that we have no knowledge of G. Curtis, but should your Department institute enquiries, we would be glad to be supplied with any information you may gather.



Lieut.-Colonel,  
ADJUTANT-GENERAL.

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SECRET  
37/23 37/10/7

~~SECRET~~ 7/23.

19th February, 1937.

Major W. G. Stevens,  
General Staff (O. & I.),  
Defence Headquarters,  
WELLINGTON.

In reply to your memorandum of the 21st January, 1937, I have to inform you that, as a result of inquiries made by officers of this Department, it has been established that "Loiski" is no doubt identical with Arthur Richard Leuschke, who in 1927 was granted a Certificate of Naturalization.

He has previously come under the notice of this Department as President of the German Club at Auckland, an office which he still holds.

Leuschke lives at 15 England Street, Ponsonby, and is the proprietor of a prosperous bacon curing factory.

It is known that he entertains at his home the officers of any German ships visiting Auckland, but it is considered that the costs of such are within his means.

From past observations of Leuschke, it is considered that, although he holds views in sympathy with the Nazi regime, there is nothing to justify the assumption that he is acting against the interests of his adopted country.

I would be interested to hear whether the writer of the attached letter, G. Curtis, is known to your Department and is likely to be able to supply any further information concerning this matter.



Commissioner of Police.

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Police-station: Detective Office, Auckland.

~~SECRET~~ 37/23.

Date: 7 th February 1937

REPORT of Detective E.A. Stevenson, No. 2627

relative to ARTHUR RICHARD LEUSCHKE - attached letter  
suggesting that he is acting as a German spy.

"Vide attached"

I respectfully report that Leuschke is still acting as the President of the German Club, Auckland. As previously reported he is the proprietor of a bacon factory at 15 England St, Ponsonby, at which address he also resides.. The business is quite a prosperous one, it's products are known as "Treaty" bacon.. His motor vans travel far afield to country districts.

Over the garage of his premises he has a large room - it could almost be termed a hall - in which he does, as stated in the attached letter, entertain the officers of any German ships that may occasionally visit this Port. The profits from his business would well enable him to do this without receiving money from any other source.

Though a naturalized British subject there is no doubt that he remains at heart a good German, and what is more, is firmly in sympathy with the Nazi regime in that country. However, I think that he is largely influenced by Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt whose activities in this respect have formed the subject of several previous reports.

The activities of the German Club have been reported upon by me at intervals during the past 3 years. During that time nothing has come to my knowledge that would lead me to suspect that Leuschke is acting as a "spy" as stated in the attached letter.

The writer of the letter seems to have a source of information in Auckland. If this source could be made known to me it may be useful... I have recently lost, through death, a reliable informant here, and I am finding it difficult to obtain another.

Leuschke is about 45 to 47 years of age, about 5 ft 8 or 9, stout build, fat face, fair complexion - a typical looking German...

A young man named Buddet Keril Turpitz, P.G. 1934/513 - a German, though shown in the Gazette as born N.Z. - is employed by Leuschke.

The Chief Detective,  
Auckland.

*E. Stevenson.*

Det. 2627.

The Insp.

*S. Hall*

*lkh*

*7-2-37*

*Sub to the Commissioner*

*R. Ward*

*Sup for Sup*

*8/2/37*

*Des Harding*  
*In the words,*  
*G. Curtis, known to the*  
*Defence Authorities.*

*Sturmann*  
*69.2.37*

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~~SECRET.~~

37/10/2



If any reply, please quote this number:

~~SECRET~~ 37/23.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WELLINGTON. C. 1. 25th January, 1937.

MEMORANDUM for

The Superintendent of Police,  
AUCKLAND.

The attached secret memorandum and accompanying letter are forwarded for your information. The person referred to is no doubt Arthur R. Leuschke, referred to in previous correspondence concerning the German Club.

Will you please have a report obtained (in duplicate) showing what is known of Leuschke's recent activities.

Commissioner of Police.

*For the Inspector.*

*102/36*

*S. Hill  
27/1/37. Supt*

*The Chief at  
27 R. Road  
1.37 Supt*

*Det Stevenson.*

*S. Hill  
Supt  
27-1-37*

*Ch. Detective,*

*Report in duplicate attached.*

*S. Hill Stevenson.*

*Det. 2627.*

*7-2-37.*

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General Headquarters,  
New Zealand Military Forces,  
Wellington, C.3,

IN YOUR REPLY  
-----  
please quote this number.



21st January, 1937.

MEMORANDUM for :

The Commissioner of Police,  
WELLINGTON, C.1.

--  
The attached letter is forwarded for any  
comments you may wish to make.

We have no record of this man.

Encl.

*W. J. Stevens*

Major,  
GENERAL STAFF (O. & I.).

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COPY

Post Office Palmerston North

4 th January 1937

C/o The Defence Dept  
Wellington

Dear Sirs,

There is a German who lives at Auckland named Loiski (the spelling may not be quite right but the first and last three letters are correct I think) He lived on a small pig farm on Sandon Road Fielding. During the war he was a real pro-German. He did not have much money, but some time after the War he went to Germany and came back and started in the pork business at Auckland and seemed to have plenty of money. He still lives at Auckland and keeps up style and entertains any German officers who come to New Zealand, in a most lavish manner. People wonder how he does it. I think he is a spy and needs watching and for that reason I am giving you the hint in case you do not know him.

Your's faithfully

G. Curtis