

SECRET  
37 / 10/9  
POLICE DEPT. HEAD OFFICE



**NEW ZEALAND POLICE.**

*Subject:* KURT WILHELM SCHMIDT and HELE SCHMIDT: leaving N.Z. 1937-38

100,000/5/36-3074

*See also 37/10/14*

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy



If any reply, please  
quote this number:

POLICE DEPARTMENT,  
WELLINGTON, C. 1. 7th January, 1941.

MEMORANDUM for

The Permanent Head,  
Prime Minister's Department,  
WELLINGTON.

I shall be glad if you will approve of the despatch  
of the attached cablegram.

*D. Cunningham*  
Commissioner of Police.

*Sent.  
W. Coop.  
8/1/40.*

~~SECRET~~

Telephone No.  
VICTORIA 1552-3-4-5  
O.F. 22/7/B.2a

BOX NO. 500,  
PARLIAMENT STREET, B.O.,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

17<sup>th</sup> November, 1938.

Dear Mr. Cummings,

With reference to the second paragraph of your secret letter 37/10/9, dated 12th August, 1937, Kurt Wilhelm SCHMIDT did, in fact, leave for New Zealand by the "Rangitane" on 10th November, 1938. His wife and two young daughters accompanied him. During his visit to this country, which was of less than one week's duration, he did not come under notice as engaging in political activities.

Yours sincerely,



Colonel Sir V. G. W. Kell.

D. J. Cummings, Esq.,  
Commissioner of Police,  
WELLINGTON,  
New Zealand.

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

[Police-100A.

Detective Office,

Police-station: Wellington,

Date: 24th May, 1938

REPORT of Detective sergeant r. Doyle, No. 1337

relative to Kurt Schmidt, company director of Auckland leaving New Zealand.

I beg to report that the above named came under notice some time ago in connection with his association with the German Club at Auckland, and I believe, instructions were issued by the Commissioner that Schmidt's movements were to be noted and a report furnished should he leave the Dominion.

In checking over declarations filed in the Government Statistician's office today, I noticed one made by Schmidt on the 12th April, 1938, when he left by the Awatea for Sydney.

The declaration showed his destination as England, but this was erased and Australia substituted.

Schmidt is a director of Pacific Potash Ltd, with offices at Auckland, and I understand he was suspected of being a Nazi agent.

*Runde*

Detective Sergeant 1337.

The Sub Inspector,  
Detective Branch,  
Wellington.

*The Inspector*

*Harrold*

Sub-Inspector,  
Detective Branch.

38/22

25. 5. 38

*The Capt*

*Pweeney*

25 MAY 1938

400

*The Commissioner of Police*

*D. J. Fraser*  
Supt. of Police  
28. 5. 38.

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

NEW ZEALAND POLICE. [Police-100A.

Police-station: Detective Office, Auckland.

Date: 16 th March, 1938

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

relative to KURT WILHELM SCHMIDT - leaving Auckland shortly on visit to Germany.

I respectfully report further to my report re this man, dated the 10 th August, 1937 (Secret file 35/569).

Schmidt is leaving Auckland for Sydney by the "Awatea" on the 11 th April next.. He leaves Sydney by the "Mariposa" on the 29 th April and continues on by that vessel via Auckland, on the 2 nd May.

He travels across the U.S.A. by Greyhound bus and leaves New York for Bremen, Germany, by North German Lloyd steamer.

His tentative arrangements for his return to New Zealand with his wife and family, as stated in my previous report, still stand.

Schmidt remains a fervent Nazi with a complete loyalty to Herr Hitler. However, his activities continue to be confined to the German Club and there is no evidence that he is engaged in any activities that are subversive of, or inimical to the laws or well-being of New Zealand.. Nevertheless, there is no doubt at all that he would engage in such activities should he at any time be required to do so.

*E. Stevenson.*

Det. 2627.

The Chief Detective,  
Auckland.

*Forward to the Commissioner*

*139  
38*

*S. Till  
18/3/38 Supt*

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~ 37/10/9.

11th September, 1937

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

Dear Sir Vernon,

Further to my letter Secret 37/10/9 of 12th August, 1937, I have to advise you that Hela Schmidt and her two infant daughters left Auckland on 3rd September, 1937 as passengers on the "Mariposa" for Sydney en route to Europe.

Yours sincerely,



Commissioner of Police.

37/10/9

NEW ZEALAND POLICE. [Police—100A.]

Police-station: Detective Office, Auckland

Date: 7 th September, 1937

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

relative to Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt and his wife Hela Schmidt.

"Vide attached"

I respectfully report that Mrs Hela Schmidt and her two young daughters left Auckland by the vessel "Mariposa", for Sydney, en route to Germany, on the 3 rd inst.

Should there be any variation in the plans of Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt regarding his departure, as reported by me on the 10/8/37, I will report accordingly.

*E. A. Stevenson*  
Det. 2627.

*Insp W and  
S. O. Hall  
W. H. H.  
7-9-37*

*Forw to the Supt*

*8/9/37 R. Ward  
Supt*

*Forw to the Commissioner  
S. J. Gill  
8/9/37 Supt*

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

~~SECRET~~



If any reply, please quote this number:

~~SECRET~~ 37/10/9

POLICE DEPARTMENT,  
WELLINGTON, C.1, 12 th August 1937

MEMORANDUM for

The Superintendent of Police  
AUCKLAND

KURT WILHELM SCHMIDT and HELA SCHMIDT

In connection with the projected departure from New Zealand of Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt and Hela Schmidt, as reported by Detective Stevenson on the 10 th instant, it is desired that the matter be kept further in view and reports submitted on their departure, or if any change in their arrangements come to notice.

*DJ Cunningham*

Commissioner of Police

*by*

*For the Ch' Detective.*

*139  
37*

*S. Tall  
14/8/37*

*new Stevenson.  
S. Odell  
E. Hill  
14-8-37*

*The Chief Detective,  
Report attached.  
E. Stevenson  
Det. 2627.  
7-9-37.*



~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~ 37/10/9.

12th August, 1937.

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

Dear Sir Vernon,

You may be interested to hear that Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt - referred to in previous correspondence relating to N.S.D.A.P. activities - has booked a passage by the "Mariposa" leaving Auckland on 2nd May, 1938 for Europe via U.S.A. His wife, Hela Schmidt, who is also a fervent Nazi, is booked as a passenger with her two infant children on the "Mariposa" leaving Auckland on 3rd September, 1937 for Sydney where they are to connect with the "Otranto" en route to England and Germany.

The whole family is provisionally booked to return to New Zealand by the "Rangitane" from London on 10th November, 1938.

Yours sincerely,



Commissioner of Police.



37/10/37

~~SECRET~~

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

[Police—100a.

Police-station: Detective Office, Auckland

Date: 10 th August, 1937

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

relative to Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt and family ; projected temporary departure from New Zealand.

I respectfully report further in connection with German Club and alleged Nazi activities in Auckland.

By Commissioner's Memo dated 28/4/36, (Secret 35/569), I was instructed - "In the event of Schmidt leaving New Zealand for Germany or elsewhere, please have particulars of his booking etc forwarded as early as possible".

I have now ascertained that Mrs Hela Schmidt, wife of Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt, and her two small daughters are booked to leave Auckland by the "Mariposa" for Sydney, on the 3 rd Sept, 1937.. At Sydney, they connect with the "Otranto", en route to England and Germany.

As previously reported Mrs Schmidt is a fervent Nazi.

Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt is booked to leave Auckland by the "Mariposa" for Europe, via the U.S.A. on the 2 nd May, 1938.

The whole family is provisionally booked to return to New Zealand by the "Rangitane" from London, on the 10 th November, 1938.

Schmidt is going to Germany on his scheduled leave from the firm by which he is employed - Pacific Potash Ltd... He last visited Germany in 1934.

*E. Stevenson.*

Det. 2627.

The Chief Detective,  
Auckland.

*Supr Till.  
S. Hall  
L.H.W.  
10-8-37*

*Forw<sup>d</sup> to the Commissioner*

*(157/37) S. Till  
10/8/37 Supr*

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

~~SECRET~~

Phone Nos.:

REGENT 6050.  
WHITEHALL 6789.

BOX No. 500,  
PARLIAMENT STREET B.O.,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

P.F. 54350/B.18.r.

23rd April 1941.

Dear Mr. Cummings,

Thank you very much for your letter No. S.37/10/9  
of the 20th February 1941, forwarding a Police Report  
regarding John Montgomerie HATTRICK.

Investigations are still being carried out regarding  
HATTRICK, and I will let you know the result in due course.

Yours sincerely,

*Ritter*

for Director General Security Service.

*File*  
D.J. Cummings Esq.,  
Commissioner of Police,  
Wellington,  
NEW ZEALAND.

MS/AW

~~SECRET~~

Telephone Nos.:  
SHEPHERD'S BUSH 5391-2.  
ACORN 3286-7.



BOX No. 500,  
PARLIAMENT STREET B.O.,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

P.F. 54350/B.18.

18th January 1941.

Dear Mr. Cummings,

With reference to my telegrams DS/8/41 and DS/56/41 of the 3rd January and 16th January, and to your telegram No. E.45 of the 8th January, regarding Kurt Wilhelm SCHMIDT. John Montgomerie HATTRICK who was born on the 30th September 1877 at Johnstone, Renfrewshire, is a Director of the UNITED POTASH CO. LTD., 112 Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.

This man first came to our notice in 1925 when a certain Major August DIEHN, who is a known German agent and who assisted in fomenting a mutiny in Singapore in 1915, visited this country and contacted HATTRICK in connection with the POTASH business, DIEHN being Director-General of the German POTASH SYNDICATE.

Nothing more was heard of HATTRICK until 1937 when a German woman, Hela Elsbeth SCHMIDT, wife of the leader of the N.S.D.A.P. Stutzpunkt in Auckland, arrived in this country from Sydney for one week en route for Hamburg, giving as her address UNITED POTASH CO. LTD., 112 Fenchurch Street, E.C. As HATTRICK was in Australia from 1904, when he was carrying on business in Sydney as a dealer in potash fertiliser, until April 1914, and then again from October 1914 until January 1917, there seems some reason for assuming a connection between HATTRICK and SCHMIDT before her arrival in this country.

HATTRICK has recently come to notice again through information received from a Mr. SAYWELL and his wife, Mrs. Jessie SAYWELL, who live at 2a, Adelaide Mansions, 181 Queen's Gate, and who share an air raid shelter with HATTRICK, whose private address is also at 181 Queen's Gate. Mrs. SAYWELL stated that about twenty-five years ago she was on her way to Australia and met HATTRICK on board ship. He was then generally regarded as German on

account of his accent and general manner, and, according to Mrs. SAYWELL, was decidedly pro-German in his outlook.

We have recently been in communication with our representative in Australia regarding HATTRICK, and he informed us that HATTRICK was brought before a military enquiry in 1916 on a suspicion of trading and communicating with the enemy and also evasion of censorship. We have now written to him giving the latest information regarding HATTRICK's activities and asking for further details of his activities in 1916.

As Kurt Wilhelm SCHMIDT is now interned, it seems advisable, in view of recent information, to interrogate him as requested in my cable of 16.1.41. to obtain further information in general about HATTRICK.

A copy of a photograph of HATTRICK is attached for your information.

Yours sincerely,

*E. H. Little*

D. J. Cummings Esq.,  
Commissioner of Police,  
Wellington,  
NEW ZEALAND.

MS/AW.

If any reply, please  
quote this number:



POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WELLINGTON, C. 1. 22nd February, 1941.

MEMORANDUM for

The Permanent Head,  
Prime Minister's Department.

I shall be glad if you will approve of the despatch of  
the attached cablegram.

Encl.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. H. Cunningham".

Commissioner of Police.

*This cablegram sent.  
O'Connell  
22.2.1941*

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

22nd February, 1941.

O.H.M.S.

SNUFFBOX

LONDON.

MOMEN

TRANSLATION.

██████████ 21ST FEBRUARY RE HATRICK DEEMED ADVISABLE REPEAT 67 GROUPS  
REPETITION BEGINS JAMES PATERSON, PATERSON ROBERTSON COMMISSION AGENTS  
AUCKLAND MET HIM SEVERAL OCCASIONS BUT NEITHER CAN GIVE ANY DEFINITE  
INFORMATION AS TO HIS LOYALTY. HATRICK GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE MAN OF  
CONSIDERABLE WEALTH MAINLY DERIVED FROM INSURANCE BROKING AND ACCEPTED AS  
NATIVE OF SCOTLAND GERMAN MOTHER SCOTCH FATHER REPETITION ENDS.

RECEIVED BY  
21 FEB 1941  
T. D. ROSE  
MINISTER'S DEPT.

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

# CABLEGRAM

From Canada

To Britain



VIA PACIFIC ABSOLUTE PRIORITY

Z 31/135 32/31/4 LONDON 21 ST 1650 + ed at:

Date Stamp.

MOMEN WELLINGTONZ +

6.40A

Initials of Operator:

N.Z.  
WELLINGTON  
22 FEB 1941  
TELEGRAPH OFFICE

NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS  
(IN CONJUNCTION WITH CABLE AND WIRELESS LIMITED)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SNUFFBOX LONDON

10/17

Tel. 139. 2,000 pds/2/40-17885] NOTE.—This form must accompany any inquiry made respecting this telegram.

Sorry

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Group

Telegram

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(Spell and Letters)

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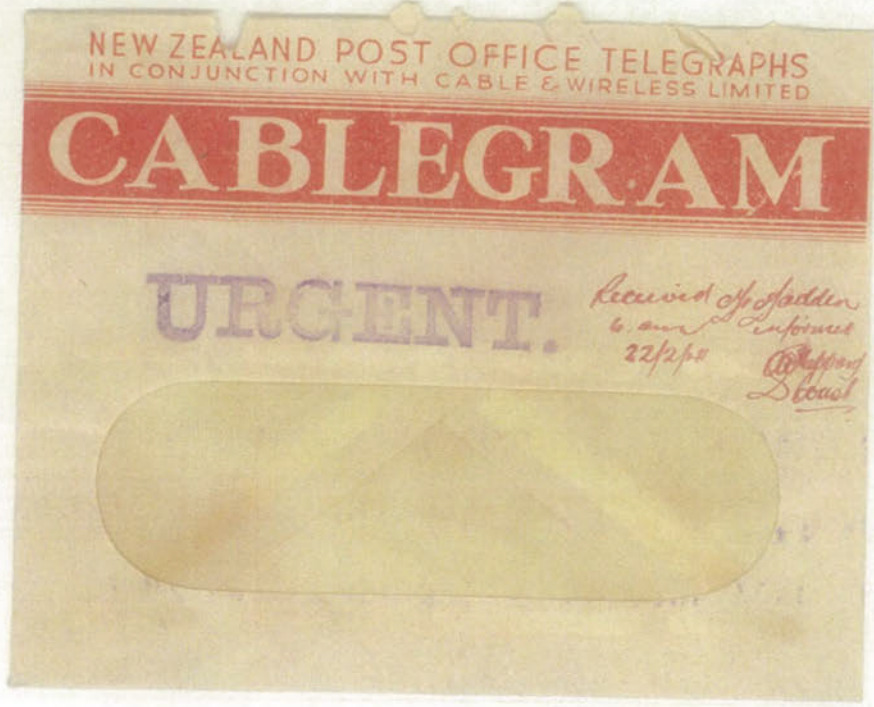
vic

K

Starrick

*[Signature]*  
926am





Sorry  
our  
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76  
41  
information not  
clear  
please  
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last  
65



Group  
telegram  
re  
(spell word 7 letters)  
Hat  
vic } Patrick  
K

*[Handwritten signature]*  
926am

If any reply, please  
quote this number:



POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WELLINGTON, C. 1. 21st February, 1941.

MEMORANDUM for

The Permanent Head,  
Prime Minister's Department.

I shall be glad if you will approve of the despatch of  
the attached cablegram.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. H. Cunningham".

Commissioner of Police.

Sent.  
W. Coop.  
21/2/41.

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

21st February, 1941.

O.H.M.S.

SNUFFBOX

LONDON.

██████████ 20TH FEBRUARY WHICH OF MY TWO MESSAGES TWENTIETH IS CONCERNED

MOMEN.

PASSED BY  
21 FEB 1941

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

# CABLEGRAM

From Canada

St. Helena

H 214/461 32/3 1/3 VIA PACIFIC

BGETAT LONDON 20 TH 1704 +

461 Commissioner of  
PRIORITY MESSAGES WELLINGTON +

*Police*

NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS  
(IN CONJUNCTION WITH CABLE AND WIRELESS LIMITED)



Received at:

*1-26*

Date Stamp:



Initials of Operator:

*6*

*52/17*



*Count indicator as  
a group for this  
purpose*

Tel. 139. 2,000 pds/2/40-17885) NOTE.—This form must accompany any inquiry made respecting this telegram.

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indicating*

*Group*

*[Signature]*  
21 FEB 1941

S. 37/10/9

20th February, 1941.


Brigadier Harker,  
P.O. Box 500,  
Parliament, B.O.,  
LONDON.

Dear Brigadier Harker,

Further to my cablegram of the 19th instant replying to your DS/56/41 of the 16th January, 1941, I forward herewith for your information and retention a copy of a relative Police report.

Mr. C.A. Wilkinson, M.P., referred to on page 3 of the report, has been seen, but states that he has no knowledge of Hatrick over the last thirty years.

Yours sincerely,

  
Commissioner of Police.

*Jelo*

If any reply, please  
quote this number:



POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WELLINGTON, C. 1. 20th February, 1941.

MEMORANDUM for

The Permanent Head,  
Prime Minister's Department.

I shall be glad if you will approve of the despatch  
of the two attached cablegrams.

Encls. 2.

*H. G. Cummins*  
Commissioner of Police.

*Sent  
H. G. C.  
20/2/41.*

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

37/10/9.

19th February, 1941.

O.H.M.S.

PASSED BY

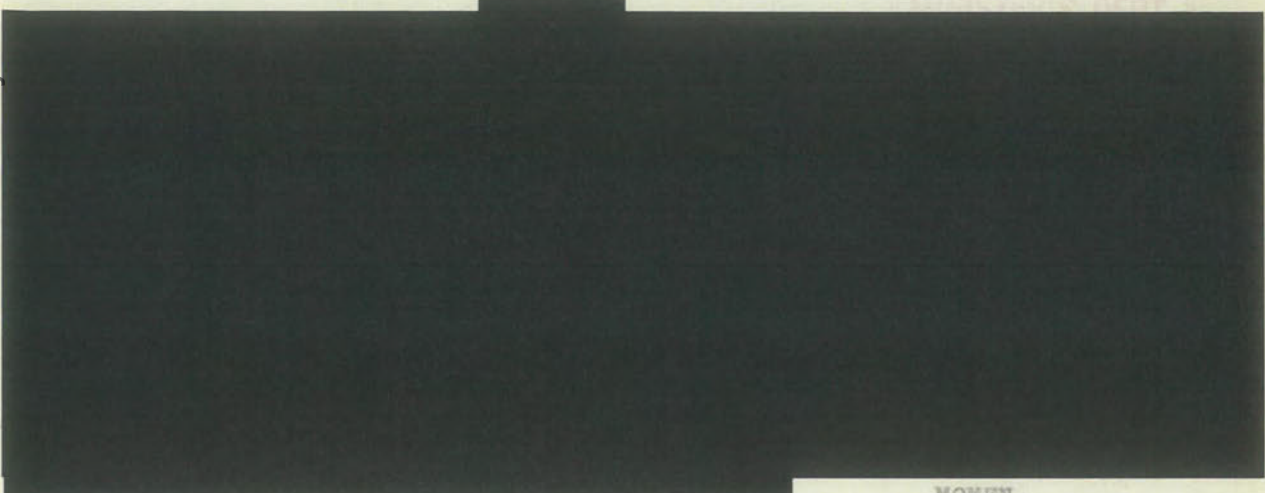
20 FEB 1941

PRIME

SNUFFBOX

LONDON.

MINISTER'S DESK



MOMEN.

TRANSLATION.

SIXTEENTH JANUARY 1941. MRS SCHMIDT ONLY ONCE MET HATRICK FOR LUNCH LONDON OCTOBER 1937 THROUGH INTRODUCTION GIVEN BY FRIEND GERARD DE VOHL DAVIS MANAGER PACIFIC POTASH CO.LTD. SYDNEY; ALSO PRESENT GUSSELEFT AND ROEDERER GERMAN AND FRENCH REPRESENTATIVES RESPECTIVELY HATRICK'S COMPANY. CONVERSATION GENERAL. GATHERED IMPRESSION HATRICK WAS BRITISH. SCHMIDT FIRST MET HATRICK 1929 BERLIN ON BUSINESS. NOVEMBER DECEMBER 1929 WORKED 4 WEEKS HATRICK'S FIRM DOMINION POTASH SUPPLY CO.LTD. LONDON TO GET KNOWLEDGE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND MARKET. THIRD MEETING LONDON NOVEMBER 1938. HE MAINTAINS ALL MEETINGS MERELY FOR BUSINESS IN CONNECTION WITH POTASH INDUSTRY. CONSIDERS HATRICK NEITHER ANTI-BRITISH NOR PRO-GERMAN. LEITH NAPIER LATE DIRECTOR PACIFIC POTASH CO.LTD. AUCKLAND AND JAMES PATERSON, PATERSON AND ROBERTSON COMMISSION AGENTS AUCKLAND MET HIM SEVERAL OCCASIONS BUT NEITHER CAN GIVE ANY DEFINITE INFORMATION AS TO HIS LOYALTY. HATRICK GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE MAN OF CONSIDERABLE WEALTH MAINLY DERIVED FROM INSURANCE BROKING AND ACCEPTED AS NATIVE OF SCOTLAND GERMAN MOTHER SCOTCH FATHER.

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

DRAFT:

~~REFERRING YOUR OFFICE~~ [REDACTED] <sup>1941</sup> SIXTEENTH JANUARY. MRS. SCHMIDT  
ONLY ONCE MET HATRICK FOR LUNCH LONDON OCTOBER 1937 THROUGH  
INTRODUCTION GIVEN BY FRIEND GERARD de VOHL DAVIS, MANAGER  
PACIFIC POTASH LTD SYDNEY; ALSO PRESENT GUSSELEF AND  
ROEDERER GERMAN AND FRENCH REPRESENTATIVES RESPECTIVELY HATRICKS  
COMPANY. CONVERSATION GENERAL GATHERED IMPRESSION HATRICK  
WAS BRITISH.

SCHMIDT FIRST MET HATRICK 1929 BERLIN ON BUSINESS. NOVEMBER/  
DECEMBER 1929 WORKED FOUR WEEKS HATRICKS FIRM DOMINION POTASH  
SUPPLY LTD LONDON TO <sup>get</sup> GAIN KNOWLEDGE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND  
MARKETS. THIRD MEETING LONDON NOVEMBER 1938. <sup>He</sup> SCHMIDT MAINTAINS  
ALL MEETINGS MERELY FOR BUSINESS IN CONNECTION WITH POTASH  
INDUSTRY. CONSIDERS HATRICK NEITHER ANTI-BRITISH NOR PRO-GERMAN.  
LEITH NAPIER LATE DIRECTOR PACIFIC POTASH LTD AUCKLAND AND JAMES  
PATERSON; PATERSON AND ROBERTSON COMMISSION AGENTS AUCKLAND MET  
<sup>from</sup> HATRICK SEVERAL OCCASIONS <sup>but</sup> NEITHER CAN GIVE ANY DEFINITE  
INFORMATION <sup>as to</sup> REGARDING HATRICKS LOYALTY. <sup>his</sup> HATRICK GENERALLY  
CONSIDERED TO BE MAN OF CONSIDERABLE WEALTH MAINLY DERIVED FROM  
INSURANCE BROKING. ACCEPTED AS NATIVE OF SCOTLAND ~~ROBERTSON~~  
GERMAN MOTHER <sup>and</sup> SCOTCH FATHER





~~SECRET~~

**NEW ZEALAND POLICE.**

Subject: Kurt Wilhelm SCHMIDT and Hela Elsbeth SCHMIDT

100,000/3/40-197831

The Inspector of Police,  
NEW PLYMOUTH.

Referred for urgent and discreet inquiry from Mr. Wilkinson, vide page 3 of Detective Stevenson's report.

*J. Cummings*  
Commissioner of Police.  
3.2.41

*For the Commr of Police  
Wellington  
J. Mascham Insp  
N.P.S. 97/48. 9/2/41  
6.1.41*

*Ops Hawera  
Det. Allsopp  
interview Mr. Wilkinson M.P.*

*J. Mascham Insp  
4/2/41*

*Comd Hawera  
Please forward to General  
Hawera.*

*S. 97.  
S. 41.  
C. E. Edwards  
4-2-41.*

*or Det. Allsopp  
J. Edwards  
181  
41 Sen. Sgt. 5.2.41*

The Senior Sergeant

Please see my report attached.

*J. Edwards*  
Detective 7/2/41.

*The Inspector,  
New Plymouth  
J. Edwards  
Sen. Sgt. 7.2.41*

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Police-station: Detective Office, Hawera.

Date: 7th. February, 1941.

REPORT of Detective. T. W. Allsopp, No. 2638.

relative to Kurt Wilhelm SCHMIDT and Hela Elsbeth SCHMIDT

- association with John Montgomrie HATRICK of London.

" Vide attached "

I beg to report that I interviewed Mr.C.A. Wilkinson at Eltham today, 7/2/41, and he informed me that he knew Mr.J.M.Hatrick of London, and the person referred to in the attached correspondence, but had not seen or had any business dealings with him for the last thirty years.

Mr Wilkinson cannot in anyway assist this inquiry.

*T. W. Allsopp*  
Detective

The Senior Sergeant

H A W E R A

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

~~SECRET~~

Police-station: Detective Office, Auckland.

Date: 4 th February, 194 1

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

relative to letter addressed to Mr K.W.Schmidt, prisoner of War, Semes Island, Wellington, from Mrs Schmidt, 6 Martin Avenue, Remuera, Auckland.

I respectfully report that the result of my interviews with Mrs and Mr Schmidt on the 22 nd and 23 rd ult. was reported by me on the 29 th ult.

Mrs Schmidt is a woman of strong character and she would not think of denying that she is German in her sympathies, first, last and all the time. On thinking over my interview with her she now seems to be sorry that she might have said something that might in some small way assist the British war effort.

I have not interviewed her about the portion of her letter in which she refers to "Lilian", "Vin" and "Eustace" as I can explain this without doing so.

'Lilian' is Mrs Lilian DONOVAN, 'Vin' is her husband Frederick Vincent DONOVAN and 'Eustace' is their son Eustace Vincent DONOVAN.

The Donovan's rented rooms from the Schmidt's for some years prior to the war. Frederick Vincent Donovan was a member of the German Club and was one of the committee that finally wound up the affairs of the club... He was at one time an officer in the British Army and there is no reason to doubt that he and his family are quite loyal.

Since the commencement of the present war Donovan, senr. has been trying to get into the Army here but has been refused, the reason being given him was that he is too old.. However, he and his wife are quite convinced that the real reason is that the Army authorities know that he has been a member of the German Club and that he has been friendly for years with known Nazis - that is Schmidt and his wife.

*E.A. Stevenson*  
Detective.

The Sub Inspector,  
Detective Branch,  
Auckland.

*The Insp.*

*S.O. Hall.  
SI Insp.  
H. 2.41.*

*Had better keep  
for the communication office please  
7/2/41  
SI Insp*



*File*

*The Commissioner  
& Commission  
Superintendent  
5.2.41*

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

~~SECRET~~



**NEW ZEALAND POLICE.**

Subject: Letter addressed to Mr. K.W. SCHMIDT, Prisoner of War, Somes Island,  
Wellington, from Mrs. Schmidt, 6 Martin Avenue, Remuera, Auckland.

100,000/3/40-19783]

The Superintendent of Police,  
AUCKLAND.

Attached hereto is a translation  
of a letter intercepted by the  
Censorship Authorities in transmission  
to Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt. It relates  
to a matter at present under inquiry  
at your office.

*L.J. Cummings*  
Commissioner of Police.

31.1.41

*Inspector*

*Det Braund*  
*L. Cummings*

*1.2.41*

*The father*  
*of Braund*

*Rhard*

*174, keep*  
*the Stevenson*

*S. Hall*  
*S. M. P.*  
*1.2.41*

*(60/10)*

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

~~SECRET~~



**NEW ZEALAND POLICE.**

*Subject:* Letter addressed to Mr. K.W. SCHMIDT, Prisoner of War, Somes Island, Wellington, from Mrs. Schmidt, 6 Martin Avenue, Remuera, Auckland.

100,000/3/40-19753

The Controller of Censorship,  
WELLINGTON.

Seen with thanks. A copy of the translation has been retained at this office.

*D.J. Cunningham*  
Commissioner of Police.  
31.1.41.

*Released  
Released to 241*

The Commissioner of Police,  
WELLINGTON, C.1.

The necessary action has been taken.

*J. M. Lamson*  
Controller of Censorship,  
4.2.41.

*File*

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy



DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

CONTROLLER OF CENSORSHIP,  
WELLINGTON, C.I.

~~CONFIDENTIAL.~~

CEN. 257.

Memorandum for

29th January, 1941.

The Commissioner of Police,  
WELLINGTON, C.I.

Letter addressed to Mr K.W. Schmidt, Prisoner of War, Somes Island, Wellington, from Mrs Schmidt, c Martin Avenue, Remuera, Auckland.

I attach, for your perusal, the letter above-mentioned with a translation of the contents.

Encl:

*E. McLennan*

Controller of Censorship.

①

Mrs Schmidt to Schmidt,  
Somes Island.

Amekel. 26.1.41

Dear Pitt,

... in the meantime you will have received Stephenson's visit. It was certainly a charge for you, even if the reason was a ridiculous one, in my opinion. But if this goes on like that, I shall have another point of view. I would need too much time to answer such a thing and why should I at all?? At school we were taught that it was not nice to annoy somebody behind his back and here one would like to compel us to do the very thing. It is very complementary that they should attribute such an importance to our opinions but I must say I am no longer interested ~~with~~ to be helpful. ~~They did not~~ They have not treated us accordingly! So next time I shall confine myself to a shrug of the shoulder. This is without prejudice to the ~~idea~~ person who puts the questions, he merely performs his duty and I "gave him a hand" only

in consideration of his personality. The next time I absolutely refuse to reply.

I did not break the law and no government can force me to emit opinions. But I am convinced that our correspondence will be put in the museum again. *WAAHIM Haha.*

Lilian brought some food again and stayed for dinner. I like her as before even if her political opinions are typical and ignorant. Personally I have always liked her. and Kim is naturally still not in camp. But we are the ones to blame. It is astonishing for how many things we are to be blamed. Ernst will have a she-milking job from the end of May and Kim and Lilian will live with him at Wainku in a small cottage. Kim wants to learn how to work with cows and intends to buy a farm later on. Poor cows!

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[Police—100A.

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Police-station: Detective Office, Auckland.

~~SECRET.~~

Date: 28 th January, 194

REPORT of Detective E.A.Stevenson, No 2627

*relative to* Kurt Wilhelm SCHMIDT and Hela Elsbeth SCHMIDT - association with John Montgomrie HATRICK, of London.

I respectfully report that in accordance with the attached instructions I interviewed Mrs H.E.Schmidt, wife of K.W.Schmidt at her home at 6 Martin Avenue, Remuera at 10 a.m on Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> inst.

Mrs Schmidt answered all questions freely and showed no disposition to hide anything. She betrayed no emotion or surprise at my sudden mention of the name of Hatrick.. I should perhaps mention that I have been on quite friendly terms with both Mrs Schmidt and her husband for the past 4 or 5 years. This was brought about by my official interest in the German Club and local Nazis, of which Schmidt was aware.

In agreement with facts which were known and reported at the time Mrs Schmidt said that she and her two children left Auckland for Germany, via Sydney and England on 3.9.37.. Her husband did not leave Auckland until 29.4.38 and he joined his family in Germany in June 1938... While awaiting trans-shipment in Sydney she called at the office of Pacific Potash Ltd there, where she met the manager of that branch - one Gerard de Vahl DAVIS, whom she already knew.. Davis is of British-Jew parentage.

Davis is, said Mrs Schmidt, the step-son of J.M.Hatrick. Davis gave Mrs Schmidt a letter of introduction to Hatrick and she says that that was the sole reason that she subsequently called on Hatrick in London.... She says that she saw Hatrick once only; after her arrival in London in October 1937 she 'phoned him at his office and then called to see him there. Hatrick made a luncheon appointment and she was with him about 1 hour.. Also present at the luncheon were GUSSEFELT - the German representative of the company of which Hatrick was Managing-Director and ROEDERER - the French representative... Mrs Schmidt could not remember of the name of the company.

Mrs Schmidt said that she had no particular business with Hatrick, the conversation was very general and no national matters were touched on. She said that Hatrick did not appear to be at all pro-German.. She understood him to be British, either English or Scotch.. He was a man getting on for 70 years of age... Mrs Schmidt did not again see any of those present at the luncheon or anyone connected with the company.. She was in England for 5 days and then left for Germany.

Mrs Schmidt said that Hatrick had a Jewish wife who died in Australia about 3 or 4 years ago when she went there to visit her son G.deV.Davis.

Mrs Schmidt said that Hatrick was in Australia for a few years before the war of 1914-18 and, she thought, in New Zealand also - in connection with potash.

(over)

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The Sub Inspector,  
Detective Branch,  
Auckland.

She said that she had heard from her husband that Hatrick, since the present war commenced, was to some extent acting for the British Government in connection with potash and other fertilizers.

She said that GUSSEFELT had been in London for many years; he was a man of about 40 years of age and he seemed to be anti-Nazi.

Mrs Schmidt said that she had not heard of Hatrick before she received the letter of introduction from Davis in Sydney.. She believes Davis to be an English Jew.

I suddenly mentioned to Mrs Schmidt the name of MAJOR AUGUST DIEHN and asked where she had met him. She said "I have not met him but I know the name because he is about the most prominent man in Germany in potash - he is behind all the French-German potash concerns."

She said that Hatrick's business was not connected with Pacific Potash Ltd. The former was also a French-German company so she supposed it had also been declared an enemy company by now.

I questioned her closely and she showed no resentment or national feeling. She was friendly, she appeared frank and I believe that she was so. She said that if it had been anyone else questioning her she would have told them to ask her husband. She said that he probably knew more about Hatrick and his business than she did..

At 11-30 a.m on the 23 rd inst. I saw KURT-WILHELM SCHMIDT at Somes Island, Wellington, where he has been interned since 23.12.39.

He also seemed to be quite frank and showed no tendency to evade questions, though actually few were necessary... I asked him if he knew a man named Hatrick. He said that the only person he knew of that name was in the potash business in London. He said he had met Hatrick on three occasions.

The first was in 1929 when Hatrick visited Berlin in connection with potash and fertilizers and he visited the firm for which Schmidt was working - also in the same connection.

The second occasion was in November-December 1929 when Schmidt was sent by his firm to London for 4 weeks to work in the office of Dominion Potash Supply Ltd with the object of gaining a knowledge of the Australian and New Zealand market.. Hatrick was the owner of this business and at the same time he was the Managing-Director of United Potash Co.Ltd, London, having been so appointed about 1925.. This was a Franco-British potash distributing concern.... Hatrick's own business Dominion Potash Supply Ltd. was wound up about 1931 in agreement with Franco-German concerns.

Third occasion Schmidt met Hatrick was about November 1938 in London, when Schmidt and his family were in London on their way back to New Zealand.

Schmidt said that all these three meetings with Hatrick were merely business ones in connection with the potash industry.. He said that so far as he knows Hatrick was an ordinary British business man, not anti-British and "not particularly pro-German".

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Schmidt said that Hatrick was a man of about 70 years of age and quite a well-known personality in England and he understood that Hatrick had an estate in Scotland.. Schmidt said that he had heard through Pacific Potash Ltd.(before his internment) that after the present war commenced Hatrick had got permission from the English Government to buy potash supplies where he could get them. It was hoped to get some from Spain and Palastine.. He had also heard that Hatrick had been appointed in an advisory capacity to the British Government.

Schmidt said that he believed that Hatrick was in Australia and New Zealand for a period of perhaps 4 or 5 years before the last war.

Schmidt said that he has no doubt that from London Hatrick would frequently visit Paris, Berlin and Mulhouse (Alsace-Lorraine), the centre of the Franco-German potash industry.

I mentioned the name of MAJOR AUGUST DIEHN suddenly to Schmidt. He showed no surprise and said that he had never met him but he knew the name well as a person very prominent in the German Potash Syndicate. He said he was in the German Economic Ministry just before the war commenced.

Schmidt then told me of Mrs Schmidt's meeting with Hatrick.. This was what his wife had told him and what she had previously told me.

Schmidt said that Hatrick would be in close touch with all fertilizer and chemical concerns in Europe and also with Imperial Chemicals Industries.

Hatrick is undoubtedly a wealthy man, said Schmidt; he first went to Australia before the last war as an adviser to the German Government on potash, and he laid the foundations in Australia and New Zealand for the potash industry.

Schmidt said that in New Zealand Hatrick knew MR.C.A.WILKINSON,(M.P. for Egmont) and a MR.J.PATERSON, of Paterson & Robertson, Commission Agents and Indentors, of Auckland.

Regarding the third paragraph of the attached copy of cablegram received from a secret source in which the word "animosity" appears. This word does not appear to make sense and it seems to me that the word should read "ostensible" or something similar. However, I questioned both Mr and Mrs Schmidt as though the word were actually "animosity".. They both stated that there was no animosity or ill-feeling or quarrel between them respectively and Hatrick.

On my return to Auckland I interviewed on the 25 th inst. one MR LEITH NAPIER. This man is an Australian and served in the A.I.F. in the Great War. There is no reason to doubt that he is other than a loyal British subject... I have known for some years that NAPIER was formerly the manager of Pacific Potash Ltd. in Auckland.. Schmidt was dignified by the title of Deputy Manager.. However, I have previously reported Schmidt seemed to do very little work and actually his job was a sort of watch dog for the firm's German interests. He more or less kept an eye on Napier and to my knowledge there had never been any love lost between the two.

Of course, there is little doubt also that Schmidt was in some way an agent for the Nazi Government.

I think it was in August 1940 that Pacific Potash Ltd. was declared an enemy company.

Napier also knows Hatrick and has met him on two or three occasions, the last being in 1936. He said that he understands that Hatrick is a native of Scotland, of a German Mother and a Scotch father.

He also, said that Hatrick lived in Sydney prior to 1914, that he was then in sole charge of the industry, which was then purely German. That is, the potash industry in Australia.

Napier said that Hatrick is now in co-charge with a Frenchman named A. LEBELLE of the firm of Potash Ltd, Fenton House, 112 Fenchurch St, London. He said that Hatrick is a man of very considerable means and that he also makes a large sum annually in Insurance broking... He also said that Hatrick is attached to the Ministry of Supply in England in connection with potash.

Napier said that he had heard somewhere that Hatrick had been educated in Germany

Napier said that Major Diehn had frequently been in Australia and that at some period (probably prior to the last war) he was in charge of German shipping interests in Singapore and Shanghai.

Napier could tell me nothing definite to indicate that Hatrick should now be viewed with suspicion but he gave it as his opinion that Hatrick is a man worth watching as being likely to be both pro-German and pro-Nazi... Napier knew that Hatrick had come under suspicion in Australia after the commencement of the last war.

On the 28 th inst. I saw MR JAMES PATERSON referred to on page 3 of this report. He has been a business man in Auckland for many years and there is no doubt he is a loyal British subject.

He told me that he knows Hatrick and has met him on several occasions since about 1910. He first met him through the potash industry when Hatrick came to Auckland from Australia.. Potash in this part of the world was then being handled by a German firm in Sydney named LOHMANN & CO. Mr Paterson became the agent here for potash distributed by that firm. He said that he last met Hatrick when he (Hatrick) came to New Zealand about 1930.

Paterson said that Hatrick is a man in his sixties. He believes that Hatrick was born at his parent's home at a place called Johnston, Renfrewshire, Scotland.. He believes that both parents were Scotch. He said that Hatrick speaks fluent German and that he has been associated with Germans since he was about 25 years of age. He studied agriculture and gained some Diploma of Agriculture which led to him getting some position in Germany with a German firm, in connection with potash and other fertilizers... Paterson said that he could think of no reason to suspect Hatrick of any German associations of an anti-British nature. Paterson also said that Hatrick had a close business connection with a man named THOMAS (surname) a German in the potash industry in Germany.

*E. Stevenson. Det.*



~~SECRET~~ NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Subject: Kurt Wilhelm SCHMIDT and Hela Elsbeth SCHMIDT

100,000's/40-1978s1

The Superintendent of Police,  
AUCKLAND.

*Commissioner*

*Sturmsing*  
*Superd*  
*30.1.41*

Attached is a copy of a cablegram received from a secret source. Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt and Mrs. Schmidt are well known to Detective Stevenson. Please instruct him to interview Mrs. Schmidt as requested.

The interview should take place on Wednesday morning, 22nd instant. Detective Stevenson is then to come to Wellington by the 3 p.m. train on the 22nd instant and interview Schmidt at Somes Island on Thursday morning. The launch leaves for the Island at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday.



*D. J. Cummings*  
Commissioner of Police.  
20.1.41 \*

*Sub Insp*  
*Sturmsing*  
*Superd*  
*27.1.41*

*Mr Stevenson*  
*97/41*  
*Stace*  
*St Insp*  
*21.1.41*

The Sub Inspector, Dets.

Reprt attached (in duplicate).

*E. Stevenson*

28.1.41.

Detective.

*The Supi*  
*Stace*  
*St Insp*  
*29.1.41*

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

Decode reads :-

Commissioner of Police.

18.1.41

Wellington

Referring to your telegram E45 of January 8<sup>th</sup> John Montgomerie Hatrick Director <sup>unit</sup> with Potash Co. Ltd 112 Lechurch Street (London) E.C. is under suspicion.

He has been associating for many years in business with Major August Diehn, known German Agent, Director General German Potash Syndicate.

Hela Elisabeth Schmidt wife of Kurt

Wilhelm Schmidt

reported by you as former Nazi, contacted Hatrick animosity connection business during visit London 1937 while en route Hamburg.

Hatrick went Australia 1904 and set up business in Sydney as dealer in potash fertilizer. Visited United Kingdom April 1914 to see parents returning to Australia October 14 where remained until January 17.

Hatrick was brought before a military enquiry Australia 1916 on suspicion of trading and communicating enemy also evasion censorship but internment question nullified by his production of a certificate showing birth place as Scotland and witnesses testifying he was commonly regarded as Scotch.

Can you question Kurt Schmidt and wife regarding association with Hatrick and obtain information in general about him. Telegraph reply giving (agrounds) grounds (? particulars)

J. J. 20 JAN 1941

18th January, 1941.

The Commissioner of Police,  
WELLINGTON.

Referring to your telegram E.45 of January 8th, John Montgomerie Hatrick, Director, unit with Potash Co. Ltd., 112 Fenchurch Street (London), E.C. is under suspicion.

He has been associating for many years in business with Major August Diehn, known German Agent, Director-General German Potash Syndicate.

Hela Elsbeth Schmidt, wife of Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt reported by you as fervent Nazi, contacted Hatrick animosity connection business during visit London, 1937 while en route Hamburg.

Hatrick went Australia, 1904, and set up business in Sydney as dealer in potash fertilizer. Visited United Kingdom April, 1914, to see parents returning to Australia October 14, where remained until January 17th.

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Can you question Kurt Schmidt and wife regarding association with Hatrick and obtain information in general about him.

Telegraph reply giving (agrounds) grounds (? particulars).

SNUFF BOX

On His Majesty's Service.

*The Inspector of Police,*

*P.O. Box No.* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**New Zealand Police Force**  
(Commissioner's Office),  
WELLINGTON.

3,000/8/36—8559]

*Handwritten initials*

