

~~SECRET~~
37 / 10/11
POLICE DEPT. HEAD OFFICE



NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Subject: General activities of German Club in Auckland up to 12-1-38 with special reference to Hessman or Hessenman, Von Luckner, Druder, H.E.R. Kersten, Arpad Szigetvary, Max Grapengiesser, and K.W.Schmidt.

102,000/11/30-14051

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SECRET
37 / 10/14
POLICE DEPT. HEAD OFFICE



NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Subject: Paul Arno Hesseemann, German subject, enquired for.

(G.O. 11/38-14051)

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The Inspectors.

Report herewith.

It may be considered advisable to have inquiries made by the Samoan Police regarding the revolver & ammunition which Hesseemann declared here.

Carroll
Sub-Inspector,
Detective Branch.
25. 1. 38

The Supt.

Junevey
26/1/38

The Commissioner of Police
H. Frank
Supt. of Police
26. 1. 38

The Superintendent of Police,
AUCKLAND

I forward for your information secret reports obtained concerning Paul Arno Hesseemann and Arpad Szigetvary, referred to in a report submitted by Detective Stevenson on 12-1-38. To be noted and returned please.

Hamming
Commissioner. 7-2-38

The Chief Const
R. Ward
8/2/38 Supt

W. Stevenson
S. O. Hall
E. H. Hall
8. 2. 38

The Chief Detective,
Respectfully noted.
E. Stevenson
11-2-38 Det-2627.

Insp Ward.
S. O. Hall
E. H. Hall
11-2-38

Ad. to the Commissioner
R. Ward
11/2/38 Supt for Supt

CONFIDENTIAL

ÁRPAD SZIGETVÁRY.

Date of birth : 10th May, 1897. - Born in Manchuria.

Employed by Commercial Broadcasting Department at 1 ZB, Auckland from 22.2.1937 to 26.3.1937, as temporary employee of the Public Service. Still broadcasts regarding World affairs - on a contract basis.

States on application form for admission to Public Service :-

A British Subject.

Father :- Hungarian - naturalized in Hong Kong, 1887.

Mother :- Irish.

Military experience :- Lieutenant in Imperial Army 1916 to 1920.

Served in China, Belgium, France and Northern Russia.

Education :- Attended Queen's University, Belfast, Ireland.

Length of residence in N.Z. : 11 years.

Prior to employment at 1 ZB, was a Journalist, "Auckland Star", before that, was free-lancing.

For character : reference can be made to Hon. Lee Martin and Sir Alexander Young.

No record in British Army List for Jan., Apr., or Oct., 1915.
Jan., July., Or Oct., 1916.
Jan., or July., 1917.
Jan., Apr., or Oct., 1918.
Jan. 1919.
Jan. or July. 1920.

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Reason for leaving 1 ZB. as temp. public servant was "bending the elbow too early in the day - thought 9 a:m was 5:55 p:m."
Is very well versed in World affairs.
Has always been found strictly honest, and not the type of man who would make mis-statements.

NEW ZEALAND POLICE. [Police-100A.

~~SECRET~~

Detective Office,
Police-station: Wellington,

Date: 25th January, 1938

REPORT of Detective Sergeant P. Doyle, No. 1337

relative to Baul Arno Hessmann, a German subject, now believed to be a resident of Apia, Western Samoa.

Vide attached.

I beg to report that the above named German subject arrived at Wellington on the 27th December, 1937 by the Awatea from Sydney.

Correspondence in the possession of the Customs Department disclose that Hessemann had received an appointment as a school teacher at Apia, Western Samoa, and that such appointment was arranged through the External Affairs Department.

He was granted a temporary permit to land in New Zealand and remain until the 10th January, 1938, when he proposed sailing from Auckland to Pago Pago by the Mariposa, the permit was granted at the request of the German Consul.

I have examined the Customs declaration made by Hessemann on his arrival at Wellington, and the only information disclosed therein is that he is 29 years of age, a native of Germany, school teacher by profession, and that he had in his possession a revolver and 25 shots.

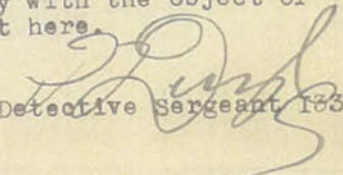
There is no record in the Arms office of Hessemann having surrendered the weapon or ammunition on his landing here, and although Constable McRae was aboard the steamer at the time, it appears that the possession of the firearm and ammunition by Hessemann was not brought under his notice by the Customs Boarding Officer, which is the regular practice, and Hessemann appears to have walked off the steamer with this weapon and ammunition.

On enquiry at the Customs Office, I learned that Hessemann signed for his personal belongings on arrival here but they have no record of his being in possession of the revolver, and did not know of it until I drew their attention to the declaration made by Hessemann.

A further declaration made by Hessemann at Auckland on the 10th January, 1938 on which date he sailed by the Mariposa for Pago Pago contains no information of value except that the maker's destination was Apia, Western Samoa and that he is a single man.

The only person at Wellington likely to know the movements of Hessemann or what happened to the firearm is the German Consul, Mr Hellenthal, but I did not consider it advisable to interview him or bring under his notice that we are interested.

I understand that importation of firearms to Western Samoa is prohibited, and if this is correct, the Customs authorities there would know if Hessemann had the revolver on his arrival there, failing any information on the subject it may be considered advisable to have Hessemann seen regarding the matter, particularly with the object of ascertaining if he disposed of it here.


Detective Sergeant 1337.

The Superintendent,
Detective Branch,
Wellington.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WELLINGTON, C.1. 17th January, 1938.

MEMORANDUM for

The Superintendent of Police,
WELLINGTON.

Please have inquiries made regarding the recent arrival at Wellington from overseas of a man named Hessmann or Hossenmann, a German subject. It is believed he intends proceeding to Samoa. Information is desired concerning his correct name, description, where he has come from, and whether he has booked a passage from here to Samoa.

D. Hemming
Commissioner of Police.

*The Inspector
J. J. Murphy
18/1/38*

*O. C. Det. Branch
Kearrock
Sub Insp
379
for Insp
18. 1. 38*

*For Executive Serg. Doyle,
W. Fienleband
Det Serg. 1796*

(42/38)

*18/1/38
The Sub. Inspector,
District Branch,
Report attached
175
38*

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NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

[Police-100A.]

Police-station: Detective Office, Auckland.

Date: 12 th January, 193 8

~~SECRET~~

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

relative to Deutscher Verein (German Club), Auckland; further information re German activities.

I respectfully report the following items of information, obtained from my informant within the German Club... I should mention that most of this information resulted in overheard snatches of conversation between KURT WILHELM SCHMIDT and MAX GRAPENGIESSER, the two leading Nazi members of the Club. Most of the conversations were in the German language.

Re HESSMANN: (This name has not been previously mentioned.) K.W. Schmidt recently went to Wellington. While there he met a new arrival to this country, who arrived at Wellington. This was a young man of rather boyish appearance - a German named Hessmann who has just arrived from Germany.

This young man returned to Auckland with Schmidt and has been staying with him here.. Hessmann is going to Samoa as a teacher of some sort and it is believed that he is going mainly for propaganda purposes as his fare from Germany was paid by the German Nazi Government.

My informant is not sure of the name and I now believe it to be HESSENMANN. A passage from Auckland to Apia for a man of that name was booked in November last at the Wellington office of the Union S.S.Co. This passage was for the "Matua" which sailed from Auckland on the 4 th inst, but Hessenmann did not sail on this vessel.

I do not know the Christian name of this man.

Re VON LUCKNER; I am told that it is definite that Von Luckner has had instructions from the Nazi Government as to what he has to say in New Zealand and the limits to which he may go in any public utterances or interviews.

Nazi groups as such are to have no part in any greetings to Von Luckner, but German Clubs are to be permitted to entertain him.

DRUDER : A German commercial traveller representing some big German electrical firm is expected to arrive here shortly and to take up residence here as agent for his firm.

This man is a Nazi and will join the Nazi group here... His Christian name may be Karl.

He has been in Auckland before and is about 30 years of age, 5 ft 6 or 7 ins, thin face, wears glasses.

HERMANN ERNST RUDOLPH KERSTEN : Is a young German, age 23 yrs who arrived in New Zealand from Germany by the "Awatea", on the 20 th Dec, 1937... He is the son of WILHELM FREDERIC KERSTEN, now in Dunedin and referred to in previous reports.

Kersten, junr, is here on a Temporary Permit for 6 months. He is living with his mother at Wheturangi Rd, Auckland.. Until recently it was intended

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The Chief Detective,
Auckland.

that this young man's career should be that of an officer in the German army, but a few months ago he was rejected because of some skin trouble.... Whether or not he still remains an ardent Nazi is not yet known.

Re ARPAD SZIGETVARY and MAX GRAPENGIESSER : Szigetvary is world affairs commentator on the staff of Commercial Radio Station 1 ZB, Auckland... I have often listened to his talks and there is no doubt that he is extraordinarily well-informed on topical questions on world affairs.

I am informed that he is getting a large part of his information from Max Grapengiesser. Grapengiesser makes a practise of daily listening to the German language short-wave broadcasts from Germany, which disseminate many alleged news items of a nature which do not otherwise reach this country.

My informant, on one occasion saw Szigetvary pay Grapengiesser some money for information.

Merely expressing an opinion from listening to Szigetvary's radio talks I would say that he has a pro-German and anti-French outlook.

Szigetvary is British despite his name; I believe he fought in the British forces in the Great War and is still on the British military reserve of officers.

This item may not be deemed to be of any importance but it may throw some enlightenment on matters in the future... In addition to evening talks over the air Szigetvary gives early morning "world news flashes" and there is no doubt that much of his subject matter is derived from overseas short wave radio sources.

Re GERMAN CLUB, WELLINGTON: This Club has had no connection with the Auckland Club. It is still in a chaotic and disorganised state with very few members. No further names are yet known. Efforts are still being made in Wellington to establish the Club more firmly.

Re KURT WILHELM SCHMIDT : Further to my report of 10 th August, 1937 re Schmidt's projected visit to Germany, it is now thought that he may be leaving here in March next instead of May as I previously reported.

I have nothing further to report at present.

E. A. Stevenson.

Det. 2627:

*Insp Ward
S. O. Dale
by her
12-1-38*

*J. B. Lee Supt
R. Ward
Supt*

For info to the Commissioner D. B.

*165
38*

*J. Gill
12/1/38 Supt*

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