



37/10/28

**NEW ZEALAND POLICE.**

*File*  
**Subject:** German Jews acting as espionage agents for Nazis.

100,000/11/30-140541

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**NEW ZEALAND POLICE.**

Subject: OTTO HYMAN: GERMAN JEW.

*Correct  
secret  
file*

100,000/9/31-10050]

The Superintendent of Police,  
WELLINGTON.

Please have inquiries made regarding Hyman's present whereabouts. He has not registered as an alien.

*Stumming*  
Commissioner of Police,  
14/11/39.

*The Inspector.*  
*J. Lewis Dept*  
*16. 11. 39*

*The Supt*  
*Jones*  
*17 NOV 1939*

*The Commissioner,*  
*J. Lewis Dept*  
*14. 11. 39*

THE CHIEF DETECTIVE

594

*Jones*  
INSPECTOR OF POLICE  
16 NOV 1939

*Det Browne*

*Jones*  
*16-11-39*

The Chief Detective,  
Wellington.

Report attached.

*S. C. Browne*

17/11/39

Det.No.2865.

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NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

[Police—100A.

Detective Office, Wellington.  
Police-station : \_\_\_\_\_

Date : 17th. November 1939, 19

REPORT of Detective Samuel Craig Browne, No. 2865

relative to Otto Hyman;—enquiries re present whereabouts.

"Vide attached"

I respectfully report that Otto Hyman mentioned in the attached file is identical with Otto Simon HEYMANN, 6 Maire Street, Lower Hutt, who is registered as an alien at Wellington, and was issued with Registration Certificate No. 12297 on the 19th. September 1939.

The following information was obtained from his Registration file;—Born at Mannheim, Germany on 25<sup>th</sup> 7/1887; height 5' 6"; medium build; dark brown hair; grey eyes; arrived in New Zealand at Auckland on 13th. February 1939.

His wife is Bertie Babette Heymann, who is also registered, and he has two sons Thomas (born in Germany on 30/8/1927), and Stephen (born Germany 19/4/1931) all of whom reside with him at above address.

The Chief Detective,  
Wellington.

*S. C. Browne*  
Det. No. 2865

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~~SECRET~~

**NEW ZEALAND POLICE.**

*Subject:* GERMAN JEWS alleged to be acting as espionage agents for Germany.

109,000/11/30-140541

The Superintendent of Police,

WELLINGTON

With reference to Detective

Sergeant Doyle's report of 29-6-38 no further information is at present available at this office, but if he will pursue his inquiries as far as he finds it expedient to do so efforts will be made to carry the matter further at the source from which the information emanated in the first instance.

*D J Cumming*  
Commissioner of Police  
1-7-38

*The Sub-Inspector*  
*Detective Branch*

*D J Fraser*  
*Supt. of Police*  
1-7-38

*Det. Sgt. Doyle.*  
*Carroll*  
Sub-Inspector  
Detective Branch.  
1-7-38

*The Inspector*  
*Detective Branch*  
*Please see report attached.*  
*27/8/38*  
*D J G*

*The Superintendent*  
*Carroll*

Sub-Inspector  
Detective Branch  
23. 8. 38

*The Commissioner*  
*Queeey*  
*Tom*  
25 AUG 1938

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## NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

[Police-100A.]

~~Secret~~Detective Office,  
Police-station: Wellington.

Date: 22nd August, 1938

REPORT of Detective Sergeant P. Doyle, No. 1337

relative to German Jews living abroad, alleged to be acting as espionage agents for the German Nazis.  
Vide attached.

I beg to report that I have continued enquiries in regard to this matter, but delayed submitting a report earlier to allow my informant, who is a prominent professional man in this city to obtain what information he could, not only in regard to Otto Hyman and Doctor Gabriel but other members of the Jewish community, recent arrivals in the Dominion from Germany with whom he is friendly, and so far he has not obtained definite proof that the German government have espionage agents among the Jews in this Dominion.

Hyman succeeded in obtaining fairly substantial sums of money from German interests up to about nine months ago, but none of recent date, and I am informed that further remittances are unlikely owing to the restrictions placed by the Government of Germany on Jews possessing means in that country.

Hyman was a prominent banker in Berlin with considerable financial interests not only in that city, but other important centres in Germany up to about two years ago when he decided to come to the Dominion, resulting in the loss of most of his assets in that country.

My informant is on very friendly terms with Hyman and has tested him with the object of ascertaining his attitude towards the Nazis, which appears to be one of resentment if not hatred, but on the other hand, if he were acting in the capacity of an agent, it is not likely that he would betray himself in a statement even to an intimate friend in regard to his feelings towards his employers, but at present we have nothing to suggest that he is associated with the Nazis, except that he has in the past succeeded in obtaining remittances from that country, when others have failed, but he states that the money was secured from relatives there.

Regarding Doctor Gabriel, who is a dentist by profession, I have ascertained that he succeeded in getting money from Germany through the Canadian Pacific Railway in conjunction with the Canadian Shipping Company, whose agents at Hamburg are advanced certain moneys by the German government for Jews travelling on their lines and by some means, Gabriel by arrangement with friends in Germany has had advances made to Jews leaving the country who in turn transmitted the moneys to him.

He too, appears to have the greatest contempt for the policy of the German government in their treatment of the Jews, and it is hardly likely that he would assist as an agent of the kind referred to, but as I have stated it is not likely that he would express a friendly feeling if he were acting in the capacity of an espionage agent here.

My informant has been in touch with practically all Jews arriving in the Dominion from overseas, and apart from the two referred to above he has had no reasons

The Inspector,  
Detective Branch,  
Wellington.

for suspicion.

At first he felt that all was not well in regard to these two gentlemen, but having had business dealings with them and the experience of longer friendly association, he now feels that his suspicions were not well founded, but nevertheless, I think that if it is possible the matter might be carried further with the object of ascertaining if there any grounds for believing that agents of the kind referred to are resident in this Dominion, and if Gabriel or Hyman have come under notice in that connection.

I have already stated in my previous report of the 29th June that I had not succeeded in locating German Jew students in this city coming within the category referred to in the Commissioner's memorandum, and I am satisfied there are none.

Most of the Jews from Germany residing in Wellington and other centres in the Dominion are engaged in business connected with the fur trade, indenting agents, tailors and such like, apart from those engaged as doctors and dentists, and I believe they are above suspicion.

Should any information of assistance reach my informant in connection with the subject under review, I will be notified at once and the matter will be reported.

  
Detective Sergeant 1337.

~~SECRET~~ 37/10/28.

25th August, 1938.

~~SECRET~~

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

Dear Sir Vernon,

With reference to your letter 52/3/10/B.2a of the 3rd May last anent German Jews living abroad acting as espionage agents for the Nazis, I am unable to identify this activity with any of the persons of that race now resident in this Dominion.

Of the German Jews who have come to New Zealand in consequence of the anti-semitic measures adopted in Germany the majority appears to be persons of mature years, many of whom are professional men. Inquiries have not elicited any instance of there being young persons here in the capacity of students and dependent on remittances from Germany.

The matter will be kept further in view, and I shall be pleased to advise you of any information obtained.

Yours sincerely,



Commissioner of Police.

NEW ZEALAND POLICE. [Police-100A.]

Police-station: Detective Office, Auckland.

Date: 19 th July, 1938

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

relative to possibility of young German Jews living in  
foreign countries being used as Nazi agents.

"Vide attached memo"

I respectfully report that so far as I have been able to discreetly do so I have made all possible inquiry along the lines intimated in the Commissioner's memorandum.

I have received reliable assistance and advice from reputable members of the Jewish community in Auckland.

It is estimated that about 200 German Jews are residing in Auckland - city and province. The great majority have arrived in New Zealand from Germany since the commencement of the rigorous anti-Jewish measures being carried out by the Nazis.

A large number of these arrivals are highly skilled professional men, who are in practise and who have completed their studies and who are of mature age.

Others are employed in various capacities and the very few who have not obtained settled employment here are being assisted in keeping themselves by the Jewish community.

I am informed that there is not one whose means of livelihood is not known to those under whose aegis they are... I have been confidently informed that there is not one of the arrivals receiving money from Germany.. It is considered that should this happen the fact would become known very quickly.

This matter will be kept in view in making future inquiries.

*E.A. Stevenson.*

Det. 2627.

*Insp Ward.*

*S. Drake*

*C. H. Det*

*19-7-38*

*John D. de Supt*

*R. Ward*  
*19.7.38 Supt*

*Forwarded to the Commissioner*

*S. Gill*  
*20/7/38 Supt*

The Chief Detective,  
Auckland.

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## NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

[Police-100A.]

Detective Office,  
Police-station: Wellington,

Date: 29th June, 1938

REPORT of Detective Sergeant P. Doyle, No. 1337

*relative to* German Jews living abroad, alleged to be acting as espionage agents for the Nazis.

I beg to report that I have a Jewish friend who is a reliable source of information in regard to the activities of German Jews resident in this Dominion

I have ascertained that he knows, and is intimate with practically every German Jew who has entered the Dominion during the past three years, but so far he has not gained any information that would suggest that the Nazis have agents among the Jewish community here, but there are two German Jews who are not above suspicion.

One is Otto Hyman a local sharebroker, known to me, who has been in the Dominion about eighteen months.

He was formerly a prominent banker in Berlin and is believed to have considerable financial interests in that city from which he occasionally receives fairly substantial sums of money, and in view of the attitude of the Nazis towards other Jews, it is difficult to understand why this man is not governed by the ban imposed on other Jews in regard to obtaining money from Germany.

It may be, of course that he is evading the restriction in some way unknown to the Nazis, but on the other hand he may be an agent of the kind referred to in the Commissioner's memorandum.

The other is a dentist, Doctor Gabriel, who has been in the Dominion about eighteen months, practising his profession, but who recently paid a visit to Germany and only returned a few days ago. He is now on his way to Sydney and expects to return on the 10th July and intends starting as a dentist at Palmerston North.

He too, has succeeded in obtaining fairly substantial sums of money from Germany recently, but I am not in a position at present to state how this money was secured.

Both men referred to have relatives in Germany with whom they are in constant communication, but they are not dependent on their relatives, and so far I have not been able to locate any German Jew student in this city coming within the category stated in the Commissioner's memorandum.

Before probing further into the private life of the two men referred to above, I would like to know if the secret communication from abroad contains any reference to German Jews in this Dominion acting as agents for the Nazi government, and if not, would it be possible to obtain that information.

The matter is such a delicate one, that I cannot venture carrying the enquiry further in regard to these two men on mere suspicion on account of their success in obtaining money from Germany.

The Sub Inspector,  
Detective Branch,  
Wellington.

Hyman is associated with Mr Barton late Stipendiary Magistrate, in promoting companies, and he resides in Wellington.

He is a man of outstanding ability in his profession and possesses considerable wealth, and it seems strange that he is permitted to receive money from his investments in Germany, while other Jews have to leave the country with just sufficient to pay their fares to whatever country they are proceeding.

Gabriel is in much the same position, and apparently no objection is taken by the Nazis to his returning to Germany ostensibly on a business mission.

I respectfully ask for the return of this file for further attention, with the information asked for, if it is available.

*A. Ruffe*  
Detective Sergeant 1337.

*The Superintendent*  
*Kearroll*  
Sub-Inspector,  
Detective Branch.  
29. 6. 38

31/20/28.

21st June, 1938.

~~SECRET~~

The Superintendent of Police,  
AUCKLAND WELLINGTON

The following excerpt from a secret communication is forwarded for your information:-

" The following method is now being employed to bring pressure to bear upon young German Jews living abroad to act as espionage agents for the Nazis.

" When Jews, still residing in Germany, apply for permission to send small monthly payments to their sons or daughters studying in foreign countries, permission is at first refused.

" After the authorities have caused enquiries to be made with a view to ascertaining whether these young people are in a position to serve them abroad, they make the parents an offer to the effect that money may be sent out provided suitable S.S. reports are deposited with the Nazi headquarters established in the country where the students are residing."

A very discreet inquiry might be made among the Jewish fraternity in your District as to whether there are known to be living in New Zealand the sons or daughters of Jews in Germany on whom they are financially dependent.

Care is to be taken in safeguarding the secrecy of the information.

*SJC*

Commissioner of Police.

500  
37 10/58  
POLICE DEPT. HEAD OFFICE

~~SECRET~~

Telephone No.  
VICTORIA 1552-3-4

52/3/10/B. 2a.

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

3rd May, 1938.

Dear Mr. Cummings,

We have received the following information  
from a refugee source:-

The following method is <sup>?</sup>now being employed to bring  
pressure to bear upon young German Jews living abroad to  
act as espionage agents for the Nazis.

When Jews, still residing in Germany, apply for  
permission to send small monthly payments to their sons  
or daughters studying in foreign countries, permission is  
at first refused.

After the authorities have caused enquiries to be  
made with a view to ascertaining whether these young  
people are in a position to serve them abroad, they make  
the parents an offer to the effect that money may be sent  
out provided suitable S.S. reports are deposited with the  
Nazi headquarters established in the country where the  
students are residing.

I should be grateful if you would inform me  
if you obtain any confirmation of the above report.

Yours sincerely,

*Vernon Kell*

Colonel Sir Vernon Kell.

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