

~~SECRET~~ 37/10/45.



**NEW ZEALAND POLICE.**

*File*  
Subject: EMPLOYMENT OF [REDACTED] ON SECRET WORK.

100,000/8/38-8709)

The Chief Detective,

Respectfully noted.. I have informed [REDACTED] in general terms of the Commissioner's memorandum.

[REDACTED] is still keeping in touch with Germans in Auckland.

*E. W. Steenson.*

21/10/39.

Detective.

*Insp Ward*

*SODall*

*ellett*

*24.10.39*

*Prod to the Dept*

*R. Haved*

*Dept*

*The Commissioner*

*J. Cunningham*

*Super*

*25.10.39*

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If any reply, please quote this number:

S.37/10/45

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WELLINGTON, C. 1.

18th October, 1939.

~~SECRET~~  
MEMORANDUM for

The Superintendent of Police,  
AUCKLAND.

EMPLOYMENT OF [REDACTED] ON SECRET WORK.

With reference to attached report of Detective Stevenson of the 29th ultimo regarding the present circumstances of [REDACTED], I do not wish to take any action in respect of the terms of his remuneration until the Hon. Minister in Charge of this Department returns from England. [REDACTED] will in the meantime be paid the usual amount each month.

Steps have been taken at this office which will further any application [REDACTED] may make to another Department, but if he succeeds in obtaining that employment it would be imperative that he disassociate himself from all contact with aliens. I do not approve of the proposal made by Detective Stevenson that he should use his employment with that Department as a means of obtaining further information. The risk is, from every point of view, too great.

*No Chief Detective  
D. Cunningham  
Supd  
20.10.39*

*[Signature]*  
Commissioner of Police.

*W. Stevenson  
S.O. Hall  
Supt  
20.10.39*

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**NEW ZEALAND POLICE.**

**Subject:** GERMAN CLUB, AUCKLAND - ALTERED CIRCUMSTANCES CAUSED BY WAR.

REPORT OF [redacted] DATED 6/9/1939.

100,000/8,35-8709

The Superintendent of Police,  
AUCKLAND.

With reference to Detective Stevenson's report of the 11th instant regarding the German Club, it will no doubt be desirable to retain the services of [redacted] in the meantime.

Please ascertain whether he is willing to continue under the same conditions.

*J. Humming*  
Commissioner of Police,  
21/9/39.

The Inspector  
Detective Branch

*J. Humming*  
Superdly  
22-9-39

The Chief Det  
R. Harca  
22/9/39  
Superdly

Det. Stevenson.  
S. O. Hall  
Other  
22.9.39

The Chief Detective,  
Report attached.  
E. Stevenson  
Det.  
29-9-39.

Insp Ward.  
S. O. Hall  
Other  
29.9.39

Had been Superdly  
R. Harca  
29.9.39  
Superdly

The Commissioner  
Recommended  
for favourable con-  
sideration please  
Two files now  
attached.

*J. Humming*  
Superdly  
2.10.39

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NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

[Police-100a.

Police-station : Detective Office, Auckland.

Date : 29 th September , 1939

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

*relative to* German Club, Auckland; altered circumstances of [redacted] caused by war.

"Vide attached"

I respectfully report that I received the attached letter from [redacted] on the 28 th inst, after I had talked with him in furtherance of the Commissioner's minute attached.

As for the letter itself I believe it to be quite correct.. From discreet inquiries I have ascertained that many of his business contacts have turned away from him and that his weekly earnings from commissions have been severely reduced.

Four separate persons have spoken to me alone and have told me that this man is a pro-German and a Nazi and that he may be disloyal and should be watched.

Further, I am satisfied that he would not have been nearly so prominent in this respect when the war came had it not been that I have been continuously encouraging him to be so during the past 2 years

A previous letter forwarded on the 13 th inst sets out this man's experience and qualifications.

I respectfully make the following suggestion,-

That the General Officer Commanding Military Forces at Wellington be approached by the Department with the request that this man be placed in some clerical appointment or other position with the Defence Dept. in Auckland.. He has the necessary ability and experience. (Please see previous letter referred to above).

If this could be done, he could  
(1) perform a useful service to the Defence Dept;  
(2) he could continue to perform useful service to the Police Dept.. In this connection, even if the German Club is finally closed down he would still make a point of meeting and visiting individual Germans who have been reported upon... He could very likely get further into their confidence by repeating worthless bits of information allegedly coming from the Defence Dept. In this way further valuable information concerning German activities may be obtained.... This may be of importance seeing that they are all at liberty.

(3) By the very fact of such employment with the Defence Dept. he could do what he deserves an opportunity to do so long as it does not lessen his value, that is, he could rehabilitate himself to a large extent in the eyes of those who know him.

If such a position could be obtained for him by action at Wellington no other person in Auckland need know of his connection with this Department.

The £3 per month which [redacted] is at

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present receiving from the Department now means a great deal to him, so seriously have his earnings been reduced.

His financial position is becoming one of urgency... Of course, I realise that the Department cannot be responsible for that, but I respectfully suggest that if any higher amount could be paid him then it would be money well spent.

*E. H. Stevenson.*

Detective.

28th September, 1939.

Detective Stevenson,  
Auckland.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your telephone enquiry as to whether I would be prepared to carry on under the same terms, I will be pleased to do anything I can to assist your department, but I must point out that my services in the past are responsible for my present troubles.

When I made my arrangement with you I made my office at the German Club and as a result was able to supply you with information about practically every German in the Province and many out of it, even as far as Samoa. I also went to some trouble and expense to keep in touch with the Consul and other prominent Germans. I visited the ships and kept in touch with their crews, thus giving you a knowledge of the German situation here, which could otherwise not have been obtained, but this has also convinced a number of people with whom I did business that I am a pro-German Nazi.

This did not affect my business until War was declared, but since then I find that people look upon me with suspicion and will not talk business. One man even asked me if I really was British and was only convinced when I showed him my War Medals.

People with whom I have been very closely associated in social matters are not so friendly, and my prospects of getting other suitable work are not very bright. My total earnings from my rent collections during the last three weeks are under £2 per week and even amongst these clients, enquiries have been made as to whether I was a German.

As stated, I am perfectly willing to do all I can to assist your Department, and knowing the Germans as I do, my work would be useful to you, but I think that I should have a higher remuneration and even some compensation for the position I am in, which is due to a great extent to my past services, but I leave this matter to your Department and will accept anything you suggest.

At the same time, I would like to say that the only real compensation I could get would be one that would reinstate me in the good opinion of my friends.

Hundreds of Officers are being appointed for Home Service to duties which I could perform. I think a personal

recommendation from your Commissioner would assist me in obtaining such an appointment and I would still be available to do anything you require.

You are aware of my qualifications, and these, together with the willingness I have shown in performing a national duty that might have placed me in a very questionable and even dangerous position, should justify your Department in moving on my behalf.

I will do anything you require, and leave the matter of remuneration to you, and will be very grateful for anything you can do for me.

Yours faithfully,



NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Police 32/10, 45

Police-station: Detective Office, Auck.

Date: 11 th September, 1939

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

relative to German Club, Auckland - altered circumstances caused by war.. (Attached) report of [redacted], dated 6/9/39.

I respectfully forward the attached report of [redacted] dated the 6 th inst.

On the 7 th inst. I reported that the Emergency Committee were K.W.Schmidt and W.J.McMillan. Actually these two will assist the Emergency Committee, who are Messrs R.V.DONOVAN and P.B.WOODHEAD, both British members of the Club.

Donovan gave the Superintendent some information about three German members of the Club whom, he said, were watching.. I have, however, some doubts of Donovan's reliability as he is a close friend of K.W.SCHMIDT.. He took over Schmidt's house when the latter visited Germany in 1938 and again went to live with Schmidt when the latter returned to Auckland. He is now living with him at 6 Martin Avenue, Remuera.

Donovan must know that Schmidt is No.1 Nazi in Auckland but he said nothing about him.

I think that Woodhead should be a reliable man.. He joined the Club about 3 years ago mainly for the purpose of learning German.

[Large redacted section]

Despite the dispersal of the German Club I am of the opinion that [redacted] can still be of use to the Department for some time yet, but of course, the necessity of making a living might take him away from Auckland.

[Redacted section]

I have mentioned this matter verbally to the Superintendent and the Commissioner.

The Chief Detective, Auckland.

Imp w and  
Sobare  
Ethel  
11. 9. 39

E.A. Stevenson  
Det. 2627.  
The Commissioner  
R. Ward  
17. 9. 39  
Supd  
13/9/39

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6th September, 1939

The Club has ceased its social activities, and is only visited by British or Germans with predominantly British sympathies.

The Vice-President, Mr. W.J. McMillan, will be meeting Mr. K.W. Schmidt tomorrow to draw a small bank balance from the Bank.

The affairs of the Club will then be placed in the hands of an Emergency Committee, the members of which are - Mr. V. Donovan, Mr. Woodhead, both British.

Mr. A.R. Leuschke was also a member but verbally resigned.

As most of the tenants are cancelling their engagements of the Rooms it is unlikely that will be in a financial position to carry on, and I expect to complete cessation of activities in about ten days.

All the books and papers of the Club are at present at the Rooms.



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*Cancelled  
16/1/50*