

SECRET 37/10

[Form No. 108. (c)]



**NEW ZEALAND POLICE.**

*Subject:* N.S.D.A.P. Activities in Auckland under leadership of Dr Hellenthal

100,000/5/16-30241

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20th April, 1937.

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

Dear Sir Vernon,

Further to my secret letter 37/10 of the 19th February last concerning the N.S.D.A.F., I find W. Hellenthal is identical with Doctor Walter Hellenthal, the German Consul, resident in Wellington, who arrived here on the 12th April, 1936 accompanied by his wife and daughter and one Kate Banger, a nurse.

He is assisted in his consular duties by one Hubert Kessels, no doubt identical with Herbert Kessels referred to in your secret letter OF.22/5/DS 7A of 3rd November, 1936. Kessels is described as having a brilliant war record and as being of outstanding ability. German Consuls in this Dominion have not previously had the assistance of a German Secretary. Kessels is regarded more as an Assistant Consul. I shall be pleased to receive any other information you can let me have concerning him.

Hellenthal is said to be a Doctor of Philosophy. I understand he was a well known aviator during the war period.

The activities of these two men since their arrival in New Zealand have not brought them unfavourably into notice. Doctor Hellenthal is patron of the German Club at Auckland. J. Blumhardt is now President of the Club. W. Kersten is still living in Auckland, and has been granted permission to take up permanent residence in this country.

*Kersten*  
Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt also mentioned in your letter is employed as a leather expert by a firm of tanners near Auckland.

There is little activity in the Club circles. The opening function for this year was held on the 18th February last. Doctor Hellenthal was present. The British and German National anthems were sung. The new President, J. Blumhardt, was introduced, and delivered a talk on his recent journey through Germany. Doctor Hellenthal announced that he would be receiving visitors at the Club-rooms during his stay of some days in Auckland.

Hans Wilhelm Froh referred to in previous correspondence your number PF 45159/DS 7A has recently taken up residence in Auckland, but I have been unable to ascertain whether he will be taking part in the activities of the Club.

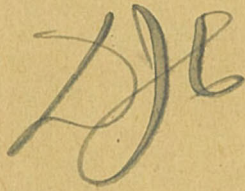
Froh was recently the subject of a letter received from an unknown source. The writer mainly referred to Froh's sudden elevation into a position of apparent affluence, referring to his recent trip to Germany and a more recent journey to Sydney, but the letter was as a member of the crew of an inter-colonial boat. Froh's activities are under observation, but so far nothing sinister has been observed. He is now employed as a fireman on a New Zealand coastal boat.

The German activities in this country appear to be confined to Auckland, and they seem quiet. While Doctor Hellenthal is described as being an ardent worker in the interests of his native country



and making contact with all German subjects resident in New Zealand, nothing suspicious has been observed. Such matters are, however, being kept in constant view, and you will be advised of anything learnt.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of stylized, cursive letters that appear to be 'D.C.' or similar initials.

Commissioner of Police.



NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

[Police—100A.]

Police-station: Detective Office, Auckland.

Date: 5 th April, 1937

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

relative to German activities in New Zealand.

"Vide attached Memorandum".

I respectfully report that I have noted the information contained in the attached Memo.

W. KERSTEN is WILHELM FREDERICH KERSTEN who was previously reported upon. Although the Memo states that he has resigned office in the Stutzpunkt of the German Club, Auckland, he is still residing here.

On the 10 th Feb, 1937 he was granted permission to remain permanently in New Zealand.

He is still employed as a leather expert by Lee and Arlington, Ltd, Tanners, of Otahuhu.

He is now residing at 92 Whetureangi Rd, Auckland S.E.4.

KURT WILHELM SCHMIDT is still in business in Auckland and residing at the same address. As far as I can ascertain he has no immediate intention of leaving New Zealand.

*E.A. Stevenson.*

Det. 2627.

*The Insp.  
S. Hall  
6-4-37*

*Wd to the Insp  
R. David  
7-4-37 Insp*

*Form 2.0 to the Commissioner*

*108  
37*

*S. Gill  
7/4/35*

The Chief Detective,  
Auckland.

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~~SECRET~~



If any reply, please quote this number:

~~SECRET~~ 57/10.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WELLINGTON, C.1. 19th February, 1937.

MEMORANDUM for

The Superintendent of Police,  
AUCKLAND.

GERMAN ACTIVITIES IN NEW ZEALAND.

In connection with the activities of the German Club at Auckland, the following information, received from a secret source, is forwarded for your information:-

" (1) A. Landeskreis is to be constituted for New Zealand and Samoa and it is to be under the leadership of Parteigenosse (Party Comrade) W. HELLENTHAL. A Landeskreis is a branch of the Party organisation similar to a Landesgruppe, but on a somewhat smaller scale.

(2) W. KERSTEN, who was mentioned in my letter OF.22/7/DS.7a, dated 7th March 1936, has resigned his office as Presseleiter and Funkstellenleiter (leader for Press and Wireless) at the Stutzpunkt Auckland, but we do not know who is taking his place.

(3) Kurt Wilhelm SCHMIDT continues to be Stutzpunktleiter, and he is also carrying on the duties of Wirtschaftsstellenleiter (leader for commercial and economic affairs). In this capacity he has been sending a number of reports to Germany regarding the openings for German trade in New Zealand or the difficulties in the way of introducing various German articles. These reports are generally of such a nature as might be furnished by a Chamber of Commerce, but it is a point of some interest that the Party organisation as such usurps these functions to itself. "

W. Hellenenthal is no doubt identical with Dr. Walter Hellenenthal, Consul for Germany, who resides at 160 Woburn Road, Lower Hutt, and arrived in New Zealand on the 12th April, 1936.

Commissioner of Police.

The Suspect  
R. Hard  
27/2/37  
37  
left Stevenson.  
27/2/37. SODall  
L.H.M.

Chief Detective  
Journey  
Jy 20/2/37  
Ch. Det.  
Report attached  
E. Stevenson  
5-4-37. Det. 2627.



37/10

## NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Detective Office,  
Police-station: Wellington,

Date: 1st March, 1937

REPORT of Detective Sergeant P. Doyle, No. 1337

*relative to* alleged German Party Organisation activities  
in New Zealand, under the leadership of W. Hellenthal.

Vide Commissioner's memorandum 37/10 attached.

I beg to report that I can find no evidence of the existence of a branch of the organisation "Landeskreis" in Wellington, or anything to suggest that activities of an unfriendly nature on the part of the German residents here is in operation.

It is, however, believed that the German Consul at Wellington, Doctor Walter Hellenthal is in touch with every loyal German resident of the Dominion, and that in the event of Germany declaring war, the male population of the Dominion of military age would be utilized for service. I have been informed that his activities in this direction are confined to German born citizens, but he is in close touch with all Germans, whether born in Germany or elsewhere.

I have no doubt the W. Hellenthal referred to in the Commissioner's memorandum is identical with Doctor Walter Hellenthal, German Consul of this city.

The latter is believed to be identical with the great German airman of that name, who operated on the Western Front with disastrous results to the Allied Forces engaged in hostilities with Germany during the great war.

He is a Doctor of Philosophy, and a man of most courageous character and a strict adherent to the Hitler doctrine.

He arrived at Auckland from Sydney on the 12th April, 1936, accompanied by his wife and daughter Eva Maria and a nurse Kate Banger. A letter from the Trade and Tourist Commissioner at Sydney to the Comptroller of Customs requesting the waiving of restrictions, as is done in all cases of Consuls entering the Dominion, is the only record in the possession of the Customs authorities regarding this man, and the Internal Affairs Department have no records dealing with him.

I have been informed confidentially that Hellenthal and the Italian Consul at Wellington recently made representations to the Prime Minister regarding the operations of Communists in New Zealand, and suggested means of putting a stop to their activities, and that the Prime Minister resented interference from the representative of foreign countries in a matter of this sort.

I believe a file in connection with this incident was referred to the Crown Law Office for an opinion as to the standing of these gentlemen in the community, but it is not suggested that the file contains anything of interest regarding the previous history of Dr Hellenthal.

Hellenthal is regarded as the most enthusiastic worker as a Consul in the interests of his country appointed to this Dominion.

The Sub Inspector,  
Detective Branch,  
Wellington.



It can be taken for granted that the teachings of the Nazi Party and loyalty to Hitler by Germans residing in this Dominion will be encouraged by Hellenthal, but it will be most difficult to secure any evidence of his fostering Party Organisations of the kind referred to, as he is too shrewd to leave himself open to censure while a guest of the Dominion.

Hellenthal's staff has been recently strengthened by the addition of a Secretary, Hubert Kessels from the German Legation at Dublin, who arrived in the Dominion on the 18th January last.

The latter is regarded as a man of outstanding ability with a brilliant war record, and his appointment is regarded as significant in view of the activities of the Nazi Party throughout the world and the fact that Hellenthal's predecessors were without the services of a German Secretary, who is in reality an Assistant Consul.

I would suggest that a request be made to the usual source for information regarding the history of Kessels, and if his appointment to the Dominion is regarded as having any connection with the proposed Landeskreis to be constituted for New Zealand.

Should I succeed in obtaining any evidence of the activities of German Party Organisations in the future, I will report immediately.

*J. Doyle*  
Detective Sergeant 1337.

For. The Inspector  
*Carroll*  
Sub-Inspector,  
Detective Branch.  
MAR 1. 1937

The Superintendent.  
Forwarded please.  
*W. G. O'Connell*  
The Insp.  
3. 3. 37.

The Commissioner of Police  
*W. G. O'Connell*  
Supt. of Police  
3. 3. 37

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*See 37/10/4*



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If any reply, please quote this number:

~~SECRET~~ 37/10.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WELLINGTON, C. 1. 19th February, 1937.

MEMORANDUM for

The Superintendent of Police,  
WELLINGTON.

GERMAN ACTIVITIES IN NEW ZEALAND.

In connection with German activities in New Zealand, a secret report has reached this office in which it is stated that a Landeskreis is to be constituted for New Zealand, and is to be under the leadership of W. Hellenthal. A Landeskreis is a branch of the Party organisation similar to a Landesgruppe (The Headquarters Organisation of the Party in a foreign country), but on a smaller scale.

It is not known who W. Hellenthal is, but he may be identical with Dr. Walter Hellenthal, the German Consul in New Zealand, who arrived here on the 12th April, 1936 and is residing at 160 Woburn Road, Lower Hutt.

Please cause discreet inquiries to be made and a report submitted showing what can be learned of the existence of such an organisation, and what is known of Dr. Hellenthal.

*J. H. Cunningham*

Commissioner of Police.

*The Sub Inspector  
Det Branch*

*In attention please.*

*6 Col Baged of Camp  
In Camp*

*28.2.37*

*For Det Sgt Doyle.*

*Karroll*

**Sub-Inspector,  
Detective Branch.  
FEB 24 1937**

*37  
8*

*The Sub Inspector.*

*Relative to Branch.*

*Report attached  
please.*

*W. H. Doyle  
Sub Inspector*

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19th February, 1937.

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

Dear Sir Vernon,

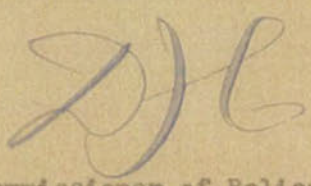
I have to acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of your secret letter OP.22/7/D.S.7a of the 6th ultimo, and have noted the information contained therein concerning the N.S.D.A.P.

W. Hellenthal is probably identical with Dr. Walter Hellenthal, the German Consul in New Zealand who arrived here on the 12th April, 1936.

The activities of a Landeskreis group had not come to my knowledge, but efforts are being made to obtain information in furtherance of that supplied by you.

I shall be pleased to forward the result of the investigations made to you.

Yours sincerely,



Commissioner of Police.

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~~SECRET~~ 37/10

Telephone No. :  
VICTORIA 1552-3-4

OF.22/7/D.S.7a.

BOX NO. 500,

PARLIAMENT STREET, B.O.,

LONDON, S.W.1.

6th January 1937.

Dear Mr. Cummings,

We have received the following minor details of information regarding the N.S.D.A.P. which may be of interest to you:-

1) A Landeskreis is to be constituted for New Zealand and Samoa and it is to be under the leadership of Parteigenosse (Party comrade) W. HELLENTHAL. A Landeskreis is a branch of the Party organisation similar to a Landesgruppe, but on a somewhat smaller scale.

We do not know who W. HELLENTHAL is, but we have previously heard of an individual named HELLENTHAL who, as German Consul in Adelaide, was very active in connection with Nazi propaganda in Australia, and possibly he may be identical with the man who is now to be the leader for New Zealand and Samoa. The HELLENTHAL who was Consul in Australia visited New Guinea in August 1936, when the German Consul-General in Sydney denied that his visit had anything to do with political or national affairs. I understand, however, that HELLENTHAL was warned by the Minister for External Affairs in Australia on account of his activities in Adelaide.

2) W. KERSTEN, who was mentioned in my letter OF.22/7/DS.7a, dated 7th March 1936, has resigned his office as Presseleiter and Funkstellenleiter (leader for Press and Wireless) at the Stützpunkt Auckland, but we do not know who is taking his place.

3) Kurt Wilhelm SCHMIDT continues to be Stützpunktleiter, and he is also carrying on the duties of Wirtschaftsstellenleiter (leader for commercial and economic affairs). In this capacity he has been sending a number of reports to Germany regarding the openings for German trade in New Zealand or the difficulties in the way of introducing various German articles. These reports are generally of such a nature as might be furnished by a Chamber of Commerce, but it is a point of some interest that the Party organisation as such usurps these functions to itself.

I shall be grateful if you can let me know who W. HELLENTHAL is.

Yours sincerely,

*Vernon Kell*  
Colonel Sir Vernon Kell.

D.J. Cummings, Esq.,  
Commissioner of Police,  
Johnston Street,  
Wellington. N.Z.

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