

S.37/10. [D]



## NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

*Subject:* DEUTSCHER VEREIN (GERMAN CLUB) IN AUCKLAND. Files now attached are No's 34/97, 34/538, 34/567, 35/569, and 36/179. See also portion of file No. 34/567 under 37/9.

100,000/3/40-197831

Persons referred to in file to this stage: Page No.

ALGIE, R.M.	32	
ASHBY, T.W.	51	
BAIN, D.	4 - 13	
BAUER, Capt.	52	<i>Card destroyed - see papers re on 24/5/20 dated 21/8/1921 &amp; 24/3/23</i>
BLUMHARDT, D.	4, 13, 20, 22, 23.	
BLUMHARDT, J.	1, 4, 11, 13, 20, 23, 32	
BUCKLAND, J.H.	5, 13.	
ENGEL, E.	23, 32	
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FALKENHAGEN or HAGEN	4, 13	
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GRAPENGIESSER, M.	1, 4, 6, 11, 13, 20, 32.	
HENNIGER, J.	1, 6, 11, 22, 32	
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LANGGUTH, A.	6, 11	
LANGGUTH, E.	2, 4, 13, 20, 23, 32.	<i>Card destroyed &amp; 4/3/25</i>
LEUSCHKE, A.R.	4, 6, 13, 20, 23, 32.	
McMILLAN, J.W.	4, 13, 23, 32.	<i>Card for William John McMillan destroyed &amp; 14/11/23</i>
MILLER, F.	4, 13, 20, 32.	
MARKS, L.	32	
POTTKAEMPER, J.E.	22.	<i>Card destroyed &amp; 12/9/23</i>
REIMANN, G.	4, 13.	
RICE, A.H.	5, 13.	
SCHMIDT, H.	6, 1, 11.	
SCHMIDT, K.W.	1, 4, 5, 6, 11, 13, 20, 21, 26, 27, 32, 39, 41, 46, 48, 53.	
SMITH, H.	4, 13.	
THEDENS	20, 21, 32, 53	
ZIMMER, A.	4, 13, 32.	

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Police-station: Detective Office, Auckland

~~SECRET~~ 35/569.

Date: 7 th July, 1936

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

relative to Deutscher Verein (German Club) Auckland.

"Vide attached"

I respectfully report that in accordance with the Commissioner's memorandum attached dated 28/4/36 I have continued to keep the matter of the German Club constantly in view.

Gatherings of the Club are held regularly in their rooms at 313 Upper Queen St, every Thursday night but these seem to be almost solely of a social nature.

I have two or three reliable informants who are closely in touch with the Club and who usually attend the functions, but these informants are not German nationals or Nazis and are therefore not in a position to know anything definite about possible Nazi, or pro-German, or anti-British talk or activities.

On 18/5/36 Max Grapengiesser stated to one of my informants that the Club seemed to be breaking up, especially the Nazi activity and sentiment. He said that K.W. Schmidt was getting unpopular in the Club and that his influence seemed to be waning.

J. Henniger, referred to in the Commissioner's Memo of 28/4/36, left Auckland for Germany early in 1935, vide 4 th paragraph of my report dated 31/10/35.

W. Kersten, referred to as the President of the Club is Wilhelm Frederick Kersten, a German who arrived at Auckland on the "Wanganella" from Sydney on 30/1/35 and was permitted to land in New Zealand on a temporary permit. Kersten is supposed to be a dye-tanning expert and had previously been employed at Melbourne.. He was brought to New Zealand by Mr. Lawry, of Sutherland & Co., tanners, Cook St, Auckland and Mr Lawry paid the £10 Customs deposit.

When Kersten landed at Auckland from the "Wanganella" he was first driven to Leuschke's house at College Hill and from there was taken to Schmidt's house at Remuera. He seemed to have some previous knowledge of them before he arrived here.

Kersten was with Sutherland & Co until about the middle of 1935; there was then some disagreement and he left their employ.. Since then Kersten has been employed by Lee & Arlington, tanners, of Otahuhu.

Apparently Kersten's Temporary Permit was extended by the Minister of Internal Affairs, though the Collector of Customs at Auckland has no knowledge of this.

Kersten is said to be a very strong Nazi. He is about 45 years of age, a little over medium height, well built, about 12 stone, inclined dark complexion; has a strong German accent.

Hela Schmidt, also mentioned in the attached Memorandum, is the wife of K.W. Schmidt. She is said to be an even more fervent Nazi than her husband.

J. Blumhardt, the Librarian of the German Club, is mentioned in my report of the 1/2/36. He left Auckland about a

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The Sub Inspector,  
Detective Branch,  
Auckland.

a month ago on a visit to Germany,- vide the attached newspaper extract.. His name appears in the Electoral Roll so he is presumably a British subject, either by birth or naturalization.

Frau A. Langguth is the wife of Mr E. Langguth, well known in Auckland for many years.. They are both naturalized British subjects.. They are not ardent Nazis.

On 1/5/36 I had an excuse to visit Schmidt in his office of Pacific Potash Ltd. As usual, both he and his office seemed singularly devoid of business. In casual conversation he told me that he gets leave, presumably from Pacific Potash Ltd,- every 4 years and that his next leave is not due until 1938 and that he does not anticipate leaving New Zealand again before then.

At present I have nothing further to report on this matter; it may be considered that Secret file 36/204, re HUGO EUGENE FISCHER, reported upon by me on 19/6/36, has some connection with the subject matter of the present file.

The matter will continue to receive close attention.

*E. Stevenson.*  
Det. 2627.

*The above  
for information  
Jweeney*  
Sub-INSPECTOR OF POLICE  
(Detective Branch),  
AUCKLAND.

7 JUL 1936

*Forw. to the Supt  
R. Ward  
7/7/36 Supt*

*Forw. to the Commissioner  
S. Till  
7/7/36 Supt*

65/36

"Auckland Star"  
26/5/36

## TO BERLIN.

GERMANS FROM N.Z.

FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES.

GESTURE TO THE WORLD.

As a reward for their efforts to foster the love of the Fatherland among the German community of New Zealand, two loyal German citizens will be enabled to pay a visit to their homeland on the occasion of the 1936 Olympic Games, to be held in Berlin from August 1 to August 16. The trip has been made possible by a world-wide scheme organised by the wealthy German Labour Front, the federation of the former German trade union system, which has made a decision to bring to Germany on that occasion 400 loyal Germans from every country in the world where there are German people. Owing to the small number of Germans resident in New Zealand in comparison with other countries, there will be only two citizens sent from this Dominion.

The two fortunate people from this country have already been chosen and will leave for Berlin on June 6. They are Mr. K. Blumhardp, librarian of the German Club in Auckland, and Mr. H. W. Froh, secretary and founder of the German Club in Dunedin. Both have done much for their countrymen in New Zealand. The German Labour Front is a very powerful organisation which has set itself to attend to the proper recreation of the people as well as attending to their interests as far as labour conditions are concerned.

The importance with which the coming games are regarded by all classes of the German people is shown by the intense interest manifested in their organisation. Pamphlets bearing the symbol devised by the German authorities to represent the union of nations in sport have been printed in different languages and distributed throughout the world, in pursuance of the policy to make this series of games the most successful ever held. The international symbol consists of five interlocking circles about an inch in diameter, each representing one of the five continents. In a short introduction to every pamphlet is stated the determination of the German nation to ensure that visitors will carry away with them an unforgettable impression of their stay.

"Auckland Star"  
16/6/36

## MUCH CONCERN.

Nazi Menace in South-West  
Africa.

PRESSURE ON NATIONALS.

(Received 10.30 a.m.)

LONDON, June 15.

The "Morning Post" Johannesburg correspondent says the Nazi menace in South-West Africa is becoming more and more insistent. Trade between the German and South African sections of the population is almost at a standstill. Moderate Germans, he says, are being coerced by Nazi agents, who threaten them with punishment, even with death, when the colonies revert to Germany, which they declare is inevitable. The system of spying is so perfect that every movement of the moderates is reported.

Recruiting for the German Army continues despite public protests. Germans have been instructed not to use the Government Law Courts but to submit their disputes to special Nazi arbitration tribunals. If the contestants refuse to accept the decision the papers are sent to Germany for final judgment. A flood of films, pamphlets and other propaganda is being distributed widely.



Buckland, John Harold. 36 Arney Road, Remuera, Auckland. Merchant.  
Rice, H.

The German Club held a memorial ceremony for the late King George V. Mr A.R. Leuschke the President of the Club, though in Auckland was not present at the ceremony. Mr K.W. Schmidt was present at the ceremony but remained in the back ground and took no part whatever in the proceedings.

It is believed that he disapproved of the ceremony.

The action of these two men, under the circumstances would suggest that they do hold anti-British sentiments.

The number of German Nationals in New Zealand is approximately 400 and the number of naturalised persons born in Germany about 100.

It is very difficult to assess the proportion of these who are likely to be sympathetic towards the Nazi movement, but past experience has taught us there are few German born persons who are not possessed of the German patriotic spirit, and it can be safely assumed that a large proportion, if not all of the German Nationals resident here would be strong adherents of the Nazi doctrine.

So far as naturalised British subjects of German descent are concerned, it has to be understood that great care is exercised in the selection of those naturalised, but even so there is certain to be a small percentage who are likely to be influenced by German propaganda.

The activities of the Deutscher Verein (German Club) at Auckland will be kept constantly in view, and any additional information obtained forwarded to you.

Commissioner of Police.

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~~SECRET~~

4

Telephone: No.:  
VICTORIA 1552-3-4  
OF. 22/7/DS.7a.

BOX NO. 500,

PARLIAMENT STREET, B.O.,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

3rd March, 1936.

Dear Mr. Wohlmann,

With reference to my letter OF.22/7/DS.7a., dated 7th February, 1936, regarding the National Sozialistische Deutsche Arbeiter Partei, it might help to put the matter in correct perspective if you could give some details regarding the number of Germans in the country and the proportion of them who appear likely to be sympathetic towards the Nazi movement.

Another important aspect of the matter is the question of the extent to which naturalised British subjects of German descent are likely to be influenced by German propaganda.

Yours sincerely,

*V.G.W. Kell*

Colonel Sir V.G.W. Kell.

W.G. Wohlmann, Esq.,  
Commissioner of Police,  
Wellington,  
New Zealand.

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~~SECRET~~

Telephone No. :  
VICTORIA 1552-3-4  
OF.22/7/DS.7a.

8

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

7<sup>th</sup> February, 1936.

Dear Mr. Wohlmann,

With reference to the note on the Auslands Organisation of the National Sozialistische Deutsche Arbeiter Partei sent to you with our OF.22/7/DS.7a., dated 24.7.35., it is proposed to bring our information on this subject up to date.

I shall therefore be grateful if you will kindly let me know whether you have obtained any further information about the organisation in your jurisdiction.

Yours sincerely,

*V.G.W. Kell*

Colonel Sir V.G.W. Kell.

W.G. Wohlmann, Esq.,  
Commissioner of Police,  
Wellington,  
New Zealand.

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LETTERS TO BE ADDRESSED  
"THE GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN,  
WELLINGTON."



TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:  
"STATISTICS, WELLINGTON."

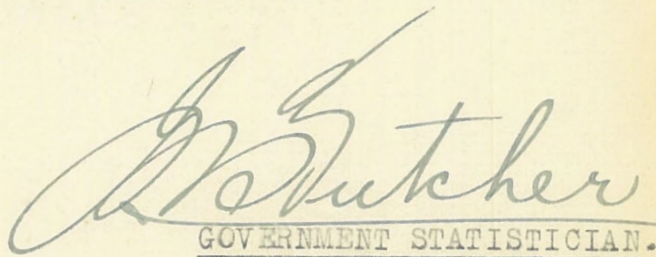
DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

CENSUS AND STATISTICS OFFICE,  
WELLINGTON, C.1.

27th April, 1936.

THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE,  
WELLINGTON.

In response to a verbal request I attach hereto a statement showing from 1st January, 1923, naturalization, migration, and deaths of German Nationals (or alternatively persons born in Germany). The figures for 1935 are not yet available. The number of German Nationals on the register, under the Registration of Aliens Act, was 742 (males 438, females 304) at 31st December, 1922. As you are aware this Act was suspended in August, 1923.

  
GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN.

ENCL:

NEW ZEALAND

NATURALIZATION (persons born in Germany)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1923 <sup>x</sup>	27	1	28
1924	29	1	30
1925	55	7	62
1926	24	-	24
1927	20	-	20
1928	15	-	15
1929	11	1	12
1930	5	1	6
1931	5	2	7
1932	5	-	5
1933	4	-	4
1934	5	2	7

220

x The figures for this year are German Nationals Naturalized

DEATHS (persons born in Germany)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1923	51	33	84
1924	43	21	64
1925	44	20	64
1926	45	24	69
1927	36	22	58
1928	43	24	67
1929	61	20	81
1930	46	35	81
1931	28	19	47
1932	33	17	50
1933	40	17	57
1934	38	29	67

789

MIGRATION (German Nationals)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Immigrants intending permanent residence</u>			<u>New Zealand residents departing permanently</u>		
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1923	1	4	5	2	2	4
1924	5	10	15	3	1	4
1925	7	6	13	1	1	2
1926	4	4	8	-	-	-
1927	4	5	9	-	3	3
1928	5	7	12	-	1	1
1929	4	2	6	-	-	-
1930	8	4	12	2	-	2
1931	4	1	5	3	4	7
1932	1	1	2	-	1	1
1933-34(15 months)	6	4	10	4	-	4
1934-35(12 months)	13	12	25	1	1	2

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~~SECRET~~

36/129

Telephone: No.:  
VICTORIA 1552-3-4

OF. 22/7/DS. 7a.

BOX NO. 500,

PARLIAMENT STREET, B.O.,

LONDON, S.W.1.

*Feb*  
7<sup>th</sup> March, 1936.

Dear Mr. Wohlmann,

You may care to have the following small details regarding N.S.D.A.P. activities in Auckland if the facts are not already known to you.

- 1) It seems that J. HENNIGER, who was formerly correspondent for the Stützpunkt of the N.S.D.A.P. in Auckland, has been replaced by M. GRAPENGIESSER, who is also Obmann of the Deutscher Verein, of 2, Ward Terrace, Sandringham, Auckland, S.2. This individual has apparently been interesting himself in the 'Gentiles Movement', about which he has been in correspondence with a Mr. W.H. FEATHERSTONE of Robinson Street, Cambridge, Waikato, New Zealand. GRAPENGIESSER appears unimpressed by FEATHERSTONE and his movement and has decided to discontinue the correspondence. With what object he originally got into touch with FEATHERSTONE is not clear except that the Auslands Organisation of the N.S.D.A.P. in Berlin apparently wanted to know something about it.
- 2) The Stützpunktleiter in Auckland is K.W. SCHMIDT and the Pressedienstleiter is W. KERSTON. Other sympathisers or Party members appear to be Hela SCHMIDT, J. BLUMHARDT and Frau A. LANGGUTH.
- 3) The local paper, "Die Brücke", is said to be entirely in line with the present régime in Germany. The editors are the Bund des Deutschtums in Australia and New Zealand and the German Australian Chamber of Commerce in Sydney.

Yours sincerely,

*Carl Lutz*

Colonel Sir V.G.W. Kell.

W.G. Wohlmann, Esq.,  
Commissioner of Police,  
Wellington,  
New Zealand.

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In any reply, please quote this number:



~~SECRET~~ 35/369 12

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WELLINGTON.

28th April, 1936.

The Superintendent of Police,  
Auckland.

Deutscher Verein (German Club)

The information contained in Detective Stevenson's report of the 1st February has been noted.

It is desired that the activities of the German Club be kept constantly in view, and any additional information obtained forwarded to this office.

It would appear from confidential information received here that some changes have recently taken place in the executive of this Club.

It seems that J. Henniger who was formerly correspondent for the Stutzpunkt of the N.S.D.A.P. in Auckland has been replaced by M. Grapengiesser of 2 Ward Terrace, Sandringham.

The Secretary in Auckland is K.W. Schmidt and the President W. Kerston.

Other sympathisers or Party members appear to be Hela Schmidt, J. Blumhardt and Frau A. Langguth.

In the event of Schmidt leaving New Zealand for Germany, or elsewhere, please have particulars of his booking etc forwarded as early as possible.

*W. Wohlmann*  
Commissioner of Police.

For the Sub-Inspector (Det. Div.)

*W. Stevenson*  
*W. Stevenson*

66  
36

*S. Hill*  
28/4/36

Sub. Insp  
Det. Branch.

30 APR 1936

Report attached  
*E. Stevenson*  
7-7-36. Det. 2627

## NEW ZEALAND POLICE. 13

~~SECRET~~ 55/569Police-station Detective Office, AucklandDate: 1 st February, 1936REPORT of Detective E.A.Stevenson, No. 2627relative to Deutscher Verein (German Club) Auckland."Vide attached"

I respectfully report that as far as possible I have continued to pay attention to the activities of this Club but there is little additional information to report that is of interest to the Department.

Attached hereto are a few newspaper cuttings relevant to some of the public activities of the Club. Since November last the German Club has had it's own Clubrooms in Thompson's Bdg, 313 Queen St.(2 doors above the Town Hall).

Following are the names, addresses and occupations of most of the leading members of the Club.

1 LEUSCHKE, Arthur R. Club President. 15 England St. Ponsonby. Bacon curer.

MCMILEAN, William John. Vice-Pres. 1043 Great North Rd, Pt. Chevalier. Was a land agent until 1934, now acting as a sort of general agent for Mr Jordan, of Armstrong, Dignan and Jordan, Barristers & Solicits. Is said to be a Justice of the Peace but I can find no definite record of this... I am also informed that he fought in the New Zealand Forces during the Great War. He is about 42 years of age. He spent his boyhood in Germany and this probably accounts for his connection with the Club. I can obtain no information to show that he has anti-British sentiments.

✓ SCHMIDT, Kurt Wilhelm. Treasurer. The leading spirit in the Club's activities. 18 a Rangitoto Av. Remuera.. Asst. Manager, Pacific Potash Ltd. Smith's Bdg. Albert St.

✓ GRAPENGIESSER, Max. Secretary. Is the caretaker of the German Club's rooms at 313 Queen St. and resides there.. Relief worker.

MILLER, Peter. Vice-Pres. Relief worker.

BLUMHARDT, Jonathan. Librarian. Ash St. Avondale. Retired.

ENGEL, Henry C. Vice-Pres. Wallace Rd. Mangere. Musician.

BAIN, Dudley Watson. Executive member. 3 Seafield View Rd. Grafton. Commercial artist.

HAGEN, Otter.  
correct name FALKENHAGEN. Executive member. 3 Kenyon Av. Mt. Eden. Cook at Grand Hotel.

HUBRICK, Carl. Executive member. 32 Altham Av. Sandringham. Manager, Nikau Bacon Factor

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The Sub Inspector,  
Detective Branch,  
Auckland.

- ZIMMER, A. Executive member.
- LANGGUTH, E. 6 Clonburn Rd. Remuera. Merchant & Importer.
- REIMANN, G. 176 Hobson St. Tailor.
- BLUMHARDT, David. Whangagei. Retired farmer.
- SMITH, Harry. Brandon Rd. Glen Eden. Porter, Hotel Auckland
- BUCKLAND, John Harold, 36 Arney Rd. Remuera. Merchant.
- RICE, H.

As shown by the attached newspaper extract dated the 31/1/36 the German Club held a memorial ceremony for the late King George V. Mr A.R. Leuschke, the President of the Club, thought in Auckland was not present at the ceremony. Mr. K.W. Schmidt was present at the ceremony but remained in the background and took no part whatever in the proceedings. I am confidentially informed that Schmidt appeared to disapprove of the ceremony. The action of these two men under the circumstances would seem to show that they do hold anti-British sentiments. At any meeting or activities of the German Club it is most unusual for Schmidt not to take a prominent part.

As yet there is no further information to suggest that Schmidt intends leaving New Zealand.

*E. Stevenson.*  
Det. 2627.

*To the Inspector  
Garey  
Sub Dist*

1 FEB 1936

*To the Commissioner  
R. Hard*

*1/2/36 keep for kept*

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"Auckland Star" - 31/1/36.

**"RUHE SANFT."**

**GERMAN TRIBUTE.**

**AUCKLAND CLUB MEMBERS.**

**'KINDEST OF ALL MEN IS DEAD'**

"The kindest of all men is dead. The Germans, in common with all other peoples, feel with unparalleled sorrow the loss of His Majesty King George V," stated Mr. E. Langguth at a special memorial ceremony held by the Deutscher Verein (German Club) of Auckland, last evening.

The whole ceremony was a heartfelt demonstration of the affection in which King George was held by the Germans, an affection which was emphasised by several speakers. In the centre of the stage was a portrait of King George V. draped with black and purple, and flanked by candles. In front was a frond of New Zealand's fern and a magnificent wreath from the German Club. On the right hung the New Zealand ensign, on the left the Nazi flag, both under a canopy of black draperies.

Mr. Langguth said it was through King George that the Germans who had been in Auckland before and during the war had been able to establish themselves again after the conflict. That fact brought him still nearer to the hearts of Auckland Germans.

**"Rest Safely."**

"During the late war, and for a while after, the people of Great Britain and Germany were hurling bitter words at one another. However, never once did King George say anything derogatory of his country's enemy," said Mr. W. J. McMillan, vice-president of the club, who explained that Germans and Britons had an equal standing in the club.

Remarking that of both peoples it was the soldiers who bore each other the least animosity, Mr. McMillan recounted an incident to illustrate this fact. During an attack on the Somme front, said Mr. McMillan, he and another soldier had been detailed to occupy a post recently evacuated by the Germans. On reaching it they found a simple wooden cross with the identity disc of

a British soldier hanging over it. On the cross were the beautiful words of a beautiful thought—"Ruhe Sanft,"—"Rest Softly." It was that thought, concluded Mr. McMillan, which he was sure the whole German nation now felt in thinking of King George.

"We are gathered this evening not only out of a feeling of duty and loyalty to his late King George V., but with heartfelt sorrow at the sad bereavement and great loss which has so suddenly come to the British nation," said Mr. M. Grapengiesser, secretary of the club. "I dare to say that this feeling is evident in all the nations of the world.

**Sympathy.**

"We also sincerely desire to express to His Majesty King Edward VIII., and the whole Royal Family, as well as the whole British Empire, of which the country in which we live, New Zealand, is also a part, our deepest sympathy," concluded Mr. Grapengiesser.

The gathering sang the late King's favourite hymn, "Abide With Me," in English, and "Ich Hatt einen Kameraden" in German.

At the conclusion of the programme Mr. Langguth called for three cheers for King Edward VIII., remarking that "he is a King of sterling qualities who has already given promise of emulating his illustrious father. For him, too, we have love and admiration."

The proceeding closed with the singing of "God Save the King."

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"Auckland Star"  
22/1/36

### GERMAN SEAMEN.

### AUCKLAND WELCOME.

### COMPATRIOTS OVERSEAS.

### FATHERLAND'S INTEREST.

German ships very rarely visit Auckland, but when one does the officers and crew are assured of a wonderful reception by the members of the German community here. Not only Germans, but others do everything in their power to make the stay in port enjoyable. In the case of the Wiegand, which recently arrived from Gulf of Mexico ports with a cargo detested by seamen, bulk sulphur, the Auckland German Club did everything possible to help the ship's complement to forget the discomforts incidental to such a voyage. Paramount, however, is the spirit of generous hospitality which is imbued in the German race.

On the day of the Wiegand's arrival a reception was held for the officers and crew at the clubrooms, which were filled to capacity. A welcome was given to the visitors by the president of the club, Mr. A. R. Leuschke. In answer, the third officer of the Wiegand, Mr. Festesen, emphasised the fact that in the new Germany they were taking an increased interest in the welfare of their compatriots abroad, an interest which was much greater than that displayed in the old days.

Adding to the president's speech of welcome, Mr. K. W. Schmitt pointed out how important the month of January had been in German history. Among other events were the advent of the 2nd Empire with Bismarck on 18/1/1877 and that of the 3rd Reich with Herr Hitler on 13/1/1933. This, remarked Mr. Schmitt, made the welcome to a German ship's arrival in Auckland in January all the more felicitous.

After supper a dance was held, and during the intervals members of the Wiegand's crew sang old German folk songs.

The next day the officers were entertained to a motor trip around Auckland, a special visit being made to inspect the example of New Zealand bush scenery at the Grafton Bridge reserve. The officers were enthusiastic in their praise of the reserve and the Tamaki Drive, as well as the view from the top of Mount Eden. The grounds at Ellerslie were also specially commented on.

Following a dinner aboard the Wiegand given in honour of a few of Auckland's German community, the officers of the ship attended a dinner of welcome at the home of Mr. Leuschke.

Another entertainment in which the officers, crew and friends joined was a most enjoyable picnic to Ferndale.

The final entertainment was a display of German films, followed by a dance, at which Professor von Zeidnitz, the president of the Wellington German Club, was present.

The officers and crew are unanimous in their opinion that their reception and entertainment at Auckland have been the outstanding ones of the ship's voyage, which will leave indelible memories of New Zealand, her people and her beauties.

"N.Z.Herald"  
15/1/36

### GERMANY AND JEWS

Sir,—On October 28, 1935, your correspondent J. Thornes wrote:—  
"From Berlin comes the almost incredible news that the Government has issued an order that the names of Jews killed in the Great War must be expunged from rolls of honour." He continued by speaking about this "disgrace," etc. Indeed, such act as the one above-mentioned would have been "incredible." But it is even more incredible that, in this peace-desiring world of ours, there exist obscure places in certain European cities where such lies as the above are all the time manufactured and spread throughout the world. What appears most incredible, however, is the fact that surely earnest students of international affairs like your correspondent J. Thornes are continually allowing themselves to be misled by these deliberate falsifications, although with a bit of really earnest study it is not so very difficult to read properly between the lines and to discover all the misrepresentations, inaccuracies and contradictions. The official German dementi is now to hand, stating that the German Government has never issued the above-mentioned order, nor is such action contemplated. A friend of peace and goodwill begs to advise your correspondent J. Thornes to make sure in future before accusing. K.W.S.

*Kurt Schmidt*

"N.Z.Herald"  
28/1/36

### THE GERMAN CLUB

A memorial ceremony for the late King George will be held by the Deutscher Verein (German Club), Auckland, at its clubrooms on Thursday night, from eight to nine o'clock

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## GERMAN CLUB.

## NEW ROOMS OPENED.

The Auckland German Club celebrated the culmination of three years' effort last evening when they celebrated the official opening of their new club rooms. The rooms, which include a stage, a dance floor, lounge and library, presented a pleasing scene with their soft-toned curtains and brightly coloured cushions presented by members, and their floral decorations of roses, poppies and dark blue cornflowers, which showed up clearly against the deep cream of the walls. On one wall hung the British flag, and on the other the German, while the German national emblem, the swastika, held pride of place at the back of the stage. After the singing of the British National Anthem the gathering sang the German national anthem, "Deutschland, Deutschland, Uber Alles," and saluted the national flag with the right-arm salute.

The president, Mr. A. R. Leuschke, received the guests, assisted by Mrs. Leuschke, who wore jubilee blue georgette. Mr. Leuschke, who officially opened the rooms, extended a welcome to Captain F. Bauer, Dutch Consul for the Netherlands, and Mrs. S. Schneider, recently returned from Australia. Short speeches were made by the treasurer, Mr. K. W. Schmidt, who gave a brief outline of the history of the club, and the vice-president, Mr. W. J. McMillan, J.P., who spoke on behalf of the English members. Bouquets were presented to Mrs. Leuschke, Mrs. Schneider and the performers in the concert programme presented by the German Club orchestra.

Items rendered by the orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. H. C. Engel, included "The Gipsy Caravan" (Oscheit), "Die Fledermaus" (Johann Strauss), "Cavatina," Op. 314 No. 2 (Bohm), "La Bella Valenciana" (Kaempfert), "Songs of the Fatherland" (arranged by Hans See), "Freiheitsgeist" (Bahlmann), "Hungarian Melodies" (arranged by Debroy Somers), and "Songs of Germany" (arranged by Margis-Berger). Pianoforte solos were played by Miss S. Mowbray, and songs were sung by Miss A. Harrison and Mr. W. Garratt, accompanied by Mrs. F. Jury. The evening concluded with dancing and supper.

Members of the ladies' committee present were: Miss Munro (secretary), who wore midnight blue velvet; Miss Watts (treasurer), in floral spun silk; Mrs. M. Grapengiesser, smoke blue georgette; Mrs. Reimann, red satin; Mrs. Williams, black and white satin; Miss I. Leuschke, shell pink crepe de chine; Miss C. Harder, white frilled net and white satin.

Others present included: Mrs. H. Engel, black georgette; Mrs. K. W. Schmidt, black and white figured panne velvet; Mrs. A. Zimmer, black Chantilly lace; Mrs. H. Rice, black and rose floral crepe suede; Mrs. J. T. F. Mitchell, black taffeta; Mrs. H. Rau, wine and white satin; Mrs. E. Langguth, black satin; Mrs. W. Kersten, ivory lace and net; Mrs. Jagusch, black ninon; Mrs. J. W. Edwards, black velvet; Mrs. R. Fenton, black panne velvet; Mrs. B. Taylor, floral marocain; Mrs. E. R. Pickering, ivory satin; Mrs. G. Williams, black and white satin; Mrs. J. H. Buckland, midnight blue floral satin; Mrs. J. C. Pawley, shell pink crepe; Mrs. A. Murdoch, brown lace; Mrs. L. Newhook, black lace; Miss O. Leuschke, periwinkle blue craquelle; Miss Doris Kersten, eau de nil satin; Miss E. Schneider, old rose georgette; Miss M. Schneider, apple green satin; Miss M. Zimmer, Marina blue georgette; Miss M. Partridge, lemon sprigged chiffon; Miss F. Ryder, sage green flat crepe; Miss E. Buckland, blue floral marocain; Miss S. Mowbray, cyclamen pink georgette and net; Miss A. Harrison, black panne velvet; Miss A. Leighton, black souple satin; Miss M. Burgess, bottle green crepe; Miss J. Stanford (Australia), sky blue broderie anglaise; Miss H. Reimann, Burgundy marocain; Miss T. Thomas, jubilee blue and crepe.

17  
"AUCKLAND STAR" - 15/11/35.

In your reply, please quote this number 18



~~SECRET~~ 35/569

POLICE DEPARTMENT,  
WELLINGTON,

MEMORANDUM for

8th November, 1935

The Superintendent of Police,  
Auckland.

Deutscher Verien.

The information contained in Detective Stevenson's report (undated) attached has been noted.

It is desired that the activities of the German Club be kept constantly in view and any additional information obtained forwarded to this office.

It is also desirable to have on record the names, addresses and occupations of as many as possible of the members of the Club.

In the event of Schmidt leaving for Germany please have full particulars of his booking, etc forwarded as early as possible.

What is known of W.J. McMillan J.P. please? It would be interesting to know what inducement he has to take part in the activities of this Club.

It is also desired to have on record his private and business address and occupation, and whether he is likely for any reason to have pre-Nazi or anti British sentiments.

I concur in the view expressed in the last paragraph of the report. Inquiries likely to arouse suspicion that the Department is interested in the Club and its members should not at present be made.

Detective Stevenson's report of the 12th February, 1934 is now attached.

*W. S. Mohlmann*  
Commissioner of Police.

*For the Inspector*

*The Sub Insp  
Lat Branch  
R. Ward  
Sup  
11/11/35*

*Asst Governor  
Queens  
8 Oct  
12/11/35*

*S. Gill  
12/11/35  
Supp. Insp.  
Report attached  
11/11/35  
1-2-36. Det.*

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy



**NEW ZEALAND POLICE.**

Subject: Deutscher Verion

75,000/12/31-108451

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The Commissioner,  
The previous reports  
were not enclosed.

*S. Till*  
7/10/35 Supt

The Superintendent of Police,  
Auckland.

Previous reports which  
had been overlooked were forwarded  
to you under separate cover on the  
4th instant.

*W. Wohlmann*  
Commissioner of Police.  
7/10/35.

For Sub. Insp. Sweeney  
(Det. Br.)  
*S. Till*  
7/10/35 Supt

*Det Stevenson*  
*Sweeney*  
INSPECTOR OF POLICE  
Detective Branch  
AUCKLAND 8 OCT 1935

The Sub. Insp. Det. Branch,  
Report attached.  
*E. H. Stevenson.*  
Det. 2627.  
31-10-35.

*Send to the Supt*  
*R. Haved*  
7/11/35 *Supt*

*Forwarded to the Commissioner*  
*S. Till*  
7/11/35 *Supt*

## NEW ZEALAND POLICE. 20

~~SECRET~~ 35/569.Police-station: Detective Office, AucklandDate: 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1935REPORT of Detective E.A. Stevenson, No. 2627relative to Deutscher Verein (German Club), Auckland, andKurt Wilhelm Schmidt."Vide attached"

I respectfully report that I have made further inquiries concerning Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt and the German Club, along the lines requested in the Commissioner's Memorandum of 3/10/35 but am not yet in a position to supply all the information asked for, mainly because of the necessity for inquiries being made in a discreet way and the reluctance of persons to give any definite information, especially those of German nationality or descent.

Those I have seen have all been members of the Club but resigned about the period mentioned in my previous report of 12<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1934 (not attached to this file) because of the political trend in the Club.

I have not yet been able to obtain any definite information concerning recent or present activities of the Club, or a list of the present personnel of the Club.

All persons I have interviewed are agreed that first and foremost the Club is definitely political and most pronouncedly pro-Nazi in sentiment and policy.

Schmidt is still the most active person connected with the Club and remains its guiding hand. Due no doubt to his personal charm and pleasant, courteous manner, Schmidt has made many social connections in Auckland, some with persons of responsibility and influence... There is no doubt that first and foremost Schmidt is an intensely patriotic German and a Nazi to his fingertips.

Those who are associated with Schmidt in supporting the Nazi spirit of the Club are Max Grapengiesser, E. Langguth, A.R. Leuschke, Jonathan Blumhardt, Peter Miller and David Blumhardt - a retired farmer residing at Whangarei. There are probably others, in fact it may reasonably be presumed that all the present members support the Nazi ideas of the Club.. I am informed that at present the Club has about 50 members on its books, of whom only about 20 are financial.

As stated in my previous report there exists in Auckland a body called the Associated Council of Foreign Clubs. Within the past few months the German Club through Schmidt has repeatedly sought to be readmitted to this body. He has been told, mainly through Mr O.J. Thedens, referred to in previous reports, that they would be pleased to admit the German Club providing the Club would forward a letter declaring that the Club is definitely non-political. Schmidt said that this would be done and has always repudiated the suggestion that the Club is political. No letter giving this assurance has yet been received by the Council of Foreign Clubs.

I am informed that Schmidt subsequently stated that he could not give such assurance as "he would get it in the neck from his people at home".

Thedens, whom I believe is a German by birth and who is the representative in a trade capacity of the Austrian Government, was the original founder of the German Club. As previously reported he resigned about 2 years ago.

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

The Sub Inspector,  
Detective Branch,  
Auckland.

From him I have obtained much information about the Club and Schmidt... Wherever else I have made inquiries I have been referred ultimately to Thedens as the one knowing most about the matter.. All statements and rumours directed against the Club and especially against Schmidt have apparently originated from Thedens and it has become increasingly obvious to me that he is not at all free from bias, animosity and jealousy towards Schmidt and the present Club executive.

There is no doubt at all that Thedens would be pleased to see Schmidt ordered out of the country... It appears that he is not without some personal reason for this attitude towards Schmidt.. He and his wife have been completely supplanted by Schmidt and Langguth as the social leaders of the German community in Auckland.

Another reason, which I have heard from several sources including Thedens himself, is that he alleges that Schmidt sent a letter, which was also signed by Henniger and Grapengiesser, to Vienna saying that Thedens was a discreditable representative of Austria and alleging that he had been concerned here in fraudulent and shady activities. Thedens says that he heard of this from the Austrian Government at Vienna and that he also received a letter from his Government expressing their confidence in him.

There is no information to suggest that the German Club has "any system or tribunal for dealing with delinquents or settling disputes among German nationals other than the New Zealand Courts of law".. No persons I have interviewed has ever heard of any such system or tribunal... However there is a definite belief that Schmidt sends reports to the Nazi Government in Berlin about Germans resident here.

The fear that these reports may be adverse and may subsequently be harmful to themselves should they return to Germany, or to their relations who are now in Germany, is the reason why these German residents here do not wish to say anything about Schmidt or the Club, especially anything of a nature adverse to, or reflecting on, the Nazi regime.

To a British mind this may seem a rather exaggerated fear but I am assured in all seriousness that Germans do not lightly regard this possibility... To be a German and yet not a wholehearted supporter of the Nazi doctrine is regarded in Germany as an offence against the State and deserving of punishment..

The considered opinion has been offered to me that even Mr Penseler, the German Consul for New Zealand at Wellington is, in his own interests with his Government, not indifferent to the harm that Schmidt might attempt to do him, should he fail to appear as the true Nazi representative that Schmidt expects him to be.

Schmidt is residing with his wife and two young daughters at 18a Rangitoto Avenue, Remuera.. As previously reported his occupation appears to be as second in charge in the firm of Pacific Potash Ltd.. The Manager of this firm is a man named Leith-Miller, who speaks rather like an American. I do not think he is British.. Schmidt acts in Leith-Miller's absence but otherwise he seems to have little to do. I have seen Schmidt in his office on three occasions and he has never appeared to be busy.

Pacific Potash Ltd. is not a company registered at Auckland but it is a genuine business with either a main or branch office in Sydney.

It imports potash from Alsace-Lorraine and its interests are 60% German and 40% French.. I believe that both Schmidt

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and his father in Berlin are financially interested. From discreet inquiries I have been informed that the business here is not a large one; they import probably from 4 to 5 thousand tons a year.

In all my inquiries concerning Schmidt I have paid particular <sup>attention</sup> to the rather vague suggestion that Schmidt has at times delivered himself of anti-British remarks and that he has an active antipathy towards British rule in New Zealand. On this point again, the only definite assertion comes from Thedens, who informed me that about 2 years ago Schmidt was in his (Thedens') office.. Another German national named Pottkaemper was also present.. The German Club policy was being discussed and in conversation Schmidt said, according to Thedens, words to the following effect - "You Germans have as much right here as the British as they only stole it from the Maoris and we may as well get what we can out of it".... Thedens says that Schmidt also said - "I hate the country and I hate the people".

I immediately saw Pottkaemper and questioned him thoroughly as discreetly as possible.. His full name is Julius Edward Pottkaemper, a carrier, of 18 Parr Rd, Pt. Chevalier. He is about 40 years of age and has been in New Zealand about 20 years. He is a German national - not naturalized. He said that he was a member of the German Club during it's first year, but he resigned because of Schmidt's determination in the face of opposition to give lectures to the Club educative of the new Germany... Pottkaemper says that he can quite honestly say that though he dislikes Schmidt he has never heard him make any anti-British remarks or say anything against New Zealand.

Pottkaemper also suggests that Schmidt sends reports to Berlin on Germans here.. A German named J. Henniger who was Secretary for the German Club and was closely associated with Schmidt before he left New Zealand for Germany about 6 months ago, is a pensioned German Civil Servant from Samoa. Henniger has left New Zealand permanently and it is thought that Schmidt may have been the cause of him being ordered to return to Germany.

I am informed that Schmidt has said that he himself is going on another visit to Germany in 6 months time.

Whether or no Schmidt has any official standing with the German Government I have been unable to ascertain. At an evening of the German Club on the 10 th October last Schmidt, in talking to a visitor whose identity has not been divulged to me, is alleged to have said that the Nazi movement has four leaders in Auckland, and that each has a separate task.. Schmidt said that his task was to establish and foster trade connections.. He would not say, when asked, whom the other three were, or what their tasks are. Schmidt, at the time, was wearing a Nazi badge in his coat lapel in the design of an eagle surmounting the globe with a Swastika in the centre.

As far as I can ascertain from my inquiries the Club has no branches elsewhere in New Zealand.

I am informed that David Blumhardt, of Whangarei, is known as a co-operative member of the Club and is believed to be sympathetic with it's Nazi policy.

The Club now meets in the Catholic Womens' Club rooms at

the top floor of Union Bdgs, Customs St. East.. The Club meets usually once a week - on Thursday evenings. Meetings of the Nazi circle, so to speak, are held about an hour before any function of a more public nature.

The proceedings of the Club are still conducted mainly in the German language, but not exclusively, as the Club still has a few non-German visitors.. I do not know of any non-German members of the Club at present.

Persons other than German nationals are still eligible for membership of the Club but they are not now encouraged to join.

Present members of the Club who are definitely naturalized British subjects are E. Langguth (naturalized 1924), W.J. McMillan (a Justice of the Peace), Jonathan Blumhardt, David Blumhardt (naturalized 1903).

I think that A.R. Leuschke and E. Engel, Senr. are also naturalized but I am not sure... The same applies to Peter Miller and Gustav Belin, two relief workers who are also supporters of the Nazi policy of the Club.

I have now ascertained that W.J. McMillan - mentioned above - is not of German extraction, he is British.

I have been endeavouring to get in touch with some person who could give me information about recent meetings of the Club but so far I have not been successful in this. I will continue to pay attention to the activities of the Club with a view to reporting anything further that may be of interest to the Department.

I could make other inquiries about the matter from sources not yet approached, but though useful information might result, there would be a probability that the nature of my inquiries would be carried back to Schmidt. Without further instructions I do not propose making these inquiries.

*E. Stevenson.*

Det. 2627.

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~~SECRET~~ 35/569

POLICE DEPARTMENT,

WELLINGTON, 3rd October, 1935.

MEMORANDUM for

The Superintendent of Police,

AUCKLAND.

Deutscher Verien (German Club), Auckland.

Information is desired respecting the present position, activities and personnel of the above-named Club, particularly regarding Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt.

I also wish to ascertain, if possible, whether the Club has any branches or members or whether similar clubs exist elsewhere in New Zealand, how often meetings of the Auckland Club are held, whether the proceedings are still conducted in the German language, whether persons other than German nationals are eligible for membership, whether any of the present members are naturalised British subjects, and whether the Verien has any system or tribunal for dealing with delinquents or settling disputes among German nationals other than the New Zealand Courts of law.

No doubt it will be difficult to obtain all the information asked for, but I desire a special effort to be made to obtain as much as possible, and to have the activities of this organisation kept under close surveillance. Previous reports are herewith.

  
Commissioner of Police.





If any reply, please quote this number:

~~SECRET.~~ 34/538

POLICE DEPARTMENT,  
WELLINGTON, 4th October, 1935.

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MEMORANDUM for

The Superintendent of Police,  
Auckland.

German Club, Auckland, - Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt, Treasurer.

The attached file should have been enclosed with Secret memorandum 35/569 forwarded to you yesterday but was inadvertently omitted.

*W. H. L. M. A. M. A. M.*

Commissioner of Police. *W*

27th November, 1934.

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

Dear Sir Vernon,

Further to my secret letter of the 29th August last and your reply OF.22/7/DSS of 13th October thereto in connection with Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt and the Deutscher Verein, I have now to advise that Schmidt arrived back at Auckland together with his wife and two infant daughters by the "Wanganella" from Sydney on the 10th October. He was in possession of a quantity of literature in the German language which on examination proved to be matter dealing exclusively with the political situation in Germany and the Nazi Movement in its various phases.

Schmidt admitted being a member of the Foreign Branch of the Nazi Party, and, while he made no secret of his admiration for Hitler and the Nazi regime, or his loyalty to his native land, he claimed to have absolutely no anti-British leanings.

Schmidt is 28 years of age, about 6ft 1 in.in height, smart military appearance, and pleasant and courteous manner.

He has resumed his position with the firm of Pacific Potash Ltd., Auckland.

His future activities will be carefully watched.

Yours sincerely,



Commissioner of Police.

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31st October, 1934.

The General Officer Commanding,  
New Zealand Military Forces,  
WELLINGTON.

RE KURT WILHELM SCHMIDT.

Further to our correspondence relating to the above-named individual and in reply to your secret Memorandum M.I.S. P/S. of the 1st instant, I have to advise that Schmidt duly arrived at Auckland with his wife and two infant daughters on the 10th idem. His effects were carefully searched and a quantity of literature in the German language was detained for examination. This was found to deal exclusively with the political situation in Germany and the new order of things, and particularly the Nazi Movement in its various phases.

Schmidt admitted being a member of the foreign branch of the Nazi Party, and intimated that he intends to communicate with the authorities here concerning his desire to form a branch of the Nazi Movement among German Nationals in New Zealand.

Schmidt is described as being about 28 years of age, 6' 1" high fine appearance and carriage, pleasant and courteous manner.

He expressed a strong desire to avoid doing or saying anything that the Government of New Zealand might not approve of, and, while he made no secret of his admiration for Hitler and the Nazi regime, or his loyalty to his native land, he maintained that he has absolutely no anti-British leanings.

He has resumed his position with the firm of Pacific Potash Ltd Auckland.

His future activities will be carefully watched by the Police.

Commissioner of Police.

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~~SECRET.~~

34/538  
[N.Z.—897.]

General Headquarters,  
New Zealand Military Forces,  
Wellington, C.3,

IN YOUR REPLY
<u>M.I.S. P/S.</u>
please quote this number.

96

1<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER, 1934.

~~SECRET.~~

MEMORANDUM for:

The Commissioner of Police,  
WELLINGTON, C.1.

Re : Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt.

In confirmation of my conversation with Sub-Inspector Scott on Saturday last, 29th September, with reference to the above-named, I am very pleased to give the fullest support to the proposal to make a more detailed examination into his activities. It would be of great interest to me to know if he is in fact proposing to establish or to give further support to Nazi institutions in New Zealand or Samoa.

I should be much obliged if you could let me know in due course the results of your investigations.

*W. G. L. Lusk - Burgess*

Major-General,  
COMMANDING N.Z. MILITARY FORCES.



~~SECRET.~~ 34/538.

29

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,

Wellington, C.1, N.Z.,

5th September 1934.

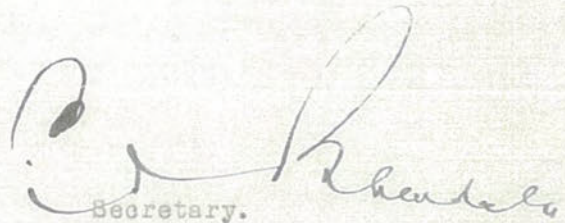
MEMORANDUM for:

The Commissioner of Police,  
WELLINGTON.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your secret memorandum 34/538 of the 29th August and in reply to your specific request to say that the Department has no knowledge of Mr. K.W. Schmidt.

Your Department, of course, has possession of the old prisoner-of-war files and you may conceivably find some trace of him there.

It may interest you to know that, through Mr. Stallworthy, M.P., General Richardson has been pressing for some time (on the last occasion at the end of July last) for the presentation of a German flag captured in Samoa to this Club, but the Minister has expressed his regret that the Government are not in a position to comply with General Richardson's request.

  
Secretary.

General Headquarters,  
New Zealand Military Forces,  
Wellington, C.3.

IN YOUR REPLY
M.I.S. P/S.
please quote this number.

30

5<sup>th</sup> September, 1934.

~~SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM for:

The Commissioner of Police,  
WELLINGTON, C.1.

Re : Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt.

In reply to your memorandum 34/538, dated 29th August, 1934, this Department has no information regarding the above-mentioned man.

*W.G.H. Lindsay-Burgess*

Major-General,  
COMMANDING N.Z. MILITARY FORCES.

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~~SECRET~~

36  
34/567

4th September, 1934.

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

Dear Sir Vernon,

I have to thank you for your secret letter  
OF.22/1/DS8 of the 18th July last and enclosed note on Nazi Organisations in Great Britain.

We have not so far detected any similar organisations in New Zealand, but the German Club at Auckland, referred to in my secret letter No.34/538 of the 29th ultimo, appears to be heading in that direction. The activities of this Club will be kept under close observation, and, if any information of interest is obtained, you will be immediately advised.

Yours sincerely,



Commissioner of Police.

~~SECRET~~

37

Telephone No.  
VICTORIA 1552-3-4

BOX NO. 500,

PARLIAMENT STREET, B.O.,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

OF.22/1/DS8.

18th July 1934.

Dear Mr. Wohlmann,

You may be interested to have the attached  
brief note on Nazi organisation in this country.

We should be interested to know whether you  
have detected anything of a similar nature in  
New Zealand.

Yours sincerely,



Colonel Sir Vernon Kell.

W.G. Wohlmann, Esq.,  
Commissioner of Police,  
Johnson Street,  
Wellington, N.Z.



36

Position of the Nazi Section in Great  
Britain.

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The situation as regards the N.S.D.A.P. in Great Britain is as follows:-

What is known as a Landesgruppenleitung has been formed here for Great Britain and Ireland, with so-called Stutzpunkte and Zellen in various towns of importance. The Zellen maintain touch with the Stutzpunkte, and the Stutzpunkte with the Landesgruppenleitung. The latter takes its orders from the Auslands Abteilung of the Nazi Party in Hamburg.

There is also here a branch of the Hitlerjugend, which is run on similar lines.

There are meetings of the Party once a month, and a monthly subscription of 2/6 is paid by all members. Occasionally there is a meeting in London of the local Group leaders, when instructions are issued and lectures are given on current events in Germany.

There is reason to believe that there is some kind of Intelligence Service run by the headquarters of the Nazi Party here for the purpose of reporting to the German Secret Police on the political reliability of Germans abroad, but apart from this nothing very sinister about the organisation has emerged.

We are not, however, losing sight of the fact that where Party and State are so closely allied, the possibility of an organisation of this sort being used for espionage and other purposes is bound to exist in certain eventualities.

17th July 1934.

~~SECRET~~

39

Telephone No.  
VICTORIA 1552-3-4

BOX NO. 500,

PARLIAMENT STREET, B.O.,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

OF.22/7/DS8.

13th October 1934.

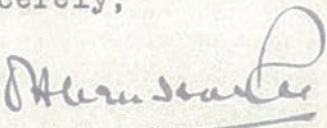
Dear Mr. Wohlmann,

Very many thanks for your letter 34/538  
of 29th August 1934, containing information  
about the Deutscher Verein.

We have no record of Kurt Wilhelm SCHMIDT  
other than his arrival here on 19.4.34 and his  
departure on 20.4.34, giving his age as 28 and  
his occupation as Economist. While here he stayed  
c/o of W. BARBER, 2 Ederline Avenue, Norbury, S.W.  
a name and address which is unknown to us.

It looks very much as if the Deutscher Verein  
was being converted into the headquarters of the  
N.S.D.A.P. in New Zealand. We should be interested  
to hear of any further developments.

Yours sincerely,

  
Colonel Sir Vernon Kell.

W.G. Wohlmann, Esq.,  
Commissioner of Police,  
Wellington, New Zealand.

Colonel Sir Vernon G.W.Kell, Box No.500, Parliament St., B.O., London, S.W.1  
G.O.C., N.Z. Military Forces, Wellington.

Secretary, Dept. of External Affairs, Wellington.

29th August, 1934.

In 1933 at Auckland a Club entitled the Deutscher Verein (German Club) was formed and the following Executive elected:-

- Patron: Mr. W. Fensler, German Consul, Wellington.
- President: Mr. O. J. Thedens, Austrian Trade Commissioner.
- Vice-Presidents: Sir George Fowlds (since deceased)  
Mr. Paul Hansen
- Committee: Professor R. W. Algie  
Mr. J. Marks  
Mr. J. Zimmer
- Secretary: Mr. K. W. Schmidt
- Treasurer: Mr. P. Jagusch.

The Rules adopted were briefly:- To promote good fellowship and social intercourse; to encourage the teaching and study of the German language and literature; to advance the interests of German residents in New Zealand, and other similar laudable objects. Disputations or demonstrations of a political or religious nature were forbidden in the Club.

The membership of the Club grew rapidly and reached its peak of about 230 members about the middle of 1933. About the end of that year, however, the Club ceased to be conducted on a harmonious basis for the reason that its operations tended to become "enthusiastically German political", and intending members who were not German were discouraged from joining. As a result of this the President, Mr. Otto Joshua Thedens, resigned, and in doing so expressed strong disapproval of the attitude adopted by the Club which he considered might become inimical to either the letter or spirit of the laws of New Zealand. In this he was supported by most of the original Executive of the Club and many resignations followed, reducing the membership to between 60 and 80 members. A new Executive, which apparently supported the changed policy of the Club, was then elected as follows:-

- President: Mr. A. R. Leuschke
- Vice-Presidents: Mr. S. Langguth  
Mr. J. J. McMillan, J.P.
- Secretary: Mr. J. Henniger
- Treasurer: Mr. K. W. Schmidt
- Librarian: Mr. M. Gropenglosser
- Executive Committee: Mr. J. Blumhardt  
Mr. H. Engel, Senr.  
Mr. P. Miller.

Under the leadership of the President, Mr. Leuschke, and the Treasurer, Mr. Schmidt (who is reputed to be the "brains" of the Executive) the organisation became almost exclusively a German Political Club in which only the German language is used, the Press is excluded, the Club's By-laws have been altered to permit of political discussion, The German National anthem is sung, and proceedings are commenced by chanting "Heil Hitler" and giving the Nazi salute.

It is reported that it is the intention of Schmidt, Leuschke and Henniger to link up this Club with an organisation in Germany and with branches among colonies of Germans in foreign countries known as the National Socialist Deutsche Arbeiter Partei.

We are especially interested in the activities of the Treasurer

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of this Club, Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt, who left Wellington by the S.S. "Rangitiki" on the 15th March last for London, ostensibly to visit Germany in connection with the business of his firm, The Pacific Potash Company. We have now received information to the effect that while in Germany he has been publicly active in the Nazi cause, and to have had interviews with Herr Hitler. He is also reported to be in some way connected with the Foreign Office Branch of the Nazi Government. Schmidt is expected to return to New Zealand some time next month, and certain members of the German community in Auckland are of opinion that under his influence the German Club will be quickly formed into a Branch of the German Nazi Organisation. Those Germans who are content to live peacefully under the British flag fear the consequent political stigma and antagonism of the general business community, and many of them desire that he should not be permitted to return here if it can be avoided.

I should be glad to be advised if you have any information respecting Schmidt which would be of interest to us.

Yours sincerely,



Commissioner of Police.



**NEW ZEALAND POLICE.**

Subject: Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt - Treasurer of the German Club, vide  
the attached.

75,000/6/33-28431

For Detective Stevenson:-

*J. J. J. J.*  
Sub-Inspector (Det)  
17/10/34

The Sub-Inspector (Detective Branch)

I have returned the books to Mr. Schmidt as instructed. Receipt for same attached... I have also informed him in terms of the Inspector's minute attached... Mr Schmidt intends to communicate with the Commissioner concerning his desire to form a branch of the Nazi movement among German nationals here.

*E. A. Stevenson.*  
Det. 2627.

18/10/34.

*To the Inspector*  
*J. J. J. J.*  
Sub-Inspector (Det)  
(Detective Branch),  
AUCKLAND.

19 OCT 1934

*The Superintendent.*  
*For your information,*  
*please*

*J. W. Hollis*  
*19/10/34 Insp*

*Forwarded to the Commissioner*  
*S. J. J.*  
*19/10/34 Supt*

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

## NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

~~538~~ 54/538.Police-station: Detective Office, Auckland.Date: 16 th October, 1934REPORT of Detective E.A. Stevenson, No. 2627

relative to KURT WILHELM SCHMIDT- Treasurer of German Club -  
now returned to Auckland.

I respectfully report, further to my previous reports concerning the above named man, that he arrived in Auckland with his wife and two infant daughters, by the "Wanganella" from Sydney on the 10 th inst. His permit enables him to remain here as a permanent resident.

I was present when Schmidt passed the Customs officers and special attention was paid to his luggage.. Schmidt willingly assisted in the search of his effects.. He had a number of books, booklets and pamphlets, all printed in German; there was not more than one copy of each.

Mr. Graham, the Chief Boarding Officer of the Customs Dept. did not feel inclined to detain this literature unless Schmidt was agreeable.. However, Schmidt was quite willing to allow me to retain the literature for examination.. I took possession of the literature named in the attached list.

In conversation with Schmidt at the time he disembarked he informed me that German nationals who visit Germany and intend to return to foreign countries are instructed by the Nazi Government not to spread any form of propaganda in these countries.

Schmidt said that he was not in any way an official representative of the Nazi Government but said that he is a member of the foreign branch of the Nazi Party. He said that he much appreciates the hospitality of all British countries he has visited and that he has absolutely no anti-British leanings.. He said that he was aware that rumours to the contrary had been spread by some persons in Auckland but he could not understand the reason for this.

Schmidt is 28 years of age and about 6 ft 1 or 2 ins. He is of fine appearance and carriage and has a pleasant and courteous manner. He appeared to be very frank and open and said that he would much welcome information as to how far he could go regarding his advocacy of Nazi Germany. He said that he most certainly did not wish to do or say anything that the Government of New Zealand might not approve of.

In conversation Schmidt does not impress as being anti-British.. Outwardly, at all events, he manifests a sentiment quite the reverse.. He makes no secret of his loyalty to his Homeland and his admiration for Hitler and the Nazi regime. Nothing was found in his effects that would tend to show that he is anti-British, or that he intended to form here any movement that might be inimical to British law or the good order of this country.

He said that he wished to create among his countrymen here interest and enlightenment concerning the growth of the new order in Germany and the good done for Germany by the Nazi regime. He says that events in Germany have been grossly misrepresented and distorted by French and Jewish press interests and he wishes to make known a truthful appreciation of current events there.

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The Sub Inspector,  
 Detective Branch,  
 Auckland.

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It seems to me that in this desire and activity on the part of Schmidt lies the reason for the rather vague suggestions by some of the foreign community in Auckland that he is anti-British.. A number of German nationals in Auckland who have been here for many years are not interested in the new Germany.. This especially applies to some who have a business standing here.. They fear that a growth of an appreciation of the Nazi spirit in the German Club may eventually react on them if the Club becomes too much of a political body and it may ultimately embroil them in difficulty with the laws of New Zealand..

From further inquiries I have made I can find no evidence of anything anti-British about Schmidt or the German Club.

They are certainly pro-Hitler and pro-German but this spirit does not necessarily conflict with the laws and loyalties of New Zealand.

Schmidt has resumed his position with the firm of Pacific Potash, Limited and he is now residing with his wife and family at Brooklyn Flats, Emily Place.

The literature which I took possession of has been perused by Miss Miller, the assistant of Professor Maxwell Walker at the Auckland University. The books exclusively deal with Germany and concern the new order there and various phases of the Nazi movement.. They state the ideals of Hitler, the aims and reconstruction of Germany internally, and they all protest strongly against the menace of Communism.. One book deals with character sketches of foreign Germans and another with the constitution of National Socialism, which is, of course, the Nazi Party.

Miss Miller says that none of the books shows the slightest anti-British sentiment.. On the contrary some of the books show friendly feelings and sympathies for Britain.

A bundle of cuttings from various German newspapers deal with Hitler propaganda and articles on German trade. Some of the cuttings from a newspaper called "Friedericus" show anti-Jewish leanings.. Apart from these Miss Miller says that there is nothing in the literature to which the slightest exception can be taken. As previously stated there was only one copy of each.

I respectfully ask for permission to return the books to Schmidt.

E. A. Stevenson.

Det. 2627.

*The Sup  
In approval to return  
the books*

*The Sub Inspector (Det)*

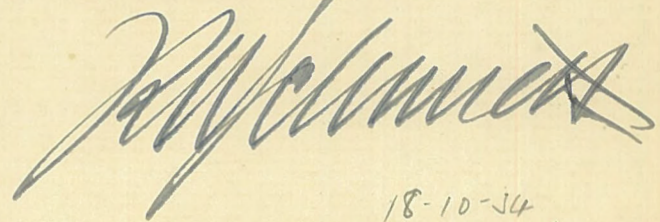
SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE  
(Detective Branch)  
AUCKLAND  
16 OCT 1954

*Please return the books.  
Mr Schmidt must be given to understand  
that whatever opinion he may have  
concerning the Nazi movement must remain  
with him as long as he remains in the Dominion.  
He must not expound it so as to cause concern to his  
fellow countrymen or others. Nazism is just the extreme of  
Communism & does not comply with the laws of this Dominion.*

Books, booklets and pamphlets, the property of KURT WILHELM SCHMIDT.

- "Der Mythos des 20 Jahrhunderts" by A. Rosenberg.
- "Weltwende" by Hermann Stegemann.
- "Auslanddeutsche Charakterbilder" by Dr. Wahrhold Drascher.
- "Das Wefensgefuge des Nationalsozialismus" by Alfred Rosenberg.
- "Das Weltbild des Nationalsozialismus" by Rudolf Strauch.
- "Deutschlands Wiedergeburt durch den Nationalsozialismus" by Dr. F. Alfred Bed.
- "Das Programm der N.S.D.A.P." by Gottfried Feder. MdR.
- "Geschichte der N.S.D.A.P." by Dr. Hans Volz.
- "Jungvult"
- "Der Lebensweg des Fuhrers"
- "Volksgericht uber Thalman"
- "Was will Deutschland" by Dr. Donald Stuart.
- "Ein Kampt um Deutschland"
- "Uusfuhrforderung in andern Landern"
- "Der Schulungsbrief" (2 copies)

also a bundle of cuttings from German newspapers.

*Received the  
above mentioned literature*  
  
 18-10-34

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In your reply, please quote this number: 45

~~SECRET~~ 34/538

POLICE DEPARTMENT,

WELLINGTON, 29th September, 1934.

MEMORANDUM for

The Superintendent of Police,

AUCKLAND.

Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt - Treasurer of German Club - Returning to New Zealand from Germany.

With reference to the return of Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt from Germany, in view of the information already obtained regarding his pro-German and anti-British activities, it is very desirable to obtain if possible first-hand information. With this end in view you may be able to arrange with the Customs Authorities to have his personal effects given special attention on arrival, and anything in the way of literature or correspondence in the German language detained for examination.

If anything of doubtful character is found in his possession which requires interpreting, you may be able to arrange with Professor Maxwell-Walker to do so.

*R. G. W. Williams*

Commissioner of Police.

*For Insp Hollis  
S. Full  
1/10/34 Supt  
The Sub Insp (Det.)  
J. Moles  
1/10/34 Insp  
Det Stevenson  
J. Moles*

SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE  
(Detective Branch),  
AUCKLAND.

2007 1934

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NEW ZEALAND POLICE. 46

~~SECRET 34/538~~

Police-station: Detective Office, Auckland.

Date: 27 th September, 1934

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

relative to German Club, Auckland - Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt,  
Treasurer, Auckland .. alleged anti-British tendencies.

I respectfully report that resulting on further inquiry into this matter I have just been informed that Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt is in Sydney at present and that he is expected to arrive at Auckland by the "Marama" on Tuesday, the 2nd October next. This information was given to me, not knowing my identity, by Arthur Leuschke, of 15 England St. Ponsonby, the President of the Club.. This man, together with Schmidt, has been largely responsible for the present policy of the Club.

Leuschke seems to have corresponded with Schmidt while the latter has been away from New Zealand.

A body in Auckland called the Associated Foreign Clubs will not have any further connections of any kind with the German Club because they are alarmed at the allegedly anti-British and pro-Nazi tendencies of the latter club.

The German Club now holds it's meetings in the Catholic Club Rooms, above the Doncaster Dining Rooms, Victoria St.W. The proceedings are almost completely in German.

Inquiries will be continued but I am reporting the expected arrival of Schmidt as instructed.

The Sub Inspector,  
Detective Branch,  
Auckland.

*E.A. Stevenson*

Det. 2627.

*The Inspector  
For your information*

*Stevenson*

INSPECTOR OF POLICE  
(Detective Branch) 27 SEP 1934  
AUCKLAND.

*Urgent*

*The Commissioner*

*For your information  
and instructions, please.*

*J.W. Hollis  
Inspector  
27/9/34 Suptd*

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In your reply, please quote this number: 47

~~SECRET~~ 34/538

POLICE DEPARTMENT,

WELLINGTON, 4th September, 1934.

MEMORANDUM for

The Superintendent of Police,

AUCKLAND.

German Club, Auckland - Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt,  
Treasurer. Alleged Anti-British tendencies.

In view of the information contained in Detective Stevenson's reports of the 12th February last and the 20th ultimo, it is very desirable that as much information as possible be obtained regarding the activities of the above-named Club in general and Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt in particular.

If the date of Schmidt's return to New Zealand can be ascertained in advance please advise me as early as possible.

*R. G. W. Williams*

Commissioner of Police.

*For Insp Hollis  
S. Gill  
6/9/34 Insp  
Sub Insp Sweeney  
for attention,  
please Insp  
6/9/34 Insp*

*Dea Stevenson  
Sweeney*

The Sub Inspector,  
Detective Branch.

Report attached.

*E. A. Stevenson.*

Oct. 26 27.

27-9-34.

Sub-Inspector of Police  
(Detective Branch),  
AUCKLAND. 3 SEP 1934

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NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Police-station: Detective Office, Auckland.

Date: 20 th August, 1934

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

relative to KURT WILHELM SCHMIDT .. and his activities  
in connection with the German Club, Auckland.

I respectfully report that on the 12 th February, 1934 I submitted a detailed report concerning the German Club, Auckland... This report was in furtherance of a report of Senr. Sergt. Lambert in which he gave particulars of confidential information received by him to the effect that this Club had become anti-British in its activities..

In the course of my inquiries I interviewed Mr Otto Joseph Thedens, the Austrian Trade Commissioner and a business man of this City.

Resulting on instructions from the Superintendent I have now seen Mr Thedens again.

It appears that Mr. K.W. Schmidt, a young German, who was at the time of my first report the Treasurer and leading spirit of the Club's activities, left New Zealand soon afterwards and went back to Germany.

Ostensibly he visited Germany on the business of his firm, the Pacific Potash Co. but while there he is said to have been publicly active in the Nazi cause, also to have had interviews with Herr Hitler, the German dictator. Schmidt is suspected to be in some way connected with the Foreign Office branch of the Nazi Government.

The German community in Auckland have now heard that Schmidt is returning shortly to Auckland and apparently many of them do not wish him to be allowed to return here if it can be avoided.

They seem to suspect that Schmidt will quickly turn the German Club into a branch of the German Nazi organisation which will be definitely politically linked up with the German Government.. If this happens those Germans who are content to live law-abidingly and peacefully here under the British flag fear the subsequent political stigma and antagonism of the general business community here.

In my previous report mention is made of an organisation known as National Socialistic German Workingmens Party (English translation) and it is thought that Schmidt will actively work for the formation of a live branch here.

I have ascertained that Schmidt is due back in Auckland next month - September, but further particular of his arrival are not known.

The German Club is still in existence in Auckland although it now has a fairly small membership.. As far as I can gather no exception can be taken to its activities.

The suspicions against Schmidt seem to be mostly opinions; I have been unable to uncover any definite grounds on which to base a refusal to allow him to land in New Zealand.

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The Sub Inspector,  
Detective Branch,  
Auckland.

*The hope*  
*For your information*  
*E. Stevenson.*  
Det. 2627.

*The Superintendent.*  
*For the information*  
*of the Commissioner, please.*  
*Forward to the Commissioner*  
*21/8/34*  
*S. J. [unclear]*  
*21/8/34*

Sub-Inspector of Police  
(Detective Branch) 20 AUG 1934  
AUCKLAND.

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Police-station: Detective Office, Auckland.

Date: 12 th February , 1934

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

relative to The German Club; Auckland.

I respectfully report that the Deutscher Verein (German Club), Auckland, Incorporated was formed in August, 1932, the first Extraordinary General Meeting being held on the 10 th Aug. 1932... At this meeting the following Executive was elected :-

- Patron: The German Consul in Wellington, Mr. W. Penseler.
- President: Mr. O. J. Thedens
- Vice-Presidents: Sir George Fowlds  
Mr. Paul Hansen
- Committee: Professor R. M. Algie  
Mr. L. Marks  
Mr. J. Zimmer
- Secretary: Mr. K. W. Schmidt
- Treasurer: Mr. F. Jagusch

Rules of the Club were drawn up and adopted, and Clause 2 of the rules sets out the objects of the Club. These were as follows :-

- (a) to promote good fellowship and social intercourse; to encourage the teaching and study of the German language and literature; to encourage an appreciation of German art; to foster a love and appreciation of German music; to advance the interests of Germans resident in New Zealand, and to create a friendly feeling towards and relationship with the German people.
- (b) Any disputation or demonstration of a political or religious nature shall be forbidden in the Club; provided however, that German patriotic explanations, and explanations of current events relating to Germany may, with the precedent consent of the Executive, be given at a Club function.
- (c) Discussions, addresses and lectures shall wherever practicable and expedient, be in the German language.

With regard to membership of the Club, Rule 9 stated as follo

- (a) Germans and persons who are interested in the objects of the Club, shall be eligible for membership of the Club if they are of good repute and at least 18 years of age.

The membership of the Club grew rapidly and about the middle of 1933 reached a peak of about 220 members including a large number of very reputable Auckland business and professional men, both of British nationality and German nationality and extraction, of the calibre of the persons mentioned in the attached report of S/Sergt. Lambert.

Many of the non-German members of the Club took up the study of the German language, a juvenile section was formed, numerous successful functions were held, there was little, if any, discussion of a political nature, and an amicable spirit existed between the great majority of the Club members.... The Executive of the Club changed a little and the Committee was added to but the objects and principles of the Club remained substantially the same until about November-December, 1933.

The Chief Detective,  
Auckland.

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From about that time the affairs of the Club ceased to be conducted on a harmonious basis and friction between many of the members became increasingly apparent... The main reason for this was that the Club tended more and more to become, what may be termed 'enthusiastically German political' in outlook and guiding principles... The social side of the Club's activities became of lesser importance and the attendance and new membership of persons who were not Germans or of German descent, was discouraged.

Because of this the original President and part-founder of the Club, resigned. This man is Mr. Otto Joshua Thedens, the Austrian Trade Commissioner and a business man of Auckland. Mr Thedens strongly disapproved of the changed policy of the Club which he considered might tend to become inimical to either the letter or spirit of the laws of New Zealand.

In this attitude he was supported by many more of the Club members and by most of the original Executive of the Club and many more resignations followed. This has resulted in the membership of the Club being, at the present time, reduced to some 60 to 80 members. Apparently, the majority of these support the changed policy of the Club.

A new Executive was elected and it is at present as follows:-

President:	Mr. A. R. Leuschke
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. E. Langguth Mr. W. J. McMillan J. P.
Secretary:	Mr. J. Henniger
Treasurer:	Mr. K. W. Schmidt
Librarian:	Mr. M. Grapengiesser
Executive Committee:	Mr. J. Blumhardt Mr. E. Engel Senr. Mr. P. Miller

From my inquiries it would seem that Leuschke, who is a bacon curer, of 15 England St. Ponsonby, is a rather ignorant and uneducated man with little knowledge of social niceties. I am informed that he follows the lead given by the Treasurer, Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt, who seems to guide, to a very large extent, the present policy of the Club.

Schmidt is a man of about 26 to 28 years of age and he is in business here as the Director and Manager of the Pacific Potash Co. of Smiths Bldgs. Albert St. He resides at 65 Meadowbank Rd. Remuera... He came to New Zealand about 3 years ago, after having been a short time in Sydney. Previous to then he had come from Berlin, Germany, where he belongs and was educated.

I have interviewed several highly reputable ex-members of the Club and in each case I gathered that the reason for resigning was not that the Club is at the present time anti-British, but the fear that at some future time it might become so. If this did happen these members, being professional and business men of the City, would not desire their respective names to be associated with the Club in any way.

This reason for the resignation of so many of the members is well expressed in the following passage of the letter of resignation of Mr. T. W. M. Ashby, who is a solicitor employed in the Town Clerk's office at the Town Hall. Mr Ashby was one of the original members and was the Hon. Auditor for the Club...

In his letter Mr Ashby says, inter alia, "It is however, now apparent that the Club is ~~now~~ being conducted with a political bias, and the policy being dictated is one that is not only pro-German but which must ultimately, in my opinion, be anti-British. It will, of course, be obvious to you that I am quite unable to associate myself, either directly or indirectly, with activities of this description, or with any activities which are subversive to, or in any way inimical to the Government or laws of the Dominion of New Zealand or the British constitution".

From information I have received from reliable ex-members and other persons I do not consider that the activities of the Club can be construed, at the present time in any case, as anti-British... Certainly, it is now almost exclusively, a German political club, but as far as I can gather there has been no definite evidence of any anti-British bias. The Club is now intensely German nationalistic and definitely Nazi and pro-Hitler in spirit... This being so, there is, of course, not the slightest semblance of Communism in the activities of the Club.

The prime movers of this new spirit in the Club are Schmidt and Leuschke.

Some of the incidents of the present policy of the Club which provoked the disapproval of many of the former members are as follows:-

- (1) The German language is exclusively used.
- (2) The Press are excluded.
- (3) The Club's by-laws have been altered to permit of political discussion. (As far as I can gather this is restricted to German politics only).
- (4) Non-German members, and interest, in the Club, is now merely a minor consideration.
- (5) At the Club's functions the German National Anthem is now sung before the British National Anthem, (if the latter is sung at all).
- (6) Members now commence the Club's proceedings by saying "Hail Hitler" and giving the German Nazi salute.

However, as previously stated, and I have made considerable discreet inquiry into the point, I have been unable to obtain any information to show that anything against Britain, or the British Commonwealth of Nations, or New Zealand, has been said or done.

There exists an organisation in Germany and among colonies of Germans in foreign countries known as the N.S.D.A.P. This means the National Socialistic Deutsche Arbeiter Partei, the English translation of which is - National Socialistic German Workingmens Party... Despite this name I am reliably informed that there is nothing communistic about this party. Apparently, what are called "Out-posts" of this party are formed among German colonies in various countries and it is the intention of some of the members of the German Club in Auckland to form an Out-post here and link it up with the German Club.. Schmidt, Leuschke and the present Secretary of the Club, J. Henniger are the members mainly concerned in advancing this matter.

I have been able to locate and interview only one person who has been present at one of the Club's meetings since it has been reconstituted. This was Capt. F. Bauer, the Dutch Vice-Consul in Auckland. Capt. Bauer is a member of the Club but

he informed me that he and his wife are resigning, his reason being that the Club now holds little of interest for them.

Capt. Bauer was present at a function of welcome, given recently, to the Officers and Cadets of the German barque "Magdalen Vinnen", which is at present in Auckland. He informed me that several patriotic German speeches were given, "Hail Hitler" was chanted and the Nazi salute given, but he definitely assured me that the speeches were not anti-British in any way and no criticism of Britain or New Zealand was offered by anyone... I believe Capt. Bauer to be a reliable and reputable man with a regard for the laws and hospitality of the country in which he is living, and I think he would, and will, inform me, should he become aware of any developments of an anti-British nature in the Club's activities.

There is, of course, the possibility that the pro-Hitler, Nazi spirit, now so strong in the Club, may at some future date result in an inter-racial spirit of ill-feeling and enmity being engendered among some of the foreign communities in Auckland.

*E. Stevenson.*

Det. 2627.

*In the hope  
of success  
Ed on 12/2/34*

*The Commissioner  
For your information, please  
The Club will receive special  
attention should anything of a  
disloyal nature be attempted.*

*J. D. Hollis  
Insp/Supt  
12/2/34*



NEW ZEALAND POLICE. 53Police-station: AucklandDate: 24.1.34., 193REPORT of Senr Sergt G.H.Lambert, No. 1384relative to The German Club.Auckland.

I respectfully report that I have been confidentially informed that the German Club Auckland has developed into an organization whose members are strongly Anti-British.and very bitter towards the British, and are in the habit of expressing themselves very strongly at the Meetings.To which the press has now been excluded.

I am informed that the Club was founded by a Mr Thedens,who was President of the Club for about two years, prior to 1933. The club during this time was very successful and had a membership of 220. The Club was formed for the purpose of fostering amicable relations between the German population and the Britishers. and one of the Bye-laws of the Club was that no political / discussions were to take place at the meetings.

Mr Thedens having been President for two years stood down in favour of a Mr Leuschke of England St Ponsonby.

Since then a new Committee has been elected, and the bye-law re political discussions has been amended .The Press has been excluded from the Meetings and some very bitter speeches and hostile discussions have taken place.

In consequence of this a large number of the members have resigned from the Club, including Mr Thedens, which now has a membership of 80 members.

The Chief speaker is a German named Kurt Schmidt, who only came to New Zealand about three years ago. He is the Director of a firm trading under the name of "The Pacific Potash Coy" with offices in Smiths Buildings Albert St.

The Superintendent  
of Police.  
Auckland.

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

Schmidt is on the Executive of the Club.

The following persons ,who were former members of the Club and I understand have resigned from the Club,owing to the trend of the Club,could if approached discreetly,give some information as to the charactor of the Meetings held

I understand some of them are feeling the matter very keen as they are afraid that trouble in the future may ensue,and if so so they do not wish to be mixed up in it.

E,Merz. Colonial Mutual Buildings Queen St.

Mr Ashby Solicitor Town Hall.

Mr Heine C/O N.Z.Rubber wear Southern Cross Bldgs.  
Chancery Lane.

Paul Hansen Union Buildings.

Mr Potkaemper 26 Edward St Arch-hill.

Mr Zimmer Musician Shorts Buildings.

T,Twaites Solicitor,Colonial Mutual Bldgs.(Ex Treasurer)

Professor Algie.University.

Louie Marks N,Z,Credits Ltd Dilworth Buildings.

Sir George Fowlds.

Mr Thedens 34 Jervois Rd or Southern Cross Bldgs.

The present President of the Club is Mr Leuschkte of England St Ponsonby..

The Club holds its meetings in the Overseas League Rooms. Queens Arcade.

*G. H. Lambert.*  
*AS.*

*Det' Stevenson.*

*For discreet enquiry please*

*J. Gill*  
*31/1/34* *Supl*

*The Ch. Detective,*  
*Report herewith.*

*E. Stevenson.*

*Det. 2627.*

*12-2-34.*