

EVACUEE REPORTS:

KLESTADT,

ALBERT

9th February, 1943.

~~SECRET~~  
MEMORANDUM NO. 3 ON ALBERT KLESTADT

*File Klestadt must remain file*

With further reference to my Memoranda Nos. 1 and 2 of December 31st and January 1st on this man, I have now received the following report from a former British Consul who served in Japan during the latter part of K.'s residence there:

"This young man is a professing Jew of German birth. His father made a respectable fortune in Germany (departmental store trade) and brought up his family on luxury lines. Albert was given a good education and allowed to delve thoroughly into hobbies such as photography. The Nazi Party ruined the Klestadt business and Albert came out to Japan to join a first class Jewish firm - Mendelsohn and Lowenthal. He did very well but found there was insufficient scope for his ambitious and forceful personality. A N.E.I. firm appointed him manager of their branch in Osaka and were well satisfied with his work.

"For many years Klestadt has professed anti-Nazi views and there is every reason to believe that his sentiments are genuine. At the beginning of the war he offered his services to the British Authorities and repeatedly pressed to be allowed to serve in any capacity. On general grounds - and not for personal reasons - his services were not accepted.

"He left Japan in the summer of 1941 in the hope of getting a visa for South America or elsewhere but I have no knowledge of what happened to him after he reached Hong Kong. Both at the Colony and in Shanghai he gave information to the Naval Intelligence Officers which impressed them considerably.

"I know that he had, as an experienced yachtsman, very useful information about Kobe harbour and dockyards, etc.

"His colloquial Japanese is said to be very good.

"He became engaged to a Canadian girl - daughter of a Presbyterian Pastor - and acted very correctly in meeting the parents' wishes that the marriage should be postponed. The young lady is, I believe, now in Australia.

"Klestadt has abundant energy, plenty of brains and tremendous self assurance. He prefers to take charge of any organization with which he is connected but reacts to accepted discipline. His knowledge of photography and languages might be particularly useful."

CLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR 06  
20 AUG, 75

DECLASSIFIED PER AR 380-5



In the meantime London have been making separate enquiries and I have now received a telegram from them stating that Klestadt was "said to have been known in Batavia as belonging to N.S.D.A.P." (Nazi party member).

This is not conclusive, and all the other evidence on this young man is in his favour.

While the simplest solution would no doubt be to intern this man for the duration, I feel that his abilities and knowledge of Japan are such that the slight risk of his being a Nazi agent might be worth taking. If I were in your shoes I should put him to work on producing or editing political warfare and propaganda material. If he should be used in intelligence work, I suggest that he only be employed as a free-lance agent, that he should be contacted away from G.H.Q., and that he should be allowed no knowledge of existing intelligence plans, methods or personalities, and that he should on no account be allowed any chance of re-entering enemy territory.

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LIR OR  
20 AUG 75



*File  
Kleistatt Secret file*

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

POSTAL ADDRESS:  
BOX 46, G.P.O., CANBERRA, A.C.T.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:  
CANBERRA, 629; 620;

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:  
"COMPOSITELY,"  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

Canberra, A.C.T., 5th January

1943

D/O

~~TOP SECRET~~

Col. C. G. Roberts,  
Room No.7, 5th Floor,  
Commercial Bank of Australia,  
Queens Street,  
BRISBANE

My dear C. G.,

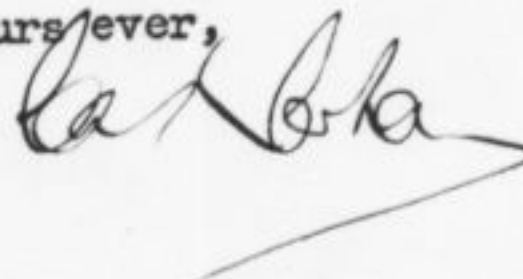
I refer to the subject matter of my last letter to you - I think I mentioned that the secra-phone is in the D.G.'s room, hence the following problem.

2. Will you or G.H.Q. assume full responsibility for the lady and gentleman in question. Are you going to accept responsibility in regard to the Security question affecting the gentleman's presence in this country in the light of the previous information in the files of Security Service.

3. If not, would you offer any objection to Security Service instituting financial enquiries and other security investigations into either or both of the parties concerned - it being understood that any such enquiries would be carried out in a most discreet manner and on a most secret basis.

Kindest regards.

Yours ever,



DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR ON  
20 AUG. 75



~~MOST SECRET~~

Box 46,  
General Post Office,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

2nd January, 1942

D.O.

Colonel C. G. Roberts,  
Room 7, 5th Floor,  
Commercial Bank of Australia,  
Queen Street,  
BRISBANE

My dear C. G.

Referring to our telephone conversation of yesterday, I enclose herewith relevant extracts from a file here: as you see the information was originally received from C.P.T.C

The information was immediately passed from here to W.A., and they replied on the 25th November, 1941.

There is nothing on file after this letter.

Let me know if there is anything else that can be done for you.

New Year.

Meanwhile with very best wishes for the

Yours sincerely,

*W. L. Brown*



1st November, 1941

Extract

"I received your long cable this afternoon... my desire to return is still as strong...but it is a desire to prepare for any emergency that prompts me to be careful. Once I have married you I can no longer be employed in the British Empire, at least not for some time. I can neither work in America or South America. I shall be completely dependent upon you. What if you suddenly had to go off alone to another country?.. Have you heard anything whatsoever from the Argentine? They appear to have been having a bit of anti-Nazi demonstrating. Let us hope that it will be under control before we arrive there. I also see that Fritz Wiedermann, the ex German Consul at San Francisco has arrived in Kobe. That augurs well...." (This extract would appear to indicate that addressee is not a German Jewish refugee but a Nazi)

A further extract reads: "A clash of opinion again and concerned with Labour and Australia and Japan. My aunt and Uncle and I began to discuss Governments. They have an impenetrable barrier about themselves whenever Japan is mentioned. As my father has said ultimately Japan's claim must be acknowledged because they are perfectly legitimate but Uncle Bert wants them obliterated. He can see nothing but exploitation as far as Japanese Trade with Australia is concerned."



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,

Security Service,

Perth, W.A.

S.S.129.

25th November, 1941.

Director,  
Security Service,  
CANBERRA

KLESTADT, Albert - NEAL, Rowena

With reference to memo. N/547 of 23 October 1941 from Security Service, Sydney, in regard to the above named, you are advised that searching enquiries have been made into the activities of these two persons, the main features of which are appended hereto.

It is suggested that an endeavour be made to secure further information concerning KLESTADT who may possibly be a Nazi agent. He is apparently posing as a German-Jewish refugee, but Miss Neal herself states that he is not a Jew.

KLESTADT left Germany for Japan in 1934 and obtained employment with Dreher and Stibbe, importers and general agents. The main office of this firm is at Sourabaya with several branches in Asiatic countries. Klestadt is at present Branch Manager at Manila and in receipt of a salary of £50 per month. He has a brother employed in one of the firm's Japanese branches. Stibbe, one of the partners, arrived in Holland just before it was invaded by Germany and is believed to be still there.

Miss Neal is engaged to Klestadt and is most anxious to visit Manila to marry him. She seems well supplied with money and Klestadt cabled £150 to her while she was in Sydney in March 1941. Her correspondence to Klestadt indicates her pro-Axis sympathies, the following extracts being typical examples:-

- (a) I see that Fritz Wideermann, the exGerman Consul at San Francisco has arrived in Kobe. That augurs well, n'est ce pas?"
- (b) Have you heard anything whatsoever from the Argentine? They appear to have been having a bit of anti-Nazi demonstrating. Let us hope it will be under control before we arrive there"
- (c) "A clash of opinion again and concerned with Labour and Australia and Japan. My Aunt and Uncle and I began to discuss governments. They have an impenetrable barrier about themselves whenever Japan is mentioned. As my father (a clergyman in U.S.A.) has said - 'ultimately Japan claims must be acknowledged because they are perfectly legitimate' but Uncle Bert wants them obliterated. He can see nothing but exploitation as far as Japanese trade with Australia is concerned"
- (d) Miss Neal also made the statement that "she wished the democracies could see other people's side of the trouble as she could them"

Her explanation of the comments made above are discounted by officers of the Special Bureau as unconvincing.

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20 AUG. 75



If would seem that if Klestadt is a genuine refugee from Nazi Tyranny, his finance would hardly write to him in a strain so noticeably pro-Axis and the trend of her remarks indicates that he is incomplete agreement with her views. If then he is a Nazi agent and able yo meet her in Manilla, she would be in a position and frame of mind to disclose valuable information about Australia likely to be of use to the enemy.

Miss Neal is being kept under observation and her correspondence closely watched. Steps are being taken to prevent her leaving Australia.

R.M. Blanx  
Officer in Charge  
Security Service.





MEMORANDUM NO. 2 BY COLONEL WILKINSON ON ALBERT KLESTADT.

Following my Memo. of Dec. 31st 1942, I have received a message from India giving the following information from their records of this man.

1. German Jew Passport with visa "good" until mid-December 1941.
2. Left Germany in 1934 and lived in Kobe for six years. A yachtsman, owning his own boat. Engaged to Miss Rowena Neal, Canadian last known address c/o Hill, Avenmore Terrace, Cottesloe, Perth, Australia.
- ✓ 3. Correspondence between Klestadt and Miss Neal showed both of them to have definitely proaxis sympathies and indicated that they were contemplating visiting Argentine.  
and
4. S.O.I. Hong Kong/British Consul General, Manila, at the end of 1941, reported Klestadt to have pro-British sympathies

1st January 1943.

*W. Wilkinson*  
*Colonel*



Separated "Secret" folder  
"Klestadt" - AVB  
personnel - Not  
to be seen by anyone  
except. Col. R. & Maj. J.

TELEPHONE: B 4437

Officers' Training Depot

IN REPLY QUOTE

NO. \_\_\_\_\_

"CRAIGROYSTON"  
BOWEN TERRACE  
BRISBANE

31/12/42

To:- Col. Roberts

I enclose herewith a report from Calcutta on Albert Klestadt,  
as requested.

*R. Kendall*

Captain, R.N.R.



Copy of Telegram received from Calcutta December 31st.1942.

- "A" ALBERT KLESTADT (,) FORMERLY GERMAN JEWISH PASSPORT WITH  
VISA 'GOOD' UNTIL MID-DECEMBER 1941 STOP
- "B" LEFT GERMANY IN 1934 AND HAS LIVED IN KOBE FOR SIX YEARS  
UP TILL END 1941 STOP
- "C" YACHTSMAN AND FORMERLY HAD A BOAT OF HIS OWN STOP
- "D" ENGAGED TO MISS ROWENA NEAL (,) CANADIAN, LAST KNOWN ADDRESS  
C/O HILL (,) AVERMORE TERRACE (,) COTTESLOO (,) PERTH (,) AUSTRALIA STOP
- "E" CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THESE TWO SHOWED BOTH OF THEM TO  
HAVE DEFINITELY PRO AXIS SYMPATHIES STOP ALSO THAT THEY  
CONTEMPLATED VISITING ARGENTINE STOP
- "F" AT END OF 1941 (,) S.O.I. HONG KONG AND Y.P.C. MANILLA  
REPORTED HIM TO HAVE PRO-BRITISH SYMPATHIES AND HE WAS  
CONSIDERED AS A POSSIBLE AGENT BUT DROPPED ON LEARNING  
INFORMATION GIVEN IN IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING PARAGRAPH STOP



Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 1942.

No I

MEMORANDUM BY COLONEL WILKINSON ON ALBERT KLESTADT.



ALBERT KLESTADT:

German Jew Passport No. 89/1938 issued Kobe 31st August 1938. U.S. Visa No. 10 issued American Consulate Osaka, August 4th, 1941 to enter Philippines as temporary visitor under Section 9 A of Philippines Immigration Act.

During conversations on December 30th 1942 subject gave following particulars of his history.

Born 30th October 1913 at Essen. Parents Walter Klestadt and Clair Klestadt (nee Mayer) - both Jews - divorced - Mother dead - Father married for the third time - present whereabouts unknown as has been estranged from subject. Subject last saw his mother April 1935. She died March 5th 1940 in Germany after German Government had refused her export permit at the last minute to join subject in Japan.

EDUCATION:

At Preparatory School in Essen, then at Lichtwarkschule, Hamburg, from age of 6 to 18 i.e. approximately 1919 - 1931.

After leaving school, subject keen on photography, was apprenticed to a photographic laboratory firm in Hamburg (Josh Schwabroh of Hamburg 1, Spitalerstrasse, 9) then from May 1st 1932 to December 1st 1934 to a similar firm in Berlin (Ed Messter of Berlin W 8, Leipzigerstrasse 110).

CLUBS:

While in Berlin during this time, subject was member of Berliner Schlittschuh Club.

CAREER:

At the beginning of 1935, owing to Hitler's rise to power and subject's consequent fear of the future, he states that he decided to go abroad and selected Japan as requiring no special exit permits and visas. He states that he raised funds for the journey from his family and paid £32:10/- for Third Class passage on the Japanese steamer Haruna Maru, N.Y.K., leaving London for Japan about May 5th 1935.

That he crossed to London, about April 25th, on a Cross Channel steamer from Flushing to Harwich; that his transit landing permit stamped on his Passport at Harwich enabled him to spend the ten days at his disposal in London without reporting to the authorities. Ordinarily this would be required for a stay of two weeks or longer.

~~Career~~

CAREER IN JAPAN.

Subject states that he reached Japan in June - July 1935 and looked for a job unsuccessfully in Kobe and Tokyo, finally however, obtaining employment as follows:-

August 1935 to April 1937.

J. Gerber & Co. of Kobe, Exporters to S. Africa, whose correspondents there are possibly Goldsmith & Co.

Subject worked in Gerbers South African Department, starting at 150 yen, rising to 275 yen per month. He showed me a testimonial from this firm.

May 1st 1937 to May 1st 1938: Seymour-Sheldon Co. of Kobe, a South African firm trading with Japan. General Proprietor Mr McAvis - Far East Manager George Henry Lamb, who subject believes is now serving with British Army in the U.K. Firm's South African address is 20 Howard House, Johannesburg.

Subject's salary with them was 400 to 500 yen per month.

This firm closed down their Japanese house in the latter part of 1938, after which subject states that he obtained a considerably better position as follows:

Early 1939 to August 1941 Dreher & Stibbe of Sourabaya & Kobe. Subject was appointed as representative for Japan at 875-1000 yen per month and showed me his Power of Attorney from Mr Albert Douglas Dreyer of Sourabaya, which seemed to be properly ratified.

OTHER REFERENCES:

In addition to firms and individuals mentioned above, subject stated that he is known to H.A. Graves, former British Acting Consul at Kobe, Mr Allison, former U.S. Consul, Osaka and Mr Roy Melbourne, former U.S. U.S. Vice Consul, Kobe.

I have telegraphed a gist of all this to London in order that reports on subject may be obtained from any of the individuals mentioned, who are not in enemy hands.

I was struck in passing by the quantity, quality and good physical condition of subject's documents and references - remarkable for a man who has been through so much under such trying conditions as his various travels in the Philippines and the escape he describes from the Islands. I commented on this fact and congratulated him on being so different to myself in the preservation of personal references. To this he replied, somewhat sadly, "Ah, but I am a German".

*W. H. Harrison*

Colonel

Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 1942.

