

1941

THOMAS, Carl Richard Walther

At the request of the Superintendent of the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, an intensive investigation of the subject person was undertaken by the Naval Intelligence Service in 1940. This was necessitated by reason of a belief that the Subject, a professor of German at the Academy, was teaching pro-Nazi ideology to the midshipmen.

Before this case was completed, practically every naval district in the continental United States had been called upon for some investigative work. From a coverage standpoint, it is doubted that any other case will surpass this one.

In the final analysis it was found that THOMAS was born in Germany and naturalized at Philadelphia in 1928. Subject was married to a German alien who, at the time of investigation, was applying for U. S. Citizenship. THOMAS was employed by several schools in Pennsylvania between 1925 and 1934, the last of which was Dickinson College. His resignation was requested by that institution because of the fact that he was living beyond his means and was embarrassing the school with his unpaid bills and irresponsible financial transactions.

In 1934 THOMAS was employed by the Naval Academy. At as early a date as 1934, the entire community of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, was alarmed by this employment because of the expressed pro-Nazi views of the Subject while at Dickinson College. Information was received during the course of the investigation from a former student at the Academy alleging that the Subject offered to get the informant enrolled in the German Naval College if he (informant) would agree to forswear his allegiance to the United States. This data led to contact with all of the midshipmen who had studied under the Subject during that period. It was also developed that THOMAS was a member of the Deutches Haus in Baltimore, Maryland, and took an active part in the affairs of that organization. At the Academy, Subject was critical of certain routine and on at least one occasion lauded the way things were done in Germany. Another informant stated that during 1937, the Subject accompanied the midshipmen on their summer cruise which included a visit to Germany. He was reported as pro-German at that time and very unpopular among the officers and instructors aboard ship.

In connection with the Subject's former employment at Dickinson College, it was ascertained that he was regarded with suspicion by the head of the German department, a man who had formerly been in the United States Consular Service. Subject was stated to have been the fountain-head of Nazi propoganda at this school and was instrumental in securing ardent pro-Nazi exchange students to study there. He was further stated to preach the superiority of Hitler and Germany on every pretext and occasion. Later, Subject stated that when a resident of Hamburg, Germany, he had been a member of the Nationalist and Jew-baiting organization.

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By letter dated 23 October 1940, the Subject was informed that his teaching contract was being terminated for cause, specifically, as he was in communication with individuals who were known to be sympathizers with a foreign government and because he had brought and would continue to bring discredit to the United States Naval Academy and the Naval Service. Despite protestations of innocence and persecution, the usual recourse of those who find that their questionable activities have been discovered, the Subject was discharged upon the completion of his contract in May 1941. All data was thereafter made available to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for any additional investigation which might be necessary.

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