

FORM N NI-139	ORIGINATOR	SUBJECT	ROUTED TO	INITIAL						
C14026 vk	DIO 8ND	1. HOFMOKEL, Frederick Wilhelm 2.	B-7-G FEB 16 P.M.							
DATE OF LETTER	ORIGINATOR'S FILE NUMBER	O. N. I. FILE NUMBERS								
2/14/42	A8-5(16-dlp)	1. A8-5/QQ	2.							
DATE REC'D O.N.I.	ADDRESSED TO	REFERENCES-ENCLOSURES-ENDORSEMENTS								
2/16/42	DNI	Ref: (a) Various 8ND Cards, same subj Enc: (A) Copy of original rpt on subj made by MID Officer, Fort Brown, Texas								
ENCLOSURES		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>SECONDARY ROUTING</td> <td>BY</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			SECONDARY ROUTING	BY				
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WITH	WITHOUT									
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FEB 20 A.M.		FEB 20 1942		IN (DATE)		IN (DATE)		IN (DATE)		IN (DATE)	
TO (1)	INITIAL	TO (2)	INITIAL	TO (3)	INITIAL	TO (4)	INITIAL	TO (5)	INITIAL	TO (6)	INITIAL
B-5	HAB	B-8	PAW	FINISHED FILE..		FEB 22 1942					
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2/20/42		FEB 21 1942									

COMMENTS

CARDED BY B-7(G) TO: WDS 7-10-11-15- PB 1

# CONFIDENTIAL

1. O. N. I. ROUTING SLIP --- FINISHED FILE COPY --- DO NOT DETACH

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DECLASSIFIED  
 Authority: NND 9070217

IN REPLY ADDRESS NOT THE  
SIGNER OF THIS LETTER, BUT  
COMMANDANT, EIGHTH NAVAL  
DISTRICT, NEW FEDERAL BUILD-  
ING, NEW ORLEANS, LA.

REFER TO No.

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH NAVAL DISTRICT  
NEW FEDERAL BUILDING  
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

B7C  
CONFIDENTIAL

ONI MAIL ROOM

1942 FEB 16 AM 11:22

Cr-14-40

A8-5  
(16-dlp)

February 14, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

From: District Intelligence Officer, 8ND.  
To : Director of Naval Intelligence.  
Subject: HOFMOKEL, Frederick Wilhelm.  
Reference: (a) Various 8ND Cards, same subject.  
Enclosure: (A) Copy of original report on subject made by MID  
Officer, Fort Brown, Texas.

1. Enclosure (A), in the preparation of which the Officer  
in Charge, Brownsville Branch, assisted, is forwarded for information,  
and contains all available material on subject in the Brownsville Office  
and the MID Office at Fort Brown.

2. The F.B.I. advises that they have subject under sur-  
veillance.

  
G. T. HOWARD.

# COPY

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1941 FEB 16 AM 11:22

Subject: Suspected Activities of Frederick W. Hofmokol.

1. Pursuant to the verbal request of Major John W. Naylor, Fifty-Sixty Cavalry Brigade, Fort Mc Intosh, Texas, the following is a complete condensed summary of the information available at this station on Frederick W. Hofmokol, Manager of the Brownsville Navigation District.

2. Name was originally Fredrich Wilhelm Hofmakel. Subject changed his name to present spelling as noted in subject, by order of the United States District Court, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Subject was born on the twenty-first day of October, 1897, at Bremen, Germany. He entered the United States sometime in 1924.

Marital Status: Married. Wife: Elsie, (Elsa) Hofmokol. The couple have one child.

Residence: 33 El Retiro Circle, Los Ebanos, Brownsville, Texas. Attitude: Prior to February, 1941, subjects attitude was audibly Pro-German. Subject had engaged in numerous loud arguments concerning German participation in the present war. At this time, he was much too incautious in his remarks to be of any assistance to any subversive movement.

Business Data: Subject owns his own home, which cost approximately \$6,000, and is apparently free of any financial incumbrances. Hofmokol purchased approximately sixty-five acres of good property in the vicinity of Brownsville from a defunct bank during the year of 1940. His income is \$8,000 a year and his credit excellent. He pays his local accounts promptly. He is in complete control of the Port of Brownsville as manager of the Port Authority. He is responsible only to the Trustees of the project, who apparently admire him, defend him from adverse criticism, and seem to do anything that Hofmokol wishes. It is apparent that Hofmokol is talented as far as his business capabilities are concerned. This is one source of suspicion, since he seems to be "too good" for the small job which he occupies. Attention is invited to the size of Subjects salary in consideration of the fact that the Port of Brownsville has handled less than six ships during the past year.

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Subject: (Cont.) - Suspected Activities of Frederick W. Hofmokol  
FEB 16 AM 11:22

3. Subject came to Brownsville in May, 1936, to assume charge of the Brownsville Port, which was then nearing completion. Prior to his arrival in Brownsville, he was Superintendent of Municipal Docks at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Subject admits he was executive Officer and Commander of a German U-boat during World War #1. He boasted early in 1941 that he had seen action against the Allies on various occasions in the first war. Subject has been reported to have visited every German boat which entered the Port of Brownsville, prior to the outbreak of the war. Subject is a Naturalized Citizen; is very smart, and has lately been exceptionally careful in his remarks in public. In addition, he has recently attempted to cultivate several Jewish people, which is in contrast to his Pro-German Anti-Jewish attitude of a year ago. This is a personal observation of the undersigned, who has known Subject for almost a year and a half. During the early part of 1941, prior to the expulsion from the United States of German Consular Officials, Subject carried on extensive correspondence with the office of the German Consul in New Orleans. In the spring of 1939, Subject's wife, Elisa, left the United States for a visit to relatives in Germany, over the summer. This appeared peculiar at the time, in as much as International Relations were exceptionally strained in 1939. Unconfirmed reports indicated that Mrs. Hofmokol has a brother who is well up in the Nazi Official Party. Subject departed from New Orleans, by air, on October 15, 1939, for New York, to meet his wife who was returning from Germany. Shortly after Subject and his wife arrived back in Brownsville, it was noted that Mrs. Hofmokol was definitely and openly Pro-Nazi. Shortly before war was declared, a reliable informant reported to this office that Hofmokol boarded the last German boat to visit the Port of Brownsville and spent considerable time with the Captain. It was further reported that Hofmokol and the boat Captain went to Monterrey for a conference with Paul Dietrich. The pair returned on the following day. This boat was a freighter, SS Annubis. It was further reported by another informant that two German sailors from this freighter, went to the Brownsville Navigation Office, supposedly to obtain charts of the channel. This appeared peculiar at the time, because charts were obtained at the Port itself, and the District Office is some ten miles away. This office has complete statements of several reliable informants in Brownsville, one of whom has known Hofmokol for a good many years. This informant states that in April, 1940, Hofmokol made the following statement in public, "All the French women should be bred by young Germans, as France needs new blood". In addition, this informant stated Subject remarked, "The German way of handling all types of problems was the best, particularly labor problems, because in Germany the unemployment problems, as well as other labor problems, are no worry". At the time of the invasion of Poland,

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1941 FEB 16 AM 11:22

Subject: (cont.) - Suspected Activities of Frederick W. Hofmokol.

Subject stated several times that he approved of the actions taken by Hitler, since he thought that Germany was entitled to those possessions. Subject further stated that Germany sent people into the countries, to be occupied later, to buy up mortgages against Jews, so that they would be forced out of business. During the period April to August, 1940, Subject openly favored the persecution of the Jews in Germany. At present, Subject fraternizes openly with various Jews in Brownsville, going out of his way to cultivate their friendship. One informant of this office stated he made a business trip with the Subject to Dallas, Texas, on July 7, 1941, and that Subject then had dinner with a Hans Wagner, who, it is understood, was later apprehended for collecting funds for Germany. Wagner was at the time, working for the Simpson-Lange Cotton Company, Cotton Exchange Building, Dallas, Texas. One informant, who has been connected with the Customs and Brokerage business in this area, states that subject changed his attitude during the past year mainly to facilitate his wife's application for citizenship. Mrs. Hofmokol was granted citizenship on December 6, 1941. This informant also stated that he was acquainted in a business way with Edgar Burchard, (See G-s-201 Burchard); informant stated Burchard frequently said Hofmokol was no good and should be put out of his present position. This is particularly strange, in view of the fact that both Burchard and Hofmokol are both Germans. This informant further stated that he knew the present business of the Port was not sufficient to pay Hofmokol his present high salary and that Subject had engineered the appointment of the Port Commission in order to retain his position and salary. Subject is very active in politics where the Port is concerned. Subject has recently taken credit for the establishment of the Brownsville Shipbuilding Corporation to build ambulance boats and sub-chasers. Several of the authorities of the Boat Company have become active partners without any apparent financial resources.

4. Subject was closely associated with all the Officials of the W. R. Davis interests, prior to Mr. Davis's death. (W.R. Davis was given considerable publicity in connection with supplying oil to the Axis partners during 1940.)

5. Several business connections of Hofmokol have stated that many shipping concerns in the country were acquainted with Hofmokol's unscrupulous and dis-loyal attitude and did not think he was safe to do business with.

6. In March, 1941, an informant who is usually reliable, stated that Hofmokol said, "It would not be long before the Internal workings of the United States would fold up, because of existing Communism in the Government and the lack of discipline among the personnel". He stated further that, "Government personnel did not know how to perform their jobs and the majority of the Government employees were incompetent".

(3)

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Subject: (cont.) - Suspected Activities of Frederick W. Hoffmeyer

FEB 16 AM 11:22

7. Recently Subject was very much interested in the submarine which was reported off Corpus Christi, on the date of January 28, 1942. He stated he did not think this was a German submarine and tried to belittle several comments of others which implied that the submarine was German. Subject seems very much interested in activities in Monterrey, Mexico and loses no opportunities in questioning any of his acquaintances who have been there.

8. Shortly after the start of war, Subject came to this office with a request that troops be sent to the Port of Brownsville for protection of the Port. At that time he appeared very much interested in determining the size of the garrison at Fort Brown and where security detachments had been posted.

9. It is the understanding of this office that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has made a complete study of the subject and has extensive data on file.

(4)

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1942 FEB 16 AM 11:22

A8-5  
(16-dlp)

February 14, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

From: District Intelligence Officer, SND.  
To : Director of Naval Intelligence.  
Subject: HOFMOKEL, Frederick Wilhelm.  
References: (a) Various SND Cards, same subject.  
Enclosure: (A) Copy of original report on subject made by MID  
Officer, Fort Brown, Texas.

1. Enclosure (A), in the preparation of which the Officer in Charge, Brownsville Branch, assisted, is forwarded for information, and contains all available material on subject in the Brownsville Office and the MID Office at Fort Brown.

2. The F.B.I. advises that they have subject under surveillance.

G. T. HOWARD.

Op-16-B-7(G)  
A8-5/00  
CONFIDENTIAL  
Serial No. 01573716

**CONFIDENTIAL**

JUN 25 1942

MEMORANDUM

From: Director of Naval Intelligence.  
To : District Intelligence Officer,  
Eighth Naval District.

SUBJECT: HOFMEKEL, Frederick Wilhelm  
Brownsville, Texas  
Superintendent of Port.

Reference: (a) Various ND-8 cards same SUBJECT.

*gdf*  
Op-16-F-7

1. From a thoroughly reliable source, information has been received to the effect that one Edgar BUCHARD (alias Ernesto BURCHARDT) undertakes frequent trips to Matamoras in his own private plane. BUCHARD is alleged to be the second ranking Nazi in Monterrey, Mexico, and when at Matamoras, is said to contact SUBJECT who purportedly has access to complete knowledge of all boats sailing in the Gulf of Mexico.

*(K)*  
Op-16-B-1

2. The paraphrase of the above information has been given to the San Antonio Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

*W*  
Op-16 B-7-F.M.  
*W*

3. If not already contacted, it is suggested that one Sidney WALKER of Brownsville may be a helpful informant - none too reliable - for obtaining information concerning SUBJECT.

Op-16-B-7(G)

4. The above is forwarded for your information and action deemed appropriate in the premises.

*W S W*

Wallace S. Wharton,  
By direction.

Dictated June 24, 1942 BASIC CORRESPONDENCE  
Dictated by Lt. Belin NOT FURNISHED FILES  
Typed by E. Bender

*6/26/42*

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(EC) PL-7/LL  
Op-16-8-7  
AS-5/40  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
Serial 01882616

~~H~~

20 1944

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

From: The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.  
To: The Commandant, Eighth Naval District.

SUBJECT: ROSENBERG, Frederick Wilhelms

Reference: (a) Conf. Ltr. Com Fight to WFO, dated July 27, 1942.

1. The situation outlined in reference (a) and accompanying enclosures has been reviewed by the Office of Naval Intelligence and indicates the need for combined action by proper authorities charged with investigating and prosecuting violations of the various national security acts.

2. It is recommended that a conference be held between officers of the District Intelligence Officer's staff, the Military Intelligence Service, the United States Coast Guard Officer, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service to

- (a) Clear and evaluate the information against the Subject.
- (b) Outline spheres of investigation to determine the accuracy of doubtful information and to develop such other information as would be required for protective action and prosecution.
- (c) Determine what protective action might be properly taken at once if evaluation of present information clearly indicates the need for such action.

Op-16-R-1

Op-16-R-5

Op-16-R-8

Op-16-R-7

3. Files in the Office of Naval Intelligence indicate that the District Intelligence Officer of the Eighth Naval District has all the information on the subject contained in ORI file. Review shows, however, that there are many missing gaps and it is felt that the conference suggested in paragraph two will enable the closing of the gaps to be accomplished as well as to bring a general evaluation of the evidence and discussion of the plans of procedure.

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CONFIDENTIAL

(80) P2-9/LX

Op-16-3-7

AB-5/00

CONFIDENTIAL

Serial 0182616

4. Headquarters of the U.S. Coast Guard concurs in this plan and calls attention to the authority conferred on the Captain of the Port to deny access to the waterfront. It is felt that such denial, if deemed advisable, would impair the subject's ability to gain information concerning ships' movements even though he might still gain some information of ships' movements from the environs.

5. It is requested that the Office of Naval Intelligence be advised of action taken in this case.

*and*

*J. B. W.*

J. B. W. Keller,  
By direction.

Redictated August 19, 1942  
 Redictated by Commander Wharton  
 Retyped by R. Blalock

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 Authority: **NDP 70217**

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(EC)FL-7/LL

Op-16-B-7

AB-5/QQ

CONFIDENTIAL

Serial No. 01882616

CONFIDENTIAL

From: The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.  
To: The Commandant, Eighth Naval District

SUBJECT: HOFMOKEL, Frederick Wilhelm

Reference: (a) Confidential Letter, Com. Eighth to VCNO, dated  
7/27/42.

1. The situation outlined in reference (a) and accompanying enclosures has been reviewed by the Office of Naval Intelligence and indicates the need for combined action by proper authorities charged with investigating and prosecuting violations of the various national security acts.

2. It is recommended that a conference be held between offices of the District Intelligence Officer's staff, the Military Intelligence Service, the United States Coast Guard Officer, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Immigration and Naturalization Service to

- a. Clear and evaluate the information against the Subject.
- b. Outline spheres of investigation to determine the accuracy of doubtful information and to develop such other information as would be required for protective action and prosecution.
- c. Determine what protective action might be properly taken at once if evaluation of present information clearly indicates the need for such action.

3. Headquarters of the United States Coast Guard concurs in this plan and calls attention to the authority conferred on the Captain of the Port to deny access to the waterfront. Such action would not necessarily preclude the Subject from obtaining and improperly transmitting information concerning ship movements unless followed by legal action for violation of espionage and subversion acts and subsequent removal from area.

Op-16-B-1

*AB.*

Op-16-B-5

Op-16-B-8

*W.*

Op-16-B-7

*Rewritten 8/19/42*

CONFIDENTIAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

~~4.~~ It is requested that the Office of Naval Intelligence be advised of action taken in this case.

J. B. W. WALLER,  
by direction.

Dictated By Commander Wharton.  
Dictated August 17, 1942  
Typed by M. Maurice

**CONFIDENTIAL**

(SC) P1-7/LL  
Op-16--B-7  
A8-5/qq  
CONFIDENTIAL  
Serial 01882616

CONFIDENTIAL

4. Headquarters of the U.S. Coast Guard concurs in this plan and calls attention to the authority conferred on the Captain of the Port to deny access to the waterfront. It is felt that such denial, if deemed advisable, would impair the subject's ability to gain information concerning ship movements even though he might remain in the office of Port Director of the Port of Brownsville.

*from the census* *still gain same info w/ modern of ships*

5. It is requested that the Office of Naval Intelligence be advised of action taken in this case.

J. B. W. Waller,  
By direction.

B-7

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DECLASSIFIED  
Authority MND 76 2017

In reply address not the  
signer of this letter, but  
Commandant, Eighth Naval  
District, Federal Building,  
New Orleans, La.

Refer to No.  
A8-5/B-7  
(16-cmh)  
Serial Number

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH NAVAL DISTRICT  
FEDERAL BUILDING  
0295 NEW ORLEANS, LA.

676  
RECEIVED  
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06-5/00

1942 JUL 29 11 AM  
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27 JUL 1942

From: The Commandant, EIGHTH Naval District.  
To: Vice Chief of Naval Operations,  
(Director of Naval Intelligence).  
Subject: HOFMOKEL, Frederick Wilhelm.  
References: (a) Various cards, same subject.  
(b) Various cards, BURCHARD, Edgar.  
(c) Conf. Memo., DNI to DIO, 8ND, same subject, 6-25-42,  
File: Op-16-B-7(G), A8-5/QQ, Serial No. 01573716.  
(d) Comdt. Coast Guard, ltr., to District Coast Guard  
Officers and Captains of the Port - Subject: "Protec-  
tion of vessels, harbors, ports, and waterfront  
facilities.", dated 4-15-42.  
Enclosure: (A) Copy Conf. Ltr., OIC, Brownsville Branch, to DIO,  
8ND, 7-2-42.

1. Enclosure (A) is forwarded herewith.

2. Enclosure (A) represents a general summary of an extensive dossier which this office has on file concerning subject. It will be noted that the aforementioned enclosure concludes with a recommendation that subject be removed from his position as Civilian Port Director for the Port of Brownsville. In this recommendation Captain Carl F. Schupp, Post Intelligence Officer for Fort Brown, and Lt. Andrew Johansen, USCG, Captain of the Port at Brownsville, concur.

3. In view of the fact that the office of Civilian Port Director is controlled by the Brownsville Navigation District Commission, the latter not being under the jurisdiction of the command of this district, this office considered the feasibility of recommending to the Coast Guard that subject be denied access to the port. This action could be taken by the Captain of the Port under authority granted by Reference (d). It might create an awkward situation, however, in view of the support given subject by the Brownsville Commission. It has not yet been possible to trace overt acts of a subversive nature to subject which could be used as the basis for criminal prosecution.

4. From the time subject first arrived in Brownsville in 1936 his public utterances dovetailed with propaganda activities of Nazi Germany, for whom subject until December 7, 1941, was openly sympathetic. He boasted of the fact that as a German U-Boat commander during the last war he saw action against the Allies on many occasions. Since December 7, 1941, subject has not been outspoken in sympathy for the Nazi cause, but many individuals in Brownsville who know him intimately are of the opinion that his present attitude of "civic minded Americanism" is a pretense under which his true sentiment of loyalty to Germany is concealed.

A8-5/B-7  
(16-cmh)  
Serial Number  
Subject:

0295

CONFIDENTIAL

HOFMOKEL, Frederick Wilhelm.

27 JUL 1942

5. Before and after December 7, 1941, as disclosed by Enclosure (A) and references, subject has had numerous German contacts among which are included Nazi espionage and subversive suspects. Prominent among these was the late William R. Davis who handled the sale of oil to the Axis powers and espoused a negotiated peace with Nazi Germany.

6. At the time Enclosure (A) was prepared the Brownsville Branch did not have the benefit of Reference (c) consisting of a recent memorandum from the Director of Naval Intelligence which states in substance that one Edgar Burchard takes frequent trips to Matamoros in a private plane at which point he contacts subject who crosses the border into Mexico from Brownsville. Burchard, who is described by this reference as the second ranking Nazi in Monterrey, Mexico, is undoubtedly the same as Edgar BURCHARD, who is reported to have engaged in the smuggling of arms into Mexico in association with a leading Nazi espionage agent, George NICOLAUS. Edgar BURCHARD is a brother of Klaus BURCHARD, who likewise is violently pro-Nazi and the chief owner of Casa HOLCK Company in Monterrey, the latter company having been on the United States blacklist for a good many months. According to information received from the U. S. Customs Officer at the Port of Entry, Brownsville, Texas, the subject frequently crosses the border to Matamoros, Mexico, and when he does so he uses the old railroad bridge in preference to the bridge normally used by the general public.

7. In view of subject's previously expressed sentiment and his contacts with persons regarded as subversive suspects, the continued access of subject as Civilian Port Director to information regarding the movements of ships to and from the Port of Brownsville and along coast-wise routes, is a matter of vital concern.

8. Advice in the premises is requested.

*F. T. Leighton*  
F. T. LEIGHTON

Enc. (1)

cc: District Coast Guard Officer

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A8-5/Information,  
jeb.

1942 JUL 29 PM 1 08

2 July 1942.

From: Officer in Charge, Brownsville Branch.  
To: District Intelligence Officer, 8ND.  
Subject: HOFMOKEL, Frederick Wilhelm.  
(1) Summary of Information re.  
(2) Recommendations re.  
References: (a) Various 8ND and Bvl. Br. Cards, same subject.  
(b) Various Teletype Messages, same subject.  
(c) Copy of MID report forwarded by Bvl. Br. Office,  
same subject, dated 7 February 1942.

1. Subject, a pro-Nazi suspect, was born October 21, 1897, in Bremen, Germany and entered the United States in 1924. Subject and subject's wife, Elsa HOFMOKEL, are both naturalized United States citizens, have a 13 year old daughter and live at 33 El Retiro Circle, Los Ebanos, Brownsville, Texas. Subject is Civilian Port Director for the Port of Brownsville, employed at a salary of \$700.00 per month by the Brownsville Navigation District Commissioners, Emmett DODD, Chairman, Henry BELL AND J. W. ENGLISH. Subject has been credited with obtaining a big increase in port and warehouse business. Subject is free of any financial incumbrances and has never been economically embarrassed. Since coming to Brownsville in 1936, subject has been loud in his praise of the German way of Government but since December 7, 1942, subject has evidenced a different attitude. Subject's superficial renunciation of his former pro-Nazi and anti-Jewish sympathies has been in favor of a policy of over-ardent and civic-minded Americanism. Sympathies of subject's wife have closely paralleled his own. The above named Port Commissioners have defended subject from adverse criticism because of subject's experience and talents concerning Port business. It is quite apparent that subject is highly intelligent, shrewd, alert and competent.

2. The information regarding subject collected by this office appears to be prompted by the desire of loyal informants to remove what is considered a potential danger to local security.

3. There is set forth below a list of reports and statements regarding subject with the source of information in each case indicated.

ENCLOSURE (A)



CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: HOFMOKEL, Frederick Wilhelm, (Cont'd)

(1) In 1941, subject admitted he was an executive Officer and Commander of a German & Boat during the first World War, boasting that he had seen action against the Allies on many occasions during the war.  
(Source: IO, Ft. Brown, Brownsville, Texas.)

(2) In the Spring of 1939, subject's wife visited relatives in Germany at a time when International relations were strained. Reports indicate that subject's wife has a brother in Germany who is a high Nazi Official. It was noted when subject's wife returned to Brownsville in the Fall of 1939, she evidenced definite pro-Nazi sympathies.  
(Source: MID & USIS Records.)

(3) Subject was closely associated with the W.R.DAVIS interests prior to Mr. DAVIS'S death. W. R. DAVIS was reported by ONI, Washington, to be implicated in a deal for supplying oil to the Axis powers during 1940.  
(Source: James PAGE - Brownsville Merchant.)

(4) At the time of the invasion of Poland, subject stated that he approved of the action taken by Hitler; that Germany was entitled to those possessions. Subject further stated that Germany sent people into the countries prior to occupation in order to buy up mortgages against the Jews, thus forcing them out of business.  
(Source: IO, Ft. Brown, Brownsville, Texas)

(5) Subject carried on extensive correspondence with the office of the German Consul in New Orleans, and visited the German Consul there several times.  
(Source: Mr. Sidney WALKER, Mgr. Port Compress Co., Brownsville.)

(6) During the Summer of 1940, subject openly favored the persecution of the Jews in Germany.  
(Source: Records of MID, Ft. Brown, Brownsville, Texas.)

(7) Subject has recently attempted to become friendly with several local Jewish people which is in contrast to his pre-war attitude.  
(Source: Intelligence Officer, Ft. Brown, Brownsville, Texas.)

(8) An infomant considered to be reliable, stated that in April 1940, subject made the following statements in public; "All the French women should be bred to young Germans as France needs new blood. The German way of handling all types of problems is the best, particularly labor problems, as in Germany the unemployment as well as other labor problems are no worry."  
(Source: IO, Ft. Brown, Brownsville, Texas.)

ENCLOSURE (A)

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority: NND 76 7817

Subject: HOFMOKEL, Frederick Wilhelm. (Cont'd)

(9) A reliable informant reported that subject boarded the last German boat to visit the Port of Brownsville in 1941, and accompanied the boat captain to Monterrey, Mexico for a conference with Paul DIETRICH. Paul DIETRICH, alias Arthur DIETRICH, is reported to have been, prior to his expulsion from Mexico, propaganda director for the Nazis in Mexico and a Son-in-law of Himmler, Chief of German Gestapo.

(Source: S. Anderson - Longshoresman, Port Brownsville.)

(10) It was reliably reported that two German sailors from the SS ANUDIS, in 1941, contacted subject at his office in Brownsville in order to obtain charts of the channel when such charts were available at the Port. It is believed their mission was for some other purpose.

(Source: Sidney WALKER - Mgr. Brownsville Port Compress Co.)

(11) An informant stated he made a business trip with subject to Dallas, Texas July 7, 1941; that subject had dinner with Hans WAGNER who was later apprehended for collecting funds for the support of Nazism.

(Source: Mr. Sidney WALKER - Mgr. Brownsville Port Compress Co.)

(12) An informant stated that subject changed his attitude during the year 1941 in order to facilitate his wife's application for citizenship. Subject's wife was granted citizenship December 6, 1941.

(Source: Gilbert J. PHILLEN - Brownsville Customs Broker.)

(13) In March 1941, an informant considered reliable quoted HOFMOKEL as saying, "It will not be long before the internal workings of the U.S. will fold up because of existing communism in the Government and the lack of discipline among the personnel. Government personnel does not know how to perform their jobs and the majority of Governmental employees are incompetent.

(Source: Gilbert J. PHILLEN - Brownsville Customs Broker.)

(14) Subject maintains an active interest in the activities in Monterrey, Mexico and loses no opportunity in questioning any of his acquaintances who have been there. Monterrey, Mexico has a large pro-Nazi faction.

(Source: Confidential informant #7 - Brownsville, Texas.)

(15) Shortly after the start of the present war, subject visited Ft. Brown, Brownsville, Texas and appeared very much interested in determining the size of the garrison and where security detachments had been positioned.

(Source: IO, Ft. Brown, Brownsville, Texas.)

ENCLOSURE (A)

-3-

Subject: HOFMOKEL, Frederick Wilhelm (Cont'd)

(16) Subject was observed at the Brownsville Municipal Airport during the recent movement of Lease Lend Aircraft for Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Chile, and Ecuador, On two different occasions when Brazilian Aircraft were departing, subject remained at the airport two to three hours on each occasion without having any apparent business there.  
(Source: Sgt. VERGOT, Asst. to IO, Ft. Brown, Brownsville, Texas.)

(17) On March 28, 1942, at the Officer's Club, Fort Brown, subject stated to Lieut. (jg) Barton I-V(S), and Capt Carl F. Schupp, IO, Ft. Brown, that he, subject, was responsible for placing a Captain of the Port at Brownsville; that subject indicated that he was on the "inside" with respect to Naval and maritime matters. That subject expressed much interest in Port Defense installations.  
(Source: Indicated.)

(18) On the 28th of May 1942, a confidential informant considered to be reliable reported that she had overheard conversations in her place of business which indicated an extremely disloyal attitude on the part of Elsa HOFMOKEL, wife of subject. Informant stated that subject should not be employed in his present position and expressed surprise that the U.S. Government would permit subject to remain in such capacity. Informant further stated that subject was too smart to "be caught in the act" but that it was common knowledge that subject was a high-up director of pro-Nazi activities.  
(Source: Confidential Informant #7).

(19) On June 10, 1942, an unconfirmed report from an informant considered reliable stated that subject had a P.O. Box in Matamoros, Mexico where he received his mail; also that subject's wife was in possession of extensive photographic equipment.  
(Source: Mr. TABOR - Parking Lot Mgr., Brownsville, Texas.)

(20) On June 12, 1942, U.S. Customs Officers at the Port of Entry, Brownsville, Texas reported to this office that subject has been crossing the border to Matamoros, Mexico frequently during the past six weeks; that subject did not cross the main normally traveled bridge but always traveled across the old railroad bridge.  
(Source: Indicated.)

(21) On June 19, 1942, Judge Oscar DANCY, Cameron County Judge, Brownsville, Texas, came to this office and reported that L. R. CRAWFORD of San Benito, Texas, a reputable honest and reliable citizen, had quoted HOFMOKEL as saying "When the war is over this country will be shot to hell and then I am going to return to Germany."  
(Source: Indicated.)

ENCLOSURE (A)

-4-

Subject: HOFMOKEL, Frederick Wilhelm. (Cont'd)

(22) Thompson CLOUGH, Rt. #2, Brownsville, Texas, ex-service man, came to the Brownsville Branch office June 23, 1942, and stated that subject used his influence in favor of employing Germans at the Brownsville Port and the Brownsville Ship Building Corp. and that Americans were not preferred for employment. Informant requested information as to why subject, with his known background, could be retained in his present position. (Source: Indicated.)

(23) The OIC, Brownsville Field Station, Office of Censorship, reported to his office June 29, 1942, that subject had an unlisted phone #999; that this phone was in addition to subject's res. phone #236 and subject's business phone #198, which are listed. (Source: John G. HODGES, Ens. USNR, OIC, Brownsville Censorship Station.)

(24) On June 30, 1942, V. B. Nelson of Brownsville, Texas reported to this office that in December 1941, following the U.S. Navigation District; that on one occasion a car drove up and one occupant proceeded to take pictures of all Port facilities. That he remonstrated with occupant and succeeded in destroying the film. That occupant, of German appearance and accent, told informant that he knew his boss, HOFMOKEL, and that informant would lose his job. Informant lost his job two days later for performance of his duty with respect to security regulations. (Source: Indicated.)

4. The foregoing indicates to this office that subject is a potential danger to the Naval Establishment in his present position of Port Director; also that subject is detrimental to local moral in the Brownsville Area.

5. It has not yet been possible to trace overt acts of a subversive nature to subject, which could be used as a basis for criminal prosecution. However, it is believed that such should not be necessary in order to remove subject from a position which places him "on the inside" regarding ship movements, cargo handling, warehouse storage, oil and tank farm activities and all other port business including security features.

6. Based upon reports listed in paragraph #3, as evaluated by this office in paragraph #4, it is recommended that subject be removed from his present position as Civilian Port Director for the Port of Brownsville, Texas.

7. On June 30, 1942, Captain Carl F. SCHUPP, Post Intelligence Officer, Fort Brown informed this office that due to subject's background and pro-Nazi sympathies, his office concurred in the OIC's Brownsville, recommendation for removal of subject from subject's present position of Port Director for the Port of Brownsville.

ENCLOSURE (A)

RECORDED - INDEXED - FILED

Subject: HOFMOKEL, Frederick Wilhelm. (Cont'd)

6. Lieut. Andrew JOHANSEN, U.S.C.G., Captain of the Port at Brownsville, Texas reported June 30, 1942, that subject had never failed to cooperate with his office because in his opinion "subject was afraid to do otherwise." Lieut. JOHANSEN further stated that his office concurred in the OIC's, Brownsville, recommendation for removal of subject from the position of Director of the Port at Brownsville, Texas; that all reports which had reached his office indicated that subject was unquestionably an axis sympathizer, and a potential danger to the security of the Port.

(Signed) O. A. Toole  
Lieut. USNR

cc:Zone 6.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**WAR DEPARTMENT**

**WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF**

**MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION G-2**

**WASHINGTON**

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MID 201 Hofmokol, Frederick Wilhelm

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE:

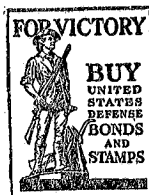
Subject: Frederick W. Hofmokol.

1. The Military Intelligence Division has been advised that an independent and thoroughly reliable source has determined that the number two Nazi in Monterrey, Mexico, Edgar Burchard, alias Ernesto Buchardt, makes frequent trips by his private plane to Matamoras where he contacts Frederick W. Hofmokol, Superintendent of the Port of Brownsville, who has complete information on all boat sailings in the Gulf of Mexico. In this connection attention is invited to a report of investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation at San Antonio on January 2, 1942 by Special Agent Robert W. Fisher, Title: Frederick Wilhelm Hofmokol, with aliases et al. This report was brought to the attention of Commander Thayer of the Office of Naval Intelligence on May 2, 1942 by Captain McLeod of the Military Intelligence Division.
2. There are forwarded herewith copies of summaries of information received by the Military Intelligence Division with reference to the Subject. A summary of the information in the files of the Military Intelligence Division is also enclosed.
3. In view of the recent reliable report that Hofmokol is contacting a Nazi agent in Mexico, his continued employment in a position where he has access to information concerning the sailings of United States and Allied vessels is not considered desirable by the Military Intelligence Division although it is recognized that his activities are under the strict supervision of the Captain of the Port.
4. It is therefore recommended that your office take the necessary steps to remove Hofmokol from his position as Superintendent of the Port of Brownsville, Texas.

*G. V. Strong*  
GENO. V. STRONG,  
Major General,  
A. C. of S., G-2.

Enclosures:

- Cpy MID S. of I. 2/27/42
- Cpy 8th CA S. of I. 6/22/42
- Cpy 8th CA S. of I. 6/26/42



**CONFIDENTIAL**

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority: NND 762027

August 5, 1942

B-8 Comment re Hofmokol, Friederich Wilhelm, in connection with material on Routing Slips D53736 and D58848.

With regard to B-5 comments, it is obviously desirable that any action in this matter should be based on ~~the~~ careful study of all available information. In view of the recommendation of the officer-in-charge of the Brownsville Branch Intelligence Office that subject person be removed from his position and in view of the latest report in the matter from M.I.S., indicating that Hofmokol has been in contact with Nazis residing in Mexico, it would seem highly advisable that immediate action be taken to prevent Hofmokol from acquiring possession of any information which could be used to the detriment of the war effort until final action is determined. There would certainly appear to be sufficient grounds to take at least that preliminary action even if it were subsequently determined that Hofmokol is beyond suspicion. If this is not done, final action in the matter may not occur for several weeks during which time Hofmokol would be able to continue his subversive activities.



G. F. BALDWIN

CONFIDENTIAL

August 4, 1942

B-5 Comment re Hofmokol, Friederich Wilhelm, in connection with material on Routing Slips D53736 and D58848

There is information in ONI files that Hofmokol is subversive and in contact with enemy agents. There is also information in ONI files that Hofmokol is anti-Nazi, loyal to America, and that his efforts have contributed much to the success of the port of Brownsville. If the former is correct Hofmokol should be barred from waterfront facilities, which is within the power of the Coast Guard.

It is thus a matter of evaluating contradictory information. This is the function of the Commandant of the district who has available many sources of information which are not available to ONI. The fact that Hofmokol is regarded highly by the citizenry of Brownsville and particularly by the Brownsville Navigation District Commission is no reason for failing to recommend that he be barred from waterfront facilities if he is subversive. It is just another circumstance to be considered in evaluating all of the information and, of course, indicates that any proposed action should be carefully considered.

B-5 therefor recommends

1. We make sure that the Eighth Naval District has all information concerning Hofmokol which is disclosed by ONI files (there is a memo. for file dated Feb. 14, 1942, on Hofmokol in B-5 files).
2. That the Commandant of the Eighth Naval District be advised along the lines of the foregoing memo.



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