

ROUTING SLIP
16-B

Date August 1941
 Subject _____
 From: _____ To: _____
 B Captain Kingman ✓
 B-1 Comdr. Keisker ✓
 B-2 Lt. (jg) Hardy ✓
 B-3 Lt. Whitley ✓
 Lt. Little ✓
 Lt. (jg) C. R. Wilson ✓
 B-4 Comdr. Foskett ✓
 Lt. Comdr. Earnhardt ✓
 B-5 Lt. Comdr. Gibson ✓
 B-6 Lt. J. V. Wilson ✓
 Lt. (jg) Earl ✓
 B-7 Comdr. Davis ✓
 Lt. Comdr. Albrecht ✓
 Lt. Comdr. Caskey ✓
 Major Cincotta ✓
 B-8 Comdr. Baldwin ✓
 B-9 Comdr. Condon ✓

⊗ See no objection to such employment as "informers"; but not as agents

For: Information Comment
 Draft reply Retain
 Consult File
 See me about this
 Recommendation
 Appropriate action
 Prepare letter to _____

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HO P (1) I think that the idea is worthy of consideration if Gass can get the right negroes, he probably can unearth some Japanese promoted propaganda. I have instructed all DIOs to be on the lookout for such propaganda have give them some leads.

L. DISTRICT

RECEIVED
OFFICE

6 August 1941.

USN.

ents, request for.

the Naval Training Station, requested this office to the regular course of on entry into the Naval allegedly considerable among these men and it is he course with negro y agitators operating

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at two white agents be as late similarly among white

been received of activities negro agents, if appointments gnizant of any such activity urther, would permit the gro settlements in Norfolk

have been located for this qualified. These have not

Naval District approves Naval Training Station for ssity for their use exists, n by white agents in the eves, also, that work among The activity of negro nters.

fice be permitted to contact ype of activity, investigate applications and records to to their appointment as

Chas. J. Gass
 CHAS. J. GASS
 ommander, USNR.
 t Intelligence Officer.

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority NND 73043

Address Reply to
Refer to No.
LL2/CJG/ND5
lhh

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH NAVAL DISTRICT
Naval Operating Base
Norfolk, Virginia

RECEIVED
OFFICE

6 August 1941.

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM TO: Captain Howard F. Kingman, USN.

SUBJECT: Negro Naval Intelligence Agents, request for.

1. The Commanding Officer of the Naval Training Station, Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Virginia, has requested this office to assign two negro Intelligence Agents to take the regular course of instruction which is given to all negroes upon entry into the Naval service. The reason given is that there is allegedly considerable Communistic and other subversive agitation among these men and it is believed that should negro agents be given the course with negro recruits, they would be enabled to locate any agitators operating within this class.

2. He has further requested that two white agents be assigned to the Naval Training Station to operate similarly among white recruits.

3. Lately much information has been received of activities of Japanese agents among the negroes. These negro agents, if appointments were made, would permit this office to be cognizant of any such activity among recruits at the Training Station and further, would permit the agents access, in liberty periods, to the negro settlements in Norfolk and its vicinity.

4. Several personnel prospects have been located for this work who are believed to be able, loyal and qualified. These have not as yet been approached or investigated.

5. The Commandant of the Fifth Naval District approves the request of the Commanding Officer of the Naval Training Station for these agents and this office believes a necessity for their use exists, especially in view of the fact that operation by white agents in the negro field is impossible. This office believes, also, that work among white recruits by white agents is essential. The activity of negro agents would be entirely limited to negro centers.

6. It is requested that this office be permitted to contact two white persons and two negroes for this type of activity, investigate the same for loyalty, etc. and transmit the applications and records to the Office of Naval Intelligence with a view to their appointment as agents for the specific duties as noted above.

Auth: EO 12958

Date: 28 SEP 98 Unit: NETS 22

Chas. J. Gass
CHAS. J. GASS
Commander, USNR.
District Intelligence Officer.

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Authority NND 73043

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

B-1

Op-16-B-3

August 27, 1941

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Dear Cass:

1. I have your personal memorandum to me dated 6 August 1941, regarding the employment of negro Intelligence Agents.

2. NID Circular Letter DC(C) 8-41 of April 7, 1941, authorizes the Commandants to appoint Agents, subject to the approval of the Director of Naval Intelligence. The requisite qualifications for operatives are set forth in paragraph 3 of the afore-mentioned circular letter.

3. If the Commandant wants to appoint negro Agents, who have the requisite qualifications, I feel certain the Department will approve his action.

Op-16-B-1

4. My personal feeling in this matter is that negroes should not be employed as Naval Intelligence Agents. However, I believe in this particular case that suitable negroes, taken on as "Special Employees" and employed as "Informers", could accomplish as much, if anything, as negroes taken on as "Agents".

Op-16-B-3

Very truly yours,

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Auth: ED/2958

Date: 28 SEP 98 Unit: NCTS 22

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H. F. Kingman
Captain, U.S.N.

Comdr. Chas. J. Cass, USNR
Fifth Naval District
Naval Operating Base
Norfolk, Virginia

Dictated by Capt. Kingman
Dictated August 27, 1941
Typed by H. B. Norton

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DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE
OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

(fgb)

UNITED STATES NAVAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE
FIFTH NAVAL DISTRICT

US 161042 23 28 PM

INVESTIGATION REPORT

RECEIVED

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Subject: LUKE, Van Buren, Jr. (negro), 1410 Anne Street, Norfolk, Virginia
Report made at: Norfolk, Virginia Date: August 7, 1941.
Report made by: Ted MILLER, C.Y., USN (Ret)
Period covered: August 5, 6, 1941. Status of Case: CLOSED
Origin of Case: Investigation of subject for qualifications for employment as Intelligence Agent, 5ND.

Ref: DIO 5ND Ltr., to Captain KINGMAN dated August 6, 1941, regarding employment of colored agents.

Character of Investigation: To determine background, character, education, associations, activities, loyalty and fitness for employment as Intelligence Agent.

Enclosures: None

Copy to: ONI (2)

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Source File No. A9-8/ND5 ONI File No.:

Synopsis: Subject was born July 2, 1910 at New York City, of parents who are both native born. He was educated in the public schools of New York City and Norfolk, Virginia, and the high school at Norfolk, Virginia. In 1927 he enrolled in Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, from which he was graduated in 1931 with an A.B. degree having majored in Physical Education.

Subject was employed by School Board City of Norfolk as Physical Education Director at Booker T. Washington High School (Colored); during the summer of 1939, he attended a First Aid and Life Saving Institute at North Carolina State College under sponsorship of Norfolk Chapter of American Red Cross; during the summer months he was employed as a Life Guard and Special Officer at the colored City Beach, Princess Anne County, Virginia.

References spoke well of subject. Auth: EQ 298

No subversive record of subject was found. Date: 28 SEP 98 Unit: N215 22

Comment and Recommendations: Subject believed qualified for appointment as an Intelligence Agent.

APPROVED:
Chas. J. Gass
Chas. J. Gass, Commander, USNR, DIO.

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JOHNSON

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Op-16-B-3
LL/Johnson, W.A.
LL/Ashe, V.J.
14-3/AS-4/HNZ-10
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Serial 01552316

Division of Naval Intelligence

UNCLASSIFIED

JUN 18 1942

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MEMORANDUM

From: The Director of Naval Intelligence.
To: The District Intelligence Officer, Fifth Naval District.
Subject: NEGRO Special Employees - Employment of.
References: (a) Conf. ltr., same Subject, Serial LL/Johnson, W.A., dated June 11, 1942, regarding William Astor Johnson.
(b) Conf. ltr., same Subject, Serial LL/Ashe, V.J., dated June 11, 1942, regarding Victor J. Ashe.

1. A thorough search of the files of the Division of Naval Intelligence as of this date has failed to indicate any investigation reports regarding the individuals mentioned in References (a) and (b).

2. It is requested that copies of such reports be forwarded immediately, at which time further consideration will be given to the requests contained in References (a) and (b).

Op-16-A-5

Dictated June 17, 1942
Dictated by Lt. C. R. Wilson
Typed by M. Heinecke

Rhea Whitley,
By direction.

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Auth: EO 12958
Date: 28 SEP 92 Unit: NCTS 22

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Authority NND 73643

1990 Agents

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(SC)PL4-2/EN3-10
Op-16-A-5
L4-3/AB-4/EN3-10
LL/ND5
Serial 01828716

JUL 21 1942

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

Subject: ASHE, Victor J., and JOHNSON, William Astor,
 Negroes --- applicants for employment as Agents.

References: (a) Conf. ltr., Comdt. 5 N. D., dated June 11, 1942,
 for Agent Ashe.
 (b) Conf. ltr., Comdt. 5 N. D., dated June 11, 1942,
 for Agent Johnson.
 (c) CNO ltr., Serial 3442616, dated Jan. 1, 1942.
 (d) Conf. CNO ltr., Serial 076916, dated Feb. 12,
 1942, with enclosures.

Enclosures: (A) Unexecuted copy of contract for Applicant Ashe,
 in duplicate.
 (B) Unexecuted copy of contract for Applicant Johnson,
 in duplicate.

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1. Enclosures (A) and (B) are forwarded for correction or reexecution as it is shown on the enclosures that subjects are applicants for employment as agents, when, in fact, they should be employed in the capacity of agents (excepted status). The reasons for suggesting their employment in this latter capacity are as follows:

a. Article 4 of Chapter II to Enclosure (A) of Reference (d) established a minimum salary of \$2100 per annum for agents. The contracts in Enclosures (A) and (B) set forth salaries of \$150 per month or \$1800 per annum which is below the minimum requirement. With respect to salaries for agents (excepted status), see Enclosure (A) to Reference (d), Chapter V, Article 31 (2).

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 AUTH: ED 12958
 - 1 -
 Date: 28 SEP 98 Unit: NCTS 22

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 Authority NND 73643

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(SC)P14-2/EN3-10
Op-16-A-5
L4-3/A8-4/EN3-10
LL/ND5
Serial 01828716

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JUL 21 1942

b. It is not deemed advisable to permit subjects to carry operatives' credentials because of the nature of their duties. Therefore, for this reason, it is felt that subjects should be employed as agents (excepted status) rather than as agents. Your attention is invited to Article 31 (5) of Chapter V of Enclosure (A) to Reference (d) which deals with the employment of agents (excepted status).

2. Inasmuch as it is not considered advisable to employ subjects as I-V(S) applicant agents and Reference (c) applies only to I-V(S) applicant agents, subjects should not have been employed until their investigation reports, Form NNI-119, were approved by the Director of Naval Intelligence. This is in accordance with Article 7 of Chapter II of Enclosure (A) in Reference (d). However, since the investigation reports have been reviewed in the Division of Naval Intelligence and found satisfactory, you are hereby authorized to employ subjects as agents (excepted status) at a salary of \$150 per month each, effective as of June 10, 1942, which was their date of entrance on duty.

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V. E. Korns,
By direction.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Copy to Op-16-B-1

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Auth: EO 12958

Date: 28 SEP 98 Unit: NCTS 20