

Headquarters of the
Commandant Third Naval District

Washington & Christopher Streets
A8-5/EF30/Soellner, W.P. New York, N. Y.

Ser. No. 4467

CONFIDENTIAL

4 February, 1937

From: The Commandant, Third Naval District.
To: The Chief of Naval Operations
(Director of Naval Intelligence).

SUBJECT: SOELLNER, Walter P.; activities of.

References: (a) CNO. letter File No. A8-5/QQ(6-28) Serial No.
473, of 11 July, 1935;
(b) Comdt. 3rd N. D. letter File No. A8-5/EF30/
Soellner, W.P., of 9 November, 1936.

1. The subject person came to the District Headquarters today and asked if Naval Intelligence was looking for him; if so, that "here he was."

2. The subject person was interviewed by Lieutenant Morris and he was informed that we did not know him and that we were not looking for him. He stated that the United Press had an article in the New York Evening Post of January 26, 1937, regarding testimony given about him before the American Civil Liberties Committee in Congress.

3. Mr. Soellner was given the advice that this office thought he should get at the bottom of the whole thing by going to see whoever reported him as being a spy if he knew who this person was, and that if we had been looking for him we could have located him a long time ago.

4. The subject person stated that he still resides at 44 Clifton Avenue, Clifton, N. J., and that he is having a very difficult time due to the fact that no aircraft company will employ him.

W. B. Phillips
W. B. PHILLIPS,
By direction.

RECEIVED - FILE. 1937. FEB. 10

CONFIDENTIAL

Commandant, Third Naval District

and that Mr. Carl Ward states that he got his information regarding Mr. Walter Soelner from a Mr. Dundock of the National Metal Trade, Grant Central Building, New York City.

3. It is requested that Mr. Dundock be contacted, and further information of subject be obtained.

MEM. The following subject was received from Mr. W. D. Puleston, Inspector of Naval Affairs, Third Naval District, at New York.

Subject: Walter Soelner, Defendant.

W. D. Puleston,
By direction.

Dictated - 10 July 1935

by - Comdr. S. A. Clement

Typed by - D. Murphy

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

Office of the Chief of Naval Operations

CONFIDENTIAL

Op-16-B-3

AL-5/03(0-28)

Serial No. 473

JUL 11 1935

1. Director
2. Assistant Director
3. Administration
4. Chief Clerk
5. Chief of Naval Operations
6. Chief of Third Naval District
7. Chief of Naval Air Station
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From
To

Chief of Naval Operations,
Commandant, Third Naval District.

SUBJECT:

Walter Koellner, activities of.

The following letter was handed over to Lieutenant Commander V. M. Fellers, Inspector of Naval Aircraft, Chance Vought Corporation, East Hartford, Connecticut.

To: D. L. Brown, President,
Subject: United Aircraft Company.

THE BOMB COMPANY, INC.
June 24th

Dear Dan:

Please excuse this hurried note as I have just learned a bit of information thru extremely confidential sources which may perhaps interest you.

A certain Mr. Walter Koellner is reported as being employed at the Pratt & Whitney Engine plant as a draughtsman. If so his record is as follows:

When employed by Curtis-Wright he shipped as a stowaway on a certain liner to Europe where he landed at Le Havre, France. He was shadowed and was found to telephone to Germany where he immediately went by plane with some stolen blue prints. He remained in Germany two hours - returned to the boat and came back to this country again. The U. S. Department of Justice knows the circumstances.

He was, of course, dropped by Curtis-Wright and is now reported on your payroll which you may be interested to verify.

I cannot vouch for the information but I can vouch for the source of it.

Cordially,
/s/ Carl Hurt

2. Lieutenant Commander Fellers informs this Office that Pratt-Whitney Aircraft Company have no such person in their employ.

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 907027

Refer To

INSPECTOR OF NAVAL AIRCRAFT, U. S. N.
CHANCE VOUGHT CORPORATION
EAST HARTFORD, CONN.

(1037)
CONFIDENTIAL

2 July 1935

From: Inspector of Naval Aircraft, U.S.N.
To: Chief of Naval Operations
Navy Department
Washington, D.C.
Subject: Mr. Walter Soellner, Reported Activities on.
Reference: (a) INA, C.V.C. ltr. (1036) CONFIDENTIAL
dated 28 June 1935.

1. Mr. Carl Ward has taken a position at the Pratt and Whitney Aircraft, East Hartford, Conn. He states that all his information regarding Mr. Walter Soellner was obtained from a Mr. Bundock of National Metal Trade, Grand Central Building, New York City.

Secret-Confidential File RECEIVED	/6
JUL - 6 1935	
NAVY DEPARTMENT	
FILE NO. (SC) A8-5	

W. E. Crist.
Lt. Comdr. U.S.N.,
Inspector of Naval Aircraft

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DECLASSIFIED
Authority MD 907087

HEADQUARTERS OF THE
COMMANDANT THIRD NAVAL DISTRICT
WASHINGTON AND CHRISTOPHER STREETS,
NEW YORK, N. Y.

A8-5/EF30/Soellner, W.B.

9 November, 1936

CONFIDENTIAL

From: The Commandant, Third Naval District.
To: The Chief of Naval Operations
(Director of Naval Intelligence).

SUBJECT: SOELLNER, Walter P.; activities of.

Reference: (a) C.N.O. (ONI) letter File No. A8-5/22(6-28)
Serial No. 473, of 11 July, 1935, to Comdt.,
3rd N. D.

1. The subject person was born in Passaic, N. J., on 12 October, 1902. His father, Paul S., became a naturalized citizen about thirty-seven (37) years ago. The Soellner family have resided in the vicinity of Clifton, N. J., for over forty years.

2. The Soellner family reside at 44 Clifton Avenue, Clifton, N. J., in a two-family wooden structure house, occupying the top floor, the lower floor being occupied by Peter Del Favera and his family.

3. The father, Paul S., and the brother, Alfred, of the subject person, work for the Botony Worsted Mills at Clifton, N. J. It is reported that the subject person married a Hungarian girl by the name of Margaret, at Paterson, N. J., about six years ago and that they have since been divorced.

4. The subject person is now on board the S. S. MANHATTAN of the U. S. Lines as a utility man in the steward's department. It is understood that the second officer, Ensign Archie Horka, U.S.N.R., of the S. S. MANHATTAN, is a relative of the subject person.

5. The mother of the subject person stated that her son had never been to Germany before the present trip on the S. S. MANHATTAN; that he is interested in aircraft and desires a position with any firm manufacturing airplanes.

6. The subject person was employed by the Brewster Aeronautical Company located in Long Island City, N. Y., from September 21, 1936, to September 30, 1936.

7. The subject person was employed by the Wright Aero. Company, Paterson, N. J., from September, 1927, to July, 1933; from August, 1933, to March, 1935. In August, 1934, he was given a vacation and on August 31 shipped on the S.S. LEVIATHAN as a messman, making one round trip to Germany. At the time he shipped on board the LEVIATHAN he gave the name of his wife as "Margaret," and his address as 17 Knapp Street, Clifton, N. J.

8. The date of his shipping on the S.S. MANHATTAN was 5 October, 1936, at which time he gave another address of 9-11 West 91st Street, New York City.

Copy to: All Naval Insptrs.
& Suptg.Constrs. 3rd N.D.

W.B. Phillips
By direction.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 907087

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A8-5/22

Address Communications to the
Commandant Third Naval District
In Reply Refer to No.

Telephone: Canal 32100

Headquarters of the
Commandant Third Naval District

A8-5/EF30/Soellner, W. P. Washington and Christopher Streets

New York, N. Y.

CONFIDENTIAL

9 November, 1936

From: The Commandant, Third Naval District.
To: The Chief of Naval Operations
(Director of Naval Intelligence).

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A8-5/EF30/Soellner, W.P.
CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

9 November, 1936

SUBJECT: SOELLNER, Walter P.; activities of.

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W. B. PHILLIPS,
By direction.

Copy to: All Naval Inspectors
and Suptg. Constrs.,
3rd N. D.

Refer To

INSPECTOR OF NAVAL AIRCRAFT, U. S. N.

CHANCE VOUGHT CORPORATION

EAST HARTFORD, CONN.

(1036)

CONFIDENTIAL

28 June 1935

From: Inspector of Naval Aircraft, U.S.N.

To: Chief of Naval Operations
Navy Department
Washington, D.C.

Subject: Mr. Walter Soellner, Reported Activities on.

Enclosure: (A) One (1) copy of confidential letter
from Mr. Carl Ward dated 24 June 1935.

1. Mr. L. S. Hobbs, an officer of the Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Company, allowed the Inspector to read and copy in part a letter, enclosure (A), from Mr. Carl Ward who is believed to be associated with the United Aircraft Company in connection with its foreign business.

2. Mr. Hobbs stated that Mr. Ward was a reliable individual; that he would be in Hartford on Tuesday next, and that any additional information available on this subject would be obtained at that time.

3. Mr. Hobbs made the statement that no Walter Soellner was at present recorded on the employment rolls of the Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Company or of the Hamilton Standard Propeller Company. Mr. J. C. McCarthy, Vice President of the Chance Vought Corporation made a similar statement in connection with the Chance Vought Corporation, but added that a man named Hans Soellner left the employ of the Chance Vought Corporation about one year ago; that he was in an automobile accident about that time and was confined for some time in a New York hospital. One of the foremen of the Chance Vought Corporation has stated that Hans Soellner is now in the employ of the Brewster Aeronautical Corporation of Long Island City, New York.

4. Neither Mr. Hobbs nor Mr. McCarthy had any reason to associate Hans Soellner and Walter Soellner except because of the similarity of names.

5. This information was brought to the Inspector of Naval Aircraft, Chance Vought Corporation, rather than to the Inspector of Naval Aircraft, Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Company, because no officer is at present on duty as Inspector of Naval Aircraft, Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Company.

(1036)
CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

28 June 1935

To: Chief of Naval Operations

6. An inquiry will be made the early part of next week to find out whether or not Mr. Carl Ward has visited the Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Company and whether any additional information on this subject was obtainable through him.

Secret-Confidential File RECEIVED 18 June ✓ JUL -1 1935 NAVY DEPARTMENT FILE NO. (SC) AP-5	16
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W. M. Fellers.

W. M. Fellers,
Lt. Comdr. U.S.N.,
Inspector of Naval Aircraft

DOC. NO. 3440 C
Copy NO. 1

c o p y

THE ROME COMPANY INC.
Inter-Office Correspondence

To: D.L.Brown, Pres.

Subject: United Aircraft Co.

Date: June 24th.

Dear Don:

Please excuse this hurried note as I have just learned a bit of information thru extremely confidential sources which may perhaps interest you.

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He was, of course, dropped by Curtis-Wright and is now reported on your payroll which you may be interested to verify.

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* * * * *

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
FILE NO. (Sc) A 8-5

Cordially,

Carl Ward