

Memo for Mr. E. A. Tamm
Re: BERNHARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN
was; et al; ESPIONAGE (J)

- 2 -

2/3/42

84591

Briefly, the charges pending against Subject are as follows:

1. Commencing on or about November 20, 1941, up to January 27, 1942, the date the charges were filed, Kuehn with Otojiro Okada and Nagao Kita, Vice Consul and Consul respectively of the Japanese Government in Honolulu, conspired to communicate and transmit to the Japanese Government certain writings relating to the movements and positions of several units of the United States Fleet at Pearl Harbor in violation of Section 34, Title 50, U. S. C. A.

Eight specific overt acts are listed in connection with this conspiracy.

2. On or about November 28, 1941, Kuehn visited Pearl Harbor for the purpose of obtaining information respecting battleships, aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers, submarines, owned, constructed and under the control of the United States, in violation of Section 31, Title 50, U. S. C. A.

3. Kuehn on or about December 2, 1941, unlawfully disclosed to agents of the Japanese Government information relating to United States battleships, aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers and submarines at Pearl Harbor, in violation of Section 32, Title 50, U. S. C. A.

The prosecution of Subject will be followed closely and you will be kept advised of developments.

Respectfully,


D. M. Ladd



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

BERNARD KUEHN

PART 3 OF 7

FILE NUMBER: 65-1574

SUBJECT KUEHN

FILE NUMBER 65-1574 SECTION 3

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)



SERIALS 56-115

65-HQ-1574

SECTION 3

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

X DO NOT DESTROY
HISTORICAL VALUE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

SECTION 3
SERIALS 56-115

Federal Civil 421

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Section 3
Section 4

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **HONOLULU, T. H.**

FILE NO. **65-4**

REPORT MADE AT Honolulu, T. H.	DATE WHEN MADE 2-13-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2/11-13/42	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, with aliases; ET AL.			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - J.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-11-80 BY SP-6 BJS/CLC
#268714

Table set forth reflecting numbers, according to types, of United States Navy ships in Pearl Harbor at the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., daily, from November 22nd through the 30th, 1941, as a basis of comparison with figures given by OTTO KUEHN to Japanese Consulate, Honolulu, on December 2, 1941. Detailed figures set forth on numbers and movements of ships in Pearl Harbor throughout the day of November 28, 1941. Post Office Box 1476, Honolulu, mentioned in signal plan furnished by Japanese Consulate to Foreign Office, Tokyo, December 3, 1941, is rented to OTTO KUEHN. Check of fingerprints of OTTO KUEHN and wife FRIEDEL fails to reveal previous records.

7/11/42
P1

REFERENCE:

Report of **[REDACTED]** at Honolulu, T. H., dated January 31, 1942.

b6
b7c

DETAILS:

AT HONOLULU, T. H.

In order to serve as a basis of comparison with the figures submitted by Subject OTTO KUEHN to the Japanese Consulate, Honolulu, on December 2, 1941, regarding the size according to types of the United States Naval Fleet based at Pearl

1 ENCL. 28
1-1-42
0/4

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES DESTROYED 38 AUG 4 1970 Bureau (Enc.) - AIR MAIL cc on - 2-2-42 1 - [REDACTED] (Under Sec. 103) cate General's Dept.) Honolulu 1 - ONI, Honolulu 1 - U.S. Attorney, Honolulu 3 - Honolulu (1 - Hono. File 65-414)		1574 + 56 RECORDED INDEXED FEB 19 1942 EX-18

65-4

Harbor, T. H., the following table was prepared by [REDACTED] who advised that the figures reflected therein were made up by [REDACTED] Navy Yard, Pearl Harbor, T. H.:

"TABLE SHOWING NUMBERS OF BATTLESHIPS, HEAVY CRUISERS, LIGHT CRUISERS, AIRCRAFT CARRIERS, SUBMARINES, DESTROYERS, AND DESTROYER-TYPE VESSELS IN PEARL HARBOR, AT 0800 AND 1800, 22-30 NOVEMBER, 1941."

		Types of Ships								
DATE	TIME	BBs	CAs	CLs	CVs	SSs	DDs	DMs	AVDs	(#)
11-22	0800	3	6	1	1	4	21	8	2	31
	1800	3	6	1	1	4	22	8	2	32
11-23	0800	3	6	1	1	4	22	8	2	32
	1800	3	6	1	1	4	22	4	2	28
11-24	0800	3	6	1	1	4	21	4	1	26
	1800	3	6	1	1	4	21	4	2	27
11-25	0800	3	6	1	1	4	24	5	2	31
	1800	3	10	1	2	4	26	8	3	37
11-26	0800	3	10	1	2	4	24	8	2	34
	1800	3	11	1	2	4	23	8	3	34
11-27	0800	3	11	1	2	4	23	8	3	34
	1800	3	11	1	2	4	28	8	3	39
11-28	0800	1	8	0	2	4	11	4	3	18
	1800	7	8	5	1	2	26	4	3	33
11-29	0800	6	7	6	1	2	24	4	3	31
	1800	6	7	5	1	2	26	4	3	33
11-30	0800	5	7	5	1	2	25	4	3	32
	1800	5	7	5	1	2	26	4	3	33

Key: BB - battleship; CA - heavy cruiser; CL - light cruiser;
CV - aircraft carrier; SS - submarine; DD - destroyer;
DM - light mine layer (destroyer type); AVD - seaplane
tender (destroyer type).

(#) - Total of destroyer type craft. DMs and AVDs were built as destroyers and converted to their present use. To the untrained eye, they would appear as destroyers.

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***TABLE OF NUMBER AND MOVEMENT OF SHIPS IN PEARL HARBOR, BY
TYPES, AT VARIOUS TIMES BETWEEN 0600 AND 1800, 28 NOVEMBER,
1941**

BATTLESHIPS (BBs)

0600 - At moorings (ARIZONA, NEVADA, OKLAHOMA)	3
0658 - NEVADA underway	3
0705 - ARIZONA underway	3
0748 - NEVADA cleared	2
0801 - ARIZONA cleared	1
1045 - PENNSYLVANIA entered	2
1053 - CALIFORNIA entered	3
1102 - MARYLAND entered	4
1110 - TENNESSEE entered	5
1123 - WEST VIRGINIA entered	6
1155 - PENNSYLVANIA moored	6
1210 - CALIFORNIA moored	6
1232 - MARYLAND moored	6
1240 - TENNESSEE moored	6
1306 - WEST VIRGINIA moored	6
1547 - UTAH moored (#)	7
1648 - UTAH moored (#)	7
1800 - At moorings	7

(#) The UTAH was commissioned as a battleship, but later demilitarized and used as a target ship. To the untrained observer, she might appear to be a battleship.

HEAVY CRUISERS (CAs)

0600 - At moorings	11
0625 - NORTHAMPTON underway	11
0632 - CHESTER underway	11
0640 - SALT LAKE CITY underway	11
0718 - NORTHAMPTON cleared	10
0727 - CHESTER cleared	9
0735 - SALT LAKE CITY cleared	8

LIGHT CRUISERS (CLs)

0600 - Underway in harbor (DETROIT)	1
0637 - DETROIT cleared	0
1138 - HELENA entered	1
1131 - HONOLULU entered	2
1148 - ST LOUIS entered	3
1200 - PHOENIX entered	4

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LIGHT CRUISERS (CLs) - cont'd.

1212 - RALEIGH entered	5
1250 - HELENA moored	5
1300 - HONOLULU moored	5
1300 - RALEIGH moored	5
1305 - PHOENIX moored	5
1328 - ST. LOUIS moored	5
1350 - DETROIT entered	6
1510 - DETROIT moored	6
1800 - At moorings	6

AIRCRAFT CARRIERS (CVs)

0600 - At moorings (LEXINGTON, ENTERPRISE)	2
0735 - ENTERPRISE underway	2
0838 - ENTERPRISE cleared	1
1800 - At moorings	1

SUBMARINES (SSs)

0600 - At moorings	4
1254 - ARGONAUT underway	4
1300 - TROUT underway	4
1340 - ARGONAUT cleared	3
1350 - TROUT cleared	2
1800 - At moorings	2

DESTROYERS (DDs)

0600 - At moorings or underway	26
0602 - MUGFORD cleared	25
0605 - GRIDLEY cleared	24
0608 - MAURY cleared	23
0612 - BAGLEY cleared	22
0617 - HENLEY cleared	21
0620 - CRAVEN cleared	20
0621 - PATTERSON cleared	19
0623 - BALCH cleared	18
0625 - HELM cleared	17
0628 - RALPH TALBOT cleared	16
0630 - FANNING cleared	15
0632 - McCALL cleared	14
0640 - DUNLAP cleared	13
0641 - BENHAM cleared	12
0647 - CONYNGHAM cleared	11

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DESTROYERS (DDs) - cont'd.

1205 - WORDEN entered	12
1221 - ALYWIN entered	13
1228 - CONYNGHAM entered	14
1232 - CASSIN entered	15
1236 - HULL entered	16
1243 - DALE entered	17
1245 - REID entered	18
1247 - DOWNES entered	19
1254 - DEWEY entered	20
1300 - MONAGHAN entered	21
1308 - TUCKER entered	22
1318 - CONYNGHAM moored	22
1330 - FARRAGUT entered	23
1333 - CASE entered	24
1336 - MacDONOUGH entered	25
1340 - PHELPS entered	26
1345 - CASSIN moored	26
1350 - ALYWIN moored	26
1350 - REID moored	26
1407 - DOWNES moored	26
1412 - TUCKER moored	26
1425 - WORDEN moored	26
1435 - DALE moored	26
1440 - CASE moored	26
1446 - MONAGHAN moored	26
1446 - HULL moored	26
1459 - DEWEY moored	26
1459 - FARRAGUT moored	26
1515 - PHELPS moored	26
1530 - MacDONOUGH moored	26
1800 - At moorings	26

MINESWEEPERS (DSm)

0600 - At moorings	8
0610 - GAMBLE underway	8
0612 - MONTGOMERY underway	8
0615 - BREESE underway	8
0625 - RAMSAY underway	8
0652 - GAMBLE cleared	7
0655 - MONTGOMERY cleared	6
0657 - BREESE cleared	5
0700 - RAMSAY cleared	4
1800 - At moorings	4

65-4

SEAPLANE TENDERS (AVDs)

0600 - At moorings
1800 - At moorings

3
3

- - - - -

It is again pointed out that [REDACTED] is the proper person to introduce this information at the trial in this case. It will be recalled the figures submitted by OTTO KUEHN to the Japanese Consulate on December 2, 1941, as described by him in his statement furnished this office, were as follows:

7 Battleships
6 Cruisers
2 Aircraft carriers
40 Destroyers
27 Submarines

It is observed that while KUEHN's figures are remarkably accurate regarding battleships, cruisers, aircraft carriers and destroyers in Pearl Harbor as of November 28, 1941, his figures regarding the number of submarines are highly inaccurate. It is to be noted the largest number of submarines in Pearl Harbor at any time during November 28, 1941, is four.

It is pointed out, however, that due to the location of the submarine base in the harbor, it is hardly possible to observe the submarines from any point outside of the Naval Reservation.

For the information of the Bureau, there is being enclosed with copies of this report a diagram of a Pearl Harbor Mooring and Berthing Plan which was drawn up January 10, 1941, and which is self-explanatory.

Attention is directed to the report of Special Agent in Charge R. L. SHIVERS, dated December 26, 1941 at Honolulu, in the case entitled, "JAPANESE ACTIVITIES, Honolulu, T. H. ESPIONAGE - J (CONFIDENTIAL)". In this report there is set forth the decoded message transmitted by NAGAO KITA, Japanese Consul-General, Honolulu, to the Foreign Office, Tokyo, under date of December 3, 1941, which describes a signal plan for transmitting information

65-4

to the Japanese Government regarding United States Navy Fleet activities at Pearl Harbor, T. H. One of the means by which such information was to be transmitted as described in the Consulate message was through, "KEMB want-ad advertisements, 9:45 a.m., (A) A Chinese rug, etc., for sale - Apply Post Office Box 1476, indicates 3 or 6."

It has been determined that Post Office Box 1476 is rented to OTTO KUEHN. Subject in this case. [REDACTED]

Under date of January 19, 1942 fingerprint impressions of BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN and his wife, FRIEDEL AUGUSTE BERTHE KUEHN, were forwarded to the Bureau for a check against the records in the Identification Division for any previous records on these Subjects. The Bureau advised by wire of February 1, 1942 that there are no previous records of these individuals on file in the Identification Division.

- P E N D I N G -

654

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE HONOLULU FIELD DIVISION:

AT HONOLULU, T. H.:

Will follow and report the results of
OTTO KUEHN's trial before the Military
Commission.

- P E N D I N G -

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

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65-1574-57

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X DELETED PAGE(S) X
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X FOR THIS PAGE X
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JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



SECRET
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

65-1574

February 19, 1942

Received 4:50 p.m.

Dictated 4:55 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: OTTO KUEHN, with aliases; et al.
ESPIONAGE - J

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

CLASSIFIED BY: SP-5/bab
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

2-11-86
#268414

For your information, Count 8 is the last of the specific
overt acts alleged in the charges preferred against Kuehn. It
reads as follows:

"(8) Honolulu, T. H. On or about the third day of December, Nagao
Kita did transmit a plan and system of signals previously
prepared by Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn to the Foreign Minister
of the Imperial Japanese Government at Tokyo, Japan."

Respectfully,

Attachment

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2 MAR 3 - 1942

COPY IN FILE **SECRET**

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65-1574-57	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
10	FEB 28 1942
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

b1

7B3
Stacy

b6
b7c

2/27/42

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) b1 with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information: _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

65-1574- 58, 59, 60

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Transcribed 2/23/42

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Further reference is made to my memoranda of January 3, and January 19, 1942, regarding certain messages dispatched by Nagae Kitaru, the Japanese Consul in Honolulu, Hawaii, to the Foreign Minister in Tokyo, setting forth a complete system of signals to be employed in communicating intelligence information to the Japanese Fleet.

As you may recall, it was determined that Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn was responsible for the preparation of the signaling system in question, which he furnished to representatives of the Japanese Consulate in Honolulu on December 2, 1941.

On February 19, 1942, Kuehn went on trial before the Military Commission in Honolulu following the preferring of charges by the Judge Advocate General's Department, United States Army, alleging a violation of Sections 31, 32 and 34, Title 50, United States Code Annotated. Specifically, Kuehn was charged with conspiring with the Japanese Vice Consul in Honolulu to transmit information to Japan pertaining to the national defense of the United States and performing certain overt acts to culminate this conspiracy. Further, he was charged with the transmitting, on or about December 2, 1941, of information relating to the United States Fleet and the national defense of America to an agent of the Imperial Japanese Government. Kuehn was also charged with the unlawful obtaining of information regarding the number and types of United States vessels based at Pearl Harbor, with the intent and reason to believe that the information obtained was to be used to the injury of the United States and to the advantage of Japan.

The Military Commission on February 21, 1942, returned a verdict of guilty on the above charges and sentenced Kuehn to be shot. The information with reference to the verdict in this case was furnished to the Bureau in the strictest of confidence, with the request that it not be divulged.

As the execution of this sentence will constitute the first death imposed on a subject in an espionage case in this country during the present World War, it is believed that you may be interested in this information.

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 10:10
DATE 2-28-42
BY [initials]

FEB 28 1942

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

RECEIVED
DIRECTOR
FEB 25 1 41 PM '42

RECEIVED-ROOM 5642
FEB 25 10 48 AM '42
J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

COPY)

January 27, 1942.

In reply refer to
FC 702.9411A/44

PERSONAL AND
CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Mr. Hoover:

I acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letters of January 5 and January 21, 1942 addressed to Mr. Berle concerning certain activities on the part of the Japanese consular staff at Honolulu, Hawaii, and in response to the latter communication wish to state that

(1) This Department has plans under way for the transfer of the members of the Japanese consular staff, their families and entourage to continental United States;

(2) A subsequent exchange of American and Japanese consular personnel is planned;

(3) It does not seem advisable to take action looking to the prosecution of the members of the Japanese consular staff, their families and entourage at Honolulu for espionage and other subversive activities;

(4) There is no objection to the questioning of the members of the Japanese consular staff, their families, and entourage at Honolulu regarding intelligence activities, including the activities of third persons;

(5) It is important that the questioning by the Federal Bureau of Investigation there be done promptly so it will not necessitate delay in the sailing of the Japanese official personnel from Honolulu;

(6) The date of the departure of the Japanese from Honolulu is not yet known to the Department of State;

(7) The Department of State will be pleased to have the Japanese from Honolulu detained at a place and under conditions of custody agreeable to the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

(8) The Department of State would appreciate receiving from the Federal Bureau of Investigation suggestions as to suitable places for their detention.

Sincerely yours,

BRECKINRIDGE LONG
Assistant Secretary

J. Edgar Hoover, Esquire,
Director, Federal Bureau of
Investigation,
Department of Justice.

EE 11 15 5 16 11 45
Conf. Letter to Am. 2/1/42 KYZ
BEU-1460

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
SUBJECTS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MB:JMM:CI:BM

146-7-1382

February 4, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER,
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Holloman	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	
Miss	

Reference is made to your memorandum of January 21, 1942, and previous memoranda concerning the possible prosecution of Nagao Kita, Japanese Consul General, and Atojiro Okuda, Vice-Consul at Honolulu, in connection with their espionage activities during the week prior to December 7, 1941.

I have discussed this matter with Breckinridge Long, Assistant Secretary of State, and have been advised by him that the Department of State cannot, in view of the pending negotiations for the exchange of American and enemy diplomatic and consular officials, consent to the detention and prosecution of Japanese officials who are subject to the exchange agreement.

Mr. Long stated, however, that Consul General Kita might be interrogated concerning his activities and the activities of other persons who are not under the protection of the exchange agreement. Mr. Long advised me in confidence that Kita has been detained incommunicado, which action was taken in retaliation for similar treatment accorded to an American consular official in Southeastern Asia.

With respect to the prosecution of persons (other than consular officials) who may have participated in espionage activities, it is suggested that prosecution be instituted in accordance with the law now prevailing in the Territory of Hawaii. Your memorandum of January 19, 1942, states that the Military Commission established in the Territory of Hawaii is presently exercising jurisdiction over all capital offenses and other violations where the prescribed punishment is in excess of five years' imprisonment and/or \$5,000 fine.

It is requested that reports covering the investigation of the activities of Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn, his family and associates, be furnished to the Criminal Division.

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge
WENDELL BERGE,
Assistant Attorney General

Confid Letter to Honolulu 2-11-42 XXX

February 11, 1942

CONFIDENTIAL

Special Agent in Charge
Honolulu, Hawaii

Re: JAPANESE ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES;
COMFILE - J

Dear Sir:

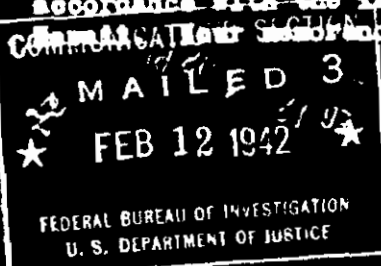
There is quoted hereinafter a memorandum dated February 4, 1942, received by the Bureau from Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge:

Reference is made to your memorandum of January 21, 1942, and previous memoranda concerning the possible prosecution of Masao Kita, Japanese Consul General, and Atojiro Okada, Vice-Consul at Honolulu, in connection with their espionage activities during the week prior to December 7, 1941.

I have discussed this matter with Breckinridge Long, Assistant Secretary of State, and have been advised by him that the Department of State cannot, in view of the pending negotiations for the exchange of American and enemy diplomatic and consular officials, consent to the detention and prosecution of Japanese officials who are subject to the exchange agreement.

Mr. Long stated, however, that Consul General Kita might be interrogated concerning his activities and the activities of other persons who are not under the protection of the exchange agreement. Mr. Long advised me in confidence that Kita has been detained incommunicado, which action was taken in retaliation for similar treatment accorded to an American consular official in Southeastern Asia.

With respect to the prosecution of persons (other than consular officials) who may have participated in espionage activities, it is suggested that prosecution be instituted in accordance with the law now prevailing in the Territory of Hawaii. Your memorandum of January 19, 1942, states that the



Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

SAC Honolulu

- 2 -

12/11/42

Re: JAPANESE ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES;
COMPILE - J

Military Commission established in the Territory of Hawaii is presently exercising jurisdiction over all capital offenses and other violations where the prescribed punishment is in excess of five years' imprisonment and/or \$5,000 fine.

"It is requested that reports covering the investigation of the activities of Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn, his family and associates, be furnished to the Criminal Division."

It is suggested that your investigation in this case be conducted in accordance with the instructions contained in the above memorandum.

For your information, the Department has orally advised that the statement contained in paragraph three of the quoted memorandum to the effect that Consul General Kita might be interrogated is not intended to limit your investigation or questioning to that individual.

The Department of State has also advised the Bureau that it would interpose no objection to the questioning of the members of the Japanese consular staff, their families and entourage at Honolulu regarding intelligence activities, including the activities of third persons. The State Department added that it is important that the questioning by the Bureau be done promptly so it will not necessitate delay in the sailing of the Japanese official personnel from Honolulu.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

65-1574

Transcribed 2/23/42

MEMORANDUM

Re: EDWARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN

Kuehn has been the subject of an intensive investigation by Special Agents of the FBI and representatives of ONI since February, 1939, when information was received by the FBI that he was suspected of being an espionage agent. Kuehn was reported to have no apparent source of income although he maintained two homes in Hawaii and entertained lavishly.

Investigation disclosed that Kuehn was born in Berlin, Germany, on July 25, 1895, and served in the Imperial German Navy during World War I. Following a sea battle with an English war vessel, his ship was sunk and Kuehn was taken captive by the English and interned until the end of hostilities. After his return to Germany, he studied architecture and again entered the German naval service as a Lieutenant aboard the mother ship of a mine sweeper flotilla. After thus serving for about six months, Kuehn was released and placed in the Naval Reserve Corps. He studied medicine at the University of Berlin and the University of Munich for about a year and a half and then engaged in various occupations in Germany.

Subject became associated with the Nazi Party in 1930 following his attendance at a meeting called by Hitler in Kiel, Germany. According to Kuehn, he was considered with Reinhold Heydrich for the position of Chief of the German Gestapo under Heinrich Himmler, but because of Himmler's dislike for Kuehn, Heydrich received the appointment.

On May 10, 1920, at Munich, Germany, Kuehn married Friedel Birk, who although previously unmarried was the mother of two children, Leopold and Ruth. Two sons, Martin Eberhard and Hans Joachim were born of this marriage. (Leopold Kuehn is presently serving the Nazi Party as assistant to Propaganda Minister Goebbels.) Ruth Kuehn married J. Carson Moore, with whom she resided in Honolulu until December 8, 1941, when she was taken into custody as a German alien by Special Agents of the FBI.

Kuehn was first admitted to the United States at Honolulu on August 15, 1935, for the ostensible purpose of studying the Japanese language. Investigation disclosed that over \$70,000 was deposited to the credit of Kuehn and his wife in the Bishop National Bank at Honolulu by the Rotterdam Bank Association, Amsterdam, through the National City Bank of New York between May 14, 1936, and February 7, 1939. This income supposedly accrued from investments and business interests held by Subject in Germany and Holland. During an interview with Subject by representatives of ONI on November 2, 1939, Kuehn asserted that he was receiving money from property

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DATE 8-11-86 BY SP-6 JCK
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Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Gurnea _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

RECORDED INDEXED 65-1574-6
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 15 1942
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

250

which he owned in Germany, as a result of an arrangement effected with his

In the early Fall of 1940, according to information received from GHI, Kuehn had a dormer window constructed in the attic of his residence overlooking Kaneohe Air Station. [REDACTED]

Investigation has disclosed that Kuehn has done considerable entertaining in Honolulu, exhibiting a particular interest in Army and Navy officers. It is also known that an enlisted sailor in a uniform, driving a car with Pearl Harbor tags, and also an automobile bearing identification tags of Schofield Barracks, has been seen visiting Subject.

3 1

- 3 -

According to information received from G-2, on January 20, 1940, reliable sources indicated that a couple identified as Mr. and Mrs. Friedel, apparently German, frequently had secretly approached the Japanese Consulate General in Honolulu and had requested that he transmit some information to the Japanese Navy. On July 10, 1940, the Japanese Consulate General requested the Tokyo Foreign Office to advise them of the reliability of the Friedels. Two days later, according to G-2, the Foreign Office replied, stating in effect that the Japanese Navy could not place the Friedels very well but they would like to receive their information by wire with a notation that it emanated from them. G-2 added that the Japanese Navy apparently was prepared to compensate the Friedels for their information according to its value. The Friedels in all probability are identical with Kuehn and his wife.

On October 25, 1941, \$14,000 cash was delivered by [REDACTED] to Kuehn at his residence at Kalama, Kailua, Oahu, T. H.

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On February 19, 1942, Kuehn went on trial before the Military Commission in Honolulu for violations of Sections 21, 32 and 34, Title 30, U. S. C. A. Briefly, these charges alleged that Kuehn conspired with the Vice Consul in Honolulu to transmit to Japan information pertaining to the national defense of the United States and perform certain overt acts to culminate the conspiracy. Further, on or about December 2, 1941, Kuehn transmitted information relating to the United States Naval Fleet and national defense of America to an agent of the Imperial Japanese Government. Kuehn was also charged with unlawfully obtaining information respecting the number and types of United States naval vessels based at Pearl Harbor with the intent and reason to believe that it was to be used to the injury of the United States and to the advantage of the Japanese Government.

A verdict of guilty on each of the above charges was rendered by the Military Commission on February 21, 1942, and Kuehn was sentenced to be shot.

RECORDED

65-1574-62
Transcribed 2/23/42

**PERSONAL AND
CONFIDENTIAL**

Major General Edwin M. Watson
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Watson:

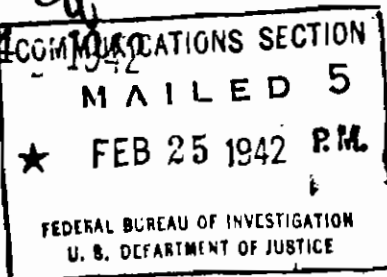
Reference is made to my letter of January 5, 1942, and its enclosure, which recorded the translations of certain messages exchanged between the Japanese Consulate in Honolulu and the Japanese Foreign Office in Tokyo, Japan.

As you may recall, the translation of one of these messages, dispatched on December 3, 1941, by Hagao Kita, the Japanese Consul in Honolulu, to the Foreign Minister in Tokyo, set forth a complete system of signals to be used in transmitting information to the Japanese fleet pertaining to the number and movements of United States vessels stationed at Pearl Harbor. One of the signals to be employed was a "light in dormer window of Kalama house from 7 p. m. to 1 a. m. every hour", which was to indicate the sailings of American aircraft carriers and battle forces on certain dates.

Investigation has disclosed that the Kalama house with the dormer window mentioned in this signal was owned by Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn and his wife Friedel. These individuals, with their daughter, Ruth Carson Moore, were interned at Honolulu on December 8, 1941. Following his detention, Kuehn in a written statement admitted that he prepared the signaling system in question at the request of officials of the Japanese Consulate in Honolulu, furnishing it to them on December 2, 1941. It is also known that Kuehn on one occasion received \$14,000 from a Japanese Consulate official in Honolulu.

Charges against Kuehn for violation of the Federal Espionage Act were preferred by the Judge Advocate General's

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____



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Major General Edwin M. Watson

- 2 -

Department, U. S. Army, at Honolulu, T. H., and on February 21, 1942, Kuhn was convicted by the Military Commission and sentenced to be shot.

Attached hereto, as of possible interest to the President and you, is a memorandum reflecting a brief summary of the information contained in the files of this Bureau concerning Kuhn.

With assurances of my highest regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Attachment

BY SPECIAL
MESSENGER

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March 3, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. Tamm
MR. Ladd

In conference with the Attorney General today I suggested that he give his very prompt attention to the memorandum that had been directed to him concerning Bernard Julius Otto Guhn, the German alien who has been tried by Military Court in Hawaii and ordered to be shot. I advised the Attorney General that the decision in this case was secret, but I believed he should immediately discuss the matter with the President, the State Department, and the War Department in order that an early decision could be made as to the disposition of the same with due consideration to any possible retaliation against nationals of this country in either Germany or Japan.

Very truly yours

151 J.E.H.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12-8-66 BY SP8 JFC/CLW
#268714

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Mr. Carson _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Hendon _____
- Mr. Holloman _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Gandy _____

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65-1574 63
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
3 MAR 4 1942
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

MAR 5 1942

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



CONFIDENTIAL
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

SECRET

March 5, 1942

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

MEMORANDUM FOR [REDACTED]

65-1574-51

Re: Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn,
with aliases; et al.; Espionage-
J.

At the request of [REDACTED] of the National Defense Division, the two photostatic copies of a coded radiogram, designated as Q1, which were submitted to the Bureau with an Investigative Report made in Honolulu on January 31, 1942 by [REDACTED] in connection with the above-entitled case were examined.

Specimen Q1 is apparently transmitted in Japanese Diplomatic Code to Gaimudaijin, the foreign office at Tokio, and is signed Kita, the cable signature for the Japanese Legation at Honolulu. This message is apparently transmitted in Japanese Diplomatic Code or enciphered code and could not be decoded in the Laboratory inasmuch as the necessary code books are not available.

The photostats submitted are being retained in the files of the Laboratory [REDACTED] In the event that any additional information is received regarding this code and a decode is effected your office will be advised.

Respectfully,
[REDACTED]

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OTHERWISE

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DECLASSIFY ON: OADR
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65-1574-14
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
14 MAR 7 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Honolulu, T. H.
February 24, 1942

65-414

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

Re:
INTERNAL SECURITY - C;
(Alien Enemy Control)

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated February 9, 1942, in the case entitled, "Japanese Activities, Honolulu, T. H.; ESPIONAGE-CONFIL (J)," of which the New York City Field Division was furnished a copy. Bureau file #65-1874.

For the information of the New York Field Division, reference Bureau letter makes reference to an investigation of one EDWARD JULIUS OTTO KUHN, better known as OTTO KUHN, by the Honolulu Office, in connection with the Japanese espionage activities in Honolulu, T. H. OTTO KUHN was born July 25, 1895, in Berlin, Germany. In April, 1913, he enlisted in the German Navy, and became a midshipman aboard a German cruiser, serving until January 1915, when his ship was sunk and he was made a prisoner of war by the British. Following the armistice, KUHN returned to Berlin, remaining in Germany up until April, 1935. During that period, in 1930, he, together with his wife and son, became a member of the Nazi Party. On one occasion, in 1932, by his own statement, he was considered for a position with the Nazi Party which was instead given to REINHOLD HEYDRICH and which later developed into the position of chief of the German Gestapo system. After failing to obtain this position, KUHN worked for a brief period as an investigator for the Nazi Party, but became involved in some difficulties with the party and was forced to resign, following which, in April, 1935, he left Germany with his wife, proceeding to Honolulu, where he has since remained. At the present time,

Investigation by the Honolulu Office has developed that KUHN, during November, 1941, worked closely with the Japanese Consulate at Honolulu in furnishing information regarding the numbers and types of United States Navy ships in Pearl Harbor, T. H., and also devised a plan of signals by means of which information regarding the movements of United States Navy ships in Hawaiian waters might be transmitted to the Japanese Fleet.

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DEPARTMENT

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Bureau

SAC, New York, New York

February 24, 1942

As a result of OTTO KUEHN's activities in this connection, he has
faced trial before a military commission, which convened at Honolulu
February 19, 1942. Although the trial was completed on February 21,
1942, the verdict of the commission has not been made public, the
entire proceedings having been conducted in strictest privacy.

SAC, New York, New York

February 24, 1942

For the information of the Bureau, the necessary inquiries have been made by the Honolulu Field Office to determine the contacts and acquaintances of OTTO KUBEN over a period of time, and all such persons have either been subjects of separate investigations by the Honolulu Field Office or have been appropriately eliminated as ones who might be engaged in any activities inimical to the interests of the United States Government.

Very truly yours,

R. L. Shivers
Special Agent in Charge

cc Bureau ✓

February 16, 1942

65-1574

MEMORANDUM

RE: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN,
with aliases: Otto K. Kuehn, (Otto Kuhn),
Otto E. Kuhn, Mr. Kuehn;
ESPIONAGE - G - J

Subject first came to the attention of the Bureau in February, 1939, when an acquaintance of Assistant Director E. A. Tamm named [redacted]

[redacted] submitted information which, he explained, was furnished to him by friends in the Hawaiian Islands, who desired to remain anonymous, indicating that subject and his wife, Friedel Barta Aguste Kuehn, were believed to be espionage agents. This report indicated that although the Kuehns had no apparent source of income, they owned two homes at Kailua, Oahu, one of which was very large and, further, that they entertained lavishly, particularly Army officers. This information was immediately referred to ONI and G-2. The San Francisco Field Division of the Bureau was instructed to conduct an investigation regarding the Kuehns when an Agent was next in the Territory of Hawaii.

Inquiry has disclosed that Kuehn was born in Berlin, Germany, on July 25, 1895. While serving as an Ober-Lieutenant in the Imperial German Navy during World War I, his ship was sunk and he was picked up by H. M. S. Lion. He was interned at Edinburgh until the end of hostilities, when he returned to Germany. Subject stayed in the German Navy for some time, eventually being dismissed therefrom for alleged financial difficulties.

Kuehn married his wife Friedel on May 10, 1920. At that time Friedel was the mother of two children, named Ruth and Leopold.

[redacted] two sons, Martin Eberhard and Hans Joachim, resulted from the Kuehns' marriage.

Kuehn admittedly has been associated with the Nazi Party since 1930, although he contends he did not become active until 1932. At the latter time, he assertedly accompanied [redacted] to Munich to see an official about securing a job with the Party. Through a ruse, [redacted] supposedly got to the official before Kuehn and, as a result, received the position which subsequently developed to be Chief of the German Gestapo system, working under [redacted]

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DATE 8-12-86 BY SP8 JCB

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

65-1574-66

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On August 15, 1935, Kuehn was admitted to the United States at Honolulu for a twelve-month period as a non-immigrant. At that time he gave as the purpose of his visit the desire to study the Japanese language in order that he might return to his native country and secure a position as translator and interpreter in the mercantile field. The immigration records contain a statement made by Kuehn revealing that he arrived in New York City on April 29, 1935, in transit to Japan via Honolulu. However, upon reaching the Orient, he decided he could make better progress in his study of the Japanese language at the University of Hawaii and, accordingly, returned to Honolulu on August 15, 1935, accompanied by his children Ruth and Martin Eberhard.

Kuehn's original entry permit was extended to August 14, 1937, to enable him to "continue his Japanese studies." Apparently he left Honolulu following this extension since he was admitted to the United States as a quota immigrant on October 29, 1936.

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At the time of their entry into this country, the Kushns stated that although neither of them was employed, they had ample funds to cover their expenses while here.

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Immediately following Kuehn's first arrival in Honolulu in 1935, he temporarily resided at the Brookland Hotel, where he sought the companionship of young Navy officers, whom he reportedly entertained freely.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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Dachs was interviewed by ONI on November 2, 1939, and admitted having been a member of the Socialist German National Party but claimed that when Hitler came into power it was necessary for him to leave Germany since he did not agree with the new government. He stated that he owned property in Germany and was receiving an income therefrom as a result of an arrangement effected [REDACTED]

Mr. Tolson _____

Mr. E. A. Tamm _____

Mr. Clegg _____

Mr. Glavin _____

Mr. Ladd _____

Mr. Nichols _____

Mr. Tracy _____

Mr. Egan _____

Mr. Gurnea _____

Mr. Harbo _____

Mr. Hendon _____

Mr. Holloman _____

Mr. Quinn Tamm _____

Mr. Nease _____

Miss Gandy _____

[REDACTED] Japan, who was forwarding money to subject in [REDACTED] and the subject was transferring a similar amount to [REDACTED] Germany.

This stated arrangement appears to be contradictory to correspondence appearing in ONI's file indicating that it was impossible for [REDACTED]

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Hamburg to arrange for the transmittal of funds from Japan to Kuehn in Honolulu.

In reply to specific inquiry as to whether Kuehn would be willing to assist ONI in gaining information regarding un-American activities in Honolulu, he stated that he would not accept such an offer for pay, but if any such data came to his attention, he would report it. He gave as his reason for refusing this proposition the fact that since his son and other relatives were still living in Germany, he could not afford to let it be known that he was working against that country.

Numerous reports have been received by the Honolulu Field Office indicating that the Kuehns are very pro-German and pro-Nazi and interested in German clubs in Honolulu.

According to information received from ONI in the early Fall of 1940, Kuehn had a dormer window constructed in the attic of his residence overlooking Kaneohe Air Station. ONI has advised that although numerous observations have been made of subject's house, no lights have ever been seen therein.

Mr. Tolson _____

Mr. E. A. Tamm _____

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Mr. Nease _____

Miss Gandy _____

Further, it has been asserted that subject took advantage of every opportunity to observe all possible military movements, such as parades, drills, et cetera.

Investigation has revealed that Subject has done considerable entertaining in Honolulu, exhibiting a particular interest in having Army and Navy officers as their guests. A list of Kuehn's associates, obtained from ONI, contains the names of five lieutenants.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

According to information received from G-2, on January 20, 1940, reliable sources indicated that a couple identified as Mr. and Mrs. Friedel, apparently German, frequently had secretly approached the Japanese Consulate General in Honolulu and had requested that he transmit some information to the Japanese Navy. On July 10, 1940, the Japanese Consulate General requested the Tokyo Foreign Office to advise them of the reliability of the Friedels. Two days later, according to G-2, the Foreign Office replied, stating in effect that the Japanese Navy could not place the Friedels very well but they would like to receive their information by wire with a notation that it emanated from them. G-2 added that the Japanese Navy apparently was prepared to compensate the Friedels for their information according to its value. The Friedels in all probability are identical with Kuhn and his wife.

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Carson _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Hendon _____
- Mr. Holloman _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Gandy _____

[REDACTED]

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On the morning following the Japanese air attack on the Island of Oahu, at the request of the Honolulu Field Office, the Globe Wireless and Mackay Radio and Telegraph Companies furnished that Division with copies of all messages which had been sent and received by the Japanese Consulate in that city.

The translation of one of these messages dispatched on December 3, 1941, by Kita, the Japanese Consul in Honolulu to the Foreign Minister at Tokyo, set forth a complete system of signals to be used in communicating intelligence information to the enemy. One of the signals to be used was a "light in dormer window of Kalama house from 7 p. m. to 1 a. m. every hour", indicating the sailings of aircraft carriers and battle forces on certain dates.

As soon as the translation of this message was received, the Honolulu Field Office with ONI and G-2, instituted an investigation for the purpose of identifying and locating the persons responsible for this signal. It at once appeared that the Kalama house with the "dormer window", mentioned in the above signal, was owned by Kuehn.

Subject, with his wife and daughter, Ruth Carson Moore, were taken into custody on December 8, 1941, after the declaration of war against the United States by Germany.

Kuehn was interviewed several times and on December 30, 1941, he submitted a statement, admitting that he had prepared the system of signals for the Japanese Consul General which were set out in the Consul's telegram of December 3, 1941. He also stated that his home at Kalama and his beach house at Lanikai were the places from which the signals were to have been sent by him. He did not admit ever sending any signals, however, and stated that he had no intention of doing so at the time he furnished them to the Consul General.

In this connection, Kuehn explained that he contacted the Japanese Vice Consul in Honolulu during November 1941, and offered to assist in obtaining information of interest. The Vice Consul assertedly asked Kuehn for data regarding the number of ships in Hawaiian waters, to which Kuehn replied he would find out. The Vice Consul also asked Kuehn about maneuvers of the United States fleet in the Pacific, but Kuehn contended he could not ascertain this information. Thereupon, the Vice Consul supposedly requested Kuehn to work out a set of signals whereby the Japanese fleet could be advised as to the number of American ships in Pearl Harbor and their movements. Following this contact, Kuehn with his son, Hans Joachim, age ten, drove to the vicinity of Pearl Harbor and observed the ships there at that time. Three or four days later, subject again contacted the Japanese Vice Consul at which time he also conferred with the Consul General, Nagao Kita. It was on this visit that Kuehn submitted his signalling system. However,

following a consultation between Kita and the Vice Consul, the latter told Kuehn the system was too complicated and requested him to prepare a simpler method. This Kuehn did and delivered the revised system to the Japanese Vice Consul on December 2, 1941. On the same date he furnished written information concerning the number and various types of ships in Hawaiian waters, which data were subsequently determined upon inquiry to be substantially correct.

It is noted that on or about October 25, 1941, \$14,000 cash was delivered by Tadasi Morimura, Fourth Secretary of the Japanese Consulate, Honolulu, to Kuehn at his residence at Kalama, Kailua, Oahu, T. H.

At the present time Kuehn, with his wife and daughter, Ruth Carson Moore, is detained at the Immigration Station in Honolulu. It is anticipated that charges will be preferred against Subject in the immediate future by the Judge Advocate General's Department, U. S. Army, at Honolulu. These charges will be brought under three counts. The first count will allege a violation of Section 34, Title 50, U. S. C. A., to wit: a conspiracy to violate Section 32, Title 50, in that Otto Kuehn conspired with the Vice Consul, Japanese Consulate, to transmit information pertaining to the national defense of the United States and performed overt acts to culminate the conspiracy. The second count will charge a violation of Section 32, Title 50, U. S. C. A., in that on or about December 2, 1941, Otto Kuehn did transmit information relating to the United States Navy Fleet and national defense of the United States to an agent of a foreign government, to wit: the Imperial Japanese Government. The third count will allege a violation of Section 31, Title 50, U. S. C. A., in that on or about November 27, 1941, in the vicinity of Pearl Harbor Navy Yard, Oahu, T. H., Otto Kuehn did unlawfully and feloniously obtain information respecting the national defense of the United States, to wit: the number and types of United States Naval ships based at Pearl Harbor, Oahu, T. H.

February 16, 1942

THE DIRECTOR

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN
with aliases;
ESPIONAGE (C-J)

For your information, there is attached a summary memorandum concerning the above mentioned subject.

Kuehn, with his wife and daughter, Ruth Carson Moore, is presently detained at the Immigration Station in Honolulu and it is anticipated that charges will be preferred against him in the immediate future by the Judge Advocate General's Department, U. S. Army.

It is noted that the preferring of charges against Subject was delayed pending the return to Honolulu of Special Agent in Charge Shivers, who is a necessary witness in this case.

Respectfully,

D. H. Ladd

Attachment

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DATE 8-12-86 BY SP8CJ/DA

FORWARDED
FILES DIVISION

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Holloman
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

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1 is not on record. With original is received in Files Division it will be filed either with this copy or may be given a new serial.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 MAR 13 1942

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WB:EDD:mac

146-7-1882

March 16, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. J. EDGAR HOOVER,
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

Re: Friedel Barta Auguste Kuehn
with aliases
Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn
with aliases
Espionage (G)

Reference is made to the Report of [REDACTED]
dated January 5, 1942, at Honolulu, T. H.,
in the above-entitled matter, which refers to the Report of
Special Agent R. L. Shivers, dated December 26, 1941, at
Honolulu, T. H.

It is requested that the Federal Bureau of Investigation
transmit to the Criminal Division a copy of the above
described Report of Special Agent R. L. Shivers dated
December 26, 1941 at Honolulu, T. H.

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge
WENDELL BERGE,
Assistant Attorney General.

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Holloman	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Miss Gandy	.....
Files	.....

FOR DEFENSE



BUY
UNITED
STATES
SAVINGS
BONDS
AND STAMPS

RECORDED

65-1574-67
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
10 MAR 18 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
[Signature]

*Memo to Asst. A. G. Berge (encl.)
ca. Ser. 330, 65-9748
to State, On 9 + G - 2 by routing slip
3/24/42 4-2-42
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RECORDED

65-1574-67

April 2, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL WENDELL BERGE

Re: FRIEDEL BARTA AUGUSTE KUERN with aliases;
BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUERN with aliases;
ESPIONAGE G and J

Pursuant to the request contained in your memorandum of March 16, 1942, your reference WB:KDD:mec, 146-7-1382, there is attached a copy of the report of Special Agent in Charge E. L. Shivers, dated December 26, 1941, at Honolulu, T. H., reflecting information regarding the above captioned case.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Attachment

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8-12-86 BY SP8CJ/OW
#285714

Mr. Tolson _____

Mr. E. A. Tamm _____

Mr. Clegg _____

Mr. Glavin _____

Mr. Ladd _____

Mr. Nichols _____

Mr. Rosen _____

Mr. Tracy _____

Mr. Carson _____

Mr. Coffey _____

Mr. Hendon _____

Mr. Holloman _____

Mr. McGuire _____

Mr. Quinn Tamm _____

Mr. Nease _____

Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 7

APR 2 1942 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

22 APR 7 1942

APR 2 2 27 PM

Handwritten signature and initials

March 4, 1942

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn was responsible for the preparation of the signaling system used in connection with messages dispatched by Nagao Kita, the Japanese Consul in Honolulu, Hawaii, to the Foreign Minister in Tokyo, setting forth a system of signals to be employed in getting intelligence information to the Japanese fleet.

Kita was court-martialed, charged with transmitting information to Japan regarding our vessels at Pearl Harbor, and on February 21, 1942, was found guilty and sentenced to be shot.

I am advised that the Japanese Consul, who of course was a part of the conspiracy, is being sent to this country and will be presumably exchanged in due course.

The sentence of Kuehn perhaps raises a question of policy about which you may wish to consult the Secretary of State. I am today sending him a copy of this memorandum.

Francis Biddle
Attorney General

COPY

March 6, 1942.

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE:

What do you think? I am inclined to think that Kita, on arrival in the continental United States, should be kept incommunicado and not placed with the other Diplomats. Plenty of food but no communications in or out.

F.D.R.

C O P Y

March 6, 1942.

My dear Mr. President:

I am returning to you herewith the memorandum addressed to you by the Attorney General under date of March 4 which you sent me with your memorandum of March 6.

I think the steps which you yourself suggest are wisest under the circumstances. I am afraid that if we undertake criminal proceedings against Kita, the Japanese will immediately retaliate against a number of our own consuls now within their jurisdiction.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,

SUMNER WELLES

Enclosure:

To the President from the
Attorney General, March 4, 1942,
re Nagao Kita, Japanese Consul
in Honolulu.

The President,

The White House.



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C.

March 9, 1942

Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Glavin.....
Mr. Ladd.....
Mr. Nichols.....
Mr. Rosen.....
Mr. Tracy.....
Mr. Carson.....
Mr. Coffey.....
Mr. Hendon.....
Mr. Holloman.....
Mr. McGuire.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
Mr. Nease.....
Miss Gandy.....

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER

I am enclosing herewith a copy of my memorandum addressed to the President under date of March 4, with reference to Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn and Nagao Kita. I am also enclosing a copy of the President's memorandum of March 9 to which he attached a copy of a memorandum to the Acting Secretary of State and a copy of the State Department's reply.

These are transmitted for your information.

Francis Biddle
Attorney General

RECORDED

65-1574-68	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
12	MAR 14 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	

memo to
3/11/42
HMK
3/13/42

5 COPY

THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington

March 9, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE

ATTORNEY GENERAL:

FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

F. D. R.

100-15774-10

RECORDED

65-1574-68

b6
b7c

65-1574-80

3/11/42

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Reference is made to my memorandum to you dated February 26, 1942, and to your memorandum dated March 9, 1942, with enclosures, concerning Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn and former Japanese Consul General Kage Kita of Honolulu, Hawaii.

It is noted in the enclosed copy of your memorandum for the President dated March 4, 1942, that you indicate in the second paragraph of that memorandum that "Kita was court-martialed....". I hasten to respectfully call your attention to the fact that the name Kita was apparently inadvertently transcribed into your memorandum at that point rather than the name Kuehn. As reflected in my reference memorandum, it was Kuehn who was court-martialed and found guilty, and sentenced to be shot. No charges whatsoever were ever placed against Japanese Consul General Kita.

Respectfully,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-2-86 BY SP8/CAD
#26874

Tolson _____
E. A. Tamm _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Tracy _____
Gurnea _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Quinn Tamm _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 12:52 PM
DATE 3-12-42
BY [Signature]

RECEIVED-ROOM 5640
FBI
MAR 11 6 20 PM '42

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
FBI
MAR 11 6 36 PM '42
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED-DEPT. OF JUSTICE
MAR 11 3 25 PM '42

65-1574-80

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

Honolulu, T. H.
February 23, 1942

PERSONAL ATTENTION

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN,
with aliases, ET AL;
ESPIONAGE - J.

Dear Sir:

The trial of BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN before a Military Commission at Honolulu, was begun at 9:30 A.M. February 19, 1942 in the courtroom of United States Federal Judge INGRAM M. STAINBACK.

During the course of the trial which extended through February 21st, the courtroom was closed to all outsiders, the trial being conducted in strictest privacy. Before the announcement of the verdict at 1:30 P.M. February 21, 1942, the courtroom was cleared of everyone with the exception of prosecution and defense counsel, the court reporter and members of the Commission. All there present at the courtroom, upon the pronouncement of sentence, were sworn to secrecy.

Immediately following the trial [redacted] was informed in the closest confidence and unofficially by Colonel THOMAS GREEN, Executive Military Governor, that Subject KUEHN had been convicted on all three counts named in the charges incorporated in the report of [redacted], dated January 31, 1942; further, that he had been sentenced to death before a firing squad. Colonel GREEN emphasized that this information could not be officially given out and that same should be restricted to myself.

He specifically requested that Washington not be notified immediately until Commanding General DELOS C. EMMONS of the Hawaiian Department had had an opportunity to be advised of these proceedings, following which he would notify the Honolulu Office so that you might be furnished with the verdict simultaneously with the transmittal of this information to the War Department. It was as a result of these arrangements that my wire of the 22nd was dispatched advising you of this verdict. Following a receipt of your wire of this date requesting [redacted] as to what restrictions had been imposed.

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#208714

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7 JUN 6 1942
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MAR 80 1952
FEDERAL

Letter to the Director
Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN,
with aliases, ET AL;
ESPIONAGE - J.

- 2 -

2-23-42

on the secrecy of the proceedings, [REDACTED] again contacted Colonel GREEN for his comments.

Colonel GREEN stated in his wire to the War Department of the 22nd instant, he had indicated the verdict in this case had been furnished to no one, but suggested that same be transmitted to the Department of Justice at Washington, D. C., since the F.B.I. had been instrumental in the investigation and success of the case. At the same time he had suggested to the War Department that this verdict be taken up with the State Department and White House prior to execution of sentence since reprisals against our own nationals in Japan and Germany might result.

Colonel GREEN is of the opinion that premature publicity might also bring about this result and therefore, he suggested that publicity be avoided for the moment. He suggested however that you might wish to take this matter up directly with Brigadier General LEE of the Military Intelligence Division at Washington or with Major General KRAMER, Judge Advocate General, regarding the issuance of any news releases; that he has no objection following any procedure agreeable to these men. Colonel GREEN did request however that such a contact be discreetly made in such a manner that the War Department would not be cognizant of our previous knowledge of the verdict in this case.

I might state that our relations with Colonel GREEN and his office have been extremely cordial and I therefore feel that every effort should be made to protect the confidence he has placed with [REDACTED] and myself in this matter. b6 b7c

Very truly yours,


R. L. SHIVERS
Special Agent in Charge.

RLS:mma
65-4
cc: 65-414

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
HONOLULU, T. H.

March 25, 1942.

65-4

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN,
with aliases, ET AL.
Espionage - J and G.

Dear Sir:

As a matter of interest to the Bureau, in the above-captioned case, attention is directed to an article which appeared on Page 36 of the February 23rd issue of "Time" Magazine, regarding the rise to power of the Chief of the German Gestapo, REINHARD HEYDRICH, whose photograph also appears on the magazine cover.

It is interesting to note that this article reports HEYDRICH extorted from a Prussian official, as a result of letters obtained reflecting correspondence between this official and one GREGOR STRASSER, a recommendation to HEINRICH HIMMLER resulting in his appointment to a post with the Munich Elite Guard. Thereafter, it was reported his rise to Chief of the German Gestapo was rapid. It was also mentioned in connection with the blood purge of June 30, 1934, that HEYDRICH supervised the Berlin end of the massacre and "found time to take personal care of GREGOR STRASSER, firebrand adherent of the "Rohm Rebels."

Attention is directed to the signed statement of OTTO KUEHN. Dated January 1, 1942, contained in the report of [REDACTED] dated January 5, 1942, entitled JAPANESE ACTIVITIES, HONOLULU, T. H., Espionage, Confile-J. It will be observed, on page 2 of this statement, KUEHN advised that he and HEYDRICH had both made a bid for a Nazi government position in Munich but that HEYDRICH had been selected. KUEHN also volunteered the information which was incorporated in his statement that he had been in a concentration camp with one OTTO STRASSER, the identity of this individual being unknown to this office. It is thought perhaps GREGOR STRASSER is identical with OTTO STRASSER, referred to by KUEHN.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8-12-86 BY SP8CJ/ab

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10 APR 6 1942

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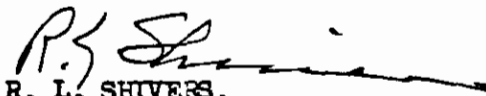
Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Holloman	
Mr. McGuire	
Mr. Quinn	

Director.

3/25/42.

The above has been brought to the Bureau's attention as a matter of interest only, although it tends also to bear out the truth of KUEHN'S statements concerning his activities in Germany.

Very truly yours,


R. L. SHIVERS,
Special Agent in Charge.

CUSTODIAL DETENTION APPREHENSION FORM

Reference:- HONOLULU LETTER 12-17-41

Taken into custody.

The following individual was:

NAME:- OTTO K. KNEHN (C-RELAY)

PLACE:- TERRITORY OF HAWAII

DATE: 12-17-41

REMARKS:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-12-86 BY SP-6/10/86

10 APR 7 1942

65-1574.
NOT RECORDED
<i>E. J. [unclear]</i>

CUSTODIAL DETENTION APPREHENSION FORM

Reference:- HONOLULU LETTER 12-17-41

Taken into custody.

The following individual was:

NAME:- MR. FRIEDRICH BARTHA AUGUSTE KUEHN (GERMAN)
ALIAS -- MRS. OTTO K. KUEHN

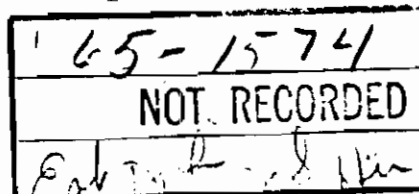
PLACE:- TERRITORY OF HAWAII

DATE: 12-17-41

REMARKS:

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-12-80 BY SP5CJ/CAB

52)
10 APR 7 1942



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CUSTODIAL DETENTION APPREHENSION FORM

Reference:- HONOLULU 1E TER 12-17-41

Taken into custody.

The following individual was:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-12-86 BY SP6/CLJ/CAJ

NAME:- EDWARD M. RUTH KIRKMAN (3-11-11)

PLACE:- TERRITORY OF HAWAII

DATE: 12-17-41

REMARKS:

DO APR 7 1942

65-1574
NOT RECORDED
<i>5 1 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</i>

CUSTODIAL DETENTION APPREHENSION FORM

Reference:- HONOLULU LETTER 12-17-41

Taken into custody.

The following individual was:

NAME:- MRS. J. CARSON MOORE (GREEN) NEZ -- RUTH MOORE;
ALIAS -- SUSE KAETE RUTH MOORE; RUTH MOORE

PLACE:- TERRITORY OF HAWAII

DATE: 12-17-41

REMARKS:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-12-86 BY SP-6/BJA

8 APR 7 1942
77

65-1574
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Ab [unclear] [unclear]

**RECEIPT FOR GOVERNMENT PROPERTY
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

I certify that I have received the following
Government property for official use:

RECEIVED:

Manual of Rules and Regulations #

RETURNED:

Old Manual of Rules and Regulations #

READ!

The Government property which you hereby acknowledge is charged to you and you are responsible for taking care of it and returning it when its use has been completed. DO NOT MARK OR WRITE ON IT OR MUTILATE IT IN ANY WAY.

Very truly yours,

CUSTODIAL DETENTION APPREHENSION FORM

Reference:-HONOLULU LETTER 12-12-41

Taken into custody.

The following individual was:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-12-86 BY SP5/CJ/CAH

NAME:-

MRS. FRIEDEL BARTA AUGUSTE ⁰KUEHN (GERMAN)

PLACE:-

DATE:

12-12-41

REMARKS:

8 APR 8 1942

17

65-1574-
Apr 8 1942

RECEIPT FOR GOVERNMENT PROPERTY
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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it and returning it when its use has been completed. DO NOT
MARK OR WRITE ON IT OR MUTILATE IT IN ANY WAY.

Very truly yours,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-12-86 BY SP5CJ/CB

CUSTODIAL DETENTION APPREHENSION FORM

Reference:- HONOLULU LETTER 12-12-41

Taken into custody.

The following individual was:

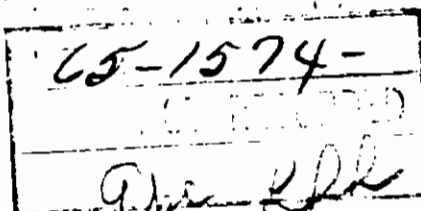
NAME:- OOTO K KUEHN (GERMAN)

PLACE:-

DATE: 12-12-41

REMARKS:

9¹⁷ APR 8 1942



RECEIPT FOR GOVERNMENT PROPERTY
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

I certify that I have received the following
Government property for official use:

RECEIVED:

Manual of Rules and Regulations #

RETURNED:

Old Manual of Rules and Regulations #

READ!

The Government property which you hereby acknowledge is charged to you and you are responsible for taking care of it and returning it when its use has been completed. DO NOT MARK OR WRITE ON IT OR MUTILATE IT IN ANY WAY.

Very truly yours,

CUSTODIAL DETENTION APPREHENSION FORM

Reference:- HONOLULU LETTER 12-12-41

Taken into custody.

The following individual was:

NAME:- MRS. J. CARSON MOORE (GERMAN)

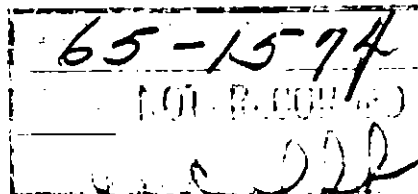
PLACE:-

DATE: 12-12-41

REMARKS:

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10 APR 8 1942



JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Time 12:15 p.m.

April 21, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: OTTO KUEHN;
ESPIONAGE - J.

Reference is made to your request to be advised concerning the present status of Kuehn, who has been convicted by a Military Court Martial at Honolulu, Hawaii, and was sentenced to be shot as a Japanese spy.

[REDACTED] made inquiries at the Military Intelligence Division today and was advised that the conviction of Kuehn was referred, as is the general policy, to the office of the Judge Advocate General in Washington for review. The Judge Advocate General upheld the finding of the Court.

The matter was then referred by Secretary Stimson to the State Department. The State Department replied that they would defer to the judgment of the War Department in this regard.

Recently Secretary Stimson also referred this matter to the Attorney General, requesting his advice as to the matter. No reply has been received from the Attorney General.

[REDACTED] stated that he was advised that if a reply is received from the Attorney General indicating that he will defer to the judgment of the War Department, arrangements will be made for the early execution of Kuehn.

Respectfully,

Mr. Tolson ☒
Mr. E. A. Tamm ☒
Mr. Clegg ☒
Mr. Glavin ☒
Mr. Ladd ☒
Mr. Nichols ☒
Mr. Rosen ☒
Mr. Tracy ☒
Mr. Carson ☒
Mr. Coffey ☒
Mr. Hendon ☒
Mr. Holloman ☒
Mr. McGuire ☒
Mr. Quinn Tamm ☒
Tele. Room ☒
Mr. Nease ☒
Miss Gandy ☒

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
1	MAY 29 1942
[Signature]	



**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.**

February 16, 1942

65-1574

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN
with aliases;
ESPIONAGE (G-J)

For your information, there is attached a
summary memorandum concerning the above mentioned subject.

Kuehn, with his wife and daughter, Ruth Carson
Moore, is presently detained at the Immigration Station in
Honolulu and it is anticipated that charges will be pre-
ferred against him in the immediate future by the Judge
Advocate General's Department, U. S. Army.

It is noted that the preferring of charges against
Subject was delayed pending the return to Honolulu of
Special Agent in Charge Shivers, who is a necessary witness
in this case.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

Attachment

see 65-1574-53
62

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DATE 12-8-80 BY SP5CJ/CA

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

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17 MAY 3
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

31
2 MAY 19 1942

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

April 30, 1942

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin ✓
Mr. Ladd ✓
Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Rosen ✓
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Holloman
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

RE: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, was;
ESPIONAGE (G), (J).

For your information, there is attached the summary memorandum concerning the above mentioned subject originally submitted to you under date of February 16, 1942, which has been brought up to date as of today.

On February 19, 1942, Kuehn went to trial before the Military Commission in Honolulu following the preferring of charges by the Judge Advocate General's Department of the United States Army alleging a violation of Sections 31, 32 and 34 of Title 50, United States Code Annotated. This Commission on February 21, 1942, returned a verdict of guilty on the above charges and sentenced Kuehn to be shot on the same date. The Military Intelligence Division advised that the conviction was referred as is the general policy to the Office of the Judge Advocate General in Washington for review, who incidentally upheld the finding of the Court.

The matter was then referred by Secretary Stimson to the State Department who replied that it would defer to the judgment of the War Department and this matter was recently brought to the attention of the Attorney General for his advice. The Military Intelligence Division has advised that if a reply is received from the Attorney General indicating he will defer to the judgment of the War Department, arrangements will be made for an early execution of Kuehn.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

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UNITED
STATES
SAVINGS
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AND STAMPS

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65-1574-73
17 MAY 8 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

July 9, 1942

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Foxworth _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. [REDACTED]

Re: OTTO KUEHN
ESPIONAGE

At the request of [REDACTED] the writer requested [REDACTED] to determine whether or not the Department of Justice had answered the State Department's inquiry with reference to the legality of the court martial of Kuehn in Hawaii.

[REDACTED] has advised the writer that [REDACTED] of the Judge Advocate General's Office has informed him that no answer has been received from the Department of Justice as yet but [REDACTED] believes an answer will be received shortly because the men working on the Kuehn case in the Department of Justice are also working on the [REDACTED] and he believes that this case will stimulate them into making a reply.

Respectfully,
[REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 8-12-86 BY [REDACTED]

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

July 9, 1942

65-1574

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN
was; ESPIONAGE (G) (J)

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓
Mr. Clegg ✓
Mr. Glavin ✓
Mr. Ladd ✓
Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Rosen ✓
Mr. Tracy ✓
Mr. Carson ✓
Mr. Coffey ✓
Mr. Hendon ✓
Mr. Holloman ✓
Mr. McGuire ✓
Mr. Quinn Tamm ✓
Mr. Harbo ✓
Tele. Room ✓
Mr. Nease ✓
Miss Beahm ✓
Miss Gandy ✓

As you may recall, Kuehn, a German citizen, on February 21, 1942, was convicted of espionage and sentenced to be shot by the Military Commission at Honolulu.

Pursuant to the usual policy, this decision was referred to the Office of the Judge Advocate General in Washington, which upheld the finding of the Commission and then referred it through Secretary Stimson to the Department of State. The Department of State indicated it would defer to the judgment of the War Department regarding subject's execution, and the decision was then brought to the attention of the Attorney General for his advice. The Military Intelligence Service has indicated if the Attorney General will defer to the judgment of the War Department, arrangements will be made for an early execution of Kuehn.

[redacted] of the Military Intelligence Service has been contacted by the Bureau from time to time regarding Kuehn's status, and he has advised that the Judge Advocate General's Office has not as yet received any advice from the Department of Justice regarding the matter. According to [redacted] of the Judge Advocate General's Office has expressed the opinion that a decision from the Department of Justice should be forthcoming in the immediate future, inasmuch as the same men considering the Kuehn case are presently tied up on the [redacted] and [redacted] believes that the latter will act as a stimulant for the Department's decision concerning Kuehn.

It is noted that this matter has been before the Department of Justice since April, 1942.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

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13

FOR DEFENSE



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UNITED
STATES
SAVINGS
BONDS
AND STAMPS

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EX-18

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DATE 8-12-86 BY SP6 CJS

AUG 7 1942

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Tr. 8-6-42
65-1574

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Reference is made to my memoranda of January 5, January 19, and February 26, 1942, as well as our conversation on March 3, 1942, regarding Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn. As you may recall, Kuehn, a German alien, on February 21, 1942, was found guilty by the Military Commission in Honolulu and sentenced to be shot because of his preparation of a signalling system for the Japanese Consulate in Honolulu, which was transmitted to the Foreign Minister in Tokyo, to be used in furnishing intelligence information to the Japanese Fleet.

We have been informed that the decision of the Military Commission, pursuant to the usual policy, was referred to the Office of the Judge Advocate General in Washington, which upheld its finding and then referred the matter through Secretary Stimson to the Department of State. The Department of State reportedly has indicated it would defer to the judgment of the War Department regarding Kuehn's execution, and we understand that the decision was then submitted to you for your advice. We have been informed by the Military Intelligence Service of the War Department that if you see fit to defer to the judgment of the War Department in this matter, arrangements will be made for an early execution of Kuehn.

I would appreciate being advised at your earliest convenience as to your decision in this matter.

Respectfully,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

SENT FLUX D. O.
TIME 3:50 P
DATE AUG 7 1942
BY B

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RECEIVED - ROOM 56
AUG 7 11 36 AM '42
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 7 1942
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

September 3, 1942

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Kramer	
Mr. McGuire	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

MEMORANDUM TO J. EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

From: Oscar Cox, Assistant Solicitor General

I shall be grateful if you will arrange to have sent to me your file on Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn, who was recently sentenced to death by a military commission in Hawaii.

Oscar Cox

*Give Mr. Cox
9-9-42
BVH*

DEC

25 11

RECORDED

65-1574-76
7 SEP 15 1942
FILE



EX-11

RECORDED 7/9/42

65-1574-76

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. OSCAR COX,
ASSISTANT SOLICITOR GENERAL

Reference is made to your memorandum of September 3, 1942, in which you requested the file on Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn, who was sentenced to death by a military commission at Hawaii on February 21, 1942.

In accordance with your request there are attached hereto the following reports:

Report of [redacted] dated July 27, 1939, at New York City

Report of [redacted] dated August 21, 1939, at San Francisco, California

Report of [redacted] dated September 26, 1939, at Honolulu, T. H.

Report of [redacted] dated March 22, 1930, at Honolulu, T. H.

Report of [redacted] dated March 29, 1940, at Honolulu, T. H.

Report of [redacted] dated May 27, 1940, at Honolulu, T. H.

Report of [redacted] dated July 20, 1940, at Honolulu, T. H.

Report of [redacted] dated October 21, 1940, at Honolulu, T. H.

Report of [redacted] dated September 20, 1941, at Honolulu, T. H.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-12-80 BY SP6 CJC/CD
10-7-42
COX
DWH

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Memorandum for Mr. Oscar Cox

Page 2

Report of [REDACTED] dated
November 24, 1941, at Honolulu, T. H.

Report of [REDACTED] dated
December 22, 1941, at Honolulu, T. H.

Report of [REDACTED] dated
January 5, 1942, at Honolulu, T. H.

Report of [REDACTED] dated
January 15, 1942, at Honolulu, T. H.

Report of [REDACTED] dated
January 22, 1942, at Honolulu, T. H.

Report of [REDACTED] dated
January 26, 1942, at Honolulu, T. H.

Report of [REDACTED] dated
January 31, 1942, at Honolulu, T. H.

Report of [REDACTED] dated February 2,
1942, at New York City

Report of [REDACTED] dated
February 13, 1942, at Honolulu, T. H.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Attachment

65-1574
Transcribed 9

BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12-30-80 BY SP5 CJS

On the morning following the Japanese air attack on the Island of Oahu, the commercial telegraph, radio and wireless companies, at the request of the Honolulu Field Office, furnished it with copies of all messages which had been sent and received by the Japanese Consulate in that city.

The translation of one of these messages dispatched on December 3, 1941, by Kita, the Japanese Consul in Honolulu, to the Foreign Minister in Tokyo, set forth a complete system of signals to be used in communicating intelligence information to the Japanese.

Investigation has disclosed that Kuehn, who had been the subject of considerable investigation by the Bureau, OHI and G-2, was responsible for the preparation of the signal system.

Kuehn was born at Berlin, Germany, on July 5, 1895, and served in the Imperial German Navy during the First World War. He became associated with the Nazi Party in 1930 and claims that he was considered with Reinhold Heydrich for the position of Chief of the German Gestapo under Heinrich Himmler, but because of the latter's dislike for Kuehn, Heydrich was given the appointment. Kuehn is a German citizen, is married, and a stepson named Leopold [REDACTED]

Kuehn, with his wife Friedel and daughter, Ruth Caroon Moore, was interned at Honolulu on December 8, 1941. Following his detention, Kuehn admitted his responsibility for the preparation of the mentioned signalling system in a written statement. He advised this had been done at the request of officials of the Japanese Consulate in Honolulu, and had been furnished to them on December 2, 1941. It has also been determined that Kuehn on one occasion received \$14,000 from a Japanese Consulate official in Honolulu.

Mr. Tolson _____ Charges against Kuehn for violation of the Federal Espionage Act
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____ were preferred by the Judge Advocate General's Department, United States
Mr. Clegg _____ Army, at Honolulu, T. H., and on February 21, 1942, Kuehn was convicted
Mr. Glavin _____ by the Military Commission and sentenced to be shot. To date, this
Mr. Ladd _____ sentence has not been carried out.

Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____ On April 21, 1942, inquiry was made at the Military Intelligence
Mr. Tracy _____ Division relative to the status of this case and it was determined that
Mr. Carson _____ the conviction of Kuehn was referred, as is the general policy, to the
Mr. Coffey _____ office of the Judge Advocate General in Washington for review and that
Mr. Hendon _____ the Judge Advocate General upheld the findings of the court.

Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

EX-44

65-1574-76

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The matter was then referred by Secretary Stimson to the State Department, which replied that it would defer to the judgment of the War Department in this regard. Secretary Stimson also referred this case to the Attorney General, requesting his advice as to the matter. To date, no action so far as is known has been taken by the Department in this regard, although in a memorandum dated September 3, 1942 from Assistant Solicitor General Oscar Cox, it was requested that this Bureau's file in this matter be referred to him. Accordingly, all investigative reports submitted have been transmitted to Assistant Solicitor General Cox.

This matter is being closely followed and a memorandum is being directed to Assistant Solicitor General Oscar Cox requesting that the Bureau be promptly advised of any action taken in this case.

65-1574

10-7-42

**MEMORANDUM FOR MR. OSCAR COX,
ASSISTANT SOLICITOR GENERAL**

Reference is made to my memorandum to you of September 11, 1942, with which I transmitted reports setting forth the results of the investigation of Bernard Julius Otto Knahn, who was sentenced to death by a military commission at Hawaii on February 21, 1942, for engaging in espionage activities on behalf of the Japanese.

It would be appreciated if you would promptly advise me of the action which is taken by the Department in this case.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12-86 BY SP-1/CLL

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 2

OCT 9 1942 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED

65-1574-77
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OCT 14 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MEMORANDUM

October 10, 1942

TO: Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
FROM: Oscar Cox
SUBJECT: Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Mr. Carson	✓
Mr. Coffey	✓
Mr. Hendon	✓
Mr. Kramer	✓
Mr. McGuire	✓
Mr. Quinn Tamm	✓
Mr. Nease	✓
Mr. Gandy	✓

Handwritten: K. L. Ball

I appreciate your memorandum of yesterday about the Kuehn case. Before handing down an opinion, we are waiting for the opinion from the Supreme Court on the saboteur case. This is so because, undoubtedly, the Supreme Court will express some views about the powers and jurisdiction of military commissions. In all probability, the Supreme Court opinion will be handed down on Monday, October 12.

We should be ready shortly thereafter with the Kuehn case opinion.

Oscar Cox



RECORDED

65-1574-78

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12	OCT 15	1942

NOV 27 1942

65-1574
11/24/42

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

As you will recall, Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn, a German alien, was convicted of espionage on behalf of the Japanese on February 21, 1942, by a Military Commission at Honolulu, T. H., which sentenced Kuehn to death.

Thereafter, the findings of the Military Commission were referred to the Office of the Judge Advocate General in Washington, which upheld the conviction. Through the Secretary of War, the case was then submitted to the Department of State, which deferred to the judgment of the Judge Advocate General's Office. It is understood that thereafter during April of 1942, this matter was submitted to the Department of Justice for an opinion.

The Military Intelligence Service of the War Department has advised that if the finding and sentence of the Military Commission are deferred to by the Department of Justice, arrangements will be made immediately for an early execution of Kuehn.

In accordance with the request of Mr. Oscar Cox, Assistant Solicitor General, all investigative reports in the Kuehn case were submitted to him for consideration on September 11, 1942. Thereafter on October 10, 1942, Mr. Cox advised me by memorandum that prior to handing down an opinion, it was desired that the decision of the Supreme Court in the Dasch sabotage case be reviewed inasmuch as the Supreme Court would undoubtedly express views relative to the powers and jurisdiction of military commissions. Mr. Cox indicated that the Department of Justice would be ready shortly thereafter with the Kuehn case opinion.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP5/CJ/CAH
ON 8-12-86

Tolson _____
E. A. Tamm _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Carson _____
Coffey _____
Hendon _____
Kramer _____
McGuire _____
Quinn Tamm _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

It is understood that the Supreme Court on October 29, 1942, handed down its opinion in the Dasch sabotage case.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would advise me at your earliest convenience when your opinion in this matter will be forthcoming.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

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NOV 27 1942
5 23 PM '42
65-1574-79
DIRECTOR
DEPT. OF JUSTICE



UGO CARUSI
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C.

November 30, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER

This refers to your undated memorandum which reached the Attorney General on November 27, inquiring when the Attorney General's opinion in the case of Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn will be rendered.

You will recall that Kuehn, a German alien, was convicted of espionage by a military commission in Hawaii, and sentenced to death. I am now advised that the sentence has been commuted to fifty years, and that the request for the opinion has been withdrawn.

Consequently, so far as the Department of Justice is presently concerned, the matter is closed.

Ugo Carusi
Executive Assistant to
the Attorney General

Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Glavin.....
Mr. Ladd.....
Mr. Nichols.....
Mr. Rosen.....
Mr. Tracy.....
Mr. Carson.....
Mr. Coffey.....
Mr. Egan.....
Mr. Kramer.....
Mr. McGuire.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
Mr. Nease.....
Miss Gandy.....
Files.....



55 DEC 15 1942

RECORDED

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65-1574

December 7, 1942

SAC, Honolulu

Re: **BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUHN**
with aliases; et al;
ESPIONAGE - J and C

Dear Sir:

The Bureau has been advised by memorandum dated November 30, 1942, from the Department that the death sentence received by Kuhn has now been commuted to fifty years.

It has also come to the attention of the Bureau that this commutation has been known to your office. However, the Bureau file fails to reflect the receipt of any communication relative thereto.

It is requested that you promptly advise the Bureau in this regard.

Yours truly,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-12-88 BY SP-10 CDB

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 3
★ DEC 8 1942 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED

65-1574-81
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEC 10 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

November 24, 1942

65-1574

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN was;
ESPIONAGE - J

CC-287

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. E. A. Tamm	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Carson	_____
Mr. Coffey	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Kramer	_____
Mr. McGuire	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Quinn Tamm	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Beahm	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

The purpose of this memorandum is to set forth the present status of this case.

As you will recall, Kuehn was convicted for espionage activities on behalf of the Japanese and sentenced to death by a Military Commission at Honolulu, Hawaii, on February 21, 1942. In accordance with the usual policy in these matters, the sentence of the Military Commission was referred thereafter to the Office of the Judge Advocate General in Washington, which upheld the finding and sentence of the Commission, and then through the Secretary of War the case was referred to the Department of State. The State Department indicated that it would defer to the judgment of the War Department regarding Kuehn's conviction and sentencing, and the matter was then brought to the attention of the Attorney General for an opinion. The Military Intelligence Service has advised that if the Attorney General defers to the judgment rendered, arrangements will be made immediately for the execution of Kuehn.

As of this date, this matter is still in the hands of the Attorney General. By memorandum to the Director dated September 3, 1942, Mr. Oscar Cox, the Assistant Solicitor General, requested that investigative reports in this case be submitted to him for his consideration. By memorandum dated September 11, 1942, copies of all reports submitted relative to the investigation of Kuehn were transmitted to Mr. Cox. On October 9, 1942, Mr. Cox was requested by memorandum to promptly advise the Bureau of the action which would be taken by the Department in this case. Mr. Cox thereafter replied, stating that prior to handing down an opinion in this matter, his office was awaiting the decision of the Supreme Court in the Dasch sabotage case. Mr. Cox indicated that this was necessary inasmuch as the Supreme Court would undoubtedly express some views about the powers and jurisdiction of military commissions, and that the opinion in the Kuehn case would be ready shortly after the Supreme Court acted

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-12-86 BY SP8/CJA



BUY
UNITED
STATES
SAVINGS
BONDS

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50 DEC 1970

Memo for Mr. Ladd

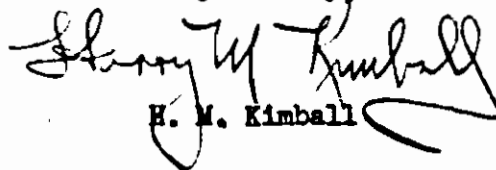
- 2 -

11/24/42

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN was;
ESPIONAGE - J

It is understood that the Supreme Court handed down an ^{b6} opinion in the ~~Danish~~ sabotage ~~case~~ on October 29, 1942. A memorandum is being transmitted to the Attorney General requesting advice as to when a decision will be forthcoming relative to Kuehn's conviction and sentence. It should be noted that this case has been before the Department since April, 1942.

Respectfully,


H. M. Kimball

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



0
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

December 3, 1942

65-1574
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711-9
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN;
ESPIONAGE-J

You will recall that Kuehn, a German subject residing in Honolulu, Hawaii, on February 21, 1942 was sentenced by a Military Commission at Honolulu to death for his espionage activities on behalf of the Japanese prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor.

In a memorandum dated November 30, 1942, from Mr. Ugo Carusi, Executive Assistant to the Attorney General, it is stated that Kuehn's sentence has now been commuted to fifty years, and so far as the Department of Justice is concerned, the matter is closed.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd
D. M. Ladd

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-12-80 BY SP-6 CJA



D. A.
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65-1574-83

DEC 5 1942

FIVE

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Honolulu, T. H.
December 15, 1942

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. E. A. Tamm	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Carson	_____
Mr. Coffey	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Kramer	_____
Mr. McGuire	_____
Mr. Quinn Tamm	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

~~PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN,
with aliases; et al;
ESPIONAGE - G & J

Dear Sir:

Although to date no official notification has reached this office as to the sentence imposed upon BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, who was tried before a Military Commission at Honolulu, T.H., on February 19, 1942, for violation of Sections 31, as amended, 32, and 34, Title 50, United States Code Annotated, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
that BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN was duly convicted on February 21, 1942, by a Military Commission duly appointed for the Territory of Hawaii by the Military Governor of the Territory of Hawaii, of the charges previously stated, and although he was sentenced on February 21, 1942, by the Military Commission to be shot to death with musketry, on October 26, 1942, the sentence was commuted to confinement at hard labor for a period of fifty years and KUEHN was ordered confined to the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas.

No disposition sheet is being forwarded to the Bureau in this matter, although fingerprints for subject were forwarded to the Bureau, as subject's arrest, trial, conviction, and sentence have not as yet been made a matter of public record.

Very truly yours,

R. L. Shivers
Special Agent in Charge

COPIES IN FILE

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Letter to New 12-30-42 P.V.N.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP5/BJW
ON 8-2-86

RECORDED

65-1574-84

December 30, 1942

SAC, Honolulu

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUSHN was; et al;
ESPIONAGE - G and J

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated December 7, 1942, in which you were advised that the Bureau had just been informed by memorandum from the Department dated November 30, 1942, that the death sentence received by Kushn had been commuted to fifty years.

[REDACTED] the death sentence received by Kushn was commuted to confinement at hard labor for a period of fifty years.

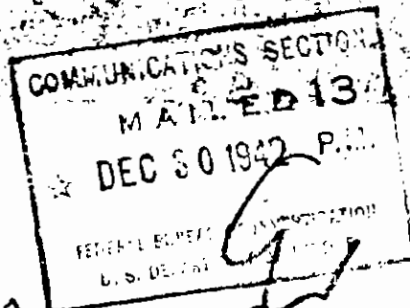
It is requested that you immediately advise when this information was first received at your office and, if prior to the Bureau's letter of December 7, 1942, why the Bureau was not appropriately advised.

It is also requested that a report setting forth Kushn's conviction, sentence and commutation of sentence be promptly submitted.

Yours truly,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____



JAN 4 1943

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

Honolulu, T. H.

FILE NO. 65-4

REPORT MADE AT Honolulu, T. H.	DATE WHEN MADE 12/15/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/19; 12/10/42	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, with aliases: Otto K. Kuehn, Otto Kuhn, Otto K. Kuhn, Mr. Kuehn; FRIEDEL BARTA AUGUSTE KUEHN, with aliases: Mrs. Otto K. Kuehn, Mrs. Otto K. Kuhn, Mrs. Kuehn; Mrs. J. CARSON MOORE, nee Ruth Kuehn; EBERHARD MARTIN KUEHN			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - G & J

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Synopsis:

Subject OTTO KUEHN tried before Military Commission, Honolulu, T. H., 2/19/42, on three counts for violation of Sections 31, 32, and 34 of Title 50, United States Code Annotated. Verdict of guilty returned on 2/21/42 by Military Commission on each count, and subject OTTO KUEHN sentenced to be shot. On 10/26/42 verdict of guilty confirmed and sentence commuted to fifty years' imprisonment by Military Governor. Subject transferred to Fort Leavenworth on 11/20/42.

*1 conviction
50 year sentence
Espionage*

- C -

DECLASSIFIED BY *SSC/pjs*
ON *8-12-80*

References:

Report of **[REDACTED]** dated at **Honolulu, T. H., 2/15/42**; Bureau letter dated 12/7/42 (Bureau file #65-1574)

Details:

AT HONOLULU, T. H.

Charges and specifications charging BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN with violation of Sections 31, 32, and 34, Title 50, United States Code Annotated, were served upon subject on February 14, 1942, **[REDACTED]**

APPROVED AND FORWARDED

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

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353 AUG 4 1970

5 Bureau
1 Honolulu file 65-414
5 Honolulu

52 JAN 23 1944

b6 b7c
[REDACTED] Office and trial were set before Military Commission for February 19, 1942.

On February 19, 1942, the trial of BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN was held in strict privacy, all outsiders being excluded, before a Military Commission at Honolulu, T. H., at which Major General WOODRUFF was president and presiding officer. The trial lasted for a period of three days, and on February 21, 1942, a verdict of guilty was rendered by the Military Commission on each of the three charges as set forth in the report of [REDACTED] dated January 31, 1942.

On February 21, 1942, subject was sentenced by the said Military Commission to be shot to death with musketry. On October 26, 1942, the sentence was duly approved by the Military Governor, Lieutenant General DELOS C. EMMONS, of the Territory of Hawaii, but was commuted to confinement at hard labor for a period of fifty years. On November 7, 1942, an order was issued by the Military Governor of the Territory of Hawaii, to the Provost Marshal, Hawaiian Department, Fort Shafter, T. H., and the Warden of the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, ordering the commitment of BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, a person convicted of violating Sections 31, as amended, 32, and 34, Title 50, United States Code Annotated, in the Federal Penitentiary at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. A copy of the order of commitment was obtained and is being set forth as follows:

1. Whereas, the above named BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, duly was convicted on February 21, 1942, by the Military Commission duly appointed for the Territory of Hawaii by the Military Governor of the Territory of Hawaii, of the following charges to wit:

CHARGE I: Violation of Section 34, Title 50, United States Code Annotated; unlawfully conspiring to transmit information affecting national defense.

Specification: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, OTOJIRO OKUDA and NAGAO KITA, at Honolulu, Island of Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, during the period commencing on or about the 20th day of November, 1941, up to and including the date of the filing of this charge, did conspire, combine, confederate and agree together and with each other and with other persons whose names are unknown, to commit an offense against the United States of America, to wit, the offense of unlawfully and feloniously, with intent and reason to believe that it was to be used to the injury of the United States and to the advantage of a foreign nation, namely Japan, communicating, delivering and transmitting, and attempting to communicate, deliver and transmit, to a foreign government, to wit, the Imperial Japanese Government, documents, codes, sketches, plans, lists and writings relating to the national defense and the movements and positions of the several

units of the United States Fleet (Section 32, Title 50, U.S.C.), that is to say that during the period and at the place above set forth BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, OTOJIRO OKUDA and NAGAO KITA did conspire, combine, confederate and agree together and with each other and with other persons whose names are unknown, with the intent and reason to believe that the information to be transmitted relative to national defense was to be used to the injury of the United States and to the advantage of a foreign nation, namely Japan, to communicate, deliver and transmit to a foreign government, namely the Imperial Government of Japan, certain information relative to national defense and to the movements and positions of the several units of the United States Fleet by means of a plan and system of signals which was to be prepared by BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN and submitted to OTOJIRO OKUDA at the Japanese Consulate at Honolulu, Island of Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, which would give a concise method of transmitting to the Imperial Government of Japan and its naval and military representatives information relative to national defense and the movements and locations of the battle force, scouting fleet, aircraft carriers and other units of the United States Fleet at Pearl Harbor, Island of Oahu, Territory of Hawaii.

That thereafter and during the existence of said conspiracy one or more of said conspirators hereinafter mentioned by name did the following overt acts in furtherance of and to effect the object of said conspiracy aforesaid:

OVERT ACTS

(1) At Honolulu, T. H., on or about the 28th day of November, 1941, BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN did make a trip to the Navy Yard, Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii.

(2) At Honolulu, T. H., on or about the 29th day of November, 1941, BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN did prepare a plan for transmittal of information relative to the United States Fleet.

(3) At Honolulu, T. H., on or about the 30th day of November, 1941, BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN did deliver to OTOJIRO OKUDA at the Japanese Consulate, 1714 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu, T. H., a plan for the transmittal of information relative to the movements and positions of the several units of the United States Fleet.

(4) At Honolulu, T. H., on or about the 30th day of November, 1941, OTOJIRO OKUDA advised BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN at the Japanese Consulate that his plan for transmittal of information relative to the United States Navy was too complicated, and instructed him to prepare a simpler plan.

(5) At Honolulu, T. H., on or about the 1st day of December, 1941, BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN did prepare a plan for the transmittal of information relative to the movements and positions of the several units of the United States Fleet.

(6) At Honolulu, T. H., on or about the 2nd day of December, 1941, BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN did deliver to OTOJIRO OKUDA at the Japanese Consulate, 1714 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu, T. H., a plan for the transmittal of information relative to the United States Fleet units and their movements.

(7) At Honolulu, T. H., on or about the 2nd day of December, 1941, BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN did deliver to OTOJIRO OKUDA at the Japanese Consulate, 1714 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu, T. H., a list showing the number and type of naval vessels in Pearl Harbor, T. H.

(8) At Honolulu, T. H., on or about the 3rd day of December, 1941, NAGAO KITA did transmit a plan and system of signals previously prepared by BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN to the Foreign Minister of the Imperial Japanese Government at Tokio, Japan (Section 34, Title 50, U.S.C.)

CHARGE II: Violation of Section 31, as amended, Title 50, United States Code Annotated; unlawfully obtaining information affecting national defense.

Specification: In that BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN did, at Pearl Harbor, Island of Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, on or about November 28, 1941, for the purpose of obtaining information respecting the national defense with intent and reason to believe that the information to be obtained was to be used to the injury of the United States and to the advantage of a foreign nation, namely, Japan, unlawfully and feloniously obtain information concerning vessels connected with the national defense, to wit, battleships, aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers, submarines, owned and constructed by the United States and under the control of the United States and of its officers and agents, in violation of Section 31, as amended, Title 50, United States Code Annotated.

CHARGE III: Violation of Section 32, Title 50, United States Code Annotated; unlawfully disclosing information affecting national defense.

Specification: In that BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN did, at Honolulu, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, on or about December 2, 1941, with intent and reason to believe that it was to be used to the injury of the United States and to the advantage of a foreign nation, namely, Japan, unlawfully and feloniously communicate, deliver, transmit, and attempt to communicate, deliver and transmit, to a foreign government, namely, The Imperial Government of Japan, and to the military and naval forces

within a foreign country, namely, Japan, and to representatives, officers, agents, employees, subjects and citizens thereof, information relating to the national defense of the United States, to wit, information relating to and concerning vessels, to wit, United States battleships, aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers, and submarines connected with the national defense, at Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, their positions, locations, and movements, in violation of Section 32, Title 50, United States Code Annotated.

2. And, whereas, the said BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN duly was sentenced upon said conviction of said charges on said February 21, 1942, by said Military Commission, to be shot to death with musketry;

3. And, whereas, on October 26, 1942, the said sentence duly was approved by the undersigned Military Governor of the Territory of Hawaii but was commuted to confinement at hard labor for fifty (50) years; and whereas it appears necessary to the undersigned, as the said Military Governor of the Territory of Hawaii, that the said BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN be confined in The United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, to serve said sentence as commuted as aforesaid;

4. Now, therefore, you, the said Provost Marshal, Hawaiian Department, Fort Shafter, Territory of Hawaii, hereby are ordered to deliver, or cause to be delivered, the said BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN to the Warden, The United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, for the purpose of confining him, the said BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, in the said United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, to satisfy the said sentence of confinement at hard labor for fifty (50) years so imposed by the said Military Governor of the Territory of Hawaii. HEREOF FAIL NOT.

THE MILITARY GOVERNOR OF THE TERRITORY OF HAWAII:
TO: The Warden of The United States Penitentiary,
Leavenworth, Kansas.

BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, duly having been convicted and sentenced in the manner and form aforesaid,

You hereby are ordered to receive the said BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN in The United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas from the said Provost Marshal, Hawaiian Department, Fort Shafter, Territory of Hawaii, and safely keep and confine him, the said BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, in the said United States Penitentiary and cause the said sentence of confinement at hard labor for fifty (50) years to be fully executed. HEREOF FAIL NOT.

/s/ DELOS C. EIMONS
Lieutenant General, United States Army,
Military Governor of the Territory of Hawaii.

On November 19, 1942, it was ascertained that subject OTTO KUEHN was to be transported from the Territory of Hawaii to the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, on November 20, 1942. Arrangements were made with [REDACTED] Contact Office, Military Intelligence Division, Hawaiian Department, in order that subject might again be interviewed. Subject was reinterviewed over the entire matter by [REDACTED] and the writer on that date. Subject was very willing to discuss his associations with the Japanese Consulate in Honolulu. However, little additional information not previously reported was obtained.

KUEHN reiterated all information previously reported relative to his associations and dealings with the Japanese Consulate in Honolulu, T. H., and still insisted that he had made no additional contacts with them, nor had he at any time used any of the signals previously outlined to convey information relative to United States Fleet movements. He insisted that the money he had received, though possibly conveyed to him by members of the Japanese Consulate staff, had come [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Tokyo, Japan, and was not in payment for any services rendered the Japanese, but was a final payment on property transferred [REDACTED] by his wife. KUEHN insisted that he did not know the money was delivered by a member of the Consulate staff, but stated it was still his belief that it had come to him from Japan on the "TATUTA MARU," and had been delivered by some member of the ship's crew.

KUEHN corrected his previous statement that the individual with whom he had been in a concentration camp in Germany was one OTTO STRASSER, and stated that GREGOR STRASSER was the correct name of the individual with whom he had been confined. He stated that there were two STRASSERS in Germany, and that he was acquainted with both. However, GREGOR STRASSER was the individual referred to on Page two of his statement, contained in the report of [REDACTED] dated January 5, 1942, entitled: "JAPANESE ACTIVITIES, HONOLULU, T. H.; ESPIONAGE; CONFILE-J."

When questioned concerning conversations between his wife, FRIEDEL, [REDACTED] two or three weeks prior to December 7, 1941, relative to building a bomb shelter, he stated that he recalled some such conversation but that he himself could not attach any significance to this. KUEHN stated that his wife, FRIEDEL, had from time to time during the past two years stated that the United States would eventually become involved in the world conflict which was then going on, and insisted that it would be possible to bomb the Territory of Hawaii. She always regarded Japan as the United States' greatest enemy, and from time to time in the past she has suggested the possibility of constructing a bomb shelter at their home in Kailua. KUEHN stated that during the summer of 1941 she had suggested to him on several occasions that he convert his small fish pond into a bomb shelter. KUEHN still insisted that he had no previous information relative to the attack on the Territory of Hawaii, December 7, 1941.

and stated that until it actually occurred, he had never been able to believe that the United States and Japan would ever become engaged in war.

No additional information not previously reported could be elicited. KUEHN expressed concern for his wife, FRIEDEL, and children, and appeared quite cheerful about receiving a commutation of his sentence to fifty years. He stated that he had a grandmother in Germany who had lived to the age of 94, and he believed he would live to serve his entire sentence and at least two years beyond.

On November 20, 1942, KUEHN was removed from detention quarters at the Immigration and Naturalization Station, Channel Street, Honolulu, T. H., by officers of the Provost Marshal's Office, for transportation to the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas.

Inasmuch as all logical investigative leads have been exhausted, and subject BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN has been duly tried before a Military Commission in Honolulu, T. H., found guilty, and sentenced to serve a period of fifty years in the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, and has been transferred from the Territory of Hawaii, this case is being closed.

- CLOSED -

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

December 23, 1942

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: 

KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated December 17, 1942, from 

*P196 Handled
12-29 R&F*

Letter dated December 13, 1942, from 

*P197 Handled
12-29 R&F*

Letter dated December 16, 1942, from Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Sand Island, Honolulu, T. H.

*P198 Evidence return
12-31/42 RE*

Very truly yours


Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

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1 1943

EX-21

75-1574-86	
11	JAN 5 1943
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CONFIDENTIAL**CONFIDENTIAL**

RECORDED 65-1574 - 86

EX Date: December 31, 1942

To: SAC, Honolulu

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: Otto Kuab

(Received December 28, 1942)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Correspondence of above-named individual has been submitted to the Bureau from the Penal Institution of Incarceration. These specimens have been examined in the Technical Laboratory for anything of significance.

Specimens: Q198 [redacted] from Subject. b7c

Findings: [redacted]

8-12-86
CLASSIFIED BY: SP5 CJC/ef
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR
#268714

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

Enclosure: Photographic copy of Q198.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 15

★ JAN - 1 1943 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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JAN 1 1943
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JAN 1 1943
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

SECRET**SECRET****CONFIDENTIAL**

1
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Honolulu, T. H.
January 6, 1943

65-4

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN,
with aliases; et al;
ESPIONAGE - G & J

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated December 30, 1942, requesting that the Bureau be advised when information that KUEHN's sentence was commuted to fifty years' imprisonment was first received by this office.

Bureau letter dated December 7, 1942, advising that a memorandum had been received from the Department stating that KUEHN's sentence had been commuted to fifty years' imprisonment was received by this office on December 9, 1942. On December 10, 1942, the following day

A report setting forth KUEHN's conviction, sentence and commutation of sentence was submitted to the Bureau on December 15, 1942.

Yours truly,

R. L. Shivers
Special Agent in Charge

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369 AUG 4 1970

COPY IN FILE
JAN 27 1943

RECORDED

65-1574-87
4 JAN 15 1943

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DEPARTMENT OF JUST.
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

December 10, 1942

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re:

KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated December 5, 1942, [REDACTED]

Letter dated December 9, 1942, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated December 8, 1942, from Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Sand Island, Honolulu, T. H.

Very truly yours

S/

Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED

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65-1574 88
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

1943
INITIALS ON ORIGINAL - 12

#65-1574

95525
95526
95527

SECRET

65-41363

Date: January 13, 1943
To: SAC, Honolulu, Hawaii

CONFIDENTIAL

RECORDED

65-1574-88

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: Otto Kuehn (65-1574)
Prisoners' Mail.

Correspondence of the above-named individual has been submitted to the Bureau from the Penal Institution of incarceration. These specimens have been examined in the Technical Laboratory for anything of significance.

Specimens:

65-41363 64864 and 64865. Envelope and letter of this subject to Mrs. Priscilla Kuehn from Otto Kuehn.

Findings:

[REDACTED]

Mr. Tolson

Mr. E. A.

Mr. Clegg

Mr. Glavin

Mr. Ladd

Mr. Nichols

Mr. Rosen

Mr. Tracy

Mr. Carson

Mr. Coffey

Mr. Hendon

Mr. Kramer

Mr. McGuire

Mr. Harbo

Mr. Quinn Tamm

Mr. Nease

Miss Gandy

Enclosure

SECRET

55 FEB 6 1943

MAILED **CONFIDENTIAL**

39 - 14

CLASSIFIED BY: [REDACTED]
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR
8/13/80

#268714

CONFIDENTIAL

65-1574

Date: January 23, 1943

To: SAC, Honolulu

SECRETALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: Otto Kuehn
Prisoners' Mail. Received 1/20/43

Correspondence of the above-named individual has been submitted to the Bureau from the Penal Institution of incarceration. These specimens have been examined in the Technical Laboratory for anything of significance.

Specimens: Q512 letter from subject to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn.

CLASSIFIED BY: SP5/10/5
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR
8-12-80
#268714

Findings: [REDACTED] (C)

The original evidence has been returned to Mr. Walter A. [REDACTED] Penitentiary, McVernworth, Kansas.

Mr. Tolson Enclosure - Photostat of Q512.

Mr. E. A. Tamm

Mr. Clegg

Mr. Glavin

Mr. Ladd

Mr. Nichols

Mr. Rosen

Mr. Tracy

Mr. Carson

Mr. Coffey

Mr. Hendon

Mr. Kramer

Mr. McGuire

Mr. Harbo

Mr. Quinn Tamm

Mr. Nease

Miss Gandy

[RECORDED]

65-1574-89
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JAN 27 1943

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 15

☆ JAN 26 1943 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**CONFIDENTIAL**
SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

65-1574

Date: January 29, 1943

SECRET

To: SAC, Honolulu

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: Otto Kuehn

Prisoners' Mail.

Received 1/26/43

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Correspondence of the above-named individual has been submitted to the Bureau from the Penal Institution of incarceration. These specimens have been examined in the Technical Laboratory for anything of significance.

Specimens: Q613 one letter from subject to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn.

CLASSIFIED BY SP-10/15
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR8-12-88
#268414

Findings:

The original evidence has been returned to Mr. Walter A. Hunter, Warden, United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas.

Mr. Tolson Enclosure - Photostat of Q613.
 Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
 Mr. Clegg _____
 Mr. Glavin _____
 Mr. Ladd _____
 Mr. Nichols _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Tracy _____
 Mr. Carson _____
 Mr. Coffey _____
 Mr. Hendon _____
 Mr. Kramer _____
 Mr. McGuire _____
 Mr. Harbo _____
 Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
 Mr. Nease _____
 Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 6

★ JAN 30 1943 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED

15-1574-90
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FEB 1 1943

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SECRET**CONFIDENTIAL**

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

January 22, 1943

SECRET

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re

KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated January 21, 1943, from

Letter dated January 20, 1943, from

Letter dated January 17, 1943, from

Letter dated January 21, 1943, from Otto Kuehn,
No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Sand Island,
Honolulu, T. H.

Very truly yours

S/

Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

65-1574-91
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FEB 4 1943
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
LAB.

54 FEB 9 1943

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Final

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

January 2, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re:

KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L 65-1574

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

53 Letter dated January 1, 1943,

48 Letter dated December 29, 1942. from

121 Letter dated January 1, 1943, from Otto Kuehn,
No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Sand Island,
Honolulu, T. H.

Very truly yours

Walter A. Hunter
Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Encls.

Handled in Lab. - 1-7-43 P.B.D.

Q329
Q330
Q331
P.B.D.
1-7-43

6 JAN 11 1943
FBI

Date: January 7, 1943
 To: J. Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
 From: [illegible]
 Subject: Prisoners' Mail
 Received 1/6/43
 Correspondence of the above-named individual has been submitted to the Bureau from the Penal Institution of incarceration. These specimens have been examined in the Technical Laboratory for anything of significance.
 Specimens: Q331
 Subject: Mrs. Friedel Kuehn
 Findings: [illegible]

Enclosure - Photographs of Q331.

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Kramer	
Mr. McGuire	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
 MAILED 1
 JAN 8 1943 P.M.
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[Handwritten signatures and initials]
 [illegible handwritten notes]

CONFIDENTIAL

65-1574

Date: February 6, 1943

SECRET

To: SAC, Honolulu

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: ⁰
Otte Kuehn, Mail.

Received 2/4/43

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Correspondence of the above-named individual has been
submitted to the Federal Institution of Incarceration.
These specimens have been examined in the Technical Laboratory for
anything of significance and have been returned to Mr. Walter A. Hunter,
Warden, United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas.

Specimens: Q733 letter from subject to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn.

Findings: [REDACTED]

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 5
FEB 8 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED

65-1574-93
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FEB 9 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CONFIDENTIAL

8-12-80
#285114
CLASSIFIED BY: [REDACTED]
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

81 FEB 13 1943

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

February 12, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: [REDACTED]

O KUHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated Feb. 11, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated Feb. 10, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated Feb. 9, 1943, [REDACTED]

Letter dated Feb. 7, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated Jan. 12, 1943, from Mrs. Frieda P. [REDACTED],
Camp Sand Island, Honolulu, T. H., re Otto Kuhn,
No. 59603-L

Very truly yours

S/

Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED & INDEXED

NO 4

EX - 37

279
FEB 26 1943

65-75711-94	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
FEB 26 1943	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
ENCLOSURE	FILE

65-1574

Date: February 19, 1943

To: SAC, New York

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~**SECRET**

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: ^D Otto Kuehn
Prisoners' Mail.

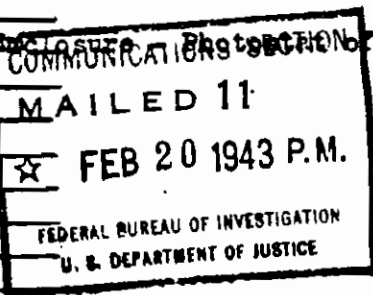
Received 2/17/43

Correspondence of the above-named individual has been submitted to the Bureau from the Penal Institution of incarceration. These specimens have been examined in the Technical Laboratory for anything of significance and have been returned to Mr. Walter A. Hunter, Warden, United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas.

Specimens: Q856 [redacted] from Mrs. Friedel Kuehn.

Findings: [redacted]

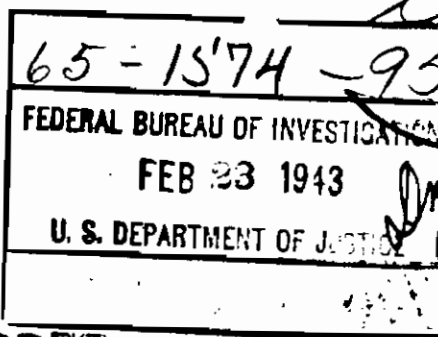
Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
 Mr. Clegg _____
 Mr. Coffey _____
 Mr. Glavin _____
 Mr. Ladd _____
 Mr. Nichols _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Tracy _____
 Mr. Carson _____
 Mr. Harbo _____
 Mr. Hendon _____
 Mr. McGuire _____
 Mr. Mumford _____
 Mr. Piper _____
 Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
 Mr. Nease _____
 Miss Gandy _____



RECORDED

&
Q856. INDEXED

N173

**SECRET**~~CONFIDENTIAL~~17 FEB 26 1943³⁰³

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 m R.P.

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 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
 OTHERWISE

CLASSIFIED BY: SP-1/LS
 DECLASSIFY ON: OADR
 8-13-86
 #268714

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

January 13, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re:

KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated January 9, 1943, 53 7509

Letter dated January 12, 1943, from 48 7510

Letter in German dated September 27, 1942, with enclosure also a letter in German dated September 18, 1942, 10 7511

Letter dated January 11, 1943, from Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Sand Island, Honolulu, T. H. 121 7512

Very truly yours

Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Encls.

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1-20-43 706

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Department of Justice

UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY

Leavenworth, Kansas

February 22, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re; [REDACTED]
KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters:

Letter dated February 18, 1943, from [REDACTED] b6
[REDACTED] b7c

Letter dated February 19, 1943, from Otto Kuehn,
No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Sand Island,
Honolulu, T. H.

Very truly yours

S/

Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Encls.

65-1574-97

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAR 3 1943
U. S. I.
INITIALS ON ORIGINAL - 2

Yod

65-1574-97

Date: February 26, 1943

To: SAC, Honolulu

SECRET**CONFIDENTIAL**

RECORDED

125031

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: Otto Kuehn
Prisoners' Mail.

Received 2/24/43

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Correspondence of the above-named individual has been submitted to the Bureau from the Penal Institution of incarceration. These specimens have been examined in the Technical Laboratory for anything of significance and have been returned to Mr. Walter A. Hunter, Warden, United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas.

Specimens: Q959 Letter from subject to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn.

Findings: [REDACTED]

Mr. Tolson Enclosure - Photostat of Q959.
 Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
 Mr. Clegg _____
 Mr. Coffey _____
 Mr. Glavin _____
 Mr. Ladd _____
 Mr. Nichols _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Tracy _____
 Mr. Carson _____
 Mr. Hendon _____
 Mr. McGuire _____
 Mr. Mumford _____
 Mr. Harbo _____
 Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
 Mr. Nease _____
 Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
 MAILED 3
 FEB 27 1943 P.M.
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

55 MAR 10 1943

SECRET**CONFIDENTIAL**CLASSIFIED BY: [REDACTED]
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR8-13-86
#268714

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Department of Justice
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
Leavenworth, Kansas

February 26, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: [REDACTED]
KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated February 25, 1942 (should be 1943), from
[REDACTED]

Letter dated February 25, 1943, from Otto Kuehn,
No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Sand Island,
Honolulu, T. H.

Very truly yours

S/ W.A. Hunter
Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED & INDEXED

D 141

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

65-1574-97X
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAR 5
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FIVE

12 MAR 16 1943

66
b7c
#5-1574

Date: March 3, 1943

To: SAC Honolulu

CONFIDENTIAL**SECRET**

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: Otto Kuehn
Prisoners' Mail. 3/1/43

Correspondence of the above-named individual has been submitted to the Bureau from the Penal Institution of incarceration. These specimens have been examined in the Technical Laboratory for anything of significance and have been returned to

Mr. Walter A. Hunter, Warden, U. S. Penitentiary
Leavenworth, Kansas

Specimens: Q1029 Letter from Otto Kuehn to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn

Findings: [REDACTED] (S)

Enclosures: Photostatic copies of specimen Q1029.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 5
★ MAR 4 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED

62-1574-95
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAR 5 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SECRET**CONFIDENTIAL**

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

CLASSIFIED BY: SP5/JS
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

8.13.80
#2687114

MAR 10 1943

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

March 8, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: KUHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution is a letter dated March 7, 1943, from the above-named inmate to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Sand Island, Honolulu, T. H.

Very truly yours

Walter A. Hunter
Walter A. Hunter
Warden

*Evidence Returned
3/15/43 1/2 TM*

*Examined & Forwarded
in Ltr 3/16/43 TM*

Encl.

FOR DEPT. OF JUSTICE
BUY
UNITED STATES
PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH
KANSAS
MAR 18 1943
357

RECORDED
INDEXED
3/12/43
D-10

MAR 10 1943

65-1574-99

Department of Justice
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
Leavenworth, Kansas

March 13, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: [REDACTED]
KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution and the following listed letters:

Letter dated February 13, 1943, from Mrs. Friedel Kuehn,
Camp Sand Island, Honolulu, T. H., to Otto Kuehn, No.
59603-L

Letter dated March 12, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Very truly yours

S/

Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Encls.

Handwritten:
This Serial
Deferred
12-5-58
#22

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

185

65-1574-100	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MAR 22 1943	

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Handwritten: EX-72

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Department of Justice
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
Leavenworth, Kansas

March 13, 1943

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8-14

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: KUHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution is a letter dated February 23, 1943, from Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Camp Sand Island, Honolulu, T. H., to the above-named inmate.

Very truly yours,

S/
Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Encl.

Retained in Lab
3/16/43
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65-1574-10-L
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAR 22 1943
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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Department of Justice
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
Leavenworth, Kansas

March 22, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: KUEHN? Otto, 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated March 15, 1943, from Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, U. S. Immigration Camp, Sharp Park, San Francisco, California, to the above-named inmate.

Letter dated March 21, 1943, from the above-named inmate to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Sand Island, Honolulu, T. H.

Very truly yours

S/
Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED

INDEXED

604

65-1574-102

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAR 29 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

FILE

53 APR 3 1943

Received July 1943



CONFIDENTIAL
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

March 26, 1943

SECRET

Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

65-1574

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. COFFEY
ROOM 7643

RE: Otto Kuehn
Prisoner's Mail

Reference is made to a letter dated March 15, 1943 from Mrs. Friedel Kuehn to the above subject. This letter was forwarded to the Bureau by Mr. Walter A. Hunter, Warden, U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, under date of March 22, 1943.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

CLASSIFIED BY SP-6 JLS
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

8-12-86
#268714

COPIES DESTROYED
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APR 6 1943

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Respectfully,

J110

W. G. Blackburn

CONFIDENTIAL

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Department of Justice
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
Leavenworth, Kansas

April 8, 1943

Technical Laboratory
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen;

Enclosed for your censorship and return to us are the following communications;

From

To

59603-L Kuehn

Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Camp Seagoville,
Texas

S/

WALTER A. HUNTER
Warden

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

114

EX-65

65-1574-104

APR 16 1943

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL FILE

53 APR 21 1943

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Department of Justice

UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY

Leavenworth, Kansas

April 17, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re:

[REDACTED]
KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters:

Letter dated April 14, 1943, from [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Letter dated April 14, 1943, from [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Letter dated April 9th, 1943, from Mrs. Friedel
Kuehn, Detention Station, Seagoville, Texas, to
Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L

Very truly yours

S/

W. A. Hunter

Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED

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65-1574-105
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 24 1943
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Department of Justice
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
Leavenworth, Kansas

March 24, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: [REDACTED]

KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated March 23, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated March 20, 1943, from [REDACTED] b7c

Letter dated March 22, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated March 22, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated March 21, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated March 21, 1943, from Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Box P, Hays Park, San Mateo, California, to Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L

Very truly yours

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

65-1574-101

Walter A. Hunter, Warden

APR 1 1943

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Encls.

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Department of Justice
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
Leavenworth, Kansas

March 30, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: [REDACTED]

OKUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated March 27, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated March 25, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated March 24, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated March 29, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated March 28, 1943, from Otto Kuehn,
No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Frieder Kuehn, U. S.
Immigration Camp, Sharp Park, San Francisco,
California

Very truly yours

S/

Walter A. Rusk
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

65-1574-70
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 5 1943

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Department of Justice
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
Leavenworth, Kansas

April 5, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: [REDACTED]

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters:

Letter dated April 2, 1943 from [REDACTED]

Letter dated March 30, 1943, from Mrs. Friedel Kuehn,
Interment Federal Detention Station, Seagoville, Texas,
to Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L

Very truly yours,

S/

Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

65-1574-715
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

APR 14 1943

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

411
2 APR 23 1943

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Department of Justice
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
Leavenworth, Kansas
April 13, 1943

Technical Laboratory
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: [REDACTED]
KUEHN, Otto #59603-L
[REDACTED]

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith are the following listed letters:

Letter dated April 9, 1943, from [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Letter dated April 12, 1943, from Otto Kuehn, #59603-L,
named above, to Mrs. Frieder Kuehn, Interment Federal Detention
Station, Seagraveville, Texas.

Seagraveville
Letter dated April 12, 1943, from [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Very truly yours,

S/

WALTER A. HUNTER
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED
7-160

65-1574-109
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 21 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

INITIALS OF ORIGINAL



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 22, 1943

Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NICHOLS

RE: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN
with aliases, etal
ESPIONAGE - G and J

The report of [REDACTED]
dated December 15, 1942, at Honolulu reports that subject
was convicted of espionage before a Military Commission in
Honolulu and his death sentence commuted to fifty years.

Although military authorities assisted in the
prosecution of this case the subject was tried under the
Federal Espionage Statutes and the prosecution was par-
ticipated in by the United States Attorney.

ACTION TAKEN

This conviction and the accompanying sentence
of 50 years has been recorded by the Statistical Section
among the regular statistics (not as Military Court statistics).

Respectfully,

R. T. Harbo

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 11-8-86 BY SP6/als
#268714

FOR DEFENSE



56 JUL 20 1943

RECORDED

65-1574-116
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21 MAY 27 1943

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.**

CC-287

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

January 26, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN,
with aliases, et al;
ESPIONAGE - G and J

Reference is made to the routing slip of Assistant Director L. B. Nichols attached to a memorandum dated January 22, 1943, regarding Kuehn, asking, "How about some publicity on this?"

As you may recall, the result of Kuehn's conviction, according to the Honolulu Field Division, is highly confidential and it was desired that no publicity be released regarding it. An Interesting Case write-up and a press release have been prepared on this matter since August 12, 1942, awaiting authorization for release.

ACTION

This matter will be personally discussed with SAC Shivers, who is presently attending In-Service Training School.

Respectfully,

[Redacted Signature Block]

RECORDED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8/2/86 BY SP8/CLB

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Department of Justice
FEDERAL STATES PENITENTIARY
Leavenworth, Kansas

April 20, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re:

[REDACTED]
KUEHN, Bernard Julius Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters:

Letter dated April 18, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated April 14, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated April 14, 1943, from Mrs. Friedel
Kuehn, Detention Station, Seagoville, Texas, to
Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L

Very truly yours

S/

Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

65-1574-112

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 27 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Department of Justice
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
Leavenworth, Kansas

April 21, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: [REDACTED]
O KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters:

Letter dated April 20, 1943, from [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Letter dated April 17, 1943, from [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] b6 b7c

Letter dated April 20, 1943, from Otto Kuehn,
No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Interment
Federal Detention Station, Seagoville, Texas

Very truly yours

S/
W. A. Hunter

Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED & INDEXED

EX-51

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

APR 29 1943

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DATE 8-2-80 PROCL 15

CONFIDENTIAL

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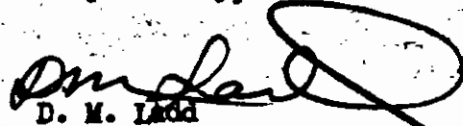
It is apparently the feeling of the Army representatives in Hawaii and the Governor of Hawaii that since the Kuhn case was so closely allied with the Pearl Harbor disaster they do not desire to make the release at the present time for fear another hue and cry will be raised over Pearl Harbor. For that reason [redacted] stated that the only recourse he could see would be for the Bureau representative in Hawaii to attempt to secure the necessary clearance from General Emmons, the Commander of the Hawaiian Department.

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54 JUL 21 1943

In view thereof, I would like to suggest that the attached press release be cleared by Mr. Nichols with OWI and in the event they approve of this release that it then be cleared through Gilford of the Department. I believe that it would be particularly desirable for this release to be released at the present time in view of the known sentiment existing relative to the Japanese.

Respectfully,



D. M. Ladd

Attachment

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DATE April 24, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN,
with aliases, et al;
ESPIONAGE - G and J.

Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

65-1574

You will recall that Kuehn was tried before a Military Commission at Honolulu, T. H., on February 19, 1942, for violation of the Espionage Statutes. He was found guilty and sentenced to death with musketry. On October 26, 1942, his sentence was commuted by the Military Commission at Hawaii to hard labor for a period of fifty years and Kuehn was ordered confined at the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas.

As you know, the facts of this case, the conviction and the resulting sentence of the subject have never been given any publicity because of the fact that the Army authorities at Honolulu had requested that the matter be kept confidential. Although this case was tried before a Military Commission, the investigation was handled by the Honolulu Office of the Bureau in conjunction with G-2 authorities.

With a view towards releasing publicity on this matter, [redacted] contacted Special Agent in Charge Shivers on January 27, 1943, when he was attending an In-Service Training Course, for the purpose of ascertaining the present attitude of the Honolulu Army authorities regarding publicity and also to obtain his opinion as to whether publicity on this case could be released at that time. Mr. Shivers said that he could see no objection to releasing publicity but that before any release could be made by the Bureau it would, of course, be necessary to clear the matter through appropriate Army authorities. He further stated that the matter could be best handled by conferring with Army authorities in Washington rather than in Honolulu.

By memorandum of January 27, 1943, a summary of these facts was set forth with the recommendation that the matter be referred to the Liaison Section, which should contact the appropriate Army authorities and determine whether there was any objection to releasing publicity. This recommendation was approved and referred to the Liaison Section for action. The Liaison Section has presented this matter to the Army authorities on several occasions. The Army claims to still have this matter under consideration and has not rendered a decision to date.

53 JUL 27 1943

(INFORMATIVE MEMORANDUM - NOT TO BE SENT TO FILES SECTION)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-12-86 BY SP5C/b/s

RECORDED

65-1574-114

Department of Justice

UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY

Leavenworth, Kansas

April 29, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: [REDACTED]
KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters:

Letter dated April 24, 1943, [REDACTED]

Letter dated April 27, 1943, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn,
Federal Detention Station, Seagoville, Texas, from
Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L

Very truly yours

S/

Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED & INDEXED

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65-1574-1148	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
MAY 8 1943 a.m.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
INITIALS ON ORIGINAL	FILE

53 MAY 14 1943

Department of Justice
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
Leavenworth, Kansas

May 3, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: [REDACTED]
① KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters:

Letter dated April 27, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated Easter Sunday from Mrs. Friedel Kuehn,
Detention Station, Seagoville, Texas, to Otto Kuehn,
No. 59603-L

Very truly yours,

Warden A. Hunter

S/

Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

65-1574-114
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 13 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

310
MAY 21 1943

Department of Justice
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY

Leavenworth, Kansas

May 6, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: [REDACTED]
KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters;

Letter dated May 2, 1943, from American Red Cross,
Leavenworth, Kansas, [REDACTED]

Letter dated May 3, 1943, from Mrs. Friedel Kuehn,
Detention Station, Seagoville, Texas, to Otto
Kuehn, No. 59603-L

Letter dated May 4, 1943, from Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L,
to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Federal Detention Station,
Seagoville, Texas

Very truly yours

S/

Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Encls.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 17 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

310

ORIGINAL FILE IN 65-41943-2023

90
M. E. GILFOND

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Department of Justice
Washington

CONFIDENTIAL

May 18, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LOUIS NICHOLS

Attached is a preliminary draft of the story by OWI on the Kuehn case. I re-drafted the first few paragraphs to give it a stronger lead and to tie in German and Japanese espionage. Otherwise, it is a simple straightforward story, which is probably the best way to present it since it is such a bang-up story anyway.

If you could expedite clearance on this, OWI would be very grateful since they are extremely enthusiastic about it and would like to go after Army clearance as soon as possible. For your information, they plan to have [redacted] personally put it to the Army big-wigs.

The story would be helped tremendously by some photographs. I wonder if you can supply pictures of any of the following: Kuehn, Mrs. Kuehn, their daughter, their house (and particularly the dormer window used for signaling), or the beauty parlor mentioned in the story. Any or all of these, or any additional photographs, would give the story a terrific boost.

Approved by Mr. Ladd

Approved

by Mr. Ladd

CHARLES MALCOLMSON
Acting Director of Public Relations

Enclosure



52 JUL 19 1943

ENCLOSURE
DE-INDEXED
DATE: 4-19-55
22

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

65-1574-115
24 MAY 27 1943

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Acers	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Mumford	
Mr. Starke	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

German espionage agents collaborated with the Japanese in preparing the way for Japan's sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, the Office of War Information disclosed today.

In a report, based on information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, OWI revealed that ^{BERNARD} Benjard Julius Otto Kuehn, German agent and member of the Nazi party, conspired with Japanese spies to betray the United States Fleet in Pearl Harbor to the Imperial Japanese Government four days before the attack on December 7, 1941.

Kuehn, who went to Honolulu in 1935 for the ostensible purpose of studying the Japanese language, who banked more than \$70,000 his first three years in Hawaii, and whose daughter operated a beauty parlor for the families of our Navy men in the Islands, was tried before the Military Commission in Honolulu for violations of the United States Code Annotated; was found guilty on February 21, 1942, and was sentenced to be shot. On October 26, 1942, his sentence was commuted to fifty years at hard labor.

The story which is made public for the first time today, is a tale of treachery that is both devious and direct. It involves signals flashed by "a light in Lanikai beach house at night". It involves "a light in dormer window of Kalama house". It involves the destruction of American ships and the death of American men.

On the morning following the Japanese air attack on Pearl Harbor, ^{SPECIAL AGENTS} representatives of the FBI succeeded in obtaining from various commercial radio and cable companies in Honolulu copies of certain ^{messages} hitherto unavailable ^{to INTE} messages-
^{INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES} which had been exchanged between the Japanese Consulate at Honolulu and the Japanese Foreign Office in Tokyo.

65-1574-115

In translation, one of these messages revealed that on December 3, ~~Nagao~~ Kita, the Japanese Consul-General in Honolulu, had furnished his Foreign Office with a complete system of signals to be used in the transmission of intelligence information regarding movements of the American fleet at Pearl Harbor. One such signal was a light in a dormer window of a house in Kalama.

Kalama is a comparatively small community located at Kailua, Oahu. Special Agents of the F.B.I. had no difficulty in locating the house with the dormer window. It was owned and occupied by a man who went by the name of Otto Kuehn, and his wife, Friedel.

The Kuehns were German nationals. They had previously been suspected of engaging in espionage activities in behalf of Germany and Japan and they had been under investigation by the Office of Naval Intelligence, and the Military Intelligence Service of the War Department, as well as by the F.B.I. These inquiries had brought out the fact that the Kuehns also had a beach house at Lanikai. And another of the signals mentioned in the message in possession of the F.B.I. was a light in a beach house at Lanikai.

F.B.I. Agents apprehended Kuehn and his wife December 8, 1941, on the authority of the Commanding General of the Hawaiian Department who, immediately following the declaration of war against the United States, had ordered all German and Italian aliens to be picked up for temporary detention.

When they were first picked ^{up} the Kuehns, according to F.B.I. reports, flatly denied that they had ever had any negotiations with the Japanese Government. But increasing evidence from the F.B.I. confused their stories and on December 30, 1941, Kuehn signed a

statement admitting that he had prepared a system of signals for the Japanese Consul-General which the latter had dispatched to Tokyo in his fateful message of December 8.

Kuehn's story, as detailed in the F.B.I. files, is as follows:

Sometime during the month of November, 1941, he went to ~~Otojiro~~ Okuda, Japanese Vice-Consul at Honolulu and offered to assist the Japanese in obtaining information about the national defense of the United States. He, Kuehn, declared that Okuda requested him first to get the information regarding the movement of the American fleet at Pearl Harbor, and second, to devise a system of signals by which this information could be imparted to the Japanese fleet.

Kuehn, according to the story he told the F.B.I. agents, went to Pearl Harbor (accompanied by his ten-year old son, Hans Joachim) and made his observations. A few days later he went to the Japanese Consulate and submitted a signal system which he had worked out, which could be used by the Consulate in furnishing information as to the number and types of American ships in Pearl Harbor, as well as data about the ships that had already left or were about to leave.

But the Japanese officials thought the system too complicated. Vice-Consul Okuda, according to the report, told him to come back with a simpler system. Kuehn came back, on December 2, with his revised and simplified system. He also handed over to Okuda a written tabulation of the number and types of American ships then in Hawaiian waters.

The F.B.I. reports that on or about October 25, 1941, \$14,000 in cash had been delivered to Kuehn, at his residence with the dormer window, by ~~Tadasu~~ Morimura, Fourth Secretary of the Japanese Consulate.

Kuehn went on trial February 19, 1942. The technical charges were violation of Sections 31, 32, and 34, Title 50, United States Code Annotated. He was found guilty on each of the charges, was sentenced to be shot, ^{but} later ~~had~~ his sentence ^{was} commuted to fifty years at hard labor.

Kuehn, who is listed in the F.B.I. files under several aliases, was born Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn, in Berlin, Germany, July 25, 1895. When he was 18 he enlisted in the German Navy. He was serving as a midshipman aboard a German cruiser in World War I, and when in January, 1915, his ship was sunk in a sea battle with an English war vessel, he was taken prisoner.

Following the Armistice he returned to Berlin and re-entered the Naval Service as an Ober-Lieutenant aboard the mother ship of a mine sweeper flotilla. After about 6 months of this he was released and placed in the Naval Reserve Corps. He studied medicine briefly at the Universities of Berlin and Munich, and engaged in various occupations in Germany.

In 1920, in Munchen, Germany, Kuehn married Friedel Birk who had two children by a previous marriage, Leopold and Ruth. Leopold, according to his mother's declaration, is now serving the Nazi Party as an assistant to Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels.

It is one of Kuehn's proud boasts, according to F.B.I. information, that he was so high in the Nazi Party that he was once considered for the position of Chief of the German Gestapo under Heinrich Himmler. His rival for the job, Reinhold Heydrich, double-crossed him, Kuehn told the F.B.I. and won the coveted post.

Kuehn was first admitted to the United States at Honolulu August 15, 1935. His alleged reason for coming was to study the Japanese language. He never went back to Germany. He made two trips to Japan.

Between May 14, 1936 and February 7, 1939, more than \$70,000 was deposited to the credit of Kuehn and his wife in a Honolulu bank by the Rotterdam Bank Association. It was supposed to have come from investments and business interests of his in Germany and Holland.

But about the end of 1939 Kuehn was reported to be in financial difficulties. He established a beauty parlor which his wife's daughter, Ruth, operated. Ruth's mother is reported to have said that the shop was really opened to obtain "Navy business."

Mrs. Kuehn went to Japan for a visit in 1940 and returned home with a series of articles on "American Polynesia" which contained descriptions of various British and American islands. She is also reported to have brought back some \$16,000 in cash.

It was in the early fall of 1940, too, that the now famous dormer window was constructed in the attic of the Kuehn's home on Kalama Road. In January of that same year Mrs. Kuehn purchased a pair of eighteen-power Bausch and Lomb binoculars. This was an unusual purchase for a woman to make, for these field glasses are considered too high-powered for ordinary purposes. Because of their

-6-

Although no previous criminal record has been connected with Kuehn in the F.B.I. files, both he and his wife were generally known in Honolulu as pro-Nazi and took part in the activities of various local German clubs.

Leopold ~~Kuehn~~, writing to his parents on March 27, 1939, expressed sorrow that his step-father, an old National Socialist who deserved a role in current events, was not a participant in the present war.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

BERNARD KUEHN

PART 4 OF 7

FILE: 65-1574

SUBJECT

RUEHN

FILE NUMBER

65-1574 SECTION 4

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

X DO NOT DESTROY
HISTORICAL VALUE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

Transfer-Call 421

65
1574

SECTION 4
SERIALS 115-140

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

WASHINGTON

May 8, 1943

Sutton

TO: Mr. James Allen

FROM: George H. Lyon *gth*

I have been asked several questions about a prisoner reportedly now in Leavenworth, Kansas. His name is either Otto Kuehn or Otto Kuhne. My informants say that he is incarcerated in Leavenworth after having been implicated in a conspiracy leading up to the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

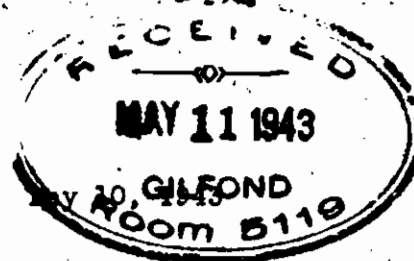
I also am informed that the Department of Justice has all the facts in this story. It would be very helpful to the News Bureau's program if we could obtain the facts from Justice and issue a release immediately. Do you want to see what you can do to get us the story?



65-1574-116

ENCLOSURE

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION
WASHINGTON




Mr. M. E. Gilfond
Director of Information
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Gil:

If the facts referred to in the attached memorandum are as interesting as I have been told they are, this story would be of extraordinary value to us.

I wonder if you would do everything possible to track it down and see if the facts cannot be made public.

Sincerely,


James Allen
Assistant Director
Domestic Operations

Enclosure



62-1574-116

ENCLOSURE

Department of Justice
Washington

May 11, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LOUIS NICHOLS

The enclosed note from Jim Allen and memo from Lyon to Allen are self-explanatory. I, too, have heard some talk about this person.

Since Hawaii went under marshal law immediately after Pearl Harbor, I should imagine the Army had a good deal to do with the case. For that reason, I think we better caution the OWI that clearance will have to be gotten from the Army as well as from this Department. Our general agreement with OWI is that when any agency other than our own is involved, OWI does the releasing and not us. The reason for this is to check with the other agency or agencies involved both on accuracy and advisability of release. I think the first thing we should do is put the facts down on paper and send them to Jim Allen as a confidential memo. Once he has the facts, I am sure he will be in a much better position to determine whether the information should be made available to the public.

If you will submit to me, therefore, an official memo on this case, I will transmit it to Mr. Allen.

If for any reason the FBI thinks the information should not be made public, please so state and we will present those arguments to OWI.

M. E. GILFOND

RECORDED & INDEXED

65-1574-116

F B I
26 MAY 24 1943



I see no reason why [unclear] should not be made public but we Dept approval should be obtained because the results of the Bureau's investigation were disposed of by a military court.
Ev 5/11/43
Let 5-12-43

65-1574
tr 5-12-43

**RICHARD JULIAN OTTO EISEN, with aliases
Otto K. Eisen, Otto Eise, Otto K. Eisen,
Mr. Eisen
ESPIONAGE**

On the morning following the perfidious Japanese air attack on Pearl Harbor, representatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation succeeded in obtaining from various commercial radio and cable companies in Honolulu copies of certain messages exchanged between the Japanese Consulate at Honolulu, T. H., and the Japanese Foreign Office in Tokyo which theretofore had been unavailable. The translation of one of these messages revealed that on December 3, 1941, Hideo Wita, the Japanese Consul General in Honolulu, had furnished his Foreign Office with a complete system of signals to be used in the transmission of intelligence information regarding movements of the American fleet at Pearl Harbor. Among the signals agreed upon were "a light in Lanikai beach house at night - -" and "a light in corner window of Nakama house - -".

Upon checking the houses in Kalaheo, which is a comparatively small community located at Kailua, Oahu, T. H., Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation located a house with a corner window. It was determined that this residence was owned and occupied by an individual named Otto Eisen and his wife, Friedel, German nationals, who had been suspected of engaging in espionage activities in behalf of Germany and Japan and concerning whom considerable investigation had been conducted by the Office of Naval Intelligence, the Military Intelligence Service of the War Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. During these inquiries, it was learned that the Eisens, in addition to their residence in Kalaheo, also maintained a beach house at Lanikai.

Following the declaration of war against the United States by Germany on December 8, 1941, the Commanding General of the Hawaiian Department ordered all German and Italian aliens to be picked up for temporary custodial detention. Pursuant to this command, Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the same date apprehended Eisen and his wife.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

RECORDED & INDEXED
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65-1574-116
F B I
26 MAY 24 1943

At first the Kuehn steadfastly denied acting in behalf of the Japanese Government. However, when confronted with the evidence which had been developed through vigorous investigation, Kuehn on December 30, 1941, furnished a signed statement admitting that he had prepared the system of signals for the Japanese Consul General, which the latter dispatched to Tokyo in his message on December 3, 1941. Kuehn explained that sometime during November, 1941, he contacted Otojiro Okada, the Japanese Vice Consul at Honolulu, and offered to assist the Japanese in obtaining information of interest respecting the national defense of the United States. In accepting this proffered aid, Okada reportedly requested Kuehn to secure general data regarding the movement of the American fleet at Pearl Harbor and then devise a system of signals in order that this information might be imparted to the Japanese fleet. Pursuant to this request, Kuehn, accompanied by his ten-year-old son, Hans Jonathan, drove to the vicinity of Pearl Harbor for the purpose of observing the American vessels moored there at that time. Three or four days later Kuehn again called at the Japanese Consulate and conferred with Kita and Okada. During this visit, Kuehn submitted a system of signalling which could be used by the Consulate in order to furnish information relative to the types and number of American ships in Pearl Harbor, as well as those preparing to leave and those which had already departed. After considering the particular system, the Japanese were of the opinion that it was too complicated and requested that a simpler system be devised. In fact, a specific request of this nature was made to Kuehn by Vice Consul Okada.

On December 2, 1941, Kuehn again visited the Japanese Consulate at Honolulu, at which time he delivered to Vice Consul Okada a revised and simplified system of signalling. On this same occasion, Kuehn furnished written information concerning the number and various types of American ships then in Hawaiian waters.

On or about October 25, 1941, \$14,000 in cash was delivered to Kuehn at his residence in Kalahe by Tadashi Morimura, Fourth Secretary of the Japanese Consulate in Honolulu.

Kuehn went on trial before the Military Commission in Honolulu on February 19, 1942, for violation of Sections 31, 32, and 34, Title 50, United States Code Annotated. The charges against Kuehn specifically alleged that he conspired with the Japanese Vice Consul in Honolulu to transmit to Japan information pertaining to the national defense of the United States and to perform certain overt acts to affect such a conspiracy. Further, on or about December 2, 1941, Kuehn transmitted information relating to the United States Naval Fleet and the national defense of America.

be an agent of the Imperial Japanese Government. Kuehn was also charged with unlawfully obtaining information regarding the number and types of United States Naval vessels based at Pearl Harbor with the intent and reason to believe that it was to be used for the injury of the United States and to the advantage of the Japanese Government.

A verdict of guilty on each of the preferred charges was returned by the Military Commission on February 21, 1942, and on the same date Kuehn was sentenced to be shot. On October 26, 1942, Kuehn's sentence was commuted to fifty years at hard labor.

Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn was born on July 25, 1895, in Berlin, Germany. In April, 1913, he enlisted in the German Navy and after a brief training period served as a midshipman aboard a German cruiser until January, 1915, when his ship was sunk in a sea battle with an English war vessel and Kuehn taken as a prisoner of war by the British. Following the Armistice, Kuehn returned to Berlin and re-entered the Naval service as an Ober-Lieutenant aboard the mother ship of a mine sweeper flotilla. After about six months of such service, Kuehn was released and placed in the Naval Reserve Corps. He studied medicine at the University of Berlin and the University of Munich for about a year and one-half and thereafter engaged in various occupations in Germany.

On May 10, 1920, Kuehn married Frieda Birk at Muenchen, Germany. At the time of this union, Mrs. Kuehn was the mother of two children named Leopold and Ruth. Two additional children, Martin Eberhard and Hans Joachim, resulted from the Kuehns' marriage. It is perhaps significant to observe that Leopold, according to Kuehn, is a member of the Nazi Party and is an assistant to Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels. Ruth Kuehn came to the United States with her family and married an American citizen, with whom she resided in Honolulu until she was taken into custody as a German alien by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Kuehn admittedly became associated with the Nazi Party in 1930 as the result of his attending a meeting called by Hitler in Kiel, Germany. However, he contends that he did not become active until 1932. He frankly boasts that he was considered with Reinhold Heydrich for the position as Chief of the German Gestapo under Heinrich Himmler but, according to Kuehn's story, Heydrich double-crossed him by means of a ruse, which, coupled with Himmler's personal dislike for him, resulted in Heydrich's receiving the appointment, a position he, according to Nazi standard, filled so capably.

Kuehn was first admitted to the United States at Honolulu on August 15, 1935, for the ostensible purpose of studying the Japanese language.

The Kuehnas were rather generally known in Honolulu as possessing pro-Nazi sympathies and being interested in the activities of various German clubs in that area. Mrs. Kuehn is credited with the statement that she

[REDACTED]

Prior to his involvement in this difficulty, no previous criminal record has been located on Kuehn in the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

770
[REDACTED]
(5/11/43)

65-1574-116

RECORDED

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. M. E. OILFOND
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Pursuant to the request contained in your memorandum of May 11, 1943, I am transmitting herewith a short summary of the case involving Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn.

It is assumed, of course, that the proper clearances will be secured by OWI prior to releasing this to the press.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure *W*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1-13-80 BY SP8CJ/KS

#268414

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 5
★ MAY 15 1943 PM
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

55 JUN 4 1943

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

MAY 15 9 47 AM '43
RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
F B I
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

MAY 15 9 27 AM '43
RECEIVED READING ROOM
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

 1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deleted under exemption(s) b1 with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

 Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

 Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

- ☐ For your information: _____

- ☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
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X FOR THIS PAGE X
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UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

May 14, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re:

KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated March 14, 1943 (should have been May 14, 1943),

#26

Letter dated May 11, 1943

#93

Letter dated May 10, 1943.

#10

Letter dated May 13, 1943.

#10

Letter dated May 12, 1943, from Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L,
to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Federal Detention Station, Seagoville, Texas

#121

Very truly yours

Walter A. Hunter
Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Enc. 14

POP
4-22

Q2057

Q2058

Q2059

Q2060

Q2061

Handled
4-20-43
R.A.P.

5-18-43 RPE

HAWAII TIMES
Thursday, April 15, 1943

Axis Agent Here Gets 50 Years In Leavenworth

Convicted of espionage in Hawaii while acting as an agent for the Japanese government, Atto Kuehn, former Lanikai resident who once represented himself to be a metal furniture dealer in Honolulu, is serving a 50-year sentence in Leavenworth, it was revealed today.

Investigations made by the Honolulu FBI office resulted in Kuehn's prosecution and conviction in February, 1942.

His trial before a military commission in federal court here was the first espionage case in the United States after the outbreak of the war. It is believed that the sentence of 50 years is the heaviest for espionage offenses by axis agents imposed since the war started.

Kuehn was removed to the mainland immediately after being sentenced. His wife and daughter were also taken into custody on December 8, 1941. Mrs. Kuehn was subsequently removed to the mainland after being interned here while his daughter, Mrs. Ruth Moore, remained in detention here.

Kuehn came to Hawaii about eight years ago, and represented himself as a retired German naval officer.

Mrs. Kuehn and her daughter, Ruth, operated a beauty shop at Kaneohe shortly before December 7, receiving patronage of wives of naval officers from the naval base in that vicinity, according to testimony heard in a recent divorce trial here.

J. Carson Moore, husband of Ruth Kuehn Moore, sued his wife for divorce on the ground of cruel treatment, alleging his wife failed to reveal that her father was an Axis agent. The divorce case was dismissed.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8-13-86 BY SP6/CLS

#268714

Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Piper
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

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65-1574-117
ENCLOSURE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



LBN:RC

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.**

May 24, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

RE: OTTO KUEHN

For record purposes, there is attached hereto a news item appearing in the Hawaii Times on April 15, 1943, which obviously came from the Honolulu Office.

You will recall that on May 16th, SAC Thornton advised that the information pertaining to Kuehn's sentence was given to the press on the day he took over the Honolulu Office in connection with comment concerning the accomplishments of former SAC Shivers, as many requests were received from newspapers for information on the cases handled during Mr. Shivers' assignment.

Respectfully,

L. B. Nichols

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

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DATE 13-8-80 BY SP8 BJS/CL

#26874



RECORDED
&
INDEXED

65-1574-117

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18	JUN	7 1943

FILED

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



SECRET
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

CC-287

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

65-1574

May 27, 1943
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN was; et al;
ESPIONAGE - G and J

CLASSIFIED BY: [redacted]
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

You will recall that this subject, immediately prior to December 7, 1941, furnished to Japanese consular officials at Honolulu a system of signalling, which was promptly communicated to Japan. This signalling system was designed as a means of transmitting to the Japanese detailed information regarding the location and number of American naval units at Pearl Harbor. Kuehn was charged with violation of the Espionage Statutes and was tried by a Military Commission at Honolulu, Hawaii, on February 19, 1942. On February 21, 1942, the Commission found him guilty and sentenced him to be shot.

Publicity on this case was not released by the Bureau after Kuehn was sentenced because Army officials at Honolulu, who had charge of the trial of Kuehn before the Military Commission, had requested that the facts of the case and the results of the conviction be kept confidential prior to the execution of sentence, since reprisals against American nationals in Japan and Germany might result.

The conviction and sentence of Kuehn was then, as is the general policy, referred to the Office of the Judge Advocate General in Washington for review, and the Judge Advocate General upheld the finding of the court. The matter was then referred to the State Department for review, and the State Department referred it to the Attorney General, requesting advice relative to the conviction of Kuehn.

In a memorandum dated November 30, 1942, Mr. Ugo Carusi, Executive Assistant to the Attorney General, advised the Bureau that Kuehn's sentence had been commuted to fifty years by the Military Governor at Honolulu and 1943 that Kuehn had been removed to the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, to serve this sentence. Thereafter, the Honolulu Office advised the Bureau that a certified copy of the order of the Military Governor of Hawaii had been obtained in a confidential manner, setting forth that Kuehn's sentence had been commuted to fifty years.

FOR DEFENSE



BUY
UNITED
STATES
SAVINGS
BONDS
AND STAMPS

53 JUL 21 1943

SECRET

FILED
CRIME REC.

SECRET

Memo for the Director
Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN
was; et al; ESPIONAGE - G & J

- 2 -

5/27/43

The possibility of releasing publicity on this case was discussed with Mr. Shivers, former Special Agent in Charge at Honolulu, at the time he was attending an In Service Training course in Washington in January of 1943. Mr. Shivers at that time advised he could see no objection to giving this case publicity, but before any release was made by the Bureau, it would of course be necessary to clear the matter through appropriate Army authorities, inasmuch as the subject was tried before a Military Commission and because Army authorities have requested that the facts of the case be kept confidential. Mr. Shivers was of the opinion that this matter should be taken up with Army authorities in Washington rather than at Honolulu.

Thereafter, the Bureau attempted to secure clearance, through the Liaison Section of the Bureau, from Army authorities to release publicity on this case. The Bureau was unable to secure a definite answer from the Military authorities in Washington until April 23, 1943, at which time Colonel Forney of MIS advised it was the feeling of Army representatives in Hawaii and the Governor of Hawaii that since the Kuehn case was so closely allied with the Pearl Harbor disaster, they did not desire that a release be made at the present time for fear of another hue and cry which might be raised over Pearl Harbor.

Since that time, however, efforts to release a story on this case through the cooperation of the Office of War Information have been made and information regarding the case has been furnished that agency. As yet, the case has not received publicity through this means.

On April 15, 1943, there appeared in the Hawaii Times, Honolulu, Hawaii, a short news story setting forth a brief resume of the facts in this case and the results of Kuehn's conviction. Mr. Thornton was requested to submit to the Bureau an explanation as to why this release had been made by him without prior Bureau authorization.

[REDACTED]

b1

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deleted under exemption(s) b1 with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information: _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

65-1574-118

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X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

MAJ

Department of Justice
UNITED STATES PENITENT
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

May 22, 1943.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Re:

[REDACTED]
OKUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters:

Letter dated May 20, 1943, [REDACTED]

Letter dated May 20, 1943, from Otto Kuehn,
No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Federal
Detention Station, Seagoville, Texas

Very truly yours

S/
Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

65-1574-119X
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 31 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

1 JUN 141 81923

CHARLES MALCOLMSON

CHARLES MALCOLMSON

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Department of Justice
Washington

June 11, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LOUIS NICHOLS

Otto Bernhard Kuehn

You will be pleased to know, I am sure, that OWI has finally obtained clearance on the Kuehn article and that it will be released for morning papers of Monday, June 14. They had to make one or two minor concessions in order to obtain release from the Army and Navy. I have acceded to these changes on behalf of the Department rather than hold up the article any further or create any needless row, and I feel sure that you will take the same position.

The only changes in the entire manuscript are as follows:

The final paragraph on page 1 has been deleted. This was done on the insistence of Military Intelligence and ONI that there be no reference to the fact that the Americans cracked the Japanese code. On this they were adamant.

The first paragraph on page 2 has been changed to read as follows: "Special agents of the FBI, with material furnished by the Military Intelligence Division of the Army and the Office of Naval Intelligence, as well as their own material, learned that on December 3"

On page 3, line 3, the word "fateful" was deleted.

Otherwise, the story is exactly as approved by us.

If you have any objection to these changes and think they are important enough to go[^]bat on, please let me know at once this afternoon.

OWI is sending us several hundred copies, some of which I will forward to you.



50 JUN 22 1943

RECORDED
CHARLES MALCOLMSON
Director of Public Relations

EX-11

65-1574-120
2 JUN 14 1943

REC'D
REC'D

84-13

June 15-1943

b6
b7c

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8-13-80 BY SP5 CJK/bk

I not in the Topeka Daily Capital
of Topeka Kans., edition of June 15th,
photos of a Mr Joseph Leo Fergan, et al
his wife Lydia - whom he is charged
with slaying. This item from Kansas
city -

I also note a photo of. I am quite
sure the same people in the
Wichita Beacon, of Wichita Kans.
Edition of June 14th (SE 12 65-1574-120)
under names of
Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn & his wife
Friedel, as alleged German spies
and as I understand the item was
imprisoned for 50 yrs at Leavenworth

ack 7-2-43
ajc

RECORDED
&
INDEXED
J156

The photos of the two couples
being so very identical - put
me to wondering if they could be
the same people. Or is it
simply a misprint of photos & items
with one of the two newspapers -

I feel it is worth bringing
to your attention as it could be
possible that this man has escaped
prison - & if so this might end
search for him.

I am writing the Topick Daily
capital about it. However I am
of the opinion that it is merely an
error on the part of one of the papers
as it seems to be the same photos.

Very Resp.



RECORDED

65-1544-120X

July 2, 1943

Dear [REDACTED]

I wish to express my thanks for your courtesy in furnishing this Bureau the information contained in your letter dated June 15, 1943.

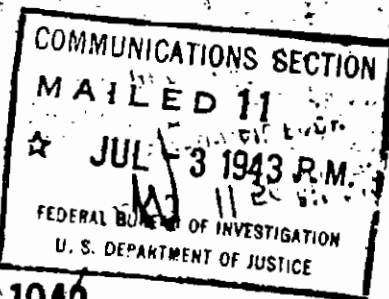
You may be assured this matter will receive such attention as the facts warrant.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-13-86 BY 60501/05

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E.A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Mr. Gandy _____



JUL 6 1943

RECEIVED READING ROOM
JUL 2 5 28 PM '43

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten initials]

[REDACTED]
June 16 1943

Edgar J. Hoover.

Dear Sir. I am writing to you in regard to this item that was in our local paper and it just seem right a man like Bernard J. Kuehn should be left off at 50 years of hard labor. I feel he is deserving of a death sentence as I feel he is the same as a murderer, Or even worse being a spy. You see Mr. Hoover why I feel like a good many mothers feel we have our sons who are prisoners of the Japs somehow we feel this Kuehn is deserving of a death sentence when our dear ones went over and bombed Japan the excuted our fliers. I have one son a prisoner of the Japs in the Philippines another son in Africa the one son in the P.I. I haven't heard from in since Dec 8 1941. he has been over there 4 years and 8 month in the Army Air Corp that why I feel as I do. We mothers have a United Philippine War Veterans Auxiliary here and there are 15 mothers who feel as I do about this man Kuehn. Don't you think all spys caught in the United States get off to easy somehow I feel as tho if there were a little more pressure put on these spys we wouldn't have quite so much of it. One just need to pick up the paper and read it and see how our loved ones are being treated and then compare the hoodlums and see how they are treated by United States.

I believe as all our mothers here do all espionage agents should be shot as they do to our people. After all after they serve their term they are free to go again to do some more damage. Just to get out and enjoy life once more and I feel this is not right our loved ones gone before us I'm sure would feel the same. I believe in eye for an eye.

I know Mr. Hoover you are doing a wonderful job in our trying times and may God bless you and our best wishes go with you.

Very Truly

[REDACTED]
Mpls Minn.

True copy - vj

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COPIES DESTROYED

369 AUG 4 1970

June 14, 1943

German Spy Gets 50 Years as Jap Pearl Harbor Aid

U. S. Reveals Nazi Helped to Prepare Attack; Family Is Interned

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The office of war information today reported German espionage agents helped the Japanese prepare their attack on Pearl Harbor and at least one of them was sentenced to death, but the sentence later was commuted.

The report said Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn, a Nazi agent, was tried before a military commission in Honolulu on charges of betraying the United States fleet in Pearl Harbor to the Japanese five days before the Dec. 7, 1941, attack.

He was convicted Feb. 21, 1942, and sentenced to be shot.

On Oct. 26, 1942, the sentence was commuted to 50 years at hard labor. Basis for the commutation was not given.

Members of Kuehn's family have been interned for the duration, either in Hawaii or in this country. They include Mrs. Kuehn; her son, Eberhard Martin Kuehn, and a daughter by her previous marriage, Suse Kaete Ruth Kuehn.

The OWI report, based on information from the federal bureau of investigation, said Kuehn went to Honolulu in 1935 for the ostensible purpose of studying Japanese.

In three years he banked more than \$70,000.

Picked up on Dec. 8, 1941, Kuehn and his wife at first denied they ever had any negotiations with the Japanese government, OWI said, adding:

"But increasing evidence from the FBI contradicted their assertions and on Dec. 30, 1941, Kuehn signed a statement admitting he had prepared the system of signals for the Japanese consul-general which the latter had dispatched to Tokyo in his message of Dec. 3."

The signals, OWI explained, were for use in reporting movements of the American fleet at Pearl Harbor.

"One such signal was a light in a dormer window of a house in Kalama," the OWI report



BERNARD J. KUEHN
Gets 50 years at hard labor



FRIEDEL KUEHN
Interned for duration

pected of engaging in espionage, behalf of Germany and Japan had been under investigation naval and military intelligence as well as the FBI."

Highlights of Kuehn's story reported by OWI:

Sometime during November, he went to Otojiro Okuda, Japanese vice consul at Honolulu, and offered to assist the Japanese in obtaining information about the national defense of the United States. Okuda requested, first, information regarding the movement of American fleet at Pearl Harbor, second, a system of signal which information could be conveyed to the Japanese fleet.

The Japanese vice consul thought the first system "complicated," and Kuehn submitted a simplified system I 2, together with a tabulation of the number and types of American ships then in Hawaiian waters.

Mrs. Kuehn told FBI agent son by a former marriage is serving the Nazi party as an agent to Propaganda Minister.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-13-80 BY SP-6/JS

ENCLOSURE
65

Placed in
file in
this manner
8/17/87 age

Miner's memo
June 16 1943.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8/3/86 BY SP6/CLS

Edgar J. Hoover.

Dear Sir. I am writing to you in regard to this item that was in our local paper and it just seems right a man like Bernard J. Kuehn should be left off at 50 years of hard labor. I feel he is deserving of a death sentence as I feel he is the same as a murderer. or even worse being a spy. You see Mr Hoover why I feel like a good many mothers feel we have our sons who are prisoners of the Japs some how we feel this Kuehn is deserving of a death sentence when our dear ones went ahead and sacrificed to save the executed our flies. I have one son a prisoner of the Japs in the Philippines another son in Africa the one son I saw in the P.I. I haven't heard from in since Dec 8 1941. he has been over there 4 years and 8 months in the Army. I have that why I feel as I do. in my mind I have a United Philippine War Veterans Auxiliary and there are 15 mothers who feel as I do about this man Kuehn, don't you think

1 ENCL

all spys caught in the United States get off
to easy some how I feel as tho if there were
a little more pressure put on these spys
we wouldnt have quite so much of it.

One just need to pick up the paper and read
it and see how our loved ones are being
treated and then compare the hoodlums and
see how they are treated by United States.

I believe as all our mothers here do all
espionage agents should be shot as they
do to our people, after all after they serve their
term they are free to go again to do some
more damage. just to get out and enjoy
life once more and I feel this is not right
our loved ones gone before us but sure
would feel the same. I believe in eye for
an eye.

I know Mr Hoover you are doing a wonderful
job in our trying times and may God bless
you and our best wishes go with you

Very Truly
[Redacted Signature]

July 1, 1943

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear [REDACTED]

I have for acknowledgment your letter of June 16, 1943, with enclosure.

You may be assured that the content of your communication and enclosure has been read with interest and care and I wish to thank you very much for volunteering your comments and observations in this regard. Inasmuch as the individual mentioned by you was tried before a military commission in Honolulu, as was also indicated by the news item forwarded by you, I am taking the liberty of referring copies of your letter to the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8/3/80 BY SP-1/JS

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____

Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. [REDACTED] _____
Mr. [REDACTED] _____
Mr. [REDACTED] _____

Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 9
JUL 2 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUL 9 - 1943

RECEIVED
JUL 1 6 00 PM '43
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~BY SPECIAL MESSENGER~~

7-1-43
65-1574-121

RECORDED

Assistant Chief of Staff
G-2, War Department
Washington, D. C.

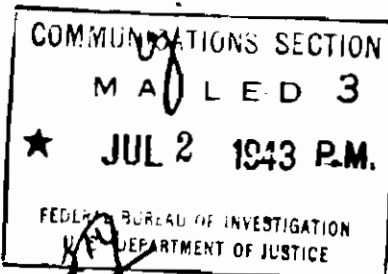
Attention: Colonel L. R. Forney

As of possible interest to you there are attached copies of a letter recently received at the Bureau from [redacted] Minneapolis, Minnesota. Accompanying [redacted] letter was a news item reflecting that Bernard J. Kuehn was tried before a military commission in Honolulu on charges of betraying the United States fleet in Pearl Harbor to the Japanese five days before the December 7, 1941 attack. This news item was captioned, "German Spy Gets 50 Years as Jap Pearl Harbor Aid".

[redacted] has been advised of this reference.

Enclosure

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____



13 JUL 7 - 1943

JUL 1 5:00 PM '43
RECEIVED READING ROOM
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
[Signature]

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DATE 8-13-80 BY SP4/CJS

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65-1574-122
CHANGED TO

100-214858-2

11
52 JUL 28 1943

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

Washington, D. C.

June 24, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

Attached is the first draft of the press release on Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn, prepared by OWI, and it should be filed for record purposes.

Respectfully,

RECORDED

B

JUN 25 1943

Enclosure

29 JUL 1 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8/13/80 BY SP8CJ/08

Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

German espionage agents collaborated with the Japanese in preparing the way for Japan's sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, Office of War Information disclosed today.

In a report, based on information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, ^{BERNARD} DWI revealed that Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn, German agent and member of the Nazi party, conspired with Japanese spies to betray the United States fleet in Pearl Harbor to the Imperial Japanese Government four days before the attack on December 7, 1941.

Kuehn, who went to Honolulu in 1935 for the ostensible purpose of studying the Japanese language, who banked more than \$70,000 his first three years in Hawaii, and whose daughter operated a beauty parlor for the families of our Navy men in the Islands, was tried before the Military Commission in Honolulu for violations of the United States Code Annotated; was found guilty on February 21, 1942, and was sentenced to be shot. On October 26, 1942, his sentence was commuted to fifty years at hard labor.

The story which is made public for the first time today, is a tale of treachery that is both devious and direct. It involves signals flashed by "a light in Lanikai beach house at night". It involves "a light in dormer window of Kalama house". It involves the destruction of American ships and the death of American men.

On the morning following the Japanese air attack on Pearl Harbor, ^{Special Agents} representatives of the FBI succeeded in obtaining from various commercial radio and cable companies in Honolulu copies of certain hitherto unavailable messages ^{to Intel} which had been exchanged between the Japanese Consulate at Honolulu and the Japanese Foreign Office in Tokyo.

In translation, one of these messages revealed that on December 3, Nagao Kita, the Japanese Consul-General in Honolulu, had furnished his Foreign Office with a complete system of signals to be used in the transmission of intelligence information regarding movements of the American fleet at Pearl Harbor. One such signal was a light in a dormer window of a house in Kalama.

Kalama is a comparatively small community located at Kailua, Oahu. Special Agents of the F.B.I. had no difficulty in locating the house with the dormer window. It was owned and occupied by a man who went by the name of Otto Kuehn, and his wife, Friedel.

The Kuehns were German nationals. They had previously been suspected of engaging in espionage activities in behalf of Germany and Japan and they had been under investigation by the Office of Naval Intelligence, and the Military Intelligence Service of the War Department, as well as by the F.B.I. These inquiries had brought out the fact that the Kuehns also had a beach house at Lanikai. And another of the signals mentioned in the message in possession of the F.B.I. was a light in a beach house at Lanikai.

F.B.I. Agents apprehended Kuehn and his wife December 8, 1941, on the authority of the Commanding General of the Hawaiian Department who, immediately following the declaration of war against the United States, had ordered all German and Italian aliens to be picked up for temporary detention.

When they were first picked up, the Kuehns, according to F.B.I. reports, flatly denied that they had ever had any negotiations with the Japanese Government. But increasing evidence from the F.B.I. confused their stories and on December 30, 1941, Kuehn signed a

statement admitting that he had prepared the system of signals for the Japanese Consul-General which the latter had dispatched to Tokyo in his fateful message of December 3.

Kuehn's story, as detailed in the F.B.I. files, is as follows:

Sometime during the month of November, 1941, he went to Otojiro Okuda, Japanese Vice-Consul at Honolulu and offered to assist the Japanese in obtaining information about the national defense of the United States. He, Kuehn, declared that Okuda requested him first to get the information regarding the movement of the American fleet at Pearl Harbor, and second, to devise a system of signals by which this information could be imparted to the Japanese fleet.

Kuehn, according to the story he told the F.B.I. agents, went to Pearl Harbor (accompanied by his ten-year old son, Hans Joachim) and made his observations. A few days later he went to the Japanese Consulate and submitted a signal system which he had worked out, which should be used by the Consulate in furnishing information as to the number and types of American ships in Pearl Harbor, as well as data about the ships that had already left or were about to leave.

But the Japanese officials thought the system too complicated. Vice-Consul Okuda, according to the report, told him to come back with a simpler system. Kuehn came back, on December 2, with his revised and simplified system. He also handed over to Okuda a written tabulation of the number and types of American ships then in Hawaiian waters.

The F.B.I. reports that on or about October 25, 1941, \$14,000 in cash had been delivered to Kuehn, at his residence with the dormer window, by Tadasi Morimura, Fourth Secretary of the Japanese Consulate.

Kuehn went on trial February 19, 1942. The technical charges were violation of Sections 31, 32, and 34, Title 50, United States Code Annotated. He was found guilty on each of the charges, was but sentenced to be shot, /later, his sentence commuted to fifty years at hard labor.

Kuehn, who is listed in the F.B.I. files under several aliases, was born Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn, in Berlin, Germany, July 25, 1895. When he was 18 he enlisted in the German Navy. He was serving as a midshipman aboard a German cruiser in World War I, and when in January, 1915, his ship was sunk in a sea battle with an English war vessel, he was taken prisoner.

Following the Armistice he returned to Berlin and re-entered the Naval Service as an Ober-Lieutenant aboard the mother ship of a mine sweeper flotilla. After about 6 months of this he was released and placed in the Naval Reserve Corps. He studied medicine briefly at the Universities of Berlin and Munich, and engaged in various occupations in Germany.

In 1920, in Munchen, Germany, Kuehn married Friedel Birk who had two children by a previous marriage, Leopold and Ruth. Leopold, according to his mother's declaration, is now serving the Nazi Party as an assistant to Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels.

It is one of Kuehn's proud boasts, according to F.B.I. information, that he was so high in the Nazi Party that he was once considered for the position of Chief of the German Gestapo under Heinrich Himmler. His rival for the job, Reinhold Heydrich, double-crossed him, Kuehn told the F.B.I. and won the coveted post.

Kuehn was first admitted to the United States at Honolulu August 15, 1935. His alleged reason for coming was to study the Japanese language. He never went back to Germany. He made two trips to Japan.

Between May 14, 1936 and February 7, 1939, more than \$70,000 was deposited to the credit of Kuehn and his wife in a Honolulu bank by the Rotterdam Bank Association. It was supposed to have come from investments and business interests of his in Germany and Holland.

But about the end of 1939 Kuehn was reported to be in financial difficulties. He established a beauty parlor which his wife's daughter, Ruth, operated. Ruth's mother is reported to have said that the shop was really opened to obtain "Navy business."

Mrs. Kuehn went to Japan for a visit in 1940 and returned home with a series of articles on "American Polynesia" which contained descriptions of various British and American islands. She is also reported to have brought back some \$16,000 in cash.

It was in the early fall of 1940, too, that the now famous dormer window was constructed in the attic of the Kuehn's home on Kalama Road. In January of that same year Mrs. Kuehn purchased a pair of eighteen-power Bausch and Lomb binoculars. This was an unusual purchase for a woman to make, for these field glasses are considered too high-powered for ordinary purposes. Because of their magnified vibrations, they cannot be used without a tripod or some other kind of rest.

Although no previous criminal record has been connected with Kuehn in the F.B.I. files, both he and his wife were generally known in Honolulu as pro-Nazi and took part in the activities of various local German clubs.

Leopold Kuehn, writing to his parents on March 27, 1939, expressed sorrow that his step-father, an old National Socialist who deserved a role in current events, was not a participant in the present war.

COPY
EG

Department of Justice
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

June 29, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: [REDACTED]
KUEHN, Friedel, No. 59609-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters;

Letter dated June 26, 1943 [REDACTED]

Letter dated June 26, 1943, from Otto Kuehn,
No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Crystal
City Internment Camp, Crystal City, Texas

Letter dated June 24, 1943, from Mrs. Friedel
Kuehn, Crystal City Internment Camp, Crystal
City, Texas, to Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L

Very truly yours

Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED

INDEXED

24
JUL 15 1943

65-1574-123
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 8 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 8-13-80 BY SP-6 CJS

at Watertown, Watertown, N.Y.
matter. Daily Times 6-14-43

NAZI SPY AIDED AT PEARL HARBOR

Played Major Role in Jap At-
tack—Death Sentence
Commuted

ARRANGED FOR
TO AID JAPS

Picked Up with His Wife
Day After Attack—He had
Banked \$10,000 in Three
Years in Hawaii.

Washington, June 14. (AP)—
The Office of War Information
(OWI) reported today that Ger-
man espionage agents helped the
Japanese prepare their attack on
Pearl Harbor, and at least one of
them was sentenced to death but
the sentence later was commuted.

Sentenced To Be Shot.

The report said Bernard Julius
Otto Kuehn, a Nazi agent, was
tried before a military commis-
sion in Honolulu on charges of
betraying the United States fleet
in Pearl Harbor to the Japanese
five days before the Dec. 7, 1941
attack. He was convicted on
Feb. 21, 1942, and sentenced to be
shot. On Oct. 26, 1942, the sen-
tence was commuted to 50 years
at hard labor. The basis for the
commutation was not given.

Members of Kuehn's family
have been interned for the dura-
tion, either in Hawaii or in this
country. They include Mrs. Kuehn,
her son, Eberhard Martin Kuehn,
and a daughter by her previous
marriage, Susan Kaete Ruth
Kuehn.

The OWI report, based on in-
formation from the Federal Bu-
reau of Investigation, said Kuehn
went to Honolulu in 1935 for the
ostensible purpose of studying
Japanese, and in three years
banked more than \$70,000.

Picked up on Dec. 8, 1941,
Kuehn and his wife at first denied
they ever had any negotiations
with the Japanese government,
OWI said, adding:

"But increasing evidence from
the FBI contradicted their asser-
tions and on Dec. 30, 1941, Kuehn
signed a statement admitting he
had prepared the system of sig-
nals for the Japanese consul-gen-
eral which the latter had dis-
patched to Tokyo in his message
of Dec. 3."

The signals, OWI explained,
were for use in reporting the
movements of the American fleet
at Pearl Harbor.

Highlights of Kuehn's story, as
reported by OWI:

Some time during November,
1941, he went to Otojiro Okuda,
Japanese vice consul at Honolulu
and offered to assist the Japanese
in obtaining information about
the national defense of the United
States. Okuda requested, first, in-
formation regarding the move-
ment of the American fleet at
Pearl Harbor; second, a system of
signals by which information could
be conveyed to the Japanese fleet.

The Japanese vice consul
thought the first system "too com-
plicated," and Kuehn submitted a
simplified system Dec. 2, together
with a tabulation of the number
and types of American ships then
in Hawaiian waters.

On Oct. 25, 1941, FBI reported,
Tadasi Norimura, fourth secretary
of the Japanese consulate, deliv-
ered \$14,000 in cash to Kuehn.
There was no explanation of the
payment in advance of the time
he purportedly offered his services
to the Japanese.

Mrs. Kuehn told FBI agents
that a son by a former marriage
is now serving the Nazi party as
an assistant to Propaganda Min-
ister Goebbels. He is known as
Leopold Kuehn, and once was
considered for chief of the Ger-
man Gestapo under Heinrich
Himmler, but Reinhold Heydrich
"double-crossed him" and won the
post. Czech patriots killed Hey-
drich.



Bernard J. O. Kuehn (top) and
Mrs. Kuehn

CLIPPING FROM WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES

WATERTOWN, N.Y.

43

FORWARDED BY ALBANY OFFICE

ENCLOSURE

65-1574-126

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) b7c, b7d with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information: _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

SECRET

May 27, 1943

Original cannot be located and is not on record. When original is received in Files Division it will be filed either with this copy or may be given a new serial.

1/22/43 O.H. 16.75.

THE DIRECTOR

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN was; et al;
ESPIONAGE - C and J

original
is per 118

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

You will recall that this subject, immediately prior to December 7, 1941, furnished to Japanese consular officials at Honolulu a system of signalling, which was promptly communicated to Japan. This signalling system was designed as a means of transmitting to the Japanese detailed information regarding the location and number of American naval units at Pearl Harbor. Kuehn was charged with violation of the Espionage Statutes and was tried by a Military Commission at Honolulu, Hawaii, on February 19, 1942. On February 21, 1942, the Commission found him guilty and sentenced him to be shot.

Publicity on this case was not released by the Bureau after Kuehn was sentenced because Army officials at Honolulu, who had charge of the trial of Kuehn before the Military Commission, had requested that the facts of the case and the results of the conviction be kept confidential prior to the execution of sentence, since reprisals against American nationals in Japan and Germany might result.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm The conviction and sentence of Kuehn was then, as is the general
Mr. Clegg policy, referred to the Office of the Judge Advocate General in Washington
Mr. Coffey for review, and the Judge Advocate General upheld the finding of the court.
Mr. Glavin The matter was then referred to the State Department for review, and the
Mr. Ladd State Department referred it to the Attorney General, requesting advice rela-
Mr. Nichols tive to the conviction of Kuehn.

Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy In a memorandum dated November 20, 1942, Mr. Ugo Carusi, Executive
Mr. Carson Assistant to the Attorney General, advised the Bureau that Kuehn's sentence
Mr. Harbo had been commuted to fifty years by the Military Governor at Honolulu and
Mr. Hendon that Kuehn had been removed to the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth,
Mr. McGuire Kansas, to serve this sentence. Thereafter, the Honolulu Office advised
Mr. Mumford the Bureau that a certified copy of the order of the Military Governor
Mr. Piper of Hawaii had been obtained in a confidential manner, setting forth that
Mr. Quinn Tamm Kuehn's sentence had been commuted to fifty years.

Mr. Nease

Miss Gandy

JUL 28 1943

SECRET

430
173
JUL 28 1943

SECRET

Memo for the Director
Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUSHN
was; et al; ESPIONAGE - G & J

- 2 -

SECRET

4/27/45

The possibility of releasing publicity on this case was discussed with Mr. Shivers, former Special Agent in Charge at Honolulu, at the time he was attending an In Service Training course in Washington in January of 1945. Mr. Shivers at that time advised he could see no objection to giving this case publicity, but before any release was made by the Bureau, it would of course be necessary to clear the matter through appropriate Army authorities, inasmuch as the subject was tried before a Military Commission and because Army authorities have requested that the facts of the case be kept confidential. Mr. Shivers was of the opinion that this matter should be taken up with Army authorities in Washington rather than at Honolulu.

Thereafter, the Bureau attempted to secure clearance, through the Liaison Section of the Bureau, from Army authorities to release publicity on this case. The Bureau was unable to secure a definite answer from the Military authorities in Washington until April 25, 1945, at which time ~~Major~~ Verney of MIA advised it was the feeling of Army representatives in Hawaii and the Governor of Hawaii that since the Kushi case was so closely allied with the Pearl Harbor disaster, they did not desire that a release be made at the present time for fear of another line and cry which might be raised over Pearl Harbor.

Since that time, however, efforts to release a story on this case through the cooperation of the Office of War Information have been made and information regarding the case has been furnished that agency. As yet, the case has not received publicity through this means.

[REDACTED]

SECRET

Respectfully,

SECRET

D. M. Ladd

Department of Justice
UNITED STATES PRISON
Leavenworth, Kansas

May 28, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Re: [REDACTED]

OKUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated May 26, 1943, [REDACTED]

Letter dated May 26, 1943, [REDACTED]

Letter dated May 27, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated May 18, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter undated from Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Crystal City
Internment Camp, Crystal City, Texas, to Otto Kuehn,
No. 59603-L

Very truly yours,

Reed S. Cosart
Acting Warden

Encls.

65-1574-127X

JUN 9 - 1943

RECORDED
INDEXED

1560

394

Depar-
MENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

May 31, 1943

COPY
MAJ
Y

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Re: [REDACTED]
KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institu-
tion are the following-listed letters:
Letter dated May 25, 1943 from [REDACTED]

Letter dated May 29, 1943, from Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Frieda Kuehn, Federal Detention Station, Seagoville, Texas

Very truly yours,
S/
Reed Cozart
Acting Warden

Encls.

RECORDED
INDEXED
D-5

65-127
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 9
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

52 JUN 17 1943

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY

LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

June 2, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters:

#53 Letter dated May 29, 1943,

#53 Letter dated May 31, 1943

Letter dated May 28, 1943, from Mrs. Friedal
#12, Kuehn, Interment Camp, Crystal City, Texas,
to Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L

Very truly yours,

W. H. Gosart

W. H. Gosart
Acting Warden

Encls.

SPECIMENS RETAINED IN LAB.

UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

June 7, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re:

KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated June 5, 1943.

53

2378

Letter dated May 31, 1943, from

93

2379

Letter dated June 2, 1943, from

48

2380

Letter dated June 3, 1943, from

44

2381

Letter dated June 1, 1943, from

11

2382

Letter dated June 6, 1943, from Otto Kuehn,
No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Crystal City
Internment Camp, Crystal City, Texas

121

2383

Very truly yours

Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Encls.

6/10/43

121
121

A11
p6
b7c

ADVANCE RELEASE

ADVANCE RELEASE: For Monday Afternoon Papers, June 14, 1943

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

OWI-2026

German espionage agents collaborated with the Japanese in preparing the way for Japan's sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, the Office of War Information disclosed today.

In a report, based on information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation OWI revealed that Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn, German agent and member of the Nazi party, conspired with Japanese spies to betray the United States Fleet in Pearl Harbor to the Imperial Japanese Government four days before the attack on December 7, 1941.

Kuehn, who went to Honolulu in 1935 for the ostensible purpose of studying the Japanese language, who banked more than \$70,000 his first three years in Hawaii, and whose daughter operated a beauty parlor for the families of our Navy men in the Islands, was tried before the Military Commission in Honolulu for violations of the United States Code Annotated; was found guilty on February 21, 1942, and was sentenced to be shot. On October 26, 1942, his sentence was commuted to fifty years at hard labor.

The story is made public for the first time today.

Special Agents of the FBI aided by material furnished by the Military Intelligence Division of the Army and the Office of Naval Intelligence as well as their own material learned that on December 3, Nagao Kita, the Japanese Consul-General in Honolulu, had furnished his Foreign Office with a complete system of signals to be used in the transmission of intelligence information regarding movements of the American fleet at Pearl Harbor. One such signal was a light in a dormer window of a house in Kalama.

Kalama is a comparatively small community located at Kailua, Oahu. Special Agents of the FBI had no difficulty in locating the house with the dormer window. It was owned and occupied by Kuehn, and his wife, Friedel.

The Kuehns were German nationals. They had previously been suspected of engaging in espionage activities in behalf of Germany and Japan and had been under investigation by the Office of Naval Intelligence and the Military Intelligence Service of the War Department, as well as by the FBI. These inquiries had brought out the fact that the Kuehns also had a beach house at Lanikai. And another of the signals mentioned in the message in possession of the FBI was a light in a beach house at Lanikai.

COPIES DESTROYED

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55 JUN 22 1949

65-1574

32-NOT RECORDED

K-16808

1941, on the author-
diately following the
German and Italian

Kuehn's story, as detailed in the F.B.I. files, follows:

Kuehn went to Pearl Harbor (accompanied by his ten-year old son, Hans Joachim) and made his observations. A few days later he went to the Japanese Consulate and submitted a signal system which he had worked out, which could be used by the Consulate in furnishing information as to the number and types of American ships in Pearl Harbor, as well as data about the ships that had already left or were about to leave.

The F.B.I. reports that on or about October 25, 1941, \$14,000 in cash had been delivered to Kuehn, at his residence with the dormer window, by Tadasu Morimura, Fourth Secretary of the Japanese Consulate.

Other members of the Kuehn family have been interned, either in Hawaii or in this country, for the duration of the war. They include, Mrs. Kuehn, her son, Eberhard Martin Kuehn, and a daughter by her previous marriage who now goes by the name of Suse Kaete Ruth Kuehn.

Kuehn, who is listed in the F.B.I. files under several aliases, was born Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn, in Berlin, Germany, July 25, 1895. When he was 18 he enlisted in the German Navy. He was serving as a midshipman aboard a German cruiser in World War I, and when in January, 1915, his ship was sunk in a sea battle with an English war vessel, he was taken prisoner.

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Fmci - 1240

DATE 78 444

X-16808

DATE: 12/1/68

Following Armistice he returned to Berlin and re-entered the Naval Service as an Ober-Lieutenant aboard the mother ship of the mine sweeper flotilla. After 6 months he was released and placed in the Naval Reserve Corps. He studied medicine briefly at the Universities of Berlin and Munich, and engaged in various occupations in Germany.

In 1920, in Munich, Germany, Kuehn married Friedel Birk who had two children by a previous marriage, Leopold and Ruth. Leopold, according to his mother's declaration, is now serving the Nazi Party as an assistant to Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels.

It is one of Kuehn's proud boasts, according to F.B.I. information, that he was so high in the Nazi Party that he was once considered for the position of Chief of the German Gestapo under Heinrich Himmler. His rival for the job, Reinhold Heydrich, double-crossed him, Kuehn told the F.B.I., and won the coveted post.

Kuehn was first admitted to the United States at Honolulu, August 15, 1935. His alleged reason for coming was to study the Japanese language. He never went back to Germany. He made two trips to Japan.

Between May 14, 1936 and February 7, 1939, more than \$70,000 was deposited to the credit of Kuehn and his wife in a Honolulu bank by the Rotterdam Bank Association. It was supposed to have come from investments and business interests of his in Germany and Holland.

But about the end of 1939 Kuehn was reported to be in financial difficulties. He established a beauty parlor which his wife's daughter, Ruth, operated. Ruth's mother is reported to have said that the shop was really opened to obtain "Navy business."

Mrs. Kuehn went to Japan for a visit in 1940 and returned home with a series of articles on "American Polynesia" which contained descriptions of various British and American islands. She is also reported to have brought back some \$16,000 in cash.

It was in the early fall of 1940, too, that the now famous dormer window was constructed in the attic of the Kuehn's home on Kalama Road. In January of that same year Mrs. Kuehn purchased a pair of eighteen-power Bausch and Lomb binoculars. This was an unusual purchase for a woman to make, for these field glasses are considered too high-powered for ordinary purposes. Because of their magnified vibrations, they cannot be used without a tripod or some other kind of rest.

Although no previous criminal record has been connected with Kuehn in the F.B.I. files, both he and his wife were generally known in Honolulu as pro-Nazi and took part in the activities of various local German clubs.

Leopold Kuehn, writing to his parents on March 27, 1939, expressed sorrow that his step-father, an old National Socialist who deserved a role in current events, was not a participant in the present war.

UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

June 15, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: 
KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated June 12, 1943, 

#53

Letter dated June 13, 1943, from Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Internment Camp Crystal City, Crystal City, Texas

#121

Letter dated June 9, 1943, from Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Crystal City Internment Camp, Crystal City, Texas, to Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L

#121

Very truly yours


Walter A. Hunter
Warden

no newspaper clipping in this envelope, which was mentioned in letter.

Encls.

FOI/PA # 268414
APPEAL #
CIVIL ACT. #
E.O. 12356
DATE 6-14-80 BY SP-5ALS/000

Returned in 6-18-43 EC

administrative markings (on back)

65-1574-127X4
JUN 21 1943

58 JUL 5 1943

42520-41
RETURNED TO SENDER
JUN 21 1943

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

June 22, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: [REDACTED]
KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L
[REDACTED]

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated June 19, 1943, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Letter dated June 20, 1943, from Otto Kuehn,
No. 59603-L to Mrs. Frieda Kuehn, Internment
Camp, Crystal City, Texas

Letter dated June 16, 1943, from [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Very truly yours

Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED
D72

EX - 36

100-1574-12785

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JUL 3 1943	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
	FILE

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 100-1574-12785

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

 1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) b1, b7c with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
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- ☐ For your information: _____
- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
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X FOR THIS PAGE X
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August 10, 1943

Honorable Francis Maloney
United States Senator

My dear Senators:

I am in receipt of your letter of August 2, 1943, in which you requested information concerning Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn and his wife, Friedel. For your information, Kuehn was arrested at Honolulu, Hawaii, December 8, 1941, and on February 21, 1942, was found guilty of engaging in espionage on behalf of the Japanese. He was tried before a military commission and although originally sentenced to be shot, this sentence was commuted on October 26, 1942, to fifty years imprisonment at hard labor.

According to the information which we presently have available, Kushn's wife, Friedel, has now been interned for the duration of the war in pursuance to an order of the military commission at Honolulu, Hawaii.

With expressions of my highest esteem and best regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____

Mr. Hayer
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

29 AUG 12 1943 23

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-14-88 BY SP6 GJC/CLS

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

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FBI

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
FBI

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

7/2/10
July 6, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution is a letter dated July 3, 1943, from the above-named inmate to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Crystal City Internment Camp, Crystal City, Texas.

Very truly yours

Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Encl.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED
D/63

EX-46

65-1574-129
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 19 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
INITIALS

55 JUL 26 1943 34

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

_____ Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deleted under exemption(s) _____ with no segregable material available for release to you.
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- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

3 Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

These pages were found to be duplicate pages of 65-1574-127X

☐ For your information: _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

65-1574-130

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XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) b7c with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

- ☐ For your information: _____

- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
65-1574-131

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
June 2, 1943

Mr. Coffey _____
 Mr. Glavin _____
 Mr. Ladd _____
 Mr. Nichols _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Tracy _____
 Mr. Carson _____
 Mr. Harbo _____
 Mr. Hendon _____
 Mr. McGuire _____
 Mr. Mumford _____
 Mr. Piper _____
 Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Mr. Nease _____
 Miss Beahm _____
 Miss Gandy _____

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

Re: Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn

You will recall that some time ago OWI prepared a release on this case. I have been following it from day to day and have been advised that Elmer Davis took the matter up with the War Department and the War Department objected to the release of the information pertaining to Kuehn's conviction and the method of signaling on the ground that to release the story would mean that we would be telling the Japs that we had their diplomatic code.

For your information, SAC Shivers called the Chief of Police of Honolulu to guard the Japanese Consulate at Hawaii at the time of the bombing. When [redacted] arrived with a squad to guard the Consulate they found the Vice Consul, Atojiro Okuda, in the act of burning some of the Consulate papers. [redacted] ordered the burning of the papers ceased and among the papers being burned was the telegraph file, together with other documents including what appeared to be the Consulate code. This material was not inventoried but was delivered to ONI. Later, messages between the Consulate and the Jap foreign service were secured from the local communications companies. When these were secured it was possible to translate the coded message setting forth the signals devised by Kuehn.

While the Jap Consuls, Kita and Okuda, know that we have the Consulate code, it would appear that this is the type of knowledge which no longer should be kept secret, however, it is suggested that we advise OWI that they might get around the objection of the Army by merely stating that a copy of the message was secured from the Jap Consulate prior to its being coded. This would, of course, put Kita in the middle with the foreign office and while it would not be correctly presenting the picture, nevertheless, from the propaganda value it is believed this would not be objectionable.

Respectfully,



52 AUG 25 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 8-14-86 BY SP5/bk

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of Kuehn, Bernard

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

August 3, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: [REDACTED]
KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-1
[REDACTED]

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated July 31, 1943, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Letter dated July 30, 1943, w/photos enclosed,
from Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Incontinent Camp,
Crystal City, Texas, to Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-1

Birthday greeting card, envelope postmarked
July 31, 1943. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Letter dated July 30, 1943, w/enclosures and
photos, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Very truly yours

Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

30 AUG 28 1943

65-1574-13
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 12 1943

COPY
LR

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY

LEAVERTWORTH, KANSAS

July 13, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: [REDACTED]

C KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters:

Letter dated July 10, 1943, [REDACTED]

Letter dated July 9, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated July 8, 1943, from Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Internment Camp, Crystal City, Texas, to Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L.

Letter dated July 11, 1943, from Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Internment Camp, Crystal City, Texas.

Very truly yours,

Halter A. Hunter
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

ML

65-1574-134
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUL 31 1943

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

INITIALS AND DATE

EX-5

Hand to FBI

[Redacted]

July 19, 1943

Office of War Information
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sirs,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-14-86 BY SP-10

Concerning an AP, June 14, 1943

newspaper item concerning the
conviction of a Julius Otto Kuehn,
Nazi Agent, for betraying the
U.S. Fleet to the Japanese
preparatory for the attack on
Pearl Harbor, I thought you
might like to know that
Mrs. Kuehn about 45 years
of age, sailed from Honolulu
on the S.S. Pres. Coolidge
Monday, Feb. 19, 1940, and dis-
embarked at Yokohama, Japan
on Thurs. Feb. 29, 1940.

ack 8-14-43
Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn
R S, K U E H N
gnd

RECORDED

INDEXED

65-1574-1

32 JUL 29 1943

Op. 7

b/c
b6

[REDACTED]

the States to the Philippines and
were invited to visit her on our
way back to the States. The address
she gave was 1476 Kailua Ave.,
Honolulu, ^{HAWAII} - Teleph. 6 white 929.

Address Thinking that this
information might prove
significant and helpful to
the OWI I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

76, b7c
7
[REDACTED]
65-1574-134X
300-222639-5
RECORDED

August 14, 1943

[REDACTED]
b6, b7c
Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your communication, dated July 19, 1943, which was forwarded to this Bureau by the Office of War Information, Washington, D. C.

Your courtesy and interest in bringing this information to the attention of the Government are indeed appreciated, and you may be assured your letter will receive appropriate consideration.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-14-80 BY SP5C/pjs

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
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★ AUG 16 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

July 26, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re:

KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated July 19, 1943, from

Letter dated July 23, 1943, from Otto Kuehn,
No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Internment
Camp, Crystal City, Texas.

Letter dated July 16, 1943, from Mrs. Friedel Kuehn,
Internment Camp, Crystal City, Texas, to Otto Kuehn,
No. 59603-L.

Very truly yours

Walter A. Hunter
Warden

RECORDED & INDEXED

65-1574-13
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 4 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

56 AUG 10 1943

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FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

3 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) b1 b7c with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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- ☐ For your information: _____

- ☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
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September 1, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: KUEHN, Bernard J. O.
No. 59603

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for transmittal and return to this institution is a letter dated August 31, 1943 from the above-named inmate to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Internment Camp, Crystal City, Texas.

Very truly yours,

Walter A. Hunter
Warden

Encl.

RECORDED

65-1574-17
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 9 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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56 SEP 21 1943

**BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, summary
WITH ALIAS OTTO KUNN--ESPIONAGE**

Although the American people have become more fully conscious of the danger the United States faces from the acts of an espionage agent, it is difficult for many to conceive the full scope and effect of the true danger. This is due to the fact that the American public cannot comprehend the translation of the spy's activities into death and destruction. The case which all too vividly effects this transformation is that of Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn.

Kuehn conspired with the spies of the Imperial Japanese Government to betray the United States Fleet at Pearl Harbor. Regardless of the fact that he was an oberleutenant of the German Navy, a fanatical member of the notorious Nazi Party of Germany and the head of a family, the four adult members of which had pledged their lives and fortunes to the Germany of Hitler, his acts will stand forever emblazoned with the word "traitor." Kuehn was an applicant for American citizenship to which he would have been admitted on the last Saturday of January, 1942.

Kuehn sold to the Imperial Japanese Government espionage information they desired in order to successfully

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Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
Carson
Harbo
Hendon
Mumford
Starke
Quinn Tamm
Nease
Gandy

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ENCLOSURE

65-1574-138

effect their attack on Pearl Harbor as of December 7, 1941. He conveyed to the Japanese the strength and number of warships assigned to Pearl Harbor. He also devised a set of signals which were to be used as a warning to the Japanese fleet in the event the American fleet learned of their intended attack and put scouting forces to sea between December 1 and 6, 1941.

Otto Kuehn was arrested by the Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation acting with the military authorities on December 8, 1941. Martial law had been placed into force in the Hawaiian Islands. Therefore, Kuehn was tried by a military commission and sentenced to face death by a firing squad. This sentence was later commuted to fifty years' imprisonment at hard labor in a Federal Penitentiary.

Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn was born of a middle-class German family on July 25, 1895, at Berlin, Germany. His father was a doctor of chemistry employed as a food inspector at Stettin, Germany.

Kuehn cast his fortune at an early age with the powerful naval faction of Germany when he enlisted as a cadet in the German Navy in April, 1913, at the age of seventeen. His primary training was received at Flensburg on board the training cruiser "Hertha." Shortly prior to the outbreak of the World War in August, 1914, Kuehn was promoted to a midshipman and transferred to the "SMS Albatross," a German battle cruiser.

The "Alucher" was sunk by the battle cruiser "SMS Lion" on January 24, 1915, when a patrol squadron under the English Vice-Admiral Featty intercepted a German squadron of three battle cruisers which was attempting to reach the British Coast.

Kuehn, an ensign by this time, survived the sinking and was taken as a prisoner of war to Edinburgh, Scotland, where he remained until January, 1918, when he was returned to Germany in an exchange of prisoners. The balance of Kuehn's World War service was spent in Holland.

Following the Armistice in November, 1918, he studied architecture for three months and then returned to the demilitarized German Navy as a lieutenant on board the "Wittelsbach," mother ship of a mine-sweeper flotilla. In August, 1919, Kuehn was released from active duty and placed into the German Naval Reserve.

In the fall of 1919 Kuehn returned to his studies and enrolled as a student in the University of Munich. Shortly before the completion of his first year's work he married Friedel Birk, a childhood acquaintance. Friedel was a war mother of two children--Leopold, who was born at Berlin, July 6, 1911, and Ruth, born in Berlin on March 1, 1913. The two children adopted the name of their foster father. Kuehn's father died and left him a small estate with a portion of which he purchased during the summer of 1920 the "Antares," a sail

freighter which he operated between Rotterdam, Holland, and Finland. Disaster soon overtook this venture for the "Antares" was wrecked and sold as salvage for the sum of \$2,000.

Kuehn returned to his studies, transferring to the University of Berlin in the fall of 1920. He completed one year's work and ceased his university training in the spring of 1921.

The next seven years were spent in Germany at various occupations. In June, 1921, Kuehn entered the employment of Siemens-Halske, Limited, a large electrical manufacturing concern in Berlin. This employment was followed until June, 1923, when he entered private business as a soda water manufacturer at Stettin, Germany. This business did not prove successful and in June, 1924, he secured a position with Pommersche-Melrein, a large dairy in Berlin, where he was employed as an inspector.

In 1928, Kuehn re-entered the German Navy and was assigned to active duty with the Defense Section of the High Command at Ostee, Germany. His first taste of undercover assignment was gained in this position for his duties entailed the investigation of subversive activity among Army and Navy officers. This employment continued under the Weimar Republic until 1930 when he was dismissed from the service.

The reason for this dismissal is not clear. Kuehn maintains that he was dismissed for financial irregularities

but it is known that in 1930 while attending a meeting which was addressed by Adolph Hitler at Kiel, Germany, he joined the Nazi Party which was then at odds with the Weimar Republic and also secured the enrollment of his son, Leopold, as a member.

Little is known concerning Kuehn's activities from 1930-32. He states that for a while he was engaged as a sales manager with one Overbeck in operating a chain of coffee stores in Berlin. Ruth was employed by the Nazi Party Youth Group in campaigning for Hitler. When Adolph Hitler came into power in 1932, Kuehn capitalized upon his party membership and traveled to Munich with Reinhold Heydrich to be interviewed by the then chief of police at Munich for the position that was later to earn Heydrich the sobriquet of "Fangman of the Reich." Heydrich was selected for the position of chief of the German Gestapo under Heinrich Himmler of the SS. Kuehn made the statement that if this position had been offered to him he would have readily accepted it. Later Kuehn was interviewed with Heydrich and the Chief of Police of Munich by Heinrich Himmler. This group discussed steps which should be taken to combat Communism in Germany.

Kuehn was now assigned with [REDACTED] to confidential work investigating the police department at Altona, Germany. Kuehn [REDACTED] were rivals for a high government position as Regierungsrat, a government advisor. Friction developed

between Kuehn [REDACTED] for this position with both individuals apparently attempting to discredit the other. A check appeared in the amount of 3,700 marks with Kuehn's signature on it. This check was fraudulent. A question therefore arose as to Kuehn's responsibility [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Kuehn claims that he made an investigation and discovered that this fraudulent check had been prepared by a [REDACTED] Kuehn wrote his suspicions into a letter and forwarded it to [REDACTED] "und alte Kämpfe" or old party veteran, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] arm of invasion into the Scandinavian countries. [REDACTED]

Upon this occasion Kuehn was placed in a serious position for he was guilty of hurling accusations at a man who now held an important party position. Kuehn was arrested and placed in prison. He was soon cleared of the charges which [REDACTED] had lodged against him and returned to his position as sales manager with the coffee firm. During the bloody days of June, 1934, which will be marked in history as the blood purge of the Nazi Party, Kuehn was again placed in prison at the Alexanderplatz Praesidium in Berlin. The reason for this arrest is not certain. Kuehn maintains that a [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] any rate
the charges were never proved against Kuehn and he was released.
Meanwhile Kuehn had been readmitted to his commission in the
German Navy and was given a rating of lieutenant, first class,
or oberleutenant.

On April 18, 1935, he left Germany on the "SS
Stuttgart" in company with his wife, Friedel, on an assignment
of the German Navy to study the Japanese language. Kuehn and
his wife arrived in transit to the Far East in New York City
on April 29, 1935. They spent ten days in New York City, and
left there for San Francisco, California, where the German

Consulate was contacted. From San Francisco they sailed to Honolulu, Hawaii, arriving there May 15, 1935. On May 27, 1935, Kuehn went to the German Consul at Honolulu and had his passport renewed for a period of five years.

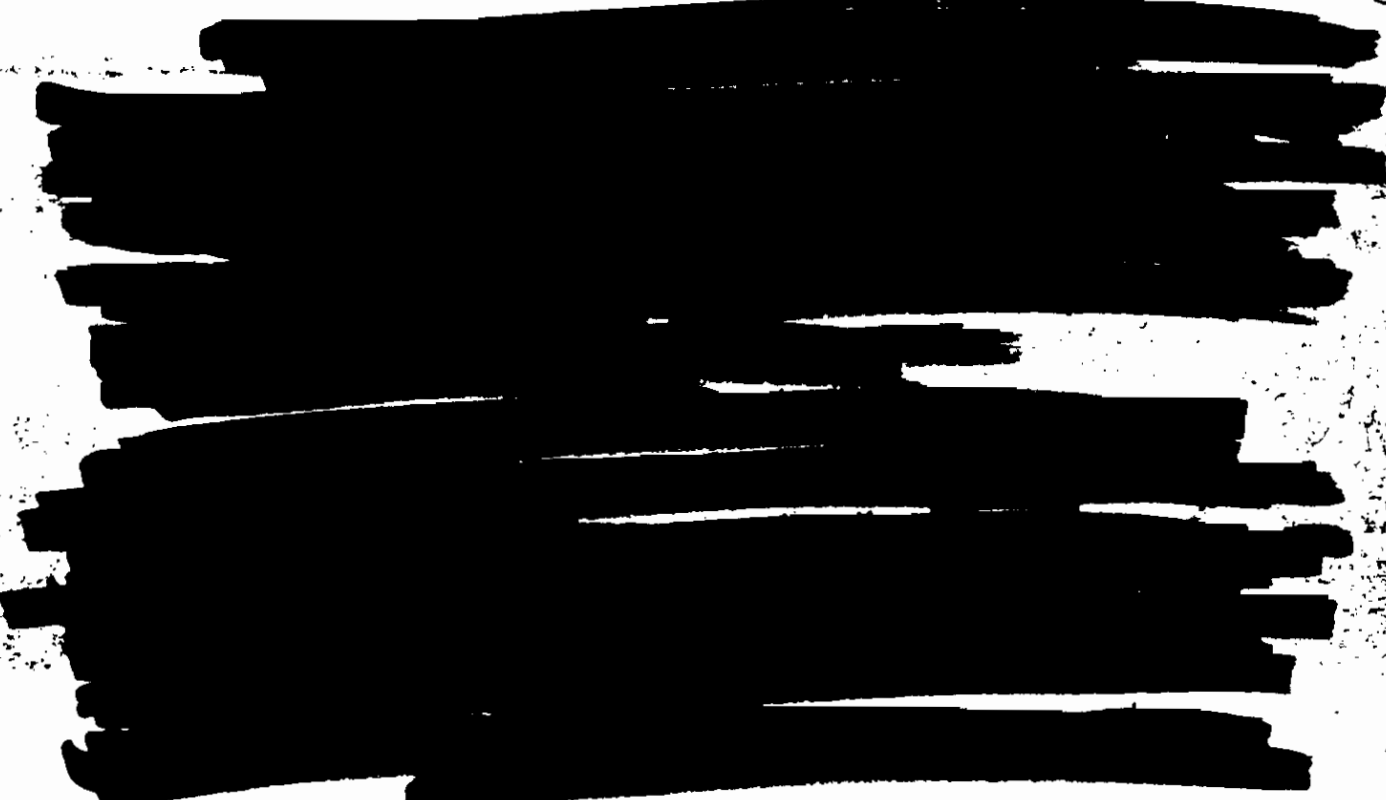
After spending three weeks in Honolulu, the party sailed to Japan. They arrived at Yokohama, July 18, 1935, and proceeded to the Imperial Hotel at Tokyo. A contact was made in Japan with a [REDACTED] of the Imperial University. Kuehn discussed with [REDACTED] the proper steps for enrollment in Japanese studies.

The party remained in Tokyo for some time. On June 29, 1935, Kuehn wrote to his stepson, Leopold, from Tokyo urging him to come to the Far East for the purpose of studying Japanese so that he might return to Germany well qualified for higher service in the Nazi Government. Kuehn made the statement in his letter that he had received a good connection with the AA. This refers to the Auswartiges Amt. or the German Foreign Service. [REDACTED]

From Japan, Kuehn and his wife proceeded to Shanghai, China. Kuehn had a letter addressed to a prominent official in Canton, China. This letter was signed by [REDACTED] Berlin, Germany. It is important for Kuehn was introduced as Lieutenant, First Class, of the German Navy. This person in

Canton was requested to aid Kuehn in his assignment to learn the Japanese language. This letter was dated at Berlin, Germany, April 14, 1935. Kuehn placed on deposit in the banks at Shanghai at this time or there was placed as his deposit at a later date the sum of \$20,000.

From Shanghai, China, Mrs. Kuehn continued on around the world to Germany. Otto Kuehn returned to Honolulu on board the Japanese steamer, the Chichibu Maru, arriving there on August 15, 1935. Kuehn was granted permission to enter the United States at Honolulu as a student for a period of twelve months to study the Japanese language at the University of Hawaii. Living quarters were obtained first at the Alexander Young Hotel and later at the Brookland Hotel in Honolulu.



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]


[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Kuchin's first payments were received in May, 1936, from a bank account of the Rotterdam Cooperative Bank of Rotterdam, Holland. The sums received from this source continued until February, 1939. Within this period of three years Kuchin received over \$70,000. He attempted to explain the money by saying that an aunt in Sweden had deposited \$25,000 in his name and he had withdrawn it gratuitously. The balance was never explained. On May 14, 1936, the sum of \$10,000 was received through the Madison City Bank of New York City.

their correspondent bank in Honolulu to Kuehn's credit. Two days later he called for an additional \$500.



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On March 4, 1938, Otto Kuehn, 45 years of age, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Kuehn, aged 46, and Ruth Kuehn, 23, applied for American
citizenship in the United States Territorial Court at Honolulu.
They were residing on Kaimala Avenue in Kailua on the island
of Oahu.

[REDACTED]

The Kuehns had now been in Honolulu for two and one
half years. They continued to maintain a very high standard
of living with no apparent source of income. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Kuehn's business the Modern Steel Furniture Company lasted only nine months. On May 31, 1939, an assignment was made for the benefit of creditors. This by the man who claimed that his financial genius had amassed such a great fortune in Germany. Kuehn claimed great financial loss here but it is recalled that he only paid \$3,000 for the business. Although, he assumed the debts of the business his losses could not have been too severe.

[illegible]

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b7c

[REDACTED]

The rapid series of events occurring in June which culminated in the Fall of France on June 22, 1940, made the Iuehne more bold in the transmittal of their espionage information. They were seen to go to the Japanese consulate on several occasions during this month with material concerning

American naval operations in the Hawaiian Islands. They were dealing not with the Japanese Consulate directly, but with the Japanese Naval Intelligence [REDACTED] 66 67c

The Japanese Consulate was to serve only as the depository for the material which was dispatched by courier to Headquarters in Japan.

A code system was worked out at this time by the Kuehn to keep the information which they furnished confidential to all parties except the intended recipient. There was forwarded [REDACTED] a German dictionary; an identical copy of this dictionary was retained by Otto Kuehn. This dictionary was sent to Japan [REDACTED] on a Japanese steamer. Coded messages were prepared in the following manner. Words were referred to in numbers; for example, 124-6 would mean the 124th page of the book, the sixth word from the top of the page. If the word, therefore, were "planes" this number would refer to the German word for planes in the dictionary.

Although the Kuehns had sufficient money concealed in their possession they still attempted to create an air of financial distress. [REDACTED]

The second espionage payment from the Japanese arrived when the Kamakura Maru docked in Honolulu on September

13, 1940. [REDACTED] Otto Kuehn the sum of \$10,000 in American currency. Although [REDACTED] previously called at the Kuehn home to make deliveries this meeting took place in front of the P.F.I. steamship offices in Honolulu far removed from the Kuehn residence.

Meanwhile Kuehn decided to utilize his Kalaheo residence as a lookout point for the work going on at Kaneohe Naval Air Base for which millions had been appropriated. This was one of the airfields later bombed in the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941. Kuehn, therefore, built into the roof of his house a dormer window from which he could observe all activities. It is interesting to note that Kuehn was an excellent carpenter and all of the work was performed by him personally.

The Kuehns received firsthand information as to the celebration of the German victories on September 22, 1940,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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As a subterfuge Kuehn commenced work at the Honolulu Iron Works at a salary of \$25 per week. On June 3, 1942, he applied to the Fuller Brush Company as a salesman. Kuehn worked at the Honolulu Iron Works from May 20, 1941, to June 28, 1941.

On June 16, 1941, the Japanese Consulate was requested to assume the duties of the German Consulate at Honolulu in view of the United States order closing the German Consulates throughout the United States. It will be recalled that the Japanese Government had allied herself into the Axis powers on September 27, 1940, the day following the embargo placed September 26, 1940, on the shipment of scrap iron to Japan from the United States. The position of German Consul at Honolulu was purely an honorary one that could not be trusted with the confidential material which Kuehn was transmitting through the official Japanese Consulate. Then, too, Kuehn thought that since the Japanese Consulate was now the official

consulate for the Germans no suspicion would attach itself to his visits there.

Kuehn filed an application on June 30, 1941, to become a citizen of the United States. If he had been successful American citizenship would have been granted to him on January 30, 1942.

Less than thirty days after this filing on July 16, 1941, Kuehn contacted the Japanese consulate at Honolulu and gave to the consul a message prepared in the prearranged number code for transmittal by courier to Japan. The new consul was informed by Kuehn at this time that he was acting as an espionage agent with authority higher than a mere consular official. This message was transmitted by one of the three official consular couriers working from Honolulu to Tokyo.

Money for the services performed by Kuehn soon arrived. In the afternoon of October 18, 1941, Otojiro Okuda, who was now vice consul to Kita, the consul, left the consulate at 1615 Nuuanu Avenue in company with Tadashi Morimura, the espionage agent who had arrived in March. They drove to the vicinity of Kuulei and Kalaheo Avenues at Kailua, on the island of Oahu, a few blocks from Kuehn's residence on Kailua Avenue.

In the event that he was questioned Okuda was dressed in golf slacks and was completely equipped with his golf clubs in order to make it appear that he was on his way to a pleasant game of golf.

Morimura was dressed in blue slacks and an open-front shirt. Okuda handed to Morimura a package with instructions that this was to be delivered to Otto Kuehn personally. Morimura left Okuda in the car and walked back toward the Kuehn residence.

The Kuehn residence was well concealed from inquisitive eyes in that it was surrounded by a ten-foot ironwood hedge. Morimura did not go to the front of the house but went to the rear where he came upon Eberhard Kuehn, one of the sons, working in the yard. Morimura called for the father, Otto Kuehn. Eberhard went into the house and returned with his father.

Morimura handed to Kuehn a money sack from which Kuehn removed a package of bills in American currency. This was later found to be the sum of \$14,000. With these bills was a typewritten message which requested Kuehn to make a short wave radio test a few nights later. Morimura then left. Kuehn carefully digested the message and carelessly threw it toward a trash fire and returned to the house. Morimura retraced his steps to the automobile whereupon the party drove back to the Consulate.

Kuehn contacted the Japanese Consulate on three occasions during the month of November. As an excuse in the event he was questioned he had the alibi that he merely wanted to send money to his son, Leopold, in Germany. He furnished

during the month of November the complete strength of the United States Naval vessels based on Hawaiian waters. The consul requested the location of the area where the fleet maneuvers were to be held but Kuehn was unable to furnish this data to him.

The Japanese High Command had previously laid the plans for the delivery of their crippling blow at the American fleet in Pearl Harbor. Nomura and Kurosu were in Washington apparently negotiating for a peaceful settlement. A reliable man who was a devout disciple to the Nazi cause was needed; better still a person thoroughly familiar with naval vessels and operations was absolutely necessary. Kuehn was an over-tenant in the German Navy; in addition he was a member of the Nazi Party of Germany and thoroughly dependable in view of the information which he had furnished in the past concerning Pearl Harbor and vicinity. They had furnished him with payments totaling over \$40,000 during the past year and a half. This man was needed not to furnish further technical data but to work out a set of signals which could be flashed to waiting two-man submarines in the event the American Navy patrols discovered the Japanese fleet in proximity to their shores. Otto Kuehn was that man.

On November 17, 1941, Kuehn took to the Japanese Consulate a set of seventeen signals which would show the

operations of the American fleet. The High Command in Tokyo considered this system too complicated. On December 3, 1941, Kusan submitted the final plan which met with their approval.

This plan of signalling was to utilize lights, beacon fires and clothing displayed at prominent positions for the off-shore lookout in the two-man submarines. The signals were to be as follows:

1. Several aircraft carriers plan to put to sea.
2. All battle force has sailed December 1 to 3.
3. Several aircraft carriers have sailed between December 1 and 3.
4. All aircraft carriers have sailed December 1 to 3.
5. All battle force has sailed December 4 to 6.
6. Several aircraft carriers have sailed December 4-6.
7. All Aircraft carriers have sailed December 4 to 6.
8. All scouting force has sailed December 5 to 6.

These signals were to be given by the following

methods:

1. By means of lights from Kusan's Lantika Beach House at night.
 - A. One light from 8 P.M. to 9 P.M. indicates 2
Two lights from 8 P.M. to 9 P.M. indicates 3
 - B. One light from 9 P.M. to 10 P.M. indicates 2
Two lights from 9 P.M. to 10 P.M. indicates 3
 - C. One light from 10 P.M. to 11 P.M. indicates 2
Two lights from 10 P.M. to 11 P.M. indicates 3
 - D. One light from 11 P.M. to 12 P.M. indicates 2
Two lights from 11 P.M. to 12 P.M. indicates 3

These signals were to have been given by window lights or automobile headlights.

All of these signals could have been given at any hour during the night time by means of one full automobile

headlight and one half light which would indicate 1, 2, 3, and 4 while two headlights would indicate 5, 6, 7 and 8.

For signals during the daytime it was planned to use one or two sheets displayed on a clothesline which was erected on the beach side of the Lanikai Beach house. These signals were to commence at 9 A.M. in the morning.

The full set of signals could be sent during the daylight hours at any time by means of a star boat owned by Kucha and kept at the Lanikai Beach House. There were two sails for this boat. A sail with a large star displayed on the sail would indicate 1, 2, 3, or 4. If the sail was a star with the large numeral VII, 5, 6, 7, or 8 would be conveyed.

The Kalama House of the Kucha family was also to serve as a signal point. This house is quite prominent and can be observed several miles offshore. Lights were to be displayed from the corner window which Kucha had constructed in the summer of 1940. These signals were to commence at 7:00 P.M. and to continue hourly until 1:00 A.M.

The radio want ads program of a commercial station would be utilized also. A Chinese rug advertised for sale at 9:45 A.M. would indicate signals 3 or 6; a beauty parlor operator wanted would indicate 5 or 8 while a complete chicken farm advertised for sale would indicate 4 or 7. All answers to be made to Post Office Box 1476 in Honolulu, Kucha's mailing address. This radio station, of course, was unaware of the significance of these ads which appeared to be of a purely business nature.

These same signals could be given by means of a short wave radio transmitter or through a brush or trash fire at a certain location on the island of Maui.

Arrangements were made that in the event the Consulate desired to contact Kuehn further a postal card would be addressed to him at Post Office Box 1475 signed Jimmie. This card was not received and Kuehn did not contact the consular officials again. Otto Kuehn, Friedel Kuehn, Ruth and Eberhard Kuehn were arrested on December 8, 1941.

Mrs. Kuehn had secreted on her person the sum of \$5,000 in \$100 bills. Ruth Kuehn had placed into the lining of her window curtains \$2,000 in \$100 bills. There was found in the Kuehn residence the 18 power Bush and Lomb binoculars; a Leica camera with one F8 lens and a fine F1.35 lens; one Zeiss-Ikon-Tengor camera, Model D with a Goerz frontar lens. There were two movie cameras one Cine-Kodak, 16-millimeter with an F1.9 lens, and one Univer 8-millimeter with an F3.5 lens.

Of great interest was a scrapbook maintained by Kuehn. This scrapbook consisted entirely of newspaper clippings cut from the daily papers during the preceding two years. There were such interesting articles as "Six new United States subs leaving here soon to join Asiatic fleet," "Thirty warships here named Fleet's Hawaii Detachment," and "Army here will get 200 new fighting planes." There were other articles which named the vessels stationed at Pearl Harbor according to their classification.

The groundwork had been carefully laid by the Japanese. At 7:55 a.m. on the morning of December 7, 1941, the surprise attack occurred. The American fleet stationed at Hawaii suffered great damage. Hickam Field, Wheeler Field near Schofield Barracks and the new naval base at Kaneohe were strafed and bombed by the pursuit planes, fighters, horizontal and dive bombers and torpedo planes of the Japanese.

That day will live forever in the world's history as the most treacherous act of destruction ever practiced by a supposedly civilized nation upon a nation with which she was then at peace, but overshadowing it is the treachery of a man who betrayed a nation, Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn. Otto Kuehn was arrested on December 8, 1941, the day following the attack of the Japanese. Friedel, the wife, and Ruth, the daughter, together with Martin Eberhard, a son, were also taken into custody at this time. A military commission was set up to hear the charges against Otto Kuehn since military law was placed into effect immediately following the attack. These army officers heard the case of Otto Kuehn and rendered the verdict of death by a firing squad. Friedel, Ruth and Martin Eberhard were heard by a hearing board which ordered their internment for the duration of the war.

The death sentence of Otto Kuehn was commuted to fifty years' imprisonment at hard labor in a Federal Penitentiary following the decision of the Supreme Court on the case of the eight German saboteurs. Strange as it may seem, the espionage

13
activities of Otto Kuehn took place when the United States was formally at peace. The statutes in effect at that time did not provide for the sentence of death in a case of espionage except during the time of formal war. His arrest of December 8, 1941, did not give Kuehn the opportunity to continue his acts after we were formally in the conflict.

The Japanese consular officials who had participated in the events leading up to Pearl Harbor were also safe from the penalty of death since they were returned safely to Japan in exchange for the American consular officials held by the Japanese. There was sufficient evidence in the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to have convicted Hagen Kito, the consul, Otafiro Okada, the vice consul, and Tadasi Koriama under our espionage laws for they violated every principle of international law and treaty concerning the rights and privileges of diplomats. However, an American life is worth many times that of a Japanese and our hostages were returned safely to the United States.

When Otafiro Okada was being questioned by an Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning the full extent of his espionage work, he refused to answer and proved very stubborn. At last when the realization dawned upon him that all of his supposedly secret work was known to the FBI, he blarneyed forth with "The Japanese Government does not consider the transmission of military information an act of espionage."

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET9

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65-1574-138 (cover memoranda)

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VHF:JNP
RECORDED

August 19, 1943

65-1574-138

Mr. J. E. Thornton
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
206 Dillingham Building
Honolulu 16, Hawaii

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-14-86 BY SP5/LJS

RE: Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn et al
Espionage G and J

Dear Mr. Thornton:

In order that the Bureau files may be complete on the above entitled case it is desired that your office obtain and forward the following information, some of which is presently in the exhibit section of your files.

1. All correspondence regardless of whether it was incorporated into the investigative reports should be sent. If this matter is voluminous it is requested that it be reduced to a 35 millimeter film and forwarded in that manner. Secure also photographs or photostats of all of Kuehn's correspondence in the possession of ONI.

2. The copy of Mrs. Kuehn's address book and the German dictionary which was used as a code book are to be forwarded with the correspondence.

3. The photographs of the Kuehns' two homes, the Japanese boat plate and the sail boat should be included.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Hendon
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Poirer
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

4. The investigative reports which you have forwarded on this case do not reflect a search of the safety deposit box at the Bishop National Bank which was rented by Otto Kuehn in the name of himself and wife in April, 1940. If this has not been done a court order should be secured to open the box. It should also be ascertained whether anyone has entered this deposit box subsequent to December 7, 1941.

5. The reports in the case reflect that Kuehn was an experienced carpenter, that he constructed the dormer window in his Kalama residence. A careful search made through both the Lanikai and Kalama residences to see if a concealed transmitter was placed in either of them. It will be noted that Kyogoku or the consul, Ito,

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



SEP 20 1943

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SEP 20 1943
57 PM '43

Handwritten signatures and initials, including "G", "BL", "R", and "S".

Page Two

requested a short wave test when the \$14,000 was paid on October 18, 1941. In order to be certain that Kuehn did not have a transmitter it is requested that electricity bills be compared for 1940 - 1941 with those of 1939.



Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

AIR MAIL



b6
b7C
b7E

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Honolulu 16, T.H.
September 14, 1943

Handwritten signature
Director, FBI

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, was, et al
ESPIONAGE--J

Dear Sir:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

This appears significant in the light of the signal plan and method of reporting such information as described by OTTO KUEHN in his signed statement as set forth on pages 10-12 in the report of [REDACTED] dated January 5, 1942, at Honolulu. The two plans are remarkably alike, with only slight changes being effected in the latter plan, probably to meet the exigencies of a changing situation.

The notable aspect in the similarity of the two plans would appear to be the likelihood that this was a universal plan, adopted by the Japanese government for the reporting of this type of information by its agents abroad.

The above is being brought to the Bureau's attention only as a matter of information and interest in connection with the coverage of Japanese Espionage activities in this country.

Very truly yours,

Handwritten signature: J. E. Thornton
RECORDED
J. E. THORNTON
SAC

SEP 18 1943

COPIES DESTROYED
869 AUG 4 1970

VIA CLIPPER

54 SEP 27 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 8-14-80 BY SP8CJ/CL
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110
65-15888

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Q14

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65-4

574

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

September 7, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re:

KUEHN, Bernard J. O.
No. 59603-L.

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters: letter dated September 4, 1943 from

453 -
0380 -
4121 -
93803
Messrs. Fred A. Kuehn, Interment Camp Crystal City, Crystal City, Texas to Bernard J. O. Kuehn, No. 59603-L.

Very truly yours,

W. C. Harrison
Warden

Encls.

9-7-43
EJC

65-1574-139



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

BERNARD KUEHN

PART 5 OF 7

FILE NUMBER: 65-1574

SUBJECT RUEHN

FILE NUMBER 65-1574 SECTION 5

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

FEDERAL BUREAU
of
INVESTIGATION

**DO NOT DESTROY
HISTORICAL VALUE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES**

See also Nos. _____

Sub.

100-1-1

SET 5

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

April 15, 1944

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: *4/21* *13*
Bureau of Prisons, D. C.
Det. No. 60603-1.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for forwarding and return to this
institution are the following listed letters:

#121 Letter dated April 7, 1944 from Mr. Friedel
to, Federal Prison, D. C., Inmate No. 60603-1.
Re: Mr. J. E. Martin, No. 5 113-1.

Q7384

#53 Letter dated April 12, 1944 from

Q7385

Very truly yours,

W. J. Martin

W. J. Martin

Director

4-18-44

chl

FOR DEFENSE

W. J. M.

W. J. M.

W. J. M.

W. J. M.

W. J. M.

W. J. M.

W. J. M.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

April 16, 1944

Ref
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re:

OK *OK*, Bernard J. C.
Ref. No. 59403-1

Dear Sir:

For ailed herewith for ament to and return to this
institution are the following listed letters:

Letter dated April 5, 1944 from

#26

97303

Letter dated March 31, 1944 from Mr. Friedel Mehn,
Chief of City Internal Dept., Central Prison, Texas,
to Bernard J. C. Mehn, No. 59403-1.

#121

97304

Letter dated April 2, 1944 from Bernard J. C. Mehn,
No. 59403-1, to Mr. Friedel Mehn, Chief of City,
Central Prison, Texas.

#121

97305

Letter dated April 5, 1944 from

#53

97306

Letter dated April 5, 1944 from

#152

97307

4-14-44
87-



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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

April 1, 1944

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: HUICH, Bernard J. C.
Reg. No. 59403-L

Dear Sir:

Forwarded herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters:

#121 Letter dated March 24, 1944 from Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Crystal City Internment Camp, Crystal City, Texas, to Bernard J. C. Kuehn, No. 59403-L. Q7155

#152 Letter dated April 2, 1944 from Q7156

4 #153 Letter dated March 29, 1944 from Q7157

#193 Q7158

Very truly yours,

SPECIMENS RETAINED IN LAB.

4-6-44 chl

Enclosures

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

April 3, 1944

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

#121
Re: HUNTER, Bernard J. O.
Reg. No. 59503-L

Q7/K3

Dear Sir:

Forwarded herewith for censorship and return to this institution is a letter dated April 2, 1944 from the above-named inmate to Mrs. Friedel Huehn, Internment Camp, Crystal City, Texas.

Very truly yours,

W. A. Hunter
W. A. Hunter
Prison

Enclosure

me

RECEIVED IN LAB.

4-6-44 *all*

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

March 24, 1944

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re:

KUEHN, Bernard J. C.
Reg. No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Forwarded herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters:

#53 Letter dated March 22, 1944 from Q7009
#53 Letter dated March 22, 1944 from Q7010
4 ENCL S #152 Message dated August 25, 1943 from Q7011
#121 Letter dated March 17, 1944 from Mrs. Friedel Q7012
Kuehn, Crystal City Internment Camp, Crystal City,
Texas, to Bernard J. C. Kuehn, No. 59603-L.

PECIMENS RETAINED IN LAB.

3-28-44 chl

Very truly yours,

W. A. Hunter
alter W. A. Hunter

Enclosures



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- ☐ For your information: _____
- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
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