

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION
COVER SHEET

**SUBJECT: JOHN "JACK" ARTHUR
JOHNSON**

Del Rio, Texas.
February 24, 1920.

Subject.
JACK JOHNSON

MEXICO CITY

FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE.

b7c

[REDACTED], Eagle Pass, Texas.

[REDACTED], Del Rio, Texas.

Inspectors in Charge,
U.S. Immigration Service.

Dear Sirs:-

This office is in receipt of following telegram:

" San Antonio, Texas.
Feb. 24, 1920.

Baldwin-Justice,
Del Rio, Texas.

Press reports indicate Jack Johnson will leave Mexico City Thursday this week enroute to United States; am to-day in receipt following wire from Chief: 'Jack Johnson should be taken into custody as fugitive from justice immediately on entering the United States when he is arrested notify this Bureau and its Chicago office'.

[REDACTED] Acting. "

Should subject enter at your Port you will please notify this office by telephone immediately, and oblige,

Very truly yours,

E. C. Baldwin.
Special Agent in Charge.

Chief-2.
Ceb -1.
File -1.

31-21899-1

REPORT MADE BY:

PLACE WHERE MADE:

DATE WHEN MADE:

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE:

SAN DIEGO, CALIF. APR. 10; 1920 APR. 5-6-7/20

TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE CHARGED OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION:

U. S. vs JACK JOHNSON
(Colored Pugilist)

Mexico.

Violation of the Mann Act
and Fugitive from
Justice.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED, ETC.:

At San Diego, Calif.:

b7C

APR 10 1920

Referring to my report in this matter for March 29-30, 1920,

inc.

Having information that JACK JOHNSON had left Mexicali, Mexico, and was due in Tijuana, Mexico, on this date, April 5th, I proceeded to Tijuana, Mexico, driving my own machine, and remained in Tijuana until 10:00 P.M. However, JACK JOHNSON did not arrive due to heavy rain storms in the mountains which had washed out a portion of the road over which he would have to travel.

However, I was reliably informed that he would be in Tijuana on the following day.

On April 6th I received the following telegram in code from Acting Chief Suter, Washington, D.C.:

" Newspaper dispatch from Calexico Fifth instant reports JACK JOHNSON arranging with Sheriff [redacted] Imperial County to surrender One

On April 6th Special Agent [redacted] who has headquarters at El Centro, Imperial County, Calif., came to this office and stated that JACK JOHNSON was due in Tijuana, Mexico, on this date, and that he had made arrangements with JOHNSON for himself and me to meet him, JOHNSON, at Tijuana at 4:00 P.M. I then sent the following telegram to Chief Burke, Washington, in code:

" One stop Referring to your telegram JACK JOHNSON Personal arrangements made by him with Special Agent [redacted] El Centro to surrender either to him at Calexico or to me at TiaJuana, California stop Subject intends staging one fight if satisfactory arrangements can

Form No. 7
[REDACTED]
April 5-6-7, 1920

Page 2.

b7c
be made If not will probably surrender soon
period Have engagement to meet subject at
Tijuana Mexico this date "

Special Agent [REDACTED] and I proceeded to Tijuana, Mexico, (transportation furnished by the Sheriff's office) and met JACK JOHNSON at Old Town, Tijuana, Mexico, at 6:00 P.M. Due to the number of followers and friends who had congregated to meet JOHNSON we were unable to have a private conference with him that evening although we remained in Tijuana until nearly 11:00 P.M. However, JOHNSON made arrangements for us to return on the following day, in the afternoon, and stated he would give us a private interview, and see what could be done about making arrangements to return to the United States. He stated that he was coming back as soon as he could frame one or two fights, and when he did come back he wanted to deliver himself into the hands of Government Officials and waive all proceedings, and return directly to Chicago. JOHNSON'S WIFE was with him at the time and we met her and had considerable conversation with her in a general way; also attended a banquet which was given to JOHNSON at Tijuana.

On the following day, April 7th, Special Agent [REDACTED] and I again returned to Tijuana, Mexico, (driving my own machine) where we again met JACK JOHNSON at about 4:30 P.M., and succeeded in having a private interview with him. He stated that he had definitely made up his mind to return to the United States but it would probably be a few weeks before he did so - depending on whether or not he could get any fights worth while at Tijuana or Mexicali, Mexico. He stated that there was one thing which was bothering him a little and on which he could not get any definite information and that was that he had been advised by his attorney, who resides in Chicago, that his case had been re-opened and that he had to come up for a re-sentence. He stated that he could not under-

April 5-6-7, 1950.

Page 3.

b7c
matter up with the United States Attorney at Chicago. MR. JOHNSON again stated that he had definitely made up his mind to return to the United States - that when he did he wanted to have every arrangement made so he could return directly to Chicago in the custody of an Officer of the United States Government where he would be delivered over to the United States officials and serve his sentence or take whatever action was necessary in his case. He further stated that he was very sorry that he had been stampeded into leaving the United States the way he did but it could not be helped now. I told MR. JOHNSON that I would get in touch with the United States Attorney's office in Chicago and have them advise me of the exact status of his case and make arrangements with them for him to surrender to them.

JACK JOHNSON apparently is in prime condition, does not show any effects of dissipation, weighs 228 pounds, and, in my opinion, the date of his return to the United States will depend altogether on his success in promoting fights at Tijuana, Mexico. I do not believe, however, that he will be very successful along this line and am of the opinion that he will soon be ready to return to this Country.

MRS. JOHNSON stated to me that she has crossed the line from Mexicali, Mexico, into Calexico, Calif., on several different occasions but did not stay long on account of not being acquainted; stated that as soon as her trunks arrived in Tijuana she was coming to San Diego for a short time, and she would let me know when she came.

Investigation continued.

Department of Justice.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

29wa 62 Govt

San Diego, Calif April 6, 1920.

APR 9 1920

Burke,

Department Justice,

Washington

One stop Referring to your telegram Jack Johnson personal arrangements made by him with Special Agent [redacted] Centro to surrender either to him at Calexico or to me at Tiajuana Calif.

Stop Subject intends staging one fight if satisfactory arrangements can be made if not will probably surrender soon period. Have engagement to meet subject at Tiajuana Mexico this date.

4 27 P.M.

b7c

Apr 3-1920

JACK JOHNSON (negro pugilist) -contd-

b7C

" Los Angeles Apr 2 1920
Burke, Washington
Local immigration inspector advises that Mrs
Jack Johnson crossed the line at Mexicali March
31st present whereabouts unknown stop our agent
absent from El Centro. (sgd) Connell."

The following reply was received :

"Telegram received during [redacted] absence from El
Centro if necessary have agent sent there send
one as Johnson matter must be given closest poss-
ible attention. One. "

This telegram was received about 2:30 PM, I therefore called San
Diego by phone but was unable to obtain a reply, as report was
"no answer". I then sent the following telegram :

" Los Angeles Apr 3-1920
[redacted] San Diego
During [redacted] absence from El Centro if necessary
you go there and attend to the Jack Johnson matter
as it must be given closest possible attention in
case he crosses the border apprehend and have U.S.
Commissioner issue fugitive warrant. (sgd) Connell."

CASE CONTINUED.

JTS:HEJ

MAR 6 1920
MAR 6 1920

March 4, 1920.

RECEIVED
MAR 5 1920
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

b7c

[Redacted], Esq.,
Box #241, City Hall station,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

As I notified you by phone today, my attention has been directed to a newspaper article appearing in a San Antonio paper stating that Jack Johnson, the Negro prize-fighter, had stated in the City of Mexico that he would sail for New York from Vera Cruz on or about March 4th.

The Bureau is under instructions from the United States Attorney at Chicago to take Johnson into custody as soon as he enters the jurisdiction of the United States as a fugitive from Justice; hold him and notify Chicago and this Bureau of his arrest.

Very truly yours,

Acting Chief.

JTB-BND

APR 8 1920
FEDERAL BLDG.
SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

RECORDED
APR 8 1920

Mo

April 6, 1920.

b7C

[REDACTED]

Federal Bldg.,

San Diego, Cal.

Newspaper dispatch from Calexico 5th instant reports Jack Johnson arranging with Sheriff [REDACTED] Imperial County, to surrender. One.

Sater, Acting.

Department of Justice.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

40W hu 29 G.R. 711P

Los Angeles, Calif. April 2, 1920.

APR 23 1920

Burke,

Dept. Justice, Washn DC

Local Immigration Inspector advises that Mrs. Jack Johnson
crossed the line at Mexicalia March 31st present whereabouts
unknown stop Our agent absent from El Centro.

Connell.

April
1st
1920

APR 7 1920

[REDACTED] Esq.,
Department of Justice,
San Diego, Cal..

b7c

Dear Sir :

In re Jack Johnson
(pugilist)

I am in receipt of the following letter from the
Chief, dated March 26th, 1920 :

"The Department of State has been advised
that Jack Johnson, negro pugilist, a fugi-
tive from justice, was on the 12th instant
preparing to proceed from Manzanillo to Mexicali
in company with a Captain [REDACTED], it being
planned to arrange a prize fight at the latter
place. As you have already been instructed,
Johnson is to be apprehended and to be held as
a fugitive from justice should he enter the
United States and the Bureau office at Chicago
and this office advised."

Very truly yours,

(S.A. Connell)
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE
SAC:EH

cc-Washington

JTS-MHD

March 29, 1920.

Cannell,

Federal Bldg.,

Los Angeles, Cal.

State Department advises Jack Johnson left Guaymas 25th instant
via LaBamba and Tijuana for Mexicali accompanied by his wife. One.

Burke, Chief.

REPORT MADE BY

J. A. Connell

PLACE WHERE MADE

Los Angeles

DATE WHEN MADE

March 22, 1920

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE

Feb. 16-17, 1920

TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE CHARGED OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION

JACK JOHNSON (Colored Fugitive)

Fugitive from

Justice

APR 5 1920

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS EVIDENCE COLLECTED, NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED, ETC.

b7c

At Los Angeles, California:-

On March 16th I received the following telegram:

"San Antonio, Texas, March 16, 1920.

Connell

Dept. Justice,

Los Angeles, Calif.

Military intercepted following radio message quote

Manzanillo Mexico March 12 (1920) [redacted] Mexicali

Captain [redacted] is bringing Champion Jack Johnson arrange

rooms for him also contract for fight with some one weight

and size not essential this at our expense.

Signed Jose Cantu" unquote

[redacted] 9:03AM"

I repeated the above telegram in code to Special

Agent [redacted] at San Diego, and added therein for him to notify

Special Agent [redacted] as Agent [redacted] was at that time at the San

Diego office, according to his wire to me of March 12th, 1920.

On March 17th I received telegram as follows:

"Washington, D.C. March 17, 1920.

Connell

Federal Building,

Los Angeles, Calif.

Newspapers report Jack Johnson negro prize fighter

will soon reach Lower California. Should he enter

our territory he should be taken into custody as

fugitive from Justice and Chicago and this Bureau

notified. One.

Burke Chief 8:25AM"

I also repeated the above telegram to Agent

[redacted], with the exception that I directed him to notify this

office of the Bureau at once, and further, to notify Agent [redacted]

of the contents of the above. Agent [redacted] was expected to re-

turn to his headquarters at El Centro on this date (17th).

INVESTIGATION CONCLUDED unless further information

is received from San Diego, El Centro, or other sources.

RECEIVED
MAR 22 1920
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

PLACE WHERE MADE	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE
New York City	Mar. 29, 1920	Mar. 19-28

TITLE OF CASE OR SUBJECT OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION OR

JACK JOHNSON (PUGILIST). FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE.

MAR 23 1920

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED, ETC.

This investigation is based on a rumor that JACK JOHNSON intended coming to the United States visa steamship from Vera Cruz, Mexico which is embodied in a letter from Acting Chief Sater, Washington, D. C. sending instructions to apprehend the subject as a fugitive from justice which was received at this office March 6, 1920.

b7c

Matter was taken up by Agent with the executives of the Ward and Hanson Lines. [redacted] vice-president of the Ward Line said since he had heard from [redacted] Assistant Division Superintendent, on Feb. 27, 1920, he had conferred with the captain of the steamship "Montrey" who had just sailed for Vera Cruz to make a discreet investigation in Vera Cruz. Also, that he had written to the Ward Line agents to keep a sharp lookout for Johnson as a passenger or member of the crew. He has instructed that in case Johnson is located that he, [redacted], be wired at once and he will forward the same to this office without delay.

Similar arrangements were made with [redacted] of the Hanson Line.

Under date of March 14th, dated at Mexico City, Mexico, a New York Times correspondent wired New York that Jack Johnson had reached Manzanillo on his way to Tia Juana, Lower California. Interviewed, Johnson had stated "that he would not return to the United States until he had received assurances that he would not be arrested before he had a chance to settle his business affairs. After that", he said, "he was willing to submit to whatever action the courts decreed."

Jack Johnson, cont'd.

This matter will be kept in mind in case Johnson should change his plans and attempt to enter the United States.

Letters have also been written in re this matter to the Collector of the Port of New York and the Immigration Authorities at Ellis Island, asking them to keep close watch for Johnson in their respective departments.

Matter continued.

cccccccccc

JACK JOHNSON,
Fugitive from
Justice

b7C

P. O. Box 1102,
El Paso, Texas,
Feb. 27th, 1930.


Division Superintendent,
San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Sir:-

Receipt is acknowledged of your telegram dated the 24th, inst., quoting message from the Chief of the Bureau, in which it is stated that JACK JOHNSON, negro pugilist and fugitive, who has been in Mexico City for some time; would leave there this week, en route to the United States, on his honeymoon; and that he should be taken into custody immediately upon entering the United States, and would probably attempt to enter at or near El Paso, Texas. In the event of his apprehension the Washington Office of the Bureau, as well as the Chicago office, should be advised at once.

Immediately upon receipt of this information, Agent got in touch with a former informant of the Dist. Intelligence Office, whom we considered reliable; and whose present business takes him over to Cd. Juarez nearly every day. This informant was requested to furnish this office with any information he could obtain with reference to this negro coming via this port into the United States.

Today I have a report from him, stating that he had a conversation in Juarez with a negro who claims to be Jack Johnson's brother, and during this conversation this negro showed informant a telegram from Mexico City, purporting to be from Johnson. Its contents had to do with Jack Johnson's alleged plan to stage a prize fight in Cd. Juarez; and was inquiring as to how much money could be counted on in the proposition.

Since receiving this news, I have heard also that Jack Johnson is trying to arrange a match with some one at Tia Juana, Lower Calif., (across from San Diego, Calif) - so it is possible that he does not intend to come out at El Paso at all; altho the trip from Mexico City to Tia Juana will not be easy, on account of lack of rail communication in the South. Or, it may be that he intends to fight at both Juarez and Tia Juana, if he can sign up an opponent.

In any event, we will get such information as there is thru the Cd. Juarez informant; and forward same promptly.

Yours very truly,

(T. B. White),
Special Agent,
Acting-in-Charge.

TBW:sjl

Chief-S
San Antonio-1 ex.

REPORT MADE BY: L. F. Shelton	PLACE WHERE MADE: Brownsville Tex.	DATE WHEN MADE: 2/26/1920	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 2/26/1920
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TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE CHARGED OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION:
JACK JOHNSON MEXICO CITY, MEXICO. FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED, ETC.
Page 1.
 At Brownsville Texas.

MAR 1 1920
EW

The following telegram referring to subject was received by Agent on the afternoon of the 24th instant from the San Antonio, Texas, office of this Bureau:

"San Antonio, Texas Feb. 24, 1920
 Shelton, Dept. Justice Brownsville Texas
 Press Reports indicate Jack Johnson will leave Mexico City Thursday this week enroute United States. Am today in receipt following wire from Chief. "Jack Johnson should be taken into custody as fugitive from justice immediately on entering United States. When he is arrested notify this Bureau and notify Chicago office.

DeNette.
 Acting.

The contents of this telegram were at once communicated by Agent to [REDACTED], Inspector in Charge Port of Brownsville, Texas, as well as to [REDACTED] Deputy Collector of Customs at Brownsville, Texas. The contents of this telegram have been bulletined at all the points in this District, and should subject enter at any of the Ports of Entry in this District he will be taken into custody in pursuance to above quoted telegram.

Copy of this report is being furnished the Immigration and Customs Office, Port of Brownsville, Texas, for their files.



b7c

REPORT MADE BY

A.H. Miller..

PLACE WHERE MADE

Laredo, Texas.

DATE WHEN MADE

Feb. 26, 1920.

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE

Feb. 25./20

TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE CHARGED OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION

JACK JOHNSON.

Chicago, Ill.

: Fugitive from Justice.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED, ETC.

MAR 2 1920

b7c

At Laredo, Texas.

Telegram received at this Office signed DeNett Acting, quoting message from Chief, relative JACK JOHNSON possibly entering the United States at this port.

The matter was taken up with Deputy U.S. Marshal [redacted], with the view of effecting SUBJECT'S arrest on arrival in the United States.

Later in the day Capt [redacted] called upon Employee and stated he was reliably informed that JOHNSON was enroute to Laredo, Texas, accompanied by his Attorney, and requested that Employee file charge against JOHNSON before the United States Commissioner, charging him with being a fugitive from Justice. In order that he could be armed with a warrant thereby avoiding any confusion with JOHNSON'S ATTORNEY, and charge the file before U.S. Commissioner by Employee, to be held in evidence in case SUBJECT did not present himself at this port.

The Immigration Authorities were requested to detain JOHNSON at the Immigration Station and notify this Office in case he arrived.

Investigation continued.

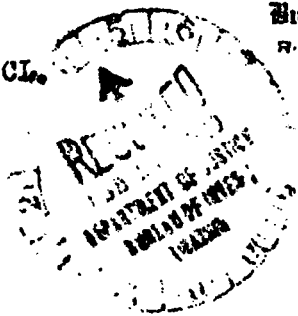


U. S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation
Room 326 Federal Building
NEW ORLEANS, LA

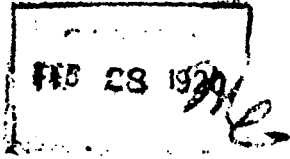
WHEN REPLYING PLEASE
REFER TO THIS FILE

FCP:CL.



Feb. 26th, 1920.

Handwritten mark



Frank Burke, Esq.,
Assistant Director and Chief,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge receipt of the following telegram from you dated February 24th:-

"Reported Jack Johnson prize fighter will leave Mexico next few days for United States he is fugitive from justice and should be taken into custody at once upon entering jurisdiction this country one."

I am taking steps to have the matter covered in this territory.

Yours very truly,

Handwritten signature: F. C. Pendleton
F. C. Pendleton,
Division Superintendent.

Handwritten mark

JFC:OEH

DEC 23 1920

Mo

February 25, 1920.

b7c



Sq. 4.

Box #241, City Hall Station,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

The Bureau is advised that Jack Johnson, negro prize fighter, is planning to return to the United States, leaving Mexico City within a few days. The Bureau is issuing instructions that Johnson be taken into custody immediately upon his entrance into the jurisdiction of this country, as he is a fugitive from justice, and he should be held awaiting further instructions. In case of his arrest the Bureau here as well as its Chicago office should be notified.

Very truly yours,

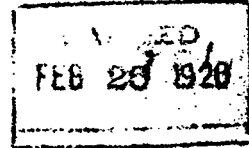
Acting Chief.

Department of Justice.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

18 W.O. 47 G.R.

Chicago, Ill. February 24, 1920.



Suter,

Acting, Department Justice,
Washington.

U. S. Attorney here advises that if Jack Johnson comes into the jurisdiction of the United States at any point he requests that agents of our bureau be instructed to take him into custody at once as Johnson is now fugitive from justice.

Brennan.

1:34 P.M.

JTS.PAB.

FEB 23 1980

b7C

February 24, 1980.

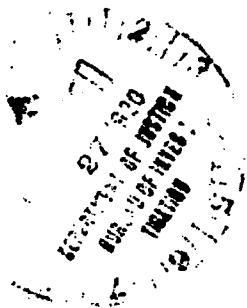
[REDACTED]
Federal Building,

San Antonio Texas.

Jack Johnson should be taken into custody as fugitive from justice immediately on entering United States territory. When he is arrested notify this Bureau and its Chicago office. One.

Sater, Acting.

JTS-ERD



MAR 27 1920

March 26, 1920.

b7c

S. A. Connell, Esq.,
Box No. 694,
Los Angeles, Cal.

Dear Sir:-

The Department of State has been advised that Jack Johnson, negro pugilist, a fugitive from Justice, was on the 12th instant preparing to proceed from Kansasville to Mexicali in company with a Captain [REDACTED], it being planned to arrange a prize fight at the latter place. As you have already been instructed, Johnson is to be apprehended and to be held as a fugitive from Justice should he enter the United States and the Bureau Office at Chicago and this Office advised.

Very truly yours,

Assistant Director and Chief.

JACK JOHNSON

Mexico City, Mex.

Fugitive (from Justice.



7/28 2 1920
7L

San Antonio, Texas,

ORIGINAL Feb. 24, 1920.

Shelton, Dept. Justice, Brownsville, Texas.
Baldwin, Dept. Justice, Del Rio, Texas.
White, Dept. Justice, El Paso, Texas.
Miller, Dept. Justice, Laredo, Texas.

COPY

Press reports indicate Jack Johnson will leave Mexico City Thursday this week en route United States. Am today in receipt following wire from Chief, quote: "Jack Johnson should be taken into custody as fugitive from Justice immediately on entering United States territory. When he is arrested notify this Bureau and its Chicago office." Unquote.

DeHette, acting.

WP

2:33PM

February 24, 1936.

London.

Federal Building.

New Orleans, La.

Reported Jack Johnson, prize fighter, will leave Mexico next few days for United States. He is fugitive from justice and should be taken into custody at once upon entering jurisdiction this country. One.

SUTER, Acting.

W. C. Sullivan
SPECIAL AGENT

JACK JOHNSON.

Mexico City, Mex.

Fugitive.



b7c

San Antonio, Texas.

Feb. 21, 1920.

COPY

Burke,
Dept. Justice,
Washington.

Press dispatches state Jack Johnson, negro pugilist fugitive under indictment Mann Act, Chicago, intends leave Mexico City next Thursday en route United States to surrender and that he has some sort agreement with United States Attorney, Chicago. In event he crosses at border ports please advise if he should be taken into custody.

DeH/WP

Department of Justice.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

[Handwritten signature]

46wa 53 govt

San Antonio, Texas. February 21, 1920.

RECORDED
FEB 26 1920

b7c

Burke,

Department Justice,

Washington.

Press dispatches state Jack Johnson negro pugilist fugitive under indictment Mann Act Chicago intends leave Mexico City next Thursday en route United States to surrender and that he has some sort agreement with U. S. Attorney Chicago in event he crosses at border ports please advise if he should be taken into custody.

3 55 P.M.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON

18 1920

Post Office Box 455,
Chicago, Illinois
February 16, 1920

[Handwritten mark]

CHARLES F. CLYNE, Esquire,
United States District Attorney,
Federal Building,
Chicago.

Dear Sir:-

For your information I will quote herewith
an excerpt from the Chicago Tribune in its issue of
February 6, 1920:

**"JOHNSON GETS PASSAGE FOR TRIP
TO NEW YORK**

Mexico City, February 5 - Jack
Johnson, former champion heavy-
weight pugilist of the world, has
engaged passage on the steamship
Montrey and will arrive in New
York the first week in March. He
declared he was confident he could
arrange differences with the United
States District Attorney at Chicago
so that he might challenge Jack
Dempsy, present heavyweight champion".

I would thank you to please advise me whether
or not this person is wanted by your office here in Chicago,
so that I can request our Bureau Office at New York City
to take him into custody in the event that he should dis-
embark at New York City from the S.S. Montrey.

Very truly yours,

[Handwritten signature]
EDWARD J. BRENNAN
DIVISION SUPERVISOR

EJB:MLP

==

JTS:HEJ

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BUREAU OF PRISONS
LOS ANGELES

MAR 20
Me

March 17, 1980.

Connell,

Federal Bldg.

Los Angeles, Calif.

Newspapers report Jack Johnson, negro prize fighter, will soon reach Lower California. Should he enter our territory, he should be taken into custody as fugitive from Justice, and Chicago and this Bureau notified. One.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

BURKE, Chief.

San Antonio, Texas.

March 16, 1920.

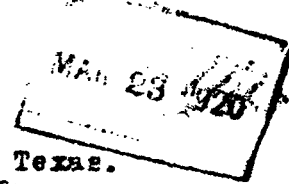
SUBJECT:

JACK JOHNSON

MEXICO.

FUGITIVE.

b7c



San Antonio, Texas.
March 16, 1920.

Connell,
Dept. Justice,
Los Angeles, Cal.

COPY

Military intercepted following radio message quote.
Manzanillo, Mexico. March twelfth. [REDACTED]
Mexicali. Captain [REDACTED] is bringing the champion
JACK JOHNSON. Arrange rooms for him also contract for
fight with some one weight and size not essential this at
our expense. Signed JOSE CANTU, unquote.

[REDACTED]

ML

cc to Chicago.

JTS-BHD

772
MAR 20 1921

March 16, 1920.

S. A. Connell, Esq.,
Box No. 494,
Los Angeles, Cal.

Dear Sir:-

Newspaper dispatches report Jack Johnson, fugitive from Justice, will soon reach Lower California. Should he enter our territory, take him into custody and notify Chicago and this Bureau.

Very truly yours,

Assistant Director and Chief.

REPORT MADE BY

A.H. Miller.

PLACE WHERE MADE

Laredo, Texas.

DATE MADE

Mar. 6. 1920.

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE

Mar. 5/20.

TITLE OF CASE AND DISPOSE CHANGES OF STATUS OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION

(JACK JOHNSON . CHICAGO ILL & MEXICO, D.F. : Fugitive from Justice.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED, ETC.

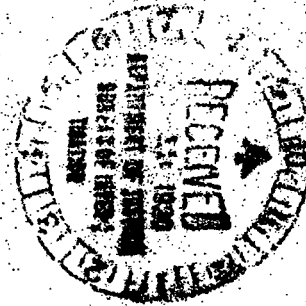
Laredo, Texas.

See report under the above caption by Agent dated February 25th, and as follows:

RECORDED
MAR 12 1920

SUBJECT has not appeared at this Port of entry and the information is that he will not present himself here the matter will be born in mind, but no further report will be made at this time.

Investigation closed.



Post Office Box 512

Chicago, Illinois

March 2, 1937

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am transmitting herewith copies of an
investigation report prepared by
Special Agent in Charge of this
office in the case of JOHN EDWARD BROWN,
also known as JOHN EDWARD BROWN, Victim,
MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC ACT.

67C

Very truly yours,

*See Investigation
4364-B*

W. G. LADD
Special Agent in Charge

W. G. LADD
Special Agent in Charge

See index cards

1/23/37

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

31-21899-2

W. G. LADD
MAR 10 1937
ONE
W. G. LADD

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Chicago, Illinois
February 26, 1937

The following relates to the activities of one John Arthur Johnson alias Jack Johnson, a negro prize fighter, who was successfully prosecuted for violating the White Slave Traffic Act in connection with the transportation of a white woman by the name of [redacted], from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Chicago, Illinois on October 18, 1916.

In order that the ramifications of this case may be more fully understood it is necessary to refer briefly to the history of the said Johnson. Johnson was a powerfully built negro, under very black, about six feet two inches in height and weighing possibly two hundred and ten pounds. He was a very successful fighter, having defeated Al Kaufman at San Francisco on September 2, 1910, Stanley Ketchel at San Francisco on October 14, 1910, and James J. Jeffries at Reno, Nevada on July 4, 1912, by which time he had won the title of heavy weight champion of the world. Following the defeat of Jeffries he was a white man, small size, black hair and eyes, and there was great excitement over the fact that a negro had won the world championship. This feeling caused the passage of a statute by Congress prohibiting the transportation of fight films in interstate commerce, which became a law on July 25, 1913.

Following the defeat of Jeffries, Johnson toured the north and east in the United States, appearing in Louisville. He had a weakness for white prostitutes and carried two or three of them with him while traveling about the country. In early in September 1916, after he had traveled at San Francisco for his fight with Al Kaufman and later with Stanley Ketchel at the same place, he had with him Rita Dwyer, [redacted] and one [redacted] all white women. Following these fights he took these women with him to Philadelphia, Pa., Boston, Massachusetts, Chicago, Illinois and many other places. He carried one of these prostitutes - Rita Dwyer, early in 1918, but despite this marriage continued to include [redacted] and [redacted] in his party when traveling with his wife. He beat these white women unmercifully whenever he became angry. Rita Dwyer, as above stated was beaten so badly by him at the Pekin Theatre in Chicago that she had to be taken to a hospital for treatment where she remained for some time. [redacted] who later was the victim in a white slave case in which Johnson was the subject,

31-21899-2

b7c

testified at the trial that Johnson beat her on an average of once a week, frequently blacking her eyes, and that on one occasion he beat her with an automobile wrench until her body was black and blue and she had to remain in bed for a time. [redacted] was another victim of his brutality but she finally quit him, reformed, and later married a hard working farmer named [redacted] at Portland, Oregon.

In the summer of 1912 he became acquainted with a white girl named [redacted] eighteen years of age, who had recently come from Minneapolis to Chicago. This girl was in his company a great deal and he introduced her as his stenographer although it is highly probable that she never worked for him in this capacity. Johnson opened a black and tan cafe at Chicago on July 10, 1912. This cafe was located at Al West 31st Street and was called the Cafe de Stumpson, and Johnson held court each evening of this cafe where drinking parties of white people and local celebrities were granted by him. Mrs. Jack Johnson, the former Miss Duryea resided in the living quarters over the cafe and was in touch with Johnson's affairs with white women, particularly with [redacted] who has been mentioned above, and on September 12th Johnson's white wife [redacted] shot and killed herself in her apartment. It was believed she was prompted to take her life because of jealousy of [redacted] and Johnson's treatment of her.

Following the death of his wife Johnson continued his affairs with [redacted] and was quoted in the newspapers as saying that he could get any white girl he wanted. His affairs were attracting so much attention that the Bureau became interested in the matter and began an investigation of his activities, and the then United States Attorney James H. Silberman, now United States District Judge, decided to prosecute if sufficient evidence to show a violation of the White Slave Traffic Act was obtained. Johnson learned that agents of the Bureau were gathering evidence against him and became fearful that his affair with [redacted] was the cause of Federal activities as he married [redacted] late in 1912. The Bureau after a search located [redacted] one of the white prostitutes who traveled with him in 1909, 1910 and 1911, who was then an inmate of a house of prostitution in what was then known as Hooker's division in Washington, D.C. at that time she had been kidnapped by Johnson and felt bitter toward him. She was brought to Chicago and testified before the Federal Grand Jury on April 20, 1913 a Federal

b7c

Grand Jury at Chicago, Illinois indicted Johnson, charging him with transportation and aiding in the transportation of [redacted] from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Chicago, Illinois on October 18, 1910. The indictment contained ten counts, counts 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 9 charging transportation for an immoral purpose, to wit, for the purpose of prostitution, and counts 5, 6 and 10 charging immoral purpose, to wit, for purpose of having unlawful sexual intercourse with her. Following a not guilty plea he was placed on trial on May 8, 1911 before Federal Judge Carpenter. Johnson's attorney was [redacted] now public defender, and the Government was represented by Assistant United States Attorney Harry A. Farlin. This Agent, and with Agent Fausole Pignone accompanied the victim [redacted] from Washington, D.C. to Chicago, Illinois, was present during the trial of the case.

The following is quoted from the opening address to the jury by Assistant United States Attorney Farlin:

"The it will appear of course that the defendant was a wise fighter and in that connection it will be interesting as the evidence develops to you upon what victims he practiced the subtle art of self defense. It will appear that these women when he carried about the country with him were being very much more than he would had a lot of money than the girls refused to do some of the devious things which he demanded of them - that he practiced the subtle art of self defense upon them blinding their eyes and sending them to hospitals, when he took care of them and paid their expenses until they recovered from the wounds which he had inflicted upon the faces and bodies of these women."

[redacted] testified that in April 1908 while she was an inmate of the Burrough Club a house of prostitution at Chicago, Johnson came in and talked with her requesting her to meet him the following day at the house of one [redacted] a negro; that she met him at the appointed place where she had sexual relations with him. She then began to accompany him on various trips which he took to various places in the country. Occasionally Mrs. Dwyer and [redacted] had been with him, all occupying about the same relative relationship and all white women. [redacted] further testified

b7c

that following Johnson's fight with Stanley Ketchel in the fall of 1908, she had, as had Nita Barney, whom he later married, and [redacted] been taken by Johnson to Boston, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and many other places; that in October 1910 he had suggested to her that she open a house of prostitution of her own and promised to furnish the place for her; that shortly after this conversation she left him and became an inmate of a sporting house at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania operated by [redacted] of [redacted]; that one evening prior to October 15, 1910 [redacted] informed her that she had a long distance call for her; that she answered the phone and found that it was Johnson; that after the conversation with Johnson she was told to pack up and leave by [redacted] that she either telephoned or wired Johnson who was in some town in Pennsylvania, telling him of her present situation at which time he replied by sending her \$100.00 by Postal Telegraph, with a message directing her to go to Chicago and remain at Graham's place until he came to Chicago later, signing the telegram "Jack"; that she cashed the money order at Pittsburgh in the presence of her colored maid and with the proceeds paid for her fare to Chicago taking [redacted] the said colored maid with her; that the travel was made via Pennsylvania Railroad, and upon arriving in Chicago she went to Graham's place as Johnson had instructed. Johnson arrived in Chicago two or three days later.

She rented an apartment at the Ridgewood Apartments, 2730 Hubbard Avenue, the rent being \$28.00 per month, using the name of [redacted] when engaging this apartment. She informed Johnson of the renting of the place whereupon he handed her between \$100 and \$200 to pay the rent and make a deposit with the electric light and gas companies and other expenses.

[redacted] further testified that Johnson gave her a card of introduction to [redacted], Manager Marshall Ventilated Interiors Company; that she selected furniture and other household goods in the amount of \$150.00; that Johnson paid [redacted] in person the sum of \$750.00 with a check, and later handed her a check for the balance which she gave to [redacted] that she opened her apartment as a sporting house and secured [redacted] and [redacted] (white), as inmates; that she herself also engaged in prostitution; that Johnson was a frequent visitor to her apartment and had sexual relations with her; that she kept her apartment open until February 1911 when she

b7c

closed it since it was not a profitable venture. She further testified that after closing this apartment she followed Johnson to various points in the North and east where she met him by arrangement and finally they separated.

[redacted] testified that she and her sister [redacted] conducted a sporting house at 227 Second Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; that [redacted] using the name [redacted] was an inmate of her house; that one evening in October 1912 she was informed by telephone by a male voice that "This is Jack Johnson, champion of the world and I want a clear wife". She inquired what he wanted and was told he wanted to talk to [redacted]. She called [redacted] to the phone and after the latter had finished talking to the party she asked [redacted] if the man calling was the negro fighter that [redacted] told her is one, whereupon she informed [redacted] she would not keep any girl who associated with negroes and that she would have to leave at once.

The Postal Telegraph employees produced the records of the said company containing [redacted] statement relative to the wiring of \$200 by Johnson and the telegraphic instructions to proceed to Chicago and await his arrival at that city.

[redacted] colored maid, confirmed her testimony as did [redacted] manager of the Marshall Ventilated Mattress Co., who testified that [redacted] brought him a note from Johnson, and that [redacted] purchased furniture and household equipment to the amount of \$150.00; that Johnson personally handed him a check for \$700.00 and that [redacted] brought him a check for the remainder, signed by Johnson. The rental of the apartment at 2700 South Avenue, Chicago was verified by [redacted], rental agent. [redacted] alias [redacted] testified as to the association of herself, [redacted] and Etha Dwyer with Johnson in these trips about the country, when he kept all three of the girls with him, and his ill treatment of them.

On May 13, 1913 the defendant was found guilty. On July 4th a motion for new trial was overruled and a sentence of one year and one day in the Illinois State Penitentiary and a fine of \$1000.00 was imposed by Judge George A. Carpenter. A stay of execution of 90 days was granted Johnson for the purpose of filing a bill of exceptions and the defendant was admitted to bail in the sum of \$25,000. On June 19, 1913 the U.S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth was designated as the place of confinement.

b7c

An appeal was taken in the Circuit Court of Appeals and docketed there on June 23, 1914. The appeal was heard January 7, 1914 and on April 14, 1914 an opinion was handed down by Judge Baker, upholding the judgment of the lower court in part and overruling it in part in the following language:

"Inasmuch as the sentence is based on two sets of counts jointly the judgment is reversed for re-sentence on the normal intercourse counts and for retrial of the prostitution counts if the Government has additional evidence to support them".

The Government immediately filed a petition for re-hearing which was granted, after which the court adhered to the opinion previously rendered and its mandate was filed in the lower court July 21, 1914. The defendant was notified to appear August 7, 1914.

On August 7, 1914 the trial on the prostitution counts was set for October 3, 1914 and now bond in the sum of \$10,000 was ordered within twenty days. On October 3, 1914 when the case was called the defendant failed to appear, whereupon a proceeding was instituted by the United States against the defendant; [redacted], and [redacted] and a conditional judgment was entered against Johnson and his sureties. On November 19, 1914 the above judgment was made final and it was subsequently paid, evidently with interest, in three installments as follows: September 7, 1915 \$4,000.00; December 12, 1915 \$4,100.00; June 11, 1917 \$2,000.00.

Following the conviction Johnson fled to France and on June 14, 1915 at Paris defeated Frank Moran. He went to Cuba later and on April 5, 1916 he was defeated by Jim Willard in twenty six rounds at Havana, losing by this fight the championship of the world. He then returned to France where as a defeated champion he was no longer a drawing card he had been. His income depleted and finally he secured a passport at Madrid Spain, for his return to the United States, and arrived at Havana, Cuba on March 1, 1916. He then proceeded to Madrid where he gave boxing exhibitions and was in and out of the jail, his movements being noted by Bureau Agents who were prepared to arrest him if he ever came into the United States. On July 9, 1916 Johnson called the Los Angeles, California office of this Bureau by telephone and expressed a desire to surrender. He stated

b7c

however that he would surrender only on condition that he was not to be placed under arrest, would be taken at once to Chicago, and would not be handcuffed on the trip to that place or subjected to any indignities. Special Agent [redacted] to whom he made the statement informed him that he was a fugitive from justice; that if he crossed the border into the United States he would be apprehended, and that the procedure following his arrest would be strictly in accordance with the law.

Some negro societies in Los Angeles, California induced Sheriff [redacted] to proceed to Tia Juana, Mexico, where he met Johnson on July 27, 1920 surrendered to him and accompanied the Sheriff to the Mexico border where he was turned over to Deputy [redacted] and Special Agent [redacted] who placed Johnson in the County Jail at Los Angeles.

On July 31, 1920 Johnson was brought before U.S. District Judge Oscar Higgins at Los Angeles who granted his request to Chicago, Illinois. He left Los Angeles on July 31, 1920 for Chicago where he was delivered to the United States Marshal at that place.

On September 12, 1920 Johnson was brought before U.S. District Judge George A. Coffey and re-sentenced to serve a year and a day at the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, and pay a fine of \$1000.00. On the same date a nolle prosequi was entered as to counts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 9, which were the prohibition counts in the indictment. On September 12, 1920 Johnson was followed in the work of the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, and on July 15, 1921 the fine of \$1000.00 was paid by the defendant.

JTS:GRH

July 29, 1920.

E. J. Brennan, Esq.,
Box #485,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:-

The Bureau has received from the Department of State, under a personal and confidential cover, a letter dated the 28th instant stating that information has been received there from an authentic source which may be of aid in the prosecution of the case against Jack Johnson. This information is as follows:

"Johnson while sojourning in Spain, after having fled from this country, during the course of 1918 and 1919, offered his services to the German Espionage organization located in Spain, for purposes of spying against the Allies including this, his native country. The Germans in charge of the organization in Spain referred his application to Berlin where it was turned down and so far as I knew, Johnson never engaged in espionage against us. It was not his fault however, and I think it just as well that this should be borne in mind. If I remember correctly, the countries he had selected as his field for special operations were Mexico and Cuba."

Coming to me under cover, it is important that in the use of the information you should be assured of the seal of confidence imposed.

Very truly yours,

Assistant Director and Chief.

31-21899-2

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Chicago, Ill., July 26, 1920.

Frank Burke, Esq.,
Assistant Director and Chief,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.



Man
S-10-1920

Dear Sir:

UNITED STATES vs. JOHN ARTHUR JOHNSON, better
known as JACQ JOHNSON.
Vio. WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT.

Acknowledging receipt of your code telegram of July 24,
which reads as follows:

"BRENNAN,
FEDERAL BUILDING, CHICAGO, ILL.
Confidential Jack Johnson live to reach Chicago tomorrow
morning important you should closely question him concerning
his relation with Federal officials especially employees the
department prior to jumping bail one.
BURKE."

Johnson was taken off the Santa Fe Ry. train yesterday
Sunday afternoon, and put in the County Jail of Will County at
Joliet, Illinois. This was done to avoid the crowd of people
that had congregated at the Dearborn Street station, expecting
Johnson's arrival there.

Desiring to meet and interrogate Johnson at the earliest
and most opportune time and place, and accompanied by Special
Agent [redacted] of this office, who is a stenographer, we
proceeded to Joliet, Illinois, this Monday morning July 26th,
I interviewed Johnson; statement of this interview is hereto
attached.

On account of Judge Carpenter being absent from the city
it may be several days before Johnson is re-sentenced. Johnson
will not be brought to Chicago until the day that he is to be
sentenced.

I will arrange to see Johnson again after he has conferred
with his attorney and endeavor to comply with your instructions
to closely question him concerning his relations with Federal
officials and employees of this department prior to his jumping bail.

Very truly yours,

EDWARD J. BRENNAN
Division Superintendent.

EJB-p

United States vs. John Arthur Johnson, alias Jack Johnson.

Statement of JOHN ARTHUR JOHNSON, alias JACK JOHNSON,
made at Will County Jail at 11:20 A.M. July 26, 1920
Joliet, Illinois.

To Edward J. Brennan, Division Superintendent, Bureau of
Investigation, Department of Justice, Chicago, Ill.

Present: [REDACTED], Acting as Stenographer and witness.
(Mr. Brennan interrogating. And Jack Johnson replying)

- Q. There have been, from time to time, persistent rumors, insinuations and intimations of your having had unlawful relations with Federal officials and employes of the Department of Justice. There have also been insinuations and intimations appearing from time to time in the press throughout the country; more particular at Chicago, concerning these alleged unlawful relations in that you gave or paid money or other thing of value to representatives or employes of the Department of Justice, U S A. Assuming that this is true, I desire to propound to you certain questions. This is the reason why I am calling upon you as a representative of the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice to request that you give me a full and complete detailed statement of facts touching your relationship with representatives or employes of the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice. Do you understand my statement and question?
- A. I understand your question thoroughly but before committing myself to say anything concerning the past events of my trial and case which is now before the United States Court, I would like to see and consult my attorney before saying anything.
- Q. Who is your attorney?
- A. [REDACTED], Chicago.
- Q. To whom - who represented himself as being an Agent or other employe of the United States Government did you ever - at any time - pay, give or deliver or cause to be paid, given or delivered - in any way, shape or manner - money or other thing of value?
- A. I don't say anything. Negative.
- Q. Well you understand my question?
- A. Certainly I do. I make no statements until I see my attorney.
- Q. During the investigation, during your trial and subsequent to your conviction or at any time what, if any, relations did you have with Government employes with reference to paying, giving or delivering, directly or indirectly, or in any way money or anything of value?
- A. The same answer I made to your first question
- Q. Are you personally acquainted with CHARLES F. DEWOODY, formerly Division Superintendent of the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice at Chicago, Ill.
- A. I am.
- Q. Are you personally acquainted with a man by the name of [REDACTED]?
- A. Certainly.
- Q. Are you personally acquainted with HARRY PARKIN; formerly assistant United States District Attorney?