



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SUBJECT Lowell, William

FILE # 9-8160

SECTION # _____

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

SUBJECT: WILLIAM POWELL

NOTICE

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: December 13, 1944

FROM : SAC, Los Angeles

SUBJECT: JOE McWILLIAMS, MABEL WILLARD, with alias
Mabel Willard,
WILLIAM POWELL, GLORIA DE HAVEN, BETTE DAVIS -
VICTIMS
EXTORTION.ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

Enclosed herein you will find two letters received by movie stars GLORIA DE HAVEN and WILLIAM POWELL, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, Hollywood, California. These letters were turned over to Special Agent H. FRANK ANGELL, this office, on December 12, 1944, although they had been received at the studio presumably immediately after they had been mailed in Chicago on November 6, 1944. The absence of WHITEY HENDRY from the city, he explained, resulted in their being overlooked until yesterday.

The letters, together with the envelopes, have been appropriately identified by Special Agent H. FRANK ANGELL, and read as follows:

Envelope: "GLORIA DE HAVEN
Metro Colwyn Mayer.
Hollywood, California."

"GLORIA DE HAVEN,

If you want to be alive on Jan 1st 1945, You will
send \$10,000 to the following address

MABEL WILLARD,
American First Party
Box 24, Chicago Daily News.

If you call the F.B.I. our agents all over U.S. will
deal with you with a acid facial massage.

(Mark of sender)"

In the lower left-hand corner of the letter to DE HAVEN appears what presumably was meant to be the trade-mark of the sender. It is a circle about the size of a nickel, with a line drawn through the middle of the circle in each direction and the letters "C F" on either side of the lower part of the circle which has been separated. This mark also appears on the back of each of the envelopes.

127806
EP
7m

INDEXED 4-8-45

REMOVED IN LAB

INDEXED IN FILE

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED

Director, FBI

December 13, 1944

RE: JOE McWILLIAMS, et al.,
WILLIAM POWELL, et al., - VICTIMS
EXTORTION

The letter addressed to WILLIAM POWELL reads as follows:

Envelope: "WILLIAM POWELL
Metro Colwyn Mayer
Hollywood, California

"WILLIAM POWELL

If you value your life you will send \$10,000 to
American First Committee

c/o JOE McWILLIAMS
c/o MABE WILLARD
Box 24 - Daily News.

I urge you not to call for F.B.I. or you will die
suddenly.

We are all over the United States.

(Mark of sender.)"

This letter likewise had in the lower left-hand corner the same identifying
diagram with the addition of several dots scattered throughout the circle.

It is requested that these documents be processed for fingerprints;
that the writing be searched through the extortion files of the Bureau in an
effort to effect identification; and that copies of the letters be furnished
the Chicago and Los Angeles Offices, and also send a copy of the Laboratory
report on the BETTE DAVIS letter, which was forwarded to the Bureau under
date of November 29, 1944.

cc Chicago

Encls. 2
HFA:HLB
9-780

William Powell

If you value your life
you will send \$10,000
to American First Comm

Joe Mc Williams
of Chase National
Box 24. Daily News

urge you not to
call on F.B.I. or

you will be sudden

We are a law firm
United States.

C/F

W
T

1934
12-10-34
S.A. 235

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

1-40

45215

Laboratory Work Sheet Recorded 1-6-46 1:00 PM el

RECORDED
12/23/44
msk

RE: JOE WILLIAMS, HAZEL WILLARD, PA
Hazel Willard,
WILLIAM FORELL, GLORIA DE HAVEN, ESTER DAVIS -
VICTIMS
MURDER

File #
Lab. # 9-8160-122
D-27886 ED
9-2160-122

Examination requested by: Los Angeles (9-7800)

Date of reference communication: Oct 12/23/44

Date received: 12/19/44

Examination requested: See - Fingerprint

Result of examination:

Examination by: ROLLERS
LATELY
Latona

CC-Chicago

Specimens submitted for examination

- Q3 Envelope with handwritten address "Gloria De Haven, Metro Colwyn Mayer, Hollywood, California", postmarked "24 Chicago, Ill. Nov 6 1944 12:30 AM", bearing small circle with crossed lines and the letters "C F" on the reverse side.
- Q4 See Envelope letter on white paper bag "Gloria De Haven, Mayer If you want to be alive"; letter bears a small circle in the lower left hand corner with crossed lines and the letters "C F".
- Q5 White envelope with handwritten address "William Forell, Metro Colwyn Mayer, Hollywood, California" postmarked "24 Chicago, Ill. Nov 6 1944 12:30 AM", with a small circle with crossed lines and the letters "C F" on the reverse side.
- Q6 See handwritten letter on white paper bag "William Forell If you value your life"; bearing the same kind of a circle as the envelope in the lower left-hand corner.

Copies of letters to be furnished Chicago and Los Angeles.

*Examine: 5 lat / 19 / 12 / 44 develop on Q 1 5/1/9 44
no others*

*Dev: 1/9
A*

ENCLOSURE

9-8160-12-2

*Dev: 1/9
12-19-44*

SPL:ESM

REC-105 9-8160-122

SAC, Los Angeles

January 10, 1945

John Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

JOE McWILLIAMS, MARY WILLARD, with alias Mike Willard
WILLIAM POWELL, GLORIA DE HAYEN, BETTE DAVIS, VICTIMS
MURKIN, Bureau File #9-8160

Reference is made to your letter of December 13, 1944, transmitting the following described specimens for examination in connection with the above-entitled case, your file #9-780:

- 1 Envelope with handwritten address "Gloria De Haven, Metro Colwyn Mayer, Hollywood, California", postmarked "2h Chicago, Ill. Nov 6 1944 12:30 AM", bearing circle with crossed lines and the letters "C F" on the reverse side
- 2 Accompanying handwritten letter on white paper beginning "Gloria De Haven, if you want to be alive...."; letter bears a small circle in the lower left hand corner with crossed lines and the letters "C F"
- 3 White envelope with handwritten address "William Powell, Metro Colwyn Mayer, Hollywood, California", postmarked "2h Chicago, Ill. Nov 6 1944 12:30 AM", with a small circle with crossed lines and the letters "C F" on the reverse side
- 4 Accompanying handwritten letter on white paper beginning "William Powell if you value your life....", bearing in the lower left hand corner the same kind of a circle as the envelope.

You are advised that the specimens were examined and five latent fingerprints of value for comparison purposes were developed on 2 h.

You are being separately advised as to the results of the laboratory examination conducted.

9180

CO-Chicago

RECEIVED
 FILED 3
 JAN 11 1945 P.M.
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JAN 13 1945

ACK

Handwritten initials and scribbles

HO:MD

REPORT
of the



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON D. C.

January 5, 1945

To SAC, Los Angeles

There follows the report of the FBI Laboratory on the examination of evidence received from your office on December 18, 1944.

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

Re JOE McWILLIAMS, NARREL WILLIARD, with alias,
Nabe Williard,
WILLIAM POWELL, GLORIA DE HAVEN,
BETTE LAVIS - VICTIMS
KIDNATION

9-760
9-8160
D-27806
YOUR FILE NO.
FBI FILE NO.
LAB NO.

Los Angeles
Examination requested by Letter dated 12-13-44
Reference Document - Fingerprint
Examination requested

- Specimens
- Q3 Envelope with handwritten address to "Gloria De Haven, Metro Gabya Mayer, Hollywood, California", postmarked "24 Chicago, Ill. Nov 6 1944 12:30 AM", bearing circle with crossed lines and the letters "C F" on the reverse side.
 - Q4 Accompanying handwritten letter on white paper beginning: "Gloria De Haven, if you want to be alive....", letter bears a small circle in the lower left hand corner with crossed lines and the letters "C F".
 - Q5 White envelope with handwritten address "William Powell, Metro Gabya Mayer, Hollywood, California" postmarked "24 Chicago, Ill. Nov 6 1944 12:30 AM", with a small circle with crossed lines and the letters "C F" on the reverse side.
 - Q6 Accompanying handwritten letter on white paper beginning: "William Powell if you value your life....", bearing in the lower left hand corner a small circle of a circle as the envelopes.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

Los Angeles
Chicago, Ill. 5:40 PM
FBI Laboratory

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

27850 JAN 13 1945

Handwritten notes and signatures:
HARD
EHR
Continued next page
EHR

Result of examinations

It was concluded that the handwriting on specimens Q3 through Q6 was prepared by the same person; however, it is not possible to state that the writer of these specimens also prepared the writing on specimens Q1 and Q2, previously submitted by your office with a letter dated November 29, 1944, inasmuch as the writing on Q1 and Q2 is too highly disguised for an adequate comparison.

Specimens Q3 through Q6 were searched through the appropriate sections of the Anonymous Letter File without effecting an identification. Suitable photographic copies of these specimens have been added to this file for future reference and comparison.

Specimens Q3 through Q6 were chemically treated for the development of latent fingerprints. A separate report will be submitted on this phase of the examination.

Q3 is a plain white bond envelope measuring approximately 3.82 inches to 3.97 inches by 7.50 inches to 7.52 inches. Q5 is similar to Q3. Neither of these specimens bears a watermark.

Q4 is a sheet of white bond paper measuring approximately 7.08 inches by 10.46 inches. Q6 is similar to Q4. Neither of these specimens bears a watermark.

The complete physical characteristics of these specimens have been taken and recorded in the Laboratory.

In accordance with your request, a copy of the Laboratory Report D-27017, dated December 14, 1944 is being forwarded herewith. Photographs of Q3 through Q6 are also being forwarded herewith.

Unless advised to the contrary, the original evidence is being retained in the files of the Laboratory.

Laboratory Report D-27017

Page 2

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO**

FILE NO. **9-780**

REPORT MADE AT LOS ANGELES	DATE WHEN MADE 12/21/44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/21, 22, 12/12, 13/44	REPORT MADE BY H. FRANK ANJELL
TITLE JOE McWILLIAMS, MABEL WILLARD, with alias Mabel Willard; BETTE DAVIS, WILLIAM POWELL, GLORIA DE HAVEN - VICTIMS.			CHARACTER OF CASE EXTORTION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Movie personalities, **BETTE DAVIS, WILLIAM POWELL,** and **GLORIA DE HAVEN** received threatening extortion letters mailed Chicago, Illinois, November 6, 1944. Letters bore varying return addresses, but all signed by subjects listed. **DE HAVEN** letter set deadline January 1, 1945. **DAVIS** letter forwarded Bureau November 29, 1944; other letters forwarded December 13, 1944, for appropriate Laboratory examination.

RUC.

REFERENCE:

Teletype to the Bureau dated November 21, 1944.
Chicago teletype dated November 22, 1944.

DETAILS:

This is a joint report of the writer and Special Agent **EMMETT C. McGAUGHY**.

Investigation in this matter is predicated on the turning over of a letter received by **BETTE DAVIS** at Warner Brothers Studio to Special Agent **EMMETT C. McGAUGHY** of this office on November 21, 1944, and subsequent turning over of letters to the writer by **WHITNEY HENERY**, Chief of Police at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, threatening letters received by

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <i>[Signature]</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">9-8160-123</p> <p style="text-align: center;">41 JAN 1 1945</p>		<p style="text-align: right;">INDEXED</p>
<p>3 - Bureau 3 - Chicago (1 cc Chicago) 1 - SIA, Los Angeles 2 - Los Angeles</p>		

55 FEB 8 1945

L.A. # 9-788

actor WILLIAM POWELL and actress GLORIA DE HAVEN, MGM Studio. All of these letters were written presumably by the same person.

I

BRIDGET PRICE,
8540 Ridpath Drive,
Hollywood, California.

Can testify that she opened the letter from Chicago, Illinois, mentioned elsewhere in this report, addressed to Miss BETTE DAVIS. Miss PRICE turned the letter over to Miss DAVIS' attorney, who in turn forwarded it to the Warner Brothers attorney, from whom it found its way to BLAYNEY MATTHEWS, who made it available to agents of this office.

WHITEY HENDRY, Chief of Police,
Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studio,
Hollywood, California.

Can testify that on November 11, 1944, he received from EDITH FARRELL, Fan Mail Department, MGM Studio, extortion letter addressed to GLORIA DE HAVEN at MGM; that DOROTHY WARREN and MARJORIE BEVIL, also that Department, handled the letter. Further, that on November 20, 1944, he received an extortion letter addressed to WILLIAM POWELL from EDITH FARRELL, Fan Mail Department at MGM; that instant letter had been previously handled by DOROTHY WARREN and FAYE HEWITT of the same Department.

H. FRANK ANWELL, Special Agent,
FBI, Los Angeles, California.

Can testify that on December 12, 1944, WHITEY HENDRY turned over two extortion letters received by GLORIA DE HAVEN and WILLIAM POWELL; that on December 13, 1944, they were forwarded to the Bureau for appropriate Laboratory examination.

II

The extortion letter received by BETTE DAVIS, Warner Brothers Studio, read as follows:

"Dear BETTY DAVIS

If you value your life you will send \$10,000 to the following address or else Death at the canteen

L.A. # 9-780

"Mr. JOE McWILLIAMS
c/o MABEL WILLARD
826 E. 57 St.
Chicago, Illinois.

"P.S. My friends in California will watch you."

This letter likewise had in the lower left-hand corner the same identifying diagram, with the initials "G F" within a circle, separated by a cross, as was found on the letters received by POWELL and DE HAVEN, described below.

It is noted that instant letter was postmarked at Chicago, Illinois, November 6, 1944, at 1:00 AM. Under date of November 29, 1944, by letter, instant letter was forwarded to the Bureau for Laboratory examination.

On receipt of the letter by this office on November 21, 1944, a teletype was sent to the Bureau and Chicago office, quoting the letter, and the Chicago Division was requested to ascertain the identity of the sender. It was further pointed out that the U.S. Attorney at Los Angeles had requested that the matter be handled expeditiously. The statement was also made that the letter had been written with the left hand and the writing disguised.

By teletype dated November 22, 1944, the Chicago Division advised as follows: Information in the Chicago files and also interview with MABEL WILLARD, 816 East 57th Street, Chicago, reflect that she has been active in local politics, formerly connected with "We the Mothers," and is well known to many persons in the Sedition trial in Washington, D.C. Her name was furthermore mentioned in ROY CARLSON'S book, "Undercover." Through these channels, she admits making strong enemies. The indices of the Chicago office reflected she has received telephone calls recently through an individual impersonating an FBI agent. JOE McWILLIAMS, subject, is unknown personally to MABEL WILLARD. JOE McWILLIAMS was long associated with anti-Semitic organizations and is well known to the New York office as originally in Christian front organization. McWILLIAMS has likewise been a speaker in Chicago at various organization meetings, such as "We the Mothers." Mrs. WILLARD believes that the extortion letter is the work of one or more of her enemies to cause her further adverse publicity and to link her with JOE McWILLIAMS.

At the time WHITEY HERBERT turned over the DE HAVEN and POWELL extortion letters, he stated he had been absent from the studio for several weeks, and the letters had been overlooked in his office, hence, the delay in turning them over to the Bureau.

L.A. # 9-780

The letter to GLORIA DE HAVEN was postmarked Chicago, Illinois, November 6, 1944, at 12:30 AM. The envelope and the letter, which read as follows, have been appropriately identified by the writer:

Envelope: "GLORIA DE HAVEN
Metro Goldwyn Mayer.
Hollywood, California."

"GLORIA DE HAVEN,

If you want to be alive on Jan 1st 1945, You will
send \$10,000 to the following address

MABEL WILLARD,
American First Party
Box 24, Chicago Daily News.

If you call the F.B.I. our agents all over U.S. will
deal with you with a acid facial massage.

(Mark of sender)"

In the lower left-hand corner of the letter to DE HAVEN appears what presumably was meant to be the trade-mark of the sender. It is a circle about the size of a nickel, with a line drawn through the middle of the circle in each direction and the letters "C F" on either side of the lower part of the circle which has been separated. This mark also appears on the back of each of the envelopes.

The letter to WILLIAM POWELL, likewise sent to him at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, Hollywood, California, was postmarked Chicago, Illinois, November 6, 1944, at 12:30 A.M. The envelope and the letter, which read as follows, have been appropriately identified by the writer:

Envelope: "WILLIAM POWELL
Metro Goldwyn Mayer
Hollywood, California"

"WILLIAM POWELL

If you value your life you will send \$10,000 to
American First Committee

L.A. # 9-780

*c/o JOE McWILLIAMS
c/o MARE WILLARD
Box 24 - Daily News

"I urge you not to call for F.B.I. or you will die suddenly.

"We are all over the United States.

(Mark of sender)"

This letter likewise had in the lower left-hand corner the same identifying diagram with the addition of several dots scattered throughout the circle.

Neither WILLIAM POWELL nor GLORIA DE HAVEN knows of the receipt of instant letters by the studio.

Arrangements have been made with NETTE DAVIS and with WHITEY HENRY at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios so that if letters are received by any of the individuals mentioned herein or any others, this office will be immediately notified.

The Chicago office was furnished a copy of the letter transmitting the DE HAVEN and POWELL letters to the Bureau. It is noted that in those two letters the return address of Box 24, Daily News, was furnished.

The following is a description of WILLIAM POWELL, as furnished by WHITEY HENRY:

Name	WILLIAM POWELL
Age	52
Height	6'
Weight	155
Hair	Dark brown
Eyes	Dark
Complexion	Hardy
Face	Fair, long nose.
Remarks	Well dressed.

The following is a description of GLORIA DE HAVEN:

Name	GLORIA DE HAVEN
Age	28
Height	5' 11"
Weight	125

Lab. # 9-780

Hair	Golden Brown, worn long bob.
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Fair
Remarks	Very beautiful.

The following is a description of BETTE DAVIS:

Name	BETTE DAVIS
Age	35 (Born April 5, 1908, Lowell, Massachusetts)
Height	5' 3"
Weight	115
Hair	Ash blonde
Eyes	Blue
Marital status	Married
Citizenship	U.S.

Inasmuch as there is no further investigation to be conducted in the Los Angeles office, the Chicago Division is being made office of origin in this case.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

L.A. # 9-780

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE CHICAGO FIELD DIVISION

At Chicago, Illinois, will make appropriate inquiry at the Chicago Daily News in an effort to identify subjects in this case. If they are identified, appropriate prosecutive action should be taken.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

FILE NO. **9-1041**

REPORT MADE AT Chicago, Illinois	DATE WHEN MADE 2/28/45	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/8, 10/45; 2/11/45	REPORT MADE BY WILLIAM A. ROSS
TITLE JOE McWILLIAMS, MABEL WILLARD, with alias Mabel Willard; BETTE DAVIS, WILLIAM POWELL, CLERIA DE HAVEN - VICTIMS.			CHARACTER OF CASE MURKIN

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

MABEL WILLARD unable to give any of names of suspects in instant case. She stated she has many enemies in Chicago who could have written letters in order to "get her into trouble." The address, Box 24, Chicago Daily News, is fictitious, and any mail sent to that address would be returned to the sender.

C.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent H. FRANK ANGELL, at Los Angeles, California, dated December 23, 1944.

DETAILS: AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS: Mrs. MABEL WILLARD, 616 East 57th Street, Chicago, was re-interviewed on January 10, 1945 by the writer, at which time she advised that she had no further information concerning any suspect or suspects in instant case. She related the fact that she had been mentioned on six separate pages in the book, "Under Cover," written by JOHN ROY CARLSON, and because of this publicity she had made many enemies. She stated that in the past she had been a member of the The Mothers, and also a member for a time of the America First Committee. She advised that she was not personally acquainted with JOE McWILLIAMS, although she had heard of him through the publicity which he had received. She advised that she considers all members of the Communist Political Association in the Chicago area as her enemies and stated that in her opinion any extortion letters sent out over her signature would probably have been sent by members of the Communist Political Association who were living in the Chicago area. She advised that shortly after the book, "Under Cover," was published, her apartment building had been bombarded with rot and she had been unable to find out who had done this. She further advised that she had been a member of various other organizations but had been

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>W. J. Brayton</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE
--	-------------------------	--------------

- COPIES OF THIS REPORT
- 3 - Bureau
 - 1 - Los Angeles (For Information)
 - 2 - Chicago

- 4 - 8160 -

MAR 8 1945

8 MAR 19 1945

CHICAGO FILE NO. 9-1041

the purpose of obtaining information concerning the activities of these organizations. She was unable to name any one individual who might have written the extortion letters but said that she had many enemies who could have written the letters in order to "get her into trouble." She stated that she would advise the Chicago Field Office if any information came to her attention which might have a bearing on the instant case.

Mr. RALPH ARNOLD, supervisor in charge of the classified items for the Chicago Daily News, was interviewed on January 8, 1945 by the writer. ARNOLD advised that an address, Box 24, Chicago Daily News, is incorrect and that any mail addressed thus, would be returned to the sender. He further advised that on all blind ads giving the box number, the number is preceded by two letters.

Mr. J. E. WALSH, employed by the classified section of the Chicago Daily News, stated that during the past eight months no mail has been received addressed Box 24. He also advised that if a letter had been received by him addressed Box 24, he would immediately have returned it to the sender, inasmuch as Box 24 would be an incorrect address.

By letter dated December 14, 1944, the FBI Laboratory advised that the letter addressed to BETTE DAVIS, Warner Brothers Studios, Hollywood, California, had been compared with material contained in the appropriate sections of the anonymous letter file, without effecting an identification. By letter dated January 5, 1945, the FBI Laboratory advised that the letters addressed to WILLIAM POWELL and GLORIA DE HAVEN had been searched through the appropriate sections of the anonymous letter file without effecting an identification. The Laboratory also advised that the letters to WILLIAM POWELL and GLORIA DE HAVEN had been written by the same person but they were unable to state definitely whether or not this same writer had written the letter addressed to BETTE DAVIS.

MABEL WILLARD advised the writer that she would immediately report any pertinent information to the Chicago field Office that she might obtain. Inasmuch as all logical leads have been covered, this case is being closed on authority of the Special Agent in Charge.

C L O S E D.



William Powell
Metro Colwyn Mayer
Hollywood, California

William Powell

If you value your life
you will send \$10,000
to American Front Committee

10 Joe McWilliams
8 Mike Willard
Box 24 - Daily News.

I urge you not to
call for F. B. I or
you will die suddenly.
We are all over the
United States.



23
1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

1-44

Laboratory Work Sheet

RECORDED
12/20/44
mk

Re: **JOE ROSS WILSON, MABEL WILSON, VA**
Mabel Willard,
WILLIAM POWELL, MRS WILLIAM ROY N, WHITE DAVIS -
VICTIMS
KIDNAPING

File #
Lab. # **9-6140**
D-27006 ED

Examination requested by:

Los Angeles (9-753)

Date of reference communication:

Let 12/13/44

Date received:

12/20/44

Examination requested:

Doc - Fingerprint

Result of examination:

Examination by:

A. L. LINS

LATENT

Specimens submitted for examination

- 1 Envelope with handwritten adr to "Gloria De Haven, Metro Colony Bldg, Hollywood, California", postmarked "21 Chicago, Ill. Nov 6 1944 12:30 AM", bearing an circle with crossed lines and the letters "C F" on the reverse side.
- 2 See the letter on white paper bag "Gloria De Haven, I hope if you want to be alive", letter bears a small circle in the lower left hand corner with crossed lines and the letters "C F".
- 3 White env with handwritten adr "William Powell, Metro Colony Bldg, Hollywood, California" postmarked "21 Chicago, Ill. Nov 6 1944 12:30 AM", with a small circle with crossed lines and the letters "C F" on the reverse side.
- 4 See handwritten letter on white paper bag "William Powell If you value your life", bearing the same kind of a circle as the envelope in the lower left hand corner.

Copies of letters to be furnished Chicago and Los Angeles.

JAN 9 1945 29 1944

REPORT
of the



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON D. C.

January 5, 1945

To: SAC, Los Angeles

There follows the report of the FBI Laboratory on the examination of evidence received from your office on December 12, 1944.

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

Re: JOE WILLIAMS, LARRY WILLARD, with alias;
Late Willard,
WILLIAM POWELL, GLORIA DE HAVEN,
SARA LATH - VICTIMS
MURKIN

YOUR FILE NO 9-780
FBI FILE NO 9-8100
LAB NO D-27000-13

Examination requested by: Los Angeles

Reference: Letter dated 12-13-44

Examination requested: Document - fingerprint

Specimens:

- 3 Envelope with handwritten address to "Gloria De Haven, Metro Galwyn Meyer, Hollywood, California", postmarked "24 Chicago, Ill. Nov 6 1944 12:00 AM", bearing circle with crossed lines and the letters "C A" on the reverse side.
- 4 Accompanying handwritten letter on white paper beginning: "Gloria De Haven, if you want to be alive....", letter bears a small circle in the lower left hand corner with crossed lines and the letters "C A".
- 5 White envelope with handwritten address "William Powell, Metro Galwyn Meyer, Hollywood, California" postmarked "24 Chicago, Ill. Nov 6 1944 12:00 AM", with a small circle with crossed lines and the letters "C A" on the reverse side.
- 6 Accompanying handwritten letter on white paper beginning: "William Powell if you value your life....", bearing in the lower left hand corner the same kind of a circle as the envelope.

2 - Los Angeles - Enclosure
1 - Chicago - Enclosure
1 - Laboratory

Result of examination:

It was concluded that the handwriting on specimens Q3 through Q6 was prepared by the same person; however, it is not possible to state that the writer of these specimens also prepared the writing on specimens Q1 and Q2, previously submitted by your office with a letter dated November 2, 1944, inasmuch as the writing on Q1 and Q2 is too highly disguised for an adequate comparison.

Specimens Q3 through Q6 were searched through the appropriate sections of the Anonymous Letter file without effecting an identification. Suitable photographic copies of these specimens have been added to this file for future reference and comparison.

Specimens Q3 through Q6 were chemically treated for the development of latent fingerprints. A separate report will be submitted on this phase of the examination.

Q3 is a plain white bond envelope measuring approximately 5.52 inches to 3.97 inches by 7.50 inches to 7.52 inches. Q5 is similar to Q3. Neither of these specimens bears a watermark.

Q4 is a sheet of white bond paper measuring approximately 7.03 inches by 10.43 inches. Q6 is similar to Q4. Neither of these specimens bears a watermark.

The complete physical characteristics of these specimens have been taken and recorded in the Laboratory.

In accordance with your request, a copy of the Laboratory Report D-27017, dated December 14, 1944 is being forwarded herewith. Photographs of Q3 through Q6 are also being forwarded herewith.

Unless advised to the contrary, the original evidence is being retained in the files of the Laboratory.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

1-10

RECORDED
12/21/44
mek

Laboratory Work Sheet

M/6

Re: JOE McWILLIAMS, MABEL WILLARD, WA
Mabe Willard,
WILLIAM POWELL, GLORIA DE HAVEN, BETTE DAVIS -
VICTIMS
EXTORTION

File # 9-8160
Lab. # D-27806 ED

Examination requested by: Los Angeles (9-780*)

Date of reference communication: Let 12/13/44

Date received: 12/18/44

Examination requested: Doc - Fingerprint

Result of Examination: *no ident. Q-3 → Q-6*
A.L.P. Latents developed. (Q-4, Q-6)

Examination by: ROLLINS H.M.D.
LATENT

Q-3 → Q-6 ident; no conc Q-1 → Q-2 previously

Specimens submitted for examination

submitted with Q-3 → Q-6 no inquiries for an adequate comparison

- Q3 Env with handwritten adr to "Gloria De Haven, Metro Golwyn Mayer, Hollywood, California", postmarked "24 Chicago, Ill. Nov 6 1944 12:30 AM", bearing an circle with crossed lines and the letters "C F" on the reverse side.
- Q4 Acc hw letter on white paper beg "Gloria De Haven, ~~Exer~~ If you want to be alive", letter bears a small circle in the lower left hand corner with crossed lines and the letters "C F".
- Q5 White env with handwritten adr "William Powell, Metro Golwyn Mayer, Hollywood, California" postmarked "24 Chigago, Ill. Nov 6 1944 12:30 AM", with a small circle with crossed lines and the letters "C F" on the reverse side.
- Q6 Acc handwritten letter on white paper beg "William Poweal If you value your life", bearing ~~the same kind of a circle as the envelope in the lower left hand corner.~~

Copies of letters to be furnished Chicago and Los Angeles.

*Daily News. If you call
all over U.S. will deal*

*Q-3
1/5*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

L-40

Laboratory Work Sheet

7760

Re: Joe McWilliams, Mabel Willard, WA
Mabel Willard,
William Powell, Gloria De Hoven, Betty Davis
Victims
Extortion

File # 9-8160
Lab. # D. 27806

Examination requested by: Los Angeles

Date of reference communication: Let 12/12/44

Date received: 1/18/45

Examination requested: Doc. - Fingerprint

Result of Examination:

Examination by: Dick
1/11/45

Q3 → Q6 no ident A. G. F
Latents developed Q4, Q6

classified IIIA.
searched: IIIA, IIE, 13 + 14
Drawings + sketches

Specimens submitted for examination

Physical Characteristics

Q3 plain white bond envelope measuring
3.82" to 3.97" by 7.50" to 7.52"
Thickness: 0.0041
weight: 5.500 grams
no watermark

Q4 sheet of plain white bond paper measuring
7.08" to 7.10" by 10.46" to 10.47"
Thickness: 0.0037
weight: 3.469 grams
no watermark

Specimens Q3 + Q6 similar in physical characteristics
" Q4 + Q6 similar in physical characteristics

Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

December 13, 1944

SAC, Los Angeles

JOE MCHILLIAMS, MABEL WILLARD, with alias
Ebbe Willard,
WILLIAM POWELL, GLORIA DE HAVEN, BETTE DAVIS -
VICTIMS
KIDNATION.

ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

Enclosed herein you will find two letters received by movie stars
GLORIA DE HAVEN and WILLIAM POWELL, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, Hollywood,
California. These letters were turned over to Special Agent H. FRANK ANSELL,
this office, on December 12, 1944, although they had been received at the
studio presumably immediately after they had been mailed in Chicago on
November 6, 1944. The absence of WHITNEY HENDRY from the city, he explained,
resulted in their being overlooked until yesterday.

The letters, together with the envelopes, have been appropriately
identified by Special Agent H. FRANK ANSELL, and read as follows:

Envelope: "GLORIA DE HAVEN
Metro Goldwyn Mayer.
Hollywood, California."

"GLORIA DE HAVEN,

If you want to be alive on Jan 1st 1945, You will
send \$10,000 to the following address

MABEL WILLARD,
American First Party
Box 24, Chicago Daily News.

If you call the F.B.I. our agents all over U.S. will
deal with you with a acid facial message.

(Mark of sender)*

In the lower left-hand corner of the letter to DE HAVEN appears what
presumably was meant to be the trade-mark of the sender. It is a circle
about the size of a nickel, with a line drawn through the middle of the
circle in each direction and the letters "G P" on either side of the lower
part of the circle which has been separated. This mark also appears on the
back of each of the envelopes.

9-8160
D-27806
12/14/44

Director, FBI

December 13, 1944

RE: JOE McWILLIAMS, et al.,
WILLIAM POWELL, et al., - VICTIMS
EXTORTION

The letter addressed to WILLIAM POWELL reads as follows:

Envelope: WILLIAM POWELL
Metro Colwyn Meyer
Hollywood, California

WILLIAM POWELL

If you value your life you will send \$10,000 to
American Film Committee

c/o JOE McWILLIAMS
c/o HARRIS WILLARD
Box 24 - Daily News.

I urge you not to call for F.B.I. or you will die
suddenly.

We are all over the United States.

(Mark of sender.)"

This letter likewise had in the lower left-hand corner the same identifying
diagram with the addition of several dots scattered throughout the circle.

It is requested that these documents be processed for fingerprints;
that the writing be searched through the extortion files of the Bureau in an
effort to effect identification; and that copies of the letters be furnished
the Chicago and Los Angeles Offices, and also send a copy of the Laboratory
report on the BETTIE DAVIS letter, which was forwarded to the Bureau under
date of November 29, 1944.

cc Chicago

Encls. 2
BFA:MLB
9-780