

FILE NO. P.F.

DATE OF BIRTH: 30.11.1920 NZ

S.I.B. File Attached
See also Packet No. 43 in Strong Room.

SUBSEQUENT PAPERS:

Occupation: Clerk

RELEVANT PAPERS

FILE NO.

TRANSIT DIRECTIONS

DATE:

"SOUTHERN CROSS"

Dated 9th. July 1946.

139/60

Boy Wanted To Be A Spy But "Got Nowhere"

AUCKLAND, July 9.—A sensational story published in a Sydney newspaper yesterday alleging that an Auckland boy communicated with Germany during the war and had "a mania for spying and disclosed the departure of New Zealand troops overseas" was strongly denied officially today.

It was stated that although the boy had a spy mania he communicated nothing of value to the enemy.

It was stated today the police and security intelligence knew all about him. He was born at Auckland in 1920 and early in the war was a shipping clerk with an Auckland firm.

Inquiries by the police revealed that he had been communicating with a man in Germany but this had no connection with the war. He received one air mail letter from Hamburg and posted a letter to the German Ambassador at Tokio, but according high official security intelligence "got nowhere."

It was officially stated today that "the boy had the spy bug" but was quite harmless and no serious aspects were involved.

In 1943 he was fined £5 for wrongfully wearing an R.S.A. badge.—P.A.



Detective Office, Auckland.

15 th June 1943.

Report of Det.Sergt.E.A.Stevenson, No.2627.

relative to Desmond de RENZY - employment of.

I respectfully report that de Renzy (P.G. 43/411) is now employed as a process worker at the engineering plant of Messrs Mason and Porter Ltd. Mt. Wellington. This firm is at present engaged almost exclusively on war work - producing hand grenade casings, landing barge parts, trench mortar parts, Bren gun carrier tracks etc.

I have this day seen the Works Superintendent, Mr Redwood; he informed me that de Renzy had been employed there about a fortnight and his work consists in using a file on the castings for ship's portlights for landing barges. He receives a wage of 2/8d per hour and as yet the foreman's report on him is quite good. No explosives are kept or used in the works, the building is a modern one and the possibilities of fire or sabotage are almost non-existent.. As yet de Renzy has not attracted unusual notice in any way.

As will be seen by the attached memorandum de Renzy was sent to this employment by the District Manpower Officer.

There has been no further indication here of a renewal of the activities that have previously brought de Renzy under notice from time to time and - for what it is worth - he has told me on more than one occasion during the past year that he is finished with such matters and will be no further source of trouble.. He is still living with his widowed mother and my inquiries show that when he is not working he seldom goes out except with his fiancée perhaps once or twice a week.

I have merely told the Works Supt. at Mason and Porters Ltd. that the Police are interested in the occupation and conduct of de Renzy from a Security viewpoint and that we are keeping a discreet watch on him. Mr Redwood is keeping this information to himself and will let me know of any development.

My own opinion is that there is no harm in de Renzy remaining in this employment.

A part file was forwarded on 14.5.43 on which date de Renzy was fined £5 for wrongfully wearing a R.S.A. badge.

The Sub Insp. Dets.
AUCKLAND.

E.A. Stevenson

Det.Sergt.

The Insp.

80 Hall

S/Insp

16.6.43

J. B. O'Connell Commissioner

R. H. Ward

17.6.43 Supt

The Insp.

In information of

the Commissioner

J. B. O'Connell

16 JUN 1943



FILE



NEW ZEALAND.

In your reply, please quote

NS 18084

NATIONAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT.

(EMPLOYMENT DIVISION.)
Manpower

DISTRICT OFFICE,
P.O. Box 1484, AUCKLAND C.1.

2nd June, 1943.

Detective-Sgt., STEVENSON,
Central Police Station,
AUCKLAND.

Dear Sir,

Desmond De RENZY.

As you requested to be informed of the above-named man's movements I have to advise that he was directed to commence work as a process worker with Messrs. Mason & Porter Ltd., Panmure on the 1st June.

Yours faithfully,

C. S. M. J.
DISTRICT MANPOWER OFFICER.

S.39/60

Edmond de Renzy.

The Sub In. Dets.

de Renzy is not yet in any regular employment. He is still in Auckland and residing with his mother at 7 Massey Av. Green Lane.. His position with the Manpower Office is not yet finalised and he is still doing casual gardening work, earning from 6/- to 10/- per half-day.

On date at the M.C. Auckland de Renzy was convicted and fined £5 for wrongfully wearing the badge of the N.Z. Returned Soldiers' Association; (Military Decorations and Distinctive Badges Act 1918). This part file will be attached to the main file S.39/60.

E. Stevenson

Det. Sergt.

14.5.43.

The Insp.

*80 Hall
Omum*

The Commissioner

*prevey
by 19/5/43*



Detective Office, Auckland.

20 th April 1943.

Report of Det.Sergt.E.A.Stevenson, No.2627.
relative to Desmond de RENZY - employment of.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

I respectfully report that the Commissioner has not been apprised of the position re de Renzy since his minute dated 25.2.43.

de Renzy has not returned to Hamilton, vide 2 nd paragraph of my report dated 23 rd March 1943, though he has been notified by the Manpower Office at Hamilton to do so; their last memorandum to this effect being dated the 9 th inst. This is apparently at variance with inquiries made by Det.Sergt.Murray, vide 1 st paragraph of his report dated 30 ult.

de Renzy is still residing with his mother and sister at 7 Massey Avenue, Green Lane. He informed me yesterday that he is awaiting some finality and permission from the Manpower authorities to take up work in Auckland.. In the meantime he is doing odd private gardening work, earning from 10/- to 16/- for a day's work... He is also in receipt of the soldier's Rehabilitation Allowance of £3-10-0 a week for 13 weeks, dating from 13.3.43.

Therefore the position regarding de Renzy's employment is that the Auckland Manpower Office will not place him until he gets authority from the Hamilton Office to return to work in Auckland, and the latter office will not release him from his employment in that town as they tell him that the Police have stated that they do not want him working in Auckland.

So far as the Police are concerned I do not think there is any real objection to de Renzy being allowed to work and live in Auckland and help to support and live with his blind Mother, so long as the Commissioner's instruction dated 1 st December 1942 is complied with. That was, of course, the purpose of my consulting the Manpower authorities in the first place about de Renzy.

As can be seen from the last two or three reports on this file de Renzy is the subject of a separate file with a view to prosecution for a breach of the Military Decorations and Distinctive Badges Act 1918.

For information please.

The Sub Insp. Dets.
Auckland.

E. Stevenson
Det.Sergt.

*The Sub Insp. Dets.,
Report attached,
E. Stevenson
Det. Sgt.
15-6-43*

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

[Police—100A]

157

Police-station: Auckland CentralDate: 1 st. September, 1941REPORT of Constable T.J. Keogan, No. Temporaryrelative to Observations of Undersirable persons seen in the
Streets of Auckland by me for the fortnight ending 1/9/41.Regulation No. 138.

I respectfully report that for the fortnight ending
the 1 st. September 1941, I have observed the following
undersirable persons in the Streets of Auckland.

Name.	Time	Date	Where & with whom seen,
Preston Walter @ Con. P.G. 1939 P. 419 Photo, 1915 P. 3.	8 a.m.	28/8/41	Airedale Street alone.

T. J. Keogan
Temporary Constable.

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

Junior Sergeant
Auckland Central.

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

[Police—100a.]

Detective Office,
Police-station: Hamilton.

Copy

Date: 30th. March, 194 3.

REPORT of Detective-Sergeant W. R. Murray, No. 2445.

relative to Desmond de RENZY - allegedly wearing an "R.S.A." badge in
breach of the Military Decorations and Distinctive Badges Act 1918.

I respectfully report with reference to the above that the local Man Power Office and the N.Z. Co-operative Dairy Company Ltd. have no intimation or idea on the subject of de Renzy's return to Hamilton. Further, the Dairy Company mentioned, who were de Renzy's former employers, understand they have finished with his services and do not want him back: and the information available at the Man Power Office here is that they have no job in prospect for de Renzy to fill.

In view of de Renzy's general evasiveness and apparent ability to retard any efforts to send him to any place where he does not want to go - as already demonstrated in the main file - it seems that the question of how, when and where he is to go may continue for a long time before anything definite is known. ~~So~~ Instead of holding up this matter indefinitely, there would be no objection to the Auckland Police charging and proceeding against de Renzy there if he would be pleading "guilty" which may be preferable to the present uncertain position as far as proceeding against him at Hamilton is concerned.

The Inspector of Police,
HAMILTON.

W R Murray
Detective-Sergeant 2445.

Detective Office,
Auckland.

23 rd March 1943.

Report of Det.Sergt.E.A.Stevenson, No.2627.

relative to Desmond de Renzy - allegedly wearing a "R.S.A." badge in breach of the Military Decorations and Distinctive Badges Act,1918.

I respectfully report that on making inquiries of the Returned Soldiers' Association at Auckland I was informed by the Secretary, Mr R.G.Mason that there was no record of anyone named de Renzy having joined or applied to join the Association, and further, that no badge of the Association had been issued to anyone of that name.

de Renzy is still in Auckland, living with his mother at 7 Massey Avenue, Greenlane, and relying on a doctor's certificate he has been hoping that he will not be made to return to his clerical work in the office of the New Zealand Co-Operative Dairy Co. at Hamilton. However, I have today been informed by the Auckland Manpower Office that de Renzy has now been examined by the Medical Board who report that he is quite fit for clerical work. There fore the Manpower Office are now notifying de Renzy that he is to return to his work at Hamilton.

At this office on the 17 th inst. I interviewed de Renzy about the matter of the R.S.A. badge. Please see his statement attached in which he now says that the statement that he made to Det.Sergt.Murray at Hamilton was untrue so far as the badge was concerned.. He did not have the badge in his possession when I interviewed him; he maintains that he must have lost it after taking it from his coat lapel following the interview with the Hamilton Police and that though he has searched for it he does not know where it is now.... He said that the badge was the 1942-43 badge of the Association, with the current yellow coloured clasp. He said that the badge had belonged to his uncle James Melvin McKenzie, who died at the Auckland Hospital on 25.2.43 - these statements have been verified.. The number on the badge would be 74203 and it would have been issued by the Dargaville branch of the N.Z.Returned Soldiers' Assn.. de Renzy has now handed to me two other badges that were the property of his uncle - one an earlier type R.S.A. badge bearing his uncle's regimental number and the other a Canterbury Regiment badge of the last war.

As de Renzy is not and has not been a member of the New Zealand Returned Soldiers' Assn. he has, by wearing the badge of the association, committed a breach of the Military Badges and Distinctive Decorations Act 1918, Sec. 4(2).

In the New Zealand Gazette, Vol.2, page 1558 the New Zealand Returned Soldiers' Assn. is gazetted as an association or society incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908.. Further the badge of the Association is defined and assigned.. The badge is defined as follows - " A metal badge consisting of a bar surmounted by a Crown and the letters N.Z. with the arc of a circle below the bar, and having the words "Returned Soldiers Association" inscribed on the bar and arc".

de Renzy was wearing the badge at Hamilton when seen by Det.Sgt.Murray on 4.3.43, but in the event of a prosecution the badge could not now be produced as de Renzy says that he has since lost it... Considering de Renzy's history it may be thought that he should be charged at Hamilton as he will no doubt be returning there within a few days.

The Sub Insp. Dets,
Auckland.

E.A.Stevenson
Det.Sergt.

The Insp.

Sgt. Hall
S/Insp
23.3.43.

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Detective Office,
Police-station: Hamilton.

Date: 10th. March, 1943.

Secret
REPORT of Detective-Sergeant W. R. Murray, No. 2445.

relative to Desmond de RENZY.

(vide attached file)

I respectfully report as follows with reference to the attached file concerning this man de Renzy and following the instructions contained in the Commissioner's minute herein of the 25/2/43:-

I had an interview with de Renzy, mainly with regard to his conduct during the brief period he has been here in Hamilton and which principally had to do with the following matters:-

- (1) He has been setting out that he has been employed in the Army Intelligence - Overseas (an admittedly false statement). In one instance he allegedly claimed to have served in the Army Intelligence in Singapore:
- (2) He has been wearing an "R.S.A." badge to which he is not entitled:
- (3) In excuse of his absenteeism, he was telling people that a brother of his, who was a prisoner of war in Germany, had died, and word of this had been received while he was at home which accounted for his delay in returning to work - which again is an admittedly false story:
- (4) He is most unsatisfactory to his employers in that he absents himself without leave - Hamilton being so handy to his home town, Auckland, that he goes there at Week-ends and returns when it suits his liking. At the time of writing this report (5.15 p.m. Wednesday 10/3/43) he has not reported at his lodgings or at his place of employment since Friday, 5/3/43, when he left to presumably spend the week-end at his home in Auckland. His employers inform me that they have reported this further case of his "absenteeism" to the Man Power Office for what further action may be taken. As mentioned in de Renzy's statement, he furnished an application to resign his present job, his application being supported by a medical certificate, and I am told it is the intention of the Man Power Office to place him in other employment here when a suitable vacancy occurs.

In personal contact with de Renzy, he impresses one with his apparent meekness and respect for authority, an interview being punctuated by his frequent remarks of "Yes sir, ... No sir, ... I appreciate that sir, ... I am very sorry sir," and so on. Yet this file seems to disclose that his imagination and flair for romancing continues - talking to him and warning him having little or no effect - and he is obviously not settling down to work in Hamilton.

The Inspector,
HAMILTON.

(2)

The Commissioner's minute of the 25/2/43 directs, or would seem to direct, that this present position concerning de Renzy should be reported to the Commissioner's Office, but perhaps the file should first be referred to the Auckland Police to verify that de Renzy is there and what he is doing.

It would seem that any action which can be taken to "bring home" to de Renzy the wrongfulness of his false representations, should be taken when there is ground for such action, and so I have made the matter of his wearing an "R.S.A." badge without authority, the subject of a separate file, for further inquiry and possible action under the provisions of the Military Decorations and Distinctive Badges Act, 1918" as set out in a copy of the report on the subject which is attached to this file.

W R Murray
Detective-Sergeant/2445.

*The Superintendent
Auckland
Via 2nd last paragraph
of this report please.
11/3/43 G. R. Edwards
Inspector of Police,
Hamilton.*

W. H. L. (et)

*Murray
17/3/43*

*Det Sgt Sturges
80 Hare
8mm
12.3.43*



The New Zealand Co-operative Dairy Company Limited.

CABLE & TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:

"DAIRY," HAMILTON.

CODES: A.B.C.

WESTERN UNION

WORLD'S UNIVERSAL

BENTLEY'S

LIEBER'S

MANUFACTURERS AND MERCHANTS OF DAIRY PRODUCE

PRIVATE MAIL BAG

HAMILTON, N.Z.

5th Mar. 1943.

TELEPHONES 4020, 4021,

4022, 4023,

4024, 4025.

WHEN REPLYING PLEASE
QUOTE NO.

Detective Sergeant Murray,
Police Station,
HAMILTON.

Dear Sir,

With reference to one Desmond de Renzy now an employee of this Company. I enclose herewith a copy of the Application Form completed by this man prior to his engagement by us.

Questions at the time of engagement regarding his previous clerical experience, he indicated that the bulk of his time had been spent in shipping activities. This was up to the time that he joined the Forces. Whilst in the Army he was attached to Army Intelligence and mentioned that he had been in Singapore, but I did not ask, nor did he give me any details regarding the nature of his work.

On making enquiries I find that an impression is generally abroad in this office to the effect that this man was in Singapore and I believe he has made a statement on these lines to one at least of our Juniors.

Yours faithfully,

Dean

OD:IMM

CHIEF CLERK

THE
NEW ZEALAND CO-OPERATIVE DAIRY COMPANY,
LTD.

APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

Applicants must answer all questions in their own handwriting, in ink.

1. What is your full name? Desmond de Renzy
2. Where were you born? AUCKLAND When? 1920
3. What is your present address? "Bella-Vista" 2 Knox Street, Hamilton
4. Occupation or profession? Clerk
5. What is your religion? Church of England
6. Where were you educated? Takapuna Grammar School, Auckland
What standards passed? Senior Free Place and Matriculation
7. Are you a total abstainer? Yes
8. Give a record of positions held by you, including your present or last employer:

From what Date (Give month and year)	To what Date (Give month and year)	Employed as	Salary	In Service of (Name of Employer or Corporation)	Address	Why Did You Leave?
Nov 1935	Nov. 1940	Shipping Representative	£4-0-0 p.w.	Messrs Russell & Somers Ltd	83 Customs St. Auckland	Volunteer in Army
Jan. 1940	23. Dec. 1942	Army Intelligence	£3-10-0 P.w.	Army Dept. (Overseas)		Discharged Through Sickness

9. If you were ever discharged, state frankly for what reason NO
10. Are you married or single? Single If married, how many children have you?
11. Who else is depending on you for support? Mother
12. Please give below the names and addresses of three persons who have had a close personal acquaintance with you, and who are not related to you:

NAME	OCCUPATION	ADDRESS
Mr. R.K. Sharp	Shipping Manager	22 Woodward Ave. Mt. Albert
Mr. V. Dawson	Casing Operator	7 Massey Ave One Tree Hill Auckland
Mr. L.G. Matcalfe	Customs Clerk	1/4 Gt. South Rd. Remuera, Auckland.

13. State salary desired AWARD WAGE

Date 16/2/43 Signature "D. de Renzy"

Please note that all employees are required to join the Employees' Superannuation Fund.

97169 I CERTIFY that this is a true copy of the Application Form completed by D. de RENZY and under date 16/2/43 the Original being held at this office. ... D. de Renzy CHIEF CLERK

Copy [Police]

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Detective Office Police-Station: Hamilton.

Date: 10th. March, 194 3.

REPORT of Detective-Sergeant W. R. Murray, No. 2445.

relative to Desmond de RENZY - allegedly wearing an "R.S.A." badge in breach of the Military Decorations and Distinctive Badges Act, 1918.

I respectfully report with reference to the above-named man whom I saw in Hamilton on the 4/3/43 wearing an "R.S.A." badge - this man de Renzy being the subject of other confidential correspondence - that in the course of a statement in which the question of his authority to wear this badge was discussed, he said:-

"I am wearing an "R.S.A." badge. Shortly after my discharge from the Army I saw a person (who I understand was the Secretary at the Newmarket Branch of the Returned Soldiers' Association. I explained I had been discharged from the Army and wished to join the Association. I was asked what unit I was from. I replied 'the 3rd. Division.' I had no papers to produce, but I referred the man at the office to Area 1, if he cared to make any inquiries. I supplied my regimental number 237934 which was the number of my Certificate of Enrolment and which was also adopted by the Army as my last regimental number: my full name, rank and home address. I also stated the length of my service in the Army. Nothing at all was said about whether or not I had served overseas. I then signed a form which I think just stipulated that I would abide by the rules and regulations governing the Association. Then I paid my membership fee there and then and was furnished with the badge I am now wearing. As a result, I have considered all along that I have been fully entitled to wear the badge. I promise to discontinue wearing it on your telling me that I am not entitled to wear it seeing that I have never been overseas with the Armed Forces, but I know there are quite a few in a similar position to myself who have been admitted to membership in the R.S.A. in similar circumstances and who wear the badge. And they also wear the badge of the 2nd. N.Z.E.F. Association, and I have written to the Secretary of that Association for a form of application for membership, his address being Queens Arcade, Auckland, but at the moment I have not received a reply here. I do not know what rules govern membership of that body, but as I have not been overseas I will first verify if I am eligible for membership...."

This man de Renzy has the home address of 7 Massey Avenue, Green Lane, Auckland. He was discharged from the Army on the 22/12/42 following about 1 year's home service here in New Zealand plus a prior three months' Territorial training. Detective-Sergeant Stevenson of Auckland is familiar with his case and the probable desirability of prosecuting him for an offence under the Act mentioned in the subject heading of this report if his wearing of this badge constituted such offence as appears to be the case.

The Inspector,
HAMILTON.

I therefore respectfully suggest inquiries at Auckland regarding the story told by de Renzy. At the

(2)

same time the views of the Returned Soldiers' Association on such matter might be obtained. The Association could also verify and set out that the rules prescribe that Association membership is only for returned soldiers who have served overseas or otherwise set out that de Renzy is not entitled to membership and therefore has no authority to wear the badge. Perhaps the Association could also verify and give details of the Order in Council understood to have been made and gazetted under the provisions of section 4 of the Military Decorations and Distinctive Badges Act, 1918.

W R Murray

Detective-Sergeant, 2445.

The Inspector of Police,
HAMILTON.



NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Subject:

Desmond de Benzy.

(100,000/3/40-19783)

The Ser. Sg.

For the Sectional Sergeants
to note please, as Constable
Healey has his meat at Bella
Kata Boarding house where
de Benzy is staying he could
also note this file.

Sgt Edwards
Sgt 2/3/43

Sergeants & Constables Hedley
to please note vide Inspection
minute

2/3/43
A. H. Hughes
Ser. Sg.

*Ser. Sg.**Noted**Sgt Gooding**Sgt. 2/3/43**Ser. Sg.**Noted*

E. A. Galt
Sgt 2/3/43

S. 39/60



NEW ZEALAND POLICE

-----0000000-----

SUBJECT : - Desmond de RENZY

The Inspector of Police,
HAMILTON.

Previous correspondence relating to this man is forwarded for your information. Efforts should be made to keep in touch with his conduct and a report is to be submitted to this office if he changes his employment or leaves Hamilton.

D. J. Cummings
Commissioner of Police.

25.2.43

*O/c Det office.
To note*

J. Edwards
Detective Staff, *Imp 26-2-43*
HAMILTON.

To note please. *W. R. Murray*
Det-Sgt. 1/3/43.

Noted accordingly:

J. Hayes Det. 1-3-43.

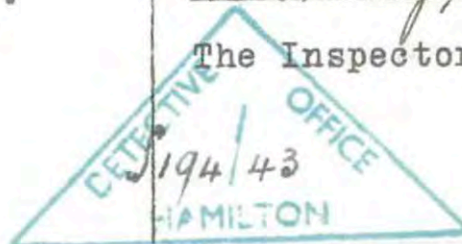
G. Tait. Const. 1-5-43.

J. R. Henry, Const. 1-3-43.

The Inspector,

Noted.

W. R. Murray
Det-Sgt. 2/3/43.



NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

[Police—100A.

39/60

Police-station : HAMILTON.

Date : February 19th., 1943.

REPORT of Sergeant E. A. Gatehouse;, No. 2460.

relative to Desmond de RENZY;; Employment of;

I respectfully report
having made inquiry and ascertained that Desmond de Renzy commenced
employment as a Clerk at the Head Office of the New Zealand Dairy Company
Victoria St Hamilton, on Tuesday the 16th. instant.

de Renzy present address is C/o
Bella Vista Boarding House Knox Street Hamilton, the majority of Boarders
at Bella Vista are Civil Servants;

E. A. Gatehouse
Sergeant No. 2460.

The Senior Sergeant
HAMILTON.

The Inspector.
Respectfully forwarded.

E. A. Gatehouse
Sergeant for Senior Sergeant.

19/2/43;

The Superintendent
Auckland

G. B. Edwards

Inspector of Police,
Hamilton.

The Sub. Insp. (Det.)

For Det. Sgt. Stevenson to

note.

W. 29/2/43

The Sub. Insp. (Det.)

Respectfully noted.

E. A. Gatehouse

22-2-43. D/Sgt.

The Insp.

80 Hall.

22-2-43. 5/mon.

The Sub. Insp. (Det.)

W. 29/2/43

W. 29/2/43

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

[Police—100A.
S.39/60

Police-station : Detective Office, Auckland.

Date : 15 th February , 194 3

REPORT of Det.Sergt.E.A.Stevenson , No. 2627

relative to Desmond de Renzy - employment of.

I respectfully report that on 15.1.43 the Manpower Officer at Auckland directed de Renzy to take up work as a clerk in the office of the New Zealand Co-Operative Dairy Co. at Hamilton. de Renzy appealed against being sent away from Auckland on the grounds of the support of his widowed and blinded Mother .. The appeal was heard on 27.1.43 and was subsequently dismissed.

On the 9 th inst de Renzy again wrote to the Manpower Office asking for a money advance to enable him to take up the employment.. A rail order was sent to him on the 11 th inst. and he was ordered to report for employment at Hamilton on the 15 th inst.

I have now ascertained that de Renzy did leave Auckland this morning by rail and that he has stated that he is going to the Dairy Co's office at Hamilton.

E. Stevenson

Det.Sergt.

The Sub Insp. Dets.
Auckland.

*The Insp.
De Renzy has
now left for Hamilton.*

*80 Hall
S/mm
68 1/43.
15.2.43.*

*The Insp
Hamilton
Jury
17/2/43*

The Sub Insp. Dets.

On 22.12.42 de Renzy was taken to the military Area Pool office at Auckland and was discharged from the Army as from that date. His uniform and equipment has all been handed in.

Since that date he has been living at home with his Mother at 7 Massey Avenue, One Tree Hill.

He is not yet working; he informed me that he saved up £50 while in the Army and that he would take up civilian employment when he receives his Discharge papers from Army Headquarters.

I have made suitable arrangements with Mr Elsbury, District Manpower Officer to place de Renzy in some industry in which he is not likely to be a source of danger, probably away from Auckland.

If the file is returned I will report accordingly when de Renzy is in employment.

E. Stevenson

8.1.43.

Det. Sergt.

E. Stevenson
8.1.43. *for.*

*The Sen. Sgt.
For inquiry by a Sergeant
please who can ascertain if
de Renzy has taken up
employment at the N.Z. Dairy Coy
also his private address*

10/43d.
HAMILTON

*E. Edwards
Impr 18/2/43*

Sergeant Gatehouse,
For early and discreet enquiries
please.

A. G. M. Hugh
Senior Sergeant
Hamilton 18/2/43

*The Senior Sergeant
Report Permitt
E. G. Galbraith
Sent 19/2/43*

NATIONAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT
(Man-Power Division)

N.S. 18084

P.O. Box 1484, AUCKLAND C.1.

9th December, 1942.

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Officer in Charge,
Police Station,
AUCKLAND C.1.

re: DESMOND DE RENZY.

One of your detective officers saw me yesterday in regard to the abovenamed and I have now had further enquiries made. It appears he was arrested by the Military Police on the 3rd instant and returned to his regiment in Hamilton.

Nothing is known of his transfer to Area No. 1 Pool on leave without pay.

Should you have any further information regarding de Renzy, will you please advise me.

W. J. Davis
DISTRICT MAN-POWER OFFICER.

any 6/8
Det. Sgt. Stevenson

Vide file to your 3rd inst.

80 place
Sub. Insp

11. 12. 42

42/382

Recommendation legislation be passed re internment
of British Subject Desmond, de RENZY

42/382 File is missing as at 27-7-60
above has been taken from O.P. Records of Inward
Correspondence

J.G. 27-7-60

Police Department,
WELLINGTON.

1st December, 1942.

The Superintendent of Police,
AUCKLAND.

The Army Department advises that Desmond de Renzy, the subject of previous secret correspondence from your office, is being transferred to Area Pool today.

De Renzy had written to Army Headquarters stating that he demanded to be court martialled for his past conduct, i.e., the matters previously reported on from your office. He is for that reason considered to be unfit for further service in the Army.

Please have inquiries made as to the nature of any employment de Renzy takes up. It may be possible to make suitable arrangements with the Man-Power Office to have him placed in some industry in which he is not likely to be a source of danger.

[Signature]
Commissioner of Police.



*The Sup
2nd Branch*

Rhara

3/12/42 Supl

*The sub of the
juncture
by 3/12/42*

*1st Sgt Stevenson
80 Hall
S/M
3.12.42*

NEW ZEALAND POLICE

(Distribution)

1000-110

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

(Duplicate.)

[Police—110.]

STORES PURCHASE ORDER.

No. 2020

District Police Office,

*Whangarei**4-12-29*

To

*T. P. Lane Hood**Rawene*

Please supply the following goods, to be delivered to

*Police Str**Rawene*

, and forward invoice for same and this order to me.

Date:

*4-12-29**J. Harny*
~~Superintendent~~ [Inspector] of Police.

Description of Goods.	Number or Quantity.	Rate.	Amount.		
<i>4 sacks chaff</i>	<i>4 sacks</i>	<i>11/-</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>7 bus. oats</i>	<i>7 bus</i>	<i>5/4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>4</i>
		<i>nett</i>			
			<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>

This copy is to be forwarded to the Commissioner of Police, Wellington.

594

S. 39/60

Police Department,
WELLINGTON.

No. 1

26th November, 1942.

~~PERSONAL~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Lieut.Col. Donaldson,
Army Headquarters,
WELLINGTON.

Desmond de RENZY.

With reference to your inquiry concerning Desmond de Renzy and further to the information already supplied to you personally, I forward herewith for your perusal this Department's file relating to Desmond de Renzy. Will you please return it to this office when you have finished with it.

[Signature]
Commissioner of Police.

Commissioner of Police.

*I have to Thank you for making the above file available
for my perusal & return it herewith.*

30 Nov 42.

A.H. Donaldson. Lt Col

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Police-station: Detective Office, Auckland.Date: 23 rd March, 194 2REPORT of Det. Sergt. E.A. Stevenson, No. 2627relative to Desmond de RENZY - alleged sending
information to the enemy. 25

I respectfully report that on the 10 th inst. I went to Army Headquarters, Auckland and saw Captain Russell, Army Intelligence Officer re this file. I brought the facts under notice as instructed but before I had finished Captain Russell referred me to Captain Meikle, in charge of the Army Security Branch at Auckland.. I therefore then acquainted Capt. Meikle with the whole facts of the case. This officer already had some knowledge of de Renzy; as will be seen by the previous file herewith Major Følkes of Wellington had apparently returned that file to the Commissioner's office in May 1941.

On the 17 th inst. I again went to Army Headquarters and I was present at an examination of de Renzy lasting some 2 hours and mainly conducted by Capt. Meikle.. This examination elicited no further information. de Renzy completely adheres to the statement he made to me on 1.12.41.

I understand from Capt. Meikle that he considers that de Renzy is telling the truth in his statement.

I am satisfied that de Renzy is enjoying Army life and that he is not scheming to get discharged. I again respectfully submit my opinion that he has indeed sent information to the enemy in the manner he alleges and that there is a risk that he may even now know of some means of contact to continue doing so.. It is proved that de Renzy is known to the enemy as a source of information here.. He has also (before the war) accepted enemy money, even though it was only £2 or £3 for air mail postage.

Should an invasion of New Zealand be attempted it is not inconceivable that de Renzy would desert and endeavour to contact the enemy. Even from what we know is true (vide previous file) it seems to me that de Renzy is entitled to believe that an invading enemy force would welcome and protect him.

I understand that Capt. Meikle will be reporting to the Army authorities.

I attach herewith particulars of de Renzy's military service.

I have approached the Postal Censor at Auckland regarding censorship of de Renzy's correspondence to his private address. I was requested by the Censor that the Commissioner should ask the Controller of Censorship to impose a general censorship of de Renzy's home address is still 7 Massey Avenue, One Tree Hill. He has no box address as far as I can ascertain and there is no indication that he is still using Russell and Somers box - 1284.

E. A. Stevenson
Det. Sergt.

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

*to have police
have his photo
& advise that he
is not in
allowance of
what
M
+ 941*

The Inspector,

It will be necessary ~~for~~ to request the Controller of Censorship to impose a general censorship on this man's correspondence, please.

S. Adair
S/Insp.
24.3.42

The Insp.

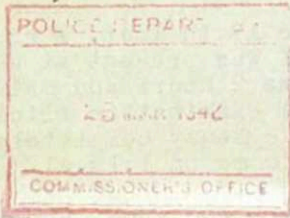
[Handwritten signature]
24/3/42

To the Commissioner

Richard

24/3/42

Supt



The Comm

Censorship arranged accordingly.

A. M. Harding
Det Sgt

26-3-42

21/3/42.

DESMOND DE RENZY.ARMY No. 1/1/1371

DESMOND DE RENZY was called for Territorial service on 20/12/40 and posted to the 2nd Battalion Auckland Regiment. He entered camp at Whangarei on 7/1/41 and was released on the completion of his training on 3/4/41. According to his history sheet and reports by his Company officers, he was an efficient and well-conducted soldier during that period. Nothing was known by his unit of his previous history.

On 22/9/41 DE RENZY was transferred to the 1st Bn. Auckland Regiment for the reason that his place of residence made attendance of parades of the 2nd Battalion impracticable. The 1st Battalion was mobilized on 10/12/41 and DE RENZY proceeded to Avondale Camp. He battalion has now been split up into sub-units which are engaged in manning defence posts of the Auckland Fortress Area.

DE RENZY was called in the 12th (Overseas) Ballot on 2/12/41. In accordance with the usual procedure where a serving territorial is called for overseas service he continues to serve with his territorial unit until he is actually required for overseas.

On 2/1/42 DE RENZY was posted to guard duty at Castor Bay Battery Area, and later at WHANGAPAROA returning to the HILLCREST CAMP, NORTHCOTE on 15/3/42.

~~SECRET~~
NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Subject: Desmond De RENZY - Allegedly sending information to the enemy.

The Superintendent of Police,
AUCKLAND.

Please have the facts of this case brought under the notice of the Army Intelligence Department at Auckland. I think Captain Russell is the officer concerned. If so, Det. Sergeant Stevenson could see him and at the same time ascertain particulars of De Renzy's military service including his Army No. and in what unit he is serving. If De Renzy has a private address or letter box censorship in respect of his correspondence should be arranged.

Under no circumstances is De Renzy to receive a permit to enter on to wharves or shipping.

A. J. Cummings
Commissioner of Police.
6.3.42



The Sup
Det Branch
R. David
7/3/42
Det. Sup
The Sub by (AK)
James
10/9/42

Det Sgt Stevenson
Sgt Hall
S/M
9.3.42

The Sub. Insp. Dets.
Report attached.
E. A. Stevenson.
Det. Sgt.
23.3.42

See Army Area 1

of ~~primary~~ ^{*} ~~Lawton~~

SECRET

S.39/60

[Police-100a.

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Police-station: Detective Office, Auckland.

Date: 11 th December, 1941

REPORT of Det. Sergt. E.A. Stevenson, No. 2627

relative to Desmond de Renzy - allegedly sending information
to the enemy.

I respectfully report that at 11-15 a.m. on date de Renzy came to the Detective Office and informed me that he had this morning received instructions by telegram to report immediately for military service.. He asked me what he should do. He thinks that he will probably be going into Avondale racecourse camp for territorials.

I informed him that he should carry out his instructions from the Director of National Service and he said that he would do this.. He said that he had no aversion to going into camp, or to going overseas.

E.A. Stevenson

Det.Sergt.

The Inspector,

Previous file to your office on the 8th, instant.

S.D. Hall
S/Insp.
11.12.41.

The Supl.

Vide previous papers.

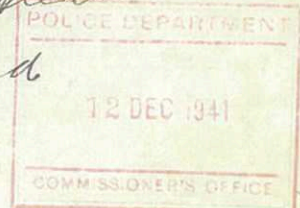
Jameson
My 11/12/41

Iva to the Commissioner

Previous papers to your office on the 8th inst. please.

A. Hara

11/12/41 Supl





In your reply, please
quote this number:

S. 39/60

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WELLINGTON, C. 1.

11th December, 1941.

MEMORANDUM

for

The Right Hon. Prime Minister,
WELLINGTON.

I am forwarding this file, together with previous papers, for your information. Your attention is invited to the memorandum dated 30th May, 1939 addressed to you as Minister in Charge of Police. The circumstances at that time are fully set out in that memorandum, but briefly the position is that Desmond De Renzy, a British subject of 21 years of age, resident in Auckland, has over the past several years been in touch with the Intelligence Services of Germany, Italy and France. This is borne out by letters found in his possession.

When the matter came under notice in May, 1939 it was definitely known that De Renzy had been forwarding information to the German Intelligence Organization, his purpose allegedly being to obtain useful information regarding that Organization, such as addresses through which information was to be sent and pass it on to the British Authorities. He did that. The information forwarded to the Germans was known to be largely the figment of his own imagination and in other cases was no more than what had appeared in the press. You will recall that at the time it was considered the best course in dealing with the matter was to firmly warn De Renzy of the foolishness of his conduct and endeavour to take steps which would prevent his continued correspondence with overseas sources.

On the 1st instant, this young man, who until recently had been employed by the shipping firm of Russell and Somers Ltd., Auckland, which firm are agents for Japanese line vessels, called at the Detective Office at Auckland and stated that since he was previously interviewed by the Police he had received two further letters from the German Intelligence Organization as a result of which he said he became alarmed, and, in accordance with the directions in one of the letters, decided to send some information by Japanese vessels through the German Consul at Tokio, the writer having indicated that if war broke out in the meantime that he should send information through the Consul at Tokio. He claims that on four occasions since the outbreak of war he has handed letters to the master or an officer of a Japanese vessel when it called at Auckland addressed to the German Consul at Tokio. His letters have contained information regarding shipping movements. He has supplied the names of some of the vessels that were loading at the time and indicated the approximate date of their departure and the nature of their cargo. He also gave information of troop movements and of the movements of warships. Inquiries show some inconsistencies in his statement, but the fact that he has sent information does appear beyond doubt. One of the vessels referred to in his letter was the "RANGITANE", the date of her departure

...

being indicated. As a Customs clerk De Renzy has been in possession of a wharf pass which, of course, has since been recovered from him. He has resigned from his position with the firm of Russell & Somers Ltd.

The position at the moment can only be regarded as very serious. Although the evidence of his having forwarded information through Japanese sources arises out of his own statement only it is probable that a Court, having regard to all the circumstances, would convict him. From every point of view, however, a prosecution is not desirable if there are any other means of satisfactorily restraining this man and that apparently can only be done by the introduction of an emergency regulation similar to that in force at Home under which he could be detained. I recommend that that course be taken.

Commissioner of Police.



NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Subject: Desmond De RENZY alleges that he has been sending information re shipping movements to the German Consul at Tokio.

100,000/1/41-14687

Vide attached

The Inspector,

From a perusal of Secret File 39/60, it will be seen that there is little doubt, but that de RENZY was in communication with a German Intelligence Officer.

According to his statement, he has been supplying evidence of an important nature to the German Consul at Tokio.

If his statement is correct, the fact that there are discrepancies can be accounted for, to some extent, that he is relying on his memory, as he did not keep copies of his correspondence or any other notes.

If his statement is false and is only due to his fertile imagination, then he is definitely a dangerous person to have his liberty, as there is no telling when he might divulge information of importance to some person who might be in a position to make use of it.

There is nothing to suggest that de RENZY is mental, and as he has been seen three times since he made the statement, and he maintains that the statement is true, I submit that he is a definite menace and unfit to have his liberty.

(1), 2.6.7 Regulation
1939/121. Regulation
13.(1)-D.

*January
Jy 6/1/41*

Two to the Commissioner

There is no evidence on which to prosecute him except his alleged confession. Part of his confession has been proved untrue viz that relating to information sent about the Starling Castle or Capetown Castle. No Japanese vessel has been here since the visit of the two Castle boats. He has the right of trial by a jury and I do not think his confession which is untrue in part is sufficient to prosecute him on. Publicity given to his statement would cause great alarm. He cannot be induced to admit that he is romancing. He is eligible for overseas service this idea is keeping work in a dairy factory may be a secure exemption. His confession may have been made with the same idea or may be due to effy mania.

The Supt.

This man is a danger whether he has a mental weakness or not - it is clear, at one time he was in touch with the German authorities. On his own admission he has committed a breach of the Public Safety Emergency Regulations 1940/26

*1664 Ball
S Insp.
5.12.41.*

*R. Ward
6/12/41 Supt*

~~SECRET~~

Police-100A.

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Police-station: Detective Office, Auckland.

Date: 4 th December, 1941

REPORT of Det. Sergt. E.A. Stevenson, No. 2627

relative to Desmond de Renzy, alleges that he has sent information re shipping and troop movements to German Consul at Tokio, Japan.

I respectfully report that Desmond de Renzy, a single man, just 21 years of age called at this Station to see me at 5 p.m on the 1 st inst. He made the attached statement in which he alleges that on four occasions between approximately September 1940 and September 1941 he has handed letters to captains of Japanese merchant vessels at Auckland. That is, he has sent four letters altogether, one each to the captains of four Japanese ships.

He alleges that he addressed these letters to the German Consul, Tokio, Japan and that the letters contained shipping information concerning vessels entering and leaving the Port of Auckland and also information about troop movements and Air Force personnel. The letters were intended for transmission to one "A.SANDERS", German Naval Intelligence Officer, formerly of Hamburg, Germany.

To properly appreciate de Renzy's statement and to endeavour to weigh up the truth, or otherwise, of his admissions it must be studied in conjunction with Secret File 39/60.. That file deals with de Renzy's alleged communications before this war commenced with "Sanders" and with British Naval Intelligence, London and with other foreign Intelligence services... Attached to that file are about eight letters from "Sanders", each with its own Air Mail envelope... On searching de Renzy's room after taking the present statement I found another letter from "Sanders", dated 27.6.39, together with envelope bearing the same date and the Hamburg postmark. It will be noted that the paper of this letter is apparently of British manufacture.

If necessary I can produce other information to support the very decided probability that "A.Sanders" is or was a definite identity in the German Intelligence Service and that "Postfach" 629, Hamburg 1" was his address for the ultimate receipt of espionage information.

However, I think that the previous file establishes that so much was a definite fact and that de Renzy had been in communication with Sanders.

The foregoing appears to be somewhat irrelevant to the present matter but perusal of the previous papers will show that it has a definite bearing on the present, as it appears to me that only by consideration of past matters can the truth or otherwise of de Renzy's present admissions be judged.

In connection with his present admissions de Renzy says that he kept no copies or notes whatever of the information that he sent to the German Consul at Tokio.. A search of his room and effects

The Sub Inspector,
Detective Branch,
Auckland.

failed to reveal any actual corroboration that he did actually send the information away as he alleged.

The search, and other inquiries, revealed that his spy and secret service obsession, has persisted since the outbreak of war. I took possession of books of newspaper cuttings and photographs showing this.. I am retaining this material here unless required, but I forward herewith some books and documents having a bearing on the matter.

Since 8.11.37 de Renzy has been employed as a shipping clerk by Russell and Somers Ltd. shipping agents, Customs St East.. His work has taken him on to the wharves almost daily.. There is no doubt that it would have been an easy matter for de Renzy to obtain the information which he alleges he forwarded to Tokio.

I have taken possession of de Renzy's wharf passes issued to him on behalf of Russell and Somers. They are attached hereto. I have also made out a list of ships mentioned in de Renzy's statement showing the period they were at Auckland.. A comparison of this list with the statement will show a number of discrepancies - I mean that some of the vessels were not here at the approximate time that the Japanese vessel was here by which he alleges he sent the information... For instance, in his statement (page 5) de Renzy says that in the last letter he sent - by the "Yamagiku Maru" - (which was in Auckland in the first week of August 1941) he said that the "Stirling Castle" was in port and had loaded a record cargo. Inquiry showed that the "Stirling Castle" was not at Auckland till 16.10.41.. When I went back and questioned him on this point he said that it must have been the "Cape Town Castle" and that it had a number of ex-internees on board... Inquiry showed that the "Cape Town Castle" arrived at Auckland on 25.8.41 - 3 weeks after the "Yamagiku Maru"..

There are other inconsistencies also, but these are not conclusive one way or the other as to the truth of the statement, for it is quite conceivable that de Renzy could have obtained some advance information. Further, in making the statement he says that he is relying on his memory of what he wrote at the time and that he kept no notes or records whatever.

I asked him how it was he had not kept copies, notes or other record of the information he had sent. He said that he had purposely avoided this as he did not want any further trouble as he had had with me before the war (and after) by me unexpected^y going to his room and searching him and his effects.

In this connection, my reports re de Renzy are from 14.10.37 to 16.8.39, but on some three or four occasions after the latter date I made a point of keeping in touch with him, but nothing of particular interest came under notice.. The last occasion I went out to his home was prior to the time he says he sent the first letter to Tokio.

de Renzy lives with his widowed Mother, his sister, age 24 years, and an Aunt, at 7 Massey Avenue, Green Lane-(a State house). His Mother is now completely blind.

His father Thomas George de Renzy, died at Stanley Bay about 6 years ago. Mrs de Renzy informed me that her husband was born at Bradford, England, of English parents. He was educated in France and had no

German blood. It may be of significance that the father was in his 71 st year when the son Desmond was born.

The mother, Emily Jeannie de Renzie, is now 54 years of age. She says that she was born at New Plymouth and that her father was John McKenzie, editor of the "Taranaki Daily News".

There have been no mental tendencies in the family on either side.. Mrs de Renzy and her daughter both informed me that they had noticed a great change in Desmond during the last 4 months or more. He seemed worried, quiet and strange as if something were on his mind.. He has not been acting at all abnormally or showing any mental tendencies... On Monday morning, the 1 st inst. he suddenly told them "that he had been in touch with the German again and that he was going to Mr Stevenson that day to tell him all about it.

It is a fact, to my own knowledge, that de Renzy is an inveterate liar, but on the other hand some of his rather startling statements in the past have proved to be true and the fact that he is a liar and has a mania for espionage and secret service does not necessarily throw doubt on his present admissions.

Except for what has been previously reported by me of actual facts concerning de Renzy and his obsession I have never perceived any real sign of mental abnormality.. Neither have those at Russell and Somers with whom he has come into daily contact.

On 27.11.41 de Renzy handed his written resignation to Mr Heather, Managing Director of Russell and Somers - "owing to illness in the family" and to take effect immediately. He was due for an annual increment to £14 per month salary, less tax, from 1.11.41. On 22.11.41 he commenced his scheduled annual leave and is on it at present. After handing in his resignation he told his Mother and sister about it. They reproached him and he then went back to Mr Heather and asked for his job back. de Renzy apparently told more seemingly petty lies about his reasons for leaving and his personal affairs and finally Mr Heather told de Renzy to come and see him after he had finished his holiday.. He told a girl in the office that his Mother was seriously ill and that he had to take her South, and that he was going to join up with the Free French forces for overseas. He later said that that was all off. He has pictures of De Gaulle and other allied military men on the walls of his room. He also told them at home that he was going to join the Free French forces, that was some months ago.

He has done his work satisfactorily at Russell and Somers, though he is not outstanding. He is well liked in the office and is good natured and conscientious. He has been commonly known as "Fritz" in the office for some 3 or 4 years past, because of his absorbing interest in military, naval and defence matters in general and in things German in particular. He has not shown anti-British or marked pro-German sentiments.

de Renzy is enrolled in the First Division of the National Reserve, No. 237934.

Among the accompanying papers is a photograph of de Renzy with a young woman to whom he has recently become engaged.

Asked why he had the pieces of paper stamped "Naval Base, Devonport" he said he got them in case

he had to bluff his way across across there.

The two Swastika badges, also found in his pockets, he said "were sent to me from Sanders before the war"... It will be seen that they are stamped "Made in England".

The Swastika armlet I found on his dressing table when I searched the room on the 1st inst.

Another envelope (herewith) posted at Hamburg on 21.7.39, Airmail, shows that someone there - presumably Sanders, wrote to de Renzy shortly before the outbreak of war.

The picture postcard of the M.V. "Maetsuycker", addressed to Sanders was no doubt prepared by de Renzy before the war.. The idea of these cards is shown in my previous report.. Before the war whenever de Renzy sent a letter for Sanders to one of the cover addresses in Holland, he had, at the same time to send a card similarly addressed to this one, as a signal to Sanders that a letter had been sent to a cover address.

The black covered reporter's notebook contains entries in de Renzy's handwriting, some of which may be of importance in possible corroboration of de Renzy's present story.

In the small blue 1938 diary are a number of entries apparently written after the outbreak of war. It will be seen that some of these refer to myself. There is also a press photograph of myself in this diary.

The entries in the wallet notebook were apparently all made before the war. Some of these entries would tend to show that de Renzy's present story may merely be the product of his imagination, for instance, on one page he has written "Head Agent, German Secret Service, Australia and New Zealand. Officer D. de Renzy, 17 Bracken Avenue, Epsom, S.2.

The attached letters from M. Despoisse, before the war, purport to be from the O/C French Military Intelligence, see de Renzy's statement dated 6.5.39.

Since taking the present statement I have seen de Renzy on three occasions. Despite careful and prolonged questioning he swears that the statement is the truth.

It is very difficult, even considering all other relevant facts and indications, to form any real opinion as to the truth or otherwise of de Renzy's present admissions.. On the whole I am inclined to believe that he is not romancing and that his liberty should be restricted.. He says that he has not been receiving payment for his information. There is no indication that he has been at all flush with money, though members of the staff with whom he worked have said that he often had a small wad of notes in his wallet. He has not been spending money at all freely and he has no bank account so far as is known. de Renzy said that he has never had more than £8 in his wallet.. He also told me that he thought that he had sent information re the movements of "a good 50 vessels altogether". He said that he came to me because he could not stand the worry any longer. From copies of letters in his room it appears that he has been applying for work in dairy factories in country districts during the past 2 or 3 weeks.

P. T. O.

E. J. Stevenson
Det. Sergt.

5...

I have ascertained from Sergt. Southworth, Queens Wharf Police that de Renzy has not had any separate Police wharf pass issued to him. The only pass he has had is the one issued to him by Russell and Somers and endorsed by the Wharf Police and dated 28.6.40. That pass is the one forwarded herewith.

In making inquiries regarding de Renzy I interviewed Mr Heather, Managing-Director of Russell and Somers and he therefore has some idea of the nature of de Renzy's present admissions. I have informed Mr. Heather that de Renzy would not be again allowed on the wharves under any circumstances..

Mr Heather now informs me that because of the lies told to him by de Renzy for his reasons for resigning he intends to accept the resignation and de Renzy will not again be employed by Russell and Somers.

E. Stevenson.

Det. Sergt.

VESSELS REFERRED TO IN de RENJY's STATEMENT.

PORT OF AUCKLAND.

<u>NAME OF VESSEL.</u>	<u>ARRIVAL.</u>	<u>DEPARTURE.</u>
? Kozen Maru	15.5/40.	16.5.40.
Sydney Maru	8.7.40.	11.7.40.
Naniwa Maru		2.10.40.
Tekoa ?.		
Rangitane	12.11.40.	24.11.40 (Sunk by raider Dec 1940)
Westmoreland	20.10.41. 18.11.41.	29.10.41. 21.11.41.
Surrey	23.6.40. 16.12.40.	30.6.40. 21.12.40.
Monowai		
Canberra Maru	6.9.40.	9.9.40.
Kaipara	24.11.40. 29.12.40.	1.12.40. 1. 1.41.
Limerick	13. 9.41.	19. 9.41.
Hauraki	26. 8.40.	31. 8.40.
Waiotapu	28. 4.41.	30. 4.41.
Yamagiku Maru	2. 8.41.	4. 8.41.
Sterling Castle	16.10.41.	25.10.41.
Johan Van Oldenbarewelt	21. 7.41.	22. 7.41.
Rangitira.	6.11.40. 17.11.40. 17. 8.41. 24. 8.41.	11.11.40. 19.11.40. 18. 8.41. 25. 8.41.
Cape Town Castle	25.8.41.	5. 9.41.

Detective Office, Auckland.

1 st December 1941.

Desmond de RENZY states -

I am a single man, 21 years of age. I was born at Auckland on 30 th November 1920.. I reside at 7 Massey Avenue, Green Lane with my Mother and sister.

I am employed as a shipping clerk in the office of Russell and Somers Ltd, shipping agents, Customs St East, Auckland.. I have been employed by this firm since November 1937.

I was last interviewed by Det.Sergt. Stevenson about 5 or 6 months before the war broke out. I was interviewed about my being in communication with the German Intelligence Service in Hamburg.. As I told the Police at that time I had been in communication with a man named A.SANDERS, Postfach 629, Hamburg 1, Germany.

After I was last seen by the detective I had every intention of forgetting the whole business and having nothing more to do with espionage and secret service. I intended to keep my mind right off these matters. I remember that the detective came out to see me at my home to see how I was getting along.

About a month after I last saw the detective, somewhere about June 1939 I received an ordinary mail letter from Sanders.. It was addressed to me c/o Box 1284 Auckland - Russell and Somers' box. The letter was typed. It thanked me for the letter I had last sent to Sanders, that was many months before, and saying that he could not understand the delay why he had not received more, and presumed that I must have lost the address.. The letter asked me to write again the way I had done previously and to still send him the postcard as a sign that a letter had been sent.. The letter again stated the address in Holland that I was to send letters to.. It was the same address that had been given in the last letter that I received and which I handed to Det.Sergt. Stevenson..

de Renzy

2...

This letter was signed with the usual signature of letters I had received from Sanders - just a pencilled "S". I kept this letter about a week and then I burned it and the envelope.. I did not show it to anyone or tell anyone about it. I burned the letter because I did not want anything more to do with the matter. I did not tell the police about it as I thought it might start more trouble.

Somewhere about a week after then I received an Air Mail letter from Sanders at Hamburg.

Sanders said in the letter that as I could see from the international situation that war was liable to break out any day and when it did I was to send my letters to the German Consul at Tokio. It also said that Japanese ships would carry the letters for me. It did not say who I was to hand letters to.. He said that he always expected my news to come through and was always grateful for it.. The letter was signed with the usual pencilled S.

I burned this letter within a few days. I showed it to ~~no~~one and I told ~~no~~one about it. *R*

I did not answer these two letters and I had no thought of doing so, but about June or July 1940 I received a letter ~~written~~ bearing the Auckland postmark and addressed to me c/o Russell and Somers' P.O. box. *R* The letter was typewritten and it said that I was still expected to keep in touch with Mr Sanders.. It said nothing else and it was not signed. This letter alarmed me and I thought it over for about 2 weeks and then decided that as there was apparently someone in Auckland who knew of me and Sanders I had better send something.. I did not show this letter to anyone and I did not tell anyone about it.

I burned this letter also.

The first Japanese vessel that I sent a letter by was the "Sydney Maru".. This was when it was in Auckland about September 1940. I wrote a letter and addressed it "Dear Sir" and I said that I was sorry that I had not kept in touch with him (meaning Sanders).

deLuiz

I said that I had not had the time to write. I wrote that the "Monowai" had been converted to an armed cruiser, also that the "Niagara" had been sunk by striking a mine. I also gave a list of what vessels were loading in Auckland at the time for England. I do not remember the names of the vessels now. I named a good dozen vessels. I gave an approximate date of when they were leaving Auckland.

This letter just contained information about ships. I signed the letter "D.H.". I had previously signed myself Desmond Henderson when writing to Sanders.

There were three sheets of quarto size paper in the letter. I enclosed it in ~~an~~ a small size white envelope and enclosed that in a plain long manilla envelope. I addressed it by hand "The German Consul, Tokio".

I then went aboard the ~~Tokio Maru~~ "Sydney Maru" and asked for the Chief Officer.. I do not know his name.. I handed the letter to him and pointed to the address. He looked at it and nodded and walked away with the letter. I think that the "Sydney Maru" was at the Princes Wharf.. It was about 12-15 p.m when I went aboard the vessel. I was aboard only about 10 minutes. The following morning the vessel had gone.

Russell and Somers are agents for the Yamashita Line, called the Y.K.K. line. My work as a shipping clerk takes me onto the wharves every day almost.

I have a permanent pass to the wharves, No. 784, issued by Russell and Somers. It was part of my job to keep the firm's record of all overseas vessels entering and leaving the Port of Auckland.

The next Japanese vessel to visit Auckland was either the "Naniwa Maru" or the "Kozen Maru". Russell and Somers are agents for this vessel, belonging to the Y.K.K. Line. The "Sydney Maru" belonged to the Osaka Shosen Kaisha Line. I think the second vessel was the "Kozen Maru". It was about 3 months after the "Sydney Maru".

names forgotten

declassified

On knowing when the vessel was approximately due at Auckland I commenced to get ready a further letter of information.

I gave a list of vessels approximately due at Auckland, what was loading and approximate date of sailings. All the information I sent was correct as far as I knew within a matter of days. I named the "Tekoa", loading in port; one of the "Rangi" boats - I think it was the "Rangitane", loading in port, I said it was produce for London; the "Westmoreland" and the "Surrey", both due from London; I also wrote that the "Monowai" had sailed from port about a week previously. The letter was just concerned with shipping movements.

I addressed the letter the same way as the previous way and went aboard the "Kozen Maru" and I saw the Captain. He was Captain Iwaki. I had genuine business on board the ship, taking the ship's money down, therefore I had to see the Captain. He spoke good English and understood English. I asked him to take the letter for me. He looked at it and grinned, he slipped it in a drawer in his cabin, he said nothing about it.

That gave me the impression that the Japanese officers knew all about receiving letters from someone in Auckland.

The next Japanese vessel that I sent a letter by was the "Canberra Maru".. This was about a fortnight before I went into Territorial Camp at Whangarei, that was 8 th January 1941.

In this third letter, I stated that a vessel named the "~~Kaipara~~ "Kaipara" that had come from Montreal, via New York and was due at Auckland.. I forget the names of other vessels I mentioned.. I know that I always gave the movements of the Matson boats and boats from the Pacific Coast such as the "Limerick", "Hauraki", "Waiotapu".

This third letter did not contain much news about ships because as that time there was less information available about the movements of ships.

For the third letter I saw the Captain, I did not know his name. I saw him on his ship and gave him the letter. He said nothing whatsoever.. I had not received any payment or reply back..

I was then in camp for three months and missed one Japanese vessel.. On leaving camp in April 1941 I resumed my employment on April 9 th. Cargo had then dropped off and the next Japanese vessel at Auckland was the "Yamagiku Maru".. That was about 2½ months ago. She was the last Japanese vessel here.

I wrote another letter and in it I stated that the Dutch ship "Johan van Oldenbarneveld" had brought New Zealand troops back from Australia, also that during the period since my last letter the Dutch vessels "Tasman" and "Maetsucker" had ~~started~~ started to carry New Zealand airmen from Wellington to Singapore. I also said that the Matson boats had started to carry British airmen from Sydney to San Francisco.

I also stated that the "Stirling Castle" was in port at Auckland, I wrote that she had loaded a record cargo. I also mentioned a few other vessels movements, but there were few at the time...

In one letter, I forget which, I mentioned that the "Rangitira" had taken troops to Suva. I was on the wharf when the "Rangitira" left Auckland.

I went on board the "Yamagiku Maru" and handed the letter, addressed as usual, to Captain Baba. He did not say anything about the letter.

This was the last letter I sent, because there have been no more Japanese ships here..

Since that time I have been worrying increasingly about having sent this information out of the country to a country which is Britain's enemy.. I was once pro-German, that was before the war started, when I first got in touch with Sanders.. I consider that I am not pro-German now.. My reason in sending the letters was because I was afraid because someone in New Zealand, probably in Auckland, knew that I had been in touch with Sanders.

de launzi

I was so afraid, that sooner than take the risk of what some persons might do to me I decided to send correct shipping information. I knew that it would be useless to send false information. I have never been threatened by any person.

On Wednesday, the 26 th November 1941 I handed in my resignation to Mr. Heather, senr. Managing Director, of Russell and Somers. I had got so worried that I wanted to get away from shipping matters and Auckland altogether. I intended to get anywhere in the country as long as it was out of Auckland.. I wrote to the Whakatane Cheese Co, for a job there.

I have been getting £11-13-4 per month salary up to November, but am due for a rise to £13-8-0 per month from November.

I got so worried that Mr Heather was wondering why I should leave and my mother and sister could see something was worrying me.. I told then at home this morning that I was coming to the Police to tell them what was worrying me.

I am quite definite that I am not imagining or deliberately making up all the information that I have given in this statement... I am absolutely positive that since the war commenced I have sent four letters addressed to the German Consul at Tokio, each containing information concerning movements of shipping to and from the Port of Auckland.

I have no other worries or troubles whatever, I consider I am mentally sound. There has been no mental trouble whatever in my family... I have been passed ~~xxx~~ quite fit by the Army.

I did not keep copies of any of the letters I sent.... At the times that I sent these letters I realised that I might be endangering thousands of lives but I was hoping that in some way I would be put in touch with

de la Cruz

some enemy agent in New Zealand. If this had happened I would have exposed them to the authorities here straight away.. I also thought that as the information would take at least three weeks to get to Japan from Auckland the ships mentioned by me would be out of harm's way by then, before the information could be made use of by the Germans.

I swear that this is the truth and that no other person knew anything about my sending information out of the country. I myself am entirely to blame. My mother, sister Miss Byrch and all at Russell know the one and all in the dark regarding this matter.

defencey

Witness —

E. J. Stevenson

Det. Sgt.

1-12-41.

*Army Headquarters,
New Zealand Military Forces,
Wellington, C. I.,*

3rd June, 1941

139/60
[Form N.Z.—397.
(Banded in Reams.)

IN YOUR REPLY

11/3

please quote this number.

KF/MB

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Commissioner of Police,
WELLINGTON.

DESMOND DE RENZY

You may like to have some of the following facts concerning the above to place with your file. DE RENZY was called up for territorial service on 20/12/40 and entered camp at Whangarei with the 2nd Bn. Auckland Regiment on 7/1/41 from which he was released on 3/4/41. He was employed in the orderly room of his Company as a clerk. His C.O. Captain H. HUTTON and the officer who had most to do with him, 2nd Lieut. A. CONCHIE, describe him as a keen soldier, very interested in his work and alive and efficient as an orderly room clerk. Their view of DE RENZY was that he was absolutely loyal and serious.

DE RENZY now resides at Massey Avenue, One Tree Hill, Auckland, and is now employed by Messrs. RUSSELL and SOMERS LTD. This firm acts as Agents for a Japanese Shipping Line. DE RENZY is thought highly of by them. He will be 21 on the 20th November and will then, of course, be liable for overseas service to which he is reported to be looking forward.

W. Russell
MAJOR
GENERAL STAFF

MEMORANDUM

for

22nd May, 1941.

Major K. Folkes,
Army Headquarters,
WELLINGTON.

On the 20th instant I received from your office this Department's file relating to Desmond de Renzy. A black exercise book which accompanied the file when it was forwarded to Lieut. Colonel Mawhood on the 13.2.41 has, however, not been returned.

I shall be glad if you will have same forwarded early.

Commissioner of Police.

*Army Headquarters,
New Zealand Military Forces,
Wellington, C. I,*

15th May, 1941

IN YOUR REPLY

.....
please quote this number.

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Commissioner of Police,
WELLINGTON.

I am in receipt of your letter of the 12th instant and I have turned up the papers which had been received by Colonel MAWHOOD prior to my arrival in New Zealand, and I have pleasure in returning the file on DESMOND DE RENZY which you were good enough to send him.

Gordon R. Blyth LT.
FOR MAJOR K. FOLKES
GENERAL STAFF

Encl.

~~SECRET~~**NEW ZEALAND POLICE.**

Subject: DESMOND De RENZY of Auckland - previously in communication with
Foreign Intelligence Services.

100,000/3/40-19783]

Lieut. Col. J.C. Mawhood,
Army Headquarters,
WELLINGTON.

You may be interested in the contents of this file and it is accordingly referred for your information. De Renzy has not come under notice since.

Would you please return these papers at your convenience.

S. J. Cumming
Commissioner of Police.

13.2.41

~~SECRET~~
EXTRACT/COPY/

G.D.D.—11

From (source): Comm. of Police Ak. Reference: _____ Date: 15/7/40
For File No. P.F/ De RENZY, Desmond
Original on _____
Received on _____ Extracted/Copied by _____ On 27/7/60

SUBJECT: Employment of man on secret work at Auckland.

The Superintendent of Police,
AUCKLAND.

I do not consider De Renzy would be a suitable man
to employ on this work.

.....

D. J. CUMMINGS.
Commissioner of Police.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~
EXTRACT/COPY/

G.D.D.—11

From (source): D.O. Auckland Reference: Date: 12/7/40
For File No. P.F/ de RENZY, Desmond
Original on [REDACTED]
Received on Extracted/Copied by [REDACTED] On 27/7/60

Report of.. Detective E.A. Stevenson No.2627
relative to.. the employment of another man for secret
duties in Auckland in connection with subversive
activities.

.....

One of these is DESMOND DE RENZY, the subject of
Secret file 39/60.. This is the young man who in 1938 had
communications with the German Intelligence Service. He is now
about 20 years of age and is still working as a clerk in the
shipping office of Russell and Somers Ltd. In my opinion
he has qualities that would make him successful at this type
of work. The drawback is the risk he would run of being
dismissed from his employment if he became known as a Communist.
A worker in a strong industrial trade union would not run
this risk. De Renzy would be prepared to try to form Communist
contacts. He should not be paid the amount of remuneration
stated in the attached memorandum. He is a single man living
with his Mother.

.....

E. A. STEVENSON.

~~SECRET~~

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

[Police—100A.

Police-station : Detective Office, Auckland.

Date : 16 th August, 1939

REPORT of Detective E.A. Stevenson, No. 2627

relative to Italian Consul, Wellington, inquires of Chief Postmaster, Auckland re lessee of P.O.Box 1284, Auckland.

I respectfully report that on the 14 th inst. Mr Heather, the Managing Director of Russell and Somers Ltd, shipping agents, of Auckland informed me that the Chief Postmaster at Auckland had received a letter purporting to be from the Italian Consul at Wellington.. This letter inquired for the holder of P.O.Box 1284, Auckland.

This P.O.Box is rented by Russell and Somers Ltd and was the address used by a youth named DESMOND DE RENZY in his alleged communications with foreign intelligence services.. de Renzy is employed by this firm.. This matter formed the subject of Secret file 39/60.

On making further inquiries I ascertained that a letter reading as follows was received by the Chief Postmaster.

Wellington.

8 th August 1939.

Dear Sir,

If it is possible I should be much obliged if you could inform me of the name of the holder of Post Office Box 1284 Auckland.

Yours faithfully,
B.d'Acunzo.
Consul of Italy.

The letter was typed on a sheet of paper bearing the printed heading of the Italian Consulate for New Zealand.

In his statement made to me on the 6 th May 1939, on page 5 de Renzy says " ... I also sent a letter to the Officer Commanding Italian Military Intelligence. A draft of the letter I sent is in my Windsor Reporters Notebook, now held by the Police. Drafts of other letters I have sent to Sanders are also in this notebook.. I have had no reply yet from Italy. I wrote there about three weeks ago...."

From the foregoing it now appears that the Italian Intelligence people are now making inquiries of their Consul in New Zealand as to the identity of "Desmond Henderson", c/o Mr D.de Renzy, P.O box 1284, Auckland.

The Chief Postmaster is advising the Consul that the information desired cannot be given.

E. Stevenson
Det. 2627.

The Chief Detective,
Auckland.

Wd. H. Lee, Supt
R. Ward
17.8.39
300,000/8/38-8797

Insp Ward
S. O'Keefe
ether
16.8.39

McCommissioneer
J. Cunningham
Superdy
19.8.39



~~SECRET~~ 39/60.

~~SECRET~~

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WELLINGTON. C. 1. 30th May, 1939.

MEMORANDUM for

Hon. Minister in Charge of Police.

I forward herewith for your information this Department's file regarding the actions of an Auckland resident, Desmond de Renzy, who over a period of several months has been in communication with alien Intelligence Services.

The matter was brought under my notice by the receipt at this office in April last of a letter from an official source in London dealing with matters appertaining to Imperial Security Intelligence, which office advised that de Renzy was in communication with the British Admiralty and claimed that he was in touch with the German Secret Service.

The matter has been investigated, and it appears that de Renzy is a youth of 18½ years of age, born in New Zealand of British parents, employed as a clerk in the office of a firm of shipping agents at Auckland, Messrs. Russell & Somers, and residing with his widowed invalid mother. He has over a period of several years taken an unusual interest in any news appertaining to espionage and accumulated a vast number of newspaper clippings from which it appears that the matter has become a mania with him.

In 1937 two American destroyers visited New Zealand, and while at Auckland were open to inspection by the public, no one being allowed, however, to take cameras on board. De Renzy smuggled a small camera on to one of the boats and took two photographs of certain apparatus, which, with information he obtained from a member of the crew, he forwarded to the British Admiralty.

Early in 1938 de Renzy conceived the idea of making contact with the German Secret Service, and from correspondence in his possession he apparently succeeded. We have recovered from him a number of drafts of letters which he says he sent to the German Agents, and eight letters which were posted at Hamburg in acknowledgment of the receipt of information. In various letters de Renzy was directed to what "cover" addresses he should forward correspondence, and in one letter he was sent an amount equivalent to £1 to cover postage. In a letter dated 28th November, 1938 the writer in Germany makes a tentative proposal that de Renzy visit Germany "to push on our business affairs." These letters with photographic copies are attached to the file.

In September last de Renzy also wrote to the French Intelligence Service and later to the Italian, but up to the present no reply has been received from the latter.

It will be observed from the drafts of the letters which de Renzy admits he forwarded to Germany that he has supplied that country with considerable information regarding defensive activities in this Dominion and Australia. No doubt the bulk of that information has been obtained from the press, and while no doubt some of the details he has supplied are the result of his own vivid imagination the position is, I submit, serious.

De Renzy says he did not intend disloyalty, but was endeavouring to obtain the confidence of the alien Intelligence Services with a view to obtaining cover addresses or other useful detail to be handed over to the British Authorities. It is correct that he has forwarded cover addresses to the Authorities in London, by whom I am advised that one at least of the addresses he has obtained from the Germans is known to be one which is used by the German Secret Service.

In considering the value or worth of any information which de Renzy has sent to Germany it is to be noted that the German Agents have considered it worth while corresponding with him for over twelve months, and after the receipt of several letters from him have made a proposal that it would be worth while his visiting Germany.

There does not appear to be any doubt that the letters allegedly received from Germany have come from the Intelligence Service of that country - that is borne out by the use of the address known to the British Authorities.

The question of whether de Renzy is known to be in touch with members of the Nazi Party in New Zealand has been gone into. It is known that in 1937 he was receiving lessons in German from a prominent Nazi in Auckland, but there is no evidence of the continuation of that association, which fact may be significant.

Early this year de Renzy joined the Communist Party, but his activities in that element have been negligible.

I have sent a letter, a copy of which is attached, outlining the situation as it is now known to the source in London referred to in the second paragraph herein, but it will be several weeks before a reply to that letter can be received.

It may be considered that an offence under the Official Secrets Act 1911 is disclosed, in which case the consent of the Attorney-General is required before a prosecution is proceeded with, but the matter is one in which the Defence Services of this Dominion and Home Authorities are concerned, and you may therefore desire to place the matter before the Hon. Minister of Defence.

Further inquiries are being made regarding de Renzy having in his possession a plan of the Naval Base at Auckland, the result of which with any further communications received from London will be communicated to you.

De Renzy has been advised that under no circumstances should he attempt to communicate further with any alien source, but it is doubtful whether he has sufficient sense of responsibility to refrain from doing so. Even after he was interviewed, he forwarded to this Department a copy of a further letter which he wished to send to Germany.



Commissioner of Police.

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

[Police—100A.

Police-station : Detective Office, Auckland.

Date : 29 th May, 19 39

REPORT of Detective E.A. Stevenson, No. 2627

relative to Desmond de Renzy.

I respectfully report that when I first learned of de Renzy's activities in September 1937 I found that a lad named Gerald Barlow, who was about 18 months younger than de Renzy, was associated with de Renzy in the espionage and secret service activities.

The two were former schoolmates and Barlow was largely under de Renzy's influence and took no part, I am satisfied, in the sending of letters. He played no active part.

de Renzy was then living at Stanley Bay and Barlow at Devonport.

de Renzy's state of mind on this topic is further shown by a letter addressed to Mr Gerald Barlow, which I attach hereto.. I took this letter from Barlow in 1937 when I made inquiries concerning his association with de Renzy.

Of the two letters now inquired about by the Commissioner one was written by Mrs Queenie Barlow, the mother of Gerald Barlow, and the other was written by de Renzy as a sort of preliminary draft reply. I have seen Mrs Barlow and verified this.

The two have not associated for at least 9 months.

The letters only further serve to show de Renzy's obsession on this subject.. They are of no importance.

With regard to the sketch plan of the Devonport Naval Base, Auckland, de Renzy says that he drew it from memory. I quite believe this; I have in my possession other plans, maps and sketches drawn by him, which I will forward if so desired. He says that he has not given or sent a copy of this plan to any other person.

The Chief Detective,
Auckland.

E.A. Stevenson.

Det. 2627.

Insp Ward.

S.O. Hare.

4/11/39.

29.5.39.

2nd Bill Supt

29.5.39 R. Ward

to Commissioner

& Cunningham

Superintendent

29 5 39

Detective Office, Auckland.

27 th May, 1939.

Desmond de Renzy further says

I have been shown two letters by Detective Stevenson.. The letter dated Monday 12 Sept, was received by me in September 1938 from Mrs Q. Barlow, the mother of Gerald Barlow, who was formerly a friend of mine.. We went to school together at Devonport. He is about 18 months younger than me.

The letter signed by me and dated Sept 13 1938 was my reply to this letter from Mrs Barlow.

When I was first interviewed by Detective Stevenson in October 1937 Gerald Barlow was interested with me in spies and intelligence work.

In September 1938 Barlow got in touch with me again. He was then living at Westmere. I got him to sign a paper to say that he would join my espionage organisation and would supply me with information about defence matters and other things like that.. Gerald must have told his mother about this paper.

This is what his mother refers to in her letter.. I send the paper back to Mrs Barlow.

I am not associating with Gerald Barlow at all now.

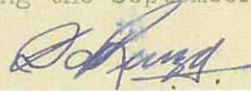
The sketch plan of the New Zealand Naval Base, Auckland was drawn by me.. I did it in bed one night over a year ago.. I was just refreshing my memory of what I knew of the base at Devonport. The plan was drawn entirely from memory.. I have not sent a copy of this plan to any other person at all, either in New Zealand or outside.. The only plan that I ever sent to Sanders was of the American torpedos. The only information I sent to Sanders in Germany about the naval base was about the naval vessels in New Zealand and of the movements of the naval oil tanker "Nucula" during the September crisis last year.

Witness -

E. Stevenson.

Det.

27-5-39.



NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

[Police-100A.

Police-station : Detective Office, Auckland.

Date : 29 th May , 19 39

REPORT of Detective E.A.Stevenson , No. 2627

relative to Desmond de Renzy.

I respectfully report that I have informed de Renzy - on the 27 th inst - in terms of the Commissioner's memorandum attached.

He told me that he has not sent any further letters.

Assuming that the letters from "Sanders" are genuine it is quite possible that the Intelligence people in Germany have now learned from Auckland Nazis of the true identity of de Renzy.

Although de Renzy used the name Desmond Henderson in his letters to Sanders I think that Max Grapengiesser would readily suspect that Henderson was identical with de Renzy, as he taught him German for some months in 1937.

de Renzy agreed to do as I instructed him, but as he is not to be trusted I am making arrangements with his employers to let me know of any foreign mail matter in the firm's P.O. box addressed to Henderson or de Renzy.

The Chief Detective,
Auckland.

E.A. Stevenson.

Det. 2627.

Insp Ward

S.O. Hale

W. H. H.

29.5.39

Had to the Sup

29 R. Ward
5 Sup

29

To Commissioner

J. Cummins

Super

29.5.39



If any reply, please
quote this number:

~~SECRET~~ 39/60.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WELLINGTON, C. 1. 24th May 1939.

MEMORANDUM for

The Superintendent of Police,
AUCKLAND.

With reference to Detective Stevenson's report of the 21st instant accompanying a letter from Desmond de Renzy, please have the latter informed^{ed} that in his own interests it is important that he should not forward any further letters to any of the sources with which he has been communicating, and that he hand to Detective Stevenson any correspondence which he himself receives.

D. H. Cunningham
Commissioner of Police.

Inspector Wood
D. H. Cunningham
Superintendent
27.5.39

The Chief Clerk
Mr. R. Ward
27.5.39
Chief

Mr. Stevenson
S. O. Hall
B. H. Hall
27-5-39

The Chief Detective,
Report attached.
E. Stevenson.
Det.
27-5-39.

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy



If any reply, please
quote this number:

~~SECRET~~ 39/60.

~~SECRET~~

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WELLINGTON, C.1. 23rd May 1939.

MEMORANDUM for

The Superintendent of Police,
AUCKLAND.

Desmond de Renzy.

The attached letters (two) and sketch of the Naval Base at Auckland were among the papers received from your office with the file regarding the above named.

Of the letters one appears to be a draft reply to the other. Please have a further report obtained as to what is behind them, but it is probable that de Renzy has written both.

The sketch is described by the Naval Authorities as being a fair indication of the layout of the base at Auckland. It is one which could have been obtained without difficulty, but it is desired that it be ascertained from de Renzy whether he has sent a copy to any source elsewhere.

Please reply early.

L. J. Hemming
Commissioner of Police

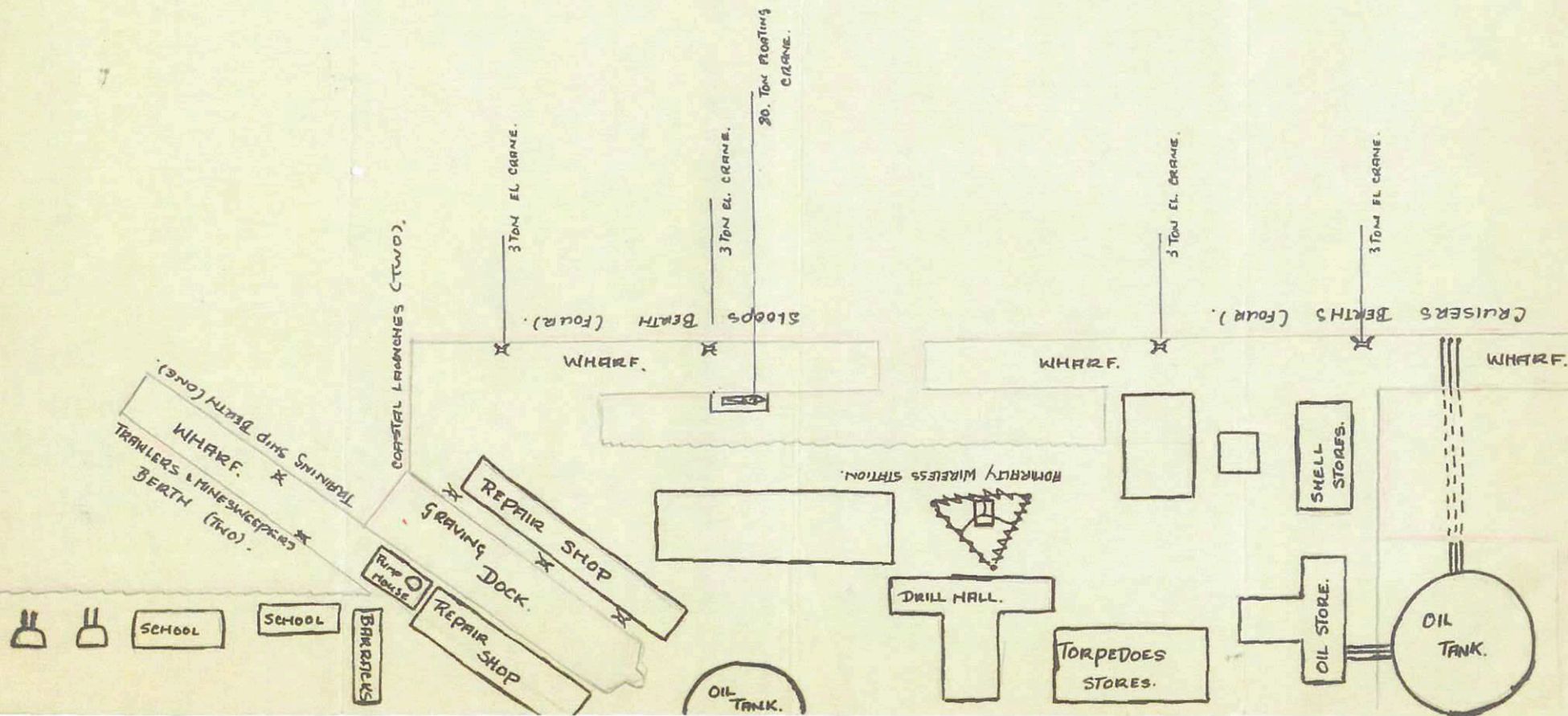
*Inspector
Detective Branch
Documents (3)
attached.
J. Hemming
Superintendent
24.5.39*

*The Chief Det
R. Ward
27/5/39
Supt
Mr. Stevenson
S.O. Hall
L.H. Hall
25.5.39*

*The Chief Detective,
Report attached.
E. Stevenson
Det.
29-5-39.*

THE NEW ZEALAND NAVAL BASE.

ن. FACKLAND جز



23rd August 1937.

Mr Gerald Barlow,
46 Sheltenham Street,
Dunport.

Dear Mr Barlow,

Through information received from
Mr de Benzy, Volunteer Officer and Secretary
of our Anti-Spionage Department, we
learned of late that your movements reported
by Officer de Benzy, are very satisfactory and
I wish to congratulate you for your work.

Spionage work is very
hard, but it is a very splendid way to
serve our King and Country.

I wish to explain to you that you will have
to push on with the German language, as
Officer de Benzy is to be commissioned in
Sector 3A Germany under M13 within the
next year or two, and you will be commissioned
higher up in his position.

You will receive your orders
through Officer de Benzy, and you will report
Mr. Alfred Jackson sub. Secret.
Mr. John Lockfells.

I am,
Yours sincerely
John Hinds

Your movements to him. I must tell you that somehow the information of your becoming a spy has reached our Deutsch friends and they are quite determined to put you out of the way, but you must bear the blunt of it, and Officer has orders to keep you shadowed as much as possible.

I would like to tell you something about the Department I have under my charge

and these are my apps...

1113 - Second Comd. Officer.

Mr. Hartley - Russian interp. 1-1735.

1-246 - Doctor and disguise Officer.

Second Division :-

Secretary of New Zealand Sector of Anti - Espionage Department.

Officer DeBenge - P12.

Mr. Abel Jackson sub. Secret.

Mr. John Lockfells.

I am,
Yours sincerely
John Thinks

These Division :-

- L 662 - Harold Havelock
- L 713 - Gerald Barlow
- H 43 - Karl von Rother.

Officer de Penz has also informed me that you are getting on quite well with your German which pleases me greatly.

In your area there is a woman I wish you to find.

She is :-

about 5 ft 6 ins. tall

Brown Hair.

Sharp features.

usually wears blood red coat and hat to match

or

bright green costume.

Lives somewhere round about Cooper Street or Daterway. Rd.

Report our movements to Officer de Penz.

Thanking you again for your services

I am,

Yours sincerely

John Hinds

Letter written
and sent by
de Perry to
Gerald Barlow.
Gibb



Mr Gerald Barlow,
46 Cheltenham Street,
Dunport.

35 West End Ave
Monday 12 Sept

Dear Des

Re the so called Intelligence Dept.

Gerald has been strictly forbidden by his father & I do have anything to do with it, - I once told you that over the phone well Des unless the paper Gerald signed is returned to us, Mr Barlow is going to take action against those concerned as we have consulted an Solicitor & Gerald being a minor has no legal right to sign anything without his parent's consent. If the paper is returned to us we will let the matter drop but if not we are having the whole thing investigated by the police - we will spare no effort to get to the very bottom of it all. You do not seem to realise the seriousness of all this business. Please see we have the paper before the week end & save a lot of trouble.

Yours faithfully
L Barlow

Received
7 P.M. Tuesday
Sept 13th 1938.
J. Henderson.

Mr Des De Renzy
17 Braekem Ave
Epsom.



17 Blaken Av,
Epsom N.E. 2,
Sept 13 1938.

Dear Mrs Barlow,

Re your letter 12 Sept.
I am extremely sorry that all
this has happened. This affair
came before the authorities about
a year ago, & Gerald was
implicated. As you said
he was told not to associate
with ~~the~~ ^{from the League} again, as they ~~had~~
agreed. About three weeks
later Gerald wrote to me
saying that he was desirous
^{again} of joining the ^(I told him this letter) ~~transaction~~ again.
I saw him in the following
weekend & ^{reminded} told him of
you had told me on the
phone. He said as long as
I am a parent in
bed ill and I am allowed
up until next Monday
with my mother. Gerald
not being a full time

Member received no
order but he was told
all about it and he
agreed ^{at once} to sign for four
pounds a month, payable every
five months.

As I explained, Gerald
signed & I was a witness.
This agreement was then
collected and sent to
the Group Leader in Wellington.
You can see from the
above that Gerald is
intirely at fault &
on no ~~occasions~~ ^{signing of doings} was he
forced into anything against
his ~~own~~ will.

I am a patient in
bed ill and I am allowed
up until next Monday
with ^{no} ~~importance~~ ^{importance}. Gerald
not being a full time

no Telegrams were sent
know one would know. I saw
the Head of the League and
explained to him. He ^{too} ~~said~~
reminded me of what you had
said. I saw Gerald again &
explained but he insisted
and being the time when
members were urgently needed
~~the~~ ^{his} second offer was not
refused. In ~~March~~ ^{April} of this
year a new Group Leader
^{for the NZ Nazi League}
came out from Germany &
seeing that the European
situation was so delicate
all members were ordered
to sign a note agreeing
to supply the Group Leader
with ^{clear} information. Gerald
not being a full time

and so I can do nothing
until then but I assure
you that you shall have
the paper by next
Wednesday ^{you}
~~are agreeable to this~~
~~Not write~~ will you
please ^{write} me phone
29-219 as soon as possible.
Apologizing again for the
trouble

I am,
yours sincerely,
Desmond de Souza

~~SECRET~~

23rd May, 1939.

Colonel Sir Vernon Kell,
Box No.500,
Parliament Street, B.O.,
L O N D O N, S.W.1.

Dear Sir Vernon,

With reference to your letters PF.46886/B.2. of the 18th February and 27th March last regarding Desmond de Renzy, I have to inform you that from the inquiries which have been made it has been ascertained that de Renzy, of whom there was no previous record in this office, is a young man of 18½ years of age, born in New Zealand of British parentage, at present residing with his widowed invalid mother at 17 Bracken Avenue, Epsom, Auckland, and employed as a clerk in the office of Messrs. Russell & Somers, Shipping Agents, Auckland.

de Renzy has been interviewed regarding the subject matter of your letters, and a considerable number of papers were found in his possession from which it is obvious that he is a most irresponsible person possessing what can only be a mania on matters relating to espionage.

It appears that in 1937 when the U.S.A. destroyers "Preston" and "Smith" were in New Zealand waters de Renzy acquired certain information regarding apparatus on those vessels which with relative photographs he forwarded to the British Admiralty.

Early in 1938 he conceived the idea of communicating with the German Intelligence Service. At the time of the interview it was found that he was holding a series of eight letters dated between 4th June, 1938 and 22nd March, 1939, which appear to have been sent to him by the German Authorities in acknowledgment of information he has forwarded to them, including that appertaining to the American destroyers previously sent to the British Admiralty. I forward photographs of those letters.

de Renzy admits that he has sent other information to the German Authorities, and I forward herewith typed copies of notes of draft letters he was holding, the originals of which he apparently forwarded.

It will be observed that de Renzy also wrote to the French and Italian Intelligence Services offering his services on espionage work, but at the time of writing no reply has been received from the Italian Authorities. A photographic copy of the letter received from Paris is attached.

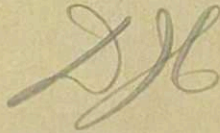
de Renzy asserts that he did not intend disloyalty by his actions, but was endeavouring to obtain the confidence of alien Intelligence Services with a view to serving Britain. Accepting the truth of that motive, I do not consider he is other than a dangerous person, and I question his ability to serve in the manner he has indicated. He has recently joined the Communist Party of New Zealand, but his activities have so far been negligible.

From the mass of papers and notes de Renzy held, including a vast number of press clippings relating to secret service work, there is good reason to doubt his mental stability.

It is known that in 1937 de Renzy received lessons in the German language from Max Grapengiessen, prominent member of the Nazi Group in Auckland, but that association is believed to have terminated two years ago.

The facts are being submitted to the appropriate authorities in this Dominion for consideration of the question of the necessity of taking action against this youth, in which case the secrecy of the information received from you will be fully safeguarded, but it is suggested that it is desirable that the situation as it is at present known be brought under your notice before proceedings eventuate. For that reason this letter is forwarded direct by air mail and your comments invited.

Yours sincerely,



Commissioner of Police.

Copy of draft letter found in de Renzy's possession.

48 Stanley Point Road,

Devonport N.1.

Auckland

New Zealand.

12 February 1938.

The Secretary,
German Admiralty,
Konigse Augusta Strasse,
Berlin Germany.

Dear Sir,

I wish to offer my services to your country as a spy. I am seeking revenge of a friend Eric Saunders who was arrested for Espionage at Singapore by British Police.

I dwell directly above the New Zealand Naval Dockyard and sabotage of naval vessels there can be carried out in perfect safety.

(The concluding portion of this letter was not found, nor one dated 22nd April. These letters are acknowledged by one signed "Sanders" dated 4th June 1938.)



Desmond Henderson, Esq.
48 Stanley Point Road,
Devonport N.I.,
Auckland.
New Zealand.



A. Sanders
Hamburg 1
Postfach 629

4th June 1938.

Dear Sir,

I am in possession of your favours of 12th Feb. and 22nd Apr., the letter one having been sent to the Germanischer Lloyd. I am anxious to acknowledge receipt of these letters as for a long time already you are waiting for a reply. Before going closer into the matter however, I request you to give me an address whereto I safely may send informations of a very confidential nature, for I presume that you do not wish to receive such informations directly.

You can place every confidence in the writer of the present and I do not doubt that we shall manage the business in question in such a manner that you will be entirely satisfied.

Trusting to hear soon from you I remain, Dear Sir,

Yours sincerely

A. Sanders

Copy of draft letter found in de Renzy's possession.

17 Bracken Avenue,
Epsom, S.E.2.
Auckland,
New Zealand,
28th June.

Mr. A. Sanders,

Dear Sir,

I received your letter this afternoon and I thank you for the prompt acknowledgment. The address to where you can send the confidential information is

Desmond Henderson,
c/o. Mr. D. DeRenzy,
G.P.O.Box 1284,
Auckland.

Hoping this will meet your requirements.

I am, in anticipation of an early reply,

Yours sincerely,

Desmond Henderson.

July 22nd 1938

Dear Sir,

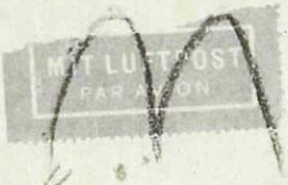
I acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 28th with regard to the proposal made in your letter of Febr. 12th I would say that I shall be glad to maintain contact with you on the basis of item 3) of that letter, i.e. any kind of information about the situation and activities of our competitors. In the proposals 1.) a. 2.) I am at present not interested. If there should be any specific information I require I shall let you know. For the moment there are only one or two questions of a technical nature in connection with one of the plans you sent me. 1.) Is there really a triple screw? 2.) The pressure in the atmosphere appears to be abnormally low. 3.) What is the idea of the bottle containing a chemical?

Please send all letters to the following address:

Miss Nora Newman
c/o Kiosk plein
Den Haag
Holland

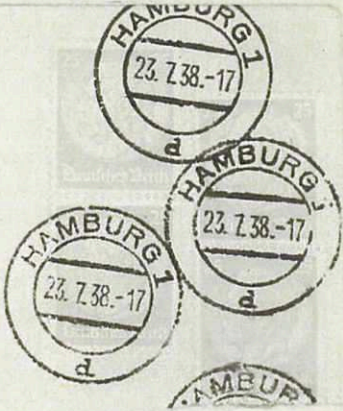
Whenever you have written to that address, send me a picture postcard to my address just with a word of greeting and your initials

Yours truly
W. J. J. J.



Mr. Desmond Henderson
c/o Mr. D De Renzy
GPO Box 1284
AUCKLAND

NEUSEERLAND !



Copy of draft letter found in de Renzy's possession.

Desmond Henderson,
c/o Mr. D. De Renzy,
G.P.O. Box 1284,
Auckland,
New Zealand.

Mr. A. Sanders,

In reply to your letter dated 22 July I am extremely sorry the plans were not to detail. All information was obtained from Mr. Peter Meyer Cadet of the Preston. Please find enclosed all details which we managed to secure and I hope these will meet your requirements. Re your agreement - I shall report all unusual activities which may develop.

Yours sincerely

Sgd. Desmond Henderson.

Appendix.

1. The Triple Screw:- this is the result of extensive research by the Pearl Harbour Torpedoe Staff the idea so far as we were able to gather was to decrease the telltale stream of Bubbles. The propeller running at about 2,000 revs per minute, the first two revolving clockwise and the outside revolving Anti-clockwise. Each prop is set $\frac{1}{3}$ ahead of the other so when in rotation it represents a Y Y.
2. The Airchamber:- this contains half or to $\frac{5}{8}$ of the volume of the torp. The skin is made of $\frac{1}{4}$ " steel when charged increase diameter $1\frac{5}{8}$ The pressure is about 2,600 lbs per square ins.
3. The Bottle:- This was taken from the mine plunger brass tipped strikes the glass jar smashing it, the acid instantly seeping into the charge.

25th October 1938

Per Luftpost

Dear Sir,

I am in possession of your kind letter of 5th Sept. and your postcard of 11th Sept. for which I thank you. Both have given me much pleasure and the business report really was of great interest to me. Should there be any more queries yet I shall write you again shortly and I hope that in the meantime you will continue to inform me regularly, as was agreed upon.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that it would be advisable not to mention neither your address nor my name in the letters you are going to write.

Besides, our mutual friend Nora has removed her residence and for the time being her new address is still unknown to me. If however you want to send her a few lines I am almost sure that your letter will reach her under the following address, but you need not mention her name, the address being quite sufficient.

Address: Mr. Stephan Al. Bintinger
23 Stadhoudersplein
Den Haag

I think it would be better to send everything by air-mail in the future; otherwise it would take too much time. I am quite willing to reimburse you from time to time the postage which will have run up in the meantime.

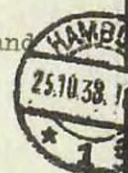
Awaiting your esteemed news I am with kindest regards

Yours faithfully

Sander

4

Mr. Desmond Henderson
c/o Mr D De Renzy
GPO Box 1284
Auckland / Neuseeland



Copy of Draft letter found in de Renzy's possession.

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing the latest and future movements of the British Forces in the Pacific.

28/9/38.

Appendix:-

1. The entire Australia Navy is prepared for a 4 months cruise.
2. All Australian reservists have been ordered up for 7 months service.
3. The Australia Army has been brought up to the War Emergency Standard.
4. The New Zealand Navy has been ordered to dry dock and take aboard supplies for a 4 months cruise.
5. The movements of concentration are noticeable in the New Zealand Army.
6. The New Zealand Air Force has just received the second batch of Oxford Air Speed Bombers 7 in number.
7. The R.F.A. Tanker "Nuculei" is taking in oil and will proceed to an unknown destination in the Pacific.

23rd November 1938

Dear Sir,

I thank you very much for your favours dated 28th Sept. and 14th Oct., containing some valuable reports covering the time up to this day. The continuation of such reports in the same manner is therefore desired by us.

In the meantime you no doubt will have received my Air mail letter of 25th ult. and I therefore presume that from now on we shall receive the mail by the route therein indicated.

Please omit every name etc. in your letters !

Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain, Dear Sir

Yours faithfully



Mr. Desmond Henderson
c/o Mr. D. De Renzy
P.O. Box 1284

AUCKLAND / Neuseeland
=====



Copy of draft letter found in de Renzy's possession.

G.P.O.Box 1284,
Auckland,
New Zealand
9 Nov.1938.

Mr. Sanders

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter 25th October for which thank you and I wish to report the following

1. The returned Labour Government is negotiating with Britain for the supply of 250 more planes. They will be used for Coastal defence.
2. The Australian Government has purchased the cruiser "Apolo" for their Navy and renamed her "Hobart".
3. Enclosing 1938 estimate of the New Zealand Military Strength.

I am enclosing also clippings re manufacture of guns in Australia for New Zealand, U.S.S.Navy and the arrest of a "spy" at the Naval Auckland.

I am yours sincerely

D. Henderson.

28th November 1938

Dear Sir,

Judging from the correspondence carried on with you hitherto we have every reason to believe that it might considerably push on our business affairs if a personal meeting with you could be arranged in a not too far future.

We don't know however your other business engagements nor whether you are in a position to be absent from New Zealand for a certain time. Perhaps you will be kind enough to supply us with detailed particulars regarding your other commercial activities and to let us know at the time the approximate amount of the travelling expenses for a journey from New Zealand to this place and back again. Kindly state also how long you may be able to stay away from there without prejudice to your own interests. We hope soon to hear from you on this subject by air mail in order to give our decision whether we are prepared to bear the charges of such a trip.

To conclude we revert once more to our air mail letter of 25th ult. in which we gave you an address in the Hague. The firm in question being financially embarrassed just now we would ask you no more to write to this address. Within the next few days we will let you know a new address under separate cover.

Looking forward to your kind news, we remain,

Yours faithfully
J.

Mr. Desmond Henderson
c/o Mr. D. De Renzy
P.O. Box 1284
AUCKLAND / Neuseeland



12th December 1938

Dear Sir,

We have received your business report of the 9th inst. which arrived by air mail. The newspaper about the market there are of great interest to us; we would ask you however in future to inform us in which newspaper and on which day the reports in question were published.

Your informations with regard to item 1) and 2) were also of interest to us, but pieces appertaining to item 3) were not enclosed.

Supplementing our respects of Nov.28th please apply to

Mr. Hans Friedrich Sutor
Gevers Deynootweg 67
Scheveningen/Holland

To conclude we renew our request kindly to omit in your correspondence every name, address and signature.

Yours faithfully



Mr. Desmond Henderson
c/o Mr. D. De Renzy
P.O. Box 1284
Auckland
=====

NEUSEELAND



Copy of draft letter found in de Renzy's possession.

2 January 1939.

Dear Sir,

I wish to report the following.

The New Zealand Government has purchased two motor torpedo boats fully equipped for service in Auckland.

The Australian Government has passed a New Naval Programme details of which are:-

1. A total spending of £33,000,000 over a period of three years.
2. The building of two Tribal Class Destroyers at the Cockatoo Base, Sydney.
3. The building of twelve motor torpedo boats at Cockatoo.

Re your letter 28th November I am afraid I can give you nothing definite about the date of sailing and expenses until the manager returns from America at the beginning of next month.

D.R.

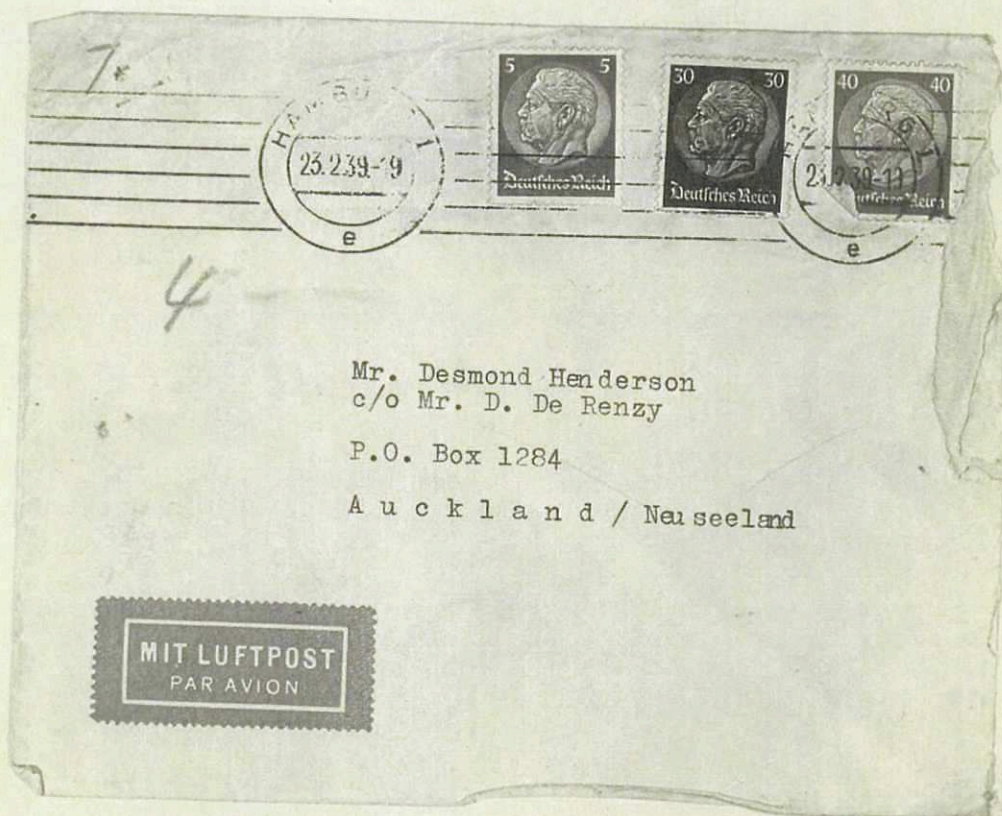
22nd February 1939

Dear Sir,

I very much appreciate your letter of January 7th and thank you for the respective informations given to me regarding market fluctuations.

With respect to my letter of Nov. 28th I shall be pleased to await your further news.

Yours sincerely



10 Feb. 1939.

Dear Sir,

I wish to report the following;

The first consignment of 30 Bren Machine Guns from the order of 200 has arrived, the rest are to be delivered over a period of four months.

Seven from the order of 30 light tanks are due to arrive in Wellington next month.

The N.Z. Government has approved of the Air Ministry plans to supply New Zealand with six flights of the new Hawker Hurricane Mono-plane fighters and Australia has placed an order for 100 of the same planes.

The largest aerodrome in New Zealand is under construction at Hobsonville, Auckland. The foundations for seven concrete hangars 700 feet by 200 feet wide to house the new Vickers Wellington Bombers which will arrive in May have just been laid down. The men are working day and night and the drome will be ready for use by June 1939. I am at present working on a detailed estimate of the New Zealand Air Strength and when finished I will forward on to you. In conclusion I have a piece of commercial news that I think is worthy of your attention.

The Holland-Australia Line has instructed its agents throughout Australia and N.Z. to urge importers of Continental goods to ship their cargoes by Dutch Ships in preference to German.

I am

Yours sincerely

D.R.

March 22nd 1939

Dear Sir,

We tender you our best thanks for your kind favour of the 23rd February, contents of which have had our best attention.

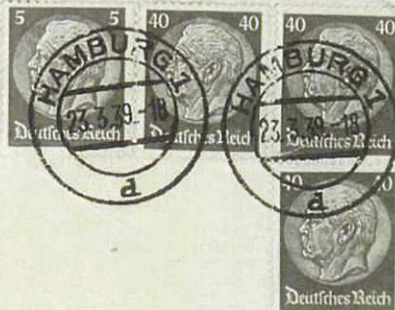
Enclosed please find £ 1.-- aus reimbursement on postage amounting to 12/8. The surplus amount you will please use to cover your further postage expenses.

Kindly take note that our representative in Holland has changed his address in the meantime. His new address is:

Haarlemschestraat 6
Scheveningen

Looking forward to your good news, we remain, Dear Sir,

Yours truly



Mr. Desmond Henderson

c/o Mr. D. De Renzy

P.O. Box 1284

Auckland /Neuseeland



Copy of draft letters found in de Renzy's possession.

19 April 1939.

Dear Sir,

I wish to thank you for your kind letter of March 22 duly acknowledging the pound and I wish to report the following:-

1. The Minister of Defence, Mr. Jones, accounced today that New Zealand will receive a further supply of aircraft numbering 250 including Gordon-Hart bombers Vincent-Hart general purpose aircraft and Vildebeest Torpedo bombers, the first batch already being en route. This will bring New Zealands first line strength to 460 planes.
2. The de Havilland Aircraft Corp. is erecting a factory at New Plymouth for the object of producing general purpose planes for commercial and Defence needs.
3. The Australian Government announces that by Jan 1940 Australian Aircraft factories will have an outturn of 850 planes yearly.
4. All New Zealand Public Works Department men numbering 24,000 are undergoing training and they are to be formed into a mobile corp in event of a nat emergency.
5. The submarine H.M.S.Phoenix from the China Station has arrived in Australia and will be attached to the Australian Squadron for an indefinite period.

I shall forward by next mail particulars relating to your letter of the 28 November.

I am

Yours sincerely

D.R.

P.O.Box 1284,
Auckland,
New Zealand.

The Officer Commanding
Italian Military Intelligence
Rome, Italy.

Dear Sir,

I wish to offer my services to you as an Agent. I am
of Italian descent and wish to do my bit for Italy.

It would be extremely strategic to have an informer in
the South Pacific for I could advise you on the movements of Naval
vessels, troop and aircraft of Australia and New Zealand in time of war
and in peace.

I dwell directly above the New Zealand Nava Base and I
have friends in both the Army and Air Force.

Trusting to hear favourable from you in the near future,

I am Dear Sir,

Tours sincerely,

Desmond di Renzie

Copy of draft letter found in de Renzy's possession.

P.O.Box 1284,
Auckland
New Zealand
2 January 1939.

Mr. Despoisse
149 bis rue St. Charles
Paris - 15e

Dear Sir,

I wish to thank you for your kind letter of the 17 November and I hold it an honour to be able to serve my country in this way. Re your query of how I met Mr. Sanders this was done through a Herr M. Grapengeisser, Group Leader of the Auckland Division of the New Zealand Nazi League of which I am a member. Mr. Sanders has several agents operating in New Zealand. The Chief Centre for the German Secret Service has been changed from the firm of Miss Nora Newman to the firm of Stephan Al Binting, 23 Stadhoudersplein Den Haag, while a third agency under Mr. Hans Friederich Sutor, Gevers Deynootweg 67 Scheveningen Holland, has been formed.

I shall in all probability be leaving for Berlin within a month to attend a meeting of the "Gestapo" for the purpose of discussing the development of the service in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.

To conclude I wish to add that of any fresh developments occur I shall inform you at once.

Again thanking you,

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

De de Renzy.

Paris, November 17, 1938

My dear Mr. de Reuzy,

I appreciated very much the feelings you were kind enough to express in your letter of Septembre 28, at a particularly painful moment to my family and myself.

Since you do not forget your kinship far away, do believe, I shall be always pleased to hear from you and be kept informed about anything concerning yourself.

By the way, under which circumstances did you meet Mr.A. who figures at the top of your European acquaintances? Does his business house extend its activity up to your place? It is quite far, though!

Please,note below the address of one of our distant relatives, who will be kind enough to forward your letters, when I am myself away, which happens quite often.

With many thanks,

Yours very sincerely,

DESPICISSE
149 bis rue St Charles
PARIS - 15e

Mr.DESMOND de REUZY
G.P.O. Box 1284
AUCKLAND
New-Zealand

Nouvelle Zélande



Mr. DESMOND de REUZY

G.P.O. Box 1284

AUCKLAND

New Zealand

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

[Police—100a.

Police-station: Detective Office, Auckland.

Date: 21 st May, 193 9

REPORT of Detective E.A.Stevenson, No. 2627

relative to DESMOND de RENZY - letters to Naval
Intelligence Division, Admiralty, London.

I respectfully report, further to my previous reports re de Renzy and Secret file 39/60, that I received the attached letter and enclosure from de Renzy today.

It will be seen that de Renzy asks me to supply him with the address of one Hans Frederick Sutor in Holland.. This was the last "cover" address that de Renzy received from "Sanders", the supposed representative in Hamburg, Germany, of the German Naval Intelligence service.

The main file re de Renzy, Secret 39/60, was forwarded by me on the 10 th inst.

Concerning the attached copy of the further letter that de Renzy intends to send to "Sanders". I attached two newspaper cuttings to which paragraph 1 refers.

The second paragraph is a piece of meaningless "filling" that de Renzy says he includes in his communications.

The third paragraph is also a news item that I have seen in the local press.

The fourth paragraph is in answer to "Sanders'" letter No.5, forwarded by me with his other letters.

This copy of a letter which de Renzy proposes to send to "Sanders" is probably a fair sample of all the previous similar letters he has sent, and from which the type of information sent can be judged.

However, as I took away his "cover addresses" among other documents he is unable to send the letter.... The address he inquires for is the subject of the attached part file Secret 39/60.

The Chief Detective,
Auckland.

E.A. Stevenson.

Det. 2627.

Insp Ward
S.O. Hall
et al
22. 5. 39

Ad to the Supt

to Commissioner
27/5/39
Superintendent
23. 5. 39

R. Ward
Supt

NEW ZEALAND HERALD
10-5-39**PACIFIC DEFENCE****AUSTRALIA'S ROLE****TASK IN EVENT OF WAR****MUNITIONS MANUFACTURE****AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION**

[BY TELEGRAPH—OWN CORRESPONDENT]
WELLINGTON, Tuesday

The Australian armament and defence organisation is proceeding rapidly, according to Sir Colin Fraser, of Melbourne, who arrived at Wellington today by the Wanganella. Sir Colin, who is chairman of directors of the New Zealand Petroleum Company, Limited, was appointed to advise the Federal Government on mineralogical resource aspects during the recent defence discussions in Australia.

Eleven shadow factories had been established recently in Australia to manufacture munitions of war, said Sir Colin. Australia was rapidly approaching the stage of being entirely self-supporting in this respect. In the event of war she was undertaking to defend the whole of Australasia and the East, as far as Hongkong, and including New Zealand.

**SIR COLIN FRASER**

The manufacture of war aircraft was being carried on by a private company, in which he himself was interested, with a factory at Fisherman's Bend, on the Yarra River. Production started last March, within a year of the undertaking being launched, and in a few months the factory would be producing machines at the rate of two or three a week. The aeroplanes were of American type adapted to British standards and to Australian conditions and requirements. They were of the fighter-bomber type, with a speed of 230 miles an hour, or well over 300 miles when diving to deposit their bombs. They were named "Wirraway," that being an apt aboriginal word meaning challenge.

Sir Colin said that if oil was found in Taranaki or Poverty Bay it would solve one of the most serious problems of Australian and New Zealand defence, the likelihood of this essential war munition being cut off in an emergency. New Zealand was handier to Sydney and Melbourne as a source of oil than any of the world's existing oilfields.

N.Z. HERALD
16-5-39.**ROBOT BOMB****INVENTORS' CLAIMS****ABLE TO PURSUE TARGET****ELECTRONIC CONTROL**

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]
SYDNEY, May 11

Two young Queensland engineers claim to have invented an aerial bomb which can pursue a moving target over any course, whether zig-zag or circular, overtake, and destroy it; follow a target around a room; and be controlled so accurately on its earthward flight that one of two ships can be hit even if they lie side by side.

The robot bomb, or aerial torpedo, is the product of two years' research by Messrs. Valtan Wall, aged 37, and Richard Blakeway, aged 35, of Brisbane, industrial engineers. The idea occurred to them while they were experimenting with electronic science in the remaking of X-ray apparatus.

The engineers' own story of the invention is that since early in 1937 they have been working under the supervision of the Defence Department, which advised them not to put on paper their plans and specifications, and which placed a military guard on the engineering plant where they worked at night.

Repelling Invasion by Sea

Before this precaution was taken, the lock of an inner office of Mr. Wall's workshop was tampered with, and the office at Mr. Blakeway's garage was entered and all his private papers were ransacked.

The constituents of the bomb are a secret, but the inventors claim that it is principally for repelling an invasion by sea, although in certain conditions it could be adapted for land bombing. They point to the fact that an ordinary bomb dropped from an aeroplane doing 200 miles an hour 11,000 feet up, does not fall sheer, but must be released at least three miles from its target.

The inventors say that their robot bomb, although there is no radio control or magnetic influence determining its course, can be controlled through predetermined discrimination, so that it would score a direct hit on any vessel aimed at.

Minister Expresses Doubts

So positive is the electronic control, they insist, that the bomb can be governed within itself to pursue a moving target even though the target may change its course or follow an erratic one.

The inventors are disappointed with a statement of the Minister of Defence, Mr. G. A. Street, to Parliament that, "while there is no doubt as to the theory of the principle employed in the invention, there is considerable doubt as to its application in actual bombing from aircraft." They are willing to have tests carried out to prove that what they say is true.

19 May 1939,
P.O. Box 1284,
Auckland.

Dear Sir,

I wish to inform you that I am writing to Mr. Sanders and I enclose herewith a copy of the letter. I would be obliged if you would forward to me the new address of Mr. Hans Friedrich Sutor as I have no letters to refer to.

I would like also to know, when it is convenient, as to what the Admiralty intends to do about the trip, as you will note in the letter to Mr. Sanders I have quoted the approx. fares and I am sure they will send a prompt reply, for they have been awaiting this information since the 28th Nov. 1938.

I am enclosing a stamped and addressed envelope for the reply.

I am,
yours sincerely,
D. B. R. G.

Received 21-5-39.
G.H.

Copy.

19 May 1939.

Airmail

Dear Sir,

I wish to report the following:-

1. Eleven Shadow factories have been recently established in Australia to manufacture munitions. Please find enclosed clippings from New Zealand Herald relating to same, and new Australian bomb. Dated 9/5/39 and 16/5/39.
2. The latest Fort equipment from England was officially tested out last week and they were an utter failure. The Tide detector which should have ~~record~~ recorded a rise and fall of six feet, only recorded one. The new range finders have been proved most unsatisfactory and useless under moderate conditions.
3. The first batch of new Wellington Bombers for New Zealand will leave England on June 10th; they number five per batch and each batch will be despatched at intervals of two months. These planes will be flown out by New Zealand Pilots.

The cost of fares for a trip to Germany are as

follows:-

Intercolonial Fare (return). A. £20-0-0

B. Sydney to Hamburg
Hamburg to Sydney

Approximately, plus Gov. Tax: £133-0-0.

The most convenient time for such a trip has not been arranged by the firm, but when this comes to hand I shall let you know.

Yours, Dear Sir,

Yours Sincerely,

D. G.



If any reply, please
quote this number:

~~SECRET~~ 39/60.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WELLINGTON, C. 1. 13th May 1939.

MEMORANDUM for

The Superintendent of Police,

AUCKLAND.

Desmond de Renzy.

With reference to my memorandum Secret 39/60 of the 12th ultimo I forward herewith a copy of a further letter written by de Renzy. Photographic copies of the letters are available at this office if necessary to the inquiry.

Inspector
Detective Branch
J. Cunningham
Depdy
15.5.39

L. J. Cummings
Commissioner of Police.

The Chief Det
R. Harca
Dep
16/5/39



~~SECRET~~ 39/60.

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Subject: DESMOND de RENZY, P.O. Box 1284 Auckland, writes to Naval Intelligence Division, London, re alleged German Secret Service.

100,000/11/30-14051

The Chief Detective,
Report attached.

E. Stevenson.

18/4/39.

Det. 2627.

Book kept by the Superintendent

Inspector Ward,

The original file in connection with this matter was referred to your Office on the 14.10.37.

There appears no reason why de Renzy should not be interviewed. *S. Hall.*

C/Det.
18.4.39.

*Summings
12.5.39*

*The Chief Det
Please have de Renzy interviewed.*

*R. Ward
18/4/39*

The Chief Detective,
Report attached.
E. Stevenson.

10-5-39. Det. 2627.

Supr Cummings.

*S. Hall.
C/Det.*

10.5.39.

*Commissioner
Report and
exhibits herewith
I cannot find
any trace of de Renzy's
file in the secret*

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

[Police—100A.]

Police-station: Detective Office, Auckland.Date: 10 th May, 193 9REPORT of Detective E.A. Stevenson, No. 2627

relative to DESMOND de RENZY, P.O. Box 1284 Auckland, writes to Naval Intelligence Division, London, re alleged German Secret Service.

"Vide attached"

I respectfully report further to my reports dated 14 th Oct 1937 (copy) and 18 th April 1939, concerning the alleged espionage and secret service activities of Desmond de Renzy.

This youth is now 18½ years of age. He is now employed as a junior customs clerk in the office of Russell and Somers, Ltd, shipping agents of Auckland. He is still living with his widowed invalid mother and his aunt Miss McKenzie.. He is now living with them at 17 Bracken Avenue, Epsom.

I have now interviewed de Renzy again and made a search of his room and took possession of the attached letters and other documents... I also obtained from him the attached statement.

Among these documents will be seen a letter dated 22 nd Jul 1937 addressed to ^{from} de Renzy and sent Naval Intelligence Division, Whitehall, London. The story behind this letter was partly covered in my original file of 1937, but to make clear the whole sequence in connection with the present file I had better cover the matter again.

In 1937 two newly built United States destroyer vessels visited Auckland. They were named the "Preston" and the "Smith". On a Sunday afternoon these vessels were thrown open to the public. de Renzy was one of those who went aboard one of the vessels. Both vessels were of the same class.

Because of some recent improvements or inventions on the vessels, visiting members of the public were not allowed to take cameras aboard. This fact is within my own recollection. Cameras had to be handed over at the gangway. When de Renzy went aboard he had strapped to his arm inside his coat sleeve a small camera of the type that is more a toy than an efficient article.

He later told me that he took two photos on the destroyer he visited, one photo of a new torpedo tube and another of a new depth charge or mine laying apparatus.. He then questioned a cadet or rating on the vessel regarding technical details. These technical details, being very scanty, de Renzy added further details from his imagination and then forwarded them to the Naval Intelligence Dept, of the British Admiralty. The photographs were not clear and were of no use... The attached reply from the Director of Naval Intelligence was the result.

It was in October 1937 that I first interviewed de Renzy and took letters and documents from him, in addition to his statement.. He then told me that he would drop such activities as a hobby.

However, the matter of spies and secret

The Chief Detective,
Auckland.

service work must have continued to be a mania with him, for it will be seen from his statement dated the 6th inst. that in February 1938 he wrote a letter to the German Naval Intelligence service in Berlin.

In this letter he said that he wished to become a member of the German Intelligence Service and signed the letter "Desmond Henderson". He enclosed the same details of the American destroyers that he had previously sent to the British Admiralty.

The letter to the German Intelligence Service was enclosed in a letter addressed to Germanischer Lloyd, Berlin (the German equivalent of the British, Lloyds), with a note asking that the letter be forwarded on to the appropriate address.

That this letter to the German Intelligence Service must have reached its destination is shown by letter No.1, air mail from Hamburg, Germany. Please see this letter attached, also seven other letters, apparently all from the same source.

It will be seen that letter No.1 purports to come from - A. Sanders, Hamburg 1, Postfach 629, - the address which is regarded with significance, vide the Commissioner's memorandum attached.

With the receipt of further letters from Sanders, or "S" as the others are signed, de Renzy was supplied with cover addressed in Holland to which he was to forward his communications.. He was told that each time he wrote to the cover address he was, at the same time, to send a postcard with just a plain word of greeting. This was to be sent to Sanders and apparently was intended as an indication that a letter was to be expected.. It seems to be a check on the cover address.

de Renzy says that he sent a total of about 10 letters to Sanders through these cover addresses.. He did not keep a copy of these letters, (I searched for copies but without result), but the nature of the communications and the information they contained is shown in his statement, and in greater detail in the The Windsor Reports Notebook attached, containing rough pencil drafts of letters sent by de Renzy.

It will be seen that the last letter sent to Sanders is dated 19th April 1939.

In the first paragraph this letter acknowledges receipt of "the Pound". This is referred to in Sander's letter No.8.. An English £1 note was sent to de Renzy to cover his expenses of air mail postage to Holland and Germany.

It appears from Sanders' letters that the cover addresses in Holland are changed from time to time.

Sanders' letter No 5, dated 28th November 1938 makes the suggestion that de Renzy should visit "this place" (presumably Germany) and that he should send details as to whether he could go and what the return travelling expenses would be.

It seems to me that this letter gives a slight indication of not being genuine. Further, de Renzy took no steps to "take up" the offer. Knowing him as I do this also seems to me to be rather strange.

However, it is clear from the file that he sent this information (letter No.5) to the

Director of Naval Intelligence at the British Admiralty, suggesting that the British authorities should send someone to Germany in his (de Renzy's) place.

de Renzy had previously written a letter to the British Naval Intelligence informing them that he had formed contact with the German Secret Service.

As he did not (and has not as yet) received a reply from the British authorities he sent similar information to the French military intelligence authorities.... To this letter he received a reply from some person whose signature is not decipherable, but which gave an address of one Ms Despoisse in Paris, to whom any further communications could be sent.... Please see this letter attached.

de Renzy has also written a letter to the Italian Intelligence authorities, offering his services in a similar manner to his letters to Sanders, but he has not yet received a reply.

The attached black covered exercise book containing marked newspaper cuttings shows to what an extent de Renzy's brain is obsessed on this subject.

From another of de Renzy's "files" attached hereto, it will be seen that he has contacted the Auckland Section of the Communist Party. Concerning this he tells me that he has joined the Communist Party on his own initiative, merely to see what it is like and thinking that it might be useful to him someday.... I can say from my own knowledge and observations of him that he does not possess Communist sympathies.... In this respect I might say that his highly developed traits of secrecy and duplicity added to his mania for work of this nature would make him a valuable police agent in this respect, were it not for the other most unsatisfactory features disclosed in this report.

The letters from Sanders, whoever he may be, appear to be genuine, although it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that he has had them sent to himself from some "pen friend" he has formed in Germany. The letters all bear the Hamburg postmark.

The pencilled drafts of the letters in the reporter's notebook are in de Renzy's handwriting.

It can be seen that the motive governing de Renzy's actions in sending the information he has to Sanders was to act as a sort of "double spy", that is to endeavour to gain the confidence of the German Intelligence so that he might give himself "a boost" with the British Intelligence by sending information to them, as for instance, the cover addresses.

I am satisfied that he has no anti-British sentiments, although his actions and letters might at some time, conceivably be of use to some potential enemy of Britain or the British Commonwealth.

I am satisfied that since the events disclosed in the previous file (1937) he has had no further contact with Max Grapengiesser or the German Club, Auckland.

E. J. Mervin
Det. 2627.

Detective Office,

Auckland.

6 th May, 1939.

Desmond de Renzy says ...

I am a single man, age $18\frac{1}{2}$ years. I was born on 30 th November, 1921.. I reside with my widowed and invalid mother and my aunt at 17 Bracken Avenue, Epsom. I am employed as a junior shipping clerk in the office of Messrs Russell and Somers, shipping agents, Customs St East.

I was born in Auckland. My father was British. He was a mine manager and he died about 3 years ago at the age of 84 years...

I left school at the age of 15 years. My last 2 years at school were at Takapuna Grammar School.

When I left school I got a job with a man named Woolnough, making wringers.. I was employed there when I was first seen by Detective Stevenson about September 1937.

At that time I was questioned by the detective about sending through the post two letters, one to a German named Grapengiesser and the other to a Miss Fisher. These letters were about spies and secret service matters.. As I admitted at the time the whole of the story I told at that time was fictitious and was all made up by me because my my intense interest in all matters pertaining to spies and secret service matters.

I remember, that in my statement of October 1937 I told the detective about some technical information that I had sent to the British Naval Intelligence branch at London concerning torpedo tube and depth charge apparatus on the U.S.S. destroyers "Preston" and "Smith" that visited Auckland. I subsequently received a letter from the Director of Intelligence Division at the Admiralty acknowledging this information.. This is the letter now shown to me by the police.

After I was interviewed by Detective



Stevenson at that time I did not send any other letters of the same nature that I had sent to Grapengiesser and Miss Fisher..

However I was still as keen as ever in my interest concerning spies and secret service work.. For about six years this has been almost my only hobby. In a way it is almost a mania with me.. I am especially interested in reading everything I can about spies and secret work and I cut out and keep any magazine and newspaper articles at all of this nature..

In February 1938 I got the idea of trying to get in touch with the German Naval Intelligence service in Berlin.. I had the idea of trying to get the addresses of their secret agents and then forwarding them - the addresses - to the British Intelligence Service at London.

To this end I wrote a letter to German Admiralty Intelligence in which I said that I wished to become a member of their service. I also enclosed copies of the same plans and data of the American destroyers "Preston" and "Smith" that I had previously sent to the British Intelligence. I enclosed this letter to the German Naval Intelligence in another envelope addressed to Germanischer Lloyd in Berlin. I enclosed a note asking them to forward the enclosed letter to its address.

I got the address of Germanischer Lloyd from the usual books to be found in a shipping company's office.

I signed my letter to German Intelligence in the name of Desmond Henderson. At that time I was living at 48 Stanley Point Rd, Devonport.

As I received no reply to this letter I wrote again in April 1938, saying that I was disappointed in not having heard from them..

Late in June I received a reply from one A. Sanders, Hamburg 1, Postfach 629. The letter requested me to send an address where information of a very confidential nature could be sent.

Edmund

This is the letter from Sanders which I have marked "I" on the envelope... I then wrote to Sanders again at Postfach 629 Hamburg, Germany, saying that any letters could be sent to me - Desmond Henderson, C/O D.de Renzy, P.O.Box 1284, Auckland... This P.O.Box is Russell and Somers' box at the Chief Post Office, Auckland...

About six weeks later I received letter No2 from Sanders. This one is dated the 22 nd July 1938. This letter instructed me to send all my communications to a cover address - Miss Nora Newman c/o Kiosk Flein, Den Haag, Holland. Also, whenever I wrote to the cover address I was to send a picture postcard to Sanders with just my initial and a word of greeting.. I presume that this was to let him know that I had forwarded a letter.

I have received in all eight letters from Sanders, but his address Postfach 629 Hamburg was only given on the first one.. Most of the letters were merely signed "S".. When I wrote I signed my letters "D.H."

In letter No 5, dated 28 th November 1938 the suggestion was made that I should visit Germany with the inference that travelling expenses would be paid by Sanders, or whoever he represented.

I replied and said that it was inconvenient at the moment for me to leave New Zealand but that I would let them know later.

The day after I received letter No.5 from Sanders I wrote to the Director of Naval Intelligence, at the British Admiralty and told them of Sanders' letter and suggested that the British authorities should send someone in my place. That is to Germany..

Before this I had previously written to Director of British Naval Intelligence and told them of Sanders and of the cover addresses in Holland of Miss Nora Newman and Stephen Al Bintinger.

I have not received any reply to my total of five letters I have written on this matter to

D. Renzy

the Director of Naval Intelligence, British Admiralty.

Because I received no reply from the British authorities I wrote on 28 th September 1938 to the Officer Commanding, French Military Intelligence.

I received a reply to this letter telling me to forward any further letters to Despoisse, 149 bis rue St Charles, Paris - 15e. I have since written three more letters to that address. These letters were similar to the ones I wrote to British Intelligence.

Altogether I have written about ten letters to Sanders through the Dutch cover addresses.

In these letters to Sanders I have given all sorts of information.. I have sent information about the arrival in New Zealand of bombing planes, tanks, Bren machine guns. Also particulars about additions to the Naval squadrons in Australia.. Some of the information I have got from newspapers, some from ship's manifests that I have seen in the course of my work, and some from my own imagination..

The following is a fair sample of the type of letters I have sent to Sanders -

"GPO Box 1284, Auckland
New Zealand
9 Nov 1938.

6 "Mr Sanders,

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter 25 th October for which I thank you and I wish to report the following.

1. The returned Labour Government is negotiating with Britain for the supply of 250 more planes. They will be ~~be~~ used for coastal defence.
2. The Australian Government has purchased the cruiser "Apolo" for their navy and renamed her "Hobart".
3. Enclosing 1938 Estimate of the New Zealand Military Strength.

I am enclosing also clippings re manufacture of guns in Australia for New Zealand, U.S.S. Maury; and the arrest of a "spy" at the Naval Base Auckland.

I am,

Yours Sincerely,
D.H.

My idea in sending letters of this nature was that it was of no use sending all fictitious information that was obviously false, therefore I had to send a certain amount of apparently genuine information.

[Handwritten signature]

I could not see any harm in sending this information as a good bit of it had appeared in the newspapers.

My idea was to keep in touch with Sanders and the German Intelligence so that they would continue to send me the cover addresses, which I could then supply to the British and French authorities.

I also sent a letter to the Officer Commanding Italian Military Intelligence. A draft of the letter I sent is in my Windsor Reporters Notebook, now held by the police. Drafts of other letters I have sent to Sanders are also in this notebook.

I have had no reply yet from Italy. I wrote there about three weeks ago.

I was also going to write similarly to the Japanese Intelligence authorities, but could not find an address to send the letter care of.

I am pro British and I certainly have not sent these letters with any idea of betraying British interests to foreign powers... I thought that perhaps I could be of more help doing this than by just joining the territorials.

I do not remember saying in one letter to the British Intelligence that I had joined the New Zealand Nazi League. If I did say this it is not true. I have read something about this League in the "Standard" newspaper and in the "Workers Weekly".. I do not go to the German Club.. I have meant to write and ask Sanders for an introduction to the Nazi League in New Zealand, but I have not done so.

About six months ago I got in touch by letter with the Auckland Section of the Communist Party. I made inquiries about joining the Party. I am not really a Communist sympathiser but I thought I would join to see what it was all about.. I thought it might be useful if I went abroad, perhaps to Russia, some day.

I eventually went to the Communist Party office in St Kevins Arcade, Karangahape Rd and there saw the Secretary Jack Locke and another man named Smith, who said he was a boilermaker who worked at Fraser and Sons, Stanley St, Auckland.. Smith said he was the Party Organiser of the Grey Lynn branch..

I paid one shilling entrance fee and I was told to go along to the Druids Hall, Newton every Thursday night where City group meetings would be held.

I have not been along to any meetings. I have not had time. I did not tell Smith or Locke that I was corresponding with a Fascist power, or that I had ever been interviewed by the police about spies or secret service work..... I read the "Workers Weekly" occasionally. I intend to go along to Communist Party meetings when I have time, just to see what it is like.

Letter No 8 was the last one I received from Sanders. It is dated the 22 nd March 1939 and signed "S". In this letter was enclosed an English £1 note, sent to cover my postage expenses.. Each time I wrote to the Dutch cover addresses by Air Mail it cost me 2/- for postage. The postcard to Sanders cost 1/- a time.

I have spent the English £1 note.

The change of address notification contained in this letter No 8 I forwarded to the British and French Intelligence services, on or about the 24 th April by registered mail.

The only other person who knows anything about me writing these letters and of my replies from Sanders is my cousin Douglas Storey. He lives in the same house as me. He has taken no part at all in my activities. He used to go into my room and read my correspondence. Now I lock the door of my room.

DeRuyter

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

[Police—100A.]

Police-station: Detective Office, Auckland.Date: 18 th April, 193 9REPORT of Detective E.A.Stevenson, No. 2627

relative to Desmond de Renzy, P.O.Box 1284, Auckland, writes
to Naval Intelligence Division, London, re alleged German
Secret Service.

I respectfully report that Desmond de Renzy is well known to me. He is now about 17½ years of age.. The attached copy of a report submitted by me on 14 th October 1937 will explain what I know of him.

I also attach some of his plans, data and letters found by me in his room when I searched it on the occasion referred to in my report. These merely serve to show the type of youth he is.

Since I submitted my original file on 14 th October 1937 I have not seen anything further of it.

De Renzy is now employed as a clerk in the shipping office of Messrs Russell & Somers Ltd, Customs St East, Auckland. He is doing well and is thought a lot of by the firm's management.

Through his occasional talk about espionage and secret service matters in connection with Germany he is jocularly known in his office as "the Nazi spy".

P.O.Box 1284 Auckland, referred to in the attached Memo, is the box of Russell and Somers Ltd.

I am in touch with Mr Hughes, the Manager of this firm and he will let me know of any foreign mail for de Renzy delivered through the firm's P.O.box.

I would suggest that I again see de Renzy and again examine all documents and literature in his room.

It may quite likely be that he has established foreign contacts gained through shipping addresses learned through his work.

In his letter to the Admiralty dated 19 th Sept, 1938 - vide copy attached - de Renzy says that he joined the New Zealand Nazi League.. Secret file No.38/90 shows that such an organisation does not exist. From inquiries made in Auckland I am also satisfied on this point myself.

De Renzy has told those with whom he works that he is a member of the German Club, Auckland. To my knowledge this is not true.. The copy of my report referred to above shows that he is known to the leading Nazis here and they certainly would not have such a dangerous youth, from their point of view, as a member of the Club.

This lad has a most remarkable mania for espionage and secret service work.

E.A. Stevenson
 Det. 2627.

The Chief Detective,
 Auckland.

C O P Y
NEW ZEALAND POLICE. [Police—100A.]

Police-station: Detective Office, Auckland

Date: 14 th October, 193 7

REPORT of Detective E.A. Stevenson, No. 2627

relative to Desmond de Renzy, age 16 years 11 months, sends
letters re alleged espionage and secret service activities.
"Vide attached"

I respectfully report that on the 3rd September 1937, Mr Max Grapengiesser, the Secretary of the Auckland German Club, handed to me the letter attached to the back of this file and marked "A" by me. Mr Grapengiesser had no knowledge of the person who purported to have sent the letter. The letter was delivered to him by hand by a youth named Desmond de Renzy, to whom he was teaching the German language at 2/6 per lesson, but of whom he otherwise knew little.

I obtained from Mr Grapengiesser the attached statement. He informed me that the letter was all nonsense to him and that it was not interested in the offer it contained.. He stated that his opinion of the letter was that it was either genuine, or that, what was more likely, that some person was trying to "frame" him with the authorities as a German national engaged in espionage.

However, I am satisfied that what Grapengiesser actually thought about the letter was that I was behind the sending of it. He suspects that for some 3 or 4 years past I have been officially interested in him as one of the Nazi group in Auckland. It was on the advice of Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt, the leader of the Nazis here that Grapengiesser brought the letter to me.

After consulting the Chief Detective Hall and Inspector Ward I got Grapengiesser to reply to the letter, saying that he was interested in the offer and suggesting an appointment.. However, no subsequent reply was received.

While still engaged on inquiries with a view to establishing the identity of the sender of the letter referred to above, another similar letter in the same handwriting came into my possession... This letter was sent by registered post to Miss F.F. Fisher, of 17 Waterview Rd, Stanley Bay.. The letter is attached and is marked "B"... The subject matter of the letter was absolute nonsense to Miss Fisher although it slightly alarmed her.

Inquiries made by me at the Defence Dept and at the Naval Base, Devonport, also at the Navy Dept, Wellington, showed that what information the two letters contained that could be checked up had no foundation in fact.

After I received the second letter it became still more obvious that the youth Desmond de Renzy had something to do with the sending of the letters.

However, I obtained copies and specimens of his usual and natural handwriting and these appeared to be totally different to the handwriting of the two letters, "A" and "B".

The Chief Detective,
Auckland.

Desmond de Renzy is almost 17 years of age. He resides with his widowed, blind and almost invalid mother and an aunt, at 48 Stanley Point Rd, Devonport.

I visited the youth's home and on making an examination of his room I found a large volume of literature, notes, plans and maps, all showing ample evidence that he had an absolute obsession for collecting all sorts of information concerning defence works, navies, air fleets and more particularly, about spies and intelligence work generally.

A remarkable collection of books and notes is now in my possession and a great deal of what they contain is the product of the lad's most ingenious imagination.

I have shown all this material to Commander Tinley, Officer-in-charge, Naval Base. He informed me that there were two matters mentioned in the lad's books which he regarded as secret information though he could not say that the essential details were correct. The first matter was particulars of fortifications and defence at the Singapore Naval Base. The second was details of ships on the New Zealand Station that are ready to take up service as armed merchant vessels, or "Q" ships as de Renzy calls them in the book.

In the light of what I now know about the whole matter I believe that these two matters are not secret and the particulars are incorrect and valueless.

de Renzy is a lad of a most secretive nature and probably the most outstanding trait in his character is a remarkable duplicity. As an instance of this the following is an example. He has been employed in Auckland for some 18 months and during the whole of that time he has told his mother and aunt that he has been employed by the Twigg Engineering Co. In the course of inquiries I found that this was untrue; he has never been employed by this firm. He is the only employee of a man named Woolnough who manufactures wringers at 32 Fanshawe St.

He has also told his mother and aunt a circumstantial story about doing work in his spare time for a British Secret Service officer.

eventually

When I ~~finally~~ interviewed de Renzy this was also the story he told me and persisted with in some 4 or 5 interviews I had with him.

He denied that he had written the letters to Grapengiesser and to Miss Fisher, but said that he recognised the handwriting as that of a Major Hinds, whom he said, he had known for about 2 years. He said that at first he thought that this Major Hinds was a British Intelligence Officer, but later he learned "the horrible truth" that Hinds was head of an "international spy ring" engaged in collecting and selling to various nations, information re defence and espionage matters.

I have attached hereto a pencilled letter from de Renzy to his friend Gerald Barlow, a schoolboy age 15 years. This letter gives an understanding of de Renzy's vivid imagination. The story he told me was almost identical.

Finally, de Renzy broke down on his story, mainly because he could not keep check on the lies he had previously told and also because of mistakes in spelling occurring in the letters.

He admitted that he had written the two letters A and B, and the only reason he could give was that

he supposed that his hobby of secret service work had "got too far ahead of him". Please see his statement attached.

Also see samples of his different styles of handwriting, written quickly and flowingly, in my presence.

From inquiries I have made about de Renzy and from my own observations I would say that the youth does not yet appear to have any tendencies towards crime, but with such potentialities for clever false pretences and forgery he is certainly worth knowing about.

His father Thomas George de Renzy, now dead, was convicted at the age of 80 years, of charges of theft and false pretences, vide P.G.1931/725.

On page 3 of his statement de Renzy refers to certain information that he sent to the British Admiralty. This is correct. I have the Admiralty's (Director of Naval Intelligence) reply now in my possession, bearing the seal of the Admiralty and enclosed in two envelopes in the correct regulation manner in connection with secret matters. I am informed that the information that he sent, concerning torpedos on United States destroyer vessels, is probably correct.

One of the books in de Renzy's possession but now in mine, is a copy of the International Signal Book for the Mercantile Marine, issued by the British Board of Trade. This is a book that is carried by all merchant ships. This particular book was published in 1899, and there is of course, nothing secret or confidential about it and there is nothing particularly strange in a copy of it being in possession of a civilian. I am informed that such an old edition would have been discarded years ago.

However, on the front cover of the book is a piece of paper bearing the following words - "Admiralty Code Book. Intelligence Office. Auckland Branch XXV. War and Foreign Office London E.C.1."

This was put on by de Renzy and he had this book in mind in making the offer contained in the letter he sent to Grapengiesser.

I have informed Mr Grapengiesser and Miss Fisher and the Officer in charge, Naval Base of the result of inquiries.

De Renzy has not committed any offence to warrant further police action.

E. J. Stevenson

Det. 2627.

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

[Police—100A.

Police-station: Detective Office, Auckland.

Date: 13 th April, 1939

REPORT of Detective E.A. Stevenson, No. 2627

relative to application for file re Desmond de Renzy,
alleged secret intelligence agent.

I respectfully report that on the 14 th October 1937 a report submitted by me concerning one Desmond de Renzy, alleged secret intelligence agent, was forwarded to the Inspector.

I now make application for this file in connection with a secret inquiry.

My report, referred to above, was not treated as secret, it is probably filed in Auckland.

Th. Chief Detective,
Auckland.

E.A. Stevenson.
Det. 2627.

Insp Ward,

Will you please let me have this file?

S. H. Hall.
C/Det.
13.4.39.

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy



If any reply, please
quote this number:

~~SECRET~~ 39/60.

~~SECRET~~

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WELLINGTON, C.1. 12th. April 1939.

MEMORANDUM for

The Superintendent of Police,

AUCKLAND.

Forwarded herewith are copies of two letters addressed to the Director, Intelligence Division, Admiralty, London, by one Desmond de Renzy, P.O. Box 1284 Auckland. The writer is unknown to the Home authorities and there is no previous record of him at this office. His knowledge of the address Box 629 Hamburg is regarded with significance and indicates that he has acquired some definite information of value.

Please have careful inquiries made regarding de Renzy's identity. If necessary he might be interviewed but it is to be borne in mind that proceedings may have to be taken against him later. The question of whether he should be interviewed is one which you might determine when other inquiries have been made.

In the letter dated 19th September reference is made to the New Zealand Nazi League. No organization of that name is known to exist, but in that connection I am forwarding for your information file No. Secret 38/90 relating to a bogus advertisement inserted in a daily newspaper in Wellington on the 28th May 1938.

Inspector Ward
& Cunningham
Superduty

13. 4. 39 Mr. Stevenson

The Chief Det

S. O. Hall
13. 4. 39

13/4/39 R. Ward
Super

L. J. Cunningham
Commissioner of Police.

S. I. B.
FILE

Ref.11/3.

GS.EW.

P.O. Box 775,
WELLINGTON, C.1.

29th December, 1942.

MEMORANDUM for

Capt. Meikle,
AUCKLAND.

re DESMOND DE RENZY.

I have received from G.S.O.1(I) a memorandum, dated 28th instant, concerning the above-named, in the following terms:-

"In reply to your memo. GS/MB of 24th Dec. '42, the above was transferred to Area 1 Pool on indefinite leave without pay on 22 Dec. 42.

The matter has been discussed with the Police Department and this Headquarters will be informed from time to time as to his general behaviour and activities."

K.S.
MAJOR. G.S.
DIRECTOR, SECURITY INTELLIGENCE.

INTERNAL MARKETING DIVISION.

MARKET PRICES — APPLES AND PEARS.

PERKINS & SONS, LTD.

Distributor.

AUCKLAND

Town.

Date.

16-9-40

VARIETY.

RANGE OF MARKET VALUES.

Extra Fancy.

Fancy.

Commercial.

Velis.

1

13 £10-7-6

3 £2-8-0

1 17/6

3 16/

4 17/.

2 16/6

2 16/.

1 15/.

3 14/

Signature.

W. H. Elshy

RAW

M.J.T.F./EV8.

D.312/5/186/G

Army Headquarters,
WELLINGTON, C.1.

28 Dec 42

29 DEC 1942

REFERRED TO

11/3

The Director,
Security Intelligence,
WELLINGTON.

237934 DESMOND DE RENZY

In reply to your memo GS/MB of 24 Dec 42, the above was transferred to Area 1 Pool on indefinite leave without pay on 22 Dec 42.

The matter has been discussed with the Police Department and this Headquarters will be informed from time to time as to his general behaviour and activities.

W. Moffat Major
fa Lt.-Col.
GENERAL STAFF

B/U 14/1/43

2/10/46

Confidential

REFERENCE: GS/MB

WELLINGTON
24th December, 1942MEMORANDUM FOR:The D.C.G.S.
Army Headquarters,
WELLINGTONFOR ATTENTION DIRECTOR OF MOBILISATION
237934 PRIVATE D. DE RENZY

I enclose copy of report upon the abovenamed which has been forwarded by this Organisation to A.A. & Q.M.G. 3 Div. upon request.

This man has been a recurring anxiety to me for over a year and while I consider that he is safer in the Army than at large I think that it is vital to ensure that his Army employment is of safe character and on a Station where his opportunities of indulging his passion for collecting military information are strictly limited. As the accompanying report, I think, establishes, he should not be regarded as suitable for overseas service.

May I be advised in due course as to the decision arrived at regarding DE RENZY's final disposal?

MAJOR. G.S.

DIRECTOR, SECURITY INTELLIGENCE

ENCL.

[REVERSE COPY]

This document is classified

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

[Form N.Z.—399.
(In pads 100.)]

In your reply
NDSIB/948/
Please quote this number.

HEADQUARTERS.

NORTHERN MILITARY DISTRICT,

P.O. BOX 152,

AUCKLAND.

MEMORANDUM FOR:

11th December, 1942.

Major K. Folkes,
P.O. Box 775,
WELLINGTON.



237934 - PRIVATE D. DE RENZY - 3rd DIVISION,
2nd N.Z.E.F.

I enclose a copy of a report upon the abovenamed which I furnished to the A.A. & Q.M.G., 3rd Division, upon request.

It appears that the action which I have suggested with regard to him will be taken but I advise you of the position in case the matter is referred to you by the Minister of Defence.

Attached to my report are 3 pages of green paper. These represent my draft in which you will note that certain matter appears which was not included in the fair copy. I omitted it firstly because the report was over-long and secondly because it was not directly relevant to the simple question of whether he was to be retained in the Expeditionary Force. It may however be useful if any argument arises regarding DE RENZY's final disposal. He has been recurring anxiety to me for over a year and while I consider that he is safer in the army than at large I think also that it is vital to ensure that his army employment is of a safe character and on a station where his opportunities of indulging his passion for collecting military information are strictly limited. I am not clear myself as to what more can be done to restrain him but you may be able to devise something more effective than I have been able to think of.

H. H. H.

CAPTAIN
NORTHERN DISTRICT S.I.B.

ENCL:

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

*acknowledgment
any further
possible
Army
of
further
on
file
this
for
inclusion in
Bulletin
1943*

10/12/42

237934 - PRIVATE D. DE RENZY

DESMOND DE RENZY was born in New Zealand on 30/11/20 and is now therefore 22 years of age. Before he joined the army he lived at Massey Avenue, One Tree Hill.

His father, THOMAS GEORGE DE RENZY, now deceased, was born in Bradford, England, and is a British subject. Little is known of the father except that he is remembered as a somewhat odd character, that he was convicted in 1931 on a charge of obtaining money by false pretences and that he was 70 years old at the time of DE RENZY's birth, a fact which may have some significance in estimating the son's mentality and character.

DE RENZY's first and only employment after he left school was as office boy to RUSSELL and SOMERS LTD., shipping, customs and insurance agents of 33 Customs Street, Auckland. This firm states that DE RENZY, while in their employment, was a constant source of trouble, always at loggerheads with other members of the staff and in other respects unreliable. He had proved himself to be an imaginative liar and had also constantly provoked his fellow workers by pro-German utterances. He was a complete crank on the subject of naval vessels, their armaments and equipment and spent much time in seeking and recording information concerning them. He left the firm on 22/11/41 and would not be re-employed by them under any circumstances.

On various occasions since 1937 DE RENZY has provoked police suspicion and inquiry. He has come under security notice at various times since March 1941. The first suspicion concerning him developed from incidents which disclosed that he had an intense and persistent interest, amounting almost to a mania, in espionage and intelligence activities.

DE RENZY first attracted attention in 1937 when two American destroyers visited New Zealand. Contrary to an express prohibition, he smuggled a small camera on board one of these ships, took certain photographs and forwarded these, together with information derived from a member of the crew, to the British Admiralty. In the light of what has subsequently transpired, it appears that DE RENZY, although at that time only 17 years of age, was even then picturing himself in the role of an intelligence agent.

Apparently as the result of the discouragement from these activities which he then received, he conceived in 1938 the idea of making contact with the German Secret Service and he did in fact succeed in this intention. In that year the police recovered from him copies of letters, which, in the name of DESMOND HENDERSON, he admitted sending to German intelligence agents. The police also found in his possession 8 letters from a German intelligence agent. They bore Hamburg postmarks and acknowledged receipt of information from him. In these various letters DE RENZY was given secret "cover" addresses to which to forward his further communications and in one he was sent an amount equivalent to £1 to cover postage.

In a letter dated 28th November 1938, [says a police report,] his German correspondent made a tentative proposal that DE RENZY should visit Germany "to push on our business affairs." The copies of the letters which DE RENZY admits having forwarded to Germany show that he supplied that country with a considerable amount of information regarding defence activities in New Zealand and Australia and, [as the police recorded at that time,] it is to be noted in estimating the value to his German correspondents of such information as he supplied that they considered it worth while not only to correspond with him for a period of over 12 months but to suggest to him a visit to Germany. That the letters received by DE RENZY are in fact authentic is confirmed by advice from the British Secret Service that the address from which they emanated was one known to them as a "cover" address used by German Intelligence.

In September 1938 DE RENZY also wrote to the French Intelligence Service offering his services and at a later date to the Italian Intelligence Service making the same proposal.

In both 1937 and 1938 DE RENZY was warned by the police to desist from these activities.

It is also known of DE RENZY that in 1937 he was receiving lessons in German from a leading Nazi in the Auckland Group and that he attended at the German Club, Auckland, which was then a Nazi circle. He subsequently sent a letter to MAX GRAPENGISSER, a Nazi-German who has since been interned, offering him a secret code book of the British Admiralty. Inquiry since then has proved that this book was a copy of the International Code of Signals but also that it was out of date at that time and therefore of no value. Whether DE RENZY knew this when he made his proposal is not clear.

DE RENZY was also reported to have related a variety of stories about his being in touch with international spies but the results of inquiry into them suggested that these were largely fictitious. Nevertheless, investigation did establish that he had got together an extensive collection of maps, plans, books, cuttings and other notes dealing with ships, warships, defence measures, espionage and intelligence work generally. Much of the information which he thus recorded was of such a kind as would be available to casual inquirers and a considerable amount of it would probably already be known to foreign intelligence agencies but it seems certain that not all that he recorded nor all that he communicated would be already known to the enemy or without value to them.

In 1939 DE RENZY also joined the Communist Party but [police] inquiry did not show what his object was in doing so or that his activities in that sphere were significant.

In May 1939 DE RENZY was the subject of a report by the Commissioner of Police to the Minister in Charge of Police. The police view at that time was that, although DE RENZY had been advised to desist from any further

communications of the kind in which he had been engaged, it was doubtful whether he had a sufficient sense of responsibility to accept this advice. He had, in fact, even while under police inquiry, submitted a draft of a further letter which he wished to send to Germany. The Commissioner of Police suggested that DE RENZY's case might be referred to the Minister of Defence. No action was taken against him and for a time at least he appeared to have abandoned his previous activities.

In December 1941 DE RENZY again attracted attention by a voluntary statement to the police that on four occasions between September 1940 and August 1941 he had handed to captains of visiting Japanese merchant vessels, letters addressed to the German Consul at Tokio and containing local shipping and defence information. No actual corroboration of his statement could be obtained but under close cross-examination his story remained unshaken while his previous history and other known facts tended to confirm it.

At this date DE RENZY had already done some military service and it is at least possible that the information which he had communicated may have included some of a military character which would be of definite value to the enemy. He had been called for territorial service on 20/12/40 and had been posted to the 2nd Battalion, Auckland Regiment, with which unit he was in camp at Whangarei, from which on 3/4/41 he was marched out on completion of his training. According to a report from his unit he performed his military service satisfactorily, giving no trouble and attracting no attention. On 22/9/41 he was transferred to the 1st Battalion, Auckland Regiment, on the ground that his ordinary residence made attendance at parades of the 2nd Battalion impracticable. The 1st Battalion was mobilised on 1/12/41 and it was in the interval between his period of intensive training and his mobilisation that, according to his own statements, he sent his communications to the German Consul at Tokio.

DE RENZY served with the 1st Auckland Battalion first in Avondale Camp and later in the Auckland Fortress Area. On 2/1/42 he was reported as being at Castor Bay Battery Area and was later transferred to Whangaparaoa but upon Security representations he was withdrawn on 15/3/42 to Hillcrest Camp. The Security view at this time was that, provided that DE RENZY was not employed in any defence area where he could obtain fresh information of an important kind, he would be under more effective supervision in the army than out of it.

DE RENZY had been called in the 12th Overseas Ballot on 2/12/41 but, in accordance with the usual procedure where a serving territorial became liable for overseas service, he continued to serve with his Territorial unit until he was actually required for overseas. He remained with 1st Auckland until 12/8/42 on which date he was marched out to Area 4 for posting to 1st Battalion, Waikato Regiment, and on 26/8/42 he was posted to 3rd Div., 2nd N.Z.E.F.

Interrogation of DE RENZY revealed that, far from being imbecile, he was capable of subtle prevarication and generally much more intelligent than he might appear to a casual observer. Nevertheless his mind seemed to work on lines not quite normal. Much of his reasoning was hard to understand as was also his complete disregard of the warnings which he has from time to time received. There was no doubt that DE RENZY was, as his employers had described him, an imaginative liar. The actual correspondence which has passed between DE RENZY and the agents of foreign powers is sufficiently authenticated but over and above this, he has told many stories of association with spies in New Zealand and other transactions of a like character which cannot be credited. He produced on one occasion an impressive certificate, typed on the headed note-paper of the French Foreign Office and accrediting him as an agent of the French Intelligence Service and as one who had performed valuable service. The signature was that of a high-ranking officer in characteristic French handwriting. Under interrogation DE RENZY admitted, as was suggested by internal evidence in the letter itself, that the whole elaborate document was a complete forgery executed by himself. A great deal else contained in his various statements was similarly proved to be fabricated.

What inquiry has established is that DE RENZY has an intense and persistent espionage mania. It may be that, defeated in his ambition to become a British intelligence agent, he has alternatively indulged his interest by communicating with intelligence services in foreign countries. This however does not appear to be the whole truth of the matter. The fact seems to be that he has irresistible exhibitionist tendencies which impel him constantly to dramatise himself in some remarkable role, and this notwithstanding that he has had repeated official warnings such as must have been accepted by any normal individual and have instantly deterred him from repetition of the activities complained of. Nor has the suggestion of detention, if no other means of checking him could be found, proved effective. It now appears that there is no likelihood of this latter step or indeed of any other effectively restraining action being taken against him and this position may have been recognised by DE RENZY and have emboldened him to ignore the warnings which he has received. It is known that he continues even now to record shipping and other information and to invent new and fantastic stories about himself.

The view of Security officers who have been in contact with DE RENZY is that he is mentally abnormal and habitually untruthful and is the victim of a chronic espionage mania, under the influence of which he is entirely unpredictable as to his conduct. Security inquiry has failed to establish that DE RENZY is deliberately or consciously disloyal but in view of what is known of DE RENZY's character and tendencies and of the fact that he has repeatedly shown that he cannot be relied upon to behave normally, there is definite reason for keeping him so placed that his opportunities

of obtaining and passing on information of military or other value to an enemy country will be limited and for so supervising his conduct that these or any other similar activities may be prevented or at least be immediately detected.

DE RENZY is probably a case for a psychiatrist but whether or not medical examination would show him to be suffering from one of the recognised forms of mental disturbance, he cannot be said to be fit, from a security point of view, for overseas service. His record would suggest that his undeveloped sense of responsibility together with his persistent obsession with regard to enemy intelligence services could make him a serious danger to any overseas formation of which he was a member. He would at least be a constant source of anxiety. On active service, it is probable that he would have information of greater value to the enemy than in a home defence unit and his knowledge of this fact might easily excite him to some folly, or even some betrayal, in line with his known mania and history. It is practically certain that if he were taken prisoner by the enemy, he would recognise no restriction upon what he should disclose.

These
Representations have been made
to Army with a view to ensuring
that De Renzy's employment is
safe character in a formation
where his obsession for
indulging his passion for
collecting military information
one strictly limited, further
but he has not been
Army subsequently decided
to discharge with his
services

Interrogation of DE RENZY revealed that, far from being imbecile, he was capable of subtle prevarication and generally much more intelligent than he might appear to a casual observer. Nevertheless his mind seemed to work on lines not quite normal. Much of his reasoning was hard to understand as was also his complete disregard of the warnings which he has from time to time received. There was no doubt that DE RENZY was, as his employers had described him, an imaginative liar. The actual correspondence which has passed between DE RENZY and the agents of foreign powers is sufficiently authenticated both over and above this, he has told many stories of association with spies in New Zealand and other transactions of a like character which cannot be credited. He produced on one occasion an impressive certificate, typed on the headed note-paper of the French Intelligence Service and as one who had performed valuable service. The signature was that of a high-ranking officer and in characteristic French handwriting. Under interrogation DE RENZY admitted, as was suggested by internal evidence in the letter itself, that the whole elaborate document was a complete forgery executed by himself. A great deal else contained in his various statements was similarly proved to be fabricated.

What inquiry has established is that DE RENZY has an intense and persistent espionage mania. It may be that, defeated in his ambition to become a British intelligence agent, he has alternatively indulged his interest by communicating with intelligence services in foreign countries. This however does not appear to be the whole truth of the matter. The fact seems to be that he has irresistible exhibitionist tendencies which impel him constantly to dramatise himself in some remarkable role, and this notwithstanding that he has had repeated official warnings such as must have been accepted by any normal individual and have instantly deterred him from repetition of the activities complained of. Nor has the suggestion of detention, if no other means of checking him could be found, proved effective. It now appears that there is no likelihood of this latter step or indeed of any other effectively restraining action being taken against him and this position may have been recognised by DE RENZY and have emboldened him to ignore the warnings which he has received. *It is known that he continues to keep a record of his own activities and other information and to invent new and fantastic stories about himself.*

Insert from p. 4 "A" in view of what is known of DE RENZY's character and tendencies and of the fact that he has repeatedly shown that he cannot be relied upon to behave normally, there is definite reason for keeping him so placed that his opportunities of obtaining and passing on information of military or other value to an enemy country will be limited and for so supervising his conduct that these or any other similar activities may be prevented or at least be immediately detected.

So far as concerns his conduct while he has been in the army, no adverse report of DE RENZY has been received. This might suggest that he has seen the error of his ways or that he has developed more horse-sense or a greater sense of responsibility but the fact that he

insert [of the French Foreign Office and accrediting him as an agent]

renewed his overseas communications immediately on release from his Territorial unit suggests perhaps another explanation of his circumspect behaviour while serving. DE RENZY volunteered the information while being generally interrogated that he is delighted to be in the army and likes the army life very much. He said that he was sure none of his officers could complain of his behaviour. It was obvious that he was determined to provide no ground for being transferred out.

This could be a cunning device to keep himself in a position to obtain information of military value but there is little evidence of great cunning or keep scheming on DE RENZY's part. Notwithstanding that he is habitually untruthful and has proved to have been on one occasion at least a forger, there is nothing to show that his activities have followed any well-thought out plan or been directed towards his own material advantage or that they are in fact anything but the outward expression of an uncontrolled obsession about espionage work. Intention is clear in whatever he does but it is the impulsive intention of an irresponsible mind rather than the purposefulness of a cunning plotter. Nevertheless, he could prove more obstinately dangerous than a deliberate traitor in that it is mania and not material advantage which appears to motivate his actions.

DE RENZY was questioned at some length on the point of his loyalty. He gave vague and irrelevant answers and referred to his French descent. At the time of his attestation, he did in fact give the nationality of his father as French. This was untrue. His father was born in Bradford, England, and was a British subject as has been previously recorded. DE RENZY admitted this under questioning but then referred irrelevantly to the indication of French descent provided by the form of his surname. It is doubtful however whether DE RENZY knows anything at all of his French descent or of his family's connection with France which may not be nearer than 200 years. This whole passage during his interrogation was however typical of the incoherence or irrationality of his explanations and in particular of his desire to impress as a man out of the ordinary.

The view of Security officers who have been in contact with DE RENZY is that he is mentally abnormal and habitually untruthful and is the victim of a chronic espionage mania, under the influence of which he is entirely unpredictable as to his conduct. Security inquiry has failed to establish that DE RENZY is deliberately or consciously disloyal. He has repeatedly said that he does not intend disloyalty and that his previous activities have been directed towards obtaining the confidence of alien intelligence services with a view to obtaining cover addresses and other useful information for handing over to the British authorities. It is correct that on one occasion he did forward such cover addresses to London and as a result attracted no little attention, but it appears certain that it was the hope of this attention and not particularly any desire

*Insert
in H*

to be put, in

Classification Policy

11/3 KF/MB

13th March, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Captain H.C. Meikle,
AUCKLAND.

DESMOND DE RENZY

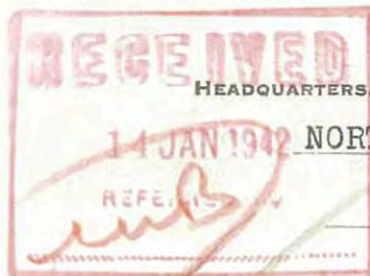
With reference to your memorandum of the 13th January
last, NDSIB/410, have you any further information regarding
the above?

W.S.
MAJOR. G.S.
DIRECTOR. SECURITY INTELLIGENCE

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

[Form N.Z.—398.
(In pads of 100.)]

In your reply NDSIB/410 Please quote this number.



NORTHERN MILITARY DISTRICT,

P.O. BOX 152,

AUCKLAND, C.1.

13th January, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Major K. Folkes,
P.O. Box 775,
WELLINGTON.

ask Wick 11/3
for present per den

DESMOND DE RENZY

With reference to my NDSIB/115 of the 28th May, 1941, I enclose a further report upon the abovenamed from which you will note that DE RENZY may be once again engaged in communicating with enemy intelligence services abroad.

In view of the fact that the police had a complete case against this man in 1939 but could not, as I understand, obtain the necessary consent to a prosecution, I am passing my information about this man on to the police, but will continue to keep you advised so that you may be present at the ceremony (if any) of eating words.

H. C. Wick

ENCL:

CAPTAIN
NORTHERN DISTRICT S.I.B.

13/1/42.

DESMOND DE RENZY

DESMOND DE RENZY was called for Territorial service on 20/12/40 and posted to the 2nd Battalion Auckland Regiment. He entered camp at Whangarei on 7/1/41 and was released on the completion of his training on 3/4/41. His history sheet showed him to be a keen, efficient and well-conducted soldier during that period.

On 22/9/41 DE RENZY was transferred to the 1st Bn. Auckland Regiment for the reason that his place of residence made attendance of parades of the 2nd Battalion impracticable. The 1st Battalion was mobilized on 10/12/41 and DE RENZY proceeded to Avondale Camp. His battalion has now been split up into sub-units which are engaged in manning defence posts of the Auckland Fortress Area.

On 2/1/41 DE RENZY was posted to guard duty at Castor Bay Battery Area where he is still stationed.

DE RENZY was called in the 12th (Overseas) Ballot on 2/12/41. In accordance with the usual procedure where a serving territorial is called for overseas service he continues to serve with his territorial unit until he is actually required for overseas.

DE RENZY left the employ of RUSSELL and SOMERS LTD., Shipping, Customs and Insurance Agents, 83 Customs Street, Auckland, on 22/11/41. At the time of leaving he had two weeks' leave owing to him and he stated that he wished to employ this leave in going to Christchurch and looking after his sick mother. He was therefore paid up to 6/12/41, but the company subsequently found that DE RENZY did not go to Christchurch and that his mother was not ill.

RUSSELL and SOMERS described DE RENZY as a keen and intelligent type and as having performed his duties satisfactorily. However, they now say also (and this presents rather a different picture of DE RENZY from that which they gave me about 9 months ago) that he proved himself to be an unmitigated liar whose word could not be relied on. They further state that he was always causing trouble in the office and starting arguments by pro-German talk. He was also a crank on naval vessels and naval armaments and this interest became with him such an obsession that they were very glad to release him. They finally paid him off and have no intention of re-engaging him.

The manager added that DE RENZY's friends, though few, were extremely odd and that just before he went into camp he became engaged to one BERYL BIRCH [REDACTED] although on whose original authority has not been established.

In 1939 as you may confirm by referring to your own file, Security Intelligence, London, advised that DE RENZY was suspected of contact with the German Intelligence Service. Police inquiry proved this to be the fact. DE RENZY's case is reviewed in a letter dated 30/5/39 from the Commissioner of Police to the Minister. This letter shows a complete lack of apprehension both of the dangers involved in such

communication and of the need for preventive and disabling measures. There is even a suggestion that it would be necessary to estimate the nature and value of the information communicated before deciding whether an offence had been committed. No steps were in fact taken against DE RENZY.

About a month ago DE RENZY, apparently at the instance of his mother, called at the Central Police Station and confessed that during the past year he had again engaged in passing information to enemy countries. The Police are further investigating the matter.

It is of course possible that this fresh confession is either a mere piece of exhibitionism on DE RENZY's part or an attempt to disqualify himself for overseas service. The police have been floundering about on this case for some weeks. I have passed to them such fresh information as I have obtained, I have also had him transferred from the coastal defence area, but otherwise I propose to let the Police get themselves out of the hole they appear to have dug for themselves. I shall continue to keep a close eye on what is happening.

11/3

KF/MB

3rd June, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Commissioner of Police,
WELLINGTON.

DESMOND DE RENZY

You may like to have some of the following facts concerning the above to place with your file. DE RENZY was called up for territorial service on 20/12/40 and entered camp at Whangarei with the 2nd Bn. Auckland Regiment on 7/1/41 from which he was released on 3/4/41. He was employed in the orderly room of his Company as a clerk. His C.O. Captain H. HUTTON and the officer who had most to do with him, 2nd Lieut. A. CONCHIE, describe him as a keen soldier, very interested in his work and alive and efficient as an orderly room clerk. Their view of DE RENZY was that he was absolutely loyal and serious.

DE RENZY now resides at Massey Avenue, One Tree Hill, Auckland, and is now employed by Messrs. RUSSELL and SOMERS LTD. This firm acts as Agents for a Japanese Shipping Line. DE RENZY is thought highly of by them. He will be 21 on the 20th November and will then, of course, be liable for overseas service to which he is reported to be looking forward.

MAJOR
GENERAL STAFF

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

[Form N.Z.—399.
(In pads of 100.)

In your reply NDSIB/115 Please quote this number.

HEADQUARTERS,

NORTHERN MILITARY DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 152

AUCKLAND. C.1.

28th May, 1941

11/3

Major K. Folkes,
Room 3,
Floor 3,
A.P.A. Building,
Featherston St.,
WELLINGTON.

DESMOND DE RENZY.

Replying to your enquiry of the 25th April regarding this man, the local police are unable to give me any information upon DE RENZY'S recent activities.

My own enquiries however reveal that DE RENZY resides at Massey Ave., One Tree Hill, and is now employed by Messrs. Russell and Somers Ltd., Shipping Customs and Insurance Agents, 83 Customs Street. In view of the fact that this firm acts as agents for a Japanese Shipping line I caused special enquiry to be made of them regarding DE RENZY. I am informed that they think highly of him and have no reason to suspect him of any disloyal attitude.

DE RENZY was called up for Territorial service on 20/12/40 and entered camp at Whangarei with the 2nd Bn. Auckland Regiment on 7/1/41, being released again on 3/4/41.

He was employed in the orderly room of his Company as a clerk. His Company Commander, Capt. H. HUTTON and the officer who had most to do with him, 2nd/Lieut. A. CONCHIE, described him as a keen soldier, very interested in his work, and both alive and efficient as an orderly room clerk. They both felt confident that DE RENZY was absolutely loyal and serious.

DE RENZY will be 21 years of age on the 20th November next and will then be liable for overseas service to which he is reported to be looking forward.

It would appear from these reports that DE RENZY has settled down during the last two years which have elapsed since the police report upon him was made.

H. C. M. C.

CAPTAIN
NORTHERN DISTRICT S.I.B.

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy



NEW ZEALAND.

If any reply, please
quote this number:

S. 39/60

POLICE DEPARTMENT,

WELLINGTON, C. 1.

22nd May, 1941.

MEMORANDUM

For

Major K. Folkes,
Army Headquarters,
WELLINGTON.

On the 20th instant I received from your office this Department's file relating to Desmond de Renzy. A black exercise book which accompanied the file when it was forwarded to Lieut. Colonel Mawhood on the 13.2.41 has, however, not been returned.

I shall be glad if you will have same forwarded early.

D. Cunningham
Commissioner of Police.

~~SECRET~~

KF/MB

25th April, 1941

11/3

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Mr. H.C.Meikle,
AUCKLAND.

DESMOND DE RENZY

The Police File in this case was handed to me some time ago for perusal. I cannot send you the file but I send you a copy of a letter which has been written by the Commissioner of Police to the Minister.

Do you know anything about DE RENZY. You might enquire from the local Police what his activities are at the moment.

[Signature]

MAJOR
GENERAL STAFF

Encl.

de RENZY Desmond

Born: 30.11.1920

Occupation: Clerk

FILE.

AUCKLAND

S.I.B. File Attached

See also Packet No. 43 in strong-room

C.P. Public Meetings

C.P. Branch Meetings

Ancillary Org. Attendances

de RENZY Desmond

AUCKLAND

FILE.

- 2 -

Writes to Director of Naval Intelligence alleging he is in
touch with German Secret Service

Suggested as unsuitable for Secret Work in Auckland

Recommended he be interned

Employed Mason, Porters Ltd., Auckland - fined £5 for breach

Military Decorations & Distinctive Badges Act, 1918,

Auckland on 14/5/43.

Packet 43
Strong Room
~~39/60~~
~~40/564~~
~~42/382~~

~~39/60~~
Packet 43 -
Strong Room

.....P.F.
Complete