

# FBI Chief Cites Payments Made to Nazi Spy Suspect

Part 9-16-43

Director J. Edgar Hoover of the Federal Bureau of Investigation announced yesterday the arrest in Newark, N. J., of John Da Silva



PURVIS

charges that he acted as a spy for Germany. Hoover said Purvis transmitted information to his "principals" in Europe, and on two occasions received cash payments for his services. Purvis, a Portuguese citizen, allegedly began his espionage activities early in 1942 when he was contacted by a crew member of a neutral vessel who had been recruited by the German Intelligence Service.

Hoover described Purvis as "dapper," said the Portuguese admitted under questioning he had received a letter by courier from a representative of the German Espionage Service in Europe, and that he sent a reply back by the same person who delivered the message to him.

One of the representatives of the German espionage system brought to the United States a personal letter addressed to Purvis containing certain identifying code words, Hoover said, and also brought a list of 16 specific assignments to be covered by Purvis.

The assignments, according to Hoover, included information on warship construction, damage at Pearl Harbor, losses in sea action, convoy information, information on American bases in Central and South America and on the African Coast, including mine fields, and numerous other tasks.

Hoover said Purvis wrote a letter for delivery to his German superiors acknowledging receipt of "70 pounds of sausage" and "70 pounds of cheese."

"It is believed that these remarks referred to money paid to Purvis for his activities," Hoover said.

Hoover said that in a letter acknowledging receipt of funds from the German spy system, Purvis demanded \$500 a month for continuing his activities.

## Raid Data Revealed, Court Is Told

By the Associated Press

New York, Sept. 15.—An agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation testifying today at the trial of two men on charges of conspiracy to violate the wartime Espionage Act, said one of them sent the following message to Germany in invisible ink:

"Roosevelt would be only too glad to see attacks on American

coastal cities to rouse the Nation to greater war effort. Still no air-raid shelters. Protection against air raids completely inadequate. Complete confusion."

The FBI agent, Gerhard Hundt, testified in Brooklyn Federal Court that the message was dated February 18, 1942, and signed "Fred Lewis," an alias identified by previous trial witnesses as that of Ernest R. Lehmitz, 57, Lehmitz and Erwin H. De Spretter, 52, former Staten Island air raid wardens, are being tried before a jury of eight men and four women. Conviction carries penalties of 30 years' imprisonment to death.

Hundt said that another message attributed to Lehmitz and dated January 26, 1942, informed the Germans that "the steamship Normandie is said to have sailed with troops." Arthur Garfield Hays, counsel for Lehmitz, cited for the records that the former French liner Normandie burned at its Hudson River pier on February 9 of that year.