

# Letters Seized by Dies Investigators Link News Agency Chief to Nazi Agents

Details of how Manfred Zapp, now being investigated by a District Grand Jury, worked intimately with the German embassy here and with Nazi consuls throughout the United States are revealed in the following letters seized by the Dies committee:

"November 30, 1939.

"Dear Dr. Zapp:

"On Wednesday, December 6, at 7 p.m., a number of people of the intelligence service of the Rome-Berlin axis are meeting at my private apartment on the third floor of the house, 11 West Fifty-seventh St., for a very informal dinner.

"I should be happy if you could join and I should be grateful if you could give an answer by Monday afternoon, by telephoning my office, using the number Wickersham 2-0224.

"With kind regards. Heil Hitler!

"(Signed) SCHMITZ."

Dies agents identified Schmitz as Ernest Schmitz, director of the German railroads information service in New York.

Much of Zapp's correspondence shows that he was also sent throughout the United States as a lecturer. In March, following a trip through the Mid-West Zapp received the following letter from Heribert von Stempel, first secretary to the embassy in Washington:

"I should like to confirm the receipt of your report of March 11 concerning your last lecture tour, and to express to you the heartiest thanks of the embassy for the fact that you have undertaken this enlightening activity with such signal success. I have not neglected to bring your most informative report to the attention of the foreign office.

"(Signed) VON STREMPPEL."

## Reports Ordered

The letters also show that Zapp was constantly being ordered to make reports. On August 8 of this year Von Stempel wrote Zapp as follows:

"I request that your daily telegram from today on until further notice be addressed to Mr. Hepp."

Ernst A. Hepp, formerly was with the German News Bureau in New York, but since April has been attached to the German embassy assisting in press relations work.

## Kept Embassy Informed

In addition to his "daily telegram," the correspondence also shows that Zapp makes a weekly report to Ulrich von Gienanth, second secretary of the embassy.

On last March 8, Zapp was ordered by Siegmund Lurtz, consul for the port of New York, to make a report to the consulate in New York on American reaction to the official German communique on Polish atrocities. Lurtz's letter closed as follows:

"Furthermore, I am requesting you, in accordance with official instructions received by me, to make your report or advise of your failure to make it, directly to Berlin, by order of the consul general."

Zapp also apparently kept the embassy in touch with the attitude of leading Americans toward Germany. A year ago he addressed the following letter to Fritz Kellermeier, commercial attache to the German embassy:

"Enclosed, as I promised, is a speech by the chairman of the board of directors of the RCA who has made utterances of a particularly hateful nature against Germany.

"I think that this lecture will interest you. Heil Hitler!

(Signed) ZAPP."

## Letter From Thomsen

Concurrently, there appears to have been a constant flow of letters between Zapp and Nazi Charge d'Affaires Hans Thomsen. Here is one of them written on German embassy stationery by Thomsen to Zapp:

"Washington, March 6, 1939.

"Dear Zapp:

"In the event that you have not done so, may I not now request that you send regularly the Transoceanic Service in English to the consul general at Ottawa and to the consul in Montreal.

"In addition, I wish you would send an offer of the English service to M. Adrien Arcand, care Postal 2290, Montreal, the fuhrer of the Canadian National Unity Party (Parti de l'Unite Nationale du Canada) by way of trial.

"I look over the service regularly daily, and I find that it is comprehensive, reliable, and well edited. I hope that the difficulties about which we spoke a few weeks ago have been removed. Let me know if they have not been, for I am very eager to do everything from here that I can to place the service upon a normal and businesslike basis.

(Signed) "THOMSEN."

Zapp's reply to Thomsen, dated March 9, 1939, follows:

"Many thanks for your friendly letter of March 6. The general consulate in Ottawa and the consulate in Montreal have received Transoceanic Service in German regularly. Beginning with today they will receive the English service.

"I have arranged also for M. Adrien Arcand to receive the service regularly. I sent him the accompanying memoranda.

"A part of my difficulties have been removed. But I have other difficulties, since we can pick up our service here only irregularly, because the daily sendings are at times weak, at times cannot be heard, or disturbed by strong static. In addition, I have been compelled to take over a personnel exchange, so that for the present at least, I am unable to get to Washington.

"I plan to get to Washington, however, in about 14 days—within a week if possible.

"Auf widersehen,

"Yours,

(Signed) "ZAPP."

Unexplained is the following letter directed by Zapp to one Herr Mueller, a member of the consular staff in New York, dated August 31, 1939 (three days before the outbreak of the war):

"I should like to send you today through my secretary, Frau Lehwald, a file and request you to lock this up in your safe. I would like to ask you that in case you burn your archives, you also burn this package.

"Heil Hitler!

(Signed) "ZAPP."