

For Immediate Release:
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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Department of Justice announces that Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in New York City today arrested another member of the Detroit spy ring.

J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI, said Bertrand Stuart Hoffman, 27, was taken into custody this morning on charges of wartime espionage. Hoffman recently was assigned to a ship in New York after ^{my} joining the U. S. Merchant Marine. Both the Merchant Marine and the Navy Department, Mr. Hoover said, cooperated fully with the FBI in its investigation of Hoffman.

Hoffman, whose home is in Detroit, early came to the attention of the FBI during the course of its counterespionage activities in this case. Grace Buchanan-Dineen, first entered this investigation when the name "Miss Smith" was found on a note in Hoffman's possession. He was arrested by Naval authorities shortly after he met "Miss Smith," and an immediate investigation was undertaken to ascertain her identity. It was soon learned that she was Grace Buchanan-Dineen to whom Hoffman furnished information on naval bases and convoys. He told her that he had joined the Merchant Marine with the hope of deserting in a foreign port and escaping to Germany where he would enlist in the German Air Force.

Hoffman also gathered and reported information on Detroit war plants, and most of his work with the ring was of this type.

Mrs. Theresa Behrens, one of the key figures in the Detroit case, introduced Hoffman to Miss Buchanan-Dineen. He, like the others, is charged with violating the Wartime Espionage Act.

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Hoffman, along with Miss Buchanan-Dineen, is specifically charged in the complaint filed at Detroit, with obtaining information as to "The production capacity of the Ford Motor Company in manufacturing war material, the safety of construction of such plant against sabotage, the safety of construction of such plant against airplane attack and bombing, and the operations plans of the United States of America by which military airplanes departed from the United States for the war theater."

Hoffman will be arraigned on a fugitive complaint before the United States Commissioner in New York for removal to Detroit to face espionage charges.

BERTRAND STUART HOFFMAN

Bertrand Stuart Hoffman was born August 23, 1916, at St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada. He claims to be a citizen of the United States inasmuch as his father was a native of McKeesport, Pennsylvania, and a citizen of the United States. His mother was a British subject.

Hoffman furnished Miss Buchanan-Dineen with information on activities at the Grosse Ile Naval Base on developments in the United States Navy and on Detroit war plants prior to his enlistment in the Merchant Marine in March, 1943.

Hoffman contacted Miss Buchanan-Dineen on numerous occasions and frequently expressed his willingness to gather and transmit additional information on America's war effort. He said that he hoped by entering the Merchant Marine to evade army service and also revealed a plan to desert upon reaching Europe and attempt to join the German Army.

Before joining the Merchant Marine, Hoffman was a truck driver in Detroit, and prior to that time he served eighteen months in the United States Navy. He enlisted in the United States Naval Reserve in September, 1939, and was called into active duty on December 10, 1940. He was sent to the Grosse Ile, Michigan, Naval Base and later to the Great Lakes Training Base near Chicago. After undergoing hospital treatment he was discharged in the spring of 1942 because of his physical condition.

Hoffman, although four generations removed from a German background, was deeply impressed by the Nazi ideology and read lengthy books espousing the German cause and defending Hitler. At one time he considered enrolling in a German class, but finally decided against taking this step only because of the expense involved. He frequently contacted Mrs. Theresa

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Behrens. Hoffman has admitted his pro-Nazi sympathies in discussions with various individuals; and, in addition to contacting Mrs. Behrens, he frequently went to Max Stephan's restaurant in Detroit so that he could converse with and associate with persons of German background and possible Nazi sympathy.

Although he is reported to be on none too good terms with them, Hoffman has relatives in Pennsylvania. It also was developed during the FBI investigation into his background that at one time he was an inmate of a juvenile delinquency home on the outskirts of St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada.