

Spy Suspect Reported Roosevelt Would Like Air Raids on U.S. Cities

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 efforts. Still no air raid shelters. Protection against air raids completely inadequate. Complete confusion."

The FBI agent, Gerhardt 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 P. Lehmitz, 57. Lehmitz and Erwin H. De Sprotter, 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.

Mr. 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.

FBI Agent John G. Willis testified yesterday that Lehmitz told him he studied espionage methods in Germany and was to have received \$50 a week in the guise of patent royalties for spying on this Nation's war efforts. Agent Willis quoted Lehmitz as saying the information he sent in invisible ink between the typewritten lines of innocuous-looking letters to "friends" in Spain and Portugal was of no value to the enemy.