

STATEN ISLAND SPY TRIAL CONTINUES

N.Y. Sun 8-15-43
~~The trial of Ernest Frederick Lehmitz~~ 37-year-old naturalized German and former Staten Island air warden, and Erwin Harry de Spretter, 52, accused of conspiring to transmit military information to Germany, was resumed at 10 A. M. today in Brooklyn Federal Court.

Yesterday John G. Willis, an FBI agent, testified that Lehmitz admitted to him in a conversation on June 30 that he had been active as a spy since March, 1941, when he returned from Germany, where he was schooled in the making and use of invisible ink. Lehmitz admitted, Mr. Willis

stid, that his passage home had been paid and that he had received \$1,200 in cash before returning. He also admitted, according to Mr. Willis, that he later received about \$1,470 under the guise of royalties on a German button patent. Mr. Willis testified that Lehmitz had told him of sending information abroad on the movement of troops.

Lehmitz said he sent the information to protect two brothers and three sisters living in Germany, but was so affected by seeing his neighbors' sons going to war that he ceased his spy activities some time ago, Mr. Willis said.