

*File*

1961 NAZIS IN NEW ORLEANS

	<u>AGE</u>
George Lincoln Rockwell - Commander	43
Ralph Lee Hassinger - Troop Leader	23
Seth David Ryan - Secretary	22
Andrew Newman Chappell - Storm Trooper	23
Paul Edward Dukel	21
Charles Beveridge	21
Anthony Edward Wells	23
Robert Washington Johnston	23
Roy James	23
John Patler - Bus driver	23
Bernard David - Bus driver	

ROCKWELL, George Lincoln WM 43 E-11897-61

928 Randolph St. Arlington, Va. 3-19-18

5-24-61

1712

-1st

RS 14-103-7 Relative to disturbing the peace by  
commission of an act in such a manner as to  
unreasonably disturb and alarm the public

Giarrusso, Trosclair, Stevens, Echelard, Pisa,  
Kott, Fernandez, Martello, Leonard, Delpidio,  
Spako, Grego, Parta, Caruso, Duzac

500 Block of Baronne St.

170-957

Office of the Intelligence Division  
New Orleans Police Department  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
May 23, 1961  
Item # 44-1177-01 - 200A "5"

TO : Joseph A. Guillot, Acting Superintendent of Police  
FROM : Wesley J. Traylor, Jr., Commanding, Intelligence Division  
SUBJECT: Supplemental Report relative to the arrest of GEORGE LINCOLN  
ROCKWELL, et al., from the 500 Block of Baronne Street, on  
the night of Wednesday, May 24, 1961.

On Saturday, May 20, 1961, this Department received a telegram from a person who signed his name as George Lincoln Rockwell, Commander of the American Nazi Party, Arlington, Virginia, which stated his intentions to come to this city for the purpose of picketing the Headquarters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the motion picture "Exodus."

Prior to the receipt of this telegram letters had been received from Mr. John Roberts, the Manager of the Civic Theatre, 533 Baronne Street. Each of these letters bore a small white sticker on the top of the sheet which was partially colored with red paint, having a black Swastika in a white circle with the words "WE ARE BACK" printed in black. These letters bore the return address of Box 1381, Arlington, Virginia, the National Headquarters of the American Nazi Party. It was observed that each letter bore the postmark New Orleans, La. Copies of these letters are attached and are self-explanatory. Several of these letters said, "REMEMBER BOSTON" and practically all of the letters said, "RIGHT NOW COMMUNIST-SWIGGER TYRANNY: JOIN AMERICAN NAZI PARTY." The last letter received was on Monday, May 22, 1961, and read as follows, "JEW COMMUNIST - SWING - The commander is coming May 24, 1961, Hell Hitler." All of these letters were signed by the group leader, Greater New Orleans Group American Nazi Party. (WITNESS to the above MR. JOHN A. ROBERTS, 6545 Wickburg Street, New Orleans, La., or c/o Civic Theatre, 533 Baronne Street).

On Monday, May 22, 1961, a news article appeared in the New Orleans Courier-Item Newspaper, which announced the coming of the American Nazi Party to New Orleans, via several cities in the South. It was noted in the last paragraph that George Lincoln Rockwell, Commander of the American Nazi Party, was quoted by a United Press International Reporter that, "NEW ORLEANS IS A DEAD HOT SPOT WHERE HE FEELS HE CAN SHER OFF TRAMPLE." (WITNESS: United Press International News Reporter---????).

IOU to Acting Supt. Joseph  
A. Sullivan (Continued)  
Subj: Supplemental Report re-  
lative to the arrest of  
George Lincoln Rockwell,  
et al.

5/30/61

- 2 -

Having had some information concerning the American Nazi Party and its operations, the Department of Police proceeded to execute elaborate plans as precautionary measures to prevent any serious trouble in our city. In an effort to prevent any trouble, instructions were issued to all district commanders to direct their subordinates to make frequent visits in the area of all Jewish institutions in the City of New Orleans, and the Headquarters of the NAACP, knowing that the American Nazi Party is anti-Semitic, anti-Negro, and protested the showing of the film Exodus. The Department of Police was also cognizant of the presence of over two-hundred Jewish refugees in our Jewish population of approximately ten thousand. The Department therefore realized the ingredients which were being brought together and could ultimately result in a full-scale riot.

George Lincoln Rockwell accompanied by Roy James, both of the American Nazi Party arrived at the Morant International Airport at 1:45 PM. on the afternoon of Tuesday, May 23, 1961. A surveillance was immediately established on these persons in an effort to prevent any problems which may occur because of their presence in the city, and the increased tension created by the advanced publicity of the newspapers and by the letter which had been received by our local citizenry. (WITNESS to amount of Jews in New Orleans - Mr. Irvin Schulman, 1527 Gov. Nicholls St.).

That same night at approximately 10:00 PM, police officers of this Department met several units of the Louisiana State Police at the junction of U. S. Highways 11 and 90. These police units had been following and escorting a Volkswagen Bus which had been described as "LINCOLN ROCKWELL'S NAZI BUS." It was noted that this bus was occupied by five white males and was painted on the bus "WE HATE JEW COMMUNISM" --- "WE DO HATE RACE MIXING" --- "LINCOLN ROCKWELL'S NAZI BUS." The bus along with its occupants John Fidler, John Fidler, Bernard David, Jr., Andrew Chappell, and Ralph Hassinger was under surveillance by members of this Police Department from the time it was intercepted at the junction. The occupants of the bus stopped for refreshments at the Indian Land Restaurant & Trailer Court on the Chief Menteur Highway. At approximately 10:15 PM, Captain J. J. Truscilar, Jr., approached the driver of the bus who furnished his name as John Fidler and advised him that if he intended to remain in the City of New Orleans with the bus, he must either cover up the lettering on the bus or remove it from same before proceeding into the city. John Fidler was quoted several phrases of 1960, Lincoln, Article, Paragraph 7. After a discussion Fidler agreed to remove what signs he could from the bus and cover the remaining ones which

IOE to Acting Capt. Joseph  
A. Sullivan (Dutiful)  
Subject: Unlawful Marches  
relative to the arrest of  
George Lincoln Rockwell,  
St. Alb.

5/23/61

he and his group were unable to resolve at that time. (WITNESSES to  
all of above: Sergeant Joseph L. DiStasio, Deputy Supt. in-  
charge Joseph A. Sullivan, Captain P. W. Troccoli, Sergeant John  
Pisa, Patrolman Ralph Fink).

This group had drawn the attention and concern of every law enforce-  
ment agency along their route from Arlington, Virginia, to and in-  
cluding the City of New Orleans.

The following morning, Wednesday, May 24, 1961, the group was followed  
to the North Shore of Lake Pontchartrain while they were en-route  
to Fontainebleau State Park. On learning that the park was closed  
this group was returning to New Orleans via the Lake Pontchartrain  
Causeway when the Bus was involved in an accident. The driver of the  
Bus Bernard Davis, Jr., was taken into custody in the Parish of Jef-  
ferson for the violations he committed in that jurisdiction.

The group in the Bus was joined by another group in a Chevrolet who-  
mobile and finally came to the city and met with their commander,  
George Lincoln Rockwell, in Room 1004, New Orleans Hotel, 1000 Canal  
Street.

At 11:25 AM, on Wednesday, May 24, 1961, a person who furnished his  
name as Lincoln Rockwell called Police Headquarters and spoke to  
Captain Troccoli. This person explained that he and members of the  
American Nazi Party intended picketing Corpus Christi Church and the  
movie Raffles, starting at about 7:00 PM, that night, Wednesday, May  
24, 1961, and continuing for about two hours. He requested informa-  
tion concerning the amount of pickets allowed and if there were any  
restrictions as to the wording of the signs carried by the pickets.  
Captain Troccoli informed him to use his own discretion and judgment  
in the wording of the signs and that the usual procedure was to allow  
only two pickets in front of each establishment to be picketed with  
no relief pickets in the area. This person further requested informa-  
tion regarding the possibility of making a speech in a public place  
such as a park. Captain Troccoli notified this person that he would  
call him back on the telephone and give him an answer. Captain Tro-  
ccoli called the New Orleans Hotel and asked to be connected with  
Room 1004, at 11:37 AM, at which time he informed a person on the  
other end of the line who gave his name as Rockwell that he would not  
be permitted to make a speech here in New Orleans due to the present  
situation. (Sergeant John Pisa witnessed first telephone call and  
Sergeant Francis Martello witnessed the second conversation).

It is the policy of the Department of Police to permit persons to  
picket any place in the City of New Orleans as long as there are no

*[Handwritten signature]*

ICC to Acting Supt. Joseph  
A. Guillot (Continued)  
Subj: Unessential Report re-  
lative to the arrest of  
George Lincoln Rockwell,  
et al.

5/3/61

problems created by their protest and that they are in violation of, or cause a violation of any existing ordinances or statutes.

At approximately 3:30 PM, that same afternoon, Wednesday, May 31, 1961, Sergeant William Guillot of the Detective Bureau, who was on duty at the New Orleans Hotel, which houses the members of the Nazi Party, reported that he had overheard parts of a conversation while stationed in a room next to Room 1004. Sgt. Guillot reported that he had heard some mention about the use of a shot gun and then some further mention about a BB gun in place of a shot gun. (WITNESS: Sgt. William Guillot, Detective Bureau).

Along with other officers the undersigned, Captain P. J. Tremblair, Jr., was detailed in the vicinity of the Dixie Theatre, 533 Poydras Street, as a precautionary measure in the event any problems were created by the presence of the Nazi group picketing the theatre.

There was a steady downpour of rain from approximately 7:00 PM until about 7:45 PM, which rain caused the streets to flood and the water to creep up on the sidewalks. Persons were being brought to the theatre in taxicabs and private vehicles, and alighting from their vehicles in the passenger zone directly in front of the main entrance to the theatre. Traffic was not too heavy and appeared to be flowing normally. A small group of persons was observed standing near the corner of Poydras Street, on the river side of the 500 block of Bienville Street, in front of the entrance to the Southern Bell Telephone Company. Some patrons had entered the theatre to view the film "Exodus" which was scheduled to start at 8:00 PM. Others were standing around in the passage way which approaches the theatre.

At approximately 7:45 PM, a green chevrolet pulled in front of the theatre with several white males wearing swastikas on their left arm. Two of these persons, George Lincoln Rockwell and Roy James alighted from the vehicle carrying signs. Rockwell's sign contained the following words, "AMERICAN LEGION CONDONES EXODUS." Rockwell carried another poster which had printed on one side, "EXODUS.....Written by a Communist Jew" and on the other side, "AMERICAN FOR WHITES - AFRICA FOR NEGROES - GAS CHAMBER FOR TRAITORS." These two men began to walk in a picket fashion in front of the theatre.

There was a slight drizzling rain at the time and as the persons started to picket it was observed by the officers on duty that the persons on the opposite side of the street were increasing in number, and also the crowd in the passage way approaching the theatre began to swell and overflow onto the sidewalk. The officers were concerned

*P. J. Tremblair*

100 to Acting Det. Joseph  
A. Guillot (Continued)  
Subj: Supplemental Report re-  
lative to the arrest of George  
Lincoln Rockwell,  
ET AL.

5/24/61

about the information which had been furnished by Sergeant William Guillot earlier in the evening. Consequently, two officers from the Headquarters Tactical Unit, Patrolmen T. Parta and L. Caruso, who were passing in front of the theatre as Rockwell and James alighted from the car were directed to check the remaining occupants in the vehicle. After Rockwell and James had made about two or three paces on foot with the signs in front of the theatre Captain Troclair approached Rockwell and told him that the crowds were gathering and things were too tense, therefore as a preventive measure he would not be permitted to picket and remain in the area. Lincoln Rockwell turned and looked, and hesitated momentarily but the crowds appeared to be pressing forward from the lobby of the theatre and the people on the opposite side of the street commenced to move down the block in the general direction in which Rockwell had started to walk. It was immediately decided that unless the police acted quickly and eliminated the source of the trouble in the area that the crowd, at that time without a leader, may develop into a mob and become engaged in a physical encounter with the members of the American Nazi Party.

The officers had no other alternative, in the interest of public safety, but to enforce RS 14, Article 103, Paragraph 7, and take into custody those persons who had committed an act in such a manner as to unreasonably disturb and alarm the public. (WITNESSES in front of Civic Theatre, 7:45 PM, Wednesday, May 24, 1961. First group of arrests. Superintendent Giarrusso, Captain Edward Stevens, Captain P. J. Troclair, Jr., Sergeant Arsel Echeland, Sgt. Francis Martello, Officer Bernard Fruchtwerg, Patrolman George Belpidio, Patrolman Parta, Patrolman Caruso and Sergeant Bernard Fernandez.) WITNESSES to second group of arrests at 8:15 PM, Superintendent Giarrusso, Captain Edward Stevens, Sergeant Arsel Echeland and Patrolman George Belpidio).

It should be noted at this time that Rockwell had disregarded previous arrangements, as are made with all persons picketing in this city to keep the relief pickets out of the area. When he drove up to the main entrance to the Civic Theatre in a car containing a total of six persons in Nazi uniform with swastikas on their left arm.

Immediately after Rockwell and James were stopped or almost simultaneously with this action, the Tactical Officers, Parta and Caruso, removed a realistic appearing toy gun together with a scalloped-type knife from the vehicle in which the Nazis had been riding. All of the six persons were taken into custody and conveyed to the First Police District, 501 North Hampart Street, where they were booked and interviewed, after which they were photographed and fingerprinted.

These persons, on arrival at the district station furnished their names

A. Gifford (Continued)  
Subj: Supplemental report re-  
lative to the arrest of  
George Lincoln Rockwell,  
et al.

5/26/61

33 George Lincoln Rockwell, WM, age 33; Roy Jones, WM, age 23; Earl  
Edward Eukel, WM, age 41; Robert Washington Johnston, WM, age 31;  
Anthony Edward Davis, WM, age 33; and Charles Beveridge, WM, age 21;  
all furnishing the residence address as 928 North Randolph Street,  
Arlington, Virginia.

Shortly after these persons had been conveyed to the district station,  
the Volkswagen Bus described in the initial report under the same  
item number arrived in the passenger zone in front of the Civic Theatre.  
The following four persons were taken into custody from this vehicle:  
John Peltier, WM, age 23; Ralph Lee Messinger, WM, age 33; Seth David  
Egan, WM, age 22, and Andrew Norman Shappell, WM, age 23. They also  
furnished the same residence address in Arlington, Virginia. Details  
of the circumstances surrounding their arrests is explained in the  
initial report under item number under date of May 25, 1961, which  
has previously been submitted through channels to the Central Records  
Division and the Office of the Honorable District Attorney.

Attached hereto as exhibits in the case, find copies of letters which  
were sent to the Manager of the Civic Theatre, Mr. John Roberts; a  
copy of an article from the New Orleans States Item Newspaper, dated  
Monday, May 22, 1961; a list of evidence which was submitted to the  
Property Clerk's Office of the Criminal District Court; photographs  
of the Volkswagen Bus; photographs of members of the American Nazi  
Party in uniform; and photographs of the people on the opposite side  
of Baronne Street, immediately after Rockwell and his followers were  
taken into custody.

Vehicular and pedestrian traffic was unusually heavy in the 500 block  
of Baronne Street, during the time of this incident notwithstanding the  
fact that immediately prior to the arrests there was an unusually  
heavy downpour of wind-driven rain; this was a Wednesday night, at 7:45  
PM, and some of the business establishments in the area, excluding the  
theatre, appeared to be open for business at that time. (PHOTOGRAPHS  
of vehicles and pedestrians, etc., Officer Bernard Fruchtweig).

The following is some of the information which was learned from the  
interviews with the persons arrested. Some of them live in New Or-  
leans; some of them attend school locally; some of them have any  
relatives in New Orleans; and some of them work in New Orleans.

A copy of this supplementary report shall be submitted to the Honorable  
Richard A. Bowling, District Attorney.

Respectfully Submitted,

PA:ms  
ATT:GIBBENS

*[Signature]*  
Sergeant, Investigative Division



Joseph E. Diarrucro  
Superintendent of Police  
District Captain Edward J. Stevedore, 1st District Commander

Subject: The following names of the following named subjects from the 200 block of 1st Street, between 1145 S.W. and 1148 S.W. Wednesday, May 24, 1961 were listed in the First District Station with violation of Article 103.7, relative to disturbing the peace by conviction of an act in such a manner as to unreasonably disturb the public.

1. Seth David Lynn, #12, residing 928 N. Randolph, Arlington, Va.
2. Andrew Newman Campbell, #12, 928 N. Randolph, Arlington, Va.
3. John E. ...
4. John ...
5. ...
6. Charles Leverette, #12, 928 N. Randolph, Arlington, Va.
7. ...
8. ...
9. ...
10. ...
11. George Lincoln Rockwell, #12, 928 N. Randolph, Arlington, Va.

I would respectfully request of having been notified to report to the Superintendent of Police, Joseph E. Diarrucro, along with the following named members of this Department:

Captain E. J. Truscaltz, Sgt. Israel Echeland, Sgt. John Rice, Sgt. Walter Kott, Sgt. Bernard Fernandez, Sgt. Francis Martello, Det. Sgt. Marvin Leonard, Det. George DeLafite, Det. Henry S. Cho, Det. Earl ... Det. Louis Dumas, Det. ... L. Caruso for a security detail in and around the Civic Theatre located at 533 Lamme St. This detail under the direct supervision of the Superintendent of Police, at about 8:00 P.M. Wednesday, May 24, 1961. Various other members of the Department were detailed in mobile units, on patrol duty in this area. Information had been received that an organization who were known as the "Self-styled" members of the American Nazi Party, and who was known as the "White Luce" were to arrive in this area and it was suspected that the appearance of these persons, who were to be dressed in khaki uniform wearing swastika armbands would possibly create a general disturbance in and about the area of the Civic Theatre before or during the showing of a film titled "Kluge's ..."

This group had been, for almost twenty-four hours under constant surveillance by uniformed and plain-clothes members of various divisions of this department. Various members of this organization arrived within the city limits of this area before 10:00 P.M. Wednesday, May 24, 1961 and were seen in the Orleans Parish Court on the West River Highway. A car was later identified as the car of the ... in this area arrived in New Orleans at the Muriel airport at Justice evening. This man identified himself as George Lincoln Rockwell and had been a guest at the New Orleans Hotel.

-Continued-

The members of the organization were traveling in two vehicles, as the groups. One group is a 1961 Chevrolet, 2-door, light blue color, bearing District of Columbia license # JD 670-82, the other is a 1958 Volkswagon station wagon, bearing 1961 District license # 22A-113. These vehicles were property of Charles B. Harris of 2201 Illinois St., Washington, D.C. Harris paid the use of the station wagon for a period of 3 days on the Chevrolet and for a period of 1 year on the Volkswagon, for the sum of \$20.00.

On this date, May 24, 1961 there was a very hard rainfall which ceased shortly before 7:45 P.M. When the rain began to subside, the Chevrolet vehicle mentioned herein arrived in front of the Civic Theatre with the following, later identified, named persons in the vehicles:

1. Anthony Jails, operator of the car.
2. George Lincoln Rockwell
3. James Ray
4. Robert Washington Johnson
5. Anthony Edward Wells
6. Charles Beveridge
7. Paul Edward Dibel

George Lincoln Rockwell and James Ray alighted from the vehicle carrying signs which read, "America for Whites, Africa for Blacks", and "The Chamber for Traitors", and "Klanus written by Communist Jew", and "American Legion condems KKK". These men began to walk in a picket fashion in front of the theatre, as the heavy rain was stopping. They walked approximately 40 feet in one direction and 40 feet in another, at the curb in front of the entrance to the Civic Theatre. During this time it was observed by the officers on the detail that a large crowd had begun to gather on both sides of the street, on the sidewalk in the 500 block of Georgia as well as the passageway leading to the theatre. It was then obvious that these men were in violation of the law and they together with the officers who arrived with them in the Chevrolet automobile were placed under arrest. It was in the interest of public safety and to prevent a general disturbance which was being generated by the actions of the members of this organization that the arrests were made. A search of the Chevrolet was made by Supt. T. Barta and other officers on the scene of the arrest (as named herein) for contraband or evidence, at the scene of arrest. A realistic looking toy gun and a large blade knife were confiscated from under the driver seat of this vehicle, which had been occupied by members of the organization. This gun and knife were retained as possible evidence and entered in the evidence book at the First District Station, after being marked for identification by Supt. Barta. The arrested subjects were conveyed to the First District Station via mobile police units that were on the scene, where they were booked as stated herein.

Shortly after the removal of the six arrested parties from the scene, at about 8:30 P.M., May 24, 1961 the Volkswagen station wagon, as described herein arrived in the Passenger zone in front of the Civic Theatre. On the arrival of the bus one of the members of the organization opened the door as if to alight and the arrest of these people were ordered by the Superintendent of Police at this time for the same reasons as stated above.

This material was reviewed by John D. L. and reported by SA

1. John Lee Kessinger
2. John D. Ryan
3. Andrew Newman Chappell

The following material was obtained from three (3) sources who were contacted from above, which reads: "America for whites, Africa for blacks" and "President of the Negro (sic) & Hamer comprises letter 'W' is a communist spy". The second poster, "Head of the new N.A.A.C.P. is a Jew" (poster mentioning a man with large nose, lips and cynicism); the letter 'W' in N.A.A.C.P. (sic) and number; and "America for whites, Africa for blacks". The third poster, reading, "Down with every nigger". Other documents relating to the orders of this particular group and a log book were likewise confiscated and retained as possible evidence. These people were conveyed in various units of the Police Department to the First District Station where they were booked as stated herein.

At the District Station, Captain J. J. Trusciale and Sgt. Francis Martello of the Intelligence Division of this Department interrogated the arrested subjects. All admitted being members of the American Nazi Party. They related the purpose of their party: To combat Communism, integration and come to political power. This is party is three years old with about 1000 members and that they have traveled a number of states without arrest. All of the arrested parties, at the time of their arrest were wearing khaki uniforms with camouflage armbands, red hanging white circular shields, black swastika, blue disc in center of swastika. Each armband confiscated from the individual, article and marked for future identification and held as possible evidence. Rockwell is identified as the commander of the party. Kessinger, Troop leader, Ryan as the Secretary of the party, Chappell, Stern-Trooper, Balster as Editor of Nationalist Socialist Bulletin.

Headquarters notified via teletype of these arrests.  
Office of the District Attorney to be consulted and on advice  
of that office proper disposition will be made of this matter.

END/csr

Respectfully submitted,

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
Captain *[Name]* Stevens,  
1st District Commander

1. ...  
 2. ...  
 3. ...  
 4. ...  
 5. ...  
 6. ...  
 7. ...  
 8. ...  
 9. ...  
 10. ...

DETAILS

Disturbing the peace  
 by commission of a act  
 in such a manner as to  
 unnecessarily disturb or  
 alarm the public

VIOLATION: § 241.10.3a.7.....  
 DATE OF OFFENSE... 5/31/61...  
 AT LARGE.....  
 DISTRICT: 1st.....  
 PAROLE: No.....  
 BOND SUGGESTED: \$500.00 cash...

...*Chas. K. ...*.....  
 ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

170.951