

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1943

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Department of Justice announces that Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, climaxing an investigation begun in 1939, today arrested three persons in Detroit, Michigan, on charges of wartime espionage.

Simultaneously, acting on Presidential warrants, FBI agents arrested two German aliens in Detroit, Michigan.

Arrested on warrants charging violations of the wartime espionage statute were the following:

Mrs. Theresa Behrens, 44, of 5050 Harvard Road, German-Hungarian Secretary of the International Center, Young Women's Christian Association;

Dr. Fred William Thomas, 44, of 4631 Audubon Road, a surgeon and physician; and

Grace Buchanan-Dineen, 31, of 7716 East Jefferson Avenue.

Mr. Hoover disclosed that activities of the group since America's entry into the war centered about Grace Buchanan-Dineen, attractive, well-educated descendant of French nobility who, though a native of Canada, had been carefully trained by Germany in espionage work. After being recruited for espionage work by the Nazis in Budapest, Hungary, she entered the United States on October 27, 1941, arriving in New York City by Atlantic Clipper. Before leaving Lisbon, Portugal, for the United States she was given last-minute instructions by a German Naval Attache there.

Mr. Hoover said Miss Buchanan-Dineen first came to the attention of the FBI as the mysterious "Miss Smith," of Detroit, in November, 1941. Mr. Hoover said that subsequently Miss Buchanan-Dineen cooperated fully with

(OVER)

the FBI in receiving information desired by the German Espionage Service when it became apparent to her that she could not carry out the instructions of her Nazi employers. She has operated under the surveillance of the FBI, and all information reported to her and forwarded to her Nazi espionage superiors abroad has cleared through the FBI, and Army and Navy Intelligence Services.

Director Hoover disclosed that the well-known lecturer on Hungarian folklore, Sari deHajek, a Hungarian Exchange Student and a Vassar graduate, recruited Miss Buchanan-Dineen for the German Espionage Service in Budapest in the summer of 1941. Sari deHajek, who made many lectures on the West Coast, generally in and around San Francisco and Los Angeles, accompanied by her husband, toured the United States in 1938 and 1939 ostensibly as a lecturer; but under this guise was in a position to secure valuable information on our early defense efforts. Sari deHajek was sent to this country by the Hungarian government and her lectures were of a propoganda nature. She later sought admission to return to the United States as a professor, claiming she had received an appointment from a West Coast school. The husband of Sari deHajek, Gyula Rozinek, was the subject of an extensive investigation in San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and New York City when, in September of 1939, a patriotic citizen advised the FBI that Rozinek was a former captain in the German Army and was employed in a chemical plant in the San Francisco area. Rozinek first aroused suspicion when he announced: "Hitler is not only my Fuehrer, but my God." Rozinek was later arrested in San Francisco and ordered deported. At that time Mrs. Theresa Behrens made a \$500 bond for him. He visited her in Detroit prior to his deportation on May 27, 1941. Mrs. Behrens at that

time told immigration officials, "I am 100% for Hitler. If Hitler wins, all those small countries in Europe will have their freedom." Shortly after his return to Hungary he helped his wife in arranging Miss Buchanan-Dineen's entrance into the German Espionage Service, and carried on other espionage assignments for the Nazis in Europe.

Dr. Thomas has long been known to the FBI in Detroit as an associate of Theodore Donay, who was recently convicted for misprision of treason in Detroit, Fritz Kuhn, Gerhard Wilhelm Kunze, and Max Stephan (whose death sentence for treason was recently commuted to life) and as a speaker at Bund meetings. Born in Fresno, Ohio, of German ancestry, Dr. Thomas was an important contact of members of The German-American Bund, and in 1938 and 1939 followed a prominent Detroit religious leader around to various meetings, speaking on behalf of National Socialism and defending Nazi Anti-Semitic atrocities.

Miss Buchanan-Dineen was trained in espionage activities in Budapest and Berlin in a manner similar to the instruction afforded other espionage agents arrested by the FBI. Her instruction included methods of communication, how to gather vital information, the use of secret inks, micro-photography, and the development of a pretext for her movements about the country -- in her case that of a lecturer. She was instructed to concentrate on securing the following data:

- (1) The location of munition and airplane factories, their production and number of employees.
- (2) The location of military camps and naval bases.
- (3) All available information concerning helium.
- (4) The composition and sailing dates of convoys.

(OVER)

(5) Information on medical supplies exported.

A representative of the German Espionage Service had agreed that she was to receive \$500 a month, and prior to her departure from Lisbon, a German Naval Attache gave her an advance of \$2,500 with the promise that she would receive additional funds in Detroit.

Sari deHajek, while tutoring Grace Buchanan-Dineen in making contacts in the United States, prepared a checkered green-and-black notebook alphabetically indexed and setting forth the names, addresses, and in most instances, telephone numbers of persons known by her in the United States. Sari pointed out that the names listed would give Buchanan-Dineen an entree into circles where she might obtain information of interest to the German Espionage Service and that, in addition, the influential persons listed could assist her in carrying out her pretext as an espionage agent. Beside each name in the notebook Sari deHajek indicated how each was to be greeted by Miss Buchanan-Dineen, adding a few notes about them and their availability for assistance. Miss Buchanan-Dineen was given the names of some 200 prominent people residing in Atlantic City, New Jersey; Austin and Bay City, Texas; Baltimore, Maryland; Boston, Massachusetts; Beloit, Wisconsin; Cleveland, Ohio; Chicago, Illinois; Ojai, California; Berkley, California; Detroit, Michigan; Dayton, Ohio; Denver, Colorado; Flushing, Long Island; Greenwich, Connecticut; Kingston, New York; Kansas City, Missouri; Louisville, Kentucky; Headville, Pennsylvania; New York City; Passaic, New Jersey; Poughkeepsie, New York; Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Richmond, Indiana; Springfield, Missouri; San Francisco, California; Schenectady, New York; Toledo, Ohio; and Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Theresa Behrens was one of the first persons Miss Buchanan-Dineen contacted. She immediately began gathering espionage information.

Shortly after her arrival in Detroit, Miss Buchanan-Dineen dispatched a communication to one of the addresses given her. The FBI knew from previous investigation that the address had been used by other spies in the Ludwig Case in New York City. Another address in Budapest given to Miss Buchanan-Dineen was used by other spies in the New York spy case wherein 33 German spies were convicted.

Director Hoover further said that FBI scientists also identified a communication directed to Miss Buchanan-Dineen from Lisbon as having been written by the author of other letters to known German espionage agents who have already been apprehended and convicted.

In the spring of 1942 Dr. Otto Willumeit, a former Chicago, Illinois, German-American Bund leader, called on Miss Buchanan-Dineen in Chicago and discussed a mutual friend.

At that time Dr. Willumeit expressed his willingness to gather espionage information. Dr. Willumeit was convicted on a charge of espionage and, on August 21, 1942, received a five-year sentence at Hartford, Connecticut. He was convicted along with Count Anastase A. Vonsiatsky, Thompson, Connecticut; Gerhard Wilhelm Kunze, New York City; Dr. Wolfgang Ebell, El Paso, Texas; and Dr. Kurt Emil Gruno Molzahan, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In the meantime, Mrs. Behrens introduced Dr. Thomas to Miss Buchanan-Dineen who, at the doctor's request, called at his office frequently to receive information which he in turn had obtained from patients. On at least one occasion Dr. Thomas and Mrs. Behrens secured chemicals from Theodore Donay to give to Miss Buchanan-Dineen. On the day Donay was indicted for misprision of treason, Mrs. Behrens warned Miss Buchanan-Dineen to leave town, claiming she had revealed her identity to Donay.

(OVER)

Dr. Thomas was also a frequent caller at Miss Buchanan-Dineen's apartment, and on one occasion told her he had had 44 good years in the United States. However, he added, he felt justified in giving information to be relayed to Germany because, even though he were apprehended as a spy, he would "go to his doom" feeling he had done what was right and proper, for he thought the Nazi cause would predominate and assist in making the world a better place for his children to live under Nazi domination.

Both of the German aliens arrested are women. One was born in Einbeck, Germany, on March 18, 1879. She is the wife of an early Nazi Party member who was one of the organizers of the Nazi Party Unit in Detroit. One of her daughters worked in Berlin at a desk adjoining that of one of the eight Nazi Saboteurs who landed in this country by submarine last year and were captured by the FBI. Another daughter is married to a high ranking Nazi Party member in Berlin, Walter Hantschel, whom she met while he was an exchange student in the United States, attending Yale, Columbia, and the University of Michigan. Her family name also was approved by the German High Command as a contact for the eight Nazi saboteurs when they came to the United States a year ago. She was closely associated with Miss Grace Buchanan-Dineen and Mrs. Behrens.

The other alien enemy is a countess who was born in Berlin on November 7, 1897. She has been the subject of various complaints for endeavoring to indoctrinate college students in Detroit with National Socialism. Frequently she would attempt to teach students Nazi songs building up racial hatreds. Prior to the outbreak of war, she periodically received money from Germany and has frequently proclaimed that the world will be unified by Germany, and that Hitler is the savior of the world. The countess furnished

Grace Buchanan-Dineen an address in Switzerland which she said could be used to transmit espionage information. On another occasion she informed Mrs. Theresa Behrens that Theodore Donay had sent word from jail to the Detroit German colony, warning them against Theresa Behrens who had told him of Grace Buchanan-Dineen's true identity and mission.

The two alien enemies are being held for a hearing before the Alien Enemy Hearing Board in Detroit. The other persons arrested in Detroit will be arraigned today on complaints authorized by United States Attorney John Lehr, Detroit, and the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, charging violation of Section 32 (b), Title 50, United States Code, the Wartime Espionage Statute. This statute provides:

"Whoever, in the time of war, with intent that the same shall be communicated to the enemy, shall collect, record, publish, or communicate, or attempt to elicit any information or disposition of any of the armed forces, ships, aircraft, or war materials of the United States, or with respect to the plans or conduct, or supposed plans or conduct of any naval or military operations, or with respect to any works or measures undertaken for or connected with, or intended for the fortification or defense of any place, or any other information relating to the public defense, which might be useful to the enemy, shall be punished by death or by imprisonment for not more than thirty years."

The specific charges enumerated in the complaints filed before United States Commissioner J. Stanley Hurd in Detroit are as follows:

(OVER)

Theresa Behrens is specifically charged with securing information as to "The location of the manufacturing plants of the Pullman Company of Chicago, Illinois, the number of employees engaged by the Pullman Company in manufacturing war material, the character and kind of war material then being manufactured by the Pullman Company, and the transportation of such war material from the Pullman Company, and the transportation of such war material from the Pullman Company, to other manufacturers of war material."

Dr. Fred W. Thomas is specifically charged with securing information as to "The number and location of certain plants of the Westinghouse Electric in the State of Ohio manufacturing war materials, the transportation and disposition of such war materials, the location of and employment conditions in several plants manufacturing nitro-glycerin, a war material, in the State of Ohio."

Grace Buchanan-Dineen is specifically charged with securing 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."

BACKGROUND DATA

GRACE BUCHANAN-DINEEN

Grace Buchanan-Dineen was born in Toronto, Canada, May 19, 1909, of French-Canadian parents. The background of her home and of her parents was one of plenty and of social preferment among people who had influence and power on two continents.

Her great-grandfather was the last Count de Neen of Brittany, France. He and his ancestors were prominent throughout that Nation and even after the French Revolution the de Neens were recognized throughout Central Europe as being of nobility and carried titles of Count and Countess.

At one time Miss Buchanan-Dineen's grandfather was considered one of the richest men in the Dominion of Canada and Miss Buchanan-Dineen owns considerable property there in her own name. Her ancestors settled in Canada in 1836 and she considers Toronto her home.

Her father and mother separated and she went to France to live with the former and was educated there. She moved to England in 1929 with her father and went with him to Budapest, Hungary, in 1938.

A short time after Miss Buchanan-Dineen and her father had arrived in the gay and colorful Hungarian city he died and she returned to Toronto but after settling her father's estate she again returned to Budapest in 1939 and while there contacted a number of persons who were well known in the social life of that European city.

While living in Budapest, Miss Buchanan-Dineen became acquainted with Sari De Hajek who had been in the United States with her husband, Julius Rozinek in 1938 and 1939.

Miss Buchanan-Dineen found Miss De Hajek (who used her maiden rather than her married name) an interesting companion. She learned that

(OVER)

Miss De Hajek and her husband had traveled extensively in the United States, giving lectures and folk dances dealing with their native Hungary, and as their acquaintance developed into a friendship which became close enough for confidential exchanges, Miss De Hajek suggested that Miss Buchanan-Dineen return to the United States and engage in espionage activity for the Axis.

Subsequently, Miss Buchanan-Dineen traveled from there to New York via Lisbon, Portugal.

She arrived in New York by clipper on October 27, 1941, and went to Detroit on November 1, 1941, where she immediately began contacting persons who were willing to supply and who were able to collect information on the United States' war effort.

Shortly thereafter she made a visit to relatives and friends in Canada and returned to Detroit by way of New York.

Miss Buchanan-Dineen, shortly after her arrival in America, signed a contract to appear as a lecturer in the United States and on several occasions actually has addressed various groups on:

1. Women in War Torn Europe
2. Out of the Darkness
3. The Oppression of War
4. Into the Light of Freedom
5. I Saw the Nazis in Central Europe
6. Behind the War Lines

Miss Buchanan-Dineen's personality and extensive travel made her an excellent conversationalist and a person who was found interesting by a number of socially prominent persons with whom she came in contact.

MRS. THERESA BEHRENS

Mrs. Theresa Behrens was born on September 19, 1898, at Pancebo, Yugoslavia, of German parents. She and her mother entered the United States at New York on August 27, 1913, and at that time she was known as Terez Wassertauer. They had set out for America following the death of Terez's father and after receiving a letter from an acquaintance describing the wonderful opportunities in America.

They went directly to Detroit, Michigan, where she was married to Fred Behrens, a native of Mulheim, Germany, on December 26, 1917.

Theresa Behrens was naturalized on June 10, 1929, her husband had received his papers about one year previously.

Between 1913 and 1939 Mrs. Behrens made several trips to Germany and Hungary. She has expressed herself as violently pro-German and as desirous of returning to Germany at the close of the war. Mrs. Behrens is a social worker, having served as secretary of the International Center of the YWCA in Detroit.

Mrs. Behrens introduced Miss Buchanan-Dineen to several people who agreed to help in collecting information for transmission to Germany and also agreed to help finance Miss Buchanan-Dineen from her personal funds. On numerous occasions Mrs. Behrens assisted in contacting persons and in gathering information desired by the spy ring.

Mrs. Behrens' mother and brother also reside in Detroit.

Mrs. Behrens, in her position as secretary of the International Center of the YWCA in Detroit, was in an excellent position to disseminate the pro-Nazi opinions which she has entertained for a long period of years. She was considered a person who always could be depended upon to lend a

(OVER)

sympathetic ear to the problems or troubles of any pro-German in the Detroit area.

Mrs. Behrens enthusiastically entered into arrangements to contact persons who had or could obtain information desired by the German espionage system and no one in the Detroit group was more active than she in lining up sources of information.

DR. FRED WILLIAM THOMAS

Dr. Fred William Thomas was born at Fresno, Ohio, on December 30, 1898. His parents were of German ancestry. After serving his internship in America he went to Germany in 1928 as an exchange surgeon and after working there approximately one year made a tour of Europe before returning to the United States in September, 1929.

Early in January, 1930, he opened an office in Detroit, where he has practiced since. He specializes in women's diseases.

Dr. Thomas was a member of the Friends of New Germany, the immediate predecessor of the German-American Bund. He was a close associate of Fritz Kuhn, German-American Bund leader, and Fritz Heiler, the German Consul in Detroit.

Dr. Thomas provided Miss Buchanan-Dineen with materials for compounding secret inks she needed in preparing her letters, and on numerous occasions provided her with information which he had extracted from patients. He frequently expressed his desire to do all he could to help Nazi Germany.

Dr. Thomas attended Taylor University from 1917 to 1919 and graduated from Baldwin-Wallace, Berea, Ohio, with an A.B. degree in 1921. He finished at the University of Michigan in 1926.

During his extensive tour of Europe, he visited Austria, Italy, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Holland, and England.

At one time he was medical examiner for a large life insurance company, but his services were terminated shortly after he made a speech at a German picnic in 1939.

It was approximately the same time that he became resentful of the activities of a religious leader who was appearing before audiences to advocate the boycotting of German-made goods. Dr. Thomas followed this

(OVER)

speaker and gave addresses outlining Germany's views on the matter in an effort to counteract anti-Nazi statements made by the religious leader.

Dr. Thomas has acted as host to visitors from Germany and in his contact with the other members of the Detroit spy ring oftentimes expressed his admiration for the Nazi system.

On one occasion Dr. Thomas requested one of the members of the Detroit group to give him advance information on any Detroit air raids so that he might arrange for protection of his family.

SARI deHAJEK

and

GUYULA ROZINEK (Julius)

In the latter part of 1938 Sari deHajek and her husband, Guyula Rozinek, arrived in New York from Hungary. There was nothing unusual about the pair to make them stand out from the crowd, but they were to figure in one of the many well-planned espionage schemes perpetrated by the German espionage system which was to fail.

Sari deHajek did not use the name of her husband, Guyula Rozinek, but preferred to go under the name of Charlotta deHajek inasmuch as she was an interpreter of the expressive and colorful folk dances of old Hungary and inasmuch as she had come to the United States purportedly to give Americans a better understanding of her people through her dances and through lectures.

America was not new to Sari deHajek because she had been here previously as an exchange student at Vassar, and she looked forward to renewing the acquaintance of numerous young women who then had scattered to many sections of the country.

Sari deHajek and her husband traveled to various parts of the United States, and early in 1939 made an automobile trip to Mexico where she visited a college friend. They re-entered the United States in March, 1939, at Laredo, Texas, and proceeded to the West Coast where a number of lectures and dances were given in and around Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Sari deHajek left her husband, Guyula, on the West Coast and proceeded eastward, purportedly to return to her homeland for the purpose of obtaining additional costumes. While residing on the West Coast, Guyula was known as Julius and Julian Rozinek. Rozinek obtained a position with a

(OVER)

chemical firm at Richmond, California, in April, 1939, and worked there until he was discharged in May, 1940, after his snooping around offices of a West Coast oil Company had aroused suspicion. A little later he was arrested by the San Francisco Police Department for issuing worthless checks.

Rozinek was also employed for a short time by a New York tours agency and in explaining his presence in this country stated that he came over with the expectation of organizing an import and export business. He further explained that in his native land he had been engaged in the manufacture of steel pipe flanges, that his partner had difficulties with authorities because of his racial background, and dissolution of the company was necessary.

It was noted that Rozinek appeared to be intelligent, alert, and well trained. Part of his employment on the West Coast was as a draftsman.

Both Sari deHajek and her husband were born in Hungary. Rozinek was much older than his vivacious, attractive, blonde wife. He was 48 years old when he was in the United States, while she was 23. Although he spoke with a definite foreign accent which emphasized his none too good English, his wife had an excellent command of that language inasmuch as she had studied in America.

Sari deHajek and her husband are now in Hungary where, according to latest reports, they are assisting with the German Espionage Service.