

This reference is an article from the Chicago "Daily Times" for 8/22/40 entitled "Fear U.S. Harbors Biggest 5th Column" which was made available to the Bureau by [REDACTED] This article was the final of a series of four articles made public by Secretary of Navy Knox, as part of the national defense program. Col. William J. Donovan, having just returned from a mission abroad on behalf of Secretary Knox, wrote these articles in collaboration with Edgar Mowrer, foreign correspondent. b7C

61-7560-11245  
(96)  
SI 62-58216-1125  
(94) (Article from  
Washington "Evening  
Star", 8/22/40)

This reference is a letter from Col. William J. Donovan, an attorney at 2 Walls St., NYC, dated 8/22/40, NYC enclosing a letter he had received from [REDACTED] This letter set out information regarding a German whose last name was Fischesser. This individual had just bought a lake and surrounding land in Otsego County and had spent considerable money on the place although he only lived there in the summer. b7C

On 8/29/40 letters were directed to both [redacted] and Col. Donovan stating that an Agent from the Albany Field Office would call upon [redacted] for further information. b7c

65-29330-2  
(96)

The 8/23/40 issue of "Hemisphere", city and state not given, carried an article which stated that Roosevelt's announcement of pending exchange of aged U.S. destroyers for British bases, and the Canadian - U.S. mutual defense agreement, dramatically brought to light the results of lengthy secret talks. Not made public, however, was the name of Roosevelt's negotiator. No diplomat, the man who was sent to speak for the President in London was Col. "Wild Bill" Donovan, World War I commander of New York's Fighting 69th. Material for Donovan's newspaper articles on "European Fifth Column" was gathered during conversations with King George, Prime Minister Churchill and dozens of lesser British dignitaries.

Above article is one of several newspaper clippings making up this serial.  
64-1000-9X  
(67)

On 8/29/40 Congressman Wright Patman from Texas appeared before a Special Hearing of the HCUA. Patman referred to a report by Col. William Donovan and Edgar Mawrer on the "fifth columns" in the U.S. which appeared in an unidentified newspaper on 8/22/40 under the following headline: "Strong 'Fifth Column' In United States could Be Our Undoing - Hitler conspiring for World Dominion - Immense Sums Spent for Propaganda". The full text of the above article is set out in this reference.

Dies Committee Report,  
Vol. 14, pg. 8201  
(74)

In the latter part of 1941 [REDACTED] Rockefeller Center, NYC, advised Bureau Agent that Count John de Perdicari was a very good friend of Col. "Bill" William Donovan. [REDACTED] met Donovan at a cocktail party given by Count de Perdicari at 410 Park Ave., NYC in September 1940. Donovan was believed to have been asked to use his influence in obtaining a visa for Count de Perdicari to return to Italy. b7D

NY Rpt., 12/17/41  
Re: [REDACTED] was; Alice; b7C  
Esp-1  
65-31008-11  
(27)

On 9/26/40, Dr. Gerhardt Alois Westrick allegedly paid \$20,000 to Thorkild Reiber who in turn transferred this sum to the campaign manager for Martin Dies.

(Source not given)

A confidential source advised the NY office that Col. William Donovan was Reiber's confidential adviser throughout his difficulties over his associations with Westrick and could probably furnish pertinent details concerning Reiber's financial dealings, although it was not deemed advisable to interview Col. Donovan at that time.

Memo for the Director, 6/5/40

No caption given

65-10325-152

(48)

On 10/10/40 an unknown outside source in NYC, made available information concerning the Council For Democracy. Col. William Donovan was listed as a member of the board of this council. Raymond Green Culling, head of the board of directors of the Council For Democracy stated that the purpose of the council was to make democracy worth fighting for.

Blind Memo, 10/25/40

Re: Council for Democracy

94-1-18911-7

changed to

100-164062-XS

(38)

~~TOP SECRET~~

1  
b-6  
b7C  
1  
This reference is a letter to the Director dated 10/16/40 signed Bill (William J.) Donovan on the letterhead of Donovan, Leisure, Newton and Lombard, Attorneys and Counselors at Law, 2 Wall St., NYC. In this letter Donovan furnished information which he had received from [REDACTED] concerning the presence in this country of certain French contacts, and suggested [REDACTED] as a contact for information. Donovan also stated that Frank Knox had asked that they get together for luncheon sometime soon. (S)(u)

This letter was acknowledged on 10/12/40 and the luncheon invitation accepted.

66-2542-6582X  
(107)✓  
SI 100-6407-1  
(75)✓

This reference is a letter dated 10/18/40 from William J. Donovan, an attorney at 2 Wall St., NYC, to Mr. Hoover regarding a Baron Franz Von Recum who asked Donovan's advice on obtaining residence in the U.S. This letter was acknowledged 10/24/40.

65-31063-1  
(92)✓

~~TOP SECRET~~

This reference is a letter dated 10/24/40 from William J. Donovan, Attorney at 2 Wall St., NYC, regarding a man named Henry F. Miller who was charged with smuggling narcotics from Mexico. Letter acknowledged 11/6/40.

12-0-4439  
(77).

On 10/21/40 Mr. Hoover telephonically contacted Col. William J. Donovan in response to his call. Donovan mentioned a young lady who had lunch with them and stated that she was suspicious of a Mr. Hammond. She had advised that Hammond had said something about coming to her place and she sent him a telegram that she could not have him, but the telegram came back that he was in Halifax. She later told him that she had attempted to send the telegram and this caused him great concern. He asked her to give him the record of all the time he had been in her home. From these actions she concluded that someone was checking on him. *No further details given.*

Memo from Mr. Hoover  
to Mr. Tamm and Mr.  
Clegg dated 10/21/40  
No caption given  
65-8946-2407  
(82)

On 10/24/40 Col. William J. Donovan called from NY and talked with Mr. Tamm, concerning an individual who gave his name to Thorkild Rieber as Watts and stated he was a Federal Inspector. Donovan was advised that the Bureau had no agent in that vicinity by the name of Watts.

Memo for the Director,  
10/24/40  
No caption given  
65-27244-6  
(83)

This reference is an undated memo from an unidentified outside source, place not given, received in early November 1940. This memo stated that when Col. William Donovan returned from his trip abroad where he had been sent by Secretary of Navy Knox, the President and Ben Smith met Donovan and talked with him. Smith said Donovan told him that when the first blitzkrieg hit London that London would collapse. Donovan later said that he had talked to Smith but that he had said that in his opinion the British would stop the Nazis.

65-7357-30  
(26) -

\* apparently not to be used

This reference is a letter dated 11/8/40 from William J. Donovan, Attorney at 2 Wall St., NYC. to Mr. Hoover enclosing a letter which Donovan had received from [redacted] of Texas. [redacted] letter set out information concerning Goro Matsuda, 3122 Buena Vista St., San Antonio, Texas, who was a nephew of Yosuke Matsuda, Foreign Minister of Japan. b7c

Letters of acknowledgement were sent to both [redacted] and Donovan on 11/26/40.

65-81402-1  
(91)

This reference is a letter dated 11/8/40 from William J. Donovan, an attorney at 2 Wall St., NYC, inquiring as to the attitude of Draft Board officials toward draft registrants going overseas with the British. On 11/22/40 Donovan was advised by letter that the Draft Administration had formulated no policy on this matter.

25-20-3  
(97)

This reference is a booklet entitled, "Fifth Solon Lessons for America" by Col. William Donovan and Edgar Hoover with the introduction written by Frank Knox, Secretary of the Navy. This booklet published by the American Council on Public Affairs, 1734 Eye St., Wash., D.C., was received at this Bureau 11/25/40.

61-7552-20000  
(28)



In the latter part of August or the early part of September 1942 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NYC, was interviewed by Bureau Agents concerning Torkild Rieber, officer in charge of foreign sales and the Texas Marine Department of the Texas Company, prior to his resignation in 1941. [REDACTED] stated that Col. William Donovan traveled with Rieber on one or more occasions throughout Germany and was introduced by Rieber to important persons in Germany and later used these contacts for his own military missions in Central Europe. b7D

[REDACTED] stated Donovan and Rieber were the best of friends and suggested that Donovan be interviewed regarding Rieber. Prior to Rieber's resignation from the Texas Company he was represented by Col. William Donovan whose services were compensated in the sum of \$6,000 by the Texas Company.

NY Rpt., 10/7/43  
Re: Torkild Rieber, was,  
Registration Act, De-  
naturalization proceedings -  
G, Neutrality Act  
65-27244-81  
(12)

In 1941 a list of persons on the personal mailing list of Ulric Bell and his organization, the Fight for Freedom Committee, included the name of Col. William J. Donovan.

Source not given  
Bureau Memo, 5/15/41  
No caption given  
100-24467-2  
(81)

117

~~TOP SECRET~~

This reference is an unidentified report dated 1/25/41 setting out data obtained from a confidential source close to the German Embassy, entitled "European Situation." This report stated that "Wild Bill" Donovan would prove disappointing to the President in his missions to Bulgaria and Greece as an emissary of the President. Details as to discussions with the heads of these countries set out. (S)(u)

The above information was furnished to Major General Edwin M. Watson, Secretary to the President on 1/28/41.

66-5424-3-217  
(65)✓

On 1/29/41 the NYC PD advised that an investigation had been conducted concerning Count John Perdicari (believed to be a German spy) who had been in the US allegedly since 1934 as a representative of Piccioli (a tobacco firm in Italy). During a personal interview with the investigator Perdicari said the purpose of Col. William Donovan's journey to Europe was to "feel out" various nations as to a United States of Europe. He said that Col. Donovan was sent by Secretary Knox and that the State Dept. was receptive toward sponsoring such a movement.

NY Rpt., 9/9/41

Re: [REDACTED]  
was, et al;  
Esp-I  
65-31008-5  
(29)✓

b-6  
b7C

~~TOP SECRET~~

TOP SECRET

This reference is an unidentified report dated 2/15/41 entitled "European Situation" and setting out data obtained from a confidential source close to the German Embassy. This report stated that on Col. Donovan's visit through the Balkan area he (Donovan) told the leaders of the countries in this section that he was the direct representative of the President of the U.S. and warned them that if the axis powers should be defeated these countries could look forward to conciliatory and beneficial powers. Donovan told them that if they played with the axis powers and were defeated, they could not look for favor from Great Britain and the U.S. (S) (u)

The above information was furnished to Major General Edwin M. Watson, Secretary to the President; The Secretary of Navy; Assistant Secretary of State Adolf A. Berle; Assistant Attorney General Matthew F. McGuire and Solicitor General Biddle on 2/18/41.

66-5424-3-229  
(28)

1  
b6  
b7C  
b7D  
On 3/10/41 the NY office advised that Col. William J. Donovan was believed to be making an investigation of [redacted] with a view of utilizing his services and that [redacted] became disturbed when he learned of the investigation. It was agreed that an inquiry of Donovan would be made concerning this matter.

1  
Memo for the Director, 12/10/41  
No caption given  
61-7566-3119  
(116)

X

A translation from the Russian daily paper for 3/17/41 the "Russky Golos" published at 64 East 7th St., NYC, carried a news item which stated, "William Donovan, unofficial Washington observer in Europe, confers with Spanish officials about American aid to Spain."

100-21318-A  
"Russky Golos", 3/17/41  
(28)

~~TOP SECRET~~

The NY "Times" for August 19 to 22, 1940 carried a series of articles by Col. William J. Donovan and Edgar Mowrer, material for which was obtained by Col. Donovan when he was sent to London at the request of Secretary of Navy Knox. The articles described German "fifth column" methods. Donovan was Coordinator of Information in 1941, which became Office of War Information in 1942.

The Seattle "Post - Intelligencer" for 4/20/41 listed Col. William J. Donovan as a sponsor of the Fight for Freedom Committee.

Seattle Rpt., 5/29/50

Re: [REDACTED]

SM-C

100-23795-120 pgs.

13, 18  
(103)✓

b-6  
b7C  
1  
This reference is a letter dated 5/13/41 from William J. Donovan, attorney at 2 Wall St., NYC, to Mr. Hoover enclosing a letter dated 5/12/42 which Mr. Donovan had received from [REDACTED] NYC. This letter stated that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] could furnish possible valuable information to our government. Donovan's letter was acknowledged 5/19/41.

65-35339-11  
(101)✓

~~TOP SECRET~~

Col. William J. Donovan was one of the founders of the American Friends of Yugoslavia, Inc., which was incorporated in NYC on 5/1/41 to relieve suffering Yugoslavia.

(Source not clearly stated)  
NY Rpt., 3/7/44  
Re: The American Friends  
of Yugoslavia, Inc., aka;  
IS-C  
100-182760-5  
(99)

On 6/4/41 Mr. James Magee called this Bureau and advised he had sent a letter to the Director on 6/2/41 requesting a speaker for a mass meeting in Pittsburgh during the latter part of June. According to Mr. Magee this rally was to be held in opposition to the America First Committee and "Wild Bill" Donovan was to be one of the speakers.

Mr. Magee was advised that this letter would be called to the Director's attention as soon as it arrived at the Bureau.

Bureau memo, 6/4/41  
No caption given  
100-4712-67X2  
(66)

On Saturday night prior to 6/24/41 [REDACTED] b7D  
called Mr. Foxworth and advised that he had heard a radio  
broadcast which stated that "Wild Bill" Donovan had been  
appointed head of a new secret intelligence service, which  
was to be staffed by representatives from the Justice,  
Treasury and State Departments which would work closely  
with the army and navy.

Memo for the Director,  
6/24/41  
No caption given  
62-64427-X2  
(65)

The Washington "Times Herald", date not given,  
carried an article entitled "Donovan Heads U.S. Intelli-  
gence" which stated that President Roosevelt had com-  
missioned Col. William J. "Wild Bill" Donovan a Major  
General in the U.S. Army to supervise American military  
intelligence and to ally it with the British secret ser-  
vice. A time stamp on the back of this reference in-  
dicated it was received in Mr. Hendon's office 6/25/41.

66-8700-A  
(66,107)

3  
1  
On 6/25/41 observance by a Bureau Agent at Room 629 of the Newsweek Bldg. in NYC revealed that [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] that (Col. William) Donovan offered money to Yugoslavia to fight. Col. Donovan was called "Wild Bill" because he was such a sissy, according to [REDACTED] b7C

NY Rpt., 8/19/41

Re: [REDACTED] was, etal;

Esp-G

65-8946-7018 pg. 39

(26) ✓

In the summer of 1941 information was received that Atherton Richards, regarded in Honolulu as a brilliant executive, financier and economist, ~~who was~~ President of the Hawaiian Pineapple Company, was associated with William J. Donovan. (Source not given)

This reference contains the following notation:  
"I understand from Donovan he is to be his right hand man on administration. H."

Memo for the Director,  
7/19/41

No caption given

62-63816-2

(81)

SI 62-3816-1

(81) ✓



On 4/2/50 Joseph Barnes was interviewed by  
Bureau Agents at which time he advised that in the summer  
of 1941 he went to work for Col. William "Wild Bill"  
Donovan in the office of Coordinator of Information in  
NYC.

WFO report, 4/4/50  
Re: Owen Lattimore  
Esp-R  
100-24638-405 p. 7  
(54, 66)

This reference sets out information concerning the newspaper, "The New Leader" published in NY. Attached to this memo is an article from the above newspaper of 7/12/41 by Edward Loring entitled, "Donovan Heads New Office To Speed Counter Espionage." This article stated that Col. William J. Donovan had been named Coordinator of Information, and included a picture of Col. Donovan as well as details of the new counter espionage office.

Memo for Mr. Nichols,  
7/16/41 with above news-  
paper clipping  
No caption given  
61-5124-9  
(118)

The Congressional Record for 7/31/41, page 6651 carried the following remarks by Senator Wheeler with reference to his (Wheeler's) prosecution by the Department of Justice: "'Wild Bill' Donovan, who is in the Department of Justice, is the man who conducted my prosecution. Mr. Donovan is now head of the Gestapo in the United States. That is the proper place for him, because he knows how such things should be done. He worked with Burns, and with all the sleuths in the Department of Justice when they were raiding the offices of the late Senator Caraway, the late Senator Walsh, and old 'Battling Bob' LaFollette. So he is a fitting man to head the Gestapo in the United States."

Memo for the Director,  
8/1/41  
Re: The Congressional  
Record  
66-1731-103X2  
(62)

Army  
OK to  
release

A confidential informant of MID who was designated as "E" advised that on 8/1/41 he had conferred with Del Fungo Giera, wa. Peter Brenner who was under indictment in the Southern District of NY on charges of impersonating a Gov't. officer. Mr. Charles T. Lark, Attorney for Giera, was attempting to make an appointment with Col. William Donovan in order for Giera to give Donovan the details of his case. Giera advised that Lark claimed he had something on Col. Donovan, and if Donovan refused to interview Giera, then Lark would make a public matter of him.

Col. William J. Donovan, Coordinator of Information, was given details of above ~~interview~~ in a Bureau letter dated 10/8/41.  
threat

NY Let 8/29/41  
Re: [REDACTED] b7C  
was; Impersonation  
47-1863-97  
(27,88)  
SI 1st paragraph above  
47-1863-79  
(65) (name searched as  
Wild Bill Donovan)

[REDACTED] b7C

~~SECRET~~

[REDACTED]

Tesur log, date not  
given, Washington, D.C.  
entitled H Summary  
Informant # not given  
65-6165-1-79  
(51)

On 8/19/41 [REDACTED] of Col. (William) Donovan's  
office called and stated that Col. Donovan desired that the  
Bureau be advised that a man named [REDACTED] at  
the Mayflower Hotel, [REDACTED]  
had come to Col. Donovan's office on 8/18/41. [REDACTED]  
said he knew a group which was operating a smuggling ring  
in the Everglades of Florida, and that they were smuggling  
Germans in from Cuba or somewhere. [REDACTED] had been un-  
successful in getting an interview with Naval officials.  
[REDACTED] said Col. Donovan wanted someone from Navy or  
FBI to talk with [REDACTED] at the Mayflower Hotel and de-  
termine whether or not something should be done about the  
matter.

[REDACTED] was advised this <sup>was</sup> ~~was material~~ within the  
jurisdiction of INS.

Bureau memo, 8/19/41  
No caption given  
100-39572-1  
(51)

6-30-53

URGENT

SAC NEW YORK  
WASHINGTON FIELD (BSM)

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, SI. ADVISE DATE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT  
SUBMITTED AND IDENTITY OF REPORTING AGENT.

HOOVER

CC 2 WFO (BSM)

MLI:d1j

JUN 30 6 24 PM '53  
RECEIVED  
FBI  
WASHINGTON

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

RECORDED-92

77-58706-38

TELETYPE

JUN 22 1953

7/9/53

ew

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

BUREAU

EPG

<b>REPORT MADE AT</b> <p style="text-align: center;">NEW YORK</p>	<b>DATE WHEN MADE</b> <p style="text-align: center;">6/30/53</p>	<b>PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE</b> <p style="text-align: center;">6/23, 24, 25/53</p>	<b>REPORT MADE BY</b> <p style="text-align: center;">THOMAS J. LARDNER</p>
<b>TITLE</b> <p>WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, aka: "Wild Bill" Donovan</p>			<b>CHARACTER OF CASE</b> <p style="text-align: center;">SPECIAL INQUIRY</p>
<p><b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b></p> <p>WILLIAM D. MITCHELL advised that appointee has detested him since HERBERT HOOVER appointed him Attorney General. Appointee's first law partner, FRANK G. REICHLE of Buffalo, was indicted during late 1920's or early 1930's on worthless bond deal. Appointee asked MITCHELL to intervene. MITCHELL wrote letter to FGJ pointing out spotless character and reputation of REICHLE. No court action instituted at that time, however, REICHLE was re-indicted in 1931 or 1932. Appointee again asked MITCHELL to intervene. MITCHELL refused. REICHLE tried and acquitted. MITCHELL considers appointee loyal, capable and brilliant and knows no reason why he should not have responsible government position. Judge CHARLES D. LAWRENCE, U. S. Customs Court, recommends most highly. The Honorable HERBERT HOOVER recommends appointee most highly having known him since 1925; knows none of circumstances of indictments returned against REICHLE or appointee's intervention in affair.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- RUC -</p> <p><b>REFERENCE:</b> Washington Field teletype to New York, 6/22/53.</p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b> WILLIAM D. MITCHELL, Attorney, 20 Exchange Place, advised that he has known the appointee for approximately 30 years in mostly a professional relationship. He stated that both served in the Department of Justice during the CALVIN COOLIDGE Administration from 1924-1928. Mr. MITCHELL stated that he was Solicitor General and the appointee Assistant to the Attorney General. At this time both were very friendly and got along well together.</p>			
<b>APPROVED AND FORWARDED:</b> <i>[Signature]</i>		<b>SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</b>	
<b>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</b> 2-Bureau 1-New York (77-16713)		<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">77-58706-39</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JUL 1 1953</p> <p style="text-align: center;">24</p>	

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However, Mr. MITCHELL stated their feeling for each other became strained when in his official capacity he had occasion to alter some of the legal briefs that the appointee drew. The appointee resented these alterations and advised Mr. MITCHELL of his resentment. During the Presidential campaign of 1928 the appointee aided Mr. HOOVER, being a loyal Republican, and after his election hoped that he would be appointed Attorney General. However, in Washington political circles at this time his, Mr. MITCHELL'S, name was prominently mentioned as the new Attorney General. Mr. MITCHELL stated that when these rumors began spreading he called in the appointee and explained to him that he did not want the job, had no desires of obtaining it, and had done nothing to secure the appointment.

However, a short time later Mr. MITCHELL was called to the home of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court HARLAN FISKE STONE, who along with President-elect HOOVER who was also there, asked him to take the Attorney Generalship. Mr. MITCHELL told them of his plans to return to private practice which negated his taking the Attorney General's position. However, Justice STONE and Mr. HOOVER persuaded him to take the job, which he did.

From that time on the appointee detested him, feeling that he had "undercut" him, the appointee, to get the Attorney Generalship. As a result of Mr. MITCHELL'S appointment, the appointee early in 1929 resigned from the Department of Justice and returned to New York City to found his law firm.

One of the appointee's first partners was FRANK G. REICHLE, now a practicing attorney in Buffalo, who maintained the Washington Office of the partnership. In the late 1920's or early 1930's Mr. REICHLE was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury in Washington as a result of a worthless bond deal. Mr. MITCHELL stated a few other individuals were also indicted but he could not recall their identity. REICHLE protested his innocence stating that although the other individuals who were indicted resided at the same address as he, he had no connection with them.

The appointee at this time called upon Mr. MITCHELL in his partner's behalf and asked him to have the indictment quashed. Mr. MITCHELL told the appointee that he could not do this, but wrote a letter to the Federal Grand Jury pointing out the spotless character and reputation of REICHLE and also of his high standing in the community. As a result of this letter, no action was taken against REICHLE.

However, in 1931 or 1932 REICHLE was re-indicted on the

same charge and once again the appointee asked Mr. MITCHELL to intervene. The appointee at this time was campaigning for the governorship of New York State. Mr. MITCHELL refused, telling the appointee to let the court action take its course. REICHLE was tried and acquitted. Mr. MITCHELL could not recall the outcome of the trials of the other individuals involved, but believed they were convicted. All court records of this action are maintained in the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice.

Mr. MITCHELL considers the appointee to be a very capable and brilliant person and knows of no reason why he should not be given a responsible government position. He believes that the present position to be the Ambassador to Thailand. He considers the appointee's loyalty to be unquestioned.

CHARLES D. LAWRENCE, Judge, United States Customs Court, 201 Varick Street, advised that he has known the appointee since 1928 when both were serving in the Department of Justice. He stated that his association with the appointee was professional and not very close. He stated that he has seen the appointee twice in the last five years. He stated further that the appointee was quite disappointed when he was not made Attorney General by HERBERT HOOVER.

Judge LAWRENCE recommended the appointee most highly as to his character, reputation and loyalty to the United States Government. He stated that the appointee has a notable record of public service and recommends him for a responsible government position. He knew nothing derogatory concerning the appointee.

The Honorable HERBERT HOOVER, former President of the United States, Waldorf Towers, advised SA ROBERT J. JACKSON that he has known the appointee since 1925 when he was an Assistant to the Attorney General in the Cabinet of CALVIN COOLIDGE. The appointee subsequently served as an Assistant Attorney General to his Attorney General, WILLIAM D. MITCHELL, but resigned in 1929 to return to New York City. Since that time they have maintained their association and constantly keep in touch with each other. Mr. HOOVER recommended the appointee most highly as to his character, reputation, ability and loyalty to the United States Government. He stated that he knew none of the circumstances surrounding the indictments returned against FRANK G. REICHLE, the appointee's former law partner, and the attempts made by the appointee to have them quashed. He suggested that his Attorney General, Mr. MITCHELL, be interviewed in this regard. Mr. HOOVER knew nothing derogatory concerning the appointee and recommended him for a responsible government position.

- RUC -



SECURITY INFORMATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

~~TOP SECRET~~ CONTROL #  
40-80-201

TO : Director, FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE:

6/30/53

EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN

OTHERWISE

FROM : SAC, New York (77-16713)

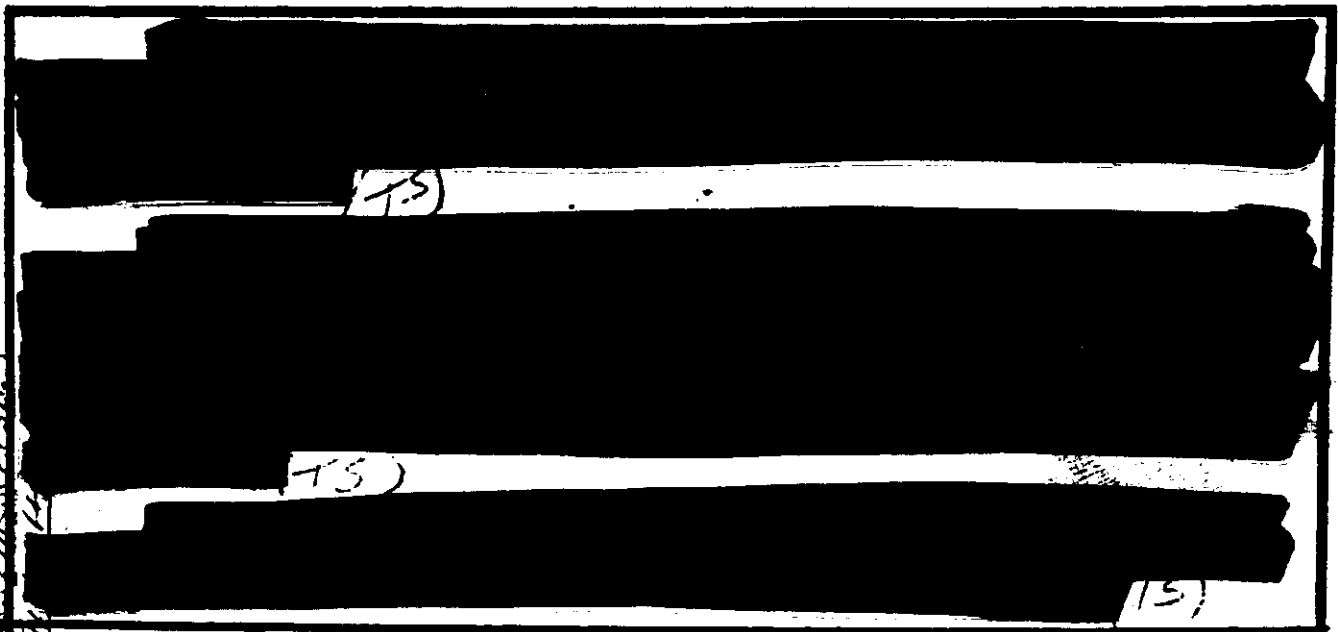
SUBJECT: WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, aka:

(ATTENTION: INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

"Wild Bill" Donovan

SPECIAL INQUIRY SECTION)

SPECIAL INQUIRY

~~TOP SECRET~~Reference is made to report of SA THOMAS J. LARDNER, 6/19/53,  
New York.The following information in regard to the appointee is being brought  
to the Bureau's attention, and due to the nature of it is not being reported  
in the details of the referenced report.

On 10/3/49 JOHN W. ENGLISH, Attorney, 1415 G. Daniel Baldwin Building, home address, 2450 South Shore Drive, both in Erie, Pennsylvania, advised that when General DONOVAN set up OSS, comprised the organization of some 30 branches. ENGLISH was in the Field Photographic Branch. He stated that on numerous occasions he was warned by his superiors in this branch that the personnel of the Visual Presentation Section were endeavoring to encroach upon the jurisdiction of the Field Photographic Branch. The personnel of the Visual Presentation Branch were suspected Communists or fellow travelers, and while they had no direct evidence to substantiate this claim, their opinion was based on the following.

1. Their branch was the only branch that maintained collection boxes for Russian War Relief.

Classified by 3832

Exempt from automatic downgrading and declassification

Date of Declassification Indefinite

TJL:BJG:FPG

JUL 23 1953

RECORDED-02  
SECURITY INFORMATION

JUL 1 1953  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
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~~TOP SECRET~~

document # 1

Letter to Director  
NY 77-16713

~~TOP SECRET~~

2. They were anxious to hire colored personnel.

3. In conversation between the enlisted personnel of the Field Photographic Branch and the Visual Presentation Branch, the personnel of the Field Photographic Branch were impressed with the radicalism of the personnel of the Visual Presentation Branch.

4. About this time, the winter of 1944-1945, CARL MARZANI, one of the members of the Visual Presentation Branch, was exposed by the "Washington Times-Herald."

The above information was previously furnished administratively by report of SA BRONI S. MACYS entitled "J. DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, was., et al, Perjury, Internal Security - R, Espionage - R," at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

On 9/9/50 CIA reported that General DONOVAN (believed to be General WILLIAM DONOVAN, formerly of OSS) advised [redacted] that he wished to introduce him to General SMITH of CIA and requested [redacted] to send all intelligence material which he might receive to him for forwarding to the General. General DONOVAN had been trying to contact [redacted] to discuss intelligence matters. (K) (S) classified per [redacted] 9-13-83

b-1  
1  
b-6  
b-7C  
b-7D  
The information attributed to CIA was previously reported to the Bureau by report of SA FRANCIS J. GALLANT entitled [redacted] was; Espionage - IS," 2/28/51, New York City.

The information attributed to informant [redacted] was previously furnished to the Bureau by report of SA FRANCIS J. GALLANT entitled [redacted] was; Espionage - IS," 2/13/52, New York City.

Due to the type of information furnished by the above sources they are reported by letter and not by report.

Reference is made to Bureau teletype to New York, dated 6/18/53.

Released as raised by letter dated 12-9-83 (190-5134-74)

~~TOP SECRET~~

Letter to Director  
NY 77-16713

b7C  
b7D  
The information attributed to [REDACTED] on 3/19/52 was previously furnished to the Bureau by letter dated 4/7/53 entitled [REDACTED] Espionage - IS & R."

During the course of the investigation of [REDACTED] under a Security Matter - C classification, the following was noted:

On applying for employment at the "New York Daily News," [REDACTED] listed GEORGE W. POLK, c/o "Herald Tribune," Paris, France, as a reference.

Mr. LUKE CARROLL, in charge of correspondents at the "New York Herald Tribune," advised on 1/28/53 that the GEORGE W. POLK who had been a correspondent for the Paris "Herald Tribune," which is owned by the "New York Herald Tribune," was identical with the GEORGE POLK who had been killed in Greece in 1948.

POLK'S death was the object of many investigations by various agencies, since he went into Greece to investigate the "civil war" taking place there.

The "Voice of Freedom" for June 1948 reports POLK was killed because he despised the Greek Fascist Government and wanted to broadcast an interview with the leader of the Greek guerillas. According to this article, the Greek Government did not want the American people to hear this broadcast.

The "Voice of Freedom" is a publication cited by the California Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, 1948, page 224, "to be Communist initiated and controlled or so strongly influenced as to be in the Stalin solar system."

The "New York Compass" on 8/5 and 7/52 carried a story by I. F. STONE relative to the POLK murder and subsequent investigations. The story alleges the Overseas Writers Club was investigating leads indicating the Rightists were responsible for the murder and that the Greek Government influenced the American Embassy in Athens in having the chief investigator recalled. STONE charged "a hush up" of the case. The Overseas Writers Club was chaired by WALTER LIPPMAN and General WILLIAM DONOVAN.

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

Letter to Director  
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~~TOP SECRET~~

In view of the nature of the above information it is being furnished by letter to the Bureau. It is being left to the discretion of the Bureau to have WALTER LIPPMAN interviewed concerning his knowledge of General DONOVAN.

The above information was previously reported to the Bureau by SA John L. Fagan on 2/17/53 in the report entitled [REDACTED] was.; Security Matter - C" at NYC.

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 1 1953

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

*[Handwritten signature]*

WASHINGTON FROM NEW YORK 6 1 420 P  
DIRECTOR URGENT

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVON, AKA., SI. ATTENTION. INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION  
SI SECTION. RE AIR-TEL JUNE THIRTY. FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF  
SA THOMAS J. LARDNER SUBMITTED JUNE THIRTY, FIFTY-THREE. SECOND  
SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT CONTAINING INTERVIEWS OF [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] WILL BE SUBMITTED JULY SECOND. AGENT LARDNER HANDLING

b7d

BOARDMAN

RECORDED-92

77-58706-41

END

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E6 R

NY R 6 WA JCD

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BUREAU**

JMR

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>7/1/53</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>6/29/53</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>THOMAS J. LARDNER</b>
TITLE <b>WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, aka: "Wild Bill" Donovan</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SPECIAL INQUIRY</b>

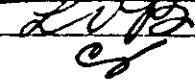
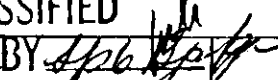
**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** T-2, advised that his experience with the appointee has not been favorable. He considers appointee an "anti-anti-Communist" and would not recommend. T-3, considers appointee a "bubblehead" who never got tough with Communists in O.S.S. He would not recommend appointee.

- RUC -

**REFERENCE** Report of SA THOMAS J. LARDNER, June 19, 1953

**DETAILS** T-2, an informant of known reliability, an individual who is well versed in Communist activity in the labor union field, advised that his experience with the appointee has never been favorable. The appointee has always been "soft and mushy" in his treatment of Communists and Communist infiltration of organizations under his control. T-2, stated that the appointee would never take a firm stand against Communists in government, unions, or the United Nations. T-2, considers the appointee an "anti-anti-Communist." T-2, stated that his comments were not based on specific incidents, but on general impression and observation. T-2, would not recommend the appointee.

T-3, an informant of unknown reliability, a newspaper columnist, who has general knowledge of various activities throughout the United States, advised that he has made inquiry concerning the appointee for his own use. The appointee's law firm represents a public relations firm, Allied Syndicate, whose clients are JOHN L. LEWIS, FRANK COSTELLO, and LAUGHLIN CURRIE. The appointee was alleged to have headed a recent committee which was to ask President

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: 	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">77-58104-42</div>
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JUL 28 1953 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12-18-84 BY 		

NY 77-16713

EISENHOWER to oust Senator JOSEPH MC CARTHY. The appointee's law firm also was alleged to represent the Chinese Generals who absconded with millions of Nationalist China's funds. T-3, considers the appointee a "bubblehead" who never got tough with the Communists in Office of Strategic Services. T-3, would not recommend the appointee.

- RUC -

NY 77-16713

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

INFORMANTS

T-2

[REDACTED] b7D  
[REDACTED] who was inter-  
viewed by SA ROBERT J.  
JACKSON

T-3

[REDACTED] b7D  
[REDACTED] who was interviewed by SA  
ROBERT J. JACKSON

Due to the type of information furnished, these  
individuals desired their identities be protected.



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BUREAU**

<b>REPORT MADE AT</b> WASHINGTON, D. C.	<b>DATE WHEN MADE</b> 7-3-53	<b>PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE</b> 6/26, 29, 30; 7/1, 2/53	<b>REPORT MADE BY</b> WILLIAM E. FENIMORE <span style="float: right;">saw</span>
<b>TITLE</b> WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN			<b>CHARACTER OF CASE</b> SPECIAL INQUIRY
<b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b>  Result of HCUA file review set forth. EDGAR ANSEL MOWBRER, Syndicated Columnist, reports favorably concerning DONOVAN.  <div style="text-align: right;">RJC</div> <div style="margin-top: 20px;">                     REFERENCE: New York teletype dated June 18, 1953.                      Report of SA WILLIAM E. FENIMORE dated June 26, 1953 at Washington, D. C.                 </div> <div style="margin-top: 20px;">                     DETAILS: <u>at WASHINGTON, D.C.</u>   <p>ELIZABETH TERRILL BENTLEY testified under oath before the House Committee on Un-American Activities on July 31, 1948. She admitted she was a former member of the Communist Party. She also testified that she operated as courier in a Soviet espionage network between 1941 and 1945. She identified DUNCAN CHAPLIN LEE of the Office of Strategic Services as one of her contacts in Washington, D. C. Miss BENTLEY explained there was a circle of lawyers around General DONOVAN at OSS and LEE was one of them. He provided her all types of information. This included highly secret information on what OSS was doing; that they were trying to make secret negotiations with governments in the Balkan bloc in case the war ended; that they were parachuting people in Hungary; that OSS people were being sent into Turkey to operate in the Balkans and that General DONOVAN was interested</p> </div>			
<b>APPROVED AND FORWARDED</b> <i>[Signature]</i>		<b>SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</b>	
<b>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</b> 2-Bureau 1-Washington Field (77-44319) 26 JUL 22 1953		<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">77-58706-43</div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">                     RECORDED-102                 </div>	

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in having an exchange by the NKVD and OSS.

She further testified that LEE was a member of the Communist Party and had worked in General DONOVAN's law firm prior to coming into the OSS. LEE testified under oath before the Committee on August 10, 1948. He acknowledged acquaintanceship with Miss BENTLEY, stating she was known to him as HELEN GRANT.

LEE testified:

"Mr. Chairman, Miss ELIZABETH BENTLEY in her recent testimony before the House Un-American Affairs Committee has accused me of being a Communist and of supplying her with secret information concerning the OSS.

"I want to say categorically that I am not and have never been a Communist and that I have never divulged classified information to any unauthorized person. I had been an assistant in the legal offices of General DONOVAN before the war; I had come to the OSS with him as his assistant; and I was therefore particularly aware of a requirement of personal loyalty to him in such matters along with my loyalty to the service of the United States.

"During the war my wife and I met Miss BENTLEY socially at the home of a friend. We met a great many people at this time. Thereafter we saw Miss BENTLEY off and on for a little over a year. Our acquaintance was entirely a social one.

"I made it a rule during my service with OSS never to discuss anything that had not previously appeared in the newspapers, and then only to the extent made public. I certainly kept strictly to this rule in any talks I ever had with Miss BENTLEY.

"I was in the Army and in the OSS for nearly four years and during that time worked day and night, both in Washington and overseas, to further our war effort. I am sure that General DONOVAN and the other officers under whom I served will confirm the fact that my war record is one of which I can feel justly proud. While in the Army I rose from the rank of first lieutenant to lieutenant colonel. I have received several official commendations. I know that I have served my country with complete loyalty and to the best of my ability and it is a profound shock to find my name and war record attacked by the irresponsible charges of this woman.

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WFO 77-44319

"It is hard for me to believe that Miss BENTLEY's statements are those of a rational person. In trying to recall my acquaintance with Miss BENTLEY I have been puzzled that I do not remember that she ever tried to get any information out of me. In view of that fact I am tempted to believe that Miss BENTLEY used her social relationship with me merely to help her misrepresent to her employers for her own personal build-up that she had access through me to someone of the importance of General DONOVAN."

*Lee*  
In addition to the above LEE related he was employed in DONOVAN's law firm for three years and was then brought into the OSS by the General. In OSS his work fell into two phases--partly legal advisor and partly a member of the so-called secretariat. LEE testified he had been sent by General DONOVAN on two missions to China. On the first mission, in 1943, he did not get to China; on the second mission, about the middle of July, 1945, he went out with General DONOVAN and returned the first week in October.

No further pertinent information regarding the relationship between General DONOVAN and LEE was noted in the House Committee on Un-American Activities records.

THOMAS J. DONEGAN, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, advised SA JOSEPH M. KELLY of the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on September 14, 1946 that he had learned through a confidential source that General WILLIAM J. DONOVAN had issued a statement to the press that he still had confidence in DUNCAN C. LEE. More specific information was not available.

*unclassified per  
CIA ltr 9/13/83  
SP4 glw/ace  
10/21/83*  
The files of T-1, another government agency which conducts personnel and security-type investigations, reflect LEE was separated from active duty as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army of the United States on January 24, 1946 and on April 3, 1946, upon the recommendation of General WILLIAM J. DONOVAN, was awarded the Army Commendation Medal. LEE's Army record reflects he registered for separation from the Army on January 29, 1946 and was on terminal leave until May 4, 1946; the actual date of separation. (u)

*Hsl*  
Miss BENTLEY also testified that in addition to LEE those of her contacts who were employed in OSS were MAURICE HALPERIN, Head of the Latin American Division in the Research and Analysis Branch; J. JULIUS JOSEPH, Japanese Division; HELEN TENNEY, Spanish Division; and DONALD NIVEN WHEELER.

Miss BENTLEY testified HALPERIN was a Communist from whom she collected dues. He furnished various types of information inasmuch

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Released as is by letter dated  
12-9-83 (190-5134-74)