



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

JUN 18 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WILLIAM D. MITCHELL

There is attached hereto a memorandum dated June 17, 1942,
furnishing additional information in regard to the Stanley Johnston
case.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

146-7-23-25
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
AUG 11 1950 A.M.
DIVISION OF RECORDS
CRIM.-INTERNAL SECURITY SEC.

We cannot make any use of
this, because Maloney has said
that before employing Johnston, his
name was submitted to both army
& navy intelligence & given a clearance.
The blame for ^{its} employing him, hardly
rests on the Tribune ^{furthermore there is} ~~word~~

*nothing to indicate that
Johnston was trying to help or
in his trip on US. vessels.*

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 76716

HOOVER
DIRECTOR

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.**

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WILLIAM D. LIPCHILLI

*There is attached hereto a memorandum dated June 17, 1942,
furnishing additional information in regard to the Stanley Johnston
case.*

Very truly yours,

*John Edgar Hoover
Director*

Enclosure

June 17, 1942

MEMORANDUM

Re: STANLEY CLAUDE SAMUEL JOHNSTON

Stanley Claude Samuel Johnston was born March 27, 1900, at Palmers Island, New South Wales, Australia, and is believed to have served in the Australian Army during the first World War. Johnston was married on March 26, 1921, to Ethyl Flew and divorced her on November 12, 1935, in Australia. He has a son, Merton Douglas Johnston, nineteen years old, in Sydney, Australia. His first wife is believed to be in London, England.

On January 6, 1938, the United States Immigration Service issued a warrant for Johnston and his wife (probably Barbara Beck Incagnoli) because Johnston had overstayed his temporary visa. The warrant was not served because the Immigration Service was unable to locate Johnston, he apparently having given fallacious references. Johnston and his wife left the United States July 27, 1938, on the S.S. Washington.

On his application for an American immigration visa, Johnston claims to have worked at the following occupations:

- 1925—1935 - Gold mining, Australia
- 1936—1937 - Building experimental gas turbines and
press wireless work, England
- 1938—1939 - Distributing business, England
- 1939—1940 - Press Wireless, Incorporated, representative
- 1940—1941 - Press correspondent in London - Chicago Tribune

However, it is known that at the outbreak of the war Johnston came to Paris from Germany and at that time claimed to have been manufacturing and selling a hair curler in Germany. He claimed to have an estate in Germany. There is information to the effect that Johnston was in Czechoslovakia at the time it was invaded by Germany and was one of the first persons to be allowed to leave Czechoslovakia by the Germans. It is noted that on his application for an American immigration visa he shows no employment in Germany.

In Paris, France, Johnston obtained a job with Press Wireless, Incorporated, which has headquarters at 439 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. While in Paris he is said to have been a heavy drinker. In that city he had been bragging that he had been an Australian Army officer, which is known to be false. He was sent to Amsterdam, Holland, by Press Wireless, Incorporated, and was accompanied by his second so-called wife, Barbara. Johnston was issued British Passport #C-127776 at Amsterdam, Holland, on November 22, 1939. While in Holland he was under investigation by the Dutch Intelligence Service. His frequent journeys from Holland to France

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led to the belief that he was a German intelligence agent, and it was thought that he was one of the individuals responsible for "leaks" from the French general headquarters to Germany.

In March, 1940, he went to London, England, with Mr. J. Pierson, President of Press Wireless, Incorporated. His so-called wife Barbara at that time returned to Paris, France. Barbara was born Barbara Beck on July 18, 1909, in Bavaria (Germany). She came to the United States May 31, 1926, and was naturalized March 13, 1934, at Brooklyn, New York. She is understood to have been a specialty dancer in New York night clubs. In 1929 Barbara married an American citizen, Albert Incagnoli at Davenport, Iowa. She was in Paris, France, when that city was occupied by the Germans. She is said to have had a German passport, as well as an American passport, while in Paris and to have been seen constantly with German officers and alleged members of the German Gestapo. Barbara claims to have worked for the American Embassy in Paris and has been under suspicion by the British authorities because of her frequent contacts in Paris with the German element.

Johnston, while in England, was suspected by the English authorities of communicating with the enemy. He is reported to have anticipated the invasion of Holland and several days prior to the invasion to have communicated with Barbara, advising her to sell her Dutch guilders. The British would not give Johnston a visa to visit the continent and apparently would issue him only a visa to return to Australia. Because of the interest which the British Intelligence Service showed, Johnston was discharged by Press Wireless, Incorporated, while in London. Thereafter he worked in London and possibly in Dover for representatives of the Chicago Tribune. His correspondence in 1940 and 1941 to contacts in the United States indicates that Johnston was very anxious to leave England and, if possible, go to Canada or Australia to set up a branch of Press Wireless, Incorporated. In 1941 Barbara was in Lisbon, Portugal, ostensibly waiting for him to pick her up on the way to America. Johnston referred to her as his "secretary" and stated that she had been working for the American Consulate in Lisbon.

Johnston left Lisbon and entered the United States on April 19, 1941, in possession of a visitor's visa. Apparently he immediately went to Chicago, Illinois, and was employed by the Chicago Tribune, writing on a piecework basis. He seemed to have some knowledge of marine and aviation engines, as well as knowledge concerning military tactics and the progress of the present war.

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In November, 1941, Johnston was issued an American immigration visa, and since he was British, the State Department waived the necessity of the usual interdepartmental procedure. A Mr. Salisbury of the Department of Justice and John Parsons O'Donnell, New York Daily News correspondent in Washington, D. C., requested special consideration for Johnston in connection with the issuance of his immigration visa.

Colonel McCormick, publisher of the Chicago Tribune, reportedly has stated that he believed Johnston was a "phony." Johnston is known to be acquainted with and to have visited Mrs. Ethel Frank Brigham of New York City, who is anti-Semitic and anti-British and has been reported as having remarked that President Roosevelt should be killed. Mrs. Brigham has also been reported as fanatically pro-Nazi and in favor of rule of the world by Hitler.

Johnston has been described as a ruthless, tough, heavy drinker, a "phony", a confidence man, and a "gaudy liar."

Recently Barbara, his alleged wife, divorced her former husband at Calumet City, Illinois. Johnston married her September 22, 1941, and is reported to have obtained American citizenship under suspicious circumstances before leaving to write articles on the war in the Pacific.

It is reported that in February, 1942, Johnston left for Honolulu, Hawaii. He was an accredited correspondent of the Chicago Tribune on the U.S.S. Lexington during the Coral Sea battle, and his articles dealing therewith are currently appearing in the newspapers. The Secretary of the Navy granted authorization to Admiral Nimitz to allow Stanley Johnston to take passage on ships of the Pacific fleet for the purpose of obtaining news material.



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