

2465

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785016

ACC

10000/143/1653

785016

10000/143/1653

DR. BENDHEIM
MAY 1944

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission

Folio *24* for action/information

C.P.S.....

D.C.P.S..... *as*

Ex. Officer..... *W*

Police.....

Fire & G.D..... **718**

Regn. & Licensing.....

Adm. Officer.....

REMARKS..... *It is not clear*

..... *whether, legal & interior*

..... *have seen these papers*

W

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SECURITY BRANCH
APO 394

Ref : SB/311.5/140 E.

3 May 1944.

SUBJECT: BENTHEIM Martin
BENTHEIM Eric.

TO : Colonel YOUNG.

1. On 1 May 1944, I interrogated Subjects and have to report:

2. Martin BENTHEIM:

A Jew. Born 2 April 1900 in Mannheim (Germany). Lived in Germany until 1920 when he went to Switzerland to study law at the University of Berne until 1926. Returned to Friedrichshafen (Germany) in 1926 and practiced law there until 1933. States that in that year, on account of the anti-Jewish activity in Germany, he emigrated to Switzerland and acquired Swiss citizenship in accordance with a concession that was being granted at that time by the Swiss Government to a limited number of Jewish refugees from Germany. In 1939 he left Switzerland and went to Genoa, Italy, where he worked as a lawyer in export and import matters. In December 1940 the Italian Government ordered all foreigners to leave Genoa for reasons of security and Martin BENTHEIM had to leave and was restricted to certain areas in the interior of Italy where he worked as a lawyer on behalf of internees at various internee camps, being paid by the internees themselves.

3. Eric BENTHEIM:

A Jew. Brother of Martin also born in Mannheim (Germany) 14 August 1907 states that Parents and grandparents were German all of them born in Germany. Attended school in Switzerland 1915 to 1919 when he returned to his family in Mannheim. 1921-1925 attended College at Berne (Switzerland). 1925-28 lived in Germany. 1928 returned to Switzerland for further schooling. States obtained Swiss citizenship 1929. States he then worked as a lawyer in both Switzerland and Germany until 1939, when he left Switzerland to go to Genoa with his brother. In December 1940 he and his brother had to leave Genoa. Then lived in several restricted areas, the last being Campania, Province of Salerno. He and his brother were there

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

when the Allies arrived.

4. The two interrogations revealed discrepancies in the story of Martin BENTHEIM:

(a) He had stated he was Swiss by birth and that his grandfather was born in Burgdorf, Switzerland. His brother stated that grandfather was born in Germany and that Swiss citizenship was acquired in 1933.

(b) He had stated that he had been interviewed by the Fascists and interned as a Jew. This was not borne out by his brother's story. His brother told me that they were able to go to Salerno weekly when they were at Campania, their last place before our arrival.

5. When asked to explain the discrepancies, Martin BENTHEIM said that he was sick and confused and had not understood very well. He was given the opportunity to speak in English, German or Swiss. The important parts of the conversation were repeated in German and I am satisfied that Subject understood perfectly. His attitude then became disrespectful and arrogant.

6. The following questions were put to Martin BENTHEIM:

Q. Why did you prefer to remain in Italy under the restrictions of anti-Jewish laws when, as a Swiss citizen, you had the right to return to neutral Switzerland?

A. It was more profitable to be interned and work for the internees.

Q. What work were you doing for the internees?

A. I arranged their affairs for them.

Q. What do you mean by that?

The answer was evasive.

Comment: It is possible that these brothers were employed by the Fascists to act as stool-pigeons inside the internment camp.

Q. It has been reported to us that you have been passing documents to your brother and taking them out of your office - why did you do that?

A. They must have been legal documents which I have to translate and I passed them on to my brother to edit.

7. Neither brother was able to produce evidence of Swiss citizenship and the sole explanation of this they had to offer was that their papers had been stolen. Neither has reported to the Swiss Consulate at Naples and there is no record of them there.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

8. I asked both some questions in Swiss dialect but neither could reply with any fluency, although both claimed to have spent many years in Switzerland. Their mannerisms and language were decidedly German.

9. The story of these two brothers is so vague and unreliable that no position of trust should be held by them. One is a proved liar and the other might also be a liar.

10. It is suggested that whoever first vetted Subjects for employment be asked whether the brothers were then able to produce evidence of Swiss citizenship. If they have been unable to produce such evidence, then internment as German citizens will have to be considered.

11. In any case, it is obvious that neither is a fit person for employment by A.C.C. and I suggest their immediate dismissal.

Carl E. Fehr

CARL E. FEHR,
Lt. C.M.P.
Security Branch ACC.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

276 PSS

Phone: Mil 125

Ref: SEC/10

9 May 44

To: Security Branch
 ACC, Rear HQ, APO 394.

Subject - BENTHEIM Martin & BENTHEIM Eric

1. Ref your SB/311.5/140/E of 3 May 44, the att is a report on the interrogation of the a/n by this Sec on 5 May 44.
2. A check made on para (d) of the att report shows that BENTHEIM Martin was an inmate in SALERNO Hospital for 10 days commencing 13 Feb 44, being treated for liver trouble. Since that period he has been attending as an out patient and is still doing so.
3. A check was also carried out on para (g) of the att report, relating to the theft of a suitcase belonging to Martin BENTHEIM. QUESTURA records show that the theft did take place and that BENTHEIM received lire 5,000 compensation from his landlady.
4. It is suggested that you may be able to check with Swiss representatives in NAPLES about the claim to Swiss nationality being constituted by property ownership in SWITZERLAND (see para (b) of att report)
5. Even if this is not the case it would appear merely that the BENTHEIMS, in their fear of racial persecution, were merely attempting to claim Swiss nationality to protect their personal interests rather than from any sinister motives.
6. This Sec does not consider them of any particular security interest and this report is forwarded to you for whatever action you may consider necessary.

TOS...9.9.9.9....

RRR
 Capt.,
 Int Corps.

INTERVIEW REPORT.BRANDHEIM, Martin and BENDHEIM, Erich.

1. The a/n were interrogated separately at this Office on May, 5, 44. Full statements were taken from each, covering period from birth to present day.
2. The two statements were compared and very little difference was found between them. Certain discrepancies were, however, noted, these in substance being the same as noted by ACC Interrogator and which were the subject of further interrogation by him, forming contents of pages 2 and 3 ACC Report 3 May, 44.
3. BRANDHEIM, Martin, was therefore questioned on the discrepancies in his statement. The questions set out in pages 2 and 3, ACC Report were again put to him.

Page 2, para 4. (a) - "He had stated he was Swiss by birth and that his grand-^{father} was born in BUKDORF, Switzerland. His brother stated that grandfather was born in Germany and that Swiss citizenship was acquired in 1933."

- (a). In reply Martin stated that as far as he could say his grand-father was born near BUKDORF, Switzerland. He cannot remember him and he was rarely spoken of by the family. The grand-father died in 1905 or 1906. He knew practically nothing of his grand-parents. He believes that at the time of his grand-mother's death efforts were made to trace her birth-place but without success.
- (b). In 1933 Martin went to BUKDORF and retained his Swiss nationality which he had by circumstances of his birth. He quotes a Swiss law to the effect that persons owning land or property in Switzerland could claim Swiss nationality. This law was in force at the time of Martin's birth, and his father and grand-father owned property near BUKDORF, Switzerland. Martin therefore was entitled to Swiss nationality.

Page 2, para 4. (b) - "He had stated that he had been interviewed by the Fascists and interned as a Jew. This was not borne out by his brother's story. His brother told me that they were able to go to Salerno weekly when they were at Campagna, their last place before our arrival."

- (c). Martin had stated from the outset that his internment was benevolently carried out by the Italians from the moment of his call to the Questura, Genoa, and that at that time...

Page 2, para 4. (a) - "He had stated he was Swiss by birth and that his grand-
was born in BUKDORF, Switzerland. His brother stated that grandfather was
born in Germany and that Swiss citizenship was acquired in 1933."

(a).

In reply Martin stated that as far as he could say his grand-father was
born near BUKDORF, Switzerland. He cannot remember him and he was rarely
spoken of by the family. The grand-father died in 1905 or 1906. He knew
practically nothing of his grand-parents. He believes that at the time of
his grand-mother's death efforts were made to trace her birth-place but
without success.

(b).

In 1933 Martin went to BERN and retained his Swiss nationality which he had
by circumstances of his birth. He quotes a Swiss law to the effect that persons
owning land or property in Switzerland could claim Swiss nationality. This
law was in force at the time of Martin's birth, and his father and grand-father
owned property near BUKDORF, Switzerland. Martin therefore was entitled to
Swiss nationality.

Page 2, para 4. (b) - "He had stated that he had been interviewed by the
Fascists and interned as a Jew. This was not borne out by his brother's story.
His brother told me that they were able to go to Salerno weekly when they were
at Campania, their last place before our arrival."

(c).

Martin had stated from the outset that his internment was benevolently carried
out by the Italians from the moment of his call to the Questura, Campa, and
that at times during his internment was "libero internato". He also mentioned
the fact that he was able to visit Salerno from Campagna.
Martin was therefore not re-interrogated on para 4 (b).

Page 2, para 5. - "When asked to explain the discrepancies, Martin BUKDORF
said that he was sick and confused and had not understood very well. He was
given the opportunity to speak in English, German or Swiss. The important
parts of the conversation were repeated in German and I am satisfied that
Subject understood perfectly. His attitude then became disrespectful and
arrogant."

(d).

Martin stated that whilst at Campagna, he was an inmate in Salerno Hospital
for 15-20 days due to complications arising from liver trouble. He states he
is still under treatment.
He is an excitable character but at all times he was courteous though extremely
verbose.

2.

Page 2. para 6. - "The following questions were put to Martin BENDIRL:"
 "Q. Why did you prefer to remain in Italy under the restrictions of anti-Jewish laws when, as a Swiss citizen, you had the right to return to neutral Switzerland?"

"A. It was more profitable to be interned and work for the internees."

(e).

Martin stated that he did not return to Switzerland as the Italians impressed upon him that the request to leave Genoa did not prevent his carrying on his business connections with Switzerland, or continuing his other work that he had engaged upon with his brother in Genoa. His work consisted of: business adviser to his Swiss shareholders in BERNE, who sent him balance-sheets and requests for advice on matters of international business on which he is an expert: import and export: business adviser to, principally, Swiss residents in GENOA: activities in conjunction with his brother who is a lawyer. Therefore, if he and his brother could continue to work elsewhere in Italy, it was better than going back to Switzerland because: (a) business was not good there; (b) Switzerland was in danger of invasion by Hitler (one of the main reasons why he left Switzerland). (c) His health, a throat affliction which, he says, gave rise to the other disorders mentioned above.

Page 2. para 6.

"Q. What work were you doing for the internees?"

"A. I arranged their affairs for them."

"Q. What do you mean by that?"

"The answer was evasive."

(f).

Martin stated that his work in the Camp(s) consisted of: advice to the various nationalities interned on all matters pertaining to immigration and trans-lations of the documents concerned: business adviser to the inmates in his capacity as international business expert: (Martin states that he is a Dr in Law, Dr of Economics and a Chartered Accountant): he was also able to communicate with his Swiss connections in BERNE, although this later became more difficult.

Page 2. para 7. "Neither brother was able to produce evidence of Swiss citizenship and the sole explanation of this they had to offer was that their papers had been stolen. Neither of them reported to the Swiss Consulate at Naples and there is no record of them there."

(g).

Martin states that a suitcase containing his papers was stolen from his abode Via Velia, 41, MILANO, on 19 Mar:44. He reported this at once to the Questura. Martin produced a Certificate dated 1936 thanking BENDIRL, MARTIN for a donation to the Fatherland (Switzerland).

"Q. What work were you doing for the internees?"
 "A. I arranged their affairs for them."
 "Q. What do you mean by that?"
 "The answer was evasive."

(f).

Martin stated that his work in the Camp(s) consisted of: advice to the various nationalities interned on all matters appertaining to immigration and trans-
 lations of the documents concerned: business adviser to the inmates in his
 capacity as international business expert: (Martin states that he is a Dr
 in Law, Dr of Economics and a Chartered Accountant): he was also able to
 communicate with his Swiss connections in BERNE, although this later became
 more difficult.

Page 2. para 7. "Neither brother was able to produce evidence of Swiss citi-
 zenship and the sole explanation of this they had to offer was that their
 papers had been stolen. Neither of them reported to the Swiss Consulate at
 Naples and there is no record of them there."

(g).

Martin states that a suitcase containing his papers was stolen from his abode
 Via Velia, 41, SALERNO, on 19 Mar:44. He reported this at once to the Questura.
 Martin produced a Certificate dated 1936 thanking BENEDICTO MARTIN for a
 donation to the Fatherland (Switzerland).

(h).

He has not reported to the Swiss Consulate NAPLES, as ACC told him when he
 started work for them that his being interned by the Italians, business
 and legal qualifications and four languages was enough for them.

Page 3. para 8.

"I asked both some questions in Swiss dialect but neither could reply with
 any fluency, although both claimed to have spent many years in Switzerland.
 Their mannerisms and language were decidedly German."

(i).

Martin agrees that his mannerisms and language are certainly German. Most of
 the formative years of his life was spent in schools and colleges where the
 main language was German. He says that he has never disguised the fact and
 that he informed ACC at the outset that he was born in MANTUEL.

REMARKS:-

This Report, Part 3.....

para (b) - The existence of this box can be checked with the Swiss Consulate
 NAPLES.

page 3.....

This Report Part 3, copy.....

para (c)&(e) - Martin's statement that his internment was benevolently carried out from the moment of his call to the Questura GENOA (c), and the impressing on him by the Italians that they did not wish to prevent his working(e), may be true. It is known that in many cases the Italians were lenient with regard to anti-Jewish Laws.

para (d) - Martin's statement that he has been in SILENO Hospital and is still undergoing treatment, could be checked. If true his statement in ACC Report, Page 2, para 3, that he was sick and confused may be true.

para (e) - Martin's statement that business in Switzerland was difficult in 1939-40 is borne out by good authority. It was hoped that Italy would rest neutral, and quite some few Swiss gravitated to GENOA, this Port being one of the key-ports to Switzerland.

para (g) - The alleged theft can be checked at the Questura. If proved correct it is conceivable that his Swiss papers-if he had any- were in the stolen suit-case.

para (h) - His statement as to attitude of ACC at time of engagement could also be checked. If correct, then his explanation as to why he has not contacted Swiss Consulate to date is not impossible.

2477

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785016

para (h) - His statement as to attitude of And at time of engagement could also be checked. If correct, then his explanation as to why he has not contacted Swiss Consulate to date is not impossible.

711

BF
3 days
Confid
Sub

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission

Folio *A* for action ~~information~~

C.P.S.....

D.C.P.S.....

Ex. Officer.....

Police.....

Fire & C.D.....

Regn. & Licensing.....

Adm. Officer.....

REMARKS.....*710*.....

.....

.....

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SECURITY BRANCH
APO 394

Ref : SE/311.5/140 E.

3 May 1944.

SUBJECT: BENTHEIM Martin
BENTHEIM Eric.

TO : Colonel YOUNG.

1. On 1 May 1944, I interrogated Subjects and have to report:

2. Martin BENTHEIM:
A Jew. Born 2 April 1900 in Mannheim (Germany). Lived in Germany until 1920 when he went to Switzerland to study law at the University of Berne until 1926. Returned to Friedrichshafen (Germany) in 1926 and practiced law there until 1933. States that in that year, on account of the anti-Jewish activity in Germany, he emigrated to Switzerland and acquired Swiss citizenship in accordance with a concession that was being granted at that time by the Swiss Government to a limited number of Jewish refugees from Germany. In 1939 he left Switzerland and went to Genoa, Italy, where he worked as a lawyer in export and import matters. In December 1940 the Italian Government ordered all foreigners to leave Genoa for reasons of security and Martin BENTHEIM had to leave and was restricted to certain areas in the interior of Italy where he worked as a lawyer on behalf of internees at various internee camps, being paid by the internees themselves.

3. Eric BENTHEIM:
A Jew. Brother of Martin also born in Mannheim (Germany) 14 August 1907 states that Parents and grandparents were German all of them born in Germany. Attended school in Switzerland 1915 to 1919 when he returned to his family in Mannheim. 1921-1925 attended College at Berne (Switzerland). 1925-28 lived in Germany. 1928 returned to Switzerland for further schooling. States obtained Swiss citizenship 1929. States he then worked as a lawyer in both Switzerland and Germany until 1939, when he left Switzerland to go to Genoa with his brother. In December 1940 he and his brother had to leave Genoa. Then lived in several restricted areas, the last being Campania, Province of Salerno. He and his brother were there

- 2 -

when the Allies arrived.

4. The two interrogations revealed discrepancies in the story of Martin BENTHEIM:

(a) He had stated he was Swiss by birth and that his grandfather was born in Burgdorf, Switzerland. His brother stated that grandfather was born in Germany and that Swiss citizenship was acquired in 1933.

(b) He had stated that he had been interviewed by the Fascists and interned as a Jew. This was not borne out by his brother's story. His brother told me that they were able to go to Salerno weekly when they were at Campania, their last place before our arrival.

5. When asked to explain the discrepancies, Martin BENTHEIM said that he was sick and confused and had not understood very well. He was given the opportunity to speak in English, German or Swiss. The important parts of the conversation were repeated in German and I am satisfied that Subject understood perfectly. His attitude then became disrespectful and arrogant.

6. The following questions were put to Martin BENTHEIM:

Q. Why did you prefer to remain in Italy under the restrictions of anti-Jewish laws when, as a Swiss citizen, you had the right to return to neutral Switzerland?

A. It was more profitable to be interned and work for the internees.

Q. What work were you doing for the internees?

A. I arranged their affairs for them.

Q. What do you mean by that?

The answer was evasive.

Comment: It is possible that these brothers were employed by the Fascists to act as stool-pigeons inside the internment camp.

Q. It has been reported to us that you have been passing documents to your brother and taking them out of your office - why did you do that?

A. They must have been legal documents which I have to translate and I passed them on to my brother to edit.

7. Neither brother was able to produce evidence of Swiss citizenship and the sole explanation of this they had to offer was that their papers had been stolen. Neither has reported to the Swiss Consulate at Naples and there is no record of them there.

8. I asked both the questions in Swiss dialect but neither could reply with any fluency, although both claimed to have spent many years in Switzerland. Their mannerisms and language were decidedly German.

9. The story of these two brothers is so vague and unreliable that no position of trust should be held by them. One is a proved liar and the other might also be a liar.

10. It is suggested that whoever first vetted Subjects for employment be asked whether the brothers were then able to produce evidence of Swiss citizenship. If they have been unable to produce such evidence, then internment as German citizens will have to be considered.

11. In any case, it is obvious that neither is a fit person for employment by A.C.C. and I suggest their immediate dismissal.

Carl E. Fehr

CARL E. FEHR,
Lt. C.M.F.
Security Branch ACC.

*Copy handed to Capt Rafter J.S.S.
Salerno, for information and any action
deemed advisable.*

5. 5. 44.

1785016

New file

Personal file on Dr. Baughman
1-3-58

1971-34

12

1A

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
FINANCE SUB-COMMISSION
APO 394

FUCH/82.

3 May 1944.

SUBJECT: Violations of Italian law.

TO : Public Safety Sub-Commission.

1. The under-manager of the Banco di Roma, Salerno branch has reported to Major Haig-Wood, Salerno R.F.O. that a Swiss who purports to be employed by the Legal Sub-Commission came to the bank and attempted to exchange 2,600 lire into dollar notes and sterling notes. It is contrary to Italian law for a private citizen to hold foreign exchange.

2. In the last few days several members of this Sub-Commission have noticed fairly large stocks of cans marked as Meat & Vegetable Hash of U.S. Army stores for sale to civilians at fifty two line per can. This is presumably illegal and warrants investigation.

may

J. J. DAVLER,
Lt-Colr., USCGR,
Finance Sub-Commission.

JL/jbh

2 4 8 3