

42.

29.8.34. From S.I.S. re - in reply to 39a.

P.A. 1934  
31/8/34 (P.A. 1934)

43.

9.11.34. Cross reference to S.I.S. report re WOLLWEBER's presence at I.S.H. meetings in Antwerp.

44.

17-1-35

MASS MATERIAL

14.3.35.

H.O. File No. 659008/8. re. Circular for WOLLENWEBER.

~~17-1-35~~~~MASS MATERIAL~~

Discorrec Piling (Left hand side of 45 File) 31/8/37

6.4.35.

H.O. Circular against -

see for  
R.H.S.

46.

29.7.35. Extract from S.I.S. report re. WOLLWEBER.

47.

2.1.36. Cross-reference from M. report re -

48.

16.3.36. H.O. File No. 659008/8. re Ernst WOLLENWEBER.

49.

27.3.36. H.O. Circular against - (Renewal).

50.

18.7.36. From S.I.S. re - .

51.

17.3.37. H.O. File No. W.338. re WOLLWEBER.

Discorrec Piling (Left hand side of 52 File) 31/8/37

31.3.37.

H.O. Circular against. WOLLENWEBER.

53.

2.3.38. H.O. file W.338 for WOLLENWEBER.

Discorrec Piling) Should be 54. Left-hand side of File 31/8/37

29.3.38.

H.O. Circular against - .

55

15.11.38. Extract from S.O.S. report re WOLLWEBER.

56.

21.8.39. Copy of S.I.S. report re WOLLWEBER and Communist organisation in Scandinavia.



Register No. P.F.41930.

Minute Sheet No. 3.

57.

23.8.39. H.O. and T.I. particulars requisitioned for  
Ernst WOLLENWEBER @ WOLLWEBER @ CHRISTENSEN @ SCHMIDT  
@ Ragnvald JOHANNESSEN @ ANTON. 57a.

58.

29.8.39. Copy of letter to S.I.S. in reply to 56a. 58a.

59.

3.9.39. Cross reference to S.I.S. report re WOLLWEBER. 59a.

60.

18.12 39. Cross reference re WOLLWEBER. 60a.

61.

12.3.40. Cross reference re WOLLWEBER. S.I.S. report 61a

62.

17.11.40. From S.I.S. referring to 58a, and 60a, re WOLLWEBER, E. 62a.

23.2.41 Cutting from "Life" re Ernst WOLLENWEBER. 62b.

63

D.4.D.

Would you please add the following name to the Black List:— WOLLENWEBER, Ernst @ WOLLWEBER @ CHRISTENSEN @ SCHMIDT @ Ragnvald JOHANNESSEN @ ANTON. This man has been the subject of H.O. circulars and I am not sure whether the circular of 29.3.38. (see 54a) has expired.

B.4b.(2)  
2.12.40.

L. J. E. Bagor.

64.

B.4b(2) L. J. E. Bagor  
2.12.40.

WOLLENWEBER, Ernst (and aliases) has been put on the C.S.W.B. List as requested above.

D.4d1.  
5.12.40.

H. A. Layman.



65.

22.4.41. From S.C.O. Edinburgh re WOLLENWEBER Ernst.

65a.

66.

20.5.41. To S.C.O. Edinburgh in reply to 65a.

66

67.

8.9.41. From B.1.C. attaching cable re Communism in Sweden.

67a

68.

15.9.41. To B.1.C. in reply to 67a.

68

23.9.41. Extract re WOLLENWEBER from report on HANSEN, Kurt Karlis.

68

69.

22.11.41. Note from Secretariat re WOLLENWEBER, Ernst.

69

70.

27.3.42. S.I.S. report re sentence of WOLLENWEBER.

70

10.10.52. Ext. from F.O. File re Espionage in Sweden ment. WOLLENWEBER

70

71.

4.3.43 From H.O. re Exclusion Circulars for WOLLWEBER, JENSEN, & FOSS.

71

72.

15.3.43. Teleprinter to S.I.S. for further information re MELCHIOR.

72



MINUTE SHEET.Reference P.F.41930.

73.

Copy of Teleprinter reply from S.I.S. re MELCHIOR  
F.2b/MJEB note re Otto Adolf MELCHIOR. Filed 20.3.43.73x.  
73a.

74.

To the H.O. in reply to their letter at 71a and enc.  
copy of 73a.

74a.

75.

D.4c. Major Noble. Re. WOLLENWEBER, Ernst (and aliases)  
This man is a German national. Should he be  
deleted from C.S.W.B.L. please.R.9.  
19.7.43.*h. J. Bagot*

76

*h. J. Bagot*  
F2b 1.9.43.

We are trying to reduce the number of names in the Central Security War Black List to the minimum compatible with security. The Case No. 580, Ernst WOLLENWEBER, is an enemy alien. Persons believed to be enemy aliens are normally refused leave to land and detained pending the Home Secretary's decision whether or not to intern. Hence we do not think it is necessary for this man's entry to remain in the Black List. Have you any objection to it being removed?

D4c  
30 Aug. '43*h. J. Bagot*

77.

D.4c.

*case cancelled 7/9/43**PD/D4c*

I understand that the Home Office circular against Ernst WOLLWEBER @ WOLLENWEBER @ CHRISTENSEN @ Ragnvald JOHANNESSEN is being maintained. I have, therefore, no objection to the removal of his name from the Central Security War Black List.

F.2.b./MJEB.  
1.9.43.*h. J. E. Bagot*  
M. J. E. Bagot.

78.

Ext. from Interrogation Rpt. on KOPKOW from B.A.O.R.,  
dated 11.9.45, mentioning WOLLWEBER as head of sabotage org.  
Extract from Source R1 report re SCHMIDT & THE FREE GERMAN  
MOVEMENT. *Filed in error*

78z.  
78a..9.45.  
7.10.45.

.3.46.

Extract from CSDIC(WEA) Second Interim Report No.56 on  
Horst KOPKOW mentioning WOLLENWEBER. Filed 2.5.46.

78b.

79.

18.4.46.

To S.I.S. re current whereabouts of WOLLWEBER.

79a.



80.

*Filed in error - Now in PF 49/130.*

18.4.46. Press cutting from the Daily Worker 'They've learned the lesson of disunity' by Heinz SCHMIDT.

80a.

81.

16.5.46. From S.I.S. inf re WOLLWEBER.

81a.

82.

1.10.46. Extract from Fourth Interim Report re S.H.KOPKOW, ment WOLLWEBER.

82a.

83.

29.1.47. From S.I.S. enclosing a report on WOLLWEBER.

83a.

10.4.47. From S.S.U. re WOLLWEBER to S.I.S.

83b.

84.

24.4.47. From American Embassy re WOLLWEBER

84a.

85.

10.5.47. Copy of letter from S.I.S. to S.S.U. in reply to 83b giving summary of information about WOLLWEBER.

85a.

86.

19.5.47. From S.I.S. stating that WOLLWEBER is now in Berlin.

86a.



Register No. PF.41930

Minute Sheet No.

B.1.d. / PS Ser. Shank 87.  
Small 29/7/47.

You may care to see 85b - 86a inclusive.

B.1.d.  
22.5.47.

M.J.E. Bagot  
M.J.E. Bagot

88.

6.6.47. Extract from S.I.S. report ment. WOLLWEBER.  
6.6.47. From S.I.S. enclosing passport photograph of WOLLWEBER.

88z

88a.

89.

7.47. Ext. from M.I.6. report.

89z.

23.7.47. Cross reference to report on the WOLLWEBER Organisation from  
S.I.S.

89a

90.

10.9.47. From S.I.S. further to 88a re characters in the WOLLWEBER case.

90a.

91  
B.1.d M.J.E. Bagot 15.9.47.

he spoke and agreed that you  
would reply to you. I should be grateful  
if you would mention in your letter that  
B.I.C. is likely to be interested in the  
report to which he refers.

(Copy of  
this minute  
in S.F.412/  
Gen/Supp.)

B.I.C.  
15.ix.47

Michael Serpin



92

18.9.47. To S.I.S. re WOLLWEBER.  
 2.10.47. Extract from report from SIS mentioning WOLLWEBER.

92a

92b

93

10.11.47. From S.I.S. re WOLLWEBER.

93a

94

3.12.47. Copy letter to S.I.S. from S.S.U. ment. WOLLWEBER.

94b

95

B.2.b.

You may care to see 94a. With reference to Miss Chenhall's minute, I do not think that we need answer this letter, which falls more within the scope of S.I.S.

B.1.b.  
12.12.47.

*M. J. E. Bagot*  
 M. J. E. Bagot

96.

16.2.48.

Ext. from SIS Report re GERMANY: Counter-intelligence/  
 Economic: Hans SAHLING's Journey to Berling, mentioning  
 Ernst WOLLWEBER.

96a.

**"FILE CLOSED"****"FILE CLOSED"**



## EXTRACT.

Extract for File No. P.F.41930 Name: WOLLWEBER Ernst 96a  
 Original in File No. S.F.411/Germany/9 Serial: 16ab Receipt Date: 16.2.48.  
 Original from S.I.S. report Under Ref.:  Dated: 13.2.48  
 Extracted on 16.3.48. by: HHSM Section: R.4.

Extract from S.I.S. report re GERMANY: Counter-intelligence  
Economic: Hans SAHLING's Journey to Berlin, mentioning Ernst  
WOLLWEBER.

.....

Sahling later visited WOLLWEBER, Director of the Schiffahrt in the Zentralverwaltung, with whom he discussed mainly economic matters. WOLLWEBER appointed Sahling as an agent in the British Zone for the purchase of paint, nails, tactical instruments and automobile spare parts for shipment to the Russian zone. All necessary arrangements will be made by Dir. Alfred DREIER, who has also been instructed to purchase in the Russian zone quantities of copper, brass and electric light bulbs which will be sold on the black market in the British zone in order to pay for the purchase by Sahling. It was first proposed to supply Sahling with Rm.500,000 for this purpose, but the finance dept. of the Zentralverwaltung refused to do this, as the money is urgently required in Berlin for a special purpose. You will note the apparently purely economic interests of Ernst WOLLWEBER.

.....

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94a

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93a.

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S. Form 81/P.G./3000/11.47.

## EXTRACT.

921

Extract for File No.: P.F. 41,930. Name: WOLLWEBER.Original in File No.: S.F. 412/General supp. Serial: 6a. Receipt Date: 2.10.47.Original from: \_\_\_\_\_ Under Ref. \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: 2.10.47.Extracted on: 31.1.48. by: MB. Section: R4.Extract from report from \_\_\_\_\_, ment  
WOLLWEBER.

....As regards the non-Swedes mentioned in my report of 2nd May 1947, our source repeated his information that Ernst WOLLWEBER himself is in Berlin...

+++++

Handwritten notes and stamps on the right margin, including a circular stamp and some illegible markings.

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2460.

22nd October, 1947

GERMANY (Russian Zone)Counter IntelligenceErnst WOLLWEBER

1. Ernst WOLLWEBER, head of the shipping department of the Zentralverwaltung des Verkehrs (ZVV) - Berlin, is living with his mistress, Frau VATER, at LEHNITZ, (Near ORANIENBURG), Waldring 19, on an estate placed by the Russians at the disposal of leading Communists. The house is luxuriously furnished, and the couple live extremely well, as they receive special rations from the Russians.

2. Frau VATER, who returned with WOLLWEBER from Moscow to Germany, is head of the Statistical Dept., of the ZVV.

Among the staff of the ZVV, WOLLWEBER has the reputation of being a first-class rhetorician, an expert on shipping, a member of the Comintern, a fanatical communist and a heavy drinker.



SECRET

Copy for PF.41930 (WOLLWEBER)

92a

18th September, 1947.

S.F.412/Gen/Supp./B.I.d.(MJEB)

Dear

Mr. Serpell <sup>you</sup> has discussed with me your  
 of the 9th September, 1947.

In view of the international aspects of  
 the WOLLWEBER case, we should be grateful if  
 we might see the report from  
 regarding the present whereabouts of  
 those individuals who were implicated.

If you have only one copy could you please  
 lend it to us so that we can take extracts to <sup>see 89a.</sup>  
 complete the story given in your  
 of the 22nd July.

Yours sincerely,

H. K. D. S.

for M.J.E. Bagot

✓ no/RG

MJEB/BML

N.B. in reply  
 ref was forwarded by SIS.  
 on 2.10.47 under ex/99559/12/RSC.  
 Filed in SF412/General.  
 Supp. Vol. 6A.  
 15.10.47.  
 15.10.47.

B. 10/9

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Secret.

In reply, state NUMBER and DATE.

copy to S. 412/any/5-11. 20a

of 9 September 47.

Dear

Serpell

PF 41930

89a.

Reference our

of 22 July.

has  
 now received a report from the same source  
 regarding the present whereabouts and  
 activities, if any, of the great majority  
 of the characters who figured in the  
 Wollweber case. They are nearly all  
 still in Sweden.

There is nothing in the report which  
 is likely to interest you, and I think it  
 will be sufficient for us to keep it for  
 record purposes.

Yours Larch.

M.F. Serpell Esq.,  
 M.I.5.

H.O. 16./11.46.

ENCL	✓
SEP 16 1947	✓
TO BIC	✓
OFF	✓

423  
10/1/47

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S. Form 81/P.G./2000/7.47.

## EXTRACT.

89cc

Extract for File No.: P.F.41930. Name: WOLLWEBER.

Original in File No.: SF.412/Gen supp. Serial: 1a. Receipt Date: 23.7.47.

Original from: S.I.S. Under Ref.: Dated: 22.7.47.

Extracted on: 27.8.47. by: DCS Section: R.4

Cross reference to Report on the WOLLWEBER Organisation, (for Russian Sabotage) . Information re WOLLWEBER's career.

-----

WOLLWEBER was born 29.10.98 in Hannoversch Minden. After demobilisation as a U. Boat sailor in the German navy he returned to Minden, in 1919, where he became interested in the local C.P. He was chosen as C.P. secretary in Cassel in 1921, and between then and 1930 he took part in various illegal communist activities until he was arrested in 1925, reprieved in 1926, and then returned to Breslau, where he resumed his post as C.P. secretary. During this period he made several visits to Moscow, and again in 1931, when he went to a Trades Union Congress.

In 1928, he was elected as a member of the Prussian Landtag and in 1932, was elected as a communist to the Reichstag, while still holding many important Left wing position. When Hitler came to power he escaped to Copenhagen in 1933, and 1935, after certain German attempts to kidnap him, he left in June 1935 for Russia.

He stayed in Russia until 1937, when he received orders to return to Paris to improve the organisation of the collecting station for volunteers to Spain.

24  
77.8

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He then took part in several Russian Sabotage assignments, travelling between Russia and Europe. In 1941 he was arrested by the Swedes, after the attack against his organisation, and in spite of Soviet requests that he be handed over to them, he was sentenced to 3 years hard labour. On his release, on 15.11.44. he left for Moscow.

For full details of WOLLWEBER's career, and the Sabotage assignments, and his organisation, please see full report in SF.412/General/ Supp vol.

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S. Form 81/rev. 12.53

# SECRET

## EXTRACT

B.943. M.795766/7699. 3/60. 200M. H. E. &amp; S. Gp.862/1

Extract for File No.: PF.41,930 Name: WOLLWEBER,

Original in File No.: SF.441/Sweden Vol.: 1 Serial: 7a Receipt Date: 8.7.47.

Original from: M.I.6. Under Ref.: [REDACTED] Dated: 8.7.47.

Extracted on: 5.2.62 SRD R.6.

\*If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner.

Following are our records of the individuals concerned:-

.....

KLIMOV Reported to have accompanied Ernst WOLLWEBER to Moscow after the latter's release from prison.

.....

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**Secret.**

In reply, state NUMBER and DATE.

of 24th June 1947.

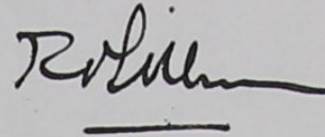
Dear

Miss Bagot

We attach a copy of a passport photograph of Ernst WOLLWEBER, believed to be dated 1938.

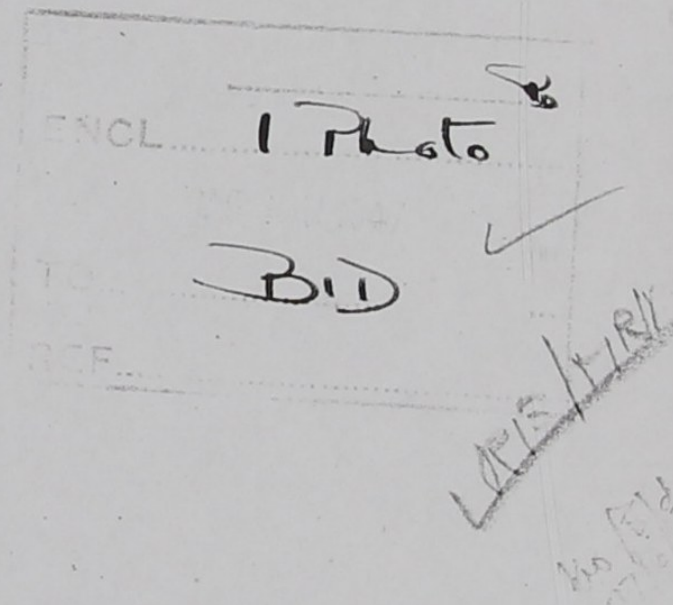
You may already have a copy of the same photograph.

Yours sincerely,



Miss M.J.E. Bagot,  
M.I.5.

H.O.16./11.46.



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## EXTRACT.

Extract for File No.: PF 41930. Name: WOLLWEBER.  
 Original in File No.: SF 411/Norway, v.2. Serial: 135a. Receipt Date: 13.6.47.  
 Original from: S.I.S. Under Ref.: ..... Dated: 10.6.47.  
 Extracted on: 7.8.47. by: SMH. Section: R.4.

Extract from S.I.S. report no. 0997, dated 20th May, 1947, entitled  
"Possible Resurrection of I.S.H. Activities among Norwegian Seamen,  
1945 - 1947".

.....

The action was so out of keeping with the Norwegian character that enquiries were made which soon revealed that Mrs. WOLLWEBER, the wife of Ernst WOLLWEBER, the most notorious of all I.S.H. members, had secretly attended the sixth National Congress of the N.K.P. in Oslo lasting from 8.6.46 to 10.6.46. Mrs. WOLLWEBER had travelled on false papers and had brought instructions that the whaling agreement with Britain was to be sabotaged.

Mrs. WOLLWEBER, who is of Norwegian birth, is the sister of the Norwegian Communist, Charles Arthur Grunhoff SAMSING, born 5.11.99. Her Christian name is believed to be Sylvia. Charles SAMSING's mysterious disappearance from Scandinavia just prior to the 1939 was has never been explained.

.....

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86a.

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185/11

Copy for M.I.5.

85a

ENCL. *No. 2*

10 MAY 1947

TO *Sa/B1*

REF.

*570 7.4.5.*

*87836*

No. 316

8th May 1947.

Your reference No. 266 of April 28th.

The following is a summary of our information on Ernst WOLLWEBER:-

Ernst WOLLWEBER was born 29.10.98 in Hannover. He has been chairman of the German branch of the I.S.H. since before 1931 and was Communist deputy in the Reichstag for Hamburg/Altona until 1933.

He left Germany in February 1933 and after spending some months in Danzig, moved to Copenhagen and became actively engaged in Communist activities in Denmark and Norway.

In April 1934 the H.Q. office of the I.S.H. for Western Europe was established in Antwerp and WOLLWEBER was transferred there from Copenhagen.

However in June of that year he landed in the U.K. from Denmark, travelling on a false Norwegian passport in the name of Ragnvald JOHANNESSEN. His real identity was discovered and he was shipped back to Denmark to stand trial on a charge of using a false passport. On arrival in Copenhagen WOLLWEBER disappeared and it was later discovered that he had escaped to Sweden, whence he made his way to the U.S.S.R.

As it was not desirable for WOLLWEBER to travel abroad again with a false passport, he remained in Leningrad at the H.Q. of the Russian Seamen's Union until July 1935. He was then sent back to Western Europe to take up employment in the Trades Union Department of the Central Committee of the German Communist Party in Paris.

From there he seems to have returned to Copenhagen, as in 1937 his his name appears in a list of undesirables who are to be refused admission to Norway, and in 1938 he was suspected of being behind the Danish Communists who brought about the seamen's strike in March of that year and were responsible for sabotage on board Danish ships.

It seems fairly clear that WOLLWEBER was directing Comintern work in Scandinavia at this period, as in July 1939, he was reported to be identical with the mysterious ANTON, who was directing the activities

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- 2 -

of the sabotage group of the Communist Party in Scandinavia.

760<sup>A</sup> In November 1939 an individual arrived in Stockholm from the U.S.S.R. travelling on a Swiss passport in the name of ~~Hans KOLLER~~. The photograph was identified as that of WOLLWEBER, but he escaped before the Swedish police could lay hands on him. However in November 1940, while on another visit to Stockholm from the U.S.S.R. again on a Swiss passport, he was arrested and imprisoned. In spite of repeated demands from the Germans for his extradition and attempts by the Russians to get him released on the grounds that he was a Soviet citizen, he was finally tried by the Swedes early in 1942 on a charge of sabotage and sentenced to 3½ years imprisonment.

69<sup>B</sup> 70<sup>A</sup> On the completion of his sentence - he was released late in 1943 - WOLLWEBER was sent back to the U.S.S.R. Nothing more was heard of him until March 1946 when he reappeared in the Russian zone of Germany.

He was thought to be in Sweden in November 1946. in January 1947, based on a source whose reliability is not fully established, that WOLLWEBER was working in Berlin in December 1946 as assistant to one Frh. WEISS, Deputy Director of Abteilung Schiffahrt of Wasserstrassendirektion of Zentralverwaltung. He was said to be anxious to obtain the post of Generaldirektor of the Abteilung at that time Dr. HERBST.

Yours sincerely,

Copy to Mr. Roger Hollis,  
M.I.5.

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84a

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83p.

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Secret.

830.  
In reply, state NUMBER and DATE.

CX 99559/12  
R.5.D.

28th January, 1947.

Dear Miss Bagot,

I enclose a report

Yours sincerely,

Miss M.J.E. Bagot,  
M.I.5.

1 Paper

BIA.

5/1/47  
30.1.47

B2B  
B1C  
Miss Bagot  
to see A.I.?

11/3  
12/1/47

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4/695/14/2098/6970.

D. of I: Early December, 1946.

GERMANY ( RUSSIAN ZONE )

Counter-intelligence.

Ernst WOLLWEBER

1. Ernst WOLLWEBER, the well-known pre-1933 German Communist, is at present said to be working in BERLIN as assistant to the Deputy Director of the Abteilung Schiffahrt of the Wasserstrassendirektion of the Zentralverwaltung, one Frl. WEISS.
2. WOLLWEBER is said to be anxious to obtain the post of Generaldirektor of the Abteilung Schiffahrt which is at present held by a Dr. HERBST, and SED member who was formerly in the SPD.



S. Form 81/P.G./3000/10.46.

## EXTRACT.

82a

Extract for File No.: PF 41930. Name: WOLLWEBER

Original in File No.: PF 602,509. Serial: 34a. Receipt Date: 1.10.46.

Original from: CSDIC(WEA) BAOR. Under Ref.: IR 70. Dated: 10.7.46.

Extracted on: 18.11.46. by: RW. Section: R5.

Extract from Fourth Interim Report re Stubaf Horst KOPKOW and mentioning WOLLWEBER.

.....

IX. ISH, ITF and WOLLWEBER

26. Extent of Stapo Counter-measures

Prisoner is not of the opinion that the ISH and ITF orgs were ever completely wiped out by the Stapo. From 1933 their activities in GERMANY were suppressed and their members could no longer be active in German ports, although most certainly not all of these were arrested. The large continental ports of ANTWERP, ROTTERDAM, COPENHAGEN and OSLO remained important centre of activity. Finally, when, as a result of the war, these ports too, were occupied by German troops, sabotage agents who were well known to the German Police were duly arrested. Nevertheless, in OSLO for instance, it was only in 1943 that, after a big outbreak of sabotage, arrests were made among a group which had been in existence for many years.

27. Fate of Leading Personalities known to Prisoner

. P.T



WOLLWEBER, Prisoner believes, is probably in RUSSIA.

.....  
31. WOLLWEBER, his contacts and his connections with ISH

The former German Communist official, WOLLWEBER, used individual members of the ISH to carry out the tasks of sabotage which he had been instructed to put into effect by the Russian General Staff. These persons were, of course, ideal for such tasks. Prisoner admits that he formerly knew who most of WOLLWEBER's contacts were, but claims that he cannot now remember the names of all concerned. At that time, WOLLWEBER was living in SWEDEN, but used to make frequent trips to BELGIUM, HOLLAND, DENMARK AND NORWAY. In BELGIUM his chief contacts were the FICHEL brothers, and in HOLLAND, Rimbartus SCHAAP; the latter, Prisoner believes, was probably WOLLWEBER's chief permanent deputy for Western European ports, as he nearly always accompanied him on lecture tours as far as BELGIUM and also made trips to DENMARK.

WOLLWEBER also spent considerable periods in COPENHAGEN, where the Danish Police were well informed regarding his movements. Prisoner suggests that the Danish Criminal Police must certainly have very complete files on WOLLWEBER from which much information could be obtained. COPENHAGEN was a main transit centre for the explosives which WOLLWEBER smuggled out of SWEDEN.

WOLLWEBER made frequent trips to OSLO, where he had a mistress who acted as a letter-box for messages brought by courier for the OSLO sabotage group.

.....



Secret.

In reply, state NUMBER and DATE.

812

of 14th May, 1946.

PA.PF 41930.

Dear Major Gwyer,

Reference your P.F.41930/ADF of 18.4.46.,

states that WOLLWEBER was released by the Swedes in 1943 and returned to the U.S.S.R. There was a recent rumour that WOLLWEBER was in Sweden and intended to return to Hamburg. This

WOLLWEBER was still in the U.S.S.R.

Yours sincerely,

ENC.	10e
TO	ADF T2c/SJ
REF	

1946

CPJ/R4  
22/5/46

Major J.M.A. Gwyer,  
M.I.5.

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79a

Ref: P. 4.1930/ADF

18th April, 1946.

I wonder whether you could make some enquiries for me through your link concerning Ernst WOLLWEGER who was, as you will remember, an official of the Internationale der Seeleute und Hafenarbeiter and an associate of Johann WENZEL in the latter's network in Belgium.

According to a letter to Derbyshire, of 26th March, 1942, WOLLWEGER was then serving a sentence of three-and-a-half years' imprisonment in Sweden at the conclusion of which it was understood that he would be handed over to the Germans. In 1942 there were still two-and-a-half years of the sentence to run, and I assume that he therefore came out during the closing months of 1944. If he was then handed back to the Germans, I imagine that it should be possible to trace him through B.A.O.R.; if not, he may still be in Sweden.

Yours sincerely,

J.M.   
Major.

5/10/46 Pm/F2c  
24/4/46

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ACT 1958. APRIL 2008



## EXTRACT.

Extract for File No.: PF. 41930. Name: WOLLENWEBER.  
 Original in File No.: PF. 602,509. KOPKOW/NOSSKE/Serial: 23a. Receipt Date: 21.3.46.  
 THOMSEN.  
 Original from: CSDIC Report. Under Ref.: IB/A2/PF. 253. Dated: 14.3.46.  
 Extracted on: 30.4.46. by: HM. Section: WRH.

Extract from CSDIC(WEA) Second Interim Report No. 56  
on Horst KOPKOW.

.....  
STAPO ACTIVITIES AGAINST RUSSIAN IS

A. "ROTE KAPELLE".

1. Arrest of Johann WENZEL.

WENZEL, who was already a well-known Communist when he emigrated from GERMANY to BELGIUM in 1933, was first arrested by the GFP in 1940 following the occupation of BELGIUM by German troops. He was then released without the Stapo having been consulted. His subsequent rearrest in Jul/Aug 42 was due entirely to accurate plotting by the Orpo of the WT which he was using to communicate with MOSCOW.

Prisoner was never aware of a connection between WENZEL and the "Internationale der Seeleute und Hafenarbeiter"; however, in view of WENZEL's connection with WOLLWEBER, Prisoner considers that WENZEL may well have been connected with ISH. Such a connection was not, however, the reason for his arrest.

.....

Stapo  
5.46



R3



For: P.F. 41930. WOLLWEBER.

782

Extract from Interrogation Report on KOPKOW, from B.A.O.R., dated 11.9.45.

RECEIPT DATE: 13.9.45.

Extracted from P.F. 602.509. KOPKOW/NOSSKE/THOMSEN. 10a. (Held W.R.H.-R.5.)

STATEMENT BY KOPKOW.

8) The Sabotage Organisation itself.

Long and tedious studies in which the exchange of information between the various Police Forces played a great part, gave eventually a clear picture of the extent of the Sabotage Organisation directed against Germany. At the head of the Organisation was WOLLWEBER, a former Communist member of the Reichstag who went to the Soviet Union after 1933. WOLLWEBER acted on the orders of the Russian General Staff and was active in Sweden and Denmark as well as other places. At times he visited Holland and Belgium and also stayed in Oslo. He had a representative in each country and financed the enterprise. WOLLWEBER ran a courier service from Copenhagen via Germany to Holland and Belgium, informing and instructing his agents who were also contacted by seamen visiting the various European ports.

He was largely responsible for the supplying of explosives and the production of igniters.

His Belgian representative was the Communist ISH official FICHTELS and his brother who both came from Antwerp. These two brothers, together with two or three other Communist officials were arrested when the German Army entered Belgium. They made a detailed confession and clues as to the activity of RIMBERTUS SCHAAP, the Dutch Organisation leader, who consequently also was arrested. Through SCHAAP, the part played by WOLLWEBER became quite clear. SCHAAP himself had taken part in several attacks against shipping and had been previously trained for several months at a special school in MOSCOW. At that time it was impossible to get hold of a number of persons suspected of sabotage as they had either fled, or in the case of seamen, gone overseas. On the suggestion of the Gestapo, the German Foreign Office asked Sweden to hand over WOLLWEBER to Germany as he still had German nationality. The Swedish Government did not comply with this request and as far as I know, condemned WOLLWEBER to three years imprisonment. In the meantime WOLLWEBER had taken Soviet nationality and according to newspaper reports went back to the Soviet Union at the end of 1944.

Special groups of Communist Ship-saboteurs had also been formed in Norway. In spite of the occupation of these territories we scarcely succeeded in routing them out. In this connection I (KOPKOW) would like to mention the role played by KNUEFFKEN, of the I.T.F. (International Transport Workers Federation), a trade union organisation of the Social Democrats, who together with WOLLWEBER tried to carry out Ship-sabotage against German ships from Belgium and Holland. Later on he went to Sweden after a dispute with WOLLWEBER, where he was interned on request of the German Government.

+++++

Extracted by: A.E.H./R.4. 21.6.46.

152/R  
21.6.46



**SECRET**

74a

Our ref: P.F.41930/F.2b/MJEB.

Your ref: W.338

J.220

F.325

COPIES IN:- P.F.41911 (JENSEN)  
P.F.42430 (FOSS)Home Office (Immigration Branch)

With reference to your letter of the 2nd March, both Ernst WOLLWEBER @ WOLLNWEBER @ CHRISTENSEN @ Ragnvald JOHANNESSEN and Erik Aage Richard JENSEN have played an important part in the organisation of Communist seamen, and we should be glad if the circulars against them could be maintained. WOLLWEBER is now imprisoned in Stockholm. The present whereabouts of JENSEN are not known but he was last reported to be in Denmark.

We do not wish to raise any objection to the cancellation of the circular against Leif Olaf FOSS who has not come to notice recently.

As requested, I attach a short summary of our information about ~~Adolf MECHER~~ who came to notice as an associate of the above individuals but was not himself the subject of a Home Office circular.

19th March, 1943.

(sd) M. J. E. Bagot  
M. J. E. Bagot.

MJEB/PKG.

1. Enclosure.7.12.43  
21/3/43



COPY

73a

MELCHIOR, Otto Adolf

Danish.

Born: Copenhagen 10.6.04.

Doctor of Economics and secretary.

Holder of Passport No. B.2196/34 issued  
at Copenhagen on 2.6.34.

~~DECLASSIFIED~~  
Otto Adolf MELCHIOR arrived in  
England on 8.6.34 in company with Erik Aage  
Richard JENSEN (J.220) Leif Olaf FOSS (F.325)  
and Ernst WOLLWEBER (W.338). Although MELCHIOR  
then denied that he was a Communist he came to  
notice later in 1934 on account of his connection  
with the revolutionary trades union opposition in  
Copenhagen, and in 1935 was head of the Editorial  
Commission of the Danish Friends of the Soviet  
Union.

F.2b/MJEB.  
19.3.43.

M.J.E. Bagot.

✓ HHA 21/3/43

P.K.S.  
Feb. 43



SNUFFBOX  
NR.2327

C O P Y .

M.I.5.

REFERENCE YOUR SBOX 3300/T/PF. 41930/F.2.B/MJEB  
OF 16.3.43. WE HAVE TRACE OF OTTO MELCHIOR, SECRETARY  
TO STEINCKE, FORMER MINISTER OF JUSTICE IN DENMARK,  
IN M.I.6. R.V.P.S. REPORT ON HANSEN, ~~KMX~~ KURT KARLIS, OF  
15.9.41. SIGNED 'B I L L '.

C.CLARABUT.

V.B.1.  
DATE 17.3.43.  
SENT ATX 12.41.  
EER.  
++++

DATE 19.3.43.  
SENT AT 1550/  
JMA

20 MAR 1943



## S.I.S. TELEPRINTER FORM. 72a

Note.

Serial No. SBox 3300/T/PF.41930/F26/171  
(To be inserted by Teleprinter Operator).

- 1 = Surname.  
 2 = Christian names.  
 3 = Place and date of birth.  
 4 = Nationality.  
 5 = Last address.  
 6 = Other particulars.

Message.

**DECLARDED**  
 QUERY 1. MELCHIOR 2. Otto Adolph  
 3. Copenhagen 10.6.04. 4. Danish.  
 5. \_\_\_\_\_  
 6. Has been in touch with Ernst WOLLWEBER and Leif Olaf  
FOSS, both of I.S.H. and with F.S.U. of Denmark.  
Have you any information please subsequent to your  
. of 28.3.35.

Our Reference P.F.41930/F.2b/MJEB.From L. J. Bager Section F.2b/MJEB. Date 15.3.43.For use of Teleprinter Section. Sent: Date 16 MAR 1943 Time 11.20 hrs.

ATTACH REPLY HERE.

SNUFFBOX  
 NR.2324  
 TO M.I.5.

DATE 16.3.43.  
 SECTION F.2.B/MJEB  
 YOUR 3300/T/PF.41930/F.2.B/MJEB  
 SENT AT 1746  
 JMA  
 +++

L.F.

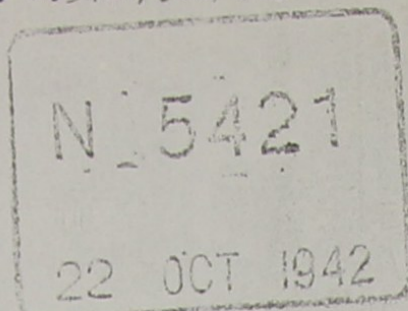
Code:

- QUERY = Have you any particulars of  
 ZZZ = Not available  
 NT = We have no trace of  
 LF = We have traces and letter follows

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Copied from F.O. file. N.5421/360/42.

No. 483  
(103/24/42)

Reg Please PA in  
 PF 41930, (WOLLENWEBER)  
 Rank you D3/HRK/SEC.  
 British Legation  
 Stockholm.  
 10th October, 1942.

Ob

Sir,

I have the honour to report that the Gothenburg Nazi spies, whose arrest was reported in my despatch No. 380 of July 25th, received their sentences on the 30th July. John Eichborn and John Andersson-Ewertz were each sentenced to one year's hard labour, and Rütger Svanberg to eight months' hard labour and dismissal from the customs. In addition, the sums of 2,200 kronor found on Ewertz, 2,229.7 kronor found on Eichborn and 980 kronor found on Svanberg were confiscated. Eichborn was also ordered to pay the difference between the 5,496 kronor he had received and the sum confiscated. The three men were sentenced under Chapter VIII § 14 of the Penal Code for crimes committed before the 24th March, and under §§ 14a and 29a of the same chapter for their crimes after that date. The latter paragraphs provide for more severe penalties in time of war or danger of war and were brought into force on the 20th March this year.

2. It was announced in the press on the 18th August that an eighteen-year old student, Lennart Katz, and his father, a Russian-born naturalized Swede, Michel Katz, had been arrested for intelligence activities on behalf of a foreign Power. It was stated that the son was a keen wireless expert who had set up a transmitting and receiving apparatus at his home with material received from a Russian citizen. Michel Katz arrived in Sweden in 1926 and worked for two years at the Soviet Trade Delegation. Since then he had worked as a sculptor, and the family had received Swedish citizenship in 1934. The two men were sentenced on the 16th September to three years' hard labour each for unlawful intelligence activity. Lennart Katz had transmitted and received a number of messages in code, and Michel Katz had aided and abetted him.

3. It was announced in the press on the 13th September that two Swedish citizens serving at the Svea Life Guards Regiment, Alf Oskar Johansson and Nils Viktor Lundberg, had been arrested for espionage. They were said to have been in contact with a Russian citizen in Stockholm and to have undertaken to supply information concerning the Swedish army. These men appeared before the Court Martial on the 22nd September, and it was then revealed that Johansson was an ardent Nazi.

4. On the 14th September, the Supreme Court dismissed the appeals of G.E.Grahn and E.V.G. Råberg against their sentences of ten and eight months' imprisonment respectively for attempting to release Millar from prison.

5. On the 16th September the Supreme Court increased the sentences passed on three members of the Wollweber sabotage gang, and dismissed the appeals of five others. Gösta Andersson's sentence was increased from eighteen months' hard labour to two years' and six months' hard labour; Harry Ericsson's from six months' hard labour to one year's hard labour, and Erik Lundahl's from eight months' hard labour to one year four months' hard labour. (See my despatch No. 504

Right Honourable Anthony Eden, M.C., M.P.  
 etc., etc., etc.,

N7096/3922/42 of/

D3/HRK/SEC  
206



-2-

of the 19th November 1941).

6. It was announced in the press on the 17th September that a Swedish citizen, Harry Bertrand Ehn, had been arrested in Stockholm for conspiring to commit espionage and sabotage. He appeared before the Law Court on the 21st September, and for the first time since the beginning of the war part of the proceedings were held in public. It appeared that he had written to various foreign Legations offering to commit sabotage with a view to derailing German troop trains, but that he had received no answers to these letters.

7. A Swedish citizen, Lars Gustav Mauritz Warodell, was arrested in Stockholm on the 25th September for unlawful intelligence activity. After serving as a volunteer in Finland, he had visited the Russian Legation in Stockholm in order to provide information concerning military conditions in Finland.

8. It was announced in the press on the 29th September that seven Norwegian citizens had been arrested in Stockholm under Chapter VIII, § 4 of the Penal Code. It was stated that their arrest was connected with the discovery of an attempt to damage a foreign vessel in Stockholm.

9. Madame Ingeborg Sonja Regina Wallin and her daughter Margot Ebba Regina Wallin, both Swedish citizens, were arrested in Stockholm on the 29th September for assisting in espionage activities on behalf of Vasili Sidorenko, manager of the Intourist Travel Bureau in Stockholm. Madame Wallin's husband, Tobias Fritiof Wallin, serving with the Södermanland Panzer Regiment, and Vasili Sidorenko were arrested on the 3rd October. The evening papers of the 6th October published a Foreign Office communiqué confirming a German report that the Soviet Legation in Stockholm had protested against the arrest of Sidorenko, and requested his release.

10. I am sending a copy of this despatch to the Political Intelligence Department of the Foreign Office.

I have the honour to be,  
with the highest respect,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient,  
humble Servant,

*V. Wallin*



W.338.  
J.220.  
F.325.

712<sup>18</sup>  
4 MAR 1943  
ES  
F.2.B

M.I.5.

F.S.N.B.L.

PF 41911 X WOLLWEER Ernst. X German  
PF 42430 X [JENSEN Erik Aage Richard] X Dane  
X [FOSS Leif Olaf.] X ? Norwegian

With reference to the circulars regarding these people dated respectively 29th March, 1938, 29th May, 1937, and 29th February, 1938, I am to ask whether you have any more recent information concerning the subjects of them. Do you think the circulars need now continue in force, or would you like them modified in any way?

CR 110R Associated with these <sup>men</sup> names was one Otto Adolf Melchor, <sup>man</sup> your file for whom is not available. This man was not circulated, but it would be helpful you will kindly give us in outline anything suitable you may have regarding him, particularly age and nationality, that a dummy file may be constituted.

PF 42430 FOSS 12a  
OF 20/19 (30) 18a  
SF 411/Den/Ra? N.B.C.  
J.B. Luzmore.

Immigration Branch,  
Home Office.

2nd March, 1943.

18/3/43 (PF 41930)  
(WOLLWEER) 712  
37A 39A 42A. 726.43  
15.3.43



Secret.

In reply, state NUMBER and DATE.

70a

dated 26.3.42.

M.I.5. (Captain Derbyshire)

me

580.

62A.

We have now received information from our Representative in Stockholm to the effect that WOLLWEBER, at the conclusion of his  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years' sentence in Sweden, is to be handed over to the Germans.

WOLLWEBER has already done one year, but it is hoped that within the next  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years victory will be brought about so that the threat to WOLLWEBER sounds, I believe, worse than it is.

W. K. Linnidge

P.A.

L. J. B. B. B.

10.4.42.

R.

M. Langer E

PF 41930 WOLLWEBER

+ return to f. b.

f. b.

11/4/42

27 MAR 1942

E2A.

B.A.  
8.4.42

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# **STOP PRESS NEWS**

**Telephone Number : Central 3000.**

## **Sweden Sentences German Communist**

Well-known German Communist Ernest Wolweber, sentenced three years' hard labour at Kiruna in Northern Sweden, says British United Press message from Stockholm.

## **Rise in Tin**



**W**OMEN. 21-30. for shift work in canteens at London Transport Depots in Central West and North-west London.—Write Welfare Officer. Baker-street Station. N.W.1. or call 9 a.m.-10 a.m. Tuesday Wednesday or Friday.

**Y**OUNG Girls wanted for hand-work on work of National Importance.—Apply 17 Brunel-road. East Acton. W.3

### HOSPITAL STAFF

**W**ARDMAIDS and Kitchen-maids wanted: £35 per annum; uniform provided.—Apply with names for reference to Matron, St Mark's Hospital. City-road. London. E.C.1

### BUSINESS PREMISES

**M**AIDENHEAD D.P. shop. Central pos. £250 p.a. Lease.—Box 8618

**O**FFICE accommodation available for immediate letting in City Steel frame building About 3000 square feet. War time rent for duration for long term lease.—Apply Owners. Bartlett Trust Limited. 54 Victoria-street. S.W.1.

**W**ANTED for manufacturing. 2/4000 sq. ft., pref. det. 1 storey bldg., cent. heated, within 20 miles radius London.—Box 8560.

**W**EST End Building suitable for hostel or letting in bachelor flats. large kitchen, available for immediate letting.—Apply Owners. Bartlett Trust Limited. 54. Victoria-street. S.W.1.



69a

Mr. Hollis - A.D.F.

You might like to see this as a matter of interest.  
 I wonder whether this was the Ernest WOLWEBER of  
 "Out of the Night"? ERNST

Da

Secretariat  
 22.11.41.

P/A <sup>X</sup> WOL(L)WEBER(Ernest)

F2B.

The same man, of course. You shd h.a. this

589

25/11

Rear ✓



## EXTRACT.

66b

Extract for File No. PF.41.930 Name: .....Original in File No. PF54404 Serial: 68b Receipt Date: noneOriginal from S.I.S. Under Ref. .... Dated: 23.9.41Extracted on 14.5.47 by: EAS Section: R.5

Extract re WOLLENWEBER, from report on the 2nd Examination of  
HANSEN, Kurt Karlis at the Central Oratory School on 19.9.41.

.....  
 .....

A man told HANSEN that in Denmark there were three important  
 Communist leaders, namely:

- 1) WOLLENWEBER, a German, 45, small, corpulent, bald,  
 clean-shaven; was a member of the Communist faction in  
 Hamburg, and was a politician. He was the leading man in  
 West Europe for the Seamen's, Harbour and Transport Workers'  
 International Union.

.....  
 .....

57/24  
 28/7/47  
 10/10/47  
 21/5/48

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INTERNAL MEMORANDUM.

68a

From...F.2.B./TSB.....

To...B.1.C./R.....

I find no trace of a cable re WOLWEBER (@  
WOLLENWEBER) in his P.F. 41930, and should like to  
see a copy, please. It is also not in 412/Gen.,  
(Sabotage).

Date...15.9.41.....

Signature.....

T.S. Bazley.



INTERNAL MEMORANDUM.

670

From....B.I.C.....

To.....F.2.b. Miss Bagot

I think the attached cable may have some connection with a previous cable concerning ~~WOLWEBER~~ and others which was sent to you a few weeks ago. You may also be interested to see HOLMQVIST's traces.

W 4/4 X and join HPS  
 15B

12/19

Date.....8.9.41.....

Signature.....

Ketchum

Form 101.



# Cross Ref

**Subject:**

**Date:**

**Information filed in**

**NO ACTION TO BE TAKEN WITH**



**CONFIDENTIAL**Ref. No.: **Tb 10643,**Language: **English****INFORMATION AND RECORDS BRANCH**  
(Postal and Telegraph Censorship)Date: **2.8.41.** Co: **Western Union**  
**1935 & Gt. Nthn. Tele. Co.**For Ministerial Use  
*Gt a*  
*C12559*From: **HOLMQVIST**  
**ENSKEDE**To: **PRESSE ASSOCIATED**  
**NEWYORK**

POLICE ACTION LAST TIME AGAINST SWEDISH COMMUNISTS WHOSE LEADER  
STILL VAINLY SOUGHT TODAY RESULTED FIVE SWEDES ARRESTED  
SABOTAGE FOREIGN SHIPS AMONG THEM LEADERLEAGUE.

M.E.W.  
M.I. 5.  
B.B.C.  
W.T./SHIPPING.  
NAVAL SECTION. Hu.

I.R.B. a. 2  
I.H.  
5.8.41.

6 AUG 1941

(Use both sides of this form)



SECRET

*Cutting filed at 62L.*

*66*

PF.41930/B.4b(2).

20th May, 1941.

Dear Price,

I am most grateful for your letter  
C.S.B.L.I./AP.22 91 dated 22.4.41 drawing my attention to  
an article from the American magazine, "Life" about Ernst  
WOLLENWEBER.

I need not trouble you to send me the magazine  
as I have been able to obtain the cutting from a copy  
received in this Office.

Yours sincerely,

Lieutenant Colonel J.H. Adam.

Major V.M. Price,  
17, Inverleith Place,  
EDINBURGH 4.....

MJEB/BMF.

*C.A.*

*✓*



(Copy attached at back of file.)

SL 25/4

C.S.B.L.I./AP. 91.

Security Control Office,  
17, Inverleith Place,  
EDINBURGH.4.  
22nd April, 1941.

65a

**SECRET**

Dear Adam.

X Wollenweber, Ernst. - German.S  
27/4

Reference to the above named whose name appears in the C.S.W.B.L. there has been brought to my notice a copy of an American illustrated magazine "Life" dated February, 24, 1941. Therein appears an article "Out of the night", the life story of a German revolutionist in the service of the communist international, in which a certain amount of information is given regarding the above, also a photograph in profile.

Wollenweber @ Woolweber is described as chief of the German Communist Party and is alleged to have been one of the chief organisers of the final mutiny in the German fleet.

I am retaining the magazine meantime but should you desire to peruse it or require the photograph of Wollenweber I will be pleased to send it to you.

Yours sincerely,

M. Price

Lt. Col. J.H. Adam, C.I.E., O.B.E.,  
Box 500, G.P.O.,  
OXFORD.

PF 41930 WOLLWEBER. Ernst

25/4/41  
Em

P.A.  
23.5.41.

24 APR 1941	
TO	D4
REF	PF. 41930

31/04  
25/7/9 M.  
25-4-41



FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

-----oOo-----

Date. 23.2.41.....

LIFE.

from one of two articles published by LIFE made up of excerpts from OUT OF THE NIGHT, by Jan VALTIN. This extract is from the first of these articles and the interview described takes place in Bremen in 1930. Jan VALTIN is the pen name of a former revolutionary agent of the Communist International who was captured in 1933 while carrying out a mission in Germany and put in a concentration camp, from where he escaped by becoming a Gestapo agent.

#### "LITTLE LENIN" IN SEARCH OF A WOMAN

I invited Wollweber [Ernst Wollweber, chief of the German Communist Party] to my quarters in the proletarian Westend of the city. I bought two cases of beer and cajoled the landlady into preparing a large amount of *Bratwurst* and potato salad. Wollweber arrived at nine. Always suspicious, he sent his secretary ahead to investigate the house before he entered it himself. The secretary was a small girl of twenty, fairly attractive but tight-lipped, and devoted to her master like a well-trained dog.

Wollweber was a heavy drinker, though he hardly ever touched a drop of alcohol unless he felt himself perfectly safe from the long arms of his many enemies. This time he drank without restraint; his small, gleaming black eyes fastened themselves like sucking animals on Firelei. His hands soon followed, but Firelei laughed them away. With a few swift strokes, she drew a caricature of the plainly amorous Wollweber and named it "Cannibal looking for a bride."

Wollweber talked of his youth. Early in the Great War his father, a miner, had been killed on the Russian front, and Ernst had become a member of the Socialist Youth at the age of seventeen. His trade had been that of a riverman. He had plied the German waterways, smuggling defeatist propaganda from Berlin to the western front until, one day, he helped a group of "activists" sink a number of cement barges in a canal in Belgium to block the transport of war material to the front. The Socialists expelled him for his radicalism, and Wollweber joined the Spartakus Bund and, at the same time, volunteered for the Imperial Navy. He had fought in the Battle of Jutland, and had then become one of the chief organizers of the final mutiny in the German fleet. Wollweber boasted of his prowess both as a revolutionist and a man, and all the while he edged himself closer to Firelei. His little secretary-mistress watched him like a hypnotized mouse. Abruptly Wollweber turned to me.

"This chit of yours," he growled. "I must have her in bed." Pointing to his frightened secretary, he added: "You take Helen, she's a nice little hare." The drinking bout ended suddenly. Firelei, Helen and I decamped, seeking emergency quarters in a hotel and leaving the "Little Lenin" alone in charge of my abode. Returning next morning to see what had happened to my chief, I found him in bed with a Junoesque prostitute he had managed to pick up in the street after our departure. Wollweber had sobered up. He told the girl, and told her to be off.

"Bah," he snarled when we were alone, "after a night like this I could take at myself. Life is a leprous hell-hole. Unsatisfactory, altogether unsatisfactory."

A few minutes later, after a dousing with cold water, he was again a disillusioned warrior. "Let me see your plans for the Weser mobilization," he growled. "We must put more punch into it. By February we must come to strikes that will tear the transport industry to ribbons."



Ernst Wollweber, a stolid, fearless seaman, became working boss of German Communist Party when it went underground in 1930. He disliked Valtin, sent him back to Germany where the Nazis captured him.

P.A.

W. B. B. B.

20/5/41.



Secret.

62a  
In reply, state NUMBER and DATE.

dated 15.11.40.

M.I.5. (Captain Derbyshire)

Ernst  
WOLLWEBER, whose whereabouts were at that  
time shrouded in mystery.

to the effect that WOLLWEBER re-  
cently arrived in Stockholm from the  
U.S.S.R., travelling on his Swiss pass-  
port, was arrested and is now in prison.  
The U.S.S.R. authorities in Sweden are  
expected to give him a U.S.S.R. passport  
and he will then be deported by the  
Swedes to Russia. You will remember  
that in our

you that WOLLWEBER was believed  
to be the leader of an organisation, run  
by the Comintern in Scandinavia, connected  
with the placing of bombs, etc., in ves-  
sels conveying iron ore from Lulea to  
Germany. The fact that WOLLWEBER is now  
in Stockholm is being kept a close secret  
from the Germans.

R.D.T.  
for V.V.

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61A  
PF.41930C R O S S R E F E R E N C E .

SUBJECT:- WOHLWEBER.

This report, which was dated 14.12.39, stated that the Politbureau of the Comintern decided, at its sitting on 31.10.39, to set up an International Sabotage Centre. The purpose of this centre is to organise sabotage in belligerent and neutral countries with a view to transforming the present Imperialist war into a Civil one as soon as possible. Germany is among the countries in which the centre is to operate, though the greatest attention is to be paid to England, France and the United States. The Centre's activities are to include the organisation of strikes and acts of sabotage in undertakings working for national defence, in all merchant ships, in ports and on railways.

The Committee of the Centre has appointed WOHLWEBER to be special commissar for Europe, with headquarters in Copenhagen.

"..We...are endeavouring to check any points capable of verification.

"We are, however, gravely sceptical of its genuineness on factual grounds.

Most of the names mentioned are well-known, or have been mentioned in the Press, and we get the

Original in.....dated..... PTO.

SF.412/General, 30a.

12.3.40.

D.G. ✓

14.3.40.

3. Form 81.

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-2-

impression that the report is the result of a free use of scissors and past by someone with a very poor reference library. WOLLWEBER, for instance, has been credibly reported from time to time as dead.  
.....

"These points are not, of course, decisive, but they support our general feeling, pending further enquiry, that the report is a concoction...."

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600.  
P. F. 41930.C R O S S - R E F E R E N C E .

SUBJECT:  
WOLLWEBER. Ernst.

that on 5.11.39. an individual arrived in Stockholm from the U.S.S.R. travelling on a Swiss passport in the name of Hans KOLLER. As usually happens, he was requested to leave his passport with the police and call for it in a few days. He never turned up and has since disappeared. On the passport being examined it was discovered that the photograph was that of Ernst WOLLWEBER. The Swedish authorities at once communicated with the Swiss authorities regarding WOLLWEBER and were informed that he was killed during the war in Spain.

the Swedish authorities believed WOLLWEBER to have been recalled to Russia in 1938 and probably executed there. We. are however unable to confirm this and know nothing of his present whereabouts.

Original in..... S.F.411/Scandinavia. 21a. ....dated..... 19.12.39.  
B.H. 24.12.39.

S. Form 81.

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591  
PF. 41930C R O S S - R E F E R E N C E .

SUBJECT:- WOLLWEBER.

[redacted] a report regarding a concern which has just been discovered in Sweden, engaged in forging Swedish passports. The head of this organisation is a Communist printer named Albin KARLSSON, and [redacted] that he might possibly be identical with a man of that surname, a Swedish Communist, who was reported in September 1938 as in Spain, and in contact with WOLLWEBER and his sabotage organisation in Sweden.

Original in.....SF.93/2/International, v.5. 259a.....dated.....3.9.39.....

D.G.  
4.9.39.

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COPY.

Original in

411/Scandinavia/B4b.

29th August, 1939.

Dear Major Vivian,

Reference your CX/99559/12/V. of 21.8.39., we are unable to confirm that Ernst WOLLWEIER @ ANTON is in the U.K. He is the subject of exclusion circular S.C.8406/W.358 under the names Ernst WOLLWEIER @ WOLLWEIER @ CHRISTENSEN @ SCHMIDT @ Ragnvald JOHANNSEN, but he may have entered this country under another alias. Our last information about him is contained in your CX/13350/V. of 15.11.38.

We have no record of Ala HEDIN, nor can he be identified in the H.O. Traffic Index. ARVOTIN @ CALLE, the Latvian, may be identical with Ernest Davidovitch LAMBERT @ L. AVOTIN @ KURKIS @ Jekalo KERNERS @ Johan Gustav Adolf OLHOFF, who was formerly in charge of the Baltic Section of the I.S.H. in Antwerp. LAMBERT, who is the subject of exclusion circular S.C.8886/L.1213/H.O., was last mentioned by you in CX/10000/1177/V. of 26.10.38. If he has entered this country he is probably using yet another alias.

We are unable to identify Bror Harald LARSSON, and his name does not appear in the Traffic Index. We have ascertained that the s.s. "Frigg" does not visit this country regularly; her only visit this year was that of July mentioned in your report. On 25.8.39. she was at Danzig, where she had arrived on 17.8.39., and Lloyds did not know where she would go next. If you could inform us in advance of any future date and port of arrival of the s.s. "Frigg", we would ask the Police to keep LARSSON under observation.

Yours sincerely,

F.C.D.

Major V. Vivian, C.B.E.,  
S.I.S.

July  
29/8/39



S. Form 61.

HOME OFFICE RECORDS.  
-----ooo-----

REFERENCE NO : P.F.41930

SECTION : B.4b.

NAME (in full) <sup>NT</sup> WOLLENWEBER, Ernst @ <sup>NT</sup> WOLLWEBER @ <sup>NLT</sup> CHRISTENSEN @  
<sup>NT</sup> SCHMIDT @ Ragnvald JOHANNESSEN @ ANTON.  
NATIONALITY German or Danish. <sup>NLT</sup>

AGE 40.

## OTHER PARTICULARS

Subject of H.O. file W.338.  
Born Hannoversch-Munden, 29.10.98.  
Sometimes travels with Danish passport.  
Believed to be now in the U.K.

S.3a.

Is there any trace of the above in

- (1) H.O. Traffic Index.
- (2) H.O. Aliens Branch.
- (3) ~~Central Aliens Registry.~~

If so, I should like

- (a) Copy of last card in Traffic Index.
- (b) ~~Copies of all cards since~~
- (c) To see H.O. Papers. *W 338 Reg 25.8*
- (d) ~~Copy of card in Central Aliens Registry.~~

(Signature) *L. J. Bagot.*NOTE.

23.8.39.

Please strike out any items not required.

Unless absolutely necessary Officers should not  
requisition copies of BACK CARDS in Traffic Index  
as this involves extra work for H.O. Registry Staff.

*Please see attached**Asi 28-8*



57A

H.O. file W.338 (WOLLENWEBER, Ernst)

(continued from 53a in PF.41930).

---

MINUTES.

.....  
Circular is being issued.  
Names entered in Suspect Index.  
Again for review on 24.2.40.  
24.3.38.

.....  
M.I.5. Request file.  
Index 26.8.39.

28.8.39. H.O. file returned, minuted:-

"We have received information that  
Ernst WOLLENBERGER is believed to be in  
the U.K., using the alias of ANTON." F.C.D.

13/12/47  
20/1/51



57A

ARRIVAL.

Copy of Card in Traffic Index.

Port of Embarkation  
abroad

Gothenburg.

Name JOHANNESSEN Ragnvald.

Age 34 Sex

Names and ages of dependents  
under 16 accompanying

Occupation Sailor

Nationality Norsk. Nationality at Birth

Proposed address in United Kingdom London

I.O. Stamp No Port London Date 23-3-36

Description of passenger  
and class travelled

Other information Born 2-10-01 Joining vessel over.



COPY. Original in SF. 411/Scandinavia (15a)

56A

dated 21.8.39.

M.I.5. (Mr. Younger)

the Swedish Police had made some valuable discoveries concerning sabotage in German ships by a Communist organisation in Scandinavia. The principal object of the organisation was the placing of bombs etc. in vessels conveying iron ore from Lulea to Germany, and the actual leader was a man known as ANTON (although this was not believed to be his real name) who lived in Oslo and spoke English very well.

if a photograph or description of ANTON could be supplied,

after prolonged enquiries, it has been established with a great degree of certainty that ANTON is identical with the well known Ernst WOLLWEBER, born 29.10.98 in Hanover, who is now believed to be in the United Kingdom.

The headquarters of this Sabotage group in Stockholm is believed to be situated at Brannkyrkagatan 28, and the following are reported to be connected with it:

Alm HEDIN, Latvian; holder of Nansen passport as a White Russian; left Stockholm last May, is now believed to be in Amsterdam.

ARVOTIN, Latvian known as "CALLE"; usually works in Sweden but left there on 3.7.39 for Amsterdam.

Bror Harald LARSSON, Swede, born 1.4.06. Is a courier of the Sabotage group; employed on board the s.s. "Frigg" which sailed from Stockholm on 24.7.39 for London. He has also been in Finland.

WOLLWEBER has been the subject of much correspondence between us and you have his photograph on record. We should be interested to know whether, you can trace his presence in the U.K.

We have nothing on record regarding Alm HEDIN or ARVOTIN

✓



-2-

56A

and should be glad to be informed whether they have ever come to your notice.

would be very grateful if LARSSON could be kept under observation when his ship next visits the U.K. in the hope that it may thereby be possible to identify some of his contacts. We should therefore be grateful if you could arrange for this to be done and let us know of anything that results.

E.D.T.

for V.V.

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S.I. Form C.6.

rt 41930.  
55aEXTRACT.

Relating To Ernst WOLLWEBER.

Extracted from S.F.411/Belgium, Vol.2,..... No.....109a,.....

Author of original ..S.I.S..... Place and date of origin ..15.11.38...

Extract made by ..M.J.E.B..... on (date) .....18.11.38...

SECRET.

dated 15.11.38.

M.I.5. (Miss Sissmore)

.....

2. In 1934 the headquarters of the I.S.H., which was at that time an important section of the Comintern, was moved from Copenhagen to Antwerp. At that time the following people were members of the Secretariat:-

Adolf SHULLY, a Russian-Pole, holder of a Swiss passport, who was the real director of the I.S.H. He is now in an OGPU prison in Moscow, if he has not already been shot.

Ernst WOLLWEBER, at one time a member of the Reichstag, and President of the Union of German Seamen, Dockers and Inland Water Transport Workers; now dead or in some way "liquidated".

Adolf DETER alias ANDRE, former member of the Prussian Landtag. He is now in Paris.

.....

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53a

Home Office file W.338, Ernst WOLLENWEBER.

---

Minutes.

M.I.5.

For observations please, regarding  
the retention of circular for a further  
period.

J.B. 1.3.38.

Home Office.

We should be grateful if the  
circular could be retained for the present.

O.A.H. 9.3.38.



51~

H.O. file W.338 re Ernst WOLLWEBER.

27.3.36. Circular against WOLLENWEBER.

MINUTES.

M.I.5.

For observations, please, as to the retention of  
circular.

S.B. 15.3.37.

Home Office.

We should like this circular renewed for a further period. WOLLENWEBER is now in Paris employed in the Trades Union Department of the Central Committee of the German Communist Party, and at such proximity might possibly attempt to visit this country.

M.I.5.  
19.3.37.

O.A.H.

IT/24  
25/7/61



Secret.

In reply, state NUMBER and DATE.

dated 17.7.36.

M.I.5. (Mr. Cumming)

Ernst WOLLWEBER.

With reference to para.(3) of our dated 29.7.35., and in order to keep your file up to date, you may care to know that Ernst WOLLWEBER arrived in Belgium from the Soviet Union about the end of June 1936 and left a few days later for Paris. He is to be employed in the Trades Union Department of the Central Committee of the German Communist Party in Paris.

E.D.T.

for V.V.

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49a

TELE.: WHITEHALL 8100. EXT. 97.

TELEGRAMS: PASSICS, PARL, LONDON.

Reply should be addressed to  
H.M. Chief Inspector, Immigra-  
tion Branch, Home Office, London,  
S.W.1, and the following reference  
quoted.



IMMIGRATION BRANCH,  
HOME OFFICE.

27th March, 1936.

S.C.8406/W.338/H.O.

To the Immigration Officer.

Ernst WOLLENWEBER @ WOLLWEBER @ CHRISTENSEN  
@ SCHMIDT @ Ragnvald JOHANNESSEN.  
-----

Subject of circulars dated 24.8.33, 20.9.33, 3.11.33, 27.11.33,  
29.3.34 and 6.4.35.

The instruction will hold good till 1.4.37.

F. STOVELL.  
H.M. Chief Inspector,  
Immigration Branch.

H.O. Ports.  
Scotland Yard.  
M.I.5.

AS  
30/3/36



USA

Extract from Home Office file  
659008.

---

Minutes.

WOLLENWEBER.

M.I.5.

For your observations regarding  
renewal of circular, please.

J.B.

16.3.36.

Home Office.

We should be grateful if this  
circular could be maintained. WOLLENWEBER  
has now left Leningrad where he was  
working and his present whereabouts are  
unknown.

O.A.H.

M.I.5  
19.3.36.

51/24  
25/10/77



478  
P.F.41930.CROSS-REFERENCE.

Subject:— "WALL"

1.36. M. reports- " WALLACE is still pursuing his schemes with regard to the Anglo-French united front. He states that most of the minor Labour lights are in favour of it, but so far his efforts have been frustrated by opposition at the top of the movement. "Wall" is very nervous and is refusing to give Wallace any more assistance.

M/S report.

Original in P.F. 44606. WALLACE. 50a. ....dated 2.1.36. ....

U.M.S. 13.2.36.

S. Form 81



46A

S.I. Form 0.6.EXTRACT.

Relating to Ernst WOLLWEBER.

Extracted from..O.F.2/22..... No.....91a.....

Author of original..S.I.S..... Place and date of origin..29.7.35...

Extract made by....M.J.E.B..... on (date) .....31.7.35.....

Copies sent to.....

SECRET

dated 29.7.35.

M.I.5. (Miss Sissmore).

"The following items of information, which were obtained by a  
 may be of  
 use to you for record purposes:

- .....
- (3). Ernst WOLLWEBER (vide of 29.8.34. etc.) is also stated to have been sent away from Leningrad. No information is yet available as to where he has been transferred, or for what reason."

(sd) E.D.T.

for V.V.

R.3526.

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44 A

H.O. file No. 659,008/8 dated 27.7.35.

Minutes.

After reference to M.I.5. in October 1934 it was decided not to retain the temporary circulars against certain other members of the German Communist Party. See 652,188/2.

In the circumstances:

? Write to M.I.5. referring to their letter RL.451/59/DS9a of 13.4.33., and ask if they desire to press for the further retention of the temporary circular issued 20.5.1933.

S.B.  
11.3.35.

To M.I.5. for observations.

13.3.35.

Home Office.

Please see our minute of 26.6.34 on your file W.338 which concerns WOLLENWEBER's attempt to land at Harwich on 8.6.34 under the name of Rangvald JOHANNESSEN.

WOLLENWEBER is still active in directing Communist activity and we should be grateful if the circular could be maintained.

M.I.5.  
19.3.35.

O.A.H.

57/84  
25/9/51



HHZ

## MOST SECRET.

No. : 1963/Fr.

Date : 17th January, 1935.

From : MOSCOW.

To : PARIS.

No. : 23.

Date : 23rd September, 1934.

ROLF.

In COPENHAGEN there is a certain HERBERT  
 of HAMBURG ---by <sup>Pf 41930</sup>WOLLWEBER --- put in by VOGEL for  
 our preliminary work. OTTO KUEHNE warns us, that  
 HERBERT has previously been imprisoned. What are we  
 to do about it. MASSMANN has not yet taken over  
 the work.

KLAUS.

WARNING  
 MASK. NO ACTION TO BE TAKEN  
 ON THIS MESSAGE WITHOUT PRIOR  
 REFERENCE TO SECRETARIAT.

P.A. #	PC 41930 ✓
Orig. in	SF 413-4-17
Vol. 2	1963
Serial	17.1.35
Receipt date	85/25



PF. 41930. 43

## CROSS-REFERENCE.

Subject:— WOLLENWEBER.

Was present at a special leaders meeting of the I.S.H. called on 18.10.34. The leaders met originally in the Seamen's Home but were taken to a house rented by the Belgian FICK, where Communist gatherings are frequently held. Others present at the meeting were DETER, VALENTIN, MULLER and the secret leader of the I.S.H. in Rotterdam. WOLLWEBER was elected to the new Reich's Directorate (Reichsleitung) of the German Section of the I.S.H. formed as a result of this meeting.

WOLLWEBER is to remain for the present in Leningrad where, in addition to directing the whole work of the German Sections of the Russian interclubs, he co-operates with JUSEFOVITCH in directing the work of the Soviet Bureau of the I.S.H.

Original in OF.2/2, Vol.10. 644a. .... dated 9.11.34. ....

C.M.S.13.11.34.

S. Form 81

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Form C/3—Sept., 1931.

**Secret.**

In reply, state NUMBER and DATE

dated 29.8.34.

M.I.5. (Miss Sissmore)

With reference to your PF.41930, dated 27.6.34., regarding the arrival at Harwich en route to Antwerp of WOLLWEBER, <sup>PF 42430</sup>[FOSS] <sup>PF 41911</sup>[JENSEN] and MELCHIOR, you may be interested in the following report on the subject received from our Representative in Scandinavia:

(1) On their return to Esbjerg in the M.S. "Parkston" on 9.6.34., WOLLWEBER and FOSS were arrested by the Esbjerg Police, who later telephoned to Police headquarters, Copenhagen, for instructions.

(2) Police advocate, Copenhagen, advised that the men should be released, but that their passports should be impounded and sent to Copenhagen, the men being instructed to call at Police headquarters, Copenhagen, for them.

(3) This action was taken, but, up to date, neither WOLLWEBER nor FOSS had called at Police headquarters for their passports, which are still lying there. (Report dated 22.8.34.)

(4) WOLLWEBER and FOSS proceeded to Copenhagen after release at Esbjerg; they were seen in a restaurant and it has since been ascertained that they proceeded to Gothenburg the same evening. FOSS has now returned to Norway and, according to our information ( of 1.8.34., para.6.), WOLLWEBER has gone to the U.S.S.R.

(5) JENSEN and MELCHIOR both attended the I.S.H. Congress at Antwerp. MELCHIOR has become a man of considerable importance in the Danish Communist Party. He is stated to be a man of education, having graduated from Copenhagen University, and was originally a "Salon" Communist.

Would you kindly refer to our of 22.2.34., in which it was stated that <sup>PF 40676</sup>[Richard KREBS], at the time of his arrest in Hamburg was in possession of a Danish passport in the name of <sup>decided 15/6/34</sup>("MICHAELSEN"). We are now informed that it has since been definitely ascertained that this passport was in the name of "MELCHIOR" and was issued originally to the MELCHIOR in question. During the trial of KREBS in Hamburg last month the Judge stated that MELCHIOR had helped KREBS in different ways and had often helped in other acts calculated to cause trouble in Germany. He characterised MELCHIOR as a dangerous type of Communist, who would be arrested on sight if found in Germany. During the month of June and part of July MELCHIOR toured the Danish provinces lecturing and <sup>PF 41162</sup>agitating for the release of THAELMANN.

K.O.T.

for V.V.



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P.F.41930

41a

CROSS-REFERENCE.**Subject:—** WOLLWEBER

dated 1.8.34.

S.I.S. report re I.S.H. activities stated that Ernst WOLLWEBER is reported to have left Copenhagen for the U.S.S.R., but is expected to return shortly via Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Original in.....O.F.2/2 Vol.9 624a.....dated.....as above.....

D.W.H.+  
7.8.34.

S. Form 81

31/84  
23/7/51

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40<sup>B</sup>

## CROSS-REFERENCE.

Subject:—

WOLLWEBER, Ernst

26.7.34

I.S.H., Antwerp, sent to the Daily Worker, Hamburg, copy of a circular appealing for Anti-War and Anti-Fascist demonstrations on August 1st. Among those said to have signed this appeal was WOLLWEBER, "- Seaman; participant in the rebellion of the German Navy in Kiel in 1917; Chairman of the illegal German Einheitsverband of Seamen, Dockers, and River-Boatmen!"

Original in.....O.F. 2/2 Vol. 9 623b.....dated.....as above.....

M. R. P. H.  
20.8.34.

S. Form 81

5/12/44  
25/7/50



P.F.41930

400

## CROSS-REFERENCE.

**Subject:**— WOLLWEBER.

dated 21.7.34.

S.I.S. forwarded a letter sent by Leif FOSS, leader of the Norwegian Section of the I.S.H., to the Interclub, Rotterdam which referred to the arrest in England of the "secretary of the country committee". M.I.5 were asked to identify the man.

On 25.7.34. a letter to S.I.S. in reply to the above enquiry stated that the reference to the arrest in England of the secretary of the country committee is probably to the detention of Ernst WOLLWEBER and Leif Olaf FOSS who were held up at Harwich on their way to Antwerp and sent back to Esbjerg.

On the other hand the reference might perhaps be to Alec ROBSON who has been very active on I.S.H. work in the Newcastle area.

Original in.....O.F.2/8 Vol.2 (126a).....dated....25.7.34:.....

D.W.H.  
28.8.34.

S. Form 81

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ACT 1958. JANUARY 2008



Copy in of 2/2, v g.  
Spare at back of file.

39

PF.41930/DS9.

27th June 1934.

Dear Major Vivian,

With reference to paragraph two of your [redacted] dated 20.6.34., I attach herewith copies of Immigration Officers' Reports regarding WOLLWEBER, [Leif Olaf FOSS,] <sup>PF. 41911</sup> [Richard JENSEN] and Otto Adolph MELCHIOR, who came to this country together, which speak for themselves.

PF. 42430

With regard to Ernst WOLLWEBER, I also attach two photographic copies of the passport No. 1706/33, together with the photograph attached thereto, and two copies of the Embarkation Card, all made out in the name of Rangvald JOHANNESSEN, under which name WOLLWEBER was attempting to travel from Copenhagen to Antwerp.

I also attached two copies of a translation of a letter written in Norwegian which was found on Leif Olaf FOSS.

Yours sincerely,

K. D. A. S.

Major V. Vivian, C.B.E.,  
S.I.S.

✓ Smith  
57.3A

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IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. JANUARY 2008



P.F.41930.

37<sup>b</sup>CROSS-REFERENCE.

Subject:— WOLLWEBER, Ernst.

under arrest in Denmark. Is being represented in the Reichs Directorate of the German Union of Water Transport Workers by DETER @ ANDRE, Leader of the Negro Workers International, who took part in the I.S.H. Conference at Antertp 9th - 14th June, 1934.

Original in O.F.2/2, Vol.9. 614b. dated 25.6.34.  
C.M.S. 28.6.34.

S. Form 81

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. JANUARY 2008

J/124  
25/7/10



Spare at back of file

37<sup>a</sup>

Home Office.

Seen thank you. WOLLWEBER and JENSEN, who are well known to us, were on their way to the Conference of the International of Seamen and Harbour Workers which took place in Antwerp during the weekend 9th - 12th June. This Conference was also attended by two prominent British Communists.

WOLLWEBER was Chairman of the General Section of the I.S.H. in Copenhagen and is soon to be transferred to the Headquarter Office for Western Europe in Antwerp.

Richard JENSEN is an important member of the Secretariat of the I.S.H. and was reliably reported in June 1933 to be the I.S.H. agent for the collection and distribution of forged passes and passports.

PP 42430.  
[Leif Olaf FOSS] is a Communist who was at one time in charge of the I.S.H. in Norway.

We have no trace of Otto Adolph MELCHIOR.

In connection with WOLLWEBER it may interest you to know that when Richard KREBS, with regard to whom we have had considerable correspondence with you, was arrested in Hamburg early in the year, he confessed under examination from the German Police that he had received a false passport in Denmark from WOLLWEBER.

M.I.5.  
26.6.34.

AP JB

J.I.P. 25/7/34



*Spare at back of file.*

37

Extracts from H.O. file W.338 for WOLLWEBER, Ernst.

Copy of Immigration Officers' Report. Port of Harwich.

Subject: WOLLWEBER, Ernst @ WOLLENWEBER @ SCHMIDT @  
CHRISTIANSEN @ CHRISTENSEN and now @ JOHANNESSEN,  
Rangvald.

Nationality: German. Occupation: in ppt Member of Reichstag.  
 Born: 29.10.98 at Hannoversch-Munden. Passport: 521/65/31 -  
 Berlin - 3.9.31.

Arrived on the m.s. "Esbjerg" from Esbjerg, 8.6.34.  
 Returned on the m.s. "Parkeston" to Esbjerg 8.6.34.

This alien produced the attached Norwegian passport (No.1708/33 issued at Bergens on 9.8.33 in the name of Ragnvald JOHANNESSEN) and also a landing card, which gave the same name and nationality and his occupation as fireman, and said that he intended to travel to Antwerp the same evening for the purpose of spending a short holiday in Belgium. He produced a through ticket to Antwerp.

It had been observed that he travelled in the company of an alien who had proceeded to another examination table. Reference was made to the examining I.O. and it was discovered that his companion was Leif Olaf FOSS, subject of circ. B 2714.

Particular attention was then paid to the other passengers with the result that it was ascertained that both of these aliens travelled in the company of Erik Aage Richard JENSEN and also Otto Adolph MELCHIOR (for FOSS, JENSEN, and MELCHIOR, please see separate reports).

These four aliens were put aside until the other passengers had been dealt with and it was then discovered that JOHANNESSEN is intimately connected with FOSS. During this later examination JOHANNESSEN remained silent but FOSS took complete responsibility for him and said that he is a Norwegian seaman who has been out of work for the last two months. Because he - Foss - had found it necessary to make the journey to Antwerp, for one day for health reasons, his friend had decided to make the journey also.

The photograph in alien's passport did not appear to be of him and, as it had already been ascertained that JENSEN had made the journey in order to attend a seaman's conference in Antwerp and that he is the Secretary of the Danish seaman's union, it was considered certain that alien's journey had political significance and was not one for pleasure purposes. In view of the importance attaching to the arrival of these four aliens, I gave instructions that they be detained pending the arrival of the C.I.O. who had been communication with, as had also the local S.B. officer.

Each alien was examined separately by the C.I.O. (for the results see separate reports on FOSS, JENSEN, and MELCHIOR).

It was pointed out to the C.I.O. that alien did not appear to be the proper owner of the passport which he had produced and alien was, therefore, asked to fill in an embarkation card. This card is also attached and it will be seen that he spells his alleged name incorrectly.



37<sup>a</sup>

-2-

As the result of further questioning, it was admitted that JOHANNESSEN is not alien's name.

A German passport was then produced which showed that alien is the former Communist Member of the German Reichstag, Ernst WOLLWEBER. The particulars as given in the passport head this report.

WOLLWEBER's recent history is as follows:-

From November 1932 until the Hitler regime he was Communist Member for the district of Altona ( he had in his possession a Deutsche Reichspost Fahrkarte No.530, issued in Berlin on 21.11.32 and a Deutsche Reistatag Fahrkarte No.530 which was issued in Berlin on the same date).

In February 1933 he left Germany for Danzig and, after idling there for 7 months, visited Poland for a further 2½ months. He then stowed himself away on the Polish steamer "Kaaborg" at Gdania and landed illegally as Oslo.

There can be no doubt that he has been actively engaged in Communistic circles in Norway and Denmark before making the present journey in order to attend the Belgian seaman's union meeting in Antwerp. It was admitted that FOSS had obtained the passport of another seaman for alien's use and the excuse given was that, had he presented his own passport, he anticipated experiencing difficulties.

There is equally no doubt that WOLLWEBER, FOSS and JENSEN are three very prominent members of the Communist Party in Europe and it appears that MELCHIOR, who is a well educated man and of different class to the others, is connected with that Party, perhaps in an advisory capacity.

WOLLWEBER was refused leave to land under Art.1(3)g. Impounded passport, landing and embarkation cards and refusal slip are attached hereto.

(It is doubtful whether alien could be recognised from the photograph which was issued with circ.S.C.8406 and the following apparent features are observed. He is 5ft 2ins or 5ft 3ins in height, top of head bald, and a very blotchy, purple complexion. Dark brown eyes).

9.6.34.

H.M.C.I.

It was not until it became apparent to these four communists that he entertained grave doubts regarding the identity of the holder of the attached Norwegian passport that JENSEN came forward and asked to be allowed to make a confession to me. He then stated that JOHANNESSEN was, in fact, a German political refugee named WOLLWEBER, and subsequently produced the latter's German passport. Questioned separately, WOLLWEBER gave the additional information regarding himself, which is set out above. It is thought that the German's three colleagues were fully aware of the fact that he intended to attempt to pass through our control under the name of JOHANNESSEN. It should be pointed out that a visa is necessary for a German to enter Belgium.



37<sup>a</sup>

Copy of letter from H.M. Immigration Office, Parkeston Quay, Harwich, dated 14.6.34, to H.M. Chief Inspector.

I have to forward herewith a letter received at this office to-day, the 14th instant, from the Chief Constable of Esbjerg in respect of the two communists, Leif Olaf FOSS, Norwegian, and Ernst WOLLWEBER, German, who were refused leave to land at this port on the 8th instant - please see our reports H/H.5207 and H/H.5209.

The letter had been acknowledged and the writer informed that any further communication on the matter should be addressed direct to you.

Enclosure.

From Politimesteren i Esbjerg m.v. Dated June 13th 1934., to the Immigration Officer, Harwich.

On the 9th inst. arrived on board the M/S "Parkeston" the Norwegian citizen Leif Olaf FOSS (Norway 28/8 1899) and the German citizen Ernst WOLLWEBER (Germany 20/10 1898) who had been refused permission to land in Harwich by the English Immigration Officer (10).

The German was in possession of a valid German passport, which, however, had not been stamped by the Danish passport-control in Esbjerg on the 7th inst., when he left Denmark on the M/S "Esbjerg".

The norwegian was in possession of valid Norwegian passport, which had been stamped by the Danish passport-control on his departure from Denmark the 7' inst. on M/S "Esbjerg".

They explained that they had travelled vis Esbjerg together, and that the German on going on board the M/S "Esbjerg" had shown the Danish passport-control a Norwegian passport, which he had borrowed off the Norwegian.

This Norwegian passport has been confiscated by the English Immigration Officer at Harwich.

As this passport is important evidence in the case against the German and the Norwegian, I shall ask you kindly to forward it to me, provided you can spare it.

-----  
H.O. files sent to M.I.5. to see on 21.6.34.



Copies of photograph, first 4 pages  
of passport and landing and  
embarkation cards in the name of  
JOHANNSEN, Rangvald.

D.  
D.  
S







Dette pass inneholder 32 sider.  
 Ce passeport contient 32 pages.  
 This passport contains 32 pages.  
 Dieser Pass enthält 32 Seiten.

PASS  
 PASSEPORT



PASSPORT  
 REISEPASS

NORGE  
 NORVÈGE  
 NORWAY  
 NORWEGEN

Passets nr.  
 No du passeport  
 Nr. of Passpott  
 Reisepass nr.

1708-33

Passinnehaver  
 rens navn  
 Nom du  
 porteur  
 Name of  
 Bearer  
 Name des  
 Passinhabers

*Pagwald Johannessen*

Ledsaget av sin hustru  
 Accompagné de sa femme  
 Accompanied by his Wife  
 Begleitet von seiner Ehefrau

og av  
 et de  
 and by  
 und von

barn  
 enfants  
 children  
 Kindern

NASJONALITET

Norsk

NATIONALITÉ

Norvégienne

NATIONAL STATUS

Norwegian

STAATSANGE

Norwegisch

HÖRIGKEIT



Rich. Andvåg, Oslo.



- 2 -

SIGNALEMENT  
DESCRIPTION  
PERSONBESCHREIBUNG

Hustru · Femme  
Wife · Ehefrau

Stilling  
Profession · Beruf

*chauffeur*

Fødested og  
når født

Lieu et date  
de naissance

Place and date  
of birth

Geburtsort

u

*Bergen, 26/1-01*

Bopel · Domicile  
Wohnort

*Bergen Norge*

Høide · Taille

Height · Gestalt

*169 cm*

Ansikt · Visage

Gesicht

*ovalt - ovale*

Øinenes farve

Couleur des yeux

Colour of eyes

Farbe de Augen

*Bleue*

Hårets farve

Couleur des cheveux

Colour of hair

Farbe des Haars

*Foncé*

Særlige kjennetegn

Signes particuliers

Special peculiarities

Besond. Kennzeichen

*Rien*

BARN — ENFANTS — CHILDREN — KINDER

Navn

Alder

Kjønn

Nom

Age

Sexe

Name

Age

Sex

Name

Alter

Geschlecht



— 3 —



*Ragnvald Johannessen*

Passinnehaverens egenhellige underskrift

Signature du titulaire

Signature of Bearer

Unterschrift des Passinhabers

Hustruens egenhellige underskrift

et de sa femme

and of Wife

und seiner Ehefrau

Bevidnes av den passutstedende myndighet:

Attestée par l'agent délivrant le passeport:

Certified by the Issuing Authority:

Bescheinigung der ausstellenden Behörde

for politimesteren

*[Signature]*





— 4 —

Land for hvilke dette pass er gyldig  
 Pays pour lesquels ce passeport est valable  
 Countries for which this passport is valid  
 Geltungsbereich des Passes

in foreign trade

Dette pass utløper den:  
 Ce passeport expire le:  
 The validity of this passport expires:  
 Der Pass ist gültig bis zum:

9. AUG. 1935

med mindre det fornyes  
 à moins de renouvellement  
 unless renewed  
 wenn er nicht verlängert wird

Utstedt i  
 délivré à  
 Issued at  
 Ausstellende  
 Behörde

Bergens Politikammer

9. AUG. 1933



*[Handwritten signature]*

Den passutstedende myndighets underskrift  
 Signature de l'agent délivrant le passeport  
 Signature of the issuing Authority  
 Unterschrift der ausstellenden Behörde

*[Handwritten signature]*



Dette pass inneholder 32 sider.  
 Ce passeport contient 32 pages.  
 This passport contains 32 pages.  
 Dieser Pass enthält 32 Seiten.

PASS  
 PASSEPORT



PASSPORT  
 REISEPASS

NORGE  
 NORVÈGE  
 NORWAY  
 NORWEGEN

Passets nr.  
 No du passeport  
 Nr. of Passport  
 Reiscpass nr.

1708-33

Passinnehaverens navn  
 Nom du porteur  
 Name of Bearer  
 Name des Passinhabers

*Pagmvald Johannessen*

Ledsaget av sin hustru  
 Accompagné de sa femme  
 Accompanied by his Wife  
 Begleitet von seiner Ehefrau

og av  
 et de  
 and by  
 und von

barn  
 enfants  
 children  
 Kindern

NASJONALITET  
 NATIONALITÉ  
 NATIONAL STATUS  
 STAATSANGEHÖRIGKEIT

Norsk  
 Norvégienne  
 Norwegian  
 Norwegisch



Rich. Andvorn, Oslo.



- 2 -

SIGNALEMENT  
DESCRIPTION  
PERSONBESCHREIBUNG

Hustru • Femme  
Wife • Ehefrau

Stilling  
Profession • Beruf

chauffeur

Fødested og  
når født

Lieu et date  
de naissance

Place and date  
of birth

Geburtsort

u.

Bergen, 26/1-01

Bopæl • Domicile  
Wohnort

Bergen Noruege

Høide • Taille

Height • Gestalt

169 cm

Ansikt • Visage

Gesicht

ovalt - ovale

Øinenes farve

Couleur des yeux

Colour of eyes

Farbe de Augen

Bleue

Hårets farve

Couleur des cheveux

Colour of hair

Farbe des Haares

Foncé

Særlige kjennetegn

Signes particuliers

Special peculiarities

Besond. Kennzeichen

rien

BARN — ENFANTS — CHILDREN — KINDER

Navn

Alder

Kjønn

Nom

Age

Sexe

Name

Age

Sex

Name

Alter

Geschlecht





*Ragnvald Johanneren*

Passinachaverens egenhellige underskrift

Signature du titulaire

Signature of Bearer

Unterschrift des Passinhabers

Hustruens egenhellige underskrift

et de sa femme

and of Wife

und seiner Ehefrau

Attestation av den passutstedende myndighet:

Attestée par l'agent délivrant le passeport:

Certified by the Issuing Authority:

Bescheinigung der ausstellenden Behörde

for politimesteren

*[Handwritten signature]*





— 4 —

Land for hvilke dette pass er gyldig  
 Pays pour lesquels ce passeport est valable  
 Countries for which this passport is valid  
 Geltungsbereich des Passes

*in foreign trade*

Dette pass udløper den:  
 Ce passeport expire le:  
 The validity of this passport expires:  
 Der Pass ist gültig bis zum:

9. AUG. 1935

med mindre det fornyes  
 à moins de renouvellement  
 unless renewed  
 wenn er nicht verlängert wird

Udstedt i  
 délivré à  
 Issued at  
 Ausstellende  
 Behörde

dato  
 date

D

Bergens Politikammer

9. AUG. 1933



Den passutstedende myndighets underskrift  
 Signature de l'agent délivrant le passeport  
 Signature of the issuing Authority  
 Unterschrift der ausstellenden Behörde

*[Handwritten signature]*



Dette pass inneholder 32 sider.  
 Ce passeport contient 32 pages.  
 This passport contains 32 pages.  
 Dieser Pass enthält 32 Seiten.

PASS  
 PASSEPORT



PASSPORT  
 REISEPASS

NORGE  
 NORVÈGE  
 NORWAY  
 NORWEGEN

Passets nr.  
 No du passeport  
 Nr. of Passport  
 Reisepass nr.

1708-33

Passinnehaverens navn  
 Nom du porteur  
 Name of Bearer  
 Name des Passinhabers

*Pagwald Johannessen*

Ledsaget av sin hustru  
 Accompagné de sa femme  
 Accompanied by his Wife  
 Begleitet von seiner Ehefrau

og av  
 et de  
 and by  
 und von

barn  
 enfants  
 children  
 Kindern

NASJONALITET  
 NATIONALITÉ  
 NATIONAL STATUS  
 STAATSANGE-  
 HÖRIGKEIT

Norsk  
 Norvégienne  
 Norwegian  
 Norwegisch



Rich. Andvén, Oslo.



- 2 -

SIGNALEMENT  
DESCRIPTION  
PERSONBESCHREIBUNG

Hustru • Femme  
Wife • Ehefrau

Stilling  
Profession • Beruf

chauffeur

Fødested og  
når født  
Lieu et date  
de naissance  
Place and date  
of birth  
Geburtsort  
u.

Bergen, 26/1-01

Bopæl • Domicile  
Wohnort

Bergen Norvège

Høide • Taille

Height • Gestalt

169 cm

Ansikt • Visage

Gesicht

ovalt - ovale

Øinenes farve  
Couleur des yeux  
Colour of eyes  
Farbe de Augen

Bleue

Hårets farve  
Couleur des cheveux  
Colour of hair  
Farbe des Haares

Foncé

Særlige kjennetegn  
Signes particuliers  
Special peculiarities  
Besond. Kennzeichen

Rien

BARN — ENFANTS — CHILDREN — KINDER

Navn

Alder

Kjønn

Nom

Age

Sexe

Name

Age

Sex

Name

Alter

Geschlecht





*Ragnvald Johanneren*

Passinnehaverens egenhellige underskrift

Signature du titulaire

Signature of Bearer

Unterschrift des Passinhabers

Hustruens egenhellige underskrift

et de sa femme

and of Wife

und seiner Ehefrau

Bevidnes av den passutstedende myndighet:

Attestée par l'agent délivrant le passeport:

Certified by the issuing Authority:

Bescheinigung der ausstellenden Behörde

for politimesteren

*[Handwritten signature]*





— 4 —

Land for hvilke dette pass er gyldig  
 Pays pour lesquels ce passeport est valable  
 Countries for which this passport is valid  
 Geltungsbereich des Passes

*in foreign trade*

Dette pass udløper den:  
 Ce passeport expire le:  
 The validity of this passport expires:  
 Der Pass ist gültig bis zum:

9. AUG. 1935

med mindre det fornyes  
 à moins de renouvellement  
 unless renewed  
 wenn er nicht verlängert wird

Udstedt i  
 délivré à  
 Issued at  
 Ausstellende  
 Behörde

dato  
 date  
 Datum

Bergens Politikammer

9. AUG. 1933



*[Handwritten signature]*

Den passutstedende myndighets underskrift  
 Signature de l'agent délivrant le passeport  
 Signature of the issuing Authority  
 Unterschrift der ausstellenden Behörde

*[Handwritten signature]*



5209

## ALIENS' ORDER 1920

This card must be filled in by each  
Passenger, landing.  
Dette Kort skal udfyldes af enhver  
Passager, som lander i  
Stor Britanien.

Port of Embarkation  
abroad

ESBJERG

Indskibningshavn

Surname (in Block Letters)  
Efternavn (med store Bogstaver)

JOHANNESSEN.

Christian Names

Fornavne

Ragnwald.

Names and ages of Dependants  
under 16 accompanying

Navn og Alder af ledsagende  
paarørende under 16 Aar

Age 34 Sex M. or F. }  
Alder 34 Køn

Occupation  
Stilling

Seaman  
Fyrbæiser  
seaman

Nationality }  
Nationalitet } norsk

Nationality at Birth  
Nationalitet ved Fødsel

Address in the United Kingdom  
Adresse i Stor-Britanien

Genneureyse 17/10/1920

Signature

Den rejsendes Underskrift

Ragnwald Johannesen

A. S. 9. 33. 10.000



5209

## ALIENS' ORDER 1920

This card must be filled in by each  
Passenger, landing.  
Dette Kort skal udfyldes af enhver  
Passager, som lander i  
Stor-Britanien.

Port of Embarkation  
abroad

ESBJERG

Indskibningshavn

Surname (in Block Letters)  
Efternavn (med store Bogstaver)

JOHANNESSEN.

Christian Names  
Fornavne

Ragnwald.

Names and ages of Dependants  
under 16 accompanying  
Navn og Alder af ledsagende  
paarørende under 16 Aar

Age  
Alder

Sex  
Køn

M. or. F.

Occupation  
Stilling

Person  
Fyrbræder  
seman

Nationality  
Nationalitet

Nationality at Birth  
Nationalitet ved Fødsel

Address in the United Kingdom  
Adresse i Stor-Britanien

Denmark  
Bemærkning 17/10/1920

Signature

Den rejsendes Underskrift

Ragnwald Johannesen

A. S. 9. 33. 10.000



LNER 1336/2/34 10,000

K. 24096

## EMBARKATION CARD FOR NON-BRITISH SUBJECTS

This card must be filled in by each  
foreign passenger embarking.

Ce questionnaire doit être rempli  
par chaque voyageur étranger à  
l'embarquement.

Port of Disembarkation abroad }  
Port de d'embarquement à l'étranger }

**ANTWERP**

Surname (Nom) in Block letters

Johannsen

Christian names (Prénoms)

Ragnvald

Names and ages of dependents  
under 16 accompanying

Noms et âges des enfants  
qui ont moins de seize ans

Age 34

Sex (Sexe)

Occupation

Nationality

Nationalité

Norsh

Class travelling

Classe du voyage

Norsh

Address in the United Kingdom

Adresse en Grande-Bretagne

Signature

Signature du Voyageur

Ragnvald Johannsen



K. 24096

LNER 1386/2/34 10,000

## EMBARKATION CARD FOR NON-BRITISH SUBJECTS

This card must be filled in by each foreign passenger embarking.

Ce questionnaire doit être rempli par chaque voyageur étranger à l'embarquement.

Port of Disembarkation abroad }  
Port de d'embarquement à l'étranger }

ANTWERP

Surname (Nom) in Block letters

Johannsen

Christian names (Prénoms)

Ragnvald

Names and ages of dependents  
under 16 accompanying

Noms et âges des enfants  
qui ont moins de seize ans

Age 34

Sex (Sexe)

Occupation

Nationality  
Nationalité

Norwegian

Class travelling }  
Classe du voyage }

Work

Address in the United Kingdom }  
Adresse en Grande-Bretagne }

Signature

Signature du Voyageur

Ragnvald Johannsen



5209

## ALIENS' ORDER 1920

This card must be filled in by each  
Passenger, landing.  
Dette Kort skal udfyldes af enhver  
Passager, som lander i  
Stor Britanien.

Port of Embarkation  
abroad

ESBJERG

Indskibningshavn

Surname (in Block Letters)  
Efternavn (med store Bogstaver)  
Christian Names  
Fornavne

JOHANNESSEN.  
Ragnwald.

Names and ages of Dependants  
under 16 accompanying  
Navn og Alder af ledsagende  
paarørende under 16 Aar

Age 34. Sex M. or F.  
Alder 34. Køn M. or F.

Occupation  
Stilling

Person  
Fyrbræder

Nationality  
Nationalitet

Nationality at Birth  
Nationalitet ved Fødsel

Address in the United Kingdom  
Adresse i Stor-Britanien

Signature  
Den rejsendes Underskrift

Gemeineyre 17/10-19  
Ragnwald Johannesen

A. S. 9. 33. 10.000



LNER 1386/2/34 10,000

K 24096

## EMBARICATION CARD FOR NON-BRITISH SUBJECTS

This card must be filled in by each foreign passenger embarking.

Ce questionnaire doit être rempli par chaque voyageur étranger à l'embarquement.

Port of Disembarkation abroad }  
Port de d'embarquement à l'étranger }

ANTWERP

Surname (Nom) in Block letters

Johannsen

Christian names (Prénoms)

Ragnvald

Names and ages of dependents  
under 16 accompanying

Noms et âges des enfants  
qui ont moins de seize ans

Age

34

Sex (Sexe)

Occupation

Nationality  
Nationalité

Norsh

Class travelling  
Classe du voyage

Norsh

Address in the United Kingdom }  
Adresse en Grande-Bretagne }

Signature

Signature du Voyageur

Ragnvald Johannsen



Description of Passenger and  
class travelled.

Immigration Officer's Stamp





Description of Passenger  
and Class travelled

Immigration Officer's  
Stamp.

IT  
23



To Antwerp by night

Label per

1708/33 Bergen 9-8-33

L 24 1.01 Bergen



375

Extracts from H.O. file No.F.325 for FOSS, Leif Olaf.

Immigration Officers' Report. Port of Harwich.

Subject: [FOSS, Leif Olaf.] 98 42430.

Nationality: Norwegian. Occupation: Trade Union secretary.

Sex: Male. Born: 28.8.99 at Bergen. Passport: 123 - 1933 - Oslo - 21.1.33.

This alien arrived on M/V Esbjerg from Esbjerg this afternoon.

He was recognised as the subject of the above circular. He stated that he was in transit to Antwerp, for which port he had a through ticket. He said that for the past nine months he has been ill, being partly paralysed, and was making the trip for health reasons. He anticipated that after 1 day in Antwerp he would return via Rotterdam and Copenhagen to Bergen. He said that he is Secretary of the Norwegian Seamen's Union, but strongly denied that he was going to attend the conference in Antwerp of the Belgian Seamen's Union. As he was travelling in the company of Erik Aage Richard JENSEN (please see separate report) this could scarcely be believed.

He was also accompanied by Ernst WOLLWEBER - please see separate report - and it was subsequently elicited that he had been instrumental in obtaining the false papers on which this alien was travelling.

In the course of the examination, FOSS said that he was in England during the war, working in the Prince of Wales dry dock at Swansea. He left the U.K. in 1920 and joined the Norwegian Navy, which he left about 1925. In 1926 he came to England as a member of the Norwegian Relief Committee, and escorted to Norway some 50 children of miners involved in the coal stoppage. This, he claimed, was his last visit to the U.K. He admitted that he is a Communist and, in fact, produced his Communist Party membership card, showing that he joined that party on 23rd September 1923. He has also been a member of the Seamen's Union for some years, and in November of last year was appointed secretary. His baggage was searched and was found to contain numerous typewritten papers, in Norwegian, apparently concerned with his communist and Trade Union activities, together with a list of Communist Party members on Norwegian ships, a copy of which list is attached hereto.

H.M.C.I.O. agreed that he be refused leave to land under Art. 1(3) (g) of the Aliens Order 1920. He was transferred to M/V Parkeston" a ship belonging to the same company, and he returned to Esbjerg this night.

Landing card and refusal slip attached hereto.

8.6.34.

21/10/34  
25/1/35



*Spare at back of file.*

*37a*

Extracts from H.O. file M.590, MELCHIOR, Otto Adolph.

Immigration Officers' Report. Port of Harwich.

Nationality: Danish. Occupation: Secretary and Doctor of Economics. Sex: Male. Born: 10.6.04 at Copenhagen.  
Passport: B2196/34 - Copenhagen - 2.6.34.

This alien arrived on M/V "Esbjerg" from Esbjerg this afternoon.

He stated that he was in transit to Antwerp for which port he had a through ticket. He added that he would then, in a day or so, proceed to Paris for a short holiday.

He was travelling in the company of Erik Aage Richard JENSEN, Leif Olaf FOSS and Ernst WOLLWEBER - for all of whom please see separate reports.

He said that he had known Jensen for many years in Copenhagen. They became acquainted when alien, as a member of the University Students' Union, heard Jensen give an address at one of their meetings. He denied that he was a member of the Communist Party but admitted that he is a socialist and has some sympathy with the aims of the Communists. He also denied that he would attend the conference in Antwerp, to which Jensen was going, and pointed out that he is not a seaman. He is employed in the Invalidforsikringsretten (? the Danish Health Insurance Dept.), and is a government servant. He had no knowledge of Wollweber and had never seen him until they met on the ship.

H.M. C.I.O. agreed that he be C/L "in direct transit" to Antwerp. He sailed on s.s. "Antwerp" for Antwerp this night.

8.6.34.



374

PF. 41911

Extract from H.O. file J.220, [JENSEN.] Erik Aage Richard.

Immigration Officers' Report. Port of Harwich.

Nationality: Danish. Occupation: Trade Union Secretary.  
Born 24.2.94 at Frederiksberg. Passport: A1740/34 -  
Copenhagen - 28.5.34.

This alien arrived on M/V Esbjerg from Esbjerg this afternoon.

He stated that he is Secretary of the Danish Seamen's Union, and was on his way to Antwerp to attend a conference with the Belgian Union. He was in possession of a through ticket to Antwerp and said that he would return to Denmark by air.

He was travelling in the company of Otto Adolph MELCHIOR, Ernst WOLLWEBER, and Leif Olaf FOSS, for all of whom please see separate reports.

He admitted that he is a communist and that he knows Foss, the secretary of the Norwegian Seamen's Union. He also knew that Ernst Wollweber was a Communist member of the Reichstag, but denied that he knew that Wollweber was going to endeavour to enter the U.K. with false papers. It was he, as a matter of fact, who revealed Wollweber's real identity.

H.M. C.I.O. agreed that he be C/L "in direct transit" to Antwerp. He sailed on s.s. Antwerp for Antwerp this night.

8.6.34.



22 JUN 1934

PORT OF HARWICH.

## SPECIAL BRANCH

Ref. 325/FNS/156Date 21. 6. 34

To M.I.5.

JENSEN,  
A.R.; MELCHIOR  
A.; WOLLWEBER,  
nst & FOSS L.O.

8th

June

4.

Arrived here this day from Esbjerg, Denmark, en route for Antwerp :-

(1) <sup>P.F. 41911</sup> [Erik Aage Richard JENSEN] of Danish nationality, a Trade Union secretary, born at Fredericksberg 24.2.94, travelling on Danish Passport No. A1740/34 issued at Copenhagen 28.5.34.

He stated that he was secretary of the Danish Seamen's Union, admitted being a communist and that he was proceeding to Antwerp to attend a conference of the Belgian Seamen's Union. He proposed returning to Denmark by air.

He was allowed to proceed and embarked for Antwerp the same evening.

(2) Otto Adolph MELCHIOR, of Danish nationality, a secretary, born at Copenhagen 10.6.04,, travelling on Danish Passport No. B2196/34 issued at Copenhagen 2.6.34.

He stated that he was a government employee in the Danish Health Insurance Dept., and in the course of examination, admitted that he was a socialist with communist leanings. He and Jensen had been known to each for some time and after the conference, he, Melchior, intended proceeding to Paris for a short holiday.

He was landed in transit and left for Antwerp, in company with Jensen, the same evening.

(3) WOLLWEBER Ernst @ WOLLENWEBER @ SCHMIDT @ CHRISTIANSEN @ CHRISTENSEN @ Ragnvald JOHANNESSEN, of German nationality, produced Norwegian Passport No. 1708/33

issued at Bergen 24.5.34

SPECIAL BRANCH  
RECEIVED  
21 JUN 1934

25/7/51



-2-

issued at Bergan 9.8.33, in the name of Ragnvald JOHANNESSEN which showed his occupation to be a seaman.

Discrepancies in the passport were observed with the result that alien eventually produced German Passport No. 521/65/31 issued at Berlin 3.9.31, by which he was identified as Ernst WOLLWEBER, subject of H.O. Circular 8406 which shows him to be a former communist member of the Reichstag for the district of Altona.

Wollweber stated that he left Germany in February 1933 and stayed in Danzig and then Poland until he was able to proceed to Oslo, where he landed illegally.

His visit to Antwerp, which he had undertaken with his friend Foss (see below), he stated to be one of pleasure having no connection with the conference. He admitted that the Norwegian seaman's passport had been obtained for him to facilitate his movements. The false papers were impounded and forwarded to the Home Office.

Wollweber was refused leave to land and returned to Esbjerg the same evening.

(4) [Leif Olaf FOSS] of Norwegian nationality, a Trade Union secretary, born at Bergan 28.8.99., travelling on Norwegian Passport No. 123-1933 issued at Oslo 21.1.33 and the subject of H.O. Circular B2714 which describes him as a communist, convicted at Oslo for burglary.

He stated that he was in the United Kingdom during the war, employed at the Prince of Wales dry dock, Swansea. In 1920 he left the U.K. and joined the Norwegian Navy, re-visiting this country as a member of the Norwegian Relief Committee, when he escorted to Norway fifty children of miners involved in the coal stoppage.

Foss also denied that he was attending the Seamen's conference, explaining that the journey was undertaken for

Copy in P.F. 42430 (FOSS)



-3-

the benefit of his health after a nervous breakdown.

It would appear that Foss was instrumental in obtaining the false passport for Wollweber.

Among his effects were his Communist Party membership card and the attached letter giving a list, believed to be I.S.H. contacts on various ships.

Foss was refused leave to land and returned to Esbjerg the same evening.

*R. R. Lincoln*  
P.C.

Submitted.

*Charles Allen*  
Sergeant.

*E. J. Foster*  
Acting SUPERINTENDENT.

Copy in R. 42436 (Foss)



Translation by Inspector Morse, Special Branch.

(Norwegian).

*Copy filed in OF. 2/8 & Coded there*

Oslo 30/5/35.

Leif O. Foss.

Comrade

Have received letters of 27th and 28th. instant. Our address is Dronningsgade 21 -711. We have had no chance to speak to Anker Jacobsen when he came here, but we will write Comrade Torbjørn Moe, Tønshavn that he shall speak to him and enquire regarding his journey. It was from T. Moe that we got his address. Regarding the letter lost from the "William Blumer", we felt that something must be wrong there. The vessel was at Oslo in the winter we delivered organisation material for re-registering, and have heard nothing since. The feeling was at the time, but according to the letter, the above-mentioned Erik has sabotaged the whole business.

Of our ship connections we will send a complete list, with names upon each. Nearly everyone is afraid to answer letters and material which we send with instructions, but that is no reason for breaking the connections, they are in any case a good thing for the transport workers, and most of them write for the organisation journal "Kadettenblad", and even if our connections are not reliable, there will be in many cases others who will take on the work we have started, as we have broken away from the RFO, and there have always been comrades to undertake the work.

The addresses are:-

Gustav Larsen	"Kronprinsesse Maertha".	Member of N.K.P. N.S.F.
Zakariassen.	"Dronningen"	Sympathising member of N.S.F.
Sverre Hansen.	"Lisse".	Member N.K.P. in Larvik. Has difficulty.
Willy Johansen	"Thyra"	Former member N.K.U. Do. (in writing)
Johan Halvorsen,	"Stadion 2"	2 R.F.O. N.K.P. members. Route, Oslo.
K. Kalberg,	"Borgsteen"	8 RFO members. (Stettin)
Viktor Bjørkman,	"Tallisman"	Paid off, comes home at once. Boat so.
Norman.	"Knute Nelson"	Sympathising.
Egil Hemstad	"Cal. Express"	RFO. RFS. member. Writer.
A. Clausen	"Temmararie"	Sympathiser.
H. Myrassen	"Biri"	Sympathiser.
J. Martinsen	"Dan"	RFO, NKP member. Group five men.
C. Eivindsen	"Mitra"	RFO member, formerly signed off.
Rolf Heytherdal	"Tysla"	RFO NSF member, expected to write
S. Velsvik	"Solna"	NSF member, sympathiser.
A. Ingvaldsen	"Vardøfjell"	NSF member, sympathiser.
Arast Karlsen	"Harpefjeld"	RFO NSF member.
Jacob Vendel	"Koll"	NKU NSF member
E. Øie	"Hird"	NSF, formerly NKP, RFO member.
Truls Gard	"Vinland"	NSF member, sympathiser.
Arthur Nilsen	"Vardvik"	Sympathiser, formerly connection signed off.
O. Nordgren	"Nordvin"	RFO group 10 men, all NSF members.
Olav Clausen	"Blumer"	All organised in RFO & NSF when boat was
Johan Olsen	"Procyon"	2 RFO members. (at Oslo.)
Karsten Løvas	"Norne"	2 RFO members.
I. Halaldsen	"Koruna"	Crew sympathetic.
Andreas Førde	"Tankred"	RFO NKP member.
Sverre Hansen	"Hamlet"	RFO NKP member.
Nils Holm	"Regulus"	NSF, sympathetic.
Anker Jakobsen	"Frendale"	As above stated.
E. Martinussen	"Rinda"	Admissible by lot, member NKP, Tønsberg.
Gustavsen	"Kong Bjørn"	RFO NKP member, route Oslo-Bremen.
Hjalmar Tangen	"Loyd"	Member NSF, sympathiser. Crew sympathetic.
Bjørn Haug	"Tricolor"	Sympathiser, formerly N.K.U. member.
Konrad Stranskog	"Brabant"	RFO NSF member.

Our connections in the various harbours.

Jens Narvestad	Tønderørdet, Jeløy Moss	Transport worker.
Einar Olsen	Foreman, transportworkers union, Sandeund.	
Arthur Asnes	Vice-foreman, Moss branch NSF. Vogtagatan 28, Moss.	
Karl Førde	Glemmensgatan 8. Frederikstad.	



2.

Bruun, Hakons Plads Machinist on "Alpha" Moss. Treasurer NSF  
 Asbjørn Sunde, Rustadgate 43. Horten.  
 Chr. Mathisen, Øvre Langt 43. Secretary, harbourworkers union, Tønsberg  
 Andreas Homane, Lakasen Vestre, Porsgrund.  
 Torleif Hansen, Grundsvollen 19, Kristiansund.  
 Hakonsen, Secretary, Skien branch of NSF, Skien.

Our connections in the various harbours here in the Eastern district are no better for keeping up communication, whether party members or ship groups. It is hopeless to ask them to carry on the work, but one thing which must be noticed is the state of affairs in the trade union in Sarpsborg. Einar Olsen is a party member, he has brought several actions against the coasting ships, and an action over the Danish seamen's strike, but we have had no information. It is the same at Tønsberg and Skien. It is important that we should get information whenever action is taken, and it should be published in the "Sea Transport Worker", to know what is going on and to show the seamen and harbourworkers that RFO does really nothing against the reformists, which they could busy themselves with, or hinder or crush the action of the workers.

At Moss there must be a good basis for starting an opposition inside the union. When I was there in connection with the strike in Greek ships, they were not unwilling to cooperate. I had also occasion to talk with several of the leaders, but to start an opposition group there it will help little to merely send written matter, it is necessary to travel round and stay several days, and study what would be best.

As regards Oslo, we have not got farther than the union. There is only Sven Nilsen, who is the only RFO member who goes to the meetings and can carry on the work. T. Hansen has gone. At the general organisation meeting, strike and boycotting of the leaders and N.S.F.'s Oslo branch was decided on, for Comrade Henry W.'s demand for an increase. (Sverre Olsen, vice-leader, Th. Beckelund and Bergendahl). Didriksen said it would be risky to force an action of seamen, but he would do his best and has now called a meeting to enquire into it.

Perhaps you know that Erik Poulsen was member of NMFU since 1924, but was refused a leading part, as he could not be member at Oslo, as the rules are that no unemployed person can be member of NSF. Naturally that was before you knew him.

With reference to the reporting forms which treasurer Komrade Nilser wrote for, I have been away for a few days and am not sure they have been sent, but will enquire and inform by letter.

P.S. Referring to the open letter to all ITF organisations; except for what was in the "Sjøtransportarbeider", have they sent orders to any organisations or branches with reference to the treatment of the letter?

As regard the Eastern district, perhaps it would be possible for several branches, as the Transport workers branch at Sarpsborg, where Einar Olsen, NKP member, is leader. At Skien branch of the NSF, where Hakonsen, member of NKP is secretary, and at Tønsberg branch of the Harbourworkers Union, where Christian Mathisen is secretary, as also at Moss branch, I think there will be possibilities for the same enquiries as in the harbourworkers' union at Oslo. Send us 150 25 øre stamps, 50 books.

Comradely greetings  
 Eastern District RFO

Sgd. MARTIN HJELMEN.

Enclosed are some membership forms. Some of them are not for new registrations, but you must sort them out. The Swedish you must send to the headquarters at Göteborg. they have asked us to arrange for it, but we must use Norwegian books and stamps and send to the National Committee. When you send forms you must explain that.



P.F.41930

36a

CROSS-REFERENCE.

Subject:— WOLLWEBER.

dated 20.6.34.

S.I.S. report stated that the I.S.H. delegates' conference which was to have taken place in Amsterdam, was actually held in Antwerp during the week-end 9th - 12th June 1934. No details are as yet available as to the matters discussed at this conference but it is believed that the following individuals participated in it:

WOLLWEBER alias SCHMIDT.  
PECHMAN alias SMOLIANSKI.  
SHELLY.  
JENSEN.  
SCHAAP.  
LAMBERT.

It was stated that a report has reached Rotterdam to the effect that WOLLWEBER proceeded from Copenhagen via England with a Danish passport and that he was arrested and detained in the U.K. This, it should be noted, is not confirmed, but it would be of interest to hear whether anyone was detained in the U.K. en route from Copenhagen to Antwerp about the time in question, who might be identical with WOLLWEBER.

Original in.....O.F.2/2 Vol.9 (613a).....dated.....as above.....

D.W.H.  
22.6.34.

S. Form 81

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P.F. 41930

35a

## CROSS-REFERENCE.

**Subject:**— WOLLENWEBER.

dated 14.6.34.

An S.I.S. report re Communist Activities in Hamburg stated that a copy of Communist newspaper "Der Klassengewerkschaftler" is smuggled to Rotterdam where ten additional copies are run off on a typewriter and circulated two copies being sent to WOLLWEBER in Copenhagen.

Original in..... S.F.41/1/Germany 127a. ....dated..... as above.....

D.W.H.  
18.6.34.

S. Form 81

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P.F.41930

**CROSS-REFERENCE.****Subject:**— WOLLENWEBER, Ernst.

dated 28.5.34.

A report from S.I.S. re the activities of the German Communist Party in Holland stated that at a meeting between the secret leader of the I.S.H. and Frau KREUZBURG held in Rotterdam:-

"The attention of Frau KREUZBERG was called to a communication which had been received by the secret leader of the I.S.H. in Rotterdam from WOLLWEBER in Copenhagen, in which WOLLWEBER requested that all material emanating from Hamburg should be forwarded to him. Frau KREUZBURG apparently took a very firm attitude over this matter and said to the secret leader of the I.S.H.:

'I demand from you in the Name of the Central Committee of the German Communist Party that all material be sent to August (KREUZBURG). WOLLWEBER has no right to interfere in this matter, even if he is a member of the central committee. We have received directions about this business from the Polbureau in Paris and the Polbureau has laid down that the Rotterdam-Hamburg connexion belongs to the Amsterdam area and Copenhagen can do nothing to alter this situation.

In any case, the man (WOLLWEBER) was to have been recalled from Copenhagen, but he has been allowed to remain there for the purpose of organising the despatch of literature from Scandinavia to Germany.

All central institutions of the Party, namely Polbureau W.E.B. and M.E.B. of the Profintern, are now in Paris. I myself have been engaged on work connected with the re-organising of the foreign sections (Ausland-stellen) in Paris, and you may tell Ernst WOLLWEBER, when he comes, that he has nothing to say about such /matters

Original in.....S.F.411/Germany (123a)x.....dated.....as above.....

S. Form 81

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ACT 1958. JANUARY 2008



P.F. 41930

34a.

## CROSS-REFERENCE.

**Subject:—** WOLLENWEBER, Ernst

matters. If you have any trouble with regard to this matter, the Central Committee and the Polbureau will support you. No individual and no organisation has the right to interfere with this connexion with Hamburg."

**Original in** S.F. 411/Germany (123a) ..... **dated** ..... 28.5.34. ....

D.W.H.  
31.5.34.

S. Form 81

55/24  
27/6/34