III B
1942

- problems re employment
- letter from Uncle [Redacted]
  Jack (Pratt) re
  intervention of
  Mrs. Roosevelt
- [Redacted]
Midnight

Dear [name], your young friend brought the letter a few minutes ago — and I know how very worried you must be. I am now writing Mrs. B. again as I think she ought to know the whole story as otherwise she would not be able to really talk to [son]. It still seems probable to me that the agents will trust you as from the beginning you have not tried to hide anything. If they want people to vouch for you — please call on us, we
would always do whatever we can to help. I think this business about
Dear complicates matters - so you
can only give your word and no
other proofs about your completely
accidental relationship with the
film - but I'm convinced your good
will be trusted. We are thinking of you
and hoping and wishing that all
will go well.

Affe to you and

Kate

Trude.
February 7, 1942

Dear Hoerlin

More later. I only wanted to let you know to begin with that the information about Wandervogel did not come from the Binghamton man but from an entirely extraneous individual, who came from the same town as you did, and gave this information to the Treasury Department a long time ago without any implications, but merely as an historical fact.

B. W.

Mr. Herman Hoerlin
35 Vermont Avenue
Binghamton, New York
March 2, 1942

Dear Mr. Hoerlin

Dr. Warburg has asked me to send you the enclosed copy of a letter which she has received from Mr. Brodnitz.

Very sincerely,

Maxine Lovinsen
Secretary to Dr. Warburg

ML
Dr. Bettina Warburg
130 East 67 Street
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Warburg:

I received your letter of the 25th enclosing copy of a letter from Hoerlin which, in accordance with your request, I will treat as confidential.

I appreciate Hoerlin's interest in the success of our investigation. I think Hoerlin is still too new in this country to understand the working methods of the Government. You may reassure him that the days of the Nazis in Binghamton are counted.

I understand that some of our agents have now talked to Hoerlin and that he had a chance to give them the benefit of his inside knowledge. It might not be a bad idea to ask him to put everything he knows about those Nazis on paper, quoting from memory and giving as much substantiated evidence as he is able to. He can address such a statement either to me here in Washington or, probably better, to Messrs. O'Connell and Klaus as the heads of different phases of the investigation. He can address such a document to Mr. Joseph J. O'Connell, Jr., Room 3303 Channing Building, New York City, and to Mr. Sam Klaus, Washington Building, Washington, D.C., and send me a copy of it. He might state as his motive his sincere desire to help the investigation and he might point out in a general paragraph his ideas about the "Biedermann" front the Nazis put on, although you may be assured that we see behind that mask.

In a broader aspect the Government is also interested in any additional light the Hoerlins may shed on Wiedemann's attitude and actions and his "feelings" to which the correspondence refers so often, and would be interested in having the Hoerlins submit any additional correspondence they may have from him. I understand their personal attitude toward him and their feeling of gratitude for the decency he showed Mrs. Hoerlin when she was in need of help. The Hoerlins, however, must understand that we are interested in Wiedemann as an official of the Nazi Government. It goes without saying that there can be no better proof of loyalty to their new country than to assist us in this broader aspect.

I do not expect to be in New York very soon as I will probably leave on another assignment shortly. If at some time it should appear necessary to them or to us, I will be glad to talk to the Hoerlins here.

With renewed thanks for your kind cooperation,

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Otto W. Brodnitz

Otto W. Brodnitz
March 5, 1942

Hermann Hoerlin
35 Vermont Avenue
Binghamton, N. Y.

Mr. Otto W. Brodnitz
1727 Massachusetts Ave
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Brodnitz:

We wish to thank you sincerely for the interest you take in our case. Dr. Warburg sent us a copy of your recent letter to her and also, on February 14, 1942, a teletypewriter that we should be confident, according to your instruction.

This was, so far, the only information we received since I was questioned. I have obtained no official word neither from Mr. Klaus nor from Mr. O'Connell that my case is clear, nor did Mr. Anderson, the Treasury representative in the plant, whom I asked today know anything.

As you will understand we have to wait for a final and official word clearing our case before we will be able to make additional statements which are not concerned with and do not depend upon our present situation. We still think that it would be rather impossible to give written statements about Wiedemann's attitude; but we are willing to give verbal information to the best of our knowledge and our personal experience. Therefore we would deeply appreciate your giving us soon a chance to talk to you personally.

Very sincerely yours

Hermann Hoerlin
1727 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D. C.
March 20, 1942

Dear Mr. Hoerlin:

I have just received your letter of March 5, on my return from an extended trip to several places during which time my correspondence never caught up with me.

I am about to leave again after a few days in Washington and do not know yet when I will return. Under these circumstances I will not be able for some time to make plans for any length of time ahead.

With the new developments in the company undoubtedly the entire investigation will be speeded up, and it may not be necessary for you or Mrs. Hoerlin to make the trip to Washington.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

OWB:rs

Otto W. Brodnitz
Dear Betina,

I am not writing today, not so much in our personal behalf of our personal affairs, but to let you know how things in general seem to be managed.

As you perhaps read a few days ago, the General Asulinco was overthrown officially by the Treasury Department (Cancellation of foreign stocks and non-existence of the water lock to the Treasury). As far as we know, nothing else has happened. Dr. Eckler is still suspended and the factory is managed by the factory itself without production manager, and this means in fact that things are much worse than before. Eckler was killed, because...
Now the Nazis who are still in their key position as far as I know the investigation at Bury St. Edmunds seem to be at a standstill. These investigations have made of people trained for a very different job (tax collector, schoolteacher) and I have the feeling that they do not yet get to the point, because they are not used neither to this type of people nor to their way of establishing themselves as a Biedermeier. I wouldn't expect to have the T.V.A. inquiring and reacting in a different way for the simple reason that they lack any experience with this kind of affair. But we who have lived among them for five years in Germany and then come to America to find it our
plant enemy the same crowd of course can see boot more ad
briefly that's all about then
the money here the our kids did not know about June 30th
they could not imagine that we were in the other side so they
spoke openly didn't hide their feelings and we were there for
especially eager to discover their real attitude towards this
country.

I'm afraid that with the knowledge of investigation we will get
almost nowhere. It is rather difficult to prove that somebody is a Nazi
because as long as he has not done some thing. they in my opinion just see too great
cowards to do some thing except (as I told the agents) he Germanizes
my wife of Brynham.
I am telling you these things because I want to get your advice on whether I can and shall do any thing at this present time. I don’t know whether the case is completely clear in every respect and therefore it is hard perhaps not advisable to stop the case. I cannot be active on the other hand one has the feeling that some thing should be done. Maybe you and them are not in turn and do not intend to I hate to keep you busy with these things which at must be far away from you right this now.

It is very possible that we are too impatient ourselves and that things will be decided soon. And if the right may be out on the other hand the general political and military situation in general and the absolute silence makes it for not losing time.
But as I told you previously, the handling of Eckers can (as it were) make much more voluntary understanding, even when the patient's own FETCH (as in the ELITE test) does not make me feel confident.
January 5, 1942.

Dear Hoaxer,

Just a few words about your problem with the Treasury Department. I am writing to Mrs. Roosevelt to be a specially close friend of Mr. Hopkins. He would, I think, be willing to send the Secretary a note, asking him to go into the individual cases as carefully as possible. I would advise you — not to resign, so that might be taken as a sign that you feel investigation and would rather so before you are asked to have. If by any chance you are dismissed because all non-citizens are dismissed, it does not reflect against you personally as soon as I hear from Mrs. R. I shall telegraph.

Much love to you and

Katie.

Trude.
Dear Kate,

Brooding is leaving for Washington. Here is the only chance for an evening together next month.

Off the record: Any purpose the visit might have served to foster — is rather secure already.

In great haste —

Love to both of you.

Yours,
Copy for Mrs. Pratt

ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN
WASHINGTON

September 30, 1942

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

In view of your interest in Dr. Hermann W. Hoerlin, who has been associated with the Agfa Ansco Division of the General Aniline and Film Corporation, I know that you will be pleased to learn that approval has recently been obtained from the War and Navy Departments for his reinstatement.

Very sincerely yours,

Leo. T. Crowley
Alien Property Custodian
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
225 Broadway, Eighth Floor
New York, New York

60-0-28

March 3, 1943

Dr. Herman Hoerlin
35 Vermont Avenue
Binghamton, New York

Dear Dr. Hoerlin:

Thank you for the information in your letter of February 15, 1943. Your explanation aided in the interpretation of the apparent inconsistencies in the material supplied to us.

You point out in your letter that the number of employees reported for the film plant alone in November 1939 did not include the technical and engineering staff. We should like to ascertain the number of such technical and engineering employees. We are also desirous of knowing the nature and title of the Wolfen reports referred to in your letter and to know whether or not there is available data representative of the entire year rather than the selected months for which it was supplied. While the number of employees in the film plant may be the same for the entire year 1939 as for a given month, the same relationship obviously does not hold true for the production data.

It would be helpful if, in addition to the foregoing information, we could obtain figures showing the approximate production at Wolfen of positive and negative films of both cellulose acetate and cellulose nitrate.

We should particularly like to examine studies that may have been made showing the production of films per man hour, the amount of fuel used in producing a given quantity of film, the quantity of specific raw materials required to produce a given quantity of cellulose acetate and cellulose nitrate film.

Any further information you may be able to supply will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

SAMUEL S. ISSEKS
Special Assistant to the Attorney General

[Signature]

Norman Bursler
Mr. Leo T. Crowley,
Alien Property Custodian
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Crowley:

Since September 30 I am working again in my previous capacity as physicist in the Production Department of The Agfa Ansco Division.

I am so glad that the appeal to the Army and Navy led to this positive result. Mrs. Hoerlin and I will always remember your great kindness towards us as one of the most fortunate and encouraging experiences we had in this country. Let me thank you sincerely for your very active efforts in my behalf.

The feeling to be able to work now like every good citizen and to contribute my small share to the common effort makes me very happy, and I shall always try to justify the confidence placed in me.

With Mrs. Hoerlin's and my deep gratitude

very respectfully yours,

Herman Hoerlin
35 Vermont Ave  
Binghamton N.Y.  

August 27, 1942

Dear General Osborn,

being back in Binghamton  
Mrs. Holchin and I are anxious to thank you for the great kindness you showed in discussing our problem with us. We felt that to follow your advice was the most logical and best thing we could undertake. We were fortunate enough to be able to see Mr. Leo T. Crowley, the Alien Property Custodian, the same afternoon. Mr. Crowley showed great willingness to be active in our particular case and will get in touch with the Navy Intelligence in behalf of me to speed up the matter as much as possible.
We are confident of an outcome which will give me the opportunity to do my share most effectively in the war effort.

Thanking you again for giving us so much of your time I am with my sincere gratitude

respectfully yours,

Herman Hoelvin
35 Vermont Ave
Brighamton, N.Y.

October 4, 1942

Dear General Osborn,

This is just a short note to inform you that the Army and Navy gave their approval and that therefore I am working again on the Production Repts. since last week. I am very happy about this positive result and want to thank you once more for the good advice you so kindly gave to us.

Very sincerely yours.
DUSCHA E. SCHMID - CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL - KENDAL GREEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Samstag
31. I. 1942

Lieber Eltern!


Am Montag ist ein Text in französischer Literatur. Da muss ich noch ganz kurz studieren, aber ich hab's schon gelesen. Multi, ist es alles gut an Elke Naslund zu schreiben? Ich will es tun, wenn ich an Euch festig bin. Es war so schön von ihm, mir den Gruß zu schicken. Ich bin froh, dass Du...
October 5, 1942

Dr. Hermann W. Meerlin
35 Vermont Avenue
Binghamton, New York

Dear Meerlin:

I am sending you the copy of Mr. Crowley's letter to Mrs. Roosevelt which, of course, must be kept completely between you and me. I know that she has done a great deal to help you, but it would be very much better if her interest were not mentioned, especially as I am convinced that this decision is the only just one.

I have promised Kaete to tell her when I could be free this coming week. Unfortunately ISS problems are still pending and I do not know how to plan for my time. As soon as certain decisions are reached, I shall let you know. I want to see Kaete very much and I wish you too could come to New York, but I understand that probably now you want to stick as closely as possible to your job.

My love to you both,

TWP:fy

Trude
Dear General Osborn,

when I had the pleasure of meeting you at the Cambridge School you kindly gave your consent to use your name in connection with the request for alien employment. This request was submitted by Agfa Ansco to the office of the Undersecretary of War, Att. Lt. Cannon, after it was signed by Mr. A. E. Marshall, President of Agfa Ansco and Vice-President of General Aniline & Film Corporation. So far no reply has been received.

On August 8 the company received an order from the Office of the Secretary of the Navy requesting my removal, not from the plant, but from our film manufacturing departments where I did special research work. The management wanted to transfer me to our research department which has no connection with war production and where I would be allowed to work.

This department is still under the direction of a German born citizen with whom, in the past, I had strong differences both in regard to my work and to my political attitude. Being convinced that, with every good will on my side, any attempt for cooperation would be a failure I saw no other choice than to refuse to work for this man.

Fortunately the management fully understood my decision; Mr. Marshall told me yesterday that the company has the strong desire to keep me employed in my former position. Already a week ago he had filed an appeal to the Secretary of the Navy by way of the Office of the Alien Property Custodian, Mr. Crowley, asking for reconsideration of the Navy order. Attached to this appeal is a copy of a report submitted by the agents of the Treasury Department who, during the first 5 months of the war, made investigations concerning the loyalty of all German born employees of the company. According to Mr. Marshall this report on me is most favorable. Mr. Marshall gave me free hand to take any steps I thought suitable for obtaining revision of the Navy order; he also urged me to take the initiative.

As you will understand I am extremely anxious to speed up the procedure and to get back to work as soon as possible. Mrs. Hoerlin and I intend therefore to go to Washington and to take up direct contact
I would be very obliged to get your advise and help in this matter. Would you be able to see me early next week on Tuesday or Wednesday? And will you kindly let me know the day and time by making a collect call to Binghamton 4.5891 tomorrow? It would very much help me to make the necessary arrangements, travel permit etc., in advance.

At the same time I am getting in touch with Mrs. Paul Warburg, Bettina Warburg (James' Warburg's sister) and with Mrs. Trude Pratt who is in Washington next week and will meet us there.

With warmest regards from both of us to you and Mrs. Osborn I am

very gratefully yours,

Hermann Hoerlin
Saturday, Jan 22.

Dear Trude,

I wanted to write you a nice letter today - but the local news I heard this morning are rather disgusting. I think I told you the last time we were in New York that the remaining Nazi gang of (Agfa) Anseco was gaining ground. Today they won another victory; they appointed a German alien for Director of Research (the position which was free for more than a year since the departure of my friend Schmidt). The new man was transferred from a production department, he is capable and relatively moderate in his views, but very German by heart and suffering from each Russian victory on British - American bombing. It is impossible for me to understand why the management was unable to find a good American for such an important position.

I compared with the greater part of the other Germans in this town.
I have recently heard more and more about the Americanization. One example is a German-born citizen who had been living in the United States for many years. Last summer, he was indicted by the FBI for harboring citizens who had not yet obtained American citizenship. He was eventually acquitted and returned to his country, only to be appointed by the Nazi Party to a position of power. A few weeks later, the position of the Nazi's assistant production manager (second in command of the plant) was filled by a man who had a good record.

The native Americans take it with amusement, which is quite a riddle to me. Anyway, I have made up my mind and am now looking for another job in a 100% American outfit. I am still under contract up to Dec 31, 1944, but I think they will give me a release if I work hard and refrain from going to the competions. I am planning to go to New York for some talks during the weekend of Feb 8 or Feb 9 to talk to you, Bettina, and a few other people. Please give me a short notice whether you will be able to come or not, so that I can set my travel plans in advance and notify Bettina.
Lieber,


Die Tafeln traf ich heute nach dem Eisberg. Sie Treue war Ende und heute alle abgefahren (oder kamen)
The Hindcheen good luck. I t
ahres rich them creative and
take win (same tres for the frog)
themitch mistich, "you have a
perfectly clean record and therefor
nothing to fear from the Treasury.
The only difficulty you might en-
counter is that the Army and
they might object to your em-
ployment because of your alien
status. But I think the company
will be able to overcome these
difficulties in account for your
work. It was a great pleasure
to have met you and I wish
you to thank you and Mrs. Holli
for your cooperation."

To Frau oui offizierelles
Fahnen - ich freue mich mit zahllich
und ehrliche Kameradig mit freundlich mit
Eusarten.
Copy

to R. F. Eckel from J. F. Herfindall

Subject: R. F. Eckel

Sept 9, 1943

In our effort to satisfy Mr. Sellick of the Army Air Forces who has assumed the responsibilities which were formerly assumed by the second service command regarding our personnel, we are indeed pleased to inform you that we have received consent from the War Department at Washington for the continued employment of Mr. Eckel subject to the conditions and requirements quoted below:

1. Consent granted for the employment of an alien in your authorization to utilize the service of the alien in aeronautical and classified (Secret, confidential or restricted) War and Navy Department contracts being performed by you within the geographical limits of the Service Command to which the alien questionnaire was submitted.

2. Before you may employ the alien in contracts of the type described above, within the geographical limits of another
Service Command: Consent must be obtained by request submitted to the Service Command in which the alien is to be employed. The request must be accompanied by a photostatic copy of the original letter of consent.

3. If information comes to your attention which indicates that your employment of the alien is, or may be, inimical to your effort, you are required promptly to terminate such employment and to make a complete report to this office for official action in connection therewith.

Signed

[Signature]

(J.T.)
Dear Hoeblin,

Your "special" came tonight and naturally it wasn't good news to hear about. However, from what I have picked up around Washington it is surprising that even more drastic steps are not being taken. It is generally known around here that a large amount of underground work is going on against the war effort. I even heard from a very good source that the President's recent announcement that aliens should be given jobs was a move to put saboteurs off-guard. It apparently was the hope that some aliens would expose themselves by applying for jobs in war plants. The F.B.I. keeps out of the picture as much as possible since they want to be free to make investigations. It seems as though they have better luck when the saboteur has the feeling that he is not being watched. Very little is getting into the newspapers about the activities of enemy agents, but it is reported
that planes fall apart in mid-air, that tautzes fail to operate but a few hours when they reach Egypt, etc. Not all of them, of course, but enough to weaken our position.

I imagine that the Army and Navy Munitions Board here in Washington is active in putting through orders concerning aliens. This is a mere guess, but they have the responsibility of seeing that the armed forces have enough of every item required to carry on a successful war. They have one hell of a big job and so I doubt they have time to look into individual cases.

It would be my suggestion — but it will reach you too late — to follow Dr. Eckler's advice. It might not be easy to take, but I would work with Schmidt in preference to leaving. Nothing would please him more than to see you in a tough shot. Especially would he feel his ego if he thought you left because of him. I would beat him at his own game. Frankly, this is a case where you have to be selfish. (over)
It is not very likely that you would be able to get into a new job where you could contribute anything of significance to the war effort. In a new job you would be placed under the same restrictions as now exist at Laza. It might even be much worse. At Laza everyone is used to German born employees. Somewhere else, during war-time, you might find that you were an unwanted individual in spite of your completely American feeling inwardly. People are so narrow and short-sighted that you might find it impossible to even get to know people well enough to have them understand you. In other words, there is no use running out on a relatively insignificant hardship just to run into something worse. You might say that nothing can be worse than working for Schmidt, but if you take the attitude that he is the one who is going to put up with you, and not you with him, then things should not be so bad. I would assume that Schmidt hates like hell to have you come back, so that when you do go back,
he is the loser, and you the victor. That may seem of childish philosophy, but when it comes to setting up one's frame of mind it frequently is necessary to mentally make a childish game out the problem in such a way that you are the winner.

Regardless of the mental anguish caused by having to work with Schmidt, you are much better off than having to suffer practical disadvantages. Mental adjustments can be made by intelligent people, but I don't give a damn how much brains you have, you can't provide for a family and enjoy the conveniences that money can buy, if you are out of money.

I shall be expecting to hear how you make out very soon.

Tomorrow night I see Peter, but you can rest assured that I shall not utter a word about the contents of your letter to anyone.

Good luck and kindest regards.

Lloyd