

P.F. 21417

ADDRESS REPLY TO
CHIEF, BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
AND REFER TO INITIALS.

msa

Department of Justice,
Bureau of Investigation,
Washington.

7-3 1919
21417
19
MDA:END
48(109)

Captain Ruth,
M. I. 4-F / G. T. M.

March 26, 1919.

Colonel John M. Dunn,
Military Intelligence Division,
War Department.

Dear Sir:-

Reference is made to your communication of March 22, 1919, (PF-21417 M.I. 4-F 74) advising that John Arthur Johnson, alias Jack Johnson, a fugitive from justice, sailed from Havana on the 20th instant, bound for Vera Cruz, Mexico, in order to avoid Cuban arrest for fraud.

Please accept my thanks for this information.

This office is, of course, interested in being advised of subject's whereabouts. Therefore, if it comes to the attention of your representatives in Mexico that he is leaving that country, notice to that effect would be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

W. J. ...
Acting Chief.
M.I. 4-F / G.T.M.
1919 MAR 28 AM 10 41
DESPATCHED

PF-21417
E. I. 4-F
74

REB
M
PF 21417
18
DEPARTMENT
45(109)

March 22, 1919.

Mr. W. E. Allen,
Acting Chief, Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Allen:

Confirming telephone conversation of the 1st inst., a cablegram has been received from the Military attache, Havana, dated March 21, 1919, stating that Jack Johnson sailed for Vera Cruz on the steamship "Esperanza", March 20, in order to avoid Cuban arrest for fraud.

Very truly yours,

John M. Dunn,
Colonel, General Staff,
Acting Director of Military Intelligence.

By:


T. DeG. Ruth,
Captain, J. S. A.

No encl.
vhj

Delivered to
D of J. Mar. 24, 1919.
G C V D

PF-21417
M.I. 4-P.
75

MID
TDCR

OFFICE OF STAFF
DIVISION
Mar 23 1919
PF 21417
17
48(109)

March 14, 1919.

Mr. W. E. Allen,
Acting Chief, Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Allen:

Replying to your letter of March 7th (MDA;
File: White Slave Matter) regarding John Arthur Johnson, alias
Jack Johnson, we have instructed our representative in Cuba to
keep track of Johnson's movements and to notify us by cable,
ahead of his departure, if possible, as to the time of his leav-
ing and as to his destination. We shall be very glad to for-
ward to you promptly any information received on the subject.

Yours very truly,

John M. Dunn,
Colonel, General Staff,
Acting Director of Military Intelligence.

By:

R. L. Barnes,
Major, U. S. A.

no encl.
amr

Delivered to
D of J. Mar 18, 1919.
G C V D

PP-21417
K.L. 4-F.
75

MID
TDCGR
MAY 28
PF 21417
16
6161
DEPARTMENT
48(109)
NEWS

March 12, 1919.

From: Acting Director of Military Intelligence.
To: Military Attache, Havana, Cuba.
Subject: John Arthur Johnson, alias Jack Johnson.

1. In confirmation of our cable of today on subject, this office has been informed by the Department of Justice that Johnson, the well known negro puglist, was issued a passport by the American Ambassador at Madrid, and is reported to have sailed on the S.S. "Maria Christina" on February 19th from Santander, Spain for Cuba. It is stated that his arrival in Havana was scheduled for March 1st approximately.

2. Subject was convicted in the Northern District of Illinois on May 13, 1913 of violating the Mann White Slave Act, and is now a fugitive from justice. He has been for some time past in Spain where, according to reports from the Military Attache, Madrid, he has given expression to pro-German and disloyal sentiments. It has been further reported that arrangements were being made by certain Mexicans to bring Johnson and his wife to Mexico, where a fight was to be staged between him and some American.

3. The Department of Justice has asked this office to keep track of subject and to notify them immediately when he leaves Cuba. It is, therefore, requested that Johnson's movements be observed and that you notify us by cable, ahead of his departure, if possible, as to the time of his leaving and as to his destination.

John M. Dunn,
Colonel, General Staff.

By:

MAILED, M. I. B., U. S. MAR 12 1919
Lt. Col., Infantry, U.S.A.

no encl.
amr

CHARGE TO office, Chief of Staff
GOVERNMENT RATE.

Major Barnes M.I. 4-F

WAR DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

CODE

WASHINGTON.

March 21, 1919.

*P.F. 21417
(15)
WAR DEPARTMENT
233 X 109*

Military Attache,
Mexico City, Mexico.

237

Jack Johnson, negro pugilist, sailed from Havana for Vera Cruz
via steanship Esperanza March 20 stop Department of Justice
has requested we keep in touch with his movements as he is
negative stop if he comes near border please cable.

Wrisley Brown
Wrisley Brown,
Major, A. S., M.

Dunn

vhj

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION
WASHINGTON

77-214173

WAR DEPARTMENT
FOR ACTION

COPY OF TELEGRAM

Havana
Dated March 21, 1919.
Recd. March 21, 1:08 PM

C O D E

Milstaff,

Washington, D. C.

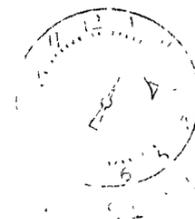
No. 249. / March 21.

Evading Cuban arrest for fraud, Jack Johnson
sailed for Vera Cruz on S. S. ESPERANZA, March 20.

B E C K

ca.

11.13.



CHARGE TO
GOVERNMENT RATE.
PF-21417
M.I. 4-F.
75

WAR DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

WASHINGTON.

March 12, 1919.

Captain Ruth,
M.I. 4-F. (75)

RH 21417
(13)
WAR DEPARTMENT
233X109

CODE

Military Attache,
Havana, Cuba.

Reliably reported John Arthur Johnson, alias Jack Johnson, fugitive
U. S. justice, sailed S/S Maria Christina February 19th Spain for Cuba.
Request surveillance. Cable when Johnson leaves Cuba and destination.

D U N N .

W. J. Davis
W. J. Davis,
Lt. Col., Infantry, U.S.A.

amr

SENT

PLEASE REPLY TO
CHIEF, BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
AND REFER TO INITIALS.

mda

Department of Justice,

Bureau of Investigation, File: White Slave Matter

Washington.

OFFICE OF STAFF
Military Intelligence
WAR DEPARTMENT

MAR 11 1919
7 21417
(12)

WAR DEPARTMENT

Captain Bath,
M. I. 4-F 175

233X109

March 7, 1919.

Colonel John M. Dunn,
Military Intelligence Division,
War Department.

Dear Sir:-

This office is in receipt of information from the Department of State to the effect that John Arthur Johnson, alias Jack Johnson, the well known negro pugilist, who was convicted in the Northern District of Illinois on May 13, 1913, of violating the Mann White Slave Act, and is now a fugitive from justice, has been issued a passport by the American Ambassador at Madrid, valid for use in returning to the United States. Subject is reported to have sailed on the S.S. "Maria Christina" on February 19 from Santander, Spain, his arrival in Havana, Cuba, scheduled for approximately March 1st.

Inasmuch as this office no longer maintains a representative in Havana, it is respectfully requested that you make arrangements, through such sources as may be at your command, to notify this Bureau promptly in case that Johnson leaves Cuba.

Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Allen

Acting Chief.

M. I. B. MAIL ROOM

1919 MAR 11 AM 9 41

DESPATCHED

AMERICAN EMBASSY
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHÉ
ZURBANO, 14
MADRID, SPAIN

OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF
Executive Division
Mil. Int. Branch.

FEB. 14 1919
No. 586
P. 21417
(11)

WAR DEPARTMENT
January 18, 1919.

233X109

FROM: The Military Attaché, American Embassy, Madrid.
TO: Director of Military Intelligence, Washington, D.C.
SUBJECT: Jack Johnson.

Major F. J. ...
M. I. 4 - 11-18-19

1. Our agent in Madrid reports :

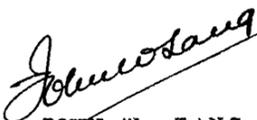
"Jack Johnson a traitor to his country, judged by his own words.-- It is rumored that two rich Mexicans at present in Madrid, and who are soon going to the United States have entered into agreement with Jack Johnson to send him and his wife to Mexico where a fight will be arranged between him and some American. George Velois and Gus Rhodes of Johnson's suite have already asked for their passports. Johnson claiming he will get there without a passport. If the above rumor is true the following data in Johnson's career in Spain during the war according to his own words should be made known to every U. S. citizen.

"One night in Johnson's house where were his wife, George Velois, Gus Rhodes, one Otto, a German wrestler, Josephine Sanchez and myself. I remarked about the change of view being made by many of the pro-Germans in Madrid. The Sanchez woman said it was a change of face but not of heart. Johnson said that most of them were now like Velois, before all for Germany, now against her. I was for Germany before and am for her yet and always will be. Another night in presence of the same persons and three Spaniards Johnson in order to prove to me that England and France were purporting to attack Germany two weeks before Germany declared war, said that while in Belgium he found the wallet of an Englishman in which were two telegrams which had been sent from Longdon advising this man that England and France were preparing to attack Germany. That these telegrams were stolen among other papers from him in Paris. On another night in presence of various visitors to prove to me that England was the first to use asphyxiating gases, Johnson said that, one night while motoring in England on account of a punctured tire he stopped near a large plant and went in to get a wrench, that inside of this plant he found many men and women engaged in filling shells with a bad smelling gas, that he asked a man what they were making and he said that was gas to be used against the Germans, and that his wife was witness to it, and that it was six months before the Germans began using gas.

"Another time during a discussion of the neutrality of Spain, I remarked that all the world knew that the German submarines were supplied off the coast of Spain. Johnson said that was something the Allies could not prove. That he knew it was true as he had seen submarines come into and get supplies off the Coast of Malaga and Palma de Mallorca, and that he knew a man here in Madrid who was in this supply business. I said, "Johnson, as an American knowing all this why did you not report it to your government's representatives?" "Report, hell, I offered them my services and they gave me a little job and kicked about my expense accounts, so I stopped fooling with them. Although I could have given them information with which they could have made a reputation for themselves here in Spain." I said, "Johnson you being an exile from the United States with various indictments hanging over you, why didn't you use this information to make yourself good with the United States and get these indictments lifted so you could have returned to the United States with honor?" "Oh, to hell with them I would not believe any promises they would have made me. The Germans treat me as a man and my wife as a lady."

JWL : MCG

Copies to:
Gen'l Churchill
Naval Attaché
Passport Office.


JOHN W. LANG
Major, Inf., U.S.A.


MAILED, M.I. B., U.S. FEB 28 1919

Copy sent to Military Attache, Mexico City, Mexico for information. 2/20/19.
Copy sent to Department of Justice, for information. 2/24/19.

Delivered to
D of J. Feb 26, 1919.
G C V D

AMERICAN EMBASSY
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHÉ
ZURBANO, 14
MADRID SPAIN

No. 450

December
9th
1918.

STAFF
MIL INT BRANCH
EXECUTIVE DIVISION
PA 21417
10
WAR DEPARTMENT
278

Captain Ruth,
M. I. 4-F / G. T. M.

FROM: The Military Attaché, American Embassy, Madrid. ✓
TO: Director, Military Intelligence Division, Washington, D. C. ✓
SUBJECT: Jack Johnson and his Associates.

1. Agent in Madrid reports as follows :-

"I have spent over a week in company of the Johnson family (Jack Johnson) and their set, and nothing more worthy of report has been seen or heard. My opinion is, that the whole affair is nothing more than a lot of small talk among a bunch of down-and-outs, cheap gamblers, pimps and prostitutes such as frequent the Ideal, the Maxim and other cheaper drinking places in the neighborhood.

"There are in Madrid a crowd of so-called Americans, Spaniards and shady character of other nations who having no visible means of support, most of whom appears to have a resentment against the English, French and U. S. Officials for not providing them with passports so they can leave the country, and this resentment seems to be especially directed against the U. S. Officials on account of Public Snubs, either real or imagined, which the so-called American and Spanish element of this crowd claims have been given them. Johnson is surrounded by a set of cheap admirers and parasites, principal among whom are a Spaniard named Sanchez (locally called Spex) who claims Norfolk, Va. as his home, and one Veleau (Valois) who hails from Toledo, Ohio, and various other young sports of the type which can be found any night in Chelito's "Cabaret del Amor", at 31 Calle Teutan. They are all hand-in-glove with the German element. Johnson and Sanchez claims Mendenejo as their personal friend.

"After being with this gang nightly for over a week, listening to their talk I am convinced that this crowd is the author of all these rumors which were begun by them in order to discredit or black-mail U.S. Representatives in Spain.

"Among the better class of Spaniards such as frequent the Manchega club and the Ateneo, the U.S. and her soldiers and representatives have always been spoken of in the most respectful and highest terms. I have made a special inquiry among friends who frequent these centres, and not one has ever heard any derogatory remark about or against any U.S. representative in Spain either socially or officially. One of the gentlemen of whom I inquired said that he has been surprised to note the change of feelings and sentiments in Madrid towards the U.S., that in those large cafes where formerly German language was always heard now every body seems to be afraid or ashamed to speak German.

"A professor of languages who has a school in town tells me that he has had more applicants for studies in English and French than he could receive, most all who were attendants in cafes and hotels."

Copies to:
C. H. Q.
Col W. C. Jones.

John W. Lang
JOHN W. LANG
Major, Inf., U.S.A.

PF 21417 M.I.4-22

LIB
AUG 23
AUG 24 21417
1918
WAR DEPARTMENT

August 20, 1918

Emmett J. Scott, Esq.,
Special Assistant to The Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Scott:

In reference to the case of Jack Johnson, I am in receipt of a certificate from the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois in the case of the People of the United States vs. John Arthur Johnson, showing that the defendant was indicted on April 30th, 1913, charged with a violation of Section II of the White Slave Traffic Act; that he was tried and convicted on June 4th, 1913 and sentenced to one year and one day in the Illinois State Penitentiary and to pay a fine of \$1,000; that on June 25th, 1913, the place of confinement was changed to the United States Penitentiary at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; that pending the determination of the case in the United States Circuit Court of Appeals the defendant was released on bond in the sum of \$15,000; that July 3, 1914, leave was granted to file the mandate of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals and the defendant was ordered to appear before the Court on August 7th, 1914; the case was set for trial on October 5, 1914 and the defendant was ordered to present a new bond in the sum of \$15,000 in twenty days; that there has been no trial had nor bond filed in the said case and the defendant did not appear; upon failure of the defendant to appear a bench warrant was issued by the District Court and said warrant is now in the hands of the U. S. Marshall, Chicago; the warrant calls for the defendant's apprehension at any time he is found within the confines of the United States.

Under date of May 15th, 1918, Johnson wrote from the Palace Hotel Madrid to Arturo Craven, 3a Tacuba 15, Escuela de Cultura Fisica, Ugarteche, Mexico, D.F., asking the addressee to send him five thousand pesetas in advance for a proposed trip to Mexico to engage in several bouts. Under the date of June 29th, 1918, Mr. Frank S. Armand wrote you asking that Johnson be given a chance to return to the United States and enlist in the Army. Mr. Fitts of the Department of Justice has stated to me that the Department would do nothing for a man who is a fugitive from justice until he comes back and surrenders himself. In order, therefore, to do anything along the lines of Mr. Armand's suggestion it would be necessary to obtain a pardon from the President.

#2

Do you wish me to take any further action in this matter?

With kindest regards and best wishes, I am,

Yours faithfully,

HAU-MCK

Captain, USA

MAILED, M. I. B. C. C. AUG 21 1918

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS CENTRAL DEPARTMENT
CHICAGO

DIO-II 4058 August 13, 1918.

OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF
Executive Division
Military Branch.

AUG 17 1918
P 21417
WAR DEPARTMENT

From: The Department Intelligence Officer - Chicago,

To: Chief, Military Intelligence Branch,
Executive Division,
1330 F. St., N.W., Washington, D.C.

Subject: JACK JOHNSON.

1. Referring to your's, PF 21417/M.I.4-22, August 7th, concerning JACK JOHNSON.
2. As per your request, enclose herewith, Certificate of Clerk of U.S. District Court, Chicago, Illinois, showing the conviction of JACK JOHNSON, former pugilist.
3. Mr. Joseph Ryan, U.S. Deputy Marshal, Chicago, Illinois, informs us that the defendant, JACK JOHNSON, did not appear or file a new bond.
4. Upon failure to appear, a bench warrant was issued by the District Court, and said warrant is now in the hands of U.S. Marshal, Chicago. Warrant calls for his apprehension at any time he is found within the confines of United States.

Carl Reichmann
Carl Reichmann,
Colonel, Infantry.

TBC-P
2 Encl. Certificate
of Clerk of U.S.D. Court,
Chicago, Ill.
W.C.H.

1918 AUG 15 PM 2 18
DESPATCHED
M.I.E. MAIL ROOM

P 72-17

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS) ss

I, T. C. MacMillan, Clerk of the District Court of the United States for the Northern District of Illinois, do hereby certify that in the case of The United States of America versus John Arthur Johnson, No. 5166, an indictment was returned on April 30, 1913, into said Court charging said defendant with the violation of Section 2, White Slave Traffic Act; that said defendant was tried and convicted and on June 4, 1913 was sentenced to serve one year and one day in the Illinois State Penitentiary at Joliet, Illinois, and to pay a fine of One thousand dollars (\$1000.00); that on June 25, 1913, the place of confinement was changed to United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas; that pending the determination of the case in the United States Circuit Court of Appeals defendant was released on bond in the sum of Fifteen thousand dollars, (\$15,000.00); that July 31, 1914, leave was granted to file the Mandate of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals and the defendant was ordered to appear before the Court on August 7, 1914; that on August 7, 1914, the cause was set for trial on October 5, 1915, and the defendant was ordered to present a new bond in the sum of Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00), in twenty (20) days.

I further certify that there has been no trial had, nor bond filed in said cause up to and including this date.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court at my office in Chicago in said District, this twelfth day of August, A. D. 1918.

AUG 13 1918 T. C. Macmillan
Clerk.

21417 M.I.A-32

57

MAJ
OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF
Executive Division
Military Branch
AUG 9 1918
21417
5
WAR DEPARTMENT

August 7, 1918

71

From: Chief, Military Intelligence Branch, Executive Division.
To: Intelligence Office, Central Department, Chicago, Ill.
Subject: Jack Johnson.

1. Will you kindly send me a certificate of the Clerk of the United States District Court at Chicago, Illinois, showing the conviction of Jack Johnson, pugilist, when and of what crime he was convicted, his sentence and the present legal status of the case?

Very truly yours,

M. Churchill,
Colonel, General Staff,

By

T. K. Schuck,
Captain, U. S. N. A.

mck

MAILED BY U. S. DIST. CT. 1918

21417 M.I.4-22

OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF
Executive Division
M.I.4 Branch.

AUG 7 1918
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HAD
4
WAR DEPARTMENT

71

Personal

August 6, 1918

Ernest J. Scott, Esq.,
Special Assistant to The Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Scott:

Some time ago I made an inquiry through Assistant Attorney Fitts as to the present status of the case against Jack Johnson. A few days ago I was over in the Department of Justice and I stopped in to see Mr. Fitts to inquire about it. He informed me that Johnson has been convicted of a violation of the White Slave Act in Chicago and has fled the country, subsequent to the conviction; that the Department refused to do anything for a man who is a fugitive from justice until he gives himself up.

I have written to the Clerk of the District Court in the United States District of Chicago, asking him to send a record of the conviction and sentence of Johnson. After I receive this I will be in a better position to determine just what is to be done.

In view of the fact that the entire subject of negro subversion has been taken away from M.I.4 I would like to know whether you desire to have subsequent communications addressed to you or to Captain Perkins, who is in charge of the section of Military Morale.

With kindest regards and best wishes, I am,

Yours faithfully,

HAU-333

WAR DEPARTMENT.
WASHINGTON.

OFFICE OF THE
E. J. ...
M. J. ...
JUL 20 1918
21417
3
WAR DEPARTMENT

July 3, 1918.

71

Captain Uterhart,
Monroe Courts,
Washington, D. C.

Personal

Dear Captain Uterhart:

The enclosed letter refers to a matter recently discussed by us.

Will you kindly, at your convenience, advise me as to whether I had better ^{proceed} ~~proceed~~ in this matter in any way.

Yours very sincerely,

Cumey
Special Assistant.

w enc.

To Dept
interpart

NEW YORK, June 29, 1918.

Hon. Emmett J. Scott,
Special Assistant to the Sect'y of War,
Washington, D. C.

0721417
2
DEPARTMENT

My Dear Mr. Scott,

I am writing in the interest of Jack Johnson who, it is reported is in Spain and very anxious to wipe out his past record and be pardoned of the crime that is charged against him by the authorities of the United States, by enlisting in the United States Army in France and doing whatever service that he may be assigned to in the interest of the United States.

As we are all Texans, I am appealing to you especially on that ground to do everything within your power that is possible to be done, so that Jack may have a chance to come back to America if he should be taken in the service and should survive the war.

I am not in communication directly with him, but I understand that he is willing to serve the interest of the United States in France, and that he hopes by such service to win back the good opinion of the American people, that he lost by reason of indiscretions in his earlier years. I think if you can help him along these lines, you will be doing not only service to him, and the people of Texas who are especially interested in him, but you will be doing service for the entire race everywhere. I know you will do it if you can.

Very truly yours,

Frank S. Armand

NEW YORK, N. Y. ✓
U. S. POSTAL CENSORSHIP

OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF
Index No. 57568
Mil. Int. Branch

PF 21417-1

PF 21417-1
MIL To

From
✓
Jack Johnson
Palace Hotel
Madrid, Spain

Senor Arturo Cruz DEPARTMENT
3a Tacuba 15
Escuela de Cultura Fisica
Ugarteche
Mexico, D.F.

Date of Letter 5/15/18 191

No. of Enclosures - - -

Copied by 2046
Commentator No. 27 Branch Sus. Date 6/25/18 1918 Language English

Original to ONI MIB CCC COMMENT D. A. C. MW A. C. HRJ (MW)

Writer is on the O.N.I. List.

Writer confirms his cable to addressee as follows:

"Send me five thousand pesetas in advance and also transportation first class for three persons."

Writer received addressee's answer saying that the above would be sent, but has not ~~xxxx~~received it yet.

Addressee wishes writer to go to Mexico so that several bouts can be arranged there, and writer seems very anxious to go.

G.E.G.

Copy to D.J. 7/20/18.

MAILED, MIL. B., G. S.

JUL 20 1918

Refer to file 10101-572, when name mentioned as friend of Brown Act. H.H.

ION	DATE	COPIES	DISPOSITION AND SIGNATURE
B			
S	6/28/18	3	BMD
I	6/27/18	3	Forward A.C.A.
C	6/28/18	2	McI
P			
XAC	6/28/18		HJB

THIS SLIP ALWAYS TO ACCOMPANY LETTER