

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS
913-922 MILLS BLDG.

IN ANSWERING REFER TO
No. 5090/99

OFFICE OF SUPERVISING INSPECTOR
MEXICAN BORDER DISTRICT
(TEX., N. MEX., ARIZ., AND SO. CAL.)
EL PASO, TEXAS

August 15, 1918.

File 54386

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Commissioner-General of Immigration,
Washington, D.C.

From time to time during the past several months, this office has received reports from its officers, as well as other sources, which have indicated that German propoganda is being carried on in Lower California, and Western Sonora, Mexico. While evidence of a tangible character has been lacking, the rumours have been so persistent as to be reasonably convincing that enemies of this country may be planning some scheme detrimental to the interests of the United States.

There is certainly an unexplained movement of Germans in Lower California, south of Mexicali and extending down the coast of the Gulf of California, and to the west coast of Sonora.

With the purpose in view of securing more tangible evidence, if possible, it was decided to detail Inspector Harry B. Hannah to visit Yuma and vicinity, and to conduct a confidential investigation. A copy of the said officers report is inclosed.

While the report contains very little of a definite character, circumstances are recited therein, which would seem to reasonably demonstrate that the Mexican military captain, in charge of the Carranza garrison at San Luis, which is located just below the Arizona line, and near the head of the Gulf of California, while professing friendship, is, in all probability, as a matter of fact, assisting the Germans to conceal

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their movements.

It seems to the writer that there is a situation existing in Lower California requiring most earnest and careful attention.. It may be that the appropriate intelligence divisions of the government are familiar with what is going on, but if so no inkling thereof has reached this office; on the contrary information heretofore received from such sources is as indefinite as the information which has reached this office from its available sources.

This service can do no more than it is at present toward preventing illegal crossings along the Southern California border of evilly disposed persons. The situation, as described in the inclosed report, only tends to further demonstrate the necessity for a proper border patrol.

Two extra copies of the report of Inspector Hamah are inclosed in order that the Bureau may transmit same to the Intelligence Division of the Army, if it so desired.

(Signed) F. W. Berkshire.

MWD

Supervising Inspector.

Incl. 8754