

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

Savannah

FILE NO.

43-93

ddk

REPORT MADE AT <b>Savannah</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>6-10-44</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>4-28, 29, 5-8, 9, 10, 11, 20-44</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>TAYLOR JACKSON SIMS, III</b>
TITLE <b>CHANGED: THOMAS HARVEY HERMAN; JOHN JACK GROSSI, wa., Jack Dale Williams.</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SELECTIVE SERVICE ILLEGAL WEARING OF UNIFORM</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Subjects interviewed several times and told various stories and untruths but subject GROSSI consistently stated that he was 18 and had not registered for Selective Service. AUSA Savannah dismissed IWU charges against GROSSI on basis of additional information tending to show that uniform GROSSI was wearing was not of USN. At later date, AUSA dismissed SS charges vs. GROSSI on grounds he was only 16 years old. On basis of information received from probation authorities, GROSSI released to New Jersey State Home for Boys. Information filed against subject HERMAN charging IWU (Navy uniform) and HERMAN entered plea of guilty under juvenile delinquency act on such illegal wearing. Received two years' probation. Disposition sheet and probation flash submitted. No record Washington, D. C. that either subject enlisted USN.

- P -

**Reference:**

Report of SA Taylor J. Sims, Savannah, 4-25-44

**Details:**

The title of this case is being marked changed to reflect the true name of the subject previously designated at Jack Dale Williams as JOHN JACK GROSSI, with alias Jack Dale Williams.

I

TAYLOR JACKSON SIMS, III, Special Agent  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Savannah, Georgia

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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RECORDS  
JUN 20 1944

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RECORDED

22 JUN 14 1944

SV 43-93

This agent can testify that on April 28, 1944, subject HERMAN gave the following signed statement:

"Savannah, Ga.  
April 28, 1944

"I, Thomas Harvey Herman, make the following voluntary statement to Taylor J. Sims, who has identified himself as a Special Agent of the F. B. I. No threats or promises were made to get me to give this and I know it may be used in court.

"When I gave Mr. Sims the signed statement about a month ago, I told him several things that are not the truth. Actually I was never on the S. S. Mills and have never been in the Merchant Marine. Also I have obtained money by saying I was in the Navy. I did this six or seven times, and each time I was with Jack Williams, who was arrested with me here in Savannah. I really don't know what his real name is. We got \$10. to \$12. to \$15. each time, and I know that the people gave us the money because we had told them we were in the Navy. This happened in Norfolk, Baltimore, and a few other places. I have had the Navy uniform about 9 months and was wearing it when I got the money from these people.

"My mother's name is Glada Herman, and she last resided on 216 California Ave., Atlantic City, N. J. My brother Gilbert Herman is in the Navy. I am 17 yrs. old.

"I have read the above statement which is true to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ Thomas Herman "

Witness: Taylor J. Sims, III, FBI, Savannah, Ga.

Special Agent SIMS can also testify that subject GROSSI on April 28, 1944 gave the following signed statement:

"Savannah, Ga.  
April 28, 1944

"I, John Jack Grossi, make the following voluntary statement to Taylor J. Sims, who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the FBI. No threats or promises were made to me to give this statement and I know it may be used in court.

SV 43-93

"When I was first questioned by Mr. Sims around the last of March this year, I told him that my name was Jack Dale Williams, but this is not true and my real name is John Jack Grossi. I did this because I didn't like the name and because I didn't want my mother to know about my trouble. I also told Mr. Sims before that I had no criminal record, but this also is not true because I was arrested and placed in New Jersey State Home for Boys at Jamesburg, N. J. I was arrested in Pennsylvania, the town of Media. I was arrested for running away from home.

"I also stated in my first statement that my home was in Florida, but this is not true. My home is 268 17th Ave., Patterson, N. J. where my mother, Mrs. Rose Grossi, lives. My brother, Albert, is in Army Air Corps, and my sister, Jean Engold, lives with my mother. I told Sims before that I had no brother or sister, and made up the first name I gave for my mother. My father, John Grossi, is in the Army. Also I have never been on the S. S. Mills as I first said.

"As I said before I have not registered for the draft although I am 18 years old.

"About six times during past year I have told people I was in the Navy and by means of such statement I have asked and received from them various sums of money ranging from \$10. to \$18. each time. Usually this happened while Thomas Harvey Herman and I were hitchhiking. The first time was coming out of Philadelphia, and other times in Baltimore, Raleigh, N. C., Washington, D. C., and Norfolk, Va. Of course neither Herman or I have ever been in the Navy. At these times we were wearing the uniforms we were wearing when first picked up here in Savannah. It was not true, as I first said, that I just bought the uniform a month ago. I have had it about 8 or 9 months. I can't remember any of the people who gave us the money, but I do know that they gave me the money because I said I was in the Navy and because I had the uniform on. Herman was also wearing his uniform during that time, and he has never been a Merchant seaman. I don't remember getting any money by this means in Savannah.

"I have read the above statement of nearly 2 pages and it is true to the best of my knowledge. I would also like to say at this time, that any mercy shown by the court will be very deeply appreciated. If released, I hope to return to N. J. and try me best to enter in the armed forces immediately.

(Signed) John Jack Grossi "

Witness: Taylor J. Sims, III, FBI  
Savannah

SV 43-93

Special Agent SIMS can also testify that on May 8, 1944 he interviewed subject GROSSI at the Chatham County Jail, Savannah, Georgia, and that at such time subject GROSSI was again given an opportunity to tell the truth concerning his age. Subject GROSSI stated that he fully realized that he would not be guilty of a violation of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 if he was not 18 years old. He stated that it would certainly be his desire to state that he was born in 1927 in order to avoid such prosecution but he again stated that he was born July 5, 1925 at Patterson, New Jersey and that he had never registered under the Selective Training and Service Act. At such time he was questioned carefully about whether he was a parolee or an escapee from the New Jersey State Home for Boys at Jamesburg, New Jersey. He stated that he was only a parolee and he had never escaped from such home.

Special Agent SIMS can also testify that on May 8, 1944, he interviewed subject HERMAN at the Chatham County Jail, Savannah, Georgia, at which time he admitted that several facts he had previously given were not true; namely, that he was living at the Young Hotel, Tennessee Avenue, Atlantic City, when he met subject GROSSI and that he had previously run away from home because his mother, MRS. GLADA MAE HERMAN, 216 California Avenue, Atlantic City, had made him stay home. He stated that she was not dead as he had first told the agent. He stated that he had later gone back and tried to locate his mother but that she had moved from such address and he did not know where she was located at the present time.

WILLIAM C. LASSITER, Lt.  
U. S. Naval Reserve  
Savannah, Georgia.

Lt. LASSITER who had originally questioned the two subjects on the day they were apprehended by military police authorities was interviewed by the writer concerning the uniform that subject GROSSI was wearing at the time of his apprehension. Lt. LASSITER advised that it was his opinion that the uniform itself was a Merchant Marine uniform and not one of the U. S. Navy. He stated that since GROSSI was not wearing any Navy insignia that such uniform, although it appeared very similar to a regular Navy uniform, would not be classed by the Navy as such. He stated that he could not say as to whether the two red service stripes which GROSSI had on one of the sleeves of the uniform which he was wearing were Navy stripes although it was his opinion that ordinary Merchant Seamen do not wear such service stripes. He stated that the main distinguishing feature between the uniform of the two subjects was that the Navy uniform which HERMAN was wearing contained three small stripes around the collar which definitely designated it as a Navy uniform, and that GROSSI'S uniform did not have such three small stripes.

PROSECUTIVE ACTION

The facts concerning the uniform worn by subject GROSSI as related by Lt. WILLIAM C. LASSITER, U. S. Naval Reserve, were discussed with Assistant U. S. Attorney JULIAN HARTRIDGE, Savannah, Georgia, who advised that it was his opinion also that the uniform which subject GROSSI was wearing was not the uniform of the U. S. Navy and that he was dismissing the charges which had been brought against the subject GROSSI for Illegal Wearing of the Uniform. He stated that the Selective Service charge would be continued against him, however.

On May 8, 1944, Mr. HARTRIDGE advised he had received information from the U. S. Probation Officer at Savannah, Georgia, to the effect that subject GROSSI is only 16 years of age and that accordingly there was no violation of the Selective Training and Service Act for failure to register on the part of the subject and that he was dismissing such charges. He stated that the subject would be held for the New Jersey State Home for Boys and that GROSSI would be returned to the custody of such institution.

MR. EDWIN C. HARDISON, U. S. Probation Officer, Savannah, Georgia, advised the writer that he had received information from the probation officials to the effect that GROSSI is actually only 16 years old and that he served some time for juvenile delinquency at the New Jersey State Home for Boys at Jamesburg, New Jersey.

Mr. SCOTT A. EDWARDS, clerk, U. S. District Court, Savannah, Georgia, presented court records on THOMAS HARVEY HERMAN which reflected that a criminal information was filed by the U. S. Attorney on one count for violation of the juvenile delinquency act in that HERMAN did unlawfully, wilfully and knowingly wear the duly prescribed uniform of an enlisted man of the U.S. Navy. On May 11, 1944 he entered a plea of guilty to such charge and was given two years probation with the exception that he would be discharged from probation on and after his entry in military service of the United States for the period of such service.

II

By teletype dated May 2, 1944, Washington Field Division advised that a check of the records in the Navy Department failed to reflect any Navy enlisted personnel record issued for either of the subjects but it was stated that one GILBERT ARTHUR HERMAN, born November 24, 1922, Cuba, home address 342 Taft St., Bristol, Pa., serving aboard the USS Thomas Jefferson, might be HERMAN'S brother.

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ENCLOSURE: TO THE BUREAU - one disposition sheet for GROSSI.  
one probation flash letter for HERMAN.

- P E N D I N G -

- 6 -

958-10384

SV 43-93

- UNDEVELOPED LEADS -

THE NEWARK FIELD DIVISION:

AT JAMESBURG, NEW JERSEY, will obtain from the records of the New Jersey State Home for Boys, subject GROSSI'S legal residence, his birth date, place of birth, identity of relatives.

It is also requested that the Bureau of Vital Statistics be checked to further verify subject GROSSI'S birth date. (This lead was set forth in Teletypes to Newark dated May 8, 1944 and May 16, 1944.)

- PENDING -

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Savannah, Georgia

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
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7-2034



SV 43-93

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11

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SV 43-93

ENCLOSURE: TO THE BUREAU -- one disposition sheet for CROSST.

one probation flash letter for HERMAN.

- P E N D I N G -

SV 43-93

- UNDEVELOPED LEADS -

THE NEWARK FIELD DIVISION:

AT JAMESBURG, NEW JERSEY, will obtain from the records of the New Jersey State Home for Boys, subject GROSSI'S legal residence, his birth date, place of birth, identity of relatives.

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- PENDING -

- 7 -

*877-1033*