

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **SAVANNAH, GEORGIA**

FILE NO. **43-93** DAT

REPORT MADE AT SAVANNAH, GEORGIA	DATE WHEN MADE 4-25-44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3-29,30;4-4-44	REPORT MADE BY TAYLOR JACKSON SIMS
TITLE THOMAS HARVEY HERMAN JACK DALE WILLIAMS			CHARACTER OF CASE ILLEGAL WEARING OF UNIFORM SELECTIVE SERVICE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subjects apprehended while wearing uniforms of United States Navy and in signed statements admit they are not in Navy and entitled to wear such uniform. Subject HERMAN stated he is seventeen and subject WILLIAMS advises he was eighteen on July 5, 1943 but admits he has not registered for Selective Service. United States Attorney authorizes filing of complaint, warrants issued and subjects apprehended. Commissioner's hearing held March 30, 1944 and probable cause found. HERMAN placed under \$500 bond for illegal wearing of uniform and WILLIAMS placed under \$1000 bond for illegal wearing of uniform and failure to register under Selective Service. Subjects failed to make bond and are presently incarcerated in Chatham County Jail, Savannah, Georgia.

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DETAILS:

This investigation was instituted upon the receipt of information by Assistant Special Agent in Charge NOEL B. WRIGHT, from Lieutenant WILLIAM LASSITER, Naval Recruiting Barracks, Savannah, Georgia, to the effect that the subjects, JACK DALE WILLIAMS and THOMAS HARVEY HERMAN, had been apprehended on March 29 by Military Police authorities because

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
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the sailor's uniform which they were wearing was not complete. Lieutenant LASSITER further advised that upon questioning the two men, it was learned that they admitted that they were not in the United States Navy.

I

TAYLOR JACKSON SIMS, III
SPECIAL AGENT
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SAVANNAH DIVISION:

Can testify that THOMAS HARVEY HERMAN gave the following signed statement to him on March 29, 1944 at the Naval Receiving Barracks, Savannah, Georgia:

"Savannah, Ga.
March 29, 1944

I, Thomas Harvey Herman, make the following voluntary statement of my own free will to Taylor J. Sims, III, who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises were made to me to give this statement and I know it may be used in court.

I was born June 24, 1927 at Atlantic City, N. J. where I lived and went to school up until two years ago. Then I went to Key West, Fla. with mother where I lived at 586 S. W.A. St., and my address in Atlantic City before this was 216 S. Arkansas Ave. My mother died last March and I went to Atlantic City and stayed with Harold Maxwell, 315 Washington Ave. In June of 1943 I went to Philadelphia and signed with the U. S. Merchant Marine at their office on Chestnut St. and shipped out from New York on the W. W. Mills, a ship owned by the Pure Oil Co. This ship is old and travels up and down the eastern coast of the U. S. It is a tanker.

On Mar. 8, 1944 the ship docked at New York, and Capt. Haynes Maxwell gave me and Jack Dale Williams permission to leave ship and return to New York in about 45 days. We did not have to tell him where we were going. We left New York

and got to Washington about the 10th, and I bought the Navy uniform which I am now wearing at a tailor shop specializing in uniforms and having a sign in front "servicemen's equipment". I don't remember just where this was located. Jack Dale Williams had previously bought his navy uniform at Galveston, Texas, and he knew it was wrong to wear it because I told him that he couldn't wear the service stripes which he has on his sleeve.

We left Washington on March 16 and arrived in Savannah by hitch-hiking early Sunday morning, the 26th. Williams and I registered at the USO here at which time we both were wearing our navy uniforms. However, we told them we were in the Merchant Marine. Williams and I wore the uniform from Washington to Savannah, and we have worn them most of the time here in Savannah. I knew when I bought the uniform and when I have been wearing it that it was wrong and that I wasnot entitled to wear it.

Last night Williams and I spent all our money, I having had \$200 when I started out, and we were going to hitch hike back to New York this morning when we were picked up by the M. P.s. Last night we slept in a man's car with his permission, but I don't remember who he was or where he lived.

I do not have a Selective Service registration or classification card because I never registered since I was too young. I don't have any Navy identification papers, nor do I have with me my Merchant Marine papers which I left on the ship. I of course could not present any of these papers to Mr. Sims when he asked me for them.

I told the Navy Officers this morning first that I was in the Navy and second that I was in the Navy armed guard, but these stories were not true. I have never been arrested before.

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I have read the above statement consisting of about 3½ pages and have initialed each page, and the statement is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: Thomas Harvey Herman

Witnesses: John A. Lorince Coxswain
Duty Master At Arms.
Taylor J. Sims, III. FBI Savannah, Ga."

During the course of the interview, Subject HERMAN advised that he was born in Atlantic City, New Jersey and that he has spent most of his life in such city. He stated that he has a birth certificate on record in Atlantic City and that at one time he had a certified copy of such record which he lost a short time ago. He stated that both his father and mother are dead and that following the death of his mother in March 1943, he left Key West, Florida where they had been living for a short time and returned to Atlantic City. There he resided with HAROLD MAXWELL, 315 Washington Avenue, for some time and it was MAXWELL who interested him in signing up with the Merchant Marine. HAROLD MAXWELL is the nephew of the Captain of the steamship on which subject HERMAN stated that he had been working. HERMAN also said that at the time he signed up for the Merchant Marine he was not fingerprinted. He advised that the boat, S. S. Mills, a tanker, is possibly filling up at New York. He denied having any previous arrest record and was unable to present any card of identification. He could not present any Selective Service card in view of the fact as stated by him that he has not registered since he is not yet eighteen years old. He advised that the Captain of the boat permitted him and subject to leave their papers on the boat and that it was through Captain MAXWELL that they were able to leave the boat and dock without having to show such papers. When questioned as to reason that he wore the Navy uniform, HERMAN stated that he had no particular reason, but just bought it and wore it.

Special Agent SIMS can also testify that on March 29, 1944 JACK DALE WILLIAMS gave the following signed statement in the Naval Receiving Barracks:

"Savannah, Ga.
March 29, 1944

I, Jack Dale Williams, make the following voluntary statement to Taylor J. Sims, III. who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises were made to me to give this statement, and I know it may be used in court.

I was born July 5, 1925 at Key West, Florida, and I am now 18 years old. I have lived in Key West about all my life with my parents Mr. and Mrs. Jack Dale Williams, that is until my father died. My mother has since remarried and her name now is Mrs. P. R. Engold, and lived on Northwest E. St.

About two years ago I enlisted in the Merchant Marine at their office on Park Ave. in New York City. Since then I have served on two boats, the S. S. Malcolm and the S. S. Mills. About the 8th of March the S. S. Mills docked in New York, and Captain Maxwell of this ship gave Thomas Herman and myself a furlough of 22 days before we were to report back aboard. I had previously bought the Navy uniform I am now wearing in Watertown, Tex. just outside of Galveston, and I wore this uniform down from New York to Washington. Herman bought his uniform in Washington and I bought two service stripes and had them put on my sleeves. I have worn the uniform on the trip down to Savannah and while I have been here since Sunday. I know that I am not entitled to wear this Navy uniform. Last night we lost our caps at the USO where we have been staying. We got plenty of rides by telling people we were in the Navy at the same time we had our uniforms on, but I have never received money by telling people I was in the navy.

I am 18 years old and I know that I should have registered for the Selective Service when I became 18, but I have not so registered. I did not present Mr. Sims with a Selective Service registration or classification card because of course I don't have any. Nor do I have my Merchant Seaman papers which are on the S. S. Mills. I intended wearing the uniform I have on now when I left the S. S. Mills in New York.

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I have read the above statement consisting of about 2½ pages and have initialed each page, and this statement is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signed:

~~Jack D. Williams~~

Witnesses: John A. Lorince Coxswain
Duty Master at Arms.
Taylor J. Sims, III, FBI Savannah, Ga."

See index
During the course of the interview with WILLIAMS, he advised that he has spent a large portion of his life in Key West, Florida, and that he has a birth certificate on record there showing his birthdate to be July 5, 1925. WILLIAMS was unable to present any identification papers and stated that he knew that he was supposed to register for Selective Service when he became eighteen years old but advised that he had been too busy to do so. He denied having any previous criminal record and did not give any plausible reason for the wearing of the United States Navy uniform other than that he just wanted to buy it and wear it. He said that he purchased the uniform at Watertown, Texas, a small town not far from Galveston. He admitted having told the Naval officers who questioned him when he was first apprehended that he had told them that he was in the Navy but that he had later admitted that this was not true.

Both subjects were thoroughly questioned as to whether they had obtained anything of value as a result of reporting themselves to be members of the United States Navy. They both denied having received anything of value other than admitting that while wearing their uniforms, they had received courtesies from civilians, such as automobile rides. They stated that upon registering at the U.S.O. in Savannah when they spent the night at such place, that they merely requested a room for the night but that at such time they were wearing the uniform.

Original copies of the above signed statements are being retained in the files of the Savannah Field Division. The service stripes worn by subject WILLIAMS at the time of apprehension are also being retained in the files of the Savannah Office.

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PROSECUTIVE STEPS

The facts in the instant case were presented telephonically to Assistant United States Attorney JULIAN HARTRIDGE, who authorized the filing of a complaint against both subjects for illegal wearing of the uniform.

On March 30, 1944, complaints were filed before United States Commissioner PERRY BRANNEN and warrants were issued against the subject for violation of Section 1393, Title 10, United States Code, in that they wore uniforms of the United States Navy when they were not members of the Navy and were therefore not entitled to wear them.

On the same day hearing was held before Commissioner BRANNEN at which time probable cause was found and subject HERMAN was placed under \$500 bond on charge of illegal wearing of the uniform and WILLIAMS was placed under \$1000 bond on charges of illegal wearing of the uniform and failure to register for Selective Service. At the present date neither of the subjects have made such bond.

CRIMINAL RECORD

By letter dated April 5, 1944 the following criminal record of JACK DALE WILLIAMS was received from the Bureau:

FBI # 3967794

State Police
Philadelphia, Pa.
#C-16673

~~John Jack Grossi 8-17-43
#-- State Police
Media, Pa.~~

Juvenile delinquency returned
to N. J.
State Home
for Boys,
Jamesburg,
N. J.

USM: Savannah, Ga. Jack Dale Williams 3-30-44
#S-1603

wearing the uniform
of the U.S. Navy

By letter dated April 3, 1944, the Bureau advised that a check of their records reflected no criminal record against the name of THOMAS HARVEY HERMAN.

II

The office of the United States Marshal was requested to place a notation on the fingerprint cards submitted to the Bureau, asking that criminal records of the subjects be sent to the Savannah Field Division.

It has been ascertained that there are three branches of the U.S.O. in Savannah where members of the Armed Forces can obtain rooming facilities and they are the Y.M.C.A. Building, the Salvation Army, located on West President Street, and the J.W.B., located on Bernard Street.

The following description of the subjects was obtained from interview and observation:

NAME	THOMAS HARVEY HERMAN
Age	17
Race	White
Birthdate	June 24, 1927
Place	Atlantic City, N. J.
Height	5'3"
Weight	158 lbs.
Hair	Brown and wavy
Eyes	Blue
Build	Medium
Relatives	WINFIELD HERMAN, Uncle, Tuckerton, N. J. STANLEY HERMAN, Uncle, Asbury Park, N. J. GILBERT HERMAN, Brother, U. S. Navy, Overseas

NAME	JACK DALE WILLIAMS
Age	18
Race	White
Birthdate	July 5, 1925
Height	5'7"
Weight	145 lbs.
Complexion	Light
Place of Birth	Key West, Florida
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Green
Relatives	Mrs. NORA ENGOLD 749 N. W. "E" Street Key West, Florida
Remarks	Hands unusually large.
Build	Stocky

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UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION, at New York City, will obtain the name of the Captain of the S. S. Mills and verify the fact that the subjects were employed as Merchant Marines on such ship.

It is believed that this information may be obtained either at the Offices of the Pure Oil Company or from the Captain of the Port, New York.

THE NEWARK FIELD DIVISION, at Atlantic City, New Jersey, will check the records of the Bureau of Vital Statistics in order to verify the birthdate of subject THOMAS HARVEY HERMAN.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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TAYLOR JACKSON SIMS, III
SPECIAL AGENT
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SAVANNAH DIVISION

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On Mar. 6, 1944 the ship docked at New York, and Capt. Raynes Maxwell gave me and Jack Dale Williams permission to leave ship and return to New York in about 15 days. We did not have to tell him where we were going. We left New York

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