

Springfield Illinois  
April the 5<sup>th</sup> 1918

To the Department of Justice  
Post Office Division

Washington, D.C.

Will you please send me blanks  
to be filled out for claim of  
reward, for first information  
given - that led to the arrest and  
conviction, of one Charles Hagen -  
and Harry Gaddis, convicted of  
Postal Violation.

Respectfully -

Mrs Anna Belle Wiggins

7424 N. Madison St

Springfield Illinois

## SOURCE INFORMATION

**Image url:** <https://www.fold3.com/image/2569158>

**Publication Number:** M1085

**Publication Title:** Investigative Case Files of the Bureau of Investigation 1908-1922

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**Collection Title:** Investigative Reports of the Bureau of Investigation 1908-1922

**Series:** Old German Files, 1909-21


**Case Number:** 172494

**Case Title:** Various

**Suspect Name:** Joseph Varadi

**Roll Number:** 571

**Page:** 16

**Original data from:**  [The National Archives \(http://www.archives.gov\)](http://www.archives.gov)

172494

APR 14 1918  
Charleston, S.C.  
April 10th, 1918

Captain F. A. Lewis, USN  
Aid for Information  
Sixth Naval District

Dear Sir:

Supplementing my letter to you of the 7th instant in re JOSEPH VARADI, Austrian suspect employed at the Charleston Navy Yard, I beg to enclose, herewith, copy of my report for the 10th instant on this party.

I will be glad to cooperate in any desired respect to facilitate handling of this case. To this end I would be glad to talk the matter over with you or a representative of your Naval Intelligence.

With best wishes,

Truly yours,

J. B. BOGGER  
Special Agent in Charge

Washington  
Atlanta

## SOURCE INFORMATION

**Image url:** <https://www.fold3.com/image/2569155>

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**Case Title:** Various

**Suspect Name:** Joseph Varadi

**Roll Number:** 571

**Page:** 15

**Original data from:**  [The National Archives \(http://www.archives.gov\)](http://www.archives.gov)

REPORT FORM NO. 1

REPORT MADE BY: Branch Hancock	PLACE WHERE MADE: Charleston, S.C.	DATE WHEN MADE: April 11, 1918	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: Apr 10
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TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE CHARGED OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION

JOSEPH VARADI: Austrian suspect employed at Charleston Navy Yard

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED, ETC.

At Charleston, S.C.

172494

The above party has been under suspicion for sometime. He is employed at the Charleston Navy Yard and Agent first reported the matter to the Commandant Navy Yard in letter dated November 30th, 1917. Subsequently request was made by Agent for his record on file at the Navy Yard. In letter dated the 13th of December, 1917, from Captain L. F. JAMES, Captain of the Yard, the following information was given:

"Joseph Varadi is a shipwright employed at Building #5, Navy Yard, Charleston, S.C., was born in Hungary on August 27th, 1877, served his apprenticeship at O'Buda, Hungary, and has worked in the following places since beginning work in 1890- Vienna, Trieste, New York-as a laborer in a baker shop- Lancaster, Pa., College Point, N.Y., Brooklyn, N.Y., Staten Island, N.Y., Stanford, N.Y., and Kuskin, Florida, where he owns a farm. Prior to his employment in this Yard on May 7th, 1917, he worked with the Merrill Stevens Company, Jacksonville, Fla.\*\*\*Varadi was naturalized September 12, 1910, by the Supreme Court of the State of New York. He emigrated to America in 1904 from Trieste"

In interview with G. W. SCOUT, Jr., 22 Chalmers Street, Charleston, S.C., Agent was informed that he regarded VARADI as very suspicious. SCOUT is employed in same line of work at Navy Yard as is VARADI. He could give no definite reason beyond his general observations.

It has been definitely established this party

(2)

COPY OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:

Atlanta Extra Washington Sixth Naval District

## SOURCE INFORMATION

**Image url:** <https://www.fold3.com/image/2569132>

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**Series:** Old German Files, 1909-21


**Case Number:** 172494

**Case Title:** Various

**Suspect Name:** Joseph Varadi

**Roll Number:** 571

**Page:** 10

**Original data from:**  [The National Archives \(http://www.archives.gov\)](http://www.archives.gov)



is a strong socialist with radical inclinations. This was learned by conversation with him by Special Employee O'BRIEN without identity being established.

It was thought advisable to make further enquiry about this party information being received that he sometimes left town.

In interview with JOHN BENKE, facilitated by appropriate circumstances, who operates a shop at 124 Market St., Charleston, S.C., he stated as follows: That he was formerly a subject of Austria and had become a citizen of the United States March 17th, 1917, in the Federal District Court here. That VARADI, although claiming to be an American citizen, was now a subject of Austro-Hungary and that in his opinion he would do anything to injure this Government in the present war. That VARADI had been corresponding, within past three months, with someone in Austria through a friend in Norway. The correspondence first being addressed to this friend in Norway and from him readdressed to Austria. That he knows of his own knowledge that VARADI received, within past three months, letters from Austria in same manner. That letters coming from Austria to VARADI via Norway were sent to him (BENKE) enclosed in letters addressed to him. That he has personally delivered such letters to VARADI but has stopped doing so as he is distrustful of VARADI. That VARADI is a rank socialist, in fact an anarchist. That a man by the name of DROPPERT, an Austrian tailor, residing at 21 Archdale Street would probably be used by VARADI in corresponding with Austria now that he BENKE would not help. That VARADI borrowed a Liberty Bond from someone and proudly exhibited it at Navy Yard saying it was his. That after this

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**Case Number:** 172494

**Case Title:** Various

**Suspect Name:** Joseph Varadi

**Roll Number:** 571

**Page:** 9

**Original data from:**  [The National Archives \(http://www.archives.gov\)](http://www.archives.gov)



incident VARADI remarked "how easy it is to fool the Americans" That VARADI came to Charleston sometime during the Spring of 1917 on the dredge SUMNER.

After this interview Agent sent the following telegram to the Clerk of the Supreme Court Albany, N.Y.:

"JOSEPH VARADI Austrian claims naturalized your Court September twelve nineteen ten. Please wire me Government rate whether you have record this party being naturalized"

The following telegram was received in reply signed PETER SCHUMACHER, Court Clerk, dated at Albany, N.Y.:

"Do not find name JOSEPH VARADI on our Naturalization records"

This matter seems to have developed into something more or less important. If this man has become accredited as a Navy Yard employee on basis of representations made that he was naturalized as stated in letter from Captain JAMES, hereinbefore referred to, it seems he has misrepresented the facts.

As this is a matter in which the Naval authorities are primarily concerned a copy of this report is being sent to Sixth Naval District. It is respectfully suggested that this man be summarily arrested by the Naval authorities at the Charleston Navy Yard, in event he has misrepresented the facts of his being naturalized, and that contemporaneous arrangements be made to thoroughly search his premises and person, under Espionage Act search warrant, and that he be ultimately handled in such wise as developments may warrant.

## SOURCE INFORMATION

**Image url:** <https://www.fold3.com/image/2569120>

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**Case Title:** Various

**Suspect Name:** Joseph Varadi

**Roll Number:** 571

**Page:** 8

**Original data from:**  [The National Archives \(http://www.archives.gov\)](http://www.archives.gov)

REPORT FORM No. 1

172494  
 REPORT MADE BY: French Boeckel  
 CHARLESTON, S. C. DATE: April 15, 1916 REPORT MADE: Apr 17

TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE (CHARACTER OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION)

JOSEPH VARADI: Austrian suspect employed at Charleston Navy Yard

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED, ETC.

At Charleston, S. C.

Supplementing report for the 10th instant verification was sought at the Navy Yard as to exact claims made by VARADI with respect to his having been naturalized. Agent was informed by Captain JAMES, USN, Captain of the Yard, that VARADI originally claimed he was naturalized by Supreme Court at New York City. Statement contained in letter previously received stating he was naturalized by "the Supreme Court of the State of New York" was amended to specify Supreme Court of New York, New York City. In order to arrive at a correct conclusion in the matter Agent sent the following telegram to Division Superintendent DeWOODY:

"JOSEPH VARADI Austrian claims naturalized Supreme Court New York City September twelve nineteen ten. Please confirm telegraphing answer"

The following wire was subsequently received in reply:

"Telegram received re Joseph Varadi. Records Supreme Court New York show naturalized September twelve nineteen ten"

This information verifies claim made by VARADI and, in so far as his naturalization is concerned, this feature of the case is disposed of.

(2)

COPY OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:

Atlanta Sixth Naval District

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**Image url:** <https://www.fold3.com/image/2569117>

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**Suspect Name:** Joseph Varadi

**Roll Number:** 571

**Page:** 7

**Original data from:**  [The National Archives \(http://www.archives.gov\)](http://www.archives.gov)

MEMORANDUM FORM NO. 1

DATE 172494 -2-

REPORT MADE BY: P.C. WALLMO. PLACE WHERE MADE: NEW YORK CITY DATE WHEN MADE: APRIL 23rd 1918 PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: Apr. 12th.

TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE CHARGED OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION: IN RE: JOSEPH VARADI, Naturalization Matter.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, FACTS OR COLLECTIONS, NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED, ETC:

Telegram from Agent Beecock, Charleston, S.C., handed to me by Special Agent Tucker said telegram stating that Joseph Varadi, an Austrian, claims that he was naturalized in the Supreme Court, N.Y.C. September 12th 1910 and asking that this office confirm.

The records of the Supreme Court of New York City show that Joseph Varadi was naturalized Sept. 12th 1910, No. 79652, that he gave his residence as 530 East 138th St., trade cabinet maker, born in Hungary and lived in New York City since Feb. 20th ~~1912~~ 1904. Witnesses Arnim Kolm, 1521 Third Ave. and Martin Gilbert, 5 Beekman Street.

Telegram incorporating main facts as given above was sent to Charleston at once.

Investigation completed.

COPY OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: CHARLESTON, S.C. OFFICE.

## SOURCE INFORMATION

**Image url:** <https://www.fold3.com/image/2569111>

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**Suspect Name:** Joseph Varadi

**Roll Number:** 571

**Page:** 6

**Original data from:**  [The National Archives \(http://www.archives.gov\)](http://www.archives.gov)

G. H. MASTEN  
PRESIDENT

JOSEPH ST. PETERY  
SECRETARY

# G. H. MASTEN COMPANY, Inc.

Curtains  
Draperies  
Wall Coverings  
Upholstery

## Interior Decorating Department

222-226 EAST 46th STREET  
Telephone Murray Hill 258

Window Shades  
Cushions  
Painting  
Decorating

NEW YORK,

1<sup>st</sup> May 1918.

*Mr. J. J. Taylor*

*Dear Mr. Taylor:*

*Leveur de mapcaban, s'igen omiluan,  
ha egypter jilbucannal Jamaica Bayu.  
A kis vitrolasora vonatkozolag alanc  
par sort imi: ugyanis mintan nagy a  
valakimissig a egybe pirtoran tudni -  
hogy a velt nagy vitrolasmat ucu  
hasznalhatjuk ucu a labom tart  
- ucu kapvan supidelyt - igy elhatároz  
- hok lecsigval hogy ha ucu ucu leuz  
elleni kijszavot abba a te hajodat  
hasznaljuk a nyar folyamian.  
Fogadok belnap egy autotomulot is  
dekoratun gaychesterbil Jamaica  
a ot tartjuk a haxial. - Termis cates  
valoy, hogy az ucu kiadavrat in  
jretem J. kimilbelul 30<sup>oo</sup> dollar f.  
a molleket levelet jecadham  
cximise. - Ha valamibe spurisjtek van  
isjator. -*

*Udvozlend csoklanc  
mundayatorat  
vijint karabolok,  
Alltyuel*



## SOURCE INFORMATION

**Image url:** <https://www.fold3.com/image/2569137>

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**Case Title:** Various

**Suspect Name:** Joseph Varadi

**Roll Number:** 571

**Page:** 11

**Original data from:**  [The National Archives \(http://www.archives.gov\)](http://www.archives.gov)

Department of Justice,  
Bureau of Investigation.

Charleston, S.C.  
May 7th, 1918

RECEIVED  
MAY 9 1918

✓ 14 ✓  
Mr. J. Bruce Bielaski, Chief  
Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I enclose, herewith, certain papers obtained on premises occupied by one JOE VARADI a naturalized Austrian. These papers are in Austrian it is presumed. They were obtained in connection with search for whiskey and delivered to me.

Will you kindly have translated as we have no adequate facilities for their translation here. If there be anything material in the papers will you kindly inform me. Inasmuch as they were obtained under a whiskey raid if they be not material I would like to return them to the owner.

With best wishes,

Truly yours,

Branch Bowen  
Special Agent

To Prof Babbitt for translation  
5-10-18

## SOURCE INFORMATION

**Image url:** <https://www.fold3.com/image/2569096>

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**Case Title:** Various

**Suspect Name:** Joseph Varadi

**Roll Number:** 571

**Page:** 4

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172494 6

Department of Justice,  
Bureau of Investigation.

RECEIVED  
MAY 9 1918

Charleston, S.C.  
May 6th, 1918

B

Mr. W. Bruce McLeski, Chief  
Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C. B

file

Dear Sir:

I enclose, herewith, additional letter obtained from possessions of J. VASADI arrested here for violation of RIAB enactment and his conviction of the Federal Grand Jury. This man is a naturalized Austro-Hungarian and has been employed at the Charleston Navy Yard. I forwarded other papers yesterday in this case.

With best wishes,

Truly yours,  
*Arnold Racost*  
Special Agent

## SOURCE INFORMATION

**Image url:** <https://www.fold3.com/image/2569145>

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**Case Number:** 172494

**Case Title:** Various

**Suspect Name:** Joseph Varadi

**Roll Number:** 571

**Page:** 12

**Original data from:**  [The National Archives \(http://www.archives.gov\)](http://www.archives.gov)

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

BB

Department of Justice,

BB:ALW

Bureau of Investigation,

Washington.

May 10, 1918.

Professor Eugene Babbitt,  
Room 23,  
Post Office Department.

Dear Sir:

I hand you herewith a number of documents apparently written in Austrian which were taken from the premises occupied by a naturalized Austrian named Joe Varadi, at Charleston, South Carolina.

These papers were obtained during a whiskey raid and it is not known whether they contain any information material to this office or not. Will you please advise me of the nature and contents of these documents, and furnish me with translations of any portions thereof which contain information of value to this bureau? Please return the original papers to this office and refer in your letter to the initials "BB" for attention.

Very truly yours,

A. J. Lielaski

Chief.

## SOURCE INFORMATION

**Image url:** <https://www.fold3.com/image/2569076>

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**Case Number:** 172494

**Case Title:** Various

**Suspect Name:** Joseph Varadi

**Roll Number:** 571

**Page:** 1

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172494

BB:ALW

May 10, 1918.

Professor Eugene Babbitt,  
Room 23,  
Post Office Department.

Dear Sir:

I hand you herewith a number of documents apparently written in Austrian which were taken from the premises occupied by a naturalized Austrian named Joe Varadi, at Charleston, South Carolina.

These papers were obtained during a whiskey raid and it is now known whether they contain any information material to this office or not. Will you please advise me of the nature and contents of these documents, and furnish me with translations of any portions thereof which contain information of value to this bureau? Please return the original papers to this office and refer in your letter to the initials "BB" for attention.

Very truly yours,

CH ef.

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**Image url:** <https://www.fold3.com/image/2569100>

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**Case Title:** Various

**Suspect Name:** Joseph Varadi

**Roll Number:** 571

**Page:** 5

**Original data from:**  [The National Archives \(http://www.archives.gov\)](http://www.archives.gov)

Post Office Department  
 OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR  
 Washington

12  
 RECEIVED  
 MAR 14 1918  
 Bureau of Investigation

*Joe Varadi*

A.B. Bielaski Esq.,  
 Department of Justice,  
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

In reference to yours of the 10th inst. in matter Joe Varadi, I wish to inform you, that the contents of the enclosed letters and postal-cards covering a period of time between 1909 and March 1918, contain nothing objectionable.

The letters are written in Hungarian, with a few exceptions in English. A number of pamphlets printed in English and in Hungarian contain socialistic and I.W.W. propaganda matter.

A circular of the New York Call, dated April 5, 1918 informs its readers of the withdrawal of the second-class mailing privilege.

Very truly yours

*Sh. Willman*  
*J. Dr. S. H. De Witt*

*To Boroch  
 Charbon, returning*

*Papers  
 J-14-8*

## SOURCE INFORMATION

**Image url:** <https://www.fold3.com/image/2569080>

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**Case Title:** Various

**Suspect Name:** Joseph Varadi

**Roll Number:** 571

**Page:** 2

**Original data from:**  [The National Archives \(http://www.archives.gov\)](http://www.archives.gov)

172494

BB:ALW

May 14, 1918.

J. B. Beseck, Esq.,  
P. O. Box 335,  
Charleston, South Carolina.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your letter of May 7, 1918, in regard to Joe Varadi, I quote for your information the following letter from Professor Eugene H. Babbitt, of the Post Office Department, stating the result of his examination of the letters which you forwarded to this office:

"In reference to yours of the 10th inst., in matter of Joe Varadi, I wish to inform you, that the contents of the enclosed letters and postal-cards covering a period of time between 1909 and March 1918, contain nothing objectionable.

The letters are written in Hungarian, with a few exceptions in English. A number of pamphlets printed in English and in Hungarian contain socialistic and I.W.W. propaganda matter.

A circular of the New York Call, dated April 5, 1918 informs its readers of the withdrawal of the second-class mailing privilege.

As these letters and papers do not appear to be of any importance I am returning them to you for such disposition as you may care to make of them.

Very truly yours,

Chief.



## SOURCE INFORMATION

**Image url:** <https://www.fold3.com/image/2569090>

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**Case Number:** 172494

**Case Title:** Various

**Suspect Name:** Joseph Varadi

**Roll Number:** 571

**Page:** 3

**Original data from:**  [The National Archives \(http://www.archives.gov\)](http://www.archives.gov)

REPORT MADE BY E. J. BOGOC	CHARLESTON, S.C.	MAY 14 1918	MAY 6 WHICH CASE
TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE CHARGED OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION: JOSEPH VARADI: Violation REED amendment			
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED, ETC. <u>At Charleston, S.C.</u>			
<p>Agent received information that a box marked tools consigned to the above party from New York addressed to Building Number 5 Charleston Navy Yard was at the Clyde Line Piers and that said shipment probably had liquor therein.</p> <p>Enquiry was made and it was found that said shipment was consigned by one <u>ALEX GRATTER</u> and was shipped from New York May 1st, 1918, arriving at Charleston S.C., via Clyde Line S S Company May 5th, 1918. That same was marked tools and was addressed as above. Inspection showed that about twenty five gallons of liquor was encased in a boiler.</p> <p>Agent got in touch with the County Constable and arranged with him to have him follow this shipment out to the Navy Yard and if possible have <u>VARADI</u> receipt for same, in the usual course of business, thereupon seize same otherwise take such action as under the circumstances appeared expedient. Arrangements were also made to search the premises of <u>VARADI</u> for further evidence and time the search to co-incide with progress of the case at the Navy Yard.</p> <p>The shipment was sent to the Navy Yard by the Clyde Line people and delivered to <u>VARADI</u> whereupon as per arrangement he was arrested and the liquor seized by the County Constable and the Navy Yard Police Captain.</p>			
(2)			
COPY OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: Atlanta		United States Attorney	



## SOURCE INFORMATION

**Image url:** <https://www.fold3.com/image/2569152>

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**Case Title:** Various

**Suspect Name:** Joseph Varadi

**Roll Number:** 571

**Page:** 14

**Original data from:**  [The National Archives \(http://www.archives.gov\)](http://www.archives.gov)

Special Employee O'BRIEN was sent with the Deputy Marshal to search premises of VARADI. VARADI is a naturalized Austro-Hungarian and has been under investigation heretofore involving his loyalty. Various papers and letters were obtained and a number have been sent to the Washington Office for translation. Among the lot, material to the present case, was a personal note book containing the address of ALEX GRATTOR or ALEX GLATTER 358 Seventh Avenue, New York City. A note memoranda appearing on a liquor bill form also contained the address of GLATTER as 258 East 78th, New York City. There were also several receipts for large quantities of liquor obtained from IGNATZ ADLER 1487 First Avenue, New York. It is thought the correct name of the consignor of this liquor shipment is ALEX GLATTER.

An effort was made in interview with VARADI to ascertain whether or not other local parties were mixed in the affair. VARADI contended that no one else was in on the plan except GLATTER.

Hearing was had before the United States Commissioner and defendant held for action of the Federal Grand Jury under \$300 Bond.

## SOURCE INFORMATION

**Image url:** <https://www.fold3.com/image/2569149>

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**Case Number:** 172494

**Case Title:** Various

**Suspect Name:** Joseph Varadi

**Roll Number:** 571

**Page:** 13

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