

Cast of Characters

FBI

J. Edgar Hoover, Director — the file contains two messages from Hoover.

Agents

C. A. Appel, founding Agent of [the FBI's Technical Laboratory](#) (1931).

Edmund P. Coffey, Sr., Assistant Director of the FBI ([obit](#)).

Robert B. Hood, Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the Los Angeles FBI Office ([1943 image](#)).

Jester — likely **Royston "Roy" Jester, III**, helped conduct interviews ([obituary](#)).

Robert T. Pugh reported from Los Angeles.

Albert Spradling Jr. has a [Wikipedia](#) page; and his son, Al Spradling III, has a [Facebook](#) account.

Oran H. Waterman reported from Chicago. He later became [an attorney for the Justice Department](#).

Thomas N. Watkins reported from Newark, NJ ([from Louisville, KY](#)).

Military

Ernest Leon Benway, Captain

Highly decorated WWI American pilot also known as [Leo Benoit](#). He organized the Hollywood, California, [RCAF recruiting effort](#).

Lionel Block, Private

Soldier in the Canadian Army. [On May 22, 1944](#), he was killed in action in Italy. He was 19 years old. He is buried in the [Cassino, Italy, War Cemetery](#). Aris appears to have used Block's military serial number.

Other Officials

Howard V. Calverley, Assistant US Attorney, Los Angeles

Ralph Coler, Immigration Inspector, Los Angeles

David B. Head, [United States Commissioner](#), Los Angeles.

Paul W. Smith, Los Angeles Immigration Office Special Agent

W. W. White, Beverly Hills Police Captain

Leon R. Yankwich, Judge, U.S. District Court of Southern California

Beatrice Buckley, [Chief Clerk](#), Local Selective Service Board No. 9, Hoboken, New Jersey

Alasdair Maitland, British Vice Consul, Los Angeles

See ["London Girl Weds British Vice Consul."](#) (Maitland was best man.) Also see ["Orchestra Committee to Hear Noted Pianist."](#)

Marks & Other Acquaintances

Dr. C. K. Antonopulos, [Chicago dentist](#).

Alexander Backhaut, an employee of Steve Chalkas.

[This article](#) about a 1941 fur store robbery mentions Backhaut as a “cutter.” **Steve Chalkas**, owner of [Steve Chalkas Furs](#), Beverly Hills.

E. J. Caldwell, [manager of the Beverly Hills Hotel](#).

George T. Kisciras, Cheyenne, Wyoming

Two-term National Supreme Governor of the [American Hellenic Education Progressive Association \(AHEPA\)](#). Died [July 8, 1943](#).

Mrs. Malmburg, Sydney Logan’s Viennese maid.

Victor Knight, manager of the BLOW Company.

American advertising pioneer [Milton H. Biow](#) founded the company in 1917 and grew it into one of the largest advertising agencies in the country. He is the grandfather of actor [Matthew Broderick](#).

Ted Michael, manager of Topper Jewelry in Santa Monica.

A 1947 Santa Monica City Directory [shows Topper Jewelers](#) at 1411½ 3rd Street. Today, that address is on Santa Monica’s Third Street Promenade between Santa Monica Boulevard and Broadway. The director shows Theo Michael living at the same address.

Arthur Petmezas of [Lander’s Restaurant](#), 134 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago.

The report wrongly gives his surname as “Petmezar,” the restaurant as “Sander’s,” and Petmezas as its proprietor. The [one item I found](#) with his name says he was the cashier.

Charles P. Skouras

Skouras and his brothers, George and [Spyros](#), arrived in St. Louis from Greece in the early 1900s. They all became influential [figures in the film industry](#). Spyros was president of [20th Century-Fox](#) from 1942 to 1962. Charles presided over National Theaters. *Variety* published [an extensive obituary](#) when Skouras died in 1954. He funded the construction of the [Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral](#) in Los Angeles.

Ginny Simms

American big-band singer, film actress, and radio host. She had her own radio show during WWII and would often interview active-duty soldiers and veterans.

Lady-Friends

Elizabeth Dooley, Rosemead, CA

Worked for Douglas Aircraft, Long Beach, California.

Mary Kalamaridis, Hoboken, NJ

Aris’s first wife. They married in October 1940. She annulled the marriage in 1942.

Sidney Logan, South Pasadena, CA

Logan was born Mary Sydney Perkins into a wealthy family, which may explain Aris’s interest. Sydney’s father, [Arthur Perkins](#), taught actor Kay Kyser how to play polo (the kind on horses). Sydney inhabited the fringes of Hollywood and found her way into several films and gossip columns. Hedda Hopper wrote about her and Aris on [August 17, 1943](#). Also see Jimmy Star’s [“R-K-O Bids Actress’ Yarn.”](#)

Lurlyne Vickers, Beverly Hills

At the time she knew Aris, she worked for Douglas Aircraft in Santa Monica. At the time of her interview, she worked for Lockheed-Vega in Burbank. See [Ancestry tree/obituary](#).

Unconfirmed

Colonel HAWK of the Royal Air Force

Major General MIXOLOPOULOS, ostensibly Aris's uncle and chief of all Greek Police.

Captain NATTON of the United States Army.

Mary SCHENIDER, whom Aris claims to have met in Reno, Nevada, before they arrived in Beverly Hills, claiming to be married.



Above: Two-time Olympian Buster Crabbe and Aris's erstwhile pal Sydney Logan in a publicity still from the 1945 film, ["Gangster's Den."](#) Image via [IMDB](#).

Compiled by Daniel Slosberg

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