JAN 13 2025 AM 11:50

REFERENCE SERVICE SLIP
Archival Research Room Record Request
National Archives at St. Louis

Date: 1/6/2024

REQUESTER INFORMATION

Name (Please Print – Last, First, Middle)	Researcher ID Card Number
Flynn, Kylie	
E-Mail Address:	**Phone Number:**
knfgbb@umsl.edu	217-440-1332

INFORMATION NEEDED TO LOCATE RECORDS (Furnish as much as possible)

Name used in Service (Please Print – Last, First, Middle)	Service Number/SSN	Date & Place of Birth
Knies, Victor		Germany

MILITARY SERVICE

Branch of Service:
- ☐ Air Force
- ☐ Army Air Corps
- ☐ Army Air Force
- ☐ Army
- ☐ Marine Corps
- ☐ Navy
- ☐ Coast Guard
- ☐ Unknown

Type of Rank:
- ☐ Enlisted
- ☐ Officer
- ☐ Unknown

Service Period (Check all that apply):
- ☐ 1939 & Prior
- ☐ 1940 - 1950
- ☐ 1950 & After

Date & Place of Death:

State of Residence (upon entry into service):

Other Identifying Information (Parent's Names, CSC Number, etc.)

Researcher Signature:

CIVILIAN SERVICE

(Agency & Location)		
Lighthouse Service (RI)		
From: 1916	To: 1918	
(Agency & Location)		
From:	To:	
(Agency & Location)		
From:	To:	

Other Identifying Information (Maiden Name, Job Title, etc.)

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2 Folders

STAFF USE ONLY

Appointment Time and Date:

Additional Researchers: ☐ Yes ☐ No

CMRS Service Request Number: 2-3051 65558758

Attendant Signature:

CMRS Search Request Number(s):

Remarks:

'25 FEB 11 PM 2:33:45

SCREENING NOTES

- ☐ Reviewed and Nothing Removed
- ☐ Items Removed and User Informed

Hold Requested: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Total Requests:

Screened Items:

☐ Additional charge outs and signatures on reverse side

Time Out:

Final Return:

Victor Knies

INACTIVE

LEGAL RESIDENCE.
New York

STATUS

DESIGNATION	SALARY	BUREAU OR OFFICE	DATE OF EFFECT OF ACTION AUTHORIZED
Asst Kpr 3rd Dist-At Large	$456.	L. H.	Oct. 21, 1916
Asst. Keeper Whale Back L.I.R.R.	516.	"	Nov. 12, 1916
SERVICES DISCONTINUED	close	Nov. 21, 1917	

INACTIVE

Form 73

NOMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SECOND U. S. CIVIL SERVICE DISTRICT. RECD SEP 23 1916

LIGHT SEP 26 1916 HOUSES

HMD

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 3rd DISTRICT,

Tompkinsville, N.Y., (City.) September 22, (Date.) 1916

CHIEF CLERK SEP 26 1916

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:
(Through Sec'y, 2nd Civil Service Dist.)
Action recommended, Probationary appointment.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION NECESSARY ACTION TAKEN SEP 26 1916 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

APPOINTMENT SEP 26 1916

Name, Victor Knies

Legal residence, New York

Position, Additional Keeper

Salary, $456.00 per annum

Location, At large.

Appropriation, Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Effective October 1, 1916 {'the actual date of entrance on duty, or as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

Former position,

Former salary,

Location,

Rank on eligible list, 1 Rating, Keeper Percentage, 81.0, Other eligibles considered:

Previous incumbent, John J. Flanagan Services terminated, September 15, 1916

Reason, Transferred. end

Members of family in Government Service, None.

Remarks: No quarters are provided for this additional keeper. Nos.1,2, 3 and 4 on eligible list will not accept appointment to stations where there are no family quarters provided. Nos.5 and 6 are ineligible for appointment to this position. No.7 will not accept appointment to this position.

Selection regular, subject to the action of the U. S. Civil Service Commission. SEP 25 1916, 191

IN THE ABSENCE AND BY DIRECTION OF INSPECTOR

* no papers

J. C. Cole
Secretary, SECOND Civil Service District.

J. Lasker
Supt., 3d L.H.Dist.

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

SEP 26 1916

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

9.26.16

H. B. Bowerman
Acting Commissioner

[1] Strike out the clause which does not apply.

11—2314

CERTIFICATE OF PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

September 26, 1916.

Mr. Victor Knies,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office and to a probationary period of not to exceed six months as provided by paragraph (c) of section 1 of civil-service rule VII, Additional Keeper in the Lighthouse Service at a salary of Four Hundred and Fifty-six dollars per annum, effective on the date on which you enter upon duty in the above-mentioned position.

By selection from certificate of eligibles (No. - - - -) issued by the local Civil Service Board for the Third Lighthouse District.

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTING
Chief of Appointment Division.

C

Appropriation: Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Vice: John J. Flanagan.

Legal Residence: New York.

(See reverse side.)

CARDED
APPOINTMENT DIVISION ENTERED
SEP 26 1916
ON JOURNAL DEPT. OF COMMERCE

APPEARANCE REPORTED
OCT 1 1916
U. S. COMMISSION.

Form 111

OATH OF OFFICE

(Prescribed by Section 1757, Revised Statutes)

LIGHT OCT 27 1916 HOUSES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

I, Victor Knies

do solemnly[1] swear (See below) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So HELP ME GOD.

Victor Knies
(Appointee signs here)

[2] Sworn to (See below) and subscribed before me, this[3] 16th day of October, A. D. 1916

(Affix official seal here)

[4] (Name) Arthur H. Randall

(Official title) Notary Public

	Official Title	Rate of Pay	Name of Station, Vessel, or Place of Employment
Present	Additional Keeper	$456 p.a.	At large, 3d Lighthouse Dist.
Former[5]			

(The above should be filled in by the district officer before sending to appointee)

Office of Lighthouse Inspector, Third District

Tompkinsville, N.Y. (Address), OCT 24 1916 (Date)

The above-named appointee entered upon duty on October 2,1916 (Date)

CAPDTN

J. F. Yates
(Signature, followed by title) Inspector

[1] Insert here "swear" or "affirm," as the case may be.

[2] Insert here "sworn to" or "affirmed," as the case may be.

[3] The oath may be taken any time after the date of appointment and prior to the payment of compensation, but no compensation shall be paid until the oath is executed in proper form.

[4] This oath should be taken before a justice of the peace, notary public, judge, clerk of a court, or any other officer having authority to administer oaths, but never before a collector of customs, as he has no power to administer oaths in such cases. In case the officer administering the oath has no seal, his official character should be duly certified to by the clerk of the proper court or the proper county clerk.

[5] Give this information in all cases where new oath is required.

Failure to fill out this oath properly will result in its return for correction.

11—944

NOV 18 1916

Form 73

NOMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

HGF

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 3rd DISTRICT.

LIGHT HOUSES NOV 10 1916

Tompkinsville, N. Y. (City.) November 9, 1916 (Date.) 191

CHIEF CLERK NOV 10 1916 5

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Action recommended, Change in rating and designation.

Name, Victor Knies — Legal residence, New York

Position, Assistant Keeper — Salary, $516 per annum

Location, Whale Rock Light Station, R.I. — Appropriation, Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses

APPOINTMENTS NOV 10 1916 3

Effective November 12, 1916 — {'~~the actual date of entrance on duty~~, or as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

Former position, Additional Keeper — Former salary, $456 per annum

Location, At large, 3rd District.

Rank on eligible list, Rating, Percentage, , Other eligibles considered:

Previous incumbent, John J. Flanagan — Services terminated, November 11, 1916

Reason, Resignation.

Members of family in Government Service,

Remarks: Mr. Knies entered the service on October 2, 1916 as Additional Keeper at large, and since that date has been detailed to Stratford Shoal Lt. Sta. The vacancy to which appointment is recommended could not be foreseen at the time he was appointed. No other employee of District desired transfer to this position.

Selection regular, subject to the action of the U. S. Civil Service Commission. , 191

J. F. Yates

Secretary, *Civil Service District.*

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

HB-NDW

11-10-16

November 10, 1916.

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

L. Cornway
Acting Commissioner

[1] Strike out the clause which does not apply.

11—2314

GENERAL APPOINTMENT.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

November 11, 1916.

Mr. Victor Knies,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office,

Assistant Keeper

in the Lighthouse Service

at a salary of Five Hundred and Sixteen dollars per annum,

effective on the date on which you enter upon duty in the above-mentioned position.

(By change from additional keeper at $456 per annum.)

CARDED.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION ENTERED NOV 11 1916 DEPT OF COMMERCE

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS

L

Chief of Appointment Division.

Appropriation: Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Vice: John J. Flanagan.

Legal Residence: New York.

CHANGE REPORTED NOV 1916 U. S. COMMISSION.

11—3692

Form 111

OATH OF OFFICE

(Prescribed by Section 1757, Revised Statutes)

LIGHT NOV 16 1916 HOUSES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

I, Victor Knies

do solemnly[1] swear (See below) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: SO HELP ME GOD.

Victor Knies
(Appointee signs here)

[2] Sworn (See below) and subscribed before me, this[3] 16th day of November, A. D. 1916.

(Affix official seal here)

[4](Name) Jas D Lamson

(Official title) Notary Public

	Official Title	Rate of Pay	Name of Station, Vessel, or Place of Employment
Present	Assistant Keeper	$516. p.a.	Whale Rock Light Station, R.I.
Former[5]	Additional Keeper	$456. p.a.	At large, 3rd District

(The above should be filled in by the district officer before sending to appointee)

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 3rd DISTRICT

Tompkinsville, N.Y. (Address) Nov 17, 1916 (Date)

The above-named appointee entered upon duty on November 12, 1916 (Date)

IN THE ABSENCE AND BY DIRECTION OF INSPECTOR:

DEC 16 1916

[illegible]
(Signature, followed by title) Inspector

[1] Insert here "swear" or "affirm," as the case may be.

[2] Insert here "sworn to" or "affirmed," as the case may be.

[3] The oath may be taken any time after the date of appointment and prior to the payment of compensation, but no compensation shall be paid until the oath is executed in proper form.

[4] This oath should be taken before a justice of the peace, notary public, judge, clerk of a court, or any other officer having authority to administer oaths, but never before a collector of customs, as he has no power to administer oaths in such cases. In case the officer administering the oath has no seal, his official character should be duly certified to by the clerk of the proper court or the proper county clerk.

[5] Give this information in all cases where new oath is required.

Failure to fill out this oath properly will result in its return for correction.

11—944

Pw

PERSONAL QUESTION SHEET

LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR 2d DIST. OCT 23 1916 RECEIVED TOMPKINSVILLE, N.Y.

LIGHT NOV 13 1916 HOUSES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

MARCH 5, 1913.

APPOINTMENTS DEC 5 1916

To the CHIEFS OF BUREAUS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE:

For the purpose of enabling the Department to maintain a complete record of its officers and employees, you are requested to have every person hereafter appointed or employed in your Bureau, immediately upon his entrance on duty, answer each of the questions in Part I of this form and sign the same. The information given in Part I should be reviewed and approved in accordance with instructions. The information in Part II should be supplied as indicated and the form forwarded to the Department.

William C. Redfield
Secretary.

PART I.

(Part I should be filled out by the appointee or employee; but, if he is unable to write legibly, another person may write the answers at his dictation. In either case the statement should be signed by the appointee or employee. If he is unable to write, he may sign by mark in the presence of one witness. If he is unable to answer any question, he should indicate that fact.)

CARDED

1. What is your full name? (State whether Mr., Miss, or Mrs. and spell out names in full, including middle name or names. Example: Mr. John Richard Roe. If name itself is merely a letter, it should be so stated.)

Mr. Victor, Kniss

2. How do you intend to write your name on the pay roll? **(This should agree with signature to your oath of office.)** Victor Kniss

3. What is your present legal (voting) residence? (Give city or town, State or Territory, county, and Congressional district.)

Bayside Harlingen	New Jersey	Somerset	2nd ~~th~~ ~~st~~
City or town.	State or Territory.	County.	Congressional district.

4. What is your race? (Answer "white," "colored," or "Mongolian.") White

5. Where were you born? Germany

6. When were you born? August 29 1879
Month. Day. Year.

11—1434

7. Give name and address of person whom you would like to have notified in case of accident.

Mrs. Victa Knize Jo Ruland (Name.) 6th Street (Number and street.)

Bayside Borough of Queens (City or Town.) New York (State or Territory.)

City of New York.

8. Are there any members of your family, besides yourself, in the civil service of the United States? No

(If answer is "Yes," give in blank spaces below the information called for by the headings.)

Name.	Relationship.	Department.	Bureau or Service.	Position.

9. If you were appointed through a civil service examination, state, as near as you recollect, the name and date of the examination. If not so appointed, state how you entered the service. (Examples: "By reinstatement," or "by transfer from ——," stating Department, Bureau or Service, position, and salary, if known.) by Civil Service Examination for Keeper Light House. Application filled in the Spring of April 15 1916

10. Have you any physical disabilities? (If so, describe briefly. If you have defective eyesight, state whether corrected by glasses.)

Broken Lower Left Jaw.

11. Have you ever held any other position in the civil service of the United States? (If so, give below the Department and Bureau or Service in which you served, the position held, the salary you received, and the dates of your appointment and separation from the service.)

Department.	Bureau or Service.	Position.	Salary.	Appointed.	Separated.
Treasury	Life Saving	Surfman	2	About 1903	1904

12. Do you hold any State or municipal office? (If so, state name of such office and compensation attached.)

No.

13. Were you in the military or naval service of the United States during the Civil or Spanish-American War? (If so, give the information called for by the blanks below.) No

Company and regiment, or vessel.	Date enlisted.	Date discharged.	Cause of discharge.

14. If you served in the military or naval service of the United States at any time other than during the Civil or Spanish-American Wars, indicate such service in the spaces below. No

Company and regiment, or vessel.	Date enlisted.	Date discharged.	Cause of discharge.

15. Are you the widow or orphan of an honorably discharged soldier or sailor? No (If answer is "yes," give the information called for by the blanks below.)

Relationship (widow or orphan) .....

Name under which soldier or sailor rendered service .....

Company and regiment, or vessel.	Date enlisted.	Date discharged.	Cause of discharge.

16. What was your occupation prior to entering the United States civil service? (It is intended that the answer to this question shall state briefly the lines of work followed by you before receiving your present appointment, with the exception of your service indicated in answer to questions 11, 12, 13, and 14.)

Carpenter Have owned & operated my own boats

17. What education have you received? (Indicate the grades of schools you have attended, and, in case you have attended schools of higher grade than high schools, give the institution, degrees received, and date in each case. Example: Public school; high school; business college; Cornell University, A. B., 1900; Columbia University, LL. B., 1903.)

New York City Public School. Grammer Department.

18. What special qualifications have you—educational, professional, technical, mechanical, etc.? (Examples: Qualified as "Lawyer," or "Civil Engineer," or "Translator," or "Interpreter," or "Draftsman," or "Carpenter.")

Carpenter. would say, also that I am at present on the Eligible List for Carpenters State Service of N. J.,

19. What, if any, civil service examinations have you passed? (Give names and dates as near as you recollect.)

U. S. Civil Service for Surfman 1903. Municipal New York City for Patrolman 1906. Carpenters. New Jersey State Service 1915. U. S. Civil Service Keeper Light House 1916

20. Were the answers to the foregoing questions written by you? (If not, state the name and address of the person who wrote them for you.)

Yes.

21. State the date upon which the above blanks were filled. Oct, 7, 1916, , 191

Witness:

(Signature) Victor Knisk

In case signature is by mark.

P. O. Address: Bayside New York City
City or town.

6th Street
Number and street.

New York
State or Territory.

(Where the appointee is to be employed outside of the District of Columbia the information given in Part I should be reviewed and approved by the officer in immediate charge before forwarding to the Bureau. Where he is to be employed in the District of Columbia, Part I should be reviewed and approved by the officer who executes Part II.)

Reviewed, approved, and forwarded Nov 11, 191 6

(Signature) J. O. Yates

(Official title)

11—1434

PART II.

(Part II should be executed by the executive officer of the Bureau of the Department to which the employee is assigned or by some authorized official who can give the information desired. If unable to answer any question, indicate that fact.)

1. State the Bureau or Service, place, and district in which the person who answered the foregoing questions is employed:
Lt. Service (Bureau or Service.) Add. Keeper at Largo (Place (city, town, station, or vessel).) 3d (District.)

2. To what position has he been appointed? Add. Keeper

3. State the date of appointment. Sept 26 '16

4. State the date the appointment was effective. (If appointment was made to take effect on date of oath, so state.)
Sept E. D.

5. State the date of the oath. Oct 16 '16

6. State the date the employee entered on duty. Oct 2/1916

7. What is his salary? 456 per a

8. From what appropriation is he paid? Salaries Keepers

9. Is the position excepted, competitive, or unclassified under the civil service rules? Competitive

10. If classified, state the date of classification. May 6/1896

11. In what manner did the employee enter the service? (Examples: "From stenography and typewriting examination;" or "without examination;" or "by reinstatement;" or "by transfer from ——," stating Department, Bureau or Service, position, and salary, if known.)
Local Civ Serv Exam Apr 15/16

12. Is the employee required to give bond? No

13. When the legal residence given in answer to question 3, Part I, differs from that given in the certificate of appointment, the discrepancy should be explained.

14. If foreign born, state when and where naturalization papers were taken out.
Aug 10, 1907, Supreme Court of N.Y. City, N.Y.

Reviewed, approved, and forwarded to the Department.

(Signature) J. T. Yates

(Official title)

Date: ....., 191

November 15, 1917.

Sir:

In view of the fact that the position occupied by you has been abolished, the Department, upon recommendation of the Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses, has discontinued your services as assistant keeper of Whale Rock Light Station, Rhode Island, at $516 per annum, in the Lighthouse Service, to take effect at the close of a date to be fixed by the Bureau and reported to the Department.

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) W. E. GILCHRIST

Acting Chief of Appointment Division.

Mr. Victor Knies,
Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

CARDED.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION ENTERED NOV 15 1917 DEPT. OF COMMERCE

C
K.

November 15, 1917.

Commissioner of Lighthouses:

In accordance with the Bureau's recommendation of the 13th instant, the Department has discontinued the position of assistant keeper of Whale Rock Light Station, Rhode Island, at $516 per annum, and has increased the pay of the position of keeper from $648 to $732 per annum, thereby transferring Whale Rock Light Station from class 4-B to class 3-A of the schedule.

In accordance with the Bureau's further recommendation, the services of Victor Knies as assistant keeper of Whale Rock Light Station, Rhode Island, have been discontinued to take effect at the close of a date to be fixed by the Bureau and reported to the Department, and a new appointment has been issued to George H. Tooker as keeper of Whale Rock Light Station, Rhode Island, effective on the date he enters on duty at the increased rate of pay.

The correspondence which the Bureau requested to be returned, is enclosed herewith.

By direction of the Secretary:

Enclosure 1672.

C-H.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.
FWO-WJL

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

Hydrog.
Engr. Obs.
Mar. Engr.
Personnel
Accounts.
Contracts
Chf. Clk.
Dep. Commr.
Commr.

abol

GENERAL DEPOT
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 3D DISTRICT
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

November 27, 1917.

LIGHT NOV 30 1917 HOUSES

CHIEF CLERK DEC 8 1917

APPOINTMENTS DEC 8 1917

Commissioner:

Referring to Bureau's endorsement of November 17th forwarding Department letter of November 15th concerning the discontinuance of the services of Victor Knies, Assistant Keeper of Whale Rock Light Station, R.I.

The Bureau is advised that Mr. Knies' services were discontinued effective at the close of November 21st 1917. He has not taken leave in excess of the accrued rate.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington
DEC 7 1917

CARDED.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION ENTERED DEC 8 1917 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce for his information.

H. B. Bowerman
Acting Commissioner

Form 73

NOMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT HOUSES SEP 26 1916

HMD

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 3rd DISTRICT,

Tompkinsville, N.Y., (City.) September 22, 1916 (Date.)

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:
(Through Sec'y, 2nd Civil Service Dist.)
Action recommended, Probationary appointment.

Name, Victor Knies

Legal residence, New York

Position, Additional Keeper

Salary, $456.00 per annum

Location, At large.

Appropriation, Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Effective October 1, 1916 { ~~the actual date of entrance on duty,~~ or as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

Former position,

Former salary,

Location,

Rank on eligible list, 1 Rating, Keeper Percentage, 81.0, Other eligibles considered:

Previous incumbent, John J.Flanagan ✓ Services terminated, September 15, 1916 ✓

Reason, Transferred. ✓

Members of family in Government Service, None.

Remarks: No quarters are provided for this additional keeper. Nos.1,2, 3 and 4 on eligible list will not accept appointment to stations where there are no family quarters provided. Nos.5 and 6 are ineligible for appointment to this position. No.7 will not accept appointment to this position.

Selection regular, subject to the action of the U. S. Civil Service Commission. SEP 25 1916, 191

IN THE ABSENCE AND BY DIRECTION OF INSPECTOR,
HASKELL

JColes
Secretary, SECOND Civil Service District.

Supt., 3d L.H.Dist.

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

SEP 26 1916

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

HBB

Acting Commissioner

TC

1 Strike out the clause which does not apply.

11—2314

CERTIFICATE OF PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

LIGHT
SEP 28 1916
HOUSES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

September 26, 1916.

Mr. Victor Knies,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office and to a probationary period of not to exceed six months as provided by paragraph (c) of section 1 of civil-service rule VII, Additional Keeper in the Lighthouse Service at a salary of Four Hundred and Fifty-six dollars per annum, effective on the date on which you enter upon duty in the above-mentioned position.

By selection from certificate of eligibles (No. - - - -) issued by the local Civil Service Board for the Third Lighthouse District.

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS

Chief of Appointment Division.

C

Appropriation: Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Vice: John J. Flanagan.

Legal Residence: New York.

(See reverse side.)

SEP 28 1916

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT
NOV 10 1916
HOUSES

JHG

Hydrog.
Engr. Cons.
Mar. Engr.
Personnel
Accounts.
Contracts
Chf. Clk.
Dep. Comnr.
Comnr.

GENERAL DEPOT
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 3D DISTRICT
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

November 9,1916

Wired Insp.
11/ /16.
Nom. to Dept 11/10/16

Commissioner:

Referring to Form 73 forwarded to the Bureau to-day recommending the transfer and promotion of Victor Knies from the position of additional keeper at large to the position of assistant keeper of Whale Rock Light Station, effective November 12,1916.

It is requested that this office be advised by telegraph of Mr. Knies' appointment to said position so that the necessary orders may be issued by this office sufficiently in advance to enable him to enter on duty on November 12,1916.

J. T. Yates

Insp's. office could save a letter by requesting teleg. auth. as nom. & stamping "Special"

Nov. 10.

Nom. as 9th
dated 9th
Insp's prob
overlooked
then
TSC 11/10

Form 73

NOMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT HOUSES NOV 10 1916

HGF

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 3rd DISTRICT,

Tompkinsville, N. Y., November 9, 1916, 191
(City.) (Date.)

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Action recommended, Change in rating and designation.

Name, **Victor Knies** Legal residence, **New York**

Position, **Assistant Keeper** Salary, **$516 per annum**

Location, **Whale Rock Light Station, R.I.** Appropriation, **Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses**

Effective **November 12, 1916** {[1] ~~the actual date of entrance on duty~~, or as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

Former position, Additional Keeper Former salary, **$456 per annum**

Location, **At large, 3rd District.**

Rank on eligible list, Rating, Percentage, , Other eligibles considered:

Previous incumbent, John J. Flanagan ✓ Services terminated, **November 11, 1916**

Reason, **Resignation.** ✓

Members of family in Government Service,

Remarks: **Mr. Knies entered the service on October 2, 1916 as Additional Keeper at large, and since that date has been detailed to Stratford Shoal Lt. Sta. The vacancy to which appointment is recommended could not be foreseen at the time he was appointed. No other employee of District desired transfer to this position.**

Selection regular, subject to the action of the
U. S. Civil Service Commission. , 191

J. T. YATES.

Secretary, *Civil Service District.*

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

HB-NDW November 10, 1916.

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

Acting Commissioner.

[1] Strike out the clause which does not apply.

11—2314

HB-NDW

Washington D C November 10 1916

Lighthouse Inspector Saint George New York

Yours November ninth Appointment Victor Knies assistant keeper Whale Rock approved effective November twelfth

PUTNAM

- - - - - - - - - -

Commissioner

O.K. routine case
Appointment written but not rec'd by Bu
HB

H B

Washington D C November 11, 1916

Lighthouse Inspector Saint George New York

Appointment Knies assistant keeper Whale Rock approved effective twelfth Assignment Schenheit thirteenth approved Reinstatement Grimo pending before Commission

PUTNAM

Victor Knies.

Commissioner

Knies + Schenheit O.C. routine cases; Grimo before D.C — have asked to have hurried.
WB

Sent telg. 1:26 JM

WB

WB

GENERAL APPOINTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

LIGHT
NOV 13 1916
HOUSES

November 11, 1916.

Mr. Victor Knies,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office,

Assistant Keeper

in the Lighthouse Service

at a salary of Five Hundred and Sixteen dollars per annum,

effective on the date on which you enter upon duty in the above-mentioned position.

(By change from additional keeper at $456 per annum.)

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

Eod nov 12

L

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS
Chief of Appointment Division.

Appropriation: Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Vice: John J. Flanagan.

Legal Residence: New York.

11—3692

NOV 13 1916

Department of Justice,

Bureau of Investigation,

Washington.

RLD:JFC.

LIGHT
NOV 13 1917
HOUSES

LIGHT
NOV 16 1917
HOUSES

R.L.D.

11/22/17
Mail
G. & 3d Inspector

October 4, 1917.

George R. Putnam, Esquire,

Commissioner of Lighthouses,

Department of Commerce.

Dear Sir:

I enclose herewith for your information copy of a letter dated the 20th ultimo, from Special Agent in Charge Howick, Providence, Rhode Island, and copy of the accompanying report to him of Special Agent Denning for September 17, 1917, concerning Victor Kneiss, Assistant Keeper, Whale Rock Lighthouse.

A similar communication is being addressed to the office of Naval Intelligence.

Very truly yours,

A. B. Bielaski

Chief.

TOM HOWICK
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

TELEPHONE ADDRESS: UNION 5920
MAIL ADDRESS: BOX 77

Get with Fuller
2768

RECEIVED
SEP 22 1917
Bureau of Investigation
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Department of Justice,
Bureau of Investigation.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE
301 FEDERAL BUILDING
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

September 20, 1917.

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

In Re Victor Kneiss, Asst. Keeper, Whale Rock Light
Possible German Activities

Dear Sir:-

This matter was first brought to my attention through a letter from J.P. Norton, Narragansett Pier, dated the 10th instant, reading as follows:

"There is a case here that I think ought to be looked into. The man is a native born German and is in the Government service as Asst. Light House Keeper at Whale Rock light here. He talks very funny for a loyal citizen. Everything German is all right, all the rest is wrong. A short time ago I heard him talking in the Post Office. He was in the life saving station talking against the allies. He is very busy finding out all the depths of water around these ports and also makes trips to Newport and gets in with all the sailors and different departments using his position as Asst. Light House Keeper to get him through. He also carries on a regular course of discouragement against enlistment, telling woman folks all about the horrors of war, and all he can towards discouraging taking of Liberty Bonds and so forth. For proof of this you can see the Postmaster, the men at the Life Saving station and Mr. Fred Tucker, if they are not afraid to talk as they all seem to be in fear of him."

Investigation was made by Agent Deming who reported to me as per copy attached.

Efforts to substantiate Mr. Norton's claim that this subject had been guilty of efforts todiscourage or retard enlistment were without results. Nor does the investigation disclose any violation of the Espionage Act or other Federal Statutes for which Kneiss might be prosecuted. His attitude as evidenced by his statements however does seem to warrant his removal from his present position. The matter at least should be brought to the attention of the head of the service with which he is connected.

T. H. [illegible]

Refunds

Since Agent Deming rendered his report I have been advised by the Postmaster at Narragansett Pier that on April 8, 1917, this subject mailed camera films to W.M. Latham, 127 East 24th Street, between Park and Lexington Avenues, New York City.

Please advise what if any further action is desired in this case, or if consistent advise what disposition is made of same.

In this connection it might not be out of place to call your attention to reports by the Newport and Providence offices of the Bureau on one R. Weimer, Lighthousekeeper at Seaconnet Point. From all indications both these lighthouses could be in the hands of parties more loyal to this country.

Respectfully,

John J Howley
Special Agent in Charge

53268

9 A M

Every German or Austrian in the United States, whether naturalized or not, unless known by years of association to be absolutely loyal, should be treated as a potential spy. Keep your eyes and ears open. Whenever any suspicious act or disloyal word comes to your notice communicate at once with the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice, Room 301, Federal Building, Providence.

We are at war with the most merciless and inhuman nation in the world. Hundreds of thousands of its people in this country want to see America humiliated and beaten to her knees, and they are doing, and will do, everything in their power to bring this about.

Take nothing for granted. Energy and alertness in this direction may save the life of your son, your husband or your brother.

September 17, 1917

Mr. Tom Howick,
Special Agent in Charge,
Providence, R. I.

Dear Sir: In re: Victor Kniess

Postmaster Greenmen, Narragansett Pier, in interview with agent states that the subject is assistant keeper of Whale Rock Lighthouse in the west passage of Narragansett Bay; that subject is a naturalized American of German birth; that he has on several occasions in his presence made unpatriotic pro-German and anti-American statements and did state upon one occasion that he was a German and that Whale Rock was a German light.

The subject has manifested a great deal of interest in the soundings adjacent to and inside of the west passage. The informant further states that subject is an ex-New York Policeman and draws $700.00 per year pension for some physical disablement, nature unknown.

Informant further states that head-keeper Tooker of Whale Rock Light stands in considerable fear of the subject, but was unable to state whether it was bodily fear or fear of treachery of some sort.

In re: Victor Kniess

William T. Boyd, number one man, Coast Guard, Station 54, Narragansett Pier. Informant states that said Victor Kniess stated in his presence and in the presence of L. S. Potter, another member of the same coast guard, that he Kniess was a German and Whale Rock was a German light. His attention was called to a clipping from the Providence Journal. Said clipping has headed the editorial column for many weeks - sample attached. He applied an unwriteable epithet to said article and further stated that it was a disgrace to America and an insult to every German in the country. Informant Boyd further states that at the outbreak of the war head-keeper Tooker of Whale Rock Light asked him and other guards to watch the light and if they saw a lantern hung low on the lighthouse for him to come out at once, also to report same to the postmaster.

John A. Shaw, a third member of the coast guard, also testified as to subject's pro-German talk; was also witness to his statement and answers in regard to the editorial clipping from the Journal above mentioned.

T.H. 9/17/17 -2-

In re: Victor Kniess

James A. Hollingsworth, a photographer on the board walk at Narragansett Pier, states that he is at Narragansett Pier during the summer time and leaves about October first for Jacksonville, Florida; that subject Kniess was in his place recently having some photographs taken and made the statement that he was a German and Whale Rock was a German light. He further stated that he never wore the uniform of light keeper when he could help it; that he did not care for it. As far as agent could learn he did not state why he did not care for it.

Agent made several efforts to find J. P. Horton, who signed the attached letter, but was unable to do so. He also made effort to find Fred Tucker, the fisherman mentioned in the above letter as having heard Kniess make disloyal statements. Said Tucker was away in his boat hauling lobster pots according to reports and information, and that having completed the hauling of said pots he would sail with his cargo for Newport and it was unlikely that he would be back during the day.

Note: Agent gathers from many conversations that the subject of this report, Kniess, claims to have been a member of the Becker strong-arm-squad so-called of the New York Police Department; that he is a loud talker and a bully and seems generally desirous of saying things that arouse antagonism and create hard feelings. Agent was unable to learn that he had any communication with various Germans at the Pier during the past summer or, in fact, committed any disloyal acts other than the talk referred to in this report. It is evident, however, that Capt. Tooker lives in fear of this man and it would seem that steps should be taken to see Capt. Tooker and get a statement from him on the subject. This would have to be done discreetly and without arousing the suspicions of the assistant keeper.

Very truly yours,

J. B. Deming

Special Agent

P. S. Subject receives papers, magazines, etc. from Anna Schweitze, 180 Ohio Ave., Prov. He also sends a great deal of mail to his wife and the postmaster has promised to supply her address.

H. B. D.

FCR.

October 6, 1917.

The Chief, Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Referring to your letter of October 4, 1917, RLD:JFC, enclosing copy of letter dated September 20 from Special Agent in Charge Howick, Providence, R.I., and copy of the accompanying report to him of Special Agent Denning, concerning Victor Kneiss, assistant keeper of Whale Rock Light Station, R.I., in which mention is also made of the question of loyalty of R. Weimer, keeper at Sakonnet Light Station, R.I.,

I beg to advise you that both matters are being investigated, and you will be advised further in regard thereto at an early date.

Respectfully,

Acting Commissioner

JSC-FCR.

October 6, 1917.

SUBJECT: Letter of October 4, 1917, from Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, with enclosures, regarding question of loyalty of Kneiss, Whale Rock Light Station, and Weimer, Sakonnet Light Station.

Referred to Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N.Y., for investigation and return with report and recommendation.

The Bureau is of opinion that example should be made in either or both of these cases if justification therefor should be found.

Acting Commissioner.

Knies-
Kneiss
Weimer

This station has a 40 fixed red light, oil illuminat, and a fog bell - can be seen by one man with assistance of his wife. The station is an exposed one about ¾ miles off shore at the Hydrog. entrance to Narra. Bay, Sig Off. Nope recom + they ok act

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

FWO-WJL

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

Hydrog.
Engr. Conn.
Mar. Engr.
Personnel
Accounts.
Contracts
Chf. Clk.
Insp.
Comm.

HDD Nov 13

LIGHT NOV 13 1917 HOUSES

GENERAL DEPOT
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 3D DISTRICT
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

11/13/17 Wrote Dept.

November 12,1917.

SUBJECT: Let. Oct. 4, 1917 from Bu. Investigation, with enclo. re question of loyalty of Kneiss, Whale Rock L.S. and Weimer, Sakonnet L.S. - Bu. end. Oct. 6, 1917.

11/2 2/17, wrote Bu. Investigation to 3d Dist.

Dept a. O. recd Nov 13

Returned to Commissioner enclosing copy of Inspector's Memorandum of investigation dated November 6th 1917.

There is no direct evidence to show the disloyalty of assistant keeper Knies but in view of such possibility and to the unfavorable opinion he has created in that vicinity it is not considered advisable to continue his services at Whale Rock Light Station. As there are no vacancies at stations in this District where it would be possible to transfer him where he would not have equally as much chance of espionage as at Whale Rock Light Station, it is recommended that the position of assistant keeper of Whale Rock Light Station be abolished and the services of assistant keeper Victor Knies discontinued effective at the close of the date on which he receives notification, the station to be operated by one man and that the salary of the position of keeper at this station be increased from $648 to $732 per annum, also that the keeper be given permission to have his family at the station. $516

At present on account of the shortage of men, it would be impossible to obtain another man to fill the position of assistant keeper at this station. Increasing the keeper's salary and permitting him to have his family at the station is the only practical solution of the situation. When conditions are again such that men can be obtained for employment at stations such as Whale Rock Light Station, it is proposed to again have the position of assistant keeper of Whale Rock Light Station authorized.

The reference to one, R. Weimer, Lighthouse Keeper at Sakonnet Point is not understood as there is no employee of that name at a light station in this District. This may have come connection with the case of Keeper Brown of Sakonnet Light Station, attention being invited to Bureau's endorsement of October 25th 1917 and previous correspondence.

J T Yates

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT
NOV 13 1917
HOUSES

JTY-WJL

GENERAL DEPOT
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 3D DISTRICT
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

LIGHT
NOV 16 1917
HOUSES

November 6,1917.

Memorandum of investigation of alleged misconduct of Assistant Keeper Knies, Whale Rock Light Station.

On November 5th 1917 I visited the station for this purpose and found only the keeper at the station, the assistant being away on leave. I found everything about the station in very good condition. Upon inquiry of the keeper as to the conduct of Knies, he stated that he did not trust Knies, but that in his hearing had never in any way said anything directly detrimental to the United States or any thing that can be used or construed as a direct basis for assuming his disloyalty. He stated that the assistant keeper did lots of talking indirectly in a roundabout fashion, but whether same was due to disloyalty or to a spirit of braggadocio on the part of Knies he did not know. He stated that Knies on several occasions had taken the boat and gone ashore clamming and on these occasions he spent considerable time along the shore and at the entrance to some of the coves in the vicinity.

Upon examining Knies' room at the station the only thing found was a board about four foot long and eight inches wide on which had been painted the alphabet in one column; in the next column corresponding to the letters of the alphabet was a semiphore alphabet, in the next column the wigwag alphabet, in the next the alphabet of the electric flash light signals, in the next column was the international code signals. Down in one corner were the flags of the weather bureau signals. On the top of this board were painted the American coat of arms in the center, the Lighthouse Pennant one side, and the Secretary's flag on the other.

While this has no direct bearing on this matter it seems rather strange that any one would be collecting and recording all of this information. The source from which it was all obtained could not be determined.

I stopped at Narragansett Pier and interviewed the Captain of the Life Saving Station, who stated that Knies had done lots of talking but had never directly made any statements that would indicate his disloyalty, but had done a lot of roundabout talking. The Captain of the Life Saving Station said he thought that Knies was a "foxy gent" and would be hard to catch, but that he himself felt doubtful about him and did not trust him made

Also called on the Postmaster at Narragansett Pier who much the same statements as the others, to the effect that Knies had done a lot of roundabout and foolish talking, but that he had never said anything directly that would indicate

his disloyalty to America, but that he had on several occasions expressed himself very bitterly against England.

It does not appear that there is any thing directly against this man. His actions however seem to have caused considerable comment in this vicinity of Narragansett Pier also created distrust in the minds of practically all who have come in contact with him.

J T Yates

McC-T

Victor Kneiss,
discontinuance.

November 13, 1917.

Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, New York:

Referring to your indorsement of November 12, 1917 and accompanying papers, relative to the loyalty of Victor Kneiss, assistant keeper, Whale Rock Light Station, Rhode Island.

The papers have this day been submitted to the Department for approval of your recommendation that the position of assistant keeper and the services of the incumbent, Victor Kneiss, be discontinued, effective on a date later to be determined and reported. Report effective date and also report at proper time whether Kneiss has taken leave in excess of accrued rate.

Recommendation has also been made to the Department for authorization of increase in pay of position of keeper at $732 per annum.

Acting Commissioner.

McC-T

Set incidents

SPECIAL

November 13, 1917

Subject: 3rd Inspr.'s ind. Nov. 12, 1917, and accompanying papers re loyalty Victor Kneiss, asst.kpr., Whale Rock L.S., R.I.

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce, recommending, after careful consideration, that the position of assistant keeper of Whale Rock Light Station, R. I., at $516 per annum, and the services of the incumbent thereof, Victor Kneiss, be discontinued, effective at the close of a date later to be determined and reported to the Department.

It is further recommended that the pay of the position of keeper be increased from $648 to $732 per annum, and this station transferred from Class 4-B to Class 3-A, and that a new appointment be issued to the incumbent thereof, Mr. George H. Tooker, at the increased rate of pay, effective on the date he enters on duty under his new appointment.

The rate of pay recommended is reasonable and is not in excess of that paid for the same or similar services during the preceding fiscal year.

Appropriation: Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

The third inspector will be requested to advise this office at the proper time whether Kneiss has taken leave in excess of the accrued rate.

It is requested that the Inspector's memo. of November 6, 1917, and letter of October 4, 1917, from the Chief of the Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, and its inclosure from the Special Agent, Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, Providence, Rhode Island, be returned to this office when no longer required at the Department.

O

Acting Commissioner

W

P C

WPK

Mel

LIGHT
NOV 17 1917
HOUSES

November 15, 1917.

Sir:

In view of the fact that the position occupied by you has been abolished, the Department, upon recommendation of the Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses, has discontinued your services as assistant keeper of Whale Rock Light Station, Rhode Island, at $516 per annum, in the Lighthouse Service, to take effect at the close of a date to be fixed by the Bureau and reported to the Department.

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) W. S. GILCHRIST

Acting Chief of Appointment Division.

Mr. Victor Knies,
Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

C
N.

3 Insp.

LIGHT
NOV 16 1917
HOUSES

Hydrog.
Engr. Cons.
Mar. Engr.
Personnel
Accounts.
Contracts
Chf. Clk.
Dep. Comr.
Commr.

November 15, 1917.

11/17/17 Covered 3d

Wire 30 Notify Bu Invest & all other units PC Nov 16

Commissioner of Lighthouses:

In accordance with the Bureau's recommendation of the 13th instant, the Department has discontinued the position of assistant keeper of Whale Rock Light Station, Rhode Island, at $516 per annum, and has increased the pay of the position of keeper from $648 to $732 per annum, thereby transferring Whale Rock Light Station from class 4-B to class 3-A of the schedule.

In accordance with the Bureau's further recommendation, the services of Victor Knies as assistant keeper of Whale Rock Light Station, Rhode Island, have been discontinued to take effect at the close of a date to be fixed by the Bureau and reported to the Department, and a new appointment has been issued to George H. Tooker as keeper of Whale Rock Light Station, Rhode Island, effective on the date he enters on duty at the increased rate of pay.

The correspondence which the Bureau requested to be returned, is enclosed herewith.

By direction of the Secretary:

SIGNED GEO. C. HAVENNER

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington

McC-HEV
1 inclosure.

Nov. 17, 1917.

To Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, New York,
For his information, guidance, and files of office. Inclosed is confirmation of telegram of this date to you. Report effective date of discontinuance of the services of Knies and state whether he has taken leave in excess of the accrued rate.

Enclosure 167Rv
C-H.

Acting Commissioner

McC-HEV

Washington D C November 17 1917

Lighthouse Inspector, Saint George New York

Position assistant keeper Whale Rock services Kavis discontinued Keeper promoted as recommended effective entrance

PUTNAM

Commissioner

To Supt. 1:58 p.m. Nov 17 11/17/17.

MCP

JEH.
2 inclosures.

November 22, 1917.

Chief,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Referring again to your letter of October 4, 1917 (RLD:JFC), and inclosures, concerning the loyalty of Victor Kneiss (Knies), in which mention is also made of the question of the loyalty of "R. Weimer, keeper of Sakonnet Light Station, R. I."

I take pleasure in inclosing copy of report of November 12, together with copy of memorandum of November 6, submitted by the Inspector of the 3rd Lighthouse District, with headquarters at Tompkinsville, N. Y. The views and recommendation of the Inspector are concurred in by this Bureau, and instructions have accordingly been issued to abolish the position of assistant keeper at this light station and to discontinue the services of assistant keeper Knies.

With reference to the statement in the inclosed report of November 12, that there is no employee by the name of R. Weimer in the 3rd Lighthouse District, your attention is respectfully invited to this Bureau's letter of October 26, replying to your letter of October 12, 1917, concerning the loyalty of keeper Brown of Sakonnet Light Station, R. I.

Respectfully,

Commissioner

COPY to Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., for his information, guidance, and files. See Bureau indorsement of Nov. 17, on Department letter of Nov. 15, 1917.

Acting Commissioner.

COPY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

General Depot,
Office of Inspector, 3rd District

Tompkinsville, N. Y.

Commisskoner:

Referring to Bureau's endorsement of November 17th forwarding Department letter of November 15th concerning the discontinuance of the services of Victor Kneis, Assistant Keeper of Whale Rock Light Station, R. I.

The Bureau is advised that Mr. Knies' services were discontinued effective at the close of November 21, 1917. He has not taken leave in excess of the accrued rate.

(Signed) J. T. Yates.

file

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington
DEC 7 1917

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce for his information.

Acting Commissioner

LIGHT-HOUSE INSPECTOR
2d DIST.
OCT
28
1916
RECEIVED
TOMPKINSVILLE

PERSONAL QUESTION SHEET

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

MARCH 5, 1913.

To the CHIEFS OF BUREAUS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE:

For the purpose of enabling the Department to maintain a complete record of its officers and employees, you are requested to have every person hereafter appointed or employed in your Bureau, immediately upon his entrance on duty, answer each of the questions in Part I of this form and sign the same. The information given in Part I should be reviewed and approved in accordance with instructions. The information in Part II should be supplied as indicated and the form forwarded to the Department.

William C. Redfield
Secretary.

PART I.

(Part I should be filled out by the appointee or employee; but, if he is unable to write legibly, another person may write the answers at his dictation. In either case the statement should be signed by the appointee or employee. If he is unable to write, he may sign by mark in the presence of one witness. If he is unable to answer any question, he should indicate that fact.)

1. What is your full name? (State whether Mr., Miss, or Mrs. and spell out names in full, including middle name or names. Example: Mr. John Richard Roe. If name itself is merely a letter, it should be so stated.)

Mr. Victor Kurz

2. How do you intend to write your name on the pay roll? **(This should agree with signature to your oath of office.)** Victor. Kurz

3. What is your present legal (voting) residence?

Bayside	New Jersey	Burlington	2d
City or town.	State or Territory.	County.	Congressional district.

4. What is your race? (Answer "white," "colored," or "Mongolian.") White

5. Where were you born? Germany.

6. When were you born? August 29th 1879
Month. Day. Year.

11—1434

7. Give name and address of person whom you would like to have notified in case of accident.

Mrs Victor Knees % Ruland (Name.) 6th Street (Number and street.)

Bayside Borough of Queens (City or town.) New York (State or Territory.)

New York City

8. Are there any members of your family, besides yourself, in the civil service of the United States? No.

(If answer is "Yes," give in blank spaces below the information called for by the headings.)

Name.	Relationship.	Department.	Bureau or Service.	Position.

9. If you were appointed through a civil service examination, state, as near as you recollect, the name and date of the examination. If not so appointed, state how you entered the service. (Examples: "By reinstatement," or "by transfer from ———," stating Department, Bureau or Service, position, and salary, if known.) Civil Service Examination

Application filled in the Spring of 1916 for Keeper Light House

10. Have you any physical disabilities? (If so, describe briefly. If you have defective eyesight, state whether corrected by glasses.)

Broken Lower Left Jaw.

11. Have you ever held any other position in the civil service of the United States? (If so, give below the Department and Bureau or Service in which you served, the position held, the salary you received, and the dates of your appointment and separation from the service.)

Department.	Bureau or Service.	Position.	Salary.	Appointed.	Separated.
Treasury	Life Saving	Seaman	$	About 1903	1904

12. Do you hold any State or municipal office? (If so, state name of such office and compensation attached.)

No.

13. Were you in the military or naval service of the United States during the Civil or Spanish-American War? (If so, give the information called for by the blanks below.) No.

Company and regiment, or vessel.	Date enlisted.	Date discharged.	Cause of discharge.

14. If you served in the military or naval service of the United States at any time other than during the Civil or Spanish-American Wars, indicate such service in the spaces below. No

Company and regiment, or vessel.	Date enlisted.	Date discharged.	Cause of discharge.

15. Are you the widow or orphan of an honorably discharged soldier or sailor? No. (If answer is "yes," give the information called for by the blanks below.)

Relationship (widow or orphan) .....

Name under which soldier or sailor rendered service .....

Company and regiment, or vessel.	Date enlisted.	Date discharged.	Cause of discharge.

OCT 23 1916 RECEIVED TOMPKINSVILLE, N.Y.

I acknowledge receipt of a copy of Department Circular No. 253 (second edition), of September 22, 1914, relating to political activity of officeholders, and fully understand its purport.

Victor Kruse
(Name.)

Keeper
(Position.)

Light House Service
(Bureau, Office, or Service.)

Date, October 7. 1916

11—3914

(This acknowledgment should be forwarded to, and filed in, the bureau or office to which appointee is assigned.)

to the eligible list for carpenter [illegible]

19. What, if any, civil service examinations have you passed? (Give names and dates as near as you recollect.)

U.S. Civil Service for Fireman. 1903. Municipal New York City for Patrolman. 1906 Carpenter. New Jersey State Service. 1915
U.S. Civil Service Keeper Light House 1916

20. Were the answers to the foregoing questions written by you? (If not, state the name and address of the person who wrote them for you.)

Yes

21. State the date upon which the above blanks were filled. Oct. 7. 1916, 191

Witness:

In case signature is by mark.

(Signature) Victor Kruse

P. O. Address: Bayside New York City
City or town.
6th Street
Number and street.
N. Y.
State or Territory.

(Where the appointee is to be employed outside of the District of Columbia the information given in Part I should be reviewed and approved by the officer in immediate charge before forwarding to the Bureau. Where he is to be employed in the District of Columbia, Part I should be reviewed and approved by the officer who executes Part II.)

Reviewed, approved, and forwarded Nov 11, 191 6

(Signature)

J. T. YATES.

11—1434

(Official title)

16. What was your occupation prior to entering the United States civil service? (It is intended that the answer to this question shall state briefly the lines of work followed by you before receiving your present appointment, with the exception of your service indicated in answer to questions 11, 12, 13, and 14.)

Carpenter. Have owned & sailed my own boats.

17. What education have you received? (Indicate the grades of schools you have attended, and, in case you have attended schools of higher grade than high schools, give the institution, degrees received, and date in each case. Example: Public school; high school; business college; Cornell University, A. B., 1900; Columbia University, LL. B., 1903.)

New York City Public School. Grammer Department.

18. What special qualifications have you—educational, professional, technical, mechanical, etc.? (Examples: Qualified as "Lawyer," or "Civil Engineer," or "Translator," or "Interpreter," or "Draftsman," or "Carpenter.")

Carpenter. would say also that I am at present on the Eligible list for Carpenter State Service of N. J.

19. What, if any, civil service examinations have you passed? (Give names and dates as near as you recollect.)

U. S. Civil Service for Fireman. 1903. Municipal New York City for Patrolman. 1906 Carpenter. New Jersey State Service 1915
U. S. Civil Service Keeper Light House 1916

20. Were the answers to the foregoing questions written by you? (If not, state the name and address of the person who wrote them for you.)

Yes

21. State the date upon which the above blanks were filled. Oct. 7. 1916, 191

Witness:

In case signature is by mark.

(Signature) Victor Ruiz

P. O. Address: Bayside New York City
City or town.
6th Street
Number and street.
N. Y.
State or Territory.

(Where the appointee is to be employed outside of the District of Columbia the information given in Part I should be reviewed and approved by the officer in immediate charge before forwarding to the Bureau. Where he is to be employed in the District of Columbia, Part I should be reviewed and approved by the officer who executes Part II.)

Reviewed, approved, and forwarded Nov 11, 191 6

(Signature)

J. T. YATES.

(Official title)

11—1434

PART II.

(Part II should be executed by the executive officer of the Bureau of the Department to which the employee is assigned or by some authorized official who can give the information desired. If unable to answer any question, indicate that fact.)

---

1. State the Bureau or Service, place, and district in which the person who answered the foregoing questions is employed:

Lt Service | Add Rurl at Large | 3
Bureau or Service. | Place (city, town, station, or vessel). | District.

2. To what position has he been appointed? Add Keeper

3. State the date of appointment. Sept 26/16

4. State the date the appointment was effective. (If appointment was made to take effect on date of oath, so state.)

Date E.O.D.

5. State the date of the oath. Oct 16/16

6. State the date the employee entered on duty. Oct 17/16

7. What is his salary? 456 p.a.

8. From what appropriation is he paid? Salaries

9. Is the position excepted, competitive, or unclassified under the civil service rules? Competitive

10. If classified, state the date of classification. May 6/1916

11. In what manner did the employee enter the service? (Examples: "From stenography and typewriting examination;" or "without examination;" or "by reinstatement;" or "by transfer from ——," stating Department, Bureau or Service, position, and salary, if known.)

Lineal Eligible Exam Apl 15/16

12. Is the employee required to give bond? No

13. When the legal residence given in answer to question 3, Part I, differs from that given in the certificate of appointment, the discrepancy should be explained.

14. If foreign born, state when and where naturalization papers were taken out.

Aug 15, 1917 Supreme Court, Wyo.

Aug 15, 1907

Reviewed, approved, and forwarded to the Department.

(Signature) J. T. YATES.

(Official title)

Date: ....., 191

11—1044

FWO-WJL

November 27,1917.

Commissioner:

Referring to Bureau's endorsement of November 17th forwarding Department letter of November 15th concerning the discontinuance of the services of Victor Knies, Assistant Keeper of Whale Rock Light Station,R.I.

The Bureau is advised that Mr.Knies' services were discontinued effective at the close of November 21st 1917. He has not taken leave in excess of the accrued rate.

J T Yates

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

Recorded leave allow thru 25

LIGHT-HOUSE INSPECTOR
3d DIST.
NOV 27 1917
RECEIVED
TOMPKINSVILLE, N.Y.

Gov-Tug
Expend
C C
Inspector

THIRD DISTRICT

Whale Rock
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

Nov 24, 1917

Mr Victor Knies left this station on the 21 th of this month his shore leave is as follows

Left station	Ret. to station
Nov 2. 10 am	Nov 5. 5 Pm
Nov 18. 9am	Nov 20. 12 M

George. H. Tooker
Keeper

51 days leave to Oct 31
5 " Nov.
56
65 days. Allowance 6 days P. M. for about 10 4/5 months

Last day Knies Nov 21-17
Tooker E O D new position Nov 22-17

COPY. 127

JEH.
2 inclosures.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

LIGHT-HOUSE INSPECTOR 3D DIST NOV 23 1917 RECEIVED TOMPKINSVILLE, N.Y.

November 22, 1917.

Chief,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Referring again to your letter of October 4, 1917 (RLD:JFC), and inclosures, concerning the loyalty of Victor Kneiss (Knies), in which mention is also made of the question of the loyalty of "R. Weimer, keeper of Sakonnet Light Station, R. I."

I take pleasure in inclosing copy of report of November 12, together with copy of memorandum of November 6, submitted by the Inspector of the 3rd Lighthouse District, with headquarters at Tompkinsville, N. Y. The views and recommendation of the Inspector are concurred in by this Bureau, and instructions have accordingly been issued to abolish the position of assistant keeper at this light station and to discontinue the services of assistant keeper Knies.

With reference to the statement in the inclosed report of November 12, that there is no employee by the name of R. Weimer in the 3rd Lighthouse District, your attention is respectfully invited to this Bureau's letter of October 26, replying to your letter of October 12, 1917, concerning the loyalty of keeper Brown of Sakonnet Light Station, R. I.

Respectfully,

(Signed). G T Putnam

Commissioner.

COPY to Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., for his information, guidance, and files. See Bureau indorsement of Nov. 17, on Department letter of Nov. 15, 1917.

Conway

Acting Commissioner.

FWO-WJL

November 19,1917.

Victor Knies,Asst.Keeper,
THROUGH THE KEEPER
Whale Rock Light Station,
Narragansett Pier,R.I.

Enclosed herewith is Department of Commerce letter dated November 15th 1917 stating that in view of the fact that the position of assistant keeper at Whale Rock Light Station has been abolished your services as assistant keeper at that station have been discontinued.

The effective date of the discontinuance of your services will be the close of the date on which you receive this letter.

J T Yates

****

Office of Inspector,3rd Lighthouse District,
Tompkinsville,N.Y. November 19,1917.

Copy forwarded to George H.Tooker,Keeper, Whale Rock Light Station, Narragansett Pier,R.I.,with the request that he advise this office promptly by letter of the date on which Department letter of November 15th 1917 is delivered to assistant keeper Knies, also report by letter full information as to leave of absence taken by Mr.Knies during the month of November 1917 up to the date on which he receives Department letter of November 15th 1917.

J T Yates

Form 1204

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

RECEIVED AT ST. GEORGE, S. I., N. Y.

Shared chief clerk 3 Pmd By M

C7NY TI 18 GOVT.

DC WASHINGTON DC NOV 17 1917 2PM

LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR

STGEORGE NY

POSITION ASST. KEEPER WHALEROCK SERVICE KNEIS DISCONTINUED

KEEPER PROMOTED AS RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE ENTRANCE PUTNAM. 236PM

LIGHT-HOUSE INSPECTOR 3D DIST. NOV 17 1917 RECEIVED TOMPKINSVILLE, N.Y.

Recd 3 3/11 Pm.

~~H 24~~

11-17-17

J. C. G.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR 2d DIST NOV 17 1917 RECEIVED ITHACA, N.Y.

3 P. M

11-17-17

Telegram

Washington.

Position acct Kyes Whale Rock
Services discontinued
Keeper promoted as recommended
effective entrance —

Putnam

No. 205
Ed. 10-26-15—500,000

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK
WASHINGTON

LIGHT NOV 16 1917 HOUSES

November 15, 1917.

LIGHT-HOUSE INSPECTOR 32 DIST. NOV 19 1917 RECEIVED TOMPKINSVILLE N.Y.

Commissioner of Lighthouses:

In accordance with the Bureau's recommendation of the 13th instant, the Department has discontinued the position of assistant keeper of Whale Rock Light Station, Rhode Island, at $516 per annum, and has increased the pay of the position of keeper from $648 to $732 per annum, thereby transferring Whale Rock Light Station from class 4-B to class 3-A of the schedule.

In accordance with the Bureau's further recommendation, the services of Victor Knies as assistant keeper of Whale Rock Light Station, Rhode Island, have been discontinued to take effect at the close of a date to be fixed by the Bureau and reported to the Department, and a new appointment has been issued to George H. Tooker as keeper of Whale Rock Light Station, Rhode Island, effective on the date he enters on duty at the increased rate of pay.

The correspondence which the Bureau requested to be returned, is enclosed herewith.

By direction of the Secretary:

Assistant Secretary.

McC-HEV
1 inclosure.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington.
November 17, 1917.

Enclosure 1873.

Light-House Inspector, Tompkinsville, New York.

for his information, guidance, and files of office. Inclosed is confirmation of telegram C-N. of this date to you. Report effective date of discontinuance of the services of Knies and state whether he has taken leave in excess of the accrued rate.

Acting Commissioner.

LIGHT
NOV 17 1917
HOUSES

November 15, 1917.

Sir:

In view of the fact that the position occupied by you has been abolished, the Department, upon recommendation of the Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses, has discontinued your services as assistant keeper of Whale Rock Light Station, Rhode Island, at $516 per annum, in the Lighthouse Service, to take effect at the close of a date to be fixed by the Bureau and reported to the Department.

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

[SIGNED] W. S. GILCHRIST

Acting Chief of Appointment Division.

Mr. Victor Knies,
Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

C
M.

3 Insp.

...A U. S. GOVERNMENT BOND OF THE SECOND LIBERTY L...

McC-T

Victor Kneiss,
discontinuance.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON November 13, 1917.

LIGHT-HOUSE INSPECTOR 32 DIST. NOV 15 1917 RECEIVED TOMPKINSVILLE, N.Y.

Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, New York:

Referring to your indorsement of November 12, 1917 and accompanying papers, relative to the loyalty of Victor Kneiss, assistant keeper, Whale Rock Light Station, Rhode Island.

The papers have this day been submitted to the Department for approval of your recommendation that the position of assistant keeper and the services of the incumbent, Victor Kneiss, be discontinued, effective on a date later to be determined and reported. Report effective date and also report at proper time whether Kneiss has taken leave in excess of accrued rate.

Recommendation has also been made to the Department for authorization of increase in pay of position of keeper to $732 per annum.

Acting Commissioner

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

JTY-WJL

GENERAL DEPOT
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 3D DISTRICT
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

November 6,1917.

Memorandum of investigation of alleged misconduct of Assistant Keeper Knies, Whale Rock Light Station.

On November 5th 1917 I visited the station for this purpose and found only the keeper at the station, the assistant being away on leave. I found everything about the station in very good condition. Upon inquiry of the keeper as to the conduct of Knies, he stated that he did not trust Knies, but that in his hearing had never in any way said anything directly detrimental to the United States or any thing that can be used or construed as a direct basis for assuming his disloyalty. He stated that the assistant keeper did lots of talking indirectly in a roundabout fashion, but whether same was due to disloyalty or to a spirit of braggadocio on the part of Knies he did not know. He stated that Knies on several occasions had taken the boat and gone ashore clamming and on these occasions he spent considerable time along the shore and at the entrance to some of the coves in the vicinity.

Upon examining Knies' room at the station the only thing found was a board about four foot long and eight inches wide on which had been painted the alphabet in one column; in the next column corresponding to the letters of the alphabet was a semiphore alphabet, in the next column the wigwag alphabet, in the next the alphabet of the electric flash light signals, in the next column was the international code signals. Down in one corner were the flags of the weather bureau signals. On the top of this board were painted the American coat of arms in the center, the Lighthouse Pennant one side, and the Secretary's flag on the other.

While this has no direct bearing on this matter it seems rather strange that any one would be collecting and recording all of this information. The source from which it was all obtained could not be determined.

I stopped at Narragansett Pier and interviewed the Captain of the Life Saving Station, who stated that Knies had done lots of talking but had never directly made any statements that would indicate his disloyalty, but had done a lot of roundabout talking. The Captain of the Life Saving Station said he thought that Knies was a "foxy gent" and would be hard to catch, but that he himself felt doubtful about him and did not trust him made

Also called on the Postmaster at Narragansett Pier who much the same statements as the others, to the effect that Knies had done a lot of roundabout and foolish talking, but that he had never said anything directly that would indicate

his disloyalty to America, but that he had on several occasions expressed himself very bitterly against England.

It does not appear that there is any thing directly against this man. His actions however seem to have caused considerable comment in this vicinity of Narragansett Pier also created distrust in the minds of practically all who have come in contact with him.

J T Yates

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

2709

11-27

JTY-WJL

File Victor Knies

GENERAL DEPOT
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 3D DISTRICT
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

November 6,1917.

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J. T. Yates

Copy WJL

JSC-FCR.
Department of Commerce
Bureau of Lighthouses
Washington

October 6,1917.

Subject: Letter of October 4,1917, from Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, with enclosures, regarding question of loyalty of Kneiss, Whale Rock Light Station, and Weimer, Sakonnet Light Station.

Referred to Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville,N.Y., for investigation and return with report and recommendation.

The Bureau is of opinion that example should be made in either or both of these cases if justification therefor should be found.

sgd Conway
Acting Commissioner.

Copy WJL

RLD:JFC.
Department of Justice,
Bureau of Investigation,
Washington,

October 4,1917.

George R.Putnam,Esquire,
Commissioner of Lighthouses,
Department of Commerce.

Dear Sir:

I enclose herewith for your information copy of a letter dated the 20th ultimo, from Special Agent in Charge Howick, Providence, Rhode Island, and copy of the accompanying report to him of Special Agent Denning for September 17,1917, concerning Victor Kneiss, Assistant Keeper, Whale Rock Lighthouse.

A similar communication is being addressed to the office of Naval Intelligence.

Very truly yours,

sgd A.B.Bielaski
Chief

Copy WJL

Tom Howick
Special Agent in Charge

Department of Justice,
Bureau of Investigation,
Office of Special Agent in Charge
301 Federal Building
Providence, Rhode Island

September 20,1917.

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

In re Victor Kneiss, Asst.Keeper, Whale Rock Light
Possible German Activities

Dear Sir:-

This matter was first brought to my attention through a letter from J.P.Norton, Narragansett Pier, dated the 10th instant, reading as follows:

"There is a case here that I think ought to be looked into. The man is a native born German and is in the Government service as Asst.Light House Keeper at Whale Rock Light here. He talks very funny for a loyal citizen. Everything German is all right, all the rest is wrong. A short time ago I heard him talking in the Post Office. He was in the life saving station talking against the allies. He is very busy finding out all the depths of water around these ports and also makes trips to Newport and gets in with all the sailors and different departments using his position as Asst.Light House Keeper to get him through. He also carries on a regular course of discouragement against enlistment, telling woman folks all about the horrors of war, and all he can towards discouraging taking of Liberty Bonds and so forth. For proof of this you can see the Postmaster, the man at the Life Saving station and Mr. Fred Tucker, if they are not afraid to talk as they all seem to be in fear of him."

Investigation was made by Agent Deming who reported to me as per copy attached.

Efforts to substantiate Mr.Norton's claim that this subject had been guilty of efforts to discourage or retard enlistment were without results. Nor does the investigation disclose any violation of the Espionage Act or other Federal Statutes for which Kneiss might be prosecuted. His attitude as evidenced by his statements however does seem to warrant his removal from his present position. The matter at least should be brought to the attention of the head of the service with which he is connected.

Since Agent Deming rendered his report I have been advised by the Postmaster at Narragansett Pier that on April 8,1917, this subject mailed camera films to W.M.Latham, 127 East 24th Street, between Park and Lexington Avenues, New York City.

Please advise what if any further action is desired in this case, or if consistent advise what disposition is made of same.

In this connection it might not be out of place to call your attention to reports by the Newport and Providence offices of the Bureau on one R.Weimer, Lighthousekeeper at Seaconnet Point. From all indications both these lighthouses could be in the hands of parties more loyal to this country.

Respectfully,

sgd Tom Howick
Special Agent in Charge

Copy WJL

Every German or Austrian in the United States, whether naturalized or not, unless known by years of association to be absolutely loyal, should be treated as a potential spy. Keep your eyes and ears open. Whenever any suspicious act or disloyal word comes to your notice communicate at once with the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice, Room 301, Federal Building, Providence.

We are at war with the most merciless and inhuman nation in the world. Hundres of thousands of its people in this country want to see America humiliated and beaten to her knees, and they are doing, and will do, everything in their power to bring this about.

Take nothing for granted. Energy and alertness in this direction may save the life of your son, your husband or your brother.

Copy WJL

September 17,1917.

Mr. Tom Howick,
Special Agent in Charge,
Providence,R.I.

Dear Sir: In re: Victor Kneiss

Postmaster Greenman, Narragansett Pier, in interview with agent states that the subject is assistant keeper of Whale Rock Lighthouse in the west passage of Narragansett Bay; that subject is a naturalized American of German birth; that he has on several occasions in his presence made unpatriotic pro-German and anti-American statements and did state upon one occasion that he was a German and that Whale Rock was a German light.

The subject has manifested a great deal of interest in the soundings adjacent to and inside of the west passage. The informant further states that subject is an ex-New York Policeman and draws $700.00 per year pension for some physical disablement, nature unknown.

Informant further states that head-keeper Tooker of Whale Rock Light stands in considerable fear of the subject, but was unable to state whether it was bodily fear or fear of treachery of some sort.

In re: Victor Kniess

William T.Boyd, number one man, Coast Guard, Station 54, Narragansett Pier. Informant states that said Victor Kniess stated in his presence and in the presence of L.S. Potter, another member of the same coast guard, that he Kniess was a German and Whale Rock was a German light. His attention was called to a clipping from the Providence Journal. Said clipping has headed the editorial column formany weks - sample attached. He applied an unwriteable epithet to said article and further stated that it was a disgrace to America and an insult to every German in the country. Informant Boyd further states that at the outbreak of the war head-keeper Tooker of Whale Rock Light asked him and other guards to watch the light and if they saw a lantern hung low on the lighthouse for him to come out at once, also to report same to the postmaster.

John a Shaw, a third member of the coast guard, also testified as to subject's pro-German talk; was also witness to his statement and answers in regard to the editorial clipping from the Journal above mentioned.

T.H. 9/17/17

In re: Victor Kniess

James A.Hollingsworth, a photographer on the board walk at Narragansett Pier, states that he is at Narragansett Pier during the summer time and leaves about October first for Jacksonville, Florida; that subject Kniess was in his place recently having some photographs taken and made the statement that he was a German and Whale Rock was a German light. He further stated that he never wore the uniform of light keeper when he could help it; that he did not care for it. As far as agent could learn he did not state why he did not care for it.

o

Agent made several efforts to find J.P.Norton, who signed the attached letter, but was unable to do so. He also made effort to find Fred Tucker, the fisherman mentioned in the above letter as having heard Kneiss make disloyal statements. Said Tucker was away in his boat hauling lobster pots according to reports and information, and that having completed the hauling of said pots he would sail with his cargo for Newport and it was unlikely that he would be back during the day.

Note: Agent gathers from many conversations that the subject of this report, Kniess, claims to have been a member of the Becker strong-arm-squad so-called of the New York Police Department; that he is a loud talker and a bully and seems generally desirous of saying things that arouse antagonism and create hard feelings. Agent was unable to learn that he had any communication with various Germans at the Pier during the past summer or, in fact, committed any disloyal acts other than the talk referred to in this report. It is evident, however, that Capt.Tucker lives in fear of this man and it would seem that steps should be taken to see Capt.Tooker and get a statement from him on the subject. This would have to be done directly and without arousing the suspicions of the assistant keeper.

Very truly yours,

sgd H.B.Denning
Special Agent

P.S. Subject receives papers, magazines, etc. from Anna Schweitze, 180 Ohio Ave., Prov. He also sends a great deal of mail to his wife and the postmaster has promised to supply her address.

H. B. D.

FWO-WJL

November 12,1917.

SUBJECT: Let. Oct. 4,1917 from Bu.Investigation, with enclo. re question of loyalty of Kneiss,Whale Rock L.S. and Weimer, Sakonnet L.S. - Bu.end.Oct.6,1917.

Returned to Commissioner enclosing copy of Inspector's Memorandum of investigation dated November 6th 1917.

There is no direct evidence to show the disloyalty of assistant keeper Knies but in view of such possibility and to the unfavorable opinion he has created in that vicinity it is not considered advisable to continue his services at Whale Rock Light Station. As there are no vacancies at stations in this District where it would be possible to transfer him where he would not have equally as much chance of espionage as at Whale Rock Light Station, it is recommended that the position of assistant keeper of Whale Rock Light Station be abolished and the services of assistant keeper Victor Knies discontinued effective at the close of the date on which he receives notification, the station to be operated by one man and that the salary of the position of keeper at this station be increased from $648 to $732 per annum, also that the keeper be given permission to have his family at the station.

At present on account of the shortage of men, it would be impossible to obtain another man to fill the position of assistant keeper at this station. Increasing the keeper's salary and permitting him to have his family at the station is the only practical solution of the situation. When conditions are again such that men can be obtained for employment at stations such as Whale Rock Light Station, it is proposed to again have the position of assistant keeper of Whale Rock Light Station authorized.

The reference to one, R.Weimer, Lighthouse Keeper at Sakonnet Point is not understood as there is no employee of that name at a light station in this District. This may have come connection with the case of Keeper Brown of Sakonnet Light Station, attention being invited to Bureau's endorsement of October 25th 1917 and previous correspondence.

J T Yates

JTY-WJL

November 6,1917.

Memorandum of investigation of alleged misconduct of Assistant Keeper Knies, Whale Rock Light Station.

On November 5th 1917 I visited the station for this purpose and found only the keeper at the station, the assistant being away on leave. I found everything about the station in very good condition. Upon inquiry of the keeper as to the conduct of Knies, he stated that he did not trust Knies, but that in his hearing had never in any way said anything directly detrimental to the United States or any thing that can be used or construed as a direct basis for assuming his disloyalty. He stated that the assistant keeper did lots of talking indirectly in a roundabout fashion, but whether same was due to disloyalty or to a spirit of braggadocio on the part of Knies he did not know. He stated that Knies on several occasions had taken the boat and gone ashore clamming and on these occaions he spent considerable time along the shore and at the entrance to some of the coves in the vicinity.

Upon examining Knies' room at the station the only thing found was a board about four foot long and eight inches wide on which had been painted the alphabet in one column; in the next column corresponding to the letters of the alphabet was a semiphore alphabet, in the next column the wigwag alphabet, in the next the alphabet of the electric flash light signals, in the next column was the international code signals. Down in one corner were the flags of the weather bureau signals. On the top of this board were painted the American coat of arms in the center, the Lighthouse Pennant one side, and the Secretary's flag on the other.

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J T Yates

1805

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT-HOUSE INSPECTOR
2d DIST.
JUN
30
1917
RECEIVED
TOMPKINSVILLE, N.Y.

THIRD DISTRICT

Whale Rock Station
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

June 29, 1917

Inspector
thru Keeper
Would it be convient for me to see you personaly
~~for~~ on or about July 10. 1917.
I would appreciate that you make the date
of the appointment & time
Respectfully
Victor Knipe
Asst Keeper

George H Tooker
Keeper

FWO-WJL

June 30,1917.

Victor Knies,Asst.Keeper,
Through Keeper,
Whale Rock Light Station,.
Narragansett Pier, R.I.

Referring to your letter of June 29th you are advised that you may call at this office about July 10th if you desire but it is impossible to state at this time as to whether or not the Inspector will be present on that date.

J T Yates

2-

(73-)

JHG

Victor Kniew, Asst.Keeper,
Through the Keeper,
Whale Rock Lt.Sta.,
Narragansett Pier, R.I.

June 18,1917

In reply to your letter dated May 12,1917, received at this office to-day, you are informed that the question as to your legal residence is a legal matter which this office is unable to decide for you.

J. T. YATES.

Inspector

BOND
HAMERMILL

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT-HOUSE INSPECTOR
2d DIST.
JUN 18 1917
RECEIVED
TOMPKINSVILLE, N.Y.

THIRD DISTRICT

Wkalr Rock Station
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

May 12, 1917

Inspector

Thru Keeper George H. Tooker Keeper

I would like for you to find out for me, what is my present Legal Residence.

The last time that I have voted was in the spring election 1915 at Harlingen, Somerset Co New Jersey.

I left Somerset Co New Jersey sometime in July 1915, going to Plymouth Co, Mass, where I and my family stayed until sometime in Nov. 1915., (about the 15th)2.

My family and I came down to Bayside New York City and my wife & daughter are at present boarding there. and I have been in this Station since I was transferred from Stratford Shoal Station Nov. 9. 1916

As I own a farm in New Jersey, but have leased it which I claim as my legal Residence I do not want to violate the Army Census and do not know if I am exempt being in the Light House Service I then for make this request. Viola Knies asst. Keeper.

See Page 2

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Page 2.

(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

....., 191

Would also state that I was in Bayside from about Nov 15 1915. to Oct 1 1916. when I entered this Service. that I was on the 9th of Nov. 1916 transfered from Stratford Shoal Light Station, N.Y. (therefore I was less than 1 Year in N.Y. State.) to Whale Rock Station R. I. & I am not a Year in R. I. either.

Victor Knives
Asst Keeper.

2586

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT-HOUSE INSPECTOR 2D DIST. MAY 1 1917 RECEIVED TOMPKINSVILLE, N.Y.

JHG

GENERAL DEPOT
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 3D DISTRICT
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

Position declined Mar 1917

15

George H. Tooker,
.....Keeper
Whale Rock
.....Light Station
Narragansett Pier, R.I.
.....

April 24, 1917

Furnish the information called for below in regard to Assistant Keeper Victor Knies and return this sheet to this office.

Be careful to see that the information given is accurate.

February 38

Height 5 feet 10 inches

Weight 194 pounds

Color of hair Black

Color of eyes Black

Distinguishing marks None

J T YATES
Inspector

Date April 25 1917

Returned to Inspector, the information requested having been inserted above.

George H. Tooker Keeper.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

JHG

3-105

GENERAL DEPOT
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 3D DISTRICT
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

May 23,1917

Victor Knies, Asst.Keeper,
Through the Keeper,
Whale Rock Lt.Sta.,
Narragansett Pier, R. I.

Enclosed is Form 206 "Record of Physical Examination of Light Keeper or Assistant Light Keeper", addressed to the United States Public Health Service, requesting that you be given a physical examination, for the purpose of determining whether or not you are entitled to medical relief without charge at hospitals and other stations of the Public Health Service, pursuant to the Act of Congress, approved Auguse 28,1916. A copy of the provision contained in said Act is quoted in District Circular Letter No.187, dated May 21,1917.

Under the terms thereof it will be necessary for you to submit to said examination and be found physically qualified before you will be entitled to the benefits provided for by the Act of August 28,1916. As said benefits will be solely to your personal advantage it is to your interest to give this matter attention at the earliest opportunity.

After you have been given a physical examination by the medical officer designated on attached Form 206, said Form 206 will be returned to you by the medical officer. You will then send it to this office so that it may be recorded, after which it will be returned to you. The original copy of Form 206 will then be your property, and you are directed to preserve it and keep it in your possession for future reference.

J. T. YATES

Inspector

Form 206 File No. 8

RECORD OF PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OF LIGHT KEEPER OR ASSISTANT LIGHT KEEPER

IN CONNECTION WITH MEDICAL RELIEF BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

Office of Lighthouse Inspector, 3rd District,

Place, Tompkinsville, N. Y.

Date, May 23, 1917, 191

To the Medical Officer in Charge,
U. S. Public Health Service,

Providence, R.I.

Sir:

Please examine Victor Knies, Asst. Keeper, Whale Rock Lt. Sta.

nativity, Germany; age, 38; height, 5 feet, 10 inches;

weight, 194 pounds; color of hair, Black; color of eyes, Black

distinguishing marks, None

as to eyesight, hearing, and physical condition.

When the examination has been completed the findings should be recorded on this blank and the blank returned to the applicant.

Respectfully,

J. T. YATES.

Lighthouse Inspector.

(Signature of applicant:)

(To be signed in the presence of the officer issuing this blank or witnessed by a designated employee of the Lighthouse Service.) Witnessed by.....Keeper, Whale Rock Lt. Sta.

U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Place,

Date, , 191

To Lighthouse Inspector,

Sir: This certifies that I have this day examined the eyesight, hearing, and physical condition of , and find him physically { disqualified / qualified* } in accordance with rules approved by the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Commerce, respecting the treatment by the Public Health Service of light keepers and assistant light keepers of the Lighthouse Service pursuant to the Act of Congress approved August 28, 1916.

He is disqualified for the reasons shown on page 3.

Surgeon, U. S. Public Health Service.

* If qualified, strike out the word "disqualified" and the paragraph following.

11—3999

5197

Form 76

SHORE LIBERTY OR LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF KEEPERS

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT-HOUSE INSPECTOR 3d DIST. FEB 13 1917 RECEIVED TOMPKINSVILLE N.Y.

REQUEST

Whale Rock, 2/12, 191 7
(Station.)

LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 3rd DISTRICT:

I respectfully request that I be granted 15 days of shore liberty or leave, from Feb. 15 to March 2, 1917, inclusive, 191 . I have had Four days shore liberty or leave to date during this calendar year.

LIGHT-HOUSE INSPECTOR 3d DIST. MAR 6 1917 RECEIVED TOMPKINSVILLE N.Y.

This application for shore liberty or leave is made in accordance with regulations governing this subject for this class station and with the understanding that I furnish, if required, at my own expense, a substitute competent in all respects to perform my duties and who will be satisfactory to you.

The name and address of the substitute I propose to furnish follow:

George La Flame (Name.) Wonosetta Plat, East Providence R. I. (P. O. Address.)

If leave is granted, my address during absence will be as follows, and any change will be reported to the keeper in charge of the station:

6th Street, Telephone 2987-R. (Street or R. D. Route) Bayside (City.) New York City (State.)

Forwarded. Approval recommended.
Proposed substitute is considered satisfactory and competent.

George H. Tooker
Keeper in charge.

Victor Knies
(Applicant's signature.)

Keeper
(Title.)

AUTHORITY

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 3RD DISTRICT, Feb. 13, 1917, 191

The above application for shore liberty or leave is hereby approved for 15 days, from Feb. 15 to March 1, inclusive, 1917.

Substitute must be furnished during this absence.
(Insert "must" or "need not.")

J. T. YATES.

Inspector, Third *Lighthouse District.*

FINAL REPORT

Absence begun: At 8:30 A.M. Feb 15, 1917.
(State nearest hour.)

Returned to duty: At 11:30 M. March 2 1917.
(State nearest hour.)

Period of absence: 15 days 3 hrs days.

Period charged: days.

Certified correct and forwarded.

George H Tooker
Keeper in charge.

Victor Knies
(Applicant's signature.)

Asst. Keeper
(Title.)

11—882

5308

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT-HOUSE INSPECTOR 2d DIST. JAN 31 1917 RECEIVED TOMPKINSVILLE, N.Y.

New list received 3-5-1917 GHT.

THIRD DISTRICT

Whale Rock
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

January 28, 1917

Inspector. thru Keeper

The following is a list of Stations to which I would accept transfer in the event of vacancy either as Keeper or Ass't

- X Black Rock
- X Bristol Ferry
- X Bullock Point
- X Castle Hill
- X Coney Island
- X Coxsackie
- X Dutch Island
- X Fort Adams
- X X Fort Wadsworth
- X Horton's Point
- X Hell Gate
- X Hudson City
- X Morgan Point
- X Mussel Bed Shoal
- X North Brothers Island
- X Old Field Point
- X X Rose Island
- X Sands Point
- X Saugerties
- X Sea Gate
- X X Waackaack
- X X Warwick
- X Whale Rock.

Victor Kniss 1st Asst.

G. H. Tooker Keeper

8463

JHG

Victor Knies, Additional Keeper, Nov.7,1916

Through the Keeper,

Stratford Shoal Lt.Sta.,

Port Jefferson, N.Y.

You are informed that you have been selected for appointment to the position of assistant keeper of Whale Rock Light Station, Narragansett Bay, R. I., with pay at the rate of $516 per annum, and in accordance therewith are hereby directed to proceed to the station named and enter on duty promptly upon receipt of this letter. The effective date of your appointment to the position of assistant keeper of Whale Rock Lt. Sta., will be November 12, and until that date your status will remain as at present, additional keeper, the same as Stratford Shoal. Keeper a correct record of your travel expenses and submit bill for same to this office.

Travel order made Nov 8-1916 JHG

J. T. YATES

Inspector

Tompkinsville, N.Y., Nov.7,1916

Copy forwarded to keeper of Whale Rock Lt.Sta., for his information. Mr.Knies will be taken up as an additional keeper at Whale Rock until the termination of Mr.Flanagan's services. Mr.Flanagan is to remain on duty just the same up to the time his resignation is effective, viz close of Nov.11,1916. Mr.Knies will be appointed to the position of assistant keeper of Whale Rock effective Nov.12th. Report promptly by mail the date Knies reports at Whale Rock and the last day of service of Flanagan.

J. T. YATES

Inspector

JEG

November 9,1916

Commissioner:

Referring to Form 73 forwarded to the Bureau to-day recommending the transfer and promotion of Victor Knies from the position of additional keeper at large to the position of assistant keeper of Whale Rock Light Station, effective November 12,1916.

It is requested that this office be advised by telegraph of Mr. Knies' appointment to said position so that the necessary orders may be issued by this office sufficiently in advance to enable him to enter on duty on November 12,1916.

J. T. YATES.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE



THIRD DISTRICT

Clairy
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

Nov. 9, 1916.

Inspector.

Sir:-

Took asst. keeper from Stratford Shoals St. Sta. and landed him at New Haven 2 p.m. this day as per verbal order of 11/8/16.

Respy.
G Jennings.
Asst. Keeper.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT-HOUSE INSPECTOR 2nd DIST. NOV 14 1916 RECEIVED TOMPKINSVILLE, N.Y.

THIRD DISTRICT

Whale Rock
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

Nov 10, 1916

Inspector

Mr Knies arrived at Sta 3 30 P m Nov 10. 1916 by torpedoer boat No 16 U.S.N.

George H. Tooker
Keeper

Nov 10 & 11 as Additional Keeper at Whale Rock
Nov 12 E.O.D. as Asst. Keeper at Whale Rock

Form 73

NOMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

HGF

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 3rd DISTRICT,

Tompkinsville, N. Y. (City.) November 9, 1916 (Date.), 191

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Action recommended, Change in rating and designation.

Name, Victor Knies — Legal residence, New York

Position, Assistant Keeper — Salary, $516 per annum

Location, Whale Rock Light Station, R.I. — Appropriation, Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses

Effective November 12, 1916 — {the actual date of entrance on duty, or / as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

Former position, Additional Keeper — Former salary, $456 per annum

Location, At large, 3rd District.

Rank on eligible list, Rating, Percentage, , Other eligibles considered:

Previous incumbent, John J. Flanagan — Services terminated, November 11, 1916

Reason, Resignation.

Members of family in Government Service,

Remarks: Mr. Knies entered the service on October 2, 1916 as Additional Keeper at large, and since that date has been detailed to Stratford Shoal Lt. Sta. The vacancy to which appointment is recommended could not be foreseen at the time he was appointed. No other employee of District desired transfer to this position.

Selection regular, subject to

U. S. Civil Service Commission.

ASPINWALL

BUTLER

Secretary,

Victor Knies, Asst. Keeper,
Whale Rock Light Station,
Narragansett Pier, R.I.

Submitted to the Secretary o

[1] Strike out the clause which does not apply.

11—2314

GENERAL APPOINTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

LIGHT HOUSES NOV 13 1916

November 11, 1916.

Mr. Victor Knies,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office,

Assistant Keeper

in the Lighthouse Service

at a salary of Five Hundred and Sixteen dollars per annum,

effective on the date on which you enter upon duty in the above-mentioned position.

(By change from additional keeper at $456 per annum.)

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS

L

Chief of Appointment Division.

Appropriation: Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Vice: John J. Flanagan.

Legal Residence: New York.

11—3892

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT-HOUSE INSPECTOR 3D DIST. OCT 5 1916 RECEIVED TOMPKINSVILLE, N.Y.

THIRD DISTRICT

Stratford Shoals
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

Oct. 2, 1916

Inspector:—

Mr. Victor Knies reported at this station as Additional Keeper on Oct. 2, 1916.

Louie B Waterman
Keeper.

E O D - October 2 - 1916

Path mailed me 10/21/16

JHG

Sept. 29,1916

Mr. Victor Knies,
Sixth Street,
Bay Side, N. Y.

Sir:-

You are informed that you have been appointed to the position of additional Keeper at large, and in accordance therewith are hereby directed to proceed to Stratford Shoal Light Station and enter on duty as assitional keeper at the earliest possible date after receipt of this letter. Transportation will be at your own expense. Show this letter to the keeper, which will be his authority for assigning you to duty. The Keeper's name and address are Louie B. Waterman, Port Jefferson, N. Y.

Respectfully,

J T YATES
Inspector

Tompkinsville,N.Y.,Sept.29,1916
Copy forwarded to Keeper of Stratford Shoal Lt.Sta.,for his information. Report to this office promptly by mail the date on which Knies reports for duty as Additional Keeper.

J. T. YATES.
Inspector

CERTIFICATE OF PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

LIGHT
SEP 28 1916
HOUSES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

September 26, 1916.

Mr. Victor Knies,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office and to a probationary period of not to exceed six months as provided by paragraph (c) of section 1 of civil-service rule VII, Additional Keeper in the Lighthouse Service at a salary of Four Hundred and Fifty-six dollars per annum, effective on the date on which you enter upon duty in the above-mentioned position.

By selection from certificate of eligibles (No. - - - -) issued by the local Civil Service Board for the Third Lighthouse District.

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS
Chief of Appointment Division.

C

Appropriation: Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Vice: John J. Flanagan.

Legal Residence: New York.

(See reverse side.)

Form 73.

NOMINATION

2431

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

MD

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 3rd DISTRICT.

Tompkinsville, N.Y., (City.) September 22 (Date.), 1916

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:
(Through Sec'y, 2nd Civil Service Dist.)

Action recommended, Probationary appointment.

Name, **Victor Knies**

Legal residence, **New York**

Position, **Additional Keeper**

Salary, **$456.00 per annum**

Location, **At large.**

Appropriation, **Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.**

Effective **October 1, 1916** { ~~the actual date of entrance on duty,~~ or as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

Former position,

Former salary,

Location,

Rank on eligible list, **1** Rating, **Keeper** Percentage, **81.0**, Other eligibles considered:

Previous incumbent, **John J.Flanagan** Services terminated, **September 15, 1916**

Reason, **Transferred.**

Members of family in Government Service, **None.**

Remarks: **No quarters are provided for this additional keeper. Nos.1,2, 3 and 4 on eligible list will not accept appointment to stations where there are no family quarters provided. Nos.5 and 6 are ineligible for appointment to this position. No.7 will not accept appointment to this position.**

Selection regular, subject to the action of the U. S. Civil Service Commission. , 191

IN THE ABSENCE AND BY DIRECTION OF INSPECTOR

Aspinwall
Butler
Cav

HASKELL
Supt., 3d L.H.Dist.

Secretary, Civil Service District.

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

† Strike out the clause which does not apply.

11—2314

HMD

Mr. Victor Knies,
6th St.,
Bay Side, N.Y.

September 22, 1916

Sir:-

Referring to your letter of September 20, 1916, stating that you were willing to accept the position of Additional Keeper for assignment to duty at such stations in the 3rd Light-house District at which your services may be required. You are informed that you have today been nominated for this position, and in accordance therewith are hereby directed to hold yourself in readiness to enter on duty in the same as soon as definite orders are sent you. Should you be appointed to this position, your services will probably be required about October 1, 1916.

In the absence and by direction of the Inspector,

Respectfully,

HASKELL

Supt., 3rd L.H.Dist.

Stratford Shoals.

Form 201 HMD

LETTER TO ELIGIBLES

Victor Knies,
6th St., Bay Side,
New York.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 3rd DIST.
Tompkinsville, NY, Sept. 21 1916.

It is important that this letter be answered promptly

SIR: You are hereby informed that you are being considered for the position of
(State position, location, and whether station is ashore or afloat.)

2nd Asst. Keeper at Fire Island Light Station, on shore near the west end of Fire Island, N.Y.

Salary: $456.00 per annum.

Quarters: are provided for families of keepers(See attached Note A)
(State whether or not quarters are provided by the Government for the families of keepers at this station, or if quarters can be rented by appointee in the vicinity.)

LIGHT-HOUSE INSPECTOR 3d DIST. SEP 1916 RECEIVED TOMPKINSVILLE, N.Y.

Fuel: 17 tons of coal and 1 cord of wood per year for 3 keepers.
(State allowance of fuel for domestic purposes, if authorized.)

Rations: Allowance 30¢ daily. (See attached Note B)
(State facts concerning rations for this position.)

This position is also offered to other eligibles, any one of whom may be selected, although all may indicate willingness to accept this position.

Read carefully the Instructions to Eligibles on the other side before returning this letter.

You will, therefore, please advise this office in this connection by answering the questions below and returning this communication at the earliest date practicable.

Respectfully, J. T. Yates, Inspector.

The following questions should be filled in by applicant:

Are you willing to accept this position if it is offered you? Yes

Do you wish your name restored to the register at this time? Yes

Are you willing to accept the next appointment offered? Yes

Do you wish your name restored to the register at some future time? If so, give date.

3-2

NOTICE TO ELIGIBLES

NOTE A - Keepers must provide their own furniture except stoves, bedding, kitchen utensils and dishes. No quarters are provided for families of keepers at this station, but family quarters can probably be rented at _____

NOTE B - Ration allowance of 30 cents per day will be paid by check, and the employee must provide himself with all necessary provisions. Keepers are not required to board assistant keepers.

If selected for this position, how soon could you report for duty? After Oct. 1st

(Signature) Victor Knies

Date, Sept 23 1916. (Post-office address) Bayside, N.Y.

11—742

LETTER TO ELIGIBLES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

Victor Knies,
6th St.,
Bay Side, N.Y.

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 3rd DIST.,
Tompkinsville, NY Sept. 15, 1916

SIR: You are hereby informed that you are being considered for the position of Additional Keeper for assignment to duty at such stations in the 3d Lighthouse Dist. at which your services may be required, but for the present assignment to duty will be made to Stratford Shoal Lt.Sta., which station is off shore in Long Island Sound.
(State position, location, and whether station is ashore or afloat.)

Salary: $456 per annum.

Quarters: are provided for keepers only. (See attached Note A)
(State whether or not quarters are provided by the Government for the families of keepers at this station, or if quarters can be rented by appointee in the vicinity.)

Fuel: 10 tons of coal and 1 cord of wood per year.
(State allowance of fuel for domestic purposes, if authorized.)

Rations: Allowace 30¢ daily. (See attached Note B)
(State facts concerning rations for this position.)

This position is also offered to other eligibles, any one of whom may be selected, although all may indicate willingness to accept this position.

Read carefully the Instructions to Eligibles on the other side before returning this letter.

You will, therefore, please advise this office in this connection by answering the questions below and returning this communication at the earliest date practicable.

Respectfully,

J. T. Yates, Inspector

3-2

NOTICE TO ELIGIBLES

NOTE A - Keepers must provide their own furniture except stoves, bedding, kitchen utensils and dishes. No quarters are provided for families of keepers at this station, but family quarters can probably be rented at Fort Jefferson, NY

NOTE B - Ration allowance of 30 cents per day will be paid by check, and the employee must provide himself with all necessary provisions. Keepers are not required to board assistant keepers.

If selected for this position, how soon could you report for duty? Oct 1st. 1916

		Department or office		
		Position		
		Department or office		

(If you have more than two relatives in the Government service, give same information as to them on a separate sheet of paper.)

My reasons for declining the position tendered me are as follows:

(Signature) Victor Knies

(Post-office address) Bayside Long Island N.Y.

Date, Sept 20. 1916

11-16

It is important that this letter be answered promptly

LIGHT-HOUSE INSPECTOR 3D DIST. SEP 21 1916 RECEIVED TOMPKINSVILLE N.Y.

2847

FOR

LETTER TO ELIGIBLES

It is important that this letter be answered promptly

LIGHT-HOUSE INSPECTOR 3d DISTRICT SEP 15 1916 RECEIVED

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

Robt. H. Ebbitts,
Southold, N.Y.

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 3rd DIST.
Tompkinsville, N.Y., Sept.1,1916 191

SIR: You are hereby informed that you are being considered for the position of Additional Keeper
(State position, location, and whether station is ashore or afloat.)
for assignment to duty at such stations in the 3rd Lighthouse District at which your services may be required, but for the present assignment to duty will be made to Stratford Shoal Lt.Sta., which station is off shore in Long Island Sound.

Salary: $456.00 per annum.

Quarters: are provided for keepers. (See attached Note A)
(State whether or not quarters are provided by the Government for the families of keepers at this station, or if quarters can be rented by appointee in the vicinity.)

Fuel: 10 tons of coal and 1 cord of wood per year ~~farr~~
(State allowance of fuel for domestic purposes, if authorized.)

Rations: Allowance 30¢ daily. (See attached Note B)
(State facts concerning rations for this position.)

This position is also offered to other eligibles, any one of whom may be selected, although all may indicate willingness to accept this position.

Read carefully the Instructions to Eligibles on the other side before returning this letter.

You will, therefore, please advise this office in this connection by answering the questions below and returning this communication at the earliest date practicable.

Respectfully,

J T YATES

The following questions should be filled in by applicant:

Are you willing to accept this position if it is offered you? Yes.

Do you wish your name restored to the register at this time? Yes.

Are you willing to accept the next appointment offered? Yes.

Do you wish your name restored to the register at some future time? If so, give date.

3-2

NOTICE TO ELIGIBLES

NOTE A - Keepers must provide their own furniture except stoves, bedding, kitchen utensils and dishes. No quarters are provided for families of keepers at this station, but family quarters can probably be rented at Port Jefferson N.Y.

NOTE B - Ration allowance of 30 cents per day will be paid by check, and the employee must provide himself with all necessary provisions. Keepers are not required to board assistant keepers.

If selected for this position, how soon could you report for duty? At Once.

(Signature) Robert H. Ebbitts

Date, Sept. 2, 1916. (Post-office address) Southold N.Y.

11—749

FORM

LETTER TO ELIGIBLES

It is important that this letter be answered promptly

Geo. N. Thomas,
1181 E 91 St.,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 3rd DIST.,

Tompkinsville, N. Y., Sept.1,1916 .191

SIR: You are hereby informed that you are being considered for the position of **Additional Keeper**
(State position, location, and whether station is ashore or afloat.)
for assignment to duty at such stations in the 3rd Lighthouse District at which your services may be required, but for the present assignment to duty will be made to Stratford Shoal Lt.Sta., which station is off shore in Long Island Sound.

Salary: **$456.00** per annum.

Quarters: **are provided for keepers. (See attached Note A)**
(State whether or not quarters are provided by the Government for the families of keepers at this station, or if quarters can be rented by appointee in the vicinity.)

LIGHT-HOUSE INSPECTOR 3d DIST. SEP 5 1916 RECEIVED TOMPKINSVILLE, N.Y.

Fuel: **10 tons of coal and 1 cord of wood per year**
(State allowance of fuel for domestic purposes, if authorized.)

Rations: **Allowance 30¢ daily. (See attached Note B)**
(State facts concerning rations for this position.)

This position is also offered to other eligibles, any one of whom may be selected, although all may indicate willingness to accept this position.

Read carefully the Instructions to Eligibles on the other side before returning this letter.

You will, therefore, please advise this office in this connection by answering the questions below and returning this communication at the earliest date practicable.

Respectfully,

J. T. YATES

The following questions should be filled in by applicant:

Are you willing to accept this position if it is offered you? no

Do you wish your name restored to the register at this time? no

Are you willing to accept the next appointment offered? no

Do you wish your name restored to the register at some future time? If so, give date.

no

Are any members of your family, or relatives (either blood or by marriage), in the service

3-2

NOTICE TO ELIGIBLES

NOTE A - Keepers must provide their own furniture except stoves, bedding, kitchen utensils and dishes. No quarters are provided for families of keepers at this station, but family quarters can probably be rented at East Jefferson N.Y.

NOTE B - Ration allowance of 30 cents per day will be paid by check, and the employee must provide himself with all necessary provisions. Keepers are not required to board assistant keepers.

If selected for this position, how soon could you report for duty?

(Signature) George N. Thomas

Date, Sept 1, 1916 (Post-office address) 1181 East 91st St,
Brooklyn N.Y.

11-749

LETTER TO ELIGIBLES

It is important that this letter be answered promptly

James Bachmann,
202 W 69 St.,
New York

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 3rd DIST.,

Tompkinsville, N.Y., Sept.1,1916 .191

SIR: You are hereby informed that you are being considered for the position of **Additional Keeper**
(State position, location, and whether station is ashore or afloat.)
for assignment to duty at such stations in the 3rd Lighthouse District at which your services may be required, but for the present assignment to duty will be made to Stratford Shoal Lt.Sta., which station is off shore in Long Island Sound.

Salary: **$456.00** per annum.

Quarters: **are provided for keepers. (See attached Note A)**
(State whether or not quarters are provided by the Government for the families of keepers at this station, or if quarters can be rented by appointee in the vicinity.)

Fuel: **10 tons of coal and 1 cord of wood per year.**
(State allowance of fuel for domestic purposes, if authorized.)

Rations: **Allowance 30¢ daily. (See attached Note B)**
(State facts concerning rations for this position.)

This position is also offered to other eligibles, any one of whom may be selected, although all may indicate willingness to accept this position.

3-2

NOTICE TO ELIGIBLES

NOTE A - Keepers must provide their own furniture except stoves, bedding, kitchen utensils and dishes. No quarters are provided for families of keepers at this station, but family quarters can probably be rented at Port Jefferson N.Y.

NOTE B - Ration allowance of 30 cents per day will be paid by check, and the employee must provide himself with all necessary provisions. Keepers are not required to board assistant keepers.

If selected for this position, how soon could you report for duty?

many ....; and fill in the following blanks.

Similar letters to:-

	Post-office address.	Where employed.	Relationship.	Married or single.
James Bachmann F. V. Baker G. N. Thomas W. F. Woodward R.H.Ebbitts		Position Department or office		
		Position Department or office		

(If you have more than two relatives in the Government service, give same information as to them on a separate sheet of paper.)

My reasons for declining the position tendered me are as follows: .....

(Signature) .....

(Post-office address) .....

Date, ...

11—749

LETTER TO ELIGIBLES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 3rd DIST.

Victor Knies,
6th St.,
Bay Side, N.Y.

Tompkinsville, NY Sept. 15, 1916

It is important that this letter be answered promptly

SIR: You are hereby informed that you are being considered for the position of Additional Keeper for assignment to duty at such stations in the 3d Lighthouse Dist. at which your services may be required, but for the present assighment to duty will be made to Stratford Shoal Lt.Sta., which station is off shore in Long Island Sound.
(State position, location, and whether station is shore or afloat.)

Salary: $456 per annum.

Quarters: are provided for keepers only. (See attached Note A)
(State whether or not quarters are provided by the Government for the families of keepers at this station, or if quarters can be rented by applicants in the vicinity.)

Fuel: 10 tons of coal and 1 cord of wood per year.
(State allowance of fuel for domestic purposes, if authorized.)

Rations: Allowace 30¢ daily. (See attached Note B)
(State facts concerning rations for this position.)

This position is also offered to other eligibles, any one of whom may be selected, although all may indicate willingness to accept this position.

Read carefully the Instructions to Eligibles on the other side before returning this letter.

You will, therefore, please advise this office in this connection by answering the questions below and returning this communication at the earliest date practicable.

Respectfully,

J. T. Yates, Inspector

The following questions should be filled in by applicant:

3-2

NOTICE TO ELIGIBLES

NOTE A - Keepers must provide their own furniture except stoves, bedding, kitchen utensils and dishes. No quarters are provided for families of keepers at this station, but family quarters can probably be rented at ----------

NOTE B - Ration allowance of 30 cents per day will be paid by check, and the employee must provide himself with all necessary provisions. Keepers are not required to board assistant keepers.

If selected for this position, how soon could you report for duty? ----------

		Position		
		Department or office		

(If you have more than two relatives in the Government service, give same information as to them on a separate sheet of paper.)

My reasons for declining the position tendered me are as follows: .....

.....

.....

.....

(Signature) .....

(Post-office address) .....

Date, ...

11—749

1478

HMD

750

Secretary 2nd Civil Service Dist.
Custom House,
New York, N.Y.

July 1, 1916

Sir:-

You are advised that Victor Knies, who is No.19 on eligible list of keepers and assistant keepers, has requested that his name be temporarily removed from said list until September 20, 1916. His name has therefore been removed this date.

Respectfully,
F.W.Ockenfels
Secty, Board of Examiners.

Forwarded:

J T Yates

June, 28, 1916

Inspector 3rd District
Lighthouse Service
Tompkinsville N.Y.

LIGHT-HOUSE INSPECTOR 3d DIST. JUL 1916 TOMPKINSVILLE, N.Y.

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 16 inst at hand. I regret that my letter concerning Stratford Shoal Light was not made more precise

I belive that I did state that I was unable to accept the appointment until on or after October 1st 1916.,

And stating that the compensation and location was satisfactory to me

I now make formal reguest that my name be temporay suspended from the Eligible list until Sept. 20. 1916. & appointment to take Effect on or after Oct 1st 1916. as per section 9 of

Instructions to Eligibles

Trusting that you will grant this request

I remain

Respectfully

Victor Kluge

Bayside

6th Street Long Island

N. Y.

Form 201

LETTER TO ELIGIBLES

JHG

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

It is important that this letter be answered promptly

Victor Knies,
6th St.,
Bayside, N.Y.

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 3rd DIST.

Tompkinsville, N.Y., June 6, 1916. 191

SIR: You are hereby informed that you are being considered for the position of Additional Keeper for assignment to duty at such stations in the 3rd Lighthouse District at which your services may be required, but for the present assignment to duty will be made to Stratford Shoal Light Station, which station is off shore in Long Island Sound
(State position, location, and whether station is ashore or afloat.)

Salary: $456.00 per annum.

Quarters: are provided for keepers. (See attached Note A)
(State whether or not quarters are provided by the Government for the families of keepers at this station, or if quarters can be rented by appointee in the vicinity.)

Fuel: 10 tons of coal and 1 cord of wood per year for
(State allowance of fuel for domestic purposes, if authorized.)

Rations: Allowance 30¢ daily. (See attached Note B)
(State facts concerning rations for this position.)

This position is also offered to other eligibles, any one of whom may be selected, although all may indicate willingness to accept this position.

Read carefully the Instructions to Eligibles on the other side before returning this letter.

You will, therefore, please advise this office in this connection by answering the questions below and returning this communication at the earliest date practicable.

Respectfully,

J T YATES

The following questions should be filled in by applicant:

Are you willing to accept this position if it is offered you? Yes

Do you wish your name restored to the register at this time? Yes

Are you willing to accept the next appointment offered? Yes. after Oct 1. 1916

Do you wish your name restored to the register at some future time? If so, give date.
Oct 1. 1916

Are any members of your family, or relatives (either blood or by marriage), in the service of the United States Government? Answer "Yes" or "No." No If yes, state how

NOTE B - Ration allowance of 30 cents per day will be paid by check, and the employee must provide himself will all necessary provisions. Keepers are not required to board assistant keepers.

If selected for this position, how soon could you report for duty? October 1st. 1916

(Signature) Victor Knies

Date, June 8. 1916 (Post-office address) Bayside N.Y. Long Island.

11—749

2941

Butler Files

December 7,1917

Pay of Keeper of Whale Rock Light Station, increased to $732.00 per annum

Position of assistant keeper, same station, abolished, and services of Victor Knies discontinued.

JHG

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

2650

Gar Position abolished Nov. 1915

75

LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR 3d DIST. MAR 6 1917 RECEIVED

THIRD DISTRICT

Whale Rock Light Station
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

March 3, 1917

Inspector
Thru Keeper

The following is a list of Stations which I would accept in the event of a vacancy as Keeper or Asst. Keeper

- XX Absecon
- XX Barnegat
- X Black Rock
- X Bristol Ferry
- X Castle Hill
- X Chapel Hill
- X Coney Island
- X Conover Beacon
- XX Eatons Neck
- X Elm Tree
- X Hallets Point
- X Hortons Point
- X Lynde Point
- XXX Navesink
- X New Drop
- X North Brothers Island
- X Old Field Point
- X Point Comfort Beacon
- X Princess Bay
- X Richmond Rear
- X Sands Point
- XX Stradford Point
- XX Staten Island Rear
- X Throgs Neck
- XX Waackaack
- XX Warwick
- XX Watchill
- X West Point

Victor Knies
Asst Keeper

George H. Tooker
Keeper