

Henry Whitmore Eustis

(1877-1951)

Henry Eustis went to Germany about 1902 to study music (there was a strong family tradition of choral music and especially the Apollo Men's Chorus) but, I suppose, was unable to make a living and applied to the US Embassy for a job. He was hired and worked for a number of years as a courier between, especially, Berlin and London. Later he became a code clerk and worked in that position for many years. Initially he was, I think, content, but especially after the death of his first wife his annual fitness reports became less positive. And then he married a German lady, Elizabeth Sitzler. He complained more and more, wanted less-expensive postings and more money but was increasingly inflexible and cranky. About 1936 he was posted to Constantinople/Istanbul. In 1940 Henry and his wife were honored guests at a German Embassy dinner. Within a few weeks he was on a boat to the US, and he was NOT happy about it.

Here is some of the material I got under FOIA

July 22, 1931 American Embassy, Berlin Form 304 - Foreign Service, Report on Family Status Henry W Eustis b Dec 6, 1877 married May 14, 1930 to Elisabeth Sitzler b May 15, 1877 in Munich, Bavaria - nationality German.

July 1930-July 1931 paid 229.16 per month in Germany

Aug 1931-Dec 1931 paid 229.17 per month in Hungary (signed by Nicholas Roosevelt, who was U.S. minister to Hungary from 1930 to 1933)

Jan 1932-Jun 1932 paid 229.17 per month in Geneva

July 1932-June 1933 paid \$229.17 per month in Geneva; furloughed May, June, July and pay reduced by \$35/mo

July 1933-June 1934 paid \$229.17 per month in Geneva; furloughed all months and pay reduced by about 15%

July 1934-35 paid \$229.17 per month in Geneva

July 1935-Feb 36 paid \$229.17 per month in Geneva

Feb 1936-Jun 1936 paid 229.13 per month in Istanbul

Jul 1936-Jun 1938 paid 229.17 per month in Istanbul

July 1938-39 paid \$229.17 per month in Istanbul

July 1939-40 paid \$229.17 per month in Istanbul - terminated Mar 3, 1940

letter from WDA Peaslee¹, East Wayne St, South Bend, IN dated 12/21/41

Dear Parmalee (W. Dhu Aine Peaslee graduated from Oakland (CA) HS in 1906 - attached letter describes Dhu Peaslee as a consulting engineer with Bendix on war production who was a captain in G-2 with the AEF in France.)

You'll remember perhaps a chap I spoke of who had come to Augusta, GA after retiring from the State Dept.

It is Henry Eustace, and he retired from the Dept when stationed in Turkey. He has a German wife who in 1939 refused to take out her papers as an American citizen, saying "My Heart and complete loyalty are to Hitler and the German nation." This she said to me. I advised him to soft pedal her in such statements as the Southerners there in Georgia are not tolerant.

I'd forgotten them in the process of getting out war materials until last week a couple of people from Augusta came through here & said that the town was up in arms because she was saying, "There's no use to fight us - we are more able and you are not prepared, " and "Just wait until Hitler comes - then we have good jobs to rule you and you'll regret you haven't been nicer." I told them to drop any idea of her being an agent and not start hounding some one - she was probably just a fool woman spouting, etc. They said, "Yes, but he's pretty sore at the US Government because he thinks they treated him badly, etc."

Well, the result is they forced me to drop any idea of making trouble or writing Gov Talmadge (you know how he'd love something to get some publicity about an ex-State Dept employee, disloyal, etc) and cool off.

The reason I'm dropping you this is that as a retired State Dept employee still ___ money as retirement pay you folks might want to drop him a hint to muzzle his wife and not cause the Dept embarrassment Anyway I've done all I can to calm them down but those people in the deep South can do some fool things. ...

[ed] I suppose they made their peace with the situation; they lived in Augusta the rest of their lives. Henry died in 1951¹, and Elizabeth in 1966². My next (and probably last) step will be to request any FBI reports that might exist. Because I have a feeling that the FBI went and had a look at, and perhaps a word with, Henry and wife.

¹ Augusta [GA] "Chronicle", October 7, 1951 Henry Whitmore Eustis died at local infirmary at 6:40 yesterday afternoon after an illness of two months. He is survived by his wife, Mrs Elisabeth Olga Eustis.

Mr Eustis was a native of Minneapolis, Minn and a veteran of foreign service. He was the first clerk of the American Embassy in Berlin, and also saw duty in Bucharest and Istanbul. He had made his home in Augusta for the past 12 years.

² Augusta [GA] "Chronicle-Herald", Dec 18, 1966 Mrs Elisabeth Eustis. Mrs Elizabeth Sitzler Eustis, 89, 2301 Woodbine Rd, Augusta, died at 5pm Saturday after an extended illness. Funeral Services will be announced by Poteet Funeral Home in Augusta

A native of Munich, Germany, Mrs. Eustis had resided in Augusta for 27 years. She was a member of the Christian Science Church, and was the widow of Henry Eustis. Survivors include a niece, Mrs. Gertrude E Deyo, Colebrook, NH, and several other nieces and nephews.