

# 17 IN REVOLT

## PLOT HELD IN

*Harold 3-1-44*

## \$850,000 BAIL

### Christian Front Group Pleads Not Guilty

NEW YORK, Jan. 15 (C.T.P.S.). Total bail of \$850,000 was set in Brooklyn Federal Court today for 17 members of the Christian Front charged with participating in a weird plot to seize arms and ammunition from armories, overthrow the United States Government, and set up a dictatorship.

The prisoners, arrested in their homes Saturday night by FBI agents who had been investigating their activities since July—an eighteenth prisoner had been freed with apologies—were led in handcuffs before Federal Judge Grover M. Moscowitz.

#### Crowd of Thousands Gathers

Thousands of the curious lined the streets outside the courthouse, the courtroom was packed, and catcalls mingled with cheers in the corridors as the 17 passed.

While the men were arraigned, each pleading not guilty and each being held in \$50,000 bail, Adjutant General Walter D. Robinson, of the New York National Guard, started a State-wide investigation of the theft of guns and ammunition from armories.

Five of the reputed conspirators were reported to be members of National Guard units and one a former captain. Much of their supply of firearms, ammunition and "bomb-material" was believed stolen from National Guard armories.

Held incommunicado since their arrest, the men arrived at the Brooklyn Federal Courthouse just before noon and were led to an anteroom outside Judge Moscowitz's courtroom. The room in which they were arraigned was the one usually employed for giving the oath of allegiance to new citizens.

#### Prisoner Freed With Apologies

William Henry Bushnell jr., 18, of Brooklyn, and William G. Bishop, of Manhattan, were the only two named specifically in the presidential warrant on which the arrests were made.

John Ryan, of the Bronx, the eighteenth man in the group whose apprehension was announced by J. Edgar Hoover,

FBI head, on Sunday, was not arraigned. He had been freed "with profuse apologies" by the FBI agents shortly after he was taken into custody. They said Ryan was completely clear of any association with the Christian Front or the "Christian Mobilizers," reputedly a militant offshoot of the Front.

Part of the continuing investigation of the reputed conspiracy centered today around Narrowsburg, N. Y. A rifle range there was used by some of the defendants, Hoover charged. FBI agents in that territory were seeking possible caches of ammunition or firearms which they believe the conspirators may have established.

*7/16/40*