

Wochen
1/24/40-p.1

Mayor Reveals U.S. Once Freed Terrorist Leader

William G. Bishop, leader of the 17 "Christian Front" fascist terrorists jailed by the Federal Government after discovery of a gun and bomb plot, had been arrested on a gun charge in New York six years ago and was held by immigration officials for deportation as an undesirable alien, Mayor LaGuardia revealed yesterday.

But, the Mayor disclosed, the Federal government let him go scot free.

He said Police Commissioner Lewis Valentine had investigated the Bishop case following his recent arrest and that evidence showing the fascist terrorist was an alien born in Geneva, Switzerland, was turned over to the Federal authorities.

Now, the Mayor explained, when Bishop's case is disposed of by the government Bishop will be subject

to deportation. He said Commissioner Valentine will insist such action be taken.

According to a report sent to the Mayor by Commissioner Valentine, Bishop was arrested in Astoria on May 3, 1935, for illegally possessing a .38-caliber pistol. Bishop was sentenced to the workhouse for 90 days after being convicted on the charge.

At that time, the Mayor said, the police ascertained Bishop was not a citizen and was deportable under the law. This was reported to the Federal authorities.

A warrant for his arrest as a deportable alien was served on Bishop when he left the workhouse and he was taken to Ellis Island.

Bishop, however, told immigration officials he was born in Massachusetts and he was released after they accepted his "proof" of citizenship.