

STON 6/25/40

Nine Acquitted, Five Get Mistrials in Sedition Cases

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**U. S. Attorney Undecided
On Whether to Seek
Verdicts for Five**

former Guard captain, was acquitted on the overthrow count while the jury disagreed on the second. The jury acquitted William H. D. Bushnell, 18, student, of conspiracy to steal munitions and disagreed on the other charge.

Macklin Boettger, 32, traveling salesman, and John Albert Viebrock, 34, mechanic, got mistrials on both counts.

Originally there were 17 defendants. Two were discharged after the prosecution rested and the third, Claus Gunther Ernecke, 36, hanged himself after the trial started.

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, June 25.—Nine acquittals and five mistrials were the results today of an 11-week trial of 14 men accused of conspiracy to overthrow the Government and steal Federal property.

United States Attorney Harold M. Kennedy said he was undecided whether the five on whom the jury could not reach verdicts would be tried again.

The jury reported last night after deliberating since last Wednesday.

Thirteen of the defendants were tried on both counts of the indictment, obtained after arrests last January by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents under the direction of J. Edgar Hoover.

The fourteenth defendant, Alfred J. Quinlan, 27, a National Guard sergeant, was tried only on the charge of conspiring to steal Government property and was acquitted.

The eight acquitted on both counts were John F. Cassidy, 30, leader of the Brooklyn Christian Front Organization; John A. Graf, 23, clerk; John F. Cook, 19, Marine Corps Reserve corporal; Laroy Keegan, 39, baker; Michael Vill, 35, German-born bus driver now a naturalized citizen; Michael J. Beirne, 32, line-man and Guard corporal; Andrew Buckley, 34, Guard sergeant, and Francis J. Malone, 25, department store employe.

In the case of William Gerald Bishop, 39, described by the Government as a Nazi propagandist and leader of the alleged conspiracy, the jury disagreed on both counts.

John T. Prout, Jr., 29-year-old