

# U.S. Will Win—by Nazi Plan, Says Deatherage, Chief of White Camelia, Now in Key War Job

By Alfred Friendly

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Norfolk, Va., Feb. 17.—The war is doing so well in developing "disciplined force under central leadership," the avowed objective of the Knights of the White Camelia, that its national commander, George E. Deatherage, has let the organization lapse and has gone to work as chief engineer of a construction firm in the heart of the great naval operating base here.

Deatherage, whose testimony in May, 1939, before the Dies Committee was lurid with details of his close tie-up with the Nazi propaganda headquarters at Ecfurt, Germany, of his swastika-embazoned American Nationalist Federation, and of his two visits to the German Embassy to discuss anti-Semitism and Hitler's fund-raising technique, is just as sure now as he was then of the imminence of a national social revolution.

A big man, tweedy and bespectacled, still showing an occasional trace of the old white Camelia ferocity, Deatherage said in an interview today: "I've been hitting 'em on the eight ball pretty right for the last five or six years. Now I'm sitting on the sidelines, waiting. I'll be proved as right or wrong in a hurry. It's coming up fast."

Sitting on the sidelines is not quite right, however, since Deatherage's job is one of key responsibility in 30 million dollars worth of construction orders (official Navy figures are \$6,471,400, but these probably do not include subcontracts) held by the Norfolk contracting firm of Doyle & Russel.

Deatherage's work, on expansion projects in the Hampton Roads naval establishments, with its gigantic concentration of ships, planes and supplies, has made him enthusiastic, fiercely optimistic, indeed, about the war's ultimate outcome, even though he believes that the war itself might have been avoided or at least staved off.

"But we're in it now," he says, "and we've got to win it. It's unthinkable that we lose this war. We've just got to win it."

Not that we're winning it now. Deatherage believes that we're losing it at the moment. But changes will be made, must be made, in order to weld a centralized control in Washington of 130 million people, he is convinced.

## Liberals to Be Wiped Out

The supreme irony of this the knights' commander laughs, is that the "liberals, pinks and internationalists" who accused him of being a Fascist in 1939 are the very ones who must now forge that centralized control in order to win the war.

And taking history as a pattern, Deatherage is sure that this liberal group will be the first to be wiped out.

"All these brass hats," he jokes, "you're going to see more stripes than brass before it's over. G— bunch of crooks."

Here's the way Deatherage dopes it out:

America was never a democracy—"all this stuff" about democracy makes me sick—but has always been under the control of a minority. For a long time that control has been by the "commercial minority," defined as "big business and Jewish bankers." The social revolution we are now witnessing must wipe them out and replace them with a control of management and labor, "an elite of management."

Germany, for example, is currently winning the war because it has "a definite objective. It is organized just like a big well-run corporation," he notes.

## He Likes That System

"That's the way we've got to organize," with full control at the center of responsibility, and "not a lot



GEORGE DEATHERAGE

of committees running in to argue every decision."

"You can't let this thing go on another 12 months like it has without somebody losing their necks," he argues, referring specifically to Washington "misfits, social workers and political hacks." But the change will come almost automatically, under the pressure of circumstances, he is confident.

The Knights of the White Camelia and the American Nationalist Federation which Deatherage organized from among 30 to 40 similar patriotic bodies such as the militant Christian Crusaders, the National Gentile League, the Christian Free Press and groups headed by James True and Gerald Winrod, is necessary in this process.

"As for the Nationalist Federa-

tion," he explains, "we were organized to prevent something. Something has happened that has taken it out of our hands. We can't do anything about it. If history repeats itself, this thing (centralized control) will happen naturally. There's nothing to do about it. Experience in Europe is a pattern; why theorize?"

The man whom the Dies Committee found to have selected the fiery swastika as the symbol of the National Federation, to have advocated striking "terror and fear into the hearts of many by burning a fiery swastika" even as the Ku Klux Klan burned the fiery cross, and to have toured the West Coast with Johannes Klapproth, Nazi Party member and organizer of the Friends of New Germany, has this to say about his own objectives for America:

"I'm for America for Americans, and to hell with the other guys. They'll double cross you every time. (Specifically mentioned, in detail, were the British and the Australians). Americans are naturally isolationists.

"I've got my own ideas on what we are fighting for.

"I think we have enough wealth and opportunity to give everyone in America a chance. I'm not advocating Huey Long's 'Share the wealth' plan, but that's the idea.

"The men in Washington—a perfect example is Hillman—have got to step out and give places to others who are competent.

"The very thing the Liberals and Pinks and Internationalists were fighting against must be created to win this war—to discipline, control and regiment 130 million people. We have to fight a machine the Germans built by centralized control. To build it we, too, have to have centralized control. But a man's a fool to build it and then try to call it democracy."