

Valtin Seized For Deportation To Germany

T-H 11/25/42
Faces Internment
In U. S. Camp for
Duration of War

By FRED PASLEY

A not so happy ending to the American adventures of Richard J. H. Krebs, author of "Out of the Night," was written here yesterday with announcement by Attorney General Francis Biddle that Krebs has been arrested and is being held for deportation to Germany.

A native of that country, Krebs is certain to face a Gestapo firing squad should he be returned. It is understood, however, that he will probably be placed in an internment camp in the United States for the duration of the war.

Record of Betrayal

He is on the record as testifying that he "merely posed as a Nazi agent," and that he later "betrayed the Gestapo to the Communist OGPU."

Although he was arrested at the Bethel, Conn., home he bought out of the \$16,000 royalties derived from his best seller Krebs' whereabouts were a censorship secret last night.

Better known to the public by his pen name of Jan Valtin, Krebs was roundly assailed as an undesirable alien in the decision of the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Led Life of Violence

It read in part:
"His life has been so marked with violence, intrigue and treachery that it would be difficult, if not wholly unwarranted to conclude that his present reliability and good character have been established.

"Felonious assault and perjury are included in this alien's record. Under various aliases he has flouted the laws of every country he visited, those of the United States not excepted.

He was the leading figure in marine espionage and sabotage on the waterfronts of Europe. He has been deported from England, Norway and the United States."

Record Cited

The board's record shows that "on orders from Communist party superiors" Krebs came to the United States from Shanghai about August 1, 1926, as a stow-away aboard the Empress of Canada, escaping through a porthole when the vessel docked at Victoria and three days later crossing the border.

Acting on orders "to commit murder by a Communist party official in Los Angeles," he assaulted a storekeeper with the butt of a revolver. On October 22, 1926, he pleaded guilty to the crime of assault with a deadly weapon and was sentenced to a term up to 10 years.

After serving 39 months at San Quentin, he was paroled for deportation.

During the subsequent proceedings, Krebs admitted that he committed perjury by intentionally misstating the motives for the assault, concealing the Communist party's connection with the crime.

Deported in 1929

He was deported in December of 1929. Again back in Germany he was twice tried for high treason and finally sentenced to 13 years imprisonment, being released in February, 1937, after signing a pledge that he had become "a devoted son of the great German fatherland."

About January 1, 1938, Krebs sailed for the United States as a crewman aboard a merchant ship, arriving at Newport News on February 3.

Because of his previous deportation, he was ordered deported, but he ignored the order and applied for permission to enter the Dominican Republic. His application was rejected, and he decided to remain in this country permanently.

A warrant for Krebs' arrest was issued on March 20, 1941, and served eight days later.

Hearings were held on March 28, April 16 and 17, May 22 and June 5, 1941.

The board found that Krebs was subject to deportation on the ground (1) that he was a member of a class excluded by law (an alien who had been arrested and deported), (2) that he did not possess a valid immigration visa when he entered the country, and (3) that he had admitted the commission of a crime involving moral turpitude (perjury).

Gov. Olson Amazed At Valtin Internment

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Nov. 24 (U.P.).—Gov. Culbert Olson said today he pardoned Richard Julius Herman Krebs in November, 1941 "upon the recommendation of hundreds of leading citizens throughout the country," and that he was amazed that the writer had been interned.

Olson said those who recommended the pardon included members of Congress, educators, ministers and many widely known editors.

"In addition," he said, "I checked with the Department of Justice and the FBI and was not advised of any objection to Valtin (the name under which Krebs wrote) or his activities."