

# U. S. Nabs Valtin As an Enemy Alien

By Sender Garlin

Richard Julius Herman Krebs, who under the name of Jan Valtin wrote a lurid anti-Soviet potboiler, was arrested yesterday by order of Attorney General Francis Biddle.

Nabbed by federal agents at his Bethel, Conn., estate which he built out of royalties received from the sale of his

## 'Traacherous'



Richard Krebs, also known as "Jan Valtin," who was arrested yesterday on orders from Washington. This is a photo which appeared in a passport issued him by the Nazis.

book, Krebs was served with an order for deportation to Germany. Meanwhile he will be interned for the duration of the war.

It is understood that Krebs also was arrested under the so-called Presidential warrant as an enemy alien.

Gov. Culbert Olson, who pardoned Krebs in November, 1941, under the illusion that he was "clearing" an anti-fascist refugee, as he was led to believe by the propaganda of phony liberals, yesterday expressed discomfiture at having pardoned "a dangerous enemy alien."

### CHARGES CONFIRMED

What dubious activities on Krebs-Valtin's part prompted his sudden arrest was not revealed by the Department of Justice. However, the warrant of arrest charged that he had violated federal immigration laws by effecting illegal entry into the U. S. after he had once been arrested for a crime involving moral turpitude.

Krebs' arrest provides complete confirmation of the revelations originally made in the Daily Worker by this writer that he had served a term in San Quentin prison for brutally assaulting Morris Goldstein, a Jewish merchant of Long Beach, Cal., Aug. 14, 1926; and that after his release and subsequent return to Germany he had re-entered the U. S. in violation of the U. S. immigration laws.

The legal chain of events leading to the government's arrest order yesterday began in March, 1941, when Krebs was arrested for failing to heed an earlier deportation decree. He appealed for a suspension and was released on \$5,000 bond pending a study by the Board of Immigration Appeals.

The Board, in a decision disclosed yesterday, rejected the appeal, finding his career "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."

The Board added that "the evidence presented it did not show that Krebs has been a person of good moral character for the past five years. On the record before us, it appears that he has been completely untrustworthy."

### ACCUSED BY WORKERS

In his book Krebs asserts that he obtained release from a Nazi prison by promising to spy for the Gestapo. He declared, however, that he had no intention of carrying out his mission.

Considerable doubt is cast on this latter assertion by warnings issued by various workers' organizations against Krebs long before his much-touted book was published. Such a warning came from Pee Torn (Stand Watch), monthly organ of

the Scandinavian Seamen's Club published in New York for distribution among maritime workers in its January, 1938, issue.

A photograph of Krebs accompanied the statement in Paa Torn. The photograph was the one pasted on Krebs' passport issued him by the Nazis.

This, as well as other facts, and buttressed by the Board of Immigration Appeals' statement regarding his career of "violence, intrigue and treachery," raises sharp doubts about Krebs' claim in his book that he "deceived" the Nazis into promising that he would spy for them.

### BOOSTED BY REVIEWERS

Picked by the Book-of-the-Month Club for distribution to its members, "Out of the Night" quickly became a best-seller. Anti-Soviet elements made it its handbook in the "hate" campaign then being whipped up against the USSR. Krebs' fantastic effusion, incidentally, bore the earmarks of collaboration on the part of the anti-Soviet brigade.

The majority of the book reviewers of the metropolitan press greeted "Out of the Night" with a salvo of applause. William Henry Chamberlin, for example, wrote in the book section of the N. Y. Times that Krebs-Valtin "should be a valuable assistant to those U. S. agencies which are engaged in combatting espionage, sabotage and other illegal foreign-inspired activities."

This puff makes interesting reading beside the dispatch from Washington that Valtin-Krebs has been arrested and ordered interned "as a dangerous enemy alien."

Writing in the Saturday Review of Literature, Freda Uteley called the book "an important documentary account of the inner workings of the Comintern." In her book, "The Dream We Lost," this apologist for fascism wrote that "... as regards the Russian people, they would gain not lose, by being ruled under German tutelage . . ." instead of living under the Soviet system.

### PLUGGED BY "DIGEST"

Even more instrumental than the Book-of-the-Month Club in providing a wide reading audience to Krebs' concoction was Reader's Digest, which presented its 5,000,000 readers (it claims 7,000,000 readers including its Latin American subscribers) with a condensation of "Out of the Night." The stuff appeared in its March, 1941, issue. Valtin became quite a fixture around Readers' Digest, contributing two more articles in rapid succession.

Thus, literally millions of Americans were duped by the man whom immigration authorities yesterday characterized as of dubious moral character and "completely untrustworthy" and whom the Department of Justice has arrested and ordered interned as a dangerous enemy alien.