Photographing Bundsters Is Not Nice Work



Ray Platnick snapped this picture for PM outside Astoria's Turn Hall. The man in gray protested and husky O.D. man, marked by arrow, circled the group to assault Platnick. Camera smashed, plate saved, assailant got away.

Astoria Bundsmen Beat PM Photographer

Camera Smashed, He Hits Back With Speed Gun and Saves His Plate

Photographer Ray Platnick is PM's first casualty. He achieved wound stripes last night when he was mauled and beaten because he snapped a picture of German-American bunders outside Long Island City Turn Hall, 44-01 Broadway, Astoria. From his wrecked camera he salvaged a picture of his assailant.

Platnick offered to pay his quarter at the box office but was denied admittance. He waited outside while 450 heiling bundsmen heard speakers describe President Roosevelt as "the real leader of the fifth column in the United States." When the door opened he was poised for action.

A husky, broad-shoulder bundsman, described as an official of the organization, raised his hand in protest, as the picture shows. From behind the leader, a younger man in the standard O. D. bund shirt rushed forward and hurled himself on Platnick.

Camera crashed to the ground and fists flew. Platnick's right arm went up and the rear end of his speed gun, planted in his right hand, met his assailant's eye. The lone policeman on duty, from 114th precinct, did his best to get in but was pushed around by the crowd long enough to let Platnick's assailant escape. Then a radio car appeared and the crowd dispersed.

Police said they would demand that officials of the new bund-sympathetic Anti-Fifth Column Committee, which called the meeting, name the photographed assailant for prosecution.—I. T. H.