

Scatter 37 Nazis in Guard for Attending White Russian Ball

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Rising Sentiment Against National Guardsmen Wearing Uniforms at Fascist Fete Results in Fist Fights at 244th Armory

Thirty-seven White Russians in a New York National Guard company are 37 too many when they use the uniform of the United States and

This is the opinion of the rank and file of Battery D, 244th Coast Artillery, and the result of this opinion, the Daily Worker learned yesterday, was that the 37 Nazis in the outfit have been scattered to other regiments and the resignation of the commanding officer of the battery is in the hands of the proper authorities.

The situation is the outgrowth of a ball given aboard the U. S. S. Illinois, headquarters of the First Battalion, New York Naval militia by Rossiya, local White Russian newspaper, associated with the All-Russian (Nazi) National Front. The 37 White Russian members of Battery D attended the affair in the uniform of their outfit along with uniformed members of Fritz Kuhn's German-American Volksbund.

FIGHTS AT ARMORY

The party aboard the battleship was exposed three weeks ago. Indignation was aroused to such a high pitch in the battery, the Daily Worker learned, that free-for-all fist fights occurred outside the armory on two succeeding drill nights of the battery.

The clamor became so great that an investigation was instituted by Col. Mills Miller, commander of the 244th. What Colonel Miller wanted to know was why the battery commander permitted 37 men to draw their uniforms the same time without inquiring the purpose.

NAVAL OFFICERS THERE

Use of the uniform of the armed forces is frowned upon at any political gathering and a standing naval order forbids the use of the navy uniform at foreign political gatherings. It was reported, however, that two high ranking naval officers in uniform attended the Nazi ball.

Invitations to the party were

specifically extended to members of the German-American Volksbund through the Nazi paper, Der Deutscher Weckruf. Tickets were widely sold in Yorkville.

Members of the American military and naval units in uniform cheered speeches attacking Loyalist Spain, the Soviet Union and Communism in the ship's ballroom, the walls of which are lined with rifles.

Governor Lehman acted swiftly to prevent a repetition of the spectacle of uniforms of U. S. armed forces at Nazi fetes last week when he issued an order forbidding the use of national guard armories for such functions and ordering guardsmen not to attend them in uniform.

JOINS FORD THUGS

Trouble with the White Russian battery is not new. A few weeks before the ball Adjutant General Walter G. Robinson of the New York National Guard reprimanded officers for inserting an advertisement in a local Nazi weekly calling for volunteers with "first citizenship papers" to join the unit.

The odor of the White Russian scandal was not improved when it was learned that Eugene von Draginda, White Russian and a former corporal in the 212th, had left to accept a job with Ford's company police, the Ford Service Department, in Detroit.

But this week it was the White Russians themselves who were complaining. Howls of protest at the dispersion of the 37 White Russians appeared in both language White Guard papers, Novoye Russkoye Slovo and Rossiya. The former published a statement by the men, many of whom are non-commissioned officers, declaring that they had been discriminated against. Rossiya attacked the "un-American" action of National Guard officials editorially.