

Anti-Klan Law Dug Up Against Yaphank Nazis

Veterans' Chief Gets Warrants Under '23 Statute Requiring Oath Societies to File Rosters at Albany

Warrants for the arrest of the president and five directors of the German-American Settlement League, Inc., said to be the Nazi owners and operators of Camp Siegfried, at Yaphank, L. I., were issued yesterday by Moses W. Drake, justice of the peace at Bay Shore, L. I.

Before the day was over deputy sheriffs at Riverhead, L. I., had arrested one of the accused, Henry Hauck, the manager of the camp. He was arraigned before Mr. Drake and held in \$1,000 bail for the Suffolk County Grand Jury.

Hauck told Mr. Drake that it was not necessary to serve the warrants on the other five men, that he would guarantee to produce them for arraignment at 10 a. m. tomorrow. Mr. Drake agreed and service of the other warrants was withheld.

The warrants charge violation of



Herald Tribune photo—Acme

Henry Hauck, left, manager of Camp Siegfried, at Yaphank, L. I., leaving court at Bay Shore, L. I., yesterday with an official

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the state's civil rights law, which requires all organizations demanding an oath to file a roster of their memberships and officers with the Secretary of State at Albany. The measure was enacted to curb the Ku-Klux-Klan and this is the first time that it has been employed against Nazi activities in the state. The complaint was signed by Roy P. Monahan, commander of the Disabled War Veterans of America, a lawyer with offices at 49 Wall Street. The accused, besides Hauck, are:

- ERNEST MUELLER, 2152 Elmrod Street, Brooklyn. President of the German-American Settlement League, Inc., described in the Congressional Record as a local Nazi leader of Brooklyn and the real director of Camp Siegfried, importer of blocks and watches from Germany. Active in the boycott of Jews. Citizen of the United States.
- ADDO BAELEFELD, 2697 Beach Avenue, Bronx.
- HENRY WOLFGANG, Germanian, 1713 Stephen Street, Brooklyn.
- BRUNO HAHNDEL, baker, 301 Reid Avenue, Brooklyn.
- HERMAN SCHWARZMAN, 344 Starr Street, Brooklyn.

Beyond Mueller, none of the accused had appeared in the prints heretofore with any Nazi activities. Hauck has indicated that he is merely the manager of the hotel and restaurant on the camp grounds, although his application on file at the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board lists him as the owner.

Monahan Explains

Mr. Monahan said that the civil rights law appeared to him to present the most effective method of bringing the Nazi propagandists under the control of the authorities. The law, he said, was introduced by former Mayor James M. Walker in 1923, for special use against the Klan. Chapter 664 of the state's legal code of that year, embodying this law, specifically says that any organization other than a labor or benevolent group, which demands an oath as a prerequisite to membership, must file a roster of its membership and a list of its officers for the year.

The violation of this law is an in-

dictable misdemeanor. The maximum penalty is \$5,000 fine and a year in jail for individuals and \$10,000 fine for corporations.

In his complaint Mr. Monahan charged that the league failed to file the required membership and officer lists with the Secretary of State at Albany.

"Yet we know," he said, "that this organization requires an oath and is not a labor or benevolent organization, thus coming under the statute. The civil rights law is a weapon we can use to good advantage in this country. The law was designed to make these organizations come out into the open and name their members."

"This organization has in its oath a reference to the fact that the members are pure 'Aryans,' which we understand to mean whole-hearted indorsement of the Nazi plan of religious discrimination. We feel this is a diplomatic way of saying, 'Hell, Hitler!' The state Americanization committee of our organization, which has as its chairman John Vicat, of Brooklyn, has been making an investigation for the last six months of this and other so-called bunds with a view to determining any activity contrary to law.

"We feel that stirring class hatred against any group because of their religion is contrary to the ends of our organization, which is composed solely of wounded veterans of the World War."

Posts \$1,000 Check for Bail

Mr. Monahan obtained the warrants just before noon and presented them for service to Sheriff Jacob Dreyer at Bayhead. Sheriff Dreyer placed the warrants in the hands of four of his deputies, Chief Deputy Sheriff Harry Pussner and Deputy Sheriffs Paul Bittner, Albert Kehlenbeck and Walter Seaman. The deputies, accompanied by Mr. Monahan, proceeded at once to Yaphank and arrested Hauck.

Hauck, at his arraignment in Bay Shore, announced that he had only \$500 of the \$1,000 required for bail but said he could produce a check for the \$1,000 if a telephone certification would be taken from Willard B. MacIntosh, president of the Bellport National Bank. The Justice of the Peace consented, Mr. MacIntosh vouched for the funds and Hauck was released, giving his pledge to produce the other five men tomorrow.

Sheriff Dreyer said that "there have been many complaints about the Nazis and their camp at Yaphank but this is the first bona fide and legal complaint I have received." "I will give my fullest co-operation in aiding prosecution if the directors

are guilty of any violation," he added.

Camp Siegfried is believed to be the largest of the playgrounds used by the pro-Nazis in this country for their propaganda activities. It is a fifty-acre tract which was formerly a part of Camp Upton, used by American soldiers during the World War.

Records show that on May 14, 1935, a Mrs. Elsie Kremer, of 420 Monahan Street, Ridgewood, Brooklyn, purchased the tract for \$3,000 from Henry E. M. Commes and James E. Commes, brothers, of Yaphank. On August 6, 1936, Mrs. Kremer sold the property for "\$1 and other good and valuable considerations" to Ernest Mueller, president of the German-American Settlement League, Inc., and Otto Beingraben, of 267 East Seventy-fourth Street, who were listed as trustees for the German-American Bund. The bund was founded by Heinz Spänknöbel, the Nazi leader who fled this country in the face of Federal charges.

Camp Sold by Bund

On May 10, 1937, the German-American Settlement League, Inc., received its state charter and bought the encampment from the bund for "\$1 and other good and valuable considerations." In its application for its charter the league said its main purpose was to "introduce, cultivate and propagate true German culture, to cultivate the German language, customs and ideals."

The league has camps at Lindenhurst and Babylon, L. I., at Southbury, Conn., and at Andover, N. J.

For the last two years more than 25,000 men, women and children, almost wholly of German origin, visited Camp Siegfried on summer week ends. The swastika was always present with the American flag wherever bunting and flags were flown, the campers marched about the grounds in military style, bands played German airs and speakers orated in the German language and invariably in praise of Adolf Hitler and his Nazi regime. Visiting children must attend the militaristic school on the camp grounds and dutifully give the Nazi flag the usual Nazi salute.

Uniformed police garbed as the Ordnungsdienst (order keepers) of Germany, patrol the grounds at all times. Signs appeal to all visitors and members to boycott all merchants in the neighborhood who do not display the insignia of the German-American Bund and to read the "Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter," decidedly pro-Nazi.