

# Witness Say Bund Requires Oath to Hitler

## Ex-Storm Trooper Tells of Swearing Allegiance as Con- dition to Joining Kuhn Organization on May 10

Special to the Herald Tribune

RIVERHEAD, L. I., July 6.—Testimony that members of the German-American Volksbund are required to swear allegiance to Chancellor Adolf Hitler, of Germany, was presented in Suffolk County Court here today at the opening of the trial of six directors of the German-American Settlement League, Inc., which operates Camp Siegfried, Nazi summer camp at Yaphank, L. I. The league itself is a seventh defendant.

The league and its directors are accused of failure to file memberships with the Secretary of State as required of oath-bound organizations by Section 6-A of the civil rights act. The state is seeking to prove that persons must join the German-American Volksbund before they can enjoy privileges of Camp Siegfried, and that an oath is mandatory before they can enter the Volksbund.

A jury of nine men and three women was selected today to try the case before Judge L. Barron Hill. The complaint against the Nazi camp officers was made by Roy P. Monahan, New York State commander of the Disabled American Veterans of the World War, who was in court today, as was Fritz Kuhn, national leader of the Volksbund.

### The Purported Oath

The purported oath of membership was introduced by Willy Brandt, of 310 West Eighty-seventh Street, New York, described as an aviator and former Nazi storm trooper in Germany. He said that last May 10, in the presence of nine other men, he had raised his right arm in a "Hell Hitler" salute and, as a condition of membership in the Volksbund, had taken the following oath:

"I pledge faith to my leader, Adolf Hitler. I promise Adolf Hitler and those put in charge by him and well known to me, or by means of insignias to be recognized as superiors, loyalty and obedience, and oblige myself to execute all commands carefully and without personal regard, because I know that my leader does not ask anything unlawful of me."

Under questioning by Lindsay F. Henry, Assistant District Attorney prosecuting the case, Brandt denied that he was a follower of Hitler, but said he joined the Volksbund "to find out what it was all about." He said he had visited Camp Siegfried several times and talked with Henry Hauck, camp manager, one of the defendants. He asked Hauck's advice about becoming an American citizen, he said, and what his answer should be if he were asked on which side he would fight in a war between the United States and Germany. He quoted Hauck's advice as follows:

"If you answer, 'I will fight for the United States, you will lie as a Nazi, and if you say you will fight for the Nazis, you will not get your papers. You should answer, 'I'll do my duty.' Let the judge figure it out for himself."

### Brandt Is Heavily Guarded

Brandt, who is to be cross-examined tomorrow by William I. Karle, defense counsel, is being guarded heavily during the trial.

Other witnesses for the state today were Syd Boehm, a reporter for "The New York Journal and American"; Mrs. Wilhelmina Gait, of 528 West 131st Street, New York, and Richard Woefler, of 532 East Third Street, Mount Vernon, N. Y.

Boehm told of the many swastikas he had seen at Camp Siegfried. Mrs. Gait testified that she once had contemplated membership in the Volksbund and had received the impression that an oath would be necessary. Woefler testified similarly.

The individuals under indictment besides Hauck are Ernest Mueller, 2152 Elmrod Street, Brooklyn, president of the German-American Settlement League, Inc.; Herman Schwarzman, of 344 Starr Street; Bruno Haehnel, of 301 Reid Avenue; Henry Wolfgang, of 1713 Stephen Street, all of Brooklyn, and Addo Bielefeld, of 2697 Heath Avenue, the Bronx.

If found guilty, each faces a maximum penalty of a \$1,000 fine and a year in prison, while the corporation faces a maximum fine of \$10,000. The trial will be resumed tomorrow.

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