

BUND OATH DENIED AT NAZI CAMP TRIAL

But Defense Loses Motion for a
Directed Verdict of Acquittal
After Leaders Testify

CLASHES MARK SESSION

Suffolk Judge Warns 'This Is
an American Trial'—'Hitler
Salute' Demonstrated

From a Staff Correspondent.
RIVERHEAD, L. I., July 7.—In proceedings made dramatic by a witness's demonstration of the "Hitler salute," leaders and members of the German-American Volksbund denied today in Suffolk County Court that an oath of allegiance to Adolf Hitler, or any secret oath, is required of Bund members.

Clashes were frequent on the second day of the trial of six directors of the German-American Settlement League, Inc., and the league itself for alleged violation of the State Civil Rights Law. The league operates Camp Siegfried at Yaphank, L. I.

Several times County Judge L. Barron Hill had to restore order. Once he rapped with his gavel and admonished the spectators, most of whom were from the camp, against any demonstrations, remarking that "this is an American trial."

The State is seeking to prove that the Volksbund requires a secret oath from its members and has failed to comply with the Civil Rights Law by filing a list of its officers and members with the Secretary of State, as only Bund members are permitted to attend Camp Siegfried.

Court Adjourns Till Monday

When court adjourned this afternoon, Judge Hill announced the hearing would be resumed at 10 o'clock Monday morning, as he would be occupied with a special term of Children's Court tomorrow. He cautioned members of the jury, which included three women, against discussing the case with any one.

Willy Brandt, the former German Storm Trooper, who investigated the case for Roy P. Monahan, New York attorney and World War veteran, the complainant against the defendants, came in for more than two hours of cross-examination this morning. The defense attorney, William I. Karle, failed to shake Brandt's story that he had been required to take an oath of allegiance to Hitler when he joined the American Nazi movement at its New York headquarters. Brandt further declared that the oath he took in New York was almost word-for-word the oath he took as a Storm Trooper in Germany before he lost faith in Hitler and left the country.

Brandt and the defense attorney clashed when Mr. Karle asked the witness if he could not subscribe to the published aims and purposes of the Bund. Brandt admitted he

could agree with certain of the declarations of the Bund, but not the patriotic ideals of the Bund, by stating "they would all be wrong."

Says Nazis Are All Wrong

But when Karle came to the declarations that proposed an "understanding" between the United States and Germany, Brandt said he objected to those aims, "so long as there is a Nazi regime."

"What is there wrong and faulty about the Nazis?" Mr. Karle questioned.

"Everything they have done so far is wrong—completely wrong," Brandt replied. "They crushed the people down and have taken their freedom, and that is not the idea of a human being."

At the opening of the afternoon session, Robert D. Levitt, New York reporter, testified that the defendant Ernst Mueller, president of the league, had told him that Mr. Monahan, the complainant, probably was "some damn Jew" and made threats that "we'll fix him some dark night."

Before Mr. Mueller took the stand to deny Mr. Levitt's testimony, Mr. Karle moved for a directed verdict of not guilty on the ground that the State had neither established existence of a secret oath nor proved the connection with the camp of any defendants other than Mr. Mueller or Henry Hauck, the camp's director. Judge Hill overruled him, mentioning in connection with the latter contention that the State's first exhibit, a certified copy of the settlement league's charter, listed all the defendants as incorporators.

Attacks Brandt's Testimony

Mr. Mueller, a portly person, who has become an American citizen, took the stand to explain that only he, of the six incorporators, had become an officer of the league. He asserted Brandt's testimony concerning an oath was false.

On cross-examination, Mr. Mueller insisted he did not know what Adolf Hitler's principles of government were and refused to admit that he knew the Nazis were "persecuting a certain race."

"I don't call it persecution" and "I don't believe what I read," Mueller said when asked if he read newspaper reports of the Hitler government's attitude toward Jews.

Mr. Hauck, questioned and cross-examined along similar lines, grew so excited under cross-examination by Assistant District Attorney Lindsay R. Henry that his voice rose to a scream and the judge had to caution him to "sit back in your chair and take it easy." The camp manager became almost inarticulate as he tried to explain that the American Nazis hate the Jews only because "they have boycotted Germany."

Demonstrates Nazi Salute

The next witness, Martin E. Wunderlich, of 408 West 115th Street, New York, probationary member of the Bund, was the one who rose in the witness stand, at the judge's order, and gave the "Hitler salute" to demonstrate how the American flag is saluted "by proud members of the white race" at Camp Siegfried.

"Is that what you call the salute of an American citizen to his flag?" Mr. Henry demanded.

In his guttural accent Wunderlich flashed back: "It will be!"

The concluding witness, James Wheeler Hill, secretary of the Bund and aide to Fritz Kuhn, American Bund leader, put on the stand to

refute the existence of an oath, also became embroiled with the prosecuting attorney on questions involving accepting Hitler's theories of anti-Semitism.

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