

Boys, 14 and 17, Carve Swastika On Child's Arm

Judge Gives Americanism
Lecture to Tearful Pair,
Calls Parents 'Partially
Responsible' for Offense

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IRVINGTON, N. J., Oct. 14.—Two boys, a fourteen-year-old of German descent and a seventeen-year-old of Italian descent, were released last night with a strong lecture on Americanism after they admitted in Police Judge Thomas J. Holleran's private chambers that they had carved a Nazi swastika on the left forearm of Bernard Cohen, nine years old, with a penknife. Judge Holleran and police withheld the names of the two offenders and no police record of the case was made available.

Bernard, who is a pupil in Mount Vernon School, Irvington, arrived Tuesday evening at his home, 165 Augusta Street, and showed his injuries to his father, Samuel Cohen, an attorney attached to the Federal Internal Revenue Department at Newark. The next day Mr. Cohen walked with his son through Irvington Park, where the assault occurred, for several hours until he found and captured the younger boy. Questioned by Police Sergeant Edward Durning, the youth identified his seventeen-year-old companion. Both boys are students in Irvington Vocational School.

In court last night, the boys explained to Judge Holleran that they had been standing in the park Tuesday afternoon, talking idly about carving a swastika on somebody's arm, when Bernard came along. Since they were both taller and stronger than Bernard, they had no difficulty dragging him to some nearby bushes. The assailants cut deep enough to draw blood.

Bernard told Judge Holleran that he was too frightened at first to put

up much fight. However, he said that when the boys prepared to cut his other arm he cried out so loudly that they ran away.

Judge Holleran told Bernard's tormentors that the American flag was a symbol of liberty and decency, while the swastika was symbolic of "bestiality and bullying." As he cautioned them against carrying over in this country the hatreds of the Old World, the two offenders wept.

After expressing gratitude at the youths' assurance that their assault was merely boyish mischief, Judge Holleran turned to their parents and scolded them for their "partial responsibility, because the action of your children was a mirror reflecting home influence."

Although Bernard's injuries were not serious, they were still painful today. The swastika, cut with a sharp knife, is about two inches square.