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24 Bundists Convicted Of Urging Youths to Resist Draft Law

Face Possible Sentence Of 5 Years in Prison And \$10,000 Fine

By the Associated Press. *Star 10/2/42*
NEW YORK, Oct. 20.—Twenty-four erstwhile German-American Bund leaders, who Assistant United States Attorney Harold F. Corcoran said preferred the German fatherland to this country, have been convicted of conspiring to advise resistance to selective service.

The 24 men, each of whom may be sentenced to five years in prison and fined \$10,000, appeared calm in Federal Court last night as a Manhattan housewife, Mrs. Marguerite Casey, chairman of a six-man, six-woman jury that deliberated nearly six hours, announced the guilty verdict.

Kunze, Willumelt Convicted.

Another defendant, Ferdinand Callsen, 57-year-old deaf proprietor of a South Bend (Ind.) grocery and a former bund unit secretary, was acquitted.

Among those convicted were former National Bund Chief Gustav Wilhelm Kunze of Camden, N. J., and Dr. Otto Willumelt, both of whom previously were indicted in Hartford, Conn., on charges of conspiring to send military data to Germany and Japan. Kunze had pleaded guilty to the charge and Willumelt had been convicted.

Gustav Hildebrand, former secretary-treasurer of the St. Paul (Minn.) unit, who was not defendant, testified for the Government.

The indictment also had been brought against these three, who pleaded guilty: William Luedtke of Saddle River Township, N. J., former bund national secretary, who was the Government's main witness; Karl A. Bachmann of Buffalo, N. Y., and John August Grill, Brooklyn.

Had Challenged Draft Law.

The defendants were charged with conspiring to advise others to resist service under the Selective Service Act "until this law and all other laws of the country or of the States, which restrict the citizenship rights of bund members are repealed." This referred to a draft law clause barring bundists from jobs vacated by draftees.

Prof. F. X. Finn of Fordham University, assigned defense attorney, who served without compensation, entered a motion for a new trial.

Judge Alfred D. Barksdale, who will pass sentence tomorrow, told the jurors the verdict was "fully justified by the evidence and the law."

The defense had contended that the bundsmen had merely wished to test the draft law.

Instructing the jury before it retired, Judge Barksdale declared that "whether conspirators accomplish what they have decided to do is immaterial in a conspiracy case."

Other Defendants in Case.

Other defendants were Wilbur V. Kegan, Teaneck, N. J., bund lawyer; August Klapprott, bund Eastern department head, recent resident of Camp Nordlar 1, Andover, N. J.; Otto Fentske, New York; Max Rapp, New York; Hugo Weiss, New York; Gustav Elmer, bund treasurer, New York; Herman Schwinn, Western district leader; K. E. Wendlandt, Buffalo, N. Y.; Fritz Steiner, Detroit unit leader.

Herman Agne, Philadelphia unit chief; Walter Borchers, Jamaica, Queens, unit leader; Bruno Clemens Knupfer, New York; Joseph Bachmaler, Erie, Pa., unit head; Walter F. Schneller, Jr., an Erie leader; Joseph Belohlavek, Cleveland unit leader; William Ottersbach, Seattle, Wash., unit leader; Louis Schatz, Troy, N. Y., leader.

Carl Frederick Berg, Minneapolis unit leader; Carl Hegler, Lindenhurst, N. Y.; Ernst Mark Chisloth, Summit, N. J.; John C. Fitting, Union City, N. J., former theological student in Germany and spiritual adviser to Bruno Richard Hauptmann, who was executed for the kidnap-murder of Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr., and William C. Kunze, New York.

None of the defendants had taken the stand in his own defense. The jurors were asked to draw no inference from this.