

2 Ordered Seized in Attempt To Impair Morale of Army

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George W. Christians, of Chattanooga, Tenn., organizer of the "Crusader White Shirts," was ordered arrested last night on charges of distributing propaganda urging insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, or refusal of duty by members of the armed forces.

Attorney General Biddle announced the action shortly after issuing a similar order for the prosecution of Rudolph Fahl, of Denver, Colo., on charges of attempting to undermine the morale of the military.

These are the first such charges to be brought in the Second World War and will be prosecuted, the Justice Department announced, under a section of the 1940 Smith Act,

which provides a maximum penalty of ten years' imprisonment and \$10,000 fine. Both men are native-born Americans.

Christians, described as organizer of "The Economic Liberty Movement" as well as the "Crusader White Shirts," was charged with sending a communication addressed to "Officers of Fort Oglethorpe (Ga.) and Camp Forrest (Tenn.)," on December 5 on the letterhead of the "Crusader White Shirts," which he signed as "commander in chief."

Fahl is charged, the department said, with verbal statements to officers from the Air Corps gunnery school at Las Vegas, Nev., while they were at Lowry Field, Colo., on January 31. He is alleged to have told them they were "suckers" and were not fighting for democracy.

The Christians communication, as quoted in part by the Justice Department, said:

"Even in wartime we are permitted to ask questions, so on the reverse side of this page is a list of them which are designed to finish the demoralization and disintegration of the existing order and create a reign of terror . . .

"When the mad mob gets in motion, make sure that they dig all of the blood-sucking gangsters out from under their pile of rock and steel. Line them up against a wall and shoot them. See that they run down all the political parasites. Don't miss a single politician, big or little. Just hang them to the nearest tree or lamppost. Drive the moral lepers out of our prostitute press into a penthouse and burn hem. . . ."