

For Immediate Release  
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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Department of Justice announced today that J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has released wanted circulars revealing the identities of three expert German saboteurs who may come to the United States for the purpose of committing sabotage. Director Hoover identified the Nazi saboteurs as Walter Kappe, Joseph Schmidt, and Rheinhold Rudolf Barth. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has ascertained that these three individuals have received extensive training in the methods of committing sabotage and have received orders from the German High Command to come to the United States to destroy vital war industries.

The three Nazi saboteurs were associated with the eight German enemies who are presently being tried before a Military Commission in Washington, D. C. Several hundred thousand posters containing the photographs and descriptions of Kappe, Schmidt and Barth are being distributed, according to Director Hoover.

The following data concerning the three potential German saboteurs has been released by Mr. Hoover:

Walter Kappe

Walter Kappe, alias Walter Kappel, thirty-seven, is a Lieutenant assigned to the Intelligence Section of the German Army. He has served as an instructor in the Sabotage School operated by the German High Command near Berlin. He has been under orders to come to the United States to take charge of a contemplated German sabotage organization, with headquarters in Chicago, Illinois.

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Walter Kappe was born January 12, 1905, at Alfeld, Germany. He first arrived in the United States on the SS Orduna on March 9, 1925. He filed a petition for citizenship at Kankakee, Illinois, in June, 1925; however, he never acquired citizenship in the United States.

While in the United States, he was active in promoting various German Societies. Prior to Hitler's rise to power, he was an active advocate of Nazism and boasted of his services for the Nazi party.

In May, 1931, he was given the position of Telegraph News Editor for the "Freie Presse," Cincinnati, Ohio. While in Cincinnati, he was a member of the German-Hitler Group. He was also a member of the Teutonia Club which he claimed was sympathetic with the Hitler movement.

Kappe was the leader of a movement which endeavored to organize a National Socialist Party in the United States as early as 1932. At that time, Kappe was described as an American Correspondent for the Nazi Press with headquarters at 1050 Waveland Avenue, Chicago, Illinois where he edited the Nazi pamphlet, "Vorpsten."

Kappe was closely associated with Fritz Gissibl, one of the organizers of the Teutonia Society which was founded in Chicago on October 12, 1924. This organization was later known as "Friends of New Germany" which later became the German-American Bund.

Gissibl fled from the United States in 1934, returning to Germany, one year after he organized the "Friends of New Germany", aided by Kappe and several other Nazi sympathizers.

Kappe, an agent of the Ausland Organization, is reported to have furnished a list of American newspapers to his headquarters in Germany, which were favorable to the Nazi Regime. While in Cincinnati, Kappe made frequent trips to Chicago, and for a short period of time lived in Detroit, then moving to Chicago where he became editor of the "Deutsche Zeitung", the official organ of the Teutonia Society. This paper later became the "Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter", the organ of the German-American Bund with offices in New York City. Kappe, according to reports, was one of the founders of this paper in 1935.

The German-American Bund year book in 1937 was edited by Kappe, at which time he was known as the National Supervisor of press affairs for the Bund.

Kappe, with three others, was arrested in New York City on February 18, 1936, on a charge of kidnaping J.F. Paffrath, then financial secretary of the Deutscher Konsum Verbund. These charges were dismissed, however, on February 25, 1936, in the City Magistrates Court in New York City.

Fritz Kuhn, one time Bund leader, ousted Kappe from the Editorship of the "Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter" in 1937, at a time when Kappe was referred to as No. 1 Nazi in the United States. Kuhn suspected Kappe of checking on his activities and submitting reports to the German Consulate in New York City.

During his stay in the United States, Kappe was a frequent lecturer in various cities and contributed articles to German newspapers. Kappe sailed from New York City on the SS St. Louis on June 12, 1937.

Upon returning to Germany, Kappe has served in various capacities. He was Propaganda Director of Radio Station DJB in Berlin and has had control of all portable radio equipment for purposes of propaganda, sabotage and espionage.

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Joseph Schmidt

Joseph Schmidt, alias Paul Schmidt, alias Jerry Swanson, according to Mr. Hoover, was born in Germany and resided in the Province of Alberta, Canada, prior to September, 1939. While in Canada, Schmidt was a farmer, hunter, and trapper. The Canadian Government seized Schmidt's farm upon the outbreak of war between England and Germany; however, Schmidt succeeded in fleeing to Mexico and then to Germany.

In the early part of 1942, Schmidt attended the Sabotage School operated by the German High Command, and it is known that he was at Lorient, France, in May of 1942. In this connection, Mr. Hoover pointed out that the eight Nazi saboteurs now on trial departed on two German submarines from France for the United States late in May of this year.

Schmidt speaks English in a high-pitched voice with a noticeable Swedish accent and frequently interrupts his conversation with a peculiar laugh. He is extremely strong and has been known to perform tricks of bending heavy pieces of metal with his hands:

Rheinhold Rudolf Barth

Rheinhold Rudolf Barth was born at Stuttgart, Germany, on July 14, 1907. He arrived in the United States on July 8, 1929, aboard the SS Hamburg at New York City. He secured employment as a draftsman with the Long Island Railroad, which position he held until he submitted his resignation while in Germany in December of 1938.

Barth left the United States on May 26, 1938, returning to Germany. He filed a declaration of intention to become a citizen on October 10, 1930. However, he forfeited his claim to citizenship by leaving the United States.

Barth was an active member of the German-American Bund and on his return to Germany became an intelligence officer in the German Army. He attended the Sabotage School operated by the German High Command and also acted as an instructor in the methods of sabotaging railroads and railroad equipment. He is regarded as an expert in the sabotage of railroads and would be expected to concentrate his activities in that field should he successfully return to the United States.