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Two Germans Get Two Years As Canal Spies

Italian in Queens Sentenced
to 2 1/2 Years for Theft as
Judge Implies Espionage

CRISTOBAL, C. Z., Jan. 20 (P).—Two young Germans convicted, in the Canal Zone's first espionage trials, of unlawfully obtaining information on the defenses of the United States were sentenced today to two years at hard labor in Gamboa penitentiary. Judge Bunk Gardner allowed defense counsel C. P. Fairman sixty days in which to file a petition of appeal and bill of exceptions.

The two were Hans Heinrich Schackow, twenty-six years old, and Ernst Robert Edward Kuhrig, twenty-nine. Friends of Kuhrig said he would leave a wife and child without support. Ingeborg Waltrunt Gutman, nineteen-year-old girl secretary, and Gisbert Wilhelm Gross, twenty-six, still face trial on the same charges. All were arrested Oct. 16 on charges of taking pictures at Fort Randolph, which defends the Atlantic entrance to the Panama Canal.

Judge Gardner censured Schackow, who protested his innocence, telling him he had been warned by his consul. "You certainly did a

grave injustice to your co-defendants and took a dangerous chance," the judge told Schackow, first of the four to be tried.

Kurt Lindenberg, German consul, has followed the trials of Schackow and Kuhrig closely, attending most of the sessions and consulting at times with their counsel.

Italian "Officer" Sentenced

After he had implied that the defendant was under investigation on suspicion of espionage, Judge Thomas Downs, in Queens County Court, Long Island City, imposed a maximum prison sentence yesterday on Erminio Grassi, thirty-four years old, who was found guilty by a jury of second degree grand larceny. Grassi, who says he is a lieutenant in the Italian Army, was ordered to serve from two and a half to five years in Sing Sing for the theft of \$220 from a tavern at 148-03 Hillside Avenue, Jamaica, Queens, where he had been employed as a porter.

"Investigation has disclosed that you frequented the airports about Philadelphia," said Judge Downs. "You tell us that you went to college in Italy and served as a lieutenant in the Italian Army. There are too many foreign officers coming over here and being found around our airports. I am not sure you are what I think you are, so we are having you checked up, and we have plenty of time for that. I don't know whether you know what I think you are, but we will find out."

Judge Downs pointed out that Grassi's case was the first in his seven years on the bench in which he had imposed the maximum sentence. Grassi came to the United States eight months ago on a two months' permit, which was extended six months. Detectives arrested him last Dec. 9 as he was getting a visa for passage to Italy.