

# USO Captain Once Signed Kuhn Petition

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For his diligence in organizing a German-American group, Dirk Voss has been made a captain in the current drive of the USO, the army behind the Army and the Navy.

Voss's activity in raising funds among German-Americans for the recreation of U. S. servicemen is in marked contrast to his past association:

¶ Together with the German-American Bund's fuehrer, Fritz Kuhn, who is now serving a jail term for embezzlement, Voss signed an appeal to German-Americans to support the Friends of New Germany, predecessor organization of the Nazi-controlled Bund. This was on Feb. 20, 1936.

¶ The *Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter* gave the appeal prominent display in its Mar. 5, 1936, issue. The *Weckruf* was then the official organ of the Friends of New Germany. Later it became the official newspaper of the Bund. It was listed by a Washington Grand Jury as among publications involved in a sedition conspiracy.

¶ Voss was listed as a member of the Celebration Committee at the Swastika-decorated German Day celebration in Madison Square Garden on Oct. 4, 1937. The Nazi *Horst Wessel* song was sung at the opening of the meeting. Hans Dieckhoff, then Nazi Ambassador to the U. S. A., was the principal speaker.

¶ Voss was listed as a delegate of the N. Y. Turnbezirk (athletic district) in the May, 1940, issue of *Bahn Frei*, official publication of the N. Y. Turnverein. The Turnbezirk, on May 12, 1940, sent a delegation to a Randalls Island athletic meet where huge Swastikas were displayed and the Hitler salute was given.

After Pearl Harbor, Voss was active in trying to get a place in the Civilian Defense setup. He said at a Jan. 10 meeting of German-American leaders, called by the N. Y. Office of Civilian Defense, that the gymnastic training of Turnverein members made them especially fit to participate in national defense.

"We Germans don't talk much; we act," Voss said then, and revealed that his group, at a meeting the previous night with a high police official, had offered to supply funds for Civilian Defense equipment.