

# Nazi Spy and Propaganda Activities Exposed In San Pedro

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By TOM CULLEN

Longshoremen who work Pier 188 (Hamburg-American Line) in Wilmington would do well to watch the men who board the ships that dock there.

Perhaps some will recall an individual who is a frequent visitor to ships flying the Swastika flag. He is a comparatively young man, in his early thirties, with a ruddy face and a thin, quivering mustache on his upper lip, and he always carries a brief case.

## WHO IS SCHWINN?

That man is Hermann Schwinn, director of Nazi activities for the West Coast. He was appointed by Minister of Propaganda Goebbels in Germany and is the recipient of personal letters of praise from Adolph Hitler for his work.

In his brief case he carries reports from Nazi agents operating not only on the West Coast, but in Mexico, Central and South America—for Los Angeles is the clearing-house for spy activities. Most of the fascist under-cover men clear through the Deutsches Haus at 634 W. 15th Street.

In exchange for the spy reports which he hands over to the captain of the vessel for transmission to Germany, Schwinn usually receives a package wrapped in brown manila paper. That package contains instructions and literature from Germany. The literature is especially prepared for foreign consumption by an organization called the Fichte Bund, with headquarters in Hamburg.

Perhaps the morning after Schwinn's visit to the Nazi liner, a worker in the Douglas Aircraft plant in Santa Monica, reporting for work in the morning, opens his locker to find that it contains a beautifully illustrated brochure, extolling the wonders of Germany, together with anti-semitic and anti-union leaflets and notices of Bund meetings.

## PERFECT TIMING

A coincidence, you say? The timing of Schwinn's appearance aboard the Nazi ship and the rush of Nazi propaganda that breaks out in Santa Monica. Hardly! There is nothing coincidental or haphazard about the activities of the Brown Network in this or any other country. Nazi Germany has the most efficient, the most highly-organized propa-

ganda and espionage machine in the world. And you have just witnessed one small cog of that machine in motion.

## SAME SYSTEM

The events described above are similar to those that took place in Austria and Czechoslovakia, on a much bigger scale of course, for over a year before Hitler's hordes invaded those two peaceful countries. Czechoslovakia was honeycombed with spies and propagandists, preaching their sermons of hate, stirring up the German-born with their phony theories of racial supremacy, ferriting out secrets of the armed forces, penetrating into anti-fascist and workers' organizations in order to disrupt them from within.

## LEARN A LESSON

And we, in this peace-loving country of ours, will do well to learn a lesson from the fate of our brothers workers in those democracies of Europe that have been gobbled up by Nazi aggression. We will do well to smoke out the enemies within our ranks who are working secretly to undermine our democratic organizations, for of course the Nazis haven't overlooked our political groups and trade unions.

## SMALL MINORITY

Fortunately, they are a small minority and can easily be spotted. Red-baiting and Jew-baiting are their hallmarks, and they usually align themselves with the most disruptive and anti-union elements.

This is not to say that all German-Americans are Nazi spies, not by a long shot. Most of the naturalized American citizens of German descent are decent and law-abiding, sincere in their hatred of the Nazi creed.

## SPY CENTER

The question is often asked, "Why is the West Coast one of the chief spy centers of the United States?" The answer can readily be found in its geographical location, for one thing.

## WORLD DENOMINATION

The West Coast, and California in particular, is directly in the path of the Rising Sun of Japa-

nese Imperialism. And the Son of the Sun, Emperor Hirohito of Japan, has often eyed it greedily as the next step in his drive for world domination.

## STRATEGIC POSITION

Then there's our close proximity to Mexico and to Central and South America. Mexico has great potential value to the Nazis as a military and naval base of operations in the United States, and the Panama Canal is regarded as strategically important in choking off our trade and naval lifeline.

But another reason, and a principal one for our consideration here, that the fascists have made their nests on the West Coast is that a number of national defense spots and vital industries are located here—aircraft and shipping, to mention but two.

The Brown Network is interested in placing its agents in these vital industries principally for purposes of espionage. Consider for instance the tremendous advantage for Germany to have first-hand information on the latest equipment and devices that the United States has developed in aircraft.

## ESPIONAGE

Those agents who have kept their identity well hidden would also be of inestimable value to Germany for the purpose of sabotage in time of war. We all of us remember the widespread sabotage that took place in our war industries after this country entered the World War. Now, with its espionage machinery functioning much more efficiently, Germany is in a position to really cripple some of this vital activity.

## INDUSTRIALISTS' STAND

You are probably wondering, "Do U. S. industrialists purposely and consciously hire Nazi agents to spy on their plants and to engage in sabotage in time of hostilities?"

The answer is obviously, No. There is still some patriotism left among the majority of our tycoons of industry, although many of them are openly in sympathy with the Nazi regime. Few would hire a

known spy or saboteur who was working for a foreign power.

## SECRET AGENTS

But many of the Nazi secret agents were hired to break up trade unions. Many of them were hired as strike-breakers or stool-pigeons to spy on union members. And they endeared themselves to their bosses by reporting any union activities that went on in the plants. They managed to entrench themselves in positions of importance where they could not easily be rooted out. When it came to promotions, these "loyal" employees were always the first in line. Same way with lay-offs—usually they were the last to go.

Take the Douglas Aircraft factory. In the early part of February, 1937, before the sit-down strike which heralded the Consul of CIO in Southern California, Douglas hired a number of German-Americans, said to be Nazis.

## TWO SPIES

Two of these—John Shonach and Josef Schuch—were open in their admiration of Hitler and their hatred of the Jews, in fact so open that the company was finally forced to fire them. Shonach in particular became blatant in his propaganda work after having attended a convention of the German-American Bund in San Francisco in May of 1938.

These men were hired by Douglas, not to copy the blueprints of his latest bomber and transmit the same to Germany, but to break up unionism in his plant. Douglas must have had wind that the CIO was concentrating on his workers, that a strike was in the offing; consequently, he hired the big strapping Germans to smash the union in its inception. If they had been more clever and less open in their work as propagandists, the Germans would probably be working in the aircraft plant as foremen today.

(Next week's installment will expose Nazi activities at the North-American Aviation Company in Los Angeles.)