

U.S. Seizes 14 Confederates Of Saboteurs

8 Men and 6 Women Gave Aid, Comfort To 5 of 8 Nazis Landed by U-Boats

By Dillard Stokes
Post Staff Writer

Attorney General Biddle yesterday named 14 confederates of the eight German soldiers who slipped into the United States on a mission of espionage and destruction last month.

The Attorney General said the eight men and six women confederates gave aid and comfort to five of the eight Germans, with full knowledge of their hostile purpose.

Nothing was said about accomplices of the other three invaders, but it was surmised that Federal agents are after them.

The capture of the 14 confederates was disclosed while the President's Military Commission heard evidence for the fifth day against the 8 men who slipped off two Nazi submarines with weapons and dynamite to carry on the war behind America's lines.

Confederates May Hang

The Attorney General and the Army are demanding that the eight Germans be put to death as spies. If they are, then some of their 14 confederates may hang for treason and the remainder will face long prison terms for conspiracy, sedition, misprision of treason and other crimes against the security of this country.

There is only one crime defined by the Constitution, and it is treason. The Constitution says:

Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort . . . The Congress shall have power to declare the punishment. (Article III, Section 3.)

The Attorney General quoted from reports of J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, specific acts of aid and comfort the 14 confederates were alleged to have committed to help the spies.

Herbert Haupt, 22, came to America with his mother when he was 5 years old and lived here until he was 21. Then he went back to add Reichswehr training to what he learned about war in the R. O. T. C. unit of a Chicago high school.

Freshly graduated by the Gestapo as a spy and a saboteur, Haupt crept off a submarine to a Florida beach on June 17, and went straight to Chicago—this time as an enemy instead of an immigrant—to seek the confederates approved for him by the German high command. The Attorney General said he found them, and that they were: Haupt's father, Hans, Max Haupt, 48, and mother, Erna Haupt, 43.

Walter Wilhelm Froehling, 40, Haupt's uncle, and Mrs. Lucille Froehling, 32, his aunt. Otto Richards Wergin, 46, and his wife, Emma Wergin, 44, friends of the Haupt family.

Elder Haupt Confesses

The Attorney General quoted Hoover as reporting that the elder Haupt confessed giving aid and comfort to the son who came as an enemy of the Nation to which the

father swore "true faith and allegiance."

The elder Haupt was a German soldier in the first war, but became an American citizen after he came to America in 1923. However, he was secretary of the Deutscher Veteranen Unterstutzungs and belonged to the German Day Association, the Schwaben Society and the German Veterans Association.

Hoover reported that the elder Haupt knew his son was a spy, sent to blast defense plants and pry out military secrets. So did Mrs. Haupt, who also once swore allegiance to the United States.

Despite this knowledge, the report said, the Haupts hid the young spy in their home, concealed \$2550 of the money he brought from Germany and bought him a car in which to haul the dynamite he brought to use in sabotage. They also got a friend to hide \$900 for him.

Hiding Place and Headquarters

The Froehlings, too, the report said, knew Haupt's hostile purpose, yet they were going to let Haupt and the other spies use their home for a hiding place and a headquarters. Haupt was said to have hidden \$9950 in a secret cabinet in the Froehling home and to have met one of the other spies there.

Froehling swore allegiance to the United States in 1931 and his wife took the oath in 1935. But they were members of the Deutscher Amerikaner Bund and their names were on the list of contacts approved for Haupt by the German high command.

Wergin was in the German navy in the first war, but renounced his fealty to the Reich and became an American citizen in Chicago in 1936.

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Hedwig Engeman, 34, a grocery clerk who was born in Brooklyn but lived in Germany most of the time until she was 21.

Ernest Herman Kerkhof, 36, a naturalized citizen and a bund member, who has been "intimately" associated with Maria Kerling for a year.

Leiner Changed Big Bills

Leiner was declared to have told Maria Kerling her husband was back, after which they tried frequently to get together, but failed because the husband was soon tracked down by American agents.

The Attorney General's announcement said Leiner helped Kerling contact other confederates, changed big bills for him and coached him about America's laws to regulate aliens.

Miss Engeman knew Kerling was a spy, the report said, but helped him change big bills into small ones.

Kerkhof was said to have made arrangements to return to Germany, despite his having sworn allegiance to the United States 10 years ago.

Two Neubauer Confederates

Hermann Neubauer, 32, entered America in 1931 and worked as a seaman and a hotel cook until three years ago, when he went back to Germany. He, too, landed off the submarine in Florida, and headed for Chicago. Attorney General Biddle said he found two confederates there:

Harry Jaques, 47, who jumped ship in 1924 to get into this country.

Emma Jaques, 41, his wife, who

before the Military Commission. They are Richard Quinn, 64, Ernest Peter Burger, 36, and George John Dasch, 39, who hopes he will escape the death penalty, because of help he is supposed to have given American agents, after he was caught.

The prosecutors—Attorney General Biddle and Maj. Gen. Myron Cramer—have presented nine witnesses against the spies. As the week goes on the confessions of the 14 accomplices also will be produced against them, to confirm their own admissions, babbled out when they knew the game was up.

Suspect Wrote

To Fish and Lindbergh

New York, July 13 (NS).—Found in the headquarters of Anthony Cramer—named yesterday as the willful confederate of German spies on trial in Washington—were documents in which he professed to be a member of the America First Committee.

Found also were copies of letters Cramer wrote to Representative Hamilton Fish, Charles A. Lindbergh and America First officers.

Acquaintances said Hermann H. Faje, another named as a confederate of the spies, was at one time a steward on Vincent Astor's yacht Nourmahal, on which President Roosevelt has made many cruises.

A few blocks from Cramer's furnished room, members of the family of Hedwig Engeman were found at their small grocery store.

Hedwig's 30-year-old brother, Joseph, who enters the Army Saturday, said:

"I guess we'll have to sell the store."

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Froehling swore allegiance to the United States in 1931 and his wife took the oath in 1935. But they were members of the Deutscher Amerikaner Bund and their names were on the list of contacts approved for Haupt by the German high command.

Wergin was in the German navy in the first war, but renounced his fealty to the Reich and became an American citizen in Chicago in 1936. The report to the Attorney General said Wergin was a member of the Reichsdeutsche Vereinigung and the Germania Club and that he consorted with bund members, having been heard to voice admiration for the Nazis.

Wergin Offers to Help Haupt

The Wergins' son, Wolfgang, was Haupt's companion when he slipped across the Rio Grande to Mexico to board the ship which took him to Japan. There, they transferred to a Nazi blockade runner, which landed them safe in Bordeaux, France. Both then went to Germany and Wolfgang Wergin is said to be there still.

To Wergin and his wife, Haupt explained his mission in the United States. Wergin volunteered to help and contacted Haupt in his hiding place at the Haupt home several times.

Edward John Kerling, 33, came from Germany in 1929 and lived here 10 years before he went back to join the Nazi army. Kerling—using the alias of Edward Kelly—came on the same submarine as Haupt, and with the same design. The Attorney General said Kerling headed for New York to look for accomplices, and found these:

Mania Kerling, 38, his wife, a member of the Nazi Party, who came to America in 1926.

Helmut Leiner, 33, who had

Miss Engeman knew Kerling was a spy, the report said, but helped him change big bills into small ones. Kerhof was said to have made arrangements to return to Germany, despite his having sworn allegiance to the United States 10 years ago.

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Hans Jaques, 47, who jumped ship in 1924 to get into this country.

Emma Jaques, 41, his wife, who came here in 1925. The Attorney General's statement said Neubauer told the Jaques' about his secret mission and they hid \$3800 for him in a coffee can in their kitchen. The money—all in \$50 bills—was seized.

The fourth spy to land in Florida was Werner Thiel, 35, a tool maker, who spent most of his adult life in America, but left after the war broke out and got to Germany by way of Japan. Thiel headed for New York, the Attorney General's statement said, and sought the aid of:

Anthony Cramer, 42, an engineer who served in the German army in the first war, but swore allegiance to the United States in 1936.

Member of Bund

The reports said both Thiel and Kerling sought out Cramer and told him they had come in a submarine for spying and sabotage. Then Cramer—who was a bund member—accepted \$3670 for safe keeping and still had most of the money when Federal agents raided him.

Cramer was in possession of a thick file of copies of letters he had written to President Roosevelt. In these he had protested, "as an American," against the United States being involved in the war.

Heinrich Heinck, 35, is the Nazi whose expenses to Germany, to join Hitler's army, were paid by 158 persons now under arrest in New York. He came back to this country on June 13, landing off a submarine at Amagansett Beach, Long Island. The Attorney General's statement said Heinck promptly looked up.

Herman Heinrich Faje, 36, who came to America in 1928 and became a citizen six years ago.

Faje Given Money Belt

The Hoover report said Heinck explained his mission and handed Faje a money belt, stuffed with \$3600 in bills, to keep for him until he needed it in his spy work.

The Constitution provides that no person may be convicted of treason unless there are two witnesses to the same overt act or upon confession in open court. It appeared possible that this degree of proof was lacking in the case of some of the 14 confederates. However, the fact that all knew the Germans who contacted them were spies made it seem sure that all 14 would be charged with conspiracy and misprision—which is the failure to report an act of treason to the President or a Federal judge "as soon as may be."

The United States Code provides that treason shall be punished with death or imprisonment and a fine, but it speaks of the crime being one committed by persons "owing allegiance to the United States."

Allens Owe Allegiance to U. S.

This language raised a doubt whether the confederates who were not American citizens could be punished for treason at all. However, the Supreme Court has said that every alien owes allegiance to the United States during the time he is within our borders.

Even if some of the 14 confederates were safe from the death penalty for treason, they might be liable to indictment for espionage. This is punishable in wartime by death.

Besides the five whose confederates were named yesterday, there are three other spies on trial

admissions, dabbling out when they knew the game was up.

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Hedwig's 30-year-old brother, Joseph, who enters the Army Saturday, said:

"I guess we'll have to sell the store."

Carl, her younger brother, runs the grocery store. He refused to go into detail concerning the background of his sister, stating grimly: "We still have a small cafe in Germany."

Helmut Leiner, one of the key contacts of the spies, has a brother and a brother-in-law in the United States Army. He had been living near LaGuardia Field and the Hell Gate Bridge, which was one of the spots listed for destruction by the spies.

Wergin Sought in Vain To Be Air-Raid Warden

Chicago, July 13 (U.P.).—Otto Richard Wergin, held by Government agents for allegedly aiding German saboteurs landed on the East Coast by submarines, was highly indignant because his community refused to elect him an air-raid warden, neighbors revealed tonight.

Neighbors of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wilhelm Froehling identified a picture of Hermann Neubauer as a frequent visitor at the Froehling home. Froehling was employed by a power and light company before his arrest.