

FBI Smashes Spy Ring Headed by 'Mata Hari'; 4 Women, 2 Men Taken



Associated Press WIREPHOTO

CHARGED WITH AIDING NAZIS—Grace Buchanan-Dineen, 34, above, was arrested in Detroit yesterday on a charge of being a ringleader in an organization of spies who gathered information for Nazi Germany. She was held in \$50,000 bond

Would Face Death If
Convicted; Pullman,
Ford, Westinghouse

Factories 'Targets'

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By International News Service

Detroit, Aug. 24.—Before a melodramatic backdrop of female allure, nobility and international intrigue, FBI today smashed a German spy ring made up of four women and two men and headed by a glamorous, blue-blooded "Mata Hari."

Four women and a surgeon were arrested in Detroit and a merchant seaman was seized in New York. Three naturalized Americans, a Canadian and two German aliens composed the group.

Four were charged with delivering to the German high command information on Allied convoys and on the location and vulnerability of gigantic American war plants, including the Ford Motor Co., the Pullman Co. in Chicago and the Western Electric Co. in Ohio.

Accused of violating the Wartime Espionage Act, they are liable upon conviction to a maximum sentence of death.

The two others of the group—both women—were interned as "dangerous enemy aliens," and, as is customary in cases dealing with enemy aliens, their names were not divulged.

The ringleader, FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover declared, was nabbed two months after she entered the United States in 1941, and turned counterespionage agent, relaying to Germany only such information as the FBI wanted Germany to

have.

Arraigned in Detroit

She was identified as Grace Buchanan-Dineen, 34-year-old descendant of French nobility, a native of Canada and sometimes known as "Countess Buchanan-Dineen." Miss Buchanan-Dineen was arraigned in Detroit along with Dr. Fred William Thomas, 44, and Mrs. Theresa Behrens, 44-year-old YWCA secretary.

Bonds of \$50,000 were set in each case after the two women stood mute and not guilty pleas were entered for them. Dr. Thomas also pleaded innocent.

The two aliens, who were held for the enemy alien hearing board, also were woven into an intriguing background. They were described as a Berlin-born countess and the wife of a prominent Nazi party member. This Nazi's daughter, it was said, worked in Berlin at a desk adjoining that of one of the eight German saboteurs who reached this country by submarine last summer.

Cooperated With FBI

The sixth member of the ring was identified as Bertrand Stuart Hoffman, 27-year-old member of the United States Merchant Marine, who was seized in New York.

Hoover said Grace Buchanan-Dineen was trained in German espionage technique in Hungary before America entered the war. She reached this country by clipper October 27, 1941.

After her arrest, the FBI said, she not only served as an American counterspy but also "cooperated fully with the FBI in receiving information desired by the German espionage service when it became apparent to her that she could not carry out the instructions

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Job Took Three Years

Detroit, Aug. 24 (INS).—John S. Bugas, Detroit FBI chief, said tonight that Federal agents "worked three years carefully building and baiting the spy trap that was sprung today."

Figures in Spy Case



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Left, Theresa Behrens, 44, as she left for Federal court in Detroit. Right, Sari de Hajek, former exchange student at Vassar College, now believed to be in Hungary.



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Left to right, Bertrand Steuart Hoffman, 27-year-old U. S. Maritime Service Sailor, as he was arraigned in Brooklyn; Dr. Fred Williams Thomas, who pleaded innocent in Detroit; and Guyula Rozinek, husband of Sari de Hajek, now said to be in Hungary assisting the German espionage service.

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of her Nazi employers."

"She has operated under the surveillance of the FBI, and all information reported to her and forwarded to her Nazi espionage superiors abroad has cleared through the FBI, and Army and Navy intelligence services," the Justice Department asserted.

Hoover said Miss Buchanan-Dineen's great-grandfather was Count de Neen of Brittany, France, and at one time her grandfather "was considered one of the richest men in Canada and she owns considerable property there in her own name."

Of Dr. Thoms, the FBI chief

said:

"He has long been known to the FBI in Detroit as an associate of Theodore Donay, who was recently convicted for misprision of treason in Detroit; Fritz Kuhn, Gerhard Wilhelm Kunze (bund leaders) and Max Stephan, whose death sentence for treason was recently commuted to life."

Miss Buchanan-Dineen's tutors in espionage, Hoover said, were Sari de Hajek, a former well-known lecturer in this country on Hungarian folklore and a Vassar graduate, and her husband, Guyula Rozinek, who was deported from this country in May, 1941.

The Canadian woman, it was said, was to receive \$500 a month for her espionage services in this country from the Nazi treasury, and when she left Lisbon, a German naval attache handed her \$2500 as working capital.

Hoover revealed that she received a notebook from Sari de Hajek containing names, addresses, telephone numbers and background information on 200 "prominent persons" who might aid her espionage work.

Some of these persons lived in Baltimore and Washington, D. C.

Miss Buchanan-Dineen also had contact with Dr. Otto Willumeit, former Chicago Bund leader, who, Hoover said, "expressed his willingness to gather espionage information for the enemy."

Dr. Thomas, according to the FBI picture, apparently has a strange

sense of humor. He was said to have trailed a Detroit rabbi to various meetings and after the latter finished telling of the evils of Nazi socialism, Thomas spoke of its alleged virtues.

The espionage jobs, the FBI said, were parceled out thusly: Miss Buchanan-Dineen, information on the Ford plants and plans by which American military planes leave for war zones; Mrs. Behrens, information on the Pullman Co.; Dr. Thomas, information on Westinghouse Electric, paying special attention to nitroglycerin production; Hoffman, information on naval bases and convoys.