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Minutemen-260

NEW LONDON, Conn. AP - Five Minutemen who pleaded guilty to staging a commando-type raid on a pacifist camp last summer drew sentences ranging from one to ten years in prison Tuesday.

A Superior Court judge rejected claims by the defense that the Minutemen, members of an extremist group opposed to communism, meant no harm to the pacifists. All evidence indicated they intended to burn down the pacifists' farmhouse, the judge said.

The raider receiving the shortest sentence was Louis Rogers, 24, of Lisbon. He was sentenced to only one year in jail, the judge said, because of blindness resulting from a wound in the head.

Rogers was one of four raiders wounded in the predawn shoot-out Aug. 24 with state police at the Voluntown farm owned by the New England Committee for Non violent Action.

The leader of the group, Thomas J. Hart, 29, of Milford, and Frank Barber, 26, of Norwich, drew sentences of 7 1/2 to 10 years. They were charged with aggravated assault, conspiracy to commit arson, binding, gagging and blindfolding with intent to commit a felony and possession of arms in the night.

Thomas J. Fowler, 21, of Canterbury received the same sentence on the same charges, plus a charge of possessing burglar tools.

Alphonse Macha, 29, of Willimantic drew one to nine years in prison after pleading guilty to the same charges as Hart and Barber, with the exception of the aggravated assault charge.

Rogers pleaded guilty to the same charges as Hart and Barber with the exception of the blinding-and-gagging charge. Instead, he was charged with being an accessory to binding and gagging.

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