

# NEWS LETTER

Published by News Research Service, Inc., 727 W. Seventh Street, Los Angeles, California

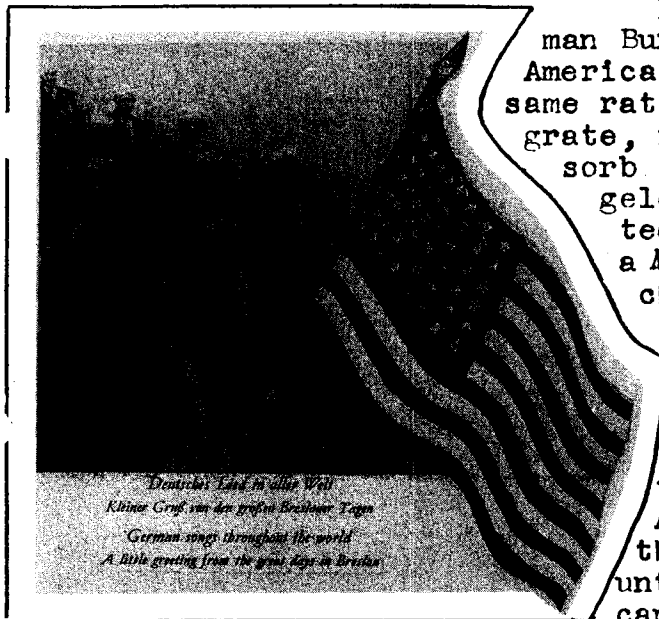
Space permits only highlighting of news. More detailed information is available to serious Students and Writers.

Figures in Text indicate Reference Notes at end of Issue.

No. 114. November 13, 1940

## NAZI GLEE CLUBS CLOAK FIFTH COLUMNING IN USA

Los Angeles Bundits are now forging their brass knuckles into tuning forks, and "O.D." (Ordnungsdienst -- hall police) Stormtroopers are fast becoming troubadours.



*Deutsches Land in aller Welt  
Kleiner Gruß von den großen Deutschen Tagen  
German songs throughout the world  
A little greeting from the great days in Breslau*

German-American singing societies, for the longest time, resisted Nazification. Only gradually and sporadically did some of them succumb to the swastika. No sooner had that happened than Doktor Goebbels made the most of it, showing members of German-American glee clubs goose-stepping behind the Stars and Stripes. The above picture, taken in Breslau, was given wide distribution in Americagerman circles and among Foreign-Country Nazis.

Facing imminent obliteration as Americagerman Bundits, a new false front is being erected by America-Nazis to camouflage Fifth Columning. In the same ratio in which local units of the Bund disintegrate, regional organizations of different hue absorb the footloose Swastika-fascists. In Los Angeles, as in many other Bund centers in the United States, the new façade assumes the form of a *Männerchor* (glee club). This disguise was chosen because German-American singing societies have been held in high regard in the

United States ever since -- almost a century ago -- the staunch Forty-Eighters came from overseas to escape anti-Democratic persecution. The zest for Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness, fostered in German-American glee clubs prior to the advent of the pan-Germanistic era, was so strong that, until very recently, most of the *Männerchors* escaped being tarred with the Hitler brush. Even today, many of these organizations steadfastly refuse to embrace swastika tenets.

It is precisely for that reason that some Bund units have now taken on the protective coloring of glee clubs. Studiously, these pseudo-*Männerchors* seek to create the impression that they are not all militantly totalitarian. They make every effort to profess affection for, and attachment to, democratic ideals. However, this sudden change of heart is merely staged for public consumption; behind the new, non-political front, the old swastika octopus still wriggles its anti-Democratic propaganda tentacles.

Harmony -- and not only musically speaking -- is just now badly needed in the purlieus of the Los Angeles *Deutsches Haus* <sup>1)</sup> since finances are by no means satisfactory. In fact, on October 11th and 12th, members of the Bund received a letter (illustration on page 2), informing them that special assessments had been decreed by the Board of Directors. Translated verbatim, it reads as follows:

Pursuant to order of the Bund treasury, contributions to our movement will be raised as per September 1st, as follows:

Los Angeles den 10. Okt. 1940.

Wertes Bundesmitglied, werter Foerderer:

Laut Bundesschatzantsbefehl werden mit dem 1. Sept. die Beitrage unserer Bewegung wie folgt erhoben:

- a) Mitglieder und Foerderer von 75 cts auf \$ 1.00 p. Monat.
- b) Verheiratete weibliche Mitglieder od. Foerderer deren Maenner Mitgl. od. Foerd. sind von 30 auf 60 cts.p.Monat.

Fernerhin wurde von der Bundesleitung angeordnet, dass zur Entschuldung des Bundes folgende Abgaben in Form von Spenden zu machen sind:

- a) Mitglieder und Foerderer die verheiratet sind und deren Frauen ebenfalls Mitgl. oder Foerderer sind haben eine Spende von \$ 10.00 zu leisten.
- b) Alle Ehefrauen deren Maenner Mitglieder oder Foerderer sind haben eine Spende von \$ 5.00 zu leisten.
- c) Alle alleinstehenden Mitgl. oder Foerderer haben eine Spende von \$ 12.00 zu leisten.

Da die Ortsgruppe von den Beitragen eines jeden Mitgliedes ( ob bezahlt oder nicht) 60 cts nach New York abfuehren muss, um einen genauen Ueberblick ueber unsere Mitgliedschaft zu bekommen, bitten wir Sie untenstehende Fragen sofort zu beantworten und an uns zurueck zu senden, sodass wir nicht spaeter als Donnerstag d. 17. Okt. im Besitze Ihrer Antworten sind.

Free America  
HERMANN SCHWINN

FRAGEBOGEN

- 1. Falls Sie mit Ihren Beitragen im Rueckstand sind, ist es Ihnen moeglich dieselben bis zum 1. Nov. nachzubzahlen? JA NEIN (Unzutreffendes durchstreichen)
- 2. Sind Sie in der Lage obige Spenden zur Entschuldung des Bundes bis zum 1. Dez. zu bezahlen? JA NEIN
- 3. In der letzten Mitgliederversammlung wurde der Vorschlag gemacht obige Spendengelder zur Abtragung der Schulden zu benutzen die durch Kauf des Deutschen Hauses entstanden sind. Halten Sie dass fuer richtig? JA NEIN
- 4. Bemerkungen: \_\_\_\_\_

Unterschrift.

Facsimile of assessment letter mailed to every Los Angeles Bund member and Bund supporter on October 11 and 12.

a) Members and supporters, from 75¢ to \$1.00 per month.

b) Married female members or supporters, whose husbands are members or supporters, from 30¢ to 60¢ per month.

Furthermore, the Board of Directors decreed that, in order to amortize Bund obligations, the following donations are to be made:

a) Members and supporters who are married and whose wives are members or supporters, are to donate \$10.00.

b) All women whose husbands are members or supporters are to donate \$5.00.

c) All single members or supporters are to donate \$12.00.

From the dues of each member (whether paid up or not), local units divert 60¢ to New York. In order to obtain an exact survey of our membership, we request you to fill in the appended questionnaire, returning it to us without delay so that we receive it not later than Thursday, October 17.

Free America

HERMANN SCHWINN

QUESTIONNAIRE

(1) In case you are in arrears with your dues, can you pay them up by November 1? Yes No (Strike out inappropriate reply.)

(2) Are you in a position to remit above-mentioned donations to amortize indebtedness of the Bund not later than December 1? Yes No

(3) At the last membership meeting, the suggestion was made that above-mentioned donations be employed to pay debts incurred through the purchase of the Deutsches Haus. Do you agree with this? Yes No

Signature

By Order of Berlin

KONZERT  
&  
GRÜNDUNGS - FEIER  
des  
DEUTSCHES HAUS MÄNNERCHOR.

SONNTAG DEN 3. Nov. 1940.

## FESTFOLGE:

1. Hoch Heidecksburg . . . . . Marsch von Herzog.
2. Die diabolische Elster . . . . . Rossini.
3. Begrüßungsansprache . . . . . Hans Leiss.
4. "Frühling am Rhein" . . . . . D.H. Männerchor.
5. Ernst August Marsch . . . . . Orchester.
6. "Eritu" aus Maskenball . . . . . Giuseppe Verdi.  
"Dein ist mein ganzes Herz" . . . . . Lehar.  
Gesungen von Hans R a c d o r . . . . .
7. "Am schönen Rhein" . . . . . D.H. Männerchor.
8. Geschichten aus dem Wiener Wald . . . . . Orchester.
9. "Der Steuermann" . . . . . D.H. Männerchor.
10. Schlussmarsch . . . . . Orchester.

Dirigent: LUDWIG KUPFER .

Nachfolgend Tanz.

.....

Reproduction of program of the Concert  
and Organization-Celebration of the  
"Deutsches Haus Männerchor".

These new assessments were by no means well received by the Bundits. Although still as loyal to the Swastika cause as ever, they are beginning to complain about the constantly increasing financial drain. However, such resignations of Bundits as were handed in, in no way indicated that the Hitler cause is considered lost or too dangerous to pursue further. Rather, in accordance with the new America-Nazi strategy, practically all of ex-citizen Hermann Schwinn's <sup>2)</sup> braves resigned from the Bund only to join, without delay, the Deutsches Haus Männerchor. So bursting with ambition were these glee clubbers that on Sunday, November 3rd, they made their debut (illustration on this page) at a "Concert and Organization-Celebration".

Musically inclined listeners were not greatly impressed with what the Männerchor had to offer in the line of singing, but politically-trained hearers pricked up their ears when Herr Hans Leiss delivered himself of a welcoming address in the name of the new organization. Herr Leiss' speech was all the more interesting as he made over-strenuous efforts to assure his audience that the Männerchor had no other aims than to cultivate *das deutsche Lied* (German song). Indeed, Herr Leiss

was so emphatic on this point that it became absolutely clear to initiates that Männerchor is simply a new name for *Amerikadeutscher Bund*.

To utilize song as a means of Fifth Columning, Schwinn's Bundits have received ample training. Within the walls of the *Deutsches Haus*, every patriotic or propagandistic occasion furnished the stimulant to burst into melody, with a special collection of Stormtrooper Songs (illustration on page 4) serving as musical guide. NRS, from its collection of similar graphic proofs, today presents a snapshot of singing Stormtroopers (illustration on page 5), taken at a Nazi meeting shortly before the Bundits put their uniforms in mothballs.

Confirming the fact that the Stormtroopers cell had changed nothing but its shingle, Schwinn's Nazis, directly after the concert, adjourned to the Embassy Auditorium. There they attended, practically man for man, a meeting of a "Save America First" group. The latter was headed by T. W. Hughes <sup>3)</sup>, who was defeat-

O V E R !

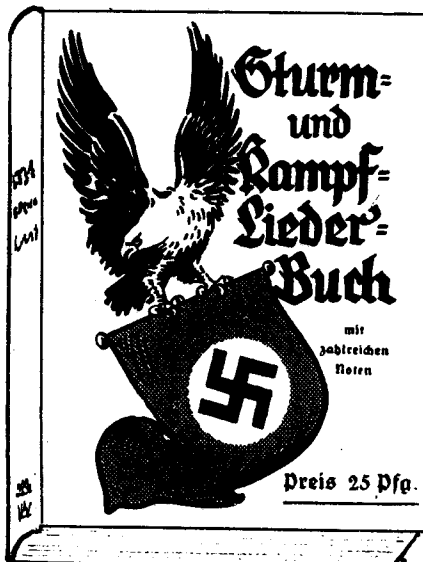
ed at the primaries in his attempt to become Congressional Representative of the 13th California District. Most of the *Männerchor* Stormtroopers were well ammunitioned with packages of what appeared to be sheet music. However, when unfolded, they proved to contain Nazi literature of the type sold at Hans Diebel's 4) Aryan Book Store, located in the vestibule of the Los Angeles *Deutsches Haus* at 634 West 15th Street. These leaflets and pamphlets were distributed among Hughes' crowd, and were well received -- which was only to be expected.

The metamorphosis of Stormtroopers into "Stormtroopadours" was the result of carefully developed general staff work emanating from the New York Central office. The *Deutsches Haus* -- lately dormant due to the cloud of suspicion hanging over it -- started to hum right after Wilhelm Kunze 5), Fritz Kuhn's successor as *Bundesführer*, delivered himself of a long and strong talk before a group of America-Nazi old-timers. In the course of this address, Kunze frankly revealed that, in many cities, the Bund had gone underground in the face of rising resentment. So that Bund activities might go on as usual, Kunze ordered local groups to assume the innocent guise of athletic clubs, bowling societies and, wherever possible, *Männerchors*. The *Bundesführer* made it clear that, in future, *das deutsche Lied* -- least likely to fall under suspicion -- would have to serve as propagandistic vanguard. This position was formerly entrusted to an emphatically stressed "Community of Language" 6) and "Racial Community" 7).

No sooner had Kunze left Los Angeles to continue his inspection trip, than the *Deutsches Haus Männerchor* was launched.

#### An Old German Custom

*Das deutsche Lied* has always been -- and certainly is right now! -- a very important weapon in the arsenal of Pan-Germanism. Together with "German blood" and "German language", it constitutes the three links of race which supposedly elevate the German above all the others. German *Männerchors* in foreign countries have always been considered instruments of pan-Germanic policy. However, until the ascent of Hitler, this movement was by no means militant, but only in the nature of a *Kulturträger* -- that is, a means of diffusing German customs and culture. No sooner had the Nazis swung themselves into the saddle, than Goebbels' Propaganda Ministry began to play up to overseas *Männerchors* on Party Days and similar occasions. Visits of trans-Atlantic Stormtroopadours were given wide publicity in all periodicals published by Goebbels. Whenever American German *Männerchors* attended Nazi Party functions in the Reich, they would be encouraged to goose-step behind the Stars and Stripes (illustration on page 1), at the same time brazenly raising their right arms in the prescribed *Heil Hitler!* salute.



That more and more *Männerchors* will presently replace Bund and other Nazi-subversivist units, may be deduced from the ample publicity which *Weltwacht der Deutschen* 8) is now giving German song as a desirable means of spreading the Nazi gospel.

*Weltwacht* -- veritably the straw in the Nazi propaganda wind -- is always the first of all Goebbels' per-

Front cover of one of the most popular song-books used by Stormtroopers. This particular one, especially adapted for use by Foreign-Country Germans, is significantly entitled "Storm and Battle Songs Book". It sells in Germany for 25 pfennigs, but is usually sold for whatever the traffic will bear among Foreign-Country Nazis.

radicals to embark upon a new campaign departure. As far back as July 26, 1939, NRS pointed out that, according to *Weltwacht*, "Mein Kampf in America" would soon be launched in all its fury. Shortly thereafter, that particular campaign was actually inaugurated by the Nazis, lasting right into and, in many cases, up to the very end of, the recent presidential campaign. *Weltwacht* is all the more widely circulated in the United States as it contains well-edited, and carefully arranged, reading material which always serves its purposes obliquely, as it were.



A group of singing Stormtroopers, fully uniformed as they used to appear in public until very recently. In this group are, among others, (1) Walter Arminius, (2) William Fuhlhage, (3) Herbert Rast, (4) Anton Koerner, (5) Armin Walter, (6) Max Schulz, (7) Mike Drey, (8) Valentine Bibo.

Currently, at the inauguration of the German *Lied* by way of *Männerchors* as the latest propaganda weapon, *Weltwacht* -- in an issue which was plastered all over the United States just around election time -- published what appeared to be a thoroughly unpolitical essay (illustration on this page), fitting neatly into its *Kulturbeilage* (cultural supplement). Entitled: *Das Lied als Kampfgenosse* (Song as Aide-in-Battle), and cleverly camouflaged though its real objective was, there occur such telltale phrases as the following:

....Never was German song so much a medium of fight and propaganda as at the time when Stormtroopers fought the (street) battles of the NSDAP (National Socialist German Labor Party). Out of those militant songs grew the Horst Wessel Lied as the new German national hymn.....

The inference here is obvious: During the years when rising Nazism battered down German democracy, Stormtrooper songs proved so "stimulating" -- i.e., inciting! -- that song, as a tested "aide-in-battle", should now be enlisted as a tried and true ally in the fight against still surviving Democracies.

This inference is clearly borne out by a quotation from a Hitler speech, cited in the *Weltwacht* essay, and running as follows:

O V E R I

Nummer 18 Weltwacht der Deutschen Seite 3

## Kulturbeilage der „W. d. D.“

Dr. Karl Laux: Filmkunst auf neuen Wegen

### Das Lied als Kampfgenosse

O Strakburg

Man braucht es den Deutschen vor  
1840 nicht erst zu erläutern. Das  
Lied nicht nur im lauten, aber bulle  
hörnere Schimmer, nicht nur an  
mühselig bereiten Rhythmen, nicht nur  
unter blühenden Alchermischen seinen  
Witz hat, sondern hat es auch letzte  
kämpfer Kampfgesänge sein kann. Denn  
man kennt das Ungeheuer von dem  
Welt, und jedes Kind weiß, was sein  
Stimmen im Sturzflug zu werden hat  
ein neuer Schicksal gegen Unwissen  
Wahrheit, der aus Deutschen ein  
Brennstoff nicht konnte

In diesen Tagen (am 2. September  
Jahr) hat zum 12. Male der Schicksal  
tag eines deutschen Mädchens den man  
den Namen "Hilf" von 1918 nennen  
konnte. Es ist dies Karl Wilhelm,  
der Komponist der "Wacht am  
Rhein", eines Liedes, das in jedem  
den heftigen Krieger mit ein Lied  
aufblühte und zum eigentlichen Krieger  
Lied wurde. Es ist ein Lied, das

1. O Strakburg, o Strakburg, fu  
mündeliche die Stadt, der  
inzenitigal be - sta ben lo - manni - der Gel - der - der - der -  
2. Es manchet, auch schon und tapfer: Eulder, der Vater und die  
Mutter, die sich vorlären hat  
3. Stützen, stellen, es kann nicht anders sein, in Strakburg in, in  
Strakburg, Strakburg, müde sein  
4. Der Vater, der Mutter, der Mann, der Hauptmann, Haus -  
Hauptmann, jeder Hauptmann geht aus den Sohn heraus  
5. Ihren Sohn kann ich nicht geben, für mich zu geben, aus  
Sohn, und der muß bleiben im weite, breiten Welt  
6. Im weiten, im breiten, all paradies, das dem Kind, wenn gleich  
sein Schatz, das Welt in breiten, um die Welt

Reproduction from "Weltwacht der Deutschen", showing "Kulturbeilage" (cultural supplement) as featuring illustrated article: "The Song as Aide-in-Battle". Story on this page.

# 歌國本日

## Die japanische Nationalhymne

代が君  
(Kimigayo)

Tempo c. Moderato.

♩ = 50

Ki mu ga yo wa chi yo ni ye chi yo ni  
 Mi ge des Ka: sari Ge-schlech-ter send und e ber-

キミガヨハチヨニヤチヨニ

mi sa re ichi no i wa o ko za ni to  
 ter send re bli han, bis ein klan-ner sein ni to

サザレイシノイワオトナリテ

ko ke no mū sū ma da  
 rum fels wurd and Mose ihn be deucht

コケノムスマダ

The Japanese national hymn with German and Japanese text, the latter rendered in German phonetics. The song is now becoming very popular among "Männerchors", assisting them in their Reich-decreed propaganda work in the interest of Pan-Nipponism.

....In this changing and restless time of ours, Germans, even though they dwell outside the borders of the Reich, again look upon Germany as their homeland. Even if these Foreign-Country Germans have no other means of establishing close relationship with their German brethren, they at least try to maintain close contact through their German songs....

Since the Reich swastika and the Nipponese Rising Sun are now more closely allied than ever in a joint fight against world democracy, it logically falls into the Nazi program of exploiting song as a propaganda weapon that the *Männerchors* assiduously rehearse the Nipponese national hymn. In order to make the anthem available to all overseas German glee clubs, Dr. Goebels is now publishing it in some of his propaganda periodicals, with German as well as Japanese text (illustration on this page).

### Subversivists Ever Ready

The different Nazi organizations dotting the United States can be expected to find ever new disguises to carry on their activities. No sooner is one mask lifted than another replaces it. One man who recognized this situation was the late Speaker William B. Bankhead. He considered it so serious that he even stressed it in his keynote speech at the Democratic National Convention on July 15th, 1933. In the course of his address he said:

....There is abundant proof that, lurking within the shadows of our government's edifice, laying their mischievous plans at the opportune time to sap and mine it, or to put the red torch of revolution and disunion against our democratic form of government, are those forces of evil, now commonly called the Fifth Column. No one knows how great are their numbers, but evidence already produced shows that they run into tens of thousands, all of them sworn enemies of our form of government. However great or small may be their number, there is no place in the United States for a single one of them to abide in freedom....

Thanks to their training in Hitlerism, singing Bundits can certainly be depended upon to acquit themselves creditably when Fifth Columning in the USA.

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For additional information on names and facts, see NRS back issues as follows:

- 1)-#112; #63; #59; 2)-#107; #102; #89; 3)-#102; #97; 4)-#112; #85; #33;
- 5)-#110; #76; #43; 6)-#96; 7)-#61; 8)-#63; #49; 9)-#95; #80; #55.

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