

## FIGHTING THE GERMAN SPY SYSTEM



U.S. ATTORNEY FRANCIS G. CAFFEY



WILLIAM J. FLYNN, CHIEF OF THE SECRET SERVICE

### Men and Methods by Which the Schemes of the Teuton Plotters Against America Have Been Frustrated

By RALPH P. TAYLOR.

GERMANY'S first line of attack. So may be characterized the forces of secret agents in all walks of life through which the Teutons have attempted since the eventful month of April last to damage American transports and supply ships; to fire and destroy storehouses and plants for the manufacture of war materials; to sow far and wide the seeds of sedition; to wreck, ruin and pollute.

The trail of these forces may be seen in the charred ruins of several large plants where supplies for our troops abroad were formerly stored, and their touch may be observed in much agitation, socialistic and anarchistic. From the deliberate manufacture of inferior products by Teutons employed in factories engaged in Government work to the placing of incendiary bombs where they might start unquenchable conflagrations, German activities have during the past few months run the gamut of treachery.

But other forces are also at work, and thanks to them most of the Teuton plans have been nipped before they could do much harm. The damage wrought by plotters in the vital parts of troop ships has in every instance been discovered and remedied before trouble could result. Their various propaganda schemes have been crushed as rapidly as they have appeared. The widespread reign of terror which Teuton agents had planned to launch in this country upon its entrance into the world conflict has failed.

### America's First Defense Line.

The men who have frustrated the boldest schemes of the Teutons and who are at present keeping the German spy system under control may be called America's first line of defense, and the purpose of this article is to deal with these men and to present to the public a few circumstances heretofore unpublished illustrative of the efficiency of the guardians of democracy.

Certain of the matters herein referred to occurred during the early days of the war and were then guarded as Government secrets. Other details have been suppressed for reasons known to high Federal officials. The occasion for the secrecy which surrounded these matters having ceased to exist, they are now published with the approval of the local representatives of the Government.

To appreciate the measures being taken for his protection the citizen should know something of the various bodies engaged in this defensive work and their methods of cooperation. As the work of combating the internal German menace becomes better systematized there are naturally many changes in the governmental departments, and at the present time practically every one of these bodies has lost its former identity.

Secondary only to the office of the Attorney-General in Washington, D. C., is that of the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, with jurisdiction over eleven counties stretching from the Battery to Albany and on either side of the Hudson River. To his office there daily come throngs of persons to report matters arousing suspicions.

There also come German suspects in their hundreds. Through that office practically every order for a Teuton internment must pass at some time before it is put into effect.

### BLAZE IN SHIP PLANT SWEEPS 6 BUILDINGS; LOSS PUT AT \$500,000

Enemy Plot Suspected in Fire at E. W. Morse Dry Dock in Brooklyn.

#### SOLDIERS TAKE CHARGE

One Foreigner Arrested and All 1,800 Men on Night Shift Detained.

#### MACHINE SHOP BURNED

Other Important Structures on Five Blocks of Waterfront Also Are Destroyed.

handling of his office forces he has been able to carry out his task.

Mr. Caffey has depended very largely upon John C. Knox, Harold A. Content and other assistant prosecutors who since 1915 have had occasion to familiarize themselves with German secret operations in this country. Mr. Knox, as head of the criminal department of the United States Attorney's office, occupies the post formerly held by Roger B. Wood, and on his shoulders rests the responsibility for the enforcement of the President's alien enemy regulations largely falls.

He personally may order the arrest of a suspect, or, if satisfied that a Teuton prisoner will do no harm, may under many circumstances authorize his release. He is the interrogator of the plotters, and big, blue eyed men may be seen entering or leaving his office any morning or afternoon in the custody of officers.

The apprehension of suspects is the work of the Department of Justice, the secret service, the force of the United States Marshal, the intelligence bureau of the army and of the navy, or the police. The assistance given by the police to the Federal authorities since the commencement of the war is highly praised by Mr. Knox. To Commissioner Arthur Woods and to Inspector Thomas Tunney, the prosecutor declares, much credit is due. Particularly in the case of the ship bomb mailer, New York's policemen have shown themselves capable of matching wits with the best German agents.

The local bureau of investigation of the Department of Justice, under Superintendent William M. O'Flaherty, has been transformed from a white slave hunting organization into one of the best governmental weapons for the suppression of the Teuton plotter. The secret service, with Chief William J. Flynn and his assistants, John J. Henry and Frank Burke, now deals with spies where it formerly concerned itself only with counterfeiters. Thomas D. McCarthy, United States Marshal, whose duties in peace times were similar to those of a sheriff, has become a power that may send German steamship offices and suspected papers, break up seditious meetings, keep Teutons from barred areas on the waterfront, calling upon the police or the army if necessary for aid.

### Secret Aid by Citizens.

The location of the offices of the Navy Intelligence Bureau has never been published; neither has the name of the efficient naval officer at its head, who within the last few months has directed the seizure of such Teuton agents as Fritz Kuhn, the millionaire propagandist, and George von Seebeck, of the well known German General of the same name. It was this man also who directed the raid a short while ago which netted more than ninety Germans who had been working in a Brooklyn plant for the making of war materials.

In addition to these various forces and supplementing their work by investigating matters for which they have been unable to find time, the Government has had for many months past the help of a large organization

### WOMAN SPY IN BIG N. Y. OFFICE

Caught Cabling Order of Government Electric Word to Germans in Mexico.

OTHERS UNDER SCRUTINY ST. \$2,000 a Year Secretary to Vice-President of Supply House Is Interned.

The personnel of the biggest and most important electrical supply corporation in this country is being investigated by the secret service, following the arrest of a young woman secretary to a vice-president of the organization a few days ago.

The existence of which has been barely known its citizens. This body, the American Protective League, is composed of bankers, brokers, lawyers and men of various other professions. Its members are persons of position and character. A list of them, if it were published, would reveal the names of many of the wealthiest and most prominent men in the nation. Yet in order best to serve the purposes for which the organization was formed the identity of its members must be kept secret.

The American Protective League has a central organization with branches in every large city in the United States. In New York at the present time it has about twenty-five hundred members.

The system adopted by the organization is very thorough and efficient. Its members have divided Greater New York into six zones, in each of which they have a captain and two lieutenants. Each member is subject to command by his zone officers and may be called upon by them at any hour of the day or night for any patriotic service. The officers know where they may reach their men by telephone.

Recently when the Department of Justice desired the assistance of twenty-five men in a work of special importance the organization was called upon. The captain of the particular zone in which the work was to be done was notified, and although it was late at night he was able to furnish the men required within half an hour.

On another occasion the captain of one of these zones desired to raise \$750 to meet certain expenses. He picked up his telephone and within a few minutes had received pledges for the full amount.

### German Plotters Exposed.

Excepting for the clerical force that is needed to assist in the tasks of the organization no one connected with the American Protective League receives any financial compensation for his services. Rentals, salaries of clerks and stenographers and incidentals are all paid out of sums raised by voluntary contribution. Each member pays out of his own pocket the expense incurred in such work as he may be assigned to.

Through this league enormous quantities of work are lifted out of the hands of the Department of Justice and other bodies. Thousands of complaints and accusations have been turned over to it by Federal officials. These have been distributed among the various zone captains and investigated without any cost whatever to the Government. They have then been reported upon by the organization to the Department of Justice or whatever body may be interested. Wherever the report is warranted it the Federal officials have taken action. Then in the court proceedings following no mention has been made of the American Protective League or of the member to whose efforts the

### A TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF GERMAN SPY WORK IS FOUND IN THIS PICTURE OF A BIG BROOKLYN GRAIN FIRE, STARTED BY INCENDIARIES



ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY JOHN C. KNOX

proceedings may be due. In this way leading citizens of New York have directly caused the arrest of German agents without the fact becoming known to the public.

Membership in the American Protective League involves a man from no other obligation. It may not be cited as a reason for exemption from military service. A man can only enter this organization upon the voucher of one of its members and after he has been made the subject of a very thorough examination by a special committee. His past history must be known and his loyalty must be unimpeachable.

Those who have carefully followed the news columns know how the Government has within the last few months stocked the internment stations on Ellis Island, at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., and elsewhere with every type and variety of Teuton plotter and suspect from the largest to the smallest. They know how Karl Heynen, Ambassador von Bernstorff's friend and one of the richest Teutons in this country, was seized because of his activities in secret propaganda work; of the arrest of Rudolf Hecht, one of the financial representatives of the German Empire in this country; how Karl Neumann was taken from the Plaza Hotel to Ellis Island; of other seizures too numerous for mention.

### Why They Pledged Guilty.

Just such a search was made early this year of the effects of George Born, who is now confined at Fort Oglethorpe, with the result that Government agents discovered that he had acted as personal spy for Captains von Papan and Roy-Ed, respectively the Military Attaché and the Naval Attaché of the German Embassy. For these men, who for more than a year cracked the whip over all of the Kaiser's spies in this country, Born had gone to England.

The papers found hidden in his abode revealed not only these facts. They also showed him to be an officer of the Uhlans. They showed that he had made his escape from England and a British firing squad by falsely representing himself to an American Consul as a native citizen of this country. A good example of the efficiency of the American secret operatives may be seen in an incident connected with the case of Albert O. Sander and Karl N. Wunnenberg, confessed spies. Although this occurrence was of the utmost importance in forcing these men to plead guilty it was kept a secret

### SPY FOUND HIDDEN IN LADEN TROOPSHIP

Takes Refuge in Crow's Nest and Tears to Bits the Data He Compiled.

#### PIECED TOGETHER AGAIN

Vessel Thoroughly Overhauled After His Arrest and Even the Cargo Shifted.

William J. Flynn, chief of the secret service, has in his custody a man, supposedly a German spy, who was found yesterday in the crow's nest of a United States transport, with hundreds of German soldiers aboard. The spy had been

by the Federal officials at that time because of the attitude with which certain officials in Washington then regarded the publication of details of Teuton activities.

The arrest of Sander and Wunnenberg at their Nassau street office whence they had been directing a system of espionage against the British Empire had caused a great stir. From Scotland Yard came accounts of the seizure of their aids who had been transmitting to the German Empire information of military importance.

But Sander and Wunnenberg knew their roles well and prepared to give the United States a vigorous legal battle. They would invoke the Constitution which they had sworn upon and would build a tissue of sophistry with which they might fool an American jury as Capt. Hans Tauscher, husband of Mme. Galski, had done.

That they had sent men abroad was indisputable, so they admitted it. But they denied that these men were upon matters to Germany. They were merely to obtain war news for them, they declared. These men were only correspondents and Sander was to have syndicated their product, according to his story. For a short while Federal officials had apprehensions that they knew what strange things would be done at times, and they feared lest this Teutonic scheme should triumph. One night, however, the situation changed and the doom of the spies was sealed.

### The Teutonic Letter.

Among Sander's friends was a German named Reimers who was working as a waiter in an uptown hotel. One Sunday in a letter addressed to a relative he described the whole scheme in which the two spies were involved.

He told of their schemes for obtaining news of the location of British aircraft stations for the benefit of Zeppelin commanders and of ship sailings for the edification of the commanders of the German submarine fleet. He told of their invisible inks and their scheme of having their agents carry them concealed in socks.

In order to insure proper delivery of the letter he placed a special delivery stamp upon it and mailed it. An hour or so later this letter lay on a table in the apartment of Mr. Knox. The prosecutor had been aroused from bed by agents of the Department of Justice and he conferred with them in bath robe and slippers. An accurate translation was made of the letter, after which Mr. Knox ordered Reimers's arrest.

At 6 o'clock in the morning when Federal officers placed this Teuton under arrest at the breakfast table he was unable to understand how they had been able to seize him so quickly. "I've certainly got to hand it to the Americans," he said.

The letter shown to Sander and Wunnenberg in Mr. Knox's office caused their proposed defense to collapse. Both quickly agreed to plead guilty, and shortly thereafter were

### ALIEN ROUNDUP FOR PLOTTERS IN \$5,000,000 FIRE

Baltimore Incendiarism Is Only One Move of Conspiracy to Help Foo.

#### STERNER STEPS PLANNED

Punishment Worse Than Internment Projected—No Clamp-Down on Pacific.

Special Defense to Top Spy Washington, Oct. 20—The spy

### THE HEADLINES REPRODUCED TELL OF SOME OF THE RECENT OUTRAGES TRACED TO THE BERLIN SPY ORGANIZATION.

arrest and said almost preemptorily: "Let dot feller go; he's all right." "A man who would express such sentiments in a letter is a menace to the community," Mr. Knox said. "Oh, he wouldn't do no harm," the Teuton visitor said, "I vouch for him." "And who are you that we should accept your voucher?" Mr. Knox asked.

Whereupon his German visitor said: "Well, I got my first paper from the community." Mr. Knox said. "Such pleas as this, according to Mr. Knox, are quite frequent. Many Germans appear to be of the impression that by filing application for citizenship they have conferred a distinct honor upon the Government, for which it should be forever grateful.

"Perhaps the most contemptible type of alien enemy," Mr. Knox says, "is the man who has dwelt here for many years, having his children educated at the expense of the people of this country and enjoying all of the fruits of liberty and is still loyal at heart to his fatherland and has not made the slightest sincere effort to have himself naturalized. Such people appear before me daily, seeking special favors upon the ground that they have lived here for forty years or more, taking all that we had to offer and giving nothing in return."

"The war is revealing much hypocrisy, and I hope that when it is over the people will have learned a few lessons regarding this type of foreigner."

Stories to the effect that German residents have been of great assistance to the Government are wholly discredited by the highest officials.

### Von Bernstorff's Plot Failed.

When this nation cast its lot with the Entente Allies Federal agents had in their possession complete records of the German Government funds on deposit in this country. The Von Igel papers, the contents of which were partly made public by the Department of State a short while ago, revealed many of the inner secrets of the Teuton intelligence system.

It was apparent that Germany had this country sprinkled well with her agents, and with many military and naval reservists working throughout the length and breadth of the land it was thought in German circles that a thunderbolt could be delivered as soon as the signal was given by one of the Kaiser's servants. The plotters were here and ready for service of their master.

But ere citizens had finished reading the published text of the President's proclamation of war the work of crushing the German plotters had begun, and the first night of strife found Paul Koenig, chief of the secret police of the Hamburg-American Line, and other leaders of the secret Teuton army caged on the seventh tier of the Tombs awaiting internment.

This vigorous campaign, which has caused the leaders to be penned up in internment camps, officials believe, has broken the backbone of the German spy system.

### Unpublished Facts About a Secret Organization of Citizens Cooperating in Work With Federal and State Officials

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There are no more Von Igel, Von Papan or Roy-Eds. There are plotters who gather in the privacy of their apartments or their cafes and conspire to damage this or that, to destroy by any means in their power, to obtain and transmit information, to engage in peace propaganda and to sow discord among their nation's enemies in various ways. There are clever and ingenious plotters, and much evidence has been gathered indicating that there is organization among the conspirators and method in their machinations. Their menace cannot be underestimated.

But the old network woven by Von Bernstorff's aids, the force with which the German War office hoped to strike America in the back when it should rise to assert its rights; that force, in the belief of the highest Government agents, is no more.