

Soldier Held at Camp Hale Once Was Investigated by Dies

*RmH
3-12-44*

CAMP HALE, Colo., March 11.—(UP)—Although two German prisoners of war who escaped from Camp Hale will escape punishment, five of the six U. S. Army soldiers who allegedly helped them face possible execution, Col. John Chase, commanding officer at the camp, indicated tonight.

Chase pointed out that under the terms of the Geneva Convention, German prisoners receive liberal treatment when involved in camp infractions.

Meanwhile, the War Department disclosed that one of the soldiers, charged with aiding the Nazis, was investigated by the Dies Committee in 1940 for being a Nazi sympathizer. He is Pvt. Theophil J. Leonhard of Stonewall, Texas, who, according to the committee records, was investigated because of an asserted interest in Socialism "after the rise of Hitler."

During the investigation, the committee produced a letter bearing Leonhard's signature over the expression "Heil Hitler," by Lt. Leonhard, who was born in Alsace-Lorraine in 1914, declared he had used the term "jocularly."

Five other soldiers and three WACS have been charged as being "definitely implicated" in the escape of the prisoners who were accompanied by Pvt. Dale Maple. Maple now is being held by the Seventh Service Command, pending a court martial.

Camp Hale Soldier Cleared Of Dealing With Prisoners

CAMP HALE, Colo., April 3.—(UP)—Sgt. Guido Gundisch of Milwaukee has been acquitted of a charge of "trafficking commercially" with Nazi prisoners. It was disclosed here today.

Col. J. A. Chase, commanding officer, said Gundisch had been cleared by court-martial of the charge which dealt with the purchase of ping-pong balls and a number of radio tubes for use by German prisoners of war. However, Gundisch was found guilty of transmitting a number of pieces of correspondence

from a German prisoner to a civilian employee. *RmH 4-4-44*

Because of his good service record and the fact he did not realize the impropriety of his action, Gundisch has been placed back on his regular job in the camp finance office, Colonel Chase said.

The colonel emphasized that Gundisch was in no way implicated in the escape of two Nazi war prisoners, for which Pvt. Dale Maple of San Diego, young Harvard graduate, and four other Camp Hale soldiers have been charged with treason.

CAMP HALE SOLDIER GETS LIFE FOR AIDING PRISONERS' ESCAPE

Post, Apr. 11 (CRIME NEVER PAYS)

As an aftermath of the escape from Camp Hale, Colorado, February of two German prisoners of war, Dale H. Maple, university honor graduate and formerly a private, engineering corps unit at Camp

federal penitentiary and sentence were Under the prescription, Maple has by discharged from forfeited all pay and will be confined "at

admission of his case sent, Maple was held in disciplinary barracks Leavenworth. He (Page 6—Col. 4.)

SIX INVOLVED IN SCANDAL AT HALE NAMED

Five Soldiers May Face Execution but Nazis to Escape Punishment.

Post, Apr. 11 (3-11-44)

German prisoners of war at Camp Hale, who inveigled ten soldiers and five Wacs into a sensational army scandal, will escape punishment altho five of the soldiers may be executed, camp officials indicated Saturday.

In the meantime, the war department in Washington disclosed the names and addresses of six soldiers allegedly involved in the actual escape of two German prisoners held at Camp Hale, and said Pvt. Theophil J. Leonhard of Stonewall, Texas, one of the soldiers charged as "directly implicated" was investigated by the Dies committee in July, 1940.

Names of others charged "less seriously" were not made public.

Records of the committee disclosed he was investigated because of an asserted interest in National Socialism after "the rise of Hitler," (Turn to Page 3—Col. 6.)

Eight Soldiers at Camp Hale Held in German Escape Plot

(Continued from Page 1)

had admitted their part in the conspiracy and had involved the other four men, whose names are being withheld for the present. They were said to have been involved also, but less seriously and are being held in confinement at the camp.

Hottelling was said to have denied Maple's accusations. S/Sgt. Guido Gundisch of Milwaukee also was placed in confinement on charges of trafficking commercially with German prisoners of war. He will be tried before an army court-martial, Colonel Chase said, but not in connection with the escape.

Three of the WACS, accused of writing the secret notes to the prisoners, were identified as Pvt. Frances H. Bunker of Birmingham, Ala.; Pvt. Florence C. Fechin of New Orleans and Pvt. Marguerite L. Franklin of Oakland, Calif.

They already have been placed before court-martial at Camp Hale. They pleaded guilty and were given sentences ranging from four to six months' confinement. The remaining two are to be tried in the near future.

Lengthy investigation indicates that no other members of the WAC detachment were involved and that the indiscretion of the five in exchanging notes with the prisoners

RmH 3-10-44

CAMP HALE, Colo., March 9.—(UP)—A sensational story of collusion and friendship between a number of U. S. soldiers and Nazi war prisoners at this mountain center, in which the Americans were alleged to have aided two Germans escape and five WACS were charged with writing romantic notes to enemy internees, was made public tonight. Three of the WACS have admitted their guilt.

Col. John Chase, commanding officer, said eight additional American soldiers were disclosed to have been involved in the recent escape of two Nazi prisoners—an episode for which Pfc. Dale Maple of San Diego, Calif., has been charged with treason.