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Hitler's Seven Secret Agencies Pour Millions Into Propaganda

Donovan Explains Why Nazis Spend \$200,000,000 Yearly to Subvert Democracies

By COL. WILLIAM J. DONOVAN AND
EDGAR MOWRER



Col. William J. Donovan, on Page 7 today, says U. S. Nazis are being trained in arms. Here's a German-American Bundsman arrested for carrying dagger.

This is the last of a series of articles on Hitler's use of the fifth column written by Col. William J. Donovan, recently returned from a mission abroad on behalf of Secretary of the Navy Knox, and Edgar Mowrer, European correspondent.

By COL. WILLIAM J. DONOVAN AND
EDGAR MOWRER

Since we must ascribe a huge share in Adolf Hitler's incomparable military successes to his use of Germans and fifth columnists in victim countries, the question arises: How was such a success possible? How are Germans abroad brought to such self-sacrificing enthusiasm for the Nazi regime? How above all can foreigners living under relatively mild and civilized governments be induced voluntarily to betray their own countries for Hitler's Germany? It seems mysterious.

The answer is \$200,000,000 spent annually on organization and propaganda abroad. The immensity of this sum is the secret. Nazi Germany is not a government—not even a folkdom of the sort Nazi orators talk about. Nazi Germany is a conspiracy. Its scope is universal and its aim world dominion. Its primary agents are as many of the millions of Germans in Germany and abroad as can be induced or compelled to serve the German fatherland.

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These Bundsmen, unarmed but wearing German-style, storm-trooper uniforms, are shown marching through New York City's Yorkville section. Says Col. Donovan: "It is conceivable that the United States possesses the finest Nazi-schooled fifth column in the world."

Its activities begin with attempted proselyting of Germans abroad, go on to the murder and kidnaping of real or fancied enemies, and end in armed insurrection against the foreign country Hitler wishes to conquer or absorb. Such insurrections of Germans actually occurred in Czechoslovakia, Austria and Holland. But for the firm attitude of the U. S. A. such an insurrection would, many students believe, have occurred in Brazil.

Double Nationality

That the Germans abroad are usually naturalized into something else is no hindrance. Pre-war Imperial Germany sanctioned the double nationality status—Germans could, that is, become French or American or Portuguese without losing their German nationality. The Weimar Republic did not alter this strange conception and Nazi Germany has made it the center of its trojan horse tactics of placing Germans within the enemy walls. It is safe to say that a very fair proportion of the non-refugee Germans who have become American since Hitler came to power did so with the secret intention of turning free and democratic America into "their"—that is, Hitler's—America.

Children of Germans naturalized half a century ago are still counted German by Berlin and every effort is made to convince them of the fact. Naturally, the Nazis accept traitors as allies wherever they can find them, and welcome the assistance of non-Nordics. But people racially akin to Germans—Scandinavians, Dutch, Flemings, German-speaking Swiss, even Anglo-Saxons—are made the object of special proselyting as belonging to the "same blood." These form the material with which the Nazi world conspiracy chiefly attempts to work.

The center is the Nazi party. The tool is the Auslands-Organization, or Organization Abroad, of this party. Today this organization of Germans abroad has nearly 4,000,000 members, all of whom are conscious agents. Over 600 local groups or supporting points are organized in 45 or more landesgruppen—one in each country.

Headquarters

The headquarters is in Stuttgart, but all the groups are directed by a single man in Berlin, Gauleiter Ernst Wilhelm Bohle, with some 800 assistants. Technically Bohle is a State Secretary in the German Foreign Office. Where the local branches dare not appear under their true colors, they take on fancy names—in Rumania the Iron Guard, in Switzerland True Confederates, in the U. S. A. Amerikadeutscher Volksbund.

But everywhere, whether the members are Germans, naturalized Germans or non-Germans, the aim is the same, to achieve Hitler's end by trickery or terror; the organizing principle is the same, with SA and Hitler Youth and Hitler sport, marching, emblems, ruthless discipline, ceremonies in honor of Nazi heroes or Hitler's birthday parties; and in case of war they would all be on Germany's side.

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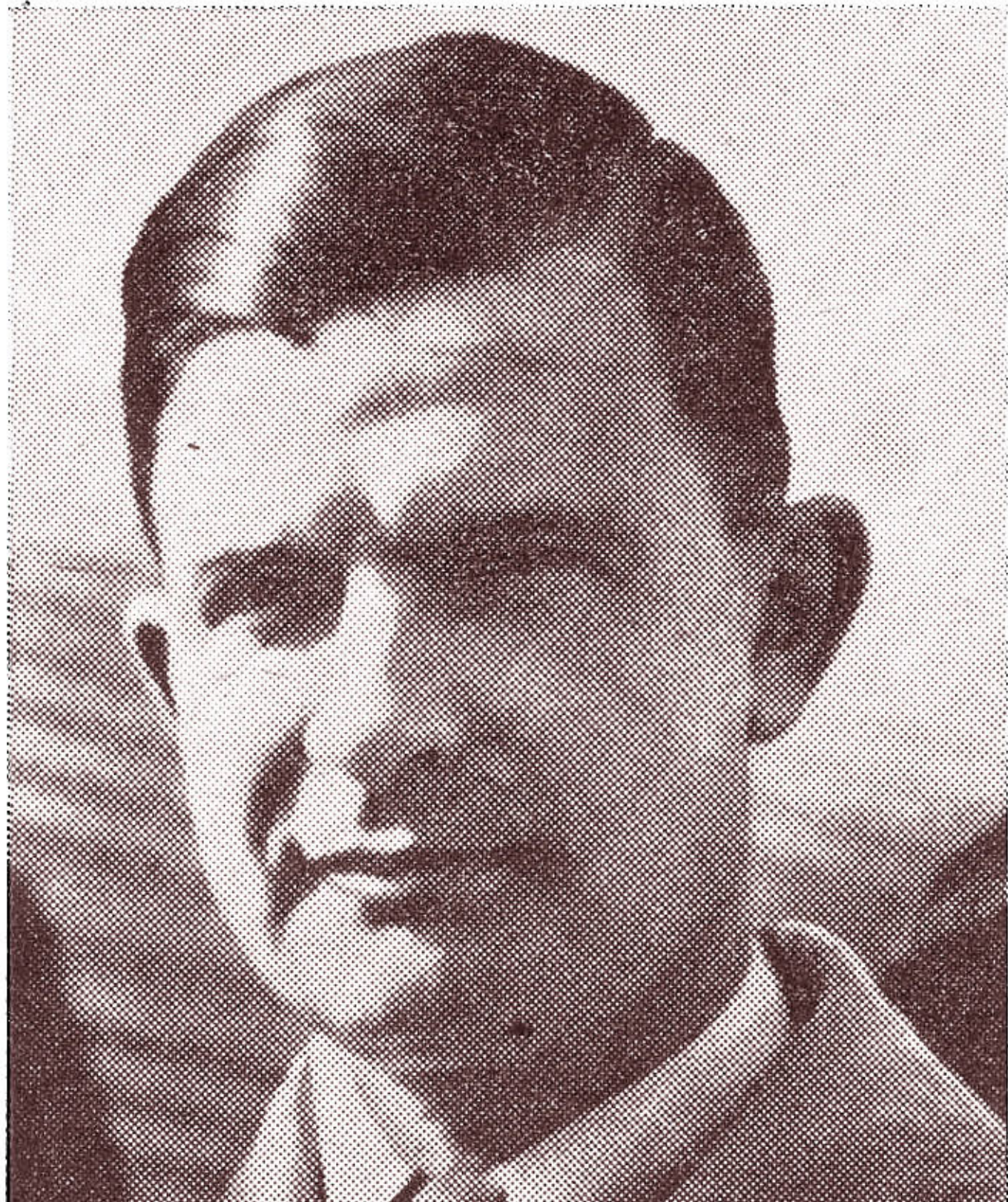
The Bund leader is Fritz Kuhn, shown giving Nazi salute. Now he's in jail.

Seven Others

In time of peace they make lists of Hitler's enemies, who are marked down for murder or kidnaping to Germany and torture when the great day comes. Organized Germans abroad are publicly told to obey the laws of their guest-country but at the same time urged to convince every outsider of the necessity of Germany's victory. The Nazi party Auslands-Organization is by no means the only entity that works for Hitler outside Germany.

There are in fact no less than seven others. The Political Police or Gestapo, the Propaganda Ministry of Dr. Paul Goebbels, the German Labor Front, the intelligence services of the German Army, of the German Navy and of the German Air Arm, and finally the German Foreign Office with its embassies and consulates all over the world.

Together these eight organizations spend on propaganda, espionage and sabotage roughly \$200,000,000 a year. It seems a lot of money but Hitler has publicly expressed



At Fifth Column GHQ: Gauleiter Bohle, with 800 assistants, directs.

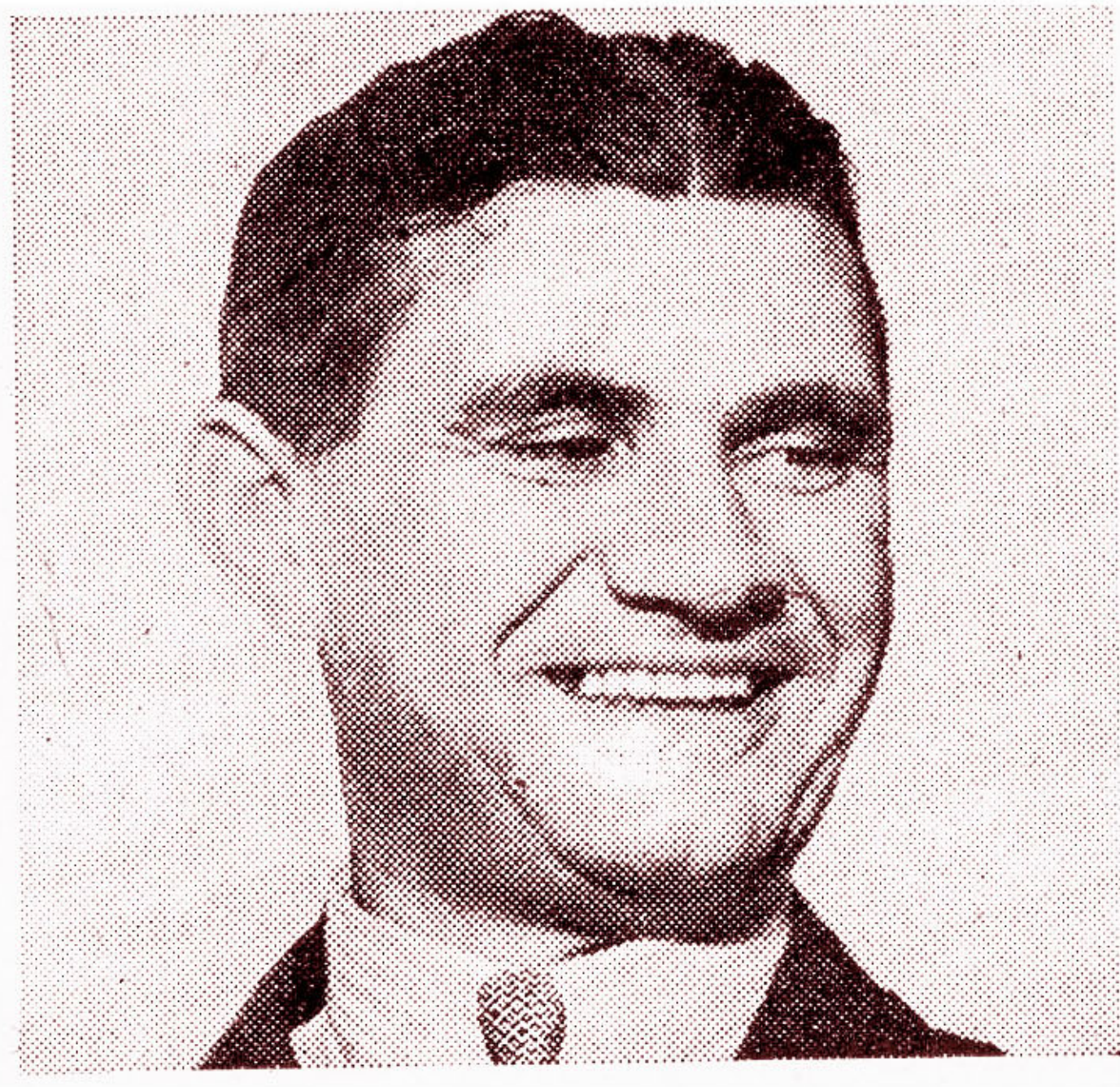
his intention of keeping this service at full blast even if it means fewer infantry divisions in the army. When one considers that this combined service, with its 30,000 employes, can possibly claim credit for the ease of Hitler's many victories, it is obvious that the same result could hardly be obtained so cheaply in any other way.

The German Foreign Office thus has two irons in the fire abroad. One is the millions of Germans in Bohle's Auslands-Organization. The others are the German diplomats abroad. By noticing that on the whole the German government has four or five times as many "accredited" diplomatic and consular agents in each post as any other country, one can perhaps guess the type of activity of four-fifths of them. Often they publicly mix in the policy of the countries to which they are accredited. Thus the famous Capt. Wiedemann, General Consul in San Francisco, was publicly congratulated by order of the Fuehrer in Berlin for his work in preventing the American Senate from accepting Roosevelt's modified neutrality legislation in July, 1939.

Intelligence Services

The intelligence services of the German Army, Navy and Air Arm are not much different from those in other countries, with the

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Wiedemann: For his work on the U. S. Senate, Hitler sent congratulations.

possible exception that the German Army maintains, in the Prinz Friedrich Karl Strasse in Berlin a "psychological laboratory." The heads are, or were, Col. von Voss and Oberregierungsrat Max Simoneit. A secret section bears the title International Psychology. Here are trained not only the military spies but the Gestapo and party agents especially designated for service abroad.

Members of the German Labor Front who go abroad to work have the duty of reporting anything of interest they may see or learn in foreign ships, shops, factories or other places. Furthermore, since 1936, there exists in Hamburg an International Central Office, where Germans and Italians work together against trade unions, particularly in democratic countries, and support any movement against organized labor.

5000 Outside Agents

Particularly important, notably in countries like the Third French Republic, is the work of the press attaches in the German embassies and consulates. Not only do they see that the 1700 German-language newspapers outside Germany—total circulation 3,000,000—are supplied with interesting material of all sorts at the price no other source can meet, but they also watch over German radio programs. Special attention is given to winning over possible Nazi friends on the local press and combatting or bringing into disrepute newspapers and periodicals that oppose Hitler.



Not all Hitler's U.S. friends live in Yorkville. These Bundsmen are singing *Horst Wessel*, Nazi hymn of revenge, at a meeting in San Francisco.

The German Gestapo of Heinrich Himmler, whose ruthless efficiency surpasses even the Russian OGPU, employs only about 5000 agents abroad. One of its special tasks is watching over German refugee emigrants, but it does not scorn to cast an eye even on Nazis in good standing, some of whom have been known to speak slightly of the Fuehrer or to express a passing wish for greater personal freedom. Therefore one or more agents can be found in every German consulate or embassy abroad. A good angler can manage to locate others in the larger German commercial enterprises, such as shipping or oil companies.

In addition to the agencies already mentioned, there exists a Colonial Political Department headed by Gen. Franz Ritter von Epp, Hitler's special friend, which carries on

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a lively pro-Nazi propaganda in the former German colonies and among Germans in colonies of other countries.

Although there is some doubt, presumably it is the Gestapo that picks out special agents for particular jobs in countries that happen at a particular moment to interest the Nazis.

Organization in U. S. A.

In the U. S. A. an organization of Nazis is being trained in arms. As matters now stand, it is conceivable that the U. S. A. possesses the finest Nazi-schooled fifth column in the world, one which in case of war with Germany could be our undoing.

Could, but need not be. The Nazis are strong only where unopposed. Where they are resisted, where the initiative is taken from them, they tend to collapse. The revelations in the American press of the fortunes amassed and held abroad by leading Nazis kept Goebbels busy denying it for two weeks. It is hard to see why, under present circumstances, in view of fifth column activity observed abroad, countries that do not intend to submit to the Third Reich permit any German-language publications or why they do not adopt legislation allowing naturalizations obtained under false pretenses to be annulled by executive act, or do not insist on knowing just which domestic industries and commercial houses have Nazi tie-ups.

Failure to do this, failure to study and combat the entire Nazi Auslands-Organization may have tragic consequences. Unearthed in time, the Nazi conspiracy is relatively harmless.



Nazi training begins early. These New York youngsters are listening to a Sunday sermon at the Bund's Camp Siegfried on Long Island.

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