

Bund Leaders Spend the Night In an Old Sussex County Jail

Kunze, Klapprott and Kohler Arrested at Camp Nordland, N. J., on New Jersey Anti-Hate Statute



Arrested Bund Leaders Find It All Very Funny at First

Three of the highest officials of the German-American Bund, arrested yesterday at Camp Nordland, near Newton, N. J. They acted as if it were a joke when bail did not appear and they were jailed for the night, it wasn't so funny. They are Mathias Kohler, Bund trustee; Wilhelm Kunze, Bund newspaper editor; and August Klapprott, a division leader of the Bund. Note the Bund shirts and black ties. The photographer did not notice what made them laugh, but they had been talking about water sports—fold-boating.

Staff Correspondence

NEWTON, N. J., July 5.—Residents of dairy-farming Sussex County gathered at the old courthouse here today to await the arraignment of three leaders of the German-American Bund. Many said they hoped the trio would be “put away for good,” the Bundsmen called it persecution. They are charged with violating a law which forbids counseling religious or racial hatred.

The prisoners are G. Wilhelm Kunze, editor of the Bund's *Free American*, published at 178 E. 85th St., New York City; August Klapprott, its vice-president, and Mathias Kohler, of Irvington, N. J., said to be a Bund officer. They spent last night in an ancient jail which once housed horse thieves.

They Surrender

They were arrested yesterday afternoon at the Bund's Camp Nordland, three miles west of Newton. Two unarmed deputy sheriffs drove into the grounds—from which other outsiders had been excluded—and the men surrendered.

The arrests were the first important ones under the New Jersey statute enacted in 1937. Kohler and Kunze were charged with permitting “the unlawful assembly of three or more persons” and “the uttering of speeches, the sale of literature, display of emblems and uniforms which counseled . . . hatred, violence or hostility against groups of persons . . . by reason of race, color, religion or manner of worship . . .”

The violation occurred, it was charged, on June 16.

Kunze, Klapprott and Kohler Arrested

The Nazi Salute

The Klapprott charge included statements that he spoke on that date "from a swastika-bedecked dais" . . . "and gave the Nazi salute, the salute of a foreign power . . ."

On pleas of innocent, \$1,000 bail was set for each prisoner. A sum was collected from the 500 persons at the camp, but the three had been committed to jail for the night before it reached the courthouse.

Kunze said sufficient money for bail had been contributed, but a bail and defense fund was being raised early today in Yorkville.

Kunze was described by the deputies as national leader of the Bund. Fritz Kuhn, its *fuehrer*, is in Sing Sing serving a sentence for embezzlement.—C. N. P.-L. W.

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