

# Soldier Held at Camp Hale Once Was Investigated by Dies

AMM  
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," but 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.