

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Erich Schulze. Fragebogenfälschung.

Mann, Erika

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Teletype exERIKA MANN
pro Seventh Army H.Q Presscamp Wiesbaden
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This is one of the stories which even the chronicler finds hard to believe. Had I not been ~~at~~ present yesterday at the trial of its hero, I might well incline to doubt its veracity.

The defendant - one Erich, Bernhardt, Alfred, Christian Schulze, 58 years old and a native of Kassel - stood accused of having falsified his "Fragebogen" (official questionnaire) and of having been found in the unlawful possession of two cases of amunition and of American Army property. He was pronounced guilty and sentenced to 6 years of imprisonment at the fortress of ~~hahhahhah~~ Landsberg.

In recent months many thousands of Germans have been convicted ~~hh~~ for the same misdemeanors. Even so Schulze's story - a fairy-tale as wondrous as any - is unique. One cannot help hoping that, despite its singular beauty, it will never be paralleled.

Schulze, a gray haired, dignified and pensive looking gentleman with eye glasses and a pleasing voice, is no newcomer to the bars of justice. Every now and then his resourcefulness in business would bring him into conflict with the law. Perjury, forgery, concealment of assets and other illegal machinations were the basis of his previous convictions of which there were nine. He speaks English fairly fluently, is a man of wealth and of agreeable manners and a "Deutsch Nationaler" (German nationalist), rather than a Nazi. No sooner had our troops arrived in Ebenhausen where he had made his home, than Schulze was made mayor of the place.

Shortly afterwards he was taken to Munich by one of the ~~officers~~ ^{Americans} whose confidence he had gained. He met Colonel Keegan, then Military ~~Governor~~ ^{Government officer for} of all Bavaria, as well as his two

aids, the Lieutenant Colonels Colberg and Long. The impression he made was excellent. So much so that after a few additional meetings he was given the opportunity of his life. The first post-Hitlerian government was about to be formed in Bavaria and Schulze was asked to make his choice. Did he want to become Minister President? Minister of Finance? Minister of Economics? The candidate declined. In this context his testimony was the only one available yesterday. None of the officers he quoted were present; they have all gone home. But ~~hhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh~~ subsequent events would seem to corroborate his account. For obvious reasons the well known jail bird refrained from taking any office of such glaring prominence. What he wanted, was inconspicuous power. The position finally agreed upon, was that of a Confidential advisor to the Regional Military Government of Bavaria. The "Special ~~Legitimation~~ Legitimation" with which he was ~~fhbbhhphthadh~~ equipped on June 12th 1945 reads as follows:

"The bearer of this, Mr. Erich Schulze from ~~Ehahhhhhh~~ Ebenhausen, born on the 31. of December 1868 in Kassel, has been appointed confidential advisor for the H.Q., Regional Military Government, Bavaria. He did and is doing important work for the Government. We ask all American and German authorities to give Mr. Schulze all possible help and assistance. Signed: Sam H. Long, Lieutenant Colonel."

Schulze wrote reports on financial and economic matters. Up to the date of his arrest on August 23. he had produced 32 such documents. He also unearthed undeclared stocks and furnished M.G. with many a useful tip. It appears likely that the man who turned down the highest political office in the country did some political counselling as well and that the late Schaeffer administration owed its unfortunate composition - at least partly - to Schulze's advise. At any rate, however, it was clearly ~~hhhhhhhhhh~~

established yesterday that he exercised considerable influence; that he had access to M.G. files; that other people's "Fragebogen" were subjected to his scrutiny; and that indeed he designed a new questionnaire which was promptly approved. Even while the paper went to print, it was discovered that his own "Fragebogen" was missing. Schulze was made to fill out another form. In doing so he failed to answer question number 24. Instead of stating whether or not he had ever been convicted of any crime or misdemeanor, he put down a number of dots and dashes. Asked for a less ambiguous entry, he answered the question with a simple "No".

Meanwhile reports had come in, which aroused the suspicion of the authorities. An investigation was started and revealed his criminal record. Schulze admitted having served two prison terms, but denied the remaining seven. ~~His twin brother, he said, must have been the culprit in these cases. He was dead now - cremated at Buchenwald.~~ His twin brother, he said, must have been the culprit in these cases. He was dead now - cremated at Buchenwald.

And what - the prosecution wanted to know - had been his brother's name? Haltingly he recalled three christian names which, ten minutes later, he was unable to remember. He insisted, however, that both, Colonel Keegan and Lieutenant Colonel Long had been aware of his shady past, and that they could not have cared less. "As long as you are no Nazi", they had said, "these things do not matter. We like you and we appreciate your work. Let bygones be bygones."

As for the amunition which had been found in his basement, Schulze maintained that it must have been left ^{THERE} by a former inhabitant, an officer of the SS. The rest of his unlawful possessions - American ~~hghghghghgh~~ ^{cigaretts}, tobacco, chocolate, sugar, canned food, etc. were presents, given to him by his friends, the absent

Colonels. He had not, incidentally, been paid for his services, but had refused to accept any remuneration. His expenses, on the other hand, had been considerable.

Schulze who was defended by a slick German lawyer with an Oxford accent, was given a fair and lengthy trial. Although the severity of his punishment hardly exceeds the seriousness of his offenses, most of those present felt slightly sorry for the elderly convict. True that he was easily tempted. But in this, his tenth conflict with the law, the ^{temptation} ~~temptation~~ had been great.