

TAUSCHER, FIGURE IN 1916 PLOT, DIES

Acquitted of Charges That He Planned to Blow Up Welland Canal in World War

SERVED KRUPP INTERESTS

Ex-Aide of von Papen Had Arms Firms Here—Husband of Johanna Gadski, Singer

Captain Hans Tauscher, former officer of the Imperial German Army, who was indicted with Franz von Papen during the World War but acquitted by a Federal jury of charges that he conspired to blow up the strategic Welland Canal, died here yesterday in St. Clare's Hospital.

Captain Tauscher, husband of the late Johanna Gadski, Metropolitan Opera singer, was 73 years old. One-time representative of the Krupp munitions interests of Essen, he returned to the United States in 1921, after departing with the German Ambassador, Count von Bernsdorff, on the eve of the American declaration of war.

Since 1925 he had been a citizen of the United States. As recently as 1934 he dealt in arms here, through the B & T Munitions Company, which went into receivership in that year, and the H. Tauscher Arms Corporation, 342 Madison Avenue.

Captain Tauscher, an officer in the pre-war German Army, resigned his commission when he married Mme. Gadski in 1906. He is survived by their daughter, Mrs. Charlotte Busch.

Aide of Von Papen Here

At his trial on the conspiracy charges in 1916 Captain Tauscher told the jury that, though he had lived for several years in the United States, he was in Berlin when the World War began in August, 1914. Volunteering his services to the authorities, he said, he was ordered to return to the United States and report to Captain von Papen, then military attaché of the Kaiser's embassy in Washington.

He admitted that, at von Papen's request, he kept track of the Allied munitions purchases in the United States and, as an ordnance expert, investigated inventions submitted to the German Embassy. He admitted also that he sold arms and dynamite to persons sent him by the military attaché, but testified that he "never heard of the Welland Canal."

Found not guilty, Captain Tauscher left the United States and, several years later, another indictment against him, on charges of violating the neutrality laws, was dropped in San Francisco. The indictment against von Papen, however, stood on the books until June, 1932, when he became Chancellor of Germany, the predecessor of Adolf Hitler.

Returned and Became Citizen

Captain Tauscher returned to the United States after the war, with the permission of the Department of Justice and the understanding that he intended to become a citizen. His wife, at that time, was touring America in a series of concerts.

With Titus de Bobula, former church architect and relative by marriage of the family of the late Charles M. Schwab, he organized the B & T Munitions Company. The firm, according to testimony before the Senate committee which investigated the munitions industry in 1934, held the American rights to a German machine gun, but Captain Tauscher vigorously denied charges that it supplied gangsters with the weapon.

"I have never sold a gun to any gangster or any private person," he said in reply to the accusation. "The United States Government, State governments and Police Departments throughout the country buy my guns."