
200 Seized in Federal Alien Raid

[event of Sept. 26, 1917]

Published in *The New York Call*, vol. 10, no. 270 (Sept. 27, 1917), pp. 1-2.

In a wholesale raid, late last night, in which 1,000 plain-clothesmen and a number of Brooklyn Navy Yard officials took part, 200 men were taken into custody and are held as alien enemies.

Most of the men arrested were living in the prescribed alien enemy zone about the Brooklyn Navy Yard and Fort Hamilton. Officials stated last night that many important documents have been taken in the raid.

Federal agents were in charge of the raid and they expected to have in their hands at least 500 men this morning, and twice the number before they are through.

The detectives making the unexpected wholesale raid have in their hands, it is said, a list of several thousand names from which they are making the arrests. Most of the men taken are said to be of well-to-do families.

In Brooklyn there were 107 arrests.

Some of the suspects who resisted arrest were subdued after being roughly handled.

One is said to have opened fire upon detectives at Parkside and Flatbush Avenues, Brooklyn. He fired several shots before he was overpowered and taken into custody.

The raids, which are by far the most widespread action yet taken by federal and municipal authorities, was suggested, it is claimed, by officials of the Navy Department. This was interpreted as indicating that suspicions were harbored against many

residents of the city with respect to matters connected with the navy yard which the authorities desired kept secret.

The raids were under the direction of Deputy Police Commissioner Guy Soull, assisted by Captain Tunney of the bomb squad.

In order that the utmost secrecy should be maintained regarding the proposed raids, which started simultaneously at 10 o'clock, detectives were ordered to report from their homes to their borough headquarters. there they were met by federal agents and received instructions.

Fifteen automobiles left police headquarters in Manhattan bearing plainclothesmen and federal agents to various parts of this borough.

Over 100 detectives were sent out in Brooklyn. In Long Island City there were over 50.

For some time, acting under instructions of Police Commissioner Woods, police and detectives all over the city have been quietly making notes of IWW meetings and of individuals who attended the organization's meetings.

The prisoners were rushed in patrol wagons to the precinct headquarters and from there taken to be imprisoned in the Raymond Street Jail. Deputy United States Marshals have been called to help the regular jail attaches in guarding the prisoners. Police Precinct No. 7 is in Williamsburg, and it was in this precinct the greatest amount of propaganda, much of which is printed in German, was seized.

In the 6th Precinct, Brooklyn, 60 prisoners have been taken up to midnight, and in the 7th, 47 men were placed under arrest.

Not an article or printed or written page in any of the houses that might serve as evidence or be of service to the government of the United States in completing the cases was overlooked. the evidence from each address was duly bundled and tagged and is held by the government for further investigation.

Edited by Tim Davenport

1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR · October 2013 · Non-commercial reproduction permitted.