WASHINGTON, July 18 (UP).—Sixteen Army officers and enlisted men were singled out by a congressional committee today as persons “whose background reflects Communism in some form.”

Reporting on its investigation of alleged commissioning of Communists, a house military affairs subcommittee said the Army had granted commissions to some applicants who had been given unfavorable reports by a war department personnel board.

The 16 men whose background was alleged to “reflect Communism” included Sgt. Samuel Dashiel Hammett, well-known fiction writer; Lt. Joseph Lash, one-time head of the American Students Union and protege of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt; and four lieutenants assigned to the office of strategic services.

A report prepared by H. Ralph Burton, committee investigator, said a personnel board had recommended withholding commissions from 39 of 40 men whose applications were reviewed.
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Communist party is promulgated among social workers.”

Capt. Henry Clovis Collins, Napier Field, Ala.—Panel member of the National Action Conference for Civil Rights. Burton said the conference was called by the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, which “has perhaps been the foremost Communist-front organization in the United States.”

Capt. Horace Warner Truesdell (also spelled Truesdale), HQ. 7th Civil Affairs United, APO 654, New York—Member of the American League for Peace and Democracy and president of Russian Reconstruction Farms, Inc.

FOUGHT IN SPAIN

Lt. Richard C. Criley, Military Police Corps, 7th Civil Affairs Unit, APO 654, New York—“Helped handle California Young Communist League.”

Lt. Irving Fajans, Office of Strategic Services, Washington, D. C.—Honor-roll member of Young Communist League members fighting in the Spanish civil war.


LOCAL LINK DENIED

(Morris Shafritz, president of the International Workers’ Order in Philadelphia, denied today that Edward Finkelstein was ever an officer of the order here.)


2 SPAIN VETERANS

Lieut. Jerry Trauber, 978th field artillery battery, APO 339, New York—Member of International Workers’ Order executive committee and other organizations listed as Communist by the report.


HAMMITT ACCUSED

2d Lt. Joseph Lash, former president of American Student Union which once was identified before the Dies committee by Lash as a “Communist front.”

Sgt. Marc Blitzstein—Assigned on detached service to the office of war information, contributor to the Daily Worker and various other publications listed as “Communist” by Burton.

T/5 Theodore Draper, Hq. 84th infantry division, APO 84, New York—Contributor to China Today and editor of Student Review, both alleged to have given prominent space to Communist news and advertisements.

Sgt. Samuel Dashiel Hammett, Hq. Alaskan department, editor of camp newspaper—Sponsor of relief ship for Spain during Spanish civil war, member Citizens’ Committee for Harry Bridges, signed paper urging President and congress “to defend rights of Communist party,” and member of citizens’ committee to free Earl Browder, U. S. Communist leader.