

# 16 Now in Army Linked To 'Red Background'

WASHINGTON, July 18 (UP)—A House Military Affairs subcommittee today singled out 13 Army officers and three enlisted men as having Communist backgrounds.

The War Department promptly came to the men's defense.

"Their performance of their military duties during the last three years has clearly evidenced their loyalty to this country and the principles for which this country is fighting," a department statement said.

## "Reflect Communism"

The committee said the men's background "reflects Communism in some form," and added that some of them were commissioned over the objections of a War Department personnel board.

The department said it investigated the civilian records of the men and found they met the Army's basic criterion for a commission—"is the individual at the present time wholeheartedly loyal to the United States?"

The statement pointed out that most of the men named served overseas with combat units for at least a year, and that many won promotions in the field.

## Closed-door Session

H. Ralph Burton, appointed recently to investigate reports that Army commissions were being given to persons with Communist connections, gave testimony to the subcommittee behind closed doors.

Burton listed and identified these officers and enlisted men:

**Maj. Edward Newhouse**, 50th Army Air Force, Washington, D. C., "writer for the Daily Worker, 1934, the New Masses, 1936; responded to the call for Congress of American Revolutionary Writers."

**Capt. Herbert Aptheker**, 940th Field Artillery Battalion, "contributor to New Masses, contributor to Negro Quarterly."

**Capt. Henry Clovis Collins**, 2116th Base Unit, Napier Field, Ala., "panel member of National Action Conference for Civil Rights, April 19-20, 1940. This conference was called by the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, which, since its inception in June, 1940, has perhaps been the foremost Communist-front organization in the United States."

**Capt. Horace Warner Truesdell**, 7th Civil Affairs Unit, "member, American League for Peace and Democracy; President, Russian Reconstruction Farms, Inc."

**Lt. Richard C. Criley**, corps of military police, 7th Civil Affairs Unit, "as Dick Criley, helped handle California Young Communist League."

**Lt. Irving Fajans**, Office of Strategic Services, Washington, "on honor roll of Young Communist League members fighting in the Spanish civil war."

**1st Lt. Edward W. Finkelstein**, 26th Field Artillery Battalion, "chairman, Philadelphia District International Workers Order," which Burton called "a subservient instrument of the Communist party of the United States."

**Lt. Irving Goff**, Office of Strategic Services, Washington, "speaker, Communist school, New York City," and a member of "the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in Spain." Burton testified that

"evidence shows that this organization was Communist-dominated."

**Lt. Vincent Lossowski**, Office of Strategic Services, Washington, "fought with Abraham Lincoln Brigade in Spanish civil war."

**Lt. Jerry Trauber**, 978th Field Artillery Battery, "editorial board, New Pioneer (Young Communist organization.)"

**Lt. Milton Wolff**, Office of Strategic Services, Washington, "national commander of the Communist-controlled veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade."

**Second Lt. Joseph Lash**, Camp Lee, Va., "president of American Student Union (May, 1938) which has been exposed as a Communist front by testimony of Lash himself before the special committee on un-American activities in January 21, 1942."

**Sgt. Marc Blitzstein**, AAF, assigned on detached service to the Office of War Information: "Is one of the foremost activists in Communist ranks in the United States."

**Theodore Draper**, T/5, headquarters 84th Infantry Division, "editor, New Masses."

**Sgt. Samuel Dashiell Hammett**, T/4, headquarters Alaskan Department, editor of camp newspaper, The Adakian, "chairman of Committee of Election Rights (chief purpose of this committee was the defense of the interests of the Communist party)." (Hammett is well known as a writer of mystery stories.)

**Second Lt. Gerald Cook**, 460th Amphibious Truck Company, "fought in Spanish Civil War with Spanish Republican army for two years."

Burton testified that commissions were withheld from some individuals because of their "alleged sympathy with subversive ideologies."

In the cases of 42 individuals removed from officer candidate schools or denied commissions, he said, the War Department upon review upheld the action in 39 cases, and reversed it in one. The two other cases, he said, involved "allegations affecting the moral character of the candidates."

The recommendations of the Army personnel board which reviewed the cases, he added, were confirmed in 25 instances by "the final reviewing authority." In 14 other cases, he said, five persons were allowed to return to officers' schools but never were graduated, and nine others were commissioned as second lieutenants.

## Blitzstein Son of Banker

Sgt. Marc Blitzstein—son of a South Philadelphia banker—rocked Broadway in 1937 with his satiric operetta, "The Cradle Will Rock," an attack on big business.

He was born here in 1905 and attended school at 3d and Lombard sts., before going on to the University of Pennsylvania and the Curtis Institute of Music. His father was head of M. L. Blitzstein, a banking firm, but it was music—generally music on leftish themes—that claimed Marc. His compositions have been performed by the Philadelphia Simphonietta, the League of Composers, the Philadelphia Society for Contemporary Music, and the Hans Lange Quartet, as well as over the radio and on Broadway.