

I AM NOT A FASCIST

Says author who was tricked by anti-Nazis

WHEN three young men were charged with breaking into the flat of historian Mr. David Irving, author of "The Destruction of Dresden," one of them told police officers: "This man is a Fascist. We got in because we wanted to get some of the books and papers of his, as he knows a lot of Nazis who are top brass."

Mr. Kenneth Richardson, prosecuting, said this at Middlesex Sessions on Tuesday, when the three men were charged with breaking into Mr. Irving's flat at Alyn Court, Crescent Road, Crouch End, with intent to steal.

They were: David Freedman, aged 19, an electrician's mate, of Solander Gardens, Stepney; Manny Carpel, aged 20, unemployed, of Downs Park Road, Dalston; and Gerald Gable, aged 26, an electrician, of Lynmouth Road, Stoke Newington.

Carpel and Gable pleaded guilty. Freedman pleaded not guilty, and the prosecution offered no evidence in his case. On the direction of the deputy chairman, Mr. T. R. Fitzwalter Butler, the jury returned a formal verdict of not guilty in the case of Freedman.

Mr. Richardson said Carpel and Gable broke in intending or hoping to take political material, books or writings, which they had reason to suppose were in the flat.

They got in by posing as G.P.O. engineers. They said they would return later, but Mr. Irving became suspicious and checked with the Post Office. When he found the men did not work for the G.P.O. he telephoned the police.

Carpel and Gable returned later accompanied by Freedman, and Mr. Irving let them in. They were still there when police arrived.

Mr. Richardson added that the break-in by a trick occurred on the first occasion. On the second occasion Mr. Irving invited the men into the flat, and for that reason there was no charge. As Freedman was present only on the second occasion the prosecution were offering no evidence against him.

REVIEWS

Mr. Richardson said: "In view of this allegation that Mr. Irving was a Fascist, I am bound to say that that gentleman would, if he had had to come to give evidence, have most strongly denied this allegation."

Mr. Richardson quoted from two newspaper reviews of the book in support of this.

Mr. John Matthew, defending said: "Both these men are Jewish. Both were brought up with strong anti-Nazi and anti-Fascist views—perhaps more so than the normal young Jewish man."

"The three men, including Freedman, had met a fortnight before the offence in a bowling alley. Gable had a copy of 'The Destruction of Dresden.' A person saw them with the book, and discussed it with them. This person purported to know the political views of Mr. Irving. Some time later, after reading the book, the young men drew conclusions. I do not think there is the slightest doubt they genuinely believed that if they got into Mr. Irving's flat they would be acting as crusaders for their cause."

BEST MOTIVES

"They intended to hand over any documents or books they found to the 'Special' Branch. There is no doubt they acted with the best possible motives."

The deputy chairman fined Carpel and Gable £20 each on the first charge, and Gable £5 on an additional charge against him of stealing a G.P.O. pass card.

He said: "There is very considerable evidence to show that Mr. Irving's views are not Fascist or Nazi."

Mr. Richardson said Mr. Irving was anxious that it should be known that all his documents, material and findings, in the matters he had been writing about, had been voluntarily subject to scrutiny by the Foreign Office and the Air Ministry.

After the hearing Mr. Irving said: "As far as the charge that I am a Fascist is concerned, the overburdening weight of the evidence is against it."

'SHE'S MORE THAN JUST A DOG'



A kiss from guide dog Timber for her owner, Mrs. Thir. Mrs. Hilda Smith, who is in charge of the collecting box at the concerts in aid of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, looks on.



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'ROUND THE WORLD' TO AID THE BLIND

A score of guests at the Barnsbury Street home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hook sat in a darkened room on Saturday evening and were taken on a musical trip round the world in stereophonic sound.

The programme had been arranged by Mr. Hook as one of a series of fund-raising efforts in aid of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

Guests at the concert heard Mrs. Anne Thir speak of her partnership with her own guide dog, Timber. "She's much more than a dog to me," said Mrs. Thir. "She's a real personality who shares my pleasure and my unhappiness."

Concerts held by Mr. and Mrs. Hook have so far raised £75. The series will end in April with a party night and bring-and-buy sale in the Hooks' garden. "That's if the 550 bulbs I'm planting come up all right," quipped Mrs. Hook.

Preparing for the worst...

Islington Civil Defence Corps are ready to swing into action the moment any disaster hits the borough.

Six community halls at council flats and the Hillside Home for the aged, St. John's Way, Upper Holloway, could be commandeered to house families made homeless by fire or other catastrophe.

This was revealed after the L.C.C.'s announcement on Monday of the scheme to co-ordinate local Civil Defence corps in the event of disaster.

The scheme includes use of the L.C.C.'s five large welfare homes which are staffed 24 hours a day. The wardens of these homes would co-ordinate activity in their particular areas.

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LEICESTER 17/6
LOUGHBOROUGH 19/-
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WELLINGBOROUGH 12/8

9.50am (Refreshment Car) to

CHESTERFIELD 25/6
NOTTINGHAM 21/-
SHEFFIELD 27/6

10.50am to

LEICESTER 17/6

Please enquire for return times.

FOOTBALL TRIP

Saturday, 18th January

BLACKPOOL v.

TOTTENHAM 45/-

St. Pancras dep. 8.05am.

Due back Euston 11.07pm.

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