

GUARDSMAN OUSTED FROM SERVICE FOR BEING UNAMERICAN

June 8
Naturalized German, Up For Commission In Militia, Would Not Fight Against Fatherland

GENERAL JOHNSON ORDERS HIS IMMEDIATE DISCHARGE

There Is No Place In National Guard For Such Men, Says Adjutant-General

Company D, First Infantry, N. G. H., will lose Martin Grune, an efficient lance corporal. He was discharged from the service without ceremony last night, because, during the recent crisis between the United States and Germany, he informed Capt. Gustav E. Schaefer, his commanding officer, that should the United States and Germany be forced into war, he would not take up arms against Germany.

Grune, who has had an excellent reputation as a citizen soldier, was about to take a competitive examination for the vacancy in his company for second lieutenant, and his statement that no matter what might come he would not align himself with the United States as against the Kaiser placed his commanding officer in an embarrassing position.

Captain Schaefer took several days to think the matter over and finally, a day or so after the examination, which was held a week ago last Sunday, laid the whole affair before Colonel Lincoln, the commander of the regiment and the regular army inspector-instructor of the guard.

Examination Papers Barred

Colonel Lincoln realized that such a sentiment as expressed by Grune would bar anyone from loyally taking the officer's oath of office in the national guard. He directed that the papers prepared by Grune be dropped from the contest, until such time as the whole matter could be submitted for final decision to Brig.-Gen. Samuel I. Johnson, adjutant general of the Territory.

This was done yesterday, and General Johnson acted promptly. As soon as Grune showed up for drill last night with Company D, he was called into the adjutant-general's office, where Captain Schaefer, Colonel Lincoln and General Johnson had been in conference over the matter, and asked for a plain statement of his feelings.

"I have learned," said General Johnson, "that just before taking your examination for a commission in the guard, you informed your commanding officer that you could under no circumstances fight against Germany. This was at a time when there seemed a possibility that you might be called upon to do so. What about it? Do you feel that way now?"

Grune Admits Disloyalty

"Yes, sir," said Grune, his face looking pale, and his mouth twitching a little. "I do feel just that way. I told Captain Schaefer that I felt it would be impossible for me to fight against Germany in case the United States went to war with her. Any other country, but not Germany."

"Ah!" ejaculated the adjutant-general. "But don't you know that you have taken an oath—two solemn oaths, indeed, for you have taken out your first papers as an American citizen—to 'defend the United States from all enemies whomsoever.' You swore to that when you enlisted in the guard. You swore to it when you relinquished your status as a German subject and became an American citizen. Furthermore, you swore when you took out your first papers to 'defend the United States against all enemies, whomsoever, and especially against Wilhelm II, Emperor of Germany.' Don't you know that?"

"Yes, sir," murmured Grune.

"Why did you take out your papers, then," asked General Johnson. "Why did you enlist in the guard if you felt that way?"

Willing To 'Accept' America

"At the time I took out my papers, I did not believe that the United States and my country would ever come to war. I was willing to accept the United States as my country."

Then for the first time Colonel Lincoln spoke.

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"Do you consider that you conferred a favor on the United States by becoming a citizen of this country, or that the country conferred a favor on you by allowing you to assume that citizenship?"

"I was the favored party," answered Grune.

"I am sorry," interrupted General Johnson. "You have been a good soldier, Grune, but a man who feels as you do has no business to change his citizenship, and he certainly has no business in the national guard of any country save his own. Your commanding officer has recommended that you be honorably discharged from the guard. Colonel Lincoln, will, I am sure, approve that recommendation. That is all."

In speaking of the affair afterward General Johnson said:

"A point I wished to emphasize is that no man can serve two masters. If he enters the militia as an American citizen it is to the United States that he owes his first duty, no matter where he may have been born. We are not preparing for war with any country, but we are trying to get ready to meet any emergency. I should have acted in the same manner had Corporal Grune been an Englishman, a Frenchman or a Russian. We want none but Americans in the guard, no matter what they may have been before they came here. If a man feels that his allegiance to the land of his birth is too strong to permit him to struggle against it for his adopted land, then he has no business adopting another land."