

over patriotism

commitment to the full-scale production of trucks, armoured cars and tanks for the German army.

Located in Russelheim was a General Motors establishment completely dedicated to the manufacturing of German military aircraft. It manufactured half of all Junkers JU-88 propulsion systems for the deadliest bomber in the Nazi Air Force.

At this time, GM was owned by the DuPont family. In 1936, Irene DuPont used GM money to finance a group called the Black Legion and to found the American Liberty League. The Legion's purpose was to keep automobile workers from unionizing. They fire-bombed union meetings, murdered union organizers and dedicated their lives to destroying Jews and Communists. The American Liberty League, on the other hand, was a Nazi organization which devoted its time to whipping up hatred of blacks and Jews, loving Hitler and red-baiting the Roosevelts. Ironically, some of the DuPonts

At the same time, Standard was fuelling German U-boats even though the American government had declared such shipments morally indefensible. By refusing, on patriotic grounds, to do business with Hitler, Standard could have paralyzed the Nazi war machine. Instead, it chose a course which resulted in millions of needless deaths.

In his 1973 book, *The Sovereign State of ITT*, Anthony Sampson documents the key role played by the giant American communications conglomerate in the workings of the Fraternity. Fraternity members were not, during this time, operating in isolation. They were in constant touch, planning and plotting through an intricate communication system supervised by ITT founder Sosthenes Behn, another Farben henchman. With the help of ITT, the Fraternity was able to stay one step ahead of the elements of the American government who were not sympathetic to their goals, including the FBI.

When, occasionally, members of the Fraternity were taken to task for their actions, they proved quite capable of avoiding retribution. In 1942, Uncle Sam accused Standard Oil president William Farish of acting against the interests of the American government and suggested a fine of \$1.5 million. Farish rejected the proposal, pointing out that Standard was fuelling a high percentage of the U.S. Navy, Army and Air Force, making it possible to win the war. "Where would America be without it?" he threatened. An obvious but effective case of extortion and Farish got off with a voluntary fine of a nominal sum and a slap on the wrist.

In 1934, Roosevelt discovered an attempted coup financed by the DuPonts and others which would overthrow the president with a \$3 million-funded army of terrorists and replace him with a Hitler-like dictator. But, although he defused the plot, Roosevelt couldn't possibly arrest those behind it, speculating that such a move would create an unthinkable national crisis. As Higham writes, "Not for the first or last time in his career, he was aware that there were powers greater than he in the United States."

Only after it looked certain that the Nazis would be defeated did members of the Fraternity return to the patriotic fold. Toward the end of 1944, many Fraternity members turned away from the Nazi cause and devoted themselves wholeheartedly to combatting the Communist threat. And with the end of the war, most of them went completely unpunished, with some exceptions. On September 22, 1947, Judge Charles Clark ruled in a case involving certain Standard Oil patents which had been frozen by the American government because of the company's wartime activities.

"Standard Oil," he said, "can be considered an enemy national in view of its relationships with I.G. Farben after the United States and Germany had become active enemies."

Not only did General Motors go unpunished after the war, but in 1967, after years of detailed requests, the United States awarded GM a total of \$33 million in tax exemptions on profits for the "troubles and destruction occasioned to its airplane and motorized vehicle factories in Germany and Austria in World War II."

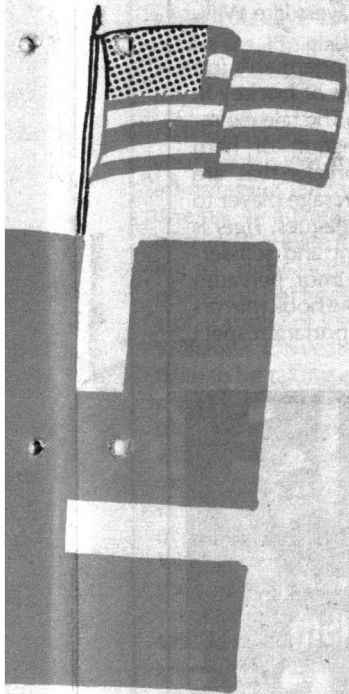
The de-Nazification brought an unsettling conclusion to the wartime activities of Fraternity members. "When the war was over," write Higham, "the survivors pushed into Germany, protected their assets, restored Nazi friends to high office, helped provoke the Cold War and insured the permanent future of the Fraternity."

were Jewish.

Between 1932 and 1939, General Motors invested approximately \$30 million into I.G. Farben plants.

Of course, no American corporate conspiracy would be complete without the Rockefeller's. In this case, the family's largest corporation, Standard Oil, was one of the firmest supporters of the Nazi government and maybe the most important cog in the Nazi war effort.

Standard's chairperson was Walter C. Teagle, who also sat on the board of American I.G. Standard Oil was the world's leading manufacturer of tetraethyl lead, an additive used in aviation gasoline. Without this substance, it was impossible for Goring's air force to get off the ground. Throughout the war, Teagle arranged for the sale of sufficient quantities of the substance to keep the Luftwaffe capable of bombing London at will. By supplying Japan with tetraethyl lead, Teagle played a major role in the bombing of Pearl Harbour as well.



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