



Mario A. Boet

SALESMAN IS HELD FOR WAR LETTERS

Son of an Italian Admiral Is
Accused of Attempting to
Damage Army Morale

BELITTLED U. S. POWER

Work of F. B. I. in Tracing
Missives to Source Praised
by Federal Attorney

A seditious attempt to damage the morale of the armed forces through letters cursing the United States and belittling its power, while floridly praising the Axis, was charged yesterday to Mario Albert Boet, 46-year-old mineral salesman, of 170 East Ninetieth Street. Boet's father, who died in 1935, was an admiral in the Italian Navy, but he has a son who is a member of the United States Air Corps.

Boet's letters, which were traced to him in what United States Attorney Mathias F. Correa called an "outstanding piece of investigative work by the Federal Bureau of Investigation," were addressed to General George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff; to Lieut. Gen. Ben Lear, to the superintendent of West Point Military Academy and to various newspapers and radio stations. At his arraignment before Federal Judge Vincent L. Leibell yesterday the portly, mannerly defendant pleaded not guilty and remarked that he had made an affidavit as to what had prompted him to write the letters. He was held in bail of \$10,000.

In one letter, according to P. E. Foxworth, local F. B. I. chief, Boet described himself as having been

landed by an Axis submarine at Huntington, L. I. The letter directed its recipient, who was not identified, to go at once to Detroit and obtain a list of war plants, with data on their production. Written before this country entered the war, the letter contained the assertion that its writer, if he found the United States unready to fight, would try to get it into the world conflict.

Another letter carried statements that the writer and other "European-Americans" were hoping for "the greatest Dunkerque in history," Mr. Foxworth said. Boet was naturalized here in 1923. He is a native of Nice, France, but derived Italian citizenship from his parents. Some of his letters were signed Roberto, a contraction of Rome, Berlin, Tokyo.