

(Lt. Paul Johnston)

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c. The Nazi conspirators set up and operated a vast propaganda and censorship machine and supervised cultural activities.

(1) By means of an elaborate party organization

(a) The Reichspropagandaleitung (Party propaganda department) (RPL) was founded in 1932, as the central propaganda control office headed by Goebbels. Its functions were:

(i) Direction, supervision and synchronization of propaganda within the Nazi movement.

"Propaganda of the NSDAF, its formations and affiliated associations is the responsibility of the Reichspropagandaleiter.

"He determines all manifestations of the Movement, including its formations and affiliated associations, with regard to propaganda.

"He issues the directives for the Party, including its formations and affiliated associations, for the realization of the cultural wishes of the Führer."

2319-IS, Organisationsbuch der NSDAF (Organization Book of the NSDAF), (1937), pp. 295-6.

These functions were organized vertically through a close network of Gau-, Kreis-, and Ortsgruppen propaganda offices attached to the Gau-, Kreis-, and Ortsgruppenleiter, respectively, down to the smallest communities. In addition, synchronization of propaganda within the Movement was guaranteed through the "Reichsring für national-sozialistische Propaganda und Volksaufklärung", (National Socialist Organization for Propaganda and People's Enlightenment). The Reichsring constituted the center of control responsible for the complete coordination of Party and Movement in the field of propaganda.

"The Reichsring. . . had the task to ensure the uniform direction of propaganda of all formations and affiliated associations through the Party."

2319-IS, Organisationsbuch der NSDAF, (Organization Book of the NSDAF), (1937), p. 298.

(ii) Imbueing of the Nazi Movement and the people with Nazi ideology.

"(The Reichspropagandaleiter) upon his initiative, is concerned with the permeation of the German people with the National Socialist ideology.

"He enlightens the people about the achievements of Party and State.

"He controls the entire German wireless system with regard to its internal organizational, cultural and economic possibilities;"

"Press, radio and film are in the service of propaganda."

2319-PS, Organisationsbuch der NSDAP (Organization Book of the NSDAP), (1937), pp. 295, 296.

(iii) Coordination of Party propaganda with that of the Reich Government.

"The liaison officer has the task of centralizing all contacts with the Reich Ministries, public authorities, and corporations and to establish all such contacts with same..."

2319-PS, Organisationsbuch der NSDAP (Organization Book of the NSDAP), (1937), p. 302(a).

(iv) Verification on the effectiveness of Nazi propaganda. This function was assigned to the lower grades of the Party leadership, regional and local officials, who assembled and analyzed information on public reaction to the current content of propaganda.

(v) Other activities of the Reichspropagandaleitung (Party Propaganda Department) (RPL) were discharged by numerous functional departments which included inter alia "Hauptstellen" (Main Bureaus) or offices for the following:

(aa) Press - preparation of all propaganda material issued by Reichspropaganda for dissemination to newspapers.

(bb) Exhibits and fairs - supervision of propaganda aspects of exhibits and fairs in which the Party participated.

(cc) Mass or "Aktive" propaganda - organization of propaganda campaigns within the movement, training and supply speakers with propaganda materials.

(dd) Films - Popularization of Nazi-inspired films, photographing official rallies.

(ee) Radio - radio propaganda.

(ff) Culture - making all forms of art conform to Nazi standards.

Other Bureaus included Architecture, Style and Design, Works of Art, Formulation of Programs, and Training of Speakers.

2319-IS - Organisationsbuch der NSDAP (Organization Book of the NSDAP) (1937), p. 295-302.

Regionally the Reichspropagandaleitung (Party propaganda department) was organized in Gau-, Kreis- and Ortsgruppenpropagandeamter (Gau, district, and local propaganda offices). The Gaupropagandaleiter (leader of the the Gau propaganda office) was at the same time the Gau representative of the Chamber of Culture (Landeskulturwarter) and in most cases also represented the regional office of the Propaganda Ministry, so that on the lower levels, Party and State propaganda were completely unified.

2315-IS, Das Recht der Reichskultur Kammer,
(The Law of the Reich Culture Chamber) p. 25.

(b) The office of Reichspresseschef (Reich Press Chief) of the NSDAP was created in 1934 by decree of the Führer for the political publishing activities of the Party.

2319-IS, Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, (Organization Book of the NSDAP) (1937), p. 303.

The functions of this office were:

"The Reich Press Office of the NSDAP is the central office for the entire political publishing activity of the Party. It represents the press interests of the Reich leadership of the NSDAP vis a vis both the German and foreign press. It alone has the authority to issue directives to the press of Reich policies concerning the treatment of Party affairs. It alone has the authority to issue press directives to all offices of Reich leadership. It is responsible for the political and editorial preparations, execution and utilization of all important Party activities in the Reich. It supplies the domestic and foreign press with information, news and commentaries about the Party. It keeps a record of press reaction to the Party work in publications of the domestic and foreign press."

2319-IS, Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, (Organization Book of the NSDAP) (1937), p. 303.

The Reich Press Chief exercised control over all press offices, including the chief editors of the National Socialist newspapers, as well as the Gau press wardens of the Party. He also served as liaison officer between the Party press and the "independent" press, and between Party and Government.

2319-IS, Organisationsbuch der NSDAP (Organization Book of the NSDAP) (1937), p. 303-306.

The executive functions of the Reich Press Chief were carried out by two offices:

(1) The Pressepolitisches Amt (Press Political Office),

(ii) The Pressepersonalamt (Press Personnel Office) which was in charge of training journalists and keeping files on German and foreign journalists.

The vertical organization of press controls corresponding to that of the Reichspropagandaleitung included Gau-, Kreis- and Ortsgruppen departments. Each was headed by an Amtsleiter, or press warden who was responsible for the entire Party press within their respective spheres of jurisdiction. They supervised the editorial policy of the Party press, issued information bulletins about the activities of the Movement, and served as liaison officers between the Party and non-Party press. They also transmitted local information to headquarters for distribution, and made recommendations concerning the appointments of local party editors. The Gau- and Kreis- press wardens, at the same time, served as regional and local representatives of the Home Press Division of the Propaganda Ministry and of the Reich Press Chamber.

2319-PS, Organisationsbuch der NSDAP (Organization Book of the NSDAP) (1937), p. 305.

2315-PS, Das Recht der Reichskultur Kammer,
(The Law of the Reich Culture Chamber) p. 25

Specifically, it was the function of the Press Chief to execute the provisions of the Editorial Control Law.

2083-PS, Schriftleitergesetz (Editorial Control Law), 4 October 1933. 1933 Reichsgesetzblatt, I, p. 713.

(c) The Reichsleiter für die Presse (Reich Press Leader) was charged with supervising all matters concerning the German publishing business. The Organisationsbuch der NSDAP described his function as follows:

"He is charged with the creation of a press for the German people, which is responsible and answerable to him, and which reflects the life and experiences of the German people's community. In addition, the Reichsleiter für Presse has the function of issuing regulations necessary to carry out the demands concerning publication policies established in Article 23 of the Party Program and to supervise their execution.

2319-PS, Organisationsbuch der NSDAP (Organization Book of the NSDAP) (1937), p. 308.

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Article 23 of the Party Platform referred to above, provided, inter alia, (a) that all editors and newspaper personnel must be "members of the nation" (b) that non-Germans be prohibited from financial participation in, or influence of, newspapers and (c) prohibition of publication of papers "which do not conduce to the national welfare" (d) prosecution of tendencies in art or literature "of a kind likely to disintegrate our life as a nation" and (e) "suppression of institutions which militate against the requirements mentioned above."

1708-PS, Nationalsozialistisches Jahrbuch
National Socialist Yearbook (1944), p. 158.

Thus the Reich Press Leader was not only empowered to control all publishing houses of the Party, but was assigned the task of bringing the entire German press into line with National Socialist ideology. To this end he was given wide and specific powers.

His sphere of jurisdiction included specifically:

1. The administration, publishing, and financing of the Party press;
2. The establishment of newspapers by Party members or affiliated associations;
3. The incorporation of newspapers into the Party press combine;
4. The appointment of publishers and of their deputies;
5. The termination or alteration of contracts with newspapers;
6. The appointment of Commissars to supervise publishing houses.

2319-PS, Organisationsbuch der NSDAF, Organization
Book of the NSDAF (1937), p. 305.

In addition to controlling the administration and finance of the National Socialist publishing houses in the Gau, the Press Leader headed up the Zentralverlag, the central publishing house and holding company of the entire Party publishing machine and all its official organs, such as Der Volkischer Beobachter, Der Angriff, Der SA Mann, Das Schwarze Korps, Die HJ, etc.

Interrogation of Max Amann, p. ____

It was one of the RLI's duties to turn all Party official publishing into a lucrative proposition, and to set up an absolute monopoly for at least all political literature. To effectuate that objective, a decree was passed which made it mandatory for all books written by Party members to be offered, in the first place, to Eher Verlag.

2483-1S, Verfügungen Anordnungen Bekanntgaben
(Decrees, Orders, and Official Announcements)
p. 468-9.

The Reichsleiter für die Press, doubling in his capacity as president of the Reich Press Chamber, exercised economic controls over the entire German press. He made use of his position to expand the Party publishing machine at the expense of non-party newspapers. As president of the Reich Press Chamber, he was authorized to issue directives with the force of law. In that capacity he issued certain regulations prohibiting the ownership of newspapers by corporations of any kind, except the NSDAP or such groups as he personally approved.

2315-1S, Das Recht der Reichskulturkammer (Law of the Reich Culture Chamber) p. 121.

These decrees (a) had the effect of eliminating the Roman Catholic Press and (b) enabled Amann to close down one or more papers in particular locality "to safeguard reasonable standards of competition" where warranted by local conditions and sound publishing principles. Thus, the regulations provided the legal basis for the pressure which was brought to bear on such publishing firms as Hugenberg, Ullstein, and others, in order to force them to sell out to the Party. In this manner, the Party publishing machine grew to absorb nearly the whole independent press, and became one of the most lucrative business enterprises of the Party. In some instances, by Amann's own admission, the tactics employed in taking over independent publishing enterprises were such that he disapproved but was forced to go ahead by Hitler.

2315-1S, Das Recht der Reichskulturkammer
Law of Reich Culture Chamber p. 121
also Interrogation of Max Amann, p. ____

Amann also admitted the program and policy of the Nazis was designed to absorb the opposition press and to secure a firm grip

on the entire press and publishing business of the Reich.

Interrogation of Max Amann, I.

d. Parteiamtliche Prüfungs-kommission zum Schutze des NS-Chriftums (Office Party Examining Commission for the Protection of National Socialist publications--i.K)

(i) Functions: The i.K was charged with the censorship and supervision of all literature with cultural or political implications. According to the Party Manual:

"The functional scope of the official Party Examining Commission is not confined to any one group of publications, but includes the entire publishing field. Thus the work of the Official Party Examining Commission is sub-divided into departments for books, magazines and newspapers. Out of these main departments a group of important special fields have emerged as more or less independent fields. They are specifically the editing of speeches, scientific books, textbooks, scientific periodicals and the calendar as a special type of magazine."

Specifically, the Examining Commission's function was to protect National Socialist literature from attempts to destroy its propagandistic effect or to pervert its political and social content. The Party Manual stated:

"It is the function of the Examining Commission to protect the National Socialist literature from abuse, corruption, and attempts at dissolution. Thus it forestalls the infiltration of elements within the National Socialist literature which are irreconcilable with it."

In addition the i.K concerned itself with the actual suppression of literature incompatible with Party tenets, and with the approval of those works which it deemed beneficial to the extension of the National Socialist ideology. The Party Manual specified as follows:

"Particularly it is the function of the official Party Examining Commission to determine whether or not a work can be considered National Socialist literature."

This activity worked in close collaboration with the Delegate of the Führer for the total supervision of the Intellectual and Ideological Training and Education of the People. (Rosenberg)

2319-1S, Organisationsbuch der NSDA, Organization Book of the NSDA (1937), p. 337.

2483-1S, Verfügungen Anordnungen Bekanntgaben (Decrees, Order & Official Announcements)
(Decree on mission of i.K) p. 467

e. Party Training

The Beauftragte des Führers für die Überwachung der gesamten geistigen und weltanschaulichen Schulung und Erziehung der NSDA (Delegate of the Führer for the Total Supervision of the Intellectual and Ideological Training and Education of the Party-BdF)

Delegate of the Führer was Reichsleiter Alfred Rosenberg, defendant in this cause. The Office of the BdF by delegation of the Führer, was placed in charge of the Party's intellectual and ideological training and education. Its declared objective was the uniform ideological orientation of the Party, Party formations, and affiliated associations. Its main functions, in furtherance of this objective, were the preparation of suitable training materials and the issuance of directives thereon; the preparation, editing and establishment of curricula; the training of qualified teaching staffs; the counseling of Party agencies, formations, and affiliates, on content and methods of indoctrination; and, specifically, the elimination of such reading and teaching materials as were deemed inappropriate from a National Socialist point of view. To perform this multitude of individual tasks, the defendant Rosenberg operated with the help of a large organization with numerous branches and divisions cognizant of specific functions.

2319-1S, Organisationsbuch der NSDA (Organization Book of the NSDA) (1937), p. 312.

The BdF had a major and decisive part in the work of those Party offices, agencies, organizations, formations, affiliated associations, and schools and training institutes run under their auspices, which were instrumental in the indoctrination of the German people, and specifically, of the German youth.

2483-1S, Verfügungen Anordnungen Bekanntgaben (Decrees, Orders, and Official Announcements)
p. 479

(2) By means of an elaborate Reich government organization, the state organ of control was the Reichsministerium für Volksaufklärung und Propaganda (Reich Ministry for Popular Enlightenment and Propaganda). The Minister was Josef Goebbels.

The Propaganda Ministry was founded by decree dated 13 March 1933,

which defined its duties as the "enlightenment of, and propaganda among, the people on the subject of the policy of the Reich government and on the national reconstruction of the homeland."

2029-ES, Erlass über die Errichtung des Reichsministeriums für Volksaufklärung und Propaganda. (Decree establishing the Reichs Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda) 13 March 1933, 1933 Reichsgesetzblatt, Part I, p. 104.

By decree dated 30 June 1933 the functions of the Minister were expanded to include "jurisdiction over the whole field of spiritual indoctrination of the nation, of propagandizing the State, of cultural and economic propaganda, of enlightenment of the public at home and abroad; furthermore he is in charge of all institutions serving these purposes."

2030-ES, Verordnung über die Aufgaben des Reichsministeriums für Volksaufklärung und Propaganda. (Decree concerning the duties of the Reich Ministry for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda) 30 June 1933, 1933 Reichsgesetzblatt, Part I, p. 449.

The functions of the Propaganda Ministry were discharged by a large organization functionally divided.

The staff, which numbered 1000 persons in 1939-1940, was drawn from reliable Party members. In the words of Müller, an authority on the Propaganda Ministry:

"It is no coincidence that a majority of the employees are old National Socialists of which almost 100 are bearers of the Gold Party Pin"

2434-ES, Müller, Das Reichsministerium für Volksaufklärung und Propaganda (The Reich Ministry for Peoples Enlightenment and Propaganda) Berlin, 1940., p.10.

A few of the more important departments of the Propaganda Ministry, together with a brief description of their respective functions follows:

(a) Propaganda. This department coordinated propaganda policies and issued over-all directives to the various functional departments (press, radio, etc.) which then implemented the directives.

(b) Foreign. This department was the Ministry's listening post for political and economic developments abroad

for the purpose of exploiting the information in German propaganda. It also cooperated closely with the Auslandsorganisation der NSDAP.

(c) Radio. The defendant Hans Fritzsche headed this department. It supervised the political content of German broadcasting, issued directives as to the arrangement of programs and treatment of material, and cooperated with the Party in the technical organization of German radio.

(d) The Film Department was in charge of directing and guiding the German film industry, censoring of films and developing the German weekly newsreel.

(e) Literature. This agency, in close collaboration with BdF and RK, controlled all German literary activities, censored new books, provided for the publication of German books abroad, and arranged for the translation and censorship of foreign books. The following departments were under Otto Dietrich who at the same time held the position of Reich Press Chief.

(f) Abteilung Deutsche Presse (German or Home Press Department). This department was headed by the defendant Fritzsche until he was relieved in 1942 to take charge of the Radio Division. It was responsible for the political control over the entire German press; specifically it controlled the editorial policy of the press and its personnel (through the agency of the Reich Press Chamber--see below), and supervised the dissemination of news through the official German News Agency (DNB). The Home Press Division outlined the editorial policy of all newspapers and the word of editors and journalists in its daily directives (Tendenzberichte). These dealt with the daily contents of the paper, the methods of treatment of news material, the writing of headlines, the preference or omission of certain items, and the toning down or dropping of current campaigns. The directives were issued to the representatives of the press in person or sent through the facilities of the DNB to the local papers.

2434-1S, Müller, ibid, p. 16-17

See also 2529-1S, Handbuch der Reichskulturkammer (193) (Handbook of Culture Chamber) p. 210- ("The detailed supervision of the press is not a function of the Reich Press Chamber. It is much more the sphere of operations of the RMV (Div. IV). The general regulations for Editors are safeguarded by the Editorial Control Law and by the establishment of the Reich Association

for the German Press which is fully responsible to the Ministry."

(g) Periodical Literature. This department supervised German periodical literature in the same manner as the Abteilung Deutsche Presse controlled the daily press.

(h) Other divisions were cognizant of the Theatre, the Arts, Music, Special Cultural Tasks and Foreign Tourists.

2434-1S, Müller, Das Reichministerium für Volksaufklärung und Propaganda, pp.____
(The Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda).

3. By means of semi-autonomous professional organizations (Reichskultur-
kammer - Reich Chamber of Culture)

The Reich Chamber of Culture was set up in September 1933 to control (under the supervision of the Propaganda Ministry and within the framework of general policy, directives issued by that activity) the entire personnel in all fields of propaganda.

2082-PS, Reichskulturkammergesetz (Culture Chamber Law) 1933, 1933 Reichsgesetzblatt, Part I, p. 661.

Its tasks as described in the First Executive Decree of the above law dated 1 November 1933 were:

"To promote German culture as responsible to the people and the Reich, to regulate the social and economic relations of the different groups in the cultural professions and to coordinate their aims."

2415-PS, Erste Verordnung zur Durchführung des Reichskulturkammergesetzes, (First Executive Decree to Culture Chamber Law) 1933 Reichsgesetzblatt, Part I, p. 797.

The Reichskulturkammer was a so-called "Nachgeordnete Dienststelle" (Subordinate office) of the Propaganda Ministry. Together with its subordinated Chambers it was charged with keeping a check on all personnel active in any field under the jurisdiction of the Propaganda Ministry. All persons employed in the cultural professions were obligated to register with one of the subordinate Chambers. The Chambers were likewise responsible for checking on the activities and political reliability of their members. The Chambers, moreover, were given power to prosecute members offending against Nazi standards or persons pursuing their occupation without being duly registered. Their punitive powers included exclusion from membership, which was tantamount to the loss of livelihood. Also, the Chambers were given power to issue directives, which had the validity of law, and to regulate the cultural activities under their control.

2529-PS, Handbuch der Reichskulturkammer (Handbook of Reich Culture Chamber), 1937, pp. _____

Organizations

The President of the Chamber of Culture was the Minister of Propaganda, Joseph Goebbels, who nominated the Vice-Presidents. In 1937, the latter were the defendant WALTER FUNK, MAX AMANN (Reich Leader of the Press) and LEOPOLD GUTTERER (Secretary of State in the Propaganda Ministry).

2529-PS, Handbuch der Reichs- Kulturkammer
(Handbook of Reich Culture Chamber), 1937, p. _____

There were seven functional chambers:

1. Reichspressekammer (Reich Press Chamber). Max Amann was president of this chamber. The Press Chamber was, to a greater extent than the other chambers, a loose association of technical bodies and organizations, such as the Reich Association of German Newspaper Publishers. It integrated the activities of these groups and, through the composition of its governing body, ensured close coordination with Party and State propaganda machinery.

2529-PS, *ibid*, p. 210 et seq.

2. Reichskammer der bildenden Künste (Reich Chamber of Fine Arts) This chamber supervised the activities of all architect, interior decorators, landscape gardeners, sculptors, painters, draftsmen, art publishers, etc. By 1937, all other art groups and associations had been dissolved, and all their members "obligated by profession" to join this chamber, . . . had been incorporated therein.

2529-PS, *ibid*, p. 41

3. Reichsmusikkammer (Reich Music Chamber). This Chamber was organized to "oversee the practice and activity of musicians in their cultural, economic, and legal relationships with the world. . . in order that music will still remain a prized possession of the German people."

2529-PS, p. 23.

4. Reichstheaterkammer (Reich Theater Chamber). The Theater Chamber was the professional organization for the entire field of the professional theater. Its purpose was to supervise and promote the "cultural, social and economic conditions of the professions which it includes". Actual censorship of stage production was the responsibility of the Reichsdramaturg.

2529-PS, *ibid*, p. 245, 247.

5. Reichsfilmkammer (Reich Film Chambers). The primary function of this Chamber was to lift the film industry "out of the sphere of liberal economic thoughts" by giving it a sound economic foundation and
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thus enable it to "receive those tasks which it has to fulfill in the National Socialist State".

2529-PS, *ibid*, p. 273-274.

6. Reichsschrifttumskammer (Reich Chamber of Literature). The Chamber of Literature was cognizant of all persons concerned with the "basic production" (writing and publishing) of literature. It was responsible for protecting the writers "from undesirable elements" and to keep out of the book market everything "unGerman." It had the further function of bringing literature to the people and making the writer more "aware of his duty to the nation." It is further pointed out in the description of the functions of this office in the Handbook of the Culture Chamber that primary responsibility for critical evaluation and censorship of literature are functions of the Propaganda Ministry and other offices.

2529-PS, *ibid*, p. 136.

7. Reichsrundfunkkammer (Reich Radio Chamber). The importance of the radio in the National Socialist State was emphasized in the official gazette of the Reich Culture Chamber. It was therein stated that the radio was the most immediate propaganda instrument of the National Socialist leadership, that the ideal and cultural life of the nation could be shown "totally" in and through the radio, and that since the radio constituted "the most important technical means of influencing the masses" it was necessary to establish a "close tie between the radio and the Party."

Functions of the Radio Chamber included: "mobilizing of all technical possibilities of broadcasting", "bringing the people closer to radio", planning the manufacture of cheap receiving sets, and propaganda in connection with the drive for new listeners.

2529-PS, *ibid*, p. 301, 304-305.

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