

Interrogation of Hans FRITZSCHE
 By Lt Col T. S. HINKEL
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FRITZSCHE was interrogated along the lines of his personal history. He stated that he was born 21 April 1900 at Bochum, Germany, that his father was a retired post office employee, and that he was educated at Gymnasiums in Breslau, Leipzig and Halle, later attending a university in Berlin where he studied history, philosophy and economics. (He said that he studied for a PHD but never received it due to interruptions in his studies.)

After the First World War, in which he was a soldier from April to November 1918, FRITZSCHE engaged in journalistic enterprises and in 1923 became editor of the section for political economy of the Preussische Jahrbucher. In 1924 he was employed as editor of the news agency for the Telegraph Union, an enterprise of Alfred HUGENBERG. (He said he was not connected with the Scherl Press.) FRITZSCHE remained with the Telegraph Union until 1932, when he took another job for a year, and then in 1933 he was employed by the Reich Ministry of Propaganda. In that Ministry, he was first appointed head of the Wireless News Service, where he was entrusted with the organization of news broadcasts, and then in 1938 he was transferred to the German Press Division, of which he remained the head from 1938 until 1942, being promoted to the rank of Ministerialrat in 1938.

FRITZSCHE was heard regularly as a political commentator in the German Broadcasting System from 1932 until the end of the war. He did not recall that his work in this capacity was described by Dr. GOEBBELS in a broadcast of 12 December 1940 as "indispensable and integral elements in the political guidance of the German people", but said it might have occurred. In 1940 FRITZSCHE was promoted in the Propaganda Ministry to the rank of Ministerialdireigent and then to Ministerialdirektor. (He stated that there were twelve divisions of the Ministry, of which the heads of only about six had the rank of Ministerialdirektor, and that he was one of the heads who held such rank.)

Early in 1942 FRITZSCHE volunteered for military duty and was placed in charge of a propaganda company. He reported to the Base Propaganda Battalion of the German Armed Forces in Potsdam in April 1942 and from there was sent on a six or seven months assignment to the Russian front. He was recalled to Berlin in November 1942, was released from military service, and resumed his broadcasting activities which had been interrupted by his military service.

In 1942 FRITZSCHE was appointed delegate for the political supervision of broadcasting in Greater Germany and at the same time was relieved of his duties as director of the German Press Division. He was responsible for the organization of the German broadcasting systems in occupied territories. He traveled abroad from time to time, during the course of which he visited the Portugese National Broadcasting Station, addressed a group in Istanbul in February 1944, and went to Sweden on a speaking tour in April 1944. (He denied that he was accompanied on the Swedish trip by Paul SCHMIDT, Chief of the Press Section of the Foreign Office.)

FRITZSCHE admitted that he held the following positions:

- 1) Member of NSDAP (1933 to 1945).
- 2) Head of the Wireless News Service (1933 to 1938) and of the Home Press Division (1938 to 1942) in the Reich Ministry of Propaganda.
- 3) Ministerialdirektor in the Reich Ministry of Propaganda (1942 to 1945).
- 4) Plenipotentiary for the political organization of the Greater Germany radio (1942 to 1945).

He denied that he held the following positions:

- 1) Editor-in-chief of the DNB (official German News Agency) from 1933 to 1945. He stated that he was never at any time connected with the DNB.
- 2) Head of the Radio Division of the Propaganda Department of the Nazi Party from 1942 to 1945. He stated that he never at any time held any Party position nor was he active therein.

HINKEL