

02.03

Defendant HANS FRITZSCHE
(Neumann rough draft, unedited)

Immediately after the Nazi seizure of power on 30 January 1933 FRITZSCHE was placed in charge of the official German news agency Deutsche Nachrichten-Büro with the title of editor-in-chief. In this capacity, he supervised the servicing of newspapers and radio stations all over Europe and the dissemination of all news arriving and leaving Germany either by wire or wireless communications. His qualifications for his position stemmed from his previous affiliations with Hugenberg's Scherl Presse as editor of the Foreign Section of its news agency Telegraphen Union (1924-1932). The fact that his appointment as head of the DNB originated through the Reich Propaganda Ministry under Dr. Goebbels is indicative of his close ties with official propaganda activities and with party control of German news sources.

Simultaneous with his appointment to DNB the defendant was given a position in the Propaganda Ministry as head of the Wireless News Service (Drahtloser Dienst), an organization which compiled all wireless news bulletins and services for the Reich Radio Co. (Reichsrundfunkgesellschaft). Later, he was transferred to the Home Press Division of the Propaganda Ministry. The defendant advanced rapidly in these two positions within the Ministry. In 1938, he began his series of propaganda broadcasts called Presse und Rundfunkschau, delivered three times weekly over the entire German broadcasting system. In the same year he was given the title of Ministerialrat and placed in charge of the Home Press Division. In 1940, he became Ministerialdirigent, and on 29 October 1942 he was made Ministerialdirektor, after a tour of duty with a Propaganda unit on the Eastern Front.

While in the Propaganda Ministry the defendant held corresponding positions in the Propaganda Department of the Nazi Party. As chief of the Broadcasting Division he coordinated the entire field of radio broadcasting with Party policy and was thus involved in the production of:

- 1) All news bulletins of the German Home Service.
- 2) His own political commentaries Politische und Rundfunkschau ^{Samungs} three times a week.
- 3) The Armed Forces news commentaries three times a week.
- 4) The daily Political Review.

On 3 November 1942 the defendant received the title of Delegate for the Political Supervision of Broadcasting in Greater Germany (Besauftragter für die politische Gestaltung des Grossdeutschen Rundfunks), and was relieved of all positions in the Ministerial and Party propaganda offices, though he continued to be editor of the DNB. Specially created for him, the defendant's new position was assumed on the eve of the Allied invasions of North Africa and the second winter offensive on the Eastern Front.

As delegate for the political supervision of Broadcasting, FRITZSCHE continued his broadcasts, distorting news of Allied operations and exhorting the German people to greater sacrifices in the face of a deteriorating military situation. At the same time he organized radio stations in the Occupied and Annexed territories, and supervised their Gleichschaltung (coordination) with the propaganda policies of Greater Germany.

As Chief of Broadcasting, he was also responsible for the formation of the basic political directives for radio broadcasting. FRITZSCHE himself broadcast as late as 25 April 1945.^{1/} In the course of seven years of broadcasting, he followed and developed the major Party propaganda lines, being personally most outspoken with regard to:

- 1) Anti-Semitism^{2/}
- 2) The Nazi racial theories,^{3/} and the Supreme Authority of the Führer.^{4/}
- 3) Justifying terroristic means of warfare such as the shooting of parachute troops and the use of the V 1 and V 2 bombs.^{5/}
- 4) Extolling the warlike virtues of the German people.^{6/}
- 5) Encouraging the ruthless exploitation of the Occupied Territories,^{7/} and the permanent expansion of Germany to the East.^{8/}
- 6) Developing the myth of the impregnability of Festung Europa.^{9/}
- 7) Extending German propaganda to neutral nations, in trips to Portugal, in November 1943, to Turkey on 3 February 1944 and to Sweden in April 1944.^{10/}

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- 1/ BBC MONITORING SERVICE, 1938-1945
 - 2/ Radio Broadcast, quoted from DEUTSCHLANDSPIEGEL, No. 641, 17 January 1943
 - 3/ Radio Broadcast of Frankfurt Sender, 18 December 1941
 - 4/ Radio Broadcast of Deutschlandsender, 31 May 1941 quoted in Deutschlandspiegel
 - 5/ Radio Broadcast of 16 June 1944, quoted in Deutschlandspiegel
 - 6/ Radio Broadcast "Im Vorfeld der Festung Europa," quoted in Deutschlandspiegel, No. 574, 11 November 1942
 - 7/ Radio Broadcast on Deutschlandsender, quoted in Deutschlandspiegel, No. 340, 19 March 1942
 - 8/ Radio Broadcast "On the Eastern Front," quoted in Deutschlandspiegel, 3 December 1942
 - 9/ Radio Broadcast, quoted in Deutschlandspiegel, No. 897, 30 September 1943
 - 10/ OSS BR Report, 13 July 1945