

62,03

Defendant ROBERT LEY
(Neumann rough draft, unedited)

LEY joined the Nazi Party, then illegal, in 1924 and became Gauleiter of the Rhineland-South in 1925 after the ban on the Nazi Party had been rescinded. He was arrested five times for illegal activities, used his paper with Westdeutsche Beobachter for blackmail; established contact with industrialists at an early date; engaged in attacks on leading figures of the Weimar Republic, notably the late leader of the German Social Democratic Party, Otto Wels and the Police President of Cologne Bauknecht. Before 1933 according to a statement in his own newspaper he organized SA and SS groups for the purpose of inciting farmers to violence.^{1/}

Since the meeting of the North German Gaue in 1925, the defendant has been Hitler's foremost follower and has always sided with Hitler against any opposition. Throughout his career the defendant preached hatred of the Jews and of bolshevism and attacked "the plutocratic-democratic" states^{2/} in many speeches and in numerous articles in the Nazi newspaper Der Angriff. He advanced the implementation of the German racial theory by giving less housing, less food and fewer cultural facilities to inferior races. The defendant was equally outspoken in his praise of war which he did not consider "a scourge of God but a blessing of the Almighty."^{3/} He preached aggressive war by demanding the return of the colonies.^{4/}

In 1928 the defendant was elected to the Prussian Diet on the Nazi ticket and in 1930 was elected to the Reichstag. In 1932, he was appointed to the highest Party office that of a REICHSLEITER and was put in charge of the Organization of the Party (Reichsorganisationsleiter), he held these positions until the downfall of Nazism.

The defendant's major contribution to the Nazi seizure of power and the destruction of democracy was the annihilation of the trade unions. While the leaders of the free trade unions (ADGB), Theodor Leipart and Peter Grassmann were negotiating with the leader of the National Socialist Workers Cell Organization (NSBO), W. Schuhmann, the defendant organized a "National Socialist Committee for the Protection of German Labor." He on 21 April 1933 issued a directive to this committee ordering it to seize the ADGB, the General Free Union of Salaried Employees (AFA bund), and the Labor Bank, to occupy the union buildings, and to arrest the leading personnel. The committee was to be supported by the SA and SS. This directive was carried out in the morning of 2 May 1933.^{5/} Shortly thereafter, the remaining trade union organizations were seized and dissolved. On 12 May 1933, the defendant caused the public prosecutor of Berlin to seize the union properties and to make the defendant trustee. The defendant incorporated this property into his German Labor Front and added to it the properties of the trade union insurance corporations,

1/ Der Angriff, 13 June 1942 and many others.

2/ Westdeutscher Beobachter, 15 February 1937.

3/ Der Angriff, 28 March 1940.

4/ Hakenkreuzbanner, 25 June 1930.

5/ The Directive is printed in Will Mueller, Das Soziale Leben im Neuen Deutschland, Berlin 1938, p. 57.

of the building and settlement companies, of the printing and publishing houses and of all cooperatives, both in Germany and in Austria.^{6/}

The defendant then proceeded to establish the German Labor Front (DAF) which by a Hitler Decree of 24 October 1934 became a Party affiliate. Its leadership was entrusted to the Chief of the PO of the Party, who was to appoint the lower leaders from the ranks of the NSBO, the SA and the SS. The finances of the DAF were put under the supervision of the Nazi Party Treasurer, Franz X. Schwarz.

The defendant brought between 24 and 28 million Germans into the Labor Front which was to indoctrinate the members in the spirit of Nazism. In the defendant's own words, the Front's major task was to create "a soldier of labor" wholly devoted to the Fuehrer and to Nazism. In order to control the leisure time of the workers, the defendant organized within the DAF the Strength Through Joy (KDF) organization which indoctrinated the working masses in their leisure.

The defendant, not satisfied that the huge DAF bureaucracy could keep the German worker under control, organized Werkscharen (factory squads) in the shops and factories. These were composed of reliable young DAF members, who cooperated closely with the SA for the activation of DAF work. With the outbreak of war, the defendant also created Politische Stosstrupps (Political Shock Troops) embracing all active Nazi forces in the factories. In many cases, they were charged with the supervision of foreign workers employed in the factories.

The defendant's DAF played a dominant role in the treatment of foreign laborers. By the end of 1941, 1003 camps for foreign laborers were being operated by the DAF. Through an order of 15 August 1940, the defendant assumed control over the foreign labor camps and ordered the segregation of foreign and German laborers.^{8/} His order of 25 September 1941^{9/} vested the control over foreign labor in a special DAF office, the Office for Labor Allocation.

Through an agreement with the defendant Baukel of 2 June 1934^{10/} the care and control of foreign laborers was entrusted to the defendant Ley and all camps (except for agricultural laborers) came under control of the DAF after this date. The two defendants also created a joint organization entitled Central Inspection for the Care of Foreign Workers (Zentralinspektion fuer die Betreuung der Auslaendischen Arbeiter) with 15 area inspectors who visited camps

6/ For a complete list see Neumann, Behemoth p. 304 and Soziale Praxis 1939, p. 1070 and 1941, p. 215

8/ Amtliches Nachrichtenblatt der DAF, 25 August 1940, p. 28

9/ Der Auslaendische Arbeiter in Deutschland, p. 212

10/ Reichsarbeitsblatt, 1943, part I, p. 538

and factories and reported to headquarters, seeing to it that the highest possible output was achieved.^{11/}

Throughout this period, the defendant continued to be Reichsleiter and Party Organization Manager. As such, he was responsible for the technical organization of the Party machine except for financial matters, for the selection of Party officials, and for the training of the Politische Leiter. These three functions were discharged through three so-called Main Offices of the Party: the Main Office for Organization, the Main Office for Personnel, and the Main Office for Training. All three Main Offices carried so-called functional responsibilities not merely for the offices directly subordinate to them on the regional and local level, but for the supervision of all other offices of the Party with regard to organization, personnel and training. The training of the political leaders was undertaken, in cooperation with the Ordensburgen, the Reichschulungsburgen and the Adolf Hitler Schulen. In short, as Reichorganisationsleiter, the defendant is to be held chiefly responsible for the recruitment of Nazi officials, for the indoctrination of the Party membership and for the maintenance and technical operation of an "apparatus ready to strike and discipline" in accordance with Nazi principles and policies. That the defendant was not only technically responsible is shown by his numerous contributions to Der Angriff, his speeches and other writings in which he laid down the major principles of Nazi ideology -- love for Hitler, Germany's destiny, hatred of Jews, contempt for inferior races, blind obedience, praise of war.

In the hour of Germany's defeat, Hitler established the Freikorps Adolf Hitler^{12/} under the defendant's command. The defendant appealed to this Franc-tireur body, composed of party stalwarts, to mercilessly annihilate the enemy. The defendant was honored by the SA by being appointed Obergruppenführer.

The defendant Ley is thus guilty of preparing the overthrow of the lawful democratic government of Germany, of having planned and executed the destruction of the trade unions, of having preached race hatred and war, of having organized the maltreatment of foreign laborers, and of having controlled, appointed and indoctrinated the Nazi Party membership in the doctrines of leadership adoration, race hatred and belief in war.

^{11/} Deutsche Bergwerkszeitung, 2 November 1943
^{12/} 28 March 1945