



ADOLF HITLER

The New York Times, 1938

ADMIRAL IN CHARGE

Proclaims Designation
to Rule—Appeals to
People and Army

RAISES 'RED MENACE'

Britain to Insist Germans
Show Hitler's Body
When War Ends

By SYDNEY GRUSON

By Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, May 1—Adolf Hitler died this afternoon, the Hamburg radio announced tonight, and Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz, proclaiming himself the new Fuehrer by Hitler's appointment, said that the war would continue.

Crowning days of rumors about Hitler's health and whereabouts, the Hamburg radio said that he had fallen in the battle of Berlin at his command post in the Chancellery just three days after Benito Mussolini, the first of the dictators, had been killed by Italian Partisans. Doenitz, a 53-year-old U-boat specialist, broadcast an address to the German people and the surviving armed forces immediately after the announcer had given the news of Hitler's death.

[The British Foreign Office said that it would demand the production of Hitler's body after the end of hostilities, The Associated Press reported.]

First addressing the German people, Doenitz said that they would continue to fight only to save themselves from the Russians but that they would oppose the western Allies as long as they helped the Russians. In an order of the day to the German forces he repeated his thinly veiled attempt to split the Allies.

Radio Prepares Germans

Early this evening the Germans were told that an important announcement would be broadcast tonight. There was no hint of what was coming. The stand-by announcement was repeated at 9:40 P. M., followed by the playing of excerpts from Wagner's "Goetterdaemmerung."

A few minutes later the announcer said: "Achtung! Achtung! In a few moments you will hear a

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DEATH OF HITLER ANNOUNCED BY FOE

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serious and important message to the German people." Then the news was given to the Germans and the world after the playing of the slow movement from Bruckner's Seventh Symphony, commemorating Wagner's death.

Appeals for Cooperation

Appealing to the German people for help, order and discipline, Doenitz eulogized Hitler as the hero of a lifetime of service to the nation whose "fight against the Bolshevik storm flood concerned not only Europe but the entire civilized world * * * It is my first task," Doenitz added, "to save Germany from destruction by the advancing Bolshevik enemy. For this aim alone the military struggle continues."

Clinging to the line of all recent German propaganda, reflected in Heinrich Himmler's reported offer to surrender to the western Allies but not to Russia, Doenitz said that the British and Americans were fighting not for their own interests but for the spreading of Bolshevism. He demanded of the armed forces the same allegiance that they had pledged to Hitler and he assured them that he took supreme command "resolved to continue the struggle against the Bolsheviks until the fighting men, until the hundreds of thousands of German families of the German east are saved from bondage and extermination." To the armed forces he described Hitler as "one of the greatest heroes of German history," who "gave his life and met a hero's death."

News tickers in the House of Commons lobby carried the news of Hitler's death just before the House rose tonight. The reaction of members and of the general public was much the same. Some doubted the truth of the announcement altogether, while others argued that there would have been no sense of making it if it were not true, since Hitler was perhaps the last person around whom the Germans still in unconquered territory would rally.

But there was an almost complete lack of excitement here. Those who believed the report seemed to accept it as a matter of course that Hitler would die. There was no official reaction.

The last reference to Hitler before tonight's announcement came in this afternoon's German communiqué, which said that the Berlin garrison had "gathered around the Fuehrer and, herded together in a very narrow space, is defending itself heroically." When Himmler offered his surrender to the Americans and British, it is reported, he told Count Folke Bernadotte, his Swedish emissary, that

Hitler was dying of a cerebral hemorrhage. During the past week, Hitler was variously reported dead, dying or insane in Berlin, Salzburg or the Bavarian mountains.

Doenitz' self-proclaimed accession was believed in some quarters here to bear out reports of a recent split in the German hierarchy between the supporters of an immediate peace gathered around Himmler and the die-hard clique clinging to Hitler and his determination to fight to the very end.

It was noted that Doenitz commanded the last arm of the German military machine that could cause the Allies major difficulties, and his ability as an expert on submarine tactics is not belittled here.

He was one of the first military men to join the Nazis and his loyalty to the party and its ideology never wavered. Known as one of the most ruthless men in Germany, he has been a bitter enemy of Britain since his imprisonment during World War I, when he was confined to a Manchester asylum as a lunatic.

"Ghost" Interrupts Doenitz

LONDON, May 1 (AP)—When Doenitz declared on the radio that Hitler had died "a hero's death," a ghost voice immediately interrupted, shouting: "This is a lie!"

[The British Broadcasting Corporation subsequently reported that Hitler had actually died of a stroke, rather than in battle against the Russians, the National Broadcasting Company said.]

Hitler, who was 56 years old on April 20, was lauded by Doenitz as "one of the greatest heroes in German history." Here the ghost voice broke in: "The greatest of all fascists!"

"With proud respect and mourning, we lower our standards," Doenitz continued. "His death calls on us to act," the ghost voice interrupted. "Strike now!"

Doenitz launched into a pep talk to the German people and troops, only to be interrupted again by the ghost voice, crying: "Rise against Doenitz. The struggle is not worth while if crime wins."

Haw-Haw Repeats Message

After Doenitz had broadcast his message the Hamburg station played "Deutschland Ueber Alles" and the "Horst Wessel Lied." This was followed by three minutes of silence, then by a formal order of the day from Doenitz to the military services and then by funeral music. Then Lord Haw-Haw repeated the broadcast, including Doenitz' order of the day, in English.

The Foreign Office said that it believed that Hitler was dead, but it declined to comment on the accuracy of the Hamburg radio's report of how he died.

London Press Voluminous

London newspapers received the announcement of Hitler's death just as the early editions were go-

ing to press but the second editions went "all-out" on the news, with long obituaries of Hitler and biographical sketches of Doenitz, the British radio said early today, according to the Office of War Information.

The Times of London limited its comment to a five-column obituary of Hitler and another half-column of copy on Doenitz, with photographs of both. The Daily Express, on the other hand, said that it "rejoices to announce the report of Adolf Hitler's death," the broadcast said.

The Daily Herald commented that Hitler had "snatched power at a moment when moral conviction and mutual trust were at a low ebb among the governments of the democracies" and added: "It is up to the democracies to insure that no such moment shall occur again." The Daily Mail declared that the Germans would continue to "worship" Hitler.