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Associated Press

**Adolf Hitler and Adm. Karl Doenitz in 1942, when Admiral Doenitz commanded the submarine fleet. A year later he became Navy chief.**

# Doenitz Dies; Gave Up for Nazis

By **DAMON STETSON**

Grand Adm. Karl Doenitz, who presided over Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender in World II as Adolf Hitler's personally appointed successor, has died at the age of 89, his family announced yesterday in Hamburg, West Germany.

A West German Defense Ministry spokesman said that Admiral Doenitz, who commanded Germany's U-boat campaign against Allied shipping, would be buried without military honors. The ministry, apparently fearing pro-Nazi demonstrations at the funeral for the Ad-

miral, who died Wednesday, has banned soldiers from attending in uniform.

Admiral Doenitz, a brilliant submarine strategist, was appointed by Hitler as his successor on April 30, 1945. In that role he presided over Germany's surrender after a futile attempt to surrender in the West and fight on against the Russians in the East.

Admiral Doenitz was notified by Hitler that he was to succeed him as head of state, and the Nazi leader committed sui-

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# Admiral Doenitz Is Dead; Surrendered for the Nazis

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cide that day. In fact, Admiral Doenitz had been exercising supreme authority for some days. Admiral Doenitz was arrested by the British on May 22.

Admiral Doenitz, slightly built and taciturn, served 10 years of rigorous confinement after his conviction for war crimes at the Nuremberg trials in 1947. His was the lightest sentence given to any of the major war criminals convicted at

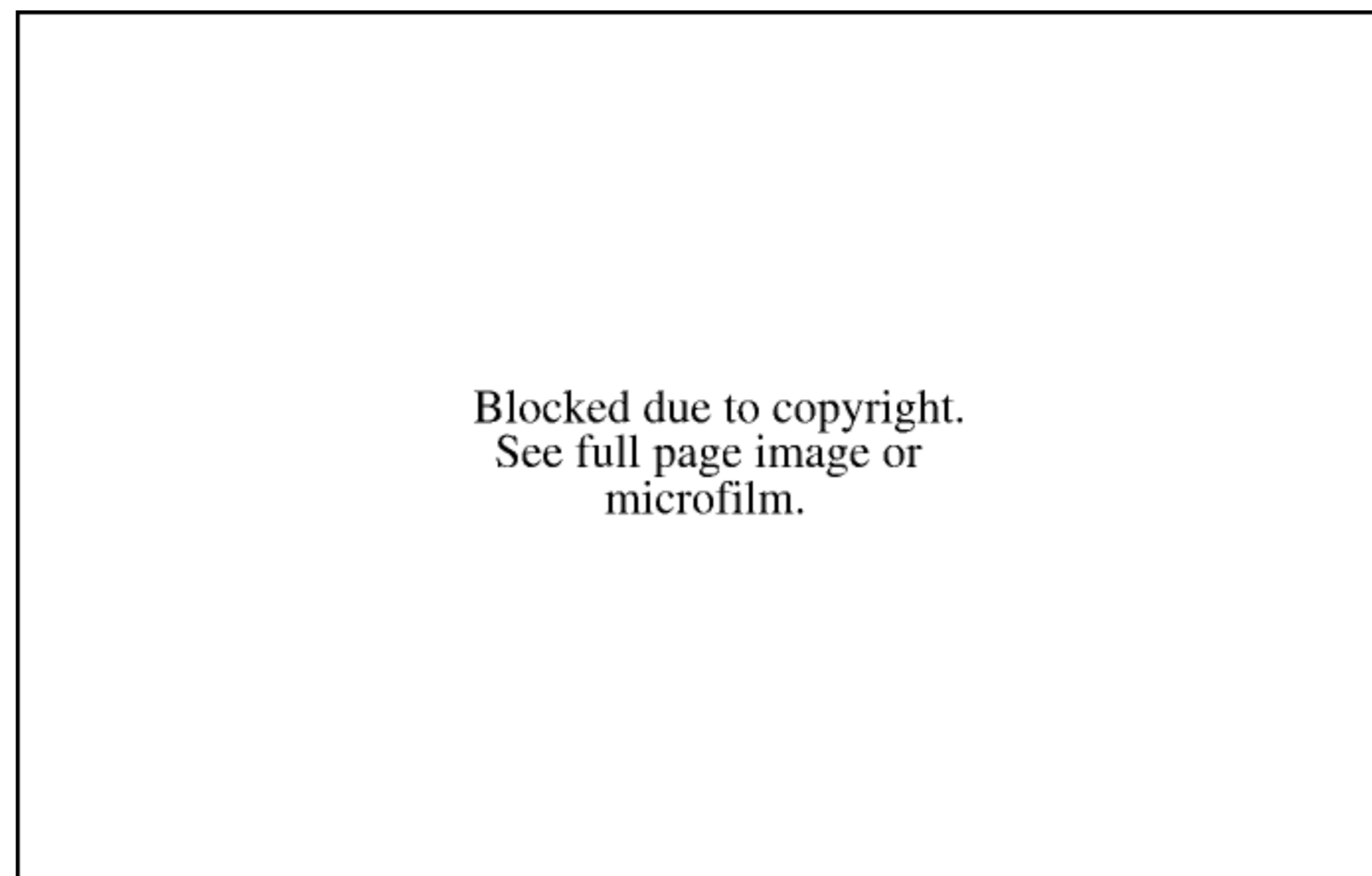
Nuremberg. He was released from Berlin's Spandau Prison on Oct. 1, 1956, after completing his sentence.

The Admiral's memoirs, published in 1959, attempted to refute the Nuremberg verdict in his case, maintaining, as did Adolf Eichmann and many other Nazis, that he was following military orders. He said he was shocked, at the war's end, when he learned of the atrocities committed by Hitler. As late as 1976, Admiral Doenitz, in an interview in the film "The Memory of Justice" by Marcel Ophuls, denied that he knew of anything "dark" about Hitler. Yet he was a key figure in Germany's military planning and regularly attended top-level conferences where major decisions were discussed, making his personal disclaimers hard to believe.

In his memoirs he complained of a naval policy that had prevented him from starting hostilities with the 300 submarines he wanted instead of the 57 he actually had. He called the Battle of the Atlantic the dominating factor of the war. But in an interview later he contended that Hitler had failed to recognize the strategic importance of naval victories.

"Warfare at sea had no priority," he said. "Winning the war in the Atlantic was a prerequisite for winning the war on the Continent."

In recent years Admiral Doenitz lived in relative obscurity in a three-room apartment in the Hamburg suburb of Aumühle-Bilenkamp. A model of one of the Admiral's "wolf-pack" U-boats was prominently displayed there along with a large portrait of Frederick the Great. But there was no portrait of Hitler. The town mayor said Admiral Doenitz lived there "completely withdrawn" but that he was friendly with a few people and that he was "esteemed" locally.



**LEFT: Adm. Karl Doenitz with Reichs Marshal Hermann Goering, left, and Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel in 1944. CENTER: Admiral Doenitz at a 1958 reunion of submarine officers. RIGHT: At the Nuremberg trials of 1946.**

Karl Doenitz was born in Berlin on Sept. 16, 1891, the son of a prosperous engineer. He joined the navy at 18 and in 1914 was on the light cruiser Breslau when it dodged the British in a sensational dash through the Mediterranean early in World War I.

In that war Commander Doenitz was in charge of U-boats and while aboard the UB-68 narrowly escaped death in a British depth-charge attack in the Mediterranean. The submarine rolled over and was brought to the surface with great difficulty. Commander Doenitz was captured and taken to England.

After World War I Commander Doenitz was confined to a mental hospital in Manchester, England, for a time, but it was widely believed that he had feigned insanity. He was later repatriated and resumed his naval career.

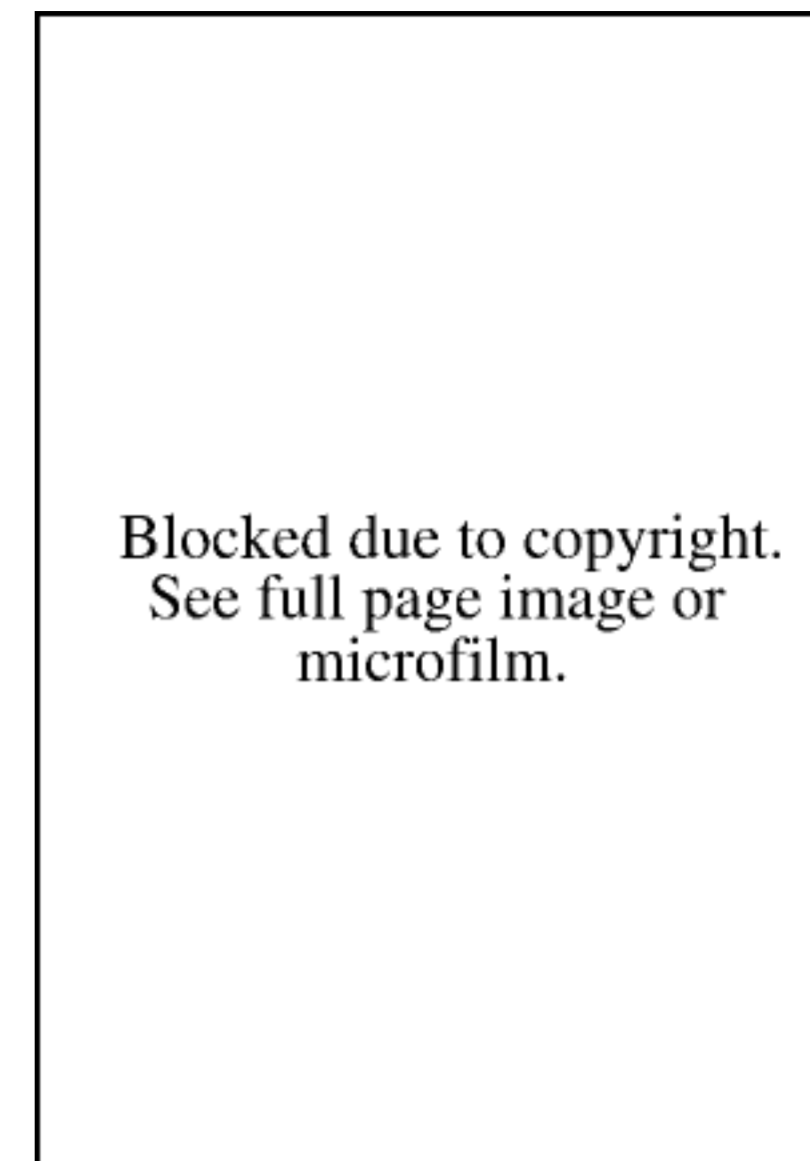
Captain Doenitz commanded the cruiser Emden for a time, but it was generally assumed that he spent most of

this period working on submarine specifications and submarine training plans against the day when Germany could once more possess the undersea craft it had been forbidden to have under the terms ending World War I.

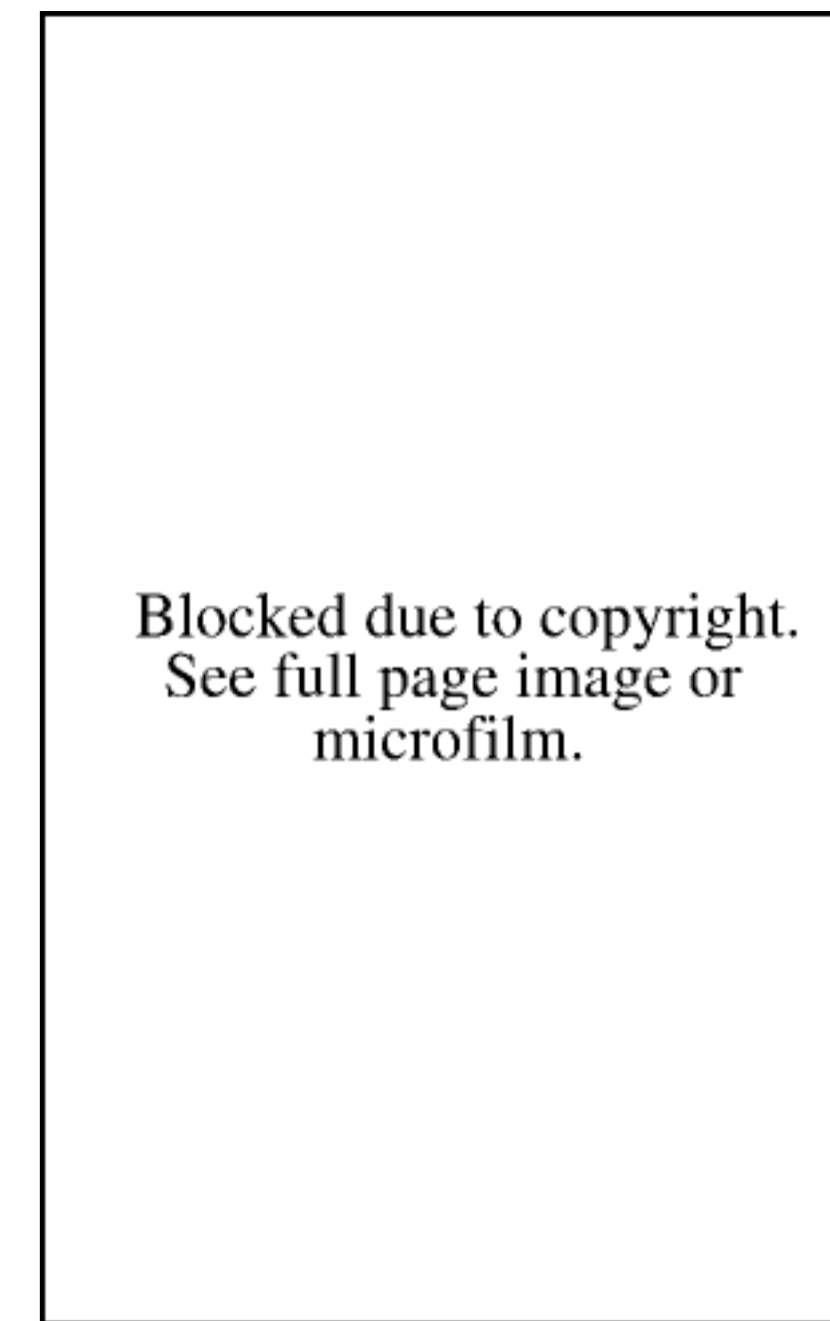
In 1935 Captain Doenitz became a rear admiral and head of Germany's submarine service. His title was Flag Officer, Submarines. The submarine fleet had been formed and its crews trained largely under his direction.

Reported British improvements in submarine-detecting techniques had caused Germany to place more confidence in its new pocket battleships than on submarines. But Admiral Doenitz could call Prime Minister Winston Churchill as witness that when the German submarine campaign actually began it almost put Britain out of the war.

"The U-boat attack was our worse evil," Mr. Churchill would say later. "It would have been wise for the Germans to stake all upon it."



Associated Press and Keystone



During World War II a total of 863 German submarines were in operation, and when the war ended 756 had been lost. According to Allied estimates the U-boats sank 14,119,413 tons of shipping.

Finally, superior Allied naval and air power began to tell in the struggle at sea and Grand Admiral Erich Raeder was removed from supreme command of the German Navy. Admiral Doenitz succeeded Admiral Raeder as Navy Commander in Chief on Jan. 30, 1943, but by 1944 it became apparent that the Allied convoy system had rendered the German submarines ineffective.

The closing phases of the war found Admiral Doenitz in charge of the defense of the northern reaches of Germany, which had been cut off from the rest of the country by the Allied advances.

In the end his main preoccupation was the evacuation of as many of the German armed forces and civilians as possible before they were engulfed by the advancing Russians. It was to permit this operation

to continue that he at first refused the Allied terms for an unconditional surrender.

After futile attempts to persuade the British and Americans to let the bulk of the German armed forces surrender to them rather than to the Russians, Admiral Doenitz unconditionally capitulated on May 23.

According to his memoirs, Admiral Doenitz's relations with Hitler were those of a loyal subordinate who was not, however, afraid to speak his mind. He said he had become disillusioned with the Nazi principle of absolute dictatorship and that he had never known of the wholesale nature of the atrocities committed by the Nazis.

At the Nuremberg trial, Oberleutnant Peter Joseph Heisig, whose submarine was destroyed in 1944 by two Canadian frigates, said that in 1942 he had heard Admiral Doenitz advocate the killing of Allied merchant seamen. Admiral Doenitz denied making the statement.