

Doenitz' Message and Order of Day

The text of the first broadcast by the north German radio network announcing the death of Adolf Hitler and carrying the address to the nation by Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz follows as it was reported by the Federal Communications Commission:

Announcer—The German wireless broadcasts serious important news for the German people.

(Three rolls of the drums are heard.)

Announcer—It is reported from the Fuehrer's headquarters that our Fuehrer, Adolf Hitler, fighting to the last breath against bolshevism, fell for Germany this afternoon in his operational headquarters in the Reich Chancellery.

On April 30 the Fuehrer appointed Grand Admiral Doenitz his successor. The Grand Admiral and successor of the Fuehrer now speaks to the German people.

Doenitz: German men and women, soldiers of the armed forces:

Our Fuehrer, Adolf Hitler, has fallen. In the deepest sorrow and respect the German people bow.

At an early date he had recognized the frightful danger of bolshevism and dedicated his existence to this struggle. At the end of his struggle, of his unswerving straight road of life, stands his hero's death in the capital of the German Empire. His life has been one single service for Germany. His activity in the fight against the Bolshevik storm flood concerned not only Europe but the entire civilized world.

The Fuehrer has appointed me to be his successor. Fully conscious of the responsibility, I take over the leadership of the German people at this fateful hour.

Hopes to Save Germany

It is my first task to save Germany from destruction by the advancing Bolshevist enemy. For this aim alone the military struggle continues. As far and for as long as the achievement of this aim is impeded by the British and the Americans, we shall be forced to carry on our defensive fight against them as well. Under such conditions, however, the Anglo-Americans will continue the war not for their own peoples but solely for the spreading of bolshevism in Europe.

What the German people has achieved in battle and borne in the homeland during the struggle of this war is unique in history. In the coming time of need and crisis of our people I shall endeavor to establish tolerable conditions of living for our women, men and children so far as this lies in my power.

For all this I need your help. Give me your confidence because your road is mine as well. Maintain order and discipline in town and country. Let everybody do his duty at his own post. Only

thus shall we mitigate the sufferings that the coming time will bring to each of us; only thus shall we be able to prevent a collapse. If we do all that is in our power, God will not forsake us after so much suffering and sacrifice. (National anthems.)

ORDER OF THE DAY

The text of the order of the day issued yesterday by Doenitz to the German armed forces, broadcast by the north German radio network and reported by the Federal Communications Commission, follows:

German armed forces, my comrades:

The Fuehrer has fallen.

Faithful to his great ideal to save the nations of Europe from bolshevism, he has given his life and has met a hero's death. In him one of the greatest heroes of German history has departed. With proud respect and grief we lower our standards.

The Fuehrer has designated me to be the head of the state and supreme commander of the armed forces. I take over the supreme command of all branches

of the German armed forces, resolved to continue the struggle against the Bolsheviks until the fighting men, until the hundreds of thousands of families of the German east, are saved from bondage and extermination.

Against the British and Americans I am bound to continue to fight as far and as long as they impede me in the continuation of the struggle against the Bolsheviks. The situation demands that you, who have already achieved such great historic deeds and who are now longing for the end of the war, persevere in your unconditional readiness for action.

I demand discipline and obedience. Only by unquestioning compliance with my orders will chaos and downfall be avoided. Whoever evades his duty at this hour is a coward and a traitor, for he brings down death or enslavement on German women and children.

For every single one of you the oath of loyalty to the Fuehrer is transferred straight to my person as the Fuehrer's appointed successor.

German soldiers! Do your duty! The existence of our people is at stake.