

The Netherlands Information Bureau
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Blokzijl goes on trial

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THE HAGUE, September 11 (Aneta)--Max Blokzijl, puppet radio spokesman for the German regime during the occupation of Holland, went on trial for his life today before a special court established here to deal with suspected traitors.

A few minutes after the court opened, he heard the public prosecutor demand the death sentence be imposed upon him for his open support of, and cooperation with, the Germans who ravaged and looted the Netherlands.

In his opening remarks the prosecutor flayed Blokzijl as a "perfidious, barefaced and thoroughly mean" person who aided the Germans throughout the war years. He quoted extensively from Blokzijl's writings and broadcasts and accused him of "consistently attacking the Netherlands Government in London and praising National Socialism." After he had finished the trial was adjourned for two weeks.

Blokzijl, before the war, was well known in Holland as a newspaperman. He was on the staff of the "Algemeen Handelsblad" at Amsterdam, serving at one time as its Berlin correspondent. It was while working in the German capital that he made contact with the Nazi clique.

Throughout the years of enemy occupation of the Netherlands, Blokzijl broadcast as the controlled mouthpiece of the German regime. He was captured in this city early in May, just eight months after he had boasted over the Hilversum radio that no allied troops could enter Holland in force.

Blokzijl came to top-flight prominence under the Germans when he was nominated to the Ministerial Press Department June 17, 1941. Immediately he made two broadcasts which set the tone for much of his later rant-ings--first, the Dutch were too stubborn for their own good and, secondly, Nazi "patience is exhausted."

In February of the following year he was photographed wearing a Dutch Nazi uniform and a short time later advocated that Anton Mussert, leader of that organization, be made Premier.

By June of that year he had begun to change his tune of certain Axis victory, however, admitting that the Axis had underestimated the Russians and following this with a long series of tirades against the Dutch underground and Holland's "irreconcilable youths." When German resistance in Holland collapsed under the hammer blows of the allies, he fled, only to be captured after several earlier reports of his arrest proved premature. He has since been held pending trial.