

The Defense of the Home Front: The Enemy is Listening In (1942)

Abstract

After the start of the war, Himmler and Heydrich began to deploy and extend their terror apparatus in “defense of the home front.” Above all, the Security Service [*Sicherheitsdienst* or SD], the SS, and the Gestapo were responsible for spying on the general German population under the pretense of a war-induced state of emergency. Threats to internal security or to the troops' military readiness were avenged and punished with ever greater severity. Such threats not only included transmitting information important to the war effort, but also, for example, listening to foreign radio broadcasts or spreading negative information about the course of the war.

This poster was intended to discourage women from sharing information included in personal letters from relatives at the front. One female office worker says to another: “Hans writes that his division will be moved to...”

Source



Source: “Hans writes that his division is coming to . . . shh! The enemy is listening!” Poster (circa 1942). bpk-Bildagentur, image number 30024537. For rights inquiries, please contact Art Resource at requests@artres.com (North America) or bpk-Bildagentur at kontakt@bpk-bildagentur.de (for all other countries).

Recommended Citation: The Defense of the Home Front: The Enemy is Listening In (1942), published in: German History in Documents and Images, <<https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/nazi-germany-1933-1945/ghdi:image-1924>> [April 26, 2025].