



Report from "Voelkischer Beobachter" about the funeral service for Ernst vom Rath in Paris, 1938

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Funeral service for Ernst vom Rath in Paris.

The Fuehrer has wreath laid on bier of murdered man.

Special report by the Voelkischer Beobachter.

Paris, 13 November

The official funeral ceremony for Ernst Eduard vom Rath, Councilor to the Embassy, took place on Saturday afternoon in the German Church in Paris.

An hour before the commencement of the official ceremony for Embassy Councilor Ernst vom Rath, murdered by Jewish hands, the first mourners entered the German Christ Church. The coffin, covered by the swastika flag, lay before the altar, covered by a sea of wreaths and flowers. To its left and right the adjutants of the German Military and Air Attaché, in dress uniform, acted as guards of honour. Behind them the four standard-bearers of the Party, with the standards of the Movement hung with crepe, had taken up their positions.

As the members of the German delegation, who had reached Paris on Saturday morning, headed by teats-sekreteer Freiherr von Weiziecker, appeared, all the mourners rose and the Germans gave the German salute. Shortly afterwards, the representative of the President of the French Republic, Lieutenant Colonel Passin, and Foreign Minister Monnet, representing the French Government, entered. Prime Minister Daladier, had sent the head of his Cabinet to represent him.

On the right side of the nave sat the entire Diplomatic Corps, the heads of the diplomatic missions from foreign Powers and a large number of foreign military attachés. The entire board of the Franco-Allemagne Committee, as well as a large number of representatives of French intellectual circler, were also present.



Shortly after twelve o'clock the German Ambassador Count Welezeck conducted the sorely tried parents to their places. The assembly of mourners again rose, in silent respect for their profound suffering.

After musical offerings by the wending quartet Stuttgart, and an address by the officiating clergyman, Staatasekreteer Freiherr von Weizeencker pronounced the official funeral [..]

"Your native land salutes you, Ernst vom Rath" were the first words of the representative of the German Government and the Foreign Service in his extremely impressive and touching obituary address. He then went on to describe the short but brilliant career of the young German diplomat. Despite his early death (he said) the life's work of this true German was completed. Hisshould be an inspiration to all Germans to be courageous and in their loyalty to the Fuehrer. Staatasekreteer Freiherr von Weizeencker then offered the last greeting of his highest superior, Reich Foreign Minister von Ribentrop to the dead man.

The speaker also referred in touching terms to the great grief of the sorely affected parents and took this opportunity to express the deep sympathy of the Fuehrer of the German Government and the whole German people. After a cordial expression of thanks to the French government and people for their most sincere sympathy Freiherr v. Weizeencker concluded his speech with the simple but impressive words:

"All Germany claims you on her own, Ernst von Rath and with the And warning call to action: "Germany, ...!"

Then, while hands were raised everywhere in the German salute, he laid the magnificent wreath of the Fuehrer on the coffin of the hero who had fallen in the fight for the Third Reich.

Immediately afterwards the German Ambassador laid the 1st tribute of the Foreign Minister of the Reich on the coffin and Lanengruppenleiter Party Comrade Ehrich set down the splendid floral tribute given by the Gauleiter of the Foreign Organization. The touching ceremony ended with the blessing of the body and the Adegie of Beethoven.

After the benediction the German Ambassador conducted the representative of the President of the Republic to the parents of the dead man. Lieutenant



Colonel Passin pressed the hands of the bereaved parents in silence and was then the first to leave the church. Immediately afterwards Staatssekretär von Weinsacker led the mother through the lane of honour formed by the congregation to the exit from the church. The father of the dead man was escorted by Landesgruppenleiter Party Comrade Ehrich.

Meanwhile, Freiherr von Weizsacker and the German Ambassador has taken up their positions in the flower decorated vestibule of the church to receive the expressions of condolence.

To the left and right of the exit a detachment of the Republican Guard in full dress uniform formed a lane of honour.

Thousands of French people had assembled in front of the exit of the church and in the closed streets leading to it, in order to express their sympathy once more and to watch the departure of the mourners.

The coffin of Councillor to the Embassy von Rath remained lying in state in the church waiting transfer to its German home by the special train furnished by the French Government.

The State internment of Ernst von Rath will take place in Dusseldorf.

On Saturday morning Oberregierungsrat Faber of the German Embassy in Paris, accompanied by the Deputy Landesgruppenleiter and his adjutant, deposited at the order of Reichminister Dr. Goebbels, a laurel wreath decorated with the colours of the Reich, on the coffin of Councillor to the Embassy Ernst von Rath slain by the hand of a Jewish murderer.

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