

## From the Midwest The Voice of All Free America

By 1933, Propaganda Minister Paul Josef Goebbels (a brilliant strategist) had set up a "**North American Service of the German Radio**," staffed largely by expatriate American "foreign correspondents." Their focus was the North American audience.

In February 1941, the station requested American listeners to forward reception reports and questions about Germany by means of collect telegrams of up to 25 words. By the end of February, over 10,000 telegrams had been received, despite criticism in the American press and deliberate attempts to clog the German end of the circuit.

The program was known as **America Asks, Germany Answers**: Beginning in March 1941, the station answered American questions. The two announcers were Democ and Nazi. Democ would pose questions from American listeners and Nazi would provide the answers. The programs mostly consisted of anti-Roosevelt, anti-British and pro-isolationism propaganda.

April 1942: with a lone piano playing "The Star-Spangled Banner" in the background, "**The Voice of All Free America**" signed on the air April 29, 1942 at 8 PM.

Claiming to be in the Midwestern United States the station was one of Hitler's shortwave stations located in Bremen, Germany. Using the shortwave frequency of 7.2 MHz, radio station D.E.B.U.N.K. began operations as **The Voice of All Free America**, 88 days after the first **Voice of America** broadcast on February 1, 1942.

Listen to their first broadcast [HERE \(Station Democ, aka Democracy\)](#)

The broadcast was inspired by Freddy Kaltenbach, an Iowa High School teacher of German birth raised in Waterloo, Iowa. In 1935, while teaching in Dubuque, Iowa he started the "Militant Order of Spartan Knights," a club for boys based on the Hitler Youth program.

Concerned parents saw to it that his teaching contract was terminated. In May 1939, he hastily returned to Germany and was soon hired as a broadcaster for Nazi propaganda.

He was indicted for treason in 1943 but was arrested by Soviet troops and died in a detention camp in October 1945.

Leland L. Hite 08-01-2019

[Source 1](#) [Source 2](#) [Source 3](#) [Source 4](#)