

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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Dr Robert LEY, 55, married, 4 children (3 of them less than 6 years of age), Leader of the German Labor Front, member of the "Reichstag" since 1930.

Ley is not one of the "little men". He was the leader and organizer of the largest Nazi Organization, which had more than 20 million members, and which had an enormous fortune at its disposal. Ley is quite conscious of his own importance when he is called before the interrogator as a captive. He does not attempt to play the "little man", but he cannot conceal that he is a broken man, who is almost through with his life. His answers to the questions put to him are given in a dramatic tone of voice, in which he does not want to defend his person as much as his creation, the "German Labor Front" which he defends with a certain pride. He emphasizes that his statements, regardless of what nature, are not guided by the fear for his own life. He realizes that his life is played out, and that any sentence passed on him would be considered just in the eyes of the world, even though he himself would not recognize it as being objective. He defends himself against possibly being considered one of the "last despicable swine", and calls Goering's attempt to place the guilt for the developments and events on Hitler's corpse "abominable". "I shall not do such a thing under any circumstances." He acts similarly in his statements about the National-Socialist Regime, against which he cannot pass judgment one way or the other. He admits having committed fearful and disastrous errors, and he further concedes that that he would do things in a different manner, were he to start all over again. He states that he is in a state of "constant fluctuation", and that he had made "many corrections in his thinking" during the last few days. Apart from this he considers the work which he has done in his capacity as organizer of the DAF. "DAF, Strength through Joy, The Beauty of Labor, 'Mother and Child', the 'Leistungswettbewerbe' - all these things I would do in exactly the same manner as I did then." Were those terrible mistakes, which he admits, made the basis of the sentence, he would take the sentence along with the others. He does not, however, feel, that he is in any way connected with the crimes which are today synonymous with the name "nat.-soc. REGIME."

Why he is still alive:

He claims that it is against his own will that he is still alive. L. states that he had tried to commit suicide on three separate occasions, all of which proved abortive. (Twice his pistol would not go off, and when he took cyanide it did not have any effect.) - He did not want to take his own life because he felt guilty but because of the desperation of the situation. "Then I fled and fled because I did not wish to become a prisoner and because I was hoping desperately to be able to see my children once more." (Ley was arrested in a hotel in Tyrol, where he was spending the night under an assumed name.)

As he sees himself:

"I did my work from a purely idealistic standpoint. I did not strive for wealth, I slaved like a horse. (He states that he was paid RM 4000.00 monthly by the Party. He also received royalties for his books, and states that he owned no real estate except for a small farm in the Rhineland.) I did nothing for which I could be reproached, I only wanted the best for the working man. I had but one thought - to bring sunshine to the people. My efforts found recognition by the bulk of the people. I was able to enter

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any factory by day or night, and I required no SS-protection, since I had nothing to fear from the people by whom I had only done well. - Free Unions will never exist again, because it just won't work out. The German worker had realized that our way proved to be the better. - It was magnificent seeing the millions streaming into the factories, doing their jobs without strikes and without police intervention."

On the Jewish Question:

"Our thoughts concerning the Jewish Question were perhaps not quite complete. We were told that the 7 million unemployed must be blamed on the Jews. Perhaps that was not correct. We accepted the treatment of the Jews in a matter-of-fact-way, and gave it no further thought. Furthermore it was a question of removing the Jews from the German economic - and cultural life and not one of their elimination, as you put it. I have never heard or read the word "Vernichtung" (destruction, elimination). During the last few days I gave this matter much thought, and have come to the conclusion and conviction that every human being created by God has a right to live. Today I see a great man in St. Paul, because it was his intention to reconcile Jewry and Christendom, and to bring about an understanding. The Germans and the Jews ought to seek reconciliation with each other. But it is probably too late to achieve this now, the Jews will not care to have anything further to do with the German People."

On Concentration Camps:

Ley claims to know nothing as to the number of people killed in these camps, and has allegedly no idea what went on in the camps. He states that he never knew of the existence of the extermination-camps, he did not know their names. "I had no connection with the KZs, and no possibility to do anything about them. I am not a "Polizeimensch", never took sides, never sent anyone to a camp, and I never visited any person there. I could have gone there had I been "wolluestig" enough ("sadistic"), but I was disgusted - I didn't want to do it in order not to endanger my project. Whether Hitler knew anything about this I don't know."

On Hitler:

L. does not make any attempt to disassociate himself from the Führer, and declares that he does not want to soil a man to whom he has sworn allegiance. "Hitler was convinced that fate had bestowed a mission upon him, he was kind, forgiving, - one could tell him everything - that is what was wonderful about the Führer. On the night of April 19 - 20 I had occasion to congratulate him on his birthday, and at that date he was still firmly convinced of our victory. In 1943 he told me, with great earnest, that we had been mistaken about Russia, and that we would have to anticipate extremely hard times. He had, however, at no time the slightest doubt about "final victory", in fact, he already thought of future plans for reconstruction. Only six weeks ago he asked to be shown the plans and models for new buildings in Linz. - I believe that he was killed in action."

Himmler:

"Hitler needed him because he required a "firm hand". Everybody was afraid of him, even we ourselves were afraid - that's why I never bothered about concentration-camps."

Bormann:

"Bormann certainly followed a disastrous policy. His task was the distribution of power. Some had all, others none. Goering who failed consistently in his tasks, was given tremendous powers. I hate this man (Goering)!"

Russia and Stalin:

"I have the highest esteem for Stalin, he is quite a guy. Were he German I could actually love him. Behind the Russian System, which we knew

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only through our propaganda, was much more than we anticipated. For us, Bolshevism was simply the enemy, and one accepted anything that was said. In a book, written in German, which someone had brought me from Minsk, I discovered that Stalin and other Soviet leaders represented the same ideas as I in the fields of workers' education, training of workers, vocational training of workers, vocational training, and competition. I read the book twice and gave it a lot of thought."

East and West:

"If I have become unstable in my thinking during the last few weeks, and no longer grasp and understand many things, I am, however certain on one point: These times are so great and forceful that its problems can no longer be solved by ordinary political means. It is a world-moving, collapsing, destructive, and, at the same time, reconstructive period. East and West will clash, the armies of two continents will meet in Europe and the victims of this last struggle will be far greater in number than those of this war. Although I admire much about Russia my place in this conflict will be with the West, although the West lowers me, takes away my dignity, spits me out and kills me....."

His last wish:

"In the coming period the dead will be best off. Hunger, death, and pestilence will sweep across EUROPE and the German people will meet with sorrow and misery. I, personally, am prepared to die. I have but one wish - do not let the German People suffer for the mistakes and crimes committed by their leaders. Take your revenge on them (the leaders) and not on the people. Whether I die today or tomorrow is immaterial to me, but I'd be deeply grateful to you if I could write and speak of the things that are in my heart. You could send me into the streets, and I would have the courage to speak to the people - even if they would stone me."

Hans Wallenberg
HANS WALLENBERG,
Capt. PWB - CPT

Ernst Langendorf
ERNST LANGENDORF
PWB CPT

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