

T O P S E C R E T

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SEVENTH ARMY INTERROGATION CENTER  
APO 758 US ARMY

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If the information contained in this report is required for further distribution, it should be so paraphrased that no mention is made of the prisoners' names or of the methods by which the information has been obtained.

The following are the names and secret numbers of the prisoners mentioned in this report:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank, Position</u>	<u>Secret No</u>
GÖRING, Hermann	REICHSMARSCHALL	45/1409
LAMMERS, Hans Heinrich	REICH Minister and Chief of Chancellory	45/1495

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NOTE: The following is a literal translation of a conversation between GÖRING, LAMMERS, and several interrogating officers.

I. HITLER's Successor

GÖRING: I must tell you something. You are the head of the Chancellery, you signed all documents. You became aware of a change in the situation only by accident, not through any official papers. You knew about it only after DÖNITZ' radio address. Anybody could appear tomorrow and declare, "I received a radio message after DÖNITZ received his; I am the head of the state now..." I, for one, have written proof (about the nomination of a successor)....., and when DÖNITZ appears now, he must have some sort of written orders.

LAMMERS: Yes, that's clear; he will have to produce documentary proof.

G: If he has any, he has to make it known to the German people in the REICHSANZEIGER (Official Legal Record). Here we have a case of a head of a state who really is not a head of a state, since no proof can be found. On the other hand, I am the only one who, as legal head of the state, could possibly be recognized by the American Government at the present time, and who could negotiate. This is the greatest deception ever foisted. The Law of 13 Sept 34, the original of which we have here, is the basis for the case. According to this decree, HITLER can name only one successor. There is also a decree issued after HESS' flight (reads HITLER's Decree of 29 Jun 41): "In the eventuality that I would be hindered in the execution of my duties, even if only temporarily, and should I be unable to give special directives during the time of my indisposition, I appoint as my successor in all my offices REICHSMARSCHALL of the Greater German REICH, Hermann GÖRING. Signed HITLER. This Decree voids the Decree of 23 April 38 concerning the FÜHRER's successor." This is the reason why the REICHSMARSCHALL (GÖRING himself) sent an inquiring telegram (in April)..... It wasn't really necessary that I inquire (whether HITLER had died); it was only out of loyalty that I did it..... The coup d'etat was made only because I wanted to avoid further bloodshed, on 23 Apr 45.... You can well say that BORMANN is crazy.

L: I had received the order concerning the FÜHRER's successor from the Deputy Chief of Staff of the WEHRMACHTSFÜHRUNGSTAB (Supreme Command of the Armed Forces) in the following manner. Gen WINTER wrote, "Inclosed I am sending you the contents of an order which was received by Grand Admiral DÖNITZ: 'In the place of REICHSMARSCHALL GÖRING, the FÜHRER appoints you, HERR GROSSADMIRAL, as his successor. Official documents follow. As of now, you will take all measures which are necessary according to the present situation' - from this it can be concluded that HITLER was dead - 'signed: REICHSLEITER BORMANN'".

G: Is there anything more fantastic than this fraud committed by BORMANN?...You know, the decisive point in my inquiry was (the request for) freedom of action in foreign matters.

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I.O. : Could he have done it legally?

L: No, in that case he would have had to put it on paper.

G: Now I ask you, HERR LAMMERS, do you really believe that after the FUHRER had publicly declared my appointment as his successor, and since he further announced my illness or my withdrawal from office, he would not have been able to announce over the radio such an important change as that of his successor?

I.O.: Now, I'd like to know, did you withdraw from all your duties because of ill health, or was this step ordered from elsewhere?

G: It was ordered from elsewhere. He (HITLER) threatened to shoot me or to throw me out of all jobs, except my appointment as his successor.

I.O.: NOT to relieve you as his successor?

G: No. That has no connection with any office.

I.O.: You admit that you did not actually resign?

G: No. I was forced to do so. Otherwise I would have been executed immediately.

L: I would like to point out another thing which is of importance. After this action (GORING's demotion) a press notice appeared which stated that the REICHSMARSCHALL resigned as Commander of the Air Force, because of a heart ailment... he still retained his title as REICHSMARSCHALL... and the decree (about HITLER's successor) was therefore still effective.

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G: Well, I must say, these damn crooks have put over a coup that is outstanding.... I have always known that, in the event of something happening to the FUHRER, my life would be in the greatest danger for the following 48 hours. After that time I would have performed the swearing in, and it would have been a legal fact. At any rate, I would have arrested BORMANN within 48 hours. He knew about it, too. I would have carried out two personal actions immediately: the arrest of BORMANN and the firing of RIBBENTROP.... They were the two thorns in my side.

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G: I told some GAULEITERS who were close to me, about a year and a half ago, when everything became clear to me, that if fate ever designated me as (HITLER's) successor, I would place a High Court over me; I told myself that no man should assume the responsibility of not having anybody over him... A dictatorship must never come again, it does not work. We see it now. As long as a man is good, as HITLER was in the beginning, everything is wonderful... but (then) it came to extremes.

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II. Chemical Warfare

I.O.: I believed that HITLER would use gas at the last minute.

G: No. Once, toward the end, he considered CW, but we told him that gas was out of the question. I was told that all your gas masks would have offered no protection. The gas was so dangerous that I wouldn't permit another demonstration. I knew that the gas would have had to be transported to the rear when the Americans came, and the effect of an air attack on the train might have been catastrophic. Just imagine, a train of 75 loaded freight cars attacked from the air; a bomb frees the gas, and the fragments which fly 6,7,8, or even 10 km spread it!

I.O.: But experts are of the opinion that one needs many more gas bombs than HE or incendiaries to destroy a city.

G: Let me tell you this as a specialist: the most dangerous are the incendiaries. The Americans have really given us the works with HE bombs... A small incendiary falls into a house and the whole side of the street burns. If incendiaries are thrown against railroad yards, then, of course, it doesn't make sense at all.... Some of the factories (which had been attacked) - if you stood in front of them you could never believe that they'd be rebuilt. CITROEN, in PARIS, for instance. ... After six weeks they started working again. The whole roof was down. But where there was a fire, all machines were ruined. Fire is the worst of all... We knew that we were more advanced in chemical warfare and that we had more dangerous gases.

I.O.: When one has such gases, one must expect to use them some day.

G: Well, we thought America would start chemical warfare. It was pointed out that America did not have to fear for her cities. And the troops who attack with gas can protect themselves better than the population. We also planned to attack England with gas in case the Americans resorted to chemical warfare. The question of possible consequences of a bombing attack against a gas-manufacturing factory was raised on numerous occasions. Was the population to be evacuated? (But) the FUHRER never wanted to get the population excited about gas. That, of course, is understandable; I would have acted the same way. During the last few years the air superiority was so one-sided, so pronounced. We told ourselves that everything would be spoiled by bringing up the topic of chemical warfare.

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I.O.: What did HITLER mean by his well-known saying: "God forgive me the last three days of the war"?

G: He NEVER said that.

III. HITLER's Death

I.O.: Do you actually believe that HITLER is dead?

G: Well, he WAS sick. A cerebral hemorrhage was doubtlessly with-

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in the realm of possibility, in that condition. Whether this led to his end, or whether the man committed suicide...

I.O.: Are you definitely sure that he is dead?

G: I have no doubts about it.

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G: The FÜHRER collapsed on the evening of the 22nd (April), as a result of the war situation. The whole thing was set off by my telegram in which I asked for freedom of action in matters of foreign policy. Since I had talked about negotiations (with the Allies) for weeks and months, they knew exactly that I would attempt to negotiate immediately, the very same day. Several generals wanted to surrender.

IV. Foreign Currency Account

L: There is an account with the REICHSBANK which originates from donations made in various currencies, even in gold coins. We opened the account for him (HITLER) under my name, but it belongs to the FÜHRER.

I.O.: You say the 76,000 dollars are with the REICHSBANK?

L: Yes, they are there. The REICHSBANK holds a gift from a man from Transvaal who donated 69,000 dollars; German-Americans donated 2,400 dollars, anonymous gifts amount to 478 dollars. I want to emphasize that it is not my account that I am turning over here - it is proved by the documents, too.

V. HITLER - SPEER Conference

G: The talk he (HITLER) had with SPEER was very interesting. Ten days before the collapse, on the 17th (April), HITLER called SPEER and accused him of sabotaging the "scorched earth" policy. SPEER replied that the people did not want this policy and that there wasn't enough time. The FÜHRER then said, "That's the end, then! Why don't you tell me you know that the war will be won?..." "No," said SPEER, "I can't say that." Said the FÜHRER: "Can't you say that you believe that this war will be won?" "No", replied SPEER, "I can't say that". The FÜHRER then asked, "Can't you say at least that you hope that the war can still be won?" Quoth SPEER, "I can't say that, it is perfectly clear to me that everything is over." HITLER then said, "SPEER, it HAS to be done, everything depends on it". "We are short of everything", was SPEER's reply. "Can't you say you wish that the war will be won?", asked HITLER. "Yes, I can say that", said SPEER. The FÜHRER then approached him and said, "I thank you for saying, at least, the best you could. But I can see only this" - perspiration stood on his forehead - "we must realize that we must hold out until the last hour, no matter how much lightning and thunder. I know we will come through!"

VI. Miscellanny

I.O.: Was resistance in the mountains not anticipated?

G: Oh, yes, it was anticipated. The SS was working on it but

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they made a mess of it, that's quite clear to me. It was also too late. Like in many other instances, nobody ever listened to the officers.

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- L: We want to offer our services to the Allies. We are not war criminals.
- G: We want to see to it that there is order and peace, especially until matters regarding the relationship to the Allied forces have been cleared up; to avoid uprisings in connection to Communism, etc, which would be very embarrassing to the Americans and English. This is the only aim we can possibly have after the collapse, and I am the one who can not only help, but who also knows all the episodes of the past.
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- L: The last time I was with the FUHRER on 27 March. A lot of papers awaited his signature. Some were weeks old. He said, "You sign them!" I declined. His main topic was that Frederick the Great did not know when the war would end, either. ...HITLER was greatly excited about the REICHSMARSCHALL attempting to start negotiations with the Allies. And then they mentioned in the last leaflet that the REICHSMARSCHALL was going to flee...

19 May 1945.

SEVENTH ARMY INTERROGATION CENTER

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PAUL KUBALA, Maj, MI,  
Commanding.

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