

S E C R E T

Ref No SAIC/18
24 May 45

SEVENTH ARMY INTERROGATION CENTER:
APO 758

.....
: S E C R E T :
:Auth: CG, 7th Army:
:Init: P.K.V.:
US ARMY:Date: 24 May 1945 :
:.....:

HITLER'S LAST SESSION IN THE REICHS CHANCELLORY, 24 FEB 45

Note: No authentic reports of this session have been published in the Press or announced over the Radio. Reports which have been released did not contain the true facts.

SOURCES

- i) WAHL, Karl, GAULEITER of AUGSBURG.) Both these men were present at
- ii) AMANN, Max, Nazi Party member No 3.) the meeting described below.

Rating: C-3 Date of Information: 24 Feb 45 Interrogator: W.K.

The meeting was called on very short notice. It was to take place at 1300 hrs, and the leaders were told to come by car and to return the same day. There were some 60 or 70 people, all told, REICHSLEITERS, GAULEITERS, SA and SS leaders, but no generals or leaders of the WAFFEN SS. The members were lined up on three sides of a large and still undamaged room of the REICHS Chancellory. In a few minutes HITLER entered, followed by BORMANN. Both men shook hands with all present, and thereafter HITLER spoke briefly to REICHS Labor Leader HIERL. He spoke in a low voice, and only parts of the conversation could be understood, but at the end HITLER presented HIERL with a case containing the highest German decoration. The reception was followed by a simple luncheon, consisting of stew and real coffee. HITLER left the room at 1530, and an hour and one-half later the leaders reassembled to hear his speech.

When he returned to make his speech, HITLER sat at a small table, on which were his notes and a glass of water. Everyone noticed his stooped position and the fact that his left hand - not the right one which was wounded on 20 July - was shaking so badly that at times his entire body was trembling. It seemed to be causing the FUEHRER great discomfort. At first his voice was low, but it gained strength and later reached its customary climax. No change in his voice was noticeable.

HITLER's speech lasted approximately one hour and one-half. For the first time the impression upon his listeners was not convincing. HITLER seemed to be struggling to convey a feeling of inner hope to the assembled Party leaders, but the sensational news which all anticipated was not forthcoming. The substance of his address follows:

He stated that the Russian onslaught was of paramount concern to the people, because it was accompanied by serious misdeeds against them. However, it was expected that the attack could be stopped. A large-scale counter-attack was planned, but had been delayed chiefly because of great losses of heavy weapons. HITLER praised the brave deeds of certain generals, and expressed the wish that others were also "carved of the same wood". Many lacked the ability to improvise, which was a necessity. He singled out as especially brave Gen HUBE, who had been killed.

In the main message of his speech, however, he called upon them not to become faint-hearted but to develop supreme strength, and then the war could still be won. The leaders would have to guide the people personally, and bring out a "Teutonic Fury" in them. He declared that this was the time to find out the true quality of the German people. Should the German people give up, then it would be demonstrated that they had no moral worth, and in that case they would deserve destruction. That would be the rightful judgement of history and Providence.

S E C R E T

101160 B

S E C R E T

Ref No SAIC/18
24 May 45

Concerning military affairs he brought out four points:

i) Germany must remain on the defensive in the WEST. (HITLER had great faith in the Westwall and the RHINE).

ii) In the EAST a powerful counter-offensive would be prepared. (He did not indicate the sector).

iii) The new U-boats were outstanding; they represented a revolution in the technical field. DOENITZ was a phenomenally outstanding leader.

iv) The new MESSERSCHMITT fighter plane, ME-262, was without equal anywhere in the world. It could not be damaged in combat, the only losses occurred as a result of accidents in take-offs or landings, and these were insignificant. Production was on a tremendous scale, and the results would soon be noticeable in the air. HITLER then spoke of the mistakes of the German Air Force, declaring that the greatest fault had been the choosing of the wrong models.

Towards the end of his address HITLER spoke of political events. He stated that England would hold out to the end; she was firmly allied to Russia and would not give in. On the other hand, he predicted that, if Germany held firm during the crisis, a day would come when serious conflicts would arise between Russia and the US.

Concluding his speech, HITLER thanked the assembled leaders for their cooperation and loyalty, and then spoke a few words concerning his health. This he had never done before, so it was especially noteworthy and had a depressing effect upon his listeners. He said that Frederick the Great had returned from the wars an ill and broken man. Now he, himself, felt the burdens of war, which had become evident in symptoms of ill health. Previously, owing to great worry he had suffered from a trembling leg. Now, however, the infirmity was in his left arm. He hoped it would not move to his head, for a shaky head would be unpleasant. But even if that occurred he could only say, "My heart will never quake; that remains ice-cold". He went on to say that after the attempt of 20 July the doctor read his pulse and found that it had remained at its customary 72 beats. He also mentioned trouble with his vocal chords and admitted that he had undergone an operation not long before.

In closing he stated that he would in the future be forced to take some harsh measures. The leaders should not misjudge him if he should take steps which they did not understand.

When HITLER had finished, BOE MANN spoke a few words about loyalty and courage and readiness to follow HITLER unto death. Before leaving, HITLER conversed briefly with a few people - Dr GOEBBELS, Dr LEY, GAULEITER HIRTZ, and BACKE. Then he said he must leave, as others were already awaiting him in another room.

24 May 1945

SEVENTH ARMY INTERROGATION CENTER

Paul Kubala
C.M.V.

PAUL KUBALA,
Maj. MI,
Commanding.

S E C R E T