

S E C R E T

Ref No SAIC/30
29 May 45

SEVENTH ARMY INTERROGATION CENTER
APO 758 US ARMY

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: S E C R E T :
: Auth: CG, 7th Army :
: Init: P.H.e :
: Date: 29 May 1945 :
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DR ROBERT LEY

1. SOURCE

LEY, Robert, REICHSORGANISATIONSLIMITER, Leader of the DAF (German Labor Front) and REICHSWOHNUNGSKOMMISSAR (Commissioner of Housing).

His thick, stocky, sullen composition makes him appear brutal and unpleasant. Even after his world collapsed, he remains the fanatical Nazi. Compared with other Nazi bigwigs, his attitude to share the blame is surprising. He says: "Now they all want to picture HITLER as a sick man who was lead by BORMANN. HITLER is sick and BORMANN dead - a clever maneuver! No, all of us who had a leading position are responsible for everything, so are the "red pants" (generals) who claim to have "Wanted only the best," now that the war is lost. He makes a theatrical impression, he might even be slightly demented. He willingly gives information regarding his own self, however, his statements regarding other Nazi officials must be accepted with reservation.

LEY claims that he did not become a follower of HITLER out of ulterior motives. He drew RM 1000 monthly as chemist for the IG FARBEN Works, became enthused by a speech of HITLER, resigned his position, and worked exclusively for HITLER. This action he based on his fighting nature, calling attention to his having fought as a pilot until the last minute of the first World War.

About the accusations made against him by the press abroad that he was a heavy drinker and a woman chaser, he said, "I have been a teetotaler for the last ten years (FUNK claimed this to be a lie, stating that he was drunk repeatedly). He admits that he appreciated women, claiming that he needed diversion since the death of his wife in 1942, which affected him greatly. He did not become rich in the party. He drew only RM 4000 per month and his property consisted only of a three hundred hectare estate. The many houses which were claimed to have belonged to him were property of the Workers' organization and used for official business.

Rating: C-3

Date of Information: May 1945

Interrogator: W.K.

2. LAST MEETING WITH HITLER

HITLER appreciated LEY to the last. LEY met HITLER for the last time during the night 19 Apr in the shelter of the Chancellory. Although HITLER had been holding conferences since four o'clock that afternoon, he received LEY at midnight appearing alert and fresh. It was well known however that HITLER had undergone an operation on his vocal cords and suffered from trembling of his arms and legs. HITLER gave LEY the order to go south, adding that he would follow.

3. MEETING OF GOEBBELS AND SEPP DIETRICH

LEY talked with GOEBBELS on 20 Apr and had asked him to take at least his (GOEBBELS') family to safety. GOEBBELS replied, "These generals are incapable of defending BERLIN. I will have to do it myself. If necessary I shall die here and Magda, (my wife) has decided to do likewise."

LEY proceeded to the ALPS where he was joined by SEPP DIETRICH who assured him that he would fight to his death with his SS men. LEY said, "if he (DIETRICH) did not do it, his wife is to blame who later came to visit him. DIETRICH is no army soldier - - only a political soldier of HITLER."

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4. LAST COMBAT MEASURES OF LEY

LEY denied having had a conference with HIMMLER on 12 Apr regarding the continuation of underground activities after the collapse.

LEY however organized the "FREIKORPS HITLER" in mid-May. He consulted with HITLER and begged him to form a "FREIKORPS" consisting of men, women and children from the "German Labor Front", who were to fight to their death. To this HITLER agreed. However, this Corps was formed only in the North, it was organized by the staff of the DAF. It was put into action in the neighborhood of BERLIN where the people all died in action, according to LEY. (LAMMERS and FUNK confirmed the formation of the "FREIKORPS HITLER"; LEY had told them that the generals were worthless and the ministers had to lead the army).

5. LEY'S ACTIVITIES

As chief of organization, LEY supervised the education of the replacements for Party leaders, because HITLER considered him an especially fanatical party member. Subordinated to him were the three ORDENSBURGEN (Schools for Nazi Leaders) in Germany.

As leader of the DAF he administered the funds of the Workers' Association, which he described as being the largest organization in the world. His capital was 10 billion marks. This capital originated from property of former trade guilds, and at the time of collapse consisted of the largest insurance company in the world, the VOLKSWAGEN automobile factory, the VULKAN shipyards in STETTIN, large factories in the food industries, thousands of homes and stores, hotels and convalescent homes, the "BANK DER DEUTSCHEN ARBEIT" (Bank of German Labor) and a cash reserve of three-quarter billion marks. The association was administered by experts in their fields and belonged to the German workers. All documents are in BERLIN, from which LEY claims, it can be seen that he did not acquire any property from these funds. According to LEY, the workers believed in him, and his most loyal followers are in the RUHR district. "During the war", said LEY, "my workers naturally worked for victory, and I strengthened their will to victory with speeches. I would have liked to fight with weapons alongside my workers. I treated the foreign workers well. They will see when they return to their homelands how little is being done for them and will insist that the truth come to light; that the workers in Germany are better off than workers in any other country. No foreigners were put in concentration camps by me. However, I take responsibility with others for the cruelties which happened there, "It is known that I am anti-Semitic, even if I could start over again, I would not do otherwise; however, I would make changes in the racial laws. Because of them, primitive people are easily lead to acts of violence."

6. OPINIONS ABOUT OTHER POLITICAL FIGURES

In this respect LEY is very careful, he considers such expressions treason to the party. Nevertheless he made the following criticisms:

a) GOERING:

"GOERING was never able to win the heart of the workers. He was considered a comical figure. I can best describe him as the "pus-bag" (EITERBEVLE) not only of the party but of Germany as well." LEY also called him a conceited, egotistical windbag, who by his measures damaged the party considerably, and now does not stand by the party.

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b) BORMANN:

BORMANN never controlled HITLER. LEY was present many times when HITLER yelled at BORMANN. "BORMANN had many faults but was a loyal party member, who may have died with HITLER."

c) FEGELEIN:

Herman FEGELEIN is not a politician like BORMANN. He was the liaison officer between HIMMLER and HITLER because he was handsome and dashing. He met Eva BRAUN, who was HITLER's mistress, at the Chancellory where he met her sister whom he married about two years ago. LEY believes that FEGELEIN did not die in the shelter together with HITLER but that he received an assignment at the front.

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SEVENTH ARMY INTERROGATION CENTER

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Maj, MI
Commanding.

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