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SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
Office of Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2.

SUBJECT: Interrogation of ALBERT SPEER, former Reich Minister
of Armaments and War Production.

3rd Session - 11:00 to 12:30 hrs. - Tuesday, 29 May 1945

1. V weapon development was under Dornberger from whom a complete list should be obtainable. Asked whether V1 and V2 developments had in any way interfered with the development of other projects, SPEER was quite emphatic that it had not. The V2 organization was well established at PEENMÜNDE with its own organization for complete design and drawing office work; in this respect it differed from other official research undertakings where the design and D.O. work had to be done by industrial firms. The V1 was a comparatively simple development. There was, however, some production difficulty about V2 because they had been informed that drawings were completely finished in the Autumn of 1942. This turned out not to be the case, and V2 eventually had to be rushed into production very suddenly; this, SPEER said, was the reason why so many third-rate firms were engaged upon it: contracts had to be squeezed into an already too busy industry. In addition, V2 never had a very high priority: it was on the same level as tanks and aircraft. The priority for the proto-types was certainly higher and he thinks that a few hundred of the production models had DE priority. SPEER suggested that the priority gradings which we probably knew (DE, I, II, III, SS etc.) were not considered very meaningful in the Ministry: they attached greater weight to labor allocation priorities. (This subject to be covered in detail later.)

2. As regards the records of the Schwerpunkte scheme after the Führer's edict of June 1944, SPEER said we could not find them in the files of the Zentralamt, which had just arrived; most of it would be distributed in sections among the various development commissions, but he thought that GEIST might have a complete file. SPEER himself seems to have taken little interest in the details of the projects. He was positive that the results were not laid down in a comprehensive list.

3. Questioned on chemical warfare, SPEER said at once that Dr. AMBROS of I.G. Farben LUDWIGSHAFEN was entirely responsible both for development and production and the Sonderausschuss K-Stoff was virtually the I.G. He mentioned in this connection a new substance known as M-Stoff, which was the only one developed and made not by I.G. Farben but by HEIAG at FALKENHAGEN; he was not sure of the exact purpose of this material - it was not real war gas, but he thought it could "burn without oxygen".

4. On the subject of atomic explosions, SPEER thought that the American development was very much ahead of German. They had done a good deal of pure research on the subject for which HEISENBERG was responsible in BERLIN and BODE at HEIDELBERG, but nothing practical had yet emerged. "10 years more were needed." Gen. FROMM at one stage got interested and contacted SPEER who issued high priorities for 2 cyclotrons for HEIDELBERG. GEIST could probably give further details of this and also of various liquid propellants which had been developed. These they spoke of in two classes: T-Stoff, which was hydrogen peroxide, and R-Stoffe, which were the rocket fuels.

5. On alloy steel developments in connection with ammunition, SPEER said that ROEHLING had developed a water quenching process which he said enabled him to dispense with alloys to some extent. The Kaiser-Wilhelms-Gesellschaft in DUSSELDORF had been responsible for the development of "weichstahl" a sintered iron which was used as a substitute for copper in driving bands, etc. (These and other metallurgical developments were concluded before 1944).

6. Other miscellaneous developments of some interest were:

(a) The so-called "Kreislauf" motors for U-boats, which used an oxygen supply and provided under-water propulsion without using the electric motors. This development was in the hands of Prof. KAMM of the technical college at STUTTGART, who also worked on "impulse propulsion" which SPEER could not elaborate.

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(b) A propulsive tube somewhat on the lines of the Argus tube used on the flying bomb, but about which SPEER could give little information.

7. The average time which it took to develop a new military store, e.g. gun or shell, could obviously not be easily given, but SPEER could compare the time now taken under his organization with the time taken previously. It seems that a store which would have taken about 2-2½ years to develop under the old regime he could turn out in about a year.

8. Gauges and inspection equipment for any particular development were ordered when the production drawings were complete, i.e. at the same time as the machine tools and material supplies. A man named KINZLER was responsible for this (SPEER Ministry, Lehrenstelle).

9. On the subject of the He 262 controversy, SPEER said that this was another example of the Führer's personal views; he had personally decided that this machine should be taken off the air defense works for which it had been intended and put on the ground strafing. Nobody seems to have agreed with this policy, but direct criticism was addressed to the Führer only by SPEER and GILLARD, who were forbidden to mention the subject. (July 1944 approximately.)

10. SPEER mentioned the development of infra red equipment for tanks: about 300 vehicles were actually being equipped for 500 m range and submachine guns were equipped with infra red "Nachtsichtgeräte". There was a lot of difficulty in the education of the crews in the use of this apparatus. It was known as Biwa (Bildwandler) and was intended for the East Front only, as it was too easy to copy by US and UK.

11. (a) Another interesting development was an ultra high frequency contrivance developed by SIEMENS and used in the production of Buna. SPEER could not say exactly what this was supposed to do, but he knew it eased or speeded up the actual production of this material.

(b) There was also an ultra high frequency anti-personnel weapon which originated from trials carried out on captured French tanks, whose cast cupolas, when pelted with M.O. fire, caused air vibrations which knocked out crew inside.

A Prof. BARISANI (also a hollow-charge expert) decided to develop this idea to get a high-frequency long-range vibration weapon with physiological effects and set up an experimental station at LOOFER in the TIROL. The development was not ripe for use.

12. On high frequency and radio fuses, SPEER could say very little, referring again to GEIST.

13. Going again through the list of code names for V weapons, flak rockets and the like, SPEER gave the following additional information:

WASSERFALL
ENZIAN
SCHNETTERLING

These evidently formed a series in this order of decreasing complexity. The Wasserfall was a small A-4, perhaps 5 or 6 meters long, controlled initially by two Giant Würzburg radar sets and having an acoustic or optical head for homing on to the target. Enzian was smaller, about 3 meters long, had small wings, and was fired from an inclined position, using short rails which were no longer than the projectile itself. Its controls were similar to A-4 and Wasserfall, except that it was controlled from the ground, whereas Wasserfall had an entirely automatic control. Enzian weighed about 800 to 900 kg. and was produced by MESSERSCHMITT but was discontinued although favored by SPEER. Schmetterling was quite a primitive affair with an acoustic head. It was produced by Rheinmetall-Borsig; he said it was rather like the Rheinbote series. These he said used shrapnel war heads, but agreed after some discussion that they might have been incendiary shrapnel; he seemed rather unfamiliar with this.

14. The 8.8 cm flak gun was also being developed with shrapnel filling

15. X4 might be an underwater guided bomb-torpedo controlled by wire from the aircraft. (Note the contradiction of his previous suggestion). SPEER mentioned that the so-called Fritz-X, which was the controlled rocket-assisted air-to-ship weapon, also had wire control to overcome the liability of the radio controlled specimen to interference. It was this type of weapon which had sunk the Rana; it was made of special steel for attacking battleships.

16. X7 SPEER knew nothing about.

17. Feuerlilie was also new to him.

18. A-3 he thought might be the large rocket which VON BRAUN was developing to fire at AMERICA. It was equipped with wings and VON BRAUN had very much in mind the possibility of using it as a peace-time passenger vehicle, as the acceleration was within endurable limits. (BRAUN was once jailed by S.D. for complaining that his "peaceful" V-2 invention was being used for war, and SPEER had to get him out.) As with A-4, the thrust only lasted for a small part of the upward trajectory. He confirmed that the construction at WIZENNES in the CAP GRIZ-NEZ area had nothing to do with this weapon. It was too much of a long-term development.

19. Mistel, he had explained yesterday as being pick-a-back aircraft.

20. Schildkröte he was not sure about, but he thought it might conceivably be a jet fighter.

21. Taiphun and Eber he had not heard of.

22. AZ 42 and 43 he was also not sure about, but this may have been the designation for their simplified copy of the RAF gyro gun sight; this simplified edition had proved very effective in tests. It was developed under HEINE (AEG).

23. Peroxide propulsion for U-boats (Type XXVI) was being tested at GEDINLI. The propulsion unit was made by KRUPP at ESSEN. One boat had been completed as an experimental model, and two U-boats with this type of propulsion were under construction at BLOHM and VOSS.

24. SPEER also referred to a new mine fuze which he thought operated on pressure difference and was being developed by the AEG in BERLIN under the leadership of their development chief PETERSEN.

25. The SS seem to have done a certain amount of development on their own. Prof. GERLOFF had done some solid, but uninteresting work in the technical police academy in BERLIN: also SCHWABE, his successor, who, however, was much more of a layman and was a SS leader of some sort. He had a seat on development commissions as a representative of Waffen-SS. KAMMLER was also pushed to the front by the SS. He was plenipotentiary for Z.b.V. (special weapons) and flak rockets. GERLOFF and SCHWABE should know about "secret crime detection equipment" developed by SS. The only weapons development undertaken and successfully carried through by the SS was the 8 cm Reichenwerfer mortars, made by SKODA.

KAMMLER, assistant to SPEER, was probably earmarked by the SS as his successor. (The SS was preparing its own candidates for all government posts). SPEER did not know of the SS Versuchsstab.

26. As regards operational research, SPEER said that there was no separate organization for this. Officials representing HWA generally accompanied new equipment into the field and made notes on its behaviour, but the only official channel for general observations was right up to the general staff and down again to the HWA. SPEER sometimes succeeded in special cases in obtaining permission for special officers to be sent out to report on specific matters.

The development set-up in electrical and electronic equipment was somewhat as follows:

KUPTMULLER (SPEER's spelling) was in charge of naval projects - mostly Radar.

HEYNE of AEG was his counterpart for the Luftwaffe. These two were on the main development commission.

GLADENBECK was in charge of projects developed by the Reichspost under its own management such as:

- (a) X-4, an A. rocket launched by A/C with acoustic control. It was slow (loses height) with 1,000-2,000 m. range. The problem was not solved.
- (b) STORSENDER for Radar jamming, especially the BUMERANG and HYPERBOL for use against Allied "Panoramageräte".