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SEVENTH ARMY INTERROGATION CENTER  
APO 758 US ARMY

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GOERING DISCUSSES HITLER, ROMMEL, SCIENCE, AND - GOERING

1. PREAMBLE

The cause for which GOERING stood is lost - but the canny Hermann, even now, thinks only of what he can do to salvage some of his personal fortune, and to create an advantageous position for himself. He condemns the once beloved FUEHRER without hesitation. Up to now he has not made a plea in favor of any of his former henchmen, alive or dead. Yet, behind his spirited and often witty conversation, is a constant watchfulness for the opportunity to place himself in a favorable light.

Rating: C-3 Date of Information: See Text Interrogator: W.K.

2. THE FUEHRER

a) HITLER AS STRATEGIST

According to source, HITLER concerned himself almost exclusively with military operations from the beginning of the war up to the end. At times he made decisions down to division operations. The FUEHRER believed that fate had selected him to be the military leader of Germany - a belief which was strengthened by the success of his operations in France. Here HITLER decided to break through at SEDAN and drive for ABBEVILLE against the advice of the OKH, where it was believed that the attack was possible only from the right flank. When operations started the OKH openly expressed doubt of the success of the plan. Then, when the attack went off better than expected, and resulted in a complete victory, HITLER became very proud of his military abilities - as did the generals themselves.

PM went on to describe the situation meetings at the FUEHRER's hq. HITLER was always present at these meetings, which took up 6 to 7 hours of his day. The following officers usually attended these meetings:

KEITEL, GENFELDMARSCHALL (Fld Marshal)

WINTER, GENLT (Maj Gen)

BUHLE, GEN d. INF (Lt Gen)

ZANDER, STAF (SS Col)

BURGDORF, GEN d. INF (Lt Gen) )

VON PUTTKAMMER, Admiral )

VON BELOW, OBST (Col) )

HAENSCHKE, STUBAF (SS Maj) )

KERSTEN, HPTSTUF (SS Capt) )

FEGELEIN, GRUF (Maj Gen)

VOSS, Admiral

SCHERFF, GENMAJ (Brig Gen)

JODL, GENOBST (Col Gen), or his representative

GUDERIAN, GENOBST (Col Gen)

JUNGE, KAP z. SEE (Navy Capt)

BUECHS, MAJ

GOERING himself and GROSSADMIRAL (Grand Admiral) DOENITZ were frequently present at these meetings.

At the meetings, maps were spread out on a huge table. The officers waited near the entrance for the appearance of HITLER. When the FUEHRER arrived he shook hands with all present and then lead the group into the room.

The officers then gave their talks on the situation. During these speeches HITLER frequently interrupted and gave his views in energetic tones. Opinions in opposition to his own were soft-pedaled and never reached a point of serious discussion.

OKW

OKH

Party Chancellory

FUEHRER's Adjutants

Liaison Off to HIMMLER

" " " DOENITZ

War diary writer

Reported on the situation in the WEST

Chief of Staff of the Army; reported on the situation in the EAST

Reported on the naval situation

Reported on the air situation

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During periods when the situation was unfavorable, HITLER took it out on the different branches of the armed forces and blamed their heads for all mistakes. Source was singled out quite often, and had to take rebukes in front of all the officers present. This led to the point where the officers began to lose their respect for GOERING's military ability.

At the meetings HITLER always presented the latest dispatches of the foreign press, which he then discussed in his well-known manner.

During the last few months the situation meetings were held in the Winter Garden of the Chancellory and then to the very last in HITLER's bunker underneath the Chancellory. This bunker had a dimension of only 3x3 m. All the officers had to crowd into this small space and many of them fainted during the meetings.

The night meeting which usually started between 2400 and 0100 hours was not attended by all the officers, but HITLER was always present. After the meeting HITLER's famous tea would take place. Here a small circle of trusted friends would make decisions of prime political importance. Here, too, BORMANN used his strong influence to overrule HITLER, who was usually tired after the previous meeting. GOERING maintains that all things not directly connected with the conduct of the war became the responsibility of BORMANN.

The FUEHRER's tea guests usually included the following persons:

BORMANN,  
FEGELEIN, GRUF (SS Maj Gen),  
BURGDORF, GEN d. INF (Lt Gen),  
All or some of the adjutants, and  
Mrs JUNGE  
Mrs SCHROEDER  
Mrs CHRISTIAN

b) HITLER'S PLANS FOR THE VIOLATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION

i) Prisoners of War

PW claims that it was HITLER's intention to denounce the GENEVA Convention if the war would have lasted another three months. All Allied PW except those valuable to the German war economy were to be exterminated.

According to source, this plan became known to the generals and the Nazi Party leaders, all of whom took a stand squarely against it, with the exception of GOEBBELS.

It was pointed out to HITLER that German PW in Allied hands would have to expect the same fate. To this the FUEHRER replied that those millions of Germans were of no more use to the war effort anyway, but that after his proposed action there would be no more deserters from the German Army. The German people, said he, would then fight to the last man.

ii) Chemical Warfare

PW states that HITLER was restrained from the use of CW during the last period of the war only by his fear of Allied retaliation. He often admitted that he had missed the chance to use CW at the right time (i.e., during the earlier stages of the war). At that time he had believed German victory certain with the use of normal weapons.

c) HITLER'S DEATH

When the situation in BERLIN had deteriorated beyond hope, HITLER allowed his personal physician, Dr MORELL, to escape to the SOUTH of Germany. MORELL had been administering a very large daily dose of hormones to the FUEHRER. Source believes that it was the sudden absence of these hormones which caused HITLER's general breakdown and subsequent death.

Following 20 July 44 the FUEHRER's health had been declining. His right leg and arm trembled spasmodically, and the smallest contradiction irritated him to a high degree. Only BORMANN, GOEBBELS and FEGELEIN still had any influence on him. PW says the atmosphere of HITLER's shelter was horrible. His secretary and his mistress could stand it only by being drunk all day long.

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3. ROMMEL'S DEATH

PW claims that ROMMEL had plotted against HITLER in the 20 July Putsch. On the following day the FUEHRER sent a high SS officer to ROMMEL with the order either to accept arrest and trial or, as a special privilege because of his meritorious service, to shoot himself with the pistol which was handed to him at the same time. He was allowed five minutes in which to make up his mind. ROMMEL chose the second alternative.

4. GOERING ON SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY

a) ATOM SMASHING

PW claims that German scientists have made tremendous progress in smashing the atom. He believes that this will be the revolutionary source of energy in the future.

Although he was chairman of the German Scientists' League, source does not have an appreciable amount of knowledge of the field.

Basing his statement on a booklet he once saw dealing with the subject, PW claims that American research in the field of the atom is far below that of other nations.

b) NEW GERMAN U-BOAT

Source is very proud of the success which he claims for a new German turbine-driven submarine which "does not need to surface for air". Only a few of these subs were ready in spring 45; in large numbers they would have inflicted serious damage on Allied shipping. Their under-water speed is claimed to be almost as high as the speed of the fastest surface vessels.

5. GOERING'S ECONOMIC STATUS

a) REGULAR INCOME

In the light of one of the Party's foremost early aims - namely, that no one earn more than RM 1,000 per month - GOERING's economic status is grotesque.

In answer to questions concerning the source of his income, PW replied that he received "very decent" wages as President of the Prussian Ministry, and that "large checks" were placed at his "disposal" (ZUR VERFUEGUNG) by the member firms of the Supervisory Council of Manufacturers (AUFSICHTSRAT VON FABRIKUNTERNEHMUNGEN), although he did not receive a regular salary as head of this agency. He would not make any precise statements as to the total of his income, which would be difficult to establish, his resources being in the hands of a number of different banking institutions.

Examination of a bankbook, however, revealed the following information:

|                                                 |                       |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Income as Minister of Aviation                  | approx RM 3500 per mo |
| " " member of "REICHSTAG"                       | 1700 " "              |
| Special expense account from REICHS Chancellory | 20000 " "             |

Adding to this his estimated salary of RM 25,000 per month as President of the Prussian Ministry, his total monthly income from the above sources was over RM 600,000 per year.

In addition, there were regular checks from the EHER Party Publishing House amounting to RM 120,000 per year, for his writings on the Four-Year-Plan. Allowing for salaries accruing from other public positions, a yearly income of RM 1,000,000 may be considered a fair estimate.

b) ADDITIONAL INCOME

The above-mentioned bankbook also shows occasional checks and credits from large firms - for example, semi-yearly amounts of RM 300,000, RM 250,000, etc. from the REENTSMI Firm (Cigarettes), HAMBURG. (Note: Minister of Finance FUNK

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explains these amounts, stating that REENTSMA was involved in a trial for evasion of taxes amounting to several millions, from which it was able to extricate itself with GOERING's aid.)

As chief of the Four-Year-Plan, source was able to have any amount of money put at his disposal, more or less "voluntarily". Thus it may be said that for all practical purposes, money was not a matter of concern in PW's life.

Questioned about a possible fortune in foreign countries, source replied, "I can await any revolutions of your agents concerning my 'foreign fortunes' with an untroubled mind."

(Note: It was possible, however, to learn from REICHSMINISTER FUNK that GOERING had probably smuggled money abroad through MEDEL, a partner in the WITZIG banking concern. MEDEL, a native of Germany and a naturalized Dutchman, married to a Swiss woman, worked for GOERING in some sort of illegitimate deals in foreign currency. About three to four months ago he flew to Spain, probably with a large share of GOERING's fortune, which was in all likelihood to be deposited in Portugal or South America.)

It may be noted that GOERING asked the interrogating officer repeatedly whether living conditions were better in Argentina, or in Chile.

Dr FUNK explained that GOERING, as director of the Four-Year Plan, could dispose of foreign currencies independently, and that he used them unhesitatingly for his own purposes, such as the purchase of art treasures.)

c) PRIVATE FORTUNE

PW's fortune consists mainly in objects of art, which he robbed from foreign countries, bought, or accepted as "voluntary" gifts. Some of this fortune came from towns such as NUREMBERG, which presented him with objects of art - jeweled daggers, swords, boxes wrought of gold, and the like - at every possible occasion. Other works of art came from foreign nations, statesmen, industrialists, craftsmen, museums, and from the FUEHRER. They combined to form a collection worth many millions, which, judging by his emotion in discussing it, he wanted to build up into the largest treasure in the world, something like the two fabulous hoards of German folklore, the NIEBELUNGENSCHATZ or the WELFENSCHATZ.

6. VANITY OUTRAGED

PW complained about his treatment as a prisoner, saying that it is usual for a marshal to have a house of his own to live in. Considering his position as a Nazi, however, he thought he would have to be satisfied to live in the same manner as the other officer PW.

He says he asked the Americans for safe conduct when he gave himself up, and now he finds himself a prisoner of war. He is worried about his private possessions. Judging by the way the Allies have been dealing with them, he says, he fears that one day "they will take the pants off me".

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*Paul Kubala*  
PAUL KUBALA, Maj, MI  
Commanding

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