

C O P Y

SECRET

Report on Interrogation No. 5219
P/W KESSLER, Ulrich, Gen. der Flieger
Kampfgeschwader 1 (Hindenburg)
Captured 15 May 1945; surrendered to
Americans at sea.

23 May 1945.

CIVILIAN CAREER:

Born 3.11.1894 in Danzig as the son of Judge Adolf Kessler and his wife, Else (nee Thiessen) Kessler.

Schooling: Elementary school at Zoppot, Saalfeld, East Prussia and Thorn. High school (Humanistisches Gymnasium) at Thorn and Berlin (Kgl. Prinz Heinrich Gymnasium). Abitur in 1913. Univ. of Berlin (Philosophie and Political Science.)

MILITARY CAREER:

27.3.1914: Joined the navy as a cadet. Training on SMS HERTHA; trips to Norway and Scotland. At the outbreak of World War I trained to radio communications; later assigned as Funkwachleiter to the naval station at Neumuenster.

Nov. 1914: Assigned to the heavy cruiser SMS FRIEDRICH KARL. Saved at the sinking of the FRIEDRICH KARL; attached to the Flagship IV Fleet SMS WITTEISBACH and later light cruiser LUEBECK; took part in engagements in the Baltic.

Jan. 1916: Wounded on board SMS LUEBECK; navy training and arms instruction in Germany.

Summer 1916: Beginning of training on seaplanes.

Dec. 1916: Attached as observer to the II Seaplane Squadron.

1917 to end of War: Employed as flyer and observer in the North Sea and Flanders; at the end, commander of the second navy giant seaplane (2. Marine Riesenseeflugzeug).

Nov. 1918: Discharged; took up law and political science at the Univ. of Berlin.

Dec. 1918: Joined Freikorps Garde Kavallerie Schuetzenkorps; later over (?) Bn. LUETTWITZ; attached to the admiral's staff.

Aug. 1923: Asked to join the Reichsmarine (Navy) attached to the command of navy station North Sea as clerk in the admiral staff section. Then, two years of service as officer on a Torpedoboat of the II Flotilla; promoted to adjutant in the Schiffsstemmdivision of the North Sea.

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P/W KESSLER (Cont'd)

23 May 1945.

Autumn 1925: Adjutant and officer on cruiser HAMBURG.

Feb. 1926 - Apr. 1927: World trip on cruiser HAMBURG. Among other towns visited St. Thomas, Colon, Panama, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Honolulu, Hawaii, Manila, Ilo Ilo.

1927 - Fall 1929: Dept. Head for Navy Air Fleet Arm at Navy Administrative Headquarters. Sent to the Naval Academy.

1931: Member of the Fleet Staff; later attached to the battleship HESSEN.

1932: Dispatched to Geneva as expert on Navy Air Fleet Matters.

July 1933: Attached to the Operational Dept. of the Air Ministry. For camouflage purposes, requested to resign his navy commission.

To Fall 1934: Dept. Head of the Operational Department.

1934 to Fall 1935: Commanding Officer of the Aircraft Armament School at Warnemuende.

1935-36: Sent along with a Major KORTEN (later Chief of Staff of Air Corps) to the Army Academy.

1936: Appointed Commander of the first Navy coastal flight command (Marinekuestenfliegergruppe) at LIST/SYLT.

Autumn 1937: Appointed Chief of Staff Luftkreis IV, Muenster/Westfalen.

Summer 1938: After dissolving the Luftkreise, ordered to the Air Ministry for training as Air Attache for England.

Sept. 1938: Announced as Air Attache to London.

Oct. 1938: Because of a controversy with Goering prior to taking up the post of Air Attache, appointment recalled and transferred to Neubrandenburg as wing commander of the bombardment wing 1 (Hindenburg). Took part in the Polish Campaign as a Wing Commander.

1940: Relieved as Wing Commander and sent to Berlin as Chief of Staff of Air Force 1 (Luftflotte 1).

April 1940: As Chief of Staff X Air Force, Corps, took part in the Norwegian Campaign. After the campaign, ordered to the Air Ministry as Chief of Staff of Training during which time he spent nine months of a year as head of the department for training and schooling of air force personnel.

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P/W KESSLER (Cont'd)

23 May 1945.

Jan. 1942: Appointed Air Force Commander Atlantic with Div. Commander powers; later promoted to Commanding General.

13 March 1944: Relieved of command; ordered to Berlin; attached to the Air Force Command Group for Training as Air Attache and Head of an Air Force Liaison Staff in Tokyo.

15 April 1945: Boarded submarine U-234 at Kristiansand and started voyage to Tokyo.

15 May 1945: Surrendered at sea after Germany's capitulation.

PROMOTIONS:

<u>Navy:</u>	16 July 1916	Ensign
	1920	Lt (j.g.)
	1.3.1926	Lt.
	1.4.1933	Lt. Commander
	1.9.1933	Discharged as Lt. Commander
<u>Air Force:</u>	1.4.1935	Lt. Col.
	1.4.1937	Colonel
	1.4.1939	Brigadier General
	1.4.1941	Major General
	1.9.1944	Lt. General

WORKS PUBLISHED BY P/W:

(1) In 1923, published in the "Marine Rundschau", "Is the Organization of the Air Force as a Third Independent Branch Justified?" P/W claims that this work was frequently quoted by U.S.A. experts on dealing with organizational questions.

(2) Army Leadership of the Entente during the World War published in the publication "Hefte fuer Staatswissenschaft" (Magazine for Political Science); publisher, Prof. FREDOEHL, Kiel. This article deals in part with Churchill and defends him against his critics on the Galipoli Defeat.

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