

Interrogation by Capt. O.N.Horden

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Mrs. Anni Winter Munich, Wiedenmayerstrasse 43/3
Geheimrat Zentz' apartment

After being acquainted with the fact that all leading personalities decline responsibility, Mrs. Winter expresses herself as follows:

Of course, responsibility rests with these persons. The common man may say he did not know anything but those who were leaders, such as the Reich Marshall, can never contend not to know anything. To say the least, he had to report to Hitler on the subject of how many machines he had available for defense purposes, etc.; therefore he too shared in the responsibility.

Bormann above all influenced Hitler, that is from 1940/41 on, after Hess had left. Bormann was brutal, heartless, a cynic, he simply had no heart. I myself know him only from a few visits to my apartment. I myself complains to Hitler a few times. On one occasion I acquainted him with the complaint of peasants from Pullach whose property Bormann had confiscated and for which he refused to pay them. Hitler said he does not believe that Bormann refuses to pay, because money is available. My reply then was that a great many complaints are made about Bormann; Hitler said that he has nobody, but that all of this was in Bormann's power because of his efficiency. That Bormann is the man who can force his way through.

(Mrs. Winter aided many persons, particularly in that letters written to Hitler were handed to him personally by her. As soon as matters actually reached Hitler himself, he always took care of them.)

His staff of adjutants especially prevented news of any kind from reaching Hitler. At Berghof, mail was first taken to the adjutants' office; in Berlin it was taken to Buhler, of the private chancellery. Mr. Schaupp, Miss Schroeder, Miss Wolf, Mrs. Christiansen, Mrs. Junge were secretaries at Berghof. As regards Mrs. Christiansen and Mrs. Junge, nobody ever heard anything

of them again. I do not know whether they were taken prisoners by the Russians. Hitler dictated speeches protocols, etc. himself to his lady secretaries.

The last time I was at Berghof myself, and also the last time I saw Hitler, was on June 8, or July 8, 1944. Since the outbreak of the war Hitler came to my apartment less frequently. I had been with him alone, in privacy, a great deal, particularly in pre-war times when he was in Munich almost every week. From 1940/41 on, he came there only about 8 times, 4 times, 3 times, etc. In 1944 he left Berghof for headquarters; from there he went to Naueim, and finally to Berlin, where he remained. Before he departed for headquarters, I was with him at Berghof. After the attempt made on his life on July 20, 1944, I never saw him again. On the strength of what his male and female secretaries related it seems he suffered severely at that time. On the whole, people who made such utterances were rather depressed, because nobody wanted to have it admitted that Hitler was not feeling well.

My impression was that Hitler was already very sick at the time I last saw him at Berghof. He was very nervous, shaky, and his eye sight was impaired; he simply was no longer the same person. It seems that physicians managed to keep him going by means of injections and strong medicine.

At the end his headquarters were in Berlin. I do not believe that he finally went to Bavaria; I never heard anything about that. At least, we should have known about it through telephone calls. The last time I spoke to him over the telephone, from Berlin, was on New Year's day.

Hitler did not know anything about Hess' flight to England. He was appalled and said to me that this deprives him of his last friend in whom he had placed his complete confidence. He blamed Hess himself, and also his physicians (Hess was being treated by homeopathy practitioners.) At that time Hitler said to me: "I do hope Hess will die in England so that I will be spared passing judgment on him, which would be the hardest thing for me." Hitler was really terribly appalled. I personally knew Hess; we were all dazed when we heard that Hess had flown to England. I do not like to say Hess was out of his mind. Hitler considered it a personal betrayal. When news of the Hess' escape reached Hitler, he was at Obersalzberg. He was standing at the

big window there when Pietzsch, the adjutant of Hess, requested admission in order to deliver an urgent message from Hess. Hitler's first move was to refuse admission to the adjutant. When, on second thought, he agreed to receive him and after the adjutant had made his report, Hitler - so he told me later on - believed the floor or the or the walls were crumbling. He told me that immediately after having received the report that Hess' plane had been sighted near Bremen, he had dispatched a plane in pursuit; but that it proved too late.

The news reached Hitler shortly after Hess had left, by plane. As soon as the plane was sighted in Bremen, Hitler was notified.

As far as I know, no discussion had taken place previously. I do not believe that Göring was involved in the matter

Göring undoubtedly knew Hess, and Hess, undoubtedly, knew Göring. Inasmuch as Hess was Hitler's deputy, his right hand man, and was enjoying his complete confidence, it naturally follows that he had to collaborate with Göring. I cannot understand why they do not want to know each other now. I also believe that none of them came out with his plate clean.

As far as influencing Hitler goes, I suspect Bormann more than anybody else. Bormann was there as early as 1941, and the entire administration of Obersalzberg was in his hands; all matters pertaining to the terrain were under his jurisdiction. As regards these purchases, Färber one of Bormann's friends, was the buyer, and Bormann placed the order.

Gr a d owned a hostelry at Schwabing and was member of Hess' escort detachment.

Sepp D i e t r i c h almost never came to see us any more; formerly, he always used to come November 8/9. I do not believe have seen Dietrich any more since about May 1, 1944. His present wife is the daughter of the owner of the Mönning Brewery, in Karlsruhe. She was married to an administrative official (Intendant), equal in rank to Sepp Dietrich; already having 2 children of whom Dietrich was the father, her husband forced Dietrich to marry her. Within 3 days, the former marriage was cancelled and the new marriage concluded, in Berlin. Dietrich's first wife lived at Grunewald. The episode of the divorce and remarriage of her husband was matter of 3 days. I read about the marriage in the paper and so informed his first wife Betty who was comple-

tely unaware of what was going on. Dietrich demanded of his wife the marriage contract and Mrs. Dietrich who is very good natured, simply handed it to him; Dietrich's adjutant took care of all further details. Dietrich promised his first wife that she could keep the house and that, in addition, a monthly allowance of RM 300.- would be paid her. However, he did not carry out his commitment, and in the end it was Hitler himself who made the monthly payments of RM 300.- to Mrs. Dietrich. Hitler was being exploited incredibly.

Re. question: It also is entirely like him to pay RM 100,000 to Brauchitsch.

At one time, Hitler was told that the real-estate broker Färber made no profit; Hitler's reply then was: well, let us give him RM 10,000; if the man does his work then let us give him something. Hitler paid this from his own funds, and partly from revenues deriving from the stamp stories. Through his books Hitler had a private account with the publishing firm of Eher.

Whether Hitler still received anything from Amann toward the end, I do not know. Amann was in charge of keeping Hitler's account. I even still remember that once - I believe it was in March of this year - I was called upon to make a statement as to how much Hitler had in his private account. At that time amount was about 6 million RM. This information was asked by Julius Schaupp. Amann also could never get enough. Hoffmann however, was most likely the shrewtest. Amann at least kept books, but in the case of Hoffmann absolutely nothing could be done any more. I believe, Hoffmann did not know himself how much he owned.

B r a u c h i t s c h never came to Hitler's apartment; nor did Keitel. I did not know Warlimont. I met but few of the army leaders at the apartment.

I was not acquainted with von H a l d e r he did not come to the apartment.

Nor did J o d l come to the apartment.

During the war, he himself was but very rarely in the apartment.

Hitler's liaisonmen were: for the Navy, Puttkammer; for the Wehrmacht, Schmund who, after his death, was succeeded

by Burggraf; for the Luftwaffe, von Balo; furthermore, Major Engel and Bornekamp.

Hitler spoke of Göring in connection ~~on~~ with the Luftwaffe. For instance, when the air attacks on Berlin were particularly severe and Hitler came to Munich April 24, 1944, I said to him that people in Munich are greatly worried, etc. Hitler's reply was, " In Munich, matters will never develop as they do for Berlin; first, because the weather is better for anti-aircraft and, furthermore, Göring told me that the new Messerschmidt pursuit planes are ready now and we will therefore be better prepared for necessary defense. In addition to that, I know that there are quite a few other things which we have available, which will assure that Munich will never experience the fate of Berlin. I would deplore it myself very much because I love Munich." Evidently, the gentlemen told Hitler what their plans were.

Hitler himself laughed about Göring's weakness for decorations ; but my impression was not that he blamed him for it. Hitler had some what of weakness for Göring. Hitler never discussed Göring's transactions of paintings. I remember only one instance: At one time, Hitler intended to purchase a painting, but Göring was quicker than he. However, Hitler did not resent this and was merely sorry that he could not get the painting. When Göring was made Reichsmarschall, Hitler said to me that Göring is the man for the air forces, the organizer, etc... Hitler's confidence in Göring was boundless. I am also convinced that Göring stood by Hitler as a friend as early as 1923.

I surely should be in a position to know who enjoyed Hitler's confidence and of whom he thought much, and I must say that Göring did enjoy Hitler's confidence; nor do I believe that at that time Göring deceived him. Göring was rarely in Munich, only when it came to reporting or to discussions of the situation.

The last time I was at Berghof, I saw Göring there too.

I knew R o s e n b e r g , but he never come to the apartment. Hitler mentioned him rarely; only once I remember having heard him mention the Mythos of the 20 th Century. Hitler said it was nonsense. I believe that in that connection we also discussed the question of the church. Hitler did not think Rosenberg's book should be taken seriously. I said to Hitler that my husband and I decided to leave the church

because my husband was a member of the SS. While, personally, it does not make much difference to me whether I belong to the church or not, still, I did not want to withdraw from it, and I asked Hitler for his opinion. His reply was: "why; I am a catholic too and I, of course, also adhere to the church. Better wait until you come to that bridge."

S t r e i c h e r came to the apartment perhaps 5 times a year. Personally I shared in this experience but once, and we were seated just as we now are. I never liked Streicher, nor do I believe that Hitler liked him; Hitler condemned the "Stürmer" very much. In the beginning, the Stürmer was sent to us to the apartment; following Hitler's request, however, this was discontinued. When Streicher at that time came to Munich, Hitler said, Streicher had every reason to feel gratified that orders had for his arrest not been issued, that he was permitted to walk around on his property and that, finally, times for big wishes have passed and that there was no excuse for that man's behavior. Hitler's indignation really was very great; this was 1942/1993. Hitler's opinion of Streicher at that time was really not good at all.

Relation to Hitler;

Truly, I believe, there is nobody, among those qualified to speak who believe it. If Streicher claims that I entertained intimate relations with Hitler, he is a liar. Personally I do not care what he says. Hitler liked me because I kept all things very neat and because, perhaps, he could express himself in privacy and without any adjutant; beyond that, nothing existed between Hitler and me, and all adjutants should confirm that. Streicher cannot possibly be in possession of photographs of me because, as stated, Streicher was but a single time....

Stool pigeons would have had a pretty hard time in the apartment; there were no microphones in our apartment; that I can say for sure; whenever any construction work or remodeling went on, I was present, and nobody could have removed a stone without my knowledge. Of course, our telephone was tapped also. I really do not believe that I need to clarify anything with Streicher. If Streicher contends that Hitler was subject to me, he is telling a lie. "All I can say is that all contentions along that line are being refuted by me."

Every time that Hitler was there, Eva B r a u n was present likewise. At times she was taken home still during the night; at other time, however, she stayed at the house.

As far as I can remember that was the arrangement until the end. The mutual affection between Hitler and Eva Braun deepened constantly. Some time in October 1944, Eva Braun went from Munich to Berlin and remained in Berlin until the end.

In addition, Hitler also liked actresses, almost of all of them; for instance, Maxi Bayer, Olga Tschechowa, Leni Riefenstahl who later was really deeply in love with Hitler, but of whom Hitler did not ask anything. I did not know Olga Tschechowa. Hitler also admired the sisters Höppner bewundert.; That, however, was nothing but admiration from distance.

S c h a c h t never came to the apartment. The Führer never made mention of him to me.

Von P a p e n was perhaps 3 or 4 times in the apartment. I knew him only as Foreign Minister. If remember correctly, Neurath was appointed in his place. Hitler praised Papen in Russia.

Neurath was never commented upon by Hitler.

R i b b e n t r o p : The Führer considered him as a very capable person. He said that he was glad to have such a man as Minister of Foreign Affairs, rather than a man like Neurath. That he is t h e man to formulate Germany's foreign policy.

F r a n k as a matter of fact was not at all mentioned by Hitler. I do know, however, that Hitler thought much of Frank when he was a lawyer in Munich.

F u n k I believe Hitler did not think a whole lot of him. He never discussed H i n d e n b u r g's last will. Hitler's comments on Hindenburg were very favorable.

F e g e l e i n opportunity is, to put it bluntly, a pig. Fegelein took advantage of every to further his own ends; he did not even refrain from a marriage. He married Eva Braun's sister within two month.

Fegelein was described to Hitler in such terms that he had reason to conclude, Fegelein is t h e man. Hitler spoke of Fegelein only in words which would imply that he is considered him a clever army leader.

On the whole, Eva Braun's influence on Hitler was good, for instance, to permit people to reach him. As regards Fegelein, it is certain that Eva Braun's influence was bad; her excuse may

be that Fegelein's manners blinded her. Also, Fegelein was Bormann's best friend.

As far as I know, Hitler was unaware of Eva Braun's affair with another man. I myself learned at a later date only that Eva Braun had another friend.

All documentary material was taken away from the apartment by Schaupp; no files were in the apartment. Hummel, Bormann's right handman also removed a part of the things. I never heard from Hummel again. As far as I know he purchased a house at Mondsee (Austria); he removed much private property from the "Führerbau".

I do not believe that Hitler is still alive; nor do I believe Eva Braun is still alive. I am rather inclined to believe that gasoline was poured on him and that he and the entire bunker were blown up.

I do not have the slightest idea as to Bormann's whereabouts.

I believe that Hitler poisoned himself. As a matter of fact, he never remarked that he intended to take his own life. I think he believed in victory until the very end. I do not believe, however that he drew up a last will.