

## **July 1945**

# **Report on Generalleutnant Walter Dornberger and Information he Shared**

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### **Summary:**

The report presents Walter Dornberger and information he provided after his capture.

### **Original Language:**

English

### **Contents:**

Original Scan

**TOP SECRET**

- 1 -

I ARRIVAL

Generalleutnant Walter DORNBERGER, 'Beauftragter z.b.V. der Heeres Werke G.m.b.H.' and Inspector of the Long-Range Rocket Arm (Inspekteur der Fernraketen-truppe), has now arrived at No. 11 Camp.

DORNBERGER is 49 years old and a Protestant; his home is in BERLIN. He was captured at GERMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN on 2 May 45.

Some details of his career are as follows:

- 1914-18 Served as an artillery officer.
- Early 1930s In charge of 'Abteilung Versuch West' at KUNNERSDORF artillery range, set up for the purpose of rocket experiments. Held the rank of 'Hauptmann'.
- 1933 Chief adviser to the Department for Development and Testing of Weapons (Amtsgruppe für Entwicklung und Prüfung von Waffen), of which his 'Abteilung Versuch West' formed a section.
- 1935-36 His ideas for powder-fuel rocket propulsion were adopted with a view to the laying of smoke-screens and the 'Nobelwerfertruppe' was accordingly formed. The 'Do-Geräte' took their name from him. Promoted 'Major' and Group Leader (Gruppenleiter) of Group 'D' (DORNBERGER). Persuaded the Army Ordnance Branch to take up liquid-fuel rocket propulsion, as a result of which PEENEMÜNDE experimental site came into being.
- 1937-38 Promoted and made head of the Testing Department, later 'Wa-Prüf' Department 11, which grew out of his Group 'D'. Appears to have exercised a general supervision over rocket developments since that time.

The story of rocket development as seen by a PW who served under DORNBERGER and described by him in interrogation has been published as S.R.M. 1264.

II DEPARTURES

The following have now left No. 11 Camp and will, therefore, no longer figure in reports in this series:

- General der Infanterie THUMM (Führerreserve OKH)  
Captured WELZHEIM 19 Apr 45
- SS-Obergruppenführer Von BERFF (Chef des Personal Hauptamtes)  
Captured FLENSBURG 9 May 45
- Generalleutnant SIEWERT (Führerreserve OKH)  
Captured NIENDORF LÜBECK 4 May 45
- Generalmajor Von FELDERT (Feldkommandantur 560 BESANCON)  
Captured LANDRESSE 5 Sep 44
- Generalmajor KOHLBACH (Wehrbezirks Kdo. GELSENKIRCHEN-RECKLINGHAUSEN)  
Captured WIEDENERUGGE 9 Apr 45
- Generalmajor KÖNIG (Comd., 12 VGD)  
Captured WUPPERTAL 18 Apr 45

III POST-WAR GERMANY

1. The British Labour Government and Post-War GERMANY

a. Generalleutnant ELFELDT and Oberst WILDERMUTH discussed as follows the possible attitude of the British Labour Government towards GERMANY:

**TOP SECRET**

ELFELDT : As regards GERMANY, I think it quite possible that German workers won't be worse off than they would have been under a CHURCHILL government; I think their efforts to form trades unions, and the struggles of the working class will get better support than they would have under CHURCHILL. We shall not get out from here.

WILDERMUTH: More than that will happen. For one thing the Labour Party is more in favour of a reconciliation of nations than the Tories were; secondly they are convinced that GERMANY will be needed as an economic factor in world economy. They take a longer view than the average Tory does. Both these factors will have a favourable effect on our situation. Unfavourable for our situation will be the fact that the Labour Party will not stand up to the Russians as CHURCHILL did. Firstly their social reforms; their economic situation is in a state of revolution - it means a revolution for ENGLAND - a switch-over from 'free economy' to 'planned economy'. That's the point. To achieve that switch-over they need peace without any foreign-political disturbances; they'll be prepared to pay a high price for it, especially if we have to pay the price and not they themselves. That's the disadvantage.

ELFELDT : For instance, in my opinion one thing which will undergo a decisive turn for the bad is this war criminal business.

Generalmajor BASSENCE and Generalmajor WAHLE speculated as below upon the Allied attitude to the re-emergence of political opinion in GERMANY:

BASSENCE : (Re: BBC news). What did you think of what was said about the expression of political opinion in GERMANY? They said it was not possible because so many young men were still in PW camps, or something like that.

WAHLE : One can't tell whether that's the real reason.

BASSENCE : No, but what did you make of it? That was the interpretation they gave; I noticed that; it was the first time that they had said anything like that.

WAHLE : Well, they don't want to have a united GERMANY at first, and they've got to have some excuses for that, and this is one of those excuses; even to-day's papers put it like that.

BASSENCE : So did you understand it in the same way as I have just said?

WAHLE : Yes, they don't want GERMANY to come into the political picture again yet; they want to leave that until later on, and it's not difficult to find some excuse or other for that.

BASSENCE : No, they have absolute power, the power of the Tartars.

WAHLE : Of course, we have gone from one dictatorship to another, we poor fools.

BASSENCE : The moment a united GERMANY with a government of its own appears, then the antagonism between East and West will become still more evident, so everyone would much rather fish in troubled waters for the present and then see which way the wind blows.

WAHLE : Of course, that's just what I made of it too.

**TOP SECRET**

Continuation of C.S.D.I.C. (U.K.) G.G. Report.

- 5 -

**2. Expected Attitude of RUSSIA**

Generalleutnant DORNBERGER, speaking to Generalleutnant HEIM, gave the following forecast of trends, particularly on the part of RUSSIA, quoting the industrialist Geheimrat RÖCHLING for some of his conclusions:

HEIM : Do you also believe that Communism is the only solution?

DORNBERGER: It's not the only chance. There are two possibilities. Either the Russians will get GERMANY, BELGIUM, HOLLAND, FRANCE by peaceful means, and they can do that very easily if the English and Americans pursue their present policy - which is again shown in the POTSDAM protocol - of insisting that the Western part of GERMANY, which means 65 million people, shall feed itself. That is quite impossible. They are naturally trying to bring up foodstuffs, so that the populations in the big towns particularly shall not be allowed to starve. But in the long run they will find it too expensive. As a result, it will soon come about that the Americans withdraw, and the Russians will then march in, or there will be hunger revolts because they don't provide enough. In the winter the cold is bound to lead to revolts. Then we shall get disturbances in GERMANY, directed less against the occupying power than - as is the German custom - against their own people. Then GERMANY will be ripe for Bolshevism. On the other hand, the following point must be considered: the Russians moved all the industry from the Russian zone of occupation, particularly the key industries such as SIEMENS, SIEMENS-HALSKE, WERNER-SIEMENS, AEG, TELEFUNKEN, ZEISS, all GERMANY's big firms, including the aircraft industry, to ODESSA or to the CRIMEA, complete to the last screw hammer, before the Americans and British reached BERLIN. Geheimrat RÖCHLING, with whom I've just been for a few days at GRANSBERG(?) CASTLE, where SPEER is too, reckons that the Russians need about two years before they've got that industry working to capacity. Then, if the Russian attitude is what the Americans think it is, namely peaceful and satisfied with what they have, they will flood the world market with the cheaply produced German machines and mass-produced goods. According to RÖCHLING, the Russians need about five years and four months for that - he's worked it all out exactly. He assumes that in five years and four months the Russians will be so well-prepared that they can face the English and Americans. They will then sweep with 200,000 tanks through GERMANY, through AUSTRIA, through FRANCE to the ATLANTIC. EUROPE will then be lost, and the aircraft carrier GT. BRITAIN will be done for as well. Later on they will go to INDIA and PERSIA and so the war will go on. Then Bolshevik EUROPE and ASIA will be united against AMERICA and BRITAIN.

**3. Present-Day GERMANY seen through German eyes**

a. Generalleutnant DORNBERGER, addressing his fellow Senior Officer PW, painted the following picture of GERMANY under Allied occupation:

DORNBERGER: I was once with the Bürgermeister of GIESSEN. He was never a Party member, he used to be a democrat, and he said straight out to me: "General, who is to blame for the fact that we lost the war? The FÜHRER meant well." But that's not only the opinion of just that one man; I've heard it very often from people and, what is quite interesting, from the soldier PW. The hatred of the man in the street is not directed against the English and Americans, for they are providing the food, but it is directed against his officers, just as in 1918. Another interesting point is that a section of the German people is completely uninterested in the concentration camp horrors. It's not a case of the German people being ashamed of the business or of them chalking it up against themselves.

**TOP SECRET**

/4

DORNBURGER :  
(Cont'd)

Quite the contrary! They say: "Well, we didn't know about it; we can't be made responsible. We had many more deaths in the air raids and had to suffer far more than those concentration camp inmates. They at any rate are dead."

I had a long conversation with SEIER. I heard then that in each zone of occupation the administration was carried out with no regard to that in the neighbouring zone, which was bound to lead to disaster very quickly. He was of the opinion that one day they would be compelled to bring in experts to GERMANY's central governing body, with the permission of the Control Council, of course, and that there would then be work for him and the other gentlemen there. GANZENMÜLLER, too, was of the opinion that if he and his staff were allowed access to the German railways, and if those officials were re-employed again, he would be in a position to clear the German railway network completely, with the exception of the bridges, within a month and a half.

Things look quite different in the British zone. In the American zone one sees no signs of any organisation or control of public works on the part of the Americans. It was quite different in the British zone. The road repairs were first-class; the British were laying marvellous asphalt roads. The rations were A 1. It was very industrious activity and very tidy. The British are laying great stress on that. The ditches were all cleared; there were no troops' ration wrappings - that packing material - lying around as in the American zone and on the 'Autobahnen'. Everything was clean and orderly. A great deal of work was going on in the towns, too; houses were being repaired - the impression everywhere was of quite a different spirit. The majority of the telephone lines were working again. The trains were running; there was much more lively traffic than in the American zone; the post was working; everyone could write two postcards a week. The railways were running with German engine drivers and German personnel, whereas in the American zone American engine drivers and railway personnel were doing it. For instance, on the stretch between FRANKFURT and CASSEL two trains daily were running in one direction and two in the other direction and, because of those two trains, there could be no other passenger traffic, because the English and Americans were afraid the Germans might try some nonsense or other with the points and that accidents would result. I hope things will improve as a result of the POTSDAM agreement.

Anyone approaching the American guard troops in INGOLSTADT gets a blow in the face. The treatment varies completely. My impression is that the English and Americans treat people decently just as long as they want something from them, whilst their treatment of the others, who are of no use to them, particularly the SS Gestapo, approaches very near to concentration camp treatment, if it doesn't equal it.

In the SS camps at BAD KREUZNACH the death rate is said to be 100 men per day. Their food each day consists of bean soup and two pieces of bread.

Reports on the Russian zone vary considerably. At GARNISCH-  
PARTENKIRCHEN I talked to a doctor from WISMAR. This doctor had driven down from WISMAR with a passenger car and a Russian pass to fetch his wife and daughter and take them back to WISMAR, because he had his practice there. On the one hand he recounted that as long as they're sober the Russians behave comparatively correctly towards the civilian population. When they're drunk, there's no holding them; they surround a block of houses, fetch out

- 5 -

DORNBERGER : all the women and then allow them to go home again the next morning. There are comparatively few humanitarian Russians who have any understanding of what all that means.

It's interesting to note that the 'Bürgermeister' who have been installed by the Russians in their zone are not only communists but are of all types, as long as they were against the Party, and that all the same they look after their people pretty well, and that it's these 'Bürgermeister', who are continually changing, who offer a fair amount of resistance(?) to the Russians, in that their collaboration doesn't go to the lengths of covering up everything the Russian soldiery do. The Russians don't keep strictly to the boundaries; if they see any people they particularly want in a neighbouring place, they put on English or American uniform, drive over the boundary and fetch them. That's what happened to us at WITZENHAUSEN.

It's known that the Russians transferred the whole electrical industry from BERLIN before the English and Americans arrived. They took some of the technicians and industrialists along with them and their families too are to go to the UKRAINE; some of them have already been taken there. The Russians ruthlessly take what they can get from our industry; they have no interest in getting any factories running; only those necessary for quite essential production - electricity, water and gas - are kept up by them.

An interesting incident in the Russian zone was that about a week ago a man reported to us who had fought at STALINGRAD, had been a Russian PW and had worked in a factory in the URALS, where, along amongst those in his camp, he was suddenly given a pass to travel through GERMANY, through the Russian zone, and suddenly turned up in the American zone . . . . . The man was of the opinion that he was only being used as propaganda for the Russians, because there was certainly no call for them to act in that way.

There is far more 'fraternising' in the Russian zone than in the English and American ones. The Russians understand very cleverly how to treat the little man, and they purposely occupied the eastern and northern sections of BERLIN. They carry on intensive propaganda to win over the German work-people in BERLIN to Communism. It's the same in all the towns. Terrific propaganda is made, continuous film-shows, music, theatres, sometimes very good concerts given by German artists. If you compare the news at the end of a week you can see what strides the Russians are making to gain a complete upper hand over the Germans in their zone of occupation. That is why these decrees have been issued by MONTGOMERY and EISENHOWER, in order to keep in step with the Russians.

b. DORNBERGER stated to General Major MASSENGE that a number of people had already returned to GERMANY from Russian captivity, but that he held this to be merely a propaganda move.

GERMANY and the Next War?

In the following conversation with General v. THOM, General RÖHRICHT welcomed the fact that GERMANY had no central government of its own which the Allies could make a scapegoat:

RÖHRICHT : To-day for the first time there's talk in the newspapers of the third world war. That's meant against RUSSIA, of course.

THOM : That may be GERMANY's first chance. It all depends upon on which side GERMANY finds herself or whether - and this is to be feared as a great misfortune - she may be torn asunder between them. On the one side they do realise they've taken on the responsibility.

**QUESTIONER:** ...  
**ANSWER:** ...

THE ECONOMIC SITUATION

**QUESTIONER:** ...

**ANSWER:** ...

**QUESTIONER:** ...

**ANSWER:** ...

**QUESTIONER:** ...

**ANSWER:** ...

**QUESTIONER:** ...

**ANSWER:** ...

2. Generalmajor **BRUNNEN** and Oberst **REINHOLD** aired their views as follows:

**BRUNNEN:** It is our death-sentence.

**REINHOLD:** Yes, but we had already pronounced death-sentences which we put into practice, as there's no doubt we should never have evacuated **BRUNNEN** or **KONIG**.

**BRUNNEN:** **REINHOLD** - as we announced quite openly - would be destroyed. The intelligentsia rooted out; we had already started it and achieved it to quite a large extent.

**REINHOLD:** Yes, obviously. These things can only be done if they're certain not to fail; then perhaps some Christian-aided historian will curse and say: "Evil men who did such things. Humanity at stake!" However, in practice, no-one can do anything about it.

3. A large party of the Senior Officer PW held the following discussion of the communiqué issued after the conference:

**DITTEL:** It's obvious that this deals with a first phase. How long this first phase lasts is a question of the utmost importance to the

- PFUHLSTEIN: Five years.
- DITTMAR : The demands in the Press, even those of GERVIN, are all for three to five years.
- ELFELDT : When they can find any grounds whatsoever the people here will take us for compulsory labour as war criminals - they won't shoot everyone - but they will send us to RUSSIA, in order to rid themselves of many people here.
- PFUHLSTEIN: Nothing was said about compulsory labour for the German workers.
- ELFELDT : No, nothing was said at all as to how GERMANY was to make reparations in manpower, but what was given on the radio was only an excerpt. At any rate, things are just what one imagined they would be from the first day onwards. Just imagine the industry of the RUHR, the RHINELAND and the whole of that area, restricted to the needs of this small state.
- PFUHLSTEIN: The people will just have to export.
- ELFELDT : Only raw materials and coal, no manufactured goods, there's nothing left. Everything else comes under the heading of war potential and will be taken away or destroyed.
- KÖNIG : There's one thing to be remembered: the number of people in that small area is being tremendously increased, with the result that the needs of the people are pretty big. In addition to that we have to export, and it won't be so easy.
- SCHLIEBEN : I've got the impression that it's been dictated by hatred very largely.
- BROICH : Yes, but why not? Did you expect anything else? It's obvious that they are delighted about the millions of Germans who will die next winter.
- ELFELDT : The only thing which isn't so terrible is that the crazy evacuation from CZECHOSLOVAKIA and POLAND is to be stopped. The fact that it's already happened, at any rate in POLAND -
- KÖNIG : But those who remain there have nothing to laugh about anyway. The most appalling things will go on.
- PFUHLSTEIN: And then the secretaries of State!
- BROICH : Well, that will be our first government.
- PFUHLSTEIN: The beginnings, which will afterwards form the basis -
- KÖNIG : Oh well, it will take some time, they are only temporary skeleton appointments.
- BASSENGE : We must realize that GERMANY will be constricted into the smallest possible area -
- BROICH : For the next 100 years, if not for longer.
- BASSENGE : She'll be completely out of the picture for many decades.
- DITTMAR : The development from the year 1200, 700 years, has been annulled by a stroke of the pen.
- BASSENGE : Yes, we staked everything on one card.

TOP SECRET



- BROICH : I was always a good gambler, I should never have played my cards quite as badly. We didn't gamble ourselves, others did it for us.
- DASSENGE : The statement runs: all people dangerous to the occupation forces.
- KÖNIG : That paragraph is capable of elastic interpretation and can be interpreted to mean anything.
- BROICH : Then there will be regulations concerning the execution of this paragraph: who are these suspicious characters?
- KÖNIG : I shouldn't think they'd be very interested in giving precise details.
- ELFELDT : The categories mentioned include the General Staff -
- BROICH : The generals in the West won't be able to go home for the next 5 or 10 years.
- DITTMAR : Not during the first phase at any rate. The duration of the first phase depends on the good behaviour of the German people and as such can be extended ad lib.
- ELFELDT : I think the second phase is the gradual change-over from a military government to a civilian one. I can't say whether that will mean the establishing of a central government in GERMANY or not.
- DASSENGE : Will they set up an Allied civil government at all? What would be the use?
- ELFELDT : In order to take over the administration from the military who are presumed to have less brains and are not in a position to grasp the difficult economic relations.

4. Generalleutnant HEIM stated to General FINK that he saw the meeting of President TRUMAN and King GEORGE as a political demonstration, aimed at publicly emphasising the closer association of the Anglo-Americans in face of STALIN.

5. Oberstleutnant v. d. HEYDTE's comment was that once again RUSSIA had won.

6. General RÖHRICHT expressed the view that the FOTSDAM agreement made Communism unavoidable.

## V THE ATOM BOMB

1. Generalleutnant DORNBERGER gave to SS-Obergruppenführer v. HERFF and Generalleutnant HEIM the following account of German attempts to split the atom:

DORNBERGER: Our people tried to split the atom by means of high tension current. About 50 million volts are needed to get the pitchblende, mixed with heavy water, to disintegrate. But the amount of energy released was only as much as that put in. We haven't yet got it to the stage where the process will continue independently. That was the result obtained in 1941. There is also another method, not with high tension but with some kind of static tension. It's not the destruction of the atom, but the disintegration of the atom. That can be harnessed, and considerably less energy is needed. It's done by chemicals which disintegrate. That is what this appears to be, because chemists were largely involved in these experiments, and not nearly so many physicists.

- 9 -

DORNBERGER: I wanted Professor BRAUN to give us a lecture on the atom bomb, (Cont'd) as the results of the research work could have materially influenced the development of the V-weapons.

2. DORNBERGER also spoke as below to HEIM and General Major BASSENCE:

DORNBERGER: The IO also asked me if we intended to produce one, radio-activated -

HEIM : Has it something to do with your thing?

DORNBERGER: Yes, with tungsten(?) as the motive power. It would be a fine thing if they had it, but I don't believe they can direct the rays. That is the decisive thing we need. Because the speed is a hundred times greater than that of our ..... which we have now.

3. BASSENCE and Oberst REIMANN passed the following remarks:

REIMANN : This discovery is also a warning to the Russians: "Don't throw your weight about too much!"

BASSENCE : It's remarkable, and the whole world must register the fact, that the first thing TRUMAN does on coming from the conference - because he hasn't ever made a statement on the conference yet - is to make a song and dance about this in Congress (sic).

4. BASSENCE took part in the following conversation with a BAO and again stressed the fact that President TRUMAN's announcement of the Atom Bomb had preceded any statement from him on the POTSDAM Conference:

BASSENCE : I've asked myself whether President TRUMAN perhaps said it for JAPAN's benefit? There's a certain connection between the POTSDAM Conference and JAPAN, because that offer, that 'unconditional surrender' demand on JAPAN, is considerably milder than the one for GERMANY, considerably milder. Perhaps it's connected with that.

One thing I find very strange. TRUMAN comes from the POTSDAM Conference, and his announcement or speech about it is eagerly awaited. Before he makes that speech, the President speaks of a new weapon which is - there is no doubt - epoch-making, and one must look at that from the psychological angle. If the President speaks first, not of the conference but of a new, incredible war weapon like that, he must have his reasons for doing so.

BAO : How so?

BASSENCE : He must have said to himself: "We Americans have now got a weapon; if you don't do as we wish in a friendly manner round the conference table, then we have other means, we can do something else." It can't mean anything else.

BAO : It's not purely American, we were in very close contact, it's Anglo-American.

BASSENCE : So I believe, you've done it together.

5. General RÖHRICHT and General v. THOMA discussed the Atom Bomb in the following terms:

RÖHRICHT : We carried out our big experiments in splitting the atom on the MONTE GENEROSO in SWITZERLAND. The energy from lightning was harnessed to carry out the first atom-splitting experiments. A whole lot of people were involved in the business of splitting the atom.

THOMA : But I don't know, all these discoveries seem to me to be no blessing for mankind.

/10

VI 7/2

1. General Lieutenant HEIM stated as below to General Lieutenant FÜRER that HEIM had publicly apologized for his failure to appreciate the full worth of the 'V 2' weapon:

DORNBERGER: The following incident was interesting: When I saw the FÜRER the last time, which was in May, 1943, after I'd shown him the V-2 about us, he was quite taken aback. Formerly the FÜRER had always turned the V-2 business down 100%. He said: "If only I'd believed in it! If it really comes to anything, EUROPE is sunk for the war", and all kinds of things like that. Then he said: "There are two people in my life whose pardon I must ask. One is Generalfeldmarschall v. BLOCHMAYER, who said at the end of each report he wrote to me: 'My FÜRER, think of ZERNER!' and the other is you, General, for not having believed in you."

HEIM: It's incredible that he admitted it.

DORNBERGER: He admitted it in front of HEIM and the others.

HEIM: I believe that really is the only thing he ever admitted in his life.

2. DORNBERGER claimed, on the other hand, that he had begged the FÜRER to stop the V weapon propaganda, because nothing more could be expected from just one ton of explosive. To this HEIM had replied that DORNBERGER might not expect more but he himself certainly did.

3. DORNBERGER alleged in the following passage with Generalmajor HASSINGE that the Russians had made offers to them concerned in 'V 2' development and had undertaken to double any bids from the American side:

DORNBERGER: The Russians sent one of my engineers to me when I was with the Americans, who told me under the seal of secrecy that he had such and such an offer to make to us on behalf of the Russians. We were to go back to BRENNMÜNDE, BRENNMÜNDE would be rebuilt and a parallel factory in RUSSIA, and they offered us double what the Americans were offering us, and we could move our families with us and all that sort of thing. We turned it down flat. They tried again to kidnap our landing lights from us - BRAUN at WITZENHUSEN(?). They appeared at night time in English uniform; they didn't realize it was the American zone. They came to us and wanted to come in. They had a proper pass. But the Americans were quick to realize it and wouldn't let them in. So they got into cars and drove off again. That's how the people work. Real kidnapping, they don't stick to the boundaries at all.

4. DORNBERGER spoke to General Lieutenant HEIM as below about his intention to sell his services to the best bidder:

DORNBERGER: If the English make me a better offer than the Americans within this next fortnight, I'm prepared to work for them at VANCOUVER. I have given instructions that nothing is to be signed yet. Actually I don't want to work for the English at all, I only want to play them off against the Americans.

5. Asked by Generalmajor v. FRUHLSTEIN whether he spoke English, DORNBERGER replied that with Englishmen he did not do so on principle. He could understand them quite well but it gave him more time if he pretended otherwise. To FRUHLSTEIN's suggestion that he should not weaken his position by giving too much away, DORNBERGER replied that he intended to reveal no real technical secrets, nothing of decisive value. Asked by General Lieutenant HEIM whether he was going to AMERICA to work there, he replied that he was, or rather that he did not know whether, as a 'General', he would be allowed to go there.

- 11 -

6. DORNBERGER stated to General FINE that KAMLER had been ordered by the FUHRER not to let BRAUN, DORNBERGER and the 450 scientists and technicians at PEENEMÜNDE fall into Anglo-American hands but to liquidate them all beforehand.
7. DORNBERGER, in conversation with Generalmajor BASSENCE, made the following miscellaneous remarks dealing with the 'V 2'. He said that:
- 720 persons were killed in the first raid on PEENEMÜNDE and all the work there suffered two months' delay.
  - In POLAND, at the REIDELAGER, they had once fired a 'V 2' into a concentration camp. He consoled himself with the thought that that would be chalked up to the SS and not to themselves.
  - A German General in a Russian tank had one day appeared in front of one of DORNBERGER's 'Regimenten' which was near MUNSILDE and had called upon its members by megaphone to come over to the Russians. He had promised them that the TOLUCHINSKI(?) Works were waiting to receive them and would pay them the maximum wages to build 'V 2s' for STALIN.
  - BRAUN and DORNBERGER himself had realised at the end of December 1944 that things were going wrong and had consequently been in touch since that time with the General Electric Company through the German Embassy in PORTUGAL, with a view to coming to some arrangement.

#### VII GERMAN ATROCITIES

1. Oberstleutnant v. d. MEYDTE stated to other Senior Officer PW that to him it was no favour, but a punishment, to have to see the atrocity films. It was just clumsy propoganda, and he would no more yield to pressure on that issue than he had formerly done as regards reading the 'Völkischer Beobachter' or 'Vorwärts'.

2. Generalleutnant DORNBERGER, after maintaining to Generalmajor BASSENCE in the following passage that the Concentration Camp stories were one-sided, went on to blame KAMLER for some very definite atrocities:

DORNBERGER: Look, what a fuss they've made about all those concentration camps. In the first place, one can counter them simply, because all the ministers and officials have been in concentration camps, and, if things had gone as badly as that with them, they wouldn't be alive. Of course, swinish things did happen. At NORDHAUSEN Standartenführer MEYER(?) said: "We've got 6000 people who are ill and cannot be taken away; what shall we do with them?" KAMLER said: "Get rid of them!" He said: "How am I supposed to get rid of 6000 people?" "Oh, take them to that rock and then blow it up over them, and then the matter's settled." That's how he dealt with people. The Allies are very much after him. The fellow was ruthless. In HOLLAND he made Dutchmen build the sites for the V 2, then he had them herded together and killed by MG fire. He opened brothels for his soldiers with 20 Dutch girls. When they'd been there a fortnight they were shot and new ones were brought along, so that they couldn't divulge anything they might discover from the soldiers.

#### VIII THE 20TH JULY 'PUTSCH'

Generalleutnant DORNBERGER gave to Generalmajor BASSENCE the following description of what he saw when he went to report to FROMM on 21 Jul 44:

DORNBERGER: On 21 Jul I went to make my report to FROMM. I arrived at 8.30 in the morning, and STAUFFENBERG and Co. were lying out in the courtyard. I had no idea what was going on.

/12

6. DORNBERGER stated to General FINK that KAMILLER had been ordered by the FÜHRER not to let BRAUN, DORNBERGER and the 450 scientists and technicians at PEENEMÜNDE fall into Anglo-American hands but to liquidate them all beforehand.
7. DORNBERGER, in conversation with Generalmajor BASSENG, made the following miscellaneous remarks dealing with the 'V 2'. He said that:
  - a. 720 persons were killed in the first raid on PEENEMÜNDE and all the work there suffered two months' delay.
  - b. In POLAND, at the HEIDELAGER, they had once fired a 'V 2' into a concentration camp. He consoled himself with the thought that that would be chalked up to the SS and not to themselves.
  - c. A German General in a Russian tank had one day appeared in front of one of DORNBERGER's 'Regimenter' which was near ARNSTALDE and had called upon its members by megaphone to come over to the Russians. He had promised them that the TCHICHINSKI(?) Works were waiting to receive them and would pay them the maximum wages to build 'V 2s' for STALIN.
  - d. BRAUN and DORNBERGER himself had realised at the end of December 1944 that things were going wrong and had consequently been in touch since that time with the General Electric Company through the German Embassy in PORTUGAL, with a view to coming to some arrangement.

DASSINCE : Did you see him lying there?

DORNEBERGER: Yes.

DASSINCE : With any signs of maltreatment?

DORNEBERGER: No, shot. They were lying there near the sand heap, just at the door.

DASSINCE : Not even covered over?

DORNEBERGER: Nothing at all. Shortly afterwards they were taken away - there were four of them. General OLDRICHT was one of them - they'd torn off his shoulder badges. I then went up, I had no idea at all what was happening. They said FROMM wasn't there; I waited two hours and then HIMMLER came. Only then we realised what was up. HIMMLER addressed the nation. They shot FROMM, quite recently, perhaps a fortnight before the collapse. HIMMLER had a persecution mania. He had me arrested on 27 Apr, for not carrying out orders. I only got away thanks to HIMMLER, who was also to be arrested. We both drove off to GERMISCH.

### IN THE GERMAN ATTACK ON RUSSIA

General RÖHRICHT gave to various other Senior Officers PW the following picture of the background against which the decision to attack RUSSIA in 1941 was taken:

SCHLIEBEN : How was it that we actually came to attack RUSSIA?

RÖHRICHT : We ourselves at FONTAINEBLEAU were very surprised when it turned out that this GAF attack on ENGLAND had proved an absolute failure, and we had to draw the conclusions for the whole prosecution of the war. "ENGLAND cannot be defeated now; in order to bring the GAF and the navy up to the pitch necessary to defeat ENGLAND, we must forfeit a great part of the army. As long as the army is still available let's quickly make one last big effort and form the new 'Divisionen'."

That very pleasant and unbiassed man SIEWERT (PW) here, will confirm that at that time HITLER sent for FROMM to come to the OBERSALZBERG, and discussed with FROMM the possibility of forming further 'Divisionen', before von DRACHITSCH heard anything about it. DRACHITSCH was told about it by FROMM. Even if the army had a higher opinion of RUSSIA's power than the Party did, it didn't estimate it nearly high enough. KENZEL, who was Chief of General Staff 'East', always said, even in his report before the Russian campaign, when it was primarily for the OKH a question of concentrating: "We have no definite information. The only means we have at the moment, apart from diplomatic sources and what we find out by devious means, is wireless interception, and according to that the situation looks thus and thus; how much of that is true, and how much they are bluffing us, I don't know. The frontier is schematically sealed." As well as that there was the fact that the campaign against FINLAND had not made any overwhelming impression on us. When HALDER expressed his opinion of the affair, he said something which gave us a terrible shock: "There will be surprises, perhaps on a tremendous scale." One of those was the Russians' improvised strategic concentrations brought up by rail for the move into POLAND. HALDER said that was an achievement of which no-one would have thought the Russians capable.