

Wolf EBERHARD: Interviews mit David Irving

20.12.1969

18.6.1970

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15.10.1971

Institut für Zeitgeschichte - Archiv

WHL is an interview with Major a. D. W. Eberhard,
from 5pm - 7⁴⁵ pm 20 December 1969, at his home,
Bad Honnef, Reichenteyerstrasse 12a (Tel. 4004)

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1. Documents.

Stored in the basement of his house, Eberhard has detailed records and diaries for all his service except for 1943 overseas. For the period 1936 to May (?) 1939, when he was Adjutant of Keitel, he has large-scale Diensttagebücher (also referred to as "Dienstkladden.") These record the visits and meetings, and teletypom cables, with occasional comments. In addition he has a number of (a) Notizen (b) Gedächtnisniederschriften on speeches by Hitler, Göring, etc - written, he stressed, very subjectively - including Hitler's Ansprache after v. Blomberg's dismissal on the v. Blomberg affair - he shows several Niederschriften (he says his eyes were not opened until he had a visit from Adm. ^{Canaris?} Keitel.) He also has a Spring 1946 study he wrote on Luftkriegführung; he showed it to Milch, who said it was too enteral even for him, and refused to mark it (red pencil) or to accept it; it went to Oberst v. Brouckhove, he equally refused to show it to Göring.

2. He has also shown, or promised to show, the diaries to Munich author Winfried Martini, who is planning a book on the German Generalstab. Eberhard says that his book has described the

Blumberg - Fritsch affair in all the detail he knows it. He is prepared to allow me to see the papers &c in late January (at present they are somewhat inaccessible.)

3. CAREER.

Before 1936, Eberhard was Lehrer an der Aufklärungsfliegerschule, Hildesheim. In 1936 he was posted to Keitel as Generalstabsoffizier, but he left Keitel before the Führeransprache of May 1939, to command Aufklärungsstaffel 2/(LH)13, damals in Göppingen. He took part in minor skirmishes during the western-front campaign war, but in an unspecified incident on 1. November 1939 he lost his left leg. He was in hospital until June 1940, then served as Generalstabsoffizier im Stab des Generals der Luftwaffe beim Ob. d. H. (Bischof)

Early in February 1943, on Milch's return from the Stalngard mission, Eberhard was posted as the new Generalstabsoffizier bei Milch. Teschener described this as "mein letzter Versuch mit Milch zu (einer fruchtbarer Zusammenarbeit) zu kommen." (Eberhard says there were many causes for the friction - one of which was Teschener's views, symbolised by his requirement for only 360 Jäger a month.) Eberhard attended all the Milch Besprechungen except those of the Zentralplanung and the Milch-Speer-Gr Besprechungen. He stayed Milch's Generalstabs-

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officer's unit

the end of August 1944. Eberhard then became
Chief des Stabes der Luftflotte 10. (In which
capacity he experienced the first attack on Dresden
in the HQ of Luftgau IV.)

4. EPISODES

a.) After 20 July 1944, Eberhard was called to
see Milch. Milch told him of a visit by
Kaltenbrunn, who had shown him a manuscript
of a conversation between Stauffenberg and Eber-
hard a few days before. Stauffenberg had
telephoned Eberhard a few days before the
20th, saying, "Am Donnerstag müssen wir Ver-
techtung des Generaloberst Fromm zur Führerlage
zum FHQ und wir kriegen fast kein Flug-
zeug..." Eberhard had undertaken to supply one,
and Milch had subsequently approved this.
Now Eberhard was sent to Kaltenbrunn and
shown the white (not brown, he volunteered)
paper manuscript by Kaltenbrunn. He pre-
sumed the conversation had been intercepted by
the PSAA. Eberhard was able to give a satis-
fying explanation of the conversation.

b.) Eberhard was, for example, present during a con-
versation with between Beck and Hitler. Beck
was reluctant to involve the Army in the Anschluss
with Austria: er könne nicht die Verantwortung
übernehmen. Hitler retorted, "Sie brauchen

g
 got nicht die Verantwortung zu tragen." He threatened
 to send the SA and SS in place of the Army: "So that
 really what the Army wants - that I should send
 in the SA and SS instead??"

c) Eberhard sat in the same car as General Hal-
 der as they entered Austria. Tears were
 streaming down Halder's face.

5. OTHER SOURCES: -

a.) Oberst d. Res. Ernst John v. Freyend,
 Bad Honnef, Amsehweg 8 (tel 5657)
 He has an excellent memory, probably no
 Aufzeichnungen, was mit Keitel bis zum Ende.

b.) Generalleutnant (demots Major i.G.) Herbert
 Büchs, was Jodel's Adjutant from ? 1943: -
 now in Bundesverteidigungsmuseum (Chef Früher Star.);
 private telephone, Meckenheim b. Bonn (02225) 7217.

c. Working for Mitt.-Bölkow-Blohm (with Junkerwerra as subsidiary now)
 Eberhard gave impression from Junker staff that Keitel had treated
 Prof Junker shabbily in 1933/4. -

Minij Army
 9³⁰ pm 20/xii/69.

Notes on an Interview with Oberst. a. D. Wolf Eberhard,
3 - 9³⁰ pm, at his home, Bad Homburg, 18 June 1970.
Re "Hitler" only (for "Molot" see notebook.)

1. Bad Godesberg: he recalls being in a small room at Hotel Dreesen with Stiller and Ribbenkopf alone; RAM's staff had no Kartenmaterial, so Eberhard had to phone Todd for details on the attitude distribution of Germans in Czechoslovakia.

2. Barbarossa: in August or September 1940, Major Eberhard (on Staff of Befehlshaber der Lw. beim OKH at Fontainebleau, General Bogatsch) noticed that the "Leelöwe" preparations were not being pressed with any urgency, and he said "Da stimmt was nicht" to the VTB-Schreiber Greiner when he visited Fontainebleau (there was Ministerial Echo of Erfahrungsbereichte, usw.) Greiner made the following Andeutung: "Sie werden in etwa einem halben Jahr genau wissen warum kein Sckuring" behind "Leelöwe"; Deyhle may have been there as well. Eberhard at once knew that Russia was meant. Then in November 1940 he bearbeitete die Dislozierungsbeefehle for Luftwaffe units transferring to the E. Front. The entire OKH Staff in Fontainebleau was verlegt to Zossen Anfang November 1940, which he also found significant.

20. April 1939.

3. Eberhard recalls particularly Hitler's speech of thanks to the Wehrmacht chiefs. Their presents to Gratulation were: Gönig, v. Brauchitsch, Raeder, Keitel, & ein Adjutant (ein Schl. Eberhard) and perhaps others, in der Neuen Reichskanzlei, in Hitler's Arbeitszimmer. Hitler said something like, "Nun mein Herr, die erste Hälfte des Jahrhunderts habe ich erlebt, es ist bisher nichts erreicht worden, aber für die Sicherung des Reiches bestehen noch Schwierigkeiten. Ich bin mir klar, dass ich die II. Hälfte des Jahrhunderts nicht überleben werde; ich bin also auf die Höhe meiner Manneskraft; es ist klar, dass was ich mir vorgenommen habe eine große Anstrengung erfordert [which no other German is capable of]. Infolgedessen werden die nächsten Jahre von entscheidender Bedeutung für das Reich sein." He then continued with his remarks on the Reich's rearmament program against France, England, and added, "Es ist ganz klar, dass diese Rüstungsprogramme von Jahr zu Jahr geringert werden wird; und wenn man etwas Entschieden des Erreichen will, dann muss man schnell handeln". From this it was clear to Eberhard that war was not inevitable; but he did not know how soon!

4. ... May 1938. Hitler, Keitel and Eberhard returned from Vienna after the Anschluss in the same Junkers 52. He sat behind Hitler on the left of the gangway; Keitel sat to the right, overlooking Czechoslovakia, (Passau, etc.) The ganze Zeit hatte Hitler in der Hand eine Kartenskizze aus einer Tageszeitung, auf der nun die neue Grenze Österreichs wäre skizziert, with the

area of Czechoslovakia clearly schraffiert, enclosed on these sides by the Reich. Eberhard: "Ich sehe noch wie Hitler dem Keitel das zeigt" ^{in his right hand,} winks one eye, and with his ~~the~~ left hand pinches the thumb and forefinger over the area of Czechoslovakia. Eberhard recognized that Hitler was planning die Wagnahme der Tschechei. (Keitel later reminded Eberhard of this scene.) Upon their return to Berlin they commenced the "Vorbereitung" for ^{the} Czechoslovakia immediately.

5. ^{or before} on 13/30 August 1938 (see Drury) Eberhard feststellte that a microphone and amplifier had been planted in his office (which had previously been Blumenthal's); he sent for Comaris, who arrived in full-naval dress from some function, and together they peered under the floorboards at the device, which was strong enough to catch the softest whisper. Comaris swore to secrecy, and informed him some days later that the installation was the handiwork of the Gestapo. The entry on 30 August 1938 was where Comaris swore the staff to secrecy.

6. It was solely Hitler's Gedanke to use 8.8cm Flak with Panzergranate to smash Befestigungsringe. He had this idea in about the spring of 1938. After the Brno-Submission, Hitler ist empfindlicher in at least one bunker while Eberhard lit a match to enable him to see the results. The flak did not do much damage except in direct attacks on the slits. Planthrowers etc were also demonstrated to him. Eberhard was amazed "wie intensiv" Hitler occupied himself with these details.

Note on an Interview with Herrn Wolf Eberhard at his office, Bonn-Center, 11-12 a.m., 20 April 1971.

- 1.) The adjutant of v. Brauchitsch in 1939 was Rittmeister von d. Knesebeck. E does not know if still alive.
- 2.) E insists emphatically that he, Knesebeck and the other adjutants were present at Hitler's 50th birthday speech on 20.4.1939: es war entweder in grossen Saal oder im Arbeitszimmer des Führers in der Reichskanzlei. The tendency was, as described, that the first half-century was now complete; he would not start the second. Zum Zeit. Besitz. Deutschland einer Rüstungsversprung gegenüber seine Nachbarstaaten; das Nachziehen der Westmächte sei bis 1942/43 zu erwarten. Daher sei das entscheidendes vorher zu unternehmen, wenn auch - E. annimmt - nicht unbedingt im gleichen Jahr (1939)

3.) Eberhard's ^{vor-} letzte Dienstreise als Adjutant des chefs okw ^{vorher} ~~vorschrittswart~~ war Keitel und Canaris nach Innsbruck zu Besprechungen mit den Italienern zu begleiten (Pariani.) It was the day of Italy's surprise invasion of Albania, of which event

... event/

Canaris had learned within the hour, so the atmosphere was somewhat strained. Da wurde verhandelt über dt. Feldgeleitze für die Italiener war. Oberstleutn. Hüsermann des Wirtschaftsstabes war auch anwesend.

4.) Am 1.5.1939 wurde Eberhard Staffelsapltän im Westen. Ab 1.2.1942 wurde er Qu.I im WFSt unter Oberst v. Tippelskirch.

5.) Als Angehöriger des WFSt nahm er auch an dem gemeinsamen Abendessen am . . . 1942 im F.H.Qu. teil. Himmler, a man normally reserved (messieurs Quatsch) appeared in the room unmittelbar nach seiner Meldung des Attentats auf Heydrich beim Führer. Eberhard: "Ich werde das verfallene Gesicht von Himmler an diesem Abend nie vergessen. So blesch hatte ich den Reichsführer noch nie gesehen."

6.) E. corrected my earlier false impression re Protokolle des Enrich Processes. (1938.) Dr Sack gave them to him zur Aufbewahrung; E. locked them in his safe (formerly v. Blomberg's.); E. hat auch Einblicke in

...Einblick in /
die Akten genommen. He does not have them now
however. Sach sprach von Schmitt als "der gekaufte Schwein".

7.) Questioned as to which papers he does have, Eberhard
mentioned that, aside from his Notizbücher (in Keller
seiner Wohnung) he has sell his Taschenkalendar,
intact, but they contain only occasional notes. Access
to these will be given to me this afternoon, 2³⁰ pm

8.) Oberst v. Loosberg was auch mit Keitel in München,
September 1938. Er lebte vor Jahren in Wiesbaden,
Tannusanlage, war damals hoffnungslos krank,
gehbehindert usw., aber geistlich frisch. Muss unerhört
viel wissen.

9.) Re: sources on v. Blumberg, Eberhard stated that
Wangenheim is indispensable; Böhm-Tettelbach, the
other, may be in America (his mother was American).
Oberst Ulrich Bürker, ~~gebürtliche~~ Ursel v. Blumberg
(Tochter), lebt in München.

10.) In December 1937, on the way to the Küdinghoff-
Trauerfeier, Keitel and Eberhard went separately
first to Oberhof, to collect GFM v. Blumberg, who

... who./

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had withdrawn these for seclusion (without Fr. Grün), irgendwie im innerlich Klarheit zu gewinnen, mit dem nötigen Abstand, um sein Schicksal vor sich selbst zu begründen, um den Druck seiner Familie zu entgehen, in aller Ruhe. Er ist im Oberhof sicherlich eine Woche geblieben. Keitel und Eberhard brachten auch die inzwischen in Berlin festgestellte Rede mit, die v. Blomberg anlässlich der Wehrfeier zu halten hatte.

- 11.) Bei Hitler's Ausprache am 4. (?) Februar 1938 vor den Kommandierenden Generalen war Keitel nicht da. Eberhard hat eine Niederschrift angefertigt und Keitel informiert. Gleichzeitig brachte E. seine Enttäuschung zum Ausdruck, dass kein General aufgestanden sei um Hitler zu widerstehen (bk. Fritsch.) I interjected that this was not surprising, as Hitler made the accusations against v. Fritsch völlig glaubhaft.

12.)

Bv. Camaris Tagebücher.

Earlier, we had discussed my 6¹/₂ interview with G. on 30.3.1971. I stated that I had found G a heavy talker, and his "angeltische" qualities made me suspicious, and I was inclined to believe him when he said that he did not know the identity of the 44 officers who deposited (allegedly) the Camaris documents in Switzerland. I believed he (G.) himself had Abw. III documents but circumstances on G made me "misstrauisch." Firstly, there were his personal Schulden ...

Eberhard interrupted with a detailed account of how postwar Gr. had established a lucrative business in ^{the} Werkzeugmaschinenindustrie, and had amassed incidentally great wealth; of how this had in turn caused envy among wartime rivals, particularly a group he (E.) could name; of how in the 1950's G's business had been ruined by the Hausverbot decreed by Franz Josef Strauss, and how although the Verteidigungsministerium had since stated in writing* that the Hausverbot was unjustified, the business remained in ruins, and

* A letter I saw in original in G's house.

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... ruins, and/

all G.'s liquid resources were sapped by one legal action after another, as I would understand.

I concluded that it was suspicious to me that G. did not link his alleged control, or part-control, of the Comaris Brances to his present insolvency. - I.e. sell them.

Eberhard replied it was his friend's principal character (-istic) that he never did anything for money. In particular, he had gathered from his friend G. that the Comaris Brances were now controlled jointly (in the Swiss deposit) by two men (originally three) of whom G. is one. Questioned about the other E. said first he would not identify him (it was for G. to do so) and about 15 minutes later, equally naturally, that he (E.) did not know the identity. Eberhard stated that he knew that G. was still in contact regularly with the man, who is in Germany. He had discussed all this with G. since I saw him in March; he earnestly recommended me to maintain contact with G. as G. is favourably impressed by me.

Why then did G. and the other not release the drawers? Answer: G. feared for his life from the group already mentioned. In the war there were many people who stood to profit

profit/
from the liquidation of Canaris, and who were relieved
at his execution - people now in important positions
in Germany again. The publication of the diary
would be just as unpleasant to these people (Eber-
hard did not say why.)

[NOTE: E. stated precisely the same reason
when he first discussed the subject with me
six months ago.]

When I stated that this "Intrigenwirtschaft" did not
interest me - I was interested purely in such
historical detail as the diaries might contain, -
E. replied that G., not unnaturally, had a more
vital interest in keeping the diaries, and his control
of it, secret.

IMPRESSION: (a.) Eberhard clearly believes
what G., his Dätzfreund, told him.

(b.) It may well be true.

(c.) As noted in my report
of interview #I of G., 30.3.1971, he has an
unborn persecution complex (Verfolgungswahn)
and this may explain his exaggerated
secrecy about the diaries.

D.

20.4.71. 13 Uhr.

Continuation, at his home, Bad Honnef, nachmittags
2³⁰ - 5 pm, 20. April 1971.

1. Eberhard possesses numerous photo albums with photos from the Blomberg era on, including, e.g., Hitler at Flugplatz Barch, June 1938.
2. I borrowed his Kalender 1936-1945.
3. He undertook to locate his 1936-38 Notizblatte, which is located among a mixture of wartime and current (Gegenwart) Mussolinet papers in his safe in the basement, by time I next visit him in mid-May.
4. He recalls from Ohrenzeugen that v. Rundstedt bluntly warned Hitler against Mussolini in 1937 or 1938: "Lassen Sie doch die Finger von diesem negroiden Atschloch!" This was the ground for v.R.'s Verabschiedung; it was typical of his Redensart.
5. Asked about his recollection of the Generaloberst Adam argument (1938) ~~Ad~~ Eberhard states that in the Führerzug, towards the end of a conference

... conference /

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Hitler asked Adam, etwa, "Wie lang glaubst Du, den Westwall halten zu können?" To which Adam replied, "Sechs Wochen." This, says E., was certainly correct, but Hitler rebuked him: "Wenn ich nicht Führer u. Reichskanzler des Deutschen Reiches wäre, wünschte ich, Oberbefehlshaber der ^(deutschen) Westbefestigungen zu sein." Adam stood da "wie ein gegossener Pudel". Eberhard made no mention of Hitler's alleged retort: "Ich sage Ihnen ... [usw]", but has a low opinion of Gen. v. Wietzke. He states that Adam nahm seinen Abschied when requested to.

6. After studying Beck's Denkschrift, Hitler beauftragte Keitel, Beck seine Ansichten darüber zu übermitteln, u. ihn von deren Unrichtigkeit zu überzeugen.
7. It was Keitel who sent for Schmundt in Feb 1938. Schmundt war bisher Ia der 18. Infanterie Division in Liegnitz (Gen. v. Manstein), trat also dem Dienst an mit einer Probeprobe. Er meldete sich befehls-gemäss beim OKW, wo Eberhard ihn als erster aufklärte über seine neue Aufgabe. Differenzen zwischen Beck und Schmundt sind dann sehr bald aufgeklärt, sobald Schmundt sich im Stab Hitlers einlebte. Schm. wurde schnell Hitler-hörig.

8. On sources: Fohn v. Falkenstein survived the war, intended joining the Bundeswehr, probably still alive. General d. Beides is soon to be promoted to 4-stars, with gut andere Verwendung (mit Ruhestand.)
 Halli Monum (see index to Warlimont's book) is perhaps in Raum Hannover.
 Oberstln. d. G. Heinz Weizenegger war lange Zeit bei Daimler-Benz.

9. The nickname for Heusinger's book, "Befehl mit Widerstreit" is, "Am Schreibtisch unbesiegt."

J.
20.4.71. 18 Uhr.

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Notes on an interview of Wolf Eberhard, at his home, Bad Hornum, from 2³⁰ pm to 3 pm, 15 October 1971.

1. I returned to him his Taschenkalender. He has now found at his parents' home in Stuttgart suitcases he deposited there (from Göppingen) for safety in 1944-5. These contain wartime papers and family documents; he is certain the 1936-38 diary (etwa: Oct 1936 - Juni 1938) is in Stuttgart, and promised to search as soon as he is well.
2. Beck reported to Kistel (in Eberhard's presence) and to Halder of Hitler's alleged remarks to him on 11 March 1935: etwa: "Ich möchte meine junge Wehrmacht dein erste Kräfteprobe gönnen. Und wenn bei diesem Einsatz ^{den Einmächtigen} verwehrt [refused], so werde ich das durch meine SA und SS mit klingendem Spiel durchführen lassen!"
3. Eberhard states he was present at Hitler's conference in the Württemberg der Reichskampfer on 28. Nov. 1935. (This is apparently borne out by E.'s remark, after I had referred to Hitler's remarks in the Westwall, and the Entschluss die Bescheide zu genehmigen, that the third matter Hitler discussed was an increase in Munitionsfertigung, which is confirmed by Beck's Aufzeichnung.) Eberhard states that Raeder

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was not present - "er drückte sich regelmäßig vor solchen Besprechungen" - aber wenn sich durch v. Puttkamer vertreten und informieren. v. Puttkamer was definitely present.

4. He stated that, Theo Osterkamp, a former fighter pilot of Luftwaffe, has written a book concerning the Milch biography, and this is announced in the Luftzeitung recently. He is clearly very interested; Milch took "found wenig Befehl".
5. He inquired whether I had found Böhm-Tettelbach yet. I said no, the one I found in New York was the wrong one.
6. He warned against Warlimont as a source - too subjective.