

Niederschrift der Unterredung des Herrn Erich K e m p k a, geboren 1910 in Essen, wohnhaft in München - 8, Lucile-Grahn-str. 36/III, durchgeführt in München am 25. 9. 1952 mit Dr. Georg F r a n z im Auftrag des Instituts für Zeitgeschichte München.

Erich Kempka war Kraftfahrer bei Hitler seit 1932. Solange Schreck, Hitlers erster Kraftfahrer lebte, war er dessen Stellvertreter und fuhr aushilfsweise, wenn Schreck aus irgendeinem Grund abwesend war, Hitler; sonst den ersten Begleitwagen. Nach Schrecks Tode (1936) wurde er ständiger Fahrer Hitlers. Hitler hatte ihn 1932 persönlich zu diesem Dienst ausgesucht. Kempka fuhr Hitler auch nach Wiessee beim sogenannten Röhm-Putsch (30.6.34). Er kam mit Hitler per Flugzeug von Münster in Westfalen in München am 30.6. morgens 4 Uhr an. Auf dem Flughafen wurde Hitler von zwei Reichswehroffizieren empfangen. Er fuhr dann Hitler ins Braune Haus, wo rückwärts zum Schutz eine Kompanie Reichswehr untergebracht war. Dann fuhr er Hitler nach Wiessee. Goebbels sass im Wagen und hatte die Liste, nach der die SA-Führer verhaftet und erschossen wurden. Im "Hanslbauer" in Wiessee ging Hitler von Tür zu Tür und sagte: "Sie sind verhaftet!" So auch zu Röhm, dessen Zimmertüre unverschlossen war. Röhm lag noch im Bett. Er hatte zwei ineinandergehende Zimmer. Hitler ging herein und sagte: "Du bist verhaftet!" Röhm sagte zweimal: "Heil, mein Führer!" Gegenüber war das Zimmer von Heines, der mit dem Lustknaben noch im Bett lag; nebenan Bergmann, dann Ketterer mit Frau; vor Ketterers Tür sagte Hitler: "Ketterer nicht!".

Die Verhafteten wurden in die Waschküche gesperrt; Röhm blieb unten im Vorraum und sagte, eine Zigarette rauchend: "Wegen Hochverrat kann man mir nichts machen, ich habe als Verteidiger den ... (an den Namen konnte sich Kempka nicht mehr erinnern).

Vor dem Besuch bei Mussolini wollte Hitler einmal von Berchtesgaden kommend Röhm in Wiessee sprechen. Er fuhr mit Adolf Müllers (Verleger) Motorboot über den See. Röhm aber liess sich in Wiessee verleugnen und empfing Hitler nicht. Die SA-Führer-



besprechung für den 30.6.34 erfolgte auf Grund einer Vereinbarung zwischen Röhm und Hitler nach Hitlers Rückkehr aus Italien.

Kempka ist überzeugt, dass ein Putsch gegen Hitler geplant war. Es soll Tatsache sein, dass Standartenführer Uhl Hitler erschiessen sollte. Die Rolle Röhrs ist noch unklar; es ist unwahrscheinlich, dass er an eine gewaltsame Beseitigung Hitlers dachte, doch ist es nicht ausgeschlossen, dass er vollendete Tatsachen geduldet und hingenommen hätte.

Von den Verhafteten wurden die "kleinen Leute" in Dachau erschossen, die "grossen Leute" in Stadelheim.

Kempka hat, wie bekannt, 1945 Hitlers Leiche verbrannt. Er sagte aus, dass Hitler sich um 13 Uhr mittags am 30. April 45 erschossen habe. Kempka verbrannte Hitlers Leiche noch am Nachmittag des gleichen Tages in der Bodenwanne, die durch Aufstellung einer Betonmaschine entstanden war. Hitlers Leiche und die Eva Brauns wurden in Decken eingehüllt und dann mit Benzin übergossen. Die Decken saugten sich stark mit Benzin voll. Dies dürfte die gründliche Verbrennung der beiden Leichen erklären. Später fand man Hitlers Unterkiefer mit Zahnprothese.

Goebbels erschoss sich genau an der gleichen Stelle, an der Hitlers Leiche verbrannt worden war.

*Gary Franz*



Kempka

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Historical Branch~~RESTRICTED~~

HISTORICAL INTERROGATION COMMISSION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF, G-2  
HISTORICAL BRANCH

HISTORICAL INTERROGATION REPORT

SOURCE : Obersturmbannführer Erich KEMPKA  
Chief Driver & Head of the Führer's Motor Pool.

DATE : 26 September 1945

PLACE : Third Army Intelligence Center

INTERROGATOR : Lt.Col. O.J.Hale

Institut für Zeitgeschichte ARCHIV	
Akt. 4637/71	Best. 25.253
Rep. /	Kat. /

C O N T E N T S

- I. Date and Circumstances of Adolf Hitler's Death  
II. Additional Statements

I. Personal Data and Credibility of Source:

Source has given a detailed account of the cremation of the bodies of Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun and is the principal witness testifying to their death in the bunker of the Reich Chancellery in Berlin. Kempka's detailed statement is to be published shortly as an intelligence report by the Third Army Intelligence Center. Source has been interrogated by Lt Blake who states that every effort has been made to detect source in a contradiction or deviation from his original statement, but with no success. In his opinion it is unlikely that the account in such detail could be entirely fabricated.

Source is 34 years of age and was first employed in the Führer's Motor Pool in March 1932 and became first driver and head of the Motor Pool on 16 May 1936, following the death of SS Brigadeführer Schreck. It is worth noting that in this position the greatest exactitude, alertness and observance of detail were required of the holder. On all important public occasions Hitler's arrival and departure by motor was planned on a timetable calculated down to 30 seconds. In advance of parades or automobile journeys the distance was measured; the speed of the car, and the exact time required, were calculated and the travel timetable fixed accordingly.

DECLASSIFIED-DOD Directive No. 8200.2, 24  
September 1958.

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Source successfully performed these and other exacting duties requiring close observation and attention to minute detail. Source realizes that the time and manner of Hitler's death is of historical importance and insists that he has no reason to falsify the facts. The general impression created by source's remarks and attitude is that of a credible witness. Conflicting dates of Hitler's death have been given by persons at the Führer's HQ claiming to have knowledge of the facts. It was mainly on this point that source was reinterrogated.

QUESTION : In your report how did you fix the Führer's death as occurring on 30 April instead of 1 May or 27 April ?

KEMPKA : By reference to 1 May, which was the date of the order given to those remaining in the Reich Chancellery to break out through the Russian lines. Originally the order for the attempt was given for the evening of the day of the Führer's death, after the cremation, but it was postponed for 24 hours while General Krebs negotiated with General Zhukov. It was then too late and the attempt was postponed for 24 hours. That is how I fixed the date as 30 April -- approximately 24 hours before our attempted escape, which was on 1 May.

QUESTION : When did you last see the Führer alive ?

KEMPKA : On the day before his death at about 4 PM. outside his personal apartment in the bunker. Hitler shook my hand and asked how the motor transport was going. I replied that the vehicles were in bad condition, destroyed and damaged, but that we were still able to transport the necessary food for the emergency hospitals within the zone of the Chancellery. Hitler spoke a word of encouragement, smiled and then entered his personal room. He had a large-scale map of Berlin in his hand.

QUESTION : When did you next see the Führer, or his body?

KEMPKA : On the following day. About 2:40 P.M.; SS-Stbf. Günsche called me at the motor pool requesting that 200 litres of gasoline be brought to the escape door of the bunker in the garden behind the Reich Chancellery. At the steps leading up to the entrance I met SS-Stbf. Günsche, who told me that the Führer had shot himself. I then saw the body of the Führer wrapped in a grey blanket being carried out by Linge with someone helping him. The head and body were covered and there were no traces of blood on the blanket. Only the legs below the knees were visible, showing the black low-cut shoes, black socks, and black trousers which the Führer ordinarily wore. Reichsleiter Bormann then came out of the apartment carrying Eva Braun's body. It was uncovered, her face unchanged and her mouth was half opened. On her left side the dress appeared moist and darkened, presumably by blood. I took the body from him and carried it to the stairs where it was taken by Günsche and carried up to the entrance of the bunker and placed in the trench by the other body. The gasoline was then poured over the bodies and ignited.

QUESTION : Why was not Eva Braun's body also wrapped in a blanket ?

KEMPKA : It was not necessary. She was fairly slight of build and not heavy to carry. In a blanket the Führer's body was easier to carry.

QUESTION : Who carried the Führer's body ?

KEMPKA : SS-Stbf. Linge, the Adjutant, and another person. Who the second person was I am unable to recall. You can imagine the strain we were under.

QUESTION : You have stated in your report that the following persons were present at the cremation: Reichsleiter Bormann, Dr. Goebbels, SS-Stbf. Günsche, SS-Stbf. Linge and yourself. Is it possible that others were present ?



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KEMPKA : Possibly General Burgdorf, I cannot recall, nor can I remember who helped Linge carry the Fuehrer's body. It all happened quickly, in a matter of minutes, as artillery shelling was heavy and it was dangerous.

QUESTION : Do you know if any remains were removed after the cremation ?

KEMPKA : I did not go back to the bunker entrance and cannot say. There was a SD sentry at the entrance and probably only he would know. The photographs of the trench which appeared in your papers is not the one in which the bodies were cremated. That was much further from the bunker entrance than the small shallow trench -- not more than 3 or 4 meters from the entrance -- in which the bodies were laid.

QUESTION : What did you do after leaving the bunker entrance ?

KEMPKA : We went to the Fuehrer's apartment and looked in through the open door. I saw the two pistols with which the Fuehrer and Eva Braun had committed suicide.

QUESTION : What is your impression as to the length of time elapsing between the Fuehrer's death and the cremation ?

KEMPKA : I do not think they had been dead more than a short time -- from a quarter to half an hour.

QUESTION : Do you think Hitler had any intention of leaving Berlin ?

KEMPKA : No, after he had given orders to all Gauleiters and Party leaders to remain at their posts, he could scarcely desert his own. I think he intended to send Eva Braun away, but she stayed until it was too late.

QUESTION : About the reported marriage of the Fuehrer and Fraulein Braun, from what source did you get this report ?

KEMPKA : First, I heard it as a rumour among the men. Then one of our men decided to marry his young lady and I went to Dr. Naumann, Dr. Goebbels's deputy, and asked him if it could be arranged. He said : "Why did they not apply two days ago when the Fuehrer and Fraulein Braun and two of the orderlies were married ?" Reportedly, the marriages were performed by a legal official of the Propaganda Ministry.

QUESTION : Dr. Naumann's statement is the only basis for your knowledge of the marriage ?

KEMPKA : Yes. Frau Junge, one of the Fuehrer's secretaries, who was close to Eva Braun and attended the late night teas of the Fuehrer's intimate circle, might know more. She also escaped from Berlin.

QUESTION : What about Mrs. Fegelein, Eva's sister ?

KEMPKA : She was not there. She was in the South. Her husband SS-Obergruppenfuhrer Fegelein was reported executed for attempting to desert his post sometime between 25 and 29 April.

QUESTION : When did you last see Dr. Goebbels ?

KEMPKA : About 8 P.M. on 1 May before the attempted escape. I called at that time to report. I did not see the children and it was my impression that they were sent away previously with a nurse.

QUESTION : Do you think Bormann escaped ?

KEMPKA : He was with a group that attempted, after the first failure, to break out with a small force of armored cars and one or two tanks. It is doubtful if they succeeded. If he is not in Russian hands, then he is surely dead. From one of the women in the party I heard that after the failure of the breakthrough Ambassador Hewel committed suicide by taking poison.

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QUESTION : Was the Führer an easy employer ?

KEMPKA : Yes, indeed. He was always considerate and thoughtful. Often when we would be in the Rhineland, he would tell me to take one of the cars and visit my parents near Essen. My parents were working people -- my father was a miner by occupation. The Führer would send them greetings and 200 or 300 marks as a present with the suggestion that they take a pleasure trip. He was always thoughtful.

QUESTION : Did he give instruction from the back seat while travelling ? Did he prefer fast or moderate speeds ?

KEMPKA : All journeys were carefully scheduled and mapped in advance. Directions were unnecessary. We were required by his order to observe all traffic regulations and speed limits -- quite unlike some of the Gauleiters. We never exceeded 40 km per hour in towns and 60 in the country. I know that only in the election campaigns of 1929 and 1932 was his car driven at a speed of 80 km per hours.

## II. ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

Last Days in the Chancellery. On 19 April source went to congratulate Hitler on his birthday (20 April) as no special ceremony had been planned. He saw the Führer about 2 P.M. He appeared well and Himmler's statement that he had suffered a stroke and would die soon is without foundation.

At that time the following were still in the Reich Chancellery : Gen. Krebs, Chief of the General Staff; Ambassador Hewel; Gen. Burgdorf, Chief of the Army Personnel Office ; SS-Grpf. Rattenhuber, Chief of the RSD ; Reichsleiter Bormann ; SS-Grpf. Baur ; SS-Brigadef. Montke, Combat CO of the Reich Chancellery area ; Dr. Morrell ; Rear Admiral Puttkammer ; Col. Von Below (LW Adj.) ; SS-Grpf. Fegelin ; Dr. Goebbels and family, and Dr. Naumann, Dr. Goebbels' deputy. Between 20 and 23 April most of the Führer's entourage left Berlin as the Russians advanced toward the center of the city. After 20 April, Himmler, Goering, Keitel and Jodl did not return to Berlin. Speer came once on 22 or 23 April and Ribbentrop saw Hitler on 23 or 24 April. (Source provided all transport and scheduled the trips to the air fields, therefore knowing who came and went).

Source reports that according to Mrs. Traudel Junge, one of the two private secretaries remaining in the Chancellery, Eva Braun gave away all her personal effects and belongings to the secretaries and her intimate friends. Mrs. Junge received Eva's silver fox coat. Mrs. Junge also told source, who encountered her on 7 May at Havelberg on the Elbe after the escape from Berlin, that in the last days Hitler and Eva Braun talked mostly about death and similar subjects.

HITLER'S DOUBLE. Source insists that no double was ever used for Hitler. His car, however, was protected by special 3 mm armor-plate and bullet-proof glass.

Attempts on Hitler's life. As far as source knows the only attempts on Hitler's life were the bomb attempts at the Bürgerbräukeller on 8 Nov 1939 and at the HQ on 20 July 1944.

Roehm Purge . Source accompanied Hitler and his entourage from Bad Godesberg to Munich and drove the Führer to Bad Wiessee on Tegernsee where Roehm and his group were arrested. Source's account does not vary from those already published. About two weeks after the purge, source drove Hitler to Neudeck. After the interview with Hindenburg, he heard Hitler tell the other occupants of the car: "The old gentleman told me, my Chancellor, those who make history have to be able to shed blood".