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Institut für Zeitgeschichte - Archiv

C. S. D. I. C. (U.K.)

G.G. REPORT

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Akt. 4507/70	Sest. 252015
Rep. /	Kat.

If the information contained in this report is required for further distribution, it should be paraphrased so that no mention is made of the prisoner's names, nor of the methods by which the information has been obtained.

S.R.G.G.1295 (C)

The following conversation took place between:-

KP/255144 - Kapitaen zur See ^{Heinz} ASSMANN (Staff: Wehrmachtsfuhrungsstab)
Capt'd FLENSBURG 23 May 45 and a BAO.

Information received: 10 Jun 45

TRANSLATION

(Cf S.R.G.G.1219 (C))

BAO: You received that wound on 20th July. Give me an account of what happened on 20th July.

ASSMANN: We were up in WOLFSCIANZE and the conference on the situation was held round about 12 o'clock, I believe. It was always arranged that each department chief or those gentlemen ordered to attend the conference on the situation - generally speaking we first saw Generaloberst JODL, Chief of the Armed Forces Operations Staff, and then went over to the FUEHRER. The conference was held there, and everyone made his report there in turn. Not all of them were in there together necessarily; for instance, during the last months I only went in to give my own report on the navy, and then I went out again. On that particular day we were all in there, we always used to spread out round the table in different places, wherever we happened to be. On the table were maps. The FUEHRER stood in the middle - generally speaking one always stood at a conference, the FUEHRER did too, but if it lasted a long time then Adolf Hitler might sit down and perhaps one of the older gentlemen; Generalfeldmarschall KEITEL sometimes did. The FUEHRER stood in the middle, and on that particular day General HEUSINGER, Chief of the Operations Section of the General Staff, was on his right. Next to him was Oberst BRANDT, who was the senior General Staff Officer under General HEUSINGER - I don't remember the actual order in which the gentlemen were standing, but I believe next to him was General KORTEN, Chief of the GAF General Staff, and then rather in the background or to one side was General SCHMUNDT. Then there

ASSMANN:
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was a small interval - I believe there was a window in the corner, and then there sat Admiral von PUTTKAMMER, the FUEHRER's naval Adjutant. Then in the corner (demonstrating), that is, suppose the FUEHRER was standing here, diagonally across in the corner there sat one of the stenographers. I stood next to the stenographer. Then came General SCHERFT, who was the person authorised to write the military history. On the left of the FUEHRER stood General-feldmarschall KRITEL, then Generaloberst JODL, then General WARLIMONT, then the deputy Chief of the Armed Forces Operations Staff, and then, I believe, two more of the FUEHRER's Adjutants. As always, the conference on the situation began with an address by the Chief of the General Staff - in this particular instance the Chief of the Operations Section, General HEUSINGER was there to give the address - it varied. Oberst Graf STAUFFENBERG was to deal with the question of reserves for the Eastern divisions - that fell within the frame-work of General HEUSINGER's report. I believe General HEUSINGER wanted to speak on that point and so Oberst STAUFFENBERG, who worked for the Chief of the Reserve Army, was to give his report. That is to say, he was definitely ordered to attend this conference on the situation. Whilst General HEUSINGER was starting to give his address on the situation, Oberst STAUFFENBERG came into the room and put a briefcase under the table. As I heard afterwards, he said to Oberst BRANDT: "Keep an eye on the briefcase, there are secret papers in it." - and then, as it wasn't yet his turn to speak, went out again, saying he had to telephone. General HEUSINGER went on with his address and then about eight minutes after STAUFFENBERG had left the room the bomb went off. There must have been a pretty explosive charge in it, which in my opinion would have proved fatal to everyone in the room, if the explosion had occurred inside a concrete shelter. But it was in this case a hut, which was only made splinterproof, that is, it had slightly reinforced walls, and there was a space above the ceiling and below the floor, also a window, so that the blast had room to spread. All the same, the effect on the one side of the conference table was pretty considerable.

The bomb was perhaps about 1½ to 2 m away from where I was, and probably no further away from the FUEHRER. The conference table - it was a very heavy one - didn't have legs, but a partition underneath, and the briefcase containing the bomb was probably standing on the far side of the partition, so that the chief effect was felt on the far side of the partition, and above all,

ASSMANN:
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the flame caused by the explosion was somewhat screened off from where General HEUSINGER was standing and from where the FUEHRER was, and also from those gentlemen standing on the left of the FUEHRER, whereas we, who were standing in the corner here, were considerably affected. The stenographer had both legs blown off immediately. Oberst BRANDT received very severe injuries; one of his legs was immediately amputated, but it didn't help. General KORTEN, with whom I lay in the same room, died as a result of severe burns and also because his heart couldn't stand it. General SCHMUNDT also died later as a result of very severe burns and above all because his circulation no longer worked properly. Both my legs were very badly burned and both my hands; moreover I was hit by a splinter here and probably by the table too, at all events, my hands was bent over here, with the result that three bones were broken. Most of us hobbled out or jumped out of the window; at any rate, that's what happened to me: when I regained consciousness I found myself in this completely smashed-up room. Someone was screaming terribly, then someone shouted: "There's a fire" and I said to myself: "Get out of the room at all costs". I jumped out of the window and hobbled a little further away, but I saw how some of the other gentlemen were being carried out and how some were coming out of the building on their own. I was then picked up by a small car and driven to the hospital, where I was operated on and bandaged in the afternoon or the evening. Those were my experiences.

BAO: You didn't see HITLER afterwards?

ASSMANN: No, I didn't see him again until he visited us twice in hospital.

BAO: You didn't see anything of the others either?

ASSMANN: No.

BAO: That was in the conference shelter?

ASSMANN: I believe it was called the guest shelter; it had guests rooms for the 'Feldmarschalle' and Commanders of 'Heeresgruppen' who happened to come over, and there was a biggish conference room too. The FUEHRER himself had his shelter in a different building, but I believe it was just being reinforced at the time, so that we couldn't work there. For that reason we went for once into the other room. It transpired later that the attempt was intended for a week later, or rather earlier, on the 15th July in BERCHTESGADEN, but for reasons unknown to me it wasn't carried out.