

REF 51.01  
(Duplicate)

~~E.O.U.~~  
~~107~~

C O N F I D E N T I A L

U. S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY

AFO 413

Interview No. 11

Subject: Reichsminister ALBERT SPEER

Interviewed by: U.S.S.B.S. Personnel

Dates of Interview:

15 May 1945	Initial Interview
17 May "	Detailed Interrogation
18 May "	" "
19 May "	" "
20 May "	" "
21 May "	" "
22 May "	" "

Published: 31 May 1945

COPY NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

C O N F I D E N T I A L

CONFIDENTIAL

15 May 1945

Initial Interrogation of ALBERT SPEER

1. Albert SPEER was today interrogated by Lt. SKLARZ and Sgt. FASSBERG at Schloss Gluecksburg (Schleswig-Holstein). Interrogation and investigation of SPEER's personal records started at 1330 hours, and was concluded at 1645 hours. SPEER showed himself extremely cooperative. He is without a doubt a man of very unusual ability and has a complete picture of the German war effort. His memory, especially in regard to questions of armament production, both technical and economic, is astounding. He shows great pride in the results achieved by German production while under his control. He has been associated with the party for the past twelve years and made a definite statement to that effect. He did not at any time criticize leading personalities of the regime, nor was any attempt made by the interrogators to elicit such remarks from him. Further detailed interrogation of SPEER has been tentatively scheduled for tomorrow at which time his personal reports to HITLER will be examined.

2. Location of further records and key personnel.

According to SPEER valuable information should be found at Hamburg. As of April 15, 1945 Dr. HETTLAGE was set up at the Commerzbank there, of which he is a director. According to SPEER the proceedings of Zentrale Planung, recorded in shorthand are available at the Commerzbank through HETTLAGE. SPEER claims though that these records will be disappointing to us since Zentrale Planung did not play a great part in the production program. HETTLAGE himself however should be very useful on account of his unusual memory for figures, SPEER asserted. There should also be a good source of information in the files of Ruestungskintor, also last located at Hamburg. Also accessible at the same location should be BOSCH of the Planungsamt, as well as SPEER's Zentralamt which has or had a register containing all evacuation addresses of the ministry. - SPEER suggested that both Generalfeldmarschall MILCH (a close personal friend of SPEER) and SCHULZE'FIELITZ of Amt Energie were or are in the vicinity of Flensburg but gave no definite address. We will check this situation tomorrow if possible. STOBBE DETHLEFSEN (former chief of Amt Bau-O.T.) is thought by SPEER to be in Dortmund at the Dortmunder Union steel corporation. His information concerning Amt Bau-O.T. will be more complete than DORSCH's (present chief of Amt Bau). The Technisches Amt was last reported to SPEER as located in a train in a tunnel near Goehlen (?) near Salzburg, Austria.

3. SPEER's critique of strategic bombing.

Asked about his opinion on Allied target selection, SPEER stated that in general the right targets had been selected. The final decision was due in great part to the elimination of German synthetic oil production. Oil and high grade steel were the two focal points of all war production. Steel however was at no time decisively affected by strategic bombing. The bombing of the ball bearing industry did not bring about a decisive set-back although the reserves of the industry shortly after the bombings were sufficient for only five days of production.

-1-

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

The crisis was however overcome by redesigning motors and engines speedily and thereby affecting a saving up to 30% of bearings per unit. - Our continuous bombing of aircraft assembly and other dispersed plants was not considered of decisive effect by SPEER. He compared German war production to a stream. Instead of bombing the source (steel) we chose to concentrate on the mouth. This could not decisively alter the course of the stream.

4. Collaboration between SPEER and the armed services.

Asked about armament production decisions and thereby touching on the whole complex of questions about coordination of SP EER's machine and the tactical plans of the armed services, SPEER gave the following picture:

Extremely smooth cooperation between SPEER and the chiefs of the armed services was maintained throughout the war. The services never interfered with SPEER's planning and accepted his decisions without criticizing them. SPEER claimed that until summer 1944 he was always able to give the three services rather accurate indications about armament deliveries for six months in advance. The services were therefore able to plan all operations in the field without having to make emergency demands on SPEER. He claimed that he was never consulted about any tactical matters and that even for RUNDSTEDT's winter offensive no special demands were put to him.

5. Although a very wide range of questions of vital interest to the Survey was touched in the initial interrogation of SPEER, the undersigned considered it his duty to limit these questions to a mere probing for information, in order to gain a clear picture of the main issues that will now have to be developed step by step. It is therefore not possible at this early date to report about any detailed matters like organisation of the ministry, as well as the situation in each phase of the German war effort. All these issues can and will now be discussed separately with SPEER.