

TOP SECRET

May 29, 1945.

No. 436.

Subject: Interrogation of German Air Force General  
Bodenschatz.

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The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

As of particular interest to the Department I have the honor to enclose a copy of an interrogation report on the German Air Force General Bodenschatz. The reported conversations took place on May 15 and 16 and were conducted by an officer of the Royal Air Force. It will be recalled that General Bodenschatz was for many years Goering's personal assistant and aided him in developing the Four Year Plan and building up the German Air Force.

Bodenschatz gives a vivid account of the attempt on Hitler's life of last July 20. Presumably because he himself was injured, Bodenschatz considers von Stauffenberg a murderer, particularly since the latter fled from the scene of the explosion. In the view of Bodenschatz, Goering never wanted war and preached pacifism to a group of "influential English industrialists" who visited him in 1936. Especially noteworthy is Bodenschatz's statement that American day bombing was far more accurate than the British night attacks and was acknowledged to be such by the mass of the German population who, he claims, bore the Americans little resentment. Bodenschatz reports that Hitler won his early successes against the bitter opposition of the "incompetent" generals and that Hitler only erred once, in the case of the attack on Russia.

Since this report was received from a British military source, it is requested that discreet use be made of the information in the form in which it is presented.

Respectfully yours,

Donald R. Heath  
Charge d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure:  
Copy of interrogation  
report.

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JDS/gp

To Department in triplicate. - CB Riddleberger.

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