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GENERAL FRIEDRICK VON BOETTICHER

General Boetticher was appointed German Military Attache at Washington by President von Hindenburg in the fall of 1932. He filled that post until war was declared between the United States and Germany. When he returned to Germany in 1942, he was assigned to the General Staff where he checked on foreign newspapers and radio broadcasts. He feared that the war between the United States and Germany was coming, especially after President Roosevelt's statement concerning the keeping open of sea lanes and the landing of United States forces in Iceland.

All his reports to Germany went through the Ambassador under whom he worked. He tried to make it clear to the General Staff that the United States was ready to prepare for war and that it was only a matter of time (which he estimated at two years) before the United States could mobilize its great industrial resources for full mass production of armaments. In his last telegraphic report before Pearl Harbor, Boetticher reported that the United States was in a position to produce at least 500 heavy bombers per month and that the goal of 1,000 per month might be reached. He was certain that the goal would be reached within from one to two years. He knew the spirit of the United States Army and National Guard and believed that there were no better soldiers anywhere.

Pearl Harbor was a great surprise to him. While interned at Hot Springs with the Japanese he gathered that the Japanese emissaries Kurusu and Namura were also surprised by Pearl Harbor. He believed that Germany had lost the war when the British Army escaped at Dunkirk and he was profoundly shocked by the German attack on Russia.

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