

C O P Y

Report of Interrogation: # 5803 of

3 October 1945
I/O: Capt. HALLE

P/W : KESSLER, Ulrich
Rank: General der Flieger (Lt Gen)
Unit : Kampfgeschwader I Hindenburg
Capt'd: 15 May 1945

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Veracity: Believed reliable

Report: Notes on Generalfeldmarschal MILCH

Evidence points to the definite possibility that Goering was under some kind of pressure from Milch, a former director of the "Deutsche Lufthansa", who was made under-secretary of air; he held this position until late in 1944.

Milch was a man of dubious character. Captain Koehl, holder of the "Pour le Merite" and the first pilot to fly the Atlantic from East to West, in 1928, over the opposition of Milch, maintained that Milch had given free passages on the Lufthansa in equal amounts to Hitler and Thaelmann and that he might be a member of both the Communist and Nazi Parties. Goering's nephew and aide, Major Fritz Goering, has stated that his uncle had no liking for Milch; but then Goering is known to have intervened on Milch's behalf with the "Schwarze Korps", the organ of the SS, in 1933. At that time Milch was accused of having a Jewish father; Milch - it was said - handled this problem by having his mother sign an affidavit that his father had not been her husband but another, Aryan man

Milch is generally described as shrewd and slick, an unprincipled, dangerous man. During the first years Milch had control of all the Luftwaffe; later on, when the General Staff was placed directly under Goering, Milch was to be superintendent of the Air Ministry, i.e. Technical development and construction, Personnel, Administration; at the same time he was made "Generalinspekteur der Luftwaffe"; in this capacity he had every possibility to interfere with the problems of the General Staff. Further more he tried to use his influence by shifting officers to posts such as Chief of General Staff who had formerly been his aides; Jeschonnek, Kortzen, Kreipe, all three were "Milchkinder" ... It is significant however that Jeschonnek, when he committed suicide in 1943, forbade, that Milch should attend his funeral.

Milch's principal interests were with the Technical Department. Here he interfered to such a degree that he must be regarded as its de facto leader, - especially after he had succeeded in supplanting Wimmer by Udet. At the same time Milch expelled every single officer from the technical department leaving the whole business of research, development and construction only to the engineers without any military supervision or coordination besides that of Udet and his Chief of Staff Colonel Ploch. It is hard to imagine that Milch, clever as he was, should not have realized that Udet was absolutely incapable of being Chief of the technical Department (and later on "Generalluftzeugmeister" combining technical development, research and construction with the technical supply service) - and that the expulsion of

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the officers from the technical department must prove a catastrophe. It is equally hard to imagine that Milch, who after Udet's suicide in 1941 was in immediate charge of the Technical Dept. should not have "been able to stop the technical decline and chaos in the Luftwaffe. That is why rumor said that Milch had "been "bribed "by the Allies to s»"bote,»e the industrial efficiency of the Luftwaffe. P/W is averse to such an imputation; nevertheless P/W can't help "but find it the only satisfactory answer to a puzzle that would otherwiee prove insoluble.

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