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Mondorf les Bains. I-III.

Mann, Erika

Mondorf les Bains, 1945-08-11

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Early this morning the "big 52", held at Mondorf les Bains for investigation and possible trial ~~before~~ before the Inter-Allied Tribunal at ~~Nm~~ Nurnberg, have been told about the Japanese surrender offer.

This was the first paragraph of the announcement read to them:
"In the wake of the Russian declaration of war and the dropping of the second atomic bomb, ~~this time on~~ , the Japanese have asked for peace and outlined an agreement accepting the potsdam terms with ~~no exceptions that the Emperor be~~ the understanding that the Emperor be unharmed and left ~~at~~ the head of a sovereign state".

Here are some of their reactions: *discussed exclusively to this reporter.*

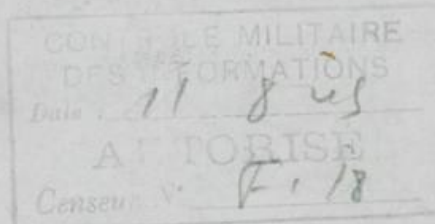
Jodl: "America will give them that condition; it will save a hundred thousand lives. It is the bomb that did it".

Seyss Inquart: "It will be a very good thing to let them keep their Emperor, otherwise they will go Communist".

Keitel: "I told Captain Hamilton 3 days ago that the atomic bomb would end the war in a matter of days. It is enormous, the effects of that weapon".

Goering and Keitel talked ~~simultaneously~~ simultaneously; their duet ran as follows: "And Russia, she will take Manchuria, Formosa and the Jap Aleutians without even having risked a man. What a strange stroke of luck she has".

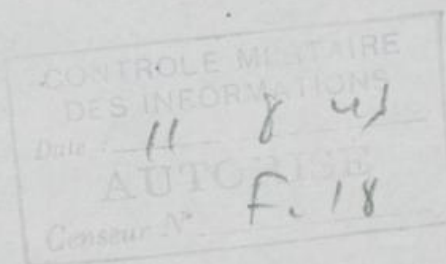
Goering went on: "That bomb, it is wonderful. By now, we would have ours perfected too but America would have been able to defeat us anyway."



Ribbentrop: "What a master stroke. That is wonderful. Now there can be real world peace forever, ~~accept at once~~ ^{accept at once}, Let them keep their Emperor. This bomb and its terrible power, will end war forever. Nobody will ever want war again. I believe destiny gave that ^{atomic} ~~automatic~~ bomb to the world to end war forever. That is wonderful news". Thus spoke Ribbentrop, pacifist and humanitarian.

As for Hans Frank, the Butcher of Poland, he had this to say: "And to think that we declared war on this America! What a foolish poor people we were".

More to follow.....



ERIKA MANN
EVENING STANDARD LONDON
HYDE

Mondorf Les Bains, August 11th.

Today at Mondorf Les Bains the "big 52" were swamped with alarming news. Early in the morning they learned about the Japanese surrender offer - as reported exclusively by this correspondent. Shortly afterwards they were ordered to pack their meager belongings. Their stay at the once swanky Palace Hotel had come to a sudden end.

The first bunch to ^{appear} be ~~tried~~ before the inter-allied tribunal at Nuernberg - a select group of 15 - are about to be taken to their final destination. They are - in alphabetical order :
Walter Buch (supreme judge of the Nazi party court); Leonard Conti (Commissioner of Health and Public Safety in the Ministry of the Interior; supposedly responsible for millions of scientific killings); Kurt Daluge (former Gestapo plenipotentiary in Czechoslovakia); Hans Frank (butcher of Poland); Wilhelm ~~Himmler~~ Frick (Himmler's predecessor as Minister of the Interior); Hermann Goering (whose name speaks against itself); Alfred Jodl General; (co-signator with the late Admiral F. ~~F~~iedeborg of the Reims surrender); Wilhelm Keitel (Fieldmarshall; Chief of Staff; main signator of the Berlin surrender); Hans ~~Heinrich~~ Lammers (~~Chief~~ of the Reichs ~~Chancellery~~ Chancellery); Robert Ley (Chief of the Nazi Labour Front); Franz von Papen (diplomatic plotter number one; former Ambassador to Turkey); Joachim von Ribbentrop (Foreign Minister); Alfred Rosenberg (Hitler's pet philosopher; Reichs Minister for the East); Arthur Seyss- Inquart (Austria's leading quisling; gauleiter of Holland); Julius ~~Streicher~~

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Streicher (Jew baiter; editor of Der Stuermer) .

While the Nuernberg arena is waiting for these chosen few, another place is being prepared for the rest of the Mondorf supermen. They will be sent to Dulag Luft, the famously infamous ~~Wbhhhh~~ former Nazi interrogation camp near Wiesbaden. Here captured allied airmen underwent psychological torture - not comparable to anything offered at Dachau or Buchenwald, but torture just the same. For example: heat was turned on to a temperature which made the ~~phhhhh~~ prisoners think that they were being suffocated; suggestions by the guards confirmed them in this belief and interrogators were sent in at the right moment to find possible converts among the "won't talk" prisoners.

It was an eerie experience to visit the spectacular inmates of the ~~Wbhhhh~~ "big house". (My family, including myself have been high on the "traitors-to-the-Third Reich" list since 1933) . According to plan - along with a few million other items in the liquidation books compiled by the nervous men of Mondorf in better days - I should have been executed the moment ~~h~~ I set foot on German soil.

The men looked at me in silence. There are no more press conferences; prisoners proved only too anxious to ~~phh~~ plead their case without a jury for publication. Nor are there any interviews. I was told that I was the first woman to tour the Mondorf redoubt. Goering ~~Wbhhhh~~ studied me curiously. He had converted our modest summer house at Nidden on the Baltic Sea into a stately hunting lodge. Before his occupancy this region was a deer reserve.

I found the ex Reich Marshall in bed. For some time now, the man who wanted to be called "Meyer" if Allied bombers ever penetrated to Berlin has been having breakfast in bed. ^{big room} ~~Major Miller~~ ^{Captain Clinton L. Miller,} the American "Big House" physician, says "Meyer's" heart isthe creator of the blitz, (German for lightning) recently had a heart attack after a mild thunder-
^{this} storm in ~~the~~ enchanted little spa.

It was not serious; in fact, medical officers agree that Goering is in better physical shape than he has been for years. A morphine addict at 23, ^{having been} ~~after being~~ wounded in the Munich Beer Hall putsch, ^{because} he switched to paracodeine--relatively mild and taken by mouth rather than injection--when morphinism threatened his political future. This was not all his own work; a sanatorium cure accomplished the watering down process. However, when captured, he had a reserve stock of between 4000 and 5000 paracodeine pills and said that his daily ration was 200. (Roughly equivalent to to 33 grains of morphine per day).

Doc Miller, taking the air marshall's Luftwaffe figures into consideration, started him off on 40 a day. On Aug. 8th, he was down to 6, August 9th, to 4, today--none. Goering faces his trial a sober and healthy man, at least physically. Major Kelly, the first psychiatrist to examine the Mondorf prisoners, says Goering is an acute Narcissus. His guards just say they knew ~~know~~ anyone who talked so enthusiastically about himself so often.

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Interrogators found Goering startled about my visit; had he been in charge of the "Mann" case, he would have handled it differently; surely, a German of the stature of Thomas Mann could have been adapted to the 3rd Reich. (By common assent, we were not in Germany to be "adapted" after Hitler's ascent to power. ^{In the early days, my} ~~My~~ father was invited to return on several occasions by ^{one} ~~the~~ ^{the "Palace"} ~~the~~ who is not at ~~London~~ ^{London}: Dr. Goebbels).

In the barber shop were Rosenberg, Streicher and Ley. It was an odd sensation to come face to face with the men at Mondorf; they had ~~represented~~ ^{turned} our ~~house~~ ^{house} in Munich and converted it into a home for illegitimate children; they had stolen ~~my father's~~ my father's Nobel prize and burned his books and manuscripts; one by one, we were ex-communicated by these same men and those who are dead or missing. The comments of the ~~barber shop~~ trio when they heard my identity were as follows: Ley shouted: "Assed!", Rosenberg muttered: "Phooey Diab!e!" and Ley/lamented: "Du Lieber Gott!, and to think that ^{that woman} "she" has been in my room".

Herr Frank, former Munich lawyer, ~~accused~~ ^{credited} with the murder of millions of Poles and Jews, and von Ribbentrop are roommates. This is a recent arrangement. Frank arrived at Mondorf a dying ~~man~~ ^{four} man with/major wounds, all self-inflicted. ~~Maxxxxxxxxxx~~ When about to be arrested at Tegernsee, Bavaria, he ~~had~~ cut his throat, opened the veins in his left arm, ~~and~~ sliced his left wrist and rammed a knife into his stomach. Herr Frank still lived. He was also converted--with no pressure--and ~~was~~ ^{is now} convinced ~~himself~~ that he really is a criminal, not because of what he did to others but because of what he did to himself. Army doctors have saved ~~him~~ ^{his life if not his left arm}, outside of a crippled ~~arm~~ ^{Personal experience and the moral aversion he} yond repair. ~~seems~~ ^{seems} ~~and Herr Frank is grateful. His new found moral aversion and experience~~ derived from it have made him allergic to suicides. ~~have made him an expert on potential suicides~~ Frank decided that Ribbentrop was a candidate. ~~One of the hardest jobs for the authorities at Mondorf is~~ ^{certain} to keep the prisoners from ^{attempting to} committing suicide. ~~For the good influence the~~ ~~convert could have~~ Their windowpanes are of plexiglass; they have ~~neither~~ no belts, braces or neckties; spoons are the only eating utensils and eye glasses must be deposited in the living room where there is constant supervision. ~~For the good influence Frank might have on Ribbentrop/~~ ^{the convert} ~~he~~ was allowed ~~to~~ to move in with the suspect.

When I visited yesterday, the Butcher of Poland was reading was reading the bible to the ex-champagne salesman.

Down the hall was Von Krosig Schwerin, "Fuehrer" Doenitz' Foreign Minister, who recently enchanted the other inmates by a lecture on Shakespeare. Educationally minded Doctor Frick, candidly assures interrogators that German youth will never forswear Nazism, while Ley insists that ~~future~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ Mondorf will become a shrine for future German generations. All ~~believe~~ ^{avow} that Hitler is dead and that he died a martyr's death.

~~XXXXXX~~.....

More for monday

Erika Mann
EVENING STANDARD LONDON
Hyde

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The first top ranking Nazis to appear before the inter-allied tribunal ~~will find~~ will find life even less comfortable in Nuernberg than it was up to now. While the ~~former~~ former Palace Hotel in Mondorf-Les Bains ~~has no mean~~ ^{has no mean} ~~resembles~~ a prison, it was still a far cry from the city jail at Nuernberg - an ordinary jail. The prisoners will now live in cells. There will be no ~~any~~ reading room, no ~~garden and no terrace~~ ^{on which} garden and no terrace to take sun-baths. For the rest, however, life will be much the same as at Mondorf, where there was no mollycoddling of nay of the inmates.

In their new surroundings the prisoners will be guarded and commanded by the same men who ran the show in Luxembourg. Both, Colonel Burton C. Andrus, ~~an~~ Combat C.O., who arrived in Britain as an ^{early} observer in 1941 to study modern air-ground cooperation and Lieutenant Colonel Richard Owen, commander of the 391 st American ack-ack battalion, which furnished the staff and guards for the Mondorf incarceration, are masters of the only language understood by their prisoners: the language of stern, indisputable authority.

"At first", I was told by Colonel Andrus, "these birds suffered from all kinds of hallucinations. One claimed to be a Regent of something or other. As such, prisoner Horthy felt intitled to wear a necktie. I told him that he was nothing of the kind and that he had to obey as everyone else."

By now they all are thoroughly obedient.

Recently the two Colonels walked across the terrace, where ~~Heinrich~~ Goering was sunning himself, while Keitel sat on the floor bent

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just to be outstandingly dressed.
meals, ~~the prisoners were given a special menu~~
~~which was very good~~ This request was not considered excessive.

Neither Colonel ~~Hahn~~ Andrus nor Lieutenant Colonel Owen has ever spoken a private word to any of the ^{prisoners} ~~prisoners~~. Only the interrogators, whose job it is, ^{have any desire} ~~to~~ ^{to} converse with ~~the prisoners~~ ^{them}, ~~have any desire to do so~~. Orders are transmitted by a captured German waiter, who was appointed foreman at Mondorf and is the voice of American authority here. ~~Hahn~~ Heinz Loeseken ~~Hahn~~ was made a trusty for good reasons; he ardently despises those he serves, as does every one of the PW staff (cleaners, etc.), allowed to come in contact with the inmates. They all have friends ^{or} ~~or~~ relatives dead at the hands of these men.

Most ticklish task faced by Colonel Andrus during his Mondorf term was when 150 deported Luxemburgers returned from liberated Dachau in a critical state of health and were quartered within a stone's throw of the authors of their misery.

"The last thing I wanted", said the Colonel, "was a necktie ~~at~~ party, which might have forced me to hurt our friends to protect our prisoners."

Rioting was averted at the last moment by Prince Felix of Luxembourg, who rushed to the scene and restrained his people.

Guarding and delivering the most notorious group of prisoners ever held in any one prison has been no mean job. Mondorf was an efficiently and intelligently managed establishment. Even its inmates - connoisseurs of disciplinary establishments - think so. Nuernberg will be equally well run. Precautions ^{have} been taken to protect the city jail against any liberation attempt which 10 000 SS men, imprisoned nearby, might long to make.