

Goering Hid War Planning Behind Disarmament Talk

THIS is the first of several articles based on Field Marshal Goering's personal notebook, a thick leather-bound volume which has been found among his personal possessions. The notes are in Goering's handwriting, sometimes in red crayon pencil, sometimes in green.

His writing becomes more slowly as the years pass. Occasionally he appears to pull himself together and write more clearly, but then, as he comes toward the bottom of a page it deteriorates into a scrawl.

In an A. B. C. section at the back of the book, Goering, in the early days, made a brief entry to remind him of the rank of the people named in his notes. But he soon neglected that.

The volume, bearing on its cover in gilt letters the word "Besprechungen" (Conferences) covers the period from July, 1938 (some two months before Munich) to August, 1942 (when the first cracks in the Luftwaffe became obvious to the world and Germany was fast smothering after R. A. F.'s first thousand-bomber raids).

Field Marshal Goering reveals himself in his private notebook as a man who talked of peace and good fellowship while preparing excitedly and officially for war. Behind his pose as a bluff and hearty huntsman he hid a scheming brain that concerned itself with all problems affecting Germany's welfare as a war-making nation.

He was high up in the intrigue to the Munich agreement. Yet his notes show that he knew Germany could not press matters to a fight at that time.

He recognized Germany's obligations under the non-intervention agreement in the Spanish civil war; yet he sets out his plans to dodge them and to assist Franco. He plotted to get details for a pact with Britain, the plane, the Hurricane, and might have succeeded had not British negotiations to allow its manufacture in Yugoslavia broken down.

The first entry in his book is about a conference with Col. Moja of the German Air Ministry on July 11, 1938. At that time Goering was busy propagating to the outside world his supposed desire for a pact with Britain for disarmament in the air. But his talk with Moja was concerned with all possible steps to get his aircraft factories into full production, with all the skilled and unskilled workers he could gather.

COMPULSORY LABOR LAW
A fortnight earlier he had issued a decree under which every employable German man and woman became liable for compulsory labor. They were to be directed into any task required as of vital importance to the state. He was dissatisfied with the way the compulsory labor law was working—at least so far as aircraft production was concerned.

His notes of the talk with Col. Moja say: "Mobilization of aircraft factories. Emphasis on man power problems."

"Shortcomings in this matter at present due to the question of who is competent."

"Labor office has not yet brought in the women."

"Individual mobilization of all armament workers for aircraft factories. It must be established from what sources man power needs are immediately available. Here individual registration is difficult, also with women. Training of juveniles in aircraft armament factories, as well as training of unskilled workers into specialists."

"Shortage of highly qualified specialists (about two to three thousand new in labor service. Here has so far declined release)."

HEADED LABOR SERVICE

Hierl, who is mentioned as obstructing Goering's wishes, was Konstantin Hierl, chief of the National Labor Service in 1938, and a Nazi cabinet minister. He survived Goering's irritation and as late as February, this year, was awarded the Gold Cross and Oak Leaves, the highest Nazi honor. Throughout the war he was in control of all German and foreign workers inside Germany, and was responsible for their distribution.

After Moja, on the same day, Goering had a further conference with a building contractor named Walther. Air war preparations were still the main topic and the brief notes on this talk are self-explanatory. "Proposals regarding use of Reichs Autobahnen for aircraft hangars—shelters, a new construction of air raid cellars and underground workshops."

But Goering had many other interests. On July 15 he received Herr von Neuhausen, an aristocratic Nazi agent who worked hard in Yugoslavia and other south-east European countries to further German designs. They reveal themselves as plotting to isolate Czechoslovakia (this was about ten weeks before Munich) and to undermine British influence there.

THEIR PLANS FOR YUGOSLAVIA

They planned to flatter and mobilize German's friends in Yugoslavia. One of these was Premier Stoyadinovich—everthwart when the Germans marched into Yugoslavia in March, 1941—and later caught by the British and interned. Another was Neditch, at this time chief of the Yugoslav general staff. Later, War Minister, and then Yugoslav Premier, he was under German occupation.

Goering disapproved of the War Minister of the moment, Gen. Mladich, because of his "close links" with the Czechs. Alfred Rosenberg, race theory expert, was to be Belgrade, presumably to open up a campaign of "cultural penetration." There was to be a powerful effort to secure the minds of Yugoslavia's ministers.

Here are Goering's written comments: "Visit Prince Paul in Munich, Date 19-21 or 28, August to 30 September. Present (possibly sent) for Stoyadinovich on fiftieth birthday. Work in France and Prague with money for the press there."

NOTE ON BRITISH PLANE

"English offer Hurricane with license."

"English offer Czechoslovakia. Pressure to remove England's influences."

"War Minister close links with Czechoslovakia. Neditch very satisfactory."

"Preparing for Rosenberg's visit to Belgrade."

"Negotiations about taking over of harvest surplus, plus favorable. Also about agreement on joint opening of one mine."

"Huge copper deposits in Bor in French hands."

"English own important zinc deposits."

"Antimony deposits belong to Germany, should cover all our needs. Neuhausen charged with conduct of negotiations."

"German banks working against each other in Belgrade. Action necessary."

The last remark shows that Germany's economic organization was not so well co-ordinated as might have been expected. Presumably, Goering took steps to remedy that.

INTERESTED IN HURRICANE

His reference to "English offer of Hurricane, with license" shows his keen interest, even at that time in the planes that would be the battle of Britain.

Inquiries in London now reveal that twelve Hurri-

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Livest Newspaper In The Carolinas

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Chinese Capture Indo-China Gate

Japs Retreat From Border In Confusion

Clear Southwest Kwangsi Area

By SPENCER MOOSA

CHUNGKING—(AP)—The Chinese High Command announced today that Chinese forces had captured South Guo Pass (Chennakwan) on the border between China and French Indo-China and said the Japanese were retreating in confusion toward Dong Dang, south of the frontier.

With the capture of the pass, the Chinese said, the whole of southwestern Kwangsi Province has been cleared of the enemy. The High Command said Chinese forces were still fighting from the south, but that the Japanese had retreated toward Dong Dang, 24 miles north of the border. The Chinese said the Japanese had retreated in confusion, and that the Chinese had captured the pass.

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Fate Of Journalist Disclosed

AP War Correspondent Joe Morton Met Death From Nazi Executioners

By LYNN HEINZELING

LINZ, Austria, July 7—Delayed by Czechoslovakian-German officials now in custody says Joseph Morton, Associated Press war correspondent who was captured after he flew into Slovakia during a Czechoslovakian uprising, was executed in the Mauthausen concentration camp Jan. 24 on orders from Heinrich Himmler's staff in Berlin.

Morton, 34, an imaginative and energetic correspondent who came out of Romania with the first interview of King Mihail after Romania's peace last year, was captured near Plonka in Slovakia the day after last Christmas.

He was taken to Bratislava and arrived in Mauthausen, 15 miles east of this city, early in January.

Many other Americans and few Britons—all members of a group which flew into Slovakia in October to help bring out American fliers stranded there—were shot to death with Morton and his comrades were cremated according to these witnesses.

THOUSANDS EXECUTED

Mauthausen is rated fifth in the list of major Nazi extermination camps. Thousands of men and women were executed there, or allowed to starve to death.

The commander of the camp, Standartenfuhrer Franz Ziereis, a SS-Elite Guards officer who attended all the executions, was shot while trying to escape another day.

Troops Move Rapidly

Headed For Ratification

Stettinius Gives Boost As Charter Journey Started

By JACK BELL

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Edward R. Stettinius Jr., told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today that the United Nations Charter offers "a truly effective instrument for lasting peace."

The silver-haired former Secretary of State testified as the first witness as the 50-nation agreement reached at San Francisco started officially through the Senate amid indications it may be ratified without amendment or reservation.

The historic session got underway four minutes late. Chairman Connally, Democrat, Texas, presided over the hearing.

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U. S. Warships Help

Aussies Advance On Borneo Fronts

By HAMILTON W. FARON

MANILA—(AP)—Closely supported by American warships and aircraft, Australian jungle veterans advanced against sporadic Japanese resistance today on all fronts of the Southwest Borneo invasion coast around Balikpapan.

The naval units ranged the length of the coast, supporting the Australian and American Air Forces kept up a steady attack on Japanese positions, including air bases, barracks, and small coastal craft.

One column of the Aussie 7th Division, including the 1st and 2nd Divisions, moved on from Balikpapan, capturing the town of Pandan.

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