

August 1, 1945

We flew from Bremen to Frankfurt and were met at the airport by a Battalion of Paratroopers and General Eisenhower. The troops were as well drilled as any I have seen. In fact, all the troops that I have seen in Germany have been outstanding.

We drove to the Farber building which was completely untouched, though surrounded by ruins. Eisenhower talked with Forrestal for a few minutes, and it was obvious why he is an outstanding figure. He has an easy personality, immense self-assurance, and gave an excellent presentation of the situation in Germany.

He said that the situation was complicated by the fact that the Russians in the East have the major food-producing area in Germany while the British, French, and United States in the West were strong on steel, coal, iron, and the manufacturing centers but were deficient in food.

The British section was about 40 per cent self-sufficient -- we in the South were about 70 per cent self-sufficient. This economic diversification of Germany is what caused Bismark in 1870 to unite Germany into one unit, which by nature it is. The same factors are facing those people who advocate the breaking up of Germany into old principalities.

In Frankfurt deep underground in the salt mine was found nearly \$300,000,000 in gold, silver, securities, and other loot. There was gold from Hungary and France. France is claiming most of it.

From Frankfurt we flew to Salzburg, where King Leopold was detained, and drove to the town of Berchtesgarden. It is a beautiful town in the mountains - the houses are alpine in architecture, and the people are well-fed and healthy. There is no bomb damage and there is plenty of wood to take the place of coal. It is a town apart from the destruction of war. We stayed at a beautiful inn for the evening after dining with the local General at the lavishly furnished building that was formerly the headquarters of General Kietal. It was reported that there were six miles of corridors underneath the main building.

The dinner consisted of about six courses - Rhine wines and champagne. After dinner they brought out some cigars taken from Goering's armored car.

In the morning we went up to Hitler's mountain home. It was completely gutted, the result of an air attack from 12,000 pound bombs by the R.A.F. in an attempt on Hitler's life.

Leaving the chalet, we drove to the very top of the mountains (about 7,000 feet) where the famed Eagle's lair was located. The road up was covered with solid rock in many places and was cleverly camouflaged. On arrival at the top, we entered a long tunnel carved through the rocks and came to an elevator which took us up through solid rock for the last 600 feet. The elevator was a double-decker - a space being left on the lower deck for the SS guard.

The lair itself had been stripped of its rugs, pictures, and tapestries, but the view was beautiful - the living room being round and facing out on every side on the valley below.

After visiting these two places, you can easily understand how that within a few years Hitler will emerge from the hatred that surrounds him now as one of the most significant figures who ever lived.

He had boundless ambition for his country which rendered him a menace to the peace of the world, but he had a mystery about him in the way that he lived and in the manner of his death that will live and grow after him. He had in him the stuff of which legends are made.