



ANNEX NO. 2 TO  
G-2 REPORT NO. 307  
HQ 2D INF DIV

28 April 1945

EXCERPTS FROM THE REPORT OF SURRENDER OF GEN KURT DITTMAR

Concerning the overall military situation, Gen DITTMAR revealed that it is a known fact that the war for Germany had been lost some time ago. This fact, he stated, is accepted by the German General Staff as well as the public. He further revealed that he had warned the Germans of their defeat, first at STALINGRAD and more recently at the failure of the MORTAIN-AVRANCHES counter-offensive, which he claimed was the turning point for the campaign of the BRITISH and AMERICAN forces in EUROPE.

Gen DITTMAR stated that two of Germany's mistakes had been very costly. Both were made on the Russian front. The first took place in the summer of 1942 when the attack was made in the CAUCASUS, instead of building up a defense line on the EASTERN front. The second mistake was at STALINGRAD, where men and equipment were lost in large numbers in a futile attempt to obtain an objective which was not worth the price.

Gen DITTMAR commented on the German December offensive in the ARDENNES by saying that it was a "poor man's choice". He stated that the most which the offensive could hope to have achieved would have been to delay the Allied attack at the RHINE by four months. Gen DITTMAR believed that if the offensive had been better led that it would have achieved that objective. He blames SEPP DIETRICH for not properly employing the Sixth SS Panzer Army in the offensive.

Gen DITTMAR stated that HITLER is definitely in BERLIN at present, having taken over the defense command of that city. They claimed that he would die in this attempt, and with his death would fall the resistance of all Germany, with the possible exception of those SS troops loyal to HITLER, who may be located somewhere in SOUTHERN GERMANY.

Gen DITTMAR feels that there are three men in GERMANY who are capable of taking over GERMANY in the event of HITLER's death. The first man is Field Marshal VON BRAUCHITSCH. The second is GUDERIAN, and the third is VON RUNDSTEDT. Gen DITTMAR based his opinion on the ability of these men, together with their recognition by the German public. He does not feel that if any of these men took over GERMANY, that resistance would continue.

Concerning the NATIONAL REDOUBT, Gen DITTMAR stated that its existence is mainly a paper-manufactured idea, although some preparations have actually been made.

The ever-present question of "Why do the Germans carry on?" was answered with the same old alibi of German obedience to higher command and loyalty as a soldier. Asked about the future outcome of the war, Gen DITTMAR believed it was only a question of a few more days. He also believed that total collapse in NORTH GERMANY would follow swifter than that in SOUTH GERMANY. Gen DITTMAR stated that although GERMANY has lost the war, no one ever conceived that it would end in such an utter destruction and waste of human lives.

Concerning the attempt on HITLER's life on 20 July, Gen DITTMAR stated that HITLER was definitely present but by his shifting his position prior to the explosion, managed to escape death. He further stated that if this attempt had succeeded, the Wehrmacht would have gained control of GERMANY and would have surrendered to the Allies. Gen DITTMAR revealed that he was heartily in accord



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Cont'd.

with the spirit behind the attempt on HITLER's life on 20 July. However, he did not agree with the plan, and would not permit himself to be involved in the action. However, he stated that he really gave up hope for GERMANY when this attempt failed.

Gen DITTMAR's comments on high party officials revealed that HITLER is a dynamic personality who tries to run the things of most importance and the very minute details, showing little interest for the in-between matters. As an example of HITLER's concern over the most minute details, the Gen stated that if a Machine Gun bn was transferred from the EASTERN front to the WESTERN front, it had to be on an order signed by HITLER. GOERING, he stated, has lost all his prestige, and is quite ignored by the German public. GOERING is believed to be hiding in GERMANY or trying to escape. GOEBBELS, a crafty and intelligent man, and close supporter of HITLER is supposedly with HITLER at present in BERLIN. Concerning Himmler, Gen DITTMAR stated it was never a question but that HITLER was the boss and has remained so until the bitter end.

The rapid exchange in command echelons in the German Army was even a mystery to Gen DITTMAR, who stated that it took place as fast as one changed dirty shirts (a very apt expression).  
SOURCE: 30th Inf Div through VII Corps PA 117.