

OCTOBER, 26.19

A CONTRIBUTION TO THE PERSONALITY OF HITLER'S

EXTRACT OF MY STUDY = THE FUEHRER'S HEADQUARTERS = WRITTEN AND SUBMITTED TO THE U.S AUTHORITIES (G2) AT OBERURSEL IN AUGUST 45.-

IN THE FUEHRERS HQ. HITLER HIMSELF AND HE ALONE WAS THE PREDOMINATING FIGURE WHO KEPT EVERYBODY IN HIS BAN AND PROBABLY WOULD NOT HAVE PERMITTED ANYBODY TO COME CLOSE TO HIM.-

IT IS SUFFICIENT TO THINK OF THE MEN BOTH OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY STANDING, WHO SURROUNDED WILLIAM I. AT VERSAILLES OR WILLIAM II. DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR TO NOTICE ALL THE DIFFERENCES.- NO ONE IN THE SUPREME HEAD QUARTERS OF WORLD WAR NR. II COULD RATHER BE COMPARED TO BISMARCK OR MOLTKE, TO HINDBENBURG AND LUDENDORFF. SINCE IT IS HIGHLY IMPROBABLE THAT THE GERMAN PEOPLE HAD BECOME INCAPABLE OF TURNING OUT MEN OF SIMILARLY HIGH QUALITIES, IT CAN ^{BUT} BE ASSUMED THAT IT WAS THE PERSONAGE OF HITLER AND THE SYSTEM CREATED BY HIM, WHICH CUT THEM OUT OR, AT LEAST, KEPT THEM DOWN.-

AS TO HIS OWN PERSONAGE IT MUST BE EMPHASIZED, THAT HE DISPOSED OF A VAST KNOWLEDGE OF FUNDAMENTAL MILITARY FACTS IN THE FIELD OF WEAPONS, THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND THEIR PARTICULAR FEATURES OF ALL THE THREE ARMED FORCES AS WELL AS OF THE ENEMY'S SIDE. JUST AS MUCH HIS INCOMPARABLE MEMORY ENABLED HIM TO IMPRESS EVERYBODY AND OFTEN ENOUGH TO CUT SHORT ANY OTHER ARGUMENTS BY REFERRING TO FIGURES OF ANY KIND ALWAYS PRESENT TO HIM, AS FOR INSTANCE TO COMPARABLE FIGURES OF THE I. WORLD WAR CONCERNING THE LENGTH OF FRONT LINES, THE AMOUNT OF AMMUNITION, SPENT IN A CERTAIN PERIOD OF TIME, FOR A SPECIAL TASK OR WITHIN A CERTAIN SECTION, THE RATE OF PRODUCTION OF THE PRINCIPLE WAR MATERIALS,

LOSSES ETC. SIMULTANEOUSLY HE HAD BOTH HISTORICAL EXAMPLES AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AT HAND TO DEMONSTRATE HIS POINT. BESIDE THIS UNIVERSAL KNOWLEDGE, BASED ON HIS TECHNICAL AND MEMORIAL GIFTS, BY WHICH HE BY FAR SURPASSED EVERY MEMBER OF HIS STAFF AND = J SHOULD SAY= OFTEN EVEN THE RESPECTIVE SPECIALISTS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND OF THE ARMAMENT INDUSTRY, HIS INITIATIVE AND CONSCIOUS ENDEAVOUR IN STIMULATING NEW THOUGHTS, COVERED EVERY FIELD OF MILITARY ACTIVITIES.- ONE OFTEN HAD THE FEELING THAT EVERYTHING HAD ALREADY BEEN THOUGHT OF BY HITLER HIMSELF AND ^VIT WOULD BE HARDLY OF ANY USE TO LOOK FOR MORE SUGGESTIONS BY ONESELF.

^V THAT

JN ADDITION, IN THE FIRST PERIOD OF WAREARE, HE PROVED A VERY SOUND INTUITION FOR OPERATIVE AND TACTICAL QUESTIONS, WHICH HE AT FIRST UTTERED VERY CAUTIOUSLY ONLY, TAKING DUE REGARD OF THE AMBITIONS OF THE ARMY TO REMAIN IN THIS FIELD AT LEAST, AS INDIPENDENT AS IT POSSIBLY COULD. WHEN LATER ON, AT THE LATEST IN SUMMER OF 1942, HE BECAME LESS FORTUNATE IN HIS STRAGETICAL IDEAS AND THE LACKS OF HIS AUTODICTACTNESS BECAME THE MORE EVIDENT, HE HAD LONG AGO GOT ACUSTOMED TO ENFORCE HIS PERSONAL WILL ON THE ARMY WITHOUT TAKING ANY MORE REGARDS OF ITS AMBITION OR OPPOSITION.

FOR, ALL HIS GIFTS AND TALENTS ALMOST OVERPOWERING AS THEY ACTUALLY SEEMED TO BE, GOT THEIR DECISIVE SUPPLEMENT BY HIS UTTERLY STRONG WILL, WHICH WAS A PART OF HIS CHARACTER AS WELL AS OF HIS PHILOSOPHY SHAPED AFTER NIETZSCHE. WHEN HE HAD ONCE MADE UP HIS MIND, MAINLY, AS J OFTEN HEARD FROM HIM, AFTER LONG CONSIDERATIONS WITH HIMSELF, HIS RESOLUTIONS WERE UNALTERABLE AS HE USED TO SAY.

AT LAST J DO NOT WISH TO UNDERESTIMATE HIS VERBOSITY AND THE NEVER CEASING THOUGH OFTEN REPEATED STOCK OF WORDS, BY WHICH HE GRADUALLY TIRED EVERYBODY WHILE HE SEEMD JUST TO REFRESH HIM-

SELF THIS WAY.-

AFTER, UP TO 1940, HE HAD SUCCEEDED SEVERAL TIMES AS STRATEGIST, A HIGH SELF-ESTIMATION ADDED THE LAST CONTRIBUTION TO THESE GIFTS AND MADE IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO ARGUE WITH HIM WITH ANY PROSPECT OF SUCCESS.-

IN SPITE OF THE FIELD ~~GREY~~ UNIFORM, WHICH HE WORE SINCE SEPTEMBER 1939, AND IN CONTRAST ALSO TO THE SPACE OF TIME HE DAILY DEVOTED TO MILITARY AFFAIRS, HITLER SEEMED TO FEEL ALWAYS CLOSER CONNECTED TO AND TIED UP WITH THE MEN OF HIS PARTY RATHER THAN WITH THOSE OF THE ARMED FORCES.- "

2. PERSONAL NOTES :

BOASTS OF THE UTMOST RESOLUTENESS, BUT NEEDS HOURS TO MAKE UP HIS MIND WHETHER TO SHIFT A DIVISION FROM ONE AREA TO ANOTHER.- SHOWS A SURPRISING UNSTEADINESS IN A CRITICAL MILITARY SITUATION, NARVIK, APRIL -MAY 1940/.

DEMANDS THE PUREST TRUTHFULNESS FROM EVERYBODY, YET LIKES OPPORTUNISTS ONLY AND INTIMIDATES EVERY ONE WHO ENDEAVOURS TO KEEP TO THE TRUTH AND HIS CONVICTION.

DISPOSES OF GREAT TALENTS TO SHAM AND USES THEM TO DECEIVE ALSO HIS OFFICIAL COMPANY / IN ORDER TO CAMOUFLAGE HIS TRUE INTENTIONS /.

EXPECTS CONFIDENCE IN CONTRAST TO HIS EVER GROWING DISTRUST TOWARDS ALMOST EVERYBODY, ESPECIALLY THE OLDER GENERALS OF THE ARMY.-

HAS THE C.I.C. OF ARMY-GROUPS ETC. SUMMONED TO HIS HQU., OFTEN OVER A DISTANCE OF 1000 AND MORE KM., YET GIVES THEM HARDLY A HEARING WHILE HE COVERS THEM UP WITH HIS IMMODERATE VERBOSITY.

HIS OWN AUTODIDACTNESS LEADS HIM TO UNDERESTIMATE EACH SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE OR EXPERTSHIP, WHILE

HE, FOR THE SAME REASON, OVERESTIMATES THOSE QUALITIES, WHICH HE LOOKED AT AS OF A HIGH CHARACTER, NAMELY AN UNCONDITIONAL DARING AND A BULL-LIKE FEROCIOUSNESS .

SEEMS TO LOVE CHILDREN AS WELL AS DOGS AND BIRDS, BUT LOOSES GRADUALLY -AFTER A SEEMINGLY STRONG RELUCTANCE IN THE FIRST PERIOD OF WAR- ANY FEELING OF HUMAN LOSSES, APART FROM ATROCITIES OUTSIDE OF THE MILITARY FIELD.

A CERTAIN DIGNITY OF HIS ATTITUDE AT PUBLIC EVENTS- THOUGH NOT ALWAYS- IN CONTRAST TO AN OFTEN COMPLETE LACK OF CONDUCTING AND SPEAKING IN HIS CIRCLE.

COURTEOUS MANNERS TOWARDS FOREIGN DIGNITARIES AS WELL AS TO A MAN LIKE FIELDMARSHALL V. RUNDSTEDT- WHOSE PRESENCE MADE HIM FEEL SOME INFERIORITY- IN CONTRAST TO THE OFTEN MOST CONTEMPTUOUS BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS MEN SURROUNDING HIM /KEITEL/ AND HIS CREATURES-

AT TABLE HE OFTEN PERSISTS IN A GLOOMY SILENCE WHICH GIVES HIS GUESTS AN IMPRESSION OF IMPOLITENESS OR EVEN INSANITY, WHEREAS HE- AFTER HAVING FINISHED HIS MEAL- LIKES TO TAKE UP A MONOLOGUE ABOUT ONE OF HIS FAVOURED TOPICS, ESPECIALLY OUT OF THE FIRST PERIODS OF THE PARTY -

CAREFUL CLEANNESS IN HIS CLOTHES INCLUDING LINEN IN CONTRAST TO BAD PERSONAL MANNERS /NASAL-SOUNDS, FINGER-NAILS, AT TABLE /.

I CANNOT SUMMON UP MY IMPRESSIONS BECAUSE MY KNOWLEDGE OF HITLER'S IS ALMOST ENTIRELY RESTRICTED TO OBSERVATIONS IN THE DAILY REPORT ON THE SITUATION/ UP FROM 42/ AND THEREFORE RATHER ONE-SIDED AND BY FAR NOT COVERING THE WHOLE OF HIS PERSONALITY.

Marimout