

B.3.

CONFIDENTIAL

CENSORSHIP CIVIL COMMUNICATIONS

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From:- ALFRED SCHMIDT WETZLA M. 20. (15)	To:- FRAU LINA SCHMIDT LÜNEBURG/HANN. WIENEBUTTELERWEG 1. (24)
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ALLOCATION:  
EX 3.D.0.1.  
BY GEN BUREAU  
P. 000 (2)  
H/130  
I 1/3

COMMENT:

SWORN STATEMENT BY ROMMEL'S SON TO THE EFFECT THAT HIS FATHER COMMITTED SUICIDE BY ORDER OF HITLER.

Writer sends his mother a copy of a sworn statement made by MANFRED ROMMEL. Writer says he came across the declaration by accident when on a visit to WÜRTEMBERG. Other enclosures, letter to writer's son and business letters being returned to addressees of no censorship interest.

REEDLINGEN the 27th April 1945.

STATEMENT

I, MANFRED ROMMEL, born on the 24th December 1920 in STUTTGART as son of Captain ERWIN ROMMEL who, during the war (the present war) became a GENERAL FIELDMARSHAL, and his wife LUCIE-MARIA ROMMEL nee NELLIN, hereby state as follows:

My father, GENERAL FIELDMARSHAL ROMMEL did not die on the 14.10.44 of natural causes, but was put out of the way by order of the REICHS-KANZLER ADOLF HITLER in the following manner:

My father was seriously wounded in the head (fracture of the skull in four places and many splinters in the face) by the explosion of an airshell (BORDGRANATE) during an AMERICAN dive-bomber attack on the 17th July 44 at LIVOROT (CALODASO) in FRANCE. He was first treated in a hospital in PARIS and as soon as he was able to be moved he was taken by motorcar to his residence at HERRLINGEN near ULM. At that time his life was no longer in any danger. The fractures of the skull could be said to be practically mended, and he was already able to go for walks. I, myself was at that time detailed to my father from the HOME ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTERY to which I was attached as assistant (HILFER),

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to assist him (reading aloud). He was still suffering from a weakness of the left eye. The treatment was in the hands of PROFESSOR ALBRECHT and PROFESSOR STUCK, both of the university of TUBINGEN.

On the 7th October 1944 I had to go back to my battery but returned home again on the 14.10.44 on short leave. I arrived by the eight o'clock train. My father was well and we had breakfast together. I went for a walk with him until 11 o'clock, during which he told me that two ARMY GENERALS, GENERAL NAISSON and GENERAL BORGSCHEFF, both from the Army Personnel Branch, were expected to arrive. He said that he did not feel quite easy about this and wondered whether the reason given - to see him about his returning to duty - was not being used as camouflage for the purpose of eliminating him. At 12 o'clock my father received the generals. He asked me to leave the room. About three quarters of an hour later I met my father leaving my mother's room. He said that he had just said farewell to my mother and that ADOLF HITLER had given him the choice of either poisoning himself or being tried by the People's Court. He had also been informed by ADOLF HITLER that in case of suicide his family would suffer no harm - on the contrary - they would be cared for. We discovered that the house was surrounded by at least 4 or 5 motor cars. These cars appeared to be manned by armed civilians, so that our house-guard of 6 men, who only had 2 sub-machine guns at their disposal, would have been powerless.

After having bidden good-bye to me and the orderly officer, Captain ALDINGER, my father left the house wearing his uniform and leather coat with marshal's baton and cap and we accompanied him to the car, where the generals greeted him with "HEIL HITLER". We noticed that the driver was an SS man. My father entered the car first and took his seat in the back - then the generals followed. The car drove off in the direction of BLAUZUREN. 15 minutes later we had a telephone call from the reserve hospital, WAGNERSCHULE in ULM to say that my father had been handed in by the two generals and had died there, apparently of an apoplectic stroke.

During my last conversation with my father he told me the following:

He was suspected of complicity in the affair of the 20th July 1944. His former GENERALSTABSCHEF, GENERALLEUTNANT SPEIDEL, who had been arrested some weeks earlier, had testified that my father had participated in the affair of the 20th July in a leading position and had only been prevented from taking an active part in it through having been wounded. The same statement was supposed to have been made by GENERAL STULPNAGEL who,

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after having been captured by GENERAL FELDMARSHAL von  
KLUGE, had tried to shoot himself while driving in the  
direction of GERMANY, but only succeeded in losing his  
sight. The SD got hold of him and gave him a blood-  
transfusion to restore consciousness, so that he could  
make a statement. Afterwards he was hanged. In addition  
my father was said to be mentioned as prime minister in  
the list of GOEBBELS' MINISTER GOEBBELS. The FÜRER did  
not want my father to lose the regard of the GERMAN people  
and therefore gave him the choice of free death (FREITOD)  
by means of a poison tablet which was given to him en route  
by one of the generals. This caused death within 5 minutes.  
In case of his refusal he would immediately have been arrested  
and put before the People's Court in BERLIN.

My father preferred free death (FREITOD).

I hereby state under oath and before witnesses that this state-  
ment is true.

The statement has been witnessed by:

I HERR PAUL RUCK  
NOTAR and BÜRGERMEISTER  
IN GUNZWILLER ALZACINE-DEKORTE.

II HERR DIREKTOR FRITZ HEIMOS  
RIEDLINGEN  
BOFFELATE 15.

signed MANFRED ROMMEL.

For the correctness of copy  
RIEDLINGEN the 24th May 1945  
signed FISCHER  
BÜRGERMEISTER.

Copy made  
BERLIN 22nd Oct. 45  
signed STOLZ  
KRISTE DE. GENDARMERIE.

Extract of letter addressed to:

HERR WALTER SCHMIDT, LÜNEBURG,  
WIENEBÜTELWEG 1.

SUBMISSION NO: DGE/TNU/YLS/46/27

TYPING DATE: 6. Mar. 46 (lma)

written the 24th January 1946 in WETZLAR:

"The enclosure (STATEMENT) about BOMSEL may interest you and Th.O. We happened to come across this copy during our visit to NUKTENSUNG before Christmas. Now we have all been betrayed! The other day someone insisted again that FRISW had died in a concentration camp. It seems quite possible in view of all this."

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