

Adolf Hitler and The Secrets of The Holy Lance



**By
Col. Howard Buechner
And
Capt. Wilhelm Bernhart**

**ADOLF HITLER
AND
THE SECRETS
OF
THE HOLY LANCE**

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Dedication

This book was written by two men, one a sailor and one a soldier, who served on opposite sides during World War II. They were enemies then, but now are friends. Each one dedicates this book to his brave comrades-in-arms who honourably served their respective countries. To those who fell in combat and now lie in Bitburg or St. Avold or other cross marked fields, we pray that their souls rise up like birds escaped from the fowler's snare may they rest in honour and in peace.

**Whether we live or die we are the Lord's
If he who is but flesh cherishes wrath,
who will forgive his sins?
Let us not therefore Judge One another
anymore: but judge this rather, that
no man put stumbling block or an occasion
to fall in his brother's way.
*The Holy Bible New Testament***

Fallen Comrades

The heart is cold now
And the pulse beats slow
But memory ever wanders
Back amid the mournful
Shadows of the past,
And as the silent phantoms
Arise grim review,
Fast falling tears
Pay tender loving tribute
To our cherished comrades
Of the long ago.
From *One Who Wore the Gray* - By Lewes F. Levy
Yazoo Rangers
C.S.A., 1863

The Last Soldier

All soldiers are kindred and war never changes.
It is a cruel and relentless juggernaut delighting
In human misery and demanding human lives.

Let the Survivors of the causes for which hosts
of noble heroes perished. stand firmly together,
and as their ranks grow thin, 'Close to the centre'
Let them march relentlessly forward to storm the
last great fortress. over which the pale flag flies,
and before whose batteries the bravest must at
last succumb and furl their colours forever."

And when these last soldiers have fallen, let there
be no more —
"One Who Wore the Gray" (modified 1863)

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Acknowledgments

UNLIKE most other books which are compiled from many sources of information and with the help of many individuals, the key information in this book is based on the testimony of only one man (the second author). Even his name must be kept secret because "he knows too much." He was an officer aboard the German U-boat 530 which carried the Holy Lance and Hitler's other treasures to Antarctica in 1945. Because of his chance participation in this voyage and the knowledge which he acquired at that time, he became an important intermediary in all subsequent activities relating to the recovery of the lance. He also developed close personal ties to many of the individuals who were involved.

Capt. Bernhart was presented with a copy of the log of the expedition which retrieved the lance in 1979 and with certain other items from the treasure. He was allowed to hold the Holy Lance in his hand. All information in this account, which pertains to the Antarctic expeditions, and the Knights of the Holy Lance, is based on his sworn statements. Without his contributions, this book would not have been possible.

Through a series of incredible quirks of fate, the first author has been graciously selected to tell this truly riveting story.

The authors wish to thank Mr. Jost W. Schneider, respected Waffen-SS historian of Wuppertal, West Germany, for his vigorous research efforts directed at proving or disproving the events described in this book. Mr. Schneider's vast World War II files, his far-flung historical contacts and his own keen intellect were an invaluable fountainhead of information as well as a constant source of inspiration.

The help of the following individuals is also acknowledged: General Felix L. Sparks, Denver, Colorado, editorial and military advice; Ms. Gabrielle Gautreaux, Department of English, University of New Orleans, editing; Mr. Hans Georg Fütterer, Hannover, West Germany, pictorial research; Mr. Stuart Russell, Wewelsburg, West Germany, historical advice; Dr. Karl Hans Ertl, Vienna, Austria, historical advice; Mr. Rudolf Schweighofer, Vienna, Austria, translations; Dr. Edward B. Ferguson, New Orleans, Louisiana, translations; Mrs. Helen Huppertz, Am Bahnhof, West Germany, pictorial research; Professor B. Bradley West, Michigan State University, Allach porcelain research; Mrs. Rhoda A. Drummond, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, research assistance; Dr. Alfred de Zayas, Geneva, Switzerland, historical advice and Mrs. Deborah McNamara Huth, New Orleans, Louisiana, secretarial support.

Last but not least, the authors owe a debt of gratitude to Emajean Jordan Buechner, whose sound criticism and advice was a valuable contribution to this endeavour.

Foreword

**There are truly more things in Heaven and in earth than man has dreamt.
Haushofer, 1943**

THIS is the amazing story of Adolf Hitler's obsession with the Holy Lance of Longinus (the spear which shed the blood of Jesus at the crucifixion). As a young man, and throughout his rise to power, this revered symbol of Christianity served as a guide to Hitler's date with destiny. It also had an incredible impact on other powerful leaders of the Third Reich, even though they themselves disclaimed a belief in Christ. To some degree Himmler also discouraged religious affiliations in others. Quite paradoxically Hitler had a strong belief in Providence and frequently evoked the name of God the Almighty.

The spear, along with a companion sword, has influenced the course of history since the dawn of civilization, but its very existence has been virtually unknown to most Christians of the Western Hemisphere, including the clergy. Hitler first came into contact with the lance in 1907. It arose from obscurity in 1938 when it came into his possession, and it disappeared on the occasion of his death in 1945. It, along with other treasures, was hidden from the world for nearly 35 years. The Holy Lance was retrieved from an ice cave in Deutsche Antarctica on July 30, 1979 by a crack German expedition. It has been returned to Germany where it is closely guarded in an undisclosed location.

Many interests seek to possess the Holy Lance and its unbelievable power for a variety of religious and political reasons. Its location must, therefore, remain a secret. It has also been necessary to alter certain dates, places, names and circumstances in this book. Even the first author does not know the location of the lance or the true identities of those who participated in the recovery and storage of Hitler's treasures.

A GLIMPSE OF WHAT IS TO COME The Talisman, the Treasure, the Ashes and the Escape

AS the last great war in Europe was coming to an end and the Third Reich was writhing in a spasm of death, an utterly incredible mission of escape was about to begin. The date was April, 1945. The place was the harbour of Kiel, Germany. A sleek submarine, the

U-boat 530, one of Germany's finest, lay concealed in a special camouflaged berth. She was ready for a long sea voyage and only awaited her secret cargo and final instructions.

The icy fingers of fear clutched at the throats of Hitler's inner circle in his Berlin bunker, as the Allies in the west and the dreaded Russians forces from the east, drew ever closer.

The occupants of this last refuge listened in horror and in sadness as report after report indicated that their beloved Fatherland was being pounded into rubble. All hope had evaporated with the decimation of their once invincible armies. Only desperate rear guard resistance by boys and old men was now taking place. The life's blood of the third empire was seeping out.

Even Hitler began to concede that the end was near. As a last gesture of defiance, he planned to leave his enemies nothing but scorched earth. Nor would he allow his sacred talisman and his other treasures to fall into the hands of his hated foes.

He had always maintained that nothing is impossible and he would prove his point in one last victory. The final journey of the U-530 would carry his friends and his most prized possessions to a place where they would never be found, there to await the day of his return.

The captain of the U-530 received his cargo and sealed orders, saluted Hitler's special emissary and returned to his ship. Within minutes the undersea boat had slipped her moorings and was on her way. She soon disappeared beneath the dark waters of the North Sea. Her destination was many thousands of miles away, in one of the most inaccessible places on earth. Never again would the submarine return to her home waters, nor would she be seen by the eyes of other men prior to her surrender in Mar del Plata, Argentina, some 3 months later.

When the U-530 entered the harbour at Mar del Plata on July 10, 1945, the war in Europe had been over for two months. An inspection of the vessel by Allied authorities on July 17, 1945, disclosed nothing unusual, except that she carried a rather large supply of vintage brandy and cigarettes.

In the late twilight of May 1, 1945, a single engine Fieseler-Storch aircraft took off from an airfield in the vicinity of Berlin, which by some miracle was still under German control. Within minutes, the small plane emerged from the smoke and flame of the burning city and landed on shell-pocked Unter Den Linden Street amid Soviet artillery fire and dangerous rubble. Before the plane stopped rolling, the young Luftwaffe pilot made a U-turn and was already gunning his motor for take-off.

Three men emerged immediately from a nearby shelter and loaded two bronze, lead-lined boxes aboard the aircraft. One box contained a canister of ashes. Flying at tree-top level and without lights, the little plane swept over enemy occupied territory and then out across the North Sea. Her destination was Kristiansand, Norway, where she would rendezvous with the U-boat 977.



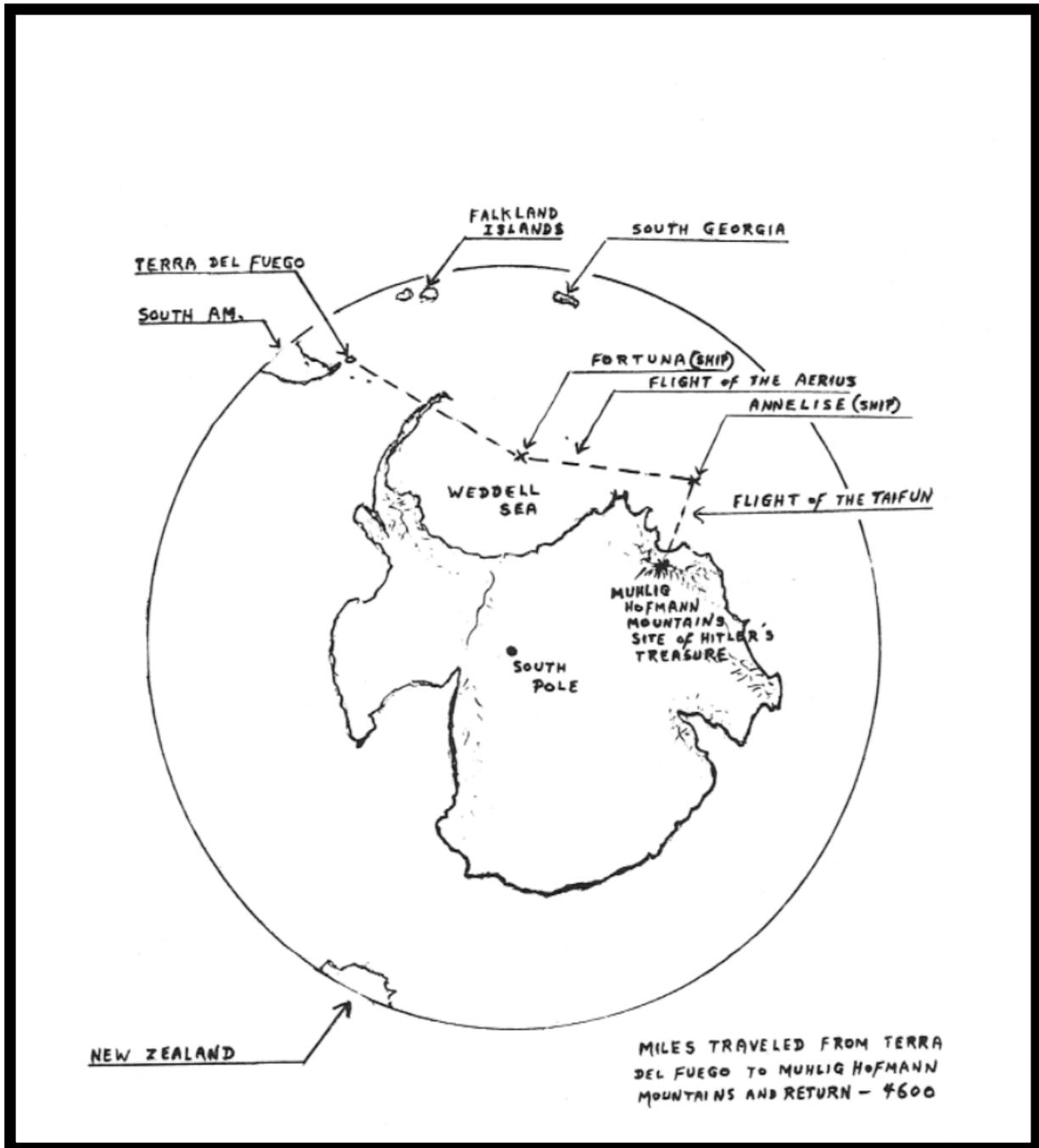


Illustration 2: Map of Antarctica showing the general location of Adolf Hitler's secret treasure and the route of the Hartmann expedition (from the collection of Capt. Wilhelm Bemhart)



Part I

Introduction to the Holy Lance of Longinus

The Declaration of Power

And the Angel Gabriel (whose name means the Power of God) said,
With God no declaration will be an impossibility.
St. Luke 1:37

The Conversion of Longinus The Spearman

Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, certainly this was a righteous man. **St. Luke 23:47**

And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent. And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept, arose. And came out of the graves after His resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. And when the centurion saw the earth quake, and those things that were done, he feared greatly, saying truly this man was the Son of God. **St. Matthew 27:51-54**

The Anatomy of the Lance

One of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side. (Saint John)

THE LANCE which the centurion used to wound the body of Christ appeared to be an ordinary weapon. In size, shape, and design, it was similar to spears which had been produced since the early days of metallurgy (Copper, Bronze, and Iron Ages) dating from 3100 B.C. The spear was known to be very old at the time of the crucifixion in 33 A.D., but no one could even guess at its actual age. Its most outstanding feature was its metallic composition. It was highly rust resistant and never seemed to become dull, no matter how frequently it was used. As a result, sharpening by filing down the metal was not required and this contributed to its unusual state of preservation.

After the lance became a holy object, it was never again used as a weapon. In order to enhance its sacred significance, a decision was made to embed the very heart of the spear with a nail taken from the cross. A metal-smith was authorized to cut away the spine of the blade in order to create a space for the nail. This, of course, destroyed the main strength of the lance, and during the cutting process or at some time thereafter, the once unbreakable metal finally gave way. The spear broke into two parts. Nonetheless, the nail was placed in the hollow which had been created and it was bound in place by four bands of highly flexible, but very strong copper wire. Two wings, or blades, were added to the base of the lance for uncertain reasons. Perhaps they were intended to increase its stability or to improve its appearance. They were also secured by three clusters of wire. Finally, a sleeve of iron, and later of silver and then gold, was prepared to fit over the lance. By this mechanism, the two broken parts were held in place.

Thus, the once simple lance of the centurion evolved into the somewhat complicated form in which it exists today. However, in spite of its altered configuration, its significance will remain unchanged forever. (See III. 2-9.)

A lance which fits the foregoing description is presently on permanent display in the Treasure Room (Schatzkammer) of the Hof-burg palace in Vienna, Austria. It measures about eighteen inches in length. The blade is approximately three inches wide and five-eighths inches thick. The edges appear to be quite sharp. It is battleship grey in colour (except for its golden sleeve) and seems to be in a remarkable state of preservation. It projects a quality of newness which belies its estimated age.

One of the most startling revelations of this book is that the Vienna lance is probably a 1938 copy of the original Lance of Longinus, fashioned from materials which were thought to date from the early Roman subjugation of Trier (58-51 B.C.). According to a brochure issued by the Kunsthistorischen Museum of Vienna the lance on display dates to the era of the Carolingian Kings of the 8th century (see pages 83, 91, 92).

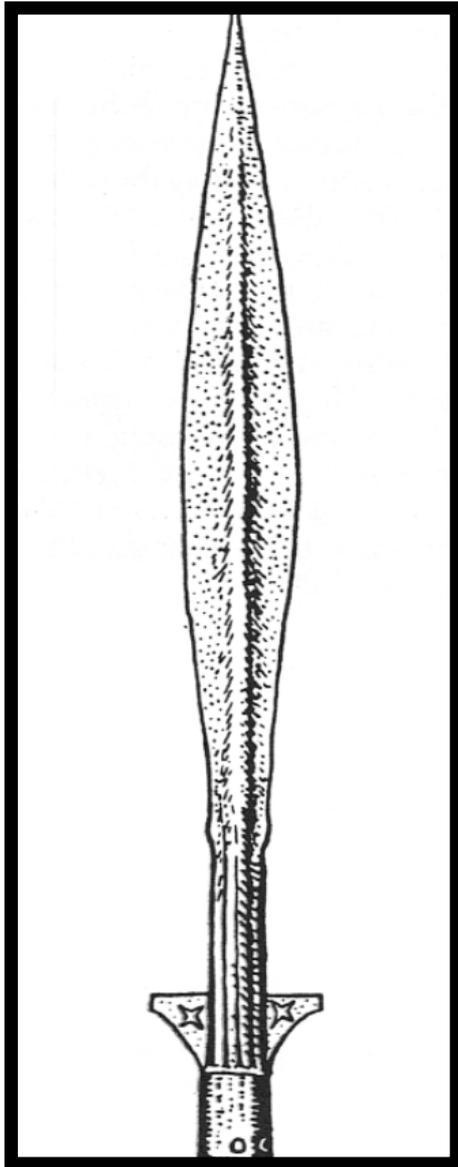


Illustration 3(Left): Drawing of the original lance of the Roman soldier (Spear of Longinus) as it appeared at the time of the crucifixion (courtesy of Die Reichskleinodien in der Pfaiz by Friedrich Sprater, Ludwigshafen, 1942). The lance is very similar to the dreaded Roman spear known as a Pilum, but is obviously of much earlier origin.

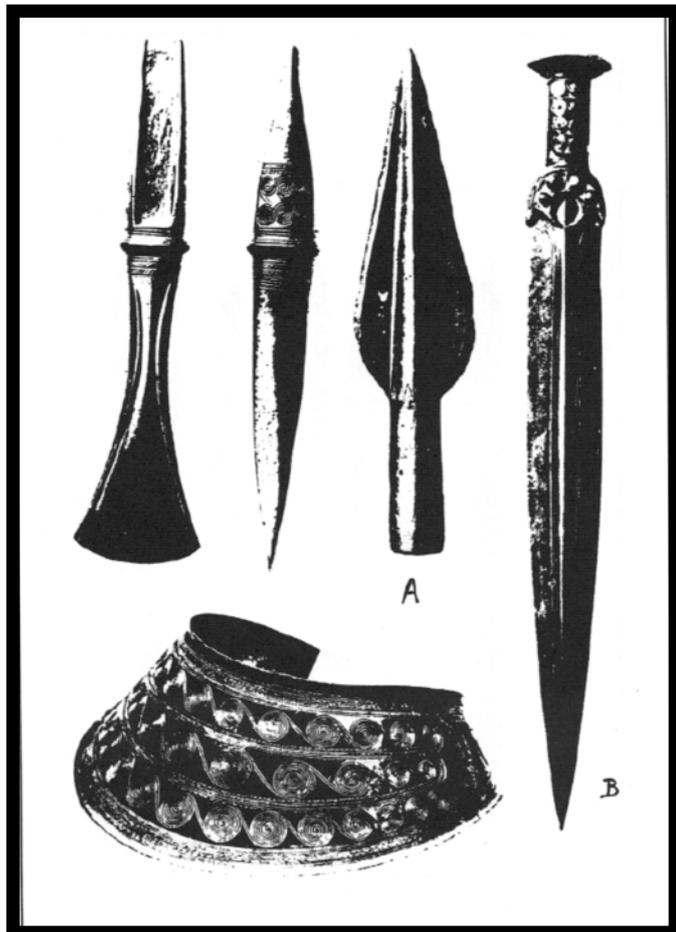


Illustration 4 (right): A bronze spearhead (A) and a bronze sword (B) dating from the early Bronze Age, c. 2100 B.C., eastern Mediterranean. The lance is somewhat more ornate than the Spear of Longinus, but the basic design is quite similar. The sword is probably a close approximation of the sac-red Sword of Ehud which is described in Chapter III (courtesy of World Prehistory by Grahame Clark, 1977). By coincidence, this weapon strongly resembles the famous Roman short sword known as Pompeii Gladius. Because of its length, shape, and design it would not have appeared to be unusual in the hands of a Roman legionnaire.

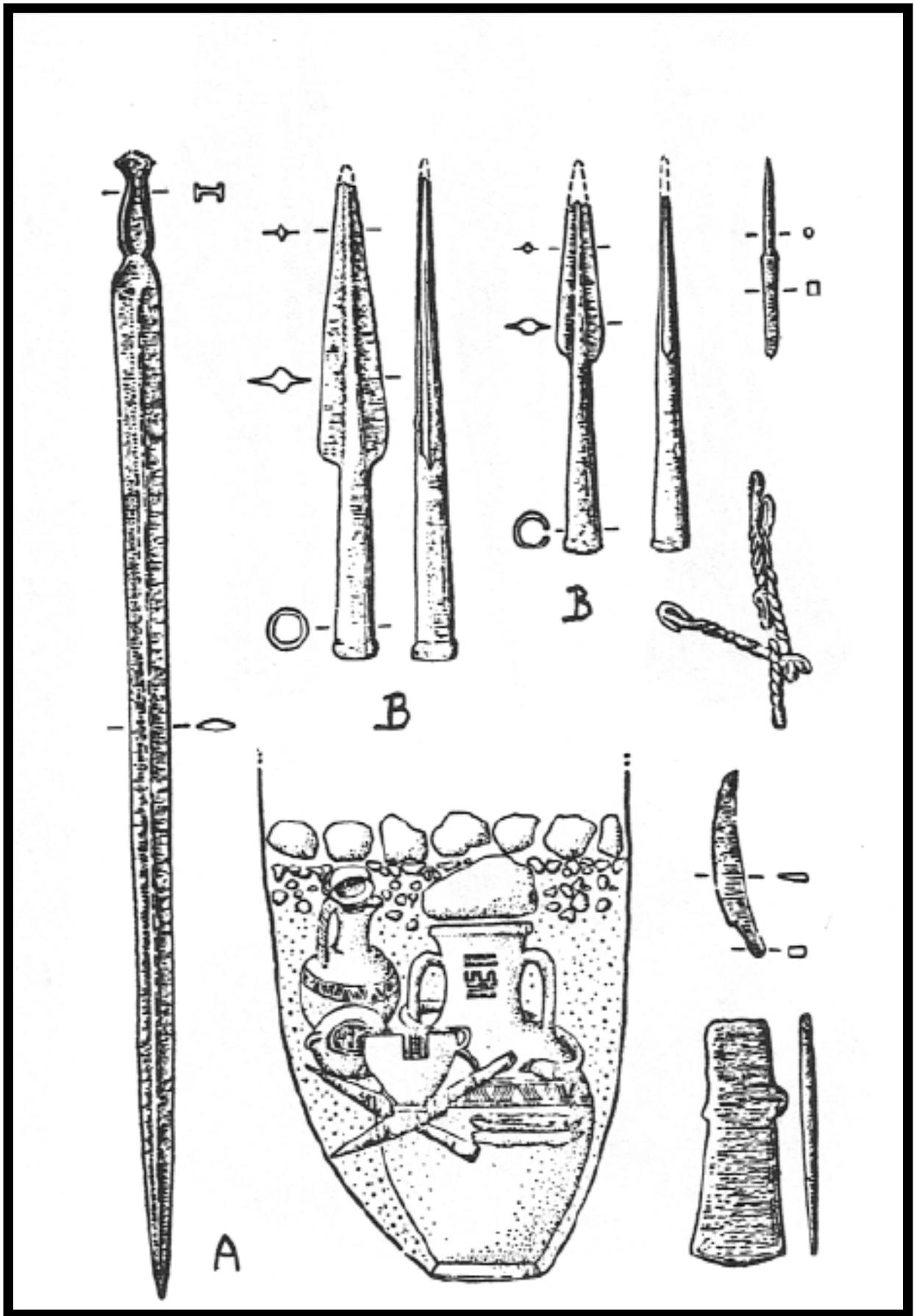


Illustration 5: An iron sword (A) and iron spear heads (B), Athens, Greece, c. 1100 B.C. The spearheads are almost identical to the Lance of Longinus, indicating that the latter was probably of very ancient origin (courtesy of World Prehistory by Grahame Clark, 1977).

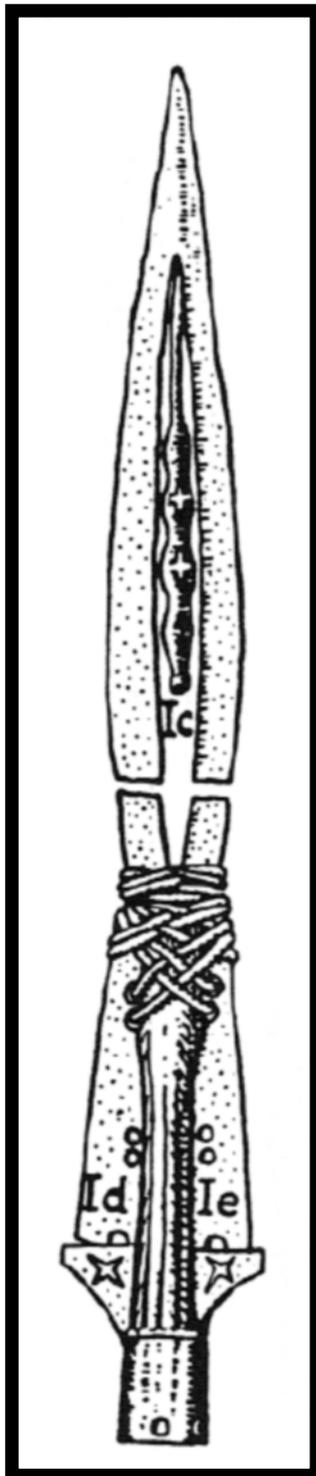


Illustration 6 (left): A drawing of the broken lance. The spine of the lance has been cut away and a nail from the cross has been inserted into the space which was created. The nail has not yet been bound in place by wires. Two blades have been attached to the base of the lance, which unfortunately shows a complete transverse fracture just below the head of the nail (courtesy of Die Reich-skleinodien in der Pfalz by Friedrich Sprater, Ludwigshafen, 1942).

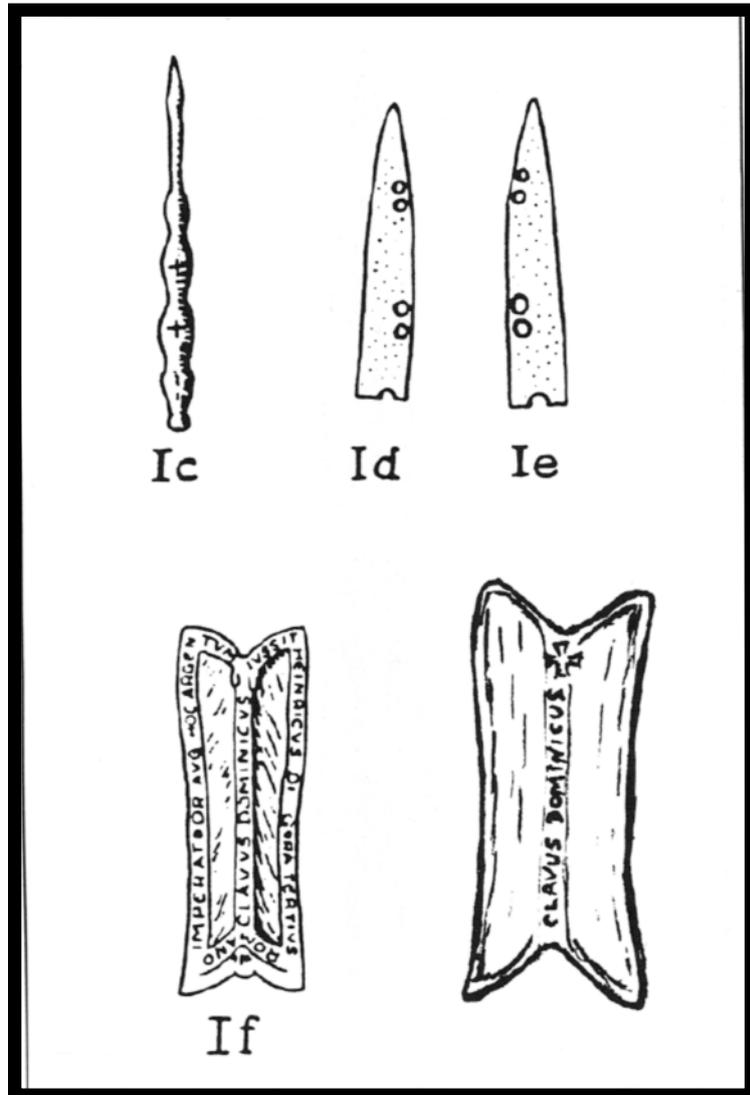


Illustration 7 (right): Drawings of the parts which were added to the lance. A nail from the cross (k), two metal blades (Id and Ie) which were attached to the base of the spear, a silver sleeve (If), and a gold covering (Ig), which were designed to hold the broken parts together (courtesy of Die Reichskleinodien in der Pfalz by Friedrich Sprater, Ludwigshafen, 1942).

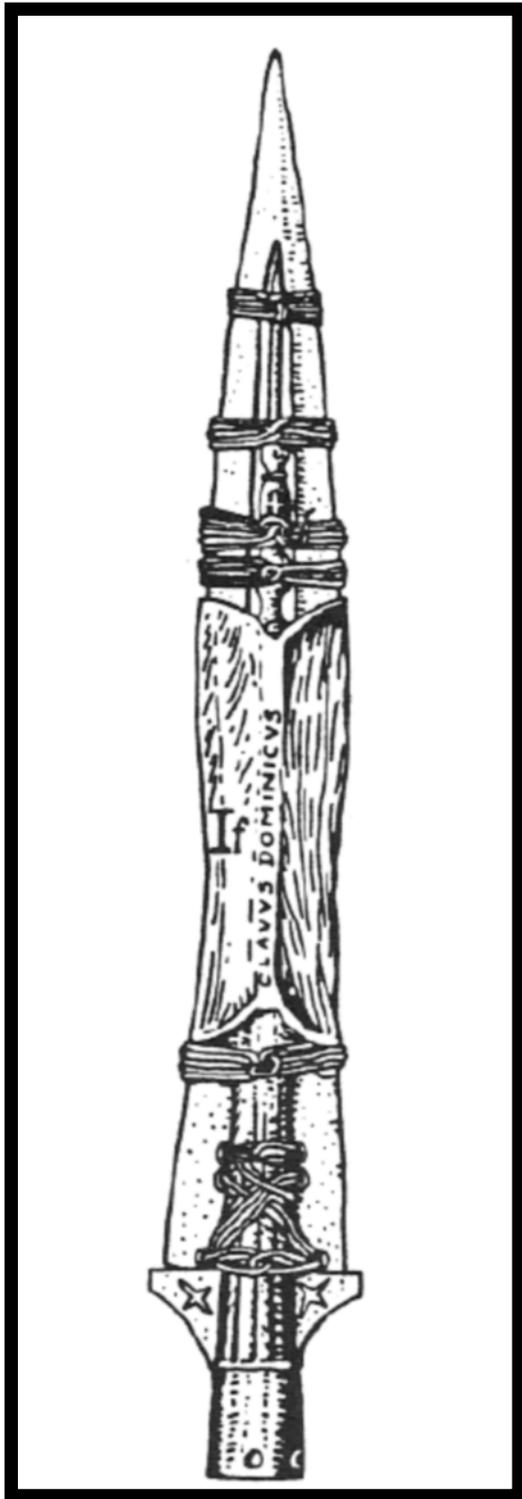


Illustration 8 (left) A drawing of the fully assembled Holy Lance as it appears at the present time (courtesy of Die Reichskleinodien in der Pfalz by Friedrich Sprater, Ludwigshafen, 1942).

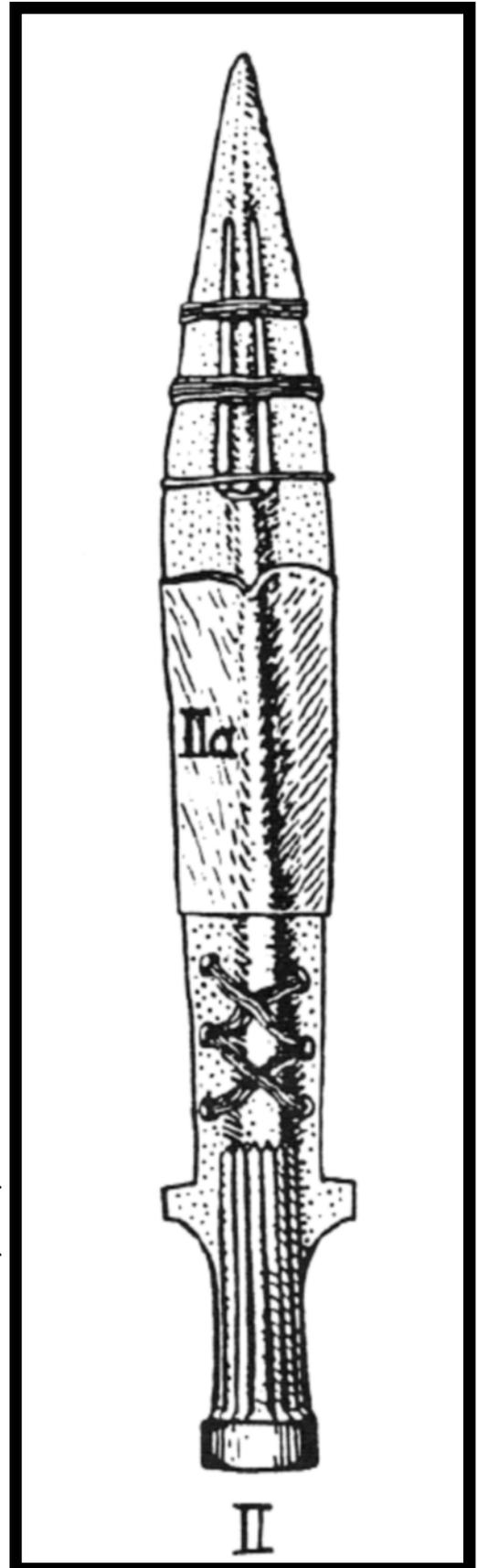


Illustration 9 (right): A drawing of the Holy Lance of Krakow. This is probably the best known of a number of inexact duplications of the true lance (courtesy of Die Reichskleinodien in der Pfalz by Friedrich Sprater, Ludwigshafen, 1942).

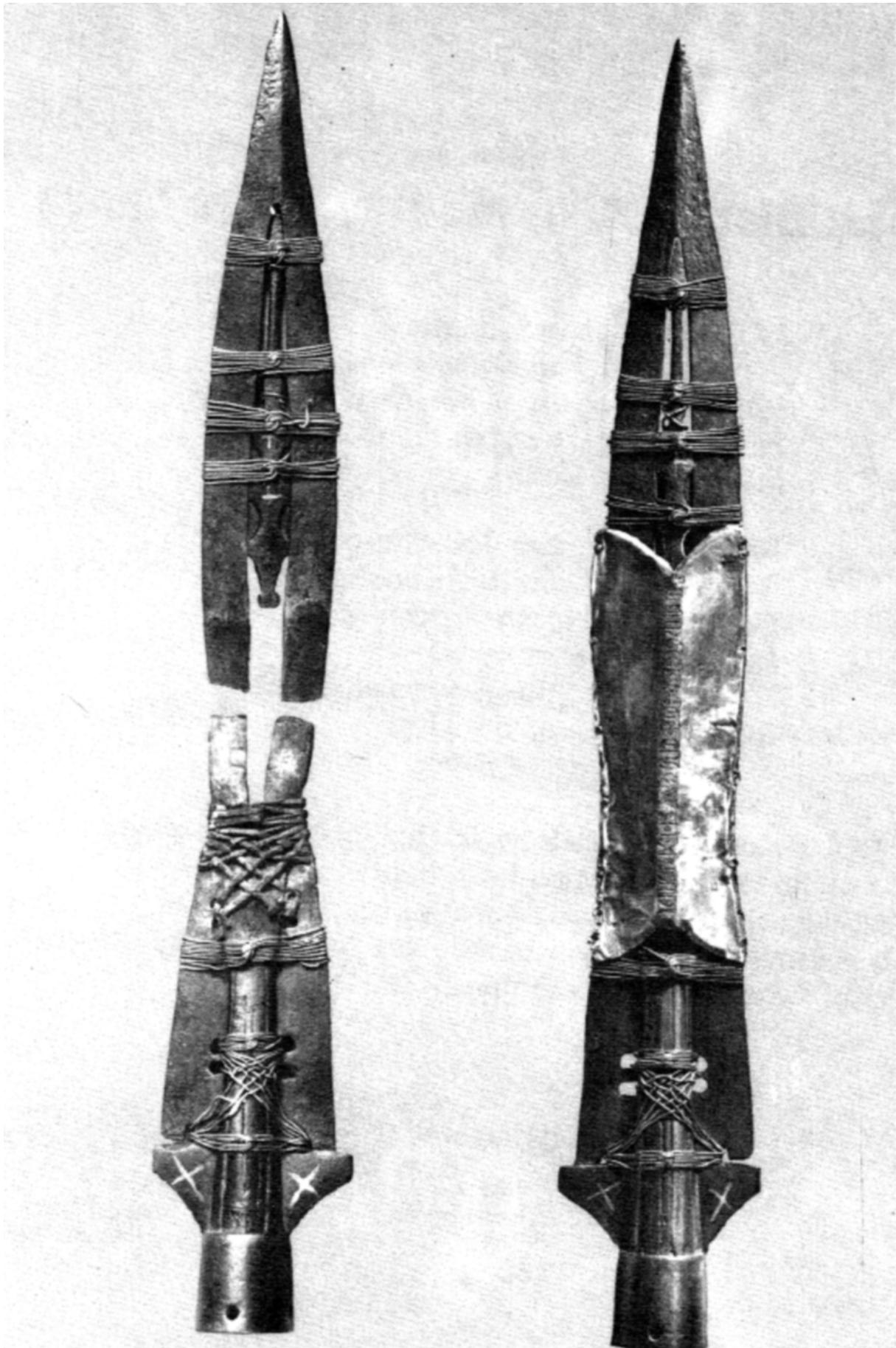


Illustration 10: Photographs of the Holy lance with and without its gold sleeve courtesy of *Die Deutschen Reichsinsignien und Reichkleinodien* by Eberhard Lutze, edited by the Oberbürgermeister der Stadt Nürnberg, Nürnberg, 1938, and *Die Reichskleinodien* by Heinrich Kohlhaussen, Bremen — Berlin, 1935).

The Discovery of the Key to the Lance

Wollt ihr hoch auf ihren
Flügeln schweben?
Werft die Angst des irdischen von euch!
Fliehet aus dem engen dumpfen Leben
In das Ideate Reich!

Wouldst thou soar heavenward
on its joyous wing?
Cast off the earthly burden of the real;
High from the cramp'd and
dungeon's being, spring
Into the realm of the Ideal!

This is a coded message which led to the place where the secret of the Holy Lance had been hidden after the death of Reinhard Heyrich in 1942 (see Chapters IX and XVI)². It brought about the Hartmann expedition of recovery in 1979 (from the collection of Capt. Wilhelm Bernhart).

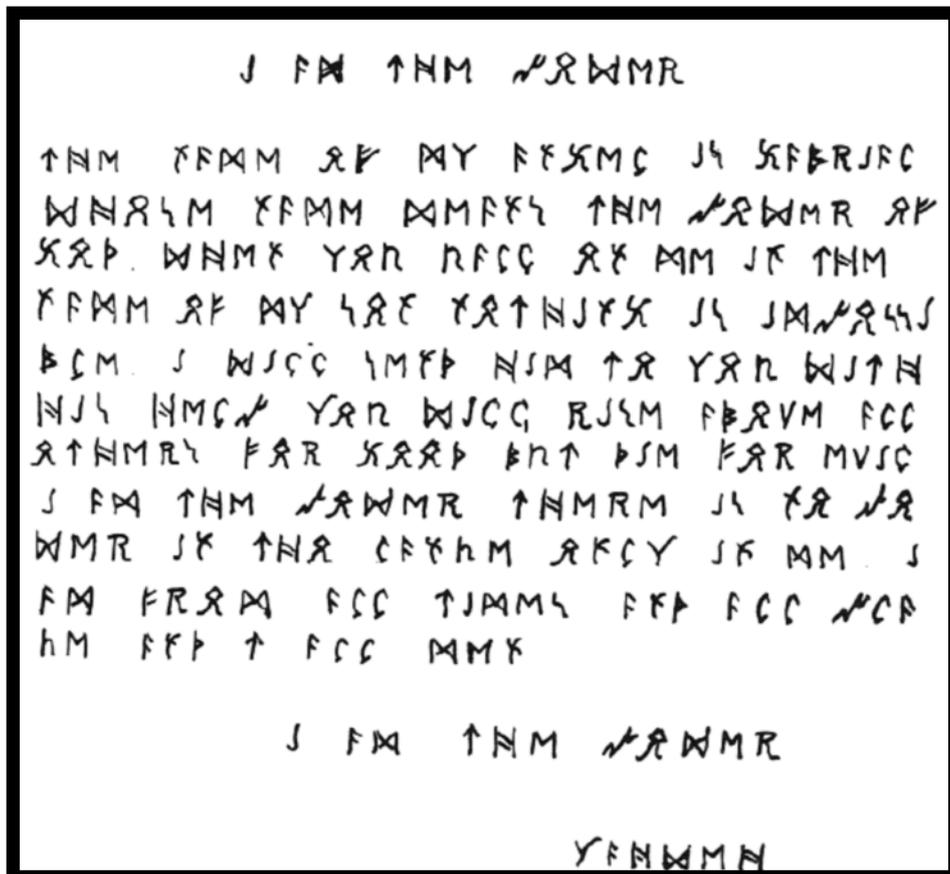


Illustration 11: This is the secret of the power of the lance written in runic symbols. The original was written in runic code by Professor Karl Ernst Haushofer and deciphered by Colonel Maxmilian Hartmann.

Part II

The Pre-Twentieth Century

History

of the

Holy Lance

From the Beginning to 1907

The spear, which was to become the Holy Lance of Longinus, came into the world with the dawn of the age of metals. The ancient weapon became a sacred relic in 33 A.D. when it was used to hasten the death of Jesus Christ and thereby ensure the resurrection and the promise of eternal life.

Before and after the above date, kings, emperors, dukes, generals, princes, saints and caesars marched through the history of the lance in an almost endless procession. This part of the story begins at the forge of Tubal-Cain and ends in the Hofburg Palace of Vienna.

CHAPTER I

Relics of Christ

For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. (St. Mark 5:28)

FOR more than a thousand years, those who believe in the Holy Bible have sought tangible proof of its accuracy. They seek hard evidence which would prove that the Scriptures are based on more than myth and legend. They yearn to hear of the confirmed discovery of the lost ark of the covenant, the Ten Commandments, the remains of Noah's great boat on Mt. Ararat, the ruins of Sodom and Gomorrah, the secrets of Jericho, or anything else, such as the Dead Sea Scrolls, to which they can point and say to doubters, "You see, it is all true." Indeed, it is all true, as archaeological research tells us day by day (see footnote). Real believers do not need this evidence to reassure themselves, but wish it so only to convince others.

Christians are perhaps more interested in tangible things which relate to the New Testament, since this portion of the Bible impacts directly on their belief in eternal life. They adore the relics of the early saints and look with awe on those physical things which are connected with the personal lives of these holy people. A fragment of cloth, a bit of bone, a few strands of hair or some object which a saint once carried is held in great reverence, as are the graves or the tombs in which their bodies lie.

Note: The mummy of Joseph (1413 to 1367 B.C.), son of Jacob has recently been identified. Stranger in the Valley of the Kings by Ahmed Osman, Souvenir Press, 1987.

Foremost, among all relics are those which are related to the person of Jesus Christ, not only because He is the "way and the light," but because He was associated with so few material things. Even his tomb does not contain His body because the essence of His flesh and bone dissolved into the miracle of the resurrection.

He never wrote a book or an article or a letter or even a single word on paper. Thus, there are no musty manuscripts which might be discovered as in the case of other great teachers of the

past. His personal possessions were probably more spartan than any person who ever lived. He owned a pair of sandals, the clothes on His back, and perhaps a wooden staff, but nothing more. "The foxes had holes and the birds of the air had nests, but the Son of Man had not where to lay his head." Even when we acknowledge that the personal possessions of Christ were sparse and perishable, there is still hope. Our thoughts turn to what we assume to be many more durable objects which He must have touched or which are known to have touched His body. However, we quickly discover that this assumption is incorrect. Only one such item has previously been discovered which seems to be reasonably authentic. It is the "Shroud of Turin," which, even in controversy, has sent tremors of excitement throughout the Christian and even the atheist worlds. The reader has already been introduced to the Holy Lance which is a second, but almost unknown holy relic of this type. Because authentic relics of Christ are so rare, it seems appropriate to mention those which had at least a potential to survive.

The Garments of Christ

Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from top throughout. They said therefore, among themselves, let us not rend it; but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scriptures might be fulfilled, which saith, they parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.

Although the garments of Christ appear to have had a singular significance, it is probable that they have long since crumbled into dust.

The Crown of Thorns, The Reed, and the Robe

And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, and a reed in his right hand. Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!

And after that they mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him.

The crown of thorns is interesting because it, the scourge, the nails, and the lance are the only objects which pierced Christ's flesh. Of these, only the lance and one of the nails still exists.

The robe, of Roman cloth and colour, has become a legend, but it, along with the crown of thorns and the reed, disappeared some 2000 years ago. (See footnote.)

The Alabaster Box

Once, Christ received a jar of expensive ointment intended for the preparation of His body after death. This is probably the closest thing to luxury in which He ever indulged. Even though the ointment did not belong to Him, He was indirectly chastised for being selfish.

Then took Mary a very precious ointment of spikenard from her alabaster box and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the odor of the ointment.

Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, son of Simon the Leper, which would betray him, Why was not this ointment sold for 300 pence, and given to the poor?

Footnote: A thorn from the crown is said to have been in the possession of King Edward II of England in about 1320 (The Three Edwards by Thomas D. Castain).

Then Jesus said, let her alone: it is against the day of my burying that she kept this. *“For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.”*

Perhaps the alabaster box has survived and will manifest itself some day. It will be a magnificent relic of our Lord Jesus Christ, since it was the container of the ointment with which He was anointed both before and after His death.

The Cup

“And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and they drank of it. And he said to them, this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many. This do in remembrance of me.”

The cup, which has come to be known as the chalice or the Holy Grail, has long been considered to be the most sacred of all material objects associated with the life of Christ. Not only did He and all of His disciples drink from it at the Last Supper (Feast of the Passover), but it is believed to be the vessel in which Joseph of Arimathea caught the last few drops of Jesus' blood which dripped from the lance wound in His side. It became the object of knightly quests in medieval legend, but was never found. Of perhaps greater interest is the fact that in Arthurian literature we find the first reference to a bleeding lance.

The Basin

“He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a basin and began to wash the disciples feet.”

The basin associated with the washing of feet does not seem to be a holy thing until we remember that it was a part of the greatest lesson in humility that has ever been told. However, basins are such that they are not preserved forever.

The Jordan River

“Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John to be baptized by him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him. And a voice from heaven saying: This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

So desperate is Christianity for a relic of Christ that the water of the Jordan River is believed to be holy. All persons can touch this liquid, wade in it, bathe in it, or have samples mailed to their homes. However, the droplets which made contact with the skin of Christ are gone forever.

The Cross

“And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of the skull — they crucified him.”

Some fragments of the cross are said to exist in various places, but like the droplets of the Jordan river which once touched the skin of Christ, it seems more likely that they have long since passed away. One of the more important pieces which is alleged to be a portion of the cross is contained in the insignia of the Holy Roman emperors in the Hofburg Palace, Vienna, Austria.

The Shroud

“And there came also Nicodemus, which at first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pound weight. Then they took the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices as the manner of Jews is to bury.

Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden was a new sepulchre, wherein was man never yet laid. There laid they Jesus. Then cometh Simon Peter and went into the sepulchre and seeth the linen clothes lie, and the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself”.

It is well known that a burial cloth, mysteriously marked with the figure of a crucified man, is now in the possession of a church in Turin, Italy. It is generally believed to be the shroud in which Christ was buried and is regarded as one of a very few surviving material things which were once in contact with His body.

The Cradle

The Bible does not speak of a cradle in which the infant Jesus slept, other than the manger. It seems unlikely that parts of the manger would have survived. However, there is a church in Rome where pieces of the alleged cradle of Christ are displayed as a relic.

The Skull

“Jesus said, take ye away the stone. But Martha replied, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the Life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live, And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth”.

One of the most curious of all objects relating to the life of Christ is the skull of Lazarus. Since he was the only man, other than Jesus himself, who ever died and rose again, it seems just possible that his skull was preserved as a holy relic. The purported skull of Lazarus is kept in The Grail Chapel in Ansbach, Germany.

The Sword

“Then Simon Peter, as he had a sword drew it and struck the slave of the high priest and cut his right ear off. The name of the slave was Malchus. Jesus, however said to Peter Put the sword into its sheath. He reached out and touched the sword and said, all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. Then He touched the ear of the wounded man and made it well.”

There seems to be a distinct possibility that the sword of Peter was also the sword of Ehud (see Chapter III). It inspired the last miracle which Christ performed and evoked one of His most famous remarks as quoted above. It is barely possible that this Holy Sword, which was drawn in defense of Jesus, will someday be discovered (see Chapter III). The sword of St. Maurice which is now in the Hofburg Palace in Vienna, Austria is said to be, but is probably not, the sword of St. Peter.

From this book, a reasonable conclusion can be reached that another very important relic of Christ has lasted through the ages. It and its companion piece, a nail of the cross, are the only objects which pierced His flesh and shed His blood that now exist. The story of the Holy Lance will be told in succeeding chapters. There are other relics which are alleged to have survived, such as a bit of cloth from the table of the Last Supper, the "Apron" of Christ and the sponge which was lifted to his lips, but their authenticity leaves something to be desired (see footnote).

It is also said that the wooden shaft of the Holy Lance has been preserved and is now located in the Vatican, but once again, there is serious doubt as to whether it is genuine.

Footnote: The sponge of vinegar which was offered to Christ when he was thirsty, is said to have been in the possession of King Edward II of England c. 1320 (*The Three Edwards* by Thomas B. Castain).

CHAPTER II

The Power of the Lance and Its History from the Crucifixion to the 20th Century

BUT one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. And he that saw it bear record, and his record is true; and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. For these things were done that the scripture should be fulfilled. 'A bone of him shall not be broken. And again another scripture saith, They shall look upon him whom they have pierced. (Saint John 19, 34-37)

The soldier with the spear who stood before the cross was a Roman centurion who had loyally and bravely served his country for many years. He was a distinguished veteran officer of the Roman legions. His name was Gaius Cassius.' The spear which he held in his hand had a special quality. It never rusted and was always sharp. All who tested the lance considered it to be almost magical, the finest weapon in the Roman army. It had been presented to Gaius Cassius' grandfather by none other than Julius Caesar, as a special award for meritorious service during the conquest of Gaul. It had been carried by his father in the service of Germanicus Caesar and in turn handed down to him. Gaius Cassius was nearing the end of his long and distinguished career as a professional soldier of the Roman empire. His health was failing and his eyesight was growing dim. In order to fill out his final year or two of service, he was assigned to non-combat duty in the political observation corps of Jerusalem.

As a ranking centurion and political observer under the command of Pro-Consul Protectorate, Governor Pontius Pilate, he was free to come and go as he pleased in the province of Palestine. His attention was soon attracted by stories of a tall, slender man with light, flowing hair and pale, compelling blue eyes who called himself Jesus of Nazareth.[4] This man was followed by a steadily growing group of disciples, and large crowds gathered wherever He appeared. His reputation as a teacher, or Rabbi, was spreading throughout the land. Some claimed that He was John the Baptist, returned from the dead, while others maintained He was a king who would overthrow the power of Rome.

Gaius Cassius began to follow this man and observe Him from afar. He noted that the words of the Rabbi were those of peace, yet His message was troubling and hard to interpret.

He stood on a low hill and watched the disciples feed a multitude from two small baskets of bread and fish, and he heard the Master say: "*Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth, Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Ye have heard that it hath been said, an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: but I say unto you, whosever shall strike thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.*" He also said: "*I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.*"

To a soldier of Rome, and indeed to many of the followers of Christ, these words were totally incomprehensible. He spoke words of peace, and yet He threatened to destroy the temple.

During the weeks which followed, the centurion watched as Christ healed the sick, cured the crippled and the blind, cast out demons and even raised the dead. He also heard strange words, such as: "*I am the way and the light,*" and "*No man cometh to the Father save by me.*" He began

to believe that this man was either a god or a prophet — or a gifted charlatan. Finally, one day he actually approached Jesus and asked Him to heal his favourite servant who was old and ill. When he arrived at his home that evening, the servant was well.' At that moment, the centurion knew that he had spoken with the Son of God.

He was deeply moved when this wonderful man was brought before Pontius Pilate to be judged. As he had anticipated, the Governor found no fault and washed his hands of guilt when the crowd chose to free the criminal Barabbas and to condemn Jesus.

Then came the crushing assignment which he so greatly feared. He, Gaius Cassius, was to command the crucifixion squad. He hated this duty, but good soldier that he was, if it must be done, he would do it well. He watched as they stripped Jesus and nailed Him to the cross. He heard one of the true criminals say: "*Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom,*" and he heard Jesus reply: "*Verily, I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise.*"

“And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened, and the vail of the temple was rent in the midst. And when Jesus had cried in a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit; and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.”

But the other two were not yet dead, and a delegation besought Pilate that their legs be broken in order to hasten death so that they might be taken away before the Sabbath. So the temple guards were ordered to break the legs of the first and of the other which was crucified with Him. But as they came to Jesus, the centurion with a spear stepped forward and pierced His side to show that He was already dead and His legs need not be broken.

The centurion thrust the keen point of his lance into the right side of Christ. His mark was true to Roman skill. The spear pierced the chest between the 4th and 5th ribs. This was a common practice among Roman soldiers on the field of battle when they sought to prove that a wounded enemy was truly dead. It was well known that blood does not flow from the body after death (see footnote).

Footnote: The Bible does not disclose the exact anatomical location at which the spear of the centurion pierced the thorax of Christ, not even whether on the right or the left side. Therefore, various paintings and other depictions of the crucified body show the wound on either one side or the other, according to the preference of the artist. The location of the wound selected for this book is based on a painting by Caravaggio entitled "***The Deposition.***" It is dated 1604 and hangs in the Vatican. The flow of blood from the laceration indicates that the sacred Heart of Jesus was still beating when the lance wound was inflicted.

Yet, "***forthwith came there out blood and water***" from the lifeless body of Christ. Thus, the miracle of blood flow after death occurred and the lance which had brought it forth became a Holy Lance (see footnote). Another miracle occurred to Gaius Cassius for in that moment his failing sight was restored. Still another miracle took place when the tip of the indestructible lance suddenly cracked and fell away signifying that it was never again to be used as a weapon or draw blood for any reason. The tip was later reattached or the spear was filed down to a new point.

In his compassionate desire to protect the body of Jesus Christ and in his spontaneous act of mercy, the centurion brought about yet another miracle. He fulfilled the prophecy of Ezekiel, "*A bone of him shall not be broken*" and "*they shall look upon him whom they have pierced.*"

Gaius Cassius was also converted to Christianity at that moment and, as a foremost witness to the shedding of the Holy Blood, he became highly revered by his new brethren. He was referred to thereafter as Longinus (the Spearman) and his Holy Lance became known as the Spear of

Longinus, or the Spear of Destiny. To reinforce its power, a nail was retrieved from the cross and attached to the lance, thus increasing its sacred quality.

Thereby came the birth of the legend that he who held the Holy Lance in his hand could control the destiny of all mankind, but only if he understands the power of the spear and acknowledges the miracles from which its vitality flows, including the miracle of the resurrection. The exact prophecy is as follows:

"Whosoever possesses this Holy Lance and understands the powers it serves, holds in his hand the destiny of the world for good or evil."

Whether or not one accepts the power of the lance or dismisses the story as an interesting myth, none can deny that on that fateful Friday, April 5, 33 A.D., the history of the world was changed forever.

This was an act of mercy to prove or hasten death and prevent the disfiguration of broken legs. The flow of "water" was almost certainly from an accumulation of fluid (pleural effusion) around the lung due to suspension on the cross.

In spite of skepticism, the legend of the lance has persisted for nearly 2000 years, and the belief in its power has gained strength with each passing century.

The importance of the lance was reaffirmed in 286 A.D. when it was stained with the blood of St. Maurice, three other saints (Vitalis, Candidus and Exuperius) and 6666 Christian soldiers of the Theban Legion of Rome. St. Maurice, then known as Mauritius, was a devout Christian and a direct descendant of Centurion Gaius Cassius. The Holy Lance had been passed down in his family from generation to generation. He carried the spear, not as a weapon, but as a symbol of his faith. He had risen to the rank of tribune and then became commander of the Theban Legion. He had picked each man of this unit for his fighting ability and his unswerving commitment to Christianity.

The story of the fate of the Theban Legion was recorded in the "*Passio Martyrum Acaunensium*" (The Passion of the Martyrs of Agaunum) by Bishop St. Eucherius of Lyon, France.

The men under the command of Mauritius were sent to Gaul by Governor, and emperor-to-be Marcus Aurelius Valerius Maximian. Their mission was to crush a revolt by peasants near Octodurum (now Martigny, Switzerland). When Mauritius learned that the leaders of the uprising were Christians, he refused to fight against his brethren and withdrew in protest to Agaunum (now St. Maurice-en-Valais, Switzerland). Maximian ordered the Theban Legion to carry out its mission on pain of death, but he also demanded that they destroy the Sacred Lance, denounce Christianity and embrace the Roman gods.

Mauritius, his officers and every man of the Theban Legion refused to obey this order whereupon Maximian ordered one man in each ten to be beheaded. Mauritius went first. Holding the Holy Lance high toward heaven, he was decapitated. Each man in ten calmly submitted to a similar death. Once again, the procedure was repeated and the chosen ones were executed. Finally, the entire legion stepped forward and each man met a martyr's death.

In many ways this act of faith and devotion is unequalled in the history of Christianity. It had been demonstrated for all times that there was no sacrifice that Christians would not make for the preservation of their belief.

To this day, devotion to St. Maurice and the Theban Legion can be found in Switzerland, along the Rhine, and in Northern Italy. The Abbey of St. Maurice was founded in about 524 A.D. Prince St. Sigismund of Burgundy ordered that the "*laus perennis*," or unbroken chant, be

practiced there. So it is done; as a tradition in honour of St. Maurice, to the present time. Maurice relics can be found at the Abbey of St. Maurice in Brzeg, Poland, and at Turin, Italy. The feast of Maurice and his martyred companions is celebrated each September 22.

Although Maximian was a bitter enemy of the Christians, who along with his co-Emperor, Diocletian, ordered the burning of the Scriptures and the closing of churches, he could not carry out his own order to destroy the Holy Lance. He took it from the lifeless hand of Mauritius and carried it away, believing that it was indeed a spear of the gods which had brought about the willing death of more than 6000 brave legionnaires.

In 308 A.D., Fausta, the daughter of Maximian married Emperor Constantine the Great (280-337). On that occasion the Holy Lance was presented to Constantine as a wedding present. He became personally committed to Christianity in 313 A.D. and initiated the evolution of the Roman empire into a Christian state. It is said that he actually carried the Spear of Destiny while marking out the boundaries of his new capital-to-be, Constantinople. As he walked, he proclaimed, *"I follow in the steps of Him who I see walking ahead of me."*

It seems improbable that the Holy Lance should next appear in the bloody hands of Attila the Hun, but so it did. When Attila, "The Scourge of God," swept out of central Asia with his pagan hordes, nothing could stop his attack on the bastions of the Holy Roman Empire. He sacked Sofia and Belgrade and many other cities of the eastern portion of the empire before turning his attention to Constantinople (Istanbul). This city was spared in return for tribute consisting of 6,000 pounds of gold and the Holy Lance. The year was 443 A.D. The Roman emperor who relinquished the lance was Theodosius II.

Attila had been invincible before, but now with the Spear of Destiny in his hand, he could rule the world, or so it seemed. After adding Greece and the Balkans to his conquests, he invaded Gaul in 451 A.D. Here he was opposed by the Germanic Visigoths, who forced him to withdraw. This was his first defeat. The lance had failed.

The Hun then invaded and sacked northern Italy to the very gates of Rome. However, famine and pestilence which raged in Italy that year so weakened his army that he was again forced to withdraw. The lance had failed him for a second time. It was a curse rather than a help.

He galloped his horse to the gates of Rome and hurled the lance at the feet of the officers who had been sent out to surrender the city. *"Take back your Holy Lance,"* he cried, *"It is of no use to me, since I do not know Him that made it holy."* Thus, the lance had saved the city because Attila did not understand the use of its power.

The spear then passed through the hands of a series of Roman emperors without attracting much attention.

Its destiny, at least for a time, appeared to be in Gaul. It was in the possession of the Frankish general, Charles Martel ("Charles the Hammer"), when he decisively defeated the Saracen invaders at Poitiers in 732. This action saved Christian France from domination by the forces of Islam.

The Holy Lance then passed into the hands of Charlemagne the Great (742-814), who used it as a force of unification in consolidating nearly all Christian lands of western Europe. As king of the Franks and emperor of the Western Empire, his reign was characterized by a brilliant court and an imperial unit unrivalled for centuries before and after. His court at Aix-la-Chapelle, France, became an intellectual, political and administrative centre after 794 A.D. He conquered the Lombards and the pagan Saxons, whom he christianised, and then formed a close alliance with the papacy. He carried the Holy Lance during his 47 successful campaigns, never slept without it close at hand, and believed that it was the source of his clairvoyance.

In due time the lance came into the possession of Heinrich I, duke of Saxony and the king of Germany (876-936). Heinrich (also known as Henry the Fowler), used the lance to bring about a nine year truce with the fierce Magyar warriors of Hungary, who had invaded his kingdom. During this time he unified the duchies of Germany, fortified their cities, and raised an army of well-trained cavalry. He drove the Magyars from German soil in 933. At some point in his reign, Henry is believed to have presented the lance to the English King Athelstan[3-6]

Under the influence of the Holy Lance, Athelstan wrote six codes of law designed to suppress theft and corruption, mitigate punishment of young offenders, and provide comfort for the destitute. He returned the lance to Germany when his sister, Eadgita (or Edith) married Otto the Great, son of Henry. The lance was a part of Edith's dowry.

Otto the Great (912-973), German king and Holy Roman Emperor, carried the spear during the consolidation of the First Reich, which resulted from his decisive victory over the Magyars at the Battle of Lechfeld (near Augsburg, Germany) in 955. He also solidified relations between the eastern and western empires by marrying his son, Otto II, to the Byzantine princess Theophano (972).⁶ Otto II (955-983) inherited the lance from his father and passed it on to his son Otto III (980-1002).

After being crowned king of Germany, Otto III managed to have his cousin elected as Gregory V, the first German Pope. Gregory in turn appointed Otto as emperor of the Holy Roman Empire in 996. Otto proceeded to make Rome his headquarters and planned to re-create the glory and power of the days of the Caesars. He instituted elaborate Byzantine court ceremonies and revised ancient Roman customs, mixed with intense Christian influences. He assumed the titles of "*The Servant of Jesus Christ*," "*The Servant of the Apostles*" and "*Emperor of the World*." He also regarded himself as the leader of world Christianity.

During the reign of Otto III, a nail from the cross was inserted into the Holy Spear. The metal was weakened and a fracture occurred. The two parts were fitted with an iron clamp designed to hold them together. The imitation Lance of Krakow was also created at about this time.

Henry II, the Saint (973-1024), seized the land and the insignia of the German kings and Holy Roman emperors on the occasion of the death of Otto III. By this time, the insignia included a crown, globe, sceptre, sword, cross, gauntlet, and other precious items.

The lance then passed to Henry III (1017-1056), who in turn left it to his son, Henry IV (1050-1106). When he became king and Holy Roman Emperor, Henry IV had the lance fitted with a silver sleeve which bore a Latin inscription. A golden sleeve was added at a later date (see footnote). Both attachments bore the Latin words "*Clavus Dominicus*" (the nail of our Lord). Footnote: The silver coupling was replaced by a sleeve of gold during the reign of Emperor Charles IV of Bohemia (1315-13781)

One of the most interesting chapters in the amazing history of the Holy Lance took place after it came into the possession of Frederick I Barbarossa (Redbeard), 1123-1190, King of Germany and Holy Roman Emperor. Barbarossa was the son of Frederick, Duke of Swabia, of the House of Hohenstaufen. During a long and very active career, which was closely entwined with that of Duke Henry the Lion of Saxony, he became one of the greatest Holy Roman emperors of the Middle Ages, a legendary hero and a symbol of unity to the German people.

In the spring of 1189, Frederick answered the call to the Third Crusade to free Jerusalem from occupation by Saladin's army and to recover "The True Cross." Along with Frederick, Duke of Swabia, and Duke Leopold of Austria (1159-1194), he formed the largest Crusade army so far assembled and set out for the Holy Lands by an overland route. Barbarossa carried the Holy Lance as his emblem of faith and Christian dedication. For some reason, neither the lance nor his holy mission protected him. On June 10, 1190, he drowned while attempting to cross the

Saleph river in what is now Turkey. His death led to the disintegration of his army, and only a small remnant, under Frederick of Swabia and Leopold, finally reached Palestine. They brought with them the sacred spear. It was returning to the land in which it became holy for the first time in over 1000 years.

After the siege and capture of the city of Acre in 1191, Leopold quarrelled with the powerful King Richard of England and decided that the lance should be hidden in some secret place. In that same year (1191) and in the same city, an organization of German crusaders was formed as a charitable order associated with a German hospital. They were known as the "Teutonic Knights" or "Knights of the Teutonic Order," their Latin name: *Ordo Domus Sanctae Mariae Teutonicorum* (German Order of the Hospital of St. Mary). Leopold placed the lance in their custody and it was probably safeguarded some place in the chapel of the hospital. Meanwhile, Richard forced Leopold to quit the Crusade and set sail for home. The remarkable sequel of this episode will be revealed at the end of Chapter III.

The Teutonic Knights assumed a military character in 1198. Under the leadership of their grand master, Hermann von Salza (served 1210-1239), they transferred the main centre of their activity from the Middle East to eastern Europe. The lance went with them and served as their banner of faith during the conquest and Christianisation of Prussia.

During the reign of Emperor Frederick II (1194-1250), grandson of Frederick Barbarossa, the Mongols threatened Europe from the east under the successors of Genghis Khan. Although the Mongol advance was turned back in Silesia (1241), the Teutonic Knights felt that the lance would be safer if removed to western Germany. They returned it to its rightful place with the other insignia of the Holy Roman Empire.

Nothing very dramatic happened in the history of the lance for the next 550 years and its very existence seems to have been forgotten. Its importance among the emblems of the Reich was replaced by the royal sceptres.

By 1806, Napoleon had overrun most of Europe and brought the First Reich to an end, after it had endured for 1000 years. He also dissolved the Order of the Teutonic Knights, but he did not fall heir to the insignia of the German kings and Holy Roman emperors.

The lance and its companion pieces were hidden in an ancient tunnel beneath the ramparts of Nurnberg castle. However, there was still concern that the treasure might be found by Napoleon, and so it was sent to Vienna for safekeeping.

It was received by Francis II, who had been forced to abdicate as the last of the Holy Roman emperors, but who was still Emperor of Austria. Thus, the insignia passed into possession of the Lords of the House of Hapsburg and was placed in the treasure room of their ancestral palace, the Hofburg, in Vienna. After Napoleon lost power in 1814, German authorities requested that the treasure be returned. They met with consistent refusals although the Austrian Empire did re-institute the Order of the Teutonic Knights in 1834.

In Vienna, the lance rested for a while after its long and complex journey through the First Reich. The most remarkable part of its history was yet to come.



CHAPTER III

The Origin of the Lance and the Sword and Their History from the Beginning to the Time of Christ

**But you should know that neither with sword nor with spear doth God save
Samuel 17:47**

OBVIOUSLY, the spear which was destined to become the Holy Lance had existed for many years before it pierced the side of Christ. It has previously been stated that Julius Caesar carried the spear during his conquest of Gaul in 58 to 50 B.C. This might cause one to wonder how it came into Caesar's hands. It is also known that the spear was an exceptional weapon which never rusted and which was always sharp, thereby indicating that it had a magical quality and seemed to be made of a special metal. This too seems to require some type of explanation.

In the beginning, the lance had a sword as its companion. These two very unusual weapons came into the world in the year 3061 B.C. The place was the Land of Nod (land of the fugitives), somewhere east of Eden, in the foothills of the Ararat Mountains. There lived a man named Tubal-Cain. He was born to the seventh generation of the descendants of Adam and the last generation in the direct lineage of Cain. Tubal-Cain was "*a forger of every sort of tool and weapon of copper and iron.*"

His ancestor, Cain, had borne a mark for which vengeance was required sevenfold. His father, Lamech, had also slain a man for which vengeance was required seventy-times-sevenfold. Tubal-Cain was dissatisfied with the quality of swords and spears which he made for the protection of his family. So he went forth into the hills of Ararat and began to search for a harder metal. Finding none, he raised up his voice and said: "*Oh Lord, give me a material from which I can make better weapons for the sons of Cain and of Lamech, that they not be slain by other men.*"

And then came a great light in the heavens and the clouds burst asunder, and a streak of fire descended to the earth and struck into the foot of a nearby mountain.

Then on the morrow, when he was less afraid, Tubal-Cain went to this place, and found where the fire had fallen. There he saw that it still glowed with a strange light and with great heat. And when it had cooled he found that it was a mass of molten metal, such as no man's eyes had ever seen (see footnote).

And he wrought in his forge a sword and a spear from this metal. He wrought for a day and a night and a morrow; that his work might endure for all time; in travail or strife or in sorrow; in the holy service of man.

And when they were finished he held them up in the late shadows of the day, to see their perfection by the light of the forge. But, they needed no light for in themselves it was.

Then Tubal-Cain said: "With these weapons my people will never be fugitives and vagabonds upon the earth, nor will they be slain or need revenge, for they (the spear and the sword) cannot be made to rust, nor can they be made dull, nor can they be destroyed, nor can they be defeated, as long as they are not parted from each other and they be wielded in a just cause".

Footnote: The molten mass of metal was almost certainly a meteorite which contained iron and various amounts of carbon, chromium, nickel, manganese, molybdenum, tungsten, vanadium, cobalt or titanium. Various combinations of these elements would result in a high-alloy type of stainless steel or a lustrous and corrosion-resistant ferrous-alloy. This would account for the

seemingly magical, never rusting, ever-sharp qualities of the sword and lance. There are many references to the use of iron from meteorites in ancient times. Thus, occasional iron weapons existed before man learned how to mine and process this ore. The invention of iron mining techniques is generally credited to the Hittites who lived along the south shore of the Black Sea in 1600 B.C. (*World Prehistory* by Grahame Clark, Cambridge University Press, 1977).

And God answered him and said: "All that ye have saith is true, but these weapons bear the mark of Cain, and the days of the sons of Cain are numbered, and they will have no use of them, for the sons of Adam have displeased me and only the sons of Noah, whose father will also be known as Lamech, will have need of them. Go ye, to a distant land and a distant mountain, where I will show ye, and there place my sword and my lance, which I have made by your hand, that they may be found by others in a time of sorrow, according to those that will ask it of me." And Tubal-Cain went out of the Land of Nod into the Land of Canaan and to a mountainous region of Ephraim in the territory of Timnathheres, to the north of Mount Gaash. There he plunged the sword and lance into a crevice in the rock with such force that from which no man could draw them forth, lest he be a champion of his people in a just cause. And if thereafter, the sword and lance come into evil use, to him who holds them will they turn to his fall and death. So Tubal-Cain, having served his maker well, walked with God. Then he was no more, for God took him.

The sword and the lance remained as they were, for a day in the time of God, or for 2000 years in the time of men.

And it came to pass that Joshua, having delivered his people into the Land of Canaan and having conquered the tribes therein, came to the end of his days, being a hundred and ten years. *"So they buried him in the territory of his inheritance, in Timnath-heres in the mountainous region of Ephraim on the north of Mount Gaash."*

And in the days of the rule of the Judges there came a time when the power of Israel was diminished and her children were tested by the Philistines and the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Moabites and other tribes. All of this took place in the years surrounding 1200 B.C. It was a time of many sorrows.

And the sons of Jacob began to call on Jehovah for help. "So Jehovah raised up for them a champion, Ehud, the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a left-handed man." And Ehud found a sword and a lance which were wedged in a rock where God sent him. When he withdrew the sword he found that "it had two edges, its length being a cubit. Then he girded it underneath his garment upon his right thigh. And when he was alone with the King of Moab, he went on to say: A word of God I have for you. Then Ehud thrust in his left hand and took the sword off his right thigh and plunged it into his belly." And the servants found "their lord fallen to the earth dead."

"As for Ehud, he escaped while they were lingering. Then he rallied the Israelites by blowing his trumpet in the mountainous region of Ephraim. And with the sword and the lance they slew ten thousand men. Thus, Moab was subdued."

"And after Ehud there proved to be Shamgar, the son of Anath and he went striking down the Philistines, six hundred men, with (a lance disguised as) an ox goad; and he also delivered Israel." Then the sword of Ehud and the lance of Shamgar passed to other hands. To Gideon and to Jephthah, who slew forty-two thousand men, and thence to Saul and David and Solomon whose exploits are well known. In the case of Saul, the sword brought about his death.

Then it passed to Ahab who "slew of the Syrians one hundred thousand footmen in one day."

Thence the sword and the lance passed to King Hezekiah, who reigned 715 to 686 B.C. and caused Sennacherib and the Assyrian host to turn away from the walls of Jerusalem.

And then they passed to others' hands and to the Maccabees (Judas, Jonathan and Simon) and to the Hasmonean dynasty. When the Hasmonean King, Alexander Jannaeus, fortified the mountain top stronghold of Masada (103-76 B.C.), he buried the sword and the lance within its walls that they not be lost, but become available for use at another time.

However, when Eleazar ben Jain and his followers made a final defence of the fortress in 73 A.D. and took their own lives, the weapons were not there. They had been discovered by the men of Roman General Gnaeus Pompey in 63 B.C. and removed to Rome. The sword and the lance were presented to Julius Caesar when Pompey, Crassus, and Julius formed the First Triumvirate a few years later. When Julius and Pompey became enemies, it is said that the sword caused Pompey's death.

From this point, the history of the lance to the 20th century has already been set forth. It was traced to Vienna, Austria, and the ancestral house of the Hapsburgs.

As previously mentioned, one legend states that Julius Caesar presented the lance to one of his brave and loyal centurions. At that time he gave the sword to his good friend Brutus, who in turn used it to kill Caesar. The sword then went to Germanicus and to his sons, Caligula and then Nero. Caligula used it to kill his pregnant sister. Nero left it to Claudius, the brother of Germanicus. Claudius presented it to the commander of his troops in Britain.

Another legend holds that Julius Caesar gave both the lance and the sword to his faithful centurion, whose grandson, Gaius Cassius, carried them to the Holy Land, where he became the Centurion of the Cross.

After Christ had healed the centurion's servant, Simon Peter approached him and asked for the use of a sword in order to protect Jesus. Peter carried the sword into the Garden of Gethsemane and with it he struck off the ear of a servant of the High Priest. As he did so, Christ reached forth and touched the sword and said: "They that live by the sword shall perish by the sword." He also healed the ear of the wounded man. This was the last miracle which Christ would perform, and with his touch, the sword became a holy relic.

After the sword and the lance were returned to Rome by Gaius Cassius, the lance passed into the hands of St. Maurice and the sword was eventually presented to Emperor Claudius in the hope that he would soften his policy toward Christians. This was the first time that the lance and the sword were parted in over 3000 years (see footnote). According to this version, the sword was never in the hands of Brutus, Germanicus, Caligula or Nero.

In 43 A.D. Claudius elected to invade Britain. He presented the sword to his troop commander, Aulus Plautius. In 47 A.D. when Plautius was succeeded as commanding officer by Ostorius Scapula, he passed on the sword, as previously instructed by Claudius. Scapula presented it to Cartimandua, Queen of the Brigantes, in return for her support. The sword was last known to be in the hands of Queen Boudicca of the Iceni when she sacked London in about 65 A.D.

Thereafter, the sword seems to have disappeared forever unless, of course, we are inclined to accept Arthurian legends as based on truth. After all, the stories of Arthur Pendragon do tell us of a sword named Excalibur that was pulled from a rock by the hands of a future king. The Christian Knights of the Round Table were pure in heart. There is mention of a bleeding lance and the most noble quest of these saintly warriors was to ride off in search of the Holy Grail.

Footnote: According to another version of the legend, the sword was handed down through history along with the lance and is now a part of the Reich insignia in Vienna. It is known as the Sword of St. Maurice.

If the sword of Ehud did wind up in Arthur's hands, then it is now in the possession of the "Lady of the Lake," where it lies beneath the surface of calm waters in a misty valley, awaiting the return of its destiny.

The true story of the sword is much more likely to be as follows: Richard I, son of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine, was made Duke of Aquitaine at the age of 11. During the formal ceremonies which celebrated this occasion, the young Duke was approached by a veiled lady, whose black garments dripped with moisture. From beneath her cloak she produced a shining sword and presented it to the future king with these words: "Carry this with you always, you will become twice a king of two kingdoms and of two titles, but in service to Christ a stranger to your own land. Guard it well." After making her presentation, the lady quickly withdrew.

Upon his father's death, Richard ascended to the throne of England and acquired Normandy and Anjou in France.

In 1191 he went on the Third Crusade, conquered Cyprus on the way to the Holy Land and was largely responsible for the capture of Acre. In fact, he displayed such remarkable courage and ability that he became known as "The Lion Hearted" in English, and Richard "Coeur de Lion" in French. The truly remarkable thing about the field at Acre is that Richard carried the Holy Sword, and Leopold of Austria, who was carrying on the mission of Frederick Barbarossa, bore the Holy Lance. The two sacred weapons were almost reunited after a separation of more than 1000 years (see footnote).

In 1192 Richard left the Holy Land. While passing through Austria on his way to England, he was captured by his old enemy, Duke Leopold, and imprisoned in Vienna. He was eventually released for a large ransom. When he returned to England, he was crowned for the second time. In his entire reign, he spent only six months in his own country.

The Holy Sword was taken from Richard during his captivity in Vienna and quickly hidden in a secret place. Six hundred years later it was joined by the lance, there to await the coming of the 20th Century.

The Other Lance

**And the widows of Ashur
Are loud in their wail,
And the idols are broke
In the temple of Baal.**

Byron

According to some sources, there was another lance was of considerable antiquity and importance. It was forged in the time of Moses (c. 1250 B.C.), probably from an iron containing meteorite.

This lance was made for Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, the priest and brother of Moses. Phinehas used it to slay Zimri, a prince of the House of the Simeonites, and Cozbi, a princess of Ashur, who had beguiled Zimri and enticed him to turn away from Yahweh to the worship of Baal. By so doing, Phinehas appeased the wrath of Jehovah and caused Him to withdraw a great plague.

Footnote: "And there was Richard, knight of the pale hair and gleaming eyes, fighting like a lion on the field of Acre as Achilles fought before the ramparts of Troy." Although Richard carried a sacred sword and covered himself with glory during the Third Crusade, it has long been forgotten that in a fit of pique, after the fall of Acre, he put 3500 innocent men, women and children to death. (*The Conquerors* by Thomas B. Castain, 1949).

Phinehas also wielded the lance when the tribes of Israel slew the five kings of Midian and all of their men. It is said that it then passed into the hands of Joshua, who carried it during the siege and sack of Jericho. It remained in his possession until his death.

Whether or not the lance was driven into a rocky crevice near the grave of Joshua is unknown, but the mere probability that it was in the vicinity of his burial site in about 1200 B.C. raises a very interesting question.

It will be remembered that the lance of Ehud was found near the place where Joshua was laid to rest in "the territory of his inheritance in Timnath-heres in the mountainous region of Ephraim on the north of Mount Gaash."

Thereafter, the legends of the two lances follow very similar courses. The question posed above must now take form in the interesting speculation: was the lance of Phinehas and the lance of Ehud actually one and same? The coinciding features of the two legends seem to indicate that they come quite close to the truth and the differences are of little importance.

The subsequent history of "the other lance" is approximately as follows. It came into the hands of King Saul, who used it as the weapon with which he tried to kill David. The lance was then handed down from generation to generation until it was acquired by Herod the Great, King of Judaea, in about 37 B.C. Whether Herod obtained the lance from his Roman friends (Mark Antony and Augustus Caesar) or from his own lineage is unknown. Whatever its source, Herod made the lance his symbol of authority because of its antiquity and sacred relationships. It was used in the slaughter of the infants of Bethlehem at the time of the birth of Christ. On the occasion of the death of Jesus, "the other lance" is said to have been in the possession of Herod Antipas, who allowed it to be used by the captain of the temple guards at Golgotha. This group had been charged with the task of breaking the legs of Christ in order to hasten his death. The captain and his guards were opposed by the sympathetic Roman centurion who did not approve of the proposed mutilation. The centurion is alleged to have stepped forward, seized the lance from the grasp of the captain, and with it, pierced the side of Christ.

Although this story is at least plausible, it seems improbable. A veteran soldier with poor eyesight would hardly have entrusted his delicate mission of skill and mercy to any weapon other than his own familiar and battle-proven lance. However, all things are possible, and this is the stuff of which legends are made. In any case, the remainder of the history of the lance would be the same. Or would it?

The Third Lance

A third lance was discovered by workers of Empress Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great, while they were laying the foundation of a church at Golgotha in 326 A.D.

Helena had gone to the Holy Land on a pilgrimage of atonement following the executions of Constantine's wife, Fausta, and his eldest son Crispus Caesar. (They had apparently been involved in some type of romantic relationship.) Helena's mission was to build churches on various holy sites such as the Mount of Olives, the place of the Ascension, and the Cave of the Nativity. She is credited with the discovery of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.

During the excavations at Golgotha, which unearthed the third lance, Helena's workers are also said to have found the "true Cross of Christ." As a result of her discoveries and good deeds, Helena became a saint, but the identity of the relics which she had uncovered, could never be established.

The ancient weapon was certainly not the Holy Lance of Longinus, which was then in the possession of Constantine himself. It may have been the spear of Phinehas, but was probably an

ordinary lance which was lost by an unknown soldier. Whether or not it had any relationship to Christ is undetermined. Nonetheless, as time went by and legend grew, this lance came to be known as the spear which had shed the blood of Jesus.

In 1252 A.D., King Louis IX of France (canonized as Saint Louis) brought the lance to Paris when he returned from the Sixth Crusade. The lance was accompanied by alleged "relics of the True Cross," which had also been discovered by Helena in 326 A.D. The cross, or portions thereof, had passed into the hands of Saladin and the Saracens. The recovery of this sacred relic was one of the main purposes of the crusades.

Louis directed the construction of several buildings in Paris, Vincennes, Saint-Germain and Corbeil to house the lance and portions of the cross. The lance remained on public display until 1795 when it suddenly and mysteriously "disappeared." It was probably stolen. The wooden shaft of the lance was detached and left behind. The shaft was later transferred to the Vatican where it can presently be viewed. Authorities at the Vatican make no serious claim that the missing spearhead is the one which pierced the flesh of Christ.

Part III

The Holy Lance in the Era of Adolf Hitler (1907-1945)

Adolf Hitler first encountered the Lance of Longinus in 1907. It was his source of mystic inspiration for the rest of his life. It passed from his hand in 1945 and was secreted in an ice cave in Deutsche Antarctica.

During the above interim, the lance motivated Heinrich Himmler to acquire Wewelsburg Castle and to create the Order of the Thirteen Knights of the Holy Circle.



Reinhard Heinrich, the Black Prince of the Third Reich, used the sacred talisman as his source of power. It led to his death. The lance also destroyed other leaders of Nazi Germany who knew its secret, but abused its true purpose.

Illustration 12: Portrait of Adolf Hitler leader of the National Socialist Party (courtesy German War Art Collection, Department of the Army, Centre of Military History and Department of Defence, Still Media Records Centre, Washington, D.C.)



Illustration 13: Portrait of Adolf Hitler at the zenith of his career as the first power of the Third Reich (painting by W. Einhect, from the German War Art Collection, Department of the Army, Centre of Military History and Department of Defence, Still Media Records Centre, Washington, D.C.). This is a rare portrait of Hitler in civilian attire and emphasizes his baleful hypnotic eyes.

CHAPTER IV

Adolf Hitler and the Holy Lance

**Whosoever possesses this Holy Lance and understands the powers it serves,
holds in his hand the destiny of the world for good or evil.**

The Legend of the Lance

ON January 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler was proclaimed chancellor of Germany. At that time very few people realized what momentous events would soon follow. Great changes were to take place in Germany in particular and indeed in the entire world. For better or for worse, Hitler was destined to become one of the most powerful and influential men who ever lived. Whether loved or hated, none can deny that he changed the course of world history and influenced the lives of nearly every person on earth.

Hitler was born on the 20th of April, 1889, in Braunau am Inn, Austria, a small town just across the border from Germany. Although he was to speak with an Austrian accent throughout his life and his physical appearance was far from the Nordic prototype he so admired, he always thought of himself as a German.

He was the third child of the third marriage of his father, Alois Hitler, a minor customs official, who was 52 years old when Adolf was born. Hitler's mother, Klara Polzl, was a second cousin of his father. She came from a farm family and was 28 years old when Hitler was born. Shortly thereafter, Alois retired from the custom service and the family moved to the vicinity of Linz, Austria.

Adolf received good grades in elementary school, but as he grew older, he became increasingly aloof and distracted. His high school grades suffered accordingly and his poor scholastic record was the source of constant friction between himself and his harsh and somewhat ill-tempered father, who was a prodigious beer drinker. In addition, Alois wanted his son to become a government worker like himself, while young Hitler aspired to be an artist or an architect.

Alois Hitler died in 1903 of a lung haemorrhage (tuberculosis?) and Adolf withdrew from school two years later at age 16. His mother was nearly destitute, and he is said to have helped her as best he could, but it seems that he really spent most of his time drawing pictures, reading books and dreaming about a seemingly unattainable bright future.

In 1907, Adolf left home and went to Vienna, the grand capital of Austria, where he intended to enrol as an art student. He did attempt to enter the Academy of Fine Arts, but failed the entrance requirements. He was also refused admission to the Technical Building School where he hoped to be trained as an architect. In this year his mother died of cancer. Between bereavement and academic failure, his hopes for the future sank to a new low.

The death of his mother inspired one of the few poems that Hitler is known to have written, other than those to a childhood sweetheart. It is said to date from about 1923.

To The Mother

**When your mother has grown old
And you have grown older,
When to her what was easy and light
Has become more of a burden to shoulder,
When her dear loving eyes
No longer see into life as before
When her feet become tired and weary**

And will carry her no more,
Then extend to her your arm for support
Escort her as a joyful burden
The hour comes when with her you must go
Tearfully on the final journey.
And she asks you, and you give an answer
And she asks you again, and you speak softly
And she asks you once more, then ceases to talk,
Not suddenly but in gentle repose
And she understands you no longer
Explain everything to her touched with joy,
For the hour comes, the bitter hour,
When her mouth will ask you no more.
A. Hitler c. 1923 (see footnote)

It was in this time of despair that Hitler learned the story of the Holy Lance which was then on display at the Hofburg palace. He visited the lance again and again and, as he stood and stared at this holy relic, a voice seemed to whisper: "When all hope is gone, think of me. Someday I will be in your hands and you will rule the world. Think of me." At first, Hitler thought that he was going mad. He was dreaming an impossible dream, and yet he wondered if it might be true. He felt compelled to study the history of the lance in the great libraries of Vienna. As he learned that it had guided the destinies of the famous German kings and Holy Roman emperors of the First Reich, he began to believe that it did indeed have mystic powers. Little by little his conviction grew. Some day he would possess the lance and it would make him greater than all who had gone before. He was then only 18 years old.

In the meantime, he struggled for mere physical survival. He did odd jobs, such as shovelling snow or carrying suitcases at the railroad station for meagre tips. Sometimes he laboured on construction projects. He often slept on park benches and lined up with other destitute men for soup and breakfast at charity kitchens. Frequently, his companions were drunks and tramps and bums, but even to these, he gave the few small bits and pieces of meat which could be picked from his thin soup or stew:

He was later to write, "Vienna was the hardest, but most thorough school of my life" (*Mein Kampf*). Here he had suffered and learned to love and hate and to formulate the "unshakeable" opinions which were to govern his life. To some who knew him in Vienna, he seemed odd, easily angered and moody. To others, he was perceived as a visionary and a humanitarian champion of all who were downtrodden.

Footnote: From a note book belonging to Adolf Hitler, approximate translation, (courtesy of a private collection in West Germany). This poem has been published on at least two prior occasions. It first appeared in the "*Sonntage-Morgenpost*" of May 14, 1933 and was reprinted, with heavy psychological analysis in the book, "*The Psychopathic God*" by Robert G. L. Waite, 1977.

Always he returned to the Holy Lance and always its whispered message was the same. Hitler was later to describe one of his visits to the treasure room of the Hofburg as follows: "I slowly became aware of a mighty presence around it (the lance) — the same awesome presence which I had experienced inwardly on those rare occasions in my life when I sensed that a great destiny awaited me." It seemed to be "a bridge between the world of sense and the world of spirit. A window in the future was opened up to me through which I saw in a single flash of illumination a future event by which I knew beyond contradiction that the blood in my veins would one day become the vessel of the Folk-Spirit of my people."

Some observers believe that this was the single most important and influential event in Hitler's life. He was now utterly convinced that the whispered words or transmitted thoughts of the lance were true. Someday, this powerful talisman would come into his possession and guide his

ultimate destiny. From that time forward, gradually and almost imperceptibly, his future seemed to brighten. His aunt died and left him a small legacy. This enabled him to return to his art. He began to sketch scenes of the famous buildings of Vienna, which he converted into posters and advertisements for shopkeepers. His work was admired and for the first time he began to earn small but significant amounts of money. Some experts have considered his art to be "highly expressive," but most critics have branded it as "too mechanical." One of the authors of this book has examined some of Hitler's paintings and finds them to be mostly architectural in nature, but very pleasant and reflective of considerable skill, particularly since the artist had no formal training (see footnote).

In 1913 the Austrian army called Hitler for a physical examination which he failed for unstated reasons. Had he passed, his future career might have been entirely different. Hitler then decided to leave Austria. He went to Munich, Germany, and thus set foot on German soil for the first time, at age 24.

In 1914 World War I began, and he eagerly volunteered for service in the German Army. He was accepted and served as a messenger on the Western Front for four long years. He participated in some of the war's bloodiest battles, such as Ypres and the Somme, and was twice decorated with the Iron Cross (first and second class) for faithful duty and great bravery. He was wounded in the leg on one occasion. When Germany surrendered in 1918, Hitler was in a military hospital recovering from temporary blindness induced by exposure to poison gas on the battlefield. It is said that he loved the army, found war highly exciting, and despised any soldier who felt otherwise.

Footnote: A catalogue raisonne of all known paintings and drawings by Adolf Hitler is contained in the book, *Adolf Hitler als Maler und Zeichner-Ein Werk-katalog*, Billy F. Price, 1985. Several hundred paintings are illustrated. Many of them are very beautiful.

In spite of his long and devoted service, Hitler rose only to the rank of corporal. This was to be a matter of considerable derision in the future. Nonetheless, he had found the key to the prophecy of the Holy Lance. Only through politics and war could the prediction come true.

After he regained his vision, Hitler returned to Munich (1919) and joined a small nationalist group called the German Worker's Party. This organization had been founded by Anton Drexler, a Munich locksmith, in the same year. Their main function was to launch a series of attacks on the Versailles Treaty, which had stripped Germany of much territory and required the payment of huge reparations for war damages.

The German Worker's Party soon changed its name to The National Socialist German Worker's Party. National Socialism became known as Nazism and its followers were termed "Nazis."

Adolf Hitler had found his role in life. His apparently innate skills as an orator, politician, and organizer quickly emerged and his rise in the party was phenomenal. He became head of its propaganda arm in 1920 and president of the party in 1921. He steadily built its membership, called for the creation of a strong central German government, cancellation of the Versailles Treaty, and freedom and bread for all German workers.

He was ploughing fertile soil, since the Germany of 1923 was deeply troubled. Its money had lost nearly all value because of severe economic problems. France and Belgium had sent troops to occupy the Ruhr Valley. The Bavarian state government in Munich was in open conflict with the national government in Berlin. This situation provided what seemed to be a perfect opportunity for a coup of some type. As the lance had foretold, Hitler's destiny had placed him on the scene at what appeared to be exactly the right time.

By October of 1923, he had organized a small private army known as storm troopers. They were well-armed, with rifles and some machine guns, and wore brown shirts as their uniform. The swastika was adopted as their emblem. This was an ancient and mystic symbol of good fortune, appearing in early Greek, Christian, Indian and Byzantine art. Thus, it fit perfectly with the whispered message of the lance. Hitler had come a long way from the soup kitchens and park benches of Vienna. Perhaps, just perhaps, he was beginning to think of himself as a new Messiah, but it must be remembered that the swastika also stands for darkness, the terrifying goddess Kali and her magical practices (see footnote).

Hitler chose November 8, 1923 as the magic moment. At a party rally in a Munich beer hall (The Burgerbraukeller), he proclaimed a Nazi revolution. The next day, he attempted, with his followers, to seize the Bavarian government. This action was to become known as the "Beer Hall Putsch" (revolution).

Marching at the front of more than 3,000 storm troopers, along with his Lieutenants Goring, Himmler, and Hess, Hitler approached the central Bavarian government offices. The well prepared state police suddenly and somewhat unexpectedly opened fire. A party member and bodyguard named Ulrich Graf threw himself in front of Hitler. Graf was seriously wounded by a hail of bullets. He was hit eleven times, but he saved Hitler's life. Goring went down with a bullet in the groin. Sixteen other party faithful were killed. Hitler's troops retreated in disarray. The plot had failed. Hitler was arrested and sentenced to five years in prison for treason, but he served less than nine months.

By this time he was irrepressible in spite of a temporary failure. He was firmly convinced that he would possess the lance and rule the world. He turned his prison term into an advantage and wrote *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle), which was dictated to his faithful friend, Rudolf Hess. After the "Beer Hall Putsch," Hess had escaped to Austria, but he returned to Germany and voluntarily entered Lands-berg Prison in order to help Hitler with *Mein Kampf*, which he took down and edited. According to other sources Hitler personally typed the book on a typewriter which still exists. Hess and his wife to be, did the proof reading.³² The original name of Hitler's-masterpiece was *Four and a Half Years of Struggle Against Lies, Stupidity and Cowardice*. In this book, Hitler stated his beliefs and ideas for Germany's future, including a plan to reunify Europe. Territories lost to Germany after the first World War would be restored, and Austria would again be part of the Fatherland.

After his release from prison in December 1924, Hitler scored one political success after another, in spite of formidable opposition, and by early 1933 he was the master of Germany. (See Illustration 11 and 12.)

Perhaps the most personally satisfying even in Adolf Hitler's life took place on March 12, 1938. On this day of the "Anschluss" or addition, Austria was made a part of Germany and Hitler himself became a true German. He came from Austria, he had suffered in Austria, he was a nobody in Austria, but now he returned as the absolute ruler of this land.

As his great black Mercedes car rolled toward Vienna in triumph, thousands upon thousands of cheering men, women, and children, many with tears in their eyes and distraught with emotion, saluted and chanted over and over again: "Heil Hitler! Heil Hitler! Ein Volk, ein Reich, ein Fairer!" (Hail Hitler! Hail Hitler! One folk, one empire, one leader). It is said that it was such a moving event that, as Hitler's limousine passed slowly through the small burgs and villages of Austria, men, women and children stooped to pick up bits of soil bearing the tire marks of his car.

Footnote: Ironically, in the same year (1923), but halfway around the world, an American military unit adopted an almost identical emblem as its insignia. This unit was to play an intimate role in Hitler's destiny. See Chapter XI.

As the motorcade reached its true destination, the Hofburg palace in Vienna, Hitler joyfully stepped from his car and saluted the welcoming party, which consisted of a special detachment of SS troopers under the command of Reichführer Heinrich Himmler. He paused momentarily to whisper something to Gruppenführer Reinhard Heydrich, who was already being thought of as his successor, and then entered the palace. He proceeded directly to the Schatzkammer (treasure room) of the Hofburg and there approached a long glass case.

He stood silently for a long time, looking down at the Holy Lance which was soon to be known as the sacred Reich's Lance. He must have thought of many things. Perhaps he recalled his boyhood in Linz, his gentle mother and his harsh father, his then hopeless dreams, his frustration at his inability to gain entrance to the Academy of Fine Arts, the days of meager survival, the park benches and the soup kitchens of this very city.

Most of all, he must have turned back to his previous visits to this room when the sight of the lance and its whispered message gave him the courage to resist the despair which had nearly engulfed him. He surely recalled the guards, the attendants, the petty officials who kept a suspicious and wary eye on the unkempt observer and sharply admonished him when he approached the case too closely.

The prophecy had come true. He was now free to remove the ancient weapon from its faded red velvet dais behind the protective glass. Then he held the sacred talisman of power in his hands, carefully feeling the cold, time-ravished metal from its shank to its tapering point. This very point had pierced the side of Jesus Christ and caused his death in order to ensure the resurrection and everlasting life.

Once more the Heilige Lame (Holy Lance) had been claimed. Once more its powers were to be manifest in the Twentieth Century, and he, Adolf Hitler, had been chosen. "Whosoever possesses this Holy Lance and understands the powers it serves, holds in his hand the destiny of the world, for good or for evil."

Surely he was the Messiah. God would rule in heaven but he, Hitler, would rule on earth. After him would come Heinrich, and after him another and another and another, "Ein Volk, ein Reich, ein Führer," for 1000 years.

The Holy Lance remained in Hitler's hands until shortly before his death in 1945. He never found the sword nor did he ever come to understand the true power of the lance. Heydrich did, but he never became Führer. Hess also understood, but he never possessed the lance.

The Third Reich came to an end only seven years after Hitler claimed the lance. By that time, Heydrich was dead. Himmler and Goring had defected. Hess was in prison and Albert Speer had refused to carry out the Führer's final orders.

Dr. Joseph Goebbels had remained faithful to the cause, as manifested by his death, the death of his wife, and the useless sacrifice of his six children. A sad commentary is that the beautiful Magda Goebbels considered the destruction of her entire family to be "a precious gift of fate," made possible by the Führer (see footnote).

Footnote: Even the loyal, but still ambitious, Dr. Goebbels and Martin Bormann tried to negotiate with Russian authorities after Hitler died. Their overtures were rejected.

For those who survived Hitler's death, nothing was left except bitter memories and thoughts of suicide, surrender or escape. Did the lance bring about the rise and fall of the Third Reich? No one knows the answer to this question, but it must be remembered that the lance is always neutral. It brings about either good or evil depending upon the purpose of the one who holds it

in his hand. In the case of Adolf Hitler the role of the lance will probably never be fully understood because, as some have said: "He was a man without measure."

Nevertheless, it seems clear that one very important influence of the lance, whether real or imagined, was its perceived support of Hitler's strong belief in what he called fate and Providence. In his mind these words translated into temporary immortality. He had developed this conviction as a soldier in World War I and it was reinforced by his miraculous escape from death in the "Putsch" of 1923.

On one occasion, in 1939, the Swiss astrologer Karl Ernst Krafft, predicted that Hitler would be in danger of assassination on a certain date. Hitler responded by saying that a man must have faith in Providence. "One must listen to an inner voice and believe in one's fate. And I believe very deeply that destiny has selected me for the German nation. So long as I am needed by the people, so long as I am responsible for the life of the Reich, I shall live. And when I am no longer needed, after my mission is accomplished, then I shall be called away."

That evening a powerful bomb, planted by Georg Elser, exploded on a platform where Hitler had been speaking only minutes before. It killed seven people and wounded sixty-three, including Eva Braun's father. Hitler was not there. Very uncharacteristically he had shortened his speech and left the hall without lingering (Hitler by John Toland).



Hitler was to survive other attempts on his life in the future, including the widely publicised assassination plot of July 20, 1944.

He was right in one way. He seemed to have been sustained by Providence until he was no longer "responsible for the life of the Reich." When the Reich came to an end he was "called away."

Albert Speer was one of the few men who ever refused to carry out an order from Adolf Hitler and lived to tell about it. He also had a keen understanding of Hitler's behaviour. When he confessed his disloyalty and resigned himself to the punishment which would surely follow, Hitler uncharacteristically dismissed the matter. The baffled Speer wondered if he had been introduced to "a fresh example of the multiple strata of Hitler's mysterious personality" and concluded that he would never know. (Inside the Third Reich.)

Illustration 14: Photograph of Reichführer Heinrich Himmler, the Master of Wewelsburg Castle, leader of the Knights of the Holy Lance and second power of the Third Reich. This is a postcard portrait by

Hitler's favorite photographer, Heinrich Hoffmann. The postcard photographs of Third Reich leaders were very popular in WWII Germany and are now collector's items (courtesy of the archives of Jost W. Schneider, Wuppertal, West Germany).



Illustration 15A: Wewelsburg Castel, from an engraving, c. 1670 (courtesy of Wewelsburg Museum).



Illustration 15B: Wewelsburg Castle, from a photograph dated March 27, 1988. The great north tower seen on the right was the inner sanctum of the Knights of the Holy Lance from 1935 to 1944 (courtesy of Mr. Hans Georg Fütterer, Hannover, West Germany).

CHAPTER V

Heinrich Himmier —The Master of Wewelsburg Castle

My honour is loyalty, I swear to thee, Adolf Hitler, obedience unto death. Oath of the SS

HEINRICH Himmler was born on October 7, 1900, in Munich, Germany. He died by his own hand, 45 years later (May 23, 1945), and is buried in a secret grave in Lüneburg. Between these two dates Himmler became one of the most powerful, feared, and enigmatic leaders of the Third Reich.

The son of a devout Catholic schoolmaster, Heinrich became interested in various occult hate rituals while still in high school. He became a member of the Artamanen and Thule societies which espoused such beliefs. He received a diploma in agriculture shortly after World War I and soon was engaged in chicken farming and the fertilizer industry, but his real interests centred on various militant rightist groups. As a member of one of these, the Reichskriegs-flagge (Empire War Flag), he marched with Hitler in the abortive "Beer Hall Putsch" of November 1923. Two years later (1925) he joined the Nazi Party and rose rapidly in its hierarchy.

When Hitler came to power on January 30, 1933, he appointed Himmler Chief of the Munich police. While in this position, he established the Third Reich's first concentration camp at Dachau and was the architect of the entire concentration camp network.

In April 1934 he was appointed assistant Chief of The Gestapo (secret police). In June of the same year he took a leading role in the purge of the SA leader, Ernst Rohm and replaced Hermann Goring as head of the entire SS with the special rank of Reich-führer. This title was only slightly different from that of Hitler's. Himmler's deputy was Reinhard Heydrich, who became head of the Gestapo and keeper of its files.

Now secure in what was to become the second most powerful position in the Third Reich, Himmler began to dream of a future in which he, not Hitler, would be the dominant force. He began to plan an SS industrial empire within, but independent of, the Reich. (Infiltration by Albert Speer). He also set out to create an elite army within an army — an army composed of the SS, perhaps not matching the regular armed forces in numbers, but far superior in terms of loyalty and ability. His SS warriors would be commanded by a group of supreme leaders known as the Knights of the Black Order and the Knights of the Blood. The Knights would be inspired by ceremony and symbols and oaths and dedication. They would weld his army of the SS into an invincible and indivisible force. His commanders would be dedicated to honor and principle, as were the Knights of King Arthur's round table. There would be a Camelot in which they would flourish, but Himmler's knights would live in a Black Camelot." Soon there came into being the Allgemeine-SS (the black uniformed or Black Order-SS) and the Waffen (or armed)-SS. The latter grew to 35 divisions."

The sacred oath to be taken by his knights was an important matter. Himmler would write it himself. It would contain some catchy phrases like "my honor is loyalty." It would come to mean more to them than life itself and would read somewhat as follows: "My honor is loyalty. I swear to thee, Adolf Hitler, Führer and Chancellor of the German Reich, loyalty. I vow to thee and the superiors whom thou shall appoint, obedience unto death, so help me God!" At some future time only the name in this oath would need to be changed to that of Himmler (see footnote). Himmler had always been fascinated with the romanticism of the splendid knights of King Arthur's court. It would be no problem to create his own knightly order, but he did need help in some areas.

Footnote: All soldiers of the Waffen-SS were eventually required to take a similar oath: "Adolf Hitler, leader of the Germanic peoples, I swear loyal and faithful obedience unto you, and those that you place in authority over me, unto death. So truly help me God!"

He turned to a man named Karl-Maria Wiligut-Weisthor, an aging former colonel-general in the Austrian army. Wiligut was an expert on old Germanic and pre-medieval history, runic symbolism, ancient legends, the mystic, the magic, and the occult. Curiously, Himmler did not know that his mentor had recently been released from an insane asylum.

Himmler wanted to know if there was a place in Germany which was similar to Stonehenge in England or Carnac in France. Yes, there was, came the answer. "Send your archaeologist to dig at the 'Place of the Stones' in Externsteine, and they will discover wondrous things." In an effort to unearth these "wondrous things" Himmler's archaeologist later found many burial sites of early Germanic tribes.

Himmler wanted to know if there was a relic in Germany which might be adopted as an emblem of worship, similar to the Holy Grail of Arthurian legend. "No," came the reply, "but in Austria, there is the most wondrous relic of all, the spear which pierced the side of Christ at the crucifixion. In Poland there is a similar lance, but it is a copy which was presented to that country by Emperor Otto III" (see footnote).⁹ Overcoming some disappointment over the fact that both objects were unobtainable at the moment, Himmler decided to forge ahead with his plans. He added the Supreme Order of the Thirteen Knights of the Holy Lance to the Black Order and the Order of the Blood. An ancient Roman lance was borrowed from a museum in Trier near the great Black Gate. It would serve symbolically as the Holy Lance until the real one, or an exact duplicate, could be obtained.

Almost as important as the lance itself were the physical headquarters where the knights would hold their ceremonies. Himmler envisioned an historical place, a religious place, a place of legend, like Camelot. There was such a place and, when he saw it for the first time, he shrieked, uncharacteristically, with delight.

Wewelsburg was a strange medieval castle in the shape of a triangle, built upon a huge rock, complete with moat and drawbridge and menacing towers (Illustration 14). It was the only triangular castle in all of Germany.

Footnote: Over the centuries a number of copies of the Holy Lance were made. Himmler was to add still another false lance to this group, but one so perfect that it would cause profound confusion forever after. The nearby city of Paderborn literally reeked with history, legend, and tradition. It had once been the site of one of King Charlemagne's palaces which had housed the Holy Lance. Paderborn became the birthplace of the Holy Roman Empire (The First Reich) when, in 799, Charlemagne met with Pope Leo III to discuss the founding of a German nation. Thus, Paderborn was also the birthplace of Germany.

This city had been the site of a bishopric since 805 and the prince-bishops had occupied Wewelsburg Castle for many years. The Teutonic Knights had visited Wewelsburg after their return from the Third Crusade and with them came the Holy Lance. Thus, if Himmler brought the lance back to Wewelsburg, it would be returning for the third time, a distinction for Wewelsburg greater than that of any other site. When the Teutonic knights removed the Holy Lance from Wewelsburg it was taken to Castle Trifels near Anweiler in South Palatinate, Germany, c. 1246, where it was stored along with other treasures of the Holy Roman Empire, including a sword, a cross and a scepter. The sword may have been the Holy Sword of St. Peter, also known as the Sword of St. Maurice of the Theban Legion. From Trifels the treasure was taken to Karlstein in Bohemia (near Prague, Czechoslovakia) in about 1350, then to Nurnberg (1495-1806), and finally to Vienna.¹ While the royal emblems were in Nurnberg (in 1806), they were stored in a deep cave beneath the main fortress of the city, the same place to which they would return in 1944. In 1806, they were sent to Vienna to keep them from falling into the hands of Napoleon. Later, the Austrian government refused to return the treasure to Germany and it remained in Vienna until seized by Hitler in 1938. Castle Wewelsburg and its history was absolutely perfect for Himmler's purposes, but there was still more.

Legend held that a great red storm would rise out of the East and threaten Germany and the world. It would be stopped by the Knights of Wewelsburg and their leader would be the savior (and ruler) of the world. This prophecy was apparently the basis for a recent novel (Red Storm Rising by Tom Clancy, 1986).

According to another ancient prophecy, "a bear from the East will devour the flocks of the Lords of Westphalia. They will join the white star of the West and strike him down with a sword. When he rises again, they will kill him with a spear."

The thought was mind-boggling. Himmler bought or rented the castle on the spot and immediately began its restoration and reconstruction. Money was no object. He was generously backed by a group of industrialists and bankers, known as "The Friends of the Reichführer-SS." Under the leadership of Wilhelm Keppler and Fritz Kranefuss, the purpose of this group was to see that Himmler was never short of funds. He, of course, would reward them in the future. This project had its beginnings in 1934, and Heinrich Himmler ruled for 11 years as the master of Wewelsburg Castle.

In the end, he did try to overthrow Hitler. He planned to continue the struggle as guerrillas after the war with the use of an organization known as the Werewolf or, better still, by uniting the Allies with Germany in a war against the Russians. However, his move came too late. When it was learned that the SS leader hoped to succeed the Führer and had negotiated with the Swedish Count, Folke Bernadotte, to surrender Germany to the Western Allies and, with the Allies, continue the war against the Soviet Union (the red storm of the East), Hitler stripped Himmler of all offices and rank. His arrest was ordered. Disguised as a policeman, Himmler attempted to escape, but was captured by the British on May 22, 1945. He committed suicide by taking poison and is buried in a secret grave in Lüneberg" (see footnote).

He had violated his own oath, "My honour is loyalty."

Footnote: Second Army Troop News, Sunday, 27 May, 1945: "Unmarked Grave for Himmler. Himmler was buried yesterday in a wooded area not far from the house at Second Army H.Q. in which he committed suicide on Wednesday last. Before this took place British Army surgeons



took casts of his features and removed the brain and parts of the skull. The body was then wrapped in a blanket and conveyed in an army lorry to the site chosen for the burial. There was no religious service, and the few soldiers present at the act of burial in unconsecrated ground are sworn to secrecy as to the whereabouts of his grave." "Himmler was unique amongst the Nazi leaders who died at the end of the war, in that his was the only body (other than Heydrich's), not to have been cremated and therefore eliminated for good." His brain probably still exists somewhere in the world.

Illustration 15: Photograph of Reichprotektor Reinhard "The Hangman" Heydrich, the "Black Prince" of the Third Reich, and "Knight of Honor" in the Holy Circle. Third Power of the Third Reich. Portrait by Hitler's favorite photographer, Heinrich Hoffmann (courtesy of Bundes archly, Koblenz, West Germany), Photograph acquired by Mrs. Helen Huppertz, Nordkirchen, West Germany.



Illustration 16: Reinhard Heydrich, the "Black Prince" of the Third Reich (from a painting by Joseph Vietze, German War Art Collection, Department of the Army, Center of Military History and Department of Defense, Still Media Records Center, Washington, D.C.). Near Heydrich's right hand stands a magnificent piece of Allach-Dachau porcelain known as "Der Fencer" (The Fencer). It was created by Ottmar Obermeir. Priceless presentation masterpieces such as this were controlled by Himmler who gave them to only the most important figures of the Third Reich (SS Porcelain Allach by Michael J. Passmore, 1972). Heydrich himself was a master swordsman. The first author once stood in a warehouse where the greatest collection of Allach porcelain in all the world was assembled. A week later it was dispersed forever. The date was April 29, 1945. The place was Dachau.



Illustration 17: Photograph of General-Professor Karl Ernst Haushofer, The "Wizard of Germany" and the Fourth Power of the Third Reich (from the collection of Capt. Wilhelm Bernhart).



Illustration 18: Portrait of Rudolf Hess in his "Brown Shirt" uniform. Hess became the Fifth Power of the Third Reich (courtesy of German War Art Collection, Department of the Army, Centre of Military History and Department of Defence, Still Media Records Centre, Washington, D . C)

CHAPTER VI

The Circle of the Knights of the Holy Lance and The Five Powers of the Third Reich

I have the secret meaning of powerful runes. He who forsakes me will forever be tormented by evil. He shall die a treacherous death. I prophecy ruin (see footnote).

Curse of the Bjorketorp Stone

IN late 1934 or early 1935, almost simultaneously with the acquisition of Wewelsburg Castle, Reichführer Heinrich Himmler officially formed a highly secret organization, consisting of an elite group of SS officers whose loyalty to him and to Germany was beyond question.

They were all members of the order of the Allgemeine Schutz-staffel (General or Black Uniformed SS) or Waffen SS and became known to themselves as the "The Circle of the Thirteen Knights of the Blood of the SS" or "The Circle of the Knights of the Holy Lance." Their symbol of adoration was the most sacred relic of Christianity, the Holy Lance which had pierced the side of Christ. Himmler was absolutely fascinated by the lance and its legend and he formed the group in anticipation of the day when the lance would come into German hands. He knew that it was then located in the treasure room in the Hofburg palace in Vienna, but he also knew that Austria would inevitably be annexed to Germany.

Footnote: This pagan warning is almost identical to the basic principal of the Old Testament, "If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you" (Joshua 24:20).

According to some sources, Himmler ordered a very skilful copy of the lance to be made at that time from materials as old as the Holy Lance itself. However, this seems highly unlikely, since a really good reproduction could not be made without using the real lance as a guide. Instead, an ancient lance was procured from a museum in the old Roman city of Trier, Germany, and this weapon was used symbolically until the true lance could be obtained.

In March, 1938, the "Anschluss" brought about the addition of Austria to Germany. As previously described in Chapter IV, Adolf Hitler immediately claimed the Holy Lance for himself. However, he did not have it removed for six months and then entrusted it to his deputies, Himmler and Heydrich, for transportation and temporary safekeeping in Wewelsburg Castle (see footnote). It was then that an absolutely perfect copy of the lance was made.

In an attempt to discredit this story at a later date, investigators spoke with virtually all of the skilled metal workers in Germany. Paul Müller was the most notable member of this group. They all denied having been asked to create a duplicate of the Holy Lance, and they were telling the truth.

No one outside of the original Circle of the Thirteen Knights was to know that a duplicate lance had been made; therefore, German craftsmen were disqualified. Himmler wanted the copy to be produced by a sword maker of Damascus where a descendant of the creator of the sword of Saladin could be found.

Footnote: The remainder of the priceless articles in the Schatzkammer (treasure room), hereafter referred to as The Reich Treasure, was so vast that it actually filled 21 rooms. The collection was placed in the custody of Dr. Ernst Kalten-brunner (a Knight of the Holy Lance), who arranged to have it loaded in closely guarded railroad cars and shipped to Nurnberg, Germany. Here it was turned over to Lord Mayor Willie Liebel with great pomp and ceremony. The

treasure was put on public display in the Meistersingers Hall of St. Katherine's Church, where it remained until Allied bombing raids caused it to be removed to a vault in Kohn's Bank. In the fall of 1944, the Reich Treasure was transferred to a special air conditioned bunker in an ancient tunnel under Nurnberg Fortress. Here it was discovered by members of the U.S. 7th Army on April 30, 1945. An ancient lance was included in the find, but it was the duplicate of Himmler and not the original lance which had been removed from Vienna.

However, Heinrich turned to a close friend and associate for advice. Professor Karl Ernst Haushofer of the University of Munich had served as an army officer in Japan (1908-1910). He was familiar with the work of the Samurai swordmakers and he arranged to have the finest metal craftsman in Japan brought to Germany. Using the spear obtained from the Trier museum and other metals at least as old as the Holy Lance was thought to be, the Japanese worker created a duplicate which was indistinguishable from the original. Each speck, each tiny defect was faithfully reproduced, until no one could say which was the true and which was the recently fashioned lance. However, a single tiny maker's mark, known only to Himmler, Heydrich, and the craftsman, was placed on one of the lances. The original was returned to Hitler's office in Berlin. The reward of the Japanese sword maker is uncertain.

With the lance in hand, Himmler's imagination knew no bounds. He appointed Heinrich as custodian of the lance and the only man in the Third Reich allowed to invoke its power. This is a strange coincidence, since it is now believed that Heydrich had previously learned the true secret of the Holy Lance from Professor Haushofer. In all the hierarchy of the Reich, he probably had the greatest potential for power existing on earth at that time.

The Knights had adopted an ancient runic symbolism to express the power of the Reich. Apparently the use of the pre-German alphabet letters was inspired by Brigade-Führer Karl-Maria Wiligut-Weisthor, who also designed the runic ornate SS honor ring. A Professor Wilhelm Teudt seems to have had some influence on Himmler and his ideas, as did Professor Karl Ernst Haushofer. The theories of Walter Darr and Dr. Rudolf Steiner, founder of "anthroposophy" and the author of Occult Science, played an important role. A man named Walter Stein, who is said to have achieved "transcendental consciousness," can also be implicated. Through Hitler, the ideas of many other radical thinkers, such as Dietrich Eckart and Alfred Rosenberg, permeated Himmler's mind.

According to the runic symbols, the letter H stood for the power of Deutschland. The four arms of the H were related to the four points of the swastika and each point represented a man. The men were Hitler, Himmler, Heinrich, and rather curiously, the previously mentioned civilian, but ex-army officer, Professor Karl Ernst Haushofer. Once again, we find Heydrich elevated to a layer of power which his position, rank, and youth does not seem to justify. For instance, he is ranked above the powerful Goring and the loyal Hess. The instigator of this system tried to solve the problem by adding a fifth H or a fifth point to the swastika. The fifth position was then occupied by Hess. Even so, Heydrich and Haushofer are still considered to be more powerful than Goring, in spite of the fact that Goring was officially designated as Hitler's successor by the Führer himself.

The Knights of the Circle of the Holy Lance were Himmler (The Grand Master), Heinrich (Seat of Honor), and a large number of high ranking officers of the SS whose names are listed in the next chapter. These men attended the various ceremonies, but never more than thirteen were seated at any one time. They met with a carefully scheduled irregularity. Those chosen to be present donned the full regalia of the Order of the Teutonic Knights of the 11th Century. Each man wore garments of red, white, and black. These colours were symbolic of the black swastika on a white field with a surrounding scarlet background.

In the main circular hall of Castle Wewelsburg stood a great round table of solid oak carved with secret runic symbols and designs. The table was covered by a red velvet cloth and a large white square banner bearing two runic signs side by side, symbolizing "Sig," or the letter "S," the emblem of the "SS." In the centre of the white cloth stood the Holy Lance, enclosed in a protective glass case.

Around the table were thirteen splendid throne-like chairs of oak, polished and finished to shining perfection. Each chair was upholstered with boar skin. The name of each knight was engraved on a gleaming silver plate which was attached to the back of his chair. All name plates were removable, except those of Himmler and Heydrich, which were permanently affixed to their chairs.

Himmler always sat in a chair from which the lightning like symbol of the SS seemed to originate, suggesting that he was the power, the vitality, and the life of the order. To his left, the side of his heart, Reinhard Heydrich was always seated, in permanent honour of the one man who fully understood the power of the Holy Lance. To Himmler's right sat the individual who was being honoured on a special occasion, such as a promotion or in recognition of some special act of bravery or dedication. The remaining ten knights sat at random, without regard to rank or position. Behind Himmler's chair hung a huge flag bearing the swastika emblem in red, white, and black. On either side of the flag were the standards of the NSGWP (National Socialist German Worker's Party). Attached to these standards were the special banners of the SS bearing the words "Deutschland Erwache" (Germany Awake), a battle cry made popular by Dietrich Eckart, Hitler's mentor.

Behind the Reich's flag and standards were massive stone arches of medieval style. On top of each arch hung early Germanic arms and symbols. Inside of each arch were crossed German broadswords. In the centre of the swords were bronze spouts designed to bum a tallow of ancient origin. When lit, they provided the only light in the great hall and created an atmosphere similar to that in which the Teutonic Knights of the Crusades conducted their ceremonies.

Immediately behind and to the right of each throne-like chair was a standard on which the knight's personal arms were hung. These consisted of his sword, his dagger, his lance, and his shield, which was usually emblazoned with his family coat of arms. Himmler's shield bore the figure of a "divided tree."

As they sat in flickering torchlight, like the Teutonic Knights of old, and began the ritual with meditation and prayer, they asked for greater dedication and loyalty and gave thanks for the improved fortunes of the country which they served. Sometimes the Grand Master would ask them questions about books which they had been assigned to read. These books were available in the Wewelsburg library and usually concerned the lives and accomplishments of Henry the Fowler (Himmler's hero), Frederick Barbarossa (Hitler's favourite), and other great Germanic kings. When a new member was admitted to the order, he would be asked to recount the details of the hunt in which he qualified for knighthood. This will be explained in subsequent passages. On rare occasions, Heydrich would display the power of the Holy Lance by producing a trancelike state in himself or others. This was known as "transcendental consciousness," and the subject is said to have made contact with "Akashic records" or the astral light which produces a reservoir of occult power, making prophecy and clairvoyance possible. At other times Heydrich is said to have transfigured himself into the godlike figure of a "Urbemensch" (super-man).

A strong sense of Christianity, mixed with a thread of the mystic and the occult, constantly weaves itself through the rituals and the symbolism of the Circle die Ritter der Heilige Lanze (Circle of the Knights of the Holy Lance). The number thirteen has been variously interpreted as meaning Christ and his twelve disciples or the sun and the twelve signs of the zodiac. In either case, whether pagan or Christian, Himmler is the godson or the sun itself."

Adolf Hitler was one of the few people in Germany who knew about the Knights of the Holy Lance. He had a standing invitation to attend their ceremonies, and the finest suite of rooms in the castle was reserved for him. However, these rooms were never occupied. Hitler never chose to visit Wewelsburg. It is said that he was amused by Himmler and his knights, comparing them to the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) with St. Ignatius Loyola as their leader, but it seems more likely that he never came because he considered it unsafe to do so.

No one really knows how new members of the order were selected, but something is known about the entrance requirements. The candidate for potential knighthood was sent to a remote and densely forested area in the Black Forest where wild boars abound. He fasted for two days and nights at a hunting lodge. On the morning of the third day he was allowed to partake of a small meal of wine, bread, and cheese. He then donned the red, white, and black clothing of the old Order of the Teutonic Knights. Armed only with a two-and-one-half meter spear, a leather shield and a short dagger, he was required to track down and kill a wild boar in a struggle to the death. In this way he proved his courage, stamina, skill, and determination to conquer the brute force of his enemies.

Some knights accomplished this feat in one day, while it took others a week or more. Three were wounded in the struggle, one seriously. Those who were wounded wore their scars as a badge of honour.

After each man had taken his boar, he was required to remove its skin and have it tanned. When all was in readiness, he reported to Reichführer Heinrich Himmler and the Knights of the Holy Lance. He placed his shield on the round table and on the shield he positioned the neatly folded boar's skin. He laid his spear to the right and his dagger to the left. Then he recounted the details of the hunt. That evening the new knight's silver nameplate was attached to his chair in a ceremony of ritualistic splendour. A few weeks later the boar skin became the covering of his chair. This was the final touch to completing full membership as a Ritter of the Heilige Lanz.

Had the knight candidate been killed by the boar, or had he died in some other way, still another ceremony would have taken place. In the lower level of the north tower of the castle was a circular chamber, designed for burning the symbolic arms of a fallen knight. Around the walls of the room were thirteen plinths, each bearing an urn in which the arms were cremated and in which the ashes would be stored forever. The chamber was lighted by an eternal flame.

Ironically, this room was only put to use on a single occasion. Here the arms of SS General and Reichprotektor Reinhard Heydrich were cremated. The only man who knew the full secret of the Holy Lance had been the first to die, on June 4, 1942 (see Chapter IX).

After the death of Heinrich, Himmler seemed to have lost interest in the Knights of the Holy Lance, perhaps because Heydrich was no longer there to activate the power of the talisman. Without Himmler's and Heydrich's stimulus, the activities of the group slowly declined and finally ceased. No one knew it at the time, but this is exactly what was happening to the Third Reich.

On March 31, 1945, a group of SS engineers under the command of Major Heinz Macher attempted to destroy Wewelsburg Castle, on the orders of Himmler himself. It is interesting to note that only two days earlier the duplicate Holy Lance had been secretly removed and sent to Nürnberg for safekeeping with other treasures of the Reich. This explains why it was found in a hurriedly selected position atop a piece of furniture. Two days later (April 2, 1945), Wewelsburg was captured by American forces. On April 30, 1945 (the day Hitler died), the Reich treasure was discovered in a bunker under Nürnberg Castle hill by elements of the U.S. 7th Army (see footnote). All of the items were returned to Vienna where they can be seen today at Hofburg Palace. While the true Holy Lance was in Adolf Hitler's possession (1938-1945), he frequently allowed it to be placed on public display in Nürnberg along with other Reich

treasures. However, when the cache was uncovered on April 30, 1945, the real lance was in, or en route to, Antarctica (see Chapter XII), and Himmler's imitation spear had taken its place in the Reich collection.

Footnote: The entrance to the tunnel which led to the underground treasure vault was partially exposed by Allied bombing. It was accidentally discovered by a group of soldiers who were exploring the surrounding rubble. The vault was not opened until several days later. The most important parts of the Reich insignia (other than the lance) were found in a separate cave on August 7, 1945, as the result of tenacious and intriguing detective work by Lt. Walter W. Horn. (U.S. Army Intelligence).

Nürnberg was captured by the 45th (Thunderbird) Division of the U.S. 7th Army on Hitler's 56th and final birthday, April 20, 1945 (see Chapter XI). On that day, one of the authors (HAB) stood at the foot of Nürnberg castle, which was to become 7th Army Headquarters. As he gazed upward at the great fortress, he did not know that the Holy Lance and its priceless companions were nestled in a hiding place directly beneath his feet. Shortly thereafter, the Reich treasure was unearthed and placed in the custody of Capt. J. C. Thompson.

It is said that, when informed of the discovery of the articles, the interest of Gen. George S. Patton centered on the lance. As a student of ancient history, he appeared to be the only one who fully appreciated its significance. He travelled to Nürnberg and after asking many highly technical questions, he held the lance in his hand in order to sense its power of destiny. As he grasped the ancient weapon, it is not difficult to imagine the visions of past and future grandeur which it must have conjured in the mind of such an ambitious man. Like Hitler, when he first possessed the lance of destiny, he probably thought of many things. Was he a reincarnated Alexander, Hannibal, or Napoleon? Where did his future lie? Should he enter politics? Seek the presidency of the United States? Reorganize the military forces of Germany? Provoke a war with the Soviet Union? Would he become a messenger of God, destined to banish Communism from the face of the earth, save the world and become its greatest leader? His imagination probably soared beyond all limits. Sadly, even the great commander did not know that he held in his hand a false lance and that his own thoughts, when verbalized, as he was often and imprudently prone to do, would spell his own doom. After he touched the lance, Patton's military power was steadily eroded by higher authority because of his outspoken opinions. He died as the result of an implausible auto accident before the year had ended (Dec. 21, 1945). He had trusted the wrong lance. Perhaps the most implacable anti-communist in all the world was dead and it is just possible that the history of mankind had changed forever." As the lance passed from German to American possession the Atomic Age began in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is interesting to speculate as to what use Patton would have recommended for the most awesome weapon ever invented and whether a fear of his ideas brought about his death.

In January 1946 a U.S. aircraft returned the Reich treasures to Vienna. Gen. Mark Clark presented them to the Austrian government.

"As had happened many times throughout the centuries, Wewelsburg Castle has been rebuilt. It is now a youth hostel and a particularly handsome one, its interior is light and cheerful, its windows commanding magnificent views of the peaceful, wooded countryside of Westphalia. Walls that once echoed to jackboots now cheerfully bounce back children's voices. Only in the great north tower can the remnants of Nazism be seen; the two chambers constructed for Himmler's SS rituals are locked and unused, but are almost wholly intact."

Many critics have steadfastly denied that the Circle of the Knights and their ceremonies ever existed. They state that Himmler's diary contains no mention of those who sat at the round table. Of course it does not. Written records of any type were strictly forbidden by his own decree. They state that Albert Speer had no knowledge of the order. Of course he did not. The organization was one of profound secrecy, and Speer, whose dedication was open to some

suspicion, was never invited to be a member. The detractors also claim that the chambermaids ("Brugmaidens") had never witnessed a Valhalla-like event. Of course they had not. All servants of the castle were sent away when ceremonies were conducted. The thirteen participants were attended only by their personal batmen, under the direction of the castle warden, Gen. Siegfried Taubert, whose loyalty was of such intensity that his most ardent wish was to die in defence of his SS oath. It is also said that the notes of Joachim Peiper, Himmler's personal adjutant, do not record the activities of des Ritters. Of course they do not. He was a member and prohibited from keeping a written record. Finally, it is often stated that there were not enough billets in the castle or immediate area to accommodate large groups of officers. This argument is invalid because the knights were a small group (only 13), and there was a special room in the Castle for each member who was present at any given meeting. The rooms were dedicated to great leaders of the past such as Henry the Fowler, Frederick Barbarossa, Otto the Great, and Philip of Swabia. If additional rooms were needed for attendants, there was plenty of housing in Paderborn, only twelve miles away, or in Haaren which was even closer.

The Knights of the Holy Lance are said to have been patterned after King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table, but in many ways they appear to have been inspired by the Norse mythology of Valhalla. According to legend, Valhalla was the hall of slain warriors, who live there blissfully under the leadership of the god Odin. Valhalla is depicted as a splendid palace with a roof of shields. Here the warriors feast on the meat of a boar which is slaughtered daily and made whole again each evening. They drink milk from a goat and they constantly sharpen their combat skills.

There they await the Ragnarok (doomsday) when they will march out of the 640 doors of the palace to fight at the side of Odin against his enemies. When earth warriors fall in battle, it is said that Odin needs them to strengthen his forces for the doomsday conflict. He then sends out his handmaidens or Valkyrie (choosers of the slain), who ride through the air to battle and select the heroes who are to be slain and taken to Valhalla.

A distinct parallel between this legend, The Knights of The Holy Lance, and the fortunes of the Third Reich seems to exist and once again points out a conflict between pagan and Christian beliefs: Himmler as Christ; Himmler as Odin; Himmler as St. Loyola or even the Pope; Himmler as the Sun; Himmler as the Christian King Arthur; or Himmler as the leader of the "perfect Cathars" (see footnote).

The Knights of the Holy Lance worshipped a metal object, not Christ himself, and they actually encouraged their elite SS troopers to abandon religion and give their full loyalty to their leaders. Thus, a split personality developed in the Third Reich and was instrumental in bringing about its doomsday.

Still another theory about the knights compares them to the order of the Templars (Poor Knights of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon). Founded during the crusades in about 1119 as a religious military order of noble purpose, the Templars gradually acquired great wealth and power independent of any kingdom.

Footnote: The Cathars were a pseudo religious sect of the 12th and 13th centuries who rewrote the Bible and devised an elaborate mythology in its place. The "perfect" Cathars were set apart from the mass of "believers" by special ceremonies of initiation. Their fortress in the Pyrenees Mountains was destroyed in 1244 by Louis IX and a group of Christian Barons from northern France. Sixty thousand men, women, and children were put to the sword in a single day.

They were noted for their secret and sometimes gruesome rituals and were eventually accused of losing sight of their early Christian principles. Pope Clement V suppressed the order in 1312, and the Grand Master Jacques de Molay was burned at the stake. Presumably, Himmler envisaged an organization of this type which would function as the power behind the throne if

the war was won. He never had an opportunity to really use his knights, but it is interesting to note that the order of the Teutonic Knights, the order of the Knights of the Holy Lance, and the Knights Templars all have been revived and are functional at the present time. Some of the names (de Molay) and rituals of the Freemasons appear to have descended from the last named order.

Of all the ancient orders which might be compared with Hitler's and Himmler's Nazi Germany, it would seem that the history of the Knights Templars most closely parallels the rise and fall of the Third Reich.

The question of black magic, the occult, the power of Lucifer, and the worship of Satan in Germany, as these themes related to both Hitler and Himmler, has been addressed by others. Many of Hitler's ideas about Atlantis, the origin of the Aryan race, and "The Secret Doctrine" as espoused by Professor Karl Haushofer are to be found elsewhere.

The Knights of the Circle of Thor

There is growing evidence that there was another society within the higher echelons of the SS which was even more secret than the Thirteen Knights of the Holy Lance. Almost nothing is known about this group and its purpose, except that the members wore the hammer of the ancient Germanic deity as their emblem. Himmler's chief of staff, General Karl Wolff, is believed to have been a member. The society may still exist at the present time.



Illustration 19: Theodor "Papa" Eicke, a typical Knight of the "Order of the Blood." Eicke, holder of the Knight's Cross with Oakleaves and general of the Waffen-SS, was commander of all concentration camp personnel. He was also commander of the dreaded "Totenkopf" Division. He came to power after he assassinated the German leader Ernst Rohm. His motto was, "My country, right or wrong" (photograph courtesy of Their Honor was Loyalty by Jost W. Schneider, Wuppertal, West Germany.)



Illustration 20: Josef "Sepp" Dietrich, full general, army commander and the holder of the Knight's Cross with Oakleaves, Swords, and Diamonds, was an outstanding example of a true Knight of the Holy Lance (photograph courtesy of Their Honour was Loyalty by Jost W. Schneider, Wuppertal, West Germany).



Illustration 21: Otto Skorzeny, a Knight of the Order of the SS and of the Holy Lance, holder of the Knight's Cross with Oakleaves. Skorzeny became a national hero in Germany during WWII as a result of his daring exploits (photograph courtesy of Their Honour was Loyalty by Jost W. Schneider, Wuppertal, West Germany.)

CHAPTER VII

Members of the Knights of the Holy Lance

**Like the leaves of the forest
When Summer is green
That host with their banners
At sunset were seen.
Like the leaves of the forest
When Autumn hath blown,
That host on the morrow
Lay wither'd and strown.**

Byron

O **THER** than Heinrich Himmler (the Grand Master) and Reinhard Heydrich (The Knight of Honor), the members of the Order of the Holy Lance have never been conclusively identified. (Himmler committed suicide. Heydrich was assassinated.)

Adolf Hitler was, of course, an honorary member, and a special suite in Wewelsburg Castle was permanently reserved for his use. For reasons known only to himself, he never attended a meeting of the Circle. (He is reported to have died by his own hand(?).

As one of the designated powers (five H's) of the Third Reich, Rudolf Hess was almost certainly an honorary member, but there is no evidence that he ever visited the castle. (He died by suicide(?).

Dr. Karl Haushofer, Professor of Geopolitics at Munich University, was also a member of the five "H's" and an ex-army officer, but he did not belong to the SS. He was probably included in the Order of the Knights in an advisory capacity. Whether he was allowed to attend ceremonial events is unknown. (He committed suicide.)

Brigadier General Karl-Maria Wiligut-Weisthor was also an advisor to the Circle, but not a full member. Himmler dismissed him from association with the group when it was learned that he had been treated in a mental institution. (He died of natural causes January 3, 1946, eight months after the war ended.)

Those 55 officers who have been suspected to be members of the Order of the Holy Lance, or because of their associations seem likely to have been members, are listed as follows:

Theodor Eicke **SS-Gruppenführer (major general) and General Lieutenant of the Waffen-SS, holder of the Knight's Cross with Oak-leaves."**

If one accepts the fact that there was an organization known as the Knights of the Holy Lance in the Third Reich, then one must also accept the fact that Theodor Eicke was a member of the order. It is known that Eicke visited Wewelsburg publicly on at least one occasion and probably returned many other times in secret. Eicke was a fanatically dedicated officer whose motto was "My country, right or wrong." He lived by this creed. In July 1934 Eicke rose to prominence when he assassinated Ernst Rohm at the instigation of Hitler and Himmler, thereby establishing his absolute loyalty."

He soon became commandant of the concentration camp at Dachau and eventually was promoted to Inspector General of all concentration camps. He formed the fierce Totenkopf (Death's Head) Division and commanded this unit until he was killed in combat on February 6, 1943.

It is of interest that he was buried "in a manner reminiscent of the funeral rites performed by the ancient Germans upon the death of their tribesman or kings" or in the manner of the Knights of the Holy Lance.

Eicke probably recruited some of his most outstanding officers from the Totenkopf Division to become Knights of the Holy Order of the Lance, but their identifies are unknown.

Josef "Sepp" Dietrich

SS-Oberstgruppenführer (four star general), holder of the Knight's Cross with Oakleaves, Swords, and Diamonds (Germany's highest award).

Sepp Dietrich became head of Hitler's personal bodyguard in 1932. From commanding officer of SS Regiment "Leibstandarte-SS-Adolf Hitler," he rose to the position of army commander. He commanded the 6th Panzer Army during the Ardennes Offensive (Battle of the Bulge) and was involved in the Malmedy trial at Dachau. He was convicted and served a moderate jail sentence. He was later tried by a German court for participating in executions relating to the death of Ernst Rohm. He died a natural death in 1966.

Dietrich is known to have visited Wewelsburg castle on at least one occasion.' He is believed to have been a member of the Knights of the Holy Lance."

Joachim Peiper

SS-Obersturmbannführer (Lt. Col.), holder of the Knight's Cross with Oakleaves and Swords.

Joachim Peiper was a perfect candidate for membership in the Circle of the Knights of the Holy Lance. He was a graduate of the SS-Officer's School at Braunschweig, the son of an officer and a volunteer for duty with Hitler's bodyguard unit, the Leibstandarte (October 1934). He became adjutant to Heinrich Himmler in 1938 at almost exactly the time of Hitler's possession of the Holy Lance and at the height of Himmler's enthusiasm for the new order of knights.

Peiper was a role model of the bright young officer on which Germany's future would depend. Unfortunately, he was commanding officer of the panzer regiment, which killed 74 American prisoners in the Malmedy Incident." After Germany surrendered, he was branded as "War Criminal No. 1." He was tried, convicted, and condemned to hang. However, this sentence was changed to life imprisonment in 1951, and he was released from Landsberg Prison on December 22, 1956. On the night of July 13, 1976, he was murdered in his home in Traves, France. His killer was never apprehended.

Otto Skorzeny

SS-Obersturmbannführer (Lt. Col.), holder of the Knight's Cross with Oakleaves.

An engineer by profession, a linguist, and a close friend of Dr. Ernst Kaltenbrunner, Otto Skorzeny was an officer of great dash and bravado. He was selected to command a special forces team whose assigned mission was to rescue Benito Mussolini from the Gran Sasso Hotel in Italy where he was held captive by anti-fascist forces. Skorzeny accomplished this task with unbelievable skill and daring. He became a national hero, complete with superman image and the expected saber wound on his left cheek. He was a perfect candidate for membership in the Circle of the Knights of the Holy Lance. He died in 1975 in Madrid, Spain.

Dr. Ernst Kaltenbrunner

SS-Obergruppenführer (Lt. or three star general), holder of the Knight's Cross to the War Merit Cross with Swords

A lawyer by profession, he played a major part in the formation of the Austrian SS prior to the Anschluss (addition) in 1938. Kaltenbrunner was very familiar with the Holy Lance, its legend and its possession by Adolf Hitler (see Chapter VI). Following the death of Reinhard Heydrich in 1942, he was appointed head of the Reich Security Main Office. After the German surrender, he was convicted of serious war crimes and hanged at Nurnberg on October 16, 1945. He was highly qualified for membership in the Order of the Lance.

Dr. Karl Gebhardt

Professor, Doctor of Medicine, Reich Physician, Clinic Overseer, SS-Gruppenführer and General Lieutenant (major general) of the Waffen-SS, holder of the Knight's Cross to the War Merit Cross.

Although Dr. Josef Mengele became the most widely publicized Nazi doctor, his qualifications could hardly approach those of Dr. Karl Gebhardt. As an army surgeon, Gebhardt served in the "Das Reich" division under the famous Waffen-SS General, Paul Hausser. He became a world renowned orthopedic specialist and head of the Hohenlychen Orthopedic Clinic.

He was indicted at the Nurnberg "Medical Trials" for having performed experiments on human beings. He was asked to demonstrate his methods to an audience of highly qualified American surgeons, and his research was then confiscated by the U.S. Army. He was hanged in Landsberg Prison on June 2, 1948.¹⁹ Gebhardt was probably the only physician to become a member of the Knights of the Holy Lance.

Oswald Pohl

SS-Obergruppenführer (Lt. or three star general) and General of the Waffen-SS and Police, head of SS-Economic and Administrative Main Office (SS-WUVHA), holder of the Knight's Cross to the War Merit Cross.

Pohl was a personal friend of Heinrich Himmler. He was charged with the mission of building up the administrative department of the entire SS and police. He was an economic and financial genius who was successful in creating a state (the SS) within a state (the Reich). His downfall resulted from his appointment to Branch "D" of the SS main office which was responsible for administration and economic affairs of the concentration camps. Pohl was indicted at Nürnberg for having leased or rented concentration camp inmates to industrial firms and was declared responsible for the deaths of several thousand inmates. He was hanged on June 7, 1951, one of the "last seven" alleged war criminals to be executed by the United States.

Pohl's name has been prominently mentioned as a member of the Circle of the Knights of the Lance."

Kurt Daluege

SS-Oberstgruppenführer (full four star general) and General Commander of the Police, Deputy Reichprotektor of Bohemia and Moravia, holder of the Knight's Cross to the War Merit Cross with Swords.

Daluege was a graduate engineer (1923) who was employed by the city of Berlin from 1927 to 1933. He rapidly rose to the position of Police Commissioner of the entire Reich. He replaced Reinhard Heydrich as Deputy Reickprotektor for Bohemia and Moravia (1942). He was

convicted of war crimes against the citizens of Czechoslovakia and hanged in Prague on October 20, 1946. As successor to Heydrich, he was almost certainly a member of the Order of the Lance."

Hans Jüttner

SS-Obergruppenführer and General of the Waffen-SS, head of the SS Main Office, holder of the Order of the Zähringer Lion with Swords, holder of the Knight's Cross to the War Merit Cross with Swords

Hans Jüttner was largely responsible for building an SS counterpart to the Army (Wehrmacht) High Command. As one of Himmler's chief lieutenants, he was in all probability a Knight of the Holy Lance.

The following SS-officers have been indicated as members of the Order of the Holy Knights or suspected to have been connected with this group:

Christian Gottlob Berger," Lieutenant General and General of the Waffen-SS, holder of the Knight's Cross to the War Merit Cross with Swords; Maximilian von Herf," Lieutenant General and General of the Waffen-SS, holder of the Knight's Cross; Wilhelm (Willie) Bittrich, SS-Obergruppenführer and General of the Waffen-SS, holder of the Knight's Cross with Oakleaves and Swords; Michael Wittmann, SS-Captain, the most successful and legendary tank commander in the entire German Army, holder of the Knight's Cross with Oakleaves and Swords, killed in action August 8, 1944; Georg Bachmann, SS-Oberführer and holder of the Knight's Cross with Oakleaves and Swords; Kurt ("Speedy Meyer," "Panzermeyer") Meyer, SS-Brigade Führer and General Major of the Waffen-SS, holder of the Knight's Cross with Oakleaves and Swords; Karl Heinrich Müller, SS Gruppenführer and General Lieutenant of the Police (Gestapo), holder of the Knight's Cross to the War Merit Cross with Swords; Dr. Oscar Dirlewanger, SS-Oberführer, holder of the German Cross in gold and the Knight's Cross; Walter Bestmann, SS-Standartenführer (Colonel) SS-Totenkopf Division, holder of the Knight's Cross; Max Simon, SS-Gruppenführer and General Lieutenant of the Waffen-SS, organizer of the SS-Totenkopf Regiment "Oberbayern" of the SS-Totenkopf Division, tried by both British and German authorities for war crimes, holder of the Knight's Cross with Oakleaves; Karl Ullrich SS-Oberführer of the Totenkopf Division and commander of the "Theodor Eicke" Regiment, holder of the Knight's Cross with Oakleaves presented to Ullrich by Hitler at his "Wolf's Lair" Headquarters; Ernst Staüdle, SS-Obersturmführer (1st Lt.) Totenkopf Division, holder of the Knight's Cross; Theodor Wisch, SS-Brigadeführer and Generalmajor of the Waffen-SS, joined the "Leibstandarte" early in 1933, succeeded Sepp Dietrich as commander of this unit, holder of the Knight's Cross with Oakleaves and Swords; Hans Kammler; Richard Hildebrandt;" Karl Wolff;" Hermann Buchner, Totenkopf Division, holder of the German Cross in gold and the Knight's Cross; Josef Diefenthal, "Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler," holder of the German Cross in gold and the Knight's Cross.

It is again emphasized that none of the above officers are confirmed members of the Order of the Holy Lance, while others who were members are not listed. In most cases, members attended only two or three meetings because of the press of war time duties.

It will be noted that virtually every member, or probable member, of the Knights of the Holy Lance was a holder of the Knight's Cross of Germany, often with Oakleaves, Swords, or Diamonds (Germany's highest military award, comparable to the U.S. Congressional Medal of Honour).

The History and Significance of the Knight's Cross to the Iron Cross

The Order of the Iron Cross was originally instituted by Frederick-Wilhelm III of Prussia on March 10, 1813. Thereafter the award was re-instituted for each major war.

A higher order known as the Knight's Cross or the Knight's Cross to the Iron Cross was established during the early phases of World War II. If a recipient of the Knight's Cross won the award for a second time, he received oak leaves to his cross. If he won it for a third time, he received swords, and for a fourth time he was honoured with diamonds. However, all awards could be conferred at one time in exceptional cases, or in any combination.

Out of the approximately 15 million German soldiers (including Navy and Luftwaffe) who served in battle areas in WWII, only 159 are known to have been presented with the Knight's Cross to the Iron Cross with Oakleaves and Swords (Ritterkreuz des Eisernes Kreuz mit Eichenlaub and Schwertern). This is an award rate of 16 per one million men. A very much smaller number of soldiers (27) earned the Knight's Cross with Silver Oakleaves, Swords, and Diamonds. The first Knight's Cross award with Oakleaves and Swords was presented to the celebrated German fighter pilot Adolph Galland on June 21, 1941, to commemorate his 70th aerial victory during the Battle of Britain. In March, 1942, Field Marshall Erwin Rommel ("The Desert Fox") was awarded the sixth decoration of this type for his valiant victories in North Africa with the legendary Afrika Corps.

Only one man was ever awarded the Knight's Cross with Golden Oakleaves, Swords, and Diamonds. On January 1, 1945, the highest of all German military decorations was presented to Oberst Hans-Ulrich Rudel who flew 2,530 combat missions over the Russian front. He is credited with the destruction of 519 enemy tanks, one battleship, one cruiser, and one destroyer. This incredible air warrior even flew with only one leg after losing the other in combat. He survived the war.

The second author of this book is a holder of the Knight's Cross. He received this distinguished award for heroic action which saved his ship and its entire crew from destruction by the enemy in what was considered to be a less than chivalrous attack. The medal was presented to him personally by Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz with the words: "You are one of our country's lions. Our nation will honour men like you in the future. You not only saved the boat but all those on board by your loyalty to duty and honour in the finest naval tradition."

CHAPTER VIII

The Concentration Camp at Wewelsburg and Other Documentation

A third plan called for the development of a new cult. The heart of this project was the northern tower of the castle which was altered to form a domed 'tomb' or 'crypt' and a supreme leader's room.

IT is virtually unknown that a concentration, or "protective custody," camp was located at Wewelsburg. The very presence of this compound in such an unlikely location lends support to the concept that very important events took place at the castle. The sole purpose of the camp was to supply a large force of cheap labor for building projects which Himmler had in mind. Other than the Fuhrer himself, Heinrich Himmler was probably the only person in the Reich with enough authority to bring about such an arrangement. The camp was established in 1939 at another location, but in 1941 it was moved to a forest near Wewelsburg village. It was the smallest self-supporting camp in Nazi Germany and seems to have been totally independent of the concentration camp system for what is described as "financial reasons." It was known as

a "working camp of the SS" and came to be called "KZ Neiderhagen." There was an average of about 3,500 workers in the camp during the years 1939 to 1943. They seem to have enjoyed fairly good living conditions in terms of food, clothing, housing, and general privileges.

After 1943, the camp census began to decrease. Forty-two remaining inmates were liberated on April 2, 1945, by advancing American forces. Two days earlier a small task force of SS engineers had attempted to destroy the castle with explosives and had been partially successful. Nearly everything was damaged, except the outer walls and the north tower:

Reconstruction was begun in 1949 and was not completed until 30 years later. As has been previously stated, the castle is now used as a youth hostel, but it also houses a district museum (Kries-museum-Wewelsburg), which is located in the former "guardhouse" and parts of the castle. Wewelsburg hosts an International Youth Festival and a Folk Dance Festival every second year and sponsors various historical exhibitions. One of these exhibits was entitled "Wewelsburg 1933-1945, Cult and Tenor Center of the SS." The museum has also issued at least three pamphlets relating to its history and activities. The following information was taken directly from these pamphlets.

Castle Wewelsburg — Early History

Wewelsburg Castle sits on a limestone rock overlooking the Alme River. It is located about 12 miles southwest of the city of Paderborn. This was once the site of a Saxon Stronghold, known as "Hun Ramparts" in the tenth century.

In 1123, Count Friedrich von Arnsberg of the Church of Paderborn established a fortress at "Hun Ramparts," which subsequently was destroyed by angry peasants who had built it by forced labour. It was later restored. The castle came into the possession of the Bishops of Paderborn in 1301, and they in turn rented it (or placed it in fief) to the noblemen of Büren and the Lords of Brenken. Thereafter, it gradually fell into ruin.

The present Castle of Wewelsburg was built between 1604 and 1607 on orders from Dietrich von Furstenberg, Prince Bishop of Paderborn (1585-1618). Parts of the previous fortress were incorporated into the new building. It served as a supplementary residence.

On May 15, 1646, the castle was again partially destroyed by invading Swedish troops. After the conclusion of the Thirty Years War (in 1648), Prince Bishop Dietrich Adolf von der Recke and his successor Ferdinand von Furstenberg (1657-1666) restored the castle to what is essentially its present triangular shape. Its style is "Weser Renaissance," with Welsh domes replacing the battlements on its towers.

Wewelsburg became the principal seat of residence of the Prince Bishops of Paderborn during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and was, for a time, a court of law.

In about 1802, the castle was abandoned and left to deteriorate. In 1815 it was struck by lightning, which destroyed the interior of the north tower. In 1924 the decaying building was purchased by the District of Buren. Partially reconstructed, it served as a youth hostel and regional museum.

Castle Wewelsburg — 1933-1945

In 1933 the shape, location, and history of the castle attracted the attention of Reichführer Heinrich Himmler. In 1934 Himmler rented the fortress from the county of Buren for the symbolic fee of one Reichmark.

At that time, "the SS claimed to have 50,000 members" and "was looked on as a military order." "Wewelsburg Castle was to become a centre for the pseudoscientific foundation of Nazi ideology in combination with training a body of high ranking SS leaders, and creating a pseudo-devotional attitude."

The plan for the "extension of Wewelsburg Castle into a central Reich School for supreme leaders of the SS" was apparently abandoned. "As a result, all energy was concentrated in planning a gigantically growing architecture with the real meaning of the castle as the treasury of cultural values stolen from all parts of Europe and as a safekeeping store of the death's head rings, symbols of the SS." The plan "envisioned going much further than the castle's grounds with the final intention of letting the village of Wewelsburg disappear."

The expansion plan was the main reason for establishing the concentration camp at Wewelsburg in order to have an easily accessible supply of cheap labour. Like the "School for Supreme Leaders," the "World Center" for culture and architecture was also set aside.

A third plan called for the development of a "new cult, whose real purpose could never be defined clearly." "The heart of this project was the northern tower of the castle which was altered to form a domed 'tomb' or 'crypt' and a 'supreme leaders' room (Obergruppenführersaal).

The "Crypt" was created by lowering the basement of the north tower by more than 15 feet, and a Greek style dome shaped ceiling was constructed. The name of the room and the nature of the architecture "indicate that this was planned as a place for honouring the dead. It is assumed that funeral services for deceased SS leaders would be held here. It was intended to produce a solemn atmosphere by the shape, acoustics and lighting methods of the room. Symbolic numbers also played a role. Above a central area an eternal flame was to burn. The swastika in the dome and the solar wheel in the room above formed a shaft around which the whole set up would circle. The dome consisted of concrete covered with natural stone.

The "Supreme Leader's Hall" was located on the ground floor in what had once been the Bishops' Chapel. By removing the flooring of the upper stories of the north tower, a great domed hall with multiple columns and arches was created. Over the entrance the words from the original chapel were allowed to remain, "My house shall be called a house of prayer. The main ornament in the middle of the floor combined the most important symbols of the Nationalist Socialist ideology: solar wheel, swastika and the stylised runic letter for victory.

The numbers 3 and 12, representing the twelve rays of the solar wheel and three marble circles are repeated again and again.

The Supreme Leader's Hall and the crypt escaped the attempted destruction of the castle in 1945. They remain today as they were in 1943.

In the book, *The Spear of Destiny* by Trevor Ravenscroft, Himmler's fascination with the Holy Lance and the rich furnishings of Wewelsburg Castle are described, but virtually nothing is said about special ceremonies which were conducted in honour of the lance.

However, at least one other description of the evolution of a knightly order within the SS and the secret rites which took place at Wewelsburg, has previously been published. In the book *The Order of the SS* by Frederic Reider, the following passages are to be found.

Hitler once said: "I want to set up an Order which shall express and develop the concept of Nordic blood, so that we can attract to ourselves all the Nordic blood in the world, denying it to our adversaries."

"The central credo of the SS ideology became the Blood Myth, which evoked, at one and the same time, racial purity and cosmic combat. This was an idea which was familiar to all Germans as a result of the famous story set out in the 'Nibelungenlied', by Richard Wagner. In this legend Siegfried kills a dragon and bathes in its blood in order to remain invincible."

"When Hitler and Himmler talked about an Order the Templars, responsible for looking after The Holy Grail, the receptacle of the pure blood, they were appealing to medieval tradition, according to which blood is the symbol of honor and fidelity. It was in this sense that the Blutfahne (Flag of Blood) had been piously preserved and worshipped ever since it was stained with blood in the 'Beer Hall Putsch' of November 9th, 1923." (see footnote).

"This mystical value of blood is found constantly throughout all the orders of chivalry. It was shed blood that united the knights with each other. Among these orders, that of the Teutonic Knights was to exercise a particular fascination over the SS."

"It was not by chance that the SS colors, black, white and red, were those formerly worn by the Deutsche Ritterorden (Order of Teutonic Knights), which handed them down to Prussia."

"The SS adopted the model of the Teutonic Knights for its own purposes, just as it was also inspired by the example set by Henry the First, The Fowler. Himmler celebrated the memory of Henry The Fowler every year during charismatic ceremonies held in the crypt of the castle of Quedlinburg where the king was buried. The first of these commemorative vigils was organized to celebrate the millenary of the death of Henry the First and was held on July 2, 1936 in the presence of notable guests and the highest dignitaries of the Black Order. In front of the tomb, guarded by armed SS soldiers, and in the light of torches, Himmler took a vow to remain faithful to the lessons of the king who had unified the German people. The Grand Master of the Teutonic Order had built his headquarters at Marienburg. Himmler decided to set up the command post of the Black Order at Wewelsburg castle."

"Wewelsburg had been named after the Knight Wewel von Büren Himmler undertook its reconstruction in 1934 and made it the spiritual seminary of his new order. The doors and windows were decorated with blue granite. The grand staircase was protected by a banister of forged iron and decorated with runic motifs. The walls were hung with huge tapestries, depicting Germanic and rural scenes. The woodwork and shelves of the library were of massive oak. Artists presented the Reichsführer SS with marble statues of heroes of the ancient German period of grandeur such as Henry the First, the Fowler, Henry the Lion, Albrecht the Bear, Frederick Barbarossa, Frederick the Second of Hofenstaufen, and so on (see Andre Brissand, Hitler and the Black Order)."

"The massive and impentable appearance of Wewelsburg was the very image of the secrecy with which the SS surrounded itself. The castle was a natural sanctuary of the Nordic elite."

"Himmler was inspired by the traditions of the court of King Arthur. In like manner he formed the habit of receiving twelve heads of the SS, the most meritorious among them, seated at a round table. While a fire crackled in the monumental chimney, the Black Knights sat down with the Reichführer in huge high-backed leather armchairs around a heavy oak table. Beside each of them was a silver plate engraved with his name on the gilded wood. At night they went to their rooms, each of which bore the name of a famous figure of the medieval kingdom and was furnished in medieval style."

Footnote: In the absence of the Holy Grail, the Holy Lance became the symbol of the "pure blood" of the Reich.

"Sometimes, in silence, the Black Knights followed the Reich-führer into the inner sanctum of the order. They went down marble steps toward an underground room with Gothic arches. The

stone walls gave off an impressive chill. In the middle of the room, on a sort of black marble altar, shone out the two white runes of the SS. At the foot of the altar was another staircase with granite slabs, down which the initiated slowly descended. The Reichsführer lit resin torches, one by one. Then a crypt appeared at the bottom of which was a silver cast structure. There the coats of arms of the Black Order were to be incinerated. The bodies would lie above in the arched chamber.

"The knights followed a calendar which called for the celebration of the winter and summer solstice, the anniversaries of the Reich (30th January and 9th November), the Führer's birthday (20th April) and the commemoration of dead heroes (26th May)."

Time-Life Books of Alexandria, Virginia will soon publish a new series of books entitled *The Third Reich — The SS*. In Chapter I (*The Future Belongs to Us*) much of the foregoing information will be repeated. For example: Himmler "installed a huge oaken table with twelve seats, like King Arthur's Round Table, where his inner circle met. He intended Wewelsburg to be a school for SS leaders. When war forestalled that scheme, Himmler set up a race research center which was focused on proving the superiority of Nordic-German blood.

The Supreme Leader's Hall which Himmler built in Wewelsburg's north tower, was used for memorial and funeral services for senior SS officers. Carrying out the Authurian motif, the hall had twelve windows and twelve pedestals which held the urns containing the ashes of the dead." This book discusses the meaning of the runic symbol for the letter H, German legend which claims that time began with night and therefore should be measured in nights rather than days and the significance of the deity Nat (queen of the night).

Advance information relating to this book was supplied by Mr. Jost W. Schneider of Wuppertal, Germany, advisor to the Time-Life series.

On March 26-27, 1988 the first author visited Wewelsburg, inspected the castle and conferred for many hours with local historian, Mr. Stuart Russell. Mr. Russell has lived within the shadow of the mysterious fortress for six years and has studied its history on an almost daily basis. Without question he is the foremost expert on Wewelsburg in the entire world. He has little doubt that some type of important ceremonies, of profound secrecy, were carried out in the north tower of the castle. However, he points out that the fuel line for an eternal flame and smoke outlets were never completed. He confirms that a special room in the castle was used for a unique form of SS marital rites.

As clearly demonstrated by maps and scaled models found in the fortress library, a massive expansion plan for the Wewelsburg complex envisioned a group of buildings in the form of a great semicircle, perhaps one mile in diameter. The north tower was to be located in the exact centre of the projected circle.

Under a program known as the "Ahnenerbe" (heritage) the great Wewelsburg complex, was to become the most important centre in the world for art, culture, archaeology and the scientific investigation of "all the foundations of knowledge." Eventually, it would have contained many of the great art treasures of Europe.

When viewed from the air the figure of a lance can be seen piercing the magic circle and pointing to its heart and centre, the north tower of Wewelsburg Castle.

An architect named Hermann Bartels had restored Wewelsburg Castle and was presumably to be in charge of the expansion program. He is still alive but will not discuss this subject, leading one to believe that there was more to the project than can be deduced from the evidence at hand. Himmler reserved the control of "Ahnenerbe" for himself with the title of Curator, but the program was directed by Bruno Galke, Wolfram Sievers and Professor Walter Wüst of the

University of Munich. The local representative at Wewelsburg was Lt. Wilhelm Jordan, whose main interest was archaeology. Under his direction many burial places of the ancient Goths were found near Wewelsburg.

In addition to the rich furnishings of the castle itself, other treasures were constantly being accumulated and stored in a fortress like building known as Böddeken (Manor Farm of Gut Böddeken) which was located a few miles from Wewelsburg. Here, seven rooms were filled with paintings (many of Himmler), tapestries, antique armor, swords, firearms, fine furniture and other valuable items. This collection was intended for display in the buildings of the semicircle when they were completed.

Himmler's dream of a glorious centre for art, culture and knowledge never came true. On March 29, 1945 as American forces approached from the west, the Reichführer dispatched his imitation, but still cherished, Holy Lance to Nürnberg for safekeeping. He then sent a team of demolition experts to destroy his beloved castle. Under the command of Major Heinz Macher, this group seemed to display considerable reluctance in carrying out what seemed to be a senseless mission of destruction. As a result the castle was severely damaged but not destroyed. Macher was a winner of the Knight's Cross with Oakleaves and probably was a member of the Knights of the Holy Lance. He remained faithful to Himmler to the bitter end and was captured with him by British forces on May 22, 1945.

As soon as the German demolition team departed from the area the townspeople of Wewelsburg village began to strip the castle of its rich furnishings. Paintings, statues, rugs, tapestries, porcelain, silverware and the coats of arms of the Holy Knights quickly disappeared, along with 16,000 priceless books and 40,000 bottles of vintage wine. The treasure trove at Böddeken was also looted and vandalized.

When American soldiers arrived on April 2, 1945 they, and released inmates from the Neiderhagen concentration camp, completed the job of picking the castle clean. Other items which disappeared were several hundred silver SS honour rings (see footnote), a collection of Samurai swords and the solid gold bathtub of queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands, whose Radio Orange, "flaming protest" broadcasts from London during World War II, made her the symbol of Dutch resistance to German occupation.

Although about forty percent of the stolen objects were eventually recovered by appeals to the villagers and searches of the concentration camp barracks, many paintings, tapestries and other items were badly damaged. When wine was turned in, it was exchanged for more durable loot and thus played an important role in preserving a few of the treasures of Wewelsburg.

Nonetheless, like the rest of the Third Reich, Himmler's grand project had ended in disaster.

Mr. Russell was impressed by three other discoveries. The H design found in various places in the castle had been regarded as symbolic of Hitler or Himmler, but he wondered if it might be the emblem of the Holy Lance. He thought that the Samurai swords of the castle collection might have been brought to Wewelsburg by the Japanese craftsman who created the duplicate lance, as an example of his skill. Finally, a large safe was discovered imbedded deep within the castle's thick walls. Its very existence had been known only to Himmler and the castle warden, General Siegfried Taubert. It was blown open by soldiers of the U.S. 3rd Armoured Division and found to contain a great quantity of documents. The papers disappeared. Their significance is unknown. The safe may have once been the resting place of the Holy Lance.

On March 31 and April 1, 1988 the first author of this book met with Dr. Karl Hans Ertl of Vienna, Austria. Dr. Ertl is a specialist in Russian and German history. As a young man he worked at Wewelsburg castle for about one year. During 1939-1940 he was a participant in the "Ahnenerbe" program, serving under the direction of Professor Walter Wüst, Hermann Bartels,

and Lt. Wilhelm Jordan. In this way he became personally familiar with the history of Wewelsburg castle and an eyewitness to the events which took place at Himmler's sanctuary. Dr. Ertl confirms virtually all events which have been recorded in this book as they relate to the inner sanctum of the SS.

Footnote: When an SS member died his ring was removed and stored at Wewelsburg.

CHAPTER IX

Reinhard Heydrich The Black Prince of the Third Reich

**Now behold a Prince
In sombre black manner
With a skull on his crest
And blood on his banner.**

Anonymous

ON September 27, 1941, SS Gruppenführer Reinhard Tristan Eugen Heydrich arrived in Prague as military governor of Czechoslovakia, with the special title of Reichprotektor. Ever since he joined the SS, after being cashiered from the navy, Heydrich had been moving upward in the Reich's hierarchy with amazing and, to some, alarming rapidity. He was then only 37 years old, but he was already chief of the Security Police (which included the Gestapo) and he was second in command of the entire SS. As chief of the Gestapo he kept extensive and potentially damaging files on everyone, including Hitler. Because of his skill, personality, intellect and overall ability, or perhaps because of his files, he seemed to be above the law or a law unto himself. No one wanted him as an enemy, and he in turn held most of his fellow officers in contempt. There were rumors that he was already aspiring to oust Himmler, who was his immediate superior. In addition, Hitler had proudly announced that Heydrich would be groomed as his successor, even though Goring officially held that position.' With a man of such rampant ambition, there must have been a sense of uneasiness even in Hitler's mind, but there was no question that Heydrich was indeed the Black Prince of the Third Reich.

Of even greater importance was the fact that Himmler knew, and almost certainly Hitler also knew, that Heydrich was the only man in the Third Reich who possessed the secret of the power of the Holy Lance. As it turned out there were others, but at that time Heydrich was the one who was envied and feared.

It seems totally paradoxical that a Christian symbol and a legend had taken over the minds and thoughts of the three most influential men in the German high command, even though they rejected all other religious affiliations.

From previous chapters it might have seemed that Himmler and Heydrich were the best of friends, even lovers, but this was not the case. In fact, nothing could be more removed from the truth.

Himmler was jealous of Heydrich's rapid rise to power. He feared Heydrich and distrusted him. He also feared the contents of Heydrich's files (then stored at Hradcany Castle in Prague), and he longed to have them returned to his own custody at Wewelsburg. Himmler sensed that Heydrich would like to have his job and eventually succeed Hitler. It was also his belief that Heydrich carried favor with Hitler through the power of the lance, which he (Heydrich) alone controlled. In addition, Himmler knew that Hitler was not overly fond of him, since the Führer is known to have said: "I need these policemen (Himmler) but I don't like them." For all these reasons Himmler hated Heydrich and considered him to be his greatest threat and deadliest enemy. Himmler felt that he had helped Heydrich to rise too far, too fast and had thus created a monster which might destroy him.

The solution to his problem was obvious. Heydrich must go, and with him the secret of the lance forever. The foregoing analysis leads to the question: Did Heinrich Himmler have Heydrich killed? This is a valid suspicion because the military and political reasons for Heydrich's assassination appear to be somewhat flimsy. In addition, the complex strategy, planning, and complicity of British intelligence, which resulted in his death, hardly seem to be justified on any other basis. In short, it seems probable that Heydrich's knowledge of the lance and his growing power, caused Himmler to provide information which would result in his death.

On May 27, 1942, a special coded message was flashed through to Berlin, directed to the personal attention of Adolf Hitler. It read as follows: "SS General Reinhard Heydrich mortally injured by partisans near small village of Lidice, former state area of Czechoslovakia. Details follow. Copy of this message also to Reichführer Heinrich Himmler — SS."

In moments, the phone rang in Himmler's office and the same message was conveyed. He perhaps permitted himself a faint smile, then quickly prepared for the next call. Within less than a minute the phone rang again. It was Hitler himself on the line. Hitler asked if he had heard about Heydrich. "Yes, my Führer. I am shocked, stunned, dumbfounded, unable to speak. It is a tragic and irreplaceable loss to the Reich." Then he asked if the report had been confirmed. Hitler is said to have answered with a curt, "Yes, Henry, but please don't speak as if he is already dead. I place this matter in your hands. Let not one of those escape who is responsible." There was silence on the line for a moment and then the Reichführer replied, "It is done, my Führer! Not one shall escape! Heil Hitler." It can be presumed here that both Hitler and Himmler were referring to the true assassins and not the entire population of Lidice, but this was soon to change. The Reichführer immediately radioed orders to SS units in the vicinity of Lidice to encircle the village with an airtight seal and allow no one to enter or leave. The next day he boarded a special Luftwaffe aircraft and flew to the scene where he took over personal command of the situation. Here he soon learned the incredible details of the attack on the Reichprotektor. First of all, it had occurred in Prague and not in Lidice. The people of the small village had nothing to do with the event.

Heydrich had been riding in the front passenger seat of his beautiful green Mercedes touring car. He was on his way from his country home in the Chateau at Panenske Brezany to his city office in Hradcany Castle. He was unusually late that morning because he was leaving Prague later that day for a new assignment in France. His office visit was merely a formality which could easily have been dispensed with. Behind the wheel of the car sat his faithful driver (a man named Klein). According to 'After the Battle' this is probably the only time during his stay in Prague that Heydrich had ever travelled without an escort car filled with heavily armed men (see footnote).

As the green Mercedes-Benz approached a hair pin turn at the junction of Kirchenmayer and Holeschowitz streets, it was necessary to slow its speed to about 10 miles per hour. At this point a man standing nearby produced a submachine gun from beneath his coat, aimed it at the front seat passenger, and pressed the trigger. Miraculously the gun failed to fire. As the car passed the machine gunner, another man frantically hurled a grenade at the rear end of the Mercedes. The grenade struck just in front of the right rear tire and exploded, blowing a hole in the body of the car. Heydrich and Klein emerged, seemingly unscathed, and with pistols drawn.

Klein pursued one of the assailants, firing his weapon until it was empty, at which point he was wounded in the leg by return fire. The assassins (four in all) escaped. These men turned out to be Czech nationals who had been trained in England. They were dropped by parachute in the Prague area with the specific mission of killing the Reichprotektor.

Footnote: Many historians violently dispute the contention that Heydrich always travelled with an escort car filled with armed men. In spite of his nicknames ("hangman" and "the pitiless") and contrary to popular belief, it is said that Heydrich was immensely popular with Czech

citizens. Because of his confidence in this popularity he never called for an armed escort and ignored Hitler's advice to change his travel route on a day by day basis. This information was supplied to British intelligence by a high ranking SS officer and resulted in Heydrich's death. The British seized on the opportunity to remove the popular Heydrich, believing that Hitler would replace him with an intolerant Czech hater, such as General Karl Hermann Frank. They could then provoke an uprising by harassed Czech citizens. This made sense to the British in spite of the fact that they never understood the real motive of the SS informant.

Meanwhile, Heydrich finally realized that he had indeed been wounded. He was holding his back with his left hand and waving his pistol in the other. It turned out later that a single small bomb fragment had passed through the back of Heydrich's seat and struck him in the small of his back on the left side. At this point he was standing in the street completely alone since he was travelling without escort and his driver was chasing the assassins. Had his escort been present, the attack would probably never have occurred, but in its absence, he would have been easy prey if any one of the four attackers had stood his ground.

A chance passer-by finally came to Heydrich's aid. She is described only as a blond German woman who flagged down a passing van which was loaded with crates of floor polish. Heydrich was ("hangman" and "the pitiless") and contrary to popular belief, it is said that Heydrich was ignominiously loaded into the van on top of its smelly cargo and taken to Bulovka Hospital.

A preliminary examination by two doctors gave the impression that the wound was superficial and of little consequence, except for the fact that it was heavily contaminated with dirt and bits of fabric from the seat cushion. While the wound was being cleaned, the x-rays came back and told another story. There was a metal fragment in the partially collapsed left lung. When compared with the entry wound, it was obvious that the bomb splinter had ranged upward through the abdominal cavity, passed through the area of the spleen, perforated the diaphragm and pleura and lodged in the lung. A full scale exploratory operation of the abdomen and left thoracic cavity was indicated.

Heydrich at first refused to have an operation unless so advised by a doctor from Berlin, but he finally agreed to surgery. The operation was performed by two surgeons from the German Surgical Clinic in Prague. They worked without other attendants. Apparently a splenectomy was performed and all necessary repairs were made to the lung and diaphragm.

After the operation, Heydrich was moved to a special room on the second floor. The whole floor was emptied and transformed into an SS barracks. Machine guns were mounted on the roof and armed guards were stationed at every entrance.

All went well for a few days, but then Heydrich developed a steadily rising fever. He was treated with a primitive sulphur preparation which was the only anti-bacterial agent available at that time. It had no effect on the fever. Heydrich knew that he would die long before his doctors did. Like Mercutio in Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, he felt that his wound, while "not so wide as a church door, nor deep as a well," would prove to be enough. He also knew that his time was growing extremely short, and he had urgent business to attend to. Among other things he must name his successor. Himmler and the Knights of the Holy Lance believed that Heydrich was the only man in the world who understood the power of the lance, but he knew better.

Professor Karl Haushofer, who was known as the "Wizard of Germany," had solved the riddle. He in turn had imparted this knowledge to his close friend and devoted student, Rudolf Hess. These two men, along with himself and Hitler were members of the power "H" of Germany. He would soon be dead. Himmler was to be excluded, but a successor would take his place.

Hess was then a prisoner of war in England, but he could still be very useful. There was one other thing that obsessed Heydrich as his end drew near. He was convinced that with his death

the fortunes of the Third Reich would begin to decline, even though Germany was enjoying the absolute zenith of its success at that time. He seemed to know that the war would be lost, but final defeat would not come for a period of several years. All of his plans were based on this conclusion.

During the next few days, Heydrich began to write furiously. No one dared to ask what he was doing, but it was generally believed that he was writing an autobiography. On June 2, 1942, he sent for a lieutenant-general named Karl Müller and three other SS officers. They were four of the most trusted and loyal men who had ever served under his command. When they met with Heydrich they took a blood oath of loyalty and secrecy. One of the officers was given a message to be hand carried to Adolf Hitler. The content is of course unknown, but it probably recommended Heydrich's successor to the Führer, indicating that this officer would serve with the same skill and devotion that he himself had exhibited.

The second officer was given the assignment of smuggling a message to Rudolf Hess.

The third officer was to deliver certain materials to a Swiss bank. Karl Müller was given a large and carefully sealed packet to be delivered to Professor Karl Haushofer in Munich and was to await further instructions from the professor. It must be assumed at this point that all messengers successfully completed their missions. Reichprotektor Reinhard Heydrich died two days later (June 4, 1942), eight days after the attack. He died of septicemia (blood poisoning). The official report stated that "death occurred as a consequence of lesions in the vital organs caused by bacteria and possibly by poisons carried into them by bomb splinters and deposited chiefly in the pleura, the diaphragm and the tissues in the neighborhood of the spleen, there agglomerating and multiplying.

Following his death, Heydrich's body lay in state in the forecourt of Hradcany castle before being sent to Berlin. There on June 8, 1942, with much pomp and ceremony and demonstrations of mourning, he was buried in Invaliden Cemetery. It is said that his grave can no longer be identified (see footnote). So, the great Heydrich was killed by bacteria.

Meanwhile Karl Müller reported to Professor Karl Haushofer in Munich. Here he was given a large bronze, lead-lined box which had been carefully sealed. He was instructed to take the box to a pre-determined spot in the Bavarian Alps and there bury it in secret. He was then to prepare an addendum to the coded location of the box (see page 177) and deliver it to a certain account in a Swiss bank as instructed by Heydrich. All this he accomplished with unerring obedience before he was mysteriously killed in a car accident. His honour was loyalty.

Only Obergruppenführer Karl Müller and Professor Karl Haushofer knew what was in the box. On March 14, 1946, Professor Karl Haushofer committed suicide. In his notes, he revealed that the bronze box was buried at the foot of the Schlegeiss Glacier near the Zillertal Mountain Pass, but even he did not know its exact location, nor did he know the account number of the Swiss bank where this information was contained. This had been known only to Karl Müller who was now dead. However, Professor Haushofer did know what was in the box. It contained specially treated papers, written in an unbreakable runic code, which described the power behind the Holy Lance and the secret to the use of that power (Ill. 10). The box was intended for the person who had been designated as the successor of Reinhard Heydrich. How it would finally arrive in his hands was another mystery.

Footnote: Reports from the East Germany Press Agency in 1961 indicated that the names on Nazi headstones in the Invaliden Cemetery had been obliterated. It was also rumored that Heydrich's grave had been destroyed during the construction of the Berlin Wall. More recent investigations indicate that the cemetery does form a part of the Berlin Wall, but it is still intact. It has been closed for many years and is overgrown with weeds. However, Heydrich's grave and his name on the Friedhof der Sophian Gemeinde, can still be identified. The bodies of other

German heroes, such as Baron von Richtofen, have been reinterred in other places (After the Battle, Number 31).

Professor Haushofer took his own life for a number of reasons, not the least of which was the defeat of his beloved Germany in World War II. He was also distressed by the fact that his oldest son, Albrecht Haushofer, a Wehrmacht officer, was a traitor. He had been involved in the plot to kill Adolf Hitler in 1944. He was arrested, tried, and executed for treason. In addition, he found out that Albrecht had discovered through him that Reinhard Heydrich was the possessor of the power of the Holy Lance. As a result of this knowledge, he (Albrecht) plotted with a senior SS officer to have Heydrich killed. They provided information to British intelligence which resulted in Heydrich's death. Suffering from acute depression for the above reasons, Professor Haushofer attempted prematurely to contact the person named as Heydrich's successor. He failed in this attempt and learned that he had placed that individual in great danger. This was too much to endure. He took his own life.

In many ways Heydrich had brought about his own downfall. He had earned the nickname of "Hangman" and he had forgotten an old prophecy connected with the Holy Lance: "And if thereafter the sword or lance come into evil use, to him who holds them will they turn to his fall and death."

He had also failed to heed another warning: "He who wears the Czech Royal Crown without just cause will perish." When Reichprotektor Reinhard Heydrich first arrived in Prague in September, 1941, he paid a visit to the jewel room of the royal palace, where he quite characteristically placed the crown on his own head."

CHAPTER X

Retribution for the Black Prince

**And there lay the Prince
Distorted and pale;
With the dew on his brow
And rust on his mail.**

Byron

AFTER the attack on the life of Reinhard Heydrich (May 27, 1942), the four active participants in the plot were joined by three of their helpers. The seven hid out in the crypt of a church in Prague. These men would undoubtedly have escaped in due time had they not been betrayed by another member of their group. On June 16, 1942, Karel Curda informed the Gestapo about his comrades' hiding place. On June 18, 1942, the church was attacked by a large force of SS troops under the command of an SS General. During a bloody seven-hour battle, the Germans lost 14 men, and 21 were wounded. The Czechs finally ran out of ammunition, except for one round for each man. They used these bullets on themselves.

It had been a small but horrible battle. In many ways, it was one of the most hopeless and courageous conflicts of WWII. The bodies of the seven Czechs were placed on public display with their eyes unclosed. Later the heads of the two men who had mounted the actual attack on Heydrich were severed from their bodies and preserved in alcohol. They were displayed at Gestapo Headquarters until the end of the war, when they disappeared.

When Hitler was informed of the details of the attack on Heydrich, he flew into a towering rage, precipitated in part by the fact that Heydrich was travelling without an armed escort. He ordered an all out search for those who were responsible and directed that a reward of one million marks

(10 million Czech crowns) be offered to anyone providing information that would lead to the arrest of the attackers.

Even before Heydrich's death, Hitler wanted to execute 10,000 Czechs in reprisal, but was dissuaded from this idea. Nonetheless, scores of civilians were arrested and tortured in a frantic attempt to get information about the assailants. In the end, it was the reward money that led to their betrayal and death (June 18, 1942).

When Heydrich died on June 4, 1942, it was a foregone conclusion that some type of massive revenge would be taken on the people of Czechoslovakia. Heydrich was buried on June 8, 1942. On June 10, 1942, the lightning of reprisal struck at dawn.

The village of Lidice, six miles northwest of Prague, was surrounded by police. All inhabitants of the village were taken prisoner and assembled in the main square. They were then separated into four groups consisting of men, mothers, children, and women who had no children.

Two hundred men were summarily shot and deposited in a mass grave. Sixty mothers were shipped to concentration camps at Ravensbruck, Auschwitz, and Mauthausen where they were executed. Eighty-eight children were taken from their mothers and killed. Another two hundred women were sent to concentration camps, where about half survived.

The village of Lidice itself was burned, dynamited, and bulldozed until only rubble remained. The rubble was then carted away or buried. Then the earth was leveled off. Not one stone was left. The site was completely barren. Finally, the area was sprayed with a powerful defoliant to carry out the last details of the order of destruction: "Not a blade of grass must remain or grow there ever again.

In time, grass did grow again, but in 1965 not a single trace of Lidice could be found. However, the village was finally rebuilt, but on a slightly different site.

The official reason for choosing Lidice as a target of vengeance was broadcast the day after the destruction in a prepared statement:

"In the course of the search for the murderers of SS General Heydrich, it was ascertained that the population of this village supported and assisted the perpetrators. Apart from the help given to them, the population also committed other hostile acts, such as the keeping of an illegal dump of munitions and arms, the maintenance of an illegal transmitter and hoarding of an extraordinarily large quantity of goods which are controlled. The male inhabitants have been shot, the women taken to concentration camps, the children put into suitable educational establishments. The buildings have been razed to the ground; the name of the community has been erased."

It would seem that the deaths of nearly 500 innocent people and the utter destruction of an entire village should have been enough to slake the thirst of revenge, but it was not.

It must be remembered that the assassins of Heydrich had not been caught as yet, and there was absolutely no progress in the case. Frustration over the Gestapo's inability to find the culprits probably fuelled the desire for further reprisals.

Thus, it was that Lidice's grim fate was soon to befall the smaller village of Lezaky. Here 17 men, 16 women, and 14 children were executed. Only two little girls survived. Afterward, the village was completely obliterated.

Then began the witch hunt for anyone who had remotely befriended the assassins and for each and every member of their families. They were all killed. As a result of the information received from the traitor Karel Curda, a massive roundup of the Czech underground was carried out and

dozens of operators were executed. In addition, revenge was also taken on thousands of Czech political prisoners already held in concentration camps. They were systematically eliminated. In all, it is estimated that about 4000 persons died in various reprisals. The price of the assassination of the Black Prince had been high.

Even then, the deaths did not cease. Vengeance breeds counter vengeance, and when the war ended, it began again.

The turncoat, Karel Curda, was arrested in June 1945. He was tried by the Czech government and then hanged.

General Karl Hermann Frank, who replaced Heydrich as acting Protector, was convicted of murder for the revenge taken against Lidice and publicly hanged on May 22, 1946. Deputy Reichprotektor Kurt Daluge and others met a similar fate. The German street names in Prague have been removed."

The village of Lezaky has never been rebuilt. Only a memorial and museum mark the site where the voices of children once echoed through the streets.

A long ago prophecy had been fulfilled: "whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed."



Illustration 22: Thunderbird emblem of the U.S. 45th Infantry Division.

CHAPTER XI

The 45th (Thunderbird) Division and the Decline of the Third Reich

Born at sea, baptized in blood, your name shall never die. Your division is one of the best, if not the best division in the history of American Arms.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr.

NO one except Reinhard Heydrich seemed to know it at the time, but his death was to coincide with the high water mark of the Third Reich. While all of Germany mourned his passing and certain individuals hid their glee, it was hardly noticed that Field Marshall Erwin Rommel's sweep across northern Africa had begun to lose some of its momentum. The invincible "Desert Fox" and his Afrika Corps had been ordered by Hitler to attack across Egypt and capture Cairo and the Suez Canal. However, in the same month in which Heydrich's death occurred (June 1942), British General Sir Claude J.E. Auchinleck began to assemble his battered troops at "El Alamein." The choice of this battlefield would spell doom for Rommel and eventually for the Third Reich. The fall of Egypt had been virtually conceded, but by some miracle the "Auk," as Auchinleck was called, stopped Rommel's advance in the "First Battle of El-Alamein." He bought precious time for Sir Winston Churchill to survive a vote of no-confidence in the British House of Commons and enabled him to make two trips to Cairo where he completely restructured the British high command in the Middle Eastern Theatre. By sheer accident, Lt. Gen. Bernard L. Montgomery was placed in command of the British Eighth Army which he reorganized and prepared for a counter-offensive. In the meantime "The Auk" held Rommel at bay for two months, turning back his repeated attempts to break through the "El-Alamein Line." Finally, Montgomery was ready. He stopped Rommel's last offensive thrust at Alma Haifa on August 30-September 7, 1942, and brought Rommel to conclude that he was engaged in a "battle without hope." In the "Second Battle of El-Alamein" (October 23-November 7, 1942), Rommel was decisively defeated and forced to retreat." Just four months after the death of Heydrich and within 60 miles of its goal, the German advance was turned back. For the first time in World War II, a Hitler offensive had failed to reach its objective. In that same fateful summer of 1942, as the power of the Holy Lance slipped from Heydrich's lifeless hand, another momentous change in the fortunes of the Third Reich took place. The German offensive in the east ground to a bloody halt at Stalingrad. It was the beginning of the end although the absolute end was still three bitter years away.

Rommel was forced to retreat steadily into Tunisia. He was ordered home in March 1943. In May of that year, all German forces in North Africa surrendered as American troops came pouring in. In 1944 Rommel was placed in charge of the French channel coast to prepare for a possible invasion from England. He was already convinced that the war could no longer be won and that Hitler was not prepared to face that fact. The invasion of Normandy began on June 6, 1944. An attempt was made on Hitler's life on July 20, 1944, and Rommel was implicated. He was "allowed" to commit suicide and was then buried with full military honours.

Although the invasion of Normandy was the key blow which brought the Third Reich face to face with doomsday, it was the steady advance from the south which had long since determined the outcome of the war.

Perhaps no other Allied unit in World War II followed an advancing course which so closely correlated with the gradual fall of the Third Reich, as did the 45th (Thunderbird) Division of the 7th U.S. Army.

Long before the 45th left the United States for overseas duty, the men of this unit had acquired a "high, wide, and handsome" reputation. After the Thunderbirds completed a period of training near Watertown, New York, the following article appeared in the local newspaper (July 1943):

"So the 45th is in Sicily — — —. The 45th Division as all will recall, was at Pine Camp for about two months. They came just as the leaves were departing from the trees in November last fall and remained until the middle of January. They were a rugged, rollicking group. They made the Fourth Armoured Division, which had preceded them, appear as docile as Dagwood Bumstead. It took me a few weeks to get used to them, and frankly speaking, the town was considerably quieter after they were shifted.

Raw November and December weather never really cooled off their spirits. They cut high, wide, and handsome capers on our streets. They broke up a tavern or two. They gave the local police and the MPs a real work out.

Yet we look back with affection upon the 45th. They were fighting men. Woe to anyone who fell in their path. In Sicily they will find things exactly to their liking. If General Eisenhower wants Catania taken, let him shove the 45th into battle. They will deliver any town, mussed up perhaps, but thoroughly conquered." (Fourth Quarter Newsletter, 1987, 157th Infantry Association).

The Thunderbirds lived up to the foregoing prediction

From North Africa, the soldiers of the 45th made an amphibious assault on Sicily and then Italy. They leap-frogged to the beaches of Anzio and later invaded Southern France. Thus, they participated in four D-Day-like invasions and accumulated 511 days of front line combat before war's end. This was more combat time than any other unit in World War II. The price was 60,000 casualties. Eight Congressional Medals of Honour and 4077 lesser awards were earned by the men of the 45th.

It was at Anzio that the Thunderbirds first won the attention, respect, and admiration of Senior German commanders and ordinary German soldiers. A letter removed from the body of a dead German soldier at Anzio reads, in part, as follows:

8 March, 1944

My dear brother Fritz:

Just a quick letter as I do not have much time. I would write more if it were not for the fact that these damned English and Americans, and especially the 45th American Division, have had us in an uncomfortable spot.

They attacked us rather suddenly. We had rather heavy losses and unfortunately were not able to get ourselves together in time. These damned Americans are bombing us more and more every day. I hope we will be able to defend ourselves from these devils. For a few days a damned American with a Browning automatic has been shooting at us. And what do you know —he speaks German. He has already killed five of our men.

Well, I must close now as I have no more paper left.

With much luck

Hans

Obviously the above letter was never mailed (courtesy Fourth Quarter Newsletter, 1987, 157th Infantry Association).

Around the beachhead at Anzio German Field Marshall Albert Kesselring assembled his might and vowed that he would drive the invaders into the sea. He was supremely confident. Yet, for all his advantage of supply and terrain and in spite of almost fanatical attacks by his superior

forces, he was able to gain only 1,000 yards in seven days, and even this he soon lost. The action at Anzio did far more than save a beachhead. It shook the Teutonic pride of an army that lived on pride.

It raised for the first time a serious doubt in the Field Marshal's mind. If, holding every advantage, he could not defeat the Allies at Anzio, where could he defeat them?

"The fate of the Anzio beachhead was decided in the nine day 'Battle of the Caves' which began on the morning of February 16, 1944, when Kesselring launched an all out assault to crush the invaders. A single battalion, or more specifically a single company, blunted the assault. Company E of the 2nd Battalion, 157th Infantry Regiment, 45th Division, went into the line at full strength with 205 men. They bore the brunt of the attack and fought on to the last man. Only the E Company commander, Capt. Felix L. Sparks, and one other soldier, came back."

"The nightmare struggle of the lost battalion, cut off from the rest of the army and hopelessly out-numbered, should go down in the books as the greatest single feat of arms performed by Americans in the Italian theatre of war" (They Held and Died at Anzio, by Michael Stern, True's Foreign Correspondent, 1944).

Kesselring referred to the 45th as the "Falcon Division" and singled them out as "one of the two best divisions" that he had ever faced. To this praise, General George Patton added that the 45th was "one of the best, if not the best division in the history of American arms."²⁵ When the war was finally over and the task of the 45th Division was done, Gen. H.J.D. Meyer, commanding officer of the unit, bade his men farewell with the following words: "Whatever destiny may hold in store for our great country, and however long that country's military history may continue, readers in the future will search long before finding a chapter more brilliant than that written by the quill which was dipped in the blood of the Thunderbirds.

Adolf Hitler probably first heard of the "Falcon" or Thunderbird Division from his field commanders at Anzio, but there is evidence that he had known of the 45th as early as 1939. At that time the men of the 45th wore a swastika as their emblem, and Hitler referred to them as his secret troops in the U.S. The swastika, of course, was an ancient Indian sign of good fortune, but it was abandoned when it became evident that the Nazi party had adopted it as their mark of distinction.

The swastika was replaced by the thunderbird, which is also a sign of good luck or well being, but it is thought by some to be a vengeful god of storm and war (The Beachhead — Happy Thunderbirds by Carey Longmire, The Saturday Evening Post, Nov. 30, 1946). One wonders if Hitler knew that "his secret troops" of the swastika had been transformed into thunderbirds and were destined to play a powerful role in the events which marked his last days on earth.

After Anzio and the conquest of Rome, the 45th invaded southern France in their fourth amphibious assault. They swept up the Rhone valley through Grenoble and Epinal and were soon nearing German soil. In the Vosges mountains of Alsace, they helped thwart the last offensive of the Third Reich as they turned back German forces at the tiny village of Reipertswiller. They paid a fearful price, but they helped to seal the fate of Hitler's empire.

In mid-March, 1945, the Thunderbirds stepped onto German soil and Hitler received the first of three messages which were to convince even him that the war was lost. On March 20, 1945, Hitler was informed that his former "secret troops" had breached the Siegfried Line and on March 26, 1945, as they crossed his last line of defence, the mighty Rhine River, Hitler finally conceded defeat (see Chapter XII for Hitler's reaction). In the last month of Hitler's life, the Thunderbirds thrust a knife into his heart again and again as their victories became intimately entwined with his personal affairs and coincided with the death rattle of the once invincible Third Reich.

April 3, 1945: Hitler's closest associates were planning for his forthcoming 56th birthday as they strained to maintain an air of optimism in his bunker in Berlin. On that day, the Thunderbirds completed the destruction of the fortress of Aschaffenburg and accepted the surrender of its fanatical commander.

April 20, 1945: Hitler celebrated what was to be his last birthday. On that day, organized resistance in the city of Nürnberg came to an end. "The men of the 45th stood in the shambles of the great city that had been Der Führer's pride and watched the American flag wave over the platform from which he had threatened and challenged and bullied the world. Now, along with his dreams of world domination, that city lay in ruins." As a crowning blow, the Thunderbirds paraded in Adolf Hitler Plaza as if to underscore the bitter birthday gift which they had bought with their blood and presented with their valor. In the future, many of Hitler's henchmen were to be tried, sentenced, and executed in this city.

April 29, 1945: Hitler married his mistress Eva Braun. While Berlin went up in flames, she is reported to have entertained the wedding party by singing "When you're smiling the whole world smiles with you." Since no one was really smiling and everyone was crying on the inside, she put on black face and imitated the great Jewish entertainer, Asa Yoelson (Al Jolson), as she sang "Toot Toot Tootsie, Good-by, Toot Toot Tootsie Don't Cry." An ironic farewell song for Adolf.

On that same day the 157th Infantry Regiment of the 45th Division found another present for Der Führer. This time, as a wedding gift, they liberated the first, oldest, and most important of his concentration camps. The fall of Dachau brought out smiles of joy from 32,000 prisoners. Maybe Eva was singing for them.

April 30, 1945: Hitler and Eva committed suicide after he is reported to have called her "a silly, presumptuous, insolent bitch." So ended their love affair. On that same day, the 45th entered the falling city of Munich, the place where Hitler had launched his bid for political power 22 years earlier. The Thunderbirds were soon to pass in triumphant review in the historic Königsplatz. Hitler had hoped to die on May 5th like Napoleon, but the 45th and other allied units had forced his hand and denied him this final moment of satisfaction. To add insult to injury, some men of the 157th Infantry of the 45th Division slept that night in the famous Hofbräuhaus where the Nazi Party had held its early meetings in 1920 (Hitler by John Toland, 1978). Such are the fortunes of war.

One of the authors of this book (H.A.B.) served with the 45th Division during each step of the German campaign and feels that he had an opportunity to witness first hand the waning days of the Third Reich as he walked the streets where Hitler had walked in two of the great cities of the Nazi Empire. He once stood on the ground under which the Holy Lance was buried, and he first encountered the sacred talisman when he visited Vienna in 1960. The Lance was revisited by the author in 1988.

The following words of a chaplain of the 157th Infantry are quoted as a final tribute to the fallen soldiers of the Thunderbird Division.

As history spun the web of time, its filaments were the bravery of the Bulge, the patience of Anzio, the savagery of Cassino, the horror of Dachau and the ending in Munich. Our place in that fabric of history was written in blood and dedicated to human freedom and will stand forever in the eternal mosaic which is the history of man. We and our departed comrades are a part of that multitude of heroes who will stand united forever with our footprints marking the sands of time. Under God, we pray that those departed shall stand as a shining example of the best that man can be when he is challenged to do his best.

Rest in peace our beloved comrades rest in peace.

September 2, 1945: The Thunderbirds sailed for home on the very day that Japan surrendered.
December 7, 1945: On Pearl Harbor day, four years after it all began, the Thunderbirds were deactivated as a WWII unit. They stood and shed a silent tear as they rendered a last salute in tender tribute to their cherished comrades of the long ago.

During the Korean War the 45th Division added 429 combat days to its illustrious record. It is at peace now, but it will rise again, like the Phoenix, whenever it hears the trumpets of its country's call.

Adolf Hitler was the toughest opponent the 45th ever faced, but still the soldiers of this division acknowledge, with a faint smile, that they owe him a debt of gratitude. Were it not for him they would be known forever as "Swastikas" instead of "Thunderbirds."

Part IV

The Antarctica Missions and The Recovery of The Lance (1945 to the Present)

In 1939, Germany sent an expedition to Antarctica and claimed a portion of the subcontinent as its own. In 1943, a second expedition prepared a natural cave in the Muhlig Hofmann mountains as a future hiding place. Two submarines travelled to the secret cavern in 1945 and left behind their priceless cargoes.

A fifth expedition recovered a portion of the treasure in 1979. Implicit in this section are the questions: Did Hitler die in Berlin? How did he die? Where is he buried? or Did he escape?

CHAPTER XII

Valkure Zwei — Phase I Adolph Hitler's Secret Treasure and The Voyage of the U-530

Where lies the land to which the ship would go?

Far, far ahead, is all the seamen know.

And where the land she travels from?

Away, Far, far behind, is all that they can say.

Arthur Hugh Clough, 1852

IN Late 1944 while Hitler's plans still allowed some faint hope that the Allied advances in the west could be stopped, a young colonel named Maximilian Hartmann was assigned to supreme headquarters in Berlin. He was appointed to the position of aide to Hitler's personal secretary, Martin Bormann.

The young colonel had been accepted into this very important and highly sensitive position through the influence of Professor Karl Haushofer and his close friend Admiral Karl Dönitz. Not surprisingly, it was Colonel Hartmann who Reinhard Heydrich had named as his successor, just before his death in 1942. Hitler had kept track of his career very closely since that time and had watched him rise swiftly in rank from lieutenant to colonel.

During the last months of the war, as German forces suffered defeat after defeat, Hitler became more and more distrustful of nearly everyone around him and seemed to be at ease only when engaged in private conversations with Bormann's new aide.

These were dark and dismal days for Hitler, who knew that the icy fingers of fear had begun to grip his high command. Allied bombers were constantly overhead, gradually but surely pound-

ing the crumbling Reich into submission. Russian troops from the east were relentlessly driving towards Berlin, in spite of desperate and heroic rear guard action by German forces. In the west, Allied armies had turned back Hitler's last offensive in the Battle of the Bulge and now they were hammering their way onto German soil with the most powerful array of men, tanks, and guns ever assembled.

In mid-March 1945, Hitler received a radio message stating that the final assault on the Fatherland had begun, and a few days later, on March 20, 1945, he was informed that the Siegfried Line had been breached. On March 26, 1945, Allied forces crossed the Rhine river, which was Hitler's last hope of a line of defence.

Colonel Hartmann described the Führer's reaction to this news. Hitler's face turned an ashen colour, and his left arm began to tremble. He steadied his arm by grasping it with his right hand. Then he slammed his fist down on his desk and went into a long tirade. On his desk was the Holy Lance. It rested on a red velvet cloth inside of a protective glass case.

Suddenly, Hitler removed the ancient weapon from its case, held it up high and screamed, "They [the allies] will never take this from my beloved Deutschland. Niemals, Niemals!"

Hitler had often said that two words did not exist in the German language. One was "Unmöglich" (impossible) and the other was "Niemals" (never). His use of the word "never" seems to have indicated that he had finally conceded defeat.

From this point onward he seems to have lost interest in the final outcome of the war, although he still engaged in almost irrational outbursts of rage when informed that things were not going well. As he turned away from the war, Hitler became obsessed with another project. He was determined to send the sacred lance and his personal treasure to a place where no enemy would ever find it.

Colonel Hartmann had previously served under Reinhard Heydrich and through him he had come to know Professor Karl Haushofer and Admiral Karl Dönitz. He strongly suspected that he had been selected by these powerful men to play a special role in the history of the Third Reich. He knew that the Führer had claimed the Lance of Longinus immediately after the annexation of Austria. He also knew the legend of the lance which had proclaimed, down through the centuries, that he who claimed the spear and understood its power held the destiny of the world in his hand, for good or evil. This was the mystic power that Hitler had never understood and had seen slip from his grasp with the death of his great favourite, Reinhard Heydrich.

Hitler doubted that the riddle of the lance would ever again be solved, but at least he could send it to a place where no one else would ever possess it, unless that person should prove himself to be the true successor to Reinhard Heydrich. His obsession was really directed toward depriving others of his great treasure rather than looking into the future. However, it turned out in a different way.

He announced the immediate activation of a special project to which he assigned the code "Valkure Zwei" (Valkyrie Two). Objective: to transport certain components of the Reich's treasures to Deutsche (German) Antarctica, there to be preserved and hidden from all enemies and eventually recovered (see footnote).

Footnote: No one knows exactly why Hitler chose to name his project "Valkyrie Two." Valkyrie One was a plan related to the attempt to assassinate him on July 20, 1944. Col. Claus Schenk von Stauffenberg had placed a bomb under a table where Hitler was present. The plot failed miserably. Hitler emerged virtually unscathed from the blast of the powerful explosive device when it went off at his very feet. Other officers were killed and injured and the interior

of the room was reduced to shambles. A small bronze plaque (see III. 32) which he carried in his left breast pocket was torn in two, but he was untouched in fact that the explosion had every potential of causing his death. Hitler credited the bronze plaque with having saved his life and always kept it with him thereafter, but his miraculous escape also caused him to think that he might be immortal. This thought evoked the statement. "it is obvious that nothing is going to happen to me: undoubtedly it is my fate to continue on my way and bring my task to completion." Mussolini backed him up with the words, "After this miracle it is inconceivable that our cause should meet with misfortune." Can it be that Hitler designed "Valkure Zwei" to preserve his life rather than simply provide him with one last victory before its end? He had escaped almost certain death many times before. He believed that the demise of Franklin D. Roosevelt was a good omen. Why not confound his enemies one more time?

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Admiral Dönitz was charged with the responsibility of making the necessary preparations for "Valkure Zwei," but Colonel Maximilian Hartmann was placed in absolute command of the mission by personal order of the Führer.

The basis of this plan had actually been formulated long before "Valkure Zwei" became necessary. In 1939, a German Antarctica expedition aerially photographed an extensive segment of Princess Astrid and Princess Martha Coasts of Western Queen Maud Land. The expedition dropped metal swastikas over the region and claimed it for the Hitler government.

In the spring of 1943, shortly after he replaced Admiral Erich Raeder as commander in chief of the German navy, Admiral Dönitz dispatched a specially equipped submarine to Antarctica. This expedition built a large steel reinforced entrance to a natural ice cave in the Muhlig-Hofmann Mountains. The reason for this action has never been explained, except for the fact that Donitz was an unusually perceptive man and perhaps he had already envisioned the outcome of the war. At the very end, Hitler named him as his successor as president of the Reich, an office which he actually held for a few days in early May, 1945.

At the instigation of the Führer, plans for "Valkure Zwei" were rapidly completed. Six bronze, lead-lined boxes were carefully packed with the sacred lance and other selected treasures of the Third Reich. The boxes were hermetically sealed and the contents of each was indicated by a special mark. They were transported to Kiel, where a sleek submarine, the U-530, was standing by and fully prepared for a long voyage. She was hidden and protected in a massive concrete covered slip. (See III. 23.)

The U-530 had sailed from a German port on February 19, 1945, but on March 13, 1945, while at sea, she was ordered to abort her mission and secretly report to the specially prepared concrete slip, there to await a new assignment.

Colonel Hartmann personally handed the U-boat captain his preliminary orders and another sealed package containing his final instructions. The latter was not to be opened until the U-boat was 100 miles at sea.

Within moments after the two officers saluted and withdrew, ed her moorings and was on her way. Under the command of a 35 year-old Captain named Otto Wermoult, (see footnote) the U-530 ran submerged by day and on surface by night, until she reached a position off-the coast of Antarctica, approximating 71 degrees, 30 minutes south by 14 degrees, 51 minutes west. Sixteen men of the crew were then put ashore along with the six sealed bronze boxes, sleds, and special survival gear. The landing party quickly disappeared into the icy landscape of the subcontinent and the undersea boat could only submerge and standby while its crew endured what seemed to be an endless period of waiting. The time necessary for the landing party to accomplish its mission had been estimated at 16 days with a maximum of 18. Slowly, ever so slowly, days had gone by and each passing hour brought increasing anxiety to Capt. Wermoult and his crew. Several small scouting parties had found no sign of the missing men. Time was running out. Suddenly, the signal came on the 19th day. The vibrations of an exploding depth grenade were detected. It was the long awaited signal. Within minutes the great hulk of the U-boat rose from the depths and was joyfully greeted by the shore party. Soon all hands were safely aboard. Their map had been faulty and several days had been lost in locating the cave. Finally, the secret place was uncovered and the mission had been accomplished. All of the men were well, except for exhaustion, some minor frost bite and, of course, raging hunger. These problems were soon rectified, and the U-530 was ready to set forth on the final leg of her voyage. The first half of "Valkure Zwei" had been successfully completed (see footnote).

Within the next few days the log of the U-530 and all relating documents were destroyed. A substitute log had taken the place of the original. All equipment which might indicate a special mission was stripped from the vessel and her guns were jettisoned."

On July 10, 1945, two months after the war in Europe had come to an end, the U-530 appeared in the harbor of Mar del Plata, Argentina, 250 miles south of Buenos Aires. Here the captain surrendered his ship and his crew to government authorities (see Ill. 25-27).

Because of the unusually late surrender of the submarine, a special Allied intelligence team was sent to Argentina to evaluate the situation. When the investigators were allowed to inspect the vessel, they found only a late class German submarine which seemed to be carrying a large quantity of cigarettes. The significance of this was never explained. The ship's log indicated that its mission had been to disrupt Allied shipping in the South Atlantic. When the war ended the U-boat had remained at sea because of indecision about where and when to surrender.

Footnote: One of the authors of this book (W.B.) was a member of the shore party. He entered the ice cave and assisted with the deposition of the bronze boxes which contained the treasure. In this way he became an important link to the recovery of the Holy Lance in 1979.

Rigorous interrogation of the men of the submarine produced no further information. However, it was observed that the crew seemed rather unique in several ways. Nearly all of them were very young. The captain was only 25 years old and the second officer was 22. In addition, not a single man had a living relative.

Apparently their parents, brothers, sisters, wives, and sweethearts had all been killed or had died during the war.² None of the crew smoked cigarettes. Listed below are the names and ages of the rather strange crew of the German undersea boat U-530:

Footnote: The correct spelling of Capt. Wermoult's name is unknown. According to the Historical Archive Foundation for Submarines, Mr. Horst Bredow, director. (West Germany), it is spelled "Wermuth."

Officers: Kapitan Otto Wermoult (25), Karl Felix Schubert Karl Heinz Lenz (22), Gregor Schuster (32), Petri Leffer (22).

Sub-officers: Jeurgen Fischer (27), Hans Setli (26), Johanness Wilens (31), Paul Hahn (45), George Rieder (27), Kurt Wirth (24), Heinz Rehm (24), Rudolf Schilict (26), Ernest Zsekler (24), Rolf Petrasch (26), George Mittelstaedt (26), Robert Gerlinger (24), Victor Vojsick (27), Gunter Doll (21), Rudolf Bock (22), Werner Ronenhagen (24), Amy Krause (25), Karl Krups (25).

Crew Members: Hert Patschnik (22), Sigismund Kilacinsky (22), Friedrich Murkedick (23), Arthur Jordan (21), Eduard Kaulbach (23), Rodolf Muhlbau (22), Johannes Oelschlage Willi Schaus (21), Heinz Hoffman (20), Heinz Paetzold Gerhard Nellen (20), Ernst Leiwald (21), Reinhard Karsten (22), Hans Wolfgang Hoffman (22), Arthure Engel-ken (22), Hans Sartel (21), Erhardt Piesnak (21), Joahim Kratzig (20), Erhardt Muth (25), Friedrich Ourez (21), Werner Zerfez (20), Erhardt Schwan (20), Hugo Traut (20), Engleberg Roggt (20), Franz Jendretzki (23), Georg Wiedemann (21), Gunther Fischer (20), Georg Geobi (24).

The crew was soon released from custody and disappeared. Until now, not one of these men has ever revealed the spectacular mission of the U-530.

A newspaper article which was published on August 17, 1945, reads as follows: "Long overdue U-Boat takes secrets to Argentina. Mystery of the U-530 revived many rumours as to the ultimate fate of high Nazi personalities, including Hitler himself. The Argentine Minister of Marine stated that investigations showed that no German politician or military officer was on board when the U-530 arrived at Mar del Plata, and no one had reached the Argentine coast from the submarine before her surrender. But still her last voyage was shrouded in mystery."

"According to Captain Otto Wermoutt, the vessel last sailed from a German port on February 19, 1945, operating off the Norwegian coast until March 13, after which she was cruising the North Atlantic. On her arrival at Mar del Plata the submarine was short of fuel, but had enough food. If, as her captain stated, she had been on patrol for nearly five months, she must have been obtaining supplies from somewhere or had been lying concealed in harbour for part of the time." "For some weeks after the surrender of U-530, unconfirmed reports from South America continued to tell of the sighting of one or more submarines near the mouth of the river Plata, and of the landing of mysterious personages in rubber boats on the coast of Patagonia."

Another article, supported by a series of photographs taken by the Associated Press, also describes the surrender of the U-530. "The last voyage of the German submarine U-530 ended with her surprise appearance in the harbour of Mar del Plata, Argentine seaport 250 miles south of Buenos Aires, at sunrise on July 10, 1945, nine weeks after the end of the war in Europe."

"The 100 ton vessel, seen inside the break water at Mar del Plata was immediately surrendered to the Argentine authorities. Her commander, Captain Otto Wermoutt, wearing the Iron Cross, with his fellow officers and the remainder of the crew, numbering 54, was taken ashore and detained. Naval attaches at the British and American embassies examined the submarine after she had been taken over by Argentine sailors. The U-boat's guns had been jettisoned before her surrender."

"On July 17, 1945, the Argentine government issued a decree handing over the U-530 to the British and United States governments, together with the crew and all available information concerning her belated and mysterious surrender."

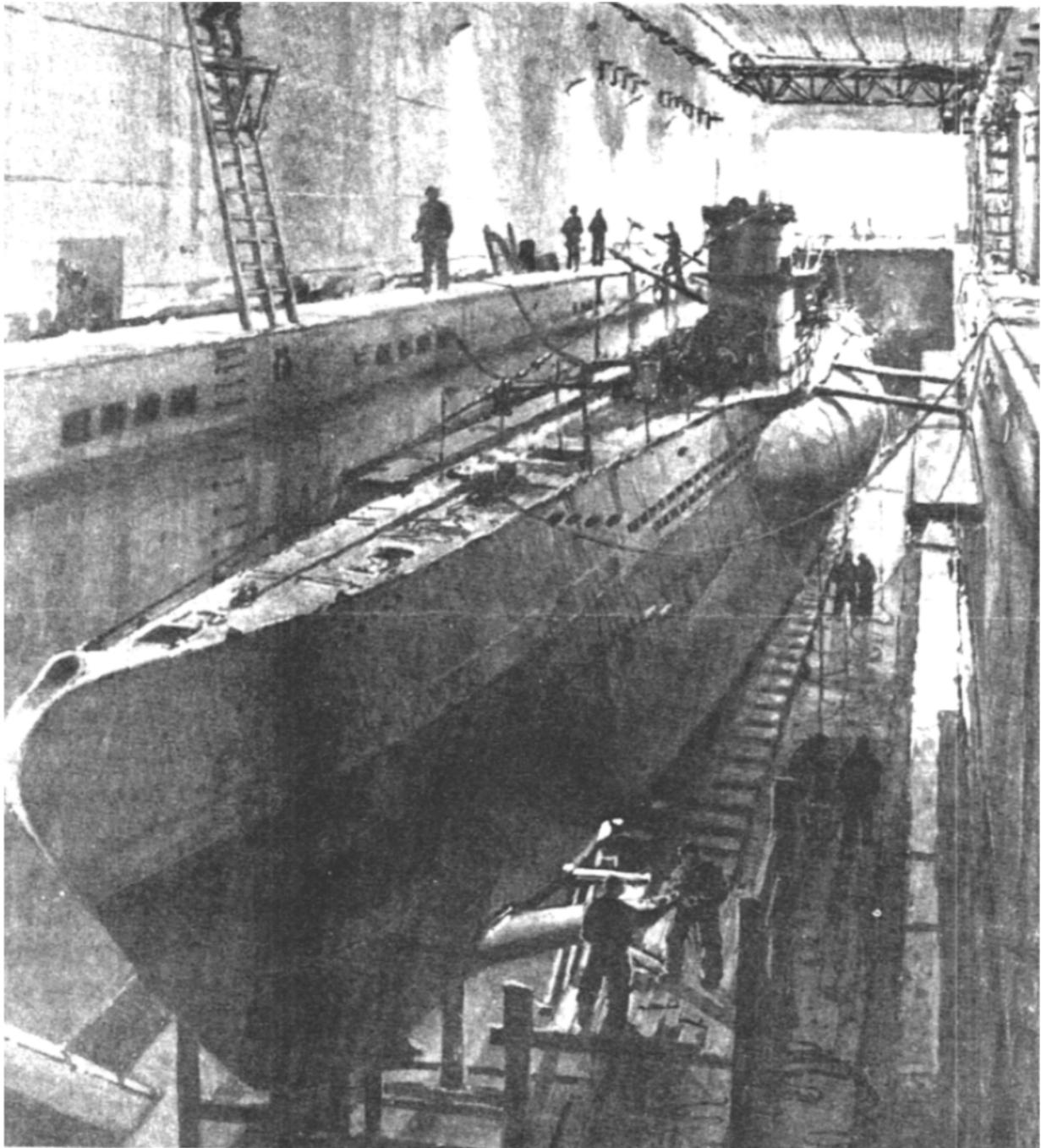


Illustration 23: A German U-boat in a concealed and protected slip, preparing for a long sea voyage (courtesy German War Art Collection, Department of the Army, Centre of Military History and Department of Defense, Still Media Records Centre, Washington, D.C.)

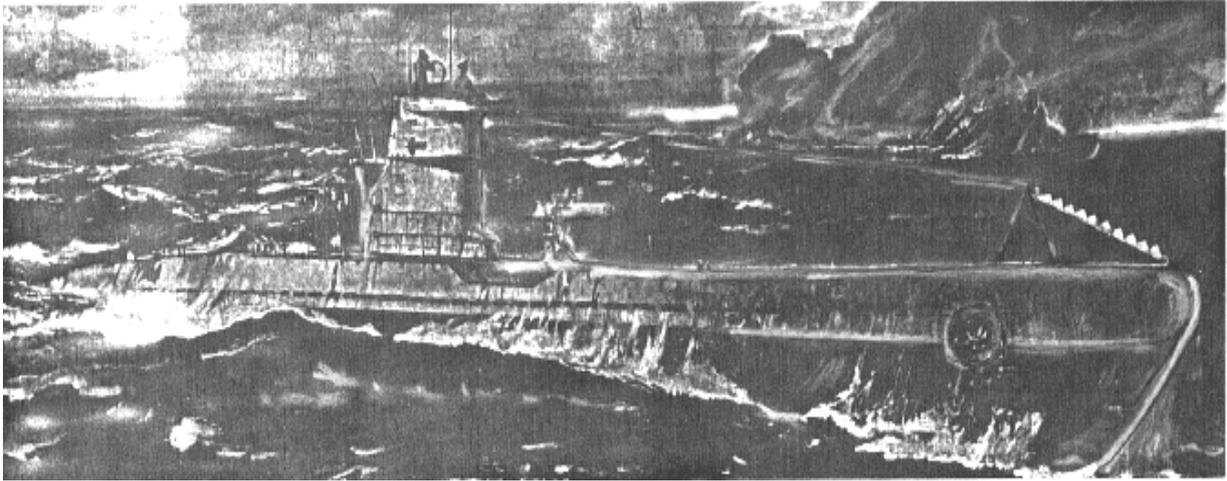


Illustration 24: The U-530 at sea, the German undersea boat which carried the Holy Lance to Antarctica in 1945 (from the collection of Capt. Wilhelm Bernhardt)

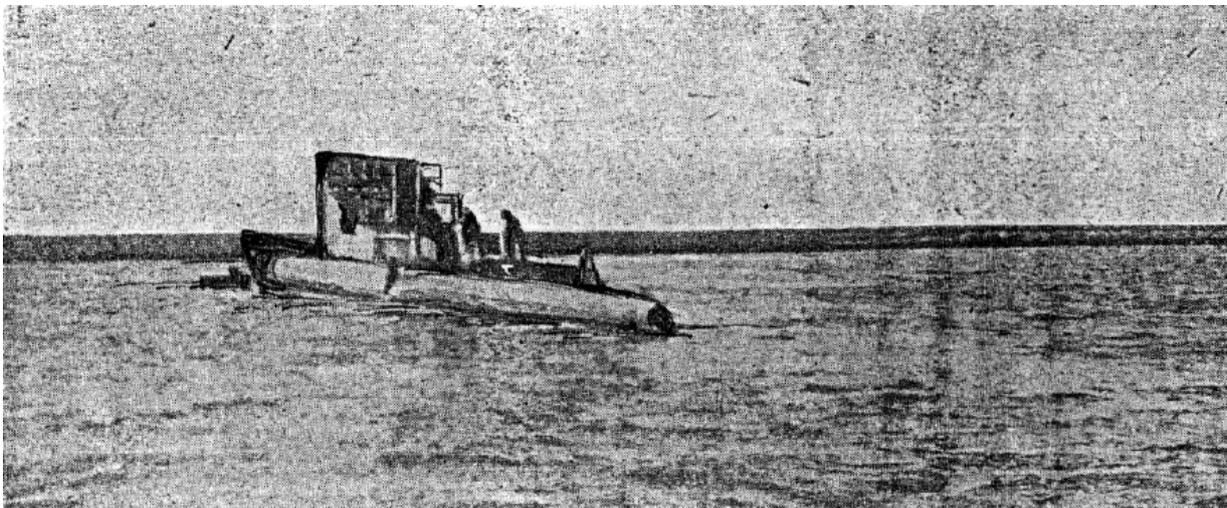


Illustration 25: The U-530 entering the harbour at Mar del Plata, Argentina (courtesy of the archives of Jost W. Schneider, Wuppertal, West Germany).

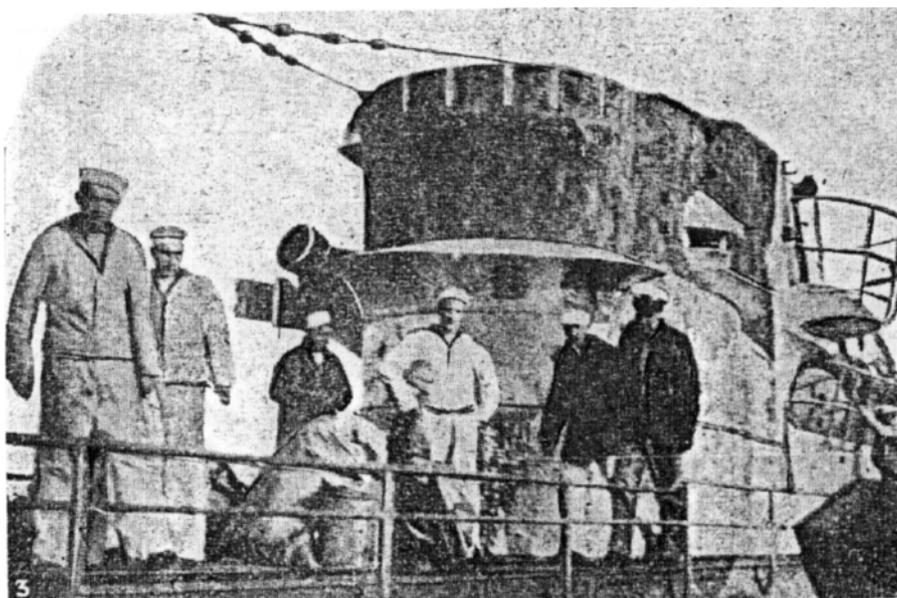


Illustration 26: The U-530 at the dock in Mar del Plata, Argentina (courtesy of the archives of Jost W. Schneider, Wuppertal, Germany).



Illustration 27: Captain Otto Wermoutt of the U-boat 530 surrenders his ship and crew, July 10, 1945 (courtesy of the archives of Jost W. Schneider, Wuppertal, Germany).

CHAPTER XIII

The Remains of Adolf Hitler and The Voyage of the U-977

Oh! Choosers of the Slain, Said he, Maidens of Valhalla, Bury me beyond the Sea, In a place called Mar del Plata. Anonymous

In the late twilight of May 1, 1945, a single engine Fieseler-Storch aircraft took off from an airfield in the vicinity of Berlin which, by some miracle, was still under German control (see footnote) Within minutes, the small plane emerged from the smoke and flame of the burning city and landed on shell-pocked Unter Den Linden Street amid Soviet artillery fire and dangerous rubble.

At the controls was a young Luftwaffe Lieutenant named Helmut Unger, who was destined to become a Knight of the Holy Lance (see Chapter XVII).

Before the plane stopped rolling, the pilot made a U-turn manoeuvre and was already gunning his motor for take-off. Three men immediately emerged from a nearby shelter. They were Col. Maximilian Hartmann and two SS troopers. Each soldier carried a bronze, lead-lined box which had been hermetically sealed. The boxes were to be the plane's only cargo. While they were being loaded aboard the aircraft, Col. Hartmann gave Lieutenant Unger his brief verbal orders and handed him a sealed envelope. The two officers saluted and the plane was on its way.

Footnote: The airfield was named L.W. 94. It no longer exists and has been replaced by condominiums.

It has not been revealed whether Col. Hartmann boarded the Storch aircraft at that time or whether he left Berlin by another route. It is known that one of the boxes contained an airtight metal canister and the sacred "Blood Flag" of the Third Reich. The contents of the second box has not been disclosed, but it was probably filled with the personal valuables of the Joseph Goebbels family and other occupants of the Hitler bunker.

Flying at treetop level and without lights, the little plane swept over enemy-occupied territory and then out across the North Sea. Soon, the relatively short, but dangerous journey to Kristiansand, Norway, had been completed.

In Kristiansand the plane's cargo was quickly transferred to a waiting U-boat which was ready for sea. The submarine had been placed at the disposal of Colonel Hartmann by Admiral Karl Dönitz, who on the morrow would assume Adolf Hitler's position as Chancellor of the Third Reich. The Führer had died on April 30, 1945, and had named Admiral Dönitz as his successor.⁶ No one, except Colonel Hartmann and Admiral Dönitz, knew what the metal canister contained, and no one else was ever to know with any degree of certainty.

Captain Heinz Schaeffer, commander of U-boat 977, received the bronze boxes and his sealed orders, saluted the pilot of the Storch aircraft, and returned to his ship. Within the hour, the U-977 was sliding silently through the dark waters of the North Sea. Like her sister ship U-530, she was bound for German Antarctica many thousands of dangerous miles away.

On August 17, 1945, nearly 31/2 months after the surrender of Germany, the U-977 appeared off the coast of South America at Mar del Plata, Argentina. She was the last German submarine to surrender to Allied authorities. However, other U-boats of her kind are believed to have continued to ply between Europe and South America carrying men and riches from the fallen Third Reich."

The captain of the U-977 obediently submitted his vessel to search and his men to interrogation. Nothing strange was discovered, except that the crew was unusually young. They had been on routine sea duty in the South Atlantic when the war ended and had been hesitant about surrender. The ship carried a very large amount of tobacco for a crew which was forbidden to smoke.

The U-boat was also some 14 men over strength, even though its log reflected that 16 men had been dropped off according "to orders," in Norway. Those sailors who were put ashore were either married or had living relatives in Germany. Like the U-530, the men remaining aboard the U-977 had no living relations of any kind.

In due course, the men of the U-977 were released and quickly disappeared from public attention. No one ever learned the true purpose of their mission and even they did not know the nature of the ship's cargo.

This information was not disclosed until 1979 when Colonel Maximilian Hartmann revealed that the U-977 had carried a funeral urn to Antarctica, there to be placed in an ice cave along with other treasures of the Reich and to await further disposition. In order to eliminate any guess work or speculations as to Colonel Hartmann's meaning, he is reported to have stated that the metal canister contained the mixed mortal remains or ashes of Reich Chancellor Adolf Hitler and his wife Eva Braun."

The above disclosures bring back the many theories surrounding Hitler's death (or survival), as follows:

1. Hitler did not die in the bunker in Berlin. A body was substituted in his place and he, along with Eva Braun, escaped to South America where he still lives or has subsequently died a natural death. In support of this theory is the fact that the partially burned body of a man found outside

of Hitler's bunker in Berlin did not match the anatomy of the Führer. In stature it was too short. The burned body had an undescended testicle. Hitler had normal testicles (see footnote). The dental work of the corpse did not match Hitler's dental records.

2. Hitler died in his bunker in Berlin. His corpse and that of Eva Braun were partially burned. After an autopsy, his remains were taken to Russia and are buried someplace in that country in an unmarked grave.

3. Hitler died and his body was partially burned as in item 2 above. Some of his and Eva's embers were scraped up, preserved, and placed aboard the U-977.

4. Hitler died in his bunker in Berlin. Substitute bodies of a man and woman were burned beyond recognition outside of his bunker. They are the bodies which were later buried in Russia. The real bodies of Hitler and Eva were taken to another location where they were cremated. Their ashes were sent to Antarctica.

According to the testimony of Colonel Hartmann, number 4 of the above options is true. If the disclosures of Colonel Hartmann are accepted, the mortal remains of Adolf Hitler and his wife Eva Braun now rest in an ice cave in the subcontinent of Antarctica or have been returned to Germany (see Chapter XVIII).

While this new version of the fate of Adolf Hitler's earthly remains is certainly startling, to say the least, it is not the end of the story. Col. Hartmann still had one more astounding bit of information to divulge. All prior reports claim that Hitler committed suicide, either by shooting himself or by taking poison or by doing both simultaneously^o (The Last Days of Adolf Hitler, H.R. Trevor — Roper, London, 1945; The Last 30 Days, W. Schultz, London, 1953). The Hartmann disclosure challenges this long accepted concept.

His account is as follows:

On or about April 29, 1945, Hitler insisted on leaving the security of his bunker to personally encourage his troops to fight on in the defence of Berlin. By this time, his regular army units had been decimated and the Russian attack was being resisted only by Jungen (boys) and old men from civil defence units. These makeshift forces were fighting bravely in the rubble of the ruined city and were armed with machine pistols and anti-tank weapons. By some miracle, they were achieving considerable success and actually inflicting significant losses on Soviet tanks.

Against the violent protests of his staff, Hitler walked the several blocks to the headquarters area of the Jungen troops. Here he came under heavy fire from Russian artillery and fell with a mortal wound. He was carried back to his bunker where he died the next day. In the meantime he married Eva Braun and she committed suicide after his death. The two bodies were heavily saturated with benzene and completely consumed by fire. The remaining ashes were mixed in a metal canister and sent to Antarctica as previously described.

In spite of the foregoing passages and what seems to be incontrovertible historical evidence that Hitler died in his bunker in Berlin, the small but utterly intriguing possibility of an escape must still be considered. This would imply that those individuals who are said to have been with Hitler during his final hours later told deliberate lies about his death or were deceived into the belief that he had died. The survival theory also requires that the body of a substitute Hitler was burned beyond recognition outside of his hiding place, while he himself was smuggled aboard either the U-boat 530 or the U-977.

Footnote: A single, highly unscientific and non-medical observation alleges that Hitler had only one testicle.

Lest the reader decide too quickly that the authors have facetiously invented another myth about Hitler's fate, we hasten to quote the following passage from the Illustrated World War II Encyclopedia (1978), Vol 16, page 2175:

Much has been written about Hitler's "disappearance" and the various places of refuge that he reached outside of Germany. But in fact, Marshall Sokolovsky, the former Chief-of-staff of the 1st Belorussian Front, who was interviewed by Cornelius Ryan in Moscow on April 17, 1963, admitted to him that the Führer's body had been unmistakably identified by his dentist's assistants (not his dentist, but his dentist's assistants) early in May 1945. Nevertheless, on May 26, 1945, Josef Stalin, who must have known of this report, assured Harry L. Hopkins (personal advisor and emissary of the late Franklin D. Roosevelt), that in his opinion, Hitler was not dead and that he was hiding somewhere. When Hopkins put forth the suggestion that Hitler had escaped on a U-boat, Stalin added, according to the account of this meeting, that "this was done with the connivance of Switzerland."

Implicit in the theory that Hitler may have survived World War II is the fact that no one, absolutely no one, knows how he died, if the standard scenario is followed. No two historians are in complete agreement on all aspects of this matter.

It must be remembered that the most popular version of Hitler's death places him in a private room, alone except for Eva Braun.

She had been dead for several minutes when the chamber was entered by one or more other persons. These individuals could only speculate as to what might have happened. Their testimony relating to subsequent events is suspect because of their intense loyalty to the Führer. His escape depended, at least in part, on convincing his enemies that he was dead.

Because no one knows exactly what happened in the death room, history confuses us with the personal fantasies of a number of authors. Comments from various sources about Hitler's death are as follows: "He committed suicide a little before 1600 hours on April 30, probably by firing his revolver at his right temple." He "died by his own hand." "He took poison and shot himself simultaneously." "On the 30th of April, at 3:30 in the afternoon, Hitler took a revolver and shot himself through the mouth, and either immediately before or immediately after that suicidal shot, Eva Braun swallowed poison. Hitler's body was wrapped in a blanket by Heinz Linge, his valet, and together with the body of Eva Braun was soaked in petrol and burnt in the Chancellery garden. The sight of Hitler's shattered head, said one of the Chancellery guards who witnessed the funeral pyre, was repulsive in the extreme.

"It was a suitably Wagnerian end to a man who believed himself to be the saviour of the German race; and no doubt had it been possible, the cremation would have been accompanied by the music of 'The Entry of the Gods into Valhalla.' But nothing except the sound of Russian shells bursting was to be heard. The Gethsemane of Adolf Hitler — Führer, 'noble wolf' and 'protector of the Gentiles' — was aflame amidst the forces he had loosed upon the world and upon himself" (Hitler, by Alan Wykes, 1970).

Another, but far from final version of Hitler's death is as follows: "As the Soviet Army advanced on Berlin that Monday afternoon, Hitler sat on a sofa with his bride next to him. In front of them was a coffee table with a vial of cyanide capsules, his 7.65 Walther automatic pistol, and vase of roses. Roses were his favourite flowers. They had always reminded him of his mother's funeral. The pistol would not be disturbed; the flowers would soon be knocked over.

"At 3:30 he swallowed cyanide. It worked efficiently. His puffy face contorted and turned blue as he strangled and gasped for breath; he thrashed about and kicked the coffee table. The bride but the muzzle of her 6.35 Walther to his left temple and pulled the trigger. She then poisoned herself. The shot brought aides who wrapped the bodies in grey army blankets and carried them out to the courtyard of the Chancellery."

"The grand all-consuming Wagnerian funeral he had promised himself was denied him. His chauffeur and others, it is true, had succeeded in collecting 200 liters of petrol, but they had not planned on a proper place for burning the bodies. With the Russians coming ever closer, they dumped the corpses in a slight indentation in the ground next to a cement mixer and set them on fire. The location left something to be desired as a setting for the Götter-dammerung — most notably, the sandy soil absorbed too much of the precious petrol.

"When it became apparent that the bodies would not be consumed, hurried orders were given to bury them. No one had thought to bring appropriate digging tools. Hastily and ineffectively, they covered the smoking corpses with loose earth and rubble. The charred remains were found four days later by a searching patrol of Soviet soldiers. Identification at the autopsy was made by an examination of Hitler's rotting teeth" (The Mind of Adolf Hitler, by Walter C. Langer, 1972).

Other, sharply contradictory reports indicate that no bodies, bones, or even ashes were ever found (Hitler, A Study in Tyranny by Alan Bullock, 1962; The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich by William L. Shirer, 1960). Since it is well known that an open pit fire will not usually destroy the human body so completely as to leave no trace, many explanations of the curious lack of remains have been set forth. One source (*The Last 100 Days* by John Toland, 1966) states that the bodies were not simply soaked with gasoline on a one time basis, and then set on fire. Instead, three men refuelled the blaze continuously for a period of four hours, until all traces of the corpses had disappeared. These men are reported to have been Major Otto Günsche (Hitler's Waffen-SS adjutant), Lt. Col. Eric Kempka (Hitler's chauffeur), and Major Heinz Linge (Hitler's valet). Even if this explanation is accepted and it is concluded that the bodies of Hitler and Eva Braun were completely destroyed, the question of the disappearance of the ashes still remains.

According to Eric Kempka, "the traces were wiped out by the uninterrupted Russian artillery fire." Another explanation is that they "became mixed up with those of other bodies" by the Russians.

Professor Trevor-Roper, author of *The Last Days of Adolf Hitler*, offers the most intriguing solution to the mystery of the missing remains. He "inclines to the view that the ashes were collected into a box and handed to Arthur Axmann, the leader of the Hitler Youth. There is some slight evidence for this and it would have been a logical act to pass on the sacred relics to the next generation."

Others state that Arthur Axmann actually participated in the burning process before the ashes were collected. He was assisted by August Grove (electrician) and Hubertus Misch (air conditioning expert). Misch and Grove were the last men to abandon the bunker. According to Grove, the bodies were almost completely consumed, but the unburnt parts were scattered about in small pieces. Thus an autopsy would have been impossible and all reports relating to a post-mortem examination are fabricated or reflect the result of a study of the wrong body.

From the foregoing accounts, we have clearly learned that Adolf Hitler was killed by Russian shell fire or he committed suicide. He took poison and shot himself either through the mouth or in the right temple. He used a revolver or a 7.65 calibre automatic pistol. On the other hand, maybe he just took poison and Eva Braun shot him in the left temple with her own 6.35 calibre automatic pistol, as a post-mortem gesture. So, he took poison and was shot through the mouth and in both the right and left temples. This should have been enough to do him in. But did it?

After Hitler died in any one of the numerous ways mentioned above, his body was wrapped in grey army blankets through which a guard was able to observe his shattered head. The body was then completely cremated or slightly burned. Finally, it was buried, dug up, and identified by the presence of "rotting teeth," or his body, bones, and teeth were never found and thus could

not be identified. Since it is obvious that no one actually knows what happened to Hitler, maybe he did indeed escape to South America after all.

However, if he did die in his bunker in Berlin and was cremated, as most authorities agree, it is impossible to believe that his faithful followers would have abandoned his ashes to chance disposition. When the flames died down they would certainly have collected the remnants and preserved them in some sort of way. It seems entirely reasonable to conclude that the ashes were sent to Antarctica for safekeeping, as described by Col. Hartmann. A small portion could also have been placed in the care of Arthur Axmann.

If this logical sequence of events is accepted it means that the mystery of the missing ashes is no longer a mystery. It also becomes clear that no one in Hitler's bunker told the full truth about his fate or the disposition of his remains. Finally, it means that the ashes of Adolf Hitler and his wife Eva Braun still exist somewhere in the world (see footnote).

According to some sources, fresh tissue samples were taken from both the body of Hitler and that of Eva Braun before they were cremated. These specimens are said to have been delivered to the infamous Dr. Josef Mengele for use in cloning experiments. The dramatic implications of this claim are obvious. In the opinion of at least one of the authors this story belongs in the category of post-war fiction. However, it must be admitted that there is no evidence which absolutely refutes this allegation. The same can be said of a rumour which claims that the frozen semen of Hitler, Dr. Joseph Goebbels and other leaders was sent to South America where, at a later date, it was used to impregnate carefully selected women.

Footnote: After the first edition of this book had been published some startling new information about Hitler's ashes came to light. This material, along with important illustrations, will be included in a subsequent publication.

CHAPTER XIV

Human Cargo - The Final Secret of the U-530

Did Hitler Escape to South America?

**Tis done — but yesterday a King!
and arm'd with Kings to strive —
And now thou art a nameless thing:
So abject — yet alive!
Is this the man of a thousand thrones,
Who strew'd our earth with hostile bones,
And can he thus survive?**

Byron

In spite of its already unbelievable voyage, the U-530 still had one more amazing secret to divulge. The rumours expressed in one of the newspaper articles cited in Chapter XII were indeed true, but 42 years went by before they could actually be confirmed.

The crewmen of the U-530 kept their oath of secrecy, never to reveal the true mission of the submarine until it hardly mattered anymore. Not until late 1987, when this book was nearing completion, did one of them agree to come forward with the true story.

Before leaving its home base, the forward torpedo compartment of the U-530 had been partitioned off and converted into fairly comfortable living quarters. On the night of her departure from Germany, nine passengers were taken aboard. There were eight men and possibly one woman disguised as a man. All were dressed in civilian clothing and their faces

were covered by surgical gauze wrappings. Only the identity of the party's spokesman was made known to the captain of the U-530.

As days and weeks went by, one of the assistant cooks, who was in frequent contact with the passengers, accidentally discovered the identity of the spokesman and one other member of the group. This did not seem to be significant at the time. The passengers lived so quietly that other crew members were hardly aware of their presence, except that they envied the enormous amounts of brandy and cigarettes which the passengers consumed (see footnote')

One day as the submarine neared the coast of South America, the passengers were indulging in a mild celebration. The spokesman ordered the assistant cook to bring more cigarettes and another bottle of brandy and "more coffee for our leader." He used the word "Führer" for "leader." The startled attendant snapped to attention, clicked his heels and said, "Jawohl, Herr Bormann" ("Yes, Mr. Bormann"). Martin Bormann, Hitler's personal assistant, immediately demanded that the crewman be shot for disclosing his identity."

The U-530 Commander, Captain Otto Wermoult, sternly refused to comply with his demand and informed Herr Bormann that the war was over and there would be no more killing, at least not on his ship. He also reminded Bormann that the Third Reich no longer existed and that all rank and position had been dissolved. This closed the incident, but the identity of Martin Bormann had been confirmed (see footnote2), and one other person was known to be included in the group. He was SS-General Karl Müller, the same officer who had been of such great service to Reinhard Heydrich and who was believed to have died in a car accident in 1942." He was also one of only two people in the world who knew the number of a Swiss bank box which held the key to the secret of the Holy Lance. The other person was Rudolf Hess.

Hess was a prisoner of war in Great Britain at that time. He was inaccessible, and his fate was highly uncertain. It was therefore imperative that Karl Müller escape to a place of safety, from which he could direct the recovery of the Holy Lance and the guide to its power at an appropriate time.

Karl Müller, who was also known as Heinrich Müller, was one of the most mysterious figures of the Third Reich. Very few details of his life have been recorded. He was born in Munich, Germany on April 28, 1900, and he was head of the Gestapo in Berlin during the latter part of World War II. His rank was SS-Major General and General-Lieutenant of the Police. On November 15, 1944, he was awarded the Knight's Cross to the War Merit Cross with Swords. Rumours reported him to have been killed on more than one occasion.

Footnote 1: All of the passengers, except one, were very heavy smokers. Their greatest fear had been that they would not have enough cigarettes to last through a voyage which would take three or four months. This explains the over-supply aboard the U-530 and the U-977.

Footnote 2: The man addressed as "Herr Bormann" is assumed to have been Martin Bormann, Adolf Hitler's personal secretary. Official records imply that Bormann was killed while trying to escape from Berlin on or about May 2, 1945. This conclusion is based on the premise that a skeleton, which was accidentally unearthed years later (1972), was properly identified by a "dental assistant." It is also possible that the "Herr Bormann" aboard the U-530 was Lt. Col. Albert Bormann, brother of Martin, who was at Hitler's headquarters in the final days. A poorly documented report claims that Martin Bormann committed suicide on May 2, 1945 and his body was seen "in the moonlight under a bridge." Nevertheless, "his whereabouts are constantly reported in South America and energetic avengers still pursue him." (Leaders and Personalities of the Third Reich by Charles Hamilton, 1984.)

When referring to him, other sources' omit his first name, probably because of uncertainty as to whether it was Karl or Heinrich. Official records list Karl Müller as "missing" at the end of World War II because he "disappeared" in Berlin in late April or early May, 1945.⁹ This is the first disclosure that he escaped to South America aboard the U-boat 530 (see footnote). Although he was a man of many shadows, it is known that Karl Müller was completely trustworthy and fanatically loyal. His life was closely entwined with the mysteries of the Holy Lance. He was the man who Reinhard Heydrich selected for a mission of the most profound secrecy. He alone knew exactly where the riddle of the lance was hidden. He alone had access to a Swiss bank box which contained vital information pertaining to the mystic powers of the lance. In 1944, he was commissioned to safeguard the lance itself and create false leads as to its true location. He accompanied the lance to Antarctica, and he was to orchestrate the journey of the lance far into the future.

Footnote: As this book was going to press, word was received that SS-General Karl Heinrich Muller was still alive. He was then almost 88 years old and in ill health_ It is probable that he has since died at his home somewhere in South America.

Speculation as to the identity of the remaining seven passengers of the U-530 can be mind-boggling. Was Hitler aboard the U-530? Eva Braun? Adolf Eichman? Other important members of "The Boys from Brazil?" We will probably never know. It seems highly likely that the U-977, which arrived in South America at a later date, also carried a similar group of passengers and there were almost certainly other U-boats which carried out missions of this kind. The commanders of the other vessels probably elected to destroy all evidence by scuttling their ships in coastal waters after discharging their passengers and crews (see footnote).

The passengers of the U-530 gained entry into Argentina in two ways. Some were put ashore by means of rubber boats on the desolate coast of Patagonia in a sparsely populated region. The others chose to remain on the submarine until it actually entered the harbor at Mar del Plata. Previous contact had been made with the Juan Peron government. In exchange for handsome bribes, in the form of solid gold ingots, Argentinian officials had agreed to keep the submarine in their closely guarded custody for a period of seven days. During this time, the passengers disappeared and all traces of their presence were removed from the U-530. U.S. and British authorities were then informed that they could inspect the submarine which had arrived on July 10, but was not turned over to American and British officials until July 17, 1945.²⁸

In the meantime, the passengers had made their way to Buenos Aires, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, and as far away as Brazil. Passengers from the U-977 and other submarines would later follow the same route.

So ends the saga of one of the most remarkable sea voyages of all times. The U-530 had sailed from Nazi Germany on the personal orders of Adolf Hitler. She had been at sea for three months and had travelled thousands of miles to one of the most inaccessible locations on earth. There she had deposited an ancient lance which had once lacerated the side of the crucified Christ. She also left behind great treasures of other kinds which were to be partially recovered at a later date. Finally, she had transported high officials of the dying Third Reich to South America, and all of this had remained a secret for 42 years.

Footnote: Captain Heinz Schaeffer, commander of the U-977 was later to indicate that a third "boat" was involved in the Antarctica-South America missions. However, nothing is known about this vessel except that "she now sleeps peacefully at the bottom of the South Atlantic." This ship may have been the U-465 carrying men and equipment on an unknown mission (personal communication to one of the authors).



Illustration 28: General Karl Heinrich Muller, mystery Knight of the Holy Lance and holder of the Knight's Cross to the War Merit Cross with Swords. His career was closely entwined with the hiding places of the Holy Lance. He escaped to South America aboard the U-boat 530 in 1945. He directed the recovery of the Holy Lance in 1979 and died in 1988. He was probably the last of the original Knights of the Holy Circle (photograph courtesy Their Honour was Loyalty by Jost W. Schneider. Wuppertal, West Germany).

CHAPTER XV

The Dissipation of the Treasures of the Third Reich "To The Victor" and the Last Laugh

Man thirsts more for glory than for virtue. Armour of an enemy, his broken helmet, the flag ripped from a conquered ship, were treasures valued beyond all human riches. It is to obtain these tokens of glory that generals, be they Roman, Greek or barbarian, brave thousands of perils and endure a thousand exertions. Juvenal (tenth satire) Rome b. A.D. 55-60?

As Hitler had predicted, the treasures of the Third Reich were quickly consumed by the insatiable appetite of his enemies as they swept across Germany during the fading days of World War II. In the weeks following Germany's surrender, members of the Army of Occupation prowled throughout the land uncovering cache after cache of hidden riches, which belonged to Germany, to other countries, or to private individuals.

The "Reich Treasures," consisting of Himmler's duplicate Holy Lance and the insignia of the Holy Roman Empire (First Reich), were uncovered at Nürnberg by the U.S. 7th Army. The crown, sceptre, sword, and globe of Charlemagne were found in a cave in Siegen, Germany, by troops of the U.S. First Army."

Millions of dollars worth of gold, Reichmarks, paintings, and other items were discovered in a salt mine by Gen. George Pat-ton's Third Army. The mine was located near Merkers, in the vicinity of Hereford, about 40 miles from Berlin. So vast was this treasure that Generals Dwight Eisenhower, Omar Bradley, and George Patton descended into the deep mine on a dilapidated and potentially dangerous elevator in order to personally inspect the hoards.

During the descent Patton joked that if the elevator cable were to break, there would be numerous promotions at top levels in the U.S. Army. A somewhat nervous Eisenhower replied, "That's not funny, George."

Soldiers of the 44th Infantry Division, U.S. 7th Army, unearthed one of the largest single collections of fine art in Germany. The paintings were stored in tunnels beneath King Ludwig's Neuschwanstein Castle near Fussen in Bavaria. The value of the collection, which included original works by Rembrandt, was estimated at several billion dollars." Another large group of fine paintings, including works by Peter Paul Rubens, was found in an underground cavern in Aigan, Germany, by units of the U.S. First Army.

The valuables of Joachim von Ribbentrop were discovered in a number of trunks and suitcases in the Hotel Krone in Umhausen, Austria," and to these were added the personal collections of Himmler and Göring. In the case of Göring, his accumulation of gold objects and fine paintings rivaled that of most large museums. His Reichsmarshal Baton was intrinsically valued at \$40,000 in 1945, and the entire collection was conservatively priced at \$200 million.

The fabulous cache was discovered in 1945 by a U.S. Seventh Army counter-intelligence task force. It was stored in a sealed concrete bunker near Berchtesgaden. The task force spent three days in breaching the wall of the vault and it took four additional days to empty its contents." The men involved felt as if they had seen a "re-creation of the storehouse of Croesus." Some of the items included personal clothing and household effects, several hundred paintings, altar pieces, tapestries, statuary, 200 pounds of platinum ingots, photograph albums, monogrammed china, silver and gold table service pieces, and a silver-bound copy of Mein Kampf. The quaint little Bavarian village of Unterstein, near the beautiful Königsee, became a temporary world art centre as the U.S. 101st Airborne Division placed the dazzling Göring collection on temporary public display.

Heinrich Himmler's personal treasure was found in a salt mine near the village of Bad Gastein (near Salzburg, Austria). Most of the items were in heavily booby-trapped compartments which were sealed off with concrete. One man was killed while trying to defuse an explosive device. The cave contained almost the entire library of the University of Vienna, personal effects, weapons, and those things which "Himmler held most dear." Included in these items was a silver framed photograph of the funeral of Reinhard Heydrich.

Hitler did not have a sealed bunker in which to store his treasures, as did Göring and Himmler. However, many of his personal possessions were found in his various homes in Munich and Berchtesgaden, including his famous "Eagle's Nest" retreat on the Obersalzberg Mountain. A large wooden box containing a treasure of some of Hitler's personal belongings was found in the basement of the Führer Building on the Königsplatz in Munich. The items included a richly engraved gold plated pistol (valued at \$375,000), Hitler's swastika ring by jeweler K. Berthold, portraits of his mother (Klara Polzl) and his dog "Biondi", albums commissioned to mark Mussolini's state visit to Germany in 1937, a swastika flag marked "M91 Alfred Danko" (a comrade of the Munich Putsch of 1923), the Führer's personal gold wrist watch, and numerous pieces of silver marked "A. H." which had been made for Hitler by Krupp in Berndorf."

In addition to the more important discoveries listed above, countless smaller collections of great value were taken from castles and private homes throughout Germany. Perhaps the most notable item in this category was the Sepp Dietrich Honour Sword.

As a separate matter, 9000 paintings by Third Reich artists were confiscated and shipped to the U.S. Airplanes and a three masted, 295 foot sailing ship, known as the "Horst Wessel," but now named "the Eagle," were part of the booty.

Finally, there were thousands upon thousands of items which were taken as souvenirs and mailed to the U.S. by individual soldiers. These prizes included firearms of all types, swords, daggers, flags, insignia, uniforms, military standards, priceless Allach porcelain, linens, silverware, and an infinite variety of other things. They are now on display in large or small collections in private homes, or they are gathering dust in closets and attics throughout the U.S. Many of the more important treasures of the Third Reich have been acquired by professional collectors and dealers and have become the basis of a thriving industry.

Several things about the above narrative tend to pique one's curiosity. Why did Hitler elect not to store his prized personal possessions in well-hidden secret bunkers as did Göring and Himmler? The reply to this question would seem to be that he planned to ship his treasures out of Germany to a place of absolute safety. This answer in turn appears to be blatantly incorrect since what seemed to be Hitler's most prized possessions were carelessly left behind in a wooden box which was stored in the basement of a prominent public building. No one ever attempted to hide them from discovery.

This brings one to a second question. What was in the eight sealed, lead-lined, bronze boxes which were sent to Antarctica?

We know the identity of only four items; the "Holy Lance" which Hitler worshipped and a bronze plaque which he greatly cherished because he thought that it had saved his life were two. The third object, which was removed from one of the boxes, is a remarkable painting by Hitler himself. This very unusual work of art is entitled "Germania and the Appointment of the Gods at the Beginning of the World." One of the figures in the picture is obviously Rudolf Hess as a young man. The painting was treasured by Hitler as a reminder of an artistic career which might have been (see III. 33). The fourth item was the sacred "Blutfahne" or Blood Flag of the Third Reich. This was the banner which had been carried by a standard bearer who was killed during Hitler's first bid for power on November 9, 1923 (the Beer Hall Putsch). It had been stained by the blood of party faithful who were slain or wounded in this action. The flag was placed in the

custody of the SS on July 4, 1926. Thereafter it was brought forth only for the most important ceremonies of the state. It was last seen in public at the funeral of Gaudieter Wagner in 1944. In late April, 1945 as Allied forces drove deep into Germany, the flag was removed from "the brown house" (party headquarters in Munich) and supposedly sent to Austria for safekeeping. Actually it was sent to Berlin and then placed aboard the U-boat 977. Without doubt the Flag of Blood was one of the most sacred emblems of the Third Reich.

From the foregoing, it must be concluded that the boxes contained objects of greater significance than those which were left behind in Munich and which could easily have been transferred to Hitler's bunker in Berlin and then placed aboard either the U-boat 530 or the U-977.

Therefore, Hitler's most valued treasures did elude the hands of his enemies, and it was he who had the last laugh (see footnote).

The rape of Germany during and after World War II is generally excused by the knowledge that many looted items had been stolen from occupied countries, such as France and the Netherlands. Nonetheless, billions of dollars worth of state and personal property was drained away. Practically none of this confiscated wealth was ever returned.

To the victor belong the spoils. It has always been so in times of war.

Footnote: From the nature of items known to have been stored in one of the bronze boxes it seems reasonable to conclude that other objects were those which Hitler and Eva Braun held most dear and which were present in the Berlin bunker during the final days. These items would logically include Hitler's military decorations such as his Iron Cross, his Führer flag, his favorite uniform, Eva's jewelry, and Mach porcelain bust of Hitler, many other similar objects and the handwritten text of his last address to the German people. He was very proud of the latter because it covered the entire period of his leadership of the Third Reich (see Addendum).

CHAPTER XVI

The Recovery of the Secret of the Holy Lance

**Wouldst thou soar heavenward on its joyous wing?
"H"**

In 1959, a message was smuggled out of Spandau prison. It was quickly intercepted and turned over to the intelligence agents of the four powers, France, Britain, Russia, and the U.S.A. The message was unintelligible except for the fact that it contained mention of a Holy Lance and was signed "H." The next day, Rudolf Hess, one of the last three inmates of Spandau, attempted suicide.

In 1969, Rudolph Hess was taken to a British hospital for the treatment of ulcers. It was his first trip outside of Spandau Prison. Several days later an ex-crew member of U-boat 530 received the key to a bank box in Switzerland, along with full authority for its use. This box led to another where a number of sealed envelopes were found, along with a large amount of liquid assets. The message had been signed "H." Whether or not it came from Rudolf Hess is unknown, but it must be remembered that Hess was the last surviving member of the five powers of the Third Reich, each symbolized by the letter "H" (Hitler, Himmler, Heydrich, Haushofer, and Hess) (see footnote).

Footnote: It should be mentioned that Gen. Karl Muller had been Heydrich's messenger. He knew the number of the Swiss bank account and he had escaped to South America aboard the U-530. He was therefore familiar with the crew of the submarine. He may have sent the message and signed it "H" for Heydrich.

It has been widely speculated that the man in Spandau was an impersonator and could never be released because of this secret. If not an impersonator, he was the last power of the Third Reich and the last known interpreter of the Holy Lance. This was an even more important reason for this long and unusual retention.

Many people have wondered why a man on a peace mission was sentenced to life imprisonment, eventually to be alone in a great castle, guarded by four nations, until death. The reason has been indicated above. Under constant pressure to divulge his many secrets, Hess is said to have committed suicide on August 17, 1987. He was 93 years old. Life, or more correctly death, had a final indignity to bestow on Rudolf Hess. He was denied burial at the site of his selection (Wunsiedel, Bavaria) by public demonstrations. He now lies in a secret grave. Even his prison will be destroyed and disappear from the earth. The last of the five powers of the Third Reich is gone. Perhaps he has found peace at last (see footnote).

The sealed envelopes in the Swiss bank were opened by the U-530 member. He was instructed to contact Colonel Maximilian Hartmann and deliver to him the contents of the box.

As Colonel Hartmann read the documents which had been delivered into his hands, he realized that he was the true successor to Reinhard Heydrich. He was the only man in the world who would soon know both the secret of the power of the lance and its location.

The first envelope contained the following words, which are only a part of the total message:

**Wouldst thou soar heavenward
on its joyous wing?
Cast off the earthly burden of the real;
High from the cramp'd and
dungeon's being, spring
Into the realm of the Ideal!
"H"**

This proved to be a coded message from Professor Karl Haushofer, with an addendum by Karl Müller, giving the exact location of a bronze box which had been buried at the foot of the Schleigeiss Glacier in 1942. The box would contain the secret of the power of the Holy Lance. The addendum read as follows:

Beginning with the words "dumpfen leben" change reference point to R3OMS2, 413MDS, 113MDW, excavate as previously described in GBBEAP (H). On entering schatzkammer follow instructions as to location and meaning of gold obelisk marked "1-1." You are authorized to remove that which may be required for your subsequent mission. Remainder needed for other purposes. Reseal is imperative and must be restored to original state.

**Good Luck
K.M.**

Footnote: According to one report Hess was murdered by Himmler in 1941 (The Murder of Rudolf Hess by W. Hugh Thomas, 1979). A substitute Hess was sent to England on a peace mission in Himmler's name. When the plan failed the Hess impersonator attempted suicide. He was later incarcerated in Spandau prison where some historians believe that he too was murdered on August 17, 1987 (World War II Magazine, July, 1988). It is alleged that the hastily arranged murder was carried out by agents of one of the four powers which had blocked the release of Hess for many years. The murder was deemed to be necessary when it was learned that Hess (or his substitute) was to be released unilaterally by Gorbachev. prior to Christmas 1987.

The second envelope contained instructions which directed Colonel Hartmann to reorganize the order of the Knights of the Holy Lance. This group was to recover the lance from its resting place in Antarctica and use it as a guiding symbol in the attainment of world peace. Again, the document was signed with the letter "H."

The third envelope contained a very large sum of money. The main reason for sending a member of the crew of U-530 to act as emissary in the above situation was that he could provide Colonel Hartmann with one more piece of critical information. Previous maps of the location of the ice cave in Antarctica had been faulty, but this individual knew the correct location of the treasure. This man later provided the very information on which this book is based."

In due time the bronze box was recovered. In addition to another instalment of cash, it contained the message which appears in Illustration 10.

The illustrated message reveals the secret of the power of the Holy Lance written in runic symbols. The original was written in runic code.'

CHAPTER XVII

The Return of the Knights of the Holy Lance and the Beginning of Valkure Zwei (Phase II)

**We seek an obelisk of gold,
Where once a crystal fountain flowed
And Valkyries guard a treasure trove
In the caves of an icy mountain.
"H"**

Breaking the runic code was not a simple task, and several years of painstaking research and study slipped by before the riddle of Professor Haushofer finally gave up its secret. During the above period, Colonel Hartmann had to become an expert in both cryptography and runic symbols. He could trust no one else. With the secret of the lance in hand, Col. Hartmann began the slow process of reorganizing the Order of the Knights. Using the funds which had been provided, he travelled the length and breadth of his country again and again. Here he selected one man and there he found another, until finally there were twelve in addition to himself. This was the same number of knights as in the original circle.

In 1974 the first meeting of the Thirteen Knights of the Holy Lance was held in Munich. They met in conjunction with a world peace assembly and reaffirmed their dedication to this cause. This time there was no old castle, round table, massive throne-like chairs, ancient weapons, or Teutonic symbols. They were men in business suits with a totally different cause.

The most significant problem facing the knights at that time was the recovery of the lance itself. They knew that a secret expedition to Antarctica would be a herculean task and that the cost would be incredible, but they were determined to succeed.

The mission would also represent the completion of "Valkure Zwei" which had been started so long ago. It would therefore have no special code name and would simply be called Expedition Hartmann. Four men were chosen to be the leaders of the group. Two were from Munich and two were from Köln, Germany. They were Colonel Maximilian Hartmann (group leader), Klauss Ortner, Heinz Frederich Loser, and Dr. Lothar Manfred Zweick, navigator and pilot.

Each of these men was selected for his personal integrity, faithful devotion to the Order of the Lance and its purpose, his unquestioned courage and high intelligence.

During the following several years the group met in many widely scattered geographic locations in different parts of the world, including Cape Town, South Africa; Sao Paulo, Brazil; Mexico City, Mexico; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Sydney, Australia; Singapore, Malaysia; Hiroshima, Japan, and Madrid, Spain. During these meetings, plans were made for the final completion of "Valkure Zwei."

It is obvious that the formulation and precision timing of an expedition of this magnitude, in complete and utter secrecy, was an unbelievably difficult undertaking. The unending details involved and the constant need for funds account for the five years which passed before the mission could be activated.

Finally, however, a starting date of March 19, 1979, was selected and the countdown began. All details of the plan and all aspects of coordination were checked and rechecked again and again. Once into the project there would be little opportunity for practice exercises and absolutely no margin for error.

At 9:07 AM, on May 19, 1979, Colonel Hartmann and his expedition leaders boarded a Lufthansa flight at Munich International Airport. They were bound for Sao Paulo Brazil, via Madrid, Spain. Dressed in neat business suits and carrying attache cases, they seemed no different from other passengers.

The remainder of this Chapter is quoted directly from the narration of Colonel Hartmann.

"Here we are, aboard this sleek 747 jetliner headed for Brazil on the first leg of our mission. I could not help but wonder as I looked around at some of the other passengers if somehow someone aboard knew about our mission. I think my comrades must have had this very same thought. What awaited us? And what were our fates to be? I could not help but think of the gravity and utter importance of our mission. My mind raced back to those hectic and saddening closing days of the war."

"Once again, I saw the face of the Führer in my mind's eye, his pale ashen face and trembling limbs as he received the radio report on that fateful day when the Allied Armies began closing in. I remembered his assignment of mission Valkure Zwei to protect the Holy Lance from falling into Allied hands and my own appointment as officer in charge of this mission. I thought of the U-boat 530 lying in wait of her mission, sleek and powerful, like some gigantic denizen of the sea. I thought of the warm and friendly faces of her crew and of the clock-like precision with which her precious cargo was loaded."

"I thought of the cordial and warm reception of Kapitän Otto Wermoutt and his officers. Today, I know where only a scant few of these men are. Some have died and some are still in Germany. Others are in South America, Canada, Spain and other places. If it had not been for the devotion of these men, mission Valkure Zwei would have ended those many years ago in 1945. My thoughts turned to Heinz, Klaus, and Dr. Zweick. Each was hand-chosen. All were men of integrity and great moral strength and character, linked by their bitter war time bonds of the past, reaching to the future. Truly Heilige Ritters, each! In the Service of Our Lord!"

"The hours have been ticking along. Soon we land at Madrid, Spain. Many passengers disembark. Most of them seem to be businessmen, and, I think, a few vacationers. In approximately 30 minutes we are airborne again, proceeding on a direct course now for Sao Paulo Brazil. I lean back in my comfortable seat, and soon I have dozed off into a peaceful sleep."

"A few hours later we are arriving at the International Airfield in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Soon we have landed and we taxi to the massive glass terminal with its many extended flight wings. We disembark and clear customs, then proceed to a pre-arranged meeting point at the Lufthansa information center. At least we see among the teeming crowds in the terminal the smiling faces

of two old friends. It is a warm and joyful reunification. We are taken immediately to a small villa in Sao Paulo's International Settlement Area, high up on a mountain slope.

"That evening we spend time over a cordial dinner discussing the mission and reminiscing over times past. As we look out through the large picture window of the villa, we can see the twinkling lights of Sao Paulo below. It is a magnificent sight. One building in particular that we notice among the many modern sky scrapers is the Mercedes-Benz office building, with its gigantic tri-star in brilliant white encircled by blue, revolving slowly in a 360 degree arc over Sao Paulo. It was pointed out with great pride by our comrades that the backbone of the city's industry was the German Mercedes-Benz plant, as well as many other German corporations."

"After a good night's rest and a refreshing shower, we have a delightful breakfast and are taken on a whirlwind tour of the gigantic metropolis itself. We are astounded as we drive along the boulevard in the Mercedes. Sao Paulo's population is nearly five million people. It is Brazil's largest city and greatest industrial centre. It has a very nice climate due to the fact that it is located some 2,545 feet above sea level."

"The metropolitan area alone with its modern sky scrapers covers an area of nearly 700 square miles. I could not help but try to imagine that this was once the site of an Indian Village. The actual city of Sao Paulo was founded by European Jesuit Priests some time around the year 1554. It was not until 1950, only five years after the war in Europe had ended, that Sao Paulo received an influx of thousands of Europeans and Asians. I think this is one of the reasons it has become one of the world's fastest growing cities."

"That evening we returned to our villa, having once again a most cordial dinner with our hosts. Our time schedule for Sao Paulo had now come to an end, for in the morning we were scheduled to board a small twin-engine plane that would fly us to the settlement of Bahi Thetys, Tierra del Fuego (Fireland), at the very tip of South America. It is from this point that Expedition Hartmann would be launched."

"The following morning at 6:15 A.M. we arrived at a small private airfield approximately 30 kilometers from Sao Paulo. The twin engine McKinnon turbo goose amphibian airplane had her engines idling. We were greeted by our pilot, Helmut Unger (see footnote). Although our expedition member, Dr. Zweick, was to be our pilot on this leg of our journey, Helmut would be instrumental in familiarizing Dr. Zweick with the McKinnon's operation. In a few minutes we had our gear aboard and were comfortably seated in the aircraft. Soon we were airborne, winging southward on the journey to Bahia Thetys."

"We were to have rest and fuelling stops at Porto Alegre, Brazil; Mar del Plata, Argentina, and one stop at the small coastal town of Puerto Deseado, Argentina. From there we would be heading for our final destination, Bahia Thetys in Tierra del Fuego."

Footnote: Helmut linger was the same pilot who flew a secret cargo from burning Berlin to Norway on May 1, 1945 (see Chapter XIII).



CHAPTER XVIII

Mission Antarctica - The Completion of Valkure Zwei

**The Return of the Holy Lance and
Adolf Hitler's Secret Treasure**
And now there came both mist and snow,
And it grew wondrous cold;
And ice, mast-high, came floating by
As green as ancient gold.
And through the drifts the snowy cliffs
Did send a dismal sheen;
Nor shapes of men nor beasts we ken —
The ice was all between.
The ice was here, the ice was there,
The ice was all around
It cracked and growled,
and roared and howled,
The ice did all about.
Coleridge (modified)

Colonel Hartmann's narration continues:

"At 11:57 a.m., May 25, 1979, the McKinnon flying boat slowed her engines and we began a downward descent to a small airfield near the settlement of Bahia Thetys. The flight, with its stopovers along the way for periods of rest and refuelling, had been peacefully uneventful, with the exception of a severe thunderstorm that we encountered approximately 70 miles south of Puerto Deseado. The powerful McKinnon Flying boat with its precision turbo engines proved more than a match for the elements. The only disturbance to our routine flight was some rather irritating buffeting during the thunderstorm."

"Our landing at Bahia Thetys was smooth and graceful. A few minutes later we disembarked with our gear and were met by friends. We placed our gear in a land rover and were taken to a small barracks-like complex. After stretching our legs for a while we had a delightful dinner. We spent the rest of the afternoon stowing our gear and going on a routine inspection of the entire complex"

"The runway for the airfield was made of finely crushed stone that had been well-oiled down. The complex itself consisted of three old and weathered buildings. At one time, it had been a type of weather station. In the 1960's it had been abandoned by the Argentine government and had stood vacant for several years. Our group had had the good fortune of leasing this installation. Of course, it had been refurbished to a large degree."

"One building had been converted into sleeping quarters, complete with dining facilities and a large room with a chart table in which we were to study our navigation charts for the expedition. Another building had been converted into a storage area for supplies. This included food, clothing, medicines, navigation gear, and a host of other materials, mostly pertaining to the expedition. The third building had one side removed and had been converted into a type of roughshod aircraft hangar and parts depot for the McKinnon flying boat. Next to the hangar lay four 1000-gallon heavy polyethylene aviation fuel cells."

"The installation was in a very remote area. The only irritating factor in this lonely outpost was the constant putt-putting of an electric generator which supplied light and energy to the compound. The chainlink fence which surrounded the building was old but in good repair. At the east end the fence had been arranged so that a series of folding sections could be withdrawn, thus forming a rather large opening gate that could be closed at night. This was to protect not

only the compound but the McKinnon flying boat from any unwanted intruders. At the corners of the fence were large electric lights that were turned on at night. The compound was also patrolled by Doberman Pinscher dogs at all times. All in all, it was a very neat little security arrangement. It was to become home for our little expeditionary force for the next few weeks." "During this time, we busied ourselves with the task of studying the charts of the intended areas of operation for the expedition. Our pilot from Sao Paulo, Helmut Unger, and Dr. Lothar Zweick spent many hours together, checking out the McKinnon flying boat and making several solo flights until Dr. Zweick was totally familiar with the McKinnon's capabilities and aerodynamic performance.

"For those who are interested in the technical aspects of the McKinnon flying boat, the model used for the expedition was the Turbo Goose (G-021G). Ordinarily this type of aircraft seats 13 people. For the expedition, however, all the seats have been removed except those necessary for our party. The extra area became useful for the carrying of gear and equipment. Also, fuel tanks had been added to the wings of the McKinnon to give it an extended operational range. Equipped as a standard aircraft, its range generally is around 1,130 nautical miles, or approximately 5.8 hours of flying time. The addition of the auxiliary fuel tanks increased its range by a good margin. The McKinnon can carry a useful load of 5,507 pounds with a maximum ceiling operation of 20,000 feet altitude. Its landing gear had been provided with extra wide soft cushioning tires so that she could land on a fairly remote and primitive landing strip. All in all, a superbly engineered air plane. She was to prove herself flawless in operation throughout the entire service period of the expedition."

"On Sunday, June 17, 1979, the McKinnon flying boat left Bahia Thetys and was airborne at 5:16 A.M. Aboard were my three companions, our pilot, and myself. Our destination was to be the half-way point over the Weddell Sea. It was here, weather permitting, that we were to rendezvous with the 51-foot converted fishing boat, Fortuna. This boat was a small diesel-powered trawler type ship. Part of her hold contained polyethylene aviation fuel cells with which to replenish our expended supplies of gasoline. In spite of her heavy full load, our McKinnon flying boat "Aerius" performed magnificently."

"We note on take-off that our pilot gained altitude by small spiraling maneuvers. The plane seemed slightly sluggish, but her turbo engines bore the extra weight load without incident. The flying time involved for the rendezvous with the converted fishing boat, Fortuna, was divided between our pilot, Helmut Unger, and Dr. Zweick. The rest of us aboard pretended to cat-nap, but it was well-known among each and every man the excitement and adventure that lay ahead in the many days to come."

"As the Aerius began to tick off the miles toward the latitude and longitude of our refueling ship, it encountered heavy, gusty wind conditions. At one point it seemed to be a thing alive and I had the strangest sensation of riding an erratically loping horse. Helmut changed altitudes twice and, finally, mercifully, the Aerius found the best flying conditions at an altitude of approximately 270 feet above the icy sea itself!"

"Soon a shout of joy rang throughout the Aerius, as Dr. Zweick exclaimed, 'There she is!' We immediately felt the smooth surge of power from the Aerius throttle back and we anxiously peered through the plexiglas ports in the fuselage. Yes! There she was, the proud well-kept little diesel motor-ship, Fortuna, with gleaming white topsides and black hull. The conditions of the sea were amazingly smooth with only slight traces of ice."

"Minutes later we made radio contact with the ship and slowly turned into the wind for the landing. There was a slight shudder and a hissing sound as the Aerius landed on the cold Weddell Sea. The engines were immediately reversed, giving us a form of braking power."

"As the Aerius manoeuvred for position near the Fortuna, which was standing dead in the water, we could see two small boats moving slowly toward us. It was at this point that a large canvas sea-anchor was dropped over the side to attempt to keep the Aerius in a reasonable position in proximity with the refuelling ship."

"Soon the first boat was able to come alongside us. We were greeted by one of the ship's officers and two smiling dark-skinned crewmen. In tow of the first and second boats was a long black fuel line leading from the Fortuna to the plane. This was the hose with which the Aerius would receive her life sustaining fuel."

"In approximately 30 minutes the refuelling operation was completed. Helmut and Lothar had been in charge of watching over the process, as well as inspecting each engine for its supply of lubricating oil. All was well. In moments the fuel line was removed and the captain of the Fortuna bid us Auf Wiedersehen!!! as the two little boats withdrew. On the deck of the ship stood most of the crew, an assortment of South Americans and Europeans. As Lothar pressed the starting button for the engines, there came a great cheer from the crew of the Fortuna. This was drowned out as the Aerius engines roared into life."

"Moments later the Aerius manoeuvred a safe distance from the Fortuna and headed into the wind for her takeoff. It must have seemed an eternity to each man aboard the Aerius as she began to gather speed for her lift, engines roaring to the point where it seemed they would tear themselves to pieces! And yet the flying boat was gaining speed only slowly, due to her heavy fuel load. She bounced and lurched as huge streams of icy seawater flew past her windows. Then with one ponderous heave her nose pointed skyward, and we were once more airborne."

"This proud lady of the air, this superbly constructed McKinnon flying boat, this Aerius, was in every sense a true champion. We turned and circled once back over the Fortuna and then changed heading to make rendezvous point two in our journey. That was to be with the diesel motorship, Annelise, at 71 degrees, 30 minutes south by 14 degrees, 51 minutes west (the same position reached by U-530 in 1945).

"The weather conditions were becoming steadily worse as we flew onward toward our destined rendezvous point. Once more each man pretended to cat-nap, snacking occasionally on pre-packed sealed meals that were prepared in a small electric oven aboard the plane. Helmut and Lothar were both taking stints of time at the controls. Every man aboard was now building himself up to a point of tension as the hours melted away. Any thoughts of disaster were evidently placated by the smooth hum of the plane's motor."

"Finally the weather gave us a break. The winds subsided, and flying conditions became much better. We all took this as a good omen. Soon that is exactly what it proved to be. Once more, to our complete joy, came the announcement through the inter-communication system, 'Radio contact has been established with the Annelise. Sea conditions are better than average. Approximate rendezvous time, 11 minutes.' Anyone who had appeared to be napping was suddenly alive with enthusiasm. Those 11 minutes seemed like an eternity. Finally came the message over the radio, 'There she is!'"

"We turned and circled the Annelise. Helmut and Lothar carefully studied the situation and condition of the sea. Fifteen minutes later, we made a very safe landing near the Annelise. An observation hatch of the Aerius was opened, and we could hear the whistle of the Annelise tooting in a staccato welcome. Rendezvous point two had been accomplished!!!"

"We carefully studied the lines of the Annelise as she came up alongside of us. She was a 70 foot Dutch built fishing trawler that had been specially altered so that her after-deck contained a platform on which rested an Aerospatiale Model AS 350C star helicopter. We could see that the helicopter was firmly latched down and covered with a sea-tight tarpaulin of some type.

Presently a boat from the Annelise came to pick us up. Each man scrambled eagerly to load his gear and equipment onto the craft. All four expedition members were soon aboard."

"A relief pilot who had been aboard the Annelise was transferred to the flying boat, Aeriis. This pilot was named Wilhelm Saur, a highly qualified German, whose residence was in Rio de Janeiro. He was to accompany Helmut Unger on the return flight to our base camp at Bahia Thetys. There would be one more stop for refuelling in the Weddell Sea, via the fishing trawler Fortuna. The same flight route would be used on the return leg as well, for our pickup when the expedition was completed."

"After we boarded the Annelise we were shown to our assigned bunks, shower facilities, and dining area. Our welcome aboard was most heart-warming, and cordial in every respect. I should like to state here for the record that the captain of the Annelise, Captain Ernst Ritter, is one of the most impressively cordial men it has ever been my pleasure to meet. It never ceases to amaze me that such men of the sea can come from small mountain villages in Austria, and other unlikely areas for producing sea-going men. All through the expedition, Captain Ritter was most helpful, and he extended every facility possible to our expedition."

"During the time we proceeded to position 69 degrees 25 minutes south by 1 degree, 11 minutes west, which was to be the launch point for the specially equipped Aerospatiale helicopter that was to carry our four-man expedition to a point in the Muhlig Hofmann Mountain Range, we busied ourselves with checking our gear. It was during this interlude of time aboard the Annelise that each man studied his check list of the small but absolutely all-important gear that was to go on the final leg of the expedition. Each man knew his assigned duties and had to familiarize himself with each intricate piece of gear and Antarctic clothing. This was done over and over until it reached a point of perfection."

"Twenty-four hours before the arrival at our destined launch position for the special helicopter, electric cables were attached to its starting system and her engines warmed up for approximately 40 minutes. Lothar had checked the interior of the helicopter thoroughly, making certain that each piece of gear and equipment that was to accompany us on our mission was in its place. Each and every item had been stowed so that its weight factor, as much as possible, was harmonious to both the port and starboard sides of the flying machine."

"It is certain that each man assigned to the expedition in its final stage got little sleep before arriving at position 69 degrees, 25 minutes south by 1 degree, 11 minutes west. The thrill and excitement was running through the veins and being of each individual."

"Early the following morning we sensed a shuddering throughout the Annelise's hull as her engine slowed. Each of us was up and about in minutes. Soon we were met by Captain Ritter. As he stepped into our compartment, his beaming robust face seemed to be lit with a type of joy that accentuated his sparkling blue eyes. 'Gentlemen,' he announced, 'we have arrived at the position of launch.' In spite of a foggy condition, the next two hours were spent bundling ourselves into our special Antarctic clothing and attending to certain tasks."

"After a brief but hearty breakfast we went topside. The cover had been entirely removed from the helicopter, and four tethers were the only means of restraint. The engine of the Aerospatiale was idling and Lothar was busy inspecting the machine from one end to the other, as well as making a final last minute check of the gear stowed aboard her."

"In moments we rechecked the radar weather conditions for our intended flight path and found them as reasonable as the season could allow. Now had come the moment! Each man boarded the helicopter, trying very hard to conceal any doubts or anxiety. Captain Ritter stood by with members of the crew. He gave us a salute and bid us Bon Voyage! Then at the signal of Lothar, four members of the Annelise's crew unhooked the tethers holding the helicopter in place."

"I would not be exaggerating if I said it is certain that we all held our breath as Lothar moved the throttle forward and the helicopter's engine roared into life. Slowly but surely we lifted off the platform of the Annelise."

"As we gained altitude, we looked down and could see the men and officers waving their arms and caps at us. Lothar now turned to me, smiled, and said, 'Well Colonel, this is it. We're on our way!!!' I watched with fascination as Lothar manipulated the controls and checked our compass. I knew now that we were headed directly for a certain area in the Muhlig Hofmann Mountain Range."

"The helicopter which was carrying us to our destiny was named 'Taifun' (Typhoon). I looked overhead through the bubble canopy at her rotating blades. I realized what a fragile craft she really was. Then I looked at the fuel gauge. It was known from the outset of our expedition that our journey in Taifun would be the most fragile and delicate aspect of the entire mission. Not only because the Taifun is a helicopter but because we all knew that her safety margin on fuel was very narrow. In fact, too narrow to dwell upon. Our flying time proceeded."

"Once again I scan the instruments, especially the fuel gauge. We are penetrating ever deeper towards the Muhlig Hofmann Mountain Range. I think of Lothar and of his marvelous courage and strength for a man who is 56 years of age. He is the only man among us who is capable of flying a helicopter. Once again I think of the fragility of man and his machines, and how the hand of grace enters into all things. We are flying at low altitude to avoid certain heavy overhead winds. All is going amazingly well."

"I watched Lothar check the compass, tapping it with his finger. He tells me it is time to make an observation with out specially manufactured Antarctic sextant. I mark our readings and after a few calculations I ascertain that we are about 38 to 40 minutes flying time from our destination. Ahead is a low-lying mountain peak. Lothar begins to climb the Taifun to pass safely over it. We know that behind this peak there is a small valley completely covered with a massive coating of ice. It is there that the Taifun shall land. Our estimated flying time reaches its zenith, and already the Taifun is descending downward toward the valley."

"In moments the electric illumination lamps are turned on and we start our descent. We touch down. Very quickly the doors of the Taifun are opened, and we scramble out. The first task at hand is to drive steel, saw-toothed mooring pins into the ice. This is done quickly, and the Taifun is tethered down. Her engine is then shut off to conserve precious fuel.

Backpacks and gear are unloaded. We then slip on our combination traction snow shoes. Each man must now rely upon the other to complete this most important part of our mission."

"Once again we take our bearings. The chart is again consulted, showing the heading of the ice cave and its entrance. Our course is determined and we move in that direction. Our little party treks along for one hour and 27 minutes. Once again we check our heading. Then we turn slightly eastward towards the foot of a slope. It is here that Klauss begins sweeping the ice-crustured area with a magnetic detection device. We spend an anxious 15 minutes or so waiting, and then we hear a beeping sound coming from the machine. By now our hearts are pounding in our ears. Klauss once again rechecks. The reading is true!"

"It is at this point that each man unloads his backpack and we start digging. We work in teams of two, and finally we manage to break through the ice to a depth of about one meter. Here special thermal tubes are driven into the ice in four positions. Klauss asks us to clear the area, which we do immediately. We lie down on the ground a few dozen meters away and watch with fascination as Klauss turns the activator cap on each thermal tube. The tubes are loaded with explosives. When the fourth one is activated, Klauss shuffles to us as fast as his feet will take him. He looks at his watch as he joins us. Five minutes pass."

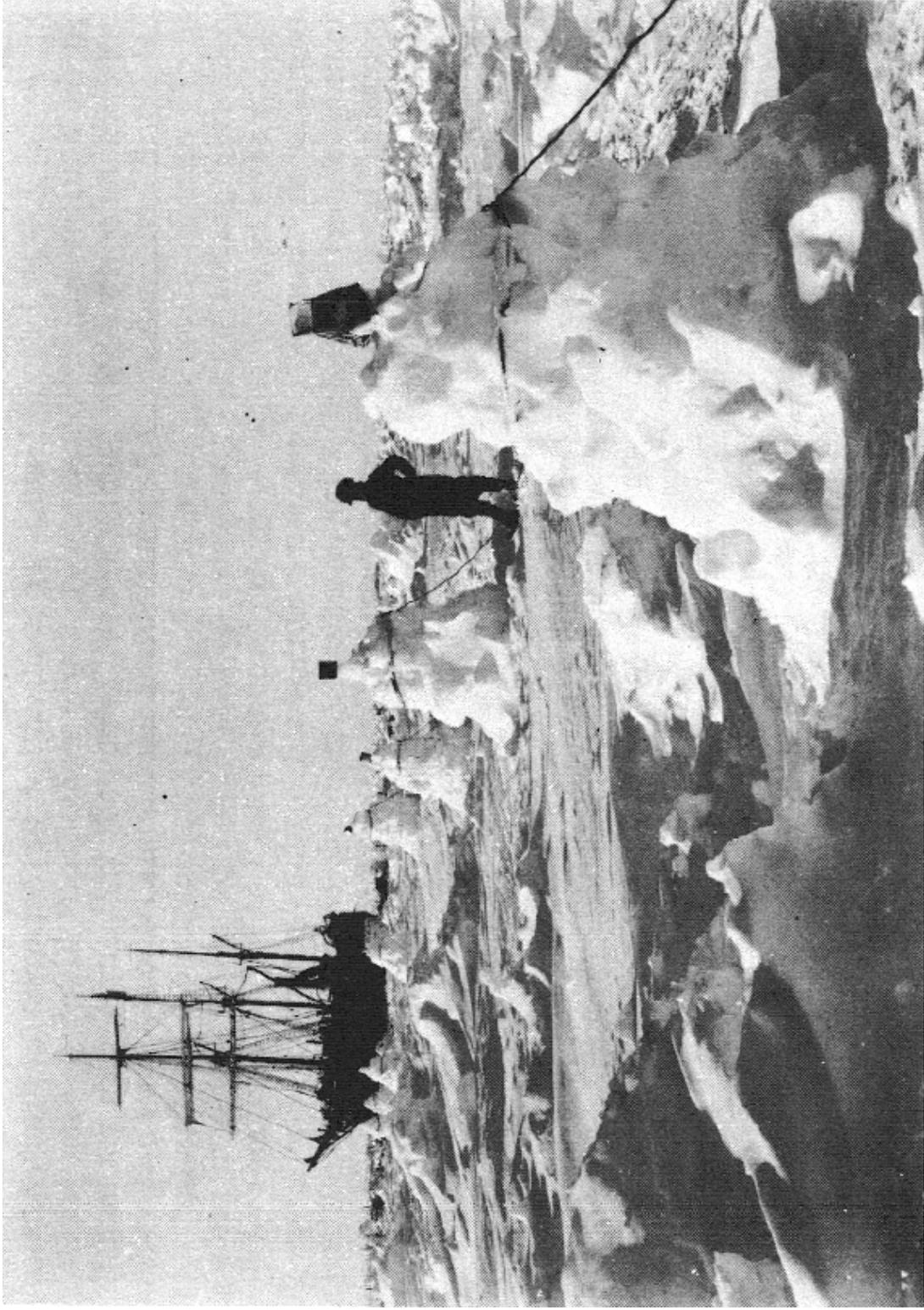


Illustration 29: A ship (The "Endurance") caught and crushed in an ice pack in the Weddell Sea, Antarctica (photograph courtesy of the Royal Geographical Society).



Illustration 30: The Mountains of Antarctica (photograph courtesy of the National Academy of Sciences).

"Klauss nods to us. We cover our faces and keep our heads down. In moments there is a loud Kaboom! Chunks of ice and snow are hurled upward. After all has settled, we wait another ten minutes and then proceed cautiously to the spot where the thermal tubes had been placed. We turn our hand torches into the gaping hole. We have met success. Below there is the outline of an iron doorway. It was placed there in 1943 by a special force headed by Admiral Karl Dönitz's U-boat Service."

"The door is examined quickly and all debris removed. Klauss pours a special thermal liquid around the edges. We must wait another ten minutes or so. The time passes slowly. Then Klauss nods and we start prying with our crowbars. Each man exerts himself to the fullest. Suddenly there is a screeching sound and we get the door open. Quickly we move the iron door back and peer in with our electric torches. The steel gratings that serve as steps are all intact. I am first to enter. Klauss comes second and Lothar third. Heinz remains outside as pre-planned. This is just in case of any mishap."

"Our lights penetrate the steel tunnel which extends for approximately ten meters. When we arrive at the end of the tunnel, we find ourselves in a huge cavernous area. It seems warm. As we search the cavern with our lights, we notice frozen pillars of ice in strange and grotesque shapes. We penetrate into the cavern the distance of about 300 meters. It is at this point that we came to a smaller cavern which turned toward the right and ended in a room approximately 80 meters in width and ten meters in height. It is here that the Reich treasures are hidden!!!"

"At this point stands a small obelisk about a meter in height which marks the spot. There is an inscription which reads as follows: 'There are truly more things in Heaven and 'in' earth than man has dreamt (Beyond this point is AGHARTA) Haushofer, 1943.'"

"Our lights immediately fall upon the treasure which consists of eight large bronze chests. This makes two for each man and will require two trips. Can we do it? This remains to be seen. Each one of us grasps a bronze box in his hands. Oddly enough, they do not seem as heavy as we had imagined. Maybe we can take all eight. We proceed in single file back toward the entrance. Heinz seems relieved to see us. The chests are placed on the ice, and Heinz is told 'now it is your turn, Kammerad! There are some left just for you. Bring the one marked 'H' on your first trip.' A smile lights Heinz's face and we all have a good laugh. Heinz is immediately off into the opening and in a short time he returns lugging a bronze chest, which is placed beside the others: We weigh the boxes. They are much heavier than we thought. We could never carry eight chests for one hour and 27 minutes, and they would be too heavy for the aircraft. Regretfully, four must remain behind for the time being. It can't be helped, but we have selected the ones of greatest priority."

"The task now begins to close the iron door. This is done in record time. Ice is chipped and scooped from nearby, and we begin to fill in the hole. The task is accomplished in approximately 30 minutes. I cannot help but think to myself 'Typical German efficiency!'"

"The trek back to the Taifun is energy consuming and difficult. We stop to rest several times along the return route. The chests are growing heavier and heavier as we go along. We have to stop and rest more frequently. Finally we reach the Taifun just as complete exhaustion is setting in. After one more brief rest, we begin our task of loading the bronze chests aboard. Lothar and Heinz remove the extra fuel supply cell after pumping its contents into the main benzene tank of the Taifun. Bits and pieces of unnecessary gear are discarded. The loss of weight will compensate for the extra cargo. Eight chests would have been an impossible load."

"Shortly before we are ready to leave, the chest containing the Holy Lance is opened. We all watch with profound fascination as Klauss knocks the bronze pin from the clasp. Inside the chest is a faded leather case along with a variety of other items. We carefully open the case. It is there! The Holy Lance! The Lance that pierced the side of Our Lord Jesus Christ! The oil torch we

have lit beside the Taifun makes it seem like a ceremony. I hold the Holy Lance aloft in my hand. Without thinking, the words seem to flow from my mouth, 'The Holy Lance points ever towards our eternal Deutschland.' A burst of cheers go up from my men and me. I am to enter these very words, handwritten, in our log. The date is 30 July 1979. The location is in the Muhlig Hofmann Mountain Range of Deutsche Antarctica. Mission Valkure Zwei is almost completed!"

"Quickly the lance is replaced in its container, and the last chest is loaded aboard the Taifun. Lothar climbs in and turns on the fuel pre-heater for Taifun's motor, and in minutes the whining of the starter begins to turn the rotor blades. The engine coughs and sputters stiffly. It begins to run unevenly. The bitter cold of Antarctica has no mercy on men or machine. Then as if by magic, Taifun's engine begins to lope in normal fashion. We all climb aboard and the cabin heater is turned on."

"Twenty-five minutes pass, and then Lothar signals that we are ready for take-off. On the flight back to rendezvous with the motorship Annelise, we encounter, once again, heavy cross-winds, blowing the powder dry snow of Antarctica with it."

"Lothar's eyes, as well as my own, constantly watch the fuel gauge. As the flying time elapses, the gauge sinks lower and lower. The winds are shrieking and howling like a demon bent on destroying us. At approximately 14 miles from rendezvous point with the Annelise the fuel gauge is on empty, but in a short time we are circling over our mother ship."

"Lothar smiles and speaks into the radio transmitter, 'We're coming down!' Minutes later the Taifun makes a near-perfect touchdown on the platform attached to the deck of the slowly rolling vessel. Before we can even open the doors of the Taifun, the crew on the Annelise rushes forward and tethers it down. Lothar makes a quick calculation of our fuel supply. He turns to me and states matter-of-factly, Colonel, just for your information, we have less than 50 litres (about 12 gallons) of benzene left in Taifun's fuel tank. And that's just too close for comfort.' Heinz ends the momentary silence with his good nature and exclaims. 'A miss is as good as a mile, isn't it, Herr Flugkapitan?' This breaks the tension and we all have a good laugh."

"This completes the narrative of the expedition, with the exception that we retraced our exact marine and flight circumstances back to our base of operations in Bahia Thetys. From that point, three of the chests were left in South America to certain interests. The flying boat Aerius returned us to Sao Paulo, Brazil. From there papers were obtained for the Holy Lance, declaring it an object of art. This enabled it to pass through customs with little or no difficulty."

"Lothar and Heinz returned directly to Deutschland from Sao Paulo. Klauss and I continued our journey onward to the United States, landing at New Orleans International Airport. From this point, we chartered a plane and flew to a small city in the mid-western United States, after stopping for fuel in Little Rock, Arkansas."

"At our destination, we met with my old friend, the crewman from the U-530, who had been of such great help to me in the past. This was a joyful occasion, and I shall never forget how moved my old friend was when he was allowed to hold the Heilige Lanz in his hands."

"We arrived at my friend's home on August 17, 1979, and departed on August 19. When we left, we gave him several gifts from the treasures of the bronze box. One item was a small metal plaque, which had been one of the Führer's most prized possessions (see III. 32). It depicts a Holy Knight killing a monster who represents 'The cowardice, discord and the weakness in the middle of the heart, 20 July, 1944.' A second gift was a remarkable painting by the Führer which is entitled 'Germania and the Appointment of the Gods at the Beginning of the World' (see III. 33). We also gave him a copy of the log of the Hartmann Expedition and a signed, handwritten letter of authenticity. Several days later the Heilige Lanze was again in Deutschland. Valkure Zwei' had been completed."

30. Juli 1979

Ich halte die heilige Fange hoch in meiner Hand,
Ohne zu denken, fließen die Worte aus meinem Mund.
"Die Heilige Fange zeigt für immer auf unser
Ewiges Deutschland!" Das Datum ist der 30.
Juli, 1979, der Ort die Mühlig Hofmann
Gebirgskette der Deutschen Antarktis. Die
Messung Walke zwei ist fast fertig-
gestellt.

Maximilian Hartmann
(Expedition Hartmann) Seite 109

(Tagebuch).
Walke Zwei

Illustration 31: A handwritten page from the log of the Hartmann Expedition, July 30, 1979, Deutsche Antartica (from the collection of Capt. Wilhelm Bernhart)



Illustration 32: Pencil rubbing of Adolf Hitler's favourite bronze plaque. The plaque was broken by a bomb-blast during an attempt to assassinate Hitler on July 20, 1944. He repaired it with his own hands and believed that it had saved his life. It depicts a Knight of the Holy Lance slaying the dragon of Cowardice, discord and weakness in the middle of the heart." The plaque was among the treasures which were brought back from an ice cave in Antarctica by the Hartmann expedition. It is now in the possession of the one of the authors, Capt. Wilhelm Bernhart.



Illustration 33: A water-color painting by Adolf Hitler entitled "Germaniens Götter Beim Treffen Der Welt" (Germania and the Appointment of the Gods at the Beginning of the World). Signed, dated 1934. One of the god figures is clearly Rudolf Hess as a young man. This painting was part of the treasure which was recovered from an ice cave in Antarctica in 1979. It was not previously known to exist and has never before been published (from the collection of Capt. Wilhelm Bernart).

EPILOGUE

Present Day Knights of the Holy Lance

**Wrath and anger are hateful things,
Let us therefore follow after the things
which make for peace, and things
wherewith one may edify another.**

The Holy Bible

IN the Hofburg in Vienna, Austria, today stands Heinrich Himmler's copy of the Heilige Lanze. The true lance is resting upon its faded red velvet cloth in a secret place somewhere in Germany. There it is guarded by the present day Knights of the Holy Order of the Sacred Lance. Night and day, four Knights of the Order stand a constant vigil in protection of this sacred relic.

Today the knights are many in number and exist throughout the world. They come from all professions and all walks of life, but they have two things in common. They are all devout Christians and are dedicated to the cause of world peace and the freedom of democracy for all people.

The knights are wherever there is trouble and tension and injustice in the world. They are working to bring about an end to the Iran-Iraq war and other conflicts in the Middle East. They are responsible, in part, for the new Soviet policy of "Openness," and are assisting in negotiations for nuclear arms reductions. Some members are seeking the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Others are meeting with officials of Central American countries and trying to bring about peaceful negotiations which will settle the differences between the warring factions. The knights are also active in attempts to negotiate the release of citizens of all countries who are held prisoner by terrorist groups. One of their most significant accomplishments has been to arrange meetings between the heads of state of East and West Germany for the first time in over 40 years. This small beginning could lead to many wonderful things.

The present day Knights of the Holy Order of the Sacred Lance look to the future with greater hope than ever before. They have dedicated themselves to the cause of righteousness directed by the influence of the Holy Lance which represents the Power of God.

Conclusion

THIS BOOK has undoubtedly raised a great many questions in the mind of the reader. Some of the anticipated questions are as follows:

Question: Is this book fact or fiction?

Answer: It is all true except parts of Chapter III, which are based on legends, and even the legends may be true.

Question: Who is Colonel Maximilian Hartmann?

Answer: For security and political reasons, his true identity must remain a carefully guarded secret, but he is an actual person, as are all other individuals mentioned in this book.

Question: Exactly where is the Holy Lance today?

Answer: It is somewhere in Germany, probably in Westphalia, not far from Paderborn.

Question: Where is Hitler's treasure today?

Answer: It is divided in several locations. Some is still in an ice cave in Antarctica and a portion is in Germany, near the place where the Holy Lance rests. A smaller portion is somewhere in South America, and a very small amount is in the United States.

Question: What does the treasure consist of?

Answer: Hitler's personal papers, various historical documents, and many personal items belonging to Hitler, Eva Braun and certain high officials of the Third Reich. A very large quantity of valuables, perhaps in the form of precious jewels, is also included in the treasure.

Question: What is the estimated value of Hitler's treasure? **Answer:** It is priceless. A figure of 12 billion dollars has been suggested but this is probably the total amount of riches which German U-boats carried to South America after WWII.

Question: Where is Hitler's body and that of Eva Braun?

Answer: At least part of their bodies or their ashes are in the ice cave in Antarctica, or they were returned to Germany by members of the Hartmann expedition. There is a very small possibility that Hitler escaped to South America and is buried there.

Question: Is there really an organization known as the Knights of the Holy Lance?

Answer: Yes! And they will make themselves known to the world when the Holy Lance indicates that the time of destiny has come.

The authors are aware that this book raises many controversial issues and leaves the answers to tantalizing questions dangling in the winds of time.

The resolution of these mysteries will hopefully emerge in the eternal flow of history and respond to the constant inquiries of the curious minds of men.

There are those who are driven to probe forever the nooks and crannies wherein reside the ever fading echoes and the dim and fleeting shadows of the past. The answers lie with them.

Addendum

IN his final address to the German people, delivered exactly ninety days before his death, Adolf Hitler repeatedly warned the democracies of Western Europe of the danger posed by the "Red Storm Rising" ("the forces which they summoned from the Steppes of Asia"). He spoke of the horrid fate of the "helpless goose" and "defenceless sheep" countries of Eastern Europe which had already "been swept away by the hurricane from Central Asia." To this he added that the western leaders who had promised to protect the states of the east were impotent and much like one sheep who promised another sheep to protect it against a tiger.

He outlined the events which had led to the rise, and to some extent, the fall of the Third Reich. He mentioned the hand of Providence and on four occasions he evoked the name of God. Hitler also stated that he was filled with the holy conviction that God the Almighty would not abandon his people.

In his last public words he looked into the future as he appealed to the German youth asking them to pledge themselves to one another and stand before "the Almighty and ask Him for His grace and His blessing." He also asked them to safeguard freedom and the future of life. Hitler concluded his remarks with the prophecy: "This fight will not be won by Central Asia but by Europe; and at its head will be the nation that has represented Europe against the East for 1,500 years and shall represent it for all times: the German nation."

The Führer's references and appeal to a Supreme Being reflect the influence of the Holy Lance. For himself, he had learned the lesson of the lance and the secret of its use too late, but he had passed a warning of danger and the key to the power of the lance to future generations.

I Am The Power

The name of my angel is Gabriel, whose name means the power of God. When you call on Me in the name of my Son nothing is impossible. I will send my angel to you and with his help you will rise above all others for good, but he will slay you for evil. I am the power, I am the power, I am the power. There is no power in the lance, except through Me. I am from all ages, from all times, from all places and to all men. There is no god before Me. I am the power.

The Secret of the Lance

**For God doth know
That in the day ye eat thereof,
Then your eyes shall be opened,
And ye shall be as gods,
Knowing good from evil.**

**But if you choose evil
And forsake the Lord
Then he will turn and do you hurt,
And consume you,
After first that he
Has done you good.**

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Col. Howard A. Buechner

COL. BUECHNER is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana. He received his education at Tulane University (B.S.) and Louisiana State University (M.D.). He was formerly a Professor of Medicine at Tulane University and currently is a Professor of Medicine at L.S.U., where an honorary Professorship has been established in his name. He is an internationally recognized expert on tuberculosis and other diseases of the lungs.

During World War II, Dr. Buechner was a Medical Officer with the 3rd Battalion, 157th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division. This unit liberated the Dachau Concentration Camp, and Dr. Buechner was the first American physician to enter this infamous prison. He was later promoted to the rank of Colonel, in 1958, while serving with the Reserve Forces of the United States. He was recalled to active duty during the "Berlin and Cuban Missile Crisis" of 1961-1962. His awards include the Medical Combat Badge, the Bronze Star, three battle stars, the Army Commendation Medal and the War Cross and Distinguished Service Cross of Louisiana. He has also been awarded the Cross of Merit of the Order of the Holy Lance for contributions to the cause of world peace. This honour has been bestowed on only 18 other individuals who are non-members of the Order. The award itself was hand carved from metal taken from the box in which the Holy Lance was contained.

Dr. Buechner is the author of approximately 200 medical textbooks and scientific articles. He is listed in Who's Who in America and many other references.

His non-medical books include Daniel Anton Buechner — Master Lithographer of Old New Orleans, (1856-1937), Creator of Mardi Gras Art and the Famous Labels, 1983; Drysdale (1870-1934) — Artist of Myth and Legend, 1985; and Dachau — The Hour of the Avenger — An Eye Witness Account, 1986.





Illustration 34: The first author. Photograph taken in Munich, Germany, May 194

Dr. Buechner is the illustrator of *Mexican Cooking — Authentic Sonoran Style*, by Emajeane Jordan Buechner and publisher of *The Fort Polk Sampler*.

All of the above books were published by:

Thunderbird Press, Inc.

300 Cuddihy Drive

Metairie, LA 70005

Captain Wilhelm Bernhart

CAPT. WILHELM BERNHART was born in Berlin, Germany. He joined the Kriegsmarine (German Navy) in early 1943 and was assigned to the Reich Undersea Boat service, U-boat Flotilla Group, Danzig. He served as Chief Torpedo Officer aboard the U-530 from August 1944 until July 17, 1945, when his ship formally surrendered at Mar del Plata, Argentina. Capt. Bernhart participated in the voyage to Antarctica in 1945 and served as an intermediary in the recovery of the secret of the Holy Lance in 1969. In 1979, he assisted in the planning of the Hartmann Expedition which retrieved Adolf Hitler's secret treasure.

As a Knight of the present day Order of the Holy Lance, he is familiar with the efforts which that group expends in the interest of world peace. He is the author of *Return of the Holy Lance*, 1985, unpublished.

Capt. Bernhart was engaged in commercial shipping for 32 years. He is now a U.S. citizen and lives in America.

His military decorations include the Undersea Boat-War Badge (comparable to the U.S. Infantry Combat Badge), the Reich Eagle Award, the Iron Cross, the equivalent of the Purple Heart Medal, and the Knight's Cross.

Capt. Bernhart was awarded the Knight's Cross for saving his ship from destruction by the enemy.



**ADDITIONAL NOTES NOT IN THE ORIGINAL
PUBLICATION**

I AM THE POWER

**THE NAME OF MY ANGEL IS GABRIEL
WHOSE NAME MEANS THE POWER OF
GOD.**

**WHEN YOU CALL ON ME IN THE NAME OF
MY SON NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE.**

**I WILL SEND HIM TO YOU WITH HIS HELP.
YOU WILL RISE ABOVE ALL OTHERS FOR
GOOD BUT DIE FOR EVIL.**

**I AM THE POWER, THERE IS NO POWER IN
THE LANCE ONLY IN ME.**

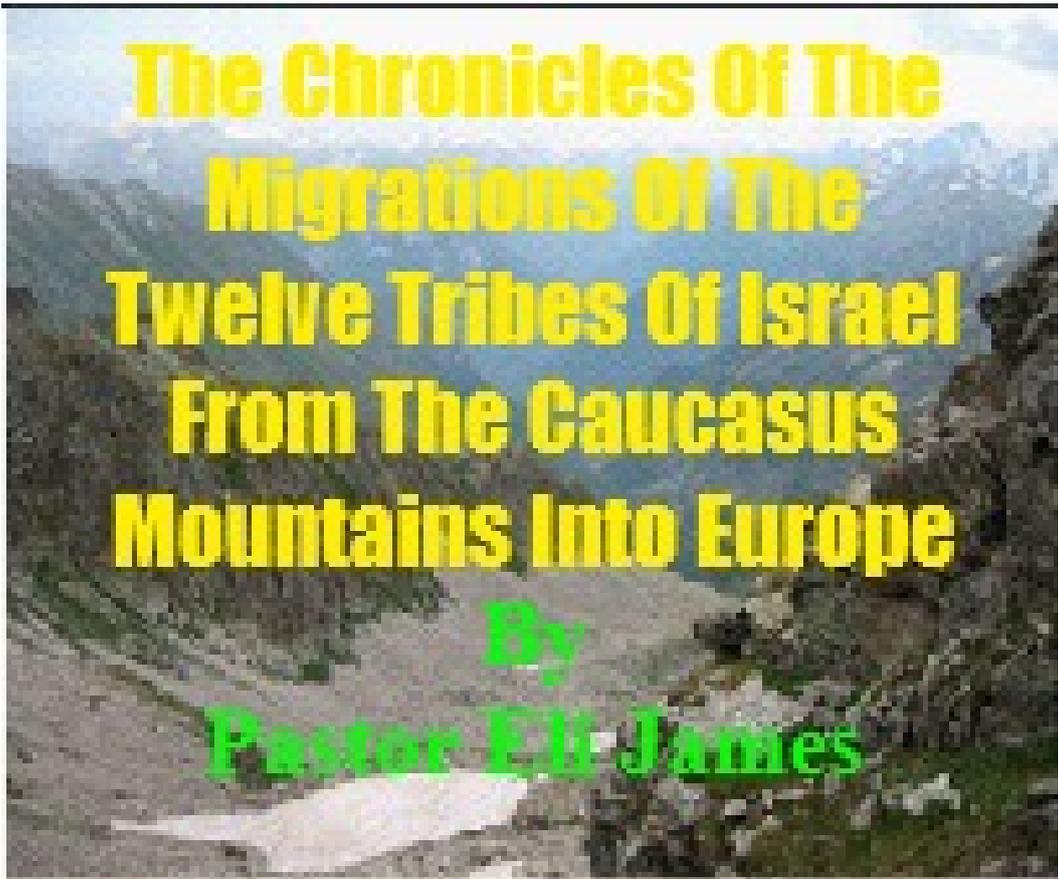
**I AM FROM ALL TIMES AND ALL PLACE
AND TO ALL MEN.**

I AM THE POWER.

YAHWEH

**Translation of the Runic on page 33. Who wrote it
is not known**





**The Chronicles Of The
Migrations Of The
Twelve Tribes Of Israel
From The Caucasus
Mountains Into Europe**

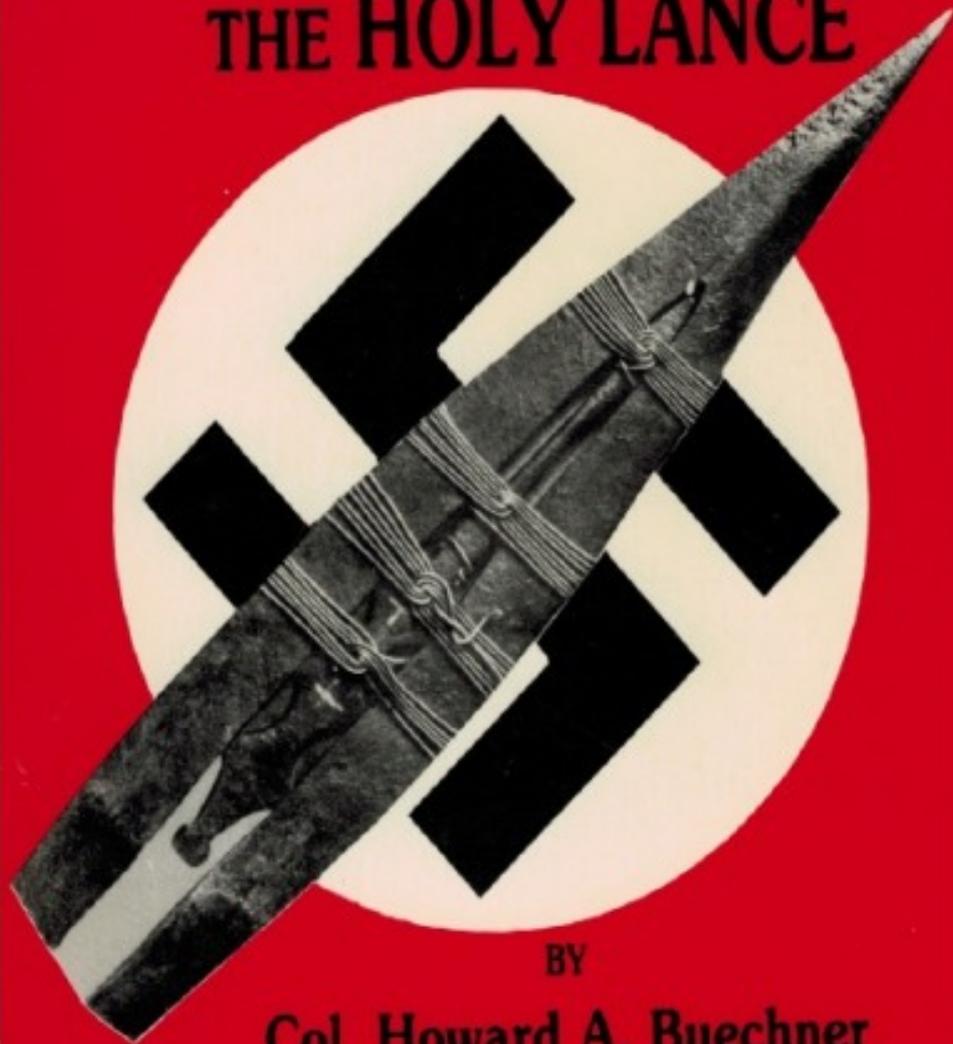
**By
Pastor Eli James**

The above PowerPoint presentation is
available at Pastor Eli's website:

www.anglo-saxonisrael.com

Parts 1 - 6 plus a short introduction
can now be viewed or downloaded -
the latest addition part 6 covers the
German people in relation to the
migrations of the Tribes of Israel.

**ADOLF HITLER
AND THE SECRETS OF
THE HOLY LANCE**



BY

Col. Howard A. Buechner

AND

Capt. Wilhelm Bernhart

The Original Cover

**THE NEW CHRISTIAN CRUSADE
CHURCH**

CALLING THE PEOPLE OF BRITAIN

At last the bible makes sense!

At last we know its meaning.

Its the book of the RACE

**"For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the
Word of the Lord from Jerusalem"
(Isaiah 2:3)."**

