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West Carrollton, Ohio

Five of the original group were taken to Aberdeen, Md. and asked to give lectures to the first US Guided Missile School.

We had a very good time there - one American captain gave us lessons in American colloquialisms.

One thing that helped us make the transition from classroom English to practical English was Reader's Digest. It was presented in such a way that we hardly had any trouble with it. But every once in a while we would get a newspaper from the southern part of the country which generally contains more French words or words with French roots in it. - like tempest (Fr. tempete) and stôrm (Ger. sturm). So these types of news, coming from Louisiana and New Orleans we could hardly read, while we had no trouble reading the New York Times.

Train for Fort Bliss - Aberdeen - Chicago, Chicago - Kansas City - Oklahoma City - Panhandle - Alamogordo. Alamogordo was the first time I had seen green trees.

In Fort Bliss we lived in a hospital annex surrounded by a fence. They told us that the fence was not to keep us in but to keep the undesirables out. The Army was afraid that if the population found out we were Germans, they'd try to lynch us. Every once in a while we needed things from the PX, so we divided into groups of four or five. And we sent four groups ~~of~~ every day so that there was no concentration of Germans. The guards always told us to stick together.

Some of the V-2s were really beaten up. We assembled and repaired about forty. We even ordered some of the parts from Germany.

Once we had a missile that was headed directly for where we had our observation post for safety. There was a Navy enlisted man with me with his hands on the controls. It came right by us - 150 feet or so - and the poor guy wanted to push the off button,

STEINHOFF - 2

I told him to keep his hands off, for I saw the missile spinning and knew what it would do. It landed at the end of the airfield and there was no damage done. All the people on the stand came including a Naval commander who said, "You know, I've never seen such a cold-blooded ". But I just knew what was going to happen - that it would spin and explode.

Juarez Caper:

The control system failed after 15 or 20 seconds. It was already through sonic speed. I could not save a house but a city block - by letting the fuel burn. When the American officials arrived at the cemetery, all the Mexicans were collecting together and gathering up pieces of tin from the skin. They had several hamburger stands there - and they were selling hamburgers and souvenirs there. They sold 10 - 15 tons of relics even though the whole missile was only four tons.

Accidents will happen - (but must you give them so much help?) Dpt:
(The story of the ~~SWEDEN~~ Sweden Incident)

The war head came off and the missile like parachuted down. It was a V-2 with a Wasserfall guidance system. In order to test it, we worked out a program, considering such factors as earth rotation etc. I told the man in control to memorize it - meaning (on the joy stick) so many seconds to the right, so many seconds to the left. We had it all figured out that it would fall into the line of fire (?) This man was so excited that he applied all the corrections the wrong way. I told him, "You know what you just did!! You did all the commands with the wrong sign!!" I thought at first he had done it intentionally, but then I realized he was so excited - he couldn't have.

We set our target so close to the Swedish coast because we could determine our land marks to see where it is. We said - it's gone too far! On that day we did not actually change the azimuth we only rotated it by 90° to go in that direction instead of falling along the Baltic Sea shore because if it had strayed, the chances that it fell on land was much larger than doing it the other way - just firing past this island there (Oie). So I told my people to make an immediate evaluation of all the data where

STEINHOFF - 3

where it fell so that I could report it if something happened. When I received ~~xxxx~~ the data, they surmised that it had fallen between the Canal Karlsbuna (?) and these islands (10 mile wide strip). We hoped the water _____ that our uncertainty was six or seven miles so it couldn't have fallen on land. (Landed 2 - 3 miles inwards).

There was an immediate response from the German Foreign Ministry. They called immediately and meanwhile I asked my people to check more accurately because I felt that I could not really get everyone excited if we hit something. If we wouldn't get anyone excited, no one would ever know about it. We would tell our bosses, and send submarines and divers to try and get it - but for heaven's sake don't say anything. I was flying in one of _____ aircraft over this little island - Oie. While I was there, the Commanding General said, "Steinhoff - did you fire into Sweden???" (?!6*\$#?! - is probably more like it). "I must have," I said. "So far our analysis show that we hit that border area. But the uncertainty is so much if we don't get more data that it's a hit..." He said, "It can't be." - and went back to the telephone and said, "Yes, we had (such a case?) and it is possible that it has come down there." In the meantime they had learned that it had landed in Karls_____.

We were aware that the Swedes turned it ~~wo~~ over to the British. But we didn't feel that we should interfere with Sweden's neutrality so we didn't try to retrieve the parts.