

Domburg

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Peenemunde bombing:

Much of the bombing occurred on the shore and many of the bombs were dropped in the sea. We knew an air attack was coming but not when. The British constantly flew over Peenemunde on their way to Berlin with the sign of a rabbit. In the evening all the people left for the village - there was no one left in the works, just scattered officers and engineers. In the middle of the bombing, I went out to fight the fire. You could hear the bombs coming so you just threw yourself down on the ground. Braun and I weren't concerned actually with what could happen to us. I knew what was important and what was not - we had to do something. In an emergency you work as fast as you can."

rain

Schwedt was chosen because it was "the only city free from military dominance."

~~Meanwhile back at the ranch: (Zornbagen - Peenemunde~~
I had the big advantage that I was my own superior. I was the

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Department head as well as the commander of Peenemunde. I began with my people in Peenemunde once a week, asking how they needed and then went home to Berlin, changed roles and signed the check. I was not responsible to anyone - I was my own master and made my own decisions, because there was no one who could advise me. I enjoyed that very much."

Zornbagen

Priority changes:

"We felt them immediately. People came into Peenemunde the very next morning after the order was given and take away men etc. I went to Field Marshall von Brauchitch and told him that I needed a labor force. He instantly gave me 4,000 soldiers with a technical background. These men had been selected from the Front troops who were on vacation. Since they were from the Front line - the home army couldn't lay a hand on them. And since they were at home - the front command couldn't lay a hand on them. This was a curious situation in Peenemunde for the ranking officers were working under the instruction and directions of privates. No one knew because they were all in civilian clothes."

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DORNBERGER - Huntsville

Peenemuende

"We desperately needed draftsmen and engineers in Peenemuende. We were ready for production but needed people, - there were no Germans available. The only remaining untapped source was the Russian officers that had been captured. They had a

On Hitler:

Dornberger - HSW.

"He had a phenomenal memory. When I approached him about the V-2, he reminded me of the time I had given him specific recommendations for such a rocket in Kummersdorf. It was difficult trying to make him understand the modifications that had become necessary. Just as in the meetings - he listened closely and retained but if you approached him a second time about something, he would get angry if it was changed or in any way altered.

Discusses Saur and his use of authority; then Stahlknecht.

Heidelager - 800 people living on train

Heidekraut - occupied 8-10 weeks. "We had two target areas - Ziel I and Ziel II, so that if one came under question and investigation, we could continue operations by firing ~~from~~^{on} the other."

Introduction to Army Ordnance

"In 1935, I was told to work on liquid rockets in addition to the solid rockets I had been working on between 29 - 34. In order to maximize efficiency and to get new ideas, I went to the different centers that had been established, but found that they had no idea what they were talking about. They were doing no scientific research - only writing articles. At that time I met von Braun - a chauffeur at the rocket airport in

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Dornberger

Berlin. In Kummersdorf, the Army had supported these interested amateurs in building a small liquid rocket with a range of 3 km. The ~~KAMMERK~~ craft turned a 90° angle and crashed 100 yards from the launch site in the nearby woods. I then proposed to General Becker, my superior that he should give me some money and I would build a test area at Kummersdorf to test all the aspiring inventor's ideas. He gave me permission but no money. He finally declared that all R&D departments of Army Ordnance should give up 10% of their budgets for this purpose."

Long Range Bombardment Commission - Representatives of the Army Air Force, Navy, industry, and the Ammunition Ministry headed by Prof. Peterson. In December 1944, Dornberger took this post. (Commission fuer Fernschiessen)

Todt - Speer transition - no problem because Saur was still hatched man.

General Fromm: Director of Armaments
Commander in Chief of the Homefront

Dornberger as the head of the z.b.V. "Commission for Special Use" was directly responsible to Fromm. The functions of this organization were

1. Troop training
2. Development
3. Supply of V-weapons to the Front
4. Test Firing

"But when Himmler came in and put Kammler in charge of the Front - that's when we had the division. Written agreement of separation of powers was established at a meeting with Fromm Kammler and Dornberger present.

On Himmler:

"You would never think that this man was more than a small town school teacher. He had a very gentle voice and the hands of a pianist. But you couldn't trust him, While he was on a visit in Peenemunde, I told him about the Russian officer's Camp. He wanted to see it because the guards were SS men. We walked along the fence, looking in on the Russians. Then he turned to me and said "Look at them, they all have criminal faces"

what was in that guy. It was hatred, covered by an outer shell of softness and friendliness - like a preacher."

Zanssen: (Dornberger's 'Station Commander - right hand man)
"In April he was ^{publicly} accused of being part of a Catholic movement. I called him when I found out from the personnel department of the Army that he would be released. I told him to come to Berlin - which he did the next morning. With a little calculation, we arranged an exchange between us. He would take over my position in Berlin while I went to Peenemunde. Ultimately, Gen. Fromm approached me and told me that Zanssen would have to go back to Peenemunde. He was in Berlin 8 months and back in Peenemunde for 10 months - then he was given a front assignment." (Enter Gen. Rossmann 1944 and the establishment of Peenemunde as a private industrial outfit.)

Dornberger saw the memo concerning Hitler's dream. It was written in super-sized type letters because Hitler was half blind and didn't want anyone to know that he wore glasses. The memo said:
The Fuhrer dreamed that no rockets should be fired against England. Therefore, the rocket priority has been dropped.

Memo in Berchtesgaden Guset Book:

I pray to God that if England should ever come into a situation like Germany after the last war, I hope that we will find a leader like you, Mein Fuhrer. Signed, Lloyd George. ? what ?

On Kammler:

He was undaunted and faithful to the Fuhrer, powerful and dedicated, and couldn't be bribed. He was a ramrod not for himself but for the Fuhrer and the country,

(Breaking the Air Terror=Commission der Zerbrechung des Luft terrors)

In Sachsa:

I told my people - no I will go with you. We went along the Alps and it was so beautiful. When we came to Oberjoch I said, "Do you want to stay here - yes." We had some trouble with the people there but we got word from Hitler with a carte blanche so we remained there."

"We didn't have time to write documents."

Russians at Nordhausen

Patents

Do-Werfer - solid propelled Dornberger Special -

PICTURE IDENTIFICATIONS

DORNBERGER - BUFFALO INTERVIEW

At the end of the war still had 800 telephone operators in a staff - could tap any line. Mainly to keep close contact with Front operations and the contractors.

Neiler Wagen equipped with infrared search lights so that they could drive up to 30 - 40 MPH through the cities at night.

"At the contract negotiations, where the Americans tried to convince us to come in June 45 we maintained communications between Witzhausen and Garmisch via bicycle. No one agreed to the first contract because there was no provision for the care of our families. "

"I was taken by the British in place of Kammler. In the British prison I was called by a prosecutor at the Nurnberg Trials who told me that I would be hanged. I received a letter in January 1947 with newspaper clippings headlined with my oncoming appointment with the noose."

"Hamill didn't want Braun and me together because we were too strong as a team. So ~~we~~ they separated us in two different branches of the Armed Forces. I was taken to Wright Field as a consultant. I didn't like it here because no one did anything. I caught up on my thinking and cleared my soul but finally I delivered an ultimatum that I would go to a company where there was something to do or go back to Germany. I no longer considered myself a prisoner."

Talks about companies and their roles

Stabilization problem - Fins

This is wonderful - received letter on one launch which did not work out theoretically but perfectly practically: Dear Col, You should learn that I never learn out.

Exhaust gas - Turbines.

Down by

"What you got here in the US was the cream of the cream. You got the top engineers but you didn't get the good labor. This skilled labor stayed in Germany. They ~~are~~ (Germs) couldn't have used them but we were in need of them."

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On Material:

"We got the parts but not the equipment. We told the soldiers in Oberammergau to get the stuff - that it was unique, so that at least we would have samples. Anyway this is ironic because when the Americans gave the area to the Russians, they ^(Russians) took the missiles out but not the equipment."

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On interest in Space travel:

I got in in 1930. I was no expert but I was interested in developing long-range guns. General Becker asked me to take over the development of rockets. I was surprised and refused at first. But he insisted that I look into it anyway. I researched and got so enthusiastic about it that I made it my objective." Our group met twice a week to discuss future plans. I was convinced that the only way we could penetrate the outer atmosphere was to come back and land on the ground. "Gentlemen, what you see here is just the first step of the new era of Mankind."

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shut it

Future Projects: A-9, A-10 - long distance - broken wings.
instability, glide bombs.

Skins - fabric alcohol tanks

Walter contribution to turbopump. ←

Cuxhaven:

When asked by the British Brass where the best observation spot would be - the best response I mustered was 'Oh, about 45° back'.