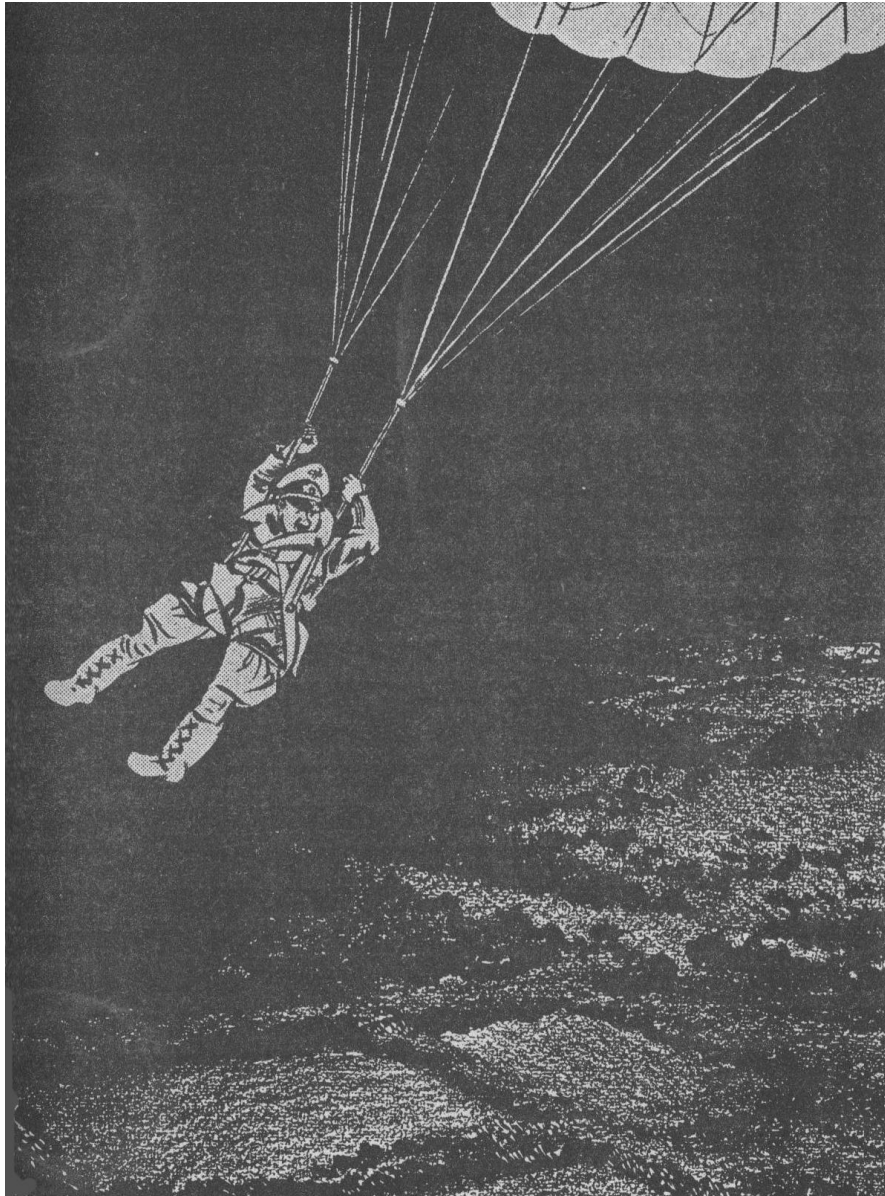


# Letter from Spandau

by

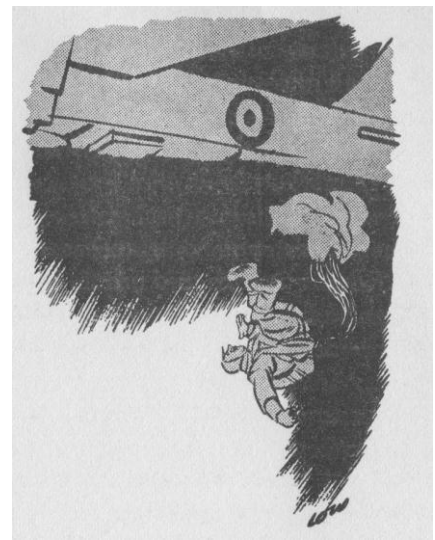
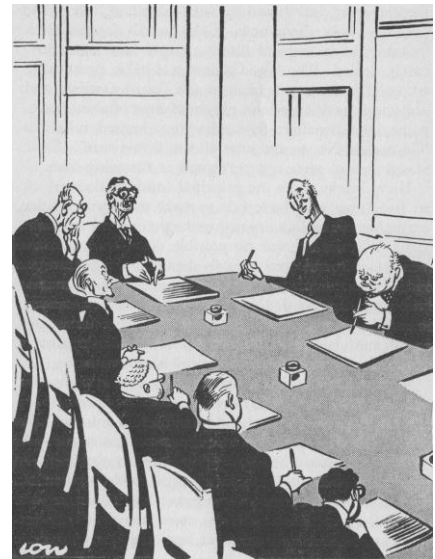
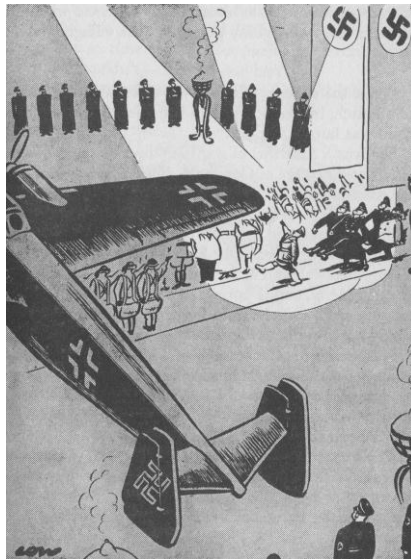
**William Shepherd**



a cesc dispatch

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

## German Flying Visits to the British Isles 1940-41



In 1940 perhaps as a last act of defiance before being invaded, The *Guernsey Press Company Limited* printed a book entitled *The Flying Visit* published on April Fools Day 1940 by Peter Fleming. Nearly two decades later Mr Fleming would publish *Invasion 1940*, an account of the German preparations and the British counter-measures for the invasion of the British Isles that never happened...and indeed was never planned...though Walter Schellenberg wrote a handbook published in 2007 by the *Bodleian Library* in Oxford from the only copy that survived the attention of *RAF Bomber Command*.

Given the odd way that *Life* imitates *Art*, it will doubtless come as no surprise that Fleming wrote his account of *Germany's Führer* parachuting into England on a *Peace Mission* one year before *Germany's Deputy Führer* did exactly that...or so we are told. The true story...like all true stories...is rather more interesting.

'There is no reason at all why Hitler should not at any moment have decided to fly over London, either because he felt that way or for publicity purposes or both. Very well, Hitler does this. He flies by night and he flies high and it is the worst possible luck that his aeroplane is destroyed over the Chilterns. The Führer descends on England by parachute. He cannot speak English, he has no money and is wearing the uniform of a German Field-Marshal.'

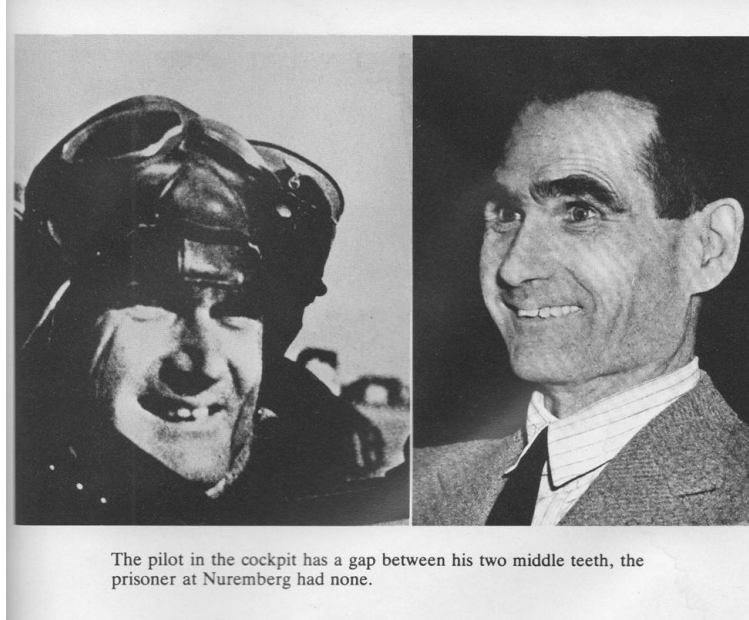
'Mr Fleming is sanely irreverent... and he and Low do one another proud.' (*Times Literary Supplement*)

*The Flying Visit* (£2.95) and *Invasion 1940* (£5.99) are available online

## Letter from Spandau by William Shepherd

Ever since a German parachutist landed in Scotland on the night of May 10th, 1941, claiming to be Hitler's deputy, Rudolf Hess, in search of peace with England, the man and his case have remained disturbingly enigmatic.

It is true that the man who arrived bore a striking physical resemblance <sup>1</sup> to the Deputy Führer; yet his confused and pathetic character seemed strangely unlike that of the formidably efficient officer who until the day before had been at Hitler's right hand, directing the affairs of the *Third Reich*.



The pilot in the cockpit has a gap between his two middle teeth, the prisoner at Nuremberg had none.

During his initial imprisonment in Britain, then at the *Nuremberg War Trials*, and later during his long incarceration in *Spandau Gaol*, the man's behaviour had always been erratic. He appeared to lose his memory, then admitted that the loss had been feigned.

He refused to see Frau Hess, her son or any other relative until 1969 - twenty eight years after he had been captured.

At Nuremberg he did not recognise either of the two secretaries who had worked for Hess during the war.

When an Allied officer came to question him in his cell at Nuremberg, he said, "Sir, there is no such person as Hess here."<sup>2</sup>

In October 1972 Dr. W. Hugh Thomas was posted to Berlin as *Consultant*

in *General Surgery* to the *British Military Hospital*. Thomas had read, in *The Case of Rudolf Hess* by J.R. Rees, the army psychiatrist who had been in charge of the prisoner in England, that Rudolf Hess had been wounded twice in *World War I*, the second time with a gunshot wound in his chest which injured his lung. In his book, Rees related how, in 1944, when the prisoner seemed to have lost his memory, an attempt was made to restore it by administering the narcotic *Evipan*.

'During the experiment,' Rees wrote, 'the patient appeared to become drowsy, as he was supposed to; but afterwards, in a letter home, he boasted that he had been in full conscious control all the time. Throughout the session the doctors' questions produced nothing but negative or incoherent replies, until one of them asked about the war wound and the great surgeon Sauerbruch.'

'At that point, according to the official report, two of the doctors noticed "a quick gleam of recognition". Soon afterwards, the patient sat up and called for water. The question about the wound had quickly made him abandon the pose of unconsciousness which until then he had maintained. Later, in Britain and at the Nuremberg trial, he admitted that his various losses of memory had also been faked. Thus it seemed that mention of the wound had touched on a subject too risky for him to discuss.'

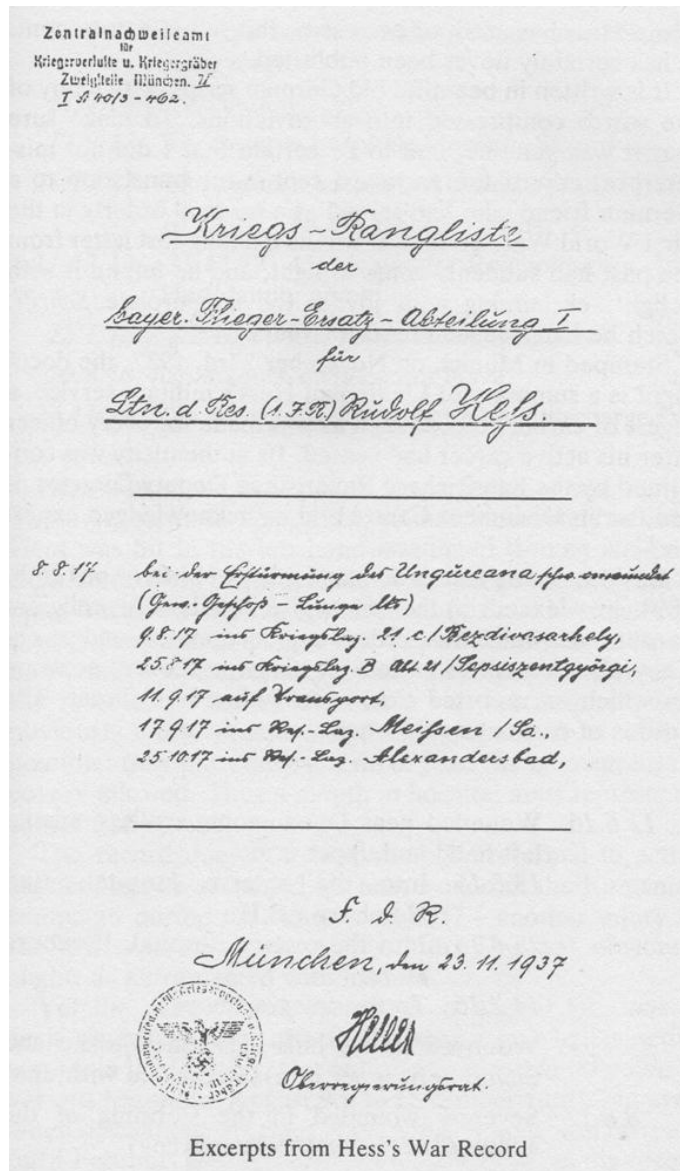
On September 25th 1973, Thomas had his chance to investigate Rees's claim. Thomas had caught a glimpse of the prisoner's torso two weeks earlier and was astonished at the absence of any scarring on his chest from his old war wounds. Was it possible that this prisoner was an imposter?

<sup>1</sup> The *Gestapo* went to great lengths to ensure a correct match for the teeth of their *Doppelgänger*. Yet those of the prisoner known as Hess do not seem to have been compared with the real Hess's dental records.

<sup>2</sup> Airey Neave in *Nuremberg: a personal record of the trial of the major Nazi war criminals in 1945-6*, wrote: 'Hess was as strange as ever. Standing to attention with the broom with which he swept his cell, he replied when an officer called his name, 'Sir, there is no such person as Hess here. But if you are looking for *Convict Number Seven* then I'm your man.' He was plainly mad by any but the most exacting legal standards of the time. At Nuremberg the prosecution case against him was never strong and he was found not guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The British were foremost in their efforts to secure his release from Spandau. In the 1970s it was only the Russians who stood in the way of clemency for this old, deranged man.' A little further on, Neave adds that "The Soviet government were calling for the blood of the Führer's deputy as the symbol of a supposed Western alliance with Hitler against the Soviet Union." The Stalin line on Hess declared that his flight to Scotland was part of a plot to attack the Soviet Union and stressed the harsh decrees which he signed governing the occupation of the Eastern Territories. See Page 315 in *The Day of Judgement*; (Hodder and Stoughton, London, 1978, 350 pages, £7.50, ISBN 0 340 18128 1, Chapter 27).

Writing six years later in 1978,<sup>3</sup> Thomas wrote: 'I was already aware of the enormity of the fact on which I seemed to have stumbled. This man had been convicted of being a *Nazi War Criminal*, and had already spent more than thirty-two years in prison. Throughout this time, the world had believed he was Rudolf Hess. Yet unless the historical records were wrong, he could not have been.'

Thomas's doubts had been increased by a curious passage in Rees's book. It seemed that Dr. Dicks, one of the psychiatrists who cared for the prisoner in England between 1941 and 1945, had known Hess's brother, Alfred, before the war, and had been told by him that when Hess had been wounded, the doctor who operated on him had been the celebrated pioneer of thoracic (or chest) surgery, Ferdinand Sauerbruch.'



Excerpts from Hess's War Record

Thomas describes how his suspicions were confirmed: 'After a comparatively brief session Major Bill Leach, the X-ray radiographer, decided he had taken enough X-ray photographs.'

'There followed a short wait, during which the films were being processed. With the light in the X-ray room on again, the patient sat up on the edge of the table, still happy and relaxed.'

'Then someone called out that the films were all right, and that Prisoner No. 7 could get dressed. At once he slipped off his shift - still sitting on the edge of the table - and began to pull on the warmer dressing gown.'

'As he did so, I again had a clear view of his chest. I stepped forward and pointed at it, saying in a friendly, straightforward voice, "Was ist passiert mit den Kriagsunfällen? Nicht hauttief?" ("What happened to your war-wounds? Not even skin-deep?")'

'The question had a startling effect. The patient's manner changed instantly. From being in a sunny, cheerful mood, he turned chalk-white and began to shake.'

'For an instant he stared at me in what appeared bewilderment or even utter disbelief. Then he looked down and avoided my eyes.'

'After what felt like ages he muttered, "Zu spät, zu spät" (Too late, too late)". He was shaking so violently that I was afraid he might have a heart attack, so I murmured something inconsequential and stepped quietly backward.'

'The prisoner stood up and shuffled across the room towards the changing-cubicle, releasing as he went a flood of barium and diarrhoea which spread across the floor.'

The incident left Thomas profoundly shaken and he decided to keep his discovery to himself. He knew the military mind would quickly sweep his discovery under the carpet and bury it for another thirty years.

Later in a newly published book about Rudolf Hess, by R. Manvell and H. Fraenkel, Thomas<sup>4</sup> found a note saying that a record of Rudolf Hess's war service was preserved in the *Bundesarchiv*, the *Federal German Archives*, in Koblenz. This information proved wrong, but a courteous note from the *Bundesarchiv* directed Thomas to the *Berlin Document Centre*, also known as the *American Mission* and once Hermann Göring's headquarters.

<sup>3</sup> Source: *The Murder of Rudolf Hess* by W. Hugh Thomas (Harper & Row, New York, 1979, 224 pages, \$9.95, ISBN 0-06-014251-0) with an introduction by Rebecca West.

<sup>4</sup> Hess by R. Manvell and H. Fraenkel was published by MacGibbon and Kee of London in 1972. Thomas includes two earlier books by these authors in his bibliography: *Goebbels*, (Heinemann, London, 1960) and *Heinrich Himmler* (Heinemann, London, 1965).



From these archives came the document that clinched matters for Thomas: a copy of Hess's service record in *World War One*. Stamped in Munich on November 23rd, 1937, the document <sup>5</sup> was a summary of Lieutenant Hess's military service, a digest of earlier records such as was made for every officer after his active service had ceased. Its authenticity was confirmed by Richard Bauer, *Deputy Director* of the *Berlin Document Centre* and an acknowledged expert on *Nazi* records in general.

Here was clear evidence of three separate woundings, any of which would have needed corrective surgery. At the very least the surgeon would have had to sew up the entrance- and exit-holes. It is also highly probable that he would have had to open up the wounds further to extract pieces of bone, cloth and other debris sucked in by the bullet. Any such incision would have left a scar at least four inches long, and in the long-term a rather horrific scar at that, raised, puckered, and not at all like that of a clean knife-cut. <sup>6</sup>

Dr. Thomas had no doubts. The prisoner had never been wounded seriously. So either he was not Hess or the medical records for the real Hess were nonsense. The war record could have been falsified by order of Hess himself or perhaps the *National Socialist Party* in an attempt at self-glorification. But this hardly seemed Hess's style.

Then, in the autumn of 1978, Thomas met Frau Ilse Hess at her home in the Bavarian Alps. She professed herself astonished at Thomas's doubts, and told him that she had never had the faintest suspicion that the man in Spandau might not be her husband. More helpfully, from Thomas's point of view, she confirmed that her husband had been seriously wounded in *World War One* and that the wound had been a *Lungen Durchschuss*, a shot through the lung and that afterwards he felt its effect during the first thousand metres of any uphill climb, though in real life, the only thing that reminded him of the wound were the scars which he bore on his body, front and back.

Thomas takes up prisoner identification in general at *The Nuremberg Trials*...and that of Hess in particular...in Chapter 8 (*Hess at the Nuremberg Trials*, page 157 in the 1979 hardback edition). Here is what Thomas wrote:

'Another acute threat [to the Hess impersonator] was the authorities' insistence on taking a blood sample so that his blood-group could be established. Obviously afraid that this would reveal a discrepancy with the records of the real Hess, he resisted the doctors to the utmost - so much so that Major Kelley remarked, "It nearly required a special act of the tribunal before he would permit us to withdraw blood." <sup>7</sup>

In Airey Neave's <sup>8</sup> *Personal Record of the Nuremberg Trials* there is no mention of any questioning of the identity

<sup>5</sup> Besides noting Hess's date and place of birth (April 26th, 1894 in Alexandria) the medical records give details of his religion, parents, marital status, orders and decorations, and so on. They also record his various positions, and every occasion on which he reported sick, even with a sore throat.

<sup>6</sup> In his own definitive work *Die Chirurgie der Brustorgane*, first published in 1918, Sauerbruch admitted to a forty percent mortality rate among soldiers with rifle wounds of the lung. The main reason was that the dirt and debris pulled in by the suction effect of the bullet almost always set up an infection, the trouble often being exacerbated by the considerable delay between the time at which a man was wounded and his admission to a hospital equipped to give him active treatment. It seems certain that in 1917, with no antibiotics available, and at least a twelve-hour delay, Hess must have developed a suppurative wound. His long stay in hospital and protracted convalescence strongly suggest that this happened. They suggest, moreover, that the wound did not heal particularly well.

<sup>7</sup> Thomas cites *The Case of Rudolf Hess* by J.R.Rees, (Heinemann, London, 1947, page 133).

<sup>8</sup> Airey Neave was killed on 30 March 1979, when a bomb exploded under his car. *Conservative Leader* Margaret Thatcher led tributes, saying: "He was one of freedom's warriors. No one knew of the great man he was, except those nearest to him. He was staunch, brave, true, strong; but he was very gentle and kind and loyal. It's a rare combination of qualities. There's no one else who can quite fill them. I, and so many other people, owe so much to him and now we must carry on for the things he fought for and not let the people who got him triumph." The *Irish National Liberation Army (INLA)*, an Irish Republican organisation banned in the United Kingdom under anti-terrorism legislation, admitted responsibility for the killing. The *INLA* issued a statement regarding the killing in the August 1979 edition of *The Starry Plough*: 'In March, retired terrorist and supporter of capital punishment, Airey Neave, got a taste of his own medicine when an *INLA* unit pulled off the operation of the decade and blew him to bits inside the 'impregnable' *Palace of Westminster*. The nauseous Margaret Thatcher snivelled on television that he was an 'incalculable loss - and so he was - to the British ruling class.' Neave's death came just two days after the vote of no confidence which brought down James Callaghan's government and a few weeks before the 1979 general election which brought about a *Conservative Party* victory and Margaret Thatcher came to power as Prime Minister. Neave's biographer Paul Routledge met a member of the *Irish Republican Socialist Party* (the political wing of *INLA*) and was told that Neave "would have been very successful at that job [Northern Ireland Secretary] and brought the armed struggle to its knees". Kevin Cahill, an Irish investigative journalist, claims Neave was on the verge of a massive overhaul of the security services, possibly involving a merger of *MI5* and *MI6* and arising from his belief in corruption in the security services. Cahill suggests a link between Neave's killing, that of Sir Richard Sykes and the attempted murder of Christopher Tugendhat in December 1980. Cahill claims that Neave would have been head of the combined security services with Sykes responsible for foreign operations and Tugendhat responsible for home operations. Cahill claims to have had a conversation with a drunken Neave on *St Patrick's Day 1979* in the foyer of the Irish embassy in London. Cahill had left a party and was waiting for a taxi. He saw Neave in the room and introduced himself to him as an admirer. Cahill claims that Neave was inebriated and responded "quite out of the blue" by saying "There are going to be changes here, big changes, soon. There is going to be cleaning of the stables... There has been serious corruption." Neave then said that there was "no

of 'the prisoner called Rudolf Hess', even though Thomas piles up the evidence to prove beyond all reasonable doubt that the 1939 Hess and the 1945 Hess could not possibly be the same person. Luckily for the prisoner, blood-groupings were not classified during the *First World War*, and in any case the real Hess's records were not to hand.

They were, as far as could be ascertained, somewhere among the hundreds of thousands of captured Nazi documents which the Americans were holding in Nuremberg, but as yet these were unsorted, so that individual dossiers could not be found quickly. If anyone had hit upon Hess's service record, with its details of his various woundings, the prisoner's pretence would have been shown up at once.<sup>9</sup>

Prime Minister Churchill declined to make propaganda out of the episode and also refused to allow photographs to be taken of the prisoner known as Rudolf Hess. Indeed, the *Deputy Führer's* supposed presence in Britain proved a severe embarrassment in the Government's relations with Russia. When Beaverbrook went to Moscow in September 1941, as head of a delegation to discuss arms supplies to the Soviet Union, Stalin accused England of using Hess as a line of communication with Hitler and of planning to abandon Russia to fight Germany alone." When Churchill saw Stalin in 1944, the Soviet leader's line was much the same. Later Churchill was to write:

"He asked me at dinner what was the truth about the *Hess Mission*. I had the feeling he believed there had been some deep negotiation or failed plot for Germany and Britain to act together in the invasion of Russia. Remembering what a wise man he is, I was surprised to find him silly on this point. When the interpreter made it plain that he did not believe what I said, I replied through my interpreter, "When I make a statement of facts within my knowledge I expect it to be accepted. Stalin received this somewhat abrupt response with a genial grin. "There are lots of things that happen even here in Russia which our *Secret Service* don't necessarily tell me about."<sup>10</sup>

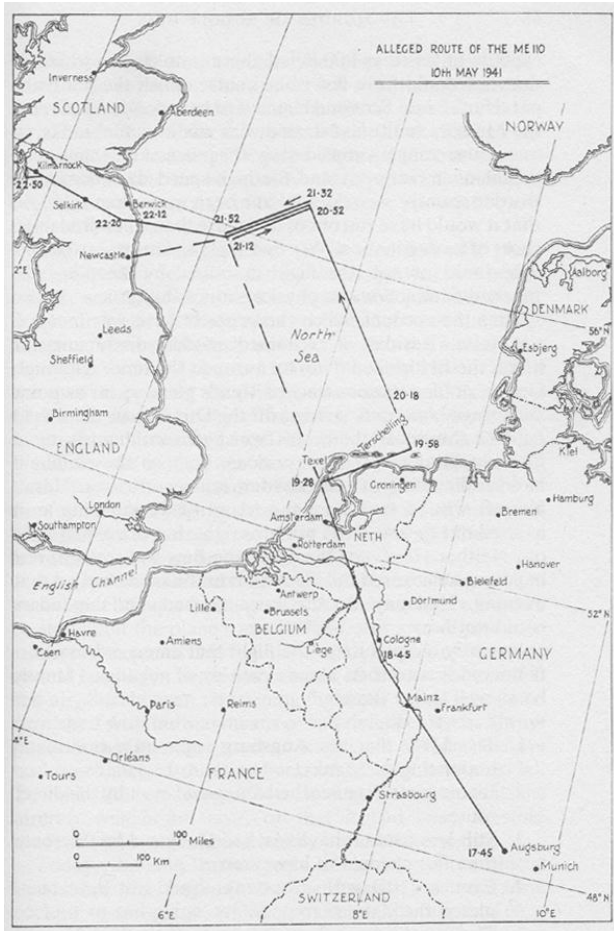
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use playing games. We have to win...We will win when the corruption is sorted out. Count on that." Cahill found Neave's remarks surprising because he seemed internally preoccupied with the UK, with his Northern Ireland brief "almost a sideline". Cahill also thought that Neave's mention of corruption meant Soviet penetration. Whilst working in the *House of Commons* as Paddy Ashdown's research assistant, Cahill claims to have had around six conversations with the security staff there. The most frequent remark was that "everyone knew" the story behind Neave's death but that no one could talk about it in detail because it would have been too dangerous. Cahill claims they did not believe that the *INLA* killed Neave but that it was an "inside job". Cahill concluded that Neave was killed by the security services; *MI6* agents working with the *CIA* because Neave sought to prosecute senior figures in the intelligence establishment for corruption. Another person who did not accept the generally accepted version of events was Enoch Powell, the *Ulster Unionist MP*. Powell claimed in an interview with *The Guardian* on 9 January 1984 that the Americans had killed Neave, along with Lord Mountbatten and Robert Bradford, MP. He claimed the evidence came from a member of the *Royal Ulster Constabulary*. On 18 October 1986 Powell returned to the subject of Neave's death in a speech to *Conservative* students in Birmingham. He told them that the *INLA* had not killed Neave, but that he had been assassinated by "*MI6* and their friends". Powell claimed Neave's Northern Ireland policy had been one of integration with the rest of the UK and that the Americans feared that this process, if implemented by Neave, would have been irreversible. His killing, alleged Powell, was intended to make the British Government adopt a policy more acceptable to America in her aim of a united Ireland within *NATO*.

<sup>9</sup> This raises more questions than it answers since the records would either have been sorted or been 'disappeared' by the time Thomas came to write his book in 1977/8 three decades after the *Nuremberg Trials*. It also shows up the whole Nuremberg identification procedure for all the other prisoners as being pretty bogus, given the penchant of the *Gestapo* for the routine use of body and corpse doubles...backed up by *Sippenhaft*, wielded by Himmler at every opportunity, which meant that if somebody failed to carry out orders, or committed an alleged crime against the *State*, not just that person but his or her entire family stood to be liquidated by the *SS*. Von Stauffenberg's family got this treatment after the July 1944 bomb plot against Hitler misfired. Perhaps *Sippenhaft* could be adapted for deployment against judicial persons (corporations, trusts, banks etc.) for the crimes of their directors and top executives. In the UK there is a law that allows the *State* to remove the proceeds of crime from those found guilty by the courts. Though in practice the collection rate is currently very low, the principle is sound with a high level of acceptance from the general public (where the law is good). As a clause routinely added by *Parliament* to such laws as an updated *1571 Act Against Usury*, this broader *Sippenhaft Condition* for the *Proceeds Clause*, along with the *Citizen Arrest* conditions of the *1571 Act*, could go a long way to rein in unacceptable commercial behaviour and bring it within the bounds of publicly- and parliamentary-condoned morality.

<sup>10</sup> Thomas cites as his source page 49 in *The Grand Alliance*, the third volume of Churchill's *History of the Second World War* (Cassell, London, 1950). Thomas continues: "One can't help wondering whether in the matter of Hess the *British Secret Service* for once knew more than the Prime Minister. Even the Foreign Secretary, Anthony Eden, professed himself baffled by the episode's multiple contradictions. He, of all people, should have known what the *Secret Services* were up to, for he was nominally in charge of them. Yet in his memoirs, when he described the reaction of the Russians, he doubted "if they were ever really satisfied that the incident was as unexpected and inexplicable to us as to them." (Thomas cites page 257 of the second volume of Eden's memoirs, *The Reckoning* by the Earl of Avon, Cassell, London, 1965). Churchill seems to have completely missed the real point of Stalin's question, as Stalin probed to discover whether he had any notion that the *Hess Deception* might have been orchestrated by the Soviets to ensure that the Germans and the British did not negotiate a separate peace with Germany. Stalin was clearly checking on the quality of the information his people had received from the *Cambridge Four* that the *British Interrogation* had quickly established that the Hess in England was an imposter. Not surprisingly there is no record of this routine *MI5* investigation in any of the released government files from this period. Also reported to Stalin would have been the fact that there was a significant faction in *British Intelligence* that believed the *Hess Deception* could be traced to Moscow, but that Blunt, Philby, Burgess, Maclean & Co. had managed to contain it, and had kept these rumblings from the ears of politicians in Britain and America. Stalin received the confirmation he sought.

Hess took off from Augsburg. A different man and a different plane reached Scotland. So much is certain. But the plot which achieved the substitution is still a mystery. Scarcely any clues remain showing how it was done.<sup>11</sup>



Thomas's best guess was that Hess's *Messerschmitt* was shot down following a conspiracy involving some or all of the *Nazi High Command*...perhaps because Hess was carrying all the details of *Operation Barbarossa* in his head that nobody was supposed to know anything about.

All the top generals were banned from travelling abroad in the lead up to *Barbarossa* in case they got kidnapped and spilt the beans...although the Soviets probably knew everything as their intelligence throughout the war was top quality...with *British Intelligence* a poor fourth, behind Russia, Germany and America.

The *British Ministry of Defence* keeps a dossier on every plane crash in the United Kingdom which involves a military aircraft. Yet no records are available of the crash of Hesse's *Me 110*.

Herr Ebert, head of the historical department at *Messerschmitt*, repeatedly wrote to the Ministry asking for records of the crash to be made available to him, but far from collecting any information, was not even given the courtesy of a reply.

It is hardly surprising to find that in the *Public Record Office*, only one *War Office* file on the *Hess Affair* was open for inspection even as late as 1979.

Himmler and Göring clearly played leading parts in the *Hess Affair*. Göring, as *Commander-in-Chief of the Luftwaffe*, had the power to get one aircraft shot down and organize a substitute. The former fighter-pilot certainly disliked Hess and referred to him as a *Piesl*, a

contemptuous term for a half-bred gentleman. The *Deputy Führer*, in return, regarded Göring with disdain.

But by the spring of 1941 Hess no longer appeared to be a serious rival to Göring. Hitler had appointed Göring his number one deputy the year before, which had put him ahead of Hess in the line of succession. So on the face of it, the *Reichsmarschall* had nothing further to fear from Hess as a political rival and no reason to dispose of him. Yet Göring was obviously involved in the *Hess Affair*. There is on record a 'smoking gun' phone call from Göring to General Adolf Galland, a former ace fighter-pilot and the *Luftwaffe* commander of the *Me 109* fighter squadrons along the North Sea coast.

There is also Göring's interrogation of Willi Messerschmitt in Munich on May 12th.<sup>12</sup> Why was Göring content to roar with laughter and sweep the matter out of sight? His whole attitude shows the self-confidence of a man who knew well what was going on.

With hindsight, further suspicions attach to Göring because of his manner at the *Nuremberg Trials*. The tense sparring relationship which had existed between himself and the real Hess vanished entirely. Instead, he treated his

<sup>11</sup> On page 46 in Chapter 3...Thomas's chapter on the flight itself...he guesses that the substitute plane took off from Aalborg in Denmark. Thomas also mentions that Karlheinz Pintsch, one of Hess's adjutants, must have been involved. Later, Pintsch was captured by the Russians on the *Eastern Front* and tortured to find out what he knew about the *Hess Plot*. According to Thomas, Pintsch returned to Munich, and lived again in the same house as during the war and died some years later' (page 193). Thomas had interviewed Pintsch and remarks (page 73) that '...the more closely one scrutinizes Pintsch's version of the story the less satisfactory it seems. It contains so many red herrings that one has the impression of a man trying to divert attention from what really happened.'

<sup>12</sup> Hitler ordered Göring to find out how Hess had access to an aircraft. There was no interrogation, but a merry exchange. Messerschmitt later reported: 'Göring pointed his baton at me and shouted: "As far as you are concerned, I suppose anybody can come and fly off with one of your machines!" I pointed out that Hess was not 'anybody', but was the *Deputy Führer*. "You should have known that this man is crazy." I replied dryly: "How could I be expected to suppose that one so high in the hierarchy of the *Third Reich* could be crazy? If that were the case, Herr Reichsmarschall, you should have procured his resignation!" Göring thereupon roared with laughter and exclaimed: "Messerschmitt, you are quite incurable! Go back to your factory and get on with your construction. I will help you out of the mess if the Führer seeks to make trouble for you." (Source: Page 18 in *Prisoner of Peace* by Ilse Hess, edited by George Pile and published by *Britons Publishing Co* in 1954).

fellow-accused with a mixture of incredulity and withering sarcasm. His jocular suggestion that “Hess” should tell the court his “big secret” still tantalizes with its ambiguity. Did Göring know that the man in the court was a double? And was he daring him to reveal the fact, secure in the knowledge that he could not?

Nonetheless it was Thomas’s view that it was Himmler, not Göring, who “deliberately got rid of Hess”<sup>13</sup> in an attempt to increase his own stature. His aim was to secure peace with England and simultaneously take over as leader in Germany. This theory is only guesswork but Heinrich Himmler, as head of the SS, was one of the few men in the *Third Reich* with sufficient power and authority to execute such a plot and, in the spring of 1941, Himmler was making tentative early moves to supplant Hitler as Führer.

In all the turmoil that convulsed the *Nazi Hierarchy* after Hess’s departure, the one man who acted consistently out of character was Himmler. As head of the SS, Himmler was in charge of the main investigation that followed. It proved something of a fiasco with the SS, for the first time in its history, condemned as being too soft. No culprit was unearthed and no reprisals taken against any member of Hess’s former staff.

In other circumstances, the SS’s failure would have infuriated Himmler. Yet he seems to have been quite unmoved. Indeed, far from looking for scapegoats, he used his powerful position to protect several of the people involved. First, he prevented the arrest of Frau Hess, even though Hitler announced that it had taken place. Then he saved his personal masseur, Felix Kersten,<sup>14</sup> from Heydrich, who was carrying out a separate investigation and had arrested Kersten because he was known to have treated Hess shortly before his departure.

For Heydrich to arrest Kersten was indicative of a general dissatisfaction within the SS with the official enquiry. Martin Bormann had also set up an enquiry only for Himmler to intervene to resist Bormann’s attempts to have Hess’s adjutant Pintsch condemned to death. Himmler’s concern for the Hess family lasted several years. He wrote to Frau Hess that if anything happened to her, he would make sure that her son, Wolf-Rüdiger, was looked after.

To adopt so lenient - even tender - an attitude, was unlike Himmler, especially when confronted by such a major insult to the *Third Reich*. Yet after the Hess disaster he behaved like a benevolent uncle. According to Thomas, this softness on the part of Himmler, becomes ‘extremely significant’ when linked with yet another odd circumstance.

On April 28th, 1941 Hess had sent Albrecht Haushofer to Geneva, to discuss the possibilities of an English peace with Dr Burckhardt, the president of the *Swiss Red Cross*. Soon after this, Burckhardt was visited by one of Himmler’s agents, who asked, pointedly, whether the British would be willing to discuss peace terms on the same basis as those proposed by Hess...but with Himmler, not Hess, as the principal on the German side.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Perhaps the assassination of Heydrich deserves closer scrutiny. His assassins were never found so there is no evidence linking the murder to the Czech resistance. Heydrich was clearly suspicious that Himmler was orchestrating an SS cover-up of the *Hess Defection* as he set up his own investigation. If Himmler were willing to eliminate Hess to further his own ambitions, how much more would he feel the need to eliminate Heydrich if he stumbled across evidence that Himmler was the prime mover in the murder and substitution of Rudolf Hess. Heydrich was shot down on 27th May 1942, went into coma and died on June 4th. His funeral was on 7th June 1942. There were the normal draconian reprisals against the Czechs but there seem to be conflicting accounts. *Wikipedia* currently runs with the official narrative: Czech resistance fighters trained in London by the *Special Operations Executive (SOE)*. But other accounts suggest that the two assassins got clean away and were neither ever found to have any links to the *SOE*.

<sup>14</sup> In *The Kersten Memoirs* (pps 88-9 for 15th May 1941) the masseur recorded in his diary: “After an interrogation lasting five hours Heydrich had to let me go. I’ve just heard that all the doctors who treated Hess in recent years have been arrested. I have also heard from a trustworthy source that, during Heydrich’s interrogation, Himmler rang up and ordered my immediate release. That must be right, for towards the end of it Heydrich was called from the room and I was left alone for ten minutes. Then he said that the Reichsführer had guaranteed me, but that I should hold myself at their disposal.” Thomas finds Kersten’s account ‘unconvincing’, arguing that ‘a five-hour interrogation would have been a tremendous ordeal, yet he makes little of it.’ Nonetheless Thomas accepts that Kersten was rescued from further punishment by Himmler, who, Thomas remarks, ‘really had no business to intervene, as he was supposed to be in charge of the main enquiry’.

<sup>15</sup> Himmler knew about Hess’s peace plan by the end of April 1941...perhaps through Kersten, whom he had planted on Hess; perhaps through Carl Langbehn, a friend of Albrecht Haushofer whom Himmler often used as a contact-man; or perhaps through routine *Gestapo* channels. But six months previously, in September 1940, Albrecht Haushofer had mentioned in a letter to his parents that Hess seemed “to have given pretty clear instructions to our friends in black uniform” - in other words, Hess had given orders that the *Gestapo* were not to interfere with any peace moves which he or the Haushofers might make. And what the *Gestapo* knew, they did not fail to pass on to Himmler. It was Thomas’s belief that Hess’s preparations, his friendship with Albrecht Haushofer, and his views on peace in general gave Himmler his opportunity for eliminating a powerful rival who was also a true ally of Hitler. Here was his chance not only of removing the *Deputy Führer*, but also, at the same time, of sending to England a counterfeit Hess - a *Doppelgänger* - who would start by making peace overtures as though they came from Hitler, but then, when some progress had been made, would put forward the same proposals that Himmler himself had been cultivating - namely, that peace should be made with himself rather than Hitler as Führer. Whether he knew it or not, the *Doppelgänger* was doomed from the start. There is every indication that Himmler regarded him as expendable, a non-returnable envoy. If he *had* returned to Germany with the outlines of a peace plan, he would not have been able to sustain his pretence for five minutes, and it seems certain that Himmler would have arranged a fatal accident to prevent anybody else in Germany recognising the true state of affairs. Birger Dahlerus also records in *Sista*



As to the mechanics of the actual substitution, Pintsch was the one person placed centrally enough to have been the link-man in the conspiracy. If Hess's deputy, Martin Bormann, had had his way, Pintsch would have been executed. Bormann demanded the death penalty, and only the intervention of Himmler prevented it. Again, why the leniency? Perhaps because Himmler feared that the supreme penalty would loosen Pintsch's tongue at the last moment, so that the truth would be revealed.

In 1967, Rudolf Hess's son Wolf-Rüdiger Hess started to take an active part in campaigning for the release of the prisoner at Spandau called Rudolf Hess. That summer he visited England and Scotland, including the site of the parachute landing on 10th May 1941. Yet although public opinion was undoubtedly on his side, he noticed a curious echo of the British authorities' wartime ambivalence.

He was taken to see *Maindiff Court*...the prison where 'Hess' was held near Abergavenny. Wolf-Rüdiger Hess was particularly interested in having a private conversation with Dr Ellis Jones, the doctor responsible for 'Hess' while he was in England. But he was never allowed to be alone with him. An Army officer stuck to him like a shadow and made sure they were never left alone.

In Wolf-Rüdiger's own words, "The whole thing was distinctly odd. Without any doubt I was prevented from talking to Dr. Jones privately. Also, I had the firm impression that he wanted to tell me something that he was being prevented from saying publicly." Twenty years after the end of the war, the British still had something to hide.

In the years that followed, Wolf-Rüdiger's cause was taken up by many prominent people in different countries, including Lord Shawcross, *Chief British Prosecutor* at the *Nuremberg Trials*, and Airey Neave, the *Conservative Member of Parliament*. In the world media, numerous reasons were put forward for releasing the prisoner - that he was and always had been insane, that he was physically ill, that he had already been punished enough. None of the appeals made any impression on the Russians.<sup>16</sup>

Western governments discussed the possibility of unilateral action and releasing the prisoner on their own initiative. The result of their deliberations, however, was expressed in March 1970 by Lord Chalfont, *Minister of State* at the *Foreign Office*. "To free 'Hess' without Russian consent would mean breaking 'solemn international obligations', which the British Government would not contemplate".

Even if the man were guilty of all the crimes with which he had been charged, humanity and common sense dictated that he should be released to live out the last years of his life as a free man. But since he was not Hess, there was never any argument for keeping him in Spandau for years. Had he been exposed as an imposter, the truth might have come as a blow to the Russians, for it would have deprived them of the man they loved to hate and removed one of their reasons for having access to West Berlin. They would not have been pleased to discover that the real Hess has been dead since 1941. But they would have got over it...and the *Cold War* would have carried on as normal.

No one likes to be hoaxed or made a fool of, particularly on such a scale and no one likes to admit that he has been the victim of a gross deception lasting for decades. So Western governments might have been publicly embarrassed for fifteen minutes. But they too would have got over it. The *Lie Factories* would have coped.

Professional historians would have manned their barricades, for they are prone to be sensitive when the foundations of their narrative is challenged. But this would hardly have been the first time. New narratives for new times. Bring in the new and airbrush out the old. Fewer and fewer informed people buy into the old narratives anyway.

One key to the success of the *Hess Deception* was the physical similarity between the double and the man known as Hess. Superficially the two men were alike. But that was, of course, why the prisoner known as Hess was chosen in the first place. The medical evidence, and the evidence of Hess's widow, make it clear that the real Hess was shot through the chest by a rifle bullet. The prisoner known as Hess had never been shot. Any experienced surgeon would see this at once, for the torso cannot lie. The real Hess bore major scars on his chest and back as a result of his *First World War* wounds. The man in Spandau bore none. Therefore he was not Rudolf Hess.

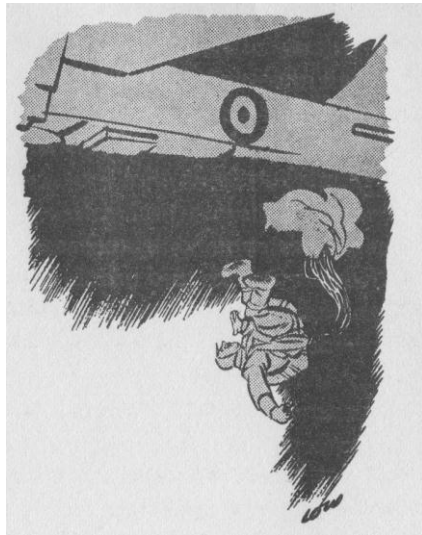
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*Försöket* (1947) of a conversation with Hermann Göring in August 1939, in which he was warned of an assassination plot to bring down Dahlerus's plane *en route* to London with peace proposals from Hitler and Göring to Chamberlain and Halifax.

<sup>16</sup> In January 1970, for instance, *Pravda* wrote: 'The campaign to release Hess was a cunning propaganda move by forces which would like to perpetuate *Racism, Nazism and Apartheid*, turn back the course of history, disarm the people morally and dissipate their watchfulness against the intrigues of the forces of *Aggression and War*. *Imperialism* is merciful to criminals, whether they are *Fascists or Racists*, because its own policy of *International Brigandage and Aggression, Neo-Colonialism and Racial Intolerance* is itself criminal.' Nowadays this might be regarded as nothing more than fair comment. But it seems a little over the top for a case of mistaken identity even by *Cold War* standards? Methinks the lady doth protest too much! Thomas wrote that, 'even when the prisoner was lying ill in the *British Military Hospital*, and Spandau had no inmate at all, they insisted on maintaining the full paraphernalia of the prison guard, manning the watch-towers and patrolling the empty cells.' This was what Airey Neave called *The Great Spandau Madness*. Yet for the Russians it made sense, since they were determined to hold on for as long as possible to their foothold in West Berlin, as any interruption to their normal pattern might have weakened their grip on what they had come to regard as a piece of diplomatic territory.

In his investigation of Rudolf Hess, Thomas failed to apply Lenin's *Who? Whom?* discriminator to his evidence. This would have pointed the finger at the Soviets as the most likely suspects, for they subsequently used the *Hess Defection* to keep the British and Germans from ganging up against Russia with a separate *Anglo-German Peace*. Nor did Thomas consider the Americans or the British as *Murder Suspects*. If the real Hess was murdered, as Thomas surmises then why are Germans the only suspects?

Strangely, nobody seems to have sent in the usual investigators to inspect the 'live corpse',<sup>17</sup> although perhaps the *Four-Power Spandau Regime* was deemed an adequate substitute. The apparent ease with which Himmler, Bormann...and even Hitler...escaped justice<sup>18</sup> for their war-crimes and their crimes against humanity by the efficient use of *Body Doubles* raises the question of how and why Göring, Ribbentrop, Rosenberg, Schacht and numerous German generals failed to outsource their disappearance to the *Gestapo's Body Double Department* but chose instead to stay behind in Germany for their death sentences at the *1945 Kangaroo Court* in Nuremberg?



The truth about *World War II* has been extensively covered (and uncovered) in personal memoirs, public academic histories and private investigations. With the fall of the *Berlin Wall* in 1989, a second generation of *World War II Histories* has emerged, cross-referencing books, essays and archives across linguistic divides.

Hardest to find is the financial history of *World War II*<sup>19</sup>...though this is true in general and not specific to *World War II*...and also what, for want of a better term, might be called the history of *World Peace II*.

*World Peace II* has several aspects: the history of countries that were non-involved and/or non-aligned or neutral; the individuals who were personally uninvolved in war; and the record of the families and governments who were pro-active or re-active in resisting, dismissing or ignoring the *Warmonger Embrace*.

History is written by the victors, and not only were the *Warmongers* the victors but they have been consolidating their position since hostilities ended in 1945. The past sixty years of the *Modern Age* have seen the development of war and warmongering by other means...many of them as old as the hills but a few that 25th century historians will regard as late 20th Century social innovations.

*The Stockholm Story*...along with those from Geneva, Madrid, Lisbon (and perhaps Dublin)...will come to play a major part in the *European World Peace II Histories*.<sup>20</sup> The true destination of the *Messerschmitt 110* that left Augsburg, 60 kms north-west of Munich, in the early evening of Saturday 10th May 1941 for a *Weekend Break* was never *Dungavel House* on the west coast of Scotland to meet with the Duke of Hamilton.

A more probable destination (with refueling in Denmark) was Stockholm, a neutral city on the shores of the *Baltic Lakes*. The Wallenbergs (or emissaries for them) would seem to be the most likely hosts. It is regrettable that the *Wallenberg Family* have not opened their family papers and correspondence to academics in the way others have done...the *Chamberlain Family* being one example with the *Cadbury Collection* at *Birmingham University*.

Sweden's noblest family have every right to feel proud of their achievements over the past two hundred years. Their involvement in *WWII Peace Missions* was necessarily complex, often compelling them to choose between the lesser of several evils. However their resistance to the scholarly gaze could be interpreted as an admission of guilt...when there is no reason to assume that it is anything of the sort.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>17</sup> This is in sharp contrast to their interest in the corpses (allegedly doubles) of Hitler, Himmler and Bormann.

<sup>18</sup> For Himmler see *The Unlikely Death of Heinrich Himmler* (2001); for Bormann see *Nazi in Exile* by Paul Manning (1981); and for Hitler see *Grey Wolf: the Escape of Adolf Hitler* by Simon Dunstan and Gerrard Williams (2011).

<sup>19</sup> Financial investigators are slowly making headway, however. *Tower of Basel* might be one place to start; (*Tower of Basel* by Adam LeBor, 2013, *Public Affairs*, Perseus Books, New York, 320 pages, ISBN 978-1-61039-254-9). William Hall's *German History* also throws light on aspects of the financial history of *World War II*.

<sup>20</sup> Any *Stockholm Peace Story* would mention the *Rudolf Hess Story*...not the official *Warmonger* fiction but the real facts. Investigation of the unexplained appearance of *Comrade Anthony Blunt* in Stockholm on Friday 15th May 1945 might also start to unravell the mystery of the *Hess Defection*. There is also the curiosity of *The Flying Visit* by Peter Fleming (author of *The Invasion of 1940*) published a year before Hess defected...but with Hitler, not Hess, on the end of the parachute.

<sup>21</sup> One question raised by Gerard Aalders & Cees Wiebes, for instance, is the *Wallenbergs'* involvement in the death of Raoul Wallenberg. The family were faced with a choice between the life of Raoul Wallenberg or the loss of billions of dollars of Wallenberg assets sequestered by the US government. With Raoul Wallenberg held by Stalin as a hostage, the Russians tried to ensure that the Wallenbergs did not crumple under intense American pressure and renege on their deal to provide the Soviet Union with a massive line of credit in 1946. The Americans blackmail was successful and the loan was cancelled.