

Text of Autopsy Report on Hitler Prepared After

Following is the text, as printed in "The Death of Adolf Hitler" by Lev A. Bezymenski, of the official Soviet autopsy report on the Nazi dictator:

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DOCUMENT NO. 12: CONCERNING THE FORENSIC EXAMINATION OF A MALE CORPSE DISFIGURED BY FIRE (HITLER'S BODY)

Berlin-Buch, 8.V., 1945

Mortuary CAFS' No. 496

The Commission consisting of Chief Expert, Forensic Medicine, First Byelorussian Front, Medical Service, Lieutenant Colonel F. I. Shkaravski; Chief Anatomist, Red Army, Medical Service, Lieutenant Colonel N. A. Kravetski; Acting Chief Anatomical Pathologist, First Byelorussian Front, Medical Service, Major A. Y. Marants; Army Expert, Forensic Medicine, Third Shock Army, Medical Service, Major Y. I. Boguslavski; and Army Anatomical Pathologist, Third Shock Army, Medical Service, Major Y. V. Gulkevich, on orders of the member of the Military Council First Byelorussian Front, Lieutenant General Telegin, performed the forensic-medical examination of a male corpse (presumably the corpse of Hitler).

Results of the examination:

A. External Examination

The remains of a male corpse disfigured by fire were delivered in a wooden box (Length 163 cm., Width 55 cm., Height 53 cm.). On the body was found a piece of yellow jersey, 25 x 8 cm., charred around the edges, resembling a knitted undershirt.

In view of the fact that the corpse is greatly damaged, it is difficult to gauge the age of the deceased. Presumably it lies between 50 and 60 years. The dead man's height is 165 cm. (the measurements are approximate since the tissue is charred), the right shinbone measures 39 cm. The corpse is severely charred and smells of burned flesh.

Part of the cranium is missing.³

Parts of the occipital bone, the left temporal bone, the lower cheekbones, the nasal bones, and the upper and lower jaws are preserved. The burns are more pronounced on the right side of the cra-

nium than on the left. In the brain cavity parts of the fire-damaged brain and of the dura mater are visible. On face and body the skin is completely missing; only remnants of charred muscles are preserved. There are many small cracks in the nasal bone and the upper jawbones. The tongue is charred, its tip is firmly locked between the teeth of the upper and lower jaws.

In the upper jaw there are nine teeth connected by a bridge of yellow metal (gold.) The bridge is anchored by pins on the second left and the second right incisor. This bridge consists of 4 upper incisors (2 [1 1] 2), 2 canine teeth (3 3), the first left bicuspid ([4], and the first and second right bicuspid (4 5), as indicated in the sketch. The first left incisor (1) consists of a white platelet, with cracks and a black spot in the porcelain (enamel) at the bottom. This platelet is inset into the visible side of the metal (gold) tooth. The second incisor, the canine tooth, and the left bicuspid, as well as the first and second incisors and the first bicuspid on the right, are the usual porcelain (enamel) dental plates, their posterior parts fastened to the bridge. The right canine tooth is fully capped by yellow metal (gold). The maxillary bridge is vertically sawed off behind the second left bicuspid (15). The lower jawbone lies loose in the singed oral cavity. The alveolar processes are broken in the back and have ragged edges. The front surface and the lower edge of the mandibula are scorched. On the front surface the charred prongs of dental roots are recognizable. The lower jaw consists of fifteen teeth, ten of which are artificial. The incisors (2 1 1 2) and the first right bicuspid (4) are natural, exhibiting considerable wear on the masticating surface and considerably exposed necks. The dental enamel has a bluish shimmer and a dirty yellow coloration around the necks. The teeth to the left (4, 5, 7, and 8) are artificial, of yellow metal (gold), and consist of a bridge of gold crowns. The bridge is fastened to the third, the

fifth (in the bridge, the sixth tooth), and the eighth tooth (in the bridge, the ninth tooth). The second bicuspid to the right (5) is topped by a crown of yellow metal (gold) which is linked to the right canine tooth by an arching plate. Part of the masticating surface and the posterior surface of the right canine tooth is capped by a yellow metal (gold) plate as part of the bridge. The first right molar is artificial, white, and secured by a gold clip connected with the bridge of the second bicuspid and the right incisor.

Splinters of glass, parts of the wall and bottom of a thin-walled ampule, were found in the mouth.

The neck muscles are charred, the ribs on the right side are missing, they are burned. The right side of the thorax and the abdomen are completely burned, creating a hole through which the right lung, the liver, and the intestines are open to view. The genital member is scorched. In the scrotum, which is singed but preserved, only the right testicle was found. The left testicle could not be found in the inguinal canal.

The right arm is severely burned, the ends of the bone of the upper arm and the bones of the lower arm are broken and charred. The dry muscles are black and partially brown; they disintegrate into separate fibers when touched. The remnants of the burned part (about two thirds) of the left upper arm are preserved. The exposed end of the bone of the upper arm is charred and protrudes from the dry tissue. Both legs, too, are charred. The soft tissue has in many places disappeared; it is burned and has fallen off. The bones are partially burned and have crumbled. A fracture in the right thighbone and the right shinbone were noted. The left foot is missing.

B. Internal Examination

The position of the internal organs is normal. The lungs are black on the surface, dark red on the cut surface, and of fairly firm consistence. The mucous membrane of the upper respiratory tracts is dark red.

The cardiac ventricles are filled with coagulated reddish-brown blood. The heart muscle is tough and looks like boiled meat. The liver is black on the surface and shows burns; it is of fairly firm consistence and yellowish brown on the cut surface. The kidneys are somewhat shrunken and measure 9 x 5 x 3.5 cm. Their capsule is easily detachable, the surface of the kidneys is smooth, the pattern effaced, they appear as if broiled. The bladder contains 5 cc. yellowish urine, its mucous membrane is gray. Spleen, stomach and intestines show severe burns and are nearly black in parts.

NOTE 1. The following objects taken from the corpse were handed over to the Smersh section of the Third Shock Army on May 8, 1945: (a) a maxillary bridge of yellow metal, consisting of 9 teeth; (b) a singed lower jaw, consisting of 15 teeth.

2. According to the record of the interrogation of Frau Käthe Heusermann it may be presumed that the teeth as well as the bridge described in the document are those of Chancellor Hitler.

3. In her talk with chief expert of forensic medicine, Lieutenant Colonel Shkaravski, which took place on May 11, 1945,³ in the offices of CAFS No. 496, Frau Käthe Heusermann described the state of Hitler's teeth in every detail. Her description tallies with the anatomical data pertaining to the oral cavity of the unknown man whose burned corpse we dissected.

Appended: A test tube with glass splinters from an ampule which were found in the mouth of the body.

SHKARAVSKI
Chief Expert, Forensic
Medicine, First Byelorussian
Front, Medical Service,
Lieutenant Colonel.

SHKARAVSKI
Chief Anatomical Pathologist,
Medical Service,
Red Army,
Lieutenant Colonel.

MARANTS
Acting Chief Anatomical
Pathologist
First Byelorussian Front,
Medical Service,
Major.

BOGUSLAVSKI
Army Expert,
Forensic Medicine,
Third Shock Army,

Soviet Inquiry

Medical Service,
Major.

GULKEVICH
Army Anatomical Pathologist,
Third Shock Army,
Medical Service,
Major.

Conclusion

Based on the forensic-medical examination of the partially burned corpse of an unknown man and the examination of other corpses from the same group, the Commission reaches the following conclusions:

1. Anatomical characteristics of the body:

Since the body parts are heavily charred, it is impossible to describe the features of the dead man. But the following could be established:

(a) Stature: about 165 cm. (one hundred sixty-five).

(b) Age (based on general development, size of organs, state of lower incisors and of the right bicuspid), somewhere between 50 and 60 years (fifty to sixty).

(c) The left testicle could not be found either in the scrotum or on the spermatic cord inside the inguinal canal, nor in the small pelvis.

(d) The most important anatomical finding for identification of the person are the teeth, with much bridge-work, artificial teeth, crowns, and fillings (see documents).

2. Cause of death:

On the body, considerably damaged by fire, no visible signs of severe lethal injuries or illness could be detected.

The presence in the oral cavity of the remnants of a crushed glass ampule and of similar ampules in the oral cavity of other bodies, the marked smell of bitter almonds emanating from the bodies and the forensic-chemical test of internal organs which established the presence of cyanide compounds permit the Commission to arrive at the conclusion that death in this instance was caused by poisoning with cyanide compounds.

1. Abbreviation for Chirurgisches Armeefeldlazarett.

2. At a somewhat later date occipital parts of a cranium were found, quite probably belonging to Hitler's corpse.

3. I asked M. Krayevski how it was possible for this date to appear in an autopsy report that had been written on May 8. He explained that the report had originally been written by hand; only later was it decided to add the statements of Heusermann. As was mentioned above, the delay between evidence and conclusion is absolutely normal.