

Pietro GUIDO

FÜHRER BUNKER



DISCOVERED ITS MYSTERIES

*How it was, where it was
How it is now, where it is now
What to do (unearth it?)*

Editions ISEM

For the tragic rôle that Adolf Hitler had in the history of the twentieth century, the Berlin bunker, where he committed suicide on 30 April 1945, is certainly among the sites with historic value and its preservation is not only a German question but of the whole humanity. This bunker is buried, since more than half a century, in a place of the city of Berlin and its location is unknown.

Before the Soviet troops, later the Germans of DDR and now the politicians of the unified Germany have been afraid that these rests could become object of nostalgic demonstrations. In the meanwhile, however, they buried, concealed and "preserved" the bunker, not building on it any complex of edifices.

During the last years I have studied all the available literature regarding the bunker, examined documents in the German Federal Archives, identified and contacted the firm which built the bunker in 1944, made checks and surveys "in loco". The result has been the individualization of the site where the bunker is buried.

To confirm the results of my "documental certainties" I have found a precious, unique and exceptional source that has seen not only the Hitler's bunker but also all has survived in the subsoil of the great area of the Chancelleries and the Ministries of the Third Reich. This source is a witness that I bring to illustrate to the readers of this book "how" and "what" the bunker has been. This witness is the result of a serious and exhaustive geomagnetic prospecting, remained, for strange motives, ignored to the great public and even to a part of the Berlin's Authorities.

I had also the satisfaction to verify the perfect coincidence between the results of the geomagnetic prospecting and the ones valued and calculated before by me.

Now I have finished the book, made up of about 230 pages and of a remarkable photographic documentation with maps, of the epoch and present. The book runs through the vicissitudes of the last days of the bunker up to the end of its protagonists and reconstructs its history from the Soviet troops occupation to its (false) destroying, from the casual discoveries of its rests to the subsequent concealments, from the errors of identification to the false journalistic "scoop" and finally to the mystifications through the carrying out of feigned locations.

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**Only when humanity will visit
Hitler's bunker
with the mood of a visit to Etruscan tombs
or to the underground cities,
only then humanity will overcome
the trauma inflicted her
by twentieth century horrors**

*This book is dedicated to
Helga, Hilde, Helmut, Holde, Hedde e Heidi Goebbels
innocent victims of the Nazi folly*

FÜHRERBUNKER - Discovered its mysteries

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ANTECEDENT FACT

I was coming back in my motor-caravan, together with my wife and son, from a long trip through Norway. We reached North Cape and everything was fine. Therefore, satisfied for our enterprise, we arrived in Berlin on our way back.

It was the end of August 1993 and Berlin welcomed us with a pleasant and warm atmosphere, like the days of end September in Italy.

We visited the most famous places in the city: the romantic Unter Den Linden, Alexander Platz and the lively zone of the "Kurdamm." We didn't miss the opportunity to visit the fabulous museums of the city and, particularly, what I love most: the Pergamon Museum.

Also the historical places of the city were destination of our itineraries: the Checkpoint Charlie and the rests of the Berlin Wall, demolished four years before.

Concluded the visits and purchased the inevitable souvenirs we returned to our motor caravan, that had been parked for three days in Marx-Engels Platz, to leave definitely this enthusiastic metropolis.

However, before leaving the city I had an idea: why not go to visit the place of the bunker, where Hitler committed suicide on 30th April 1945 setting, in fact, the end to the bloodiest war of the twentieth century?

But, where was the bunker?

No map of the city and no tourist guide brought indications of the place.

But this curiosity, that I verified in the following years to be present in almost all the tourists in visit to Berlin, didn't appease until we didn't find a taxi driver that understood English.

I was in embarrassment, it seemed to me to ask an indiscreet question, not to say inopportune. But, with my surprise the taxi driver didn't appear uneasy and tried to furnish me the road indications to arrive to the bunker.

To avoid any misunderstanding, I opened him my "green guide" of the Italian Touring Club on the two pages that showed the zone around the Brandenburg Gate. I gave him my pen and he marked on the interested page a dot, surrounded by a circle.

"According to me, here is where the bunker is located."

I have kept since then that guide and, 10 years later, after having discovered the exact spot of the bunker, I can say that the taxi driver had guessed right: the dot done with the pen is in the ray of a hundred meters from the bunker.

We left Berlin not without a light deviation from the run, to see the place of the bunker.

I say "place of the bunker" because, already then, I knew that I would not have seen evident traces after the partial destructions and the hidings of the preceding years.

We arrived, with some difficulties, in Voss Strasse, parked and, left the family to watch the motor caravan, I advanced with my camera towards the vast open space included in the quadrilateral formed by Voss Strasse, Wilhelmstrasse (that then was named Otto Grotewohlstrasse), Ebertstrasse and Beherenstrasse.

The view was desolating: the open space was uneven, rests of rubble and weeds gave a sense of abandonment to that uninhabited moor.

Only in distance it was possible to see the outlines of the buildings that, in the time of the DDR, were built along the Otto Grotewohlstrasse and, only partially, along the Voss Strasse, at the intersection of the two streets.

That buildings were not ugly and, in comparison to the average of the tenement houses for the people in East Berlin, they represented an effort to present themselves more decently to the look of the westerners, beyond the wall.

In the middle of that desert I noticed only a hillock, or better, a heap of rubble and beams in iron twisted, nearly submerged by the sandy ground of Berlin and by weeds that grew a meter high.

"Here, the place of the bunker cannot be but this. These are the rests of the emergent part of the bunker, destroyed but piled up in this hillock." With this certainty I started to film close up and backgrounds of the open space.

I was certain to have found the place and the rests of the bunker and I still preserve a piece of conglomerate, picked on the site, on which I had engraved: "Rests of the Hitler's bunker."

I was convinced of the correct discovery for some years also because comforted by other images, subsequently introduced in Internet by other researchers, that showed the same hillock as the place of the bunker.

A posteriori, to the light of the knowledges and the amazing discoveries done in the following years, increased my doubts on the exactness of this hypothesis.

Other researchers and I have perhaps made the same mistake: "That solitary heap of rubble didn't have other explanation if not in the stacking of the superficial rests of the bunker", ignoring that in the years running between 1945 and 1993, tons and tons of heavier and bulky rubble have been removed, from the quadrilateral of the Chancelleries and relative gardens, more than the few tons contained in the hillock

Why, then, that solitary hillock in the great open space? What the meaning of it?

If they were not the rests of the bunker, they could have been rubble of various origin used to bring people out of the road, to divert the curious ones. The purpose could have been to hide the true place of the bunker, too dangerous for its proximity to the residential complex, partly built, but mostly in the way of planning and future realization.

In 2000, seven years later, I returned to Berlin, always with my motor caravan and family and always on my way back from the colds Scandinavian landscapes. Also this time my stubborn curiosity pushed me to revisit the place of the bunker.

Parked the motor caravan in Voss Strasse, more or less in the same place of 1993, I set out with my inseparable camera towards the "quadrilateral."

Unfortunately after seven years everything had changed. The bare and desert moor had become the area of numerous yards. The previous buildings were extended in an articulated residential complex with park-games, parking lots for cars and various paths.

The corner of the Voss Strasse with the ex Otto Grotevohlstrasse (now returned to the glorious original name of Wilhelmstrasse) was completed by now with its sidewalks in order, small gardens and pedestrian passages.

The shops of the residential complex worked to full rhythm. There was a certain vivacity, a sense of new and cleaning. The station of the subway, "Mohrenstrasse", was well in sight. At the corner of the two streets it was visible, though not well in sight, a panel a little more than a meter tall (still existing) with illustrations of the New Chancellery and accessories.

There was no indication (and still there is not) on the spot of the bunker.

I thought: how strange, that this historical place, where were consumed and concluded the most dramatic stories of the personages responsible for the horrors that characterized the central part of last century continued to be ignored.

Does somebody want to hide this uncomfortable witness to us? Do they want to cancel its memory and traces? Apparently there is no other explanation.

Then I carried out a small test: I asked some shop people of the district if they could show me the place of the bunker, but they all told me they did not know it.

My difficulties of understanding the language increased the sense of unpleasantness of the approach.

In the end I went to an information office, present in the residential complex, where I was received by a smiling girl.

"But, I don't know where the bunker was, perhaps it is under the Moon-Park at the corner of the Voss Strasse with the Ebertstrasse."

I thanked for the little I had got and I went to stroll about around the Moon-Park.

"It should be here" I thought, not really convinced, and I returned to the motor caravan where wife and son started to become impatient for waiting so long.

Also this time I was deceived; I can tell it now that I know, to the meter, the exact position of the bunker. Why the inhabitants of the "quadrilateral" don't know, don't have curiosity or, still worse, pretend they don't know?

The answer is that, apart reasons of political nature and fears of demonstrations of "nostalgic" people, other reasons as the desire of quietness from the inhabitants or programs of building speculation (read: apportionment of the "quadrilateral") converge on the same objective: to forget, to hide, not to make people to speak of this accursed bunker anymore.

Back in Milan, the vacations finished and absorbed by my job I cancelled the chapter "bunker" from the list of my affairs and my curiosities.

After all, perhaps I was the only one, together with few others, to have nuisance these problems and to introduce in my vacations these deviations toward the stones, witnesses of the history of humanity in the time of my youth.

I didn't know, as I discovered later, that the pilgrims' team (tourists, curious, etc.) interested in this history was thick and increasing more and more, despite, or perhaps owing to, the breeze of mystery developed on it.

In the following months something happened that relighted my interest on the mystery of the bunker: this something was the reading of the book of Albert Speer "Memories of the Third Reich."

Since the end of the second world war only two books have enchanted and touched me so much. The first was "If this is a man" by Primo Levi; through this book I have understood, in its deeper essence, the process of destruction, first of the body and then of mind, of human being.

Don't exist descriptions of the atrocities perpetrated by the man in that infernal circle named Auchswitz that can shake the mind and move the reader up to tears as the calm reflections on the worse humiliations that a human being can suffer.

The book of Speer, a masterpiece of frankness and intellectual honesty, illuminated me on the true essence of the nazism and on the personality of Adolf Hitler more than the lots of books written by historians on the matter. Paradoxically, reading of the memories of Speer threw more light on the role of the fascism and its subalternity to that diabolic hurricane represented by the advent of the Hitlerian nazism.

Particularly, the last pathetic meeting of April 23rd 1945, between Speer and Hitler in the bunker, shook me. I realized from the few pages that describe the atmosphere of that "farewell" that, in that bunker of demons, had also taken place a "human" event.

This story and some others that we will mention later have taught me that in that banal cube of reinforced concrete, were assembled and sublimed events that, by themselves, could be the cue for touching narrations or "fictions" (as they call it now).

The spur I got from the book of Speer pushed me to seek all the possible sources to clear the last mystery left by the Third Reich: the discovery of the still living legendary rests, the discovery of the stage where was consumed the "Nibelungic" tragedy of its wicked protagonists.

PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

This book doesn't concern human beings.

Object of the book are the stones, or better, that articulated whole of concrete and iron that has given form to the Bunker of the Führer, in the garden of the Old Chancellery of the Reich.

This bunker was built for lasting and still lasts.

Why this book has for object the bunker? Because the bunker is still there in some place: all is to be done is to find it.

The bunker of Hitler is undeniably the place more important among the witnessing of the second world war.

Having hidden it, camouflaged and disguised in the arch of this last half century has increased its legend, rather than to calm it.

Once few people were interested in its history, but today it's enough to stop few hours in the territory where it is supposed to be buried, to notice groups of visitors, in narrow sequence, looking for information and comparisons.

By now almost all tourist agencies in Berlin have inserted in their city tours a stop to the Führerbunker.

And what do the poor tourists see? Nothing! An ample zone of parking lots, quarters and game fields in which the bunker should be located. These delegations of tourists cross gateways of residential buildings, trample on miserable flower-beds, climb over low fences following guides that tell them historical events of the places but that cannot answer to the expectations of the groups: but where is it? How is it done?

After a series of tortuous and misleading searches, after investigations on the spot, surveys, comparisons and consultations of original sources, I have located, with the approximation of some decimetre, the spot where the bunker rests.

I could dig it out by myself, I would need (besides the authorization) a pick and a shovel. After all, the bunker is only covered with the sandy ground on which all Berlin lies.

To discover the bunker is very easy. It has been more difficult, in these last 59 years, to try to hide it.

At the end of this book the reader will discover that what I boldly affirmed in these lines is not utopia.

To discover the bunker, this embarrassing witness of the horrors of the nazism, is easy; what is difficult is to find the political will to do it.

How do the human beings enter the pages of this book? As ghosts they enter.

As in a comedy by Pirandello they enter and go out "through the common " everyone bringing the proper fragment of life to the stories that happened in this box of concrete, of about four hundreds square meters, a little larger than a luxury flat.

The ghosts that enter the narration of this book are only those that have given a contribution of "human" experiences in this hell, crowded of demons.

The charm of the bunker is that here happened few but dramatic events with human implications intermingled to frightening histories of inhuman folly.

Here children played and died, here a marriage was celebrated, here confessions and touching meetings happened, but here, in a paroxysmal, demented growing, were made the preparations for the long trip towards Walhalla, towards Odino, by the persons responsible for tens of millions of people that died in the second world war.

Since I found this place, I have it here under my feet, I will tell the readers that will have the patience to follow me, where this bunker is, how it was done, how it is now and which ghosts of human beings and demons still populate it.

THE HISTORY OF THE WORKS OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The first volume of the series, published in 1841, was devoted to the history of the Church of England from the time of the Reformation to the present day. It was written by the Rev. John G. Nichols, D.D., and was published by the Rev. John G. Nichols, D.D., and was published by the Rev. John G. Nichols, D.D.

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THE CONTEXT OF THE BUNKER: THE CHANCELLERIES OF THE REICH

Hitler's bunker can be considered an appendix of the Chancelleries of the Reich: of the Old Chancellery (the Bismarck Chancellery, to be clear) and of the New Chancellery, the one of the Third Reich, realized by Albert Speer in 1938.

If we refer to the beginning of the 30s and focus our look on the inferior part of the quadrilateral (delimited south by the Voss Strasse, east by the Wilhelmstrasse, west by the Ebertstrasse and north by the Pariser Platz), that is at the intersection of the Wilhelmstrasse with the Voss Strasse, we notice the presence of the Old Chancellery of the Reich and, closed to it, of the building denominated Borsig, at the corner of the two streets.

The map of the quadrilateral (Fig. 1) expresses the urban situation before 1936. It can be observed that, if we exclude Borsig Palast and the Ministry of Justice of the Reich, the Voss Strasse is disseminated of small constructions, surrounded by little gardens.

Along the Wilhelmstrasse, on the left side, there is a long succession of buildings of prestige and various Ministries besides the Old Chancellery (a Baroque building, once known as Radziwill Palast). Everyone of these buildings possesses its own garden that extends, on the long side, up to the opposite street, the Ebertstrasse. All these gardens are separated by little walls and, through small doors, it is possible to cross them.

Hitler went to power on January 30th 1933 and, consequently, he occupied the rooms of the Old Chancellery, that, in 1936, was equipped with a shelter (note that this is the year when Germany started to rearm itself: the idea of a world conflict was probably already in the head of Hitler).

This shelter, which was accessible directly from the cellars of the Old Chancellery, took, subsequently, the name of "Vorbunker" (anterior bunker), to distinguish it from the true bunker of Hitler, known as "Führerbunker."

Figure (2) shows the Old Chancellery equipped with the Vorbunker.

Hitler immediately did not like the decadent aspect, worn-out and "fin-de-siècle" of the Chancellery and defined it as "head office of a factory of soap."

After a little meditation he called Albert Speer, the young architect that stood out with the realization of buildings and choreographic backgrounds in Nuremberg, and asked him to build a new Chancellery, worth of the Third Reich.

It is worth to mention, shortly, what happened, according to Speer's "Memories."

At the end of January 1938, Hitler officially summoned Speer in his working room communicating him, in solemn tone, that he had to submit him an urgent charge. Having scheduled meetings of the maximum importance he needed great rooms to make hit, mainly, on heads of state and government of minor importance. He put, therefore, at Speer's disposition the whole Voss Strasse.

No worry for the costs of the work, but it had to be a very rapid and solid job. How long did he need? For Hitler two years, even one year and a half were too much; in short, could the new Chancellery be ended for 10 January of 1939 (Figure 3 shows the Hitler's order to build the New Chancellery)?

Speer departed as a rocket for this foolish enterprise.

That it was a real enterprise, Hitler confessed it on the occasion of the covering of the roof of the Chancellery: "My General Inspector to the Constructions asked me a couple of hours to think about and the evening, returning to me with the calendar of the works he told me: on such a day of March the demolitions will be completed, on August first the roof will be covered, on January 9th 1939, mein Führer, I will communicate you that the works are ended.

I am an expert, I know about architecture, I know therefore what the thing means: a case like this never happened, it is an unique enterprise."

In truth, Speer confessed that this enterprise was the charge that, in all his life, he took with greater superficiality.

Speer immediately started to demolish the houses of the Voss Strasse and parallelly prepared the front elevations and the planimetries of the building.

One of the greater worries of Speer in this challenge against time, were the carpets, the enormous carpets, knotted by hand, destined to the great rooms of the building. Speer ordered them fixing dimensions and colors even before knowing how the rooms would result. Paradoxically, the carpets were not made on the size of the rooms but the rooms were meant with reference to the carpets.

Speer avoided to make a plan too detailed about the beginning and the delivery of the works because, so doing, he would show that the enterprise was impossible. He preferred to work of improvisation. Figure (4) shows the yard for the construction of the Chancellery and gives a visual idea of the awful commitment lavished for the realization of the work.

The area made available to Speer was of lengthened form, not precisely rectangular and invited to arrange the rooms around a longitudinal axis.

The New Chancellery incorporated the pre-existing Borsig Palast.

As it can be observed by Figure (5): the entrance was through a great front door facing the Wilhelm Platz, a courtyard of honour, and from this, after climbing a monumental staircase, reached a reception room from which entered a long hallway with mosaic walls.

After some steps, crossed a circular dome room, there was a gallery, 145 meters long. This gallery thrilled Hitler because its length was more than twice the Mirrors gallery, in Versailles.

Up to now the visitor would have overcome a following of rooms different for materials and colours, with a total development of 220 meters. Only after this long run one entered the Hitler's office.

This orgy of architecture represented, according to what the author said, a "triumph of the effect" as that of the Baroque art (see Figures 6, 7 and 8). Hitler exclaimed, impressed by the work, that the visitors would not miss to get a first idea, crossing so many rooms from the entry up to his office, of the greatness and of the power of the Reich.

Hitler showed a feverish constructive anxiety that brought him to stimulate the advancement of the works. In the speech pronounced on the occasion of the covering of the roof of the New Chancellery he told workers: "By now we don't follow anymore the American rhythm. Today we follow the German rhythm that is swift also in politics and, if it is possible to annex a country to the Reich in the turn of three or four days, it doesn't have to be impossible to put up a building in one year or two."

The New Chancellery of the Reich was meant to be ready on January 9th, 1939. On January 7th, Hitler reached Berlin clearly waiting to be in front of a chaos of workers and teams of cleaners.

But Hitler was wrong. Since the beginning Speer calculated to have a reserve of time to use but, as no reserve had been utilized, the new building of the Chancellery was ready 48 hours before the foreseen date for the delivery.

Speer underlines, with pride, that on January 9th, when he went to visit it, Hitler would have been able to go to take seat straight to his desk and to deal, immediately, with his affairs. The building impressed him a lot and he didn't skimp the praises to the "clever architect". Speer, having completed his assignment two days before, acquired the fame of great organizer.

Hitler liked, above all, the long "march of approach" that the official guests would have to walk to reach the room of reception.

He did not share Speer's worries for the floor of smoothed marble that would have been logical to cover with a runner. "And it is really here the beautiful one!" Hitler said. "The diplomats have to know how to move on a slippery ground!"

The working room met his unconditional admiration; he liked, above all, the inlay of the desk, that represented a sword half unsheathed.

"Well, well, seating in front of me and watching it, the diplomats will learn what fear is".

This was the last centre of command of Hitler above ground level. The following one was under it in the bunker, 150 meters distant, protected by meters of concrete.

4500 persons worked in two turns so that the construction was ready on the established date.

When Hitler turned the regards to all the workers that realized the building, in the Sport Palace, he could not refuse to exclaim: "Everyone of you has collaborated to a work that for centuries will witness our time: the first architectural work of the new great German Reich!"

Hitler often asked who, among his guests, had not seen the Chancellery yet, and he was happy to show it. In occasions like this, Hitler demonstrated, in front of the amazed visitors, his exceptional memory. To start he asked Albert Speer the sizes of a room, and since the architect, embarrassed, didn't know how to answer, it was him to point out the dimensions, and his data were always exact.

Little by little Speer and Hitler started to play, cards open, because also the architect learned the dimensions by heart. On the other hand, being clear that the Führer liked the thing, Speer came into play.

I apologize with the readers for my long description of such architectural challenge, represented by the New Chancellery.

The work can be criticized for its manner and its megalomaniac tone. But, as for every work that faded away, the regret remains.

Now, after the destructions caused by the Anglo-American air-raids, by the cannon shots of the Russians and after the following demolition and removal of the rests, done in the years of the immediate post-war, only the marbles used for restructuring the subway station "Mohrenstrasse" remain to witness the shine of the finishes of the Chancellery.

These residual plates of marble, together with the few lamp-posts still working not away from the place of the Chancellery, are the only rests of the great monuments dreamt , projected and realized by Albert Speer, together with his patron Adolf Hitler.

To synthesize the realizations existing in the years immediately following 1939, Figure (9) shows the context of the New Chancellery, of the Old Chancellery (with the incorporated Vorbunker) and the gardens of the Chancelleries.

The New Chancellery didn't have a proper bunker but the cellars, projected by Speer, could easily be turned into shelters.

A tunnel, realized before 1940, connected the New Chancellery to the Vorbunker of the Old Chancellery.

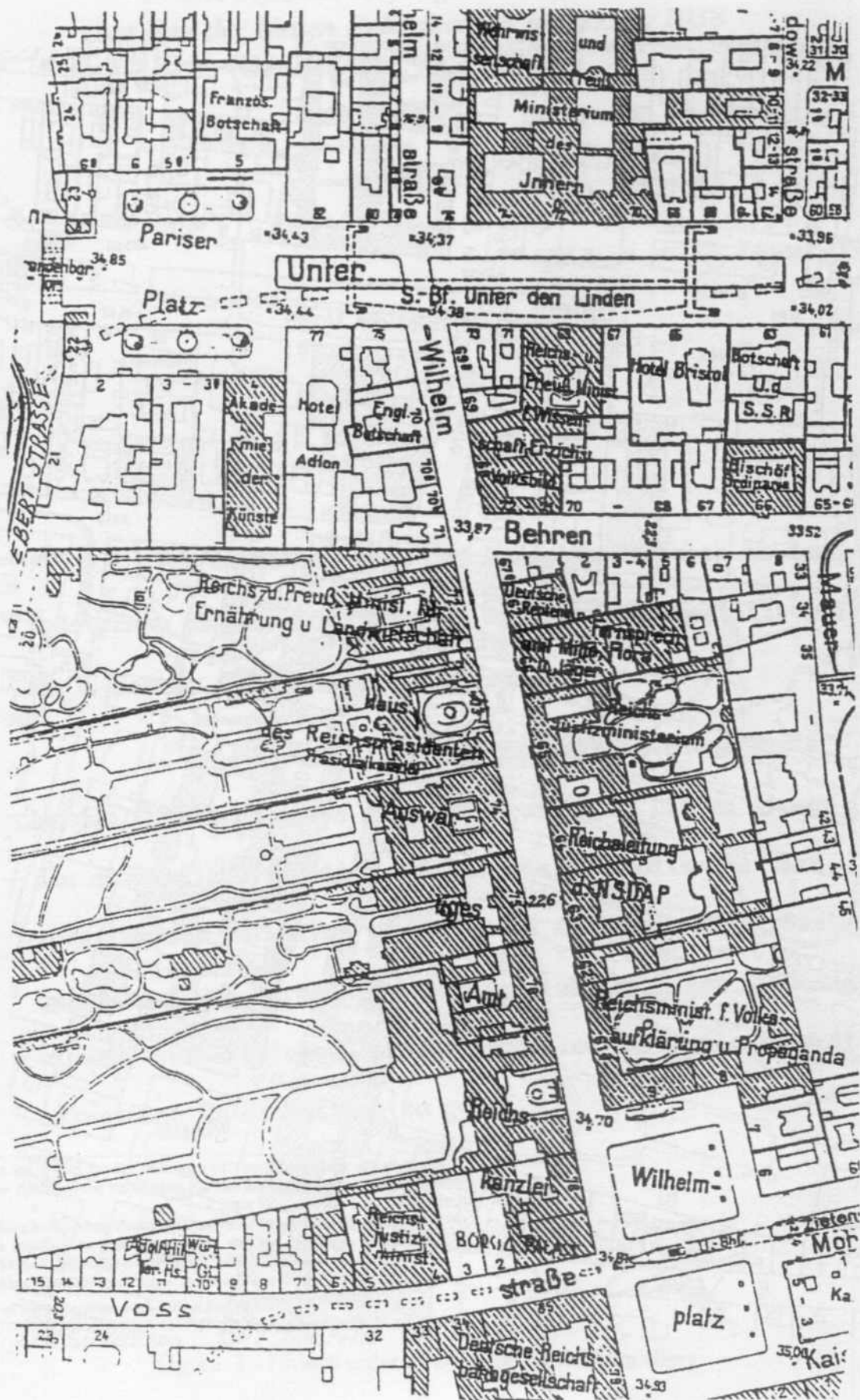


Figure 1 – The “Quadrilateral” before 1936

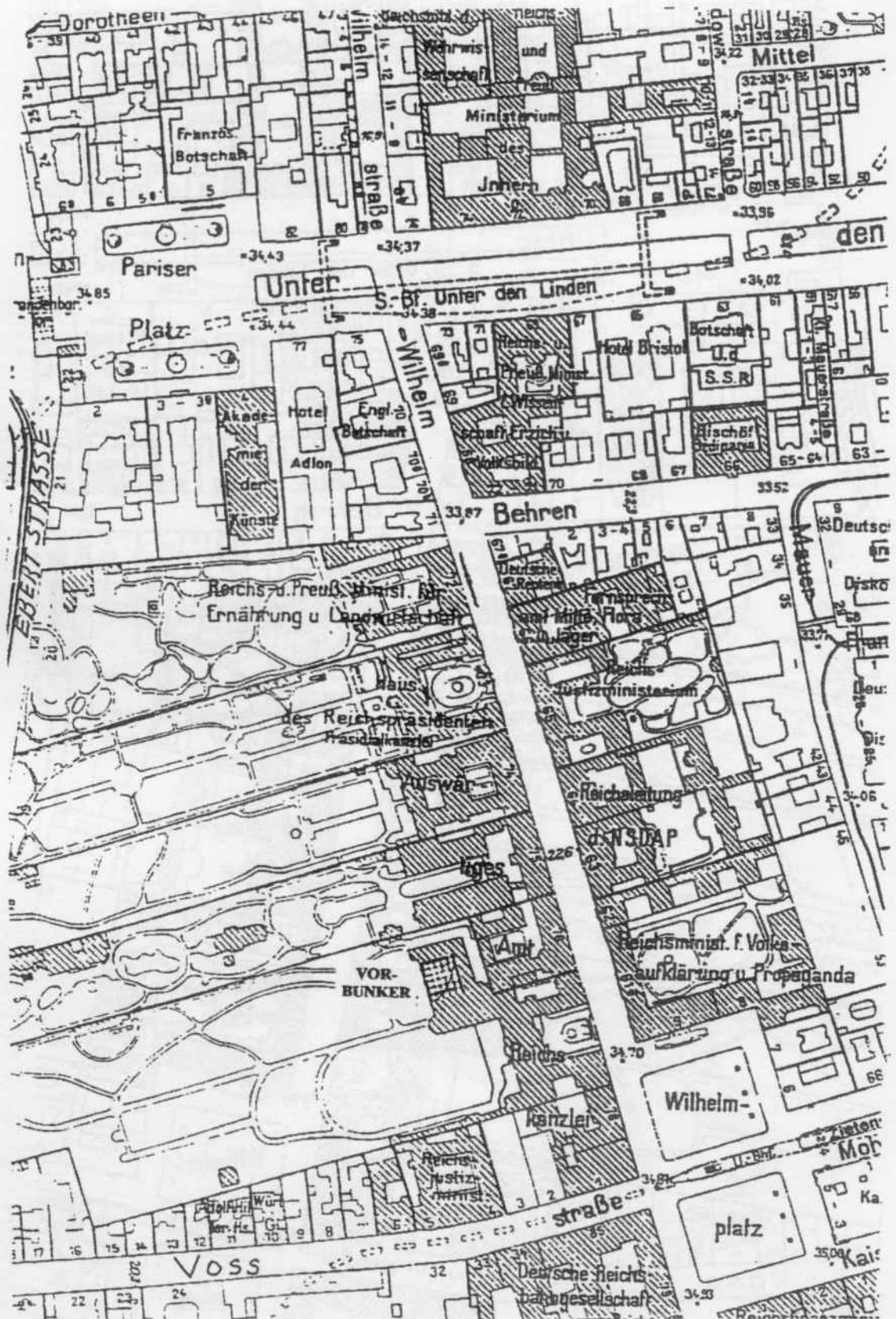


Figure 2 – Old Chancellery + Vorbunker in 1936

**I Die offizielle Auftragserteilung Hitlers
zum Bau der Neuen Reichskanzlei am 27. 1. 1938
(BA Koblenz, R43II/1052)**



ADOLF HITLER

BERLIN : 27. Januar 1938.

**Ich ordne an, dass das Gesamtbauvorhaben in der
Voßstrasse im Rohbau bis zum 1. August fertiggestellt und
am 1. Januar 1939 bezugsfertig ist.**

**Alle der Einhaltung dieses Termins entgegenste-
henden Schwierigkeiten sind zu beseitigen. Die zu diesem
Bau notwendigen Arbeiten und Materialbeschaffungen sind
vordringlich vor allen vorliegenden Aufträgen mit grösster
Beschleunigung durchzuführen. Sämtliche Behörden sind ange-
wiesen, zur Erreichung dieses Bauzieles der Bauleitung die
notwendige Unterstützung zu geben.**

I order that the works for the buildings of Voss Strasse are completed to the roof the first August and ready for the inauguration on January 1^o 1939.

The difficulties to the observance of these terms must be removed.

The works required to this construction and the supplying of materials will be performed, following every order, with the maximum quickness.

All the Authorities are committed to give the necessary support to the attainment of the objectives of the Direction of the works.

Figure 3 - Hitler's order to build the New Chancellery

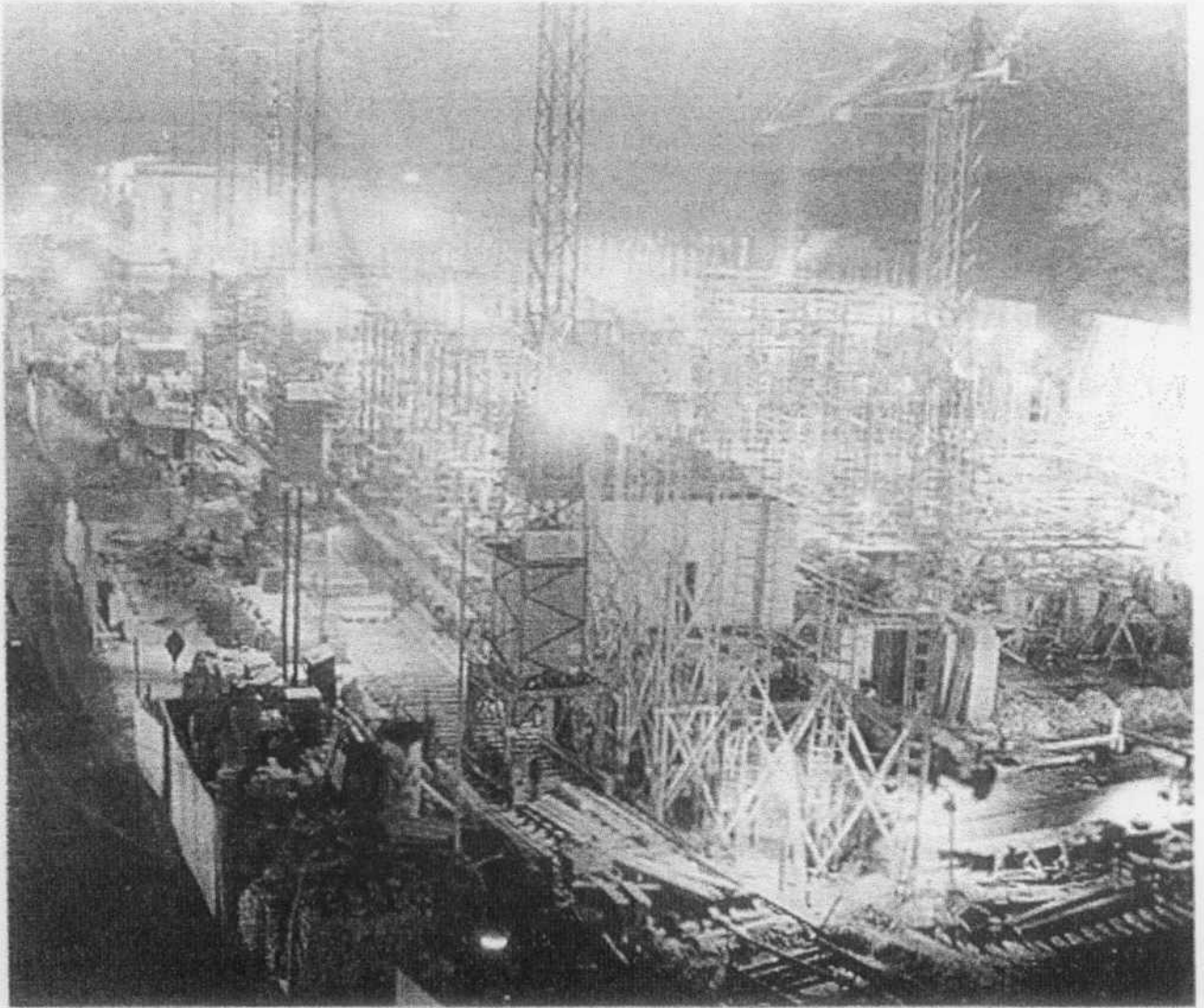


Figure 4 - Yard of the New Chancellery (1938)

Description of the New Chancellery's rooms:

- (1) COURT OF HONOUR
- (2) RECEPTION-ROOM
- (3) MOSAIC HALL
- (4) ROTUNDA
- (5) MARBLE GALLERY
- (6) HITLER'S OFFICE
- (7) MINISTERIAL CABINET
- (8) GREAT FEAST ROOM
- (9) DINING-ROOM
- (10) VOSS STRASSE ENTRY

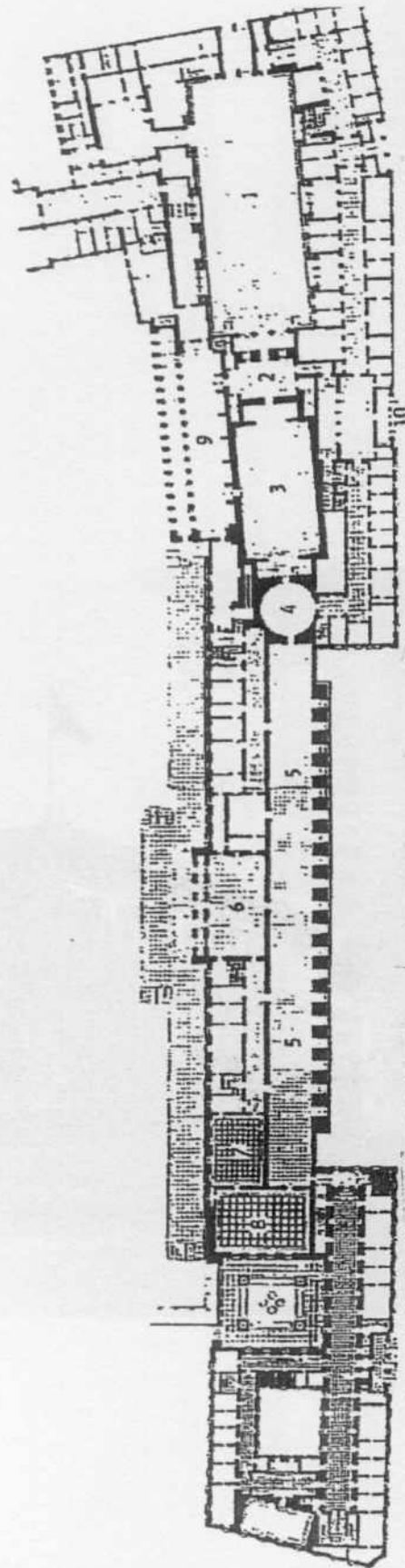


Figure 5 – Map of the New Chancellery



Figure 6 – New and Old Chancellery (right) – (1939)

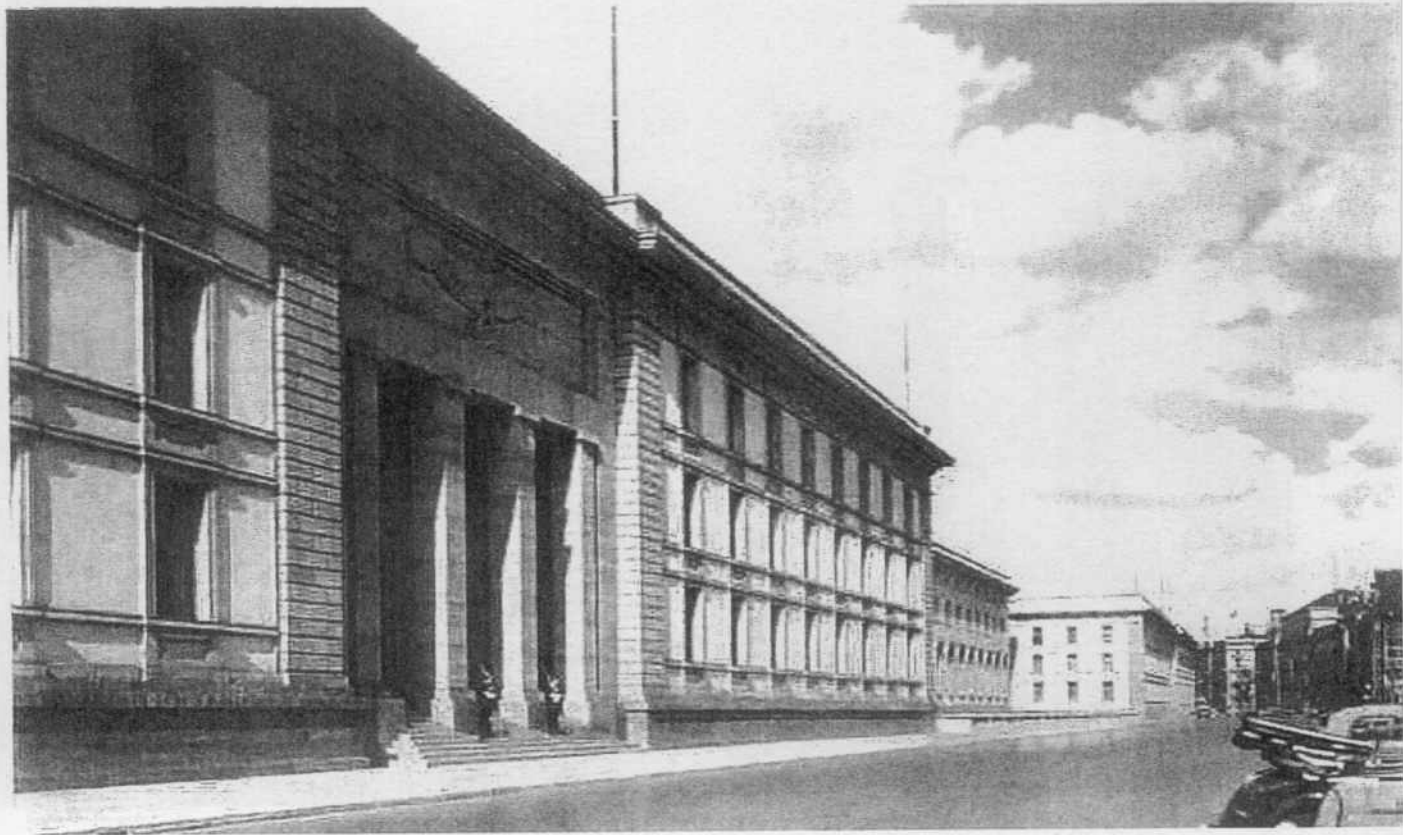


Figure 7 – New Chancellery on the Voss Strasse (1939)



Figure 8 – New Chancellery: Gallery of Marbles

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE VORBUNKER
(AS IT WAS)

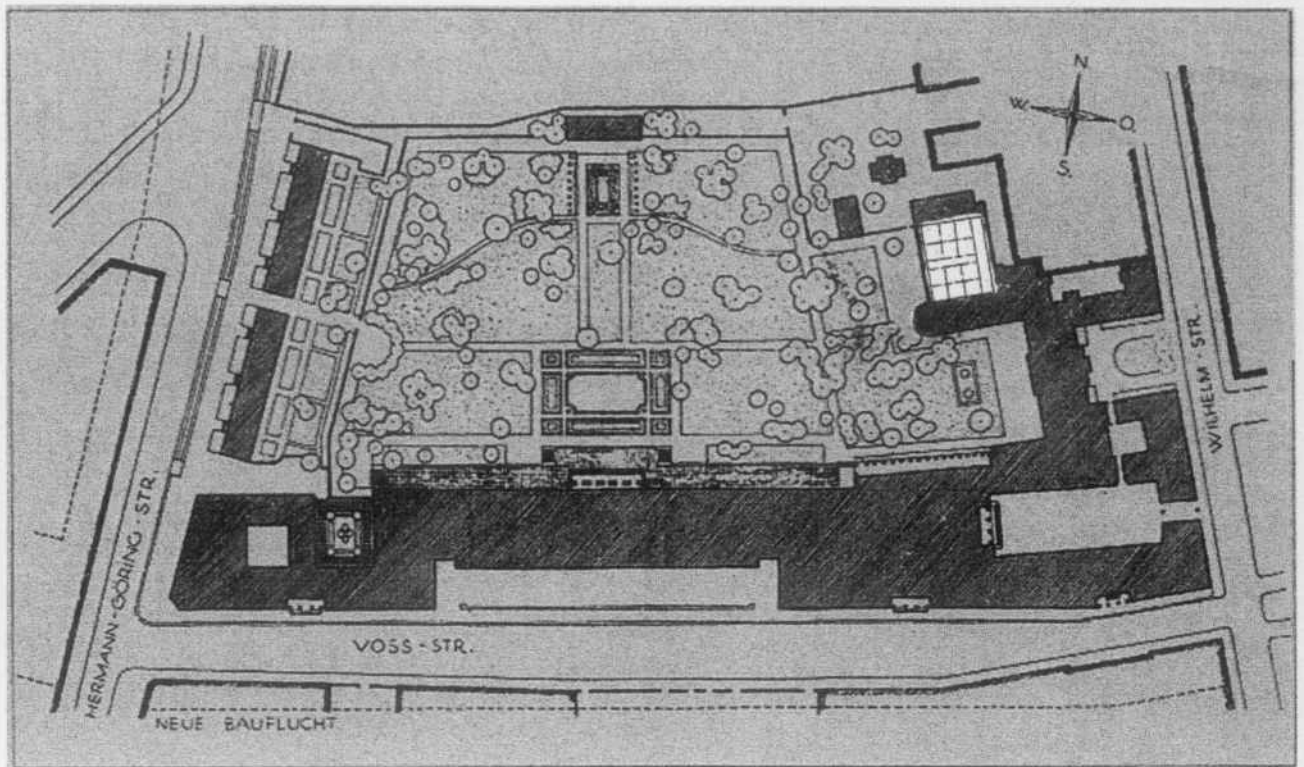


Figure 9 - Vorbunker in the Old Chancellery

THE REALIZATION OF THE VORBUNKER (AS IT WAS)

As anticipated in the previous Chapter, in 1936 the Old Chancellery was equipped with an anti-aircraft shelter. It was possible to enter directly the shelter from the cellars of the reception-hall of the Old Chancellery.

This bunker took the name of Vorbunker (anti-bunker) to distinguish it, after 1943, from the one built, lower, and with more powerful structures, to shelter Hitler and his staff: the Führerbunker.

The original documentation collected in my search among the files of the Berlin Bundesarchiv, in November 2004, shows the main phases of the Vorbunker realization.

The most meaningful part of the Old Chancellery, for the sake of the description of the subsequent Vorbunker, is shown in Figure 10.

The map, of 1930, is signed by the "Atelier Troost", the great architect of the Führer. Troost was a "master" and Hitler considered himself his affectionate pupil.

In 1925, therefore not yet in power, Hitler had decorated with professor Paul Ludwig Troost the insides, drawn doors, furniture and inlays for the restructuring of the Barlow palace in Munich, subsequently become the "Brown House".

At the death of Troost, Albert Speer will take his place in Hitler's consideration and heart.

Figure 10, even if "dirty" by the effects of time, shows, on the right, the great reception-hall and, on the left, the winter-garden.

On the future installation there is no sign of an anti-aircraft bunker. At that time Hitler was not yet in power.

Five years later, in 1935, the Atelier Troost draws the project for the realization of an anti-aircraft shelter under the Old Chancellery (Figure 11).

The bunker appears, clearly, to be built under the reception-hall.

The external size of the Vorbunker is 21 by 21 meters; the external walls have an already considerable thickness, of 1,30 meters, and its coverage reaches 1,60 meters of thickness.

One can enter the bunker from the staircase in the low, on the left side of the map. The staircase on right is used as emergency exit. The north side of the bunker has an exit towards two lateral ramps of staircases.

We will see later the destination of the single rooms of the Vorbunker.

The depth and the thickness of the Vorbunker coverage are well visible in Figure 12. This Figure is a section drawn along a vertical axis of the bunker, as it appears in Figure 11 (the sight is turned towards left).

The Vorbunker shows its strong external walls, the powerful coverage and the internal walls, dissected at the height of the doors. Oddly the central wall doesn't show the presence of a door (thing observable also from Figure 11). Who planned it evidently decided to open it in further time.

The ramp of staircase on the right is one of the two staircases shown in the higher part of the bunker, as it results from Figure 11.

The height of the rooms, 3,08 meters, must be considered as notable, being it a shelter. In the Führerbunker, that will be built in 1944, the height will be almost the same

Very important is the indication of the depth of the Vorbunker floor (5,18 meters) because it will allow to determine, in the next Chapter, the one of the Führerbunker (of which don't exist any maps of the original project).

In Figure 13 the Section of the bunker is along a horizontal axis and faces the south side of the map represented in Figure 11. Above the earth level it appears the front of the Old Chancellery, oriented towards the inside gardens. Those circular windows, actually meant to get light and air, will become famous in all the photos of the external structures of the Hitler's bunker, before and after their destruction.

Up to this point, Figures have shown us the 1935 project. The Vorbunker will be realized in 1936.

The following Figure 14, is of 1937 and shows some variants, projected for the already existing bunker.

Put in "final draft" and cleaned up the Troost original project of all the details, of the original notes, written by hand, and of the damages of the reproductions along the time, the Vorbunker appears in all its geometric perfection in Figure 15.

We will see the destination of the rooms of the Vorbunker in Figure 16.

The "legenda" of the destinations of the rooms generates some reflection:

- the bunker has a power-room (6), toilet and laundry (3-4), a cafeteria (5) and kitchens (7-8).
- Pay attention the rooms (13, 14, 17 and 18) because they are those inhabited by the Goebbels family: here will happen the tragedies described in the next chapters.

The Vorbunker has an external surface of 441 square meters and an inside surface ("trampling", as it is said now) of 339.

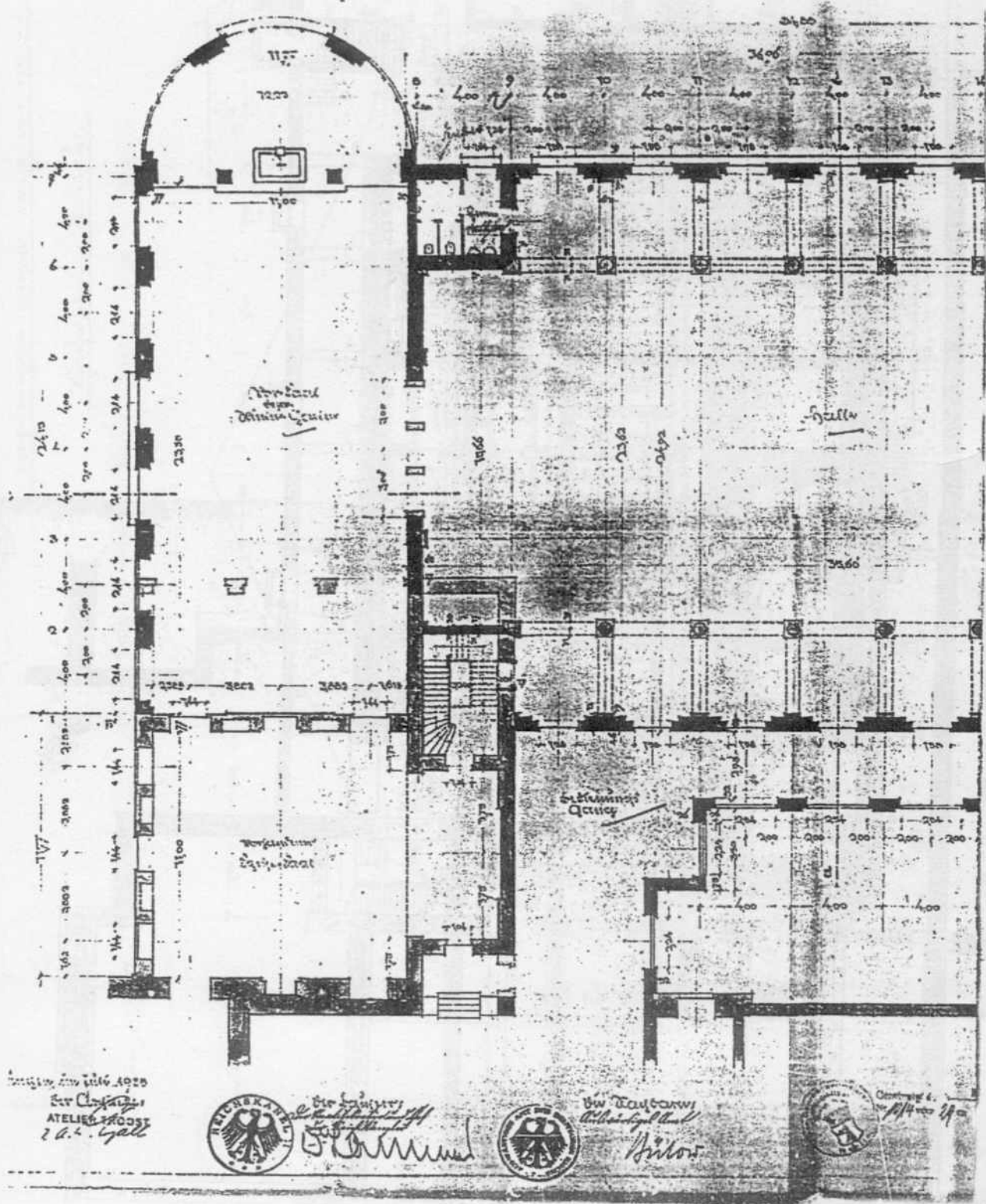


Figure 10 – Map of the Old Chancellery (partial)

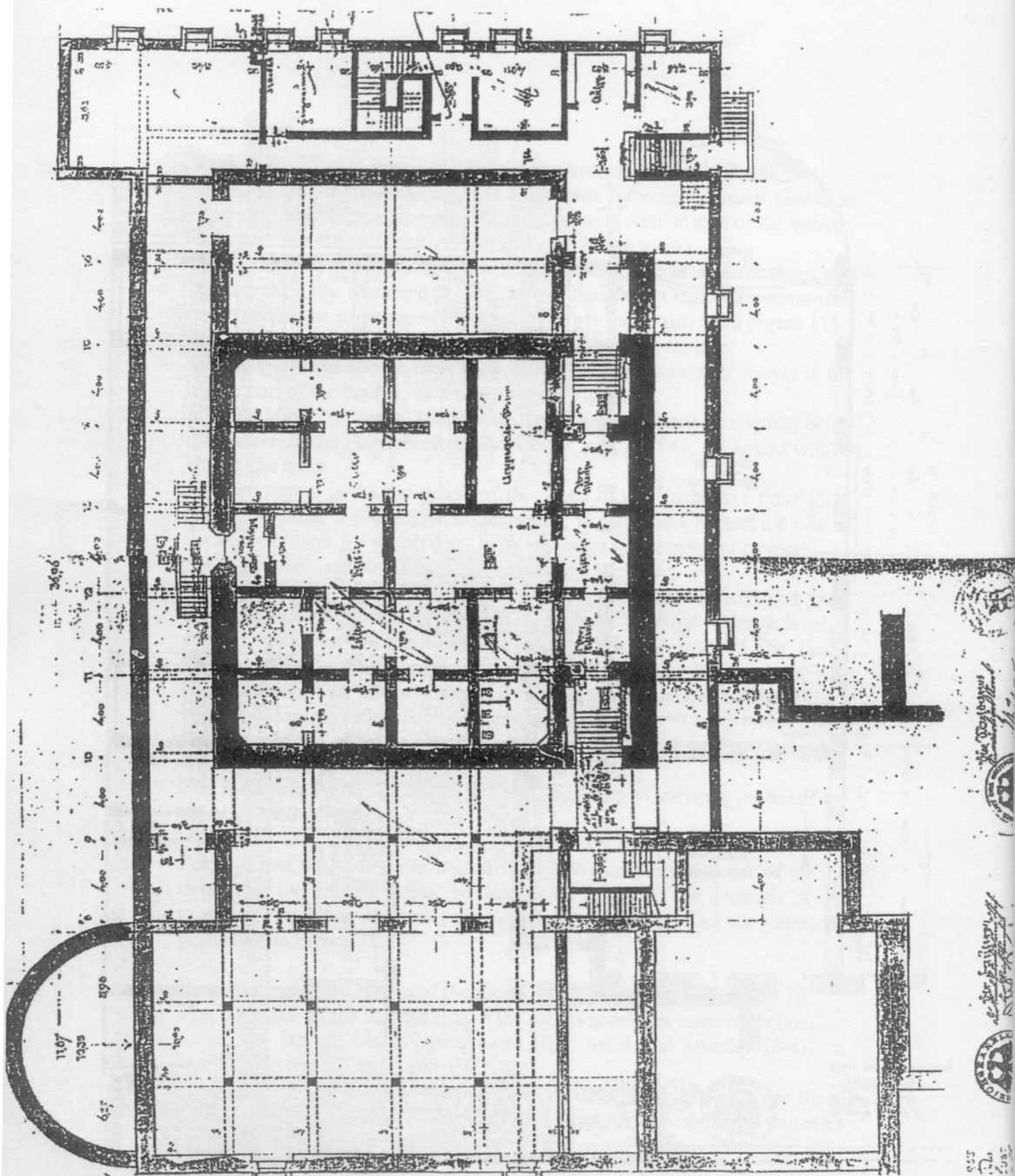


Figure 11 – Map of the Old Chancellery with the Vorbunker

Umschlagraum des Inn. U.Kriegsraum - vor. T.

Spitzhaal - Schnitt

Stärke 1/100.

Stärke a-b.

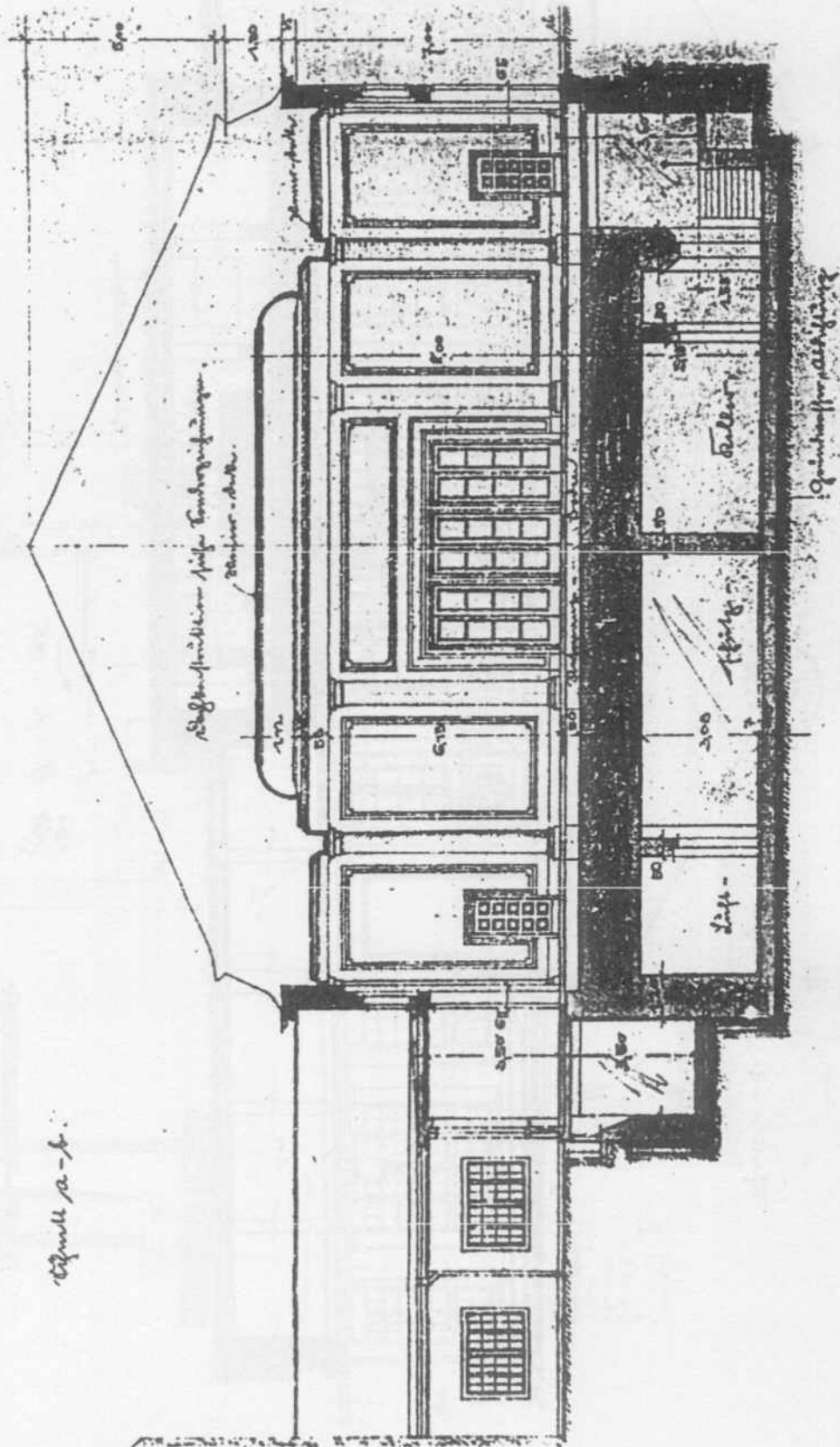


Figure 12 - Section of the Vorbunker along a vertical axis - Atelier Troost, 1935

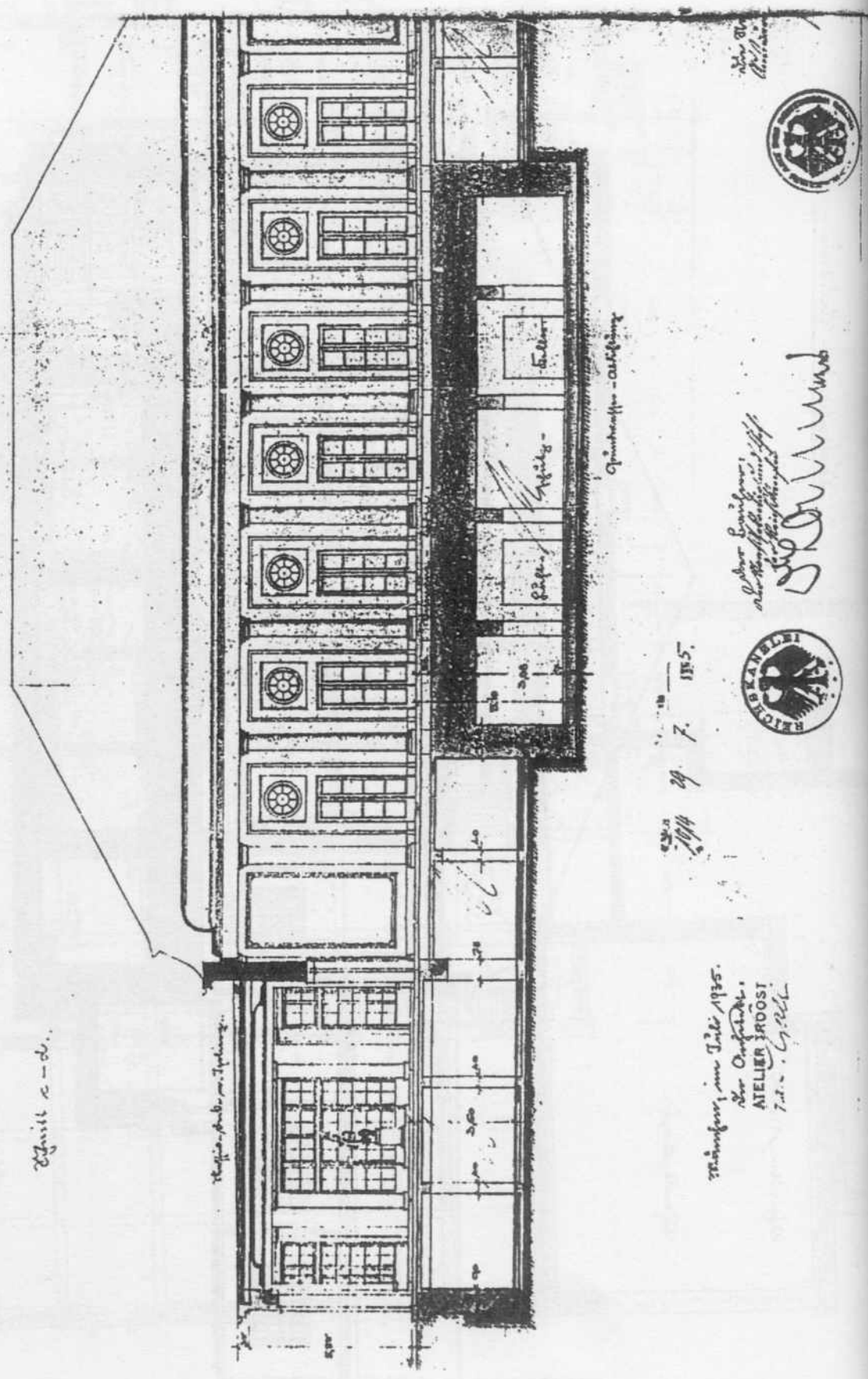


Figure 13 – Section of the Vorbunker along a horizontal axis – Atelier Troost, 1935

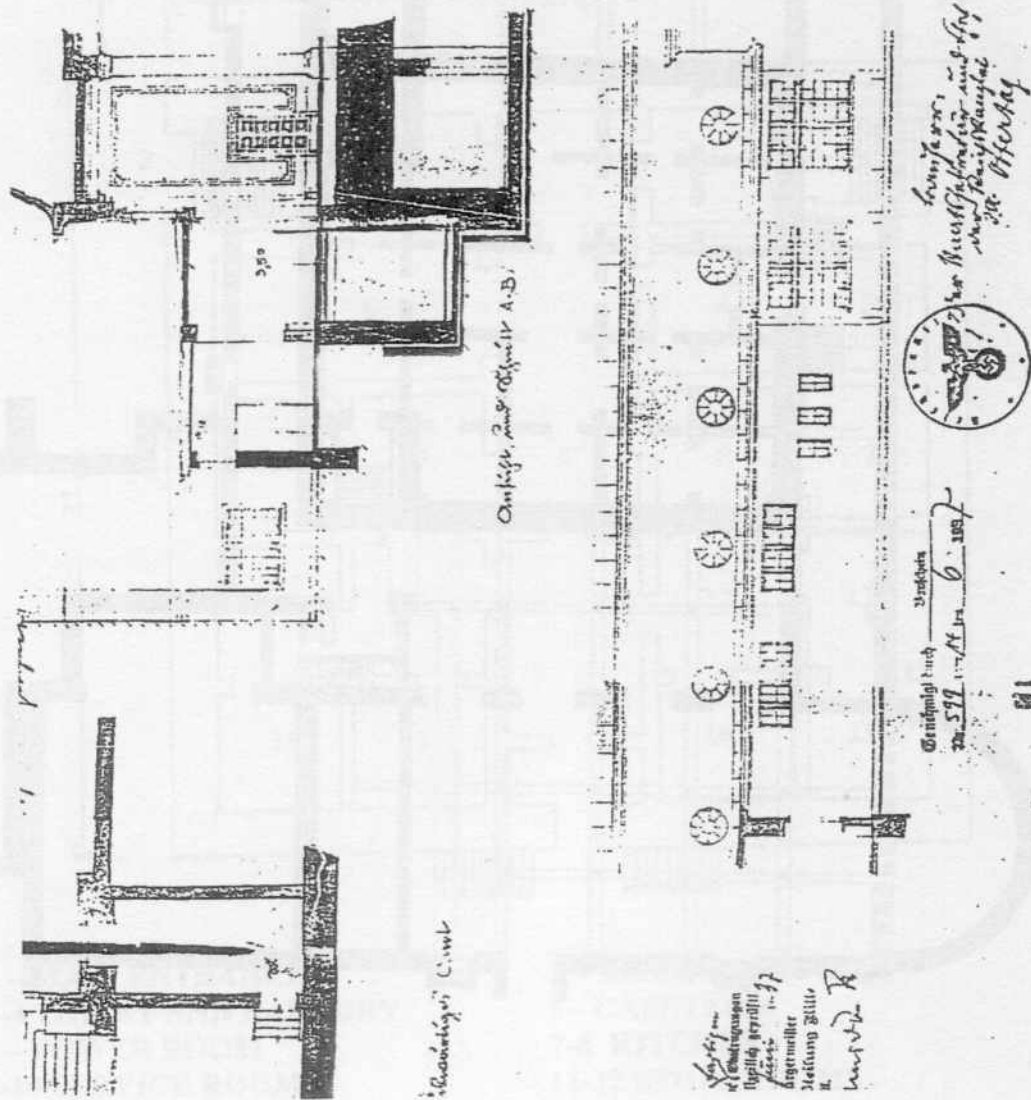


Figure 14 – Particular of the Vorbunker section – Atelier Troost, 1937

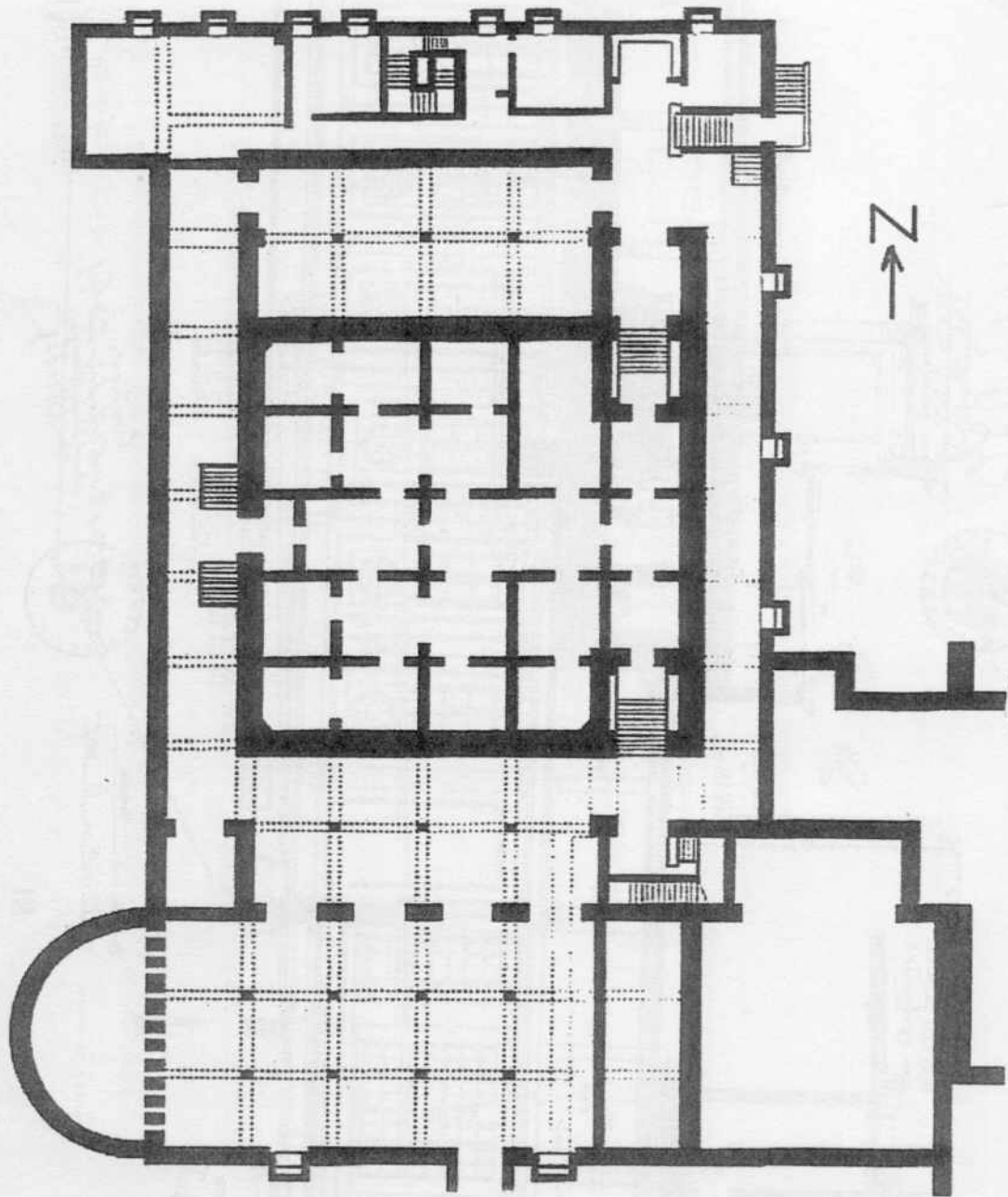
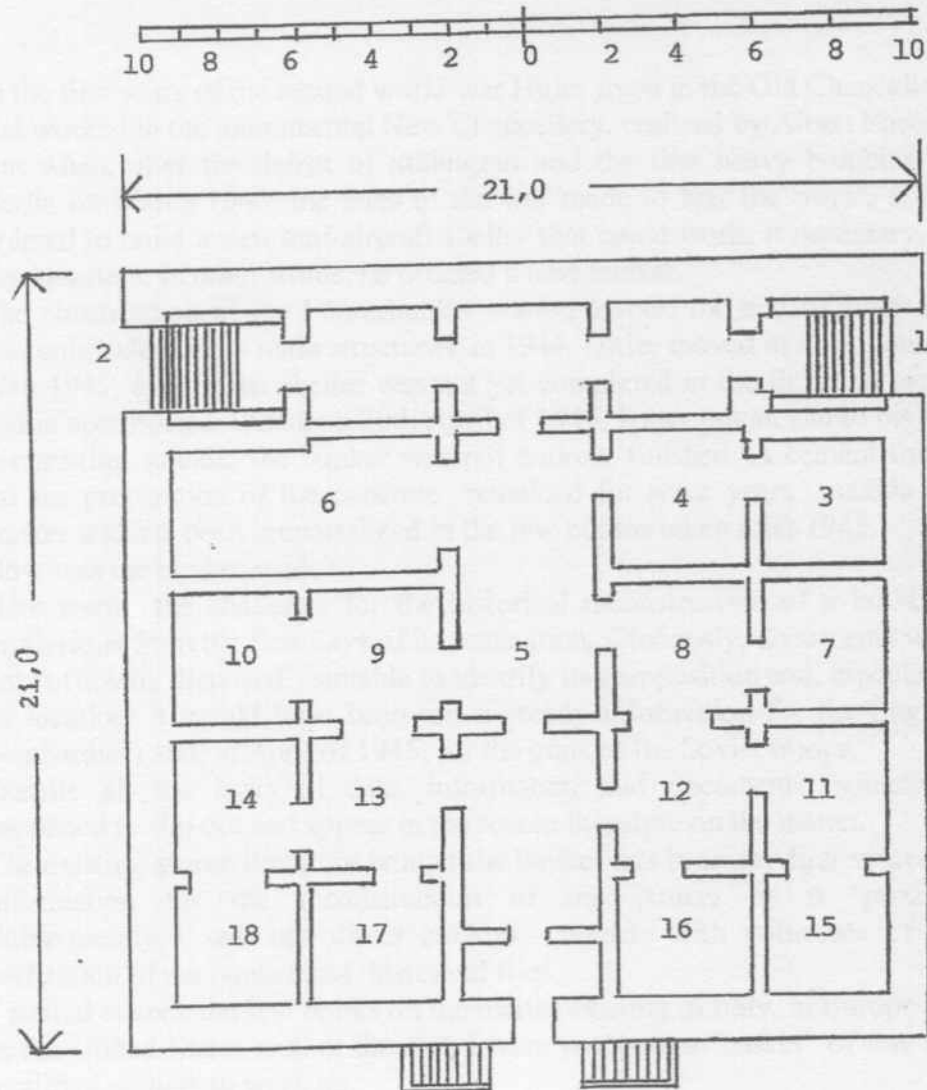


Figure 15 – Cleaned-up map of the Old Chancellery with the Vorbunker

VORBUNKER

(ANTI-BUNKER)

THE REALIZATION OF THE FORTRESS BUNKER
AS IT WAS



- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1 - MAIN ENTRANCE | 2 - EMERGENCY EXIT |
| 3-4 TOILET AND LAUNDRY | 5 - CAFETERIA |
| 6 - POWER ROOM | 7-8 KITCHEN |
| 9-10 SERVICE ROOMS | 11-12 STOREROOMS |
| 13-14-17-18 ROOMS OF THE GOEBBELS FAMILY | |
| 15-16 LUGGAGE ROOMS AND VARIOUS SERVICES | |

Figure 16 - Map of the Vorbunker with the destination of rooms

THE REALIZATION OF THE FÜHRERBUNKER (AS IT WAS)

In the first years of the second world war Hitler lived in the Old Chancellery and worked in the monumental New Chancellery, realized by Albert Speer. But when, after the defeat of Stalingrad and the first heavy bombing of Berlin on March 1943, the fates of the war made to fear the worse, Hitler ordered to build a new anti-aircraft shelter that could work, if necessary, as headquarters. In other words, he ordered a new bunker.

The construction of the Führerbunker started toward the end of 1943 and was concluded, in its main structures, in 1944. Hitler moved in it on January 16th 1945, even if the shelter was not yet completed in the finishing touch and in accessories. When, on 30th April of 1945, Hitler put an end to his life committing suicide, the bunker was not entirely finished. A cement mixer for the preparation of the concrete remained for some years outside the bunker and has been immortalized in the few photos taken after 1945.

How was the bunker made?

Here starts the challenge for the historical reconstruction of a building, mysterious from the first days of its realization. Obviously, documents were not "officially disposed", suitable to identify its composition and, especially, its location: it would have been too a greedy information for the English bombardiers and, in April of 1945, for the guns of the Soviet troops.

Despite all the lacks of data, information and documents, something happened to slip out and appear in the scarce literature on the matter.

The existing scarce literature around the bunker has been my first source of information for the reconstruction of the bunker as a "puzzle". Subsequently I will use direct surveys, contacts with witnesses of the realization of the bunker and historical files.

I started to seek the few books on the matter existing in Italy, in Europe and in the United States and, at the end, I have made up a "basket" of few and qualified authors to work on.

If we leave out various sources, luckily found through Internet, the authors to which I have initially made reference are: Albert Speer, James P. O'Donnell, Hugh Trevor-Roper, Hugh Thomas and Ulrich Volklein.

I will say a few words on everyone of these sources.

Albert Speer has been the architect of the Führer and, from 1942, Minister of the Armaments. Entered the court of Hitler's intimates and though wrapped by the gears of the dictatorship he succeeded in remaining, in that menagerie of beasts, a human being. Towards the end of the war he dissociated from the visions of his patron and he disobeyed the order to transform Germany in "burnt earth." He meditated even to kill Hitler with gas. At the trial of Nuremberg he was the only accused who assumed his responsibility as member of a criminal regime; this behavior saved his life. He was condemned to twenty years of jail that he expiated in Spandau.

His book "Erinnerungen" (Memories of the Third Reich) makes a basic document and quite objective to understand from the inside Hitler's mind and nazism. His recalling of the leaving moments from Hitler, in the bunker of death, are upsetting.

James P.O'Donnell was one of the first Americans to inspect the Hitler's bunker after the fall of Berlin. He entered the bunker on 4 July of 1945 and, since then, he didn't stop investigating on the events happened in that infernal cube. He succeeded in interviewing, during years, fifty survivors of the catastrophe.

He did not call himself a historian but, on the contrary, a "ringer of bells." His book "The bunker" is a milestone for those who want to cross the interlacement of the tragic events through alive testimonies.

Hug Trevor-Roper, young official of the Allied Secret Services was entrusted to make light on the last dramatic days of the Third Reich. As did O'Donnell, he picked up witnesses and memories of the survived protagonists, reconstructing the end of Hitler and nazism. His book "The last days of Hitler" is a report of notable weight and reliability.

Hugh Thomas, surgeon of international fame, working on documents, coming from the Soviet files, not available for a lot of time, and using witnesses of experts, tells, in his book "The truth about the bodies in the Berlin bunker", the events of the last days of war in the Hitler's shelter.

Ulrich Volklein, journalist of "Zeit" and "Stern", wrote historical and political essays. First, he was able to view the secret dossiers related to the death of Hitler, preserved in Moscow. Looking into the files of KGB he tells in his book "Bunker" the tragic last hours of Hitler and Eva Braun.

I must confess that this chapter, meant to describe "how" the bunker was made, has been for me very tiring and troubled. I have realized, after the study of the various sources and the comparative analysis of the various parameters of identification of the bunker structure, that I had to face the following difficulties:

- the incoherence of the data and information coming from the various sources
- the incoherence of data and information inside the same source
- the reliability of the information
- the global "squaring" of the various realities examined.

The various sources did not result converging on some fundamental aspects as, for instance, the depth of the bunker, the thickness of walls and coverings and the depth of the impending ground.

Therefore, I have had to go back to the origin of every datum, making reference to the context in which it was inserted, to the time of the drawing up and to the purpose of the investigation.

To my further surprise I have ascertained that some author was not coherent "inside himself", also contradicting himself on quantitative data, where it could be easier to verify the "squaring" of the information.

I had, then, to weigh the reliability of the various information to the light of the context in which they were inserted and of the purpose of the document.

Albert Speer, for instance, writes in his "Memories", referring to Hitler: "I remember him next to me, lowered on the maps of Linz, absorbed in the contemplation of the dreams of the past. His office, protected by five meters of concrete and by two meters earth, was certainly the surest place in Berlin...". Then he continues in excellent way, dealing with the touching events that preceded the suicide of Hitler. It is evident that Speer had neither the objective nor the interest to communicate a size datum on the structure of the bunker; it is only an information " about atmosphere."

Furthermore, the letter written by Albert Speer to Robert Campbell in 1976 (shown in the page 49 bis) in reply to his request of information on the Hitler's bunker, confirms that the architect did not keep memory of the realizations carried out under his jurisdiction.

When, on the contrary, an author tells us how many steps had the staircase of the emergency exit of the bunker, after having come down and climbed them many times, in that time he wants to give us a precise datum.

I had, in the end, to face the check of the "global squaring" of the examined reality. Let us keep in mind that the spatial context of the bunker location includes, besides the bunker of Hitler, that is the Führerbunker, also the anti-bunker, that is the Vorbunker, the cellars of the Old Chancellery from which was taken the latter, the emergency exit of the bunker, the watch tower and the whole network of staircases and relative steps.

Analyzing the various sources I got myself, for the aforesaid incongruities, into a fix of data and non convergent information that would not have allowed me to reach unique and certain results.

Unfortunately I had to ascertain that the most famous historical sources, included the prestigious books of Trevor-Roper and O'Donnell, most valid for the reconstruction of the events happened inside the bunker up to the final tragedy, were inaccurate and often fanciful for the purpose of this book: the reconstruction of the places where the vicissitudes of the Third Reich happened and finished.

I succeeded in exactly recomposing sizes, depth and features of the two bunkers thanks to four further precious sources:

1 - the documents (maps and prospects) gathered in the Berlin Bundesarchiv,

2 - the documents (maps and prospects) gathered in the files of Stasi,

3 - the information, graphs and photos that Erhard Schreier gave me on my visit to his atelier. Schreier is the last person that photographed the operations of "destruction" of the Vorbunker and of the Führerbunker in 1988, few months before the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the DDR,

4 - the witness and the information given to me by Rochus Misch, the telephone operator of the Führerbunker, the only survivor among the persons present inside the bunker in the tragic days of the end of April 1945.

I decided then, to begin to solve the "puzzle" of the bunker working piece by piece: this was the only approach to reach the final "assemblage" of the bunker.

The pieces on which I worked are the principal explaining parts of the structure of the bunker: found out these components it resulted easy enough to work out the whole.

The components I took into consideration are:

- 1 - THE DEPTH OF THE BUNKER, intending for depth that of the "walking floor".
 - 2 - THE THICKNESS OF THE COVERING OF THE BUNKER, that is the concrete slab of the bunker.
 - 3 - THE THICKNESS OF THE EXTERNAL WALLS
 - 4 - THE NUMBER OF STEPS TO CLIMB FROM THE BUNKER TO THE EMERGENCY EXIT IN THE GARDEN OF THE CHANCELLERIES
 - 5 - THE THICKNESS OF THE EARTH ABOVE THE BUNKER
- And:
- 6 - THE MAP OF THE FÜHRERBUNKER

With these elements we can say we have done the "identikit" of the bunker and we are able to represent it. Now we see, one by one, the 6 components above listed.

1 - THE DEPTH OF THE BUNKER

According to the various sources examined, the depth of the bunker varies from the 16,5 meters of O'Donnell, to the 15 meters of Trevor-Roper and various Internet sources, to the 12 meters of Volklein and Der Spiegel, and to the 17 meters of Thomas.

I believe that the various sources have to be valued: the greatest reliability, with reference to the measures of the bunker, should be given to O'Donnell that, besides visiting the bunker in July 1945, has focused his book on the events occurred "in the bunker" while other authors have described the historical events making reference to a vast scenery.

O'Donnell has gone up and down the bunker many times, he counted the steps and the ramps (44 steps on 4 ramps) and he valued the depth of the bunker: "fifty-five feet below ground level", 55 feet, equal to 16,5 meters.

Unfortunately, we meet with the first case of inside contradiction: how do make 44 steps to total 16,5 meters high? Each should be tall 37,5 centimeters! Steps of this size don't exist and are not used, even in a steep underground staircase.

There is incoherence; one of the two data is wrong. But which one of the two? O'Donnell has crossed the steps many times, he memorized and marked them but he was not able to measure the size of the bunker in height.

And this for a simple reason: because nobody, apart the builder of the bunker, can materially measure, with a rod or a metric small wheel, the height of a construction drowned in the subsoil. The only way to induce it, is to measure number and height of the steps: therefore we reject the 16,5 meters of O'Donnell.

A height "limit" of the steps, of 30 centimeters, gives a depth of 13,2 meters; a more reasonable height of 27 centimeters brings it to 12 meters.

This size of 12 meters goes to coincide with that shown by Volklein when he speaks of a depth of 12 meters for the bunker of Hitler.

Remember that Volklein has viewed the secret dossiers, regarding the death of Hitler, preserved in Moscow.

Also Der Spiegel affirms, in its service of the n° 14/1995: "Die Sohle lag zwolf Meter tief", that the ground is 12 meters deep.

What Trevor-Roper says leaves perplexed: "Under the Old Chancellery and its garden, 15 meters deep, during the war a big Bunker had been built which was possible to reach from the New Chancellery, through a room of service called passage of Kannenberg".

It is noticed that the matter of the depth is almost occasional, inside an ampler narration, articulated in the description of the "lay-out" of the bunker.

In the end the 17 meters deep, pointed out by Hugh Thomas, seems not only exaggerated but also incoherent with the other two indicated measures: the thickness of the covering of the bunker of 5 meters and the thickness of the earth, above the bunker, of 4,5 meters. If we add these last two measures (that we will subsequently see as reliable) result 9,5 meters: remain 7,5 meters to attribute to the height of the rooms of the bunker! Therefore, I reject the 17 meters of depth.

Other comparisons that we will meet in the next chapters, when I consider new documents, have made me exclude this datum from the rose of the most convergent ones.

Therefore, appraised the various sources, I would have to adopt, as depth of the bunker, the 12 meters of Volklein, of Der Spiegel and, indirectly, through the hypotheses done on the steps of O'Donnell.

For my fortune the four precious sources above mentioned (Bundesarchiv, Stasi, Schreier and Misch) have easily enough taken me out of this labyrinth of numbers.

The starting point for this operation "depth of the bunker" is the vertical section of the Vorbunker as it results from Figure 13, where is clearly shown the depth of the Vorbunker's floor in 5,18 meters (sum of the 3,08 meters of the room, plus 1,60 of the coverage, plus 0,50 of the slab of the Old Chancellery's floor).

To go down from the Vorbunker to the Führerbunker they realized a "spiral staircase", on which the "schools of thought" of all historians of the Hitler's bunker are divided.

The first big misunderstanding in which fell even "giants" as Trevor-Roper and O'Donnell is of having defined this staircase as a true "spiral staircase", that is with a semicircular plant and with the steps curved towards left, with larger footstep on the right side and tending to zero on the left side.

Almost all the reconstructions, in plant, in perspective and in axonometry, compiled by the various sources, show this staircase gracefully wrapped itself sloping down towards the floor of the Hitler's bunker.

It happened that what was improperly defined as "at spiral" or "semicircular" by the two aforesaid historians has been taken "as true" and represented in plant using compasses and rays.

Also Anton Joachimsthaler, author of a ponderous and authoritative book on the bunker, "The last days of Hitler", represents this staircase as "left-hand circular".

Before referring to "serious" sources that dismantle this interpretation, I would like to make a half-serious reflection: do you imagine how many times the generals and all the officers daily summoned by Hitler would have fallen down, with their imposing boots on those narrow fleeing steps? In other words, this type of staircase would have proved very little "martial."

Well, this staircase was not semicircular but shaped at "C", with two ramps, respectively of 4 steps (the first one) and of 9 steps (the second), that turned of 90 degrees towards left, going down from the Vorbunker to the Führerbunker. The third "arm" of the "C" was plain and represented a kind of entry hallway to the Führerbunker.

By the way, also O'Donnell (who speaks of 10-12 steps) and Hugh Thomas (who points out in 12 the number of the steps) draw near to their exact number.

These 13 steps (that is 15 "elevations") had a height of 20 centimeters and therefore they created a **gradient between the floors of the two bunkers of 3 meters.**

Adding such 3 meters to the 5,18 of the depth of the Vorbunker's floor, the real depth of the floor of the Hitler's bunker is obtained: 8,18 meters, that we can easily approximate to 8,20 meters!

The photos taken in 1974 by the technicians of the Stasi in their inspection to the two bunkers (Figure 17), the graph drawn by Schreier in 1988 (Figure 18) and the direct witness of Rochus Misch, confirm the shape "square turning" of the staircase ramps.

When I placed this question to Misch: "You, that climbed and came down this staircase many times, tell me: was it circular or square?" he answered in a very eloquent way. He shaped with his finger a great rectangle on the table saying: "It was so."

In conclusion: we have the exact depth of the bunker: 8,20 meters under the level of the gardens of the Chancelleries.

2 - THE THICKNESS OF THE COVERING OF THE BUNKER

Here the most reliable sources value a thickness that goes from the 4,80 meters of O'Donnell ("The buried roof of this bunker was sixteen feet thick") and of the Internet pages of Wiesenthal, to the 4,88 meters of the report drawn up in 1946 by the Soviet colonel Osipov ("on the bunker has been spread out a covering of cement of...4,88 meters), to the 5 meters valued by Speer and Thomas.

The most reliable thickness should range around 4,80-4,90 metres even if Der Spiegel publishes a representation of the bunker with a thickness of the covering of 3,5 metres.

But, also here, the authority is the precise measure taken by Schreier in 1988 and the photo shown in Figure 47 of Chapter 12, where also the comparison with the height of the worker on the surface gives a visual idea of the thickness.

The thickness of the covering of the bunker is exactly of 4 meters!

It's an enormous thickness, about one meter higher than a modern flat. That's why the Russians and the Germans of the DDR never succeeded in dismantling the bunker: it was an enterprise that required awful explosions and great clamour, under the sight of the Allies, on the other side of the Berlin wall.

3 - THE THICKNESS OF THE EXTERNAL WALLS

On this aspect the sources vary: they go from 1,80 meters of O'Donnell ("The exterior walls, six feet wide") to the 2 meters of the Internet page "motlc.Wiesenthal" (the walls were six and a half feet thick") to the 2,2 meters of Der Spiegel.

Therefore, the thickness of the walls to accept would have had to be 2 meters.

But also in this case the bunker literature has taken us out of the way.

The only one to have indeed measured the thickness of the walls has been, once more, Erhard Schreier who had the fortune to be on the bunker the exact moment when it was brought to light by the destroying action of 1988.

Figure 19 shows Schreier's draft, drawn during the measurement and it says that **the thickness of the external walls of the Führerbunker is 4 meters.**

4 - THE NUMBER OF STEPS TO CLIMB FROM THE BUNKER TO THE EMERGENCY EXIT IN THE GARDEN OF THE CHANCELLERIES

Once again, the first source to mention it is O'Donnell, according to whom the staircase that led to the Führerbunker emergency exit was made up of 4 ramps of 11 steps each, for a total of 44 steps.

Other sources quote numbers greater and smaller than 44.

Speer remembers, in his *Memories*: "the assistant of Hitler returned and told me: "The Führer would like to speak to you." How many times, in twelve years, Hitler had summoned me with this same stereotyped formula! But I didn't think to the past going down the fifty steps that took to the subsoil. I only wondered if, this time, I would have climbed them up again safely".

Do you think that in that state of mind Speer worried if the steps were 50 or 44? Then we don't consider this number.

Der Spiegel, in its mentioned work, speaks of 37 steps ("Ein Notausgang führte über 37 Stufen in den Garten"): how can the number of the steps be odd if the ramps were four?

It remains unexplained, however, the mystery of the 36 steps quoted by the Russian Osipov in his report on the bunker. May be that Osipov referred to the steps that brought from the bunker to the watch tower.

This was connected to the bunker, through a skylight, by a iron staircase that could have a different number of steps of that one that connected the bunker to the emergency exit. Besides, the floor of the tower could be on different level of the plan of the garden.

In short: taken into consideration that the height of the steps to go down to the Vorbunker of the Old Chancellery was **18 centimeters** I adopt it also for the **44 steps** of the long staircase of the four ramps that led from the Hitler's bunker to the level of the Chancelleries gardens.

5 - THE THICKNESS OF THE EARTH ABOVE THE BUNKER

On this aspect I am forced to abandon all the contradictory sources and to rely on arithmetic.

Let us see what the sources say: Der Spiegel and Speer speak of 2 meters earth and the Internet page Wiesenthal of 1,80 meters (6 feet). It seems to be a convergence of sources, but the 9 meters (30 feet) of depth quoted by O'Donnell make doubt the credibility of these data.

On what Speer said, referred to the protection of five meters of reinforced concrete and to the two meters of earth that made the bunker the surest place in Berlin, is worth to make some thinking.

We have already done the first reflection: Speer is remembering, with emotion, the last days spent with his great patron Adolf Hitler, therefore it is of no importance to him the circumstance if the protection was 5 meters or the ground above the bunker was "only" 2 meters.

Second reflection: as confessed, in his Memories, Speer didn't pay a lot of attention to the detail of the dimensions: as all good architects he was more a visionary and an artist than a technician, absorbed by calculations and measures. Then he didn't make any effort to remember these aspects.

I had the opportunity of verifying this peculiarity of Speer when I went to visit the Eagle's Nest, the place preferred by Hitler to relax and to day-dream, on the top of the Obersalzberg, above Berchtesgaden. It is a very impressive construction with a stupendous sight on the Bavarian Alps, up to Salzburg.

In the "Tea room" of this Eagle's Nest, better known as Kehlsteinhaus, Hitler gathered the entourage of his intimates, among them Speer, to surrender himself with his endless monologues. The burning fireplace, the comfortable armchairs and the monotony of the voice of the Führer often induced the poor bystanders to sleep.

I had the pleasure to visit the tea-room with my family and to taste some savoury dishes of the Bavarian cuisine.

Rereading the "Memories" of Speer I noticed, however, another of his mistake in size: "The Tea Room was a circular place, of the diameter of about eight meters, of good proportion, with a series of windows with small panels of glass and, on the opposite wall, a fireplace always burning."

Having been restructured without changes, the Tea Room is still circular, still has a series of windows with small panels of glass, the fireplace is always there, even if out, but the diameter is well greater than eight meters! To excuse Speer we have to remember that his Memories have been written in the jail of Spandau, where he spent the twenty years to which he had been sentenced in the trial of Nuremberg.

Going back to the thickness of the earth, I prefer the arithmetic: since the depth of the bunker has been fixed in 8,2 meters and the thickness of its covering of concrete has been estimated in 4 meters, remain to disposition 4,2 meters to be divided between the covering in earth of the bunker and the height of the rooms of the bunker.

It is not difficult to value the height of the rooms in 3 meters: all the existing photos of the bunker rooms show ceilings one meter higher than the inner doors (normally around 2 meters).

The photo of the conference room put on the cover of the English edition of the Joachim Fest book "Inside Hitler's bunker" (Farrar Straus and Giroux-New York) shows clearly, on the background, the ratio between the exit door towards the gardens of the Chancelleries and the superior limit of the wall on which it opens: the ratio is of 2 to 1.

Therefore, taking off from the 4,2 remaining meters, the 3 meters of the rooms of the bunker, **remain 1,2 meters** to attribute to the THICKNESS OF THE EARTH above the bunker.

This depth has been confirmed by Erhard Schreier in his measurements and appears through the photos taken in 1988 during the works of "destruction" of the bunkers for the building of the new quarters around them: the ground appears very little scratched with a light removal of the layer of the soil impending the Führerbunker covering.

Some other specifications:

First specification: the **emergency exit was about 5 meters** high, as resulted from many comparisons of photos and there are no reasons to doubt it considering that this construction remained, for decades, under the eyes of all the Berliners, in vertical position and up side down. We will have the opportunity of speaking of it dealing with the history and the events of the bunker in the post-war time.

Second specification: the **watching tower was 5 meters tall**, it had three loopholes that could be covered with steel plates that had no connection with the bunker. In the inferior part of the tower, near the wall turned toward the building of the Old Chancellery, there was a skylight from which a staircase went down directly inside the bunker. The skylight was tightly closed with a steel plate. The circumference of the tower was 15,10 meters. This is what Osipov affirms in his report and we don't have reasons to doubt of it.

Also this structure, as the emergency exit, remained exposed in the surface for decades to show the exact place of the bunker.

Now we have all the elements to graphically represent the vertical section of the whole of the two bunkers and the context in which they were inserted (Figure 20).

We have overcome the most difficult part and now we can describe more easily how the bunker was made, watching it from the high (through maps) or in perspective, underlining the rooms, the inside subdivisions, the destination of each room and even their furnishing.

6 – THE MAP OF THE FÜHRERBUNKER

The complex of the two bunkers, watched from the high and in perspective, is represented in Figures (21) and (22).

The classical way to cross the two bunkers was the following: enter from the main door, under the Old Chancellery, going down from its cellar. After this main access it could be possible to enter the Vorbunker through the tunnel coming from the New Chancellery, or from the garden of the Foreign Office.

These three ways converged into the tunnel overlooking the heavy seal door in steel, from which one, entered the corridor, turned to the canteen (cafeteria) for the bunker staff.

As already anticipated in the previous Chapter, the Vorbunker contained 18 small square rooms, of size around three meters by three. These rooms served as kitchen (where the vegetarian meals were prepared for the Führer), as closet, and as lodging for the staff.

Four of these rooms gave hospitality at the end of the war to the whole Goebbels family, made of two parents and six small children.

Following that way, the staircase (above mentioned) went down about three meters to the inferior bunker, the noble one, that gave hospitality to Hitler and his intimates.

Figure (21) shows clearly the destination, of each of the 22 rooms of the Führerbunker: from the one turned into the toilet-laundries, the telephone exchange room and the power room, to the most reserved that gave hospitality to Hitler and Eva Braun, the working rooms of Goebbels (without family, relegated to the superior bunker), of Martin Bormann and of Hitler physicians.

Figure 22 shows their furnishings.

It is necessary to notice that also these rooms were very small (with sides from 3 to 4 meters), damp and, when the plant of ventilation was switched off, smelling nastily. In this bunker also lived Hitler's dog, the Alsatian shephard dog Blondi, and the one of Eva Braun.

The central corridor was divided by a partition wall. The first half was used as real antechamber. The second half was a modest and uncomfortable "room of conferences", where Hitler held the daily meeting with the General Staff.

Hitler had to his disposal a study (anteroom of the living-room), a living-room and a bedroom: all "Spartan", furnished with cheap pieces of furniture. Eva Braun had a bath, a dressing-room and a room with combined function of sitting-room and bedroom. The little room of the "geographical maps" was used for limited meetings. From the "bunker of the dog" a staircase led up to the watch tower.

To synthesize: we can say that the left part of the inferior bunker was destined to Hitler, Eva Braun and their dogs, while the right part of the bunker gave hospitality to Hitler's doctors, Morell and Stumpfegger, to the "utilities", the secretariat and the working rooms of the two more intimate cooperators of the Führer: Bormann and Goebbels.

Following the way, started with the entry from the superior bunker, developed in the coming down "C" staircase and crossing the anteroom and the room of conferences, one entered, through the usual door to watertight seal, a small antechamber turned to guard-room.

From this room, with four ramps of staircases, each of eleven steps, one reached the emergency exit, in the gardens of the Chancelleries (Figure 23).

This figure, a photo coming from the Bundesarchiv of Koblenz, shows clearly how closed the emergency exit and the watch tower were to the Old Chancellery, under which the Vorbunker was located.

The Führerbunker was the last residence of Hitler, a cube of reinforced concrete sunk eight meters under the ground, to a few tens of meters from that mausoleum represented by the New Chancellery, where the trembling guests, after a long and uncertain walking on the slippery marbles that led them to his study, felt fear in front of the Führer of the Third Reich.

SUMMING UP OF SIZES

SIZE	VORBUNKER		FÜHRERBUNKER	
	INTERNAL	EXTERNAL	INTERNAL	EXSTERNAL
LENGTH	18,40	21,00	19,50	27,50
WIDTH	18,40	21,00	19,50	27,50
THICKNESS OF THE EXTERNAL WALLS	1,30		4,00	
LEVEL OF THE FLOOR	-5,18	(GRADIENT: 3,00)	-8,20	
HEIGHT OF THE ROOMS	3,08		3,00	
THICKNESS OF THE COVERING	1,60		4,00	
IMPENDING THICKNESS: - Slab of the Old Chancellery - earth	0,50		1,20	
SURFACE (m2)	339	441	380	756
RATIO BETWEEN SURFACES (EXT./INT.)	+30%		+99%	
VOLUME(mc) Foundations excluded	2.000		5.000	



BStU-Kopie MfS HA IX/11-UTA Nr.6, Teil 2

Bild 36

Figure 17 – Staircase from Vorbunker to the Führerbunker (first ramp), 1974

Albert Speer
dipl. ing.

Heidelberg 22.2.1976

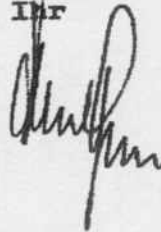
Dear Mr. Campbell,

mit dem besten Willen bin ich nicht in der Lage, Ihnen die gewünschten Details mitzuteilen. Mit der Konstruktion oder den Bauarbeiten des Bunkers hatte ich verständlicherweise nichts zu tun; das war ausschliesslich die Arbeit in eigener Verantwortung von Technikers, die mir nur sehr beiläufig unterstanden und natürlich die Pläne nicht vorlegten.

Manches Detail könnten Sie vielleicht in einem dem-
(in September 1976)
nächst auch in Amerika erscheinenden Buch von James
(Die Katakombe)
O'Donnell entnehmen, der sich viel Mühe gemacht hat, die letzten Wochen Hitlers zu rekonstruieren.

Mit herzlichen Grüssen wünscht Ihnen alles Gute

Ihr



Dear Mr. Campbell,

with my best wish I am not in the condition to give you the desired details. Naturally I didn't have anything to do either with the construction or with the works of the bunker; that was a work under the specific responsibility of the technicians, that reported to me only occasionally and, naturally, the plans were not submitted to me. Perhaps you can find many details in a book that will shortly appear in America (in September 1976) of James O'Donnell (Di Katakombe), in which he has done a lot of work to reconstruct the last week of Hitler.

With kindest regards and the best wishes. Yours,
Albert Speer

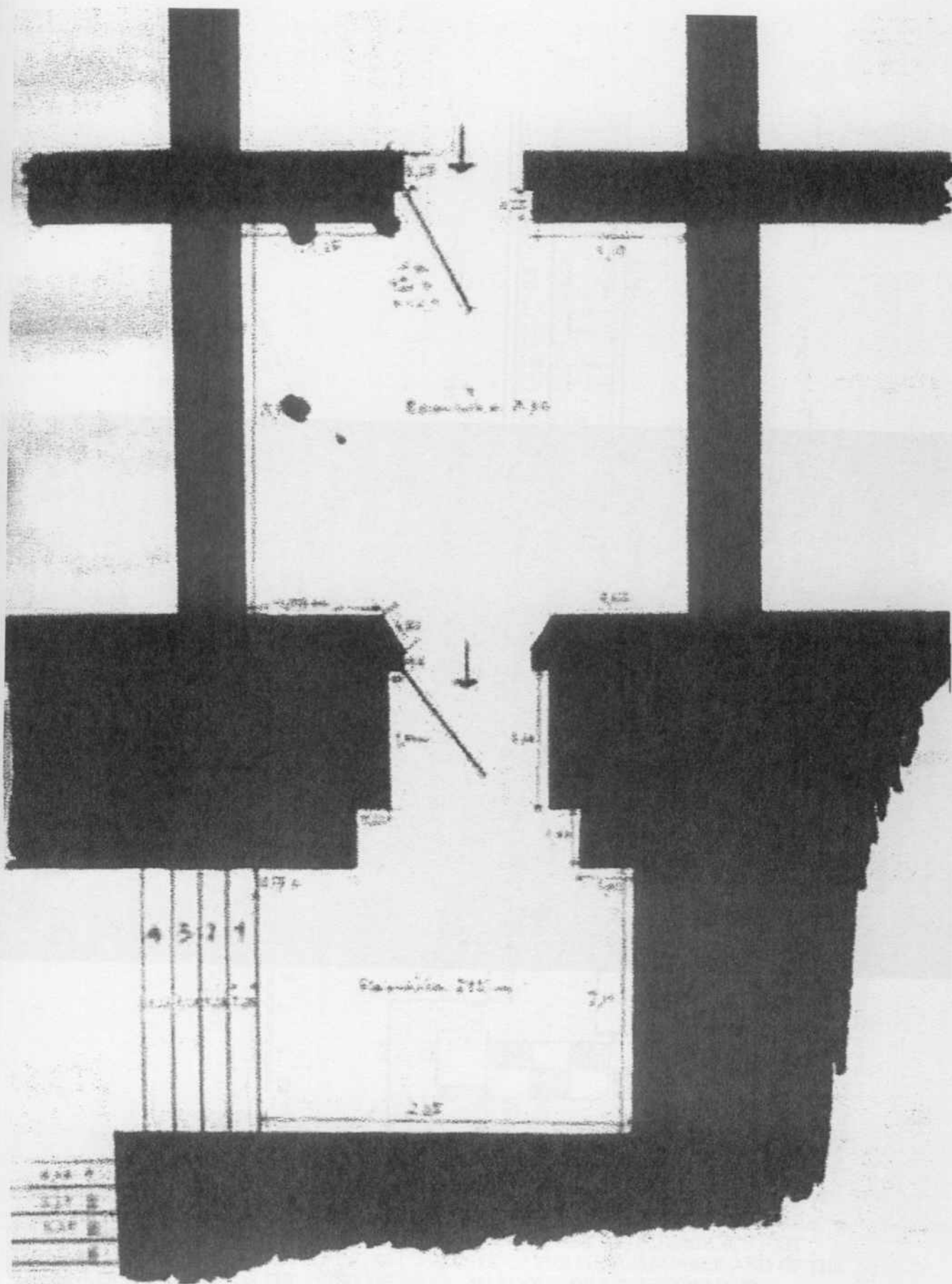


Figure 18 – Staircase from the Vorbunker to the Führerbunker (graph of the first ramp), 1988

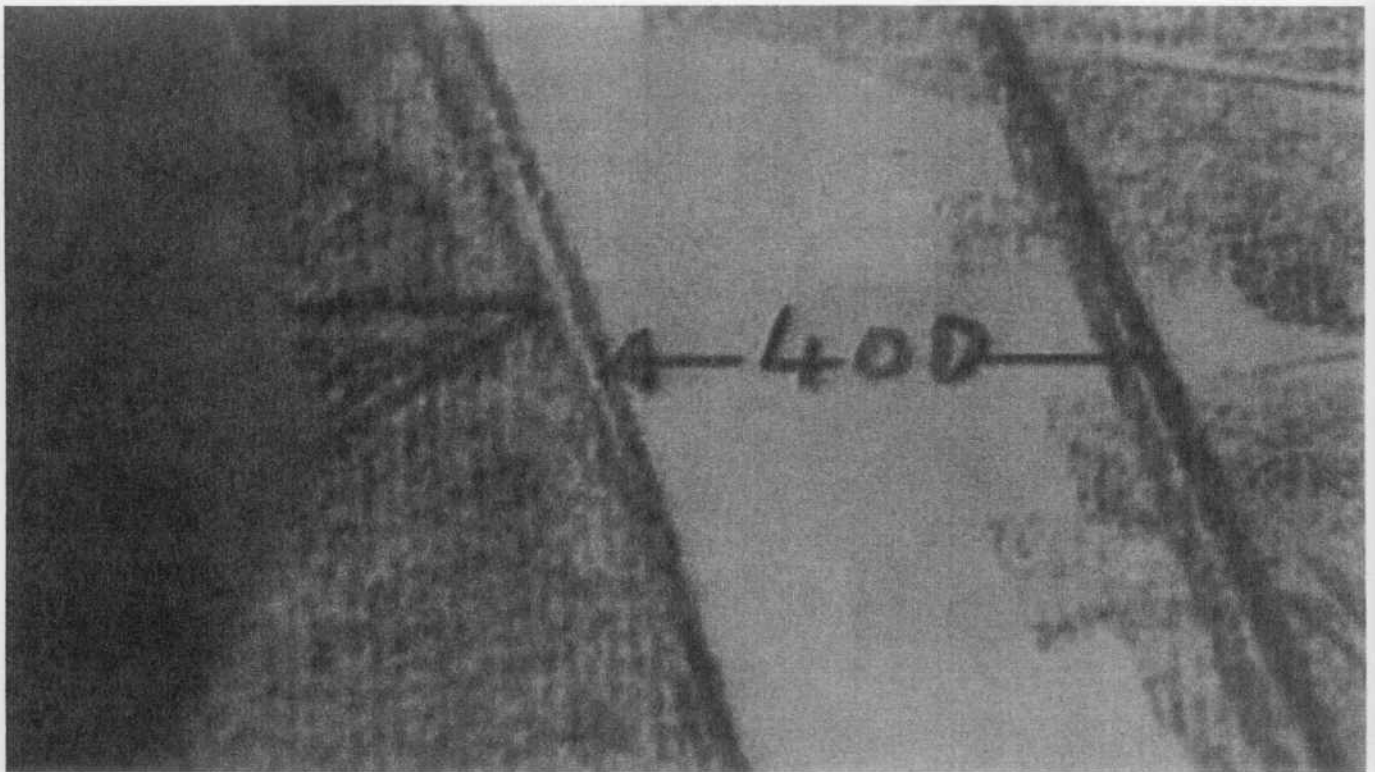
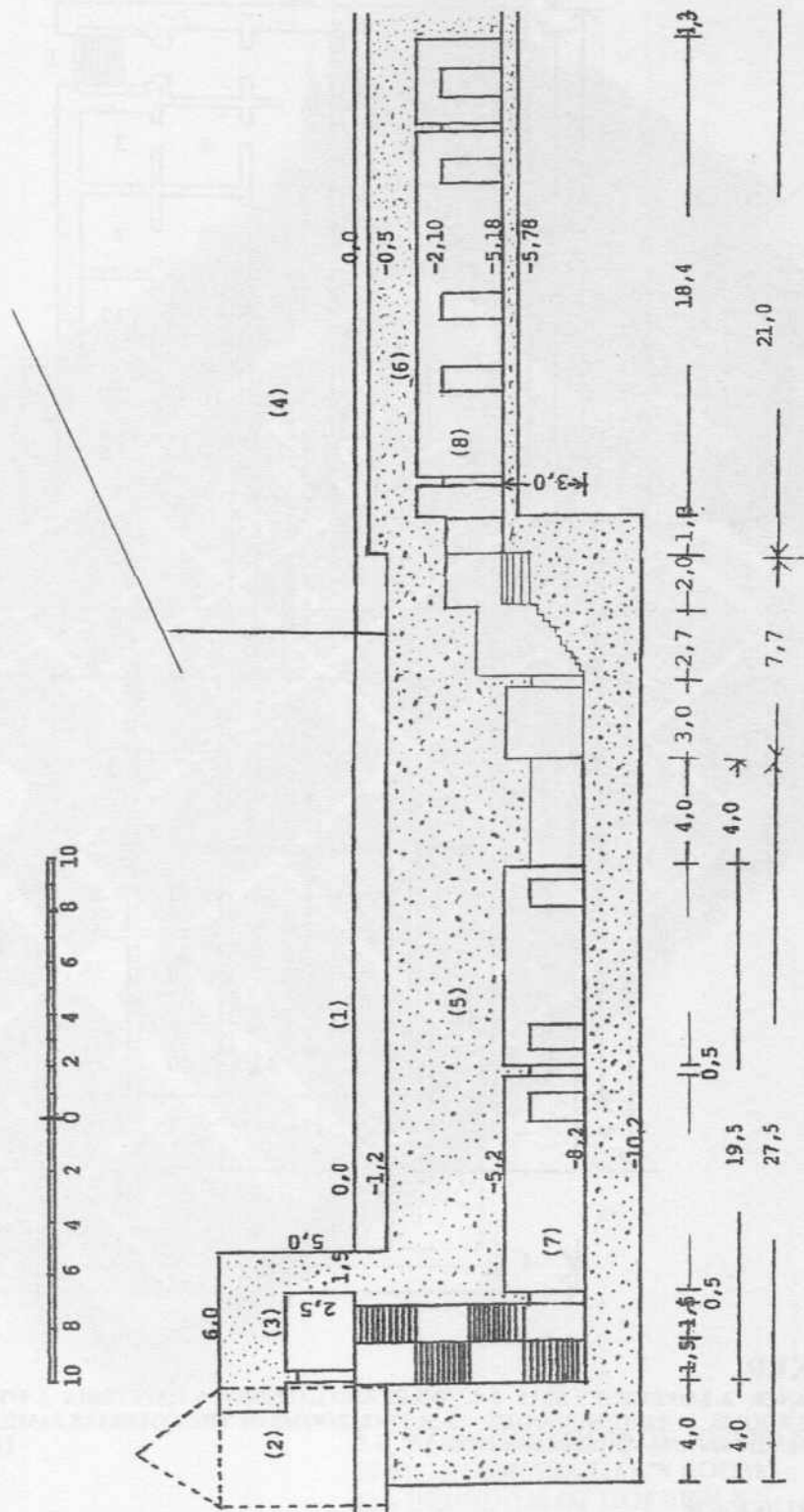
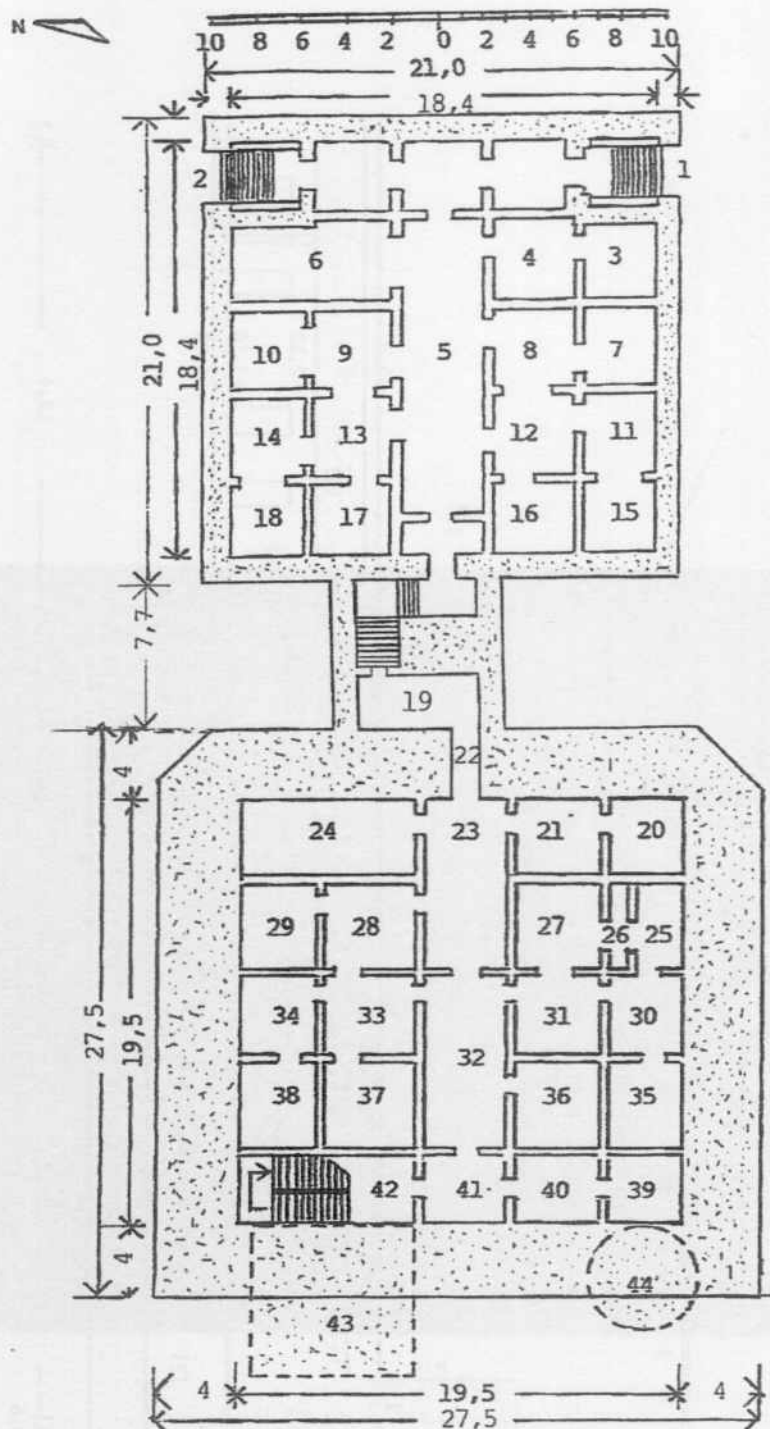


Figure 19 – Thickness of the external wall of the Führerbunker (graph), 1988



(1) LEVEL OF THE CHANCELLERIES GARDEN (2) WATCH TOWER (3) EMERGENCY EXIT
 (4) OLD CHANCELLERY (5-6) COVERING IN CONCRETE OF THE FÜHRERBUNKER AND OF THE
 VORBUNKER (7) ROOMS OF THE FÜHRERBUNKER (8) ROOMS OF THE VORBUNKER

Figure 20 – Section of the Führerbunker and of the Vorbunker



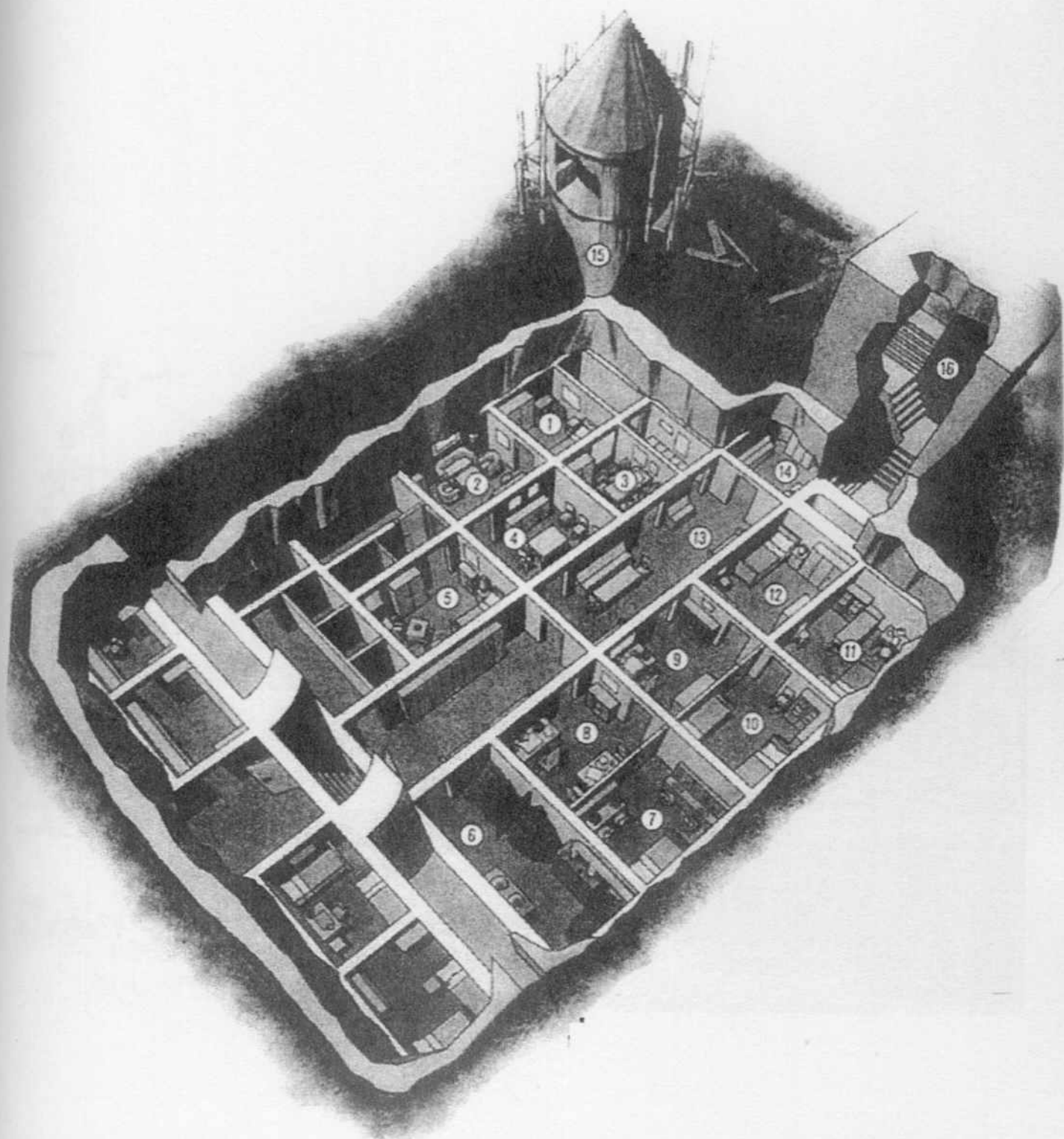
VORBUNKER

1. MAIN ENTRANCE 2. EMERGENCY EXIT 3-4. TOILET AND LAUNDRY 5. CAFETERIA 6. POWER ROOM 7-8. KITCHEN
 9-10. SERVICES ROOMS 11-12. STOREROOMS 13-14-17-18. ROOMS OF THE GOEBBELS FAMILY
 15-16. LUGGAGE ROOMS AND VARIOUS SERVICES

FÜHRERBUNKER

19. PASSAGE 20-21. TOILET AND LAUNDRIES 22. GUARD-ROOM 23. ANTECHAMBER 24. POWER ROOM 25. BATHROOM
 26. EVA BRAUN DRESSING-ROOM 27. EVA BRAUN BED-SITTING ROOM 28. AIR OBSERVATION ROOM 29. TELEPHONE
 EXCHANGE ROOM 30. HITLER'S LIVING-ROOM 31. ANTEROOM OF HITLER'S LIVING-ROOM 32. CONFERENCE ROOM
 33. WORKING ROOM OF GOEBBELS 34-38 STUMPFEGGER'S ROOMS 35. HITLER'S BEDROOM 36. "MAPS" ROOM
 37. BEDROOM OF GOEBBELS (BEFORE OF MORELL) 39. ENTRY TO THE WATCH TOWER 40. "DOG BUNKER" 41.
 ANTECHAMBER AND GUARD-ROOM 42. STAIRCASE TO THE EMERGENCY EXIT 43. EMERGENCY EXIT 44. WATCH
 TOWER

Figure 21 – Map of the two bunkers



- 1 - HITLER'S BEDROOM
- 2 - HILER'S STUDY
- 3 - "MAPS" ROOM
- 4 - ANTEROOM OF THE STUDY
- 5 - EVA BRAUN BED-SITTING ROOM
- 6 - POWER HOUSE
- 7 - TELEPHONE EXCHANGE ROOM
- 8 - SECRETARIES AND BORMANN OFFICE

- 9 - WORKING ROOM OF JOSEPH GOEBBELS
- 10-11 - STUMPFEGGER'S ROOMS
- 12 - BEDROOM OF GOEBBELS
- 13 - CONFERENCE ROOM
- 14 - ANTEROOM AND CLOAKROOM
- 15 - WATCH TOWER
- 16 - EMERGENCY EXIT

Figure 22 - Section in Perspective of the Führerbunker

WHERE THE BUNKER WAS



Figure 23 – Superficial part of the bunker
(emergency exit and watch tower – first half of 1947)

WHERE THE BUNKER WAS

If you ask the Berliners where the Hitler's bunker was at the times of the Chancelleries of the Third Reich, almost all will answer they don't know it. Still worse, if you ask where it is now (with regard to this point see the Fourth Part of the book).

The most informed and the elderly can point out the quadrilateral formed by Wilhelmstrasse, Voss Strasse, Ebertstrasse and Pariser Platz as the place in which it should be.

Since it deals with an area of almost 20.000 square meters, it is as if they had not answered you.

Pages exist on Internet of "experts" that point out, with a great red ball, any point of the quadrilateral.

Therefore, my second challenge has been to reach a precise location, fit ideally to find, with an excavation of some meter, the reinforced concrete of the covering of the Führerbunker.

I started taking note of all the references, also fleeting, obtainable from my main sources. I have found some of them and, this time luckily, they converge in the whole.

Drawing the distances of the bunker from different points of observation, an area results rather limited and perfectly coherent with its location, as it will result from further sources, gathered subsequently.

We see, one by one, the references collected.

Speer recalls, in his "Memories", the working room of Hitler in the New Chancellery, realized by him in 1938: " This was the last centre of command of Hitler above the earth. The following centre was under earth, to a distance of 150 meters, protected by meters of cement."

I started, therefore, to draw, on the map of the garden (Figure 15), a parallel to the line of the New Chancellery, 150 meters distant from the line of its front. From Speer nothing can come out about the place of the bunker, but a following reference to the tunnel that connected it to the New Chancellery.

I passed then to O'Donnell that recalls the story of the sergeant Erich Mansfeld that observed, from his watching point, the procession of some soldiers of the bunker that, gone out through the emergency exit of the bunker, were searching a hole where to burn the bodies of Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun.

The sergeant Mansfeld was near the room of the Mosaics, in the New Chancellery, at around 135 meters from the bunker and, from there, through the glass door he saw the sad ceremony.

Therefore, according to this testimony, the bunker was 135 meters away from the New Chancellery. This is the second parallel that I traced in the map of the garden, to the said distance from the New Chancellery.

The third testimony is that of the sergeant Erich Mengershausen who, from the part of the corridor near the study of Hitler in the New Chancellery, observed, from a distance of 60-80 meters, strange movements of people, a little out of the emergency exit of the bunker.

This is the third parallel traced by me on the map of the garden.

The fourth source utilized is the already quoted report of the Soviet colonel Osipov, drawn up on June 18th 1946. For his meticulousness and his bureaucratic formulation, this report is one of the most valid existing documents on the bunker. Let us read the most salient part, of interest for the matters treated in this chapter:

"We undersigned, on behalf of the companion S.N. Kruglov, Minister of the Interior of the Urss, have inspected the anti-aircraft bunker of Hitler, ex chancellor of the Reich of fascist Germany, in Wilhelm Strasse, Berlin, in the garden zone of the old and new Chancellery of the Reich.

During the inspections, the two Chancelleries and the anti-aircraft bunker have been photographed and we have also drawn the maps (.....).

The anti-aircraft bunker is located in the oriental part of the garden, to a distance of 25 meters from the old Chancellery of the Reich and to 78 from the new one.

The anti-aircraft bunker has two exits: one on the part of the building of the old Chancellery, the other (the emergency exit) on the part of the garden.

On the bunker has been spread out a covering (.....) of reinforced concrete of 8,93 by 7,37 by 4,88 meters.

Near the door, on the part of the garden, on the western side, comes out the superior part of the incomplete plant of airing; on the opposite side, to a distance of 5,5 meters, is located the watch tower, about 5 meters tall, with three loopholes that could be covered with steel plates and that didn't have any connection with the anti-aircraft bunker. In the inferior part of the tower, near the wall turned toward the building of the old Chancellery, a skylight has been settled (.....) from which a iron staircase goes down directly to the bunker. The skylight is tightly closed with a steel plate. The circumference of the tower measures 15,10 meters. One goes down to the bunker through a staircase of stone, 1 meter wide, with 36 steps and 4 turns (...).

Therefore Osipov communicates us two important measures: the first, parallel to that already traced, tells us that the bunker is 78 meters far from the New Chancellery. The second measure represents the first distance "transversal" to the previous ones because it gives, for the first time, the distance of the bunker from the Old Chancellery: 25 meters.

Drawn these two transversal lines on the map of Figure (24) it starts to delineate the zone where to circumscribe the bunker.

The sixth dimension is still provided by O'Donnell when it describes the descent of Hitler in the bunker: the distance between the preceding bedroom in the Old Chancellery and the new one in the bunker was only 100 yards (around 90 meters).

With this last dimension, traced parallelly to the axis of the Old Chancellery on the Wilhelmstrasse, Figure (24) shows us a quadrilateral where should be located the bunker. This quadrilateral has been outlined in the map and immediately one can notice that it is placed almost exactly on the plan of the bunker (shown with dashed lines), as it will result from following comparisons.

At this point we are able to trace the co-ordinates of the centre of the bunker, referred to the edge of the two Chancelleries, at the intersection of the Wilhelmstrasse with the Voss Strasse.

The centre of the bunker was 152 meters far from this edge and entered the garden of the Chancelleries for 109 meters (these measures are framed in the Figure 24).

I say "was far", because today the references to the two Chancelleries don't exist anymore.

We will see however, in the next chapters, as it is possible to refer these co-ordinates to the present urban reality and "to discover" the exact place where the bunker still lies.

Figure (25) gives a global vision of the area of the bunker in the context of the Chancelleries, of the gardens and the services, in surface and underground, existing in May 1945.

It is useful to specify that in the years of the Second World War in the garden of the two Chancelleries there was a net of tunnels and bunkers.

The Propaganda Ministry and the Foreign Office realized some tunnels, connected to the bunker of the Old Chancellery. There were bunkers for the motor-vehicles connected, through tunnels, to the Vorbunker; machine-shops and refuges for the workers where not missing.

There was even a greenhouse, connected to the net of the tunnels. Figure (25) gives an idea of the network, that we could define labyrinth, existing under the gardens of the Chancelleries.

This reality of the subsoil was not and still is not well-known to many, included the journalists sent periodically on the place to carry out some "scoop" on the discovery of the Hitler's bunker.

We will touch this matter in the next chapters, when we treat of false recoveries, and therefore, of the increasing mystery hovering about the real location of the bunker.

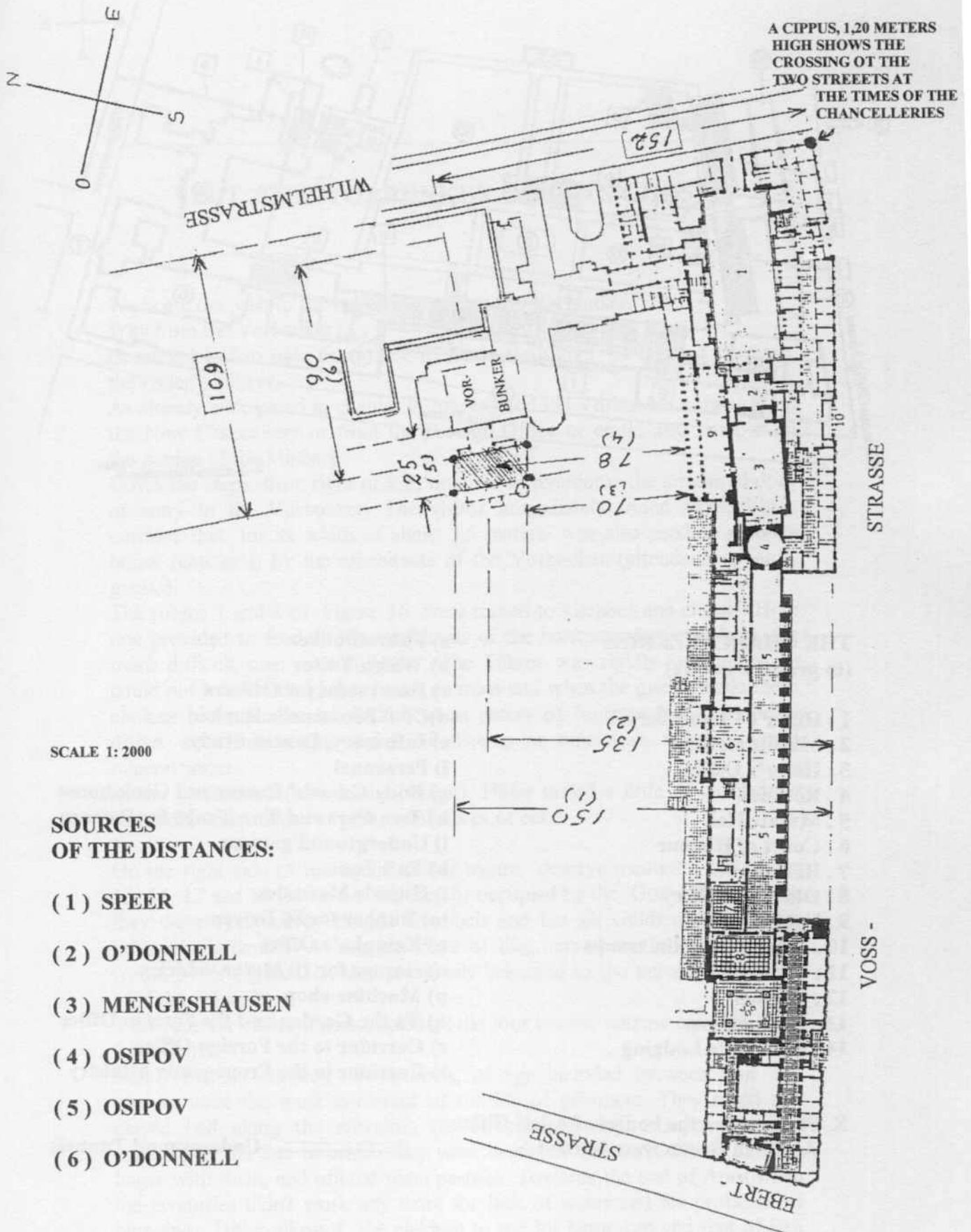
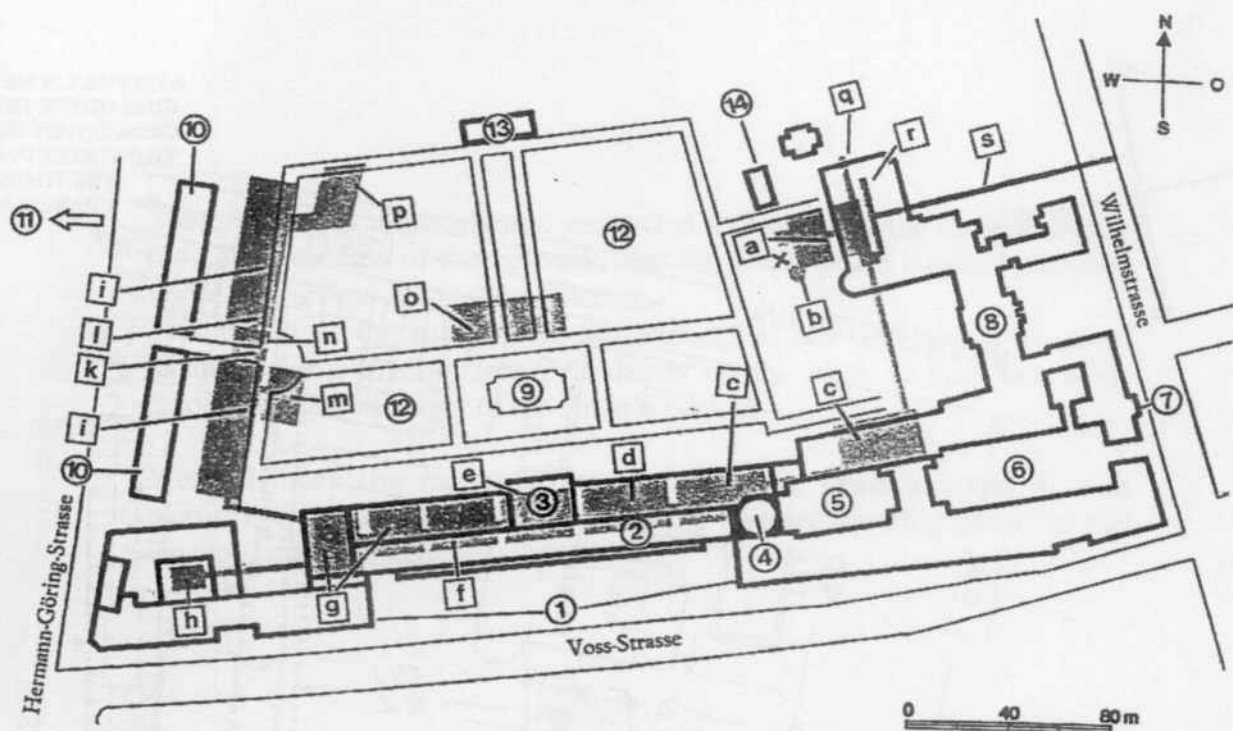


Figure 24 – Map of the Chancelleries with distances of the Führerbunker



THE CHANCELLERIES
(in grey the cellars)

- 1 . Hitler's Chancellery
- 2 . Marble Gallery
- 3 . Hitler's Office
- 4 . Rotunda
- 5 . Mosaic Hall
- 6 . Court of Honour
- 7 . Balcony
- 8 . Old Chancellery
- 9 . Fountain
- 10 . Quarters for the troops
- 11 . To Tiergarten
- 12 . Garden
- 13 . Greenhouse
- 14 . Kempka's Lodging

- a) Führerbunker
- b) Watch Tower
- c) Rest rooms for Officers
- d) Civil Personnel's Bunker
- e) Infirmary, Dentist Study
- f) Personnel
- g) Body Guards' Rooms and Cook-house
- h) Two Cars and Two Tanks for Defence
- i) Underground garages
- k) Exit Zone
- l) Hitler's Mercedes
- m) Bunker for 80 Drivers
- n) Kempka's Office
- o) Garage for 10 Motor-vehicles
- p) Machine-shop
- q) To the Garden and the Foreign Office
- r) Corridor to the Foreign Office
- s) Corridor to the Propaganda Ministry

X Place where the bodies of Adolf Hitler
And Eva Braun were burned

==== Underground Tunnels

Figure 25 – Garden of the Chancelleries with existing buildings (May, 1945)

VISIT THE VORBUNKER AND ITS GHOSTS

We begin our visit to the two bunkers from the Vorbunker.

Why from the Vorbunker?

Because I had to pass from there to reach, through a "C" shaped staircase, the Hitler's bunker.

As already anticipated in chapter 2, one entered the Vorbunker coming from the New Chancellery or from the Foreign Office or could also come from the garden of the Ministry.

Down the steps, from right or left, one had to overcome the armoured door of entry to the Vorbunker. The visitor immediately found himself in a corridor that, for its width of about 3,5 meters, was also used as a cook-house (cafeteria) by the inhabitants of the Vorbunker (attendants, guards, guests).

The rooms 7 and 8 of Figure 16 were turned to kitchens and closets. Here one provided to feed all the inhabitants of the bunker and, particularly, the more difficult one: Adolf Hitler. The Führer was rigidly vegetarian, he could not tolerate the dishes based on meat and when the guests made these choices his comment labelled them as eaters of "corpses." His preferred dishes were thin soups, dishes of cheeses or omelettes, vegetables and mineral water.

In the ceremonies (also in the bunker), Hitler tasted a little of champagne and took, with a sense of guilt, small slices of cake.

On the right side of the corridor four rooms deserve mention: the rooms 13, 14, 17 and 18 (always of Figure 16) occupied by the Goebbels. Actually they were occupied by Magda Goebbels and her six children because her husband, particularly in the last days of life, moved to the Führerbunker (room 37 of Figure 21), that previously belonged to the personal physician of Hitler, Morell.

Two beds for each room occupied all the four rooms, narrow enough (3 by 3 meters).

Surely the six children of Goebbels, of age included between four and twelve, were the most intolerant of the life of prisoners. They raced and played ball along the corridors (as all children do), irresponsible and unaware of the fate to which they were destined. The same Hitler liked to linger with them, and offered them pastries. Towards the end of April when the lavatories didn't work any more for lack of water and for problems of pumping, Hitler allowed the children to use his bathroom and that of Eva Braun.

One of the targets preferred by the little imps was the sergeant Misch, operator of the telephone exchange (room 29 of Figure 21). They usually stormed in the room to make a fool of him. Misch pretended to be angry, knowing that the jokes would have been repeated shortly after.

The mother, Magda, was well regarded among the tenants of the two bunkers. She was refined and polite and (contrary to Eva Braun) showed a certain personality. She lived very retired, all taken by the endless problems of six so young children.

Albert Speer, when he went into the bunker for his last visit of leave to the Führer, already knew her intentions to put an end to the life of all her family. Goebbels, met in the corridor, told him that his wife and his children had come to live in the bunker of Hitler to be able to die in that historical place.

Subsequently a physician of the SS told Speer that Frau Goebbels was weakened in bed and suffering of heart attacks. Speer made her ask if she wanted to see him.

He would have gladly remained to talk alone to Magda, but in the antechamber he found her husband that was careful not to leave them alone.

We must remember, at this point, that between the two a misunderstanding had risen few years before when, on the occasion of a festival of the lyric season in Bayreuth, they were guests, with Hitler, of Mrs. Winifred Wagner.

Speer was forced to inform Hitler of the serious situation created owing to the intentions of Magda to leave her husband for his continuous betrayals and for the last relationship with the Czechoslovak actress Lida Baarova. The situation got worse also due to the decision of his wife, exasperated and in disagreement with her husband, to marry the under-secretary of State Hanke, notably younger than her. Her husband had threatened her and she lived dramatic times after an apparent reconciliation.

Hitler summoned Goebbels and, in presence of Albert Speer, he commanded him, furious, to immediately leave Bayreuth with his wife. He brusquely dismissed him without allowing him to reply and without shaking his hand.

Goebbels accompanied Speer in the room occupied by his wife. Magda was lying in bed, very pale. She talked with low voice of superficial things while Speer felt that the suffering and the thought of the tragic end that was impending on her six children tormented her. Goebbels did not leave her one minute from her side and Speer could speak only about Magda's health.

The only sentence of Magda, out of the circumstances was: "I am so happy that at least my Harald (son of first bed) will survive". Speer hardly succeeded in hiding his emotion, but he could'nt say anything. They left in an embarrassed silence.

The destiny of these six children remained engraved in the historical memory of that tragic events.

The most elderly of her children was Helga, of twelve, her father's favourite. She was intelligent, tall and mature for her age; she had the same eyes of the father. After came Hilde, eleven, the nicest, a brunette. Then followed Helmut, of ten, the only male; Holde, eight years old, blonde and always teased by her brothers; Hedde, six years-old blonde; Heidi, next to five years, was the pup of the family.

Different plans were sketched to save the six children.

Albert Speer had prepared a plan; Werner Naumann, secretary of State of Goebbels had arranged another plan. The general Mohnke had offered the Goebbels a tank, to save the children. The Goebbels' younger sister, Maria Kimmich, that lived in Berlin, wanted to fly west with the children. But none of these projects was accomplished.

Goebbels' relatives went down the bunker at about 6 p.m. of Sunday 22 April. The father of the children took lodging side to Hitler, in the Führerbunker, to be nearer the barycentre of the imminent nazist tragedy. Nevertheless the proximity of the relatives allowed him to be more present in their life. He found the time to read fables and histories, to play and sing songs with his children.

The sergeant Rochus Misch, the telephone operator of the bunker, remembers how, on Sunday April 29, the day preceding the suicide of Hitler, Goebbels had given a small party in the cellar of the New Chancellery.

It was a party for the last farewell, from him and his family to the Berliners. Around forty guests were present. They sang, all sang around the Goebbels, seated with his wife and his children at a long table of oak.

How can a mother think to kill her six children? It seems possible that one of the physicians of the bunker provided Magda Goebbels with doses of sleeping drugs and poison.

The mother assembled all the children in one of the four rooms occupied by the family and told them that they would have left, as soon as possible, to Berchtesgaden with "uncle Adolf." Subsequently she prepared them to go to bed, distributed to all the children some chocolates, filled with a soporific medicine, named Finodin, "against the air sickness". Then she put them all in bed.

Magda owned six capsules of cyanide, familiar among the intimates of Hitler. They were blue plastic vials with brass rings.

The sergeant Misch tells: " I was on duty at the telephone switch that May first of 1945, since two in the afternoon.

The three youngest children of the Goebbels played noisily with a ball in the inferior bunker. After the death of the Führer this bunker was empty and the children had turned it into a field-games. After a little the children went out.

Subsequently, toward 5 p.m., the three children reappeared. Five minutes later Frau Goebbels went down with the three oldest children. She wore a suit with long skirt, blue-marine, with white collar and cuffs. Her face had the colour of ash. She brought all the children in the room in front of me.

All the children were in white night-gowns; it was time to go to bed. Five were seated on the chair, Heidi climbed the table: she was suffering of tonsillitis and brought a bandage around the neck. Helga, the eldest, tall and bright, sobbed lowly. I think she suspected what was going to happen.

Frau Goebbels carefully combed the long hair of her five daughters and later brushed those of her child Helmut. Subsequently she kissed every child, with a lot of affection, as she had been doing since their arrival to the bunker.

I looked at this scene with apprehension; I was dismayed. I still feel responsible for not having done something, because I knew what was happening. I suppose that I "did not want" to believe it possible."

Then, without greeting, Frau Goebbels as a hen with her brood of chickens, set out to the door to climb the spiral staircase, toward the superior bunker. Heidi, the youngest and coquettish, returned back toward the sergeant shouting and snickering: "Misch, Misch, du bist ein Fisch" (Misch, Misch, you are a fish), but her sister Helga threw her away.

Always according to the sergeant Misch, half an hour later appeared in the inferior bunker Werner Naumann that told him: "The colonel Stumpfegger has prepared some "drugged" candy for the children of the Goebbels. Both their father and the mother insist that the children have to die now, because we are going out of maximum time."

With such news Misch had a cramp to his heart: he remembered how, two days before, he had seen their father playing with them and sing together "The blue dragons."

"It must have passed at least a hour. There was a silence of grave in the inferior bunker. I received only a pair of telephone calls. Finally Frau Gobbels reappeared. This time she was alone. There was no expression on her face. Her blue eyes were hooped of red. At the beginning she was standing twisting her hands, later she lit up a cigarette.

She didn't speak to me, although she was near me. There was a small bottle of Champagne, a "piccolo", that someone had left on the long table in the corridor of the conferences. She took the little bottle and directed herself to the room near mine, where her husband usually worked for the Führer. She had left open the door. I got up to see what was happening and I saw Frau Goebbels take a pack of cards and begin a "solitary." Instinctively I perceived that her children were not anymore this world. Ten minutes later she set out above, without greeting me."

Misch, during this long hour remained in service in the inferior bunker. Every now and then, apparently after each single poisoning of her children, Magda Goebbels emerged in the corridor of the superior bunker for a break. She was seen in that place, between five and six in the afternoon, at least by three persons: the professor Schenck, the secretary Gerda Cristian and the captain Helmut Beermann of the FBK.

This operation of infanticide didn't work in the "soft" way as it had been planned by the mother. There is evidence that the greater daughter, Helga, woke up and was frightened when her mother got near her bed. It seems possible that this first-born, the most quick-witted of the group, had snapped up the lie of the flight in air-plane and had not swallowed the chocolate. Or more simply that the dose was insufficient. The autopsy, signed in the following days by numerous Soviet physicians affirmed that Helga Goebbels showed black and blue bruises. They could have been produced by her struggle to survive against her mother.

Misch continues: "I don't know where Goebbels directed himself in that awful hour, between five and six in the afternoon of Tuesday, May first of 1945. It seems that nobody knows it. Probably Goebbels either had gone to walk in the garden, out of the bunker, or went in one of the empty rooms of the New Chancellery. Perhaps he was writing, in his diary, the meaning of the sacrifice."

At about seven in the evening, Misch went to the garden for a break and the only person that he met was the Dr. Goebbels. Having him become his new boss, Misch asked instructions on what to do. The answer was to leave the bunker and reach the troops of the general Rauch, still in Charlottenburg.

"He was calm and spoke without tension of nerves. While I was talking to him I thought that his children were already dead, but he didn't make any reference to them. When I returned to the bunker Hentschel, terrified, confirmed me the death of all the children. He told me that the dead bodies were abandoned in a single room and covered with sheets. We thought about burying them, but, to tell the truth, none of us had the heart to enter the room of death."

About at eight in the evening of Tuesday May first, Goebbels re-entered the Vorbunker and directed himself toward the room of his wife. Together they went down to the inferior bunker, where he met general Mohnke, the captain of the SS Schwaengermann and Olds, a young assistant of Goebbels.

Goebbels gave the photo of Hitler with autograph to Schwaengermann and making reference to the work done the day before to bring above the bodies of Hitler and Eva Braun, up the 44 steps of the staircase of emergency, commented, with irony: "You at least, good people, won't have to drag above our bodies through the staircases." The presents, in fact, knew that the Goebbels had decided to kill themselves outside.

The general Mohnke tells: "Entered his small study Goebbels gave as a present his hat, his scarf and the long coat of uniform. Subsequently, as a knight, he offered his right arm to his wife. We all were without words." Slowly Mr. and Mrs. Goebbels moved towards the exit to the garden.

At about eight thirty dark had gone down on Berlin. At the beginning of the staircase of concrete the couple went beyond, in silence, the six tanks of gasoline, lined up for the imminent use. On top of the staircases the couple met an officer of the FBK, commanded to impart the shot of grace, if necessary. He remained in the shade, in the space of the emergency exit of the bunker: he was the only witness of the suicide, because his service was not necessary.

For both it had been decided the same method suggested by professor Haase for Hitler and his wife: gun and poison.

The first one was Frau Goebbels: she put in her mouth the vial of poison and shattered it with the teeth; she slowly fell to the ground and remained prone on the soft sandy ground. She wore a pin, a gold badge that the Führer had given her as a farewell present on the day preceding his death. Her husband shot a hit of gun to the nape of her blonde head.

Afterwards Goebbels shattered in mouth his vial of poison, armed the trigger of his Walther P-38 and shot his right temple.

In this way the most loquacious man of his times died in silence.

Also the bodies of the Goebbels were sprinkled of gasoline, but they burned only partially.

Their rests, the bodies of their children and the charred bodies of Hitler and Eva Braun suffered tormented stories.

They were object of autopsies, they were analyzed, preserved, transported and buried, in February 1946, in Magdeburg.

The Soviets exhumed them almost 25 years later, the night between 4 and 5 April 1970, from the courtyard of a residence in Westendstrasse (today Klausenerstrasse) at number 36, before leaving east Germany.

Definitely burnt, shattered and reduced in dust, were, at the end, thrown, through a gutter, in a sewer drain of the city.

In this way ended one of the families most powerful and admired of the Third Reich.

I wanted to detain me on this awful history primarily drawing, among the various sources, to the version given by James P. O'Donnell and to the sergeant Misch's testimony. It can be that the facts developed in slightly different way. That Magda Goebbels was helped by a physician for the provision of the poison or that the hits of gun to the two consorts have been shot by an appointee rather than by the Dr. Goebbels. But in its essence this story maintains integral its tragic structure and the spirit of the facts.

In this horrifying Vorbunker, full of water, rats, moulds and worms, wander about, over half century later, the ghosts of the six children, innocent victims of the horrors of the nazism.

I don't exclude that, at night, some tenant of the residential complex, built in the nearness of the Vorbunker, taking his little dog for a walk on the flower-bed of the condominium, can hear some whispers rise from the depth and some childish voices murmuring: *misch, misch*.

They are not kittens, perhaps they are.

Sunt lacrimae rerum.



...six chicken with their broody hen...

VISIT THE FÜHRERBUNKER AND ITS GHOSTS

Let us proceed, now, in our virtual visit, to the Führerbunker.

Coming from the Vorbunker, the already mentioned "C" staircase introduces us in the general antechamber facing the services of the inferior bunker.

To the right, besides the "power room" (n°24 of Figure 21) and the one used for the "air observation" (28), there is the telephone operator (Misch) room (29).

We have already spoken about Misch. He is one of the few survivors of the bunker death and was the last but one to abandon it. Completely armed he greeted the last survivor, the technician Hentschel, and ran away through the cellars and the galleries of Berlin subway.

Misch became, subsequently, a famous person; he went on living as dealer in Berlin.

Unique survivor among the witnesses of the end of Hitler and the other personages of the bunker, Misch has been interviewed by the Author on October 29th, 2004 (the interview is shown in the Third Part of the book).

On the left side of the antechamber there are the public toilet for the inhabitants of the bunker and the laundries (20 and 21).

Here Hitler's and Eva Braun's dogs were killed. The sergeant-major Otto Guensche tells that when he entered the toilet found it occupied by the professor Haase, Hitler's veterinarian, and by the sergeant Tornow, instructor of the dogs.

Haase held in his hands a vial and a pair of pliers. He had heard from Hitler that he wanted to verify the effectiveness of the poison, because it had been given him by Himmler and, after the news of his betrayal, he could expect everything from one like him. Blondi, the alsatian shepherd dog of Hitler, was poisoned in this room. Guensche was witness of it. Tornow opened with strength her mouth and Haase inserted the vial in her throat, breaking it with the pliers. The cyanide poison immediately acted. Shortly after Hitler entered the toilet to verify that Blondi was indeed dead. He didn't say a word and didn't show any emotion. Immediately later he returned to his study.

The sergeant Tornow subsequently killed, with a hit of gun, the four pups of Blondi, that were born inside the bunker in March. He killed also the dogs of Eva Braun, the ones of the secretary of Hitler, Gerda Christian and his dachshund.

The dogs were buried in a hole near the emergency exit.

In that same hole will be thrown, shortly after, Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun.

Through an intermediate door we enter the second corridor, the so-called "Conference Room". This room is in reality a corridor suited by the circumstances to a role of great relief: 8 meters long and only 3,5 meters wide it hardly contained a large table for the daily Hitler's meetings with his officers, a pair of couches and some chairs. Here the Führer used to express, livid and howling, his desperation when the summoned generals communicated him the disastrous situations on the two battle fronts. Sensational was the meeting of 22 April 1945, when Hitler, for the first time, howled that, by then, everything was finished and that he would have preferred to die, rather than surrender.

On the right side of the Conference Room, the rooms 33, 34, 37 and 38 gave hospitality to Hitler's physicians (Stumpfegger and Morell), to the working room and to Goebbels' bedroom.

On the left side of the Conference Room, were the most intimate and most strategic rooms of the whole bunker.

One entered, through the door on the left, in room 31, the anteroom of Hitler's study.

A table, some chairs and a little piece of furniture were the whole furnishing of the place. In the history of the bunker this room doesn't leave a particular reminiscence: here the summoned waited to go into room 30, the living-room (study) of the Führer. Also here the furniture was simple: a sofa (that on which Eva Braun and Hitler committed suicide) a little table, two little arm-chairs to the sides, a writing-desk for Hitler's use and a locker.

In the living-room two important events happened, but I prefer to speak before of room 36, the so-called room of the geographical maps. Here Hitler held more narrow meetings, but its fame comes down from being the room of the marriage of Hitler with Eva Braun, the evening of Saturday April 28th, 1945.

It was Goebbels that, in his quality of Gauleiter of Berlin, had to deal with the organization of the ceremony, seeking a public officer that could ratify a marriage.

He individualized one Walter Wagner, municipal officer, at the moment in service at the Volkssturm. Wagner appeared with the brown uniform of the Nazi Party. He was told to proceed with rapidity to the formalities of the wedding ceremony. Hitler and Eva Braun would have been declared bridegrooms as "couple of war." But, irony of the fate, Wagner could not refuse to ask to both the bridegrooms if they were "Aryan" since three generations. At the end of this simple ceremony Wagner noticed, from his clock, that had just passed midnight. So, with a lot of bureaucratic zeal, he changed the date on the certificate of marriage, from April 28 to April 29, 1945.

Wagner remained for about 20 minutes in the room of the Conferences together with the Führer, for the first time in his life. He ate a sandwich of liver wurster, drank a pair of glasses of champagne and entertained himself with the bride. Subsequently he was accompanied to the exit of the bunker and left alone, in the middle of the night.

Half a hour later Walter Wagner was already dead, shot in Wilhelmstrasse while he was on the road of the way toward his shelter, the hovel of a famous place of the eighteenth century, in Unter den Linden.

Since the room of the marriage was too small (3,5 x 4 meters), only Goebbels and Bormann attended the ceremony and signed the register as witnesses.

The bride was dressed in black, appropriate colour to the funereal atmosphere. It was an afternoon pretty dress, with a short skirt of taffeta and two gold buckles on the shoulders straps: the one preferred by Hitler, among the available ones in the closet of the bunker.

Afterwards the guests moved to the living-room of Hitler, a little larger than the previous one. Magda Goebbels, the secretaries Gerda Christian and Gertrud Junge, doctor Werner Naumann, the ambassador Walter Hewel and the generals Krebs and Burgdorf joined the group of the celebrators.

Let's go back to Hitler's living-room (n°30). Here two touching events happened: the last visit of farewell of the Minister for the Armaments Albert Speer (the day 23, up to the dawn of April 24) and the suicide of the Hitler married couple, at 15,30 of April 30, 1945.

Speer was the only "human being" of the brigade of Hitler. He owed all to him. From a dark architect of province, half unemployed, Hitler made him the architect of the regime and, subsequently, realized his great ability as organizer, named him Minister for the Armaments, at the death of Fritz Todt, in 1942.

Speer reciprocated with total devotion Hitler's confidence. He became his intimate, always guest in Berlin and on the Obersalzberg.

Hitler was destroying the whole civil world; his crimes caused the death of millions of people. Nobody of his gang felt moral problems, plagiarized as they were by the charism of the head.

Speer started to feel such problems, he understood to what abyss Hitler was bringing them all and he tried to put a gap in between. At a certain point he didn't see other solution to go out from that meat-mincing machine (and souls) than to kill him.

He planned, so, to suffocate Hitler in the bunker, with gas.

Speer entrusted a believer of his friends to replace the filters of the airing plant of the bunker. Hitler himself had complained many times for the bad air breathed inside there. The filters were dismantled and the plant of airing remained for some time without protection.

When Speer, with an excuse, went to inspect the well of airing he found the whole area of protection of the bunker controlled by sentinels of SS and where before it emerged at earth level, now the well had become a kind of chimney, three or four meters tall, making unattainable its mouth.

Speer thought that his plan had been discovered; on the contrary it was pure coincidence: it had been Hitler, of his initiative, to order the construction of the chimney.

This way, the plan of the attempt disappeared not only from the group of the real possibilities but also from Speer's thoughts.

With this background Speer introduced himself to the Führer for the last farewell. He had taken an adventurous trip in air-plane and landed on the bad avenue that connected Brandenburg Gate to the statue of the Victory.

Speer had to assist, during the day 23 April, to the dramatic events of the "betrayal of Göring" and to the tempestuous reaction of Hitler.

Around midnight of April 23 a waiter of the SS told Speer that Eva Braun was waiting with pleasure his visit, in the living-bedroom of the bunker(n°27).

Hitler had retired in his room, so Speer could quietly linger with Eva Braun. Speer was surprised by the imperturbable calm of Eva; she appeared relaxed, almost happy.

She said: "What do you think if we tell us goodbye with a bottle of sparkling wine and some pastry? You had no food for a lot of time." The waiter brought a bottle of "Moët & Chandon", sweets and cakes.

"You know" she said, "You have done very well coming here once more. The Führer thought that you had put yourself against him. But your visit means the contrary, is not it true?" Speer didn't answer. "He liked a lot what you have told him today. He has decided to remain here and I remain with him. The rest is already known to you. I have come here with the intention to put an end to my life. Why so many men still have to die? Everything by now is so vain. A little later you could'nt find us anymore". Speer thought that she was the only person, in that bunker, to have human feelings.

At three of the morning Hitler got up and Speer made somebody ask him if he could take leave. Speer feared not to be able to control himself in that extreme farewell. For the last time here again in front of him (room n° 30) that trembling old man, the man to whom he had devoted twelve years of his life.

Speer was affected, upset but Hitler didn't show any sign of emotion when they were facing each other. His words were cold as his hand.

He only said: "So you are leaving? Well. Good-bye." He didn't send regards to his family, he didn't formulate a wish, neither a thanks. Losing for an instant the self-control Speer said that he would have returned. But Hitler understood very well that it was only a sentence of circumstance.

This was the sad, embarrassing leave of one of the couples most famous, discussed and powerful of the twentieth century.

The other event of the room 30 was the double suicide of the Hitler married couple.

Everything is known about that tragic event.

In spite of versions diffused by the Soviets to dismantle the image "heroic" of the Führer, with the affirmation that the coward poisoned himself as a simple woman, it seems historically proved that Hitler immediately shot himself to the right temple after having poisoned himself with a vial of cyanide. Eva Braun committed suicide with the poison.

The fact happened on the sofa leaned to the wall, in front of the entry of the living-room.

Before killing himself Hitler had prepared two wills: a political and a private one. This is the private will:

"Although during the years of struggle I thought not to be able to take on myself the responsibility of the marriage, now, before the end of my life, I have decided to take as wife the woman that, after many years of true friendship, has come, spontaneously, in the city already almost besieged, to share my fate.

She will die with me, according to her desire, as my wife. This will compensate us of what we have lost because of the job that I have carried out to the service of my people.

My possession, assuming that it is worth something, will belong to the Party, or, if this won't exist anymore, to the State. If the State will also be destroyed, there is no necessity of further dispositions by me.

The pictures of the collections that I have made up during the years, I have never bought them and picked for personal use, but exclusively for the foundation of a picture-gallery in my city of Linz on the Danube.

It is my intense desire that the dispositions of this will are meticulously observed.

As testamentary performer I name my most faithful comrade of the Party, Martin Bormann. I invest him of the legal authority for any decision. He is authorized to deliver to my relatives all things that have value of personal memory, or that may be necessary to maintain a lower-middle way of life.

This disposition refers, above all, to the mother of my wife and to my loyal collaborators of both the sexes, that he (Bormann) well knows, among them particularly my ex secretaries, Frau Winter etc., that for many years have helped me with their job.

My wife and I choose to die for escaping the shame of the overturning or the capitulation. We desire that our bodies are immediately burnt in the place where I have developed the greater part of my daily job, during the twelve years spent to the service of my people."

The personal will was authenticated, at 4 in the morning of April 29th 1945, by Goebbels, Bormann and the colonel Nicolaus von Below, assistant of Hitler for the Luftwaffe.

Let us continue our visit to the ghosts of the bunker, entering the door of exit of the bunker, towards the antechamber-guardroom and, on the right, the access to the exit staircase from the bunker (41 and 42).

Here starts the staircase of 44 steps on 4 ramps, that brings to the emergency exit in the gardens of the Chancelleries.

Here emerged, over half century ago, the unlucky "cave dwellers" coming from the bunker.

Here Hitler's assistants dragged the bodies, cold by then, of the new couple, under the shots of the Soviet guns, established few hundred meters further.

Here they deposited them in the nearest hole, few meters from the exit and hastily poured on their bodies gasoline from the tanks.

Here the bodies didn't take fire, in spite of the repeated throwing of paper and inflamed rags, thrown by the exit shelter.

Here the bodies were removed, semi-charred, in the night between April 30th and May first, to deposit them in a deeper hole to be buried.

In this second hole the demon of the twentieth century and his unlucky wife joined the carcasses of their dogs, in a horrendous rejoining, beyond life.

1945 THE RUSSIANS TAKE POSSESSION OF
THE BUNKER
THE DISCOVERY OF THE BODIES

“CALVARY” AND MYSTERIES

THE OCCUPATION OF THE BUNKER

With the death of Hitler, the bunker was abandoned and the Germans fled. The bunker was discovered by the Russians in 1945. The bodies of the Führer and his family were found in the bunker.

OF THE BUNKER

The bunker was built in 1941 and was the last refuge of the Führer and his family. It was destroyed by the Russians in 1945.

SINCE 1945 TO TODAY

The bunker has been a subject of much speculation and controversy since 1945. The bodies of the Führer and his family were found in the bunker.

All were dead or not even in the bunker, only the remains were found. The bodies were found in the bunker, but the bodies were not found in the bunker.

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1945 THE RUSSIANS TAKE POSSESSION OF THE BUNKER: THE DISCOVERY OF THE BODIES

THE OCCUPATION OF THE BUNKER

With the death of Hitler ends, in fact, the second world war. What will happen in the following days up to the final signature of the surrender, by the Admiral Dönitz, is only a painful formality. But, let us return to the Führerbunker.

Hitler committed suicide at 15.30 of April 30th 1945; his body, together with that of his wife Eva Braun, had hurriedly been burnt and buried in a hole less than five meters away from the emergency exit of the bunker.

A gloomy silence went down on what, up to few hours before, had been a bedlam, populated by crazy and desperate people; that crazy men that had caused a world war and that had the responsibility of tens of millions of corpses on the planet.

All were dead or run away. In the bunker only two modest protagonists remained to wait for the events. One, the already quoted sergeant Rochus Misch, telephone operator of the bunker, thought about running away before the arrival of the Russians.

He dressed himself as a military, with helmet and rifle, after a lot of time passed on the telephone switch in poor martial clothes, he greeted the last living being remained in the bunker and set out toward the tunnel of the New Chancellery, from where he began the adventurous escape through Berlin.

The last living being remained in the bunker was the head-technician Johannes Hentschel, employee to the diesel plant and to the generator that supplied the bunker with air ventilation, water and electricity.

Certainly it mustn't have been very safe to remain alone in that place of death, waiting for his own fate at the arrival of the enemy. The alternative could have been to follow the choice of Misch but, when he put out the head from the bunker, Hentschel was discouraged by gusts of grapeshot and by the bombs thrown by Russian air-planes near the bunker: "Better hiding himself in this familiar cube of cement and wait for the events."

The hours passed but nothing happens. Why the Russian delayed so much to take possession of what, for years, had been their dream of conquest and destruction?

Around 8 in the morning of Wednesday, May 2nd 1945, Hentschel had a poor breakfast and, at 9, went up to the Vorbunker to give a glance to the rooms. Few minutes later he started to hear the voices, not in German language, coming from the tunnel of connection with the New Chancellery. With great surprise he heard female voices and Hentschel thought it was good turning on the lights in the bunker.

It dealt with a dozen of women that chatted, laughed and joked. When they were face to face, the first thing that Hentschel did was to raise both the hands in sign of surrender and to make to see that he was not armed. It dealt with women belonging to the Physicians Corps of the Red Army. The nameplate with the image of snakes entangled to a stick, convinced him they were really physicians or assistants.

The person responsible of the group asked him, in a good German, who he was and, received the answer, she immediately came to the point asking where Adolf Hitler was. Hentschel told her all the events happened in that place up to their arrival, moving the curiosity of a second physician that asked where Hitler's Frau was. According to Hentschel the physician didn't know about the marriage of Eva Braun with Hitler, she wanted only to refer to the "woman" of Hitler.

To this point, according to the story of Hentschel, the first physician asked where "di Klamotten" were, where the trifles were.

Hentschel accompanied the group of women in the inferior bunker up to the dining-bedroom of Eva Braun, where, in a great wardrobe, were furs, garments and jewels. It seems that Frau Hitler changed of suit up to five times a day, creating uneasiness to the present soldiers, to those at report and even to the same Hitler. Was less impudent Frau Goebbels, that went down in the bunker with only a suitcase.

Around 9,30 arrived in the bunker, always from the same tunnel, two officers, men this time, armed with gun, to the sight of which Hentschel, not to be wrong, again raised both the hands in sign of surrender. But in that instant six women of the preceding group, coming from the inferior bunker, crossed the officers that, amazed, looked them up with grim look. The women brought sacks loaded with souvenir as lamps, vases, carpets, crystals, table clocks and silverware of Hitler. They chatted and joked in a loud voice as housewives in the market place. Their first worry was to disappear as soon as possible from the sight of their superiors.

Around 11 in the morning the door of the emergency exit of the bunker was opened. The remaining six women of the first group went out laughing and shouting after having emptied up the wardrobe of Eva Braun and with the wrists loaded of bracelets of value, with lacing of value, purchased in Paris.

Then the following stories of Hentschel become heavier and will end with his internment in fields of imprisonment in Siberia. Naturally, as a good German and conscientious technician he put his diesel and the pump in "automatic control", before leaving the bunker.

Taken out of the bunker Hentschel saw again the light and Voss Strasse, with the rests of what it was the "stately" New Chancellery. But a horrendous view remembered him, immediately, from what appalling world he was coming: hanging to the lamp-posts of the street half dozen of young German soldiers waved, with hang to their necks the poster "Traitor, deserter, coward, enemy of the people."

While the Russians were, by then, to few hundred meters from the Chancellery and from the end of the second world war, the criminals of the SS worried themselves about to capture and kill some poor boys that, terrorized, tried to return to their family. These hangings had to have been performed in the same forenoon, around 48 hours after the suicide of Hitler. When Hentschel, hoisted on a truck, grazed the body of one of that boys, probably sixteen years old, turned the look, and he felt shame to the presence of the Russian soldiers, by the rustic aspect, that were escorting him toward the imprisonment in silence.

But, from now, the story of Hentschel doesn't interest us anymore.

If this story, told by Hentschel to James P. O'Donnell in the years following his return to Germany from the imprisonment, is true, we have to ascertain the strangeness and the folly of the human events, also the most dramatic: to occupy the bunker, as a first, were not the tanks or the platoons of Russian infantrymen, armed with flamethrowers, but women, some physicians, that had as first worry that to raid every "god's gifts", belonged to Hitler and his "Weib."

THE DISCOVERY OF THE BODIES

The Goebbels bodies and those of their six children were found by the Russians on May 2nd 1945. Those of Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun will be found on May 5th. The story of the discoveries and the recognitions is rather tortuous and the purpose of this book isn't to follow the phases, the times, the discrecognitions and the following confirmations of such events.

It can be enough to reach our goals, for joining the history of the bunker to that of the most important persons that have lived there, to rely, in a synthetic way, to official documents compiled by those that only could express a judgment on the destinies of these people: the Russians that occupied Berlin, the Chancellery and the bunker.

The Army general Vadiss, head of the defence department SMEŠ of the first Bielorussian front, sent the following report to Moscow where it was filed in the Muscovite archives of the federal service of counterespionage.

This report of May 3rd 1945 affirms:

"On May 2nd 1945, in the centre of Berlin, in the zone of the bunker of the Chancellery of the German Reich, to some meters from the entrance door, the lieutenant colonel Klimenko and the majors Bystrovs and Chasin, at the presence of citizens of Berlin - the Germans Wilhelm Lange, cook of the Chancellery of the Reich and Karl Schneider, responsible for the garage of the Chancellery of the Reich - at 5 p.m. have found the charred corpses of a man and a woman; the corpse of the man was of low stature, the foot of the right leg was inserted in position semi-twisted inside a metallic prosthesis; above, the rests of a charred uniform of the party SNDAP and a gold pin were found.

Next to the heads of the two corpses two guns Walther n.1 were found (damaged by the fire).

On May 3rd the squad leader of the defence department SMERŠ of the 207° division riflemen, the lieutenant Iljin, has found in a separate room of the bunker of the Chancellery of the Reich the corpses of children, from three to fourteen years of age, on the beds. They dressed light nightgowns and showed signs of poisoning. Since in the mentioned corpses have been recognized the dr. Goebbels, his wife and their children, all the corpses have been brought, for the autopsy and the identification by the persons of their acquaintance, in the rooms of the department SMERŠ of the 79° riflemen corps of the first Bielorussian front.

For the identification on the place of the corpses, the prisoners of war have been brought: the personal representative of the Chief Admiral Dönitz in the head-quarter of the Führer, the Vice-Admiral Hans Erich Voß, born in 1897, the person responsible for the garage of the Chancellery of the Reich Karl Friedrich Wilhelm Schneider and the cook of the Chancellery of the Reich Wilhelm Lange - that had known well and personally Goebbels, his wife and his children.

The Vice-Admiral Voß, Lange and Schneider - both in the interrogatory and in presence of the corpses - have recognized with certainty in the corpses Goebbels, his wife and his children. (.....).

Brought in front of the corpses of the children, Voß recognized, from the first to the last one, all the children of Goebbels, since he had seen them a lot of times; one of the children, Hilde, had been many times in the lodging of Voß (.....)".

Now it remains to individualize and identify Hitler.

Klimenko asked Voß where Hitler was and the answer was that he heard some assistants of Hitler say that the Führer committed suicide.

After the interrogatory Klimenko immediately returned to the Chancellery accompanied by other officers. It was nine in the evening. They approached a big basin for water, inside which many corpses were lying. Here Voß pointed out a corpse as that of Hitler. The corpse was dressed and wore mended socks. The group started to doubt that it could be the corpse of Hitler.

The following day, around midday, Klimenko returned to the bunker accompanied by a soldier that went down in a crater of a bomb, disseminated of seared paper. The soldier noticed some legs and subsequently the men of Klimenko exhumed the body with shovels. They pulled up, from the crater, two charred corpses, one of a man and the other of a woman. But nobody thought that, those corpses, were the rests of Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun. Accordingly, Klimenko ordered to wrap up the bodies in blankets and bury them again.

In the meantime a Soviet diplomat that had met Hitler many times controlled the corpse with the mended socks and excluded peremptorily that it was Hitler.

Therefore the search had to start again.

Klimenko didn't forget the two corpses found in the crater in proximity of the emergency exit of the bunker. On May 5th he returned on the place and ordered the lieutenant Panasov to exhume the two bodies.

This is the report resultant from the "Dossier Panasov", preserved in Moscow, in the archives of the federal service of counterespionage:

" Berlin, May 5th 1945,

I lieutenant of the guards... Panasov and the soldiers.... Have found and sequestered in the city of Berlin, in the zone of the Chancelley of Hitler, near the place where Goebbels and his wife were found corpses, not far from the anti-aircraft (private) bunker of Hitler, two charred corpses (one of a man and the other of a woman). The corpses are seriously charred by the fire and without further data it is impossible to identify them.

The corpses have been found in the crater of a bomb, three meters before the entry of the private anti-aircraft bunker of Hitler, and they were covered with earth.

The corpses are kept in the detachment of counterespionage SMERŠ of the 79° riflemen corp."

Untill then nothing could let believe having individualized the corpse of Hitler except that, some days later, the men of the SMERŠ questioned a soldier that had witness of what had happened in that point of the garden.

From the report of May 13th, signed by Klimenko, Katyšev, Gabelok and Kalašnikov results that the witness, the soldier Mengeshausen of the fighting group of the SS, had been assigned, from April 20th to April 30th 1945, to the defence of the zone of the Chancellery of the Reich and to the personal protection of Hitler. On April 30th, around midday, he was on guard inside the building of the New Chancellery and walked along the corridor that conducted to the Blue Lunch Room from Hitler's working room.

During his turn of guardianship, along the corridor, Mengeshausen stopped in front of the external window of the Blue Lunch Room, that was very near the exit on the garden and observed what was happening in the garden of the Chancellery.

At that moment the Sturmbannführer Günsche and Linge were bringing out of the emergency exit of the bunker the bodies of Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun. The fact aroused his curiosity and he attentively followed what went on happening.

The personal assistant of Hitler, Günsche, sprinkled of gasoline the bodies and put them on fire. Half a hour later the bodies of Hitler and his wife were burnt. They were brought in a crater of grenade that was about a meter far from the emergency exit and there were buried. (.....)

Subsequently Mengeshausen declared that on April 29th the dog of Hitler had also been buried in the aforesaid crater.

From the investigation on the spot pointed out by the witness it resulted, according to the report of May 13th, that his declarations were true. The declarations of the witness were far more believable because were drawn out from the same crater in May 1945, besides the two corpses, also two poisoned dogs that, as it was recognized by other witnesses, had belonged to Hitler and Eva Braun. (.....)

Naturally the declarations of a German soldier were not enough to confirm the coincidence of the two corpses with the names of Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun.

In the following years the thesis of the discovery of the bodies of Hitler and Eva Braun resulted more and more reliable, also due to the results of the autopsies and the comparisons of the set of teeth.

Figures 26, 27 and 28 show photos drawn in 1945 by the Russians on the spot of the bunker.

The photo 26 shows the emergency exit of the bunker on the garden of the Chancellery, after the conquest of Berlin. A Russian officer is in front of the exit of the bunker.

Note that, despite the ruins outside, the bunker is still intact. On the right side the watch tower of the bunker can be seen.

The photo 27 shows, besides the emergency exit of the bunker, the crater where, on May 4th 1945, were found the semi-charred corpses of Hitler and Eva Braun.

The photo 28 shows in the foreground the watch tower of the bunker. The ditch in the foreground is the place where the two bodies were burnt after having been sprinkled of gasoline from the tanks, visible in the photo. The soldier that looks in the ditch is an American soldier; on the background are visible three Soviet soldiers. The photo was probably taken on July 1945.

We can observe, therefore, that up to July of 1945, the bunker was still intact and even the external armours in wood were in place.

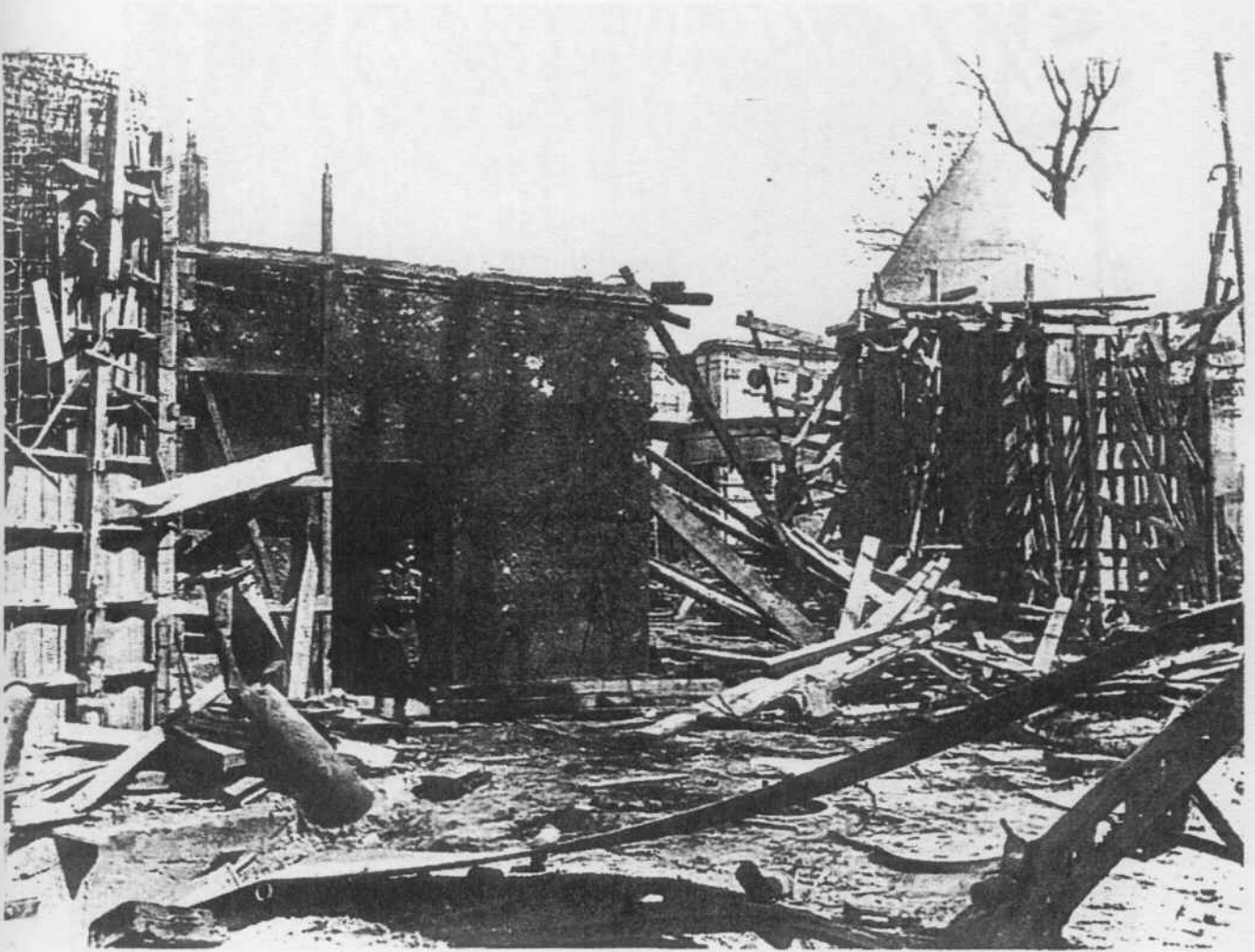


Figure 26 – Emergency Exit of the bunker, after the occupation of the Soviet Troops (1945)

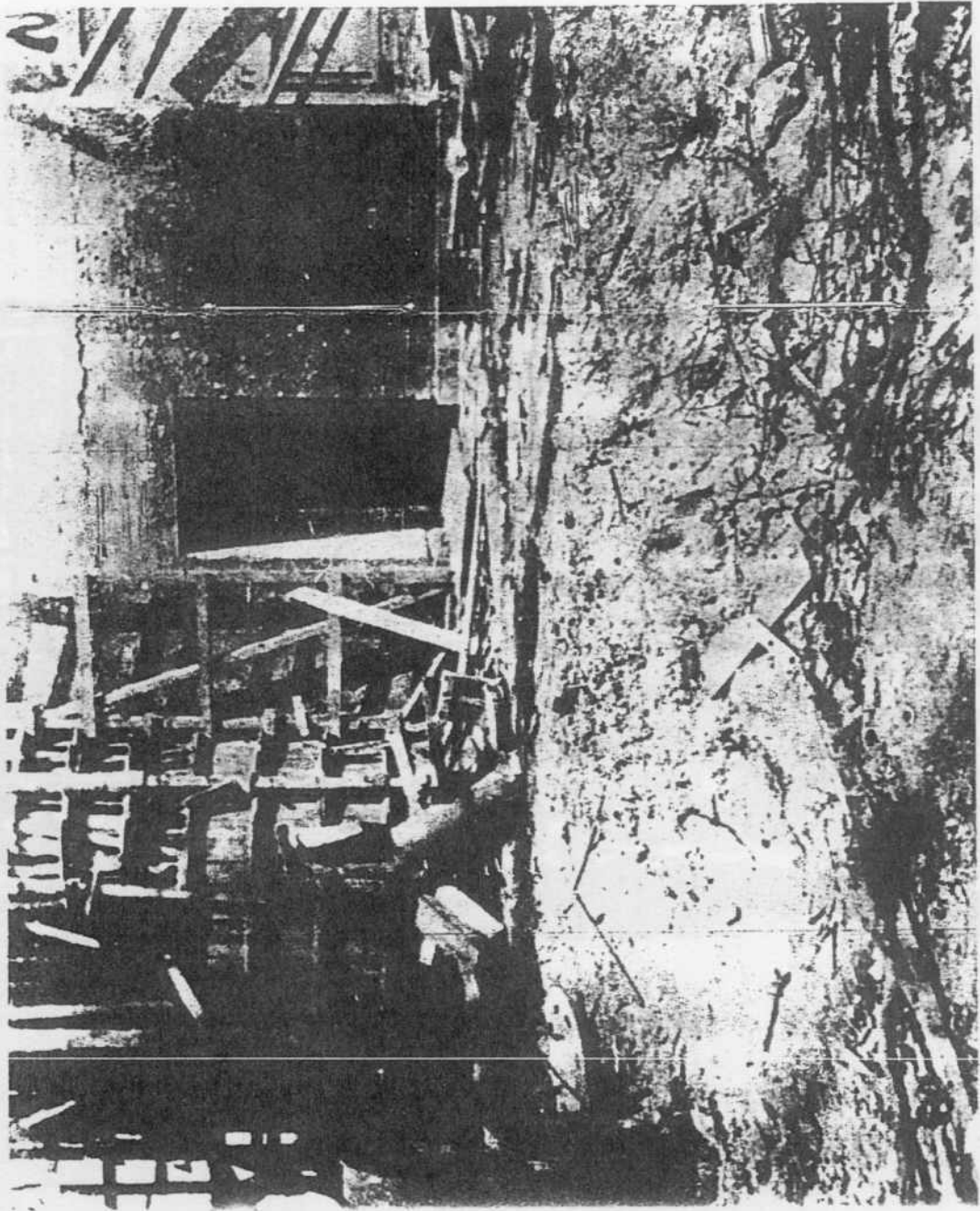


Figure 27 - The crater before the bunker where were found the bodies of Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun (1945)



Figure 28 - The Watch Tower of the bunker (July 1945)

1946-1948 THE "BLOW-UP" OF THE BUNKER BY THE RUSSIANS

All 1945 elapsed without the bunker had some investigation on the spot or a destructive action from the Russians.

It still remains to be known the fate of Hitler and some leaders of nazism, among which Martin Bormann. Stalin strongly suspected that Hitler had saved himself and that ran away on an air-plane toward Spain or Latin America.

The Russians kept in prison about ten German soldiers that, according to their suspects, were witnesses of the tragic events that happened in the bunker in the last days of April 1945.

One among these, the personal pilot of Adolf Hitler, Hans Baur was kept under pressure in long and weary interrogatories in the jail of Lubyanka in Moscow. The investigators accused him of having brought Hitler safe in his air-plane and, then, returned alone in Berlin.

Baur valiantly defended himself, insisting on the fact that if he had accompanied Hitler in some sure place he would have remained there and that also had no sense the hypothesis of his re-entry in the eye of the cyclone, risking his own life. Saying this, Baur beat with the knuckles of his fingers on the wood prosthesis of his left leg, amputated for the wounds got in the fights along the streets of Berlin, around the station Lerther S-Bahn.

But also this logic answer didn't succeed in convincing the Russians that thought of some trick or some unknown reason behind this description of the facts.

Better than nothing, the interrogators justified his idea of the strange return to Berlin after having brought in safe Hitler: he returned for killing, on order of the Führer, his co-pilot, colonel Beetz, the only dangerous witness of the secret flight of Baur. This torture went on some months until when, in 1946, the Russians decided to clarify, once and for all, the events that preceded and followed the supposed Hitler's death.

May 16th 1946 was the date when the investigation on the spot was carried on by the Russians in the Berliner bunker of Hitler. The report of the inspection, compiled with great accuracy by the colonel Osipov, has been already mentioned in the chapter devoted to the realisation of the bunker.

In that chapter the part of the report regarding the description of the bunker in its fundamental dimensions has been extracted.

The report of Osipov is shown in the Appendix B.

It is well to specify that this document and its enclosures represent the main source of everything known on the bunker. In the following years the historians and the researchers that dealt with the bunker of Hitler have almost all made great reference to this source.

Besides the accurate description of the bunker and the furnishing of all the rooms, in that investigation were also noticed the traces of blood remained on parts of the furnishing, as arms, underblankets, sofa, linings of the coverings, on the walls of the dining-room of Hitler, on the "narrow passage" and on the steps that brought to the emergency exit of the bunker. The spots and the spray discovered on the sofa and on the walls were subsequently examined for verifying their hematic content.

A few times later, in the summer of 1946, was made, always in the place of the bunker, a second great inspection, in a spectacular climate and with an accurate showing off.

That inspection took place under the eyes of James P. O'Donnell, then captain of the Intelligence sector of the allied troops.

O'Donnell had the fortune to enter the bunker of Hitler on July 4th 1945 and to put down this experience in the drafting of his notes for future memories and books.

Let us follow this interesting story of O'Donnell about what happened in the bunker in an undetermined night of the summer 1946.

O' Donnell had in his "pay-roll" of journalist a "mole" in Berlin with the charge to inform him on facts of a certain interest, connected with the stories of the bunker.

An evening O'Donnell received a phone call. With a careful language he was informed that something strange was going on, with presence of movies cameras on the site around the bunker. O'Donnell arrived on the place around sunset of that long day of half summer. Moving himself in the shade recognised his colleague Margherite Higgins of the Herald Tribune. She also had received the "puff" from the same Berliner mole. The colleague had already tried to draw near the place where the "troupe" was operating, but she had been rejected twice.

United the strengths, they tried both to draw near the bunker but they were driven out in threatening way by the armed guards. From the Wilhelmstrasse, where they took refuge, they turned the corner toward the Voss Strasse and, almost crawling, they climbed on the rests of the New Chancellery, where, from a good height they could scan, without being seen, that strange bustling.

The point of observation was around 100 yards from the bunker. The sight of the emergency exit of the bunker was partially stopped. In the dark, by now, they succeeded in seeing about twenty people stir around the entry of the bunker. These figures had gone out of the bunker to smoke some cigarettes and were visible thanks to their light.

As soon as the eyes of the two observers got used to the obscurity of the night they succeeded in identifying the persons: they were Russians in their typical uniform.

Suddenly some lights illuminated the bunker and the garden of the Old Chancellery. Now the "cameramen" could be seen and the scene revealed itself as what it was indeed: a cinematographic shot. Some Russian officers gave instructions to a group of about twenty "actors" that, in silence, moved in strange uniforms of work. One could hear a mixture of languages: German, Russian, and others not distinguishable. Concluded the shots, the group of the actors returned in the bunker and the lights were turned out. Twenty minutes later the same group went out again for a second spot.

The two observers thought, justly, that the two scenes mimed the burial of Hitler with Eva Braun and the death of Joseph and Magda Goebbels. These were the only two events that had taken place out of the bunker. The Russians were probably making a documentary with the help of the Red Army. Shortly after the whole troupe got away by truck.

Subsequently O'Donnell and the Higgins discovered that the dozen of "supers" that participated in the realisation of the documentary nobody they were but the German witnesses of the last events of the bunker.

Now, fourteen months later, they had been reunited in Russia, sent in airplane to Berlin and entrusted to reconstruct the drama of the bunker, scene after scene, in the exact spot of the events. The next morning they would fly back to Russia for remaining about ten years, imprisoned in the whole Soviet Union.

It was only in 1973 that O'Donnell, in a casual conversation with the Sergeant Rochus Misch, the telephone operator of the bunker that was the last but one to leave it after the death of Hitler, had an explanation of the strange movies spots carried out in the summer of 1946, inside and out of the bunker.

The sergeant Misch was one of the actors that took part to the realisation of the documentary. Misch also revealed the names of the other actors.

They were: the General Mohnke, Hans Baur, the Lieutenant Colonel Klingemeier, Heinz Linge, the Major General Johann Rattenhuber, the Colonel Högl (assistant of Rattenhuber), the Major Otto Guensche, the Colonel Schenck, Johannes Hentschel (the head-technician that, last, left the bunker in Berlin) and two other young officials SS of the body guard. For the reconstruction of the last day of Hitler these constituted the rest, still living, of the original group.

In this chapter we lingered on these two facts, happened in 1946: the investigation on the spot, with consequent report, of the colonel Osipov, on Hitler's bunker and, a few days later, the reconstruction of the last hours of the bunker, through the documentary taken with authentic interpreters, of that awful final instants of the main tragedy of the twentieth century.

Why have we done it?

Because these two events represent the conclusion of the turbulent period of searches of comparisons, verifications, cross interrogatories, meant to clarify, once and for all, the facts and the events tied up to the history of the bunker and its uncontested Chef, Adolf Hitler.

Since then, begins the epoch of the "management" of the ruin, of that bunker that started "to burn", that one wanted to hide but not destroy, that one wanted to disguise and to camouflage for preserving it for an indefinite future.

Therefore, concluded the verifications of 1946, the Russians decided, at the end of 1947, to destroy it but, either for incapability or for an inexplicable choice, they didn't eliminate it and didn't destroy it entirely.

Things went this way: an order of October 25th 1947 decreed the reclamation of the bunker of the Old Chancellery. The operation was concluded on November 25. The Berlin firemen and the building workers began to pump water out of the bunker on November 12; the water had reached a level of around two meters, almost totally submerging the rooms of the Führerbunker. In little more than a week they emptied almost entirely the bunker; but the job was not finished.

On 27 January 1948 another very drastic order followed: to blow up all the existing bunkers in the Wilhelmstrasse and in the immediate surrounding. This order involved six bunkers: the one existing under the Wilhelm Platz, the bunker under the Old Chancellery, the one in the garden of the Foreign Ministry, the one of the preceding residence of Goebbels and the two bunkers existing under Pariser Platz.

The things, however, didn't go smoothly because the German authorities found themselves in difficulty for the feared consequences of the explosions on the residences of the zone. Besides they didn't have a suitable technique of management of the explosions.

In front of these unexpected difficulties the Soviet authorities issued a further provision so that the bunkers were made, at least, out of use and inaccessible. This ordinance, of March 16th 1948, put an end to the operations turned to the "obliteration" of the bunkers of Wilhelmstrasse.

Surely, the explosions inside the bunker of Hitler eliminated the weakest traces, as the inside walls and the staircases, but they didn't graze the imposing carrying structures and the impenetrable covering of the bunker. It was easier to make the external structures of the bunker blow up: the emergency exit on the garden of the Chancelleries and the watch tower in the left corner of the bunker (shoulders to the staircases of exit).

In conclusion, up to the first half of 1947 the bunker was still integral: Figure 23 shows a photo taken in that period.

After the explosions, carried out in the first months of 1948, the external parts of the bunker were unhinged from their foundations and they lay down on the ground.

(Figure 29 shows a photo taken from the same angle of the 23, while the photo of Figure 30 is taken from the back, shoulders toward the Old Chancellery).

These rests, lain down on a side, remained many years to open sight, as last tangible witnesses of what existed, under them.



Figure 29 - The outside of the bunker, destroyed in the second half of years 40

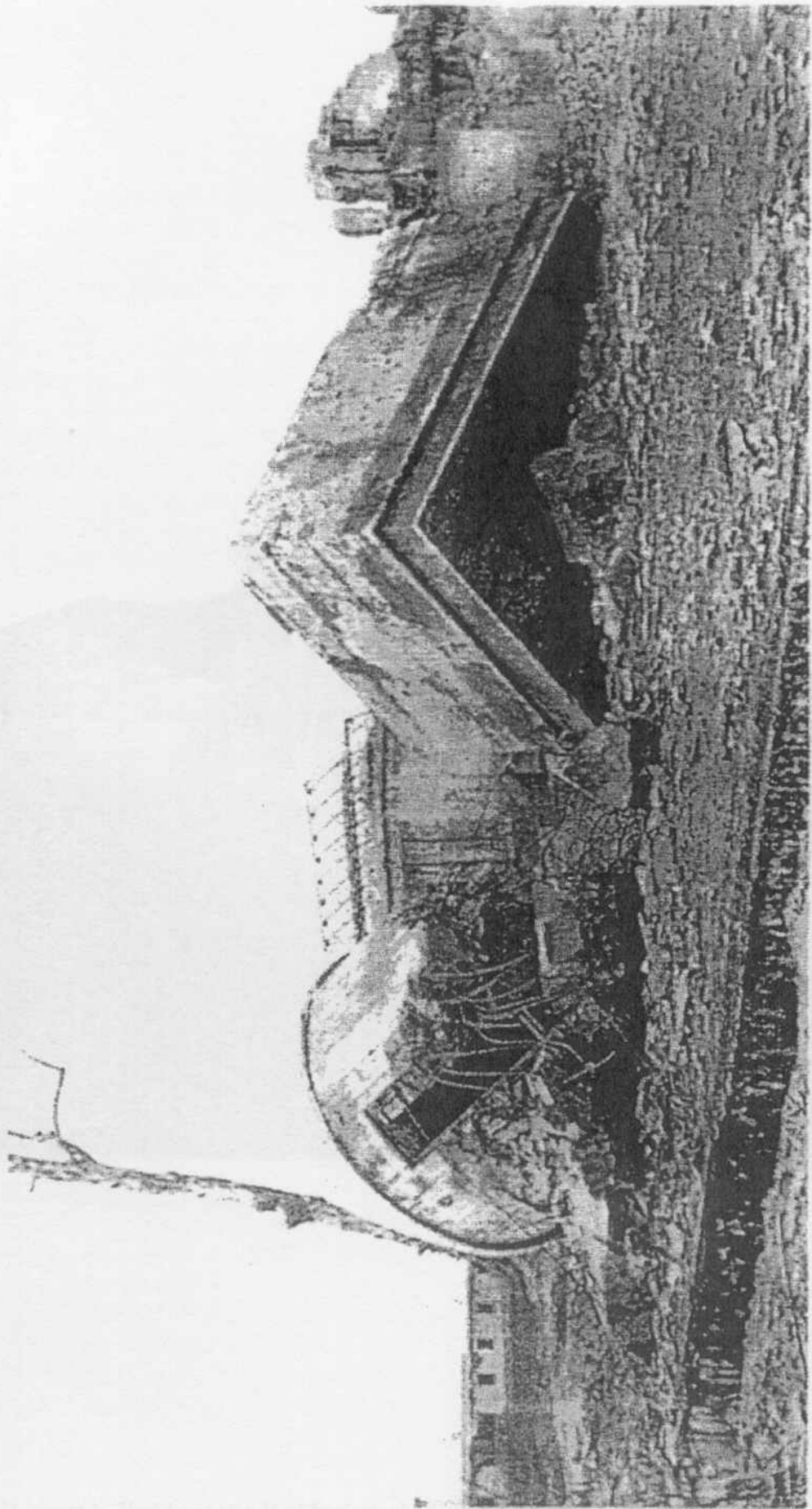


Figure 30 – Rest of the emergency exit and of the watch tower (second half of years 40)

1952 - 1959

THE MYSTERY OF THE RESTS OF THE BUNKER "EN PLEIN AIR"

In the first months of 1948, when the Soviets had exploded the less resistant parts of the bunker, its superficial rests remained abandoned on a side in the garden of the Old Chancellery.

The state of fact of the zone of the bunker is shown from Figure 31 in which the rests of the watch tower and of the emergency exit of the bunker appear lain down after the explosions. If we observe with some attention the photo taken in 1952, we notice some interesting details.

In the foreground the columns are those of the Courtyard of Honour of the New Chancellery, place of transit and of great impact to the guests coming from the entry in Wilhelmstrasse. Between these columns and the two rests of the bunker it is clearly visible a base of concrete that should be the covering of the Vorbunker, the construction that preceded the bunker of Hitler: the Führerbunker. There are no doubts on its identification, given the direction of the view of the photo: from the corner of the Wilhelmstrasse with the Voss Strasse, towards Potsdamer Platz (the visible construction in the background, on the left side, is the Columbushaus).

Notice also that strange visible seedling in the centre of the covering in concrete of the Vorbunker; we will find again it in a photo taken in 1959, seven years later (Figure 35). It is not a wild bush, it is a little tree planted and well cared in a square niche drawn in the cement (certainly reinforced) of the covering of the bunker.

The area, between the limit of this covering and the two rests of the bunker, crushed by the perspective and covered of bushes, is the one delimitating the place of Hitler's Bunker.

In conclusion, this photo tells us that, in 1952, the surface of the first of the two bunkers of Hitler was well in sight and even cared and cleaned up. It is strange that, seven years after the end of the war, the rests of the most tragic centre of the Third Reich were so well visible.

From 1952 to 1956 the rubble of the two Chancelleries of the Reich was in the same place where the bombs and the cannonades had piled up it.

From 1956 begin the works of removal of the rubble that must have cost an enormous operational and economic effort.

Don't forget that the New Chancellery developed itself for a length of over 400 meters along the Voss Strasse, between the Wilhelmstrasse and the Hermann Göring Strasse (the present Ebertstrasse). The Old Chancellery occupied around 180 meters length along the Wilhelmstrasse. As they were buildings of three floors, we can estimate a global cubage of around 460.000 cubic meters, collapsed on the ground after the destructions of various origins (bombings, cannonades, demolitions "in site").

Figure 32 gives an idea of the existing encumbrance in Voss Strasse loading on the carrying structures at the ground level. The trucks to remove the rubble were not monstrously great, as one can notice looking at the truck represented in the photo.

Where all these ruins have been brought it is not known. It is known, however, that the cube meters of the Vorbunker (over 2.000, included the perimetrical walls) and those of the Führerbunker (over 5.000, included the perimetrical walls) were not removed.

It is very strange that 7.000 cube meters of volume, equal to 1,5% of those of the two Chancelleries, have not been removed! It was not a matter of dimension of the effort. An explanation could be that somebody did not want to remove that rests because it was by now started, more or less consciously, a complex of respect towards the "historicity" of this rubble.

It had started, in those years, the magic, the subjection and the attraction towards the last residence of the demon of the twentieth century.

If we still had some doubts on the "cathedrals in the desert" represented by the two superficial rests of the Hitler's bunker, Figure 33 cancels them.

This photo has been taken in 1956 from the Thälmannplatz, the old Wilhelmplatz, with the new name assigned by the new Berliner toponymy of the DDR.

The image is of a total desolation: the man in the background walks on the sidewalk of the Old Chancellery. Where today there is the "nothing", up to 1945 stood the neo-classic buildings of the Wilhelmstrasse. The sight is open up to the low constructions on the background, towards Potsdamer Platz. Also the man in the foreground expresses, with that headgear and that bag, the sadness and the bleakness of the post-war period in the Eastern Europe.

There is snow, it is cold, everything has disappeared except that two damned rests, intentionally abandoned there for remembering a place that somebody had not the courage to eliminate, to remove, once and for ever, from the sight.

Also the photo of Figure 34 is distressing. We are always in 1956, the war had ended eleven years before, but it seems as if it had just finished, perhaps still in progress. The series of houses on the background are the rests of the "kaufhaus", of the great storehouses Wertheim, situated on the Leipziger Platz. In a second plan, the carrying structures of the New Chancellery are perceived, covered by the rubble not yet removed and, in the foreground, appear the two superficial rests of the bunker. The boy hoisted himself on the summit of the emergency exit of the bunker, gives an idea of its dimension (exceptional, for being an "emergency exit") and gives a final touch to the sadness of this photo.

Two years later, in 1958, it begins what I call "operation hill." In a place, near enough but not coincident with that of Hitler's bunker, it has been created, on a ground totally flat, a hillock, equipped, even though poorly, to green.

This hillock (Figure 36) has been presented, in the following years, as the place under which the rests of the bunker were buried. The idea that the visitor should develop was that, for their dimensions, the rests of the bunker could not be flattened or removed. Being a matter of a whole of structures and rubble particularly bulky, the rests had been covered with earth, creating an artificial hill. It is my conviction that this hill, that remained for many years to make beautiful show of itself, had been created in that place, some hundreds meters from the spot of the bunker, to divert the curious persons, the tourists, the nostalgic ones and all those people that, more and more numerous, started to invade the residential complex, built close to the bunker.

We will return subsequently on this hill, showing where it was till few years ago. I say "it was", because now it doesn't exist anymore as such: today there is a yard that is working on top of it, crushing it, flattening it and reducing it to few more than a light, meaningless, earthy relief, in the building area.

We conclude this chapter with the frightening photo of Figure 35, taken in 1959.

The mysterious hill, just been created, doesn't appear in the photo because hidden by the outlines of the two rests of the bunker. It is far some hundreds meters, in direction of Potsdamer Platz. Of course, in order to make believe that it was the hill of the bunker, it needs, this time definitely, to remove the true rests of the bunker.

This time they behaved seriously. In fact, from 1960 no trace of the true bunker will appear in surface. The two rests, watch tower and emergency exit, are shattered and removed; the surface in reinforced concrete that constituted the covering of the two bunkers is re-buried.

The hill will remain alone to divert curious people.

But let's go back to the photo of Figure 35.

It seems taken in a mental hospital: a worker, wearing coat and hat, is making a series of holes, with a pneumatic hammer, in the surface of concrete of the Vorbunker. He makes holes everywhere but he respects the seedling grown in the centre of the bunker, in a niche, dug on purpose by a good "gardener." It seems the same seedling that we have seen in Figure 31, taken in 1952, seven years before!

Is it the same seedling? Possible it hasn't grown in seven years? Or is it another seedling planted subsequently? This doesn't matter: what surprises is the presence in the same place of "a seedling", always of the same dimension.

The man with the coat is probably preparing some holes to insert small charges of explosive to shatter the surface of the bunker. In fact the two men on the left of the photo are removing the pieces of concrete detached by the rest, caused by the little explosions.

Then, what we can suppose will happen in the days, in the weeks and in the following months, will be the cleaning up of the place from the two superficial rests of the bunker and from the blocks of concrete, the covering of the area with earth, the carrying out of a lawn and, perhaps, the growth of the seedling, at last free by the jail of concrete where it had grown.

Today, around the bunker there are plants of middle size, typical of the residential gardens; there is not the seedling that, from its half century life, would too easily be recognisable.

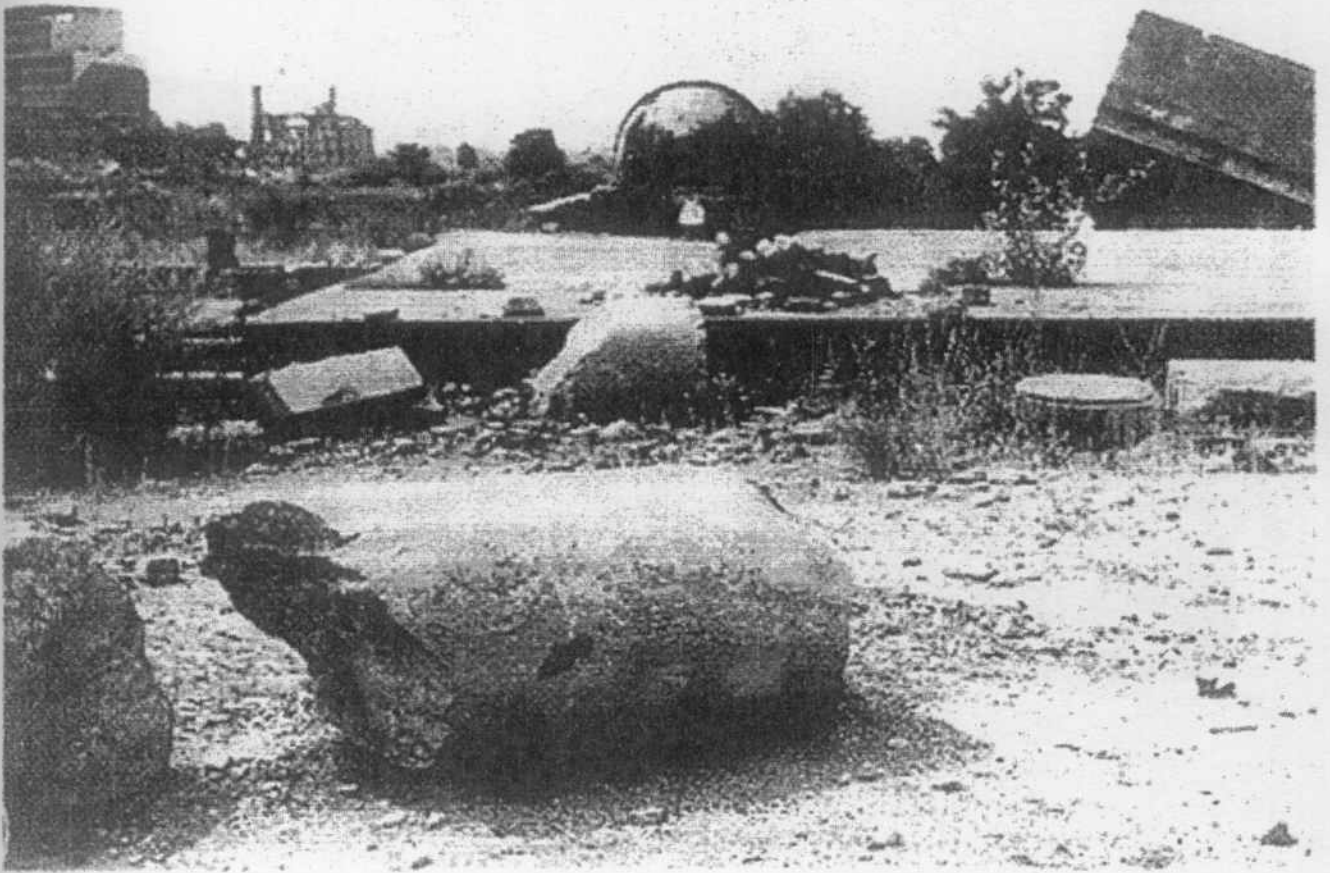


Figure 31 – Superficial rests of the bunker, with columns (1952)



Figure 32 – Clearing of the ruins of the New Chancellery (1956-1959)



Figure 33 – The superficial rests of the bunker viewed from Thälmann Platz (1956)



Figure 34 – The superficial rests of the bunker, with boy (1956)



Figure 35 – The superficial rests of the bunker, with worker (1959)



Figure 36 – The “Mysterious” Hillock (1958)

1974 - THE "STASI" ENTERS THE BUNKER

In the preceding Chapter we got as far as 1959 with the superficial rests of the Führerbunker still in open sight, even if lain down on one side.

The last news on the Hitler's bunker dated back to the first months of 1948, when the Russians tried to definitely destroy the bunkers of the garden of Chancelleries.

As already mentioned, the operation succeeded only partially and the explosions could demolish only the inside parts of the bunker mostly aimed at, the one of Hitler, that remained with the rubble of its inside walls abandoned on the floor.

The Vorbunker remained almost intact.

In the years following 1959 the superficial rests were removed carefully: the emergency exit and the watch tower of the Führerbunker.

In that period the escapes of the Berliners from the east sector of the city had already started, despite the tight patrol of the border.

The phenomenon intensified so much in the following years to suggest, the Russians and the East Berlin authorities, the construction of the notorious wall.

This happened on August 13th 1961, which became an historical date.

However, despite the 100 kilometres of the wall, the escapes towards the west didn't stop, also in virtue of the imaginative solutions invented by the desperate Berliners of the Russian sector.

The way of escape through galleries that emerged in the western sector of the city became more and more adopted and, very often, it was not necessary to dig them because...they already existed.

The network of the tunnels built by the Nazi was a good opportunity to exploit, besides the tunnels of the city subway.

In my search inside the files of Stasi I have discovered maps that showed the way of the most "dangerous" lines for their proximity to the border between the east and the west zones.

Particularly, the S-Bahn number 2 was "mapped", between the stations of Potsdamer Platz and Unter Den Linden. The strong interest on this net of subway was due to its proximity to the Berlin wall.

In the net of subway that runs under the Ebert Strasse and the Stresemann Strasse the safety exits emerged even beyond the wall, in the western zone. The most involved exits were those numbered from 11 to 16.

It was very easy to escape walking through a stretch along the rails of the subway and break down (if necessary) a safety exit.

This was what happened, but also the hypothesis of the use of pre-existing tunnels in the subsoil of Berlin worried more and more the Stasi. Of course the zone mostly suspected was the area of the chancelleries of the Third Reich.

I have found, among the files of Stasi, sketches with tunnels (non-existent) that spread from the bunkers of the chancelleries towards the border east-west, along the Ebert Strasse.

It is in this climate of hypothesis and suspects that in 1974 the Stasi decides to carry out an investigation on the state of the two bunkers of the chancelleries, to discover possible tunnels used by the Berliners to escape.

On April, 1974 the technicians of the Stasi entered the Vorbunker (still easily accessible and intact) to direct themselves towards the Führerbunker. There was only an obstacle to reach the Vorbunker rooms: about a meter and a half of water! (the following photos show a dark band on the walls, to proof the level reached by water).

To enter the rooms it was necessary to remove, with pumps and special pipelines, the consistent volume of the water.

With a lot of accuracy the men of the Stasi carried out the Vorbunker surveys while it was not possible to do the same for Hitler's bunker: the 1948 explosions had eradicated the inside walls that, spread on the ground, made it impenetrable.

Among the documents I gathered in the files of Stasi, appear, in this Chapter, the map of the two bunkers (Figure 37) and some photos, from Figure 38 to 43, taken during the 1974 investigation on the spot.

In Figure 37 the Vorbunker appears measured in all its details while for the Führerbunker appear only the external measures. The only exception is the vain that leads to the staircases of the emergency exit in the gardens of the chancelleries, reached, probably, only through an external hole.

Figure 37 can be considered, for what it tells us, among the most important of this book.

Observing it carefully, we can make the following remarks:

1 - the Vorbunker, already dealt with in Chapter 2, is represented in great details: despite its details it doesn't add anything to what already shown in Figure 16;

2 - the photos of Figures 38 and 39 represent the rests of what was the "Power room" of the Vorbunker (n° 6 of Figure 16). It impresses, besides the state of degradation, the German helmet with a hole at the temple level, recovered by the Stasi investigators and put on the last boiler;

3 - the photo of Figure 40 shows the room used as a cafeteria (n° 5 of Figure 16), seen from the entry and turned towards the door that leads, through the staircase at "C", to the Hitler's bunker. Notice, in the present one and in the following photos the pipelines used for the pumping out of the water;

4 - the staircase connecting the two bunkers is represented in the photos of Figures 17, 41 and 42.

Figure 17 of the Chapter 3, taken from the lower part, shows the first ramp of 4 steps. Notice the handrail that turns to left, towards the second ramp.

Figure 41, always taken from the lower part, shows the second ramp that reaches only the fourth step, being the following ones covered of rubble. The wood planks are put on rubble already mentioned.

Figure 42 (which still shows the second ramp but taken this time from the top) gives the counter-evidence that the ramp didn't finish at the fourth step but continued: in fact the handrail on the left wall goes down more deeply than the level of the wood planks. Moreover, the planks though being in light descent cross the door at a level higher than that of the floor.

This photo is at the border of the inspection: the rubble of the Führerbunker will not allow to continue the visit and the measurements. The photo of Figure 43, with its lain down walls, gives us an idea of the annihilation of the insides of the Hitler's bunker;

5 - probably, crawling on the rubble, the technicians of the Stasi have succeeded in taking the inside measures of the Führerbunker. Such sizes are coherent with those I showed in Figure 21;

6 - the section shown in the inferior part of Figure 37 makes us to remark:

- the level of the floor of the Führerbunker is of 8,50 meters. This datum, important for the misunderstandings that involved many historians and researchers, is near to the one I calculated and indicated in the Chapter 3 (meters 8,20) and it confirms the correctness of my calculations;
- the gradient between the two bunkers results of two meters, passing from the 6,25 meters of level of the Vorbunker floor to the 8,50 of the Führerbunker floor (the difference of 30 centimetres probably depends on irregularities of the ground taken as reference).

Actually, as shown in Chapter 2, the level of departure, that is the Vorbunker floor, was of 5,18 meters. The technicians of the Stasi have compensated this error (lower level of one meter) reducing the number of the steps, from 9 to 6, of the second ramp of the staircase at "C", that connected the two bunkers. Also the height of the steps of the two ramps has been reduced, from 20 to 16,66 centimetres. The result has been one meter of less gradient between the two bunkers;

- last remark: in the period of this survey (1974) the site of the emergency exit of the Führerbunker was covered by a hillock, about 5 meters tall.

Perhaps this hillock remained on the spot a few years more. It is sure, however, that in 1993 we find it moved about 150 meters towards west. The mystery of this hillock is cleared in the Chapter 14.

My interpretation appears in that chapter: the hillock was too near the quarter grown around the bunker and it caused trouble for obvious reasons. Moreover the idea that the bunker was under the hillock became popular. Therefore: why not move the hillock (diverting on it the visitors, harmless and dangerous) away from the bunker with its fame of "grave of the bunker"?

Conclusion of this Chapter:

The visit of the Stasi to the two bunkers did not bring to the discovery of tunnels of escape towards West Berlin.

The visit resulted only in measuring the state of preservation of the two bunkers and was not followed, up to 1988, by any actions aimed to their demolition and removal.

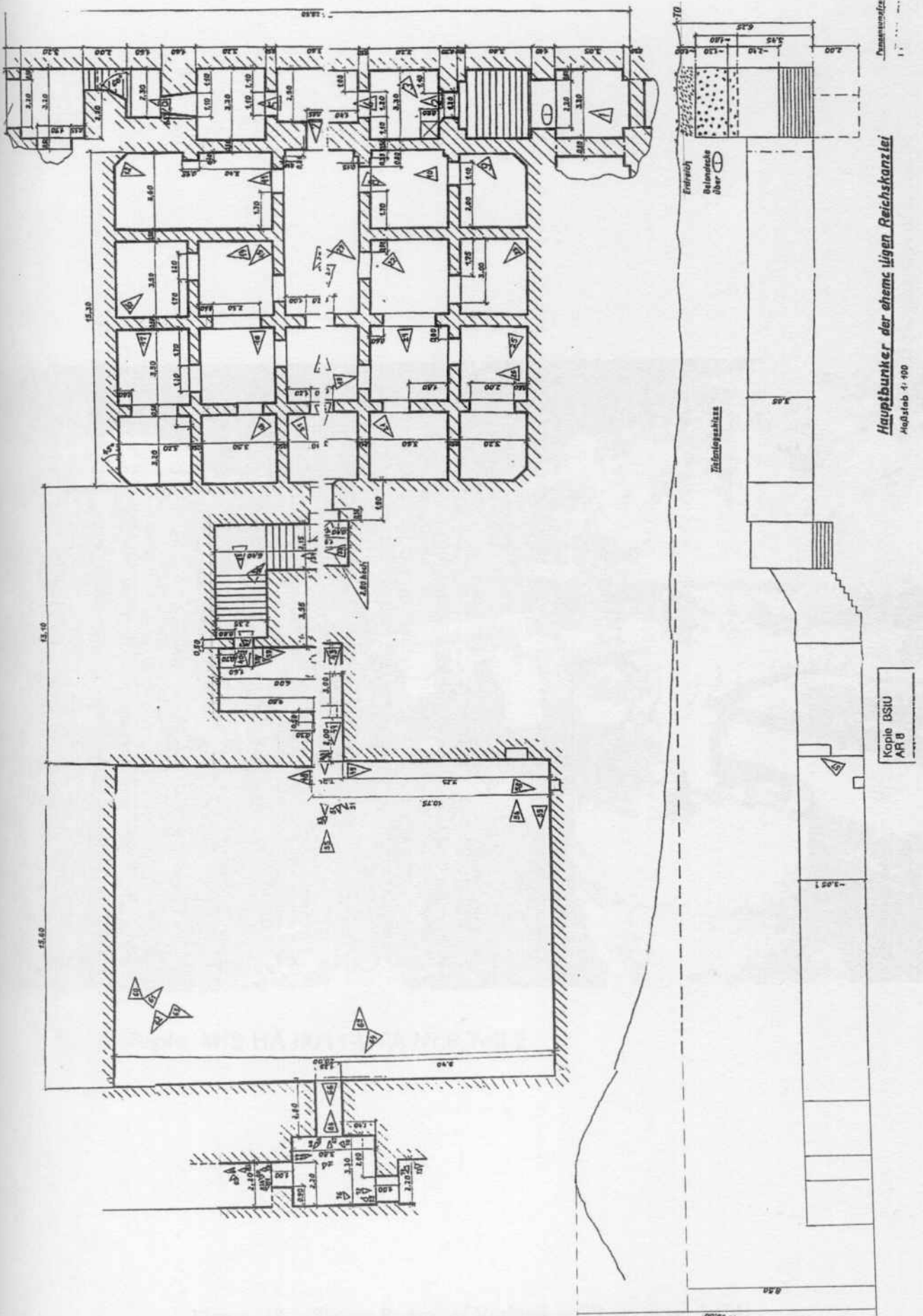
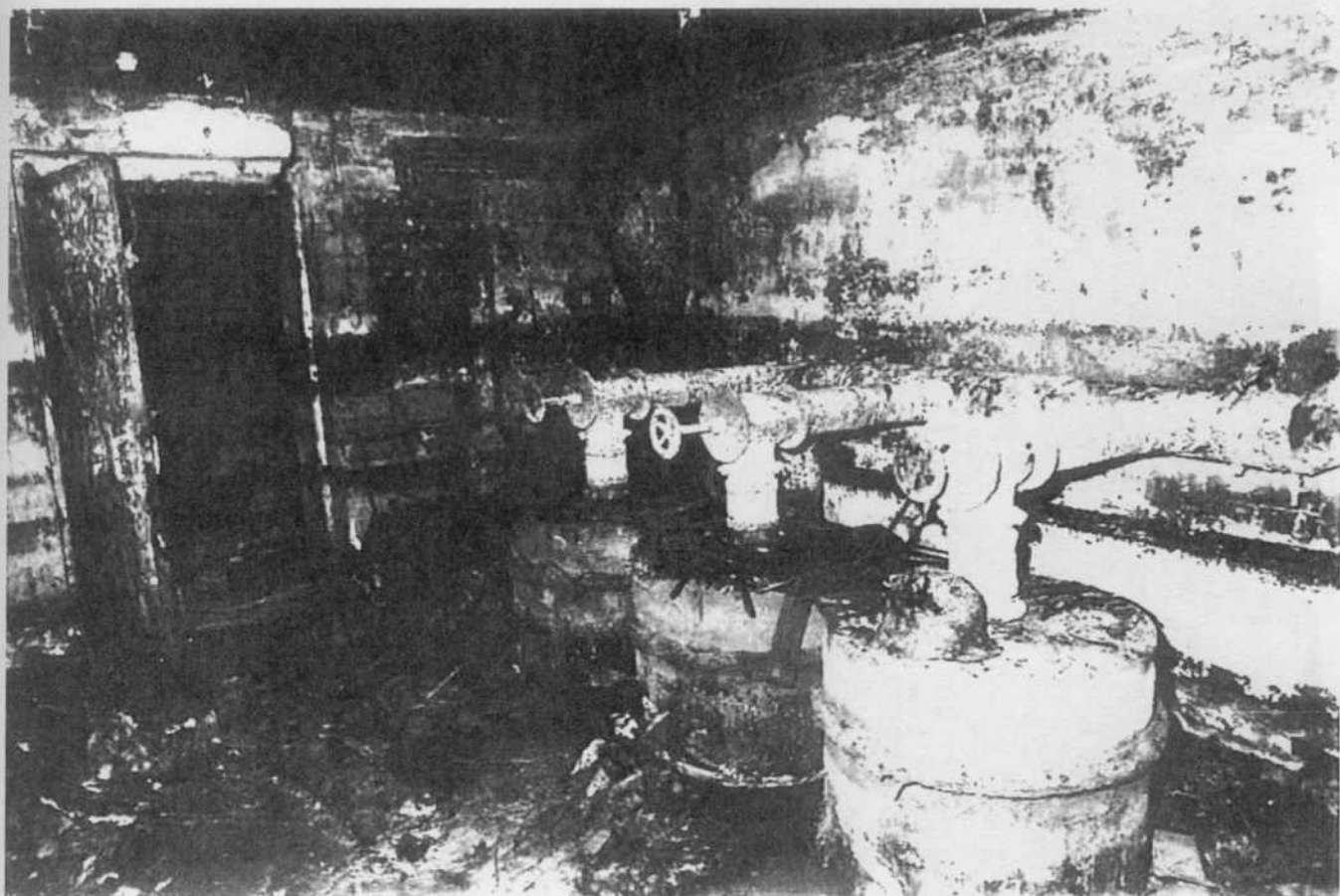
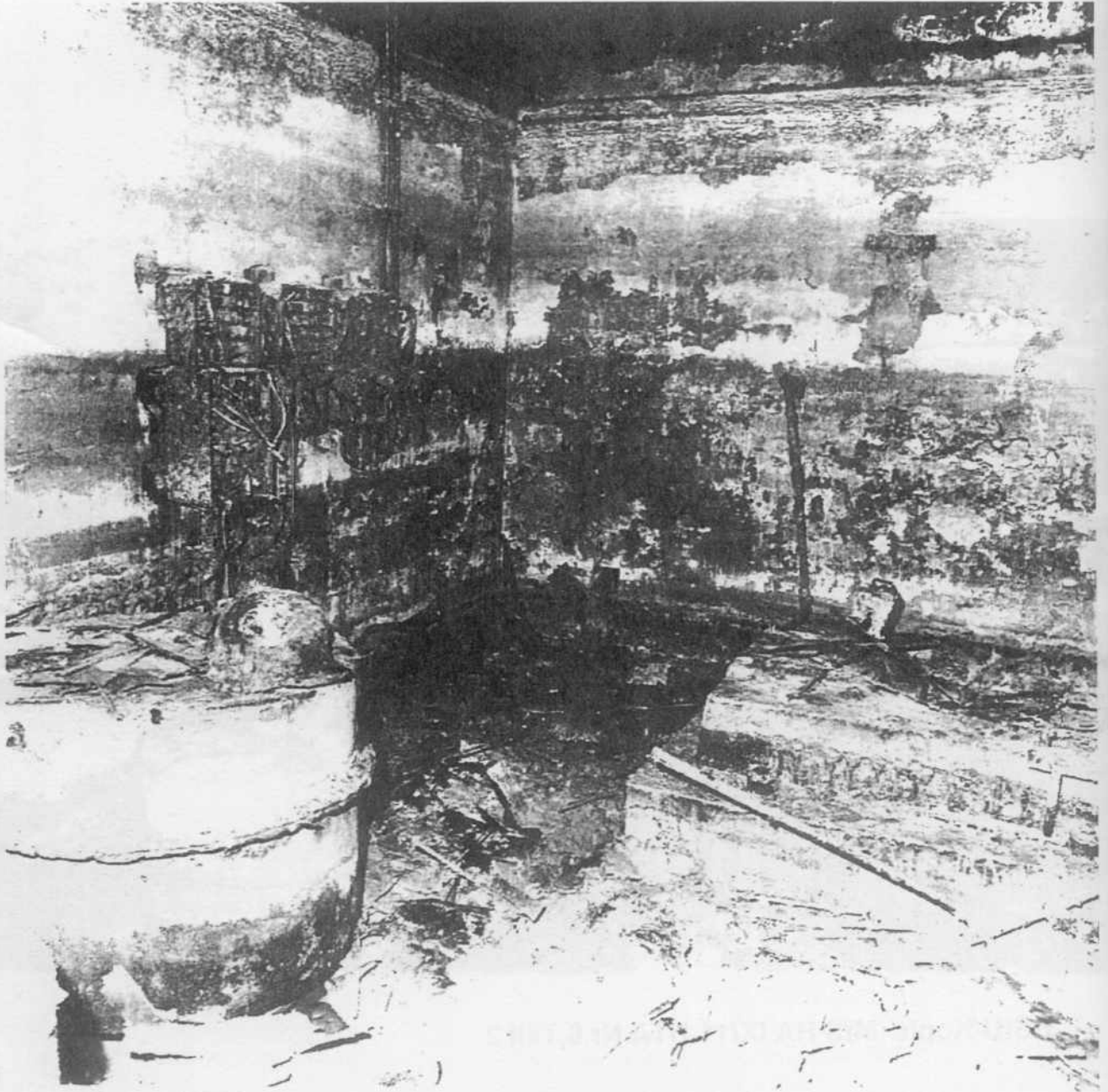


Figure 37 – Map of the two bunkers, drawn by the Stasi (1974)



BStU-Kopie MfS HA IX/11-UTA Nr.6, Teil 2

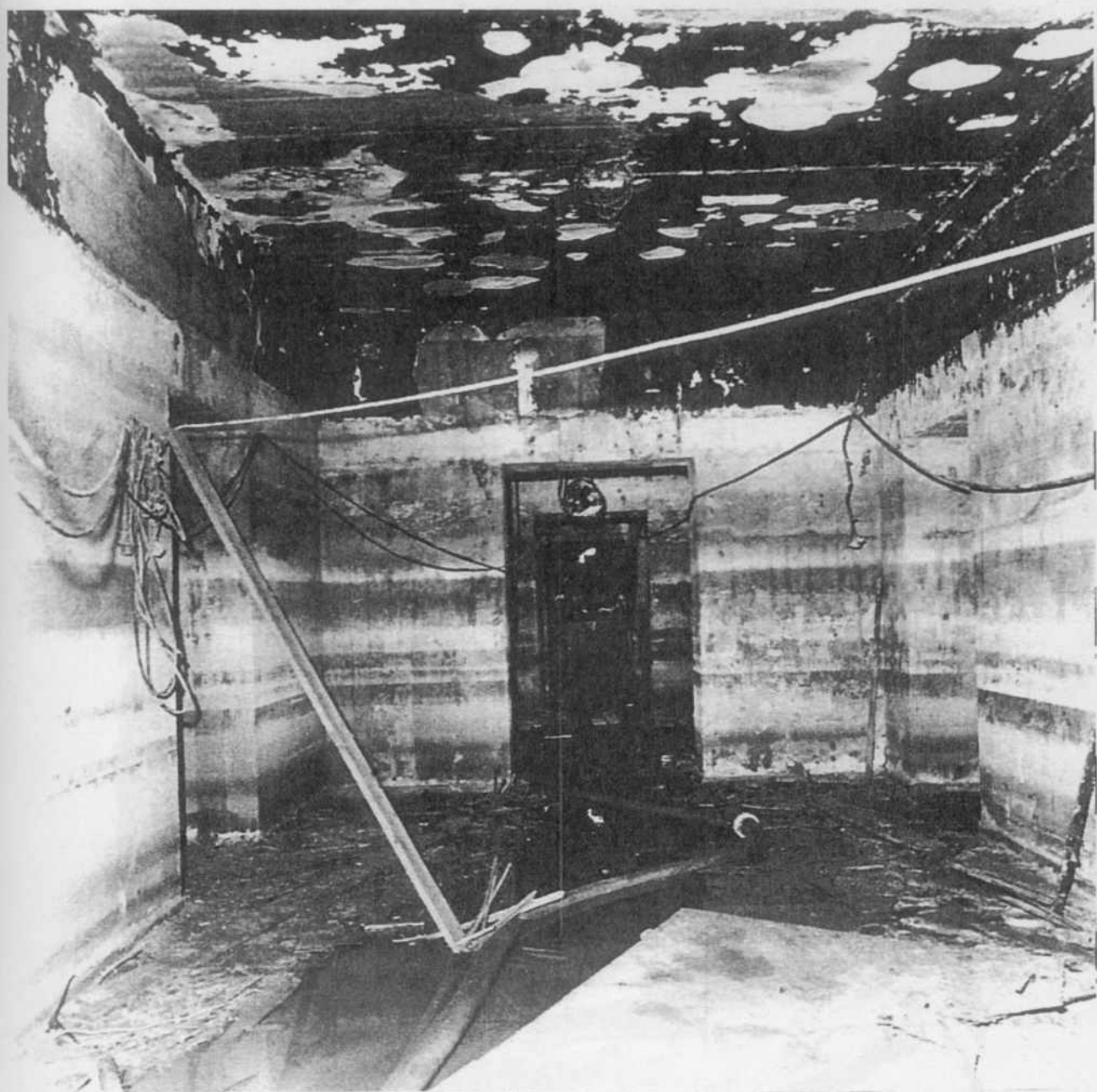
Figure 38 – “Power Room” of Vorbunker (Photo Stasi, 1974)



BSU-Kopie MfS HA IX/11-UTA Nr.6, Teil 2

Fundstelle der Dokumente

Figure 39 – “Power Room” of Vorbunker, particular with helmet (Photo Stasi, 1974)



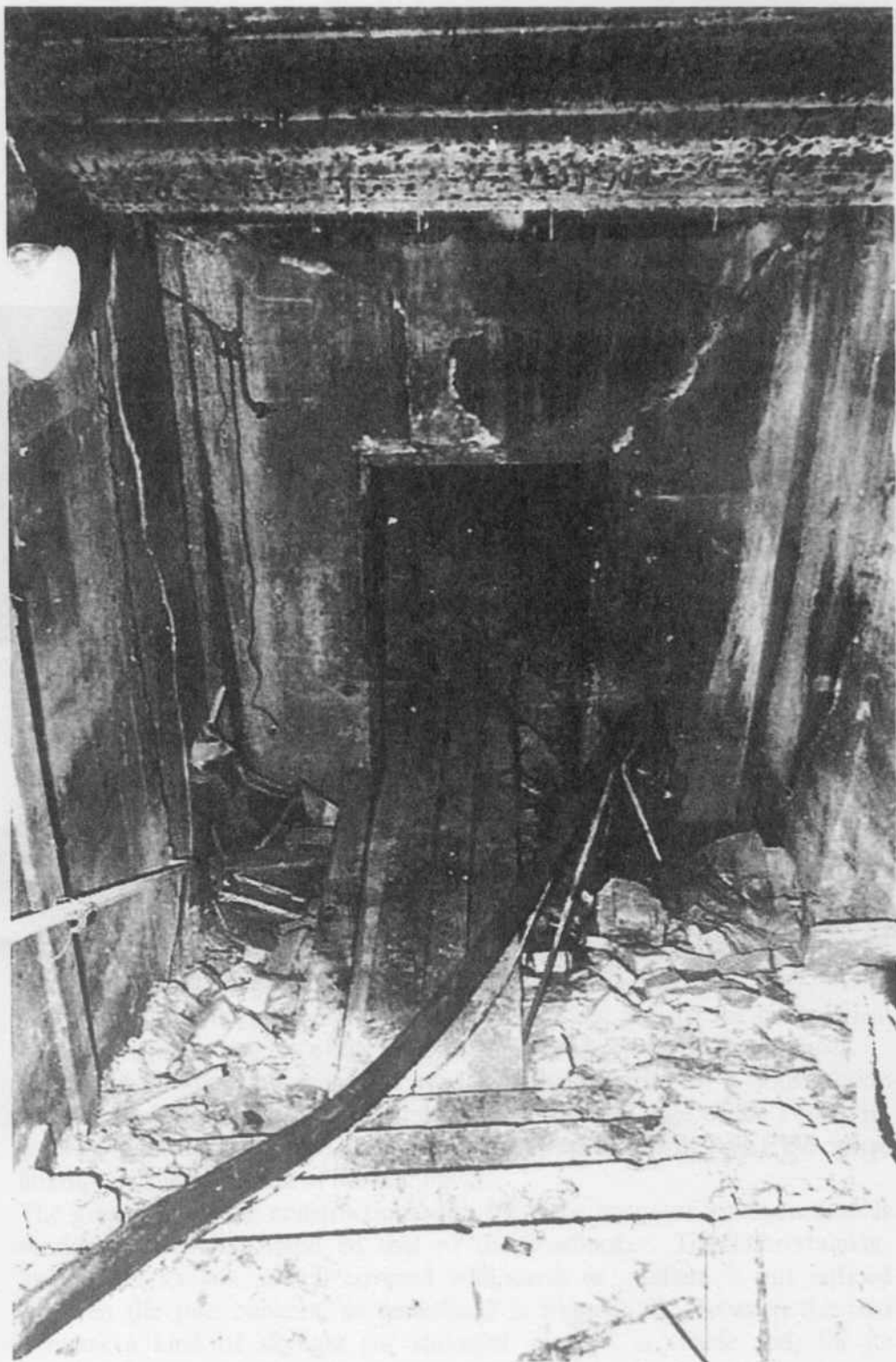
BSU-Kopie MfS HA IX/11-UTA Nr.6,Teil 2

Figure 40 – “Cafeteria” of Vorbunker (Photo Stasi, 1974)



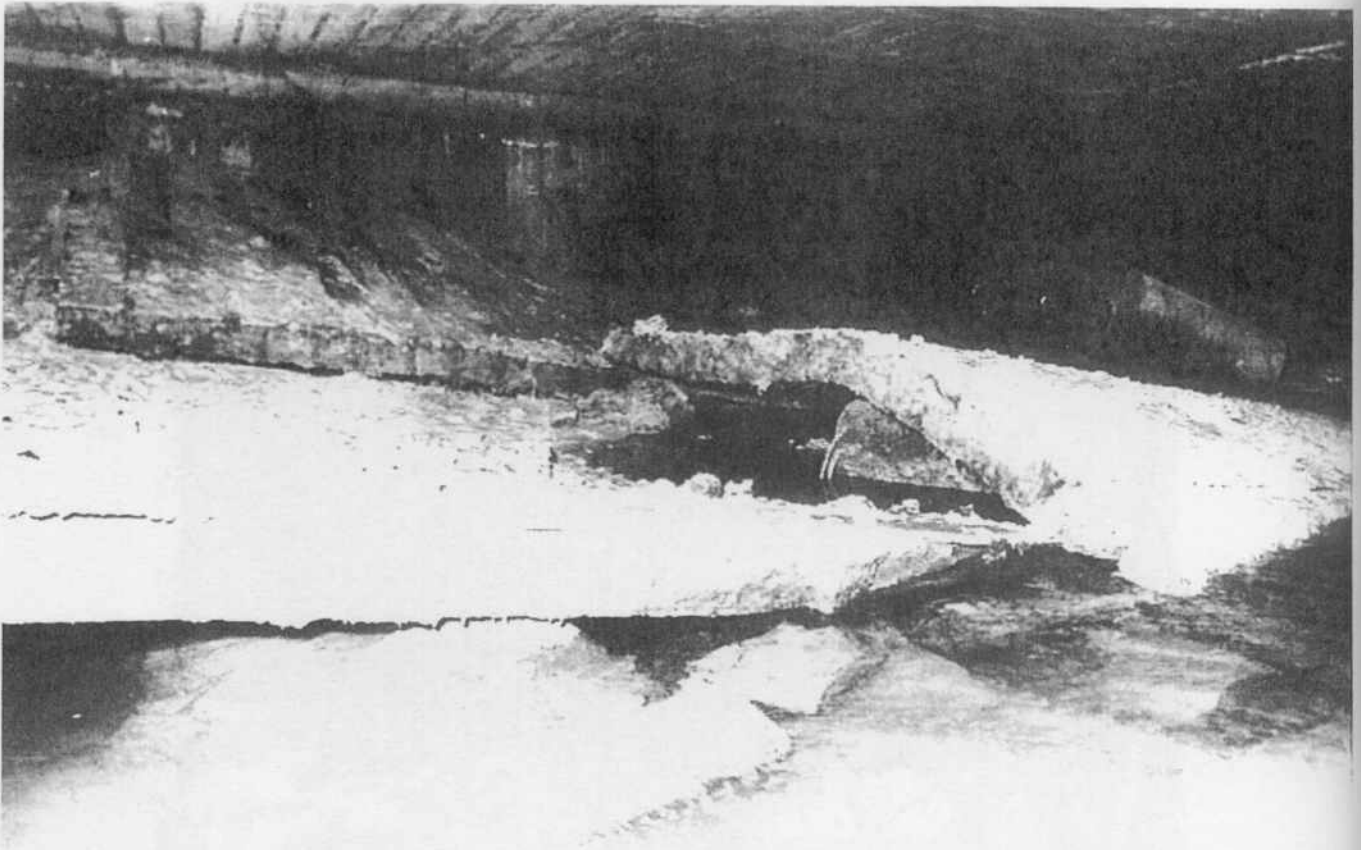
BStU-Kopie MfS HA IX/11-UTA Nr.6.Teil 2

Figure 41 – Staircase from Vorbunker to Führerbunker, second ramp taken from the lower part
(Photo Stasi, 1974)



BStU-Kopie MfS HA IX/11-UTA Nr.6, Teil 2

Figure 42 – Staircase from Vorbunker to Führerbunker, second ramp taken from the top
(Photo Stasi, 1974)



BSU-Kopie MfS HA IX/11-UTA Nr.6, Teil 2

Figure 43 – Führerbunker with its lain down walls (Photo Stasi, 1974)

1988

**EXCAVATIONS AND FIRST DISCOVERY OF
THE HITLER'S BUNKER**

We have left the Hitler's bunker in 1960, when its superficial rests were crumbled and removed. When it was covered with earth and hidden to human beings.

For a few decades nobody spoke anymore about the bunker. The Germans and the Berliners had something else to think about; they had to survive in that regime of collective poverty that the DDR had imposed.

One returns to speak of the bunker only in the 1988, because of the great jobs of digging out in the zone of the Old Chancellery for the construction of a residential complex, for the officials of the local administration and few others privileged. They had to build residential buildings of good image, especially if compared to the dormitories erected in East Berlin for the workers.

This quarter had to be a presentation card of East Berlin for the curious people that, from the other side of the wall, climbed panoramic turrets, wanting to realize the conditions of life beyond the curtain.

The buildings were built. The quarter widened and it is still growing and, frankly speaking, it cannot be said that it has succeeded badly.

In 1988, during the excavations, the coverings and part of the perimetrical walls of the two bunkers of the Old Chancellery appeared on the surface.

Figure 44 shows a photo of the yard and the covering of a construction situated under earth. This photo, taken by a Internet page of the Pentagon, is very important because it shows, besides the bunker, also a serious attempt of interpretation of the document.

The great slab of the construction, with the clear image of a person that is working above it, should be that of the Vorbunker. The Führerbunker, located on its left, is still covered with earth (a gradient is not noticed between the two bunkers, as underlined in Figure 20). Between the two bunkers a kind of skylight (or staircase space) is visible and, for its position, it corresponds to the staircase that brought, from the Vorbunker, to the Hitler's bunker.

Mind, now, the arrow and the little circle. The first one corresponds exactly to the position of the emergency exit of the bunker while the little circle refers to the position of the Watch Tower. It must be remembered that the mentioned tower was connected to the bunker through an iron staircase that, at ground level, was closed by a metallic plate; that is, there was there a skylight.

In this point it is realized the rectangular form, almost squared of Hitler's bunker.

The little circle of the skylight of the tower's staircase is connected with a white line to a chest, or great gully-hole, emergent from the ground in the small photo taken in 1991, that is three years after the discovery.

The houses on the background belong to the residential quarter of which we have spoken before and we must recognize that the builders have worked very fast: in three years they have realized a housing centre of notable dimensions.

This photo and these signs of recognition have a considerable value in the way that we are going to reach the present identification of the place of the bunker. Indeed, its source is the Pentagon of the United States.

We have also a second photo, taken in 1988 (Figure 45), that can be compared with that of Figure (44).

The block of concrete, in the foreground, is presented as the Führerbunker, while the clearest wall, in second plan, should be the one of the Vorbunker.

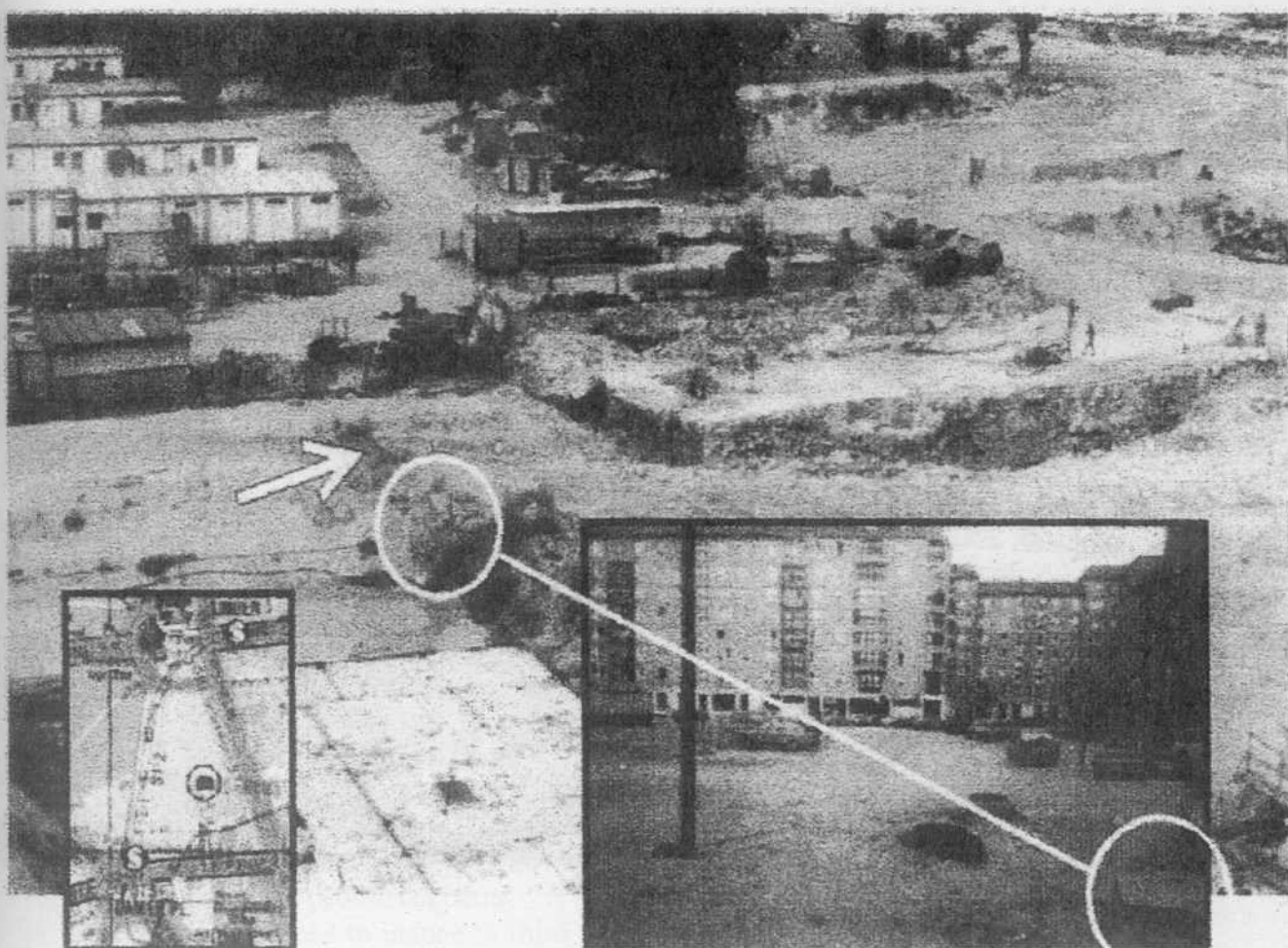
On the background some constructions are visible, along the Wilhelmstrasse. On the left of the photo, the building with the writing "Staatsverlag der DDR" is the headquarter of the State Publishers of the DDR; in the centre, in shade, is visible what was, in Wilhelmstrasse N° 63, the General Direction of the Lotteries and, currently, a section of the Conservatory; finally, on the right, the heading of the building that was the Propaganda Ministry of the Third Reich.

There is something curious about the state of maintenance and integrity of the structures of the bunker: we have to remember that the famous explosions carried out by the Soviets and by the Berliner technicians were very little thing!

Or perhaps they were not even carried out.

This interpretation would confirm what many experts of the Hitler's bunker think: the bunker is still there, built "to last" and "still lasting", powerful in its indestructible structures.

THE "DISCOVERY"
OF THE HITLER'S BUNKER



For the authors of this paper, the discovery of the bunker was a significant event in the history of the city. The discovery of the bunker was a significant event in the history of the city. The discovery of the bunker was a significant event in the history of the city.

Figure 44 – The bunker unearthed in 1988



Figure 45 – The bunker unearthed in 1988 (close up)

1988
THE "DESTRUCTION"
OF THE HITLER'S BUNKER

1988 has been a "dramatic" year for the Hitler's bunker.

As already mentioned, the Berlin Authorities broke loose, in that year, to the real estate exploitation of the zone of the Chancelleries, Old and New, of the Third Reich.

It was decided to build a new great quarter in the historical area and to clean out it from all the rests of the second world war. Among these there were the Vorbunker and the most famous Führerbunker.

The whole area was flattened, great excavations started for the foundations of the buildings and to discover the rests of the two bunkers and relative tunnels of connection.

In June, 1988 the two bunkers were already unearthed and rose in their massive structures.

Figure 45 of the previous chapter shows the two bunker still intact: it was June and the "cleaning" operation had not started yet.

The demolition of the bunkers had to happen without witnesses and the area was put under the police control.

Once destroyed and covered in earth, the two bunkers had to dissolve from reality, from the memory of Berliners and the amateurs of history: no information were provided to the visitors, still the ground had to be equipped with parking lots, flower-beds and playing-fields, set up new trees and realize pedestrian paths.

The place had to induce to think about everything, except the presence of the awful historical rests, about 8 meters under the feet of the inhabitants.

But the authors of this project had not foreseen the presence of a curious and adventurous reporter that fixed on his camera all the phases of the "destruction" operation.

This reporter is Erhard Schreier, painter and professional designer, still living in Berlin. In the Third Part of the book the meeting of the author with Schreier and some ways of the operation carried out by him, despite the existing prohibitions, are described.

Let us start, therefore, from Figure 45 of the previous chapter, and see how the operations, for the "destruction" of the Hitler's bunker, proceeded. I use the quotation marks for the term destruction because, as we will realize at the end of this chapter, the operation did not succeed and the bunker is still there, ready to be recovered and turned into a place for visit and meditation.

Around June 1988 began the operations that, as regard to the Vorbunker, were concluded quite easily. The walls were not too thick and the bunker was not so deep.

The drills and the pneumatic hammers methodically succeeded in cleaning out the area of the Vorbunker, up to the staircase of its connection with the Führerbunker, dismantling concrete and steel and removing the rubble.

The attack to the latter immediately turned out to be more difficult: it had to face a concrete covering of 4 meters, with walls of the same thickness and with more remarkable depth.

Now, let us see some photos, of great historical value, that fix some phases of the operation of demolition.

In Figure 46 the covering of the Führerbunker is partially dismantled. The photo is directed towards the Wilhelmstrasse, therefore the operation started in the right part of the bunker. The huge thickness of the covering appears evident: it is about 4 meters of concrete.

In the foreground, the black opening is the exit towards the watch tower. Since this tower was located in the right corner of the bunker we deduce that the cut in the covering corresponds to the south wall of the bunker.

In other words, in June, 1988 the works are only beginning and the true structure of the bunker is still intact. On the covering a drill stands out, used for opening holes in the concrete to fill up, later, with dynamite.

In Figure 47 the works are proceeded; perhaps we are in July-August, 1988. The orientation of the photo is always towards the Wilhelmstrasse (on the right it is visible a part of the Propaganda Ministry of Goebbels).

The method of the progression of works is the following: some strips 1-2 meters wide are drilled, the dynamite is inserted and later they blow up.

The rubble is removed towards right, overflowing the external walls (increasing the apparent thickness, as it will result from the geomagnetic prospecting carried out in 1997; see the Second Part of the book) or they fall on the base, on the bunker floor.

In this photo also the drill can be seen: the two workers are a good visual reference for the estimate of the thickness of the bunker covering.

In Figure 48 the works have proceeded. The rubble and the steel scaffoldings of the bunker covering are clearly visible; by now the rubble covers the floor.

Figure 49, even though complex, is a source of interesting information. In the foreground are accumulated the irons and the girders that constituted the scaffolding of the Vorbunker. Rods and big "double T" girders are ready to be removed: trace will not remain of the Vorbunker. In second plane the usual drill is working on the Führerbunker. On the background appears the Berlin wall; it is the inside wall, beyond which there is the "nobody zone", and after crossing it, one reaches the true wall, the one situated outside, on the Ebertstrasse.

In Figure 50 the works have gone further. Perhaps we are in October-November, 1988. The Führerbunker is already uncovered, the floor is flooded with about a meter of water that reaches half way of the door, visible in the wall on the front. This door led to the staircase up to the emergency exit on the Chancelleries gardens. Around the bunker: rubble with blocks of concrete and iron.

The last photo, Figure 51, can be defined the terminal image of the great work, lasted months.

The Führerbunker is uncovered, "en plein air". It is surrounded by rubble that will not be removed anymore: they remain there to increase the "virtual" thickness of the external walls of the bunker.

Finally, the time to cover what remained has come. Tons of earth, probably sandy, are poured to cover everything.

The door, semi-hidden by the rubble (on the left side of the photo), is that of the staircase that led to the Vorbunker. The square opening on the right, near by the casting of fresh earth, is the ventilation opening of the laundries and the Hitlers' toilet.

And now a reflection for whoever thought that with this operation the bunker has become irretrievable.

The external walls of the bunker are intact. The superior edge, at a height of 3 meters from the ground, is perfect, straight and without breaches.

If we exclude the not simple work of removal of the rubble left on the spot, around and not over the bunker, it is not an impossible project to recover it.

It is not necessary to reconstruct a covering 4 meters thick: it is enough one of 50 centimetres. And the inside walls can be realized with the thickness currently in use for the civil residences.

Then, which end for the bunker?

It can be said, paradoxically, that what has stupidly been made in 1988 has arranged an open box, ready for a future closing and a future recovery of the bunker.



Figure 46 – Führerbunker, starting of the dismantling of the covering (1988)



Figure 47 – Führerbunker, the dismantling of the covering is proceeding (1988)

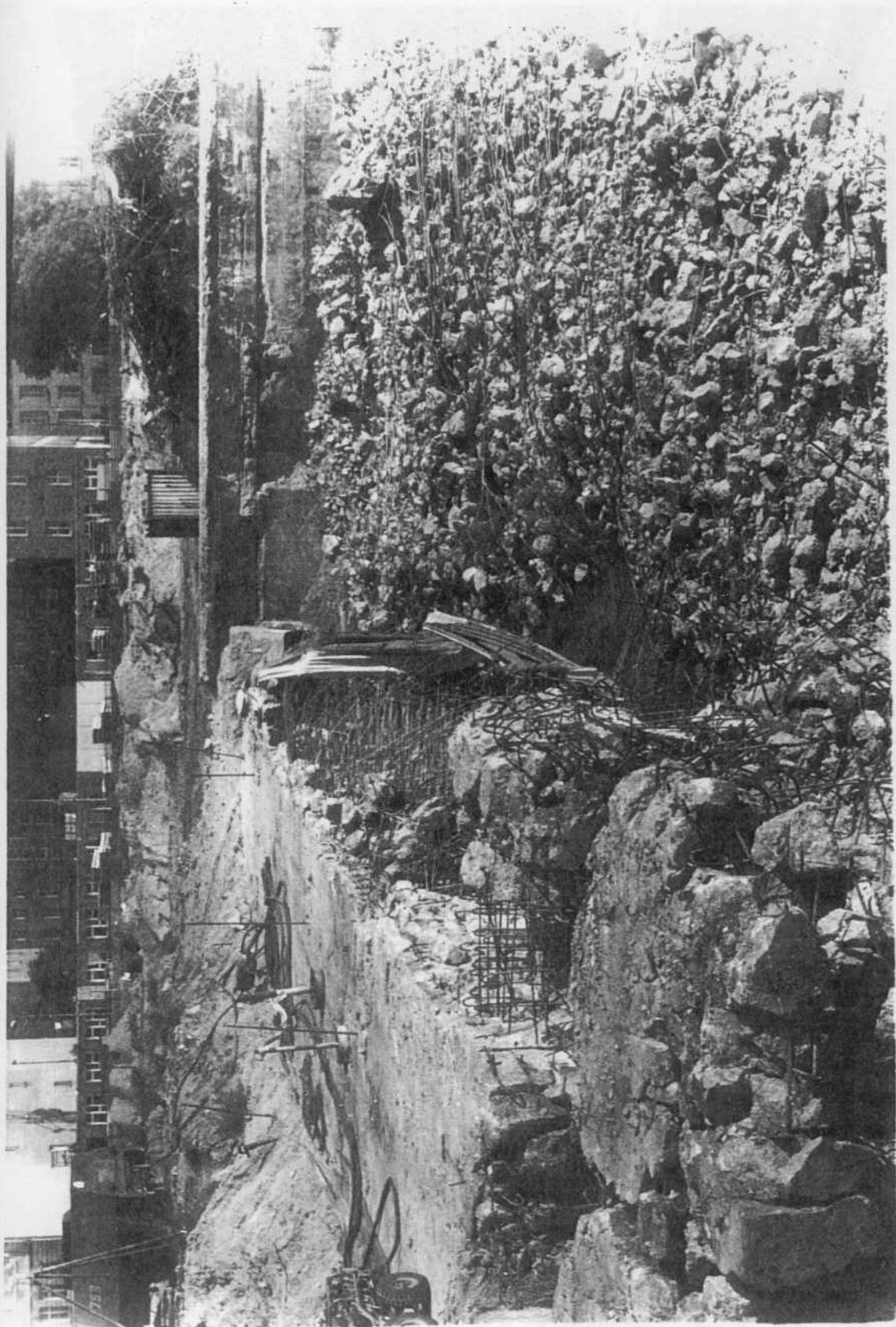


Figure 48 – Führerbunker, the dismantling of the covering is advanced (1988)

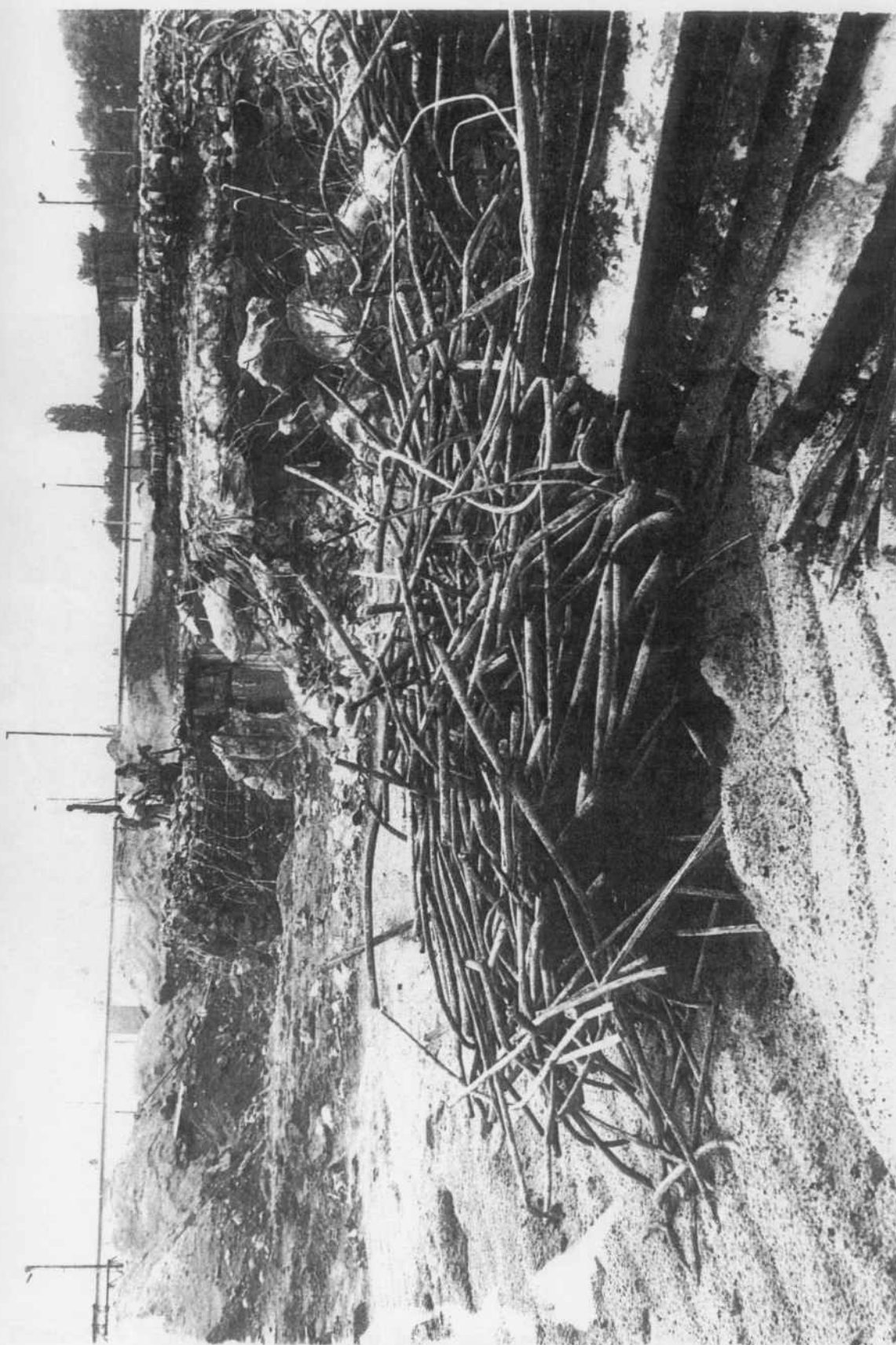


Figure 49 – Irons and girders of the destroyed Vorbunker,
on the background the (internal) Berlin Wall (1988)

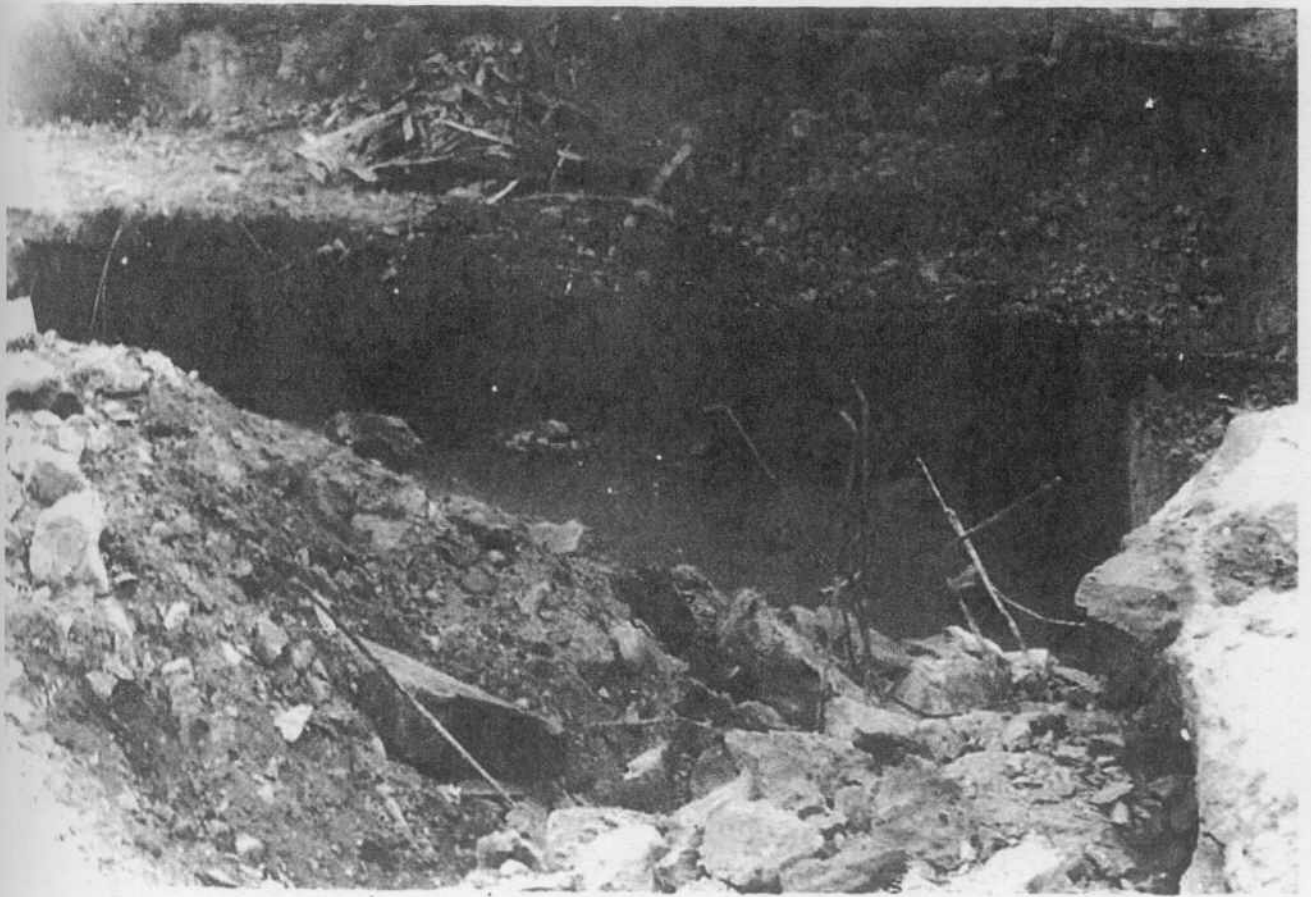


Figure 50 – Führerbunker uncovered, in the wall on the front is visible the door that led to the “emergency exit” on the Chancelleries gardens (1988)



Figure 51 – Führerbunker uncovered, the filling up with earth starts (1988)

1990
THE ARRANGEMENT OF THE AREA
OF THE CHANCELLERY
(First discovery of the drivers' bunker)

In 1961 the "Wall of Berlin" was built. The wall, among other absurdities, had cut the area of the Chancelleries (the quadrilateral formed by Wilhelmstrasse, Voss Strasse, Ebertstrasse and Beherenstrasse), from south to north.

The "Nobody's earth", delimited by two parallel walls, crossed the area with a direction approximately parallel to the two streets, Wilhelmstrasse and Ebertstrasse. The distance from the first one was of about 250 meters, while the one from the Ebertstrasse was of about 160 meters.

The demolition of the wall, started in November of 1989, had filled the area with rubble of concrete and iron, giving it a desolating aspect.

In 1990 the municipality of Berlin decided to celebrate the reunification of the city with a great concert in the most logical place: the area freed by the wall, south of the Brandenburg Gate. The concert would have been taken by Roger Waters, famous star of the Pink Floyd.

A team of workers was entrusted to clear up the zone from the rubble and, in the middle of the same, the ex "Nobody's earth."

Cleaning up and "scratching" the ground appeared, on the surface, the rests of an underground construction in reinforced concrete, belonging to the network of tunnels and bunkers of the gardens of the Chancelleries. It was a construction of about 150 square meters, subsequently identified as the bunker of the drivers of the SS.

It is curious the linguistic game that was created in Berlin, in the discussions on the destiny of this bunker. In the German language the word "driver" is translated with "Fahrer." Then, the bunker became the "Fahrerbunker", word very similar to that more famous of "Führerbunker."

The Fahrerbunker revealed the presence of figures on the walls, exalting "Gott mit uns", military stories and allowed to find various objects, among which helmets, daggers and silverware of the Chancellery.

The discussion on what to do of it in fact didn't last very long. All of a sudden the Berlin's authorities decided to reclose the bunker in the subsoil where, for almost half century, it had rested.

This has been the first decision of the municipality of the "free" and unified Berlin: to cover the rests and their historical meaning. Under this aspect they continued the line adopted, in the preceding decades, by the Soviets and the authorities of the DDR, of ignoring and cancelling the burning rests, testimony of the end of the Third Reich.

However, we will then see that, if we exclude the discovery of the 1988 treated in the previous Chapter, all the following discoveries have brought to light bunkers of service, built for the motor-vehicles and the drivers of the Chancellery. This doesn't exclude that, very often, these bunkers were presented and boosted as the "bunker of Hitler."

1993
FIRST INVESTIGATION ON THE SPOT
OF THE BUNKER
(the mystery of the "hillock")

The 1993 is not a historical year for the bunker. It was for me, because I, for the first time, went to look for it in Berlin.

As I have already said in the "Antecedent fact" of this book, I went to the place of the bunker following the indication received by a taxi driver.

In the desolating open space I discerned a hillock of rubble, covered of weeds and, considering that, out of it, nothing existed for hundreds of meters, I immediately was sure I had found the rests of Hitler's bunker.

I made a film of a couple of minutes with my movie camera and after a careful glance to the residential buildings on the background, towards Wilhelmstrasse, I left the place, pleased to have satisfied my curiosity.

Then I didn't know the "trick of the hill" and, I imagine, as many others I had no doubts about the discovery.

I didn't make photos, but Figure 52 shows a faded image (taken from a photo shot to the monitor of my VCR, in position of "stop-image") of the film of my movie camera.

This hillock is the same of the photo of Figure 36. In the photo, made in 1958, the hillock (pointed out by the source as the "hill of the bunker") appeared under good conditions.

Since then up to 1993, that is a period of 35 years, a lot of things happened, among which the construction of the Berlin's wall that, for a joke of the destiny, passed near the hillock.

In 1993 the wall had been demolished since 4 years and the rests of the hill were involved in the works of destruction and removal of the wall. Here it is explained the disastrous state in which I found this heap of earth, rubble and weeds in my 1993 investigation.

I remained with the certainty I had discovered the place of the bunker for some years, sometimes comforted by readings or images, that confirmed that hill as the tumulus of the bunker.

An example comes from Figure 53 where an image, taken from a Internet page of 1995, shows exactly the same hillock that I filmed with my movie camera in 1993. Even the tree, on the left of this photo, is the same. The subtitles of this Internet page said: "Well, what did you expect? The rests of the bunker lie under this hillock covered of weeds." Another researcher that made my same mistake!

Always in 1995 the Italian newspaper "L'UNITA'" issues with a service entitled: "Discovered the place where was burnt the body of the dictator-the archaeologist on the traces of Hitler." This service affirms.... "between the numbers 91 and 93 (of Wilhelmstrasse) there is a passage.

Behind there are a field-games for children, a small parking lot and, really there, where the wall ran, a lawn where the boys now play ball. In the middle there is a hillock. Under the grass and three meters of earth there is, precisely in that point, one of the two towers of the bunker of the Chancellery. The authorities of the RDT, when they arranged the area, didn't want to destroy it, they limited themselves to hide, covering it.

To some meters from the tower it had to be the entry of the bunker. About forty more meters, more or less where now the mini parking area is located, there should be the place where, fifty years ago, in one afternoon made dark by the smoke of the fires and the gun-shots, it was played the last act of the Nazi adventureUnder the tower, now buried, two rooms of the principal bunker are still accessible, a little more beyond there is the entry of the so-called "Fahrerbunker", that someone discovered only few months ago and in which have been found bizarre wall paintings, scenes of "Nazi life", a lot of "kitsch", of which nobody had ever known anything..."

I have quoted this excerpt of a service, almost valuable, to underline how the hillock of the mystery was still stricking. Besides having exchanged it for the place of the bunker, the service makes to bloom again, around and under of it, legends of presence of one of the bunker's towers and of accessible rooms to the bunker.

This hillock had to have a hard skin because in 1999 it is still there in almost decent conditions, inside the mentioned residential quarter of Wilhelmstrasse. Figure 54, appeared in a Internet page of that year, shows it.

But in November 2001, a photo of mine (Figure 55), taken exactly in the same point where I filmed with my movie camera in 1993, puts in evidence its state of total decomposition. On its top, by now reduced to a earthy little hill, not even two meters high, and surrounded by perennial weeds, the photo shows up a kiosk that offers "Imbiß", snacks, to the visitor families. .

With this photo, that without any doubt states the "death" of the mysterious hillock, we can pass over, to the search of other signs and proof that can bring us to the true place where the Hitler's bunker lies.



Figure 52 – Heap of rubble ascribed to the bunker (film of the Author–1993)



Figure 53 – The same heap of rubble (from a page of Internet-1995)

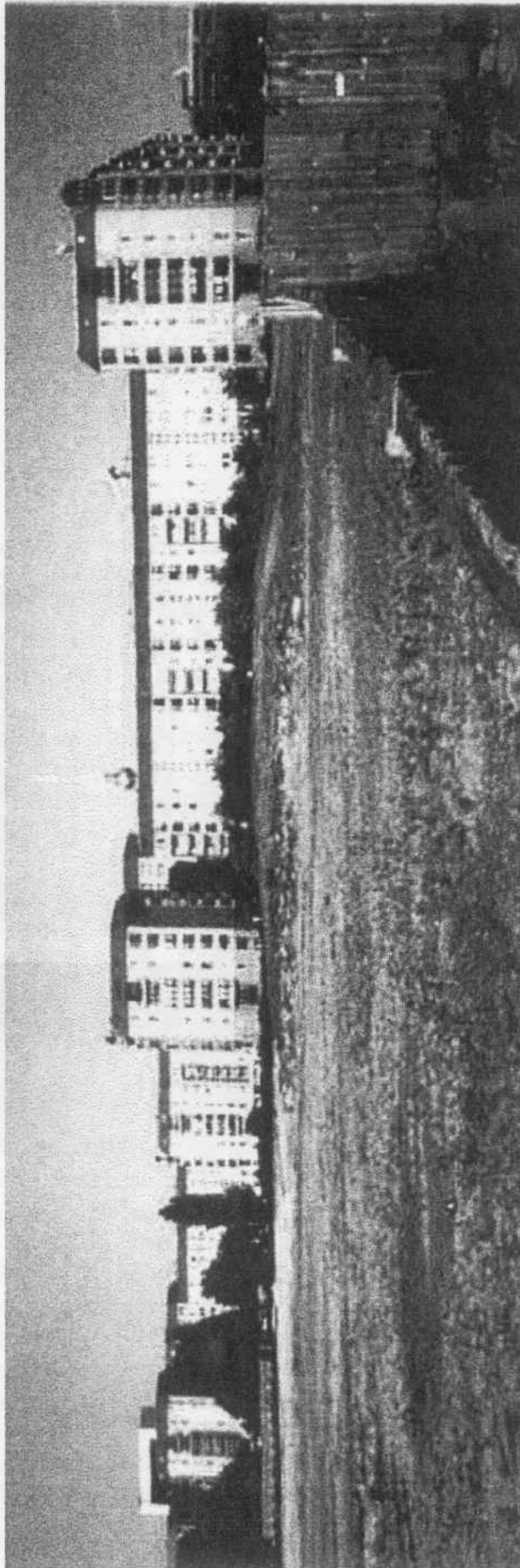


Figure 54 – The “Mysterious” Hillock (from a page of Internet-1999)



Figure 55 – Rest of the Hillock (Photo of the Author – November 2001)

1995
SECOND DISCOVERY OF THE
“DRIVERS’ BUNKER”

In 1995 excavations were carried out in the quadrilateral of the Chancelleries and were discovered rests of a bunker.

It deals with the drivers' bunker and this is enough to light up the imagination of the press and the Berliners.

By itself the event is not exceptional. As we have already said, in the quadrilateral exists a labyrinth of bunkers and tunnels. Every time it comes upon underground structures in reinforced concrete, one thinks of having found the bunker of Hitler.

We must keep in mind that in the quadrilateral there are at least two bunkers that we can attribute to the drivers of the Chancelleries. The nearest is far from the Hitler's bunker a little more than 120 meters while the second is far more than the double (Figure 25).

It is worth underlining that, in the bunker of the drivers, writings and Nazi representations were found. Very mediocre stuff that is not deserving mentioning.

The fact rises however again the interest of the press that publishes some services.

In the number of May 5th 1995, Frankfurter Allgemeine publishes a service at page 19 with the title "Macht und prunk sind untergegangen, grass ist über das grauen gewachsen", power and ostentation have gone ruined, the grass is grown above the horror.

This service, by Von Paul Badde, is the first one that clears the misunderstanding of the hillock as place of the bunker to approach the true location of the Führerbunker.

It mentions the new street opened along the Wilhelmstrasse, that we could define the "short cut", to reach the Voss Strasse turning inside the residential quarter. When this street, that later will be denominated "An der Kolonnade", turns left, in the direction of the Voss Strasse, if one turns right, overcoming the building of the corner (the Block, in the text) and goes along twelve footsteps, reaches the place where the bunker lies.

Even if still generic, this description seizes the reality, till now always escaped, that the bunker is not away from the houses, in the hillock zone, but, on the contrary, near enough the residential buildings, games park for the children and inside parking- lots for cars.

Also the subtitle of the service "Berlin, Wilhelmstrasse 93, Adolf Hitler letzte adresse" shows another peculiarity of the place of the bunker: it is easier to arrive at it through the entries of the residential buildings in Wilhelmstrasse, rather than from the vast back area, that extends from Voss Strasse to Ebertstrasse, up to the Beherenstrasse.

The discovery of the bunker of the drivers has given the inspiration to a magazine of prestige as Der Spiegel (n° 14/1995) for a valuable service on Hitler, supported by photos and sketches: "Hitlers Höllenfahrt", the descent to hell of Hitler.

In this article it appears, besides the map of the quadrilateral of the Chancellery, with its buildings, bunkers and tunnels, also an axonometry of Hitler's bunker. In this representation there is everything: from the structure of the rooms to their destination, up to the furnishing. The representation is very clear. The only information, from which my surveys diverge, are the thickness of the earth above the bunker (shown as 2 meters), its covering (shown as 3,50 meters) and the gradient of 2 meters between the two bunkers (for these aspects the reader is sent back to Chapter 3 "The realization of the Führerbunker").

Of the same period is the article appeared on the Italian newspaper "L'UNITA'" (April 23rd 1995), already mentioned in the previous Chapter.

Covered the excavations of the bunker of the drivers, silence fell on the history of the Hitler's bunker, up to the following discoveries of 1999.

1999

**THIRD DISCOVERY OF THE
DRIVERS' BUNKER
(The mysteries continue)**

The "torment" on the mystery of Hitler's bunker continues and gets lively in 1999.

Workers employed in the search of unexploded bombs south of the Brandenburg Gate discover a structure in reinforced concrete, buried some meters under: good Heavens! It is the bunker of Hitler.

This way the "media" all over the world broke out: television, radio, newspapers and magazines.

Let's see some of them, quite important, also to make some reflections on the nature of certain "scoops".

The "Washington Post", on Saturday October 16th 1999, issues with a service titled: "Old Debate Dug up with Hitler's Bunker".

The article is brought in Appendix C. The content, in its whole, is valuable and acceptable. The only inaccuracy of the service is the photo: it deals with the 1948 photo, carried out immediately after the demolition of the superficial parts of the bunker: the watch tower and the emergency exit (mentioned in the previous chapters of this book). The subtitles, at the foot of the photo say: "Building workers to the search of unexploded bombs of the second world war have exhumed the rests of the bunker of Adolf Hitler." Anybody who goes to visit Berlin, these days, is suggested not to look for these rests in the area of the Chancelleries: they have been shattered and removed some tens of years ago.

The "BBC News On Line" launches this title: "Hitler's suicide bunker unearthed" (October 15th 1999, at 16,25).

Text: "In Berlin workers have exhumed the rests of the bunker where the Nazi leader Adolf Hitler "is said" to have committed suicide. The historians have always known the place where Hitler hid himself. It has been sealed by the Red Army after the capitulation of Berlin to the Russians. But it was never dug, fearing that it could become a sanctuary for Neo-Nazis.

Now workers, working to the foundations of a new government building, have discovered a block of concrete six meters thick, with reinforcement of metal, thought to be part of the strengthened roof of the bunker.

No doubt. The bunker, a little south of the Brandenburg Gate, is the place where one believes that Hitler and his bride Eva Braun killed themselves in the final days of the second world war.

An official of the Berlin's State Archaeological Office, Karin Wagner, said he had no doubt that the discovery is the bunker of Hitler."

The Italian newspaper "Corriere della Sera" issues, on December 3rd 1999, the following service "The bunker of Hitler breaks Berlin", subtitles "Let's turn it into a memorial." "No, it would become a Nazi sanctuary." Above the title: "Roadworks caused the emerging of rests of the shelter under the Chancellery where in 1945 the Führer and Eva Braun killed themselves".

In the body of the article is affirmed that "the discussion rages violent, in Berlin, Germany, since last October the workers of the City that were working to the digging out for a new road came across the roof of the bunker. Emerged five years ago from the "nobody's earth", created by the wound of the Wall, the last shelter of Hitler had quickly been re-buried for decision of the authorities of Berlin.

But a simple bulldozer was sufficient and the past of shame, hidden in every stone, returned once again to challenge the city and, with it, the new Berliner Republik...".

The article is well built but the attached photo is the same of 1948, already seen above. The subtitles affirm: "Rubble. The discovery of the rests of the bunker of the Chancellery in Berlin."

Finally a service of the Italian magazine "GENTE", on March 23rd 2000, with the title "Here is the Bunker". The "Head-line" affirms: "Since the post-war period the memory of the exact location of the Führer's bunker was lost. A few months ago some workers have found it, working in one of the many yards of the "new" Berlin. We have gone down to visit it over fifty years after the end of nazism."

I have no doubts about the good faith and the accuracy of the investigation carried out by the journalists.

However it immediately appears evident, to whom has knowledge of the structure and the topography of the bunker, that the spot is not that of the "Führerbunker". The images on the walls, the dimension of the corridors and their height, the form of the vaults and the number of the doors along the corridor, all show it.

Probably it deals with a bunker of the drivers or one of the so many bunkers of which the quadrilateral of the Chancelleries is disseminated.

The moral that I would try to draw from this Chapter is that, also in the recent 1999, the great misunderstanding, the great mystery of the true bunker of Hitler continues to flutter more and more vague.

The "damned Hillock" has finished to misguide us but in its place other ghosts succeeded, as the drivers bunkers, or the 1948 Führerbunker's superficial rests, to trouble us and to leave us puzzled in search of the true place where the most tragic exhibit of the twentieth century is hidden.

2001 (July)
TO THE SEARCH OF THE BUNKER'S BUILDER

In the summer 2001 we are already in the twenty-first century, we have entered the third millennium and our thought should have turned page in comparison to the events of last century.

We must consider that it has been an awful century, crossed by movements and ill-omened wars.

It has been the century of the Marxism-Leninism, of the reaction to it through the fascism, of the disruptive rising up of a derived and more violent ideology as the nazism, of its fall and the ascent of the Stalinist empire. Two wars have marked the elapsing of the century: to the first "world" war (but, all added, "European"), a more devastating second world war followed, with many tens of millions of corpses, spread on almost all the continents.

A demon has left his imprint on the events of the twentieth century; this demon was Adolf Hitler.

His personality was so strong that even the American magazine TIME devoted him the 1938 cover, as the man of the year.

In the choice for the man of the century, assigned to Albert Einstein, the judging international Committee also considered Adolf Hitler.

This demon, that has written the history of humanity in the twentieth century with a pen soaked in blood, decided to leave us and to sink himself in the darkness of his Wahlalla, inside a den of reinforced concrete, many meters under earth level, under the bombs of the winners, arrived by then to few hundreds meters from his shelter.

This shelter, that undoubtedly has enormous value of historical evidence, has awkwardly been hidden in the half century that followed its abandonment, by the notorious tenant.

In almost fifty years we have assisted, as described in the previous Chapters, to attempts of annihilation with explosives, awkward coverings, casual discoveries for works of various nature, misunderstandings (not always in good faith) with other bunkers; everything, we could say, except the definitive identification of this witness of the history.

These were my reflections at the beginning of 2001, when I decided "to pass to the attack", that is to turn directly to the primary sources that had an active role in the story of the Hitler's bunker.

And who could have been summoned more directly if not the builder of the bunker?

The problem was not simple: it dealt with individualising the name, contacting it (if still existing) and gathering information of interest to my search.

Consulting the sources used for the drawing up of this book, I noticed a name, quoted as the enterprise builder of the bunker: it was Hochtief.

No other indication.

With the mood of somebody who wanted to put himself in contact with the producer of the gas Zyklon 6, used in the gas rooms of Auschwitz or with the builder of the crematories of Birkenau, I started the search of this firm on the portals and on the main Internet motors.

I was lucky because, after some attempts, the name Hochtief went out, with headquarter in Essen, Germany, in Opernplatz, 2. It dealt with an enterprise of constructions still existing.

Internet pointed out also the web-site of the Hochtief, that I immediately visited.

And here I had my first great surprise. It wasn't, as I supposed, a modest building enterprise, specialized in the realization of small anti-aircraft shelters, but of a big German constructions group, founded in 1875.

This enterprise, that it would be better define as industrial group, is the greatest firm of projecting and construction in the whole Germany. During 2000 it had in progress, all over the world, projects for about 25.000 billions liras. Over all the continents, work for it 41.000 persons, including technicians and workers.

But the surprise doesn't end here!

Hochtief has carried out, all over the world, works of which any Nation should be proud.

They started, around 1900, with the construction of the pneumatic bench of the pier of Genoa for the moving of the grains; in 1910 they carried out the railway station of Basel in Switzerland; in 1955 the towers of the Mannesmann offices in Düsseldorf; around 1965 they saved, with difficult works of restoration and reclamation, the temples of Abu Simbel in Egypt. This last work was performed under the patronage of Unesco.

In 1970 the Hochtief realized the tunnel under the Elbe in Hamburg. From 1970 to 1974 it erected that marvel that is the bridge on the Bosphorus, in Turkey.

Followed: the airport of Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, the Tower of the Trades Fair in Frankfurt, the international airport of Warsaw, hydroelectric projects in China, in Ukraine and in Russia, representative headquarters of primary banks in Frankfurt and Moscow.

From 1994 to 1998 Beirut airport was realized, in Lebanon.

Between 1996 and 2000, at a supersonic speed (if we compare it with the carrying out of our projects of the bridge on Messina strait) the Hochtief built in Öresund one of the modern wonders of the world, that, connecting with a bridge of 16,4 kilometers Copenhagen (in Denmark) with Malmö (in Sweden), has made true the dream of going by car from North Cape to the South of Italy.

Among the last realizations of the Hochtief enter the international airport of Athens and the highway Rosary-Victoria, in Argentina.

My goodness! How could such a colossus "get dirt its hands" with the construction of a bunker, small and full of defects like that of Hitler, in the gardens of the Old Chancellery?

We find the answer in the exceptional and extreme circumstances in which that works were made. In Germany there was a totalizing and bloodthirsty dictatorship; one could not disobey the orders of Hitler and the bombs fell on the workers while they were doing the job. In that apocalyptic climate also the Hochtief was involved in the tragedy.

The second great surprise that I had, as I entered the history and the reality of this firm, was the honesty and the frankness with which Hochtief tells, inside its publications, its involvement in the storm of the nazism.

I have discovered an organization that doesn't hide its responsibilities and its faults in the works carried out for the Third Reich. One of these faults was the exploitation of the war and political prisoners for the execution of the numerous jobs developed for the Hitlerian regime.

As affirmed by the same source, Hochtief was heavily involved in the realization of shelters for the Führer. One of the first missions assigned by Göring to the Hochtief was really the construction of shelters for the safeguard of Hitler.

The protection of the person of the Führer was under the responsibility of Heinrich Himmler, the Head of the German Police.

Besides, Hitler had his personal safety put under the guide of Martin Bormann.

Officially Bormann belonged to the staff of Rudolf Hess, however he was always near Hitler as a body-guard. When Hess was captured in Scotland, after the solitary and insane flight of May 1941, with which he wanted to propose the peace between Germany and Great Britain, Bormann succeeded him as Head of the Chancellery of the Party and he became, accordingly, one of the most powerful men of the Third Reich. Bormann also had one personal objective, to win the conflict against another favourite of Hitler: Albert Speer.

The first reason for the contending with Speer was the Berghof, the mountain residence of Hitler on the Obersalzberg, near Berchtesgaden, in Bavaria.

Hitler started renting the villa in 1928 and subsequently he purchased it. Due to the attraction exerted by the presence of the Führer, the surrounding area quickly became zone of real estate investments and speculations.

The enlargement of the modest villa of Hitler started in 1935.

Under the direction of Bormann, "command" buildings and residential quarters rose with barracks for the staff of Hitler, the body-guards and others.

Were then added residential villas for the illustrious guests of the Party and the government as Göring, Goebbels and Speer. Annually 5.000 workers were employed in the valley, around the residence of Hitler.

When Albert Speer asked for the closing of the yards, at the end of 1942, Bormann ignored the orders appealing to the wish of the Führer. Therefore, against the precise dispositions given by Speer, in 1943 great works, with waste of materials and labour, continued. At the end of the war 79 bunkers were counted in the area of Berghof.

Hochtief not only had a role in the works of the Berghof, but also in the Head Quarters of Hitler in Wolfsschanze, situated about 8 kilometers east of Rastenburg in the oriental Prussia. Bunkers were built for Hitler, for the Field-Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, for Dietrich and Bormann.

Wolfsschanze was enlarged in 1942 and in 1943.

New offices were realized for the High Command of the Armed Forces, for that of the Navy, and for Fritz Todt, to whom Albert Speer succeeded, after his death, on February 1942.

During the final period of construction, in 1944, the works were concentrated on the realisation of anti-aircraft shelters.

Documents of the epoch point out that the consortium of the building enterprises, co-ordinated by the firm "main-contractor" Wayss & Freytag, included Hochtief, that had 69 people employed in the projects in 1944.

Every possible measure was taken to assure the safety of Hitler and his quarters. The realisations resulted useless however. The 20 November of 1944, after the completion of the bunker, Hitler left Wolfsschanze for the bunker built by Hochtief in the gardens of the Old Chancellery of the Reich, which he occupied on January 16th 1945.

Hochtief began the construction of the Führerbunker in March 1943. Owing to the war events during which the works were realized, the firm has not preserved documents, as the plans of the bunker structure.

According to the present publications of Hochtief, Hitler's choice for his final headquarters in Berlin resulted of doubtful validity and was irrational. Berlin was submitted to continuous and increasing aerial raids of the allies and, although the bunker was the better protected shelter in Berlin, Hitler lived in the panic for the water infiltrations and for the fear of gas poisoning. In fact, in the first months of 1945 he had replaced the original airhole, at garden level, with a concrete tower some meters high.

This information resulted very interesting but still of general kind.

Yet it wasn't the answer to my objectives to gather precise and original documents useful to the identification of the place of the bunker.

I decided then to take contact with the firm, turning directly to the Managing Director, the engineer Hans-Peter Keitel.

I wrote directly to the top of the Hochtief, knowing for my experience matured inside the corporations, that the probabilities to receive an answer increase as much as one turns upward.

In fact this choice was awarded: the Managing Director answered me through his highest staff and, since then, started my co-operation with this precious source of information.

The answer to my request of information, I got from the Direction "Corporation Communications" was very polite and clear: the firm had no documents on the history of the construction of the Hitler's bunker. During the elaboration of the documents for the Company history the same Hochtief had to refer to "secondary sources."

To these letters followed the forwarding of a splendid "house book" of the firm, where I found new sources, concerning the bunker.

Following up subsequent exchanges of correspondence, I succeeded in deepening the nature of these sources that, in good measure, addressed me towards the "Bundesarchiv", the Federal Archives in Berlin.

I owe much to the staff of the Hochtief and its Managing Director for the indications and suggestions they supplied. With the tracks suggested, and particularly with the Bundesarchiv in Berlin, I have drawn basical information.

The following pages show the correspondence exchanged with the Hochtief.

Milan, 9 July 2001

Dr. Ing. Hans-Peter KEITEL
Chairman of Executive Board
HOCHTIEF
Opernplatz 2
45128 Essen
Germany

Dear Ing. Keitel,

first of all I apologize to you for not writing this letter in your language.

I am a manager and publicist with great interest to history. At the moment I am doing a research for a book dedicated to the aspects still unknown of the Hitler's Bunker in Berlin. Many books have been written on this subject but my research is focused on the exact location of the Fuhrerbunker that your Company built in 1944.

The work has been made so well that the bunker is still integral in its underground main structures.

Given my interest to the location items of the bunker I would like to consult maps and plans regarding the location, with reference to the Old and New Chancellery of the Third Reich. I hope that your great Company has preserved in its archives some documentation of the projects and building of the bunker.

I ask to your courtesy to tell me how it is possible to examine such material. In the case it would not more be in your archives I beg you to inform me on the existence of other organizations (public offices, museum, etc.) where I could examine material on the Fuhrerbunker.

Dear Ing. Keitel, I thank you in advance for your courtesy and remain waiting your reply to my letter.

Have my best regards.

Pietro GUIDO

Dr. Pietro GUIDO
President ISEM
Via Kramer, 21
20129
MILAN-Italy

Tel. 02-76005779 Fax 02-76005767 E-mail: info@isem.it



HOCHTIEF 45117 Essen

Istituto Europeo Per Il Marketing
Dr. Guido Pietro
Via Kramer 21

I-20129 Mailand

**CORPORATE
COMMUNICATIONS**

Opernplatz 2
45128 Essen, Germany
Tel.: +49(0)201/824 - 2834
Fax: +49(0)201/824 - 1859

Your request of
9. 7 2001
ZI-Ro/BS
Page 1 of 1

Dear Dr. Pietro,

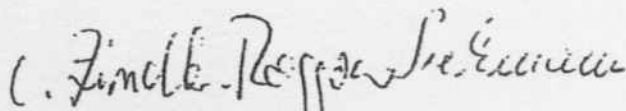
In response to your letter we are sorry to inform you that we have no documents on the construction history of the Hitler shelter. During the work on our corporate history we also had to rely on secondary literature and the sources cited therein. We assume that you are familiar with this material. You will find details on the source situation and the literature in our corporate history "HOCHTIEF and Its History" (in particular on page 180). We are sending you a copy to let you have a complete picture of the information available to us.

We wish you the best of success for your research and hope to have been able to help you. We would very much appreciate receiving a copy of your book when you have completed it.

In case of any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Siekmann under telephone number +49 (0)201 / 824-1934.

Best regards,
HOCHTIEF Aktiengesellschaft

i. A. i. A.


Lisa Zindler-Roggow Dr. Birgit Siekmann



HOCHTIEF 45117 Essen

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Istituto Europeo Per Il Marketing
Dr. Guido Pietro
Via Kramer 21

I-20129 Mailand

Dr. Birgit Siekmann
Seite 1 von 1
05.09.2001

Dear Dr. Guido,

Referring to the questions you addressed to us, we would like to provide you with the following information:

You will find the works by Demps in: Demps, Laurenz: Berlin-Wilhelmstraße. Eine Topographie preußisch-deutscher Macht, Berlin 1994.

The abbreviation "BAK R 43 Nr. 4274" means Federal Archive (= Bundesarchiv) Koblenz, collection (= Bestand) R 43 [Chancellery of the Reich], file 4274a. As far as I know, the collection now is with the Federal Archive Berlin.

You will most probably already be familiar with the collections on the construction activities in Berlin [collection R 4603 (Minister of the Reich for Armament and Wartime Production, formerly R 3) and R 4606 (Inspector General for the Capital of the Reich, formerly R 120)].

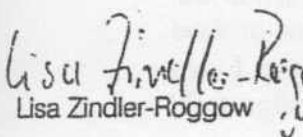
We would be very happy if you could send us a copy of your work. Please do not hesitate to contact us in case of any further questions. Wishing you the best of success,

Best regards,

HOCHTIEF Aktiengesellschaft

i.A.

i.A.


Lisa Zindler-Roggow


Birgit Janzen

2001 (September)
SECOND INVESTIGATION ON THE SPOT:
THE AREA WHERE THE BUNKER LIES
GETS NARROWER

The 30 September of 2001 occurred the Marathon of Berlin. It was a feast for the city and a show of people and colours not to be lost.

At the age of 68, I was one of the 39.000 "athletes" taking part in the Marathon. I like running because it gives a feeling of lightness and happiness that makes people feel young again. I started, no more than one year ago, to run Marathon races and I think that, if health won't betray me, I will keep on running until...the "fourth age". In one year I have already run the Marathon of New York (a dream), that of Paris (a shine of images) and that of Milan (a great sadness for the absence and the indifference of the Milanese).

I reached Berlin with my family and motor-caravan and, the night before the competition, left the camping site of Potsdam, we slept (badly) in Grunerstrasse, behind the Rotes Rathaus, near Alexander Platz. The noise of the traffic kept me awake the whole night and the following day at the departure of the Marathon at the Charlottenburger Tor my legs were flabby. The sky was covered and, at half race, it started raining, that thin and sad rain that I have known in Berlin.

It took me about six hours, also because the last 5 kilometres of light slope made me suffer a lot.

Well, in spite of the modest performance and the suffering of the run, the Berlin Marathon has left me a beautiful memory.

When I finished the tract of Kurfürstendamm and I turned right in the Tauentzien Strasse for the last 400 meters before the arrival, the sidewalks were full of crowd, sat to the small tables or walking and all looking at the arrivals of the last exhausted runners. Suddenly the whole public, behind the transennae, started to applaud towards my direction: it was a total, choral and convinced applause. It had never happened to me, I looked forward and back to see if they applauded somebody else; but not, they applauded really me. I crossed the final tract with great steps, with my breast out as a "Bersagliere".

This final of feast and friendship made me fall in love with Berliners and me too, as Kennedy had said before me, felt Berliner.

Why I have told this pleasant experience at this point of the book?

Because the appointment with the Marathon allowed me to carry out my second investigation on the spot of the bunker.

This time I was more prepared than my 1993 first investigation and I already had at my disposal useful information for the individualisation of the zone where it had to be the mysterious Führerbunker.

I already had the data shown in Figure 24. I had determined the co-ordinates of the centre of the bunker: 152 meters along the Wilhelmstrasse, beginning from the corner of the ex New Chancellery and 109 meters towards the inside, beginning from the line of the buildings existing in the years 1940-1945 on the Wilhelmstrasse.

I brought with me the "metric small wheel", the roll of oilcloth, 20 meters long, normally used in building operations.

There was, however, to overcome a first problem: where was the corner of the New Chancellery and which was the line of the ministerial buildings along the Wilhelmstrasse?

To the eyes of a topographer, as I had been in the years of my youth, it was not difficult to individualise them. In a certain way, we can say that the external lines of the sidewalks that converge on the corner of the Voss Strasse with the Wilhelmstrasse have remained unchanged in comparison to those that existed in the first half of the forties.

What has changed is the line of the new buildings erected around the end of the years '80 (the years of the demolition of the Berlin's Wall). These buildings are notably behind in comparison to the sidewalks and they have allowed the creation of flower-beds and small gardens.

Then, if the external line of the sidewalks has not changed it is also possible to individualise the line of the ex New Chancellery.

The internal line of the sidewalks and that one of the iron stakes that separate them from the flower-beds, are a very reliable reference. The corner of the New Chancellery, so individualised, is few decimeters far from the panel fixed by the municipality of Berlin to point out the same place. This panel, about a meter and a half high, could not be fixed in the middle of the sidewalk, but it had to be situated at the border with the flower-beds not to hamper the pedestrians: here is explained the small difference.

Helped by my son I measured, with the metric small wheel, length and width of the co-ordinates. The thing happened among the curiosity of the few passers-by, present on the spot. The transversal measure, that entered inside the quarter was more embarrassing: we had to cross the entrance-hall (luckily open) of the civic number 89 of Wilhelmstrasse, to stamp on some flower-beds and to pass among the parked cars.

Finally I reached the point dreamt for years, the bunker was under my feet. Assuming the error of one or two meters in the individualisation of the centre of the bunker, also moving ourselves a little around the point, we would always have been above the bunker (remember that the inside measures of the bunker were 19,5 by 19,5 meters, with the sides parallel and perpendicular to the Wilhelmstrasse).

This time I was convinced to be above it. I needed, however, some confirmation from "the live". And who is more alive than the inhabitants of that buildings?

I entered the book-shop "Buch Handlung Raduga", exactly at the corner of the passage of Number 89 in Wilhelmstrasse. I started to speak English with the kind lady of the shop, I consulted some books, I individualised one of them, that then I purchased and, with indifference, I asked her if she knew where the bunker of Hitler was. Take note that we were about 60 meters from the place of the bunker, by me just localized. The lady seemed almost surprise for the question and answered, in all sincerity, I believe, she didn't know it, even if she had heard to speak about it.

This has been my first checking with an inhabitant of the place.

I was about going out when my son made me notice that, under the passage of number 89, there was a group of people and that one of these seemed a guide.

I slowly got near the group, up to the point to clearly listen to the words, in English, of the guide. I waited for him to point out the place of the bunker, and to say something precise, but he kept on narrating the endless stories that happened in that places in 1945.

Since I had been noticed, both by the guide and the group of tourists, and I was looking a "Portuguese", I decided to act.

I introduced myself to the group and I said that I was able to show the exact spot of the bunker. Later on I invited all to follow me. I expected my proposal to be ignored either because the place had already be seen or because the guide could feel himself "ousted."

On the contrary all agreed and, despite of the rain, they followed me among meadows and parked cars.

I arrived on the sidewalk visible in the photo of Figure 56. I beat with my right foot on the pavement saying, with conviction, that the bunker was under my feet. I waited with curiosity the reaction of the guide that, with my relief, shared what I said.

1961 (November)
 CITY SEARCHES IN THE "BUNDESARCHIV"



with a very high level of accuracy. The investigation, with the first official, Peter Kowalski Wronski, was carried out in the apartment in Munich, Germany, on 10/11/61. Schuler (renamed) was already in Berlin at the time. Schuler (renamed) in Berlin, Germany, on 10/11/61. The investigation, with the first official, Peter Kowalski Wronski, was carried out in the apartment in Munich, Germany, on 10/11/61. Schuler (renamed) was already in Berlin at the time. Schuler (renamed) in Berlin, Germany, on 10/11/61.

Figure 56 – Spot of the pavement over the bunker (Photo of the Author – 30 September 2001)

2001 (November) THE SEARCHES IN THE "BUNDESARCHIV"

I was already ahead in the search of the place where the Führerbunker lies. I carried out cross-controls on all the consulted bibliographical sources, I made investigations on the spot and direct measurements in the area of the bunker, I started to make some interviews, but I was still missing something, perhaps the most important. I had to put my hands on original documents concerning the reality of the bunker.

The builder of the bunker, the Hochtief, had already given me some indications, suggesting me the consultation of some files existing in the Bundesarchiv, the federal archives.

The files pointed out by the Hochtief had all the same initials: BAK.

I asked explanations on the meaning of the initials and my source explained to me that it meant "Bundesarchiv Koblenz". During the separation of the two Germany, the Federal Archives of West Germany had been transferred to Koblenz while those of the DDR were in East Berlin.

Now, after the reunification of two Germany, the two archives had been unified in Berlin.

Once again, the search by Internet of the Bundesarchiv was to me of great help. I found its present address and even its web-site. Using the electronic mail I got in touch with the Bundesarchiv.

The exchange of e-mail was quite intense because it dealt with pointing out with precision the files that interested me, to verify that they were indeed available in Berlin and, in the positive case, to establish the date of my visit with a congruous advance of two-three weeks.

The correspondence, with the kind official, Frau Karola Wagner, was settled with the appointment for Monday, November 19th 2001.

Saturday evening I was already in Berlin at the hotel Stuttgarter Hof, in Anhalter Strasse, 9.

The hotel, chosen by my travel agency, was not in a tourist zone of Berlin, but it suited me for its "strategic" position, quite close to the Wilhelmstrasse and the area of the bunker.

But I had not considered the sadness of the place. Sunday evening, after dining in a restaurant near the Brandenburg Gate, I went on my own, under the usual drizzle, to the hotel walking along almost all the Wilhelmstrasse. There was no living soul along the street. The inhabitants of the residential district, in the area of the bunker, were all shut in their houses. No movement, no noise leaked out. Also the cars that went along the street, were very few. Continuing, after the Voss Strasse, the atmosphere became darker and darker, and desolating. There was almost to be afraid to walk alone.

Even the stretch overlooking the Ministry of Finance, with its gloomy buildings, was uninhabited: not even a guard!

The landscape became even painful when, overcome the Niederkirchner Strasse with the rests of the Berlin Wall (new name of the ill-famed and feared Prinz - Albrechtstrasse, headquarters of the SS and the Gestapo) I passed in front of the area dedicated to the "Topographie des Terrors."

Here, really, we are at the triumph of the horrifying. This sky open museum, sad in daytime for what it shows, becomes dreadful if crossed, in loneliness, in the dark of the evening.

I recovered my control only when I reached the turn of the Anhalter Strasse. I had crossed one of the most important and famous streets of the world in the first half of the twentieth century. Its buildings, its gardens, its Ministries and its "representation" centres were a pole of attraction for the politicians and the personalities visiting Berlin. The Third Reich, in its deserved fall, dragged with it a slice of Berlin. This street will never raise again anymore.

The next morning, at half past eight, I was in the Bundesarchiv, in Finckensteinalle, 63.

I verified with great pleasure the organization and the scruple of the Berliner bureaucracy. I had become a "dossier". A vertical folder, with my name, was drawn out from the lockers of the Bundesarchiv. It already contained the micro-fishes of the documents I had asked.

I was accompanied to the room of consultations and made me seated in my posting, in front of the projector. After a brief explanation I was already able to work alone and (marvels!) to make the photocopies, simply pressing a button under the projector.

Let us see, now, on which documents I have put my hands.

First of all I have found the "Kostenzusammenstellung" (Figure 57), the prospectus of the total costs of the bunker, with the list of the firms that have contributed to its construction and the amounts of the bills paid to them in RM (Reichs Mark).

The "Hochtief A.G.Vertragsarbeit" plays the role of the lion with its remuneration of 1.095.639 RM. It is the main enterprise, responsible for the construction and the setting up of the components and the fundamental structures.

Many other firms appear clearly outdistanced, among which some known all over the world, as Siemens (for a remuneration of 17.360 RM, rectified subsequently, by hand, in 20.494, 09 RM).

All together more than 40 firms have been involved in the construction of the Hitler's bunker.

Considering the mysteries that, for half century, have accompanied the identification of its place, a malicious thought comes: is it possible that none of these 40 firms has preserved documents, plans, sections, details concerning their contribution to the works of construction of the bunker? It is true that, given the received remuneration, a lot of firms made works of little importance but it is also true that they knew they were working for an "historical" construction, of which it was worth, perhaps, to preserve trace in their archives.

However, we have already disclosed a mystery: the paternity of the bunker. The existence of so many "fathers" that could be able, perhaps, to produce useful elements to the clarification of the aspects remained, till now, wrapped up in the fogs of the memoirs.

After the discovery of this important document, let us see another one. Who was the "Director" of the works of the bunker's construction.

It was the architect Carl Piepenburg, with study in Berlin-Dahlem, Unter den Eichen, 84 c.

His first found letter (Figure 58) is of August 7th 1941 and is addressed to the "Reichsminister und Chef der Reichskanzlei" Dr. Hans Lammers.

This document tells us some interesting things:

- since 1941 the architect Piepenburg is the Director of the works for the restructuring and enlargement concerning the New Chancellery,
- the address of this Direction is in Voss Strasse, 6-7, that is in the New Chancellery,
- object of the letter is not the Führerbunker (whose works will begin in 1943) but the bunker, of Hermann-Göring Strasse, at the number 16; probably it is a matter of one of the drivers' bunkers of the Chancellery,
- object of the letter to Lammers is a receipt of RM 46 of the firm Elektrovapor (with its address) for works carried out in a part of building in the above mentioned street.

As already mentioned, the works for the Hitler's bunker started in 1942, even though the main part of the works was realized in 1943.

In fact, the letter of Albert Speer (Figure 59), "Der Generalbauinspektor für die Reichshauptstadt", to Lammers, "Reichsminister und Chef der Reichskanzlei", is very clear: in date April 29th 1943 establishes that the remuneration to the architect Piepenburg for the projecting and direction of the works, related to the construction of the new bunker in the garden of the Chancellery (the bunker of Hitler), has to be calculated with the following percentages on the cost of the works:

- 2,3% for the projecting
- 1,5% for the direction of the works.

Speer disposes, besides, to transmit to Piepenburg an account, in amount of 20.000 RM.

Here we are. The powerful person and favorite of Hitler, Albert Speer, is the responsible for the realization of the bunker and gives the start to the works charging the architect Piepenburg.

The letter of Figure 60, of June 3rd 1943, signed by Herr Hänsel and by the Dr. Killy, carries out, in terms of the expense of 20.000 RM, the Albert Speer's direction given in the letter mentioned before.

In date 30 September 1944, the fussy architect Piepenburg sends a letter to Lammers, Reichsminister und Chef der Reichskanzlei (Figure 61), in which specifies his credit for the realization of the bunker of Hitler, with reference to what established by Albert Speer: his global remuneration is equal to the 3,8% of the cost of the works.

As the amount of such cost is of RM 1.349.899, 29 (!) his remuneration results of RM 51.296. Deduced the account received of 20.000 RM, the rest to credit him is of RM 31.296. It follows the indication of the current account and of the bank on which to credit the money.

The statement, signed by the head-cashier Hänsel, of October 21st 1944 (Figure 62), shows in analytical way the cost of realization of the Hitler's bunker.

In 1942 there was a payment of only 16.242, 37 RM (advance for the projecting).

In 1943 appears the main part of the cost of the work: 1.170.072,60 RM.

In 1944 the amount of 89.867,98 RM informs us that it deals with works of finishing touch and accessory.

The fussy head-cashier (it is his work) glosses the account presented by Piepenburg: the sum of the expenses of the three years, shown above, amounts to 1.275.982, 29 RM, that is inferior to that of reference pointed out by the Director of the works, in his letter of September 30th 1944, in RM 1.349.899,29. But we have to consider other expenses not counted in that letter as the RM spent for gardening (1.213,95), those paid to the Riefenstahl (648,55), (for some movie shooting?), and the numerous payments made to the Generalbauinspektor, Albert Speer.

At the end of three pages of calculations, after additions and various rectifications, it re-appears at the end of the account, the remuneration of 31.296,00 RM, to be destined to the Director of the works Piepenburg, corresponding to 3,8% of the total cost of realization of the bunker.

The whole of the letters and the statements shown above confirms us that, for the realization of the Hitler's bunker, they stirred personally ministers, the official architect of the works of enlargement and restructuring of the Chancellery and about forty suppliers, among which at least two firms of great importance, as the Hochtief and the Siemens.

Despite so much bureaucracy and the involvement of many firms, in the half century following the end of the second world war, it has groped, in terms of knowledge, around the only rest surviving to the collapse of the Third Reich.

Kostenzusammenstellung

BUNKER

Titel I - VIII	HOCHTIEF A.G. Vertragsarbeit	RM	1.095.639,04
	Otto Appel Holzbau	"	19.251,71
	Tiergartenverwaltung	"	1.727,30
	Sperling & Co.	"	20.767,12
	Stadtentwässerung	"	349,55
Titel IX	Hillmann & Heinemann	"	9.665,87
Titel X	Fliesenvertheb Krausemann	"	8.774,01
Titel XI	Blumenröther	"	9.096,31
Titel XII	Riefenstahl	"	27.730,--
Titel XIII	M.A.H.	"	1.782,20
Titel XIV	Siemens	"	17.368,04
Titel XV a)	Niedergesäss	"	2.100,--
Titel XV b)	Lindhorst	"	1.842,36
Titel XVI a)	Schäfer & Co.	"	10.307,95
Titel XVI b)	Plato	"	1.596,--
Titel XVI c)	Eder	"	133,--
Titel XVII	Haak-Werke	"	3.069,--
Titel XVIII	(Gasschutz) Dräger	"	18.393,90
Titel XIX	Türok & Co.	"	3.276,22
Titel XX	Dutschke	"	808,--
Titel XXI	Hindenburg	"	25.203,28
	Gesch	"	1.493,16
	Schultz, Georg	"	1.065,65
	Peters	"	164,04

RM 8524 6

-2-

	Bühl & Reuther	RM	3.221,37
	Zeidler & Wimmel	"	5.937,94
	Baurat Piepenburg	"	18,--
	HOCHTIEF A.G. (Tagelohn)	"	43.042,09
	Mackel & Cop	"	17,50
	Siemens & Halske	"	56,--
	Biehn & Co.	"	732,98
	Hermetik	"	109,40
	Baugruppe Pfeil	"	10.500,--
	Gentsch	"	193,24
	Lflok	"	158,48
	M.S.K.K. Gruppe Todt	"	1.300,--
Total XIII	Presse Hoffmann	"	513,--
	Andersch	"	155,72
	Triebel	"	2.262,60
	Deutsche Forschungsges.	"	977,50
		RM	1.349.899,29

DIE BAULEITUNG
DES ERWEITERUNGSBAUES REICHSKANZLEI

FERNRUF: 12 54 90

BERLIN W 8
VOBSTR. 6-7 , den 7. August 1941

Ku

26

An den

Herrn Reichsminister
und Chef der Reichskanzlei.

Betrifft: Erweiterungsbau der Reichskanzlei, Bauabschnitt:
Hermann-Göring-Str. 16. / B u n k e r b a u

In der Anlage erhalten Sie eine Rechnung der Firma
E l e k t r o v e p o r, Berlin-Halensee, Joachim-Friedrichstr. 1
vom 14. VII. 1941, über ausgeführte Arbeiten für den Bunkerbau
in der Neuen Reichskanzlei, Bauabschnitt Hermann-Göring-Str.16
in Höhe von RM 46,--.

Ich bitte um weitere Erledigung.

Heil Hitler !
Carl Piepenburg
Architekt
Berlin-Charlottenburg
Unter den Eichen 104c

Anlage.

23 MAL 1943 RK 64848

93

Der Generalbauinspektor
für die Reichshauptstadt
Planungsstelle

Berlin W 8, den 29. April 1943
Pariser Platz 4 / Fernsprecher 110054 Hausanschl.
Postfachstelle Berlin 2033 / Reichsbank-Postkonto 1931

1/KU

Geschäftszeichen Nr. _____
Es wird gebeten, dieses Geschäftszeichen und den
Gegenstand bei weiteren Schreiben anzugeben.

S. Ang. v. 1. 6.

An den
Herrn Reichsminister
und Chef der Reichskanzlei,
Berlin W 8
Voss-Str.

Handwritten notes:
K... C... v. K... 5. April 1943
... 1. 6. 1943
...
...

Lieber Herr Reichsminister,
für die Entwurfsbearbeitung und Bauleitung des neuen Bunkers
im Garten der Reichskanzlei bestimme ich für den Architekten
P i e p e n b u r g lt. Gebührenordnung folgende Honorarrech-
nung:

- 2,3 % für Entwurfsbearbeitung
- 1/2 % " die Bauleitung und Abrechnung.

Ich bitte, dem Architekten P i e p e n b u r g bis zur Fer-
tigstellung des Bunkers eine Abschlagszahlung in Höhe von:

RM 20.000,--

zu überweisen.

Heil Hitler !

R.A. 64 54 23

Wied. ...
Nr. 53.44.43
36.3.44.

Herrn Dr. Ing. 12.4.43
Herrn Prof. 3.4.44

Herrn 10.13.44
Herrn Prof. 3.4.44

Herrn 17.4.44
Herrn Prof. 3.4.44

Herrn 5.18.44
Herrn Prof. 3.4.44

Herrn 15.11.44

-2. OKT 1944 R.K. 8524
CARL PIEFENBURG
ARCHITECT
FERNSTR. NEMM 12 70 21

An den
Herrn Reichminister
und Ober der Reichskanzlei.

Betrifft: Erweiterungsbau der Reichskanzlei
B u r g e r - Wilhelmstr. 79.

Die Kosten des Bunkers im Garten der Reichskanzlei betragen nach beiliegender Aufstellung:

RM 1.309.899,29

Herr Reichminister S p e r bet im Schreiben vom 29.8.1943 mein Honorar:

a) für die Entwurfsbearbeitung auf 2,3 %
b) " " Beuleitung und Überwachung " 1/2 %
zusammen 3,8 %
festgesetzt.

Bei der Summe von RM 1.309.899,29 x 3,8 % beträgt mein Honorar RM 51.296,--

Auf diesen Betrag erhielt ich eine Abschlagszahlung von RM 20.000,--
mithin verbleibt ein Rest von: RM 31.296,--

Ich bitte gütigst um Überweisung vorstehenden Betrages auf mein Konto Nr. 3 2 4 5 bei der Berliner Stadtbank, Olorossa 2, Berlin O 2, Memhardstr.

Heil Hitler!

Anlage:
1 Aufstellung.

Zu Rk. 8524 C

Berlin, den 21. Oktober 1944

V e r m e r k :

Empfang

Baurat Piepenburg übersendet mit Schreiben vom 30. September 1944 seine Honorarrechnung, betreffend den Bunkerbau im Führergarten. Der Honorarberechnung wird eine Gesamtbausumme von 1 349 899,29 RM zu Grunde gelegt.

Nach der Haushaltsüberwachungsliste haben die Ausgaben für den Bunkerbau betragen:

im Rechnungsjahr 1942	16 242,37 RM
" " 1943	1170 072,60 "
" " 1944	89 867,98 "

Dazu treten die noch nicht angewiesenen Rechnungen:

Blumenröther	1 213,95 RM
Generalbauinspektor	1 300,00 "
Riefenstahl, Rest	648,55 "
Zeidler & Wimmel	1 347,13 "
Generalbauinspektor	1 923,02 "
	869,01 "
	549,54 "
	547,19 "
	95,60 "
	534,15 "
	48 606,78 "
	1 916,51 "
	3 197,06 "
	674,82 "
	4 207,90 "
	2 269,57 "
	2 269,57 "
	3 533,61 "
	1 563,25 "

zusammen: 1 353 450,16 RM.

Gegenüber dem der Gebührenberechnung zu Grunde gelegte Betrag

Wa

Vor Abgang
 Herrn
RKabR. Dr. Killy
 erg. mit der Bitte um
 Kenntnisnahme vorge-
 legt.

[Handwritten signature]
 15.
 10.

Betrag sind das rd. 3 550,00 RM mehr. Die Nachprüfung der Einzelunterlagen hat jedoch ergeben, daß es in der dem Schreiben des Baurats Piepenburg vom 30. September 1944 beigefügten Kontensummenerstellung bei Titel XIV (Rechnungen der Fa. Siemens) nicht 17 368,04 RM sondern 20 494,09 RM heißen muß. Die von Baurat Piepenburg angegebene Bausumme erhöht sich dadurch um rd. 3 126 RM. Der Unterschiedsbetrag zwischen der von der Reichskanzlei festgestellten und der von Baurat Piepenburg seiner Honorarberechnung zu Grunde gelegten Gesamtsomme ermäßigt sich bei Berücksichtigung des Rechenfehlers auf 425,00 RM. An Honorar würden darauf 16,15 RM entfallen. Mit Rücksicht auf die geringfügigkeit des Betrages wird von einer Berichtigung des nach der Gebührenordnung der Architektenpflichtig berechneten Honorars abgesehen werden können.

Auszahlungsanordnung nachstehend.

Der Reichsminister und Chef
der Reichskanzlei

1.) An
die Reichshauptkasse

Berlin, den 23. Oktober 1944

Nr. 733/1116
(Gerschl. 26)
Gel. 311/1116
Abges. 24/10/44

Im Anschluß an die Auszahlungsanordnung (Abschr. f. 2.) vom 3. Juni 1943 - Rk. 6484 C -

Der Bunker im Garten der Reichskanzlei ist mit einer Herstellungssumme von 1 349 899,29 RM fertiggestellt worden.

Nach dem in Abschrift beiliegenden Schreiben des Generalbau-

inspektors
bef.
Abgchr.
v. Rk. 6484 C/43

bauspektors für die Reichshauptstadt vom 29. April 1943 und §§ 2, 4, 5, 16 und 17 der Gebührenordnung der Architekten vom 7. Mai 1937 beträgt das Honorar für den mit der Ausführung des Bunkerbaus beauftragten Architekten Piepenburg

a) für die Zentralsbearbeitung 2,3 v.H.,
b) für die Anleitung und Überwachung 1,5 v.H.

zusammen: 3,8 v.H.
der Herstellungssumme, das sind 51 296,00 RM.
Hierauf ist nach der Auszahlungsanordnung vom 3. Juni 1943

- Rk. 6484 C - eine Abschlagszahlung von 20 000,00 RM gezahlt worden. Es sind noch 31 296,00 RM als Restzahlung zu zahlen.

Die Reichshauptkasse wird angewiesen, 21 296,00 RM

(buchst.) an dem Architekten Baurat Carl Piepenburg auf sein Konto Nr. 3245 bei der Berliner Stadtbank, Girokasse 2, Berlin C 2, Kommodenstr. 2, zu überweisen und bei Kapitel I E 14 Titel 1 Unterabschnitt 0 (Rechnungsjahr 1942) der einmaligen Ausgaben des ordentlichen Haushalts für das Rechnungsjahr 1944 als Haushaltsausgabe zu buchen.

- 4 -

2.) Über eine Abschrift von 1.) ist zu setzen:

An
Herrn Baurat Carl P i e p e n b u r g , Architekt
Berlin-Dahlem
Unter den Eichen 84 c

Abschrift übersende ich Ihnen ergebend unter
Bezugnahme auf Ihr Schreiben vom 30. September 1944.

+

+

3.) Haushaltsüberwachungsliste zum Vermerk.

+

sch. 10

4.) Z.d.l.

Im Auftrag
(A. d. E. OR / Hünzel)

✓

21/11
21/11

2001 (December)
**THE LAST INVESTIGATION ON THE SPOT:
HERE (AT LAST) WHERE THE BUNKER IS**

On November 20th 2001 I had completed my mission at the Bundesarchiv in Berlin, started the day before.

Loaded with documents and plans, old and new, regarding the zone of the bunker, I returned to Milan to study the material and to carry out the last cross analyses of congruence of the picked data.

Fundamentally I worked overlapping the old material with the new one. The maps of the area of the Old and the New Chancellery were overlapped, to different levels of enlargement, with those of the present urban structure, to make emerge the connections among the measures.

The work resulted well and by then I was ready "to plant a flag", with the approximation of some decimetre, on the centre of the Führerbunker.

I had to make, however, a revision of the present planimetries that, after all, were about to become old. I have immediately perceived the idea that the zone of the bunker is one of the most turbulent in Berlin in terms of planning of the territory, of road system and of real estate realizations.

The representation on the map of the street "An der Kolonnade" resulted already obsolete: in the meantime it had lengthened, it turned to the right, and started to curve to the left to take a direction parallel to the Wilhelmstrasse.

The ex "Nobody's earth", involved in the zone of the Berlin's Wall, started to take physiognomy and urban characteristics evident enough, for an experienced eye as mine.

New streets with new names were traced; sometimes the names were modified along the run.

It was necessary therefore that, with the definitive investigation on the spot in Berlin, I should bring up-to-date also the present maps, old of ..some years.

I carried out the revision "on the spot" in the month of December, with the help of my son.

Figure 63 shows the up-to-date map of the place interested to the Hitler's bunker. As it is noticed, the street "An der Kolonnade", that until little time before turned to the left to go towards the Voss Strasse (we had defined it a "short cut") now turns also to the right, overcoming the Ministerium Garten and stopping itself in front of an enclosure. In the future this tract of street should become the Edwing-Redslob Strasse, name I noticed about some tens of meters, towards north (see later the new name).

Figure 64 is, strategically, the most important. I have overlapped to the precedent planimetry, duly up-to-dated, the planimetry of the Old Chancellery that was in these places up to 1945. This planimetry also includes the shelters connected to it: the Vorbunker, built under the Old Chancellery and the Führerbunker, connected with it by a spiral staircase. The overlap of the two documents has been easy enough thanks to my knowledge of the co-ordinates of the Old Chancellery in comparison to the corner of Wilhelmstrasse with Voss Strasse. Besides, the alignment of the front of the Old Chancellery with the internal line of the sidewalk of Wilhelmstrasse made the job easier.

In Figure 64 the old map is traced "dashed", pointing out with the numbers 1, 2, e 3 the parts of our interest.

Some considerations on what emerges:

-the location of the Führerbunker, as it results from the Figure 64, is coherent and it confirms the indications already outlined in the Figure 24, due to the convergence of the data picked up by the various used sources,

-the residential quarter, realized between 1988 and 1992, goes all around the two bunkers and to the "body" (3) of the Old Chancellery: it seems that some city planner wanted to respect the historical rests of the Third Reich. Perhaps somebody wanted to preserve an inheritance that can become useful in a future of tourist exploitation,

-some journalists have written that the bunker of Hitler lies under a field games for children and this has addressed many curious toward the Moon Park, existing at the corner of the Voss Strasse with the Ebertstrasse. Really, the children of the Kinder-Spielplatz run and play on a part of the Old Chancellery, 70 meters away from the Hitler's bunker.

With Figure 65 I want to furnish a detailed map to anyone who would like to go exactly upon the bunker of Hitler.

There are at least two ways to reach the centre of the bunker.

The first one is to depart from the line of the entrance-hall of number 89 of Wilhelmstrasse. It's enough to proceed for 54 meters towards the inside in perpendicular direction to the alignment of the buildings. Arrived at the end of the 54 meters, turn to the left for 8 meters. That point is the centre of the Führerbunker.

Who would know the length of his own footsteps could easily find the point.

The second way is to depart from the edge of the building at number 8 of "An der Kolonnade." The centre of the bunker is far, from this edge, about 19 meters.

This distance is the sum of 4 partial distances: from the edge of the house to the square of sand (6,4 meters), the length of the side of the square of sand (6,4 meters), the width of the cars passage of the residential quarter (4 meters), and 2,3 final meters to reach the centre of the bunker.

By chance, this point is easily individualised because it corresponds to that of a white stake, half meter high (until when it will remain there). Anyway I have buried, beside the stake, a small plastic phial containing a little roll of paper, with my name and the writing "Bunker ist hier." I will be thankful to anyone who will give me news on the recovery of the message!

The centre of the bunker (that is the white stake) is aligned with the line of the building at n°8 of An der Kolonnade (this building has changed, now, its urban codification in: Gertrud-Kolmar Strasse, n° 4, as indicated in the Second Part of the book).

The Figure 66 shows a photo of the place of the bunker, oriented toward the Voss Strasse; the white stake is visible on the left of the bar of the cars passage.

Figure 67 shows the same place with the photo taken in direction of the parking site for the residents. Behind the parked cars it is visible, on the background, a great tree beyond which there is the Kinder-Spielplatz for the children of the residents. The white stake, existing above the centre of the Hitler's bunker, is visible on the left of the bar of the cars passage.

These two photos testify as the most ominous place of the Third Reich has become a pleasant, innocent, banal residential parking area.

Final remark: the bunker is located partly under a well lined with tiles sidewalk, partly under the entry of the private parking area, partly under the square of sand and, for the remaining part, under the lawn.

If you want to go to stamp on the sidewalk or the sand overhanging the bunker (please, save the lawn), you have to know that, 8 meters under your feet, that is the equivalent of the height of a building of three floors, half century ago, many men, some women and six children lived, went crazy, suffered, made love, played ball, got drunk, killed themselves or run away in despair, as "dramatis personae" of a tragedy, Greek or Nibelungen it does not care, which human mind hardly will forget.

MAP (UP-TO-DATE: 12/2001)

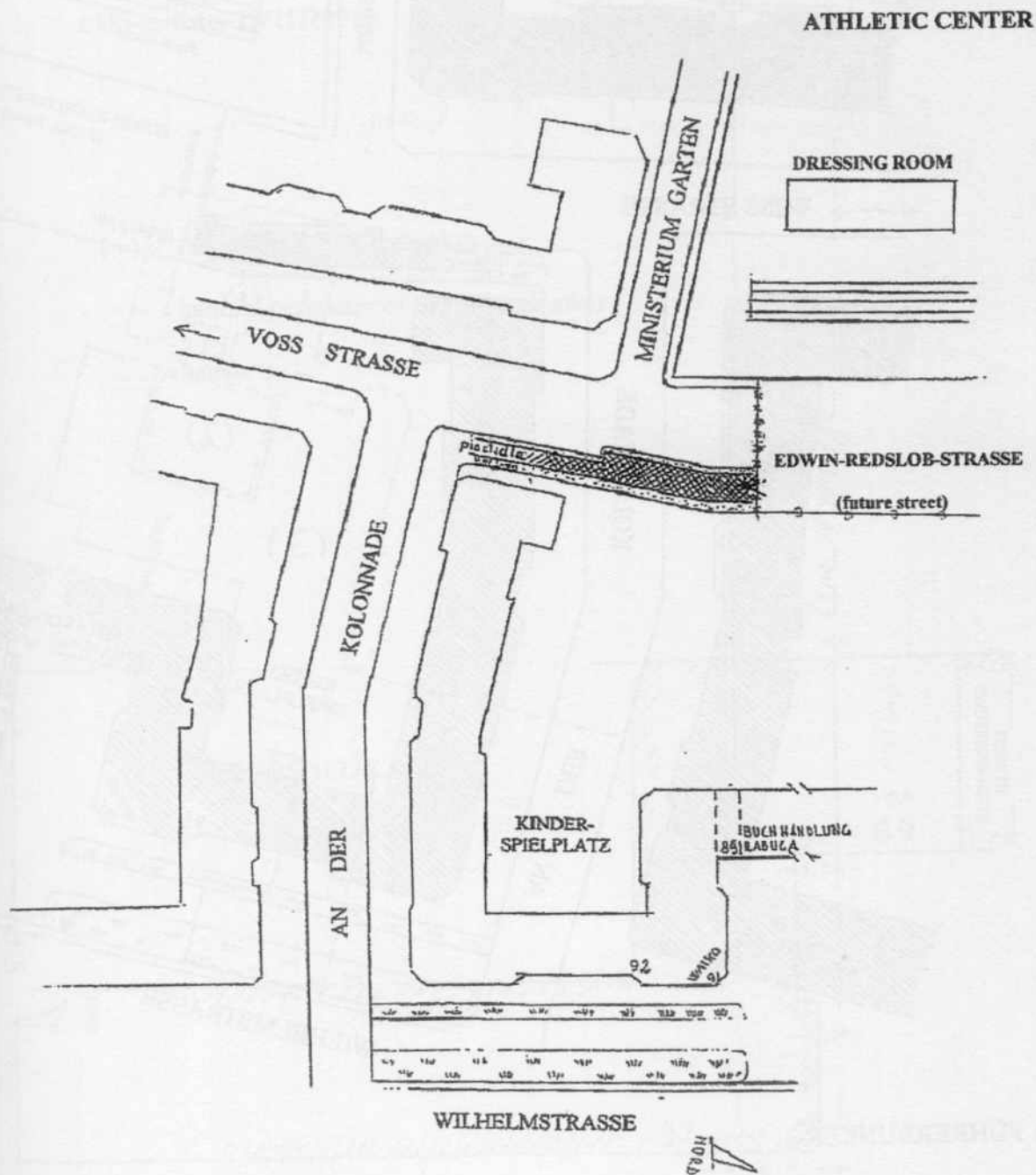
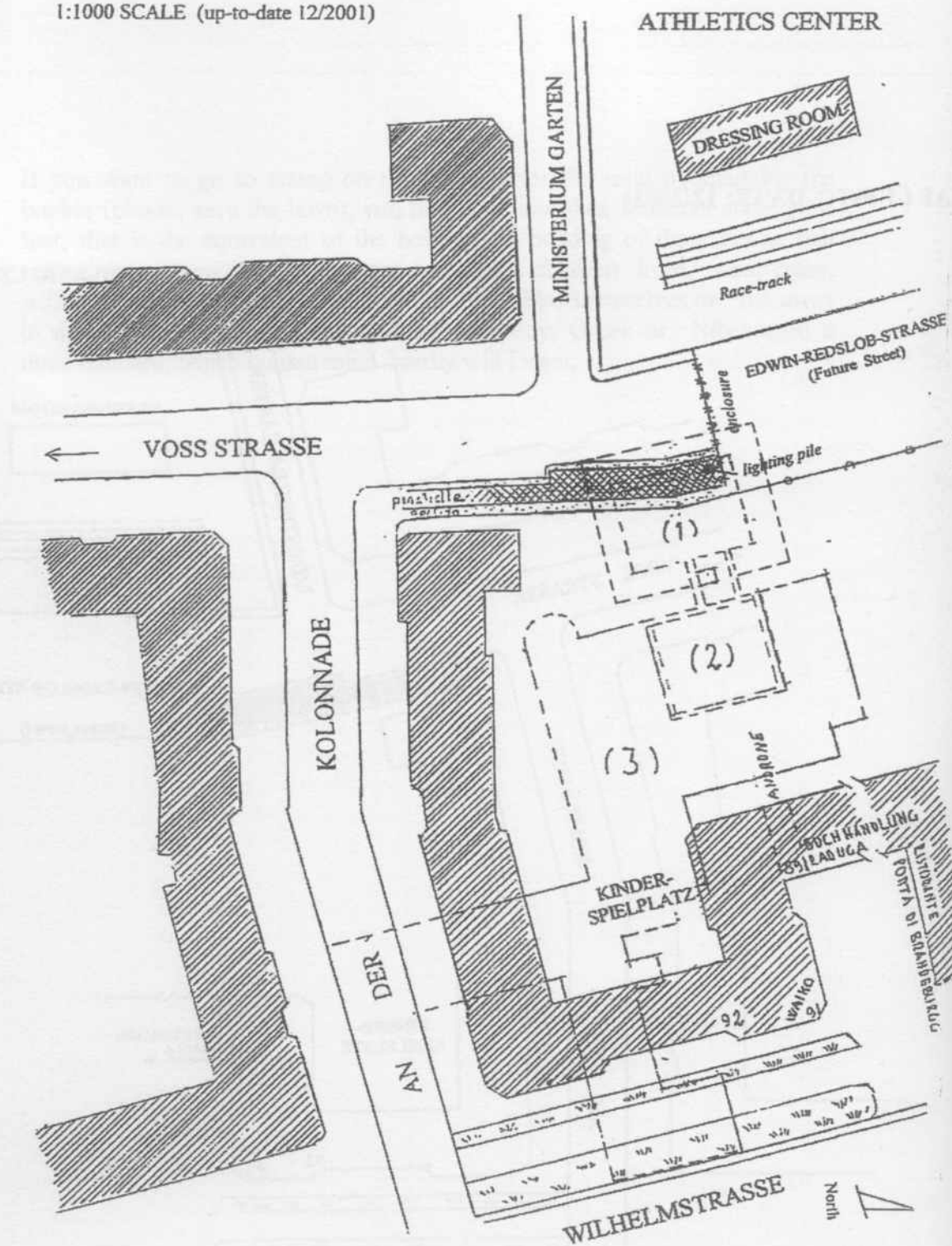


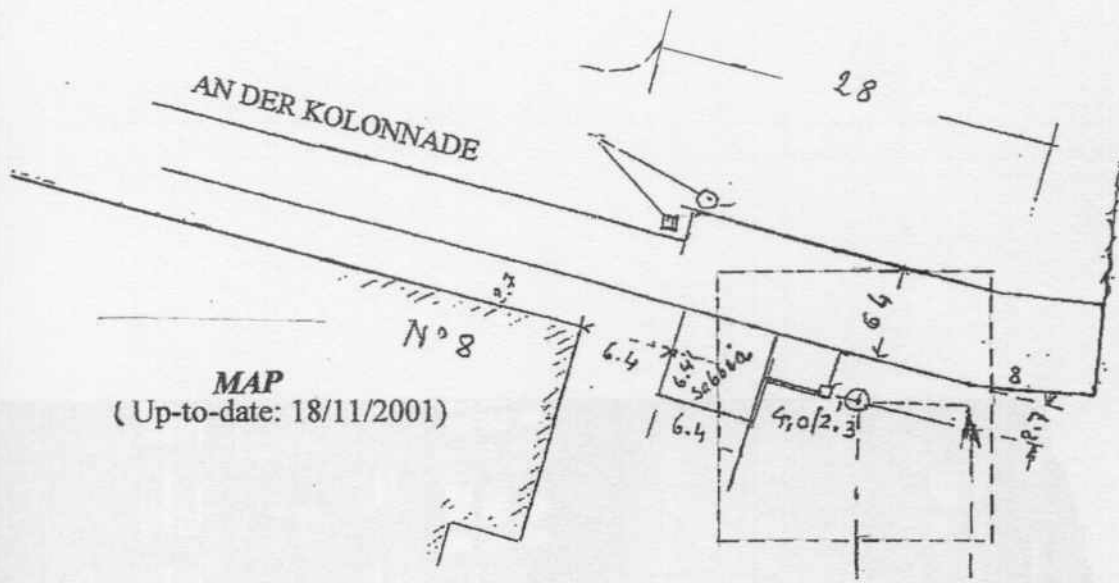
Figure 63 – Updated map of the site of the bunker (drawn by the Author)

1:1000 SCALE (up-to-date 12/2001)



- (1) FÜHRERBUNKER
- (2) VORBUNKER
- (3) OLD CHANCELLERY

Figure 64 – Updated map of the site of the bunker with the representation of the two bunkers and the Old Chancellery (drawn by the Author)



- (.) center of the Führerbunker
- internal perimeter of the Führerbunker
- ==== barrier

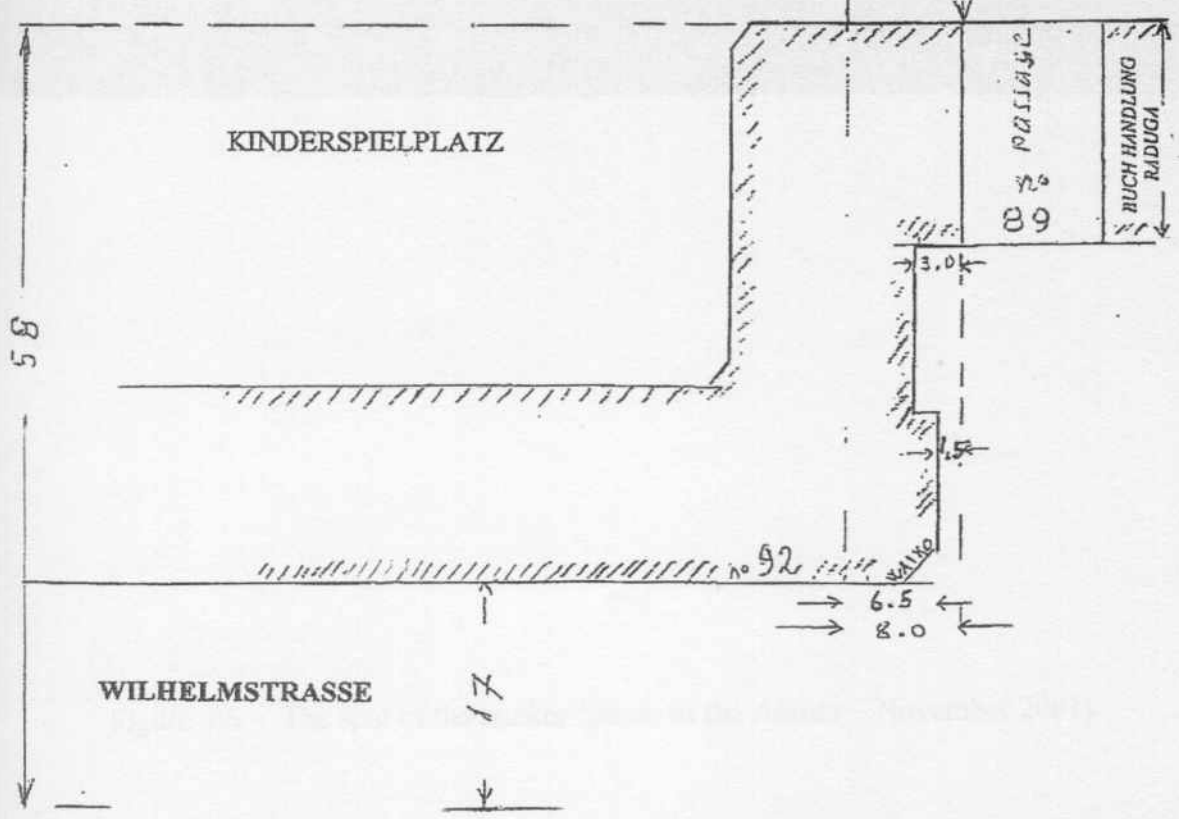


Figure 65 – Detailed map with the coordinates of the bunker (drawn by the Author)



The building, which was built in the 1950s, is a typical example of the mass housing of the GDR. The building was built in the style of the "Kombi" system, which was developed by the architect Hans Scharoun. The building was built in the style of the "Kombi" system, which was developed by the architect Hans Scharoun. The building was built in the style of the "Kombi" system, which was developed by the architect Hans Scharoun.

Figure 66 – The spot of the bunker (photo of the Author – November 2001)



Figure 67 – The spot of the bunker (photo turned towards the residential garden, drawn by the Author – November 2001)

AND NOW WHAT TO DO ?

THE INTEREST FOR THE HITLER'S BUNKER INCREASES

Hitler's bunker had been built to last.....and is still lasting.

It 's lasting but it is invisible.

The Third Reich has left only two meaningful and "historically important" remnants: the Führerbunker and the "Eagle's Nest", on top of the Obersalzberg. This last has been restructured after the Anglo-American bombings and today it has become a beautiful place to relax, with a splendid sight on the Bavarian Alps, as far as to Salzburg.

The first remnant, the Führerbunker, duly re-buried when casually its "roof" was uncovered, has disappeared.

This would be irrelevant if this place had been cancelled from the memory of the inhabitants of this planet. Instead, this Phoenix' mystery has made curiosity grow about it, more and more morbid.

It can be interesting to see how the attitude of the Tourist Guides in Berlin evolved during the years. Up to some years ago no reference was made to the visit to the "Bunker of Hitler", in the context of the other visits suggested by the Guides.

Reading the most diffused Guides, as "Let's Go Germany", "Lonely Planet", "Anders Reisen" and "Kleine Berlin Geschichte", the bunker resulted not mentioned, or it was mentioned in the whole of the bunkers of the Chancelleries, without furnishing precise indications to individualize the place. The Guides made reference to the "Info box", spread along the Wilhelmstrasse, ignoring that none of them gives information on the location of the bunker.

Someone else cited the "Kinder Spielplatz" (Playground) as the place of the bunker, acceptable in a general sense, but wrong if referred to the spot of the Hitler's bunker.

Things have changed during the last years.

If we examine some brochures of the Tour Operators that take around tourists in Berlin, we discover that the Führerbunker is included among the stops of the tour.

THE ORIGINAL BERLIN WALKS offers 4 Tours to the tourists, respectively denominated:

Tour 1 The Discover Berlin Walk

Tour 2 Infamous Third Reich Sites

Tour 3 Jewish Life in Berlin

Tour 4 The Discover Potsdam Walk

Inside the Tour 1, in which fascinating visits are included, as the house of Marlene Dietrich or the place where Albert Einstein taught, it also mentions to the bunker.

The brochure says: " As there is nothing left to see of Hitler's bunker, we point out the site from a distance and we will explain how the victims of the nazism are remembered today; we will visit the sites of the SS and Gestapo headquarters, now a permanent memorial site".

The Tour 2 is the one gets closer to our interest.

Speaking of the infamous places of the Third Reich the brochure affirms: "The once elegant Wilhelmstrasse and the surrounding streets gained a terrifying reputation during the Third Reich. In Wilhelm Platz, the propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels transformed an 18^o century palace into the sinister Propaganda Ministry.

Hitler built his intimidating New Reichs chancellery and, close-by, the bunker where he committed suicide. In Wilhelmstrasse itself, Goebbels built the monumental Air Ministry, while Himmler's SS and the Gestapo headquarters turned Prinz-Albrecht-Strasse into the more feared addresses in the Third Reich.

60 years later, some of the streets names have changed but one cannot escape the Nazi past: we examine how this past is being looked at today and finish the tour above the exact position of the Hitler's bunker, exploring the myth surrounding Hitler's fate during the last days of the war."

As it can be noticed, the Tour 2 goes as far as take the tourists exactly above the bunker.

It is interesting also another brochure: that of BREWER'S BEST OF BERLIN, the tourist organization of the "London" Terry Brewer.

These are the stops of the tour in Berlin: Alexander Platz, Air Ministry, Berliner Dom Cathedral, Book Burning Square, Brandenburg Gate, Checkpoint Charlie, Friedrichstrasse, Gendarmenmarkt, HITLER'S BUNKER, Humboldt University, Museum Island, National Work House, New Synagogue, Palace of Tears, Pergamon Museum, Potsdamer Platz, Red Town Hall, Reichstag, Royal Library, TV Tower, Unter den Linden, The Victory Column, Wilhelmstrasse, The Berlin Wall and much more.

Why I have used capital characters for the bunker of Hitler? Because, in that big context of monuments, it is the only stop where there is nothing to see. Notice that the brochure doesn't refer "to the place" of the bunker, but to the bunker itself: as materialising it.

Let us see another Tour Operator: INSIDER WALKING TOUR. This agency offers 3 Tours. The Tour 1 titles: "Berlin and the Nazi Regime."

On Internet page of Insider Tour one can read: "The future of Berlin as capital of Germany is well symbolized by the development of the real estate investments in that was defined "Nobody's earth", along the Berlin Wall, in proximity of the center of the city. However this process is covering part of the Berlin of the past that partially still exists, hidden under earth between Potsdamer Platz and the Reichstag.

One of these sections is the "sand's lot" delimited by Voss Strasse, Ebertstrasse and Beherenstrasse. Once place of the center of power of the Third Reich, the only rests of the Chancellery of the Reich not demolished or removed by the Russian troops of occupation or by the Government of East Germany, succeeded to them, is the "Reichsführerbunker", more commonly known as the "Hitler's bunker".

Discovered for the first time by the border's guards of the DDR, towards the end of 1986, in preparation of the construction of the residential district that now develops itself along the Wilhelmstrasse, the bunker was open to the visit of a small, selected group of journalists in June 1990.

Dressed for the occasion with security helmets, waterproof equipment, rubber boots up to the knees and electric torches, one of our Insiders was so lucky as to be there and to tell what the group saw, the day when the sealed steel door was open:

"An indescribable excitement and anxiety grew when we went down 12 meters, along the staircase that brought to the centre of the power in the last evanescent days of nazism.

A fantastic atmosphere immediately was created around us when the beams of light of the lamps, placed on our foreheads, illuminated walls covered in soot reflecting themselves on the 25 centimeters of water of the floor. The 45 year-old mould on the walls, helmets, utensils, broken bottles, other degraded tools and residues covered with mud surrounded us...., here, the Third Reich rotted around us.

The walls had graffiti in Cyrillic letters....Once, where the last days of the Third Reich burned in a painful end, existed life in these obscurities and moistures; but this form of life now concerns only of bugs and other micro organisms present everywhere.

After a couple of hours, that seemed eternity, we climbed up again the staircases, going out to a warm spring air of the modern Berlin.

A strange silence lowers upon us when we cross this part of Berlin, where the cross-roads of the future meet the dead roads of the past." (Dr. Richard Campbell)

How could a group of journalists enter the Führerbunker in 1990, going down 12 meters (!), after that in 1988 it had been uncovered and filled up of earth, remains a mystery.

The sources mentioned above, even though they cannot constitute a representative sample, point out a tendency: that is to include the reality, still suffused with mystery, of the Hitler's bunker among the places to be visited.

THE DEBATE ON THE DESTINY OF THE BUNKER

Despite the "stain" of the bunker of Hitler, Berlin has more historical rests of the nazism than it can be imagined.

The idea that Germany and particularly Berlin have done all they could to hide the historical memory of that scourge of the humanity represented by the nazism, is not correct.

Let us start from a primary testimony of the places of Hitler as the "Eagle's Nest", on the top of the Obersalzberg. The Kehlsteinhaus, from the height of its 1834 meters of altitude, stands out integral, dominating the surrounding valleys.

This is the most important monument of the insane Hitler's megalomania, of his "squire" Martin Bormann and of the whole nazism. One could go up, and still can, using an elevator dug in the mountain, shining of brasses, mirrors and "horse-shoe" sofa.

The "Tea room", where Hitler gathered his "intimates" after a walk up the steep slopes of the mountain (the Führer didn't like to use the elevator) is still open, practically unchanged, to the service of the tourists that want to have lunch or a warm drink. A great television set shows, in the corner, images of the epoch (with Eva Braun that detaches among other people). Postcards and books are on sale in the opposite side. The kitchen is visible, as also the door that takes to the little working room for the important guests of the epoch.

The figure 68 shows the "Tea room" as it was at the time of Hitler's presence; in Figure 69 appears the adjacent little working room. Today the "Tea room" is frequented by tourists (Figure 70); notice that the fireplace, the design of the windows' bolts and the wall-lamps are in style of the "forties".

From what I have been able to ascertain, in a pair of hours of permanence in the Eagle's Nest, signals of "nostalgic" visits or of neo-Nazi groups were not noticed.

Also the museum of the local history of the nazism and of the presence of Hitler and his main leaders on the slopes of the mountain, carried out on the Obersalzberg near the bus parking site, is visited by tourists with great silence and respect.

Why, then, such fear that the bunker in Berlin could become a place for neo-Nazi assemblies or "nostalgic" demonstrations?

Keep in mind that in Berlin already exist "Memorials" that would have been able to arouse worries when they were realized and that, for many years, have not seen neither demonstrations of "nostalgic" people nor blasphemous graffiti on the walls.

I refer to the railway station of Grunewald, from where innumerable trains of convicts, not only Hebrews, departed towards the concentration and extermination camps.

I refer to the wall of Steglitz, with the names of the Hebrews deported by the Nazi; to the monument in Rosenstrasse where, in 1943, the not Jewish wives manifested violently against the SS for the release (that they got) of their husbands, Jews and not; to the exhibition of the building of Bendlerblock where the conspirators of the attempt to Hitler, on July 1944, were murdered; I refer to the museum "Topographie des Terrors", where the cellars in which the SS and the Gestapo tortured the prisoners have been reconstructed.

Berlin had also the courage not to demolish the building of the Stasi, the awful Security Service of the DDR, and to turn it into a museum.

Also on the panels existing in Berlin, showing infamous places as the Chancellery of the Reich, the headquarters of the SS and Goebbels, or on the walls of the house of Wansee, where the conference was held on the "Final Solution" of the Jewish problem, are not present slashes or sentences hailing the Nazi regime.

In the last years "currents of thought" originated in favour or against the reopening of the bunker of Hitler.

Among those contrary was the majority of the Berlin senate and Lea Rosh, president of the, under construction, Memorial of the Holocaust in the proximity of the place of the bunker and Helmut Engel, head of the organization that manages Berlin's monuments. For Engel the best thing should be to bury the bunker under the sand (where it is already!).

The historian Joachim Fest, author of the note biography of Adolf Hitler, is against the opening of the bunker, as well as Peter Strieder, senator for the urban development in one of the past municipal administrations of Berlin.

There are eminent people, however, who are in favour of the opening to the public of the Hitler's bunker.

The first one to be cited is the American historian Daniel Goldhagen, professor of politics at the Harvard University. According to Goldhagen the Germans don't have the right to decide by themselves on the Bunker of Hitler and on the other rests of the Third Reich. Since Hitler has been a man with "global" destructive ability he cannot be considered an exclusive symbol of the German history but of the history of the humanity. Therefore the bunker should be set under the protection of the Unesco, the cultural agency of the United Nations.

The bunker should become the place to meditate on the horrors of the history and to learn not to repeat them.

In an interview, given to the Italian newspaper *Corriere della Sera* in 1999, Goldhagen affirms, in clear-cut tone, that "the dimension and the monstrosity of the destroying Hitler's fury are unprecedented. His threatening shade lengthened on the whole world. Keeping this in mind the Germans cannot decide alone the fate of the bunker. In a world that extends itself more and more towards the globalization the control of many aspects of the national history becomes obsolete. This also includes the historical places and the monuments. The bunker of Hitler should not be seen how a purely German place. It could symbolically be set under the patronage of the U.N., as world commemorative monument. And this not for mistrust in Germany but because Hitler was a destroyer of universal level. It is as much important to preserve the historical places of the horror and the shame as those of the human goodness and of the triumph.

The places of the shame are able, if managed in suitable way, to become places of reflection, a warning... The Hitler's bunker should become accessible to the public as a symbol of the evil: but not of the evil, however great, of a single man: Hitler was a man of his time, millions of people idolized him and shared his delirious visions. The bunker should not become a vast museum (the other near bunkers could be destroyed even) but a very simple place, contained in a small construction, possibly enough to contain its ruins..... In that place the visitors should be put in front of the signs of the horror".

Also the Russian historian Lew Besymenski, that inspected the bunker of Hitler in 1945 and carried out the measures of it, thinks as Goldhagen. According to him it would be unforgivable that the Germans buried it under a grave of cement; the bunker has to remain as memory of the horrors of the war.

For the German historian Jost Duelffer a Republic sure of itself as Germany, has to approach the problem of the survival of the bunker in a relaxed way. The former manager of the archaeological department of Berlin, Alfred Kerndl, has very clear ideas: to bury the bunker would be escaping from the past; besides a "museum" set up, on the type of that carried out not far, "Topography of the terror", should be relatively simple. Also the "Green" movement of Berlin are favourable to the settlement of the Hitler's bunker.

As we can see, the debate on the destiny of the bunker is open. Out of Germany it seems there are more promoters for a decision and a management with an international approach to the problem. Also in Germany they don't miss promoters of the opening to the public of the bunker.

Perhaps the deep torment that is at the base of those who conceive a passion for the destiny of the bunker is how it can be possible to carry out a testimony of the wickedness of nazism and its head, without appearing as to exalt it.

IN THE MEANWHILE WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE BUNKER AREA?

In the area of the bunker projects and works are carried on in the most complete silence.

Just to be clear, let us specify that for area of the bunker, in ample sense, we intend the quadrilateral (that looks like a trapezium) made up by the streets: Wilhelmstrasse, Voss Strasse, Ebertstrasse and Beherenstrasse.

If we exclude the works for the realization of the Holocaust Memorial, around which there have been and still are great debates through the media, the rest of the works in the zone happen in the general indifference.

In my last investigation, in the aforesaid area, I have noticed some works of trenching in the terminal part of the Voss Strasse, towards the Ebertstrasse.

A powerful digger Caterpillar shattered the foundations of reinforced concrete of a pre-existing construction. The place corresponded to the location of the n° 6 of Voss Strasse, that is to the official address of the New Chancellery of the Third Reich. I asked confirmation and I got it from the people that were digging. The photo of Figure 71 shows the works in progress. It deals with the last works of demolition and removal of what was the Chancellery of the Reich.

I noticed the yard of construction works , just external to the area of the bunker, in Stresemanstrasse, whose poster showed the name of the firm.

The name was that, to me familiar, of Hochtief, the builder of Hitler's bunker, which curiously took me back to the famous saying "the murderer always returns on the place of his crime" (Figure 72).

But let us return inside the quadrilateral, that is the trapezium of the gardens of the Chancelleries.

Figure 63 has shown us a part of the area of the bunker, with the indication of a street under construction whose name, I noticed, was Edwin-Redslob-Strasse (see, in the Second Part of the book, the new name of such a street).

The whole area, as it results at the end of 2001, is represented in Figure 73. The prevalence of the "dashed" streets (under construction or already visible on the ground) in comparison to those drawn with a continuous line (existing streets), tells us that the present urban reality is still a marginal part with reference to what will be the final order of the quadrilateral.

The bunker will be more and more prisoner of the road network and of the motor-traffic that will run, even if partially, on its top.

HYPOTHESIS OF A THIRD "MEMORIAL"

If we enlarge the map surrounding the place of the Hitler's bunker, we realize that it is included between two great "memorials": one, in phase of realization, the Holocaust, known as "Denkmal Fur of Ermordeten Juden Europas" (that will occupy the area delimited by Ebertstrasse, Beherenstrasse, Cora-Berliner Strasse and the Hannah-Ahrendt Strasse) and another one denominated Topographie des Terrors (situated in the place that was the headquarters of the SS and the Gestapo) along the Wilhelmstrasse, between the present Niederkirchen Strasse and Anhalter Strasse.

The Hitler's bunker is far about 200 meters from the barycentre of the first one and about 750 meters from the second.

The Tour Operators, that now bring the tourists to visit the "Topography of the Terror" and the area where the bunker of the Chancellery lies, in a next future will also bring the tourists in visit to the Memorial of the Holocaust.

Does it make sense to connect the three visits in a sole itinerary on the horrors of the past?

This would require the unearthing of the bunker of Hitler and the realization of a staircase of access to its tragic rooms.

Binding the three places with a unique denominator of meditation, showing the rests of the places where the Third Reich operated (topography of the terror) and ended (Hitler's bunker), with a place of reflection and prayer on the results of the Nazi experience (the Holocaust), the misunderstanding of "nostalgic" representations of the crimes would be excluded.

In theory, a ticket for a unique entry could be issued for better materialising the degenerate historical bond of the three places. Being the three places practically lined up, the ticket could give access to the "axis of infamy."

That is, as the future map of the area could result (Figure 74).

FOR SALE: HITLER'S BERLIN BUNKER

The hypothesis to unearth the bunker and open it to the public could seem absurd and utopian if "The Times" had not published, on June 26th 2001, a explosive news: "For sale: Hitler's Berlin Bunker!"

In the article they said that the ownership of the bunker of Hitler is probable to pass to a Jewish group that intend to sell the place on the free market. The greater part of the incomes will go to the heirs, in America, of the dynasty of the department-stores Wertheim, that were forced to sell their areas to the Nazi.

The complex of the bunker, near the British Embassy in Berlin, is not marked for fear that the Neo-Nazi use it as place of pilgrimage.

The agency entrusted of the restitution of the ownership of the past East Germany would have decided for the delivery of the place to the Jewish Claims Conference, that represent the German interests of the victims of the holocaust.

Always according to "The Times", a part of the complex of the bunkers was built on grounds that the family Wertheim was forced to sell at prices highly inferior to the market ones. Martin Bormann was determined to expand the Chancellery and to absorb some buildings in the area of the Wilhelmstrasse.

The personal bunker of Hitler was partially blown up by the Soviets and the materials were used for building "war memorials". After 1961 the DDR erected the Berlin Wall on the western side of the zone and the border fortifications of the East-West direction ran through the places of the Chancellery of Hitler.

After the Berlin Wall was demolished in 1989, Karstadt Quelle, that had taken over Wertheim, presented a claim on that ground, aware that it would become a site of primary importance in the new capital of Germany. The lawyers of Barbara Principe, one of the principal heirs of the family Wertheim, affirm, nevertheless, that the family has been deprived by fraud of its ownership after the war: they were paid only 9.000 \$ for various lots of several estates in Berlin.

Karsadt has now abandoned the attempt to take over the bunker and it seems there are no serious obstacles to the Jewish Claims Conference to obtain the territory.

This service of "The Times" allows, at least, to make a couple of considerations.

The first one is that, with great probability, for "complex of the bunker" it is not intended the place, small enough, impending the Bunker of Hitler. We must keep in mind that the area occupied by the Führerbunker is about 750 square meters. Probably, with the term "complex of the bunker", they intended the area of the quadrilateral (the above mentioned trapezium), whose surface reaches about 150.000 square meters, that is almost 200 times that of the bunker.

The second is that the area exactly above the bunker coincides, for almost one half, with the sidewalk of the street (An der Kolonnade) and for the remaining part with the cars passage, the parking lot and the flower-beds of the residential quarter that surrounds it. Then, according to the rules of logic, the first part should belong to the Berlin municipality and the second to the residential quarter, or let in use to it.

That the article refers to the extensive definition of the area of the bunker can be evicted by the location of the department-stores Wertheim before 1945. Figure 34 shows, in the background of the photo, the rests of the department-stores Wertheim, that were situated in the Leipziger Platz. The areas facing this "kaufhaus" are clearly in the territory of the gardens of the Chancelleries.

Anyway, it results evident that the "complex of the bunker" is becoming a warm area, not to say burning, and that more than one organization are trying to put their hands on it.

BERLINERS DON'T CANCEL HISTORY!

I think it doesn't exist any best synthesis, of what dealt with in the preceding pages, of that coming from the words, still existing on a rest of the Berlin Wall in Stresemanstrasse, in the proximity of the Voss Strasse (Figure 75). The words say:

DON'T DESTROY HISTORY

It refers, evidently, to the history of Berlin after 1945 and, especially, to the mutilation of the city, caused by the wall.

But the words can be extended also to the history that preceded the end of the second world war.

If the rests of the wall will forever have to remind us of the brutality of the communist regime, the bunker of Adolf Hitler can remind us, more deeply, the horror of the nazism.

Opening to the public the place in which the Nazi Germany consumed its tragic epilogue we can squeeze from the cement the whole infamy of the Third Reich.

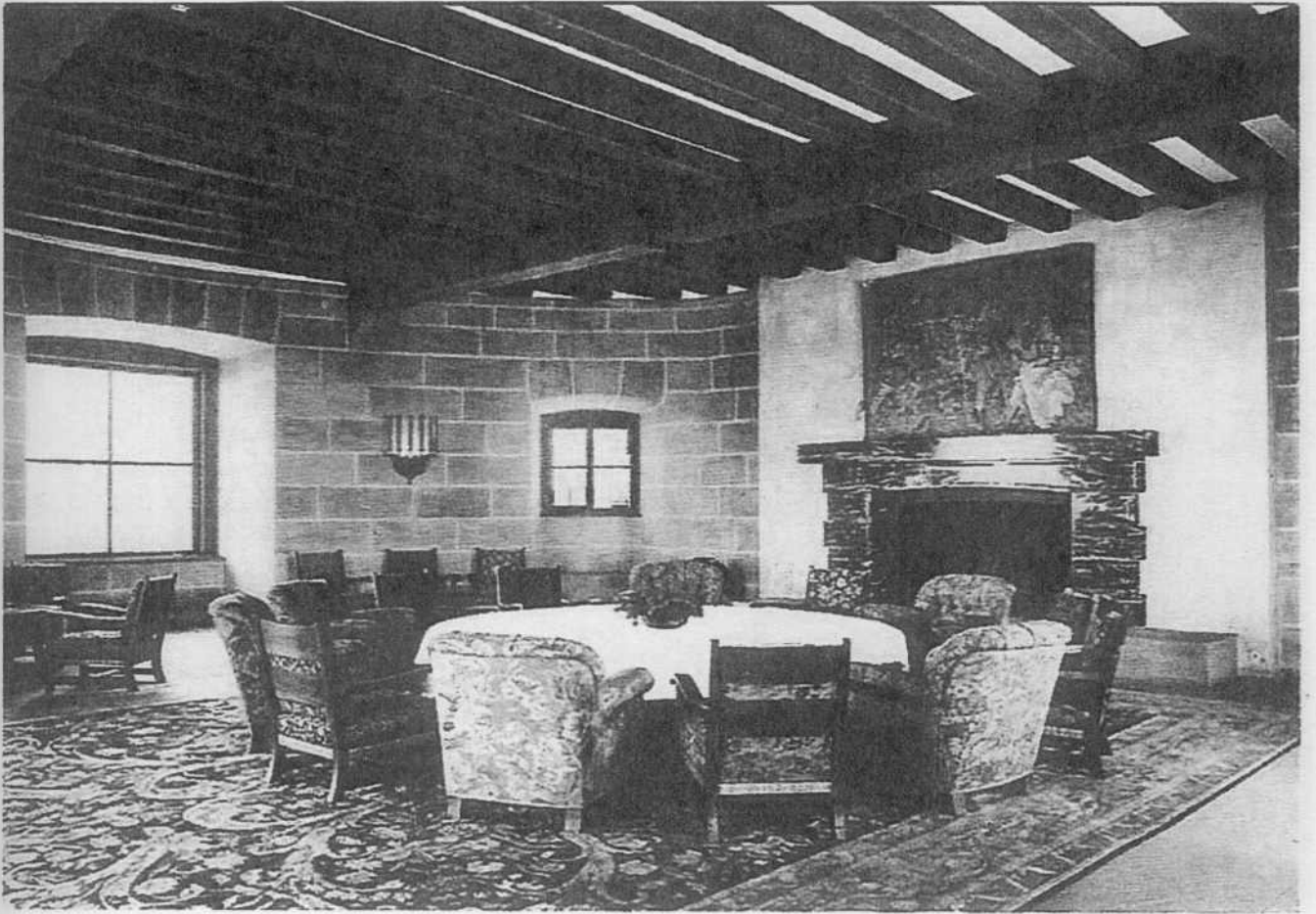


Figure 68 – “Tea-Room” in the “Eagle’s Nest” on the Obersalzberg

BERLINERS DON'T CANCEL HISTORY!

I think it is a pity that the new building, at least the new building, is not a reproduction of the building from the 1930s, but rather a rest of the 1930s. It is a pity that the new building, at least the new building, is not a reproduction of the building from the 1930s, but rather a rest of the 1930s.

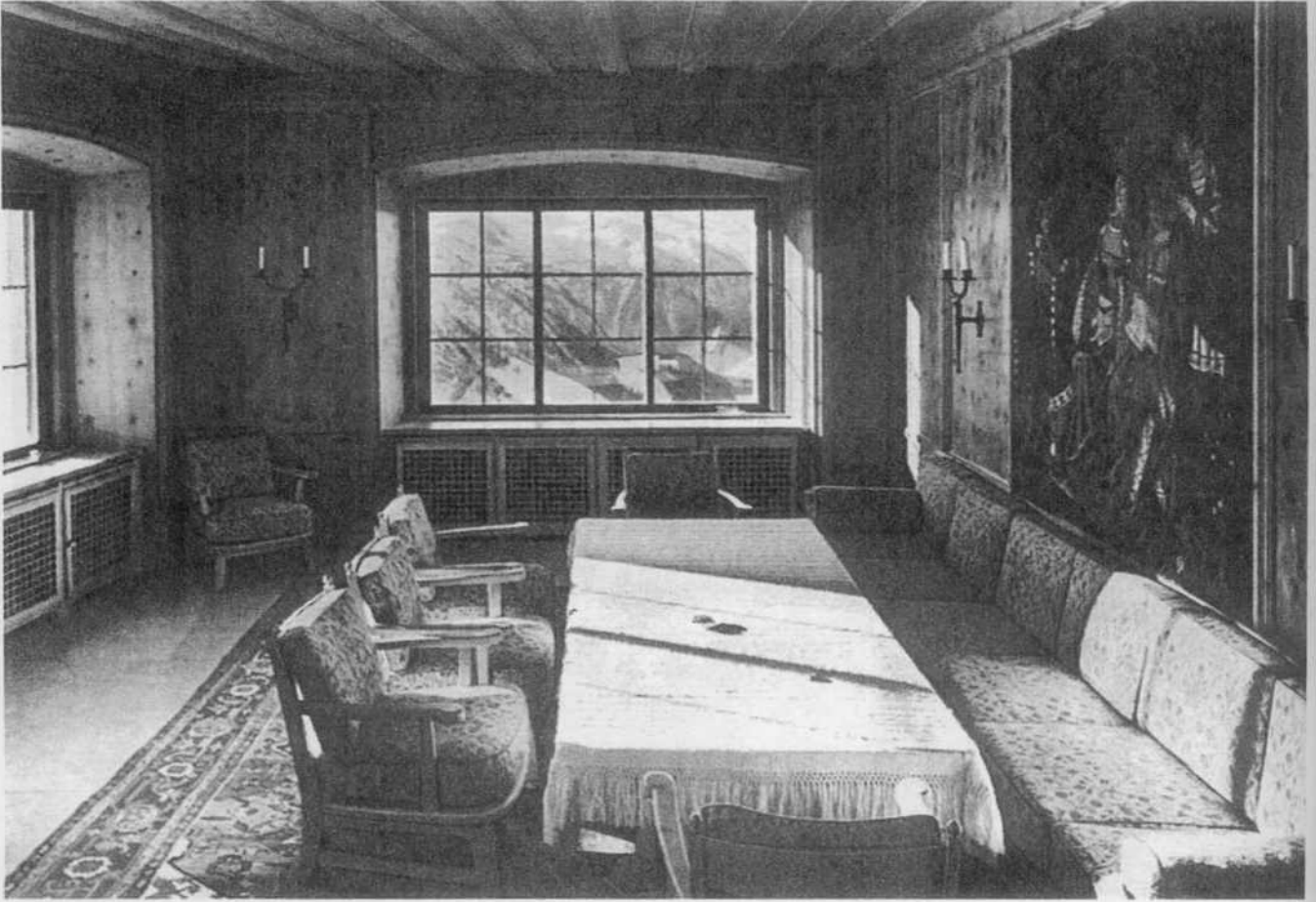


Figure 69 – “Meeting-Room” in the “Eagle’s Nest”



Figure 70 – The “Tea-Room” today (photo of the Author, September 2001)

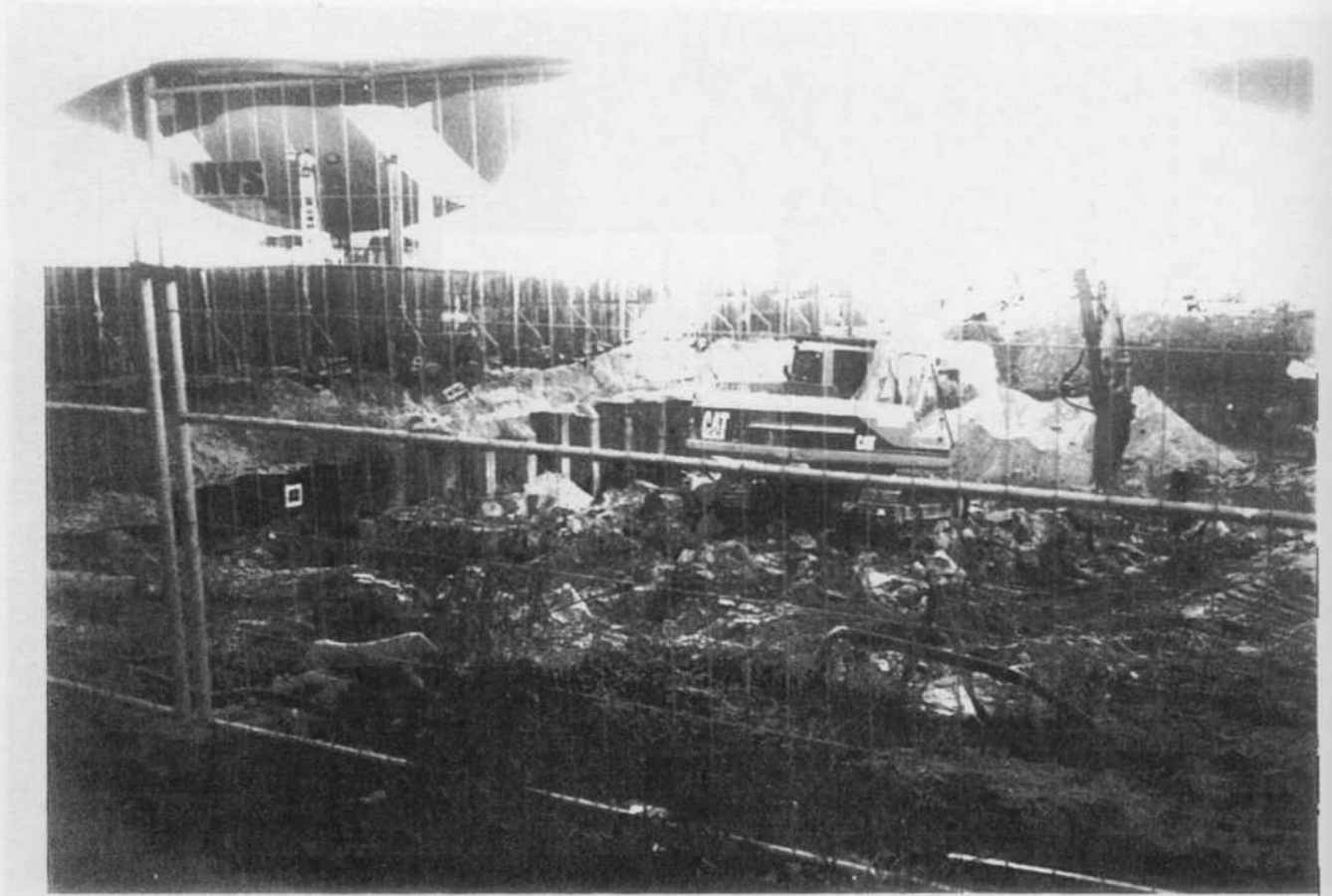


Figure 71 – Excavations of the foundations of the New Chancellery in Voss Strasse, 6
(photo of the Author – November 2001)

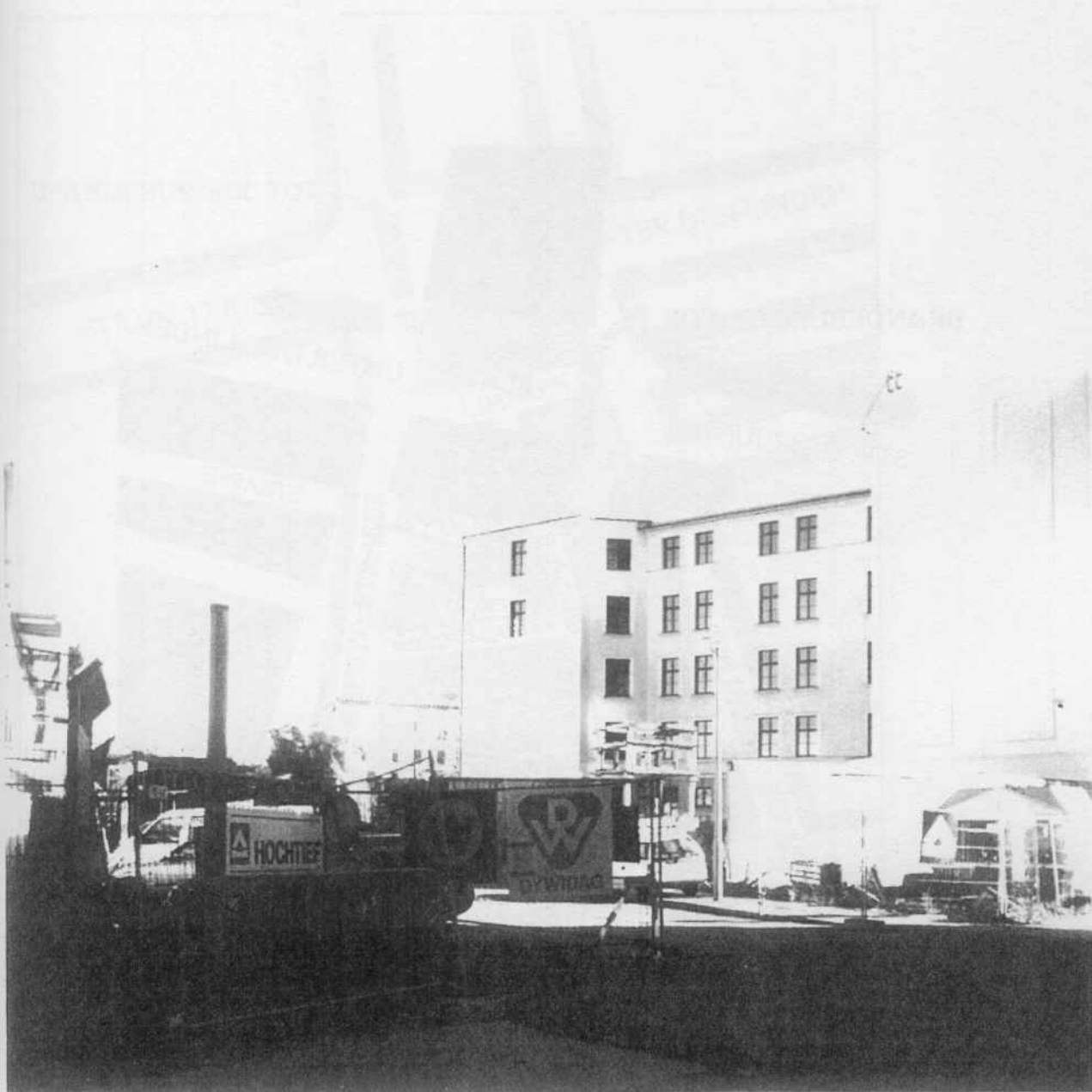


Figure 72 - Yard of the Hochtief near the New Chancellery
(photo of the Author - November 2001)

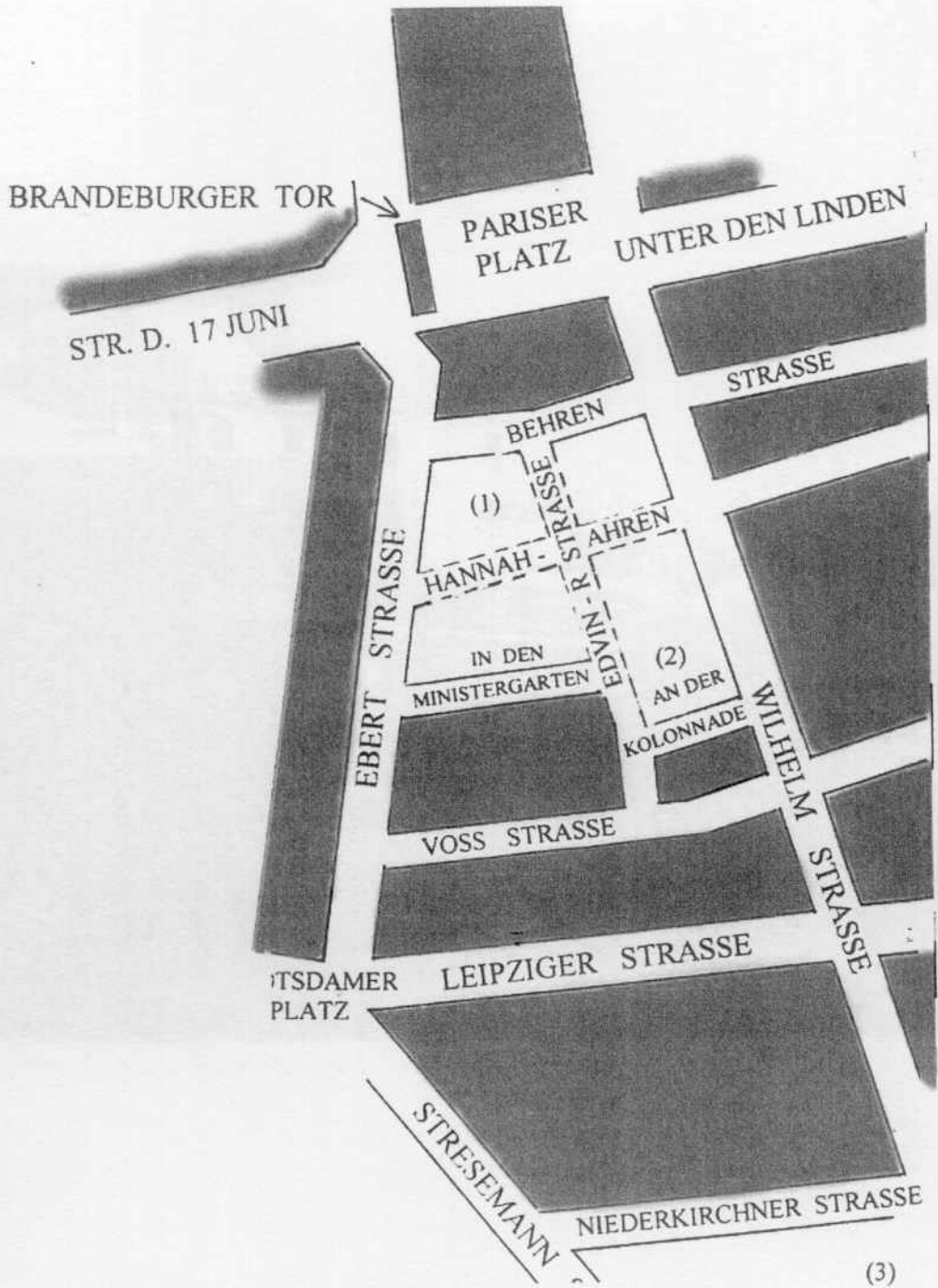


Figure 73 – Map of the “Quadrilater” today (drawn by the Author)



Figure 74 – Map of the “Quadrilater” with the future new streets (drawn by the Author)



Figure 75 – “Murales” on a piece of the Berlin Wall (photo of the Author – November 2001)

NOW RISES "SAVE HISTORY":

A proposal to the Mayor of Berlin for the opening and the management of the "Führerbunker Memorial"

In the preceding chapter we have seen that the interest for the bunker of Hitler increases. Frequent debates light up in Germany and in the world on the destiny of the bunker. Certainly, with the sedimentation of the emotions, history imposes us to look at what remains with an eye and a mood more serene and detached.

In the area of the dramatic final events of the Third Reich one assists to projects and actions on the territory. Other Memorials are opened (around the zone of the bunker), it is briskly built and are observed increasing visits of tourists, to the search of witness splinters of the Nazi period.

Are set out, also, real estate initiatives on the base of claims of reimbursement for ancient expropriations.

However the story of the bunker remains as "plastered" in a suspicious climate of mutual fears and deceptions of responsibility.

It is said that the place of the bunker is unknown, and this is NOT true.

It is said that the bunker has been destroyed, and this is NOT true in its structures.

It is said that someone has built above it, and this is NOT true.

It is said, finally, that doesn't exist the political wish to take it to the light and this is only PARTIALLY true.

The documents of the next pages show the foundation of these statements.

Since I am convinced that the unearthing of the bunker is not a titanic or impossible enterprise and that its "management" is feasible under all the points of view (organizational, economic and technical) I have proposed myself to the Mayor of Berlin for the realization of what above mentioned.

So, a correspondence started between the Movement SAVE HISTORY, of which I am the promoter, and the Mayor of Berlin.

I have sent the proposal of opening, recovering and management of the Bunker to Mr. Wowereit, Burgomaster of Berlin.

The Mayor has kindly answered me, through the Head of the Chancellery of the Berlin's Senate, André Schmitz, with words of appreciation for the results of the search, I carried out, but also with words of discouragement regarding the following of the proposal of Save History.

I have answered him with a second letter that specifies and points out the aspects of feasibility of the initiative.

The aforesaid correspondence is integrally shown in the following pages, to which I send the reader. Nevertheless I would like to make some considerations on the interchange, between the Berlin authority and myself:

1 - First reflection: notice what the Mayor of Berlin has NOT written to me. He has not written to me that the search has brought to wrong results. He has not told me that I have wasted time pursuing chimeras of non-existent locations. On the contrary, he honestly appreciated the investigation carried out: the Bunker is there, where I have pointed out it in the map I sent him.

2 - Second reflection: the Mayor, through the Head of the Chancellery of the Berlin Senate, lets me know that the Municipality possesses the planimetries and the maps showing the location of the bunker of Hitler. I don't have reasons to doubt what he says. But, then, how to explain that, about every five years, it appears on newspapers and magazines some "scoops" on the "casual" discovery of the Hitler's bunker during works of excavation for new set-up of the ground?

Do we have to think that the building enterprises in Berlin begin to dig in a warm zone, the zone of the Chancelleries of the Third Reich (where unexploded bombs of the Second World War are sometimes discovered) without the approval of the competent Technical Offices or that these Offices, knowing the meander of tunnels and bunkers of the subsoil, don't inform the firms digging the ground on the possible surprises?

3 - Third reflection: in the aforesaid letter is said that buildings have been built on some bunkers, making me suppose that also on the bunker of Hitler are existing residential quarters.

If it is true that over some of the many bunkers of the zone something was built, it is also true that, in half century, for some circumstances still mysterious, people have carefully built "around" the Führerbunker, to a respectful distance.

4 - Last reflection: it is true that, up to now, the Senate of Berlin and other boards pronounced themselves against the opening of the bunker, but it is also true that the stories of the unearthing of the Führerbunker are interesting more and more general opinions and movements of thought outside Germany. To believe that the story of the bunker is a "German inside matter", or quite "Berliner", becomes more and more difficult and indefensible.

My next footstep, in front of the foreseeable hindering of the proposal of Save History by the Berlin Municipality, will be to ask Unesco to consider this place as a "Inheritance of the Humanity" and to put it under its protection (Appendix A).

Milan, 28 January 2002

Mr. Klaus WOWEREIT
MAYOR of BERLIN
Berliner Rathaus
Rathausstrasse, 15
10173 BERLIN-Mitte
Germany

Dear Mr. Wowereit,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the **SAVE HISTORY** Committee, of which I am the promoter.

Object of the Committee is the safeguard and the opening to public of the remains with historic value.

For the tragic rôle that Adolf Hitler had in the history of the twentieth century, the Berlin Bunker, where he committed suicide on 30 April 1945, is certainly among these and its preservation is a question not only German but of the whole humanity.

This Bunker is buried, since more than half a century, in a place of the city of Berlin and, officially, its location is unknown.

During the last years I have studied all the available documentation on the bunker, examined documents in the Federal Archives and made checks and surveys "in loco".

The result has been the individualization of the site where the bunker is buried. The enclosed map, drawn by me, shows the location.

I am sure that your City Planning and Archaeological Departments, can verify the correctness of the map.

On the basis of information in our hands, the Committee **SAVE HISTORY** asks to you the authorization to unearth the Bunker and, subsequently, to manage the visits, for the benefit of local and international public.

The bunker will become a Memorial (the third in the zone, together with the Memorial of Holocaust and the Topography of Terror) for not forgetting the Nazi horrors.

The visit to the Bunker can be combined with the other two ones.

We trust that the opening to public of the Hitler's Bunker will not create problems of public order (like the commemoration by Neo-Nazi nostalgic people), in the same way it is occurring in other Memorials, placed in Berlin (Topography of Terror, the railway station of Grunewald, the Steglitz wall, the Rosenstrasse Monument, the exposure of the Bendlerblock building, the Wansee house) and outside Berlin (the Eagle Nest, on the Obersalzberg).

The SAVE HISTORY Committee will be the file-leader of a Foundation with the following objectives:

- unearth the Bunker**
- drain and clear the Bunker**
- readapt part of the interior and the access**
- manage the visits to the Memorial in the period of time agreed with the Berlin Municipality.**

The visit to the Bunker will be "on payment" and a share of revenues will be devolved on charity, in agreement with the Authority of the Land.

The site interested to the Bunker unearthing is partially municipal (road and pavement) and partially private (lawn and parking for the residents). The private site should be expropriated, upon agreement and indemnity to the owners.

Dear Mayor, I hope that the proposal contained in this letter will be received favourably and I remain waiting your kind reply.

**Pietro GUIDO
SAVE HISTORY
Promoter of the Committee**

**Dr. Pietro GUIDO
Save History
C/o ISEM
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Enclosed: Map of the Hitler's Bunker Location.

Mailand, den 28 Januar 2002

Herr Klaus WOWEREIT
BÜRGERMEISTER von BERLIN
Berliner Rathaus
Rathausstrasse, 15
10173 BERLIN-Mitte
Germany

Sehr Geehrte Herr Bürgermeister,

Ich schreibe diesen Brief in Namen des Ausschusses SAVE HISTORY, wovon ich Förderer bin.

Zweck des Ausschusses ist die Wahrung und die Öffnung den Zuschauern deren Fundstücken, die geschichtlichen Wert haben.

Wegen der tragischen Rolle, die Adolf Hitler in der Geschichte des XX Jahrhunderts hatte, ist der Bunker in Berlin, wo er den 30 April 1945 sich Selbstmord beging, sicher unter diesen und seine Bewahrung ist eine Zuständigkeit nicht nur für Deutschland, sondern auch für die ganze Menschheit.

Dieser Bunker ist seit mehr als halben Jahrhundert irgendwo in Berlin verschüttet und seine örtliche Festlegung ist offiziell unbekannt.

Während den letzten Jahren habe ich das ganze, verfügbare Belegmaterial über den Bunker studiert, ich habe Material von den Bundesarchiven benutzt und Prüfungen und Kontrollen an Ort ausgeführt.

Das Ergebnis war die Entdeckung des Ortes wo der Bunker ist. Die beigefügte Karte, die ich verwirklicht habe, zeigt wo dieser Bunker positioniert ist.

Ich bin sicher, dass eure archäologische und von Städtebaulicher Planung Büros würden die Richtigkeit dieser Karte prüfen.

Auf Grund von diesen eingeholten Erkundigungen, fragt der Ausschuss SAVE HISTORY Sie nach der Ermächtigung den Bunker auszugraben und nachher in diesem Besichtigungen zu organisieren, zum Besten der örtlichen und internationalen Besucher.

Der Bunker wird eine Gedenkstätte sein (der dritte des Gebietes, zusammen mit dem Holocaust und dem Terrortopographie) um die Nazismusgreuel nicht zu vergessen.

Man kann die Besichtigung des Bunkers den anderen zwei Gedenkstätten koppeln.

Wir verlassen uns darauf, dass die Öffnung des Bunkers von Hitler den Zuschauern kein Problem von öffentlicher Ordnung bringen wird (wie z.b. das Gedenken von nostalgischen Neonazis) so wie es für die anderen Berliner Gedenkstätten passiert (die Terrortopographie, der Bahnhof von Grunewald, Der Mauer von Steglitz, Das Monument in Rosenstrasse, die Ausstellung in dem Bendlerblock Gebäude, das Haus von Wansee) und außerhalb Berlin (der Adlerhorst, auf dem Obersalzberg).

Der Ausschuss SAVE HISTORY wird der Hauptvertreter einer Gründung sein, mit folgenden Zielen:

- den Bunker zu entdecken;
- den Bunker zu trocken legen und zu sanieren;
- den Eingang wieder zu errichten;
- Die Besichtigungen dieser Gedenkstätte während einer Zeitspanne zu führen, die das Berliner Rathaus festsetzen wird.

Der Eintritt wird gegen Bezahlung sein und ein Einteil des Ertrags wird für wohltätige Zwecke gespendet sein, mit Einverständnis der Landskompetenz.

Ein Teil des Bodens, das für die Öffnung des Bunkers einbezieht ist, gehört der Gemeinde (Straße und Gehweg) und ein Teil ist privat (Beet und Hausparkplatz). Der Letzte sollte enteignen sein, nach vorheriger Vereinbarung und Bezahlung der Besitzer).

Sehr geehrte Herr Bürgermeister,

Hoffentlich der in diesem Brief enthalte Vorschlag wird gerne angenommen sein.

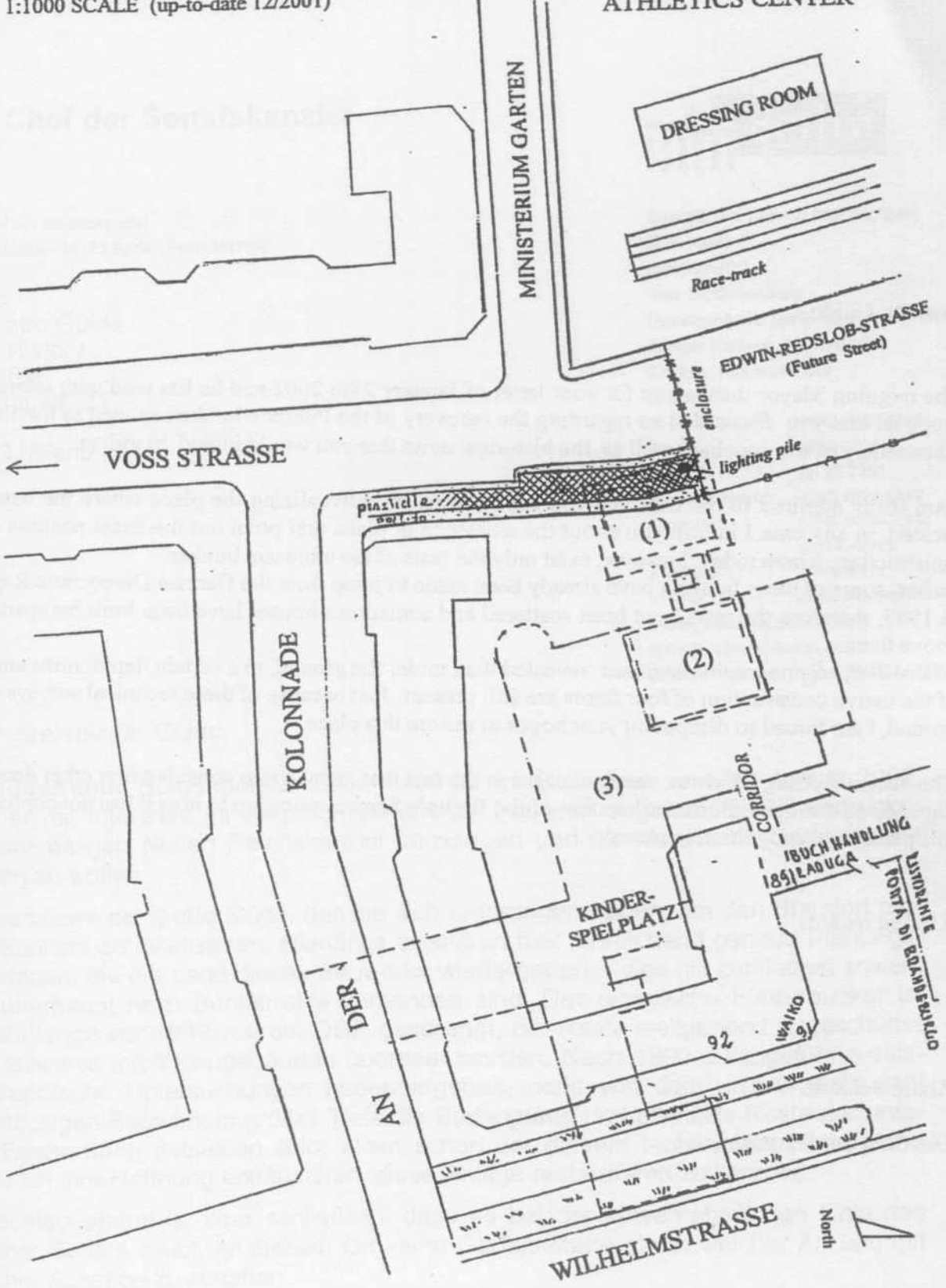
In Erwartung Ihrer Antwort, verbleibe ich mit freundlichen Grüßen.

Dr. Pietro GUIDO
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Beigefügte Karte von dem Standort des Bunkers von Hitler.



- (1) FUEHRER BUNKER
- (2) VORBUNKER
- (3) OLD CHANCELLERY

Drawn by Pietro GUIDO - SAVE HISTORY



Dear Dr. Guido,

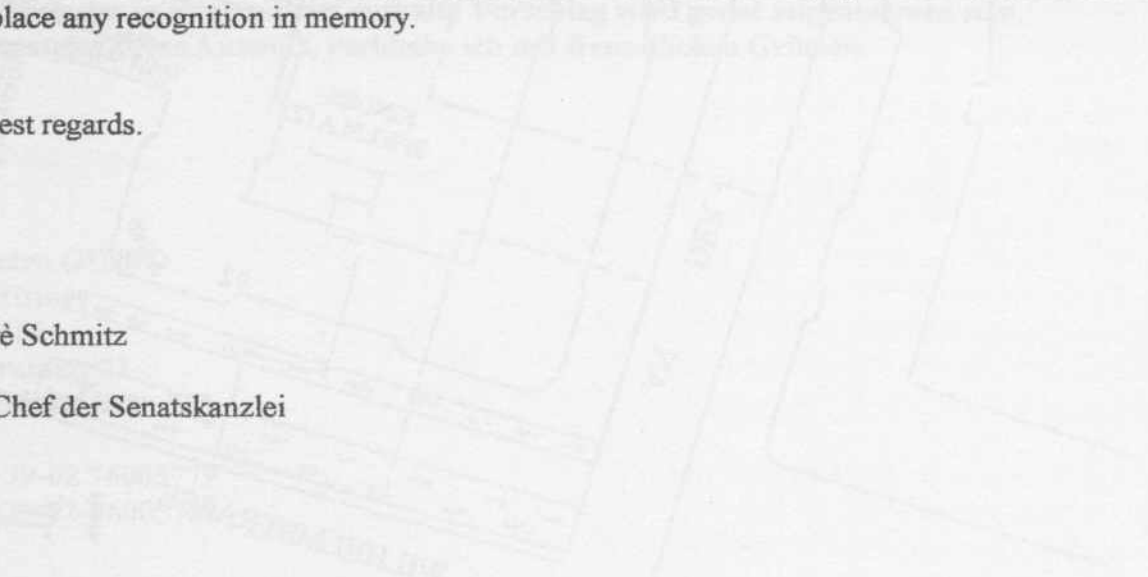
The reigning Mayor thanks you for your letter of January 28th 2002 and he has read with interest the proposal that you forwarded us regarding the recovery of the Führer's bunker, as well as the Reich's Chancellery of the epoch, as well as the historical news that you would intend to utilise.

I am really admired of the care that you have shown in individualizing the place where the bunker is located, in any case I inform you about the existence of plans that point out the exact position of the construction, where today, however, exist only the rests of the aforesaid bunker.

In fact, some of these bunkers have already been made to jump from the German Democratic Republic in 1989, therefore the rests have been scattered and sometimes houses have been built for apartments above them.

After 1990, seismographic searches revealed that, under the ground, to a certain depth, ruins and rests of the native construction of four floors are still present. Just because of these technical surveys on the ground, I am forced to disappoint your hopes to restore this place.

The decisive point, however, surely consists in the fact that, to take into consideration other decisions, depends on the unanimous deliberation of the Berlin's Senate, since, up to now it has not conferred to this place any recognition in memory.



Kindest regards.

Andrè Schmitz

Der Chef der Senatskanzlei

February 8th, 2002

Der Chef der Senatskanzlei



Der Chef der Senatskanzlei
Senatskanzlei - 10173 Berlin (Postanschrift)

Herrn
Dr. Pietro Guido
Save History
c/o ISEM
Via Kramer, 21

20129 Milano - Mi

GeschZ. (bei Antwort bitte angeben)

III F - 4628 -

Bearbeiter(in)

Herr Dr. Grüneberg

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Datum 8. Februar 2002

Sehr geehrter Dr. Guido,

der Regierende Bürgermeister dankt Ihnen für Ihr Schreiben vom 28. Januar 2002, dem er mit Interesse Ihr Angebot entnommen hat, den sogenannten Führerbunker der ehemaligen Neuen Reichskanzlei freizulegen und als historische Gedenkstätte nutzen zu wollen.

Ich bedauere die große Mühe, der Sie sich unterzogen haben, um den Standort dieses Bunkers zu lokalisieren; allerdings existieren hier hinreichend genaue Planungsunterlagen, die die Lage dieses Bauwerks wiedergeben – dies gilt zumindest soweit, wie überhaupt noch Bunkerreste vorhanden sind. Der eigentliche Führerbunker ist bereits lange vor 1989 von der DDR gesprengt, die Reste weitgehend zugeschüttet und teilweise mit Wohngebäuden überbaut worden. Nach 1990 durchgeführte seismographische Untersuchungen haben ergeben, dass von dem ursprünglich wohl vierstöckigen Bauwerk in großer Tiefe die Bodenplatte und allenfalls Reste der unteren Ebene übrig geblieben sind. Allein schon vor diesem technischen Hintergrund muss ich Ihre Hoffnung enttäuschen, diese Anlage restaurieren zu können.

Ausschlaggebend ist aber schließlich, dass es bei der einvernehmlichen Linie des Berliner Senats bleibt, an diesem Ort keine Gedenkstätte gleich welcher Art und mit welcher Aussage zu schaffen.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Andre Schmitz

Anschrift für Fracht:
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Der Regierende Bürgermeister,
Senatskanzlei, 10178 Berlin

Verkehrsverbindungen:
U- und S-Bahn Alexanderplatz,
Autobus 100, 142, 157, 257

Sprechzeiten des Bürgerreferates:
Mo/Di/Fr 9.00 - 12.00 Uhr,
Do 16.00 - 18.00 Uhr

Milan, February 28, 2002

Herrn André Schmitz
Der Chef der Senatskanzlei
Senatskanzlei
10178 BERLIN-Mitte
Germany

Dear Mr. Schmitz,

I would like, first of all, to thank you and the illustrious Mayor of Berlin for your kind reply of February 8, 2002 to my previous letter of January 28, 2002.

I think it right to deepen, in this letter, the following four points:

- 1 - The location of the Hitler's bunker (Führerbunker)
- 2 - The state of the bunker
- 3 - The feasibility of the proposal of Save History (my letter of 28/02/02)
- 4 - The political aspect of the re-opening of the bunker.

1 - THE LOCATION OF THE BUNKER

I take note, with pleasure, of the appreciation, received from you, for the identification of the site where the bunker is buried (at this aim I forward, in the Enclosure A, the map of the site, with a graphics better than the previous one). The positive result of the research is due, in addition to the studied documentation, to the information gathered at the Hochtief (the firm that built the bunker in 1943) and at the Bundesarchiv of Berlin.

You inform me of the existence (I suppose at the technical offices of the Berlin Municipality) of maps that show the exact position of the construction.

I will be very grateful to you if you will communicate me the offices where I can consult these maps and your authorization to the consultation. I am, indeed, very interested to verify the exactness of my surveys and, possibly, to improve them.

2 - THE STATE OF THE BUNKER

The historical data existing on the topic converge on the conviction that the structure, in reinforced concrete, is still integral.

Before the Soviets, later the technicians of DDR tried to blow up the bunker, but they succeeded only partially. Has been destroyed the Emergency Exit, with its access staircase with four flights, and the "Watch pill-box", but the "cube", that is the structure of the bunker, has resulted too strong to be crumbled.

The Enclosure B shows the Section of Führerbunker and of Vorbunker, drawn by me on the basis of the obtained information.

The integrity of the Bunker is visible also in the Enclosure C that shows a picture of the bunker, taken in 1988, during the digging out for building works.

3 - FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSAL OF "SAVE HISTORY"

In my previous letter to the Mayor of Berlin I communicated the availability of SAVE HISTORY to unearth, restore and manage the opening to public of the bunker.

I confirm the feasibility of the project on the base of these evidences:

- the location of the bunker is known
- the bunker is integral in its structure
- over the bunker do not exist constructions
- the earth that covers the bunker is sandy, so it is easy to remove it
- the draining of the bunker through suction pumps is handy, thanks to the limited volume of the bunker and the insulation created by thick walls and foundations
- the four flights stairs of access can be made with aerial structures in metal
- all the operation will be at "zero cost" to the Berlin Municipality (if we exclude the cost for the expropriation of the few square meters of private gardens)
- the revenue from visits of tourists will be probably considerable, given the present afflux of visitors (for seeing "nothing") and the presence of visits to the bunker site in the programs of Berlin "City Guides"
- as SAVE HISTORY is a "no-profit" organization, the revenue exceeding the amortization of the of bunker restoring and the operative costs can be devolved to charity, in agreement with the Berlin Municipality

In conclusion: SAVE HISTORY confirms to you the proposal, already explained in my previous letter, and resumed in the present one.

4 - THE POLITICAL ASPECT OF THE BUNKER UNEARTHING

This is the crucial point, as told by you, for the implementation of the project.

I know that in the Berlin Senate a share, in addition to the "Green", is not contrary to the re-opening of the bunker. I am confident that, in the future, fears and uncertainties on the public consequences of the opening of this site will diminish more and more.

The Hitler's Bunker is the most dramatic site in the history of the twentieth century. Here finished the tragedy and the life of the demon that left an indelible trace in the memory of the whole humanity. The closeness of the bunker to the Holocaust Memorial can transform it in the conclusive point of a pilgrimage to the sites " for not forgetting the horrors of Nazism".

Dear Mister Schmitz, I conclude this letter thanking you for the kind attention given to my previous letter and I hope that the events will turn to a positive outlet of the project submitted to you and to the Berlin Mayor, by SAVE HISTORY.

With my best regards.

Dr. Pietro GUIDO

SAVE HISTORY
c/o ISEM
Via Kramer, 21
20129 MILANO-MI
ITALIA

Mailand, den 28 Februar 2002

Herrn
André Schmitz
Chef der Senatskanzlei
Senatskanzlei
D – 10178 BERLIN – Mitte
Deutschland

Sehr geehrter Herr Schmitz,

zu aller Erst möchte ich Ihnen und dem sehr verehrten Herrn Bürgermeister von Berlin für Ihre freundliche Antwort vom 8. Februar 2002 auf mein Schreiben vom 28. Januar 2002 (IIF – 4628-Bearbeiter: Herr Dr. Grüneberg) danken.

Mit diesem Brief würde ich gerne auf die folgenden vier Punkte eingehen:

- 1 – Die Lokalisierung des Bunkers von Hitler (Führerbunker)
- 2 – Der Zustand des Bunkers
- 3 – Die Durchführbarkeit des Projektes von Save History (mein Schreiben vom 28/02/02)
- 4 – Der politische Aspekt der Wiederöffnung des Bunkers

1 – DIE LOKALISIERUNG DES BUNKERS

Ich nehme mit Freude zur Kenntnis, dass Sie damit einverstanden sind, den Ort, an dem der Bunker begraben ist, aufzufinden (zu diesem Zwecke schicke ich Ihnen unter Beilage A erneut die Lagekarte, aber diesmal mit einer besseren Grafik). Die positiven Ergebnisse dieser Nachforschungen sind sowohl den Dokumentationen als auch den Informationen der Firma Hochtief (das Unternehmen, das 1943 die Bauarbeiten des Bunkers ausgeführt hat) und des Bundesarchivs von Berlin zu verdanken.

Sie haben mich darüber informiert, dass es (wahrscheinlich in den technischen Büros der Stadtverwaltung Berlins) Pläne gibt, die Angaben zur genauen Position des Bunkers liefern können.

Ich wäre Ihnen sehr dankbar, wenn Sie mir mitteilen könnten, in welchen Büros diese Pläne einzusehen sind und wenn Sie mir Ihre Autorisierung zur Einsicht erteilen könnten. Es wäre für mich von großem Interesse, die Richtigkeit meiner Nachforschungen überprüfen und eventuell verbessern zu können.

2- DER ZUSTAND DES BUNKERS

Die geschichtlichen Daten, die zu diesem Argument vorliegen, legen die Vermutung nahe, dass die Stahlbetonstruktur des Bunkers unbeschädigt ist.

Sowohl russische, als später auch Techniker der DDR haben versucht, diese Struktur zu sprengen, aber dieses Unterfangen war nur teilweise erfolgreich. Es wurde der Notausgang mit der Eingangstreppe über vier Stiegen und der Aussichtsturm zerstört; der „Kubus“, das heißt, die Struktur des Bunkers, war jedoch zu solide, um gesprengt werden zu können.

Beilage B zeigt die Sektion des Führerbunkers und des Vorbunkers, die von mir aufgrund der erhaltenen Informationen nachgebildet wurde. Die Unversehrtheit des Bunkers ist auch aus Beilage C, die eine Fotografie des Bunkers während Grabungsarbeiten im Jahr 1988 zeigt, ersichtlich.

3- DIE DURCHFÜHRBARKEIT DES PROJEKTES VON SAVE HISTORY“

In meinem letzten Schreiben an den Bürgermeister von Berlin habe ich darüber informiert, dass SAVE HISTORY bereit wäre, den Bunker aufzufinden, zu restaurieren und die Öffnung für das Publikum zu organisieren.

Ich möchte die Durchführbarkeit dieses Projektes auf der Basis der folgenden Argumente unterstreichen:

- Die Lage des Bunkers ist bekannt
- Die Struktur des Bunkers ist unversehrt
- Über dem Bunker wurden keine weiteren Bauten errichtet
- Das Erdmaterial über dem Bunker ist sandig und daher leicht abzutragen
- Die Entwässerung des Bunkers mittels Wasserhaltungsmaschinen ist möglich, da das Volumen des Bunkers relativ klein und die Isolierung durch die starken Mauern und das Fundament nach wie vor gegeben sind
- die Eingangstreppe mit vier Stiegen kann mit Metallstrukturen nachgebaut werden
- die gesamten Arbeiten sind zum „Nullkostenpreis“ für die Stadt Berlin (abgesehen von den Kosten für die Enteignung von wenigen Quadratmetern eines Gartens eines Wohnhauses)
- die Einnahmen durch Touristenbesuche sind sicherlich nicht unbedeutend, wenn man die Anzahl der Besucher in Betracht zieht, die schon heute mit den Programmen der „City Guides“ von Berlin die Plätze des Bunkers besichtigen (ohne jedoch etwas zu sehen)
- da SAVE HISTORY eine No-Profit-Organisation ist, können die Einnahmen nach Abzug der Kosten für die Restaurierungsarbeiten des Bunkers und nach Absprache mit der Stadtverwaltung Berlin für Wohltätigkeitszwecke verwendet werden

In Zusammenfassung: SAVE HISTORY erneuert sein Angebot, das schon mit dem letzten Schreiben unterbreitet wurde und das hier zusammengefasst ist.

4- DER POLITISCHE ASPEKT DER WIEDERERÖFFNUNG DES BUNKERS

Hier handelt es sich, wie Sie schon festgestellt haben, um einen ganz entscheidenden Punkt für die Realisierung des Projekts.

Ich weiß, dass im Senat von Berlin nicht nur die „Grünen“, sondern auch ein anderer Teil der Senatoren sich nicht gegen die Wiedereröffnung des Bunkers ausgesprochen hat. Ich glaube, dass mit der Zeit alle Zweifel und Unsicherheiten, die die geschichtliche Bedeutung des Bunkers betreffen, schwinden werden.

Der Führerbunker von Hitler ist der dramatischste Platz der Geschichte des zwanzigsten Jahrhunderts. Hier endete die Tragödie und das Leben des Dämons, der eine unheilbare Wunde in der Geschichte der gesamten Menschheit hinterlassen hat. Die Nähe des Bunkers zum Memorial des Holocausts kann ihn zum Abschlusspunkt der Gedenkfahrten werden lassen, die dazu dienen, die „Grauen des Nazismus nicht in Vergessenheit geraten zu lassen“.

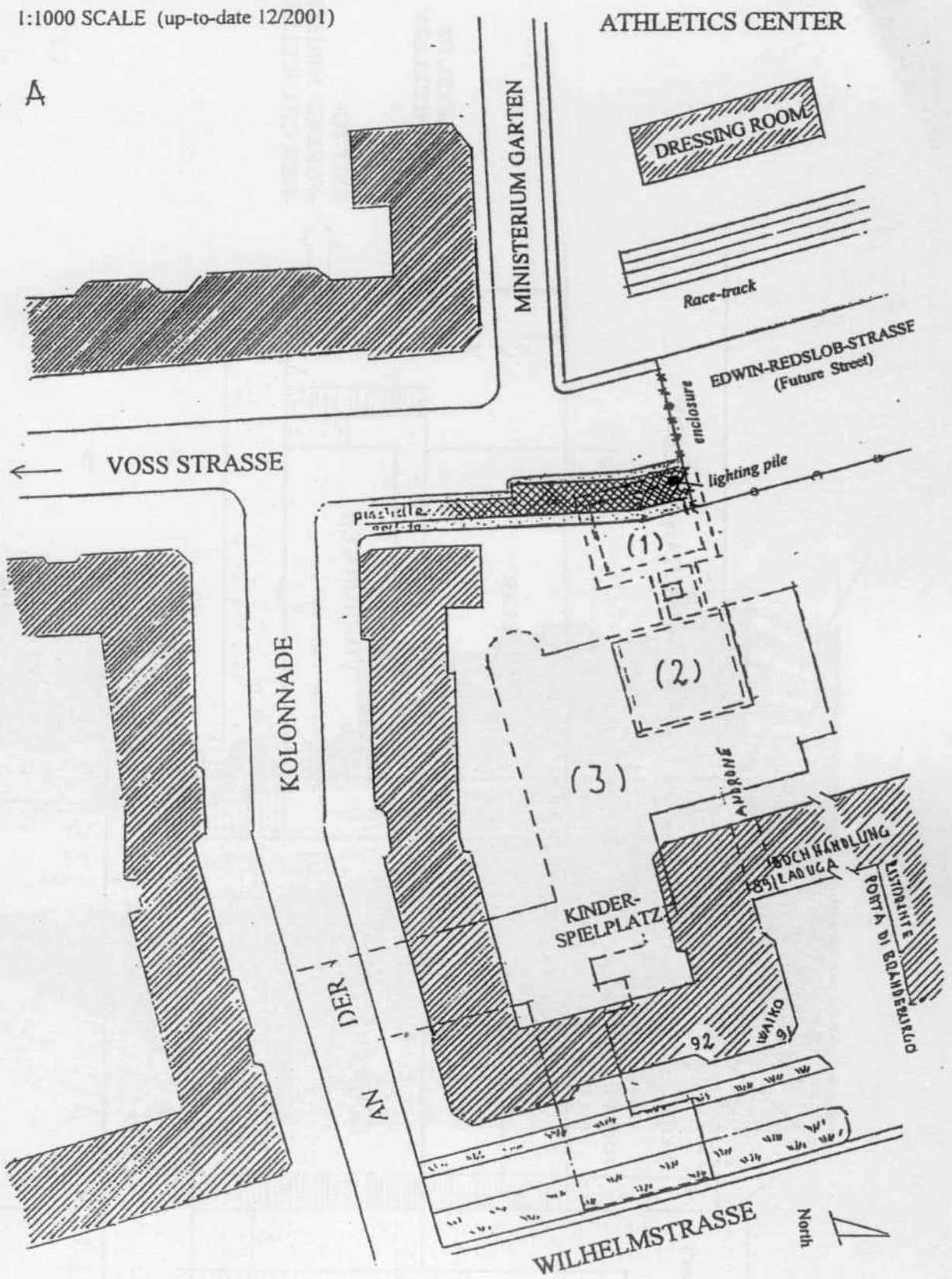
Sehr geehrter Herr Schmitz, ich möchte diesen Brief damit abschließen, dass ich Ihnen sehr herzlich für Ihre freundliche Mitarbeit danke und ich hoffe, dass unsere Bemühungen zu einem positiven Abschluss des Projektes, das Ihnen und dem Herrn Bürgermeister von Berlin von SAVE HISTORY unterbreitet wurde, führen.

Mit dem Ausdruck meiner vorzüglichen Hochachtung.

Dr. Pietro GUIDO

SAVE HISTORY
c/o ISEM
Via Kramer, 21
I - 20129 MAILAND - MI -
Italien

Beilage A



(1) FÜHRERBUNKER

(2) VORBUNKER

(3) OLD CHANCELLERY



Der Chef der Senatskanzlei



Der Chef der Senatskanzlei
Senatskanzlei - 10173 Berlin (Postanschrift)

Herrn
Dr. Pietro Guido
Save History
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GeschZ. (bei Antwort bitte angeben)

III F - 4628/04

Bearbeiter(in)

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Datum 9 . März 2002

Sehr geehrter Herr Dr. Guido,

Ihrem erneuten Schreiben vom 28. Februar 2002, für das ich Ihnen danke, habe ich entnommen, dass meine Antwort offenkundig Anlass für eine grundsätzliche Fehlinterpretation war. Daher möchte ich noch einmal meine Position klarstellen:

Es ist und bleibt die einvernehmliche Haltung des Berliner Senats, in diesem Bereich des Geländes der ehemaligen Reichskanzlei keine Gedenkstätte gleich welcher Art und mit welcher Aussage zu schaffen. Insofern kann ich Ihrer Interpretation ausdrücklich nicht zustimmen, dass ein Einverständnis für Grabungen an dieser Stelle erklärt worden sei oder erklärt werden könnte.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen



André Schmitz

Anschrift für Fracht,
Einschreiben, Eilboten:
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Senatskanzlei 10178 Berlin

Verkehrsverbindungen:
U- und S-Bahn Alexanderplatz,
Autobus 100, 142, 157, 257

Sprechzeiten des Bürgerreferates:
Mo/Di/Fr 9.00 - 12.00 Uhr,
Do 16.00 - 18.00 Uhr

(transation from German)

Berlin, 9 March 2002

DER CHEF DER SENATSKANZLEI

Dear Dr. Guido,

In your new letter of February 28, 2002, for which I thank you, I have realized that my answer was object of a misunderstanding.

As a consequence I would like to clarify, again, my position:

A concordant attitude exists and remains in the Berlin Senate, on this sphere, that in the area of the old Chancellery of Reich must not be created any memory site, or work of art, or witness.

In this connection, I cannot accept, explicitly, your interpretation that an approval to excavations in this site can be pronounced or can be declared (by the Senatskanzlei, ndr).

Kind regards.

André Schmitz

SECOND PART

INTRODUCTION

What has been described in the First Part of this work is based on "documental evidence," namely, the documents and the conceptual descriptions made by a set of "powerful" individuals that represent groups, groups of individuals, and the historical processes, events, and actions.

SECOND PART

The Second Part of this work is divided into two sections. The first section, "The First Part of the Second Part," is a set of six articles that are organized in a way that allows the reader to follow the evolution of the historical process, from its beginning to its end, and the possibility of its being a reality.

The first part of the second part is divided into two sections. The first section, "The First Part of the Second Part," is a set of six articles that are organized in a way that allows the reader to follow the evolution of the historical process, from its beginning to its end, and the possibility of its being a reality.

The second section, "The Second Part of the Second Part," is a set of six articles that are organized in a way that allows the reader to follow the evolution of the historical process, from its beginning to its end, and the possibility of its being a reality.

The second section of the second part is divided into two sections. The first section, "The Second Part of the Second Part," is a set of six articles that are organized in a way that allows the reader to follow the evolution of the historical process, from its beginning to its end, and the possibility of its being a reality.

The second section of the second part is divided into two sections. The first section, "The Second Part of the Second Part," is a set of six articles that are organized in a way that allows the reader to follow the evolution of the historical process, from its beginning to its end, and the possibility of its being a reality.

SECOND PART

INTRODUCTION

What has been described in the First Part of this book is based on "documental certainties." Source of the discoveries and the consequent descriptions have been only "paper documents" that showed maps, graphic, declarations, original acts of historical importance, results of archives searches and so on.

What I want to say is that NOBODY exists that could be able to confirm, for "taken vision", all that has been written on the events of the Hitler's bunker.

Who lived it and those saw it don't exist anymore.

Or, if some survivor of that years exists, he is not of any utility in the effort of investigation on its current state, on its location and on the concrete possibility to bring it to light.

But last year, in the period between the two editions of the book, I have found a precious, unique and exceptional source: a source that has "seen" not only the bunker of Hitler but also all that has survived in the subsoil of the great area of the Chancelleries and the Ministries of the Third Reich.

This source is a witness that I bring to illustrate to the readers of this book "how" and "what" it has seen.

This witness is not obviously a person but the result of a serious and exhaustive geomagnetic search carried out in 1997, in the period included between the discoveries of the drivers' bunker (Fahrerbunker) in 1995 and in 1999, and remained, for strange reasons, ignored to the great public, to the amateurs of the history of the Third Reich and even to a part of the Berlin Authorities.

Only in this way can be explained the "casual" discoveries of rests of bunkers and tunnels, with the inevitable clamour of the German and international press.

We will see in the following pages:

- 1 - the results of the geomagnetic prospecting
- 2 - some reflections on the "cleaned up" map
- 3 - the location of the "mysterious" hillock
- 4 - which new elements emerge with reference to the Führerbunker.

1 - THE RESULTS OF THE GEOMAGNETIC PROSPECTING

This research, carried out in 1997, by Peter R. Fuchs and Bernhard Lorenz, has been published in 1988 edition of "Archäologie in Berlin und Brandenburg" with the title "Ministergärten mit Bunkern und Munition - Geomagnetische Untersuchungen in Berlin-Mitte."

The prospecting has passed to the sieve the whole vast area of the so-called "Ministerial Gardens", delimited by Voss Strasse, Ebertstrasse, Beherenstrasse and the posterior part, that is internal, of Wilhelmstrasse.

The Figure 55 shows the results of the geomagnetic search.

In such page the colours have been maintained for the great meaning they have in order to understand the individualised constructions.

As it is known, this type of prospecting is based on the variation of the intensity of the magnetic field of the subsoil, taken in examination. The presence of objects and, particularly, of metallic structures has the power to modify notably said intensity.

The colours are associated to the values of the intensity of the magnetic field, assuming the red colour for high values of NT (the unity of measure) and the blue colour in presence of low values of NT.

It is habit to divide the territory to examine in many squares, within which to systematically and methodically carry out the measures of the variations of intensity.

This approach to the prospecting of the area under examination explains the presence of the net-work in Figure 76.

The aggregations of the red colour in more or less geometrically regular areas point out that there, for the presence of predominantly ferrous residues, the intensity of the magnetic field is very elevated. Closed to the individualised red areas swarms of blue colour thicken, testifying the abrupt diminution of the intensity around the underlined red areas.

Unfortunately this important work does not favour an easy reading, both for the presence of the net-work above mentioned, and for the representation, on the map, of contingent aspects, not remarkable to the goals of our objectives. It deals with the drawing of flower-beds, parking lots, sidewalks, pedestrian passages, fences and other.

These elements, besides to make the reading of the map difficult, are misleading because, in the majority of the cases, they don't exist anymore.

For this reason I have decided "to clean up" the map from all these elements, leaving, only temporarily, the trace of the two walls that divided, not only the city of Berlin, but also this area, in two parts. This cleaning up has been made on the computer and has maintained unchanged all the objects represented in the original map.

To be exact, the "true" wall that divided the oriental part of Berlin from the western one (the so-called "Berlin Wall") is that shown in the left side of Ebertstrasse. Not satisfied by this, the Authorities of the DDR had created one "nobody's zone" delimited by Ebertstrasse, to West, and by the right wall of those visible at the centre of the map.

The left wall of the couple was a "inside little wall" that delimited a passage for the troops that guarded the border between the two parts of Berlin.

This reflection on the walls shows, without any doubt, that the whole area investigated by the geomagnetic prospecting was, up to 1989, in East Berlin and all the historical rests of its subsoil were (badly) managed by the Authorities of the DDR.

The results of the "cleaned up map" are shown in Figure 77.

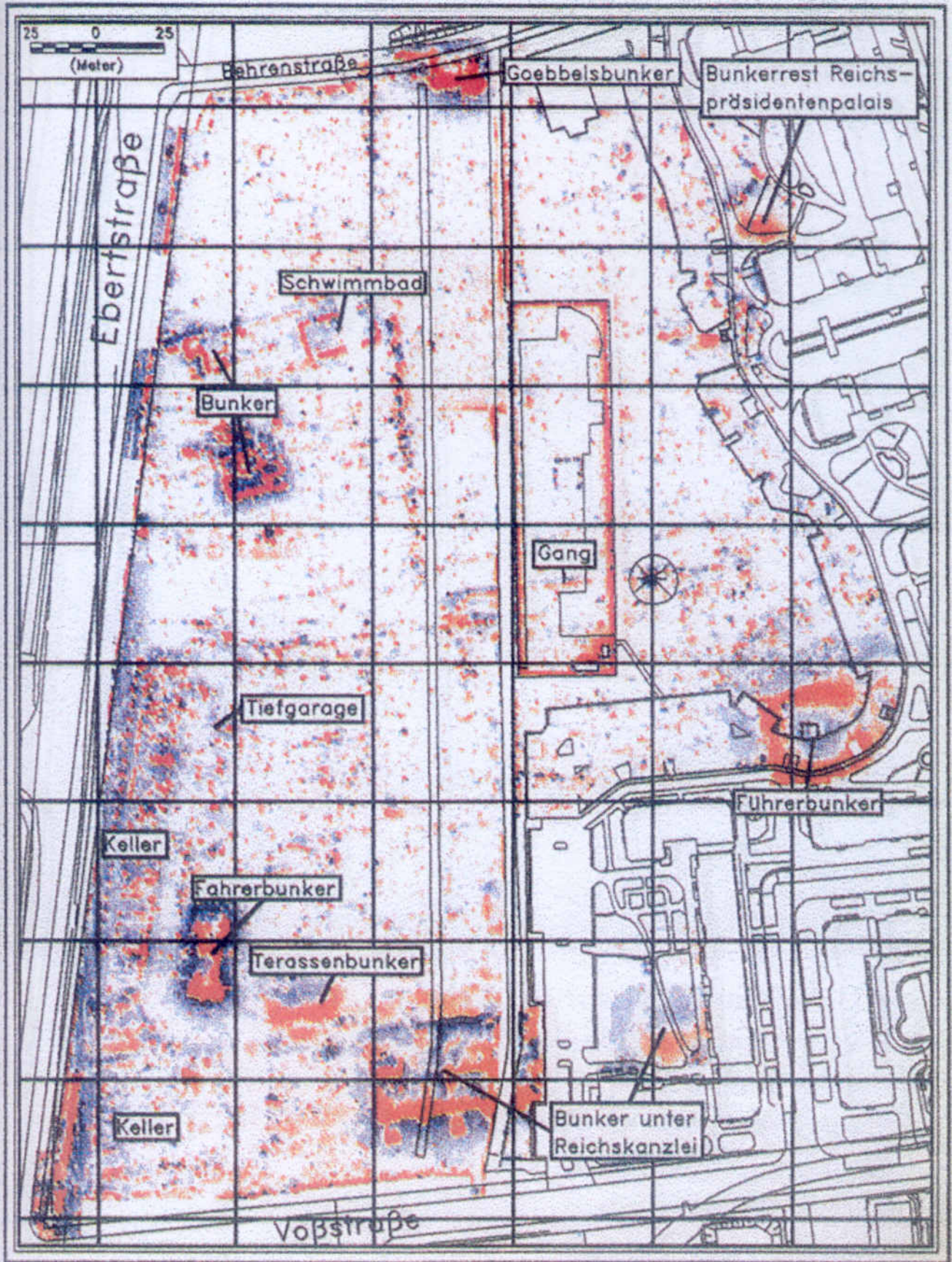


Figure 76 Map of the Geomagnetic Prospecting of 1997

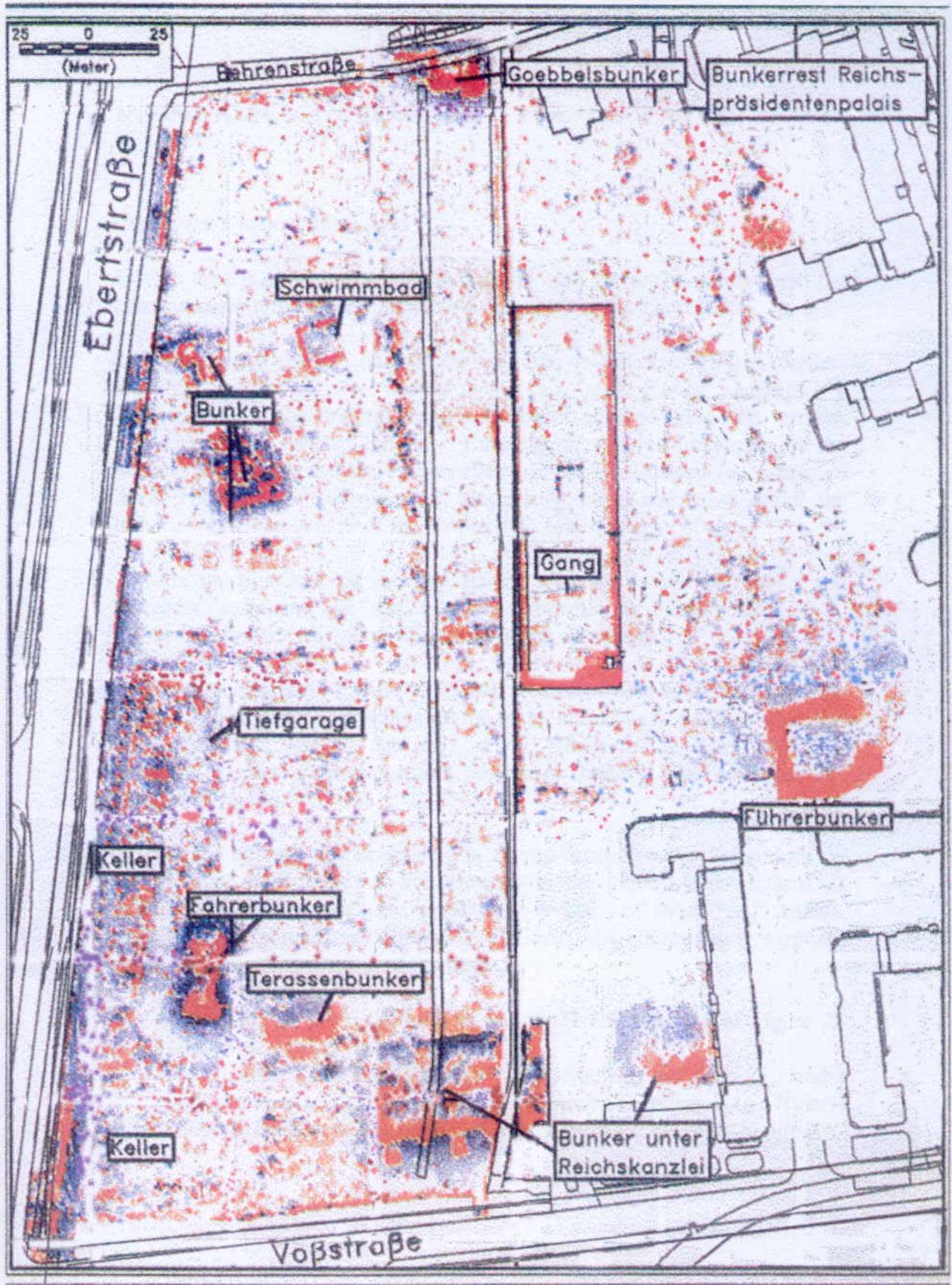


Figure 77 "Cleaned up" Map of the Geomagnetic Prospecting of 1997

2 SOME REFLECTIONS ON THE "CLEANED UP" MAP

In general, it is underlined that:

1 - the area is disseminated of residuals of what were the gardens and the constructions of the Chancelleries (old and new) of the Third Reich,

2 - particularly the left part of the map shows the rests of two "keller" (cellars), a bunker, a "tiefgarage" (an underground garage), a "Fahrerbunker" (the drivers' garage), a bunker situated under the terraces that faced the back of the New Chancellery, the vast extension of the bunkers built under the New Chancellery (in the area around the offices of Adolf Hitler), one "schwimmbad" (swimming pool) and, aloft under the Behrenstrasse, the bunker of the Propaganda Minister, Goebbels,

3 - on the right side of the map appear a "gang" (whole of tunnels and emergency exits) and the "star" of all the remnants: the Führerbunker. About this bunker we will widely speak in the next pages,

4 - the dissemination of stains and small scoriae of various colour, from the red to the blue ones, everywhere on the map, allows us to imagine what this area must have been in the days of the Berlin fall in April 1945: a battleground scattered with ruins, enormous craters and, unfortunately, many dead bodies,

5 - the red colour, well underlined in its representations, is determined by the presence of iron beams and armours in the plotted constructions. It strikes the precision and the explicatory ability of these "red" values, mainly in the delimitation of the constructions: the Führerbunker surprises particularly for the precision of its shape,

The comparison between the map of Figure 77 and the map of Figure 25 underlines some confirmations:

- the bunker under the Chancellery is positioned, in Figure 25, under the areas (d), (e), (f), all around the area (3), referred to Hitler's study; the plan of this bunker and its section are shown in Figure 78,

- the drivers' bunker (Fahrerbunker) is pointed out with the letter (m) and it refers to a capacity of eighty motor-vehicles; the plan of this bunker is shown in Figure 79,
- the "keller" are cellars and shelters of the areas (i),
- the bunker aloft to the left of Figure 77, as the swimming pool, the bunker of Goebbels and the "gang" are external to the map of Figure 25.

The overlap of the results of the geomagnetic prospecting with the present road layout, represented in Figure 80, underlines the intense presence of rests of constructions in the quadrilateral delimited by Voss Strasse, Ebertstrasse, In Den Ministergarten and Gertrud-Kolmar Strasse.

The bunker of Hitler is positioned "on horseback" of the intersection of the two last streets and it is very near to the terminal part of the side of the residential quarter of Wilhelm Strasse, in Gertrud-Kolmar Strasse n°4 (ex An der Kolonnade n°8, as it results from Figure 65).

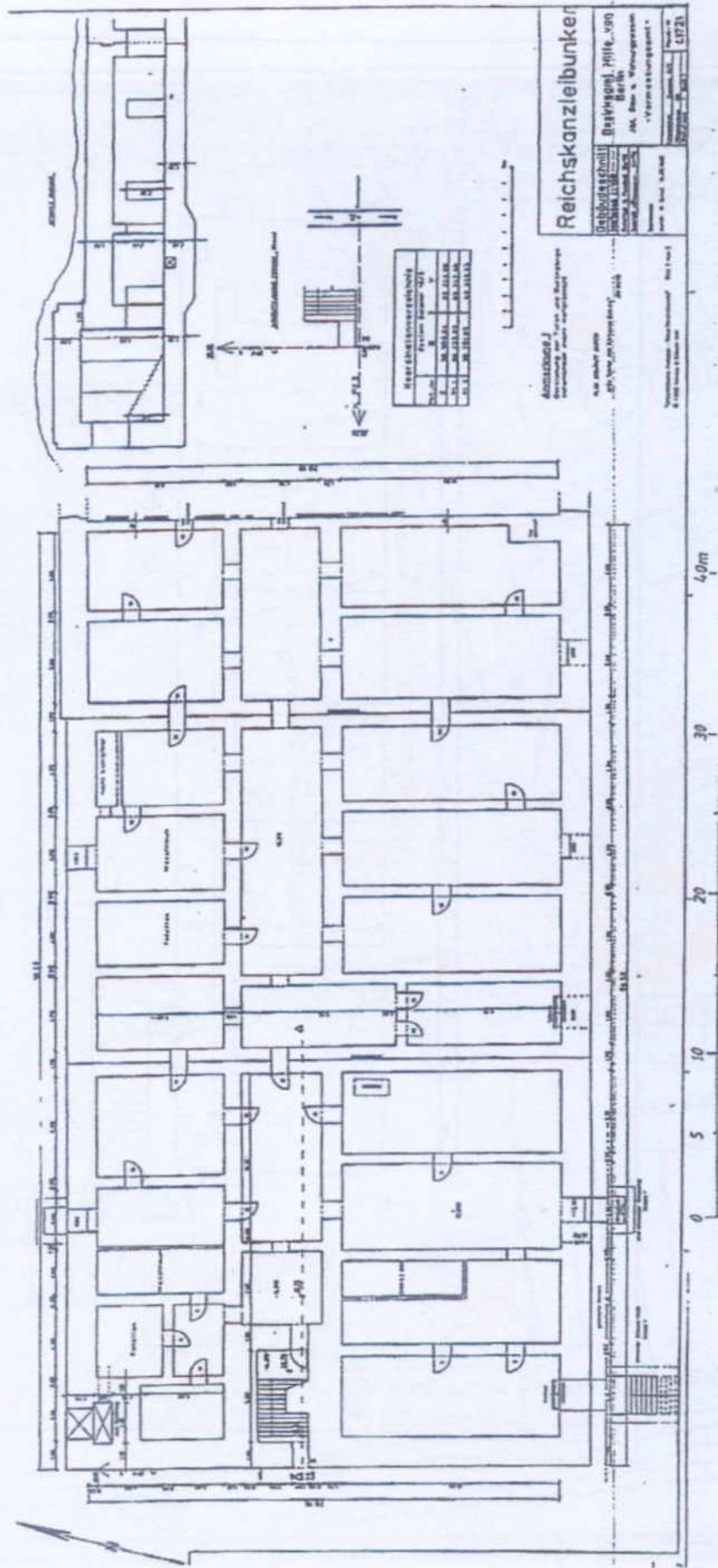


Figure 78 – Map of the bunker under the New Chancellery

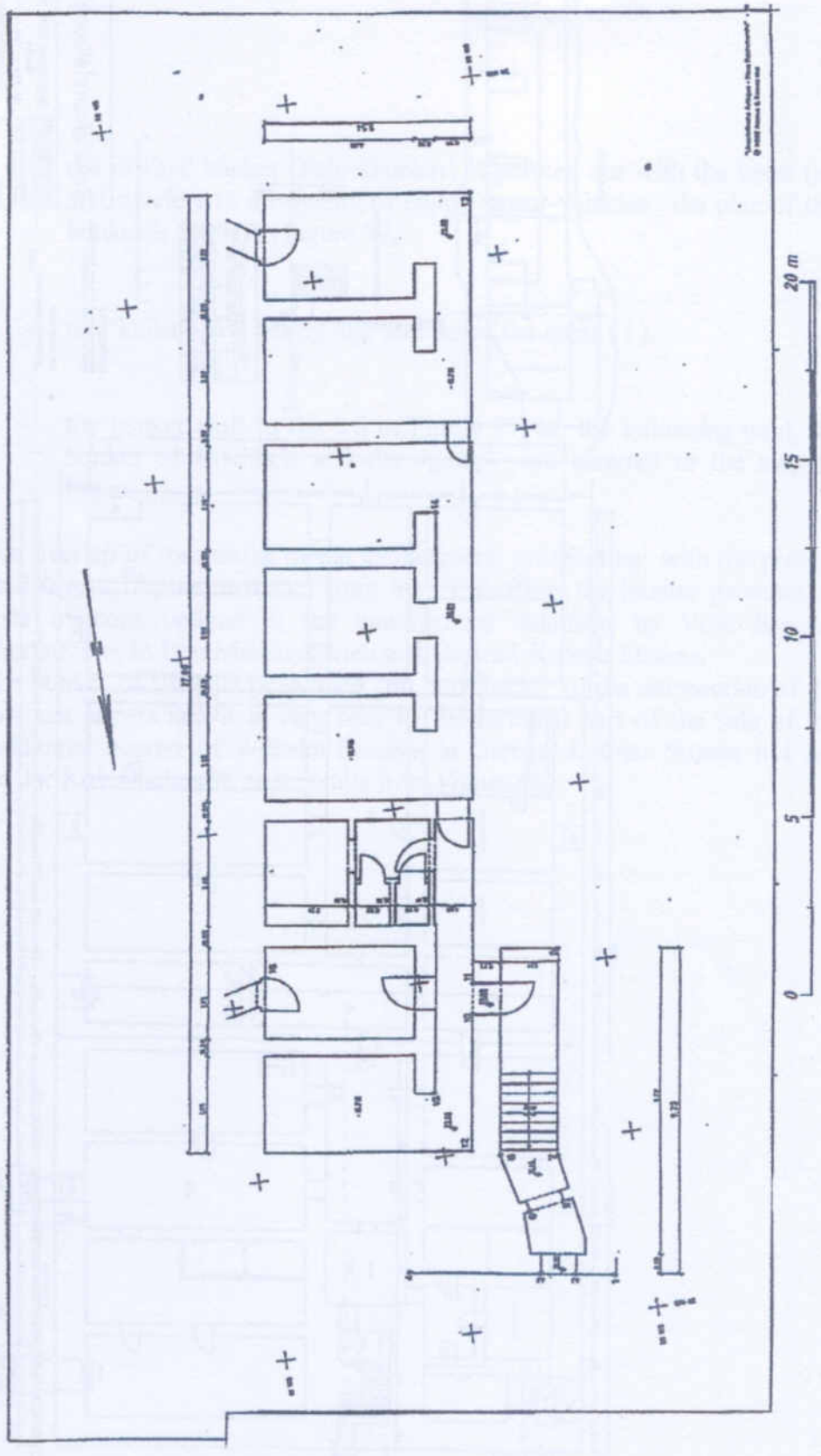


Figure 79 – Map of the Drivers' bunker ("Fahrerbunker")



Figure 80 – “Cleaned up” map with the overlapping of the present road network

3 - THE "MYSTERIOUS" HILLOCK

Do you remember the "mysterious" hillock, treated in the Chapter 14 of the book?

The geomagnetic map answers one of the set questions, but it leaves another in suspense.

Where was the hillock?

It was exactly above the bunkers of the New Chancellery.

Its position, I have determined in my first investigation on the spot in 1993, was about 40 meters far from the limit of the heading of the most western building of the residential quarter, built since 1988; this distance brings us to exactly individualise the peak of the hillock above the rests of the bunkers of the Chancellery.

The rests of the enormous bunkers and the relative impending terrace have not been completely removed as it happened for the whole area of the Chancelleries of the Third Reich. If not completely, at least a large extent of this rubble remained "on the spot" and the Authorities of the DDR decided to cover it with earth, to make it a beautiful hillock.

This hillock has cheered for many years the gardens of the residential quarters, built by the regime, for then wearing down up to become more and more a small and meaningless heap, flattened in the time.

Figure 55 has shown us what this ex-hillock has become today.

It is destined to disappear, levelled by the new constructions.

The question to which the evidence of the geomagnetic investigation cannot reply is: why the hillock has been carried out?

From the whole area of the Chancelleries of the Third Reich something as 460.000 cubic meters of rubble have been removed. What has prevented the Authorities of the DDR to remove less than 7.000 cubic meters of the bunkers under the New Chancellery? It's only the 1,5% of the rubble removed from the whole area!

I keep on believing that this hillock had the purpose of misguiding the researchers of the historical bunker of Hitler, positioned in a more critical and strategic zone for the building development of Berlin-Mitte, putting them off the true location.

Unfortunately many reporters and crowds of visitors fell, in the last decades, in the trap.

4 - THE FÜHRERBUNKER

The most beautiful confirmation obtainable from the geomagnetic prospecting is that of the existence and of the location of the Hitler's bunker.

Figure 81 is the enlargement of the analogous n° 80.

With an impressive chromatic effect the ghost of the bunker where Hitler spent the last phases of his baneful life, this ghost so much sent away but always reappearing, this ghost where Hitler married Eva Braun and where he put an end to his days with a revolver-shot to his temple, this ghost so much cherished, appears.

For a miracle it remained almost integral for over half a century, it has maintained its shape and it is near, very close, to the edges of that buildings inhabited by people that ignore it or want to forget it. The bunker grazes even the foundations of the building of Gertrud-Kolmar Strasse, 4.

The bunker is there, with its red coloured walls to testify the strong presence of metallic structures (iron, steel), those structures that had to guarantee (and have guaranteed) an "eternal" survival to all the attempts of destruction and removal.

Fuchs and Lorenz tell, in their short comment to the publication of the results of their geomagnetic search "...in the meantime the geophysical researchers demonstrate that the Führerbunker has not become completely disconnected. Big parts of its construction are still present underground"..

Therefore, the ill-famed bunker not only has been "seen" through the tools used by man, but it is also defined, by the same scientists, almost entire, not yet disconnected.

The author of this book had also the pleasure to compare the data drawn by the geomagnetic prospecting with the ones valued and calculated in the preceding pages (represented in the Figure 65), before the discovery and the use of the investigation.

Well, the results of my inductive effort, based on the reading and the analysis of memories, documents, and old maps are surprisingly overlapping to the incontestable ones, furnished by the "magnetic eye" of the researchers.

In Figure 82 the Führerbunker has been overlapped in the exact position and with the same co-ordinates referred to the edge of the building of An Der Kolonnade, 8 in which it is represented in Figure 65 (as already mentioned, the new address is Gertrud-Kolmar Strasse, 4).

It strikes and surprises the almost perfect inclusion of the bunker in the inside area of the bunker resultant from the geomagnetic prospecting. The Führerbunker inserted itself in the quadrilateral delimited by the walls as a foot in a shoe!

Keep in mind that the representation of Figure 65 refers to the "inside" perimeter of the bunker, that is to the "trampling" surface, as it is said in the "real estate slang".

The only surprise comes from the enormous thickness of the walls of the bunker. Since we are dealing with an absurd thickness, that ranges from 5 to 7 meters, very larger than those logically adopted of 4 meters, I believe that such graphic expansion is imputable, partly to the approximation got by the geomagnetic surveys and, still more, to the rubble accumulated on the sides of the external walls, due to the uncovering carried out in 1988 and to the natural slipping of the rubble.

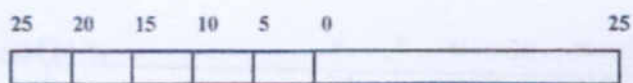


Figure 81 – Enlargement of the Geomagnetic Map on the spot of the Führerbunker

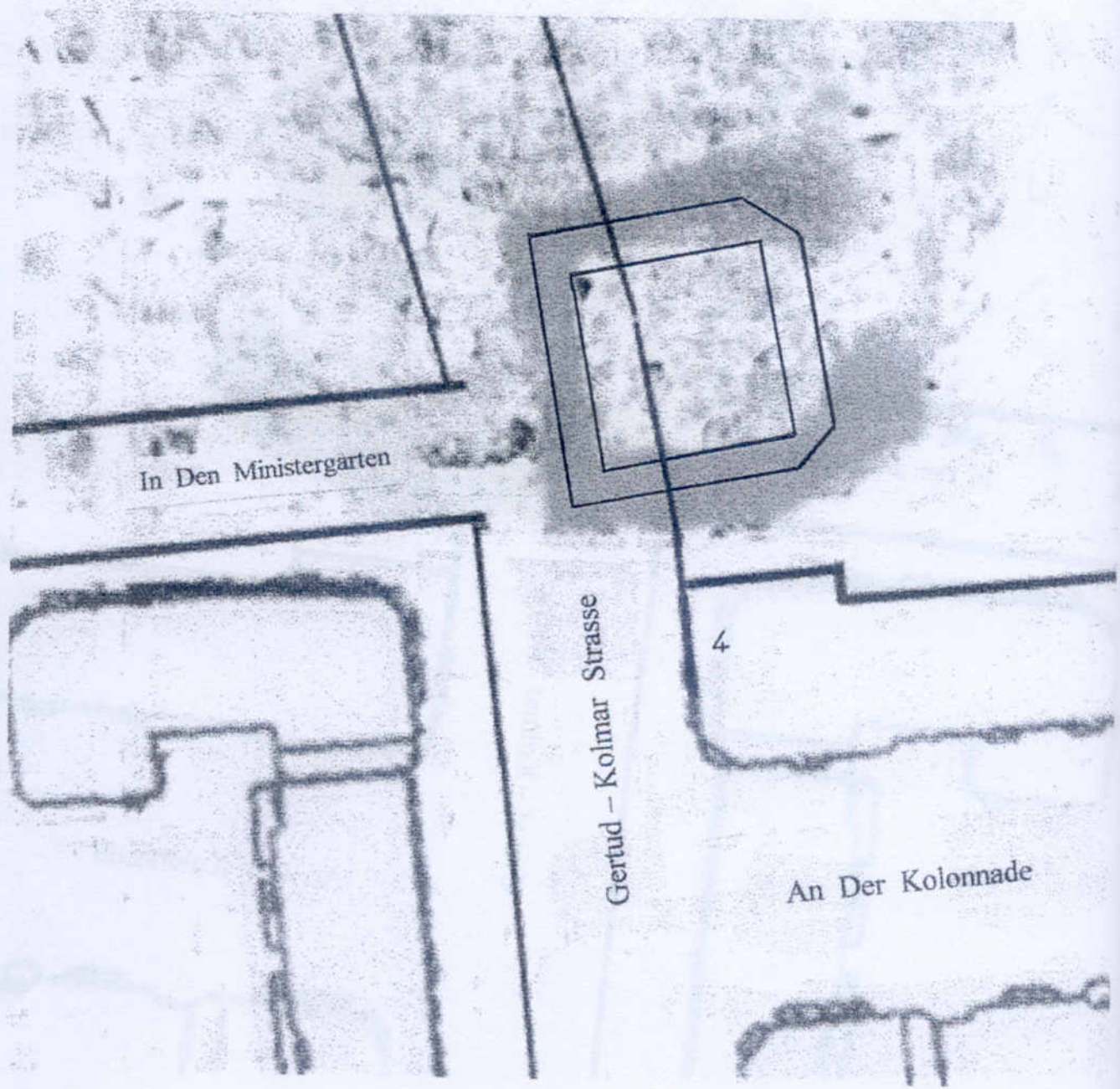
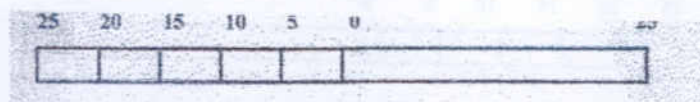


Figure 82 – Overlapping of the Führerbunker of Figure 65 on Figure 81

CONCLUSIONS

There are no doubts.

The approximation to the decimeter (and not to the meter) by me evaluated at the conclusion of my documental searches, in the first edition of the book, is more than confirmed by the results of the powerful geomagnetic prospecting carried out in 1997: the Führerbunker is exactly there, where the Figure 82 represents it and its conditions appear such to allow a recovery of the building.

At this point what only remains to do is to begin the MORE SIMPLE part of the enterprise: that to dig the soft and friable sandy ground of Berlin, impending on and internal to the bunker, and bring it to light!

One day the Berlin Authorities will be convinced that it doesn't have sense to sweep history under the carpet and to ignore the most important historical remains of the second world war.

That day the public of the whole world, tourists and history amateurs will be able to experience that inebriating feeling to live again the places, the things, the histories, the atmospheres and the odours of that awful moments that so much have weighed on the course of our lives of posterity.

THE DESTINY OF THE FOREHANDER

THEIR THE PRACTICES OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
FOR THE SUBURBAN COMMUNITY OF HONOLULU

The first part of the book is devoted to a general study of the
National Urban Policy and the local situation in Honolulu.
The second part is devoted to a study of the local situation in the
suburban area of Honolulu. The third part is devoted to a study of the
local situation in the city of Honolulu. The fourth part is devoted to a study
of the local situation in the city of Honolulu.

THIRD PART

The third part of the book is devoted to a study of the
local situation in the city of Honolulu. The first chapter of this
part is devoted to a study of the local situation in the city of Honolulu.
The second chapter is devoted to a study of the local situation in the city of Honolulu.
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The third chapter is devoted to a study of the local situation in the city of Honolulu.

THE DESTINY OF THE FÜHRERBUNKER

INSIDE THE PROJECTS OF THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING DEPARTMENT (WOHNUNGSBAUGESELLSCHAFT) OF BERLIN

In the previous editions this chapter was a post-scrip, titled: *Achtung! Somebody wants to build on the bunker.*

The reason was simple: I noticed, from the maps photographed on the platform that leaned out to the Holocaust memorial, that an extremity of the new quarter, planned on the east side of the Gertrud-Kolmar Strasse, ended on the Hitler's bunker.

To clarify my suspicion I decided to visit the department responsible for the urban development of Berlin-Mitte, to consult the original maps.

Early in the morning of October 29th, 2004 I was in the offices of the Wohnungsbaugesellschaft Berlin-Mitte (WBM), in Beherenstrasse, 42.

I had an appointment with Frau Helge-Gunnar Weiser but, at the entry, problems rose for the identification and the finding of the kind host.

I discovered the reason immediately later: my interlocutor was not Frau Weiser but Herr Weiser. In the preliminary correspondence the first name, Helge, that seemed to me feminine, deceived me.

The meeting was very cordial and rich of information.

Let's see the information in due order.

In 2002 WBM called for tenders for the design of buildings to use as habitation and other, in the historical zone of the Chancelleries and of the Third Reich Ministries.

To be exact, the buildings had to rise along the east side of the Cora-Berliner Strasse, between the Beherenstrasse and the Hannah-Arendt Strasse (lot A) and along the east side of the Gertrud-Kolmar Strasse, between the Hannah-Arendt Strasse and the In Den Ministergarten (lot B).

Figure 83 shows the interested area and the context of Berlin Mitte.

For the choice of the projects WBM established a classification among the ones submitted.

The invited companies presented projects for both the lots, A and B.

For the lot B, the one that mostly interests us owing to the involvement of the Führerbunker area, the winning project (and therefore the chosen one) has been the one of professor Klaus Theo Brenner, who took advantage of the advice, on historical constructions, of Helmut Geisert.

The map of the project is shown in Figure 84; the prospectus of the complex for civil use of residence is shown in Figure 85.

The other four projects, submitted but rejected, are shown in Figures 86 and 87.

The winning project includes a zone of respect, coincident with the area of the Hitler's bunker, for exclusively pedestrian use and covered "in green" with planting of trees. It disappears, therefore, the present carriage gateway (which runs on the bunker) and the internal parking lots.

It is interesting to notice that the rejected projects didn't provide this zone of respect, above the bunker, either eliminating completely the space between the new building and the one existing (at the civic n° 4 of Gertrud-Kolmar Strasse) or reducing it to a narrow passage. In both cases the area of the bunker was interested, building on top of it.

Considering that the specification of the tenders didn't expressly request the respect of the bunker zone, there is to wonder why have ever been rejected those that did not respect it and has been chosen the only one that respected the area.

Perhaps it is not the case of wondering, because I am sure I have understood it and I think that also the readers of this book have already done it.

Avoided the "planning" danger, it remained the one of the "management" of the project and of the "degrees of freedom" left to the builder.

Let's start saying that the areas of the lots A and B have been sold to the real estate companies that will carry out the buildings. Particularly, lot B, the one that includes the bunker, has been sold to a Berliner real estate firm, headquartered in the Grunewald district.

As already mentioned, the real estate company will have to respect the project allotted to them by WBM and this should guarantee the survival and the respect of the bunker.

The buildings will be realized, probably, within five years.

The beginning of the works will not be immediate because the entrusted companies are still in the phase of "fund raising", the gathering of the necessary funds.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The news above shown can be considered positive for the future of the Führerbunker.

If the conditions and the choices made will not change in the years to come, the most tragic and historical monument of the second world war will not be lost and can be recovered in the future. Perhaps the pressure of historians, opinions leaders and of the "more illuminated" authorities of Berlin have "stopped" the demolishing fury, started in the 1988 under the DDR, turning it into a cautious strategy of maintenance of an inheritance, not only of historical value.

OFF RECORD

Asking me not to reveal the sources, this is what, in synthesis, has been told me, in the occasion of my visit to WBM:

We have no interest in destroying the Hitler's bunker. At the moment our position is against the opening of the bunker to the public for fear of negative reactions of political and administrative factions and of possible demonstrations of nostalgic groups.

In 10 generations (possibly before! I said) there will be no problems to open the safe.

NEVERTHELESS...

Though reassured for the warm welcome, for the supplied material and for what, as above mentioned, I was told, I wanted to examine more in detail the maps of WBM and (damn!) I have discovered that the overlap, between the south extremity of the new constructions and the bunker, persists without any doubt.

In Figure 88 I have overlapped the new building on the geo-magnetic map used in the previous chapters: we can see that the incidence of the building on the bunker is clear, even if partial.

Figure 89, which is an enlargement of the previous one, shows clearly the impact of the south side of the building on the north-east part of the bunker.

At this point, three are the answers:

- 1 - it has been done a "pretence", choosing the project that, at a first sight, saved the bunker, knowing that in the executive phase (in how many years?) the truth would emerge,
- 2 - the urban plan, at the moment, is so superficial that must not be taken in "metric" terms, but of tendency. "Someone will build in this zone and the location of the buildings is about this one",
- 3 - or, in good faith, but with scarce knowledge of the exact location of the bunker, one believed to have chosen the project that respected the historical rest.

However, considering the chosen project (professor Brenner), as it has planned, it leads to the inevitable destruction of the bunker and, for this reason, I invite my friends of Save History and all those people who desire to preserve the testimonies of history not to lower the watch.

In other words: *Achtung!*

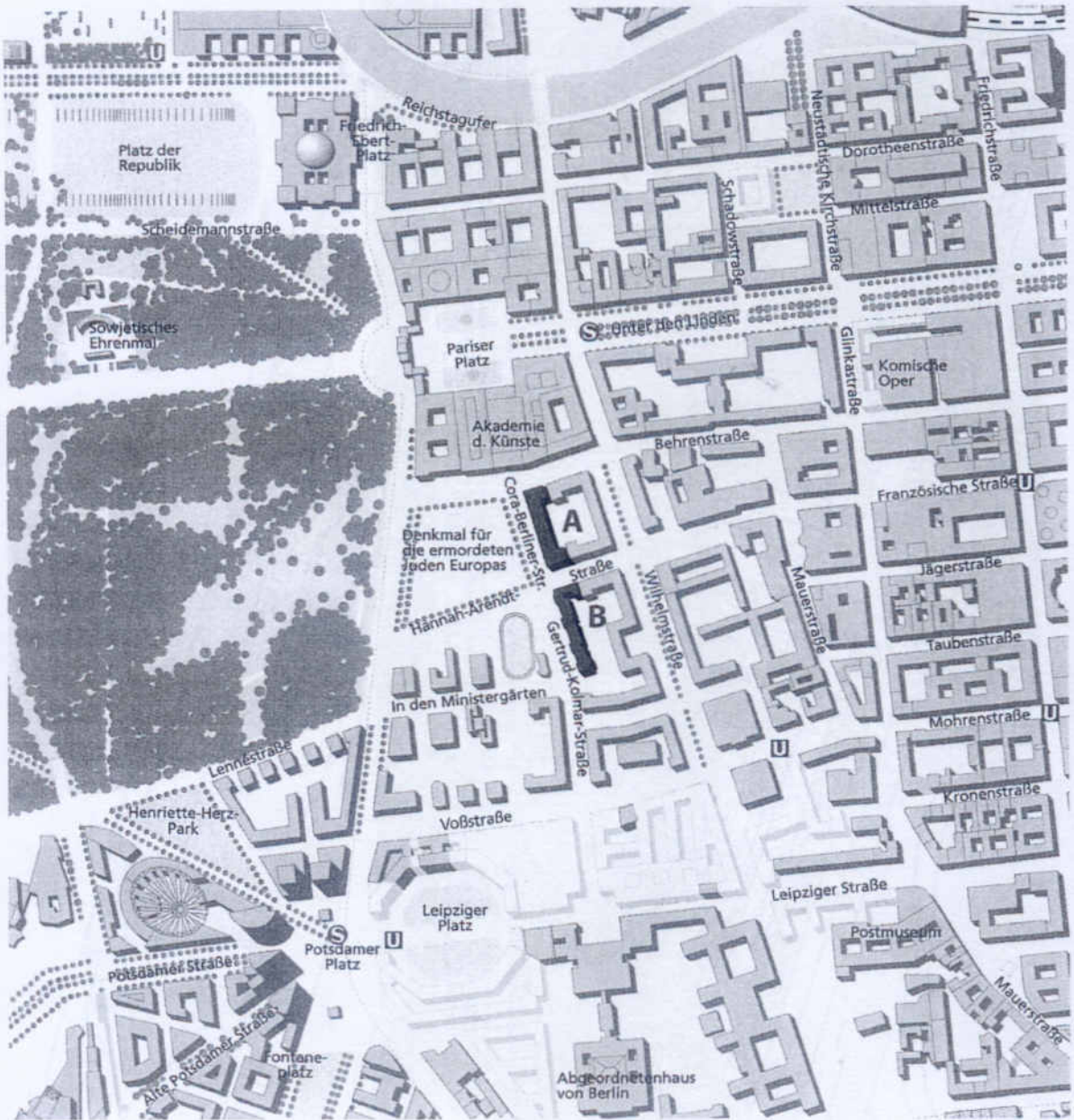


Figure 83 – Area interested to the new quarters and context of Berlin-Mitte

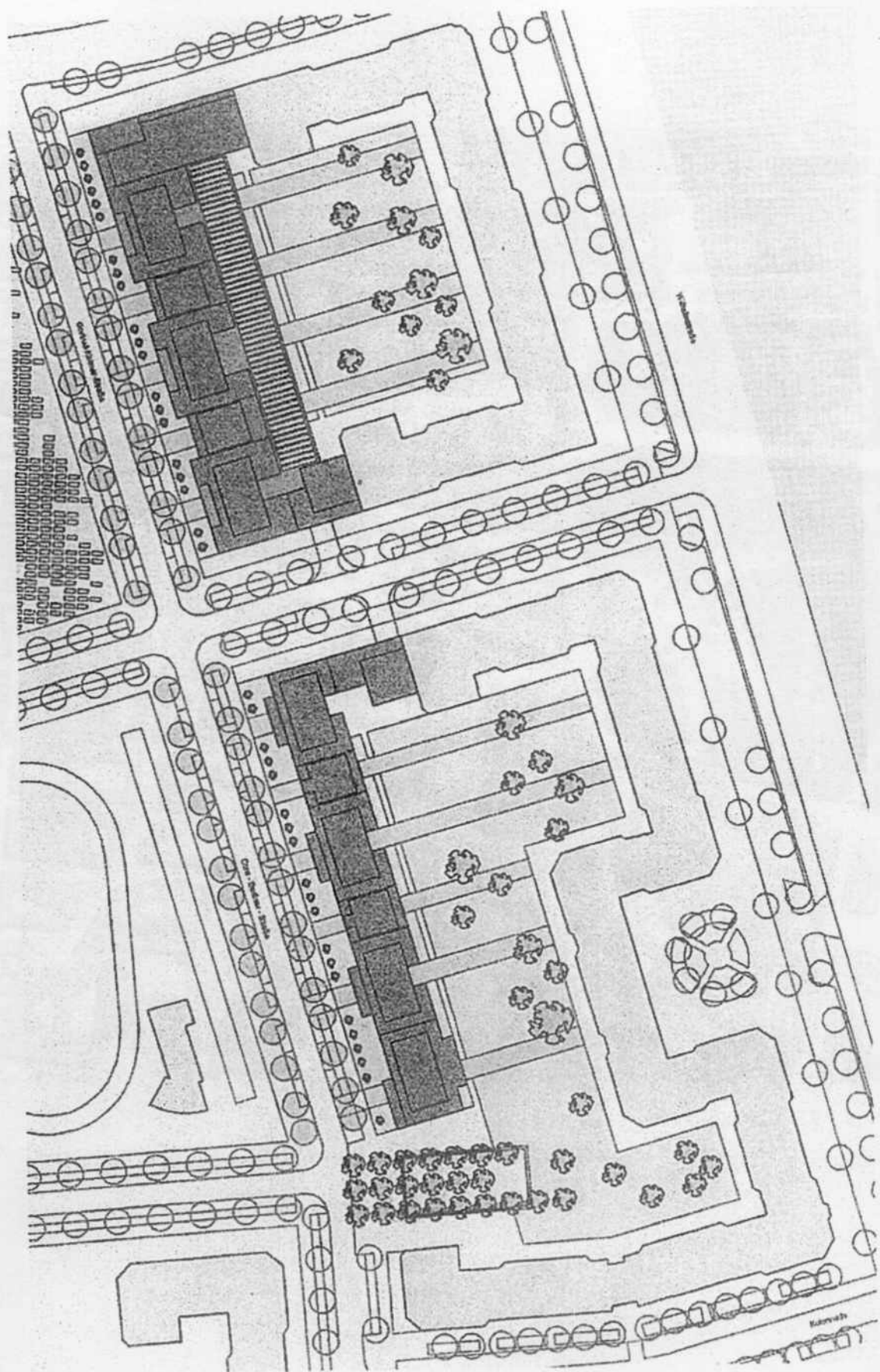


Figure 84 – Map of the winning project

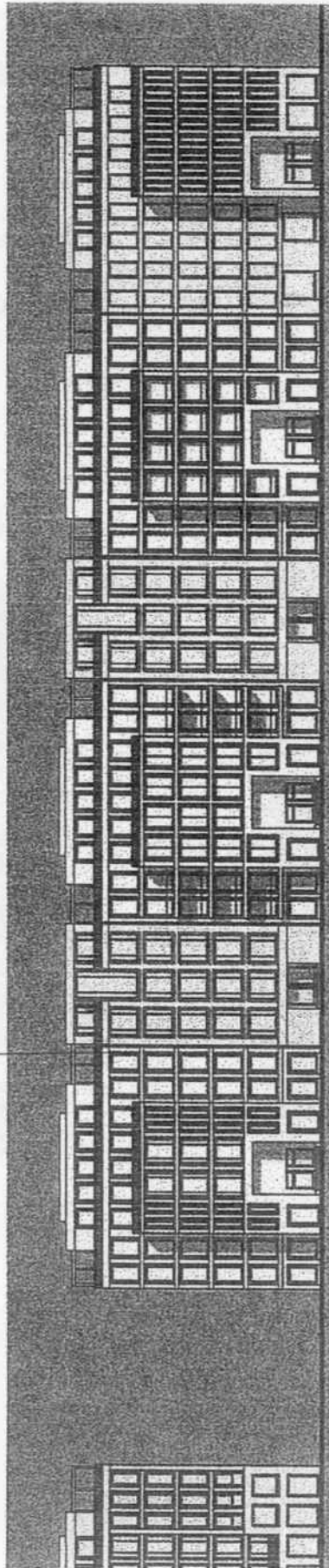
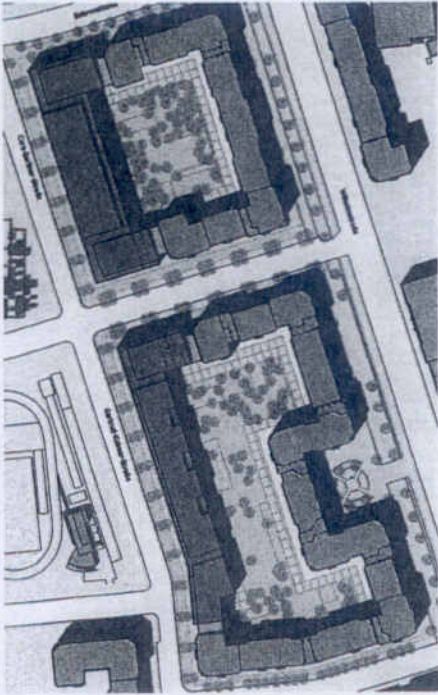


Figure 85 – Prospectus of the winning project

1. Preis

Hemprich & Tophof

Niebuhrstraße 2
10629 Berlin



3. Preis

Prof. Bernd Albers

Segitzdamm 2
10969 Berlin

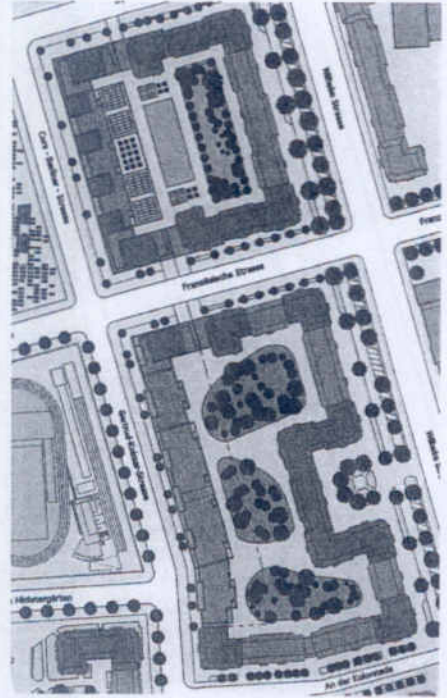
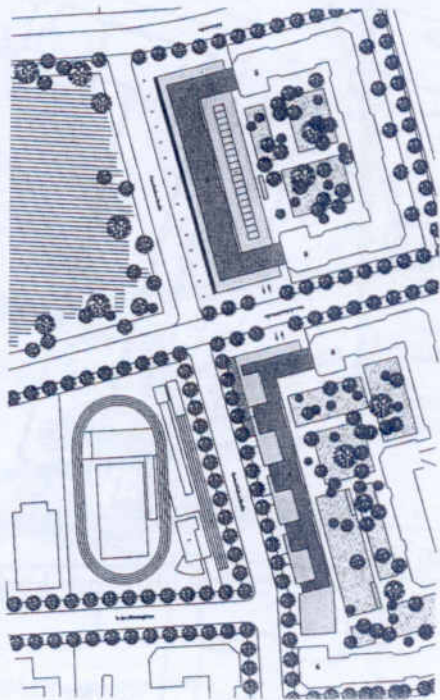


Figure 86 – Maps of the rejected projects

4. Preis

Jean-Pierre de L'Or
Architekten

Dircksenstr a e 41
10178 Berlin



5. Preis

M uller + Reimann
Architekten

Fritsche Stra e 27-28
10585 Berlin

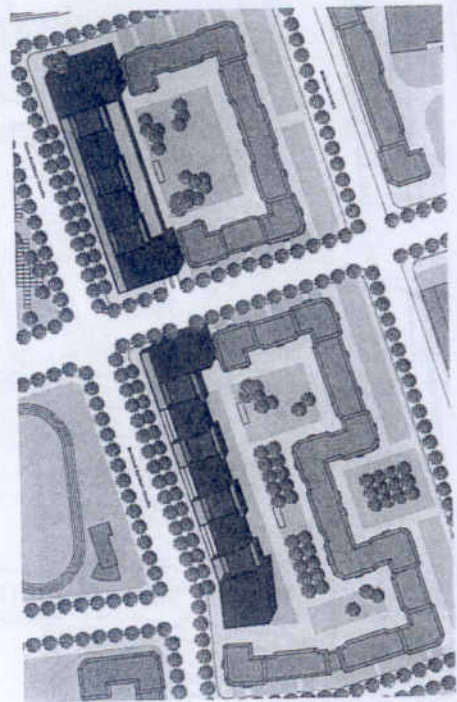


Figure 87 – Maps of the rejected projects

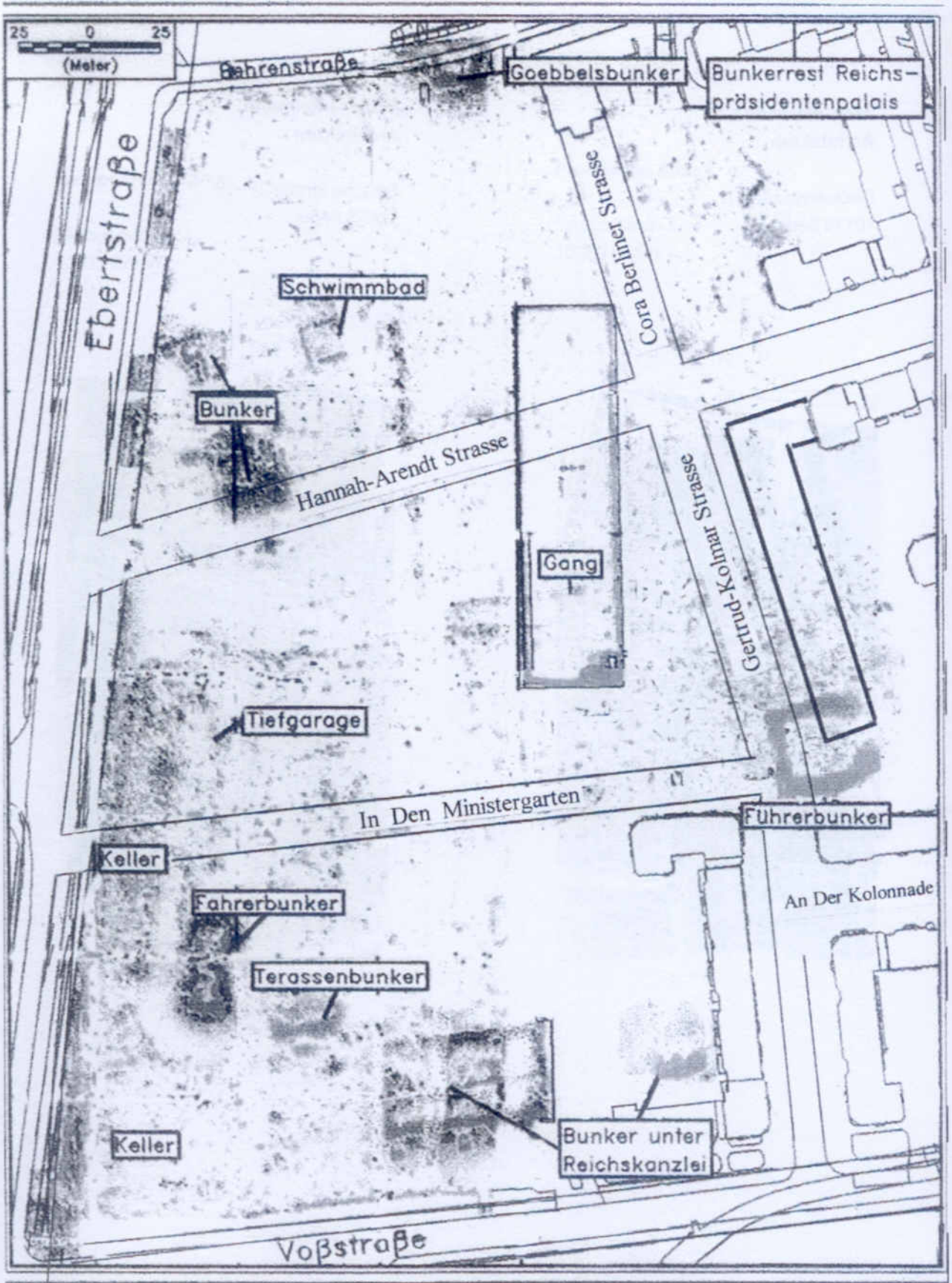


Figure 88 – Zone of the Führerbunker with overlapping of the building chosen by WBM

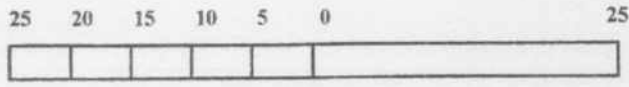


Figure 89 – Enlargement of Figure 88

ERHARD SCHREIER**The last photographer of the Führerbunker***(A meeting, a friendship: October 28th, 2004)*

I had discovered the name of Erhard Schreier reading the book of Kellerhoff "Mythos Führerbunker" and looking at the documentary of Discovery Channel on the Hitler's bunker.

Schreier was the last person that carried out a substantial photographic service on the "destruction" of the bunker in 1988.

I needed a confirmation on the present state of the bunker, that is on what the work of destruction left to posterity.

I had my strong doubts on the fact that it was completely destroyed, disintegrated, disappeared. These doubts rose when I noted the results of the geomagnetic survey, made in 1997, and broadly treated in this book. How could the external walls of the bunker be so visible and clear if this didn't exist anymore?

The only living being that could solve this doubt was Erhard Schreier that followed, with his camera, the whole operation of demolition of the bunker's superficial parts, up to its burial.

I got his address through Internet, wrote to him and arranged the appointment in his "atelier" for the morning of October 28th, 2004.

I expected a traditional atelier, with its good shop-windows on the road and a certain movement of clients.

On the contrary, I found myself in front of a decorous residence of the Berliner outskirts, with a closed front door and the residents' names put on an old interphone.

Schreier was waiting for me on the door step at the first floor: a tender greeting, then he introduced me in the working room. It was a great room almost totally occupied by a large table, full of drawings and photos.

All around, leaning on the walls, a lot of paintings, among which some of notable sizes, representing the ruins of the bunker.

On a table, near a window that looked at the street underneath, there were a lot of photos of the service done on the bunker in 1988.

He started to show them, almost at random; I had only to make a choice. But I was interested only in those that showed the bunker without covering, "en plein air" after the work of demolition.

Such photos started to appear while Schreier showed me his archives. Really he was right when he affirmed in his website that he had many hundreds of photos of the bunker.

I put aside six of them, I purchased them at a moderate "friendly" price, for the sake of using them (as I have done) in the third edition of the book.

I asked him how this photographic service happened, a service that by now has rightly become famous among the searchers of the end of the Third Reich.

HOW THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICE OF THE BUNKER HAPPENED

Schreier was crossing the Wilhelmstrasse by car, for working reasons, when he was stopped by the police, together with other car drivers. It was June, 1988 and, obviously, it was a matter of the East Berlin police.

"What happens?" he asked.

"We are blowing up the Hitler's bunker".

Actually, every few minutes, he heard a strong explosion and saw some smoke get up from the zone of the bunker.

Schreier continued his trip but remained strongly impressed by the news. Finished the job meeting, he went back to the place of the explosions and with his inseparable "Praktica" started an adventurous photographic service, integrated with a great quantity of graphs and sketches, that took him some months: from June 1988 to February 1989.

The enterprise of Schreier was indeed adventurous because it happened despite the prohibition to photograph the operation and the strict control of the police.

I asked Schreier how did he manage to elude for months these controls and the answer was: "I had made some friends among the workers employed in the demolition task. I didn't pay anybody. A complicity rose among us. Some of them were on the lookout, they watched the arrival of the police and warned me to hide myself.

I entered the bunker not only from the official openings, doors or airing windows, I entered also through the holes caused by the explosions.

Really, it was dangerous. Perhaps you cannot imagine how much this Hitler's shelter was imposing and monstrously thick; surely the surest place in Berlin to survive to the bombing".

Schreier followed all the progress of the works of destruction, from the dismantlement of the enormous covering, to the management and stacking of the rubble, up to the filling up of earth and the definitive burial of the rests.

The designer-photographer Schreier didn't have easy life in the time of DDR.

He had been individualized and pointed out to the Stasi.

He received, at his home, visits of inspectors that recommended him to change activity and to pass to another one, less dangerous for the escape of information towards West-Berlin, and more useful to the communist society.

Schreier suspected that the Stasi had opened a file with his name, and really, after the collapse of the Berlin wall, in 1989, he had the opportunity to discover the dense file that concerned him, by now open to the public.

THE FOLLOWING

A beautiful photo of Schreier shows the great yard for the construction of the new buildings, around the area of the Hitler's bunker. This photo can help to understand the "reason" of this stupid operation, undertaken during the agony of the DDR, few months before its collapse: by now, while we are here, and we are upsetting this vast area with the bulldozers, let's take advantage to clean up the future residential parking lots, the future flowerbeds and game-fields from this bulky cube of concrete. But the gentlemen had not taken into consideration the huge, indestructible structure of the bunker.

In the years following the realization of this precious photographic archives, Schreier carried out, and still does, the activity of painter and designer.

I saw his paintings piled up in the show-room and in the antechamber and I can say that they are really beautiful.

For the use of the precious photos and of the numerous designs Schreier is not quite satisfied: the aim to realize books, documentaries or exhibitions on this subject have not given results till now. Perhaps, according to Schreier, the political climate currently existing in Germany, the sense of guilt connected to these events, this kind of "itch" that spreads around these testimonies are the explanation for the not suitable exploitation of the Schreier's archives.

At the end of my visit we took some photos as a pleasant recollection of the meeting and we fixed the appointment for the following day, October 29, to visit the last living witness of the tragic stories of the bunker between the end of April and the first days of May, 1945: the sergeant Rochus Misch, telephone operator of the bunker, belonging to the "intimate" entourage of the Adolf Hitler's staff.

ROCHUS MISEH

The last recipient of the 1st September



The second part of the evening... I had... leaving the...
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 There only a... and... with...
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 It...
 the...
 I...

Figure 90 – Photo of Erhard Schreier with the Author (October 28th, 2004)

ROCHUS MISCH

The last survivor of the Führerbunker

(A meeting, many revelations: October 29th, 2004)

Erhard gave me the appointment at 6,30 p.m., at the exit of the Baumschulenweg station, of the S Bahn.

I arrived before time, equipped for the unexpected meeting with the last survivor of the Hitler's bunker: the telephone operator Rochus Misch.

The name of Misch came out the previous day in the atelier of the photographer-designer Erhard Schreier, talking while looking at photos of the Hitler's bunker. Reviewing the witnesses of the tragic end of the Führer, the name of Rochus Misch came out.

"But is he still alive?", I said, and Schreier seized the opportunity answering to me: "Surely he is alive. He lives in Berlin and is an old friend of mine".

I asked him if it was possible to meet Misch, possibly with him.

With an amazing rapidity Schreier confirmed me that the meeting was possible: he would have tried for the evening of the following day.

He immediately phoned Misch, introduced me as one of his friends, "historian" of the Third Reich and he settled the meeting at 7 p.m. of the following day.

Enthusiast for the unexpected big hit I asked, a little embarrassed, what I could bring to Misch. "Some good wine! He likes Cinzano, it would be fine for a present".

The established day, that is the day after, was very heavy for me.

In the first forenoon I had a meeting at the Department of Urban Development (Wohnungsbaugesellschaft) of Berlin, regarding a very burning subject (is it true that you want to build on the Hitler's bunker?); in the second part of the morning, up to 2 p.m., I had "sailed" among the documents of the Stasi files (finding material of great interest to my investigation).

I had only a little time left before the appointment with Schreier to find the wine (or Vermouth?) Cinzano and something that could accompany it for a nice snack together. With the handbag loaded of documents and under the usual Berliner drizzle I turned my steps towards Alexander Platz to the search of the wine for Misch.

It is not easy, even in the outskirts of this lively square, to find some Italian wine and still more vermouth Cinzano. After a long walking and asking I found almost what I looked for: a good Italian wine and some pastry.

At 6.30 p.m. Schreier arrived punctual; I entered his car in the direction of Rudow, the suburb of Berlin where Misch lives, and after a quarter of an hour we parked near the side-walk, in front of a lower middle-class "villa", surrounded by a small garden.

We rang and Rochus Misch went out immediately, waiting for us under the small roof, on top of the few steps that led to the entry.

Unbelievable! Here it is the legendary personage, exactly alike to that Misch that I have seen a lot of times in the photos and in the television documentaries. The same good and sincere smile, the same white hair and the familiar pullover.

Erhard had told me that Misch lived alone. After the death of his wife Gerda a woman took care of his house.

MISCH AND THE PHOTOS

Misch invited us to sit down at the round table in a corner of the wide living-room and started to put photos on photos, covering the whole table.

This hospitable initiative surprised me, because I expected that he passively placed himself at our disposal to satisfy the usual questions.

I was ready for a different approach: I would have started to explain the motive of my visit, to introduce the book (that I had with me) and to ask him, gradually and clearly, some brief questions.

Misch speaks only German and I don't speak it; the only possibility for talking simple was the translation of Schreier from German into English and vice versa.

But Misch didn't let me the time to start my approach to the conversation.

With a generosity and a naturalness that impressed me, he started to illustrate me one photo behind the other. The strong and knotty hands increased my feeling to be guest of an old friend, a country uncle, little accustomed to the refinements and strategies of communication.

He had on the table a colour copy of a journalistic service on the Oliver Hirschbiegel's film, "Der Untergang", the defeat, that had been shown in the cinemas of Berlin.

I started: "What is your opinion on the film? The opinion of who has lived personally those stories told in the film? Was that the environment? Was Hitler really like that?"

The answer was sarcastic.

"For me it is a comical film; something that has been realized for the Americans".

"What! It is a film that wants to show the human side of Hitler", I insisted.

"No, Hitler was very different. To me, as to the other collaborators, he has been a good head. Not the Führer but a "boss", hearty and friendly with whoever surrounded him doing his own job."

In the meantime Misch added other photos on the table. Here he is young, very elegant in his uniform of member of the SS Leibstandarte, taken of "three quarters", legs wearing boots and crossed, ring on the ring-finger of the left hand, regulation belt: a photo for a Goebbels documentary on the beauty of the Aryan race.

But look at what he draws out! A photo of Eva Braun, taken by him on the Obersalzberg, of a naturalness never seen: hands on the hips, head boxed in the shoulders, worried glance: the typical attitude of the wife waiting for the husband in a bad mood. I asked him the photo and, without delays, Misch gave it to me.

"How was Eva Braun in the relationships with the Hitler's collaborators?"

"She was very pleasant and kind, different from Albert Speer who stood aside and rarely smiled to the neighbours."

"Talking about Speer, what is your opinion on his thesis of the attempt to poison Hitler and his court, with the gas, in the Berlin bunker? "

Smile of Misch: "I have my doubts, perhaps he invented it to gain the benevolence of the judges that were trying him in Nuremberg. There is no correspondence between the times told by Speer and the ones of the realization of the airing tower, ordered personally by Hitler when he realized the danger of an exit mouth at the ground level"

This other photo is very beautiful!

Misch is standing, in uniform, hands behind the hips and legs lightly wide apart, in front of the wood barrack where von Stauffenberg exploded the bomb that should kill Hitler. We are in the "wolfsschanze", the wolf den, in the oriental Prussia.

"This wood barrack, these planks that you see, not many hours later blew up for the explosion of the bomb".

I asked if he could give it to me with dedication and, once again, wore his glasses, he signed it on the front for me: "Für Pietro, Rochus Misch".

Another photo, always taken by Misch, showed Hitler while he was going out of the barrack, few minutes after the attempt. Oddly he held his right hand, evidently painful. It was not the left hand that started to tremble in the following months, up to the end of his life.

"What do you think of von Stauffenberg? How do you judge his action? "

"Stauffenberg has damaged the Germans. If he really wanted to eliminate Hitler he had to remain in the conference room and shoot him! This would have been the most correct action for a man, for a soldier".

In the meanwhile Misch continued, with a patience and an amazing naturalness, to show me the photos of his archives.

He holds some beautiful photos, taken on the Obersalzberg and, particularly, he lingered over the "tea-room", the true "tea-room" where Hitler led his guests for some hours of relax. The construction was at the same level of Hitler's residence and not very far: it was easy to reach it in 15-20 minutes, through a path in the wood.

"Now there is nothing left, everything has been destroyed."

"And the Eagle Nest, the Kehlsteinhaus, on top of the Obersalzberg, attainable with the famous, luxurious lift, full of sparkling brasses and benches of leather? "

"It was used very little. Hitler didn't like it. The lift was used only for delegations of diplomats".

Misch didn't show me photos taken in the Berlin bunker. He had other things to do in that terrible last days of the Third Reich.

A BRIEF PROFILE OF MISCH

This man, with his mild and so available aspect, who was he?
Which history does he drag along?

Run away, killed or committed suicide the inhabitants of the bunker, only two persons had remained in that great "loculus": Misch and Hentschel, the operator of the bunker's telephone number 120050 and the technician in charge for the installations of the bunker.

It was the dawn of May 2nd 1945, the life stopped in the bunker, a macabre silence had gone down among those walls. Misch greeted the technician and went out of the bunker, looking for salvation.

He was captured by the Russians and, once identified, he was held in prison for nine years, four spent in the cells of Lubianka, notorious headquarter of KGB and the remaining five in one of the Siberian Gulag.

When in the Lubianka he was tortured because the Russians wanted him to confess the true end of Hitler (as known, Stalin for a lot of time did not believe to Hitler's suicide; he thought him safe in some Latin Country); in Siberia Misch was treated a little better.

He got as far as to send a letter to Molotov, asking a revolver to kill himself as a soldier: obviously he didn't receive any answer.

The letter would have remained forever in the State Archives of Moscow ignored, if the BBC had not discovered it in one of its searches, in order to realize historical documentaries.

In 1946 Misch, together with other witnesses too prisoners in Siberia, who outlived the end of the bunker, was taken to Berlin to reconstruct the true events of the end of Hitler. This story has been reported inside the book.

After the death of Stalin, owing to amnesties granted by Krusciov and in agreements with the German government, in 1954 Misch was released. He returned to Berlin where together with his wife Gerda opened and managed, for many years, a little shop of articles for the home decoration.

Misch spent apart the many years since 1954 to our days, carrying out his modest job of artisan and seller of wall-papers, moquettes and other domestic articles.

When the survivors of the bunker vicissitudes left this world, Misch became more and more the target of researchers, historians and producers of documentaries. After the death, in 2002, of Frau Junge, the youngest secretary of Hitler, authoress of a book of memories, used, among the others, to the realization of the film "Der Untergang", Misch has become a legendary personage, the only source for the last verifications of the bunker stories.

At present Misch receives a lot of letters from young people (he has shown them to me, after the opening of a tin put on the edge of the table), telephone calls for various invitations (some calls arrived while we were there) and he, patiently and peacefully, answers without getting swollen-headed, as everlasting telephone operator and, later, trader in the outskirts of his town.

Time passed pleasantly with Rochus. I suggested to drink together the wine that I had brought, but, politely, he answered he was fine as he was.

By then Misch had been speaking for a lot of time; he showed, he explained: I had to go on speaking in his place, also to allow him to rest.

I took out the book from my handbag, I put it on the table and I started to turn over the pages, describing it.

MISCH AND MY BOOK

The first thing that struck him was the fact that I dedicated my book to the six children of the Goebbels.

He appreciated a lot the idea, he embraced me and continued with this reflection:

"The memorial that remembers the Holocaust is something correct, but if it depended on me, I would add, in the cemetery, other six slabs of marble to remember the six innocent children, they too victims of the Nazism".

Don't forget that Misch was the witness that lived more closely, in the bunker, nearby the tragedy of Magda Goebbels and her six children.

We turned over some pages together: he stopped for a while upon figures and texts in German. We pointed out together some events.

"Misch, did you bring the bodies of Hitler and Eva Braun up the staircases, towards the emergency exit"?

"No, it was Günsche and others; that moment I went away from the place of the tragedy".

"Rochus, is it true the little story of the Goebbels' children that joked with you, saying: "Misch, Misch du bist ein Fish? ".

"No, I don't remember it, perhaps it is an invention of James O' Donnell".

About this answer I don't agree with Misch; too many years have passed after that event and many also from the publication of O'Donnell's book.

I don't think that the story was invented by him; it is more probable that Misch has forgotten it.

We stopped a little on the map of the bunker, on which Misch didn't make any comment: it was in line with his knowledge of the construction.

However, here I provoked Misch setting him this question:

"I would like to recall your attention on the staircase that went down from the Vorbunker to the Führerbunker. We can say that the historians are divided on two different reconstructions. There are those that describe it as a "spiral" staircase and among these enter Trevor-Roper, O' Donnell, Joachimsthaler, and others, more recently, among which Kellerhoff, that took advantage of the suggestion and the photos of the present Schreier, that describe it as a staircase at right angles.

Considering that by now this staircase doesn't exist anymore and that its definition has now only a symbolic meaning, you that climbed and went down its steps many times, tell me: how this blessed staircase was?".

With a great smile Misch traced on the table, with his right finger, a big rectangle. Words were not needed: his answer was very clear.

Going through the book we reached the map of the zone of the bunker where the "axis of infamy" is drawn, connecting the Holocaust memorial with the Hitler's bunker and with the "Topographie des Terrors".

Misch shares with me the spirit of the proposal to unify in a common memory the three sites and underlines that young people, of the whole world, have to know the terrible events happened in the last century.

We arrive to the photos of the site of the bunker. Misch admits it as exact and tells me that he too, two or three times every year, goes on the spot of the bunker as witness and guide of groups of visitors.

Recently he was with a group of Norwegian tourists and he stopped to illustrate what there was under their feet and what he had seen and lived under there, more than half a century ago. He was concluding his speech when a policeman came near and told him something that I find hard to believe as true if it had not been told me by the honest Misch: the policeman, crossing the wrists and miming the handcuffing told him that he could arrest him for what he was doing.

"Possible Rochus? I continue to see groups of visitors and respective guides to stay on the spot of the bunker without any problem; how did it happen to you?"

"I don't know, I think my behaviour was correct, may be there is not yet enough democracy in Germany" (this story was confirmed by Schreier, that nodded by my side).

Going through the book we got to the photo of the bunker, dug up in 1988, but still intact in its structure.

Then I asked Misch the question that still has not received a convincing answer and perhaps never will have.

"Dear Rochus, dear Erhard, why after 43 years the Berlin authorities decided to destroy this bunker, this only rest survived among all the buildings of the whole New Chancellery?"

Had not they the perception that the communist regime of East Berlin was in agony and collapsing? Which logical objective could have been this not easy enterprise? Why, "Warum", was this decision taken?"

"Herr Guido, in Germany there was no Warum, there was not "why".

The operation was made without a logic and was carried out badly. In the struggle for the survival, once more the bunker won: its structures are still there intact, it lacks only the protection of a roof.

Perhaps in Germany there is not enough democracy even now; the true history of the Third Reich and of its main personages is still taboo".

I tell him that in Italy we have no more prohibitions for the use of images, books and stories concerning Fascism. In any market, shop, event, it is possible to buy heirlooms of Fascism and its leader. Even "Mein Kampf" is on sale, in the Italian edition, in the main bookstores. In Rome, those who go to the Olympic stadium has to trample on paving strewn with Dux, Dux,...

Misch rolls his eyes, almost incredulous!

It is getting late, our 87 year-old guest starts to show signs of tiredness. Schreier and I propose to close the pleasant meeting. I tried not to turn it into a long interview with series of packed up questions.

All the talking above mentioned has gushed from a talk among friends.

We stand up, I take advantage to give a glance to the room that gave us hospitality. On the mantelpiece and on a table two photos of his wife Gerda, a beautiful typical German lady, stand out.

Misch accompanies us to the exit: the moment of the leave arrives. We embrace strongly each other. I feel the musculature of his shoulders still powerful, in spite of the age. We greet with a "comradely" embrace, as if we were old soldiers.

Dear Rochus, I will remember this embrace, made by a simple, sincere and good man, that had the chance to be involved in an experience and in a story greater than himself.

When we leave the garden, on the sidewalks, the gate is not shut yet; we try a few times, we turn backward and Misch is still out, standing under the drizzle, for the last waving.

A SURVEY

WHAT DO THE MEMBERS OF THE ZONE THINK
ABOUT THE ZONE'S HISTORY?



Figure 91

THE ZONE'S HISTORY

The survey had not to appear... as a survey, but the surveying had not to be...
interviews.

Just as someone would read the text about the history of the...
interviews to the point of the history of the history of the history of the...
usually have a good...
They would have...
English or...
English or...
English or...

Figure 91 – Photo of Rochus Misch with the Author (October 29th, 2004)

A SURVEY

WHAT DO THE INHABITANTS OF THE ZONE THINK ABOUT THE FÜHRERBUNKER FUTURE?

(Survey on 50 inhabitants of the bunker zone)

1 - PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY

Till now, important persons and authorities of the whole world have expressed their opinion on the destiny of the Hitler's bunker, but nobody asked the opinion to the people that should be the nearer and more interested to the story.

Those people are the inhabitants of the quarters surrounding the bunker. Those inhabitants that at present have to tolerate groups, always increasing, of tourists eager to trample on such an historical and tragic ground.

Therefore I have thought opportune to face this further challenge interviewing a small sample of inhabitants, about fifty, submitting them few but delicate questions on the bunker theme.

Don't forget that the inhabitants of the quarter are not common inhabitants of Berlin. The block of the existing quarters on the Wilhelm Strasse (west side), on the Voss Strasse and on the An Der Kolonnade was built in 1988-1989 (just before the fall of the Berlin wall) for the benefit of Berliner officers of the DDR and AMT (public offices and Ministries) and of some personalities that deserved the privilege to lodge in flats of higher level than the average of the bleak huge blocks of flats built by the regime in East Berlin.

Therefore the survey was turned to Berliners of a certain social standard and of political-administrative origin.

The survey has been carried out on Saturday October 30th 2004, on 50 inhabitants, in a gloomy day for the persistent drizzle, typical of the Berliner autumn.

2 - THE METHODOLOGY

The survey had not to appear...as a survey, and the interviews had not to be interviews.

Such an approach would result too much risky: to a request to be interviewed on the theme of the bunker the inhabitants of the zone would certainly have opposed a refusal, alleging goodness knows which reasons.

They would have been able to answer nastily to the strange intruder that, in English or mumbling some word in German, could drag them in a trap.

Don't let us forget that the matter of Hitler's bunker is still taboo in Germany and even more in Berlin (on the spot, it doesn't exist yet any information regarding the bunker).

This aspect could become my "passe-partout" to start the conversation.

I thought that the best thing was that to pretend I was an incautious foreign tourist that, vexed by the absolute lack of information, candidly asked information to whom he met in the zone.

Therefore I had to start asking information on the Hitler's bunker. Subsequently, on the base of the received answer I asked, with amazement, why there was no information regarding its place ("keine information" was a standard provocation).

Later "warum" come into play, why didn't exist any information about such an important place?

On the base of the received answers I tried to lead the conversation on the present uneasiness caused by the groups of visitors that most of the time stood in the internal parking lot, on the sidewalks surrounding the bunker and even in front of the entry bar of the cartwright passage (in more than a circumstance, during the interviews, the car driver was forced to sound the horn to invite the groups of tourists and respective Berliner guides to move).

The strategy worked and few have interrupted the interview with me. On the whole, the persons interviewed have been kind with me.

Only an elderly couple sent me to "do...something", but in German language, therefore without touching me.

3 - THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

First result: all interviewed persons **know the reality of the bunker.**

Nobody told me: "Bunker what? I don't know what you are talking about".

This could be expected, however this has been verified.

To the question if they could point out to me the **spot of the bunker**, that is if they knew the place where it was buried, about 50% of the interviewed pointed out to me, in a reasonable area of 30-50 meters of side, the correct spot.

The young people (apparent age inferior to 35 years) resulted the more informed (60%), the mature-elderly ones (apparent age superior to 35 years) the less informed (30%).

The men (60%) resulted slightly more informed than the women (50%).

I succeeded in appraising **how many lied**. The estimate resulted easy enough connecting the apparent level of education and social status (clothes, type of car, etc.) to the absurdity and the not likelihood of the answer.

For instance, a person with managerial look could not tell me, in all honesty, that the bunker was under the Gestapo headquarters, in Niederkirchner Strasse, that is to almost 600 meters of distance.

On the average, have misguided me, that is **lied about 40% of the interviewed ones**.

The "elderly people" (50%) more than the "young people" (20%), the men (40%) more than the women (10%).

Who lied wanted to misguide me; perhaps they did it under conditioned reflexes: for many years the inhabitants of the zone didn't want to have "among their feet" that damned wreck of the Third Reich. It is a long time since they want to get out that vandals from their flower-beds, their parking lots, their field-games.

The more frequent addresses to which they tried to send me, were, in the order: **An den Ministergarten, Voss Strasse** (in any point), the building where stood the **Propaganda Ministry** (Goebbels) on the other side of the Wilhelm Strasse and the **Topographie des Terrors** (600 meters far away!).

Among those people who lied I put also those that have led me, with certainty, to the existing panel at the corner of the Wilhelm Strasse with the Voss Strasse to gather information on the location of the Hitler's bunker (everybody knows that it is shown only the New Chancellery of the Third Reich).

These attempts to divert are not casual, therefore they express the wish to turn away the intruder.

To the question: **what they thought of the present situation**, the majority of the interviewed (70%) expressed themselves negatively: too many tourists' groups, too much confusion. The remaining 30% appeared indifferent towards the situation.

The last question that I set to those people who allowed me to drive them in my talkative way was the more crucial (in English language or helping me with some German words and miming): **the interviewed person was in favour or against a future opening of the bunker to visitors, even turning it into a Memorial?**

Well, with some surprise, the majority of the interviewed ones divided among **contrary (40%) and indifferent (40%)**. The remaining 20% pronounced **favourable**.

The **ones against** motivated the answer with fears of nostalgic neo-nazi demonstrations, for **the indifferent ones** nothing would have changed, for the **favourable ones** it was worth to put rules and order on this disordered flood of people.

Apparently, nobody made reference to consequences of economic nature, as the exploitation or devaluation of the zone or to the business that would have sprung from it.

4 - SOME CURIOSITIES

- Some woman has blushed in front of the term "Hitler bunker."
- The manager of the Raduga bookstore addressed me, for information on the bunker, to the Berlin Story bookstore, in Unter den Linden, where there is a book, in English and in Italian language, that shows all one has to know about the bunker. That is, she invited me to go to **read my book** at the Berlin Story.
- Some interviewed persons suggested I should go to the Caffè Motiv Bistro to have information (where the poor barkeepers didn't know anything on the matter).
- For an interviewed the bunker was under the building of In den Ministergarten, 3, the seat of the Landesvertretungen Brandenburg Mecklemburg-Vorpommern.
- An interviewed made reference to the fear for demonstrations of neo-fascists. The thing did not impress me after I read, years ago, the plate in bronze, put in the hall of the Zeppelin Stadion in Nuremberg, that made reference to the "fascist" folly.

Two are the possibilities: either this term has served for diverting the German sense of guilt towards a foreign ideology, or fascism has assumed at world level a totalising value, of which nazism is only one of the many subspecies.

- The postman, before giving me some serious answers, told me that in his mail list the address of Hitler's bunker didn't appear.

From COURTESY OF THE STATE ARCHIVES OF ILLINOIS
The first Italian newspaper

PROLOGUE

The Miller's museum opened to visitors after sixty years

Reopening the museum of the Miller's... after sixty years of...
The first Italian newspaper...

The first Italian newspaper... the museum with the Miller's...
The first Italian newspaper...

FOURTH PART

How the Miller's... the first Italian newspaper...
The first Italian newspaper... the Miller's...

There they found a labyrinth of books and records...
The first Italian newspaper...

Yesterday the first... the Miller's...
The first Italian newspaper...

THE END

From CORRIERE DELLA SERA (of June 11 th, 2006)
(the first Italian newspaper)

BERLIN

The Hitler's bunker opens to visitors after sixty years

Berlin opens the bunker of the Führer. For the first time, after sixty years of absolute silence, the room of the Third Reich's secrets is at tourists' disposal.

The last days of Adolf Hitler, the marriage with Eva Braun, the suicide: these the memories evoked in the underground that the city had held hidden till now to Germans and foreigners that, every year, travel on the traces of the Nazi regime.

Out of the bunker, placed near the Brandenburg Gate, posters written in English and German offer the tools to follow the way.

Now over the bunker apartments and parking lots have been built.

The main part of the walls had been destroyed by the Soviet troops after the end of the war. The first exploration of the tunnel happened in 1973, when the German secret services feared that English and Americans were digging passages under the Berlin's wall.

There they found a labyrinth of cellars and rooms, the office and the Hitler's bedroom, those of the head of propaganda Joseph Goebbels, of his wife and children but no passages towards the West.

Yesterday the first tourists are penetrated in the bunker.

Edo Schröder, a 24 year-old tourist guide, has manifested some perplexities to the *Times* of London. "Now the bunker could become destination for a neo-Nazi pilgrimage".

(Article not signed)

WELL THEN, HAVE WE JOKED ?

Well then, dear reader, have we been joking along the almost 300 pages of this book?

Isn't it true that the bunker lies about 8 meters under the ground's level, covered with rubble, earth and sand ?

Isn't it true that it has been uncovered leaving only the external walls at all their height ?

Isn't it true that the authorities of Berlin are against its recovery in order to put it at public disposal ?

How could this author allow himself to write these things, supporting them, once more, with original documents, photos, geomagnetic surveys, witnesses and files of archives?

How could he allow himself to pull the many readers' legs, all over the world, telling such lies?

Besides, think that this Mr. Pietro Guido has dared even to send, in the past, copies of the book to the Director of "Corriere della Sera" and to his valid Berlin correspondent, that knows everything after having been living for years in that city!

Despite the fact that all over the world the news of the signalling of the bunker site has been published in the correct way, as we will see in the next pages, the Corriere della Sera, the prestigious first Italian newspaper, has shot one "worthless coin", without signature.

Yet, also a child would know that the probability of suddenly seeing the Führerbunker opened to the public is equal, approximately, to that of seeing Hitler alive today in 2006 dancing the "rap" in some discotheque.

In the final pages of the book I take the liberty to send an appeal to the national and international "chronicle":

today it is no longer possible to divulge unverified, falsified or incomplete news in a superficial way.

Any reader is able at the expense of few tens of Euro to investigate on the site where appear the news he has just read on the newspaper, in order to verify "de visu" the untruth of it and go back home to "slap" the journalist that published the "worthless coin."

The reader that has overcome the 300 pages of this book surely remembers the false "Scoops" signalized by the author.

Too much irresponsibility, lack of professionalism, excessive cunning have characterized in the last decades all over the world the information regarding the bunker.

One could think of a Hitler's mockery perpetrated against the posterity interested to his last domicile.

Dear colleagues of the "printed paper", please value well and verify the statements that concern, and will concern, this subject: with the ghost, buried under eight meters of earth one can't joke.

Have respect for your readers !

2006 - HERE IS THE TRUE NOVELTY UNDER THE SKY OF BERLIN AND OVER THE BUNKER

1 - THE FIVE STRENGTHS OF PRESSURE

Since long time ago a lot of things have been brewing. The authorities of Berlin felt the appeals and the solicitations to take a position on the destiny of the Hitler's bunker rests grow. At least FIVE have been the strengths that have pushed the holders of the power to take the decision to disclose the site of the bunker to the world.

First Strength

"**Opinion leaders**", of international level, openly express by now the invitation to stop hiding the residual testimonies of the Third Reich history to the posterity interested to its vicissitudes. In the book we have diffusely spoken about this aspect.

The pressure to disclose this historical testimony grows inside Germany, Berlin and the Parliament too.

Second Strength

The movements of pressure founded to favour the signalling or even the reopening to public of the bunker rests.

Among these I take the liberty to mention the "Save History Supporters" movement, founded by the author of this book and advertised in the website www.hitlerbunker.com

By now are many hundreds the supporters that, through the "link" of the site, have sent and continue to send e-mails to the Berlin authorities and to Unesco proposing the recovery and the opening of the bunker to public.

I have formulated proposals to recovery the bunker to the above mentioned authorities receiving only polite but steady refusals to consent to the initiative.

It has been a constant "to the hips" job that, after a quite long time, could have cracked the negative attitude towards the reopening of the bunker of the Mayor, of the Berlin Senate and of the interested Departments, allowing, for the time being, the "make-weight" of an information panel.

Third Strength

The pressure of the "**Berliner Unterwelten**" organization, created by scholars, fans and "tour operators", devoted to the exploitation of the Third Reich's rests (tunnels, bunkers, fortifications) still present in the Berlin's subsoil.

This organization has received from the Berliner authorities the permission to erect a panel on the spot of the bunker for the benefit of tourists and visitors interested to the bunker vicissitudes.

Having fairly good financial resources the "Berliner Unterwelten" has realized the panel and put it on the bunker site.

Fourth Strength

The growth of visits and interest in the place of the bunker of multitudes more and more numerous of tourists.

In the book I have diffusely dealt with this aspect, easily verifiable from whoever wants to stop a little in the bunker zone.

The phenomenon could no longer be ignored by the authorities: groups of people confusedly moved around on the supposed site of the bunker, trampling on the lawns, crossing entrance-halls, hindering the residential parking lots.

I have made some enquires about this on the mood of the inhabitants of the surrounding buildings : the uneasiness for the disorder is perceived and a resolution of the problem is wished. The results of the survey appear in Chapter 27 of the book

This aspect has "exploded" with the organization of the World Soccer Championship in Germany.

A tide of tourists poured into Berlin with relative curiosities for the artistic and historical places among which the mythical bunker where Hitler committed suicide on April 30 th, 1945.

Fifth Strength

The opening of the **museum devoted to the Holocaust**.

This enormous Memorial is 150 meters far from the site of the bunker in its south east angle. From this spot the groups of tourists, standing over the place of the bunker and arranged in circle around the "tour operator" on duty can be clearly seen.

It is therefore difficult to resist the temptation to go for a stroll to visit the place where precisely the demon responsible for the holocaust spent the last days of his life.

2 - THE SIGNALLING OF THE SITE

The whole of the aforesaid strengths has brought the Berlin authorities to the decision to allow the signalling of the spot with a suitable poster in German and English language.

The poster, of 2,00x1,00 meters, is shown in Figure 92.

It has been placed above the site of the bunker and is just a little more than a meter far from the white stake (visible in the photo to the right of the panel), by me identified as "centre of the bunker" in Chapter 20.

Apart the satisfaction to verify that the location of the poster coincides with my identification of the centre of the bunker, realized in December 2001, I point out to the reader that the modest shifting between the centre I defined (the white stake) and the poster is a "fault" of the poster, that could not be hammered at the limit of the lawn, near the fence adjacent to border of the car parking lot.

Once again the work of my historical and documental searches, supported by the results of the geomagnetic prospecting, has overcome the nth checking: third organizations, unknown to me, have formalized with a panel the spot that I had already individualized some years ago.

3 - THE PANEL

It has the title:

MITHOS UND GESCHICHTSZEUGNIS "FÜHRERBUNKER"

Which, translated from the barbaric, unpronounceable Teutonic compound nouns becomes:

MYTH AND HISTORICAL TESTIMONY "FÜHRERBUNKER"

Graphs and texts, well done, are protected by a transparent plastic slab. A big and inelegant padlock protects the panel from possible vandals.

The panel shows photos concerning the bunker and its personages, the map of the two bunkers (Führerbunker and Vorbunker), a map of the Berlin zone interested in the 14 bunkers existing at that time, (the area from Pariser Platz up to the end of the Wilhelmstrasse) and the history of the main events occurred from the realization of the bunker up to the most recent years.

4 - ERRORS AND LACKS OF THE PANEL

On June 28 th, 2006 I have made a survey on the place of the panel with Erhard Schreier (Figure 93), the graphic-painter that measured the bunker in its details for the last time before its burial (see, on the subject, Chapter 25).

On the whole the information contained in the panel are correct, except some errors and lacks.

The errors

The external walls of the Führerbunker are indicated 3,50 meters thick. Really the thickness is, still, of 4 meters (confirmed by Schreier).

The thickness of the covering of the Führerbunker is indicated of 4,50 meters. Really said thickness was of 4 meters (confirmed by Schreier).

The thickness of the external walls of the Vorbunker was 1,30 meters, rather than 1,60 as shown in the panel.

The thickness of the Vorbunker's covering was 1,60 meters, rather than 2 meters, as shown in the panel.

The lacks

The **depth** of the bunker, that is 8,20 meters, is not indicated (see Chapter 3 of the book).

It is only mentioned that the excavations for the foundations reached 10 meters.

The heights of the rooms and the thickness (inexact) of the bunker covering are given but how much earth was there above the bunker?

With this last measure the visitors could work out the depth of the bunker.

Perhaps, omitting the size of the depth they meant to leave indefinite the real three-dimensional positioning of the bunker so giving one less element to the malicious promoters of its recovery.

The **present condition** of the bunker is not shown: they don't say that the floor and the external walls of the bunker (with 3 meters in height) are still integral and that therefore it can be recovered.

In the end, they don't point it out the spot where the bodies of Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun were put down and burnt.



Figure 92 – The information panel “Führerbunker”
(Photo of the Author, June 2006)

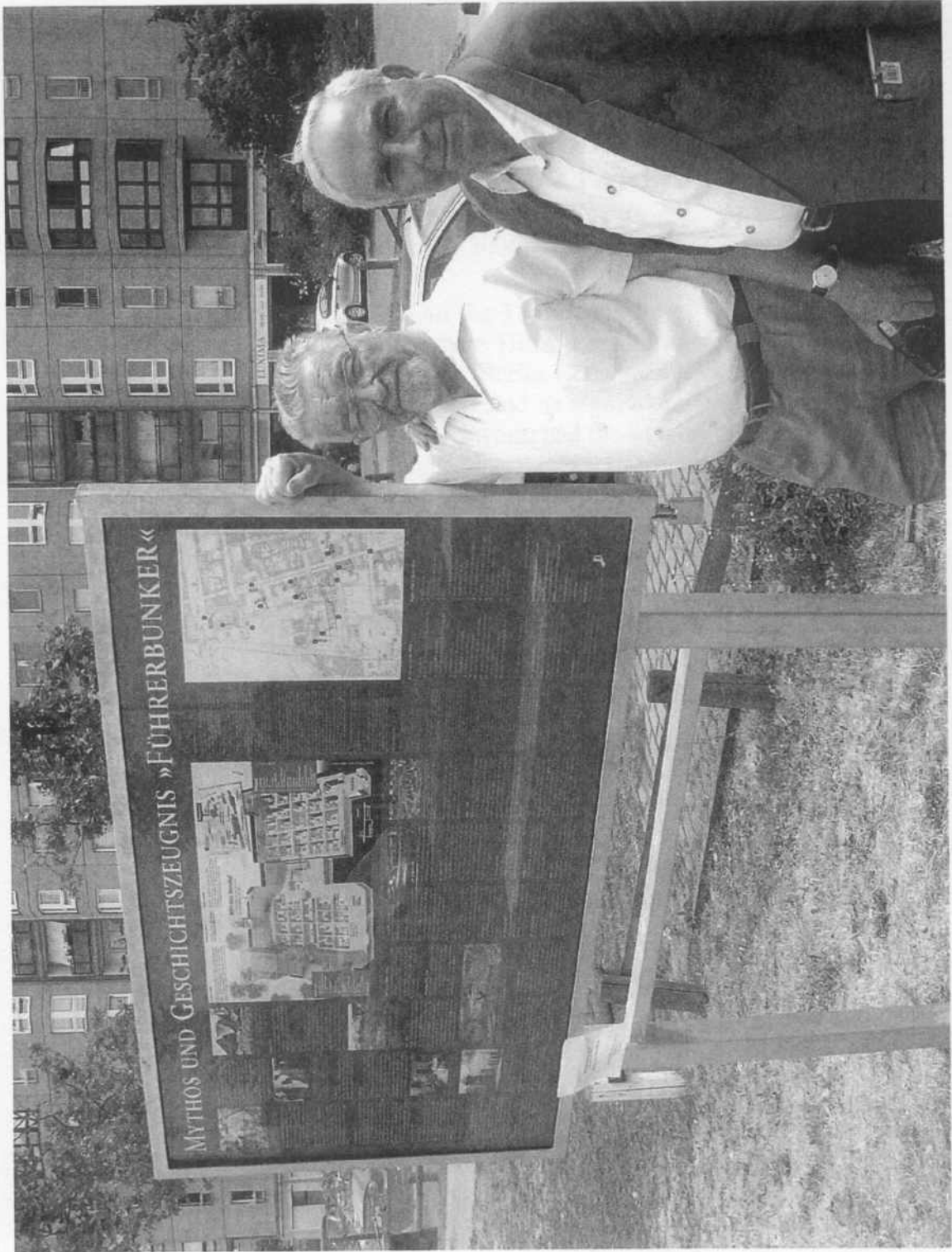


Figure 93 – Erhard Schreier and the Author on the panel site.
(Photo of the Author, June 2006)

A QUOTATION FOR WHO HAS PUBLISHED CORRECT NEWS ON THE NOVELTY OF THE PANEL

THE NEW YORK TIMES (June 9, 2006)

Germany: Hitler's Bunker Put on the Tourist map

"The site of the Berlin bunker where Hitler committed suicide has been marked with a sign for the first time. Berlin Underworlds, which organizes tours of World War II bomb shelters, said its sign, along with a display in German and English of the bunker's layout, had the support of city officials. In the past Berlin had resisted indicating the exact location of the so-called Führerbunker for fear that it could become a shrine for Neo-Nazis."

HERALD TRIBUNE International (June 8, 2006)

Update: Hitler's bunker gets marker for first time

"Berlin: A historical society on Thursday installed a sign at Hitler's underground bunker here, marking for the first time the spot where the Nazi leader killed himself at the end of World War II.

Just 200 meters, or 656 feet, from Germany's memorial to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust, the Berlin Underworlds society erected a sign giving details of the layout and construction of the bunker, which has been buried under a garage.

.....

TIMES ON LINE (June 10, 2006)

This way to Hitler's bunker

"For the first time, visitors are being guided to the site which oversaw the last days of the Third Reich.

The site of Hitler's bunker, long one of Berlin's best-kept secrets, is now officially a tourist attraction.

After more than 60 years the city has reversed a policy of concealing the location of the underground rooms where the Nazi leader steered the Third Reich towards its downfall, and where he killed himself with poison and a pistol. There is now a sign in German and English on the site, close to the Brandenburg gate.

.....

Some historians have argued that the bunker should be treated as an archaeological site and restored, but too much high explosive has been sunk into Hitler's last resting place."

DW-WORLD.DE

DEUTSCHE WELLE (June 10, 2006)

Marking the spot of Hitler's Bunker

"Few know that Hitler's infamous bunker is tucked away below a Berlin car park, surrounded by high-rises built in the GDR. But a Berlin association has now erected a display board they say demystifies this sinister site.

There's little to suggest that the sanding parking lot in a somewhat characterless residential neighbourhood of Berlin was once the scene of some of the most dramatic moments in World War II.

SPIEGEL ONLINE (June 9, 2006)

Marking the site of the Führerbunker

"For years it has been the subject of idle speculation and gruesome rumor. Now finally, Berlin has recognized the site of Hitler's bunker by erecting an informal panel.

Yesterday, an information panel was finally erected on the site of Hitler's bunker, providing images, a map and chronology of the events of 1945. The reason nobody had ever seen a sign marking the spot of the downfall of the Nazis was, quite simply, because wasn't one."

ALJAZEERA.NET (June 8, 2006)

Berlin unveils site of Hitler's bunker

"The hidden site of the bunker where Adolf Hitler watched his Third Reich disintegrate in the final months of the second world war has been officially marked by a historical group seeking to demystify it.

Today, not much is left of the structure. After the war, Soviet soldiers blew up most of the bunker, and in the 1980s the remaining foundation and walls were filled with rubble, making it inaccessible."

WHAT IS CHANGING IN THE ZONE OF THE BUNKER

In the zone of the bunker traffic is growing and new residential buildings are planned (for this subject see Chapter 24).

The flow of visitors, already consistent and increasing before the placing of the panel, has mounted up after June 8th, 2006 and with the beginning of the pilgrimage of visitors to the Holocaust memorial.

In consequence of the strong flow of tourists coming from the Holocaust memorial, now the groups arrive primarily on the bunker site from north, along the Gertrud-Kolmar Strasse, reducing the "vandalic" traffic that, coming from the entrance-hall of Wilhelmstrasse 89, crossed the car parking site trampling on lawns and flower-beds. The inhabitants of the interested buildings will breath a sigh of relief!

The groups of visitors standing in the two places see each other and this will strengthen the link and the interlacing between the two destinations.

The bunker is too near to the Holocaust memorial for continuing to maintain it isolated in the itineraries of the Berlin historical and commemorative places.

My proposal, shown in Chapter 21 (Hypothesis of a Third Memorial), is on the way of the realization. The visitors of the Holocaust memorial already aim to visit the bunker place.

As the third historical place of the Third Reich, the "Topographie des Terrors", is 750 meters far from the bunker it becomes more and more probable and feasible to complete the tours of visits to the witnesses of the Nazism's atrocities including this last, too.

My idea of the visit to the "AXIS OF INFAMY" can become reality in the next years.

Of course, the desired recovery of the bunker would give more sense to this integration of itineraries.

Other small changes in the zone of the bunker are made by the change of destination of the shops of the Wilhelmstrasse 89 : on the south side of the square a shop of feminine clothes has been opened (LUXIMA Battibaleno); by the entrance-hall side, to the place of the historian shop of Russian books RADUGA, there is today a shop of tiles and roof coverings (FUTURA Massivhaus), placed by a shop of optics (RICARDA MÜHLSTÄDT Optik); on the north side of the square the Italian restaurant PORTA DI BRANDEBURGO has become simply PORTA.

Unfortunately has not changed the cross-road between Wilhelmstrasse and Voss Strasse (Figure 94) one of the most famous, prestigious and terrific spots in the world during the years 30-40, degraded and punished by the Berlin-Mitte town-planners, not deigning it either of a set of traffic-lights or of pedestrian white strips.

Whoever coming from the worrying underground station of Mohrenstrasse, where the red-blood marbles, transplanted from the Third Reich's New Chancellery show of themselves, wants to go and visit the historical places of Nazism, does it at his own risk for the threat of motor traffic.

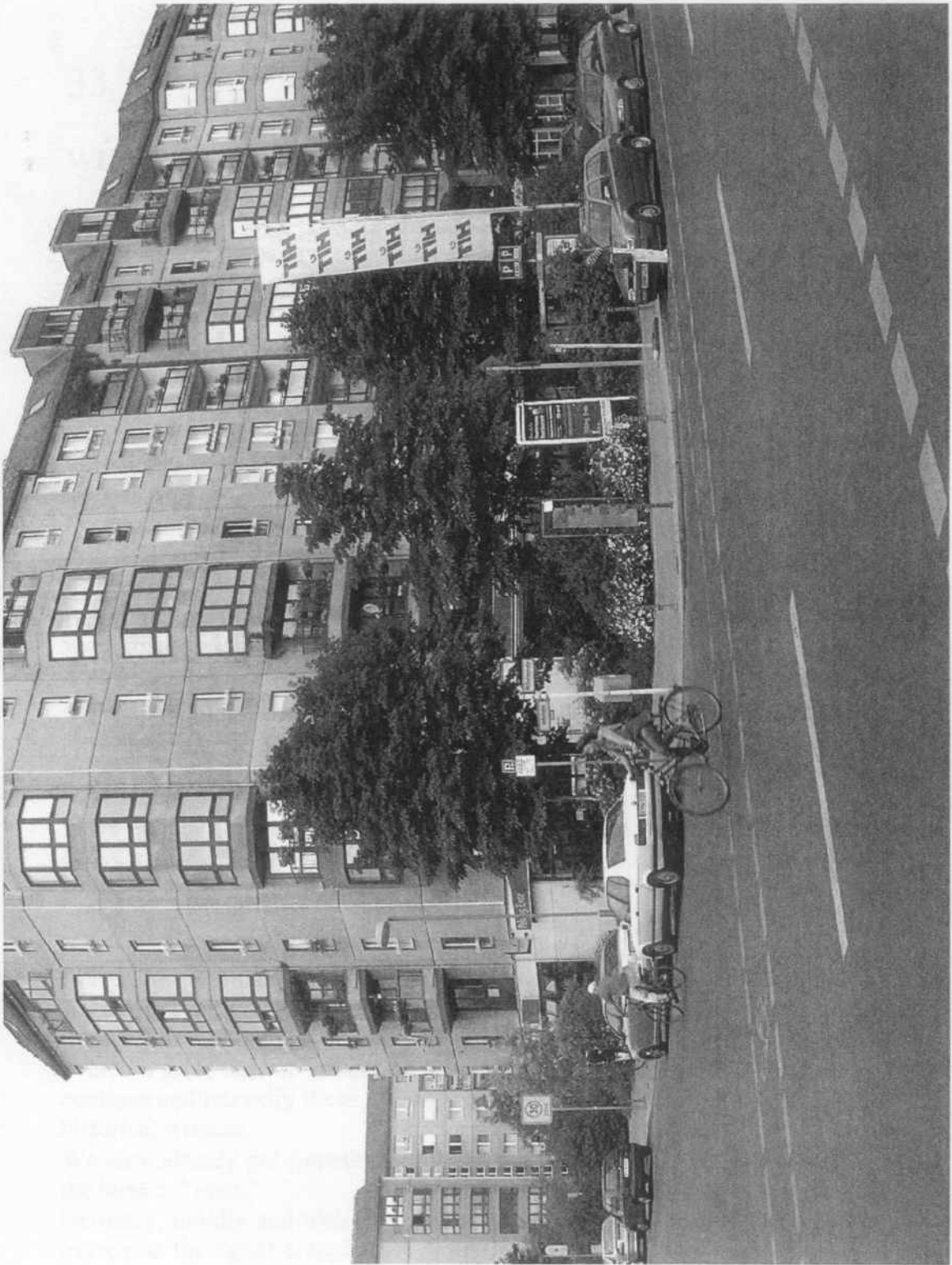


Figure 94 – The cross-road Wilhelmstrasse - Voss Strasse.
(Photo of the Author, June 2006)

WHAT WE ARE EXPECTING FOR THE FUTURE

Many organizations and some historians when refer to the Hitler's bunker use the "past" time: "the bunker was here.." or "The bunker has been destroyed...".

Unlike those people I definitely use the "present": "The bunker is here".

The Berlin authorities know it but they don't want to admit it. They try to diminish the rests of what was an underground fortress.

I was told, by voice and in writing, that one built over it, that it was deep four floors of building, that remained only rubble, deposits and twisted girders.

No doubts that in sixty years many efforts have been made to reduce it in that condition, but it is also sure that, for its mighty structures, nobody succeeded in destroying it.

After uncovering it in 1988 the "aediles" stopped exhausted and thought wiser to cover it with earth.

Today it is a "shoes box" without cover. Its flooring and its external walls are integral. Any builders starting from such a structure would complete the bunker easily and quickly: the casting of a slab and the raising of simple internal walls following the pattern of the original lay-out would be sufficient to affirm "here is the bunker."

These things are known by the Urban Development Planning Department (see Chapter 24). They know they have a treasure to unearth and to exploit in the future, in more peaceful times.

It is desirable that historians, enlightened authorities and opinion leaders from all the world continue to keep under pressure the masters of Berlin.

As far as I am concerned, I invite all the "Save History Supporters" who, through the web-site of this book www.hitlerbunker.com, have up to now poured a great deal of e-mail on the Berlin authorities and the Unesco, to continue and intensify these appeals till the whole recovery of this mythical historical witness.

We have already got something with the public signalling of the spot where the bunker "rests."

Germany, timidly and with short steps, after over half a century is trying to overcome the "guilt complex" for the involvement of their people in the horrendous tragedy caused by a legally elected regime.

Let's help Germany to get out of it.

APPENDIX A

REQUEST OF INSERTION OF THE HITLER'S BUNKER

IN THE

"LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER"

Correspondence with the UNESCO

CONTENTS OF THE REQUEST

Milan, 9 April 2002

Mr. Koichiro MATSUURA

Director-General

UNESCO

7, Place de Fontenoy

75352 PARIS 07 SP

France

OBJECT: Request of insertion of the Hitler's Bunker, in Berlin, in the "List of World Heritage in Danger"

INTRODUCTION

Cultural heritage is playing an increasing rôle in providing young people with a sense of where they have come from.

UNESCO is making efforts towards a more balanced and representative World Heritage List, through the identification of new sites of heritage categories apt to reflect cultural aspects of history moments.

The expected outcomes of UNESCO Strategy Objectives are to improve citizen participation in the heritage protection against cultural impoverishment.

COHERENCE OF THE REQUEST.

The request to insert the Hitler's Bunker in the "List of World Heritage in Danger", fits in the spirit of the 1972 Convention on the "Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage".

Particularly the request is consistent with the logic of the "Heritage of Buildings, Locations and Sites".

The coherence, also, results from the Strategic Objectives of UNESCO to meet new challenges associated with the globalization process and the evolving definition of world heritage.

CONTENTS OF THE REQUEST

The request, above mentioned in the Object, is made by the SAVE HISTORY Committee, of which I am the promoter.

Scope of SAVE HISTORY is the safeguard and the opening to public of the remains with historic value.

For the tragic rôle that Adolf Hitler had in the history of the twentieth century, the Berlin Bunker, where he committed suicide on 30 April 1945, is certainly among these sites and its preservation is not only a German question but of the whole humanity.

This bunker is buried, since more than half a century, in a place of the city of Berlin and, officially, its location is unknown.

During the last years I have studied all the available literature on the bunker, examined documents in the German Federal Archives, identified and contacted the firm which built the bunker in 1943, made checks and surveys "in loco".

The result has been the individualization of the site where the bunker is buried.

The enclosed documentation of my correspondence with the Mayor and the Senatskanzlei of Berlin shows the maps, drawn by me, and a picture regarding the state of the bunker.

You can read, in the correspondence, that the SAVE HISTORY Committee asked to the Berlin Municipality the authorization to unearth the Bunker and, subsequently, to transform it in a Memorial (the third in the zone, together with the Memorial of Holocaust and the Topography of Terror) for "not forgetting the Nazi horrors".

The correspondence with the Berlin Senatskanzlei ends with its net refusal to give the authorization to the opening to public of the Bunker's rest.

The only way to save this historic rest and to open it to public, and mainly to young people that do not know history of the tragedy of the past century, is to include this site in the List of World Heritage. As, presently, do not exist buildings over the bunker's site, this inclusion could discourage destructive actions against the site, like the building, over it, of constructions for private or public use.

Dear Director-General, the SAVE HISTORY Committee will await your kind replay to the present request. We will appreciate your information and instruction on how to cooperate with UNESCO to the implementation of this project, directed to the classification of the Hitler's Bunker as a World Heritage.

Such a definition will be of great influence to the behaviour of the Berlin Municipality and could change, in the future, their "historically losing position" of maintaining buried this historic site, the greatest witness of the horrors of the twentieth century.

With my best regards.

Dr. Pietro GUIDO

SAVE HISTORY
c/o ISEM
Via Kramer, 21
20129 Milano
Italy

Telephone: +39-0276005779

Fax: +39-0276005767

E-mail: info@isem.it

ENCLOSURE: Correspondence with the Mayor and Senate of Berlin.

Milan, 10 May 2002



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP

1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15

Tel. : + 33 (0) 1.45.68.15.71

Fax : + 33 (0) 1.45.68.55.70

Ref. : WHC/74/513/MR

2 May 2002

Assistant-Director General for Culture

Dear Dr Guido,

Thank you for your letter of 9 April 2002, addressed to the Director-General, requesting the inclusion of "Hitler's Bunker" in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Kindly note that nominations to the World Heritage List can only be proposed by States Parties to the World Heritage Convention and not by individuals. As the site is not included in the tentative list of Germany, you may wish to contact the German National Commission for UNESCO (Colmantstr. 15, D-5300 Bonn, Germany, tel. (49-228) 60.49.70, fax. (49-228) 60.49.730, e-mail. dispatch@unesco.de) for information as to whether Germany may wish to include such a site in its tentative list.

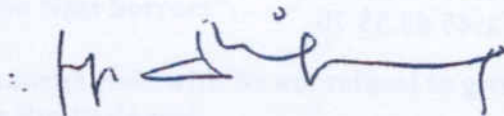
Please find enclosed a copy of the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines for your information.

Dr. Pietro Guido
Save History
Via Kramer 21
20129 Milan
Italy

Furthermore, I wish to inform you that only sites on the World Heritage List can be included in the List of World Heritage in Danger, by decision of the World Heritage Committee.

I thank you for your understanding of our heritage preservation procedures.

Yours sincerely,



Mounir Bouchenaki

Enclosures [2]

cc: Permanent Delegation of Germany to UNESCO
National Commission of Germany for UNESCO
UIE (Hamburg), UNEVOC (Bonn), ERC

GERMAN NATIONAL COMMISSION

For UNESCO

Colmantstrasse, 15

D-5300 BONN

Germany

OBJECT: Proposal of the inclusion of the Berlin Führerbunker in a tentative "World Heritage List"

Dear Sirs,

I have been addressed to you by Mr. Mounir Bouchenaki (letter enclosed), Assistant-Director General for Culture of UNESCO, with reference to the request of the SAVE HISTORY Committee (of which I am the Promoter) of "including the Berlin Hitler's Bunker in the List of World Heritage in Danger".

The reason of my request is explained in the enclosed letter addressed to Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, and supported with the documentation of the correspondence exchanged with the Berlin Municipality (the Mayor of Berlin and the Chef of the Senatskanzlei).

As you know, the presence of the Führerbunker in the World Heritage List is a premise for its inclusion in the List of the Sites in Danger.

At the present do not exist buildings over the bunker's site, but the inclusion of the site in the List in Danger will discourage destructive actions against the site, as the construction of buildings, over it, for private or public use.

Dear Sirs, Save History would like to know if Germany has already included such a site in its Tentative List and, in the negative case, I beg your Committee to examine the opportunity to include the Führerbunker inside the "Tentative List of World Heritage".

Thanking you for your courtesy I remain waiting your kind reply to this letter.

Best regards.

Dr. Pietro GUIDO

Save History

c/o ISEM

Via Kramer, 21

20129 MILANO - Italy

Tel.: +39-0276005779

Fax : +39-0276005767

E-mail: info@isem.it

Milan, 10 May 2002

Mr. Mounir Bouchenaki
Assistant-Director General
For Culture
UNESCO
7, Place de Fontenoy
75352 PARIS 07 SP
France

Dear Mr. Bouchenaki,

I am pleased to thank you for your letter of 2 May 2002, referred to my previous one, dated 9 April 2002 (Ref. WHC/74/513/MR), with object the "request of insertion of the Hitler's Bunker, in Berlin, in the List of World Heritage in Danger".

Following your indication I have forwarded a letter (enclosed) to the German National Commission for UNESCO, in Bonn, with the same documentation I sent to you. I hope that the German Commission will take into consideration the opportunity of including this site in the tentative List of World Heritage.

Indeed, this bunker is, in the view of the Save History Committee, the most important trace and witness of the tragedy generated by the Nazi crimes, in the past century. Young people have to know and remember what happened to the whole humanity.

Hoping to remain in correspondence with you and your organization, have my best thanks and regards.

Pietro GUIDO

Save History
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20129 MILANO - Italy

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Fax: +39-0276005767
E-mail: info @isem.it

SAVE HISTORY



DEUTSCHE UNESCO-KOMMISSION
GERMAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO · COMMISSION ALLEMANDE POUR L'UNESCO

Deutsche UNESCO-Kommission e.V. · Colmantstr.15 · 53115 BONN

Dr. Pietro Guido

Save History

c/o ISEM

Via Kramer, 21

I- 20129 MAILAND

Bonn, 02.10.02

Proposal for the inclusion of the Berlin Führerbunker in a tentative World Heritage List

Dear Dr. Guido,

thank you for the proposal of the SAVE HISTORY committee concerning the German tentative list for the UNESCO World Heritage Programme and for transmitting the earlier correspondence on this matter with both UNESCO headquarters and the Lord Mayor of Berlin. Please excuse the delay in answering, which was due to a very heavy work load.

Following UNESCO's request to establish national tentative lists, Germany handed in a tentative list in 1998, which includes twenty proposals for the 15 years to come.

As you are well aware, the proposals for new World Heritage Sites have to be made by the country on which the site is located. Since Germany is a federal state, the decisions for new nominations for the World Heritage Programme, are made by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK) in consultation with the Foreign Office based on priorities identified by the State. Following your exchange of letters with the Staatskanzlei Berlin, it is clear that the Berlin Senate does not intend to excavate the Führerbunker and that there is no intention to convert this site into a Memorial.

As a consequence, it can be stated very clearly that at this point in time there is no principal intention of the Senate of Berlin to include the Berlin Führerbunker in the German tentative list for inscription under UNESCO's World Heritage Convention.

Yours sincerely

(Christine M. Merkel)

Head of the Division for Culture and Communication/Information

CC: Permanent Delegation of Germany to UNESCO

CC: Mounir Bouchenaki, UNESCO

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DEUTSCHE UNESCO - KOMMISSION

(Traduzione dall'Inglese della lettera di pagina precedente)

Bonn, 02.10.02

Proposta per l'inclusione del Führerbunker di Berlino in una Lista sperimentale del Patrimonio Mondiale

Caro dottor Guido,

grazie per la proposta del comitato di SAVE HISTORY concernente la lista sperimentale tedesca per il programma Patrimonio Mondiale dell'UNESCO e per averci trasmesso la precedente corrispondenza sull'argomento, sia con la sede centrale dell'UNESCO, sia con il Signor Sindaco di Berlino. La prego di scusare il ritardo della risposta, dovuto ad un carico di lavoro veramente pesante.

A seguito della richiesta dell'UNESCO di stabilire liste sperimentali nazionali, la Germania consegnò una lista sperimentale nel 1998, che includeva 20 proposte per i successivi 15 anni.

Come a Lei ben noto, le proposte per nuovi Siti del Patrimonio Mondiale devono essere fatte dal paese nel quale il sito è ubicato. Poiché la Germania è uno stato federale, le decisioni di nuove nomine per il Programma del Patrimonio Mondiale sono fatte dalla Commissione Permanente dei Ministeri dell'Educazione e degli Affari Culturali delle Regioni della Repubblica Federale di Germania, in consultazione con l'Ufficio degli Esteri e sulla base di priorità identificate dallo Stato. Sulla base del Suo scambio di lettere con il Cancelliere del Territorio di Berlino, è chiaro che il Senato di Berlino non intende scavare il Führerbunker e che non c'è l'intenzione di convertire questo sito in un Memorial.

Come conseguenza, può essere stabilito molto chiaramente che, a questo punto, non vi è una intenzione fondamentale da parte del Senato di Berlino di includere il Führerbunker di Berlino nella lista sperimentale tedesca per l'iscrizione sotto la Convenzione del Patrimonio Mondiale dell'UNESCO.

Sua sinceramente

Christine M. Merkel

Responsabile della Divisione per la Cultura e la Comunicazione/Informazione

CC: Delegazione Permanente della Germania presso l'UNESCO

CC: Mounir Bouchenaki, UNESCO

APPENDIX B

REPORT OF THE COLONEL OSIPOV

(June 18th, 1946)

We undersigned, on behalf of the companion S.N.Kruglov, Minister of the Interior of the Urss, have inspected the anti-aircraft bunker of Hitler, ex chancellor of the Reich of fascist Germany in Wilhelm Strasse, Berlin, in the garden zone of the old and new Chancellery of the Reich.

During the inspections, the two Chancelleries and the anti-aircraft bunker have been photographed and we have also drawn the maps (.....).

The anti-aircraft bunker is located in the oriental part of the garden, to a distance of 25 meters from the old Chancellery of the Reich and of 78 from the new one.

The anti-aircraft bunker has two exits: one on the part of the building of the old Chancellery, the other (the emergency exit) on the part of the garden.

On the bunker has been spread out a covering (.....) of reinforced concrete of 8,93 by 7,37 by 4,88 meters.

Near the door, on the part of the garden, on the western side, comes out the superior part of the incomplete plant of airing: on the opposite side, to the distance of 5, 5 meters, is located the watch tower, about 5 meters tall, with three loopholes that could be covered with steel plates and that didn't have any connection with the anti-aircraft bunker. In the inferior part of the tower, near the wall turned toward the building of the old Chancellery, a skylight has been settled (.....) from which an iron staircase goes down directly to the bunker. The skylight is tightly closed with a steel plate. The circumference of the tower measures 15,10 meters.

One goes down to the bunker through a staircase of stone, wide 1 meter, with 36 steps and 4 turns (.....).

The position of some rooms, their measures and the destination are drawn in the enclosed planimetry.

The inside of the bunker shows traces of fire; the furniture is partly charred, the walls and the ceilings of some rooms (waiting room, antechamber, lodging of Hitler, etc.) are covered with soot (.....).

The housing zone of Hitler consists of an antechamber, two rooms (respectively Hitler's working-room and bedroom), the room of Eva Braun and two hygienic services. All the rooms are communicating and have thick wood doors with lock.

In the rooms are still present: in the bedroom of Hitler a wood closet, a broken small safety case and a carpet slightly lacerated along the edges; in the working-room a simple wood writing-desk and a sofa; in the room of Eva Braun a wood bed, a closet and a dresser; in the toilet of Hitler a wood locker, (.....).

The aforementioned sofa is stuffed, it is made out of wood of pine and was covered with a white cloth, with drawings of clear and dark brown flowers. The cover is torn and it maintained itself only on the left side into contact with the wall, between the working-room and the bedroom of Hitler. (.....)

From the detailed examination of the sofa results: on the superior face of the right arm, are visible for a length of 28,5 centimetres, numerous dark-brown and red-brown splashes and also some brown tending to black stains, (.....).

There are, besides, to notice numerous spots of grey colour and of various form, owed to the diffusion of fungous moulds. On the internal face of the arm are well visible, for a length of 36 centimetres, dry stripiness of pale reddish-brown colour that run for almost all its thickness. (.....)

The spots and the splashes on the sofa and the stripiness on the walls have been noticed and have to be examined for verifying their haematic content.

(The Conclusions follow on the wound and on the noticed blood's splashes)

APPENDIX C

OLD DEBATE DUG UP WITH HITLER'S BUNKER

(Washington Post, October 16, 1999)

Berlin, Oct. 15 – Construction workers searching for undetonated bombs just south of the Brandenburg Gate this week accidentally unearthed a different kind of explosive object – the concrete bunker in which Adolf Hitler committed suicide in the closing days of World War II.

The location of the bunker, beneath an unmarked plot of grass, has long been known. But the excavation of the 20-foot chunk of concrete with a tangled mass of protruding iron rods was something that city authorities have tried to avoid as new federal buildings are erected along the former no man's land that was adjacent to the Berlin Wall.

Now that the bunker has been brought to light, it has re-ignited a sensitive debate. Should Germany bury all vestiges of the Hitler era to prevent such sites from becoming neo-Nazi shrines, or should the generations born since the war deal openly with such relics in confronting the Nazi era?

Moving briskly to quell any re-examination of the 1994 decision not to preserve the site of Hitler's death, city officials insisted today that construction work would continue and the bunker would be covered by a new street. A building that will house offices for several German states, and whose foundation is to be laid to the bunker, will be built on schedule.

"The exact spot of Hitler's bunker has been known for many years," said Peter Strieder, the city planning supervisor. "The discovery of these remnants does not add anything to arguments about whether it should be left open for historical purposes. It is not worthy of debate."

Over the years, Germany has tried to obliterate prominent sites connected to Hitler and his top lieutenants to prevent them from becoming rallying points for fascist sympathizers. Last year, workers clearing a site reserved for the national Holocaust memorial uncovered the bunker used by Nazi propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels. It was quickly reburied and officials said the memorial would be built over it, leaving no trace of its existence.

In 1990, shortly after Germany was reunified, workers discovered the underground rooms that housed Hitler's drivers just around the corner from his bunker. The rooms contained faded murals extolling the Nazi, and some historians felt the site was worth preserving, but officials decreed it a danger to public order and sealed off the rooms.

Others, however, argue that it would be futile to deny Nazi historical connection in the German capital. The Foreign Ministry is now housed in the former Reichsbank, where gold stolen from Holocaust victims was stored in the basement. Other ministries are using buildings that once served as offices for the likes of Goebbels and Luftwaffe chief Herman Goering.

Alfred Kerndl, the former head of Berlin's Archaeological department, said he favours preserving the bunkers as historical artifacts. Kerndl dismisses the concern about such locations becoming an inspiration for neo-Nazis, saying the bunkers are not a secret and "every neo-Nazi knows to the meter exactly where they are."

Andreas Nachama, a leader of Berlin's Jewish community, said he sees the value of preserving some remnants of the Nazi era, particularly if they serve a pedagogical purpose for future generations. A good example, he said, is the "Topography of Terror" exhibit built on the site of the former Gestapo headquarters that displays substantial documentation of Nazi crimes.

The emotional quality of the Hitler's bunker, however, is so great that some historians believe that any attempt to turn it into an exhibition of Nazi horrors would be counterproductive. Whether it contains anything of value is also open to question. Soviet troops are believed to have cremated Hitler's body, discarded the ashes, plundered the bunker and filled it with sand.

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APPENDIX F



Aerial view of the area and the spot (black arrow) of the Führerbunker

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I wish to thank all those people that, with their indications, suggestions and opinions have made the drawing up of this book possible.

The first precious contribution has been offered by Hochtief, the enterprise, now become a great industrial group, that built the Führerbunker in 1943 and in 1944. Particularly, doctors Lisa Zindler-Roggow and Birgit Janzen have kindly pointed out the historical sources that could be of help in my search, just started, and have addressed me to the official bodies and the organizations that preserved in their archives documents, witnessing the events of the bunker.

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I don't forget the great difficulties met with for putting me in contact with the Stasi archives: my e-mail, letters and fax, first in English then in German language, didn't receive any answer. Exasperated I communicated that the day X, at the hours Y, I would present myself in their offices.

I was quite decided for everything, even to torture them...but it was not necessary. When I presented myself in the offices of the Stasi, in Otto Braun Strasse, 70/72 I was received by Frau Zabka with a beautiful smile and a cart full of documents: I had to enjoy myself!

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The book presents, moreover, the correspondence with the Berlin Authorities and that one with UNESCO, based on my request of insert the Hitler's bunker in the list of monuments "World Heritage".

Pietro GUIDO

Pietro GUIDO, degree in Economics in Italy and specialized in marketing in the USA, carried out a long activity as corporate manager.

He is author of many articles and books in the area of strategy and marketing.

He passed, in recent times, to the publication of books with contents of general interest, as the politics and historical surveys.

READERS' REVIEWS

Dear Dr. Guido,

I thank you very much, also on behalf of our Managing Director Dr. Keitel, for the forwarding of your book on the Hitler bunker.

As we could evict, our indications have been only a supplementary help.

Thanks to your work, has been written a book on the Führer bunker able to answer to many demands, up to now outstanding. Of particular aid have been the maps, the photographs and the graphics, compiled by you, that give to the readers a vision of the site and the architecture of the bunker. Moreover, the documentation concerning the relationship established after the end of the war around the bunker has given rise to our interest.

We congratulate you heartily with the hope and firm belief that many readers will think the same and that will be able to appreciate your deep work.

Best regards.

Jutta Hobbiebrunken - Director of Communication HOCHTIEF

(HOCHTIEF is the company that built the Berlin Führer bunker, in 1944)

Dear Dr. Guido,

the Mayor of Berlin thanks you for your letter of 28 January 2002 and has read with interest the proposal transmitted by you, regarding the recovery of the bunker of Führer, as well as the historic information that you would like to utilize.

I am really admired for the care demonstrated by you in the locating of the site where the bunker is situated...

André Schmitz

Der Chef der Senatskanzlei - BERLIN

Dear Dr. Guido,

I would like to express my very best compliments for the book, written by you, regarding the Hitler's bunker; may be it will appear strange to you but it were years that I dreamed to find a similar book!

What an astonishment to see your book in that store on the Unter den Linden and moreover it was in Italian!!!

I have read the book with great interest and with the same interest I went to the site to reach the transparent plastic tiny bottle that you have carefully buried. It was snowing but my enthusiasm was too much, I could not wait...

Since April 2002 I live in Berlin for work, but I can say that the true reason that induced me to leave Italy has been my love for the history of Germany and of Berlin, particularly.

Have my warm regards with my compliments for your work.

(Stefania Z., 20 years old, Pordenone - Italy)

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