

## **TRANSLATION OF G.62, TRÄUME UND TATSACHEN**

### **DREAMS AND FACTS**

Among the German soldiers who surrendered in the middle of May in Tunis there were two big groups. The one already saw the war as lost for Germany. The other still believed in final victory. And if one asked on what these optimists based their hopes one always got the same reply:

“This summer we shall launch one last mighty offensive which will finally knock Russia out of the war. While we are doing this, the U-boats will hold off the enemy at our back. And then, once we have got rid of Russia, we will throw ourselves with all our forces against the West and the South.”

Those were the dreams of the middle of May. What are the facts two months later, in the middle of August?

The “last mighty offensive” in the East is over. It began on the 5th July. Fifteen Panzer divisions and 14 Infantry divisions were thrown in on both flanks of the Kursk bulge, south of Orel and north of Byelgorod. Two weeks later the offensive had broken down, and the German armies were thrown back on to their original positions after having suffered severe losses. Two weeks later Orel and Byelgorod were in Russian hands and now, in the middle of August, it is the Russians who are going over to the attack on a broad front. Kharkov is lost, and on the whole Central front from West of Vyasma right down into the northern Ukraine the Russian steamroller is pressing forward.

The German armies in the East are fighting a desperate defensive battle. Their resistance has not yet been broken down but their ranks have been thinned; they lack reinforcements and supplies and are daily being pushed from five to ten kilometres back. The battle in the East continues – with the Russians advancing. One thing is certain. The hope of knocking Russia out of the war has had to be buried.

\* \* \*

And what about the other hope, that the U-boats were to hold off the enemy from the West?

At the time that optimists among the Tunisian prisoners were expressing this hope, the biggest U-boat offensive of this war had, unbeknown to them, already started, and was being smashed. In May 1943 the mass-killings of U-boats began. In the three months May, June and July more than 90 U-boats have been sunk. The Allied shipping losses have been so reduced that for the first seven months of 1943 the net increase of Allied merchant tonnage – that is, a surplus of new buildings over sinkings – now amounts to more than three million tons. And at the same time the numbers of U-boat destroying weapons – destroyers, aircraft carriers, corvettes, frigates, gun-boats, torpedo planes, fighter planes and long distance bombers – are increasing from day to day. The mortality rate among German U-boat forces – 20 per cent – is already now the highest of any service of any of the belligerents. The task set the U-boats is daily becoming more impossible, their position daily more hopeless.

\* \* \*

There is nothing surprising about this. It would be surprising if things were otherwise. The position is what one would expect it to be according to the simple mathematics of war. Eighty million Germans – even with the help of 12 million foreign forced labourers – cannot possibly in the long run hold out against the 400 million Britons, Americans and Russians, either in the battle of production or on the battlefield. They could only win successes as long as their opponents were unprepared and unarmed. Those days are over. The war machines of America, Russia and the British Empire are running at full speed. Already now the Allied war production is five times that of Germany, and the superiority of the Allies on all fronts, on land, on sea and in the air, is growing every day that the war continues. With every day that the war continues Germany's position gets worse.

## TRANSLATION OF G.62, TRÄUME UND TATSACHEN

\* \* \*

Sicily is lost. Mussolini has been got rid of. The Italian people are demanding peace. The Axis Rome-Berlin has been broken. The German southern front has been ripped open and there is a shortage of troops to fill the gap.

And for all this only a small part of the Anglo-American armies have so far been engaged in the battle. In the whole Mediterranean sphere further armies are standing at the ready. Even greater armies stand in England.

“Before the leaves fall” Churchill said, “great battles will be fought, in the Mediterranean and elsewhere”.

In Germany itself the air defences are being broken down. During the last weeks the RAF losses in their big attacks have been reduced from roughly 5 per cent to 3 per cent. The weight of these attacks is increasing from month to month. The nights are growing longer. Every week the radius of RAF attacks is increased by 100 kilometres. From the South a second air striking force is coming nearer. On the 14th August the first heavy attack was carried out against Wiener Neustadt. The Luftwaffe is helpless. The German industrial towns lack protection.

These are the facts. Goebbels may try to disguise them but no one can alter them. The position of Germany is that of an encircled army. The choice before her is: capitulation or destruction. Tunis or Stalingrad. Palermo or Hamburg. Life or death.

\* \* \*

The Allies are not interested in destruction. Churchill has declared:

“We, the United Nations, demand from the Nazi, Fascist, and Japanese tyrannies unconditional surrender. By that we mean that their will power to resist must be completely broken and that they must yield themselves absolutely to our justice and mercy. It also means that we must take all those far-sighted measures which are necessary to prevent the world from being again convulsed and wrecked and blackened by their calculated plots and ferocious aggression. It does not mean, and never can mean, that we are to stain our victorious arms by inhumanity or be mere lust of vengeance, or that we do not plan a world in which all branches of the human family may look forward to ‘life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness’.”

**This then is the prospect if you capitulate: A new beginning. A new life. A new Germany, in a new Europe. And if you continue the struggle? Ask the survivors of Stalingrad. Ask the survivors of Hamburg.**

**The war is lost for Germany. It is up to you to decide how many of you survive it. It is up to you to decide whether you survive it.**

**Your fate lies in your own hands.**

**THINK OR DIE!**