

SUPPER IN NÜRNBERG by Bernhard Stenholm

(translated by Iwan Morelius)

Some years ago I got in touch with the Swedish actor/author **Bernhard Stenholm**, living in Stockholm. He was a great admirer of **Dennis Wheatley** and Bernhard had a complete collection of all his books in Swedish editions. He phoned me as I was then the founder and publisher of **DAST-MAGAZINE** and asked me if we could have a talk about Dennis.

We met in Bernhard's home in Stockholm and then he showed me a play he had written about Dennis and which he had hoped to be shown on TV later on. But it did not fall out that way and that night Bernhard gave me and my DAST permission to publish this play five years after his death. Now (February 1989) more than five years have passed since Bernhard died, and when I moved to Spain I found the manuscript I got from him. I'm sure that it could be of interest to all DAST-Members to know about this fascinating play. So here it is and a Great Thank You, Bernhard, wherever you are, for a fine job.

This PLAY was first published in **DAST-MAGAZINE** issue No. 2 1989, but I read it again this year (2010) and wrote an email to Charles Beck asking him if he thought a translation would be of interest to our DW-fans. He said yes, and here it is.

SUPPER IN NÜRNBERG – SCENE ONE

1. You see Westminster Bridge with the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben. This classic picture is only shown for a very short time.
2. The camera pans to Big Ben. It strikes five.
3. You see the back of a big chair. You see a hand resting on the arm. Opposite there is another man in a Wing Commander's uniform. A nice, calm face with dark swept back hair. Between the two men on the large desk is a little black box. The hand disappears but is quickly back with a fat big cigar which is lighted. The man in the Wing Commander's uniform is Dennis Wheatley. The hand pushes the little black box forward to him.

Wheatley : "And what's your order, Sir?"

Churchill: I'm not any longer in a situation that I can give such orders. This will be your own decision.

Wheatley looks at him for a long time, takes the black box and puts it in one of the uniform pockets.

Churchill: Good, you are the only mad man who is willing to take this risk. And from a drawer he takes out a notebook. He writes on the block, which contains some sort of passports. One can read between the printed lines: "Wing Commander Dennis Wheatley" and a bit further down "Nürnberg Prison" and finally the hand writes: "14 October 1945".



SCENE 2

1. Takes place in a big room with a high ceiling. A small group of soldiers are working right in the middle of the room. They are raising a big platform and over it you can see three big gallows.
2. Two soldiers are adjusting strong ropes on the gallows.
3. One soldier is testing a square trap, which falls down with a very loud noise.
 1. Two other soldiers are working on a stairway which leads up to the platform.
 2. Next is a wide corridor inside the prison. A lot of cell doors. In front of one of them two men are standing, one older, one younger. It is the Hangman and his assistant. The Hangman opens the little hole and looks into the cell.
 3. Through that hole we can look into the cell. It is a small one, only 3 x 4 meters with a bed of iron, a table and a chair plus a wash basin. At the table a big man is sitting. He is wearing a uniform too big for him, made of light cloth. There are no rank markings on the uniform. The man is writing.
 4. The Hangman closes the hole. On the door the number 5 is painted and beneath one can read the name **Hermann Göring**
 5. The Hangman: "He has lost a lot of weight, I can see. We have to let him fall a bit longer. Let's say 1 meter 30 centimeters!" The assistant make a note of this in a small book. They both go to the next cell.
 6. The next door has the number 6 and here one can read **Joachim von Ribbentrop**.



Joachim von Ribbentrop

(photo from Google)

Into the broad corridor comes Dennis Wheatley in his uniform and a tall captain in a US uniform. Behind them two soldiers push a big food trolley on which we can see a lot of silver and a silver cooler with some bottles of champagne. On an ice-bed lies a pile of black caviar and stuck into the ice is a bottle Russian Vodka. The group makes a stop outside cell number 5. The captain unlocks the door and opens it.

The Captain: "In one hour, Wing Commander!"

He makes a salute and the two soldiers let Dennis Wheatley take over the trolley.

7. Wheatley takes the trolley into the cell and Göring stands up from the table and makes a slight bow.

Wheatley: Wing Commander at your service, Reichmarshall!"

Göring looks at the trolley and Dennis Wheatley a bit dubiously.

Göring: "Is this instead of the priest which you denied me? What does this matter ? I will not have enough time to shit this good food out of me. And I've drunk enough champagne to fill the giant barrel in Heidelberg and eaten enough caviar to fill a vafeish belly!"

Wheatley: "This is a greeting from Mr Marlborough!"

Göring: "Donnerwetter, are you coming from him? It's like that man to show kindness to a beaten enemy. Sorry we didn't meet each other!"

"But I sent him messages by air!", he continues.

Wheatley forces a sort of smile.

Göring looks at the table packed with all kinds of food and bottles. He lifts the silver cover which reveals two big gratinated lobsters.

Göring: "Am I going to eat all this?"

Wheatley bows in turn, takes out a white damask cloth and lays it on the table and takes out two plates and places them on it.



Wheatley: "No, this is for the two of us!"



Quick as a head waiter Wheatley has set the table, put the plates in place plus knives and glasses. During this time Göring picks up a bottle of champagne and looks at it.

Göring: "Good! (and

fill two glasses), how on earth could you accuse me of liking Rheinwine?"

Wheatley: "What?"

Göring: "In one of your books you let me offer the hero, Gregory Sallust, a dinner and then serve him a *Marcobrunner Cabinet 1900!*"

Wheatley: "I'm really sorry and beg you to forgive me. I don't like Rheinwein myself!"

Göring: "Of course not, you were a wine merchant yourself, I know!"

Wheatley: "Yes, for twenty years, and my father and grandfather too!"

Göring takes the glass from the table and makes a toast to Wheatley.

Göring: "It's good there are nice wine merchants too. In the cell to my right there is another I will never forget. Your health!"

Both men drink.

Göring: "That damn little dirty delivery boy at Henkells wine company. It is in fact his fault that you and I are here now.

He told the Führer that you English would not fight for Poland at all!"

Wheatley: "Well, in politics and war it is easy to make mistakes!"

Göring: "Our mistakes were as many as the caviar eggs over there on the ice. May I?"

Göring takes a big spoon of caviar and puts it on Wheatley's plate.

Göring drags the table close to his bed and sits down on the bed. Wheatley sits down on the only chair in the room, opposite him.

Göring: "I hope you will excuse the simple accommodation herea direct result of all my own mistakes!"

Wheatley: "Well, I think I understand what you mean...!"

Göring: " No, I made two enormous mistakes. The first one was that I did not understand your radar system and therefore lost the battle in the air. The second one was far more terrible because I was totally blind in my loyalty to the Führer. That's why we are sitting here and not in the dance hall at **Karinhall** between the red pillars made of Veronian marble (Göring strokes his hand on the rough military blanket he is sitting on) and on the white leather chairs!"

Wheatley eases the vodka bottle from its hole in the ice.

Wheatley: "A little **Moskovskaya**?"

Göring: " Mein gott, that was the Führers' mistake!"

Wheatley looks a bit questioningly at Göring. He doesn't follow Göring's train of thought.

Göring: "At the beginning the Russians surrendered like whole Army Corps and in the villages they came out with bread and salt like to old friends...!"

Wheatley: "You know the Devil you have but not the one you will get!"

Silence while they drink the vodka and then drink a glass of champagne the way the Russians do it.

Wheatley: "I agree with you. If Hitler hadn't treated the Russian people so badly he might have defeated Stalin. He was also unlucky with the winter weather in Russia. But all this is history now and we know that both of us, don't we? During all my years on the British Joint Planning Staff, where my job was to think like Hitler, I also studied your life very closely. There are many things I don't have an answer to. May I ask you those questions now? It would be good for my understanding and enhance my reputation as an author to boot !"

Göring looks at him, could it be a trap? No, Wheatley's calm and honest face tells him it's OK and with a slight nod of his head he tells him to go on with his questions.

Wheatley: "How could it be that you, who during all your life had been a big, happy and boyish man with an enormous appetite for life...."

Göring: "...no....no, it was in fact on the contrary. Being a fat boy as a youngster, gave me the image of a giant baby, which you must have seen many times. But if you had seen me as a lieutenant and chief of the Richthofen flying squad I was thin and very serious, But during this trial I lost another 40-50 kilos. I really enjoyed getting my strong body back. Well, I will soon lose it again...I'm sorry if I interrupted you ... "with an enormous appetite for ..." was your last sentence, Mr. Wheatley!"

Göring drinks half a glass of champagne in one gulp.

Wheatley: (a bit surprised by Göring's precise memory)...appetite for ...for...simple enjoyment: hunting, flying, walking in the woods, bathing in the sea, sports cars, simple food like Sauerkraut mit Eisbein...how could it be that you came to want to build Karinhall in marble and gold and then plundered all those museums to fill those giant walls ?"

Göring: "There you are completely wrong. I didn't plunder. I payed for everything very correctly....it was only Jewish art collections..."

Wheatley: (with a disapproving smile)...I didn't really think of the money. If you take trainloads of art from a country it must be called plundering even if you pay some symbolic marks for it!"

Göring: "That's right...it relates to my youth, of course. **Schloss Veldenstein**, a Middle Ages castle with heavy oak panels and enormous beams in the ceiling and big open fireplaces where the fire was lit both winter and summer. And outside the windows you could see the magnificent Bayriche mountains. It was my godfather's castle, **Ritter von Epenstein**, who gave it to my father to live in. There I lived a Middle Ages life of richness and luxury without even belonging there.

12. **Lilli Epenstein's** face in widow's weeds (she was a witness)

Lilli: "I'm the widow of Ritter von Epenstein, Hermann's Godfather. He was a Jew and very rich. In the 15 years he and Mrs. Göring were lovers Hermann's father was not allowed to come near the part of the castle where **Franziska Göring** lived with my husband. Hermann didn't like his mother. When he was only three years old he hit her in her face. He preferred to call me or **Frau Graf Mom**; we took care of him during the three years when his mother and father were on **Haiti**, where he was General Council. My husband, Ritter von Epenstein was born a Jew but converted to be a Christian, a Jewish traitor, but little Hermann loved him. He decided who was a Jew or not, he said. He inherited the castle when the old Jew died and later on he got the big one from me, so now he is the owner of both **Mautendorf** and **Vendenstein**. God bless him, little Hermann!"

We go back to Göring and Wheatley in the cell. Göring puts a big helping of caviar on the black bread and squeezes a slice of lemon over it. He looks at the sandwich with a hungry smile.

Göring: "There I lived my youth years surrounded by the old castle where everything was just giant and surrounded by all the white mountains. When I was 9 years old I climbed the **Grossglockner** together with a brother-in-law, and when I was 15, one of the peaks of **Mount Blanc**. The whole Mautendorf was filled with beautiful tapestry from the 15th century. I could stay there for hours just looking at them. To look into that world of knights, maids, tournaments etc.!"

Göring has stood up and is wandering between the W.C. and the table in the little room. Suddenly he stops, goes back to the bed and sits down on his bed.

Göring: "And your second question?"

Wheatley takes the last of the caviar from the glass bowl and spreads it on his bread while he talks.

Wheatley: "The second question maybe will be a bit more difficult for you to answer. How could you, who had shown such courage on so many occasions - I think of all those raids with **the Richthofen Squadron**, on one occasion someone counted over 50 bullet holes in your plane and when you returned to base wounded - you who had such a good moral sense and who was on Mrs Göbbel's side when she accused her husband of being unfaithful, you who loved children, animals and peace, you who was an honest man, how could you support a leader and a regime who did the most cruel and criminal things against humanity?"

Göring is sitting with his face turned to the wall. His uniform is too big for his thin body. There is nothing left of that old boyish face. His face is made of stone.



Karl Koller

Göring: "At this moment, facing death, I have a need to be believed. I had nothing to do with the fire in the Reichstag, but I took advantage of it ...but the other things? How could I explain that? Maybe I was just a coward!"

14. General **Karl Koller** (another witness) comes into the picture. He wears an Air Generals' uniform, but without the cap.

Koller: "Hermann Göring was both a brave man, and also afraid. At the end, very afraid. When his armoured train stopped at **Beauvais** north of **Paris**, he let his own personal wagon stay in the tunnel when the rest of the train with his staff were unprotected...he..."

15. The minister of the German weapon production **Albert Speer** (a witness)

Speer: "Göring was dishonest psychopath who forbade General **Galland** from telling the truth that enemy aeroplanes could easily fly and reach their targets anywhere in Germany.

Wheatley and Göring are still at the table.

Göring : "My cowardice could sometimes be looked upon as loyalty. I built up a special sort of morality which maybe saved me from taking any responsibility. It was so easy just to follow the masses, the flags and what happened around you. I think of the party-day in Nürnberg when hundreds of thousands of people stretched out their hands to us. The white wall between us and the masses and the loud shouts: "Sieg Heil, Sieg Heil!" We were right in the middle of a masquerade and we were dressed up for the occasion.

Every time I let my tailor, Capos Strechbarths, make me a new uniform it was like being born again.

And all that cowardice while I gave my loyalty to the Führer. What a comic tragedy. In the end I was hated and ordered to be shot by the Führer. If anyone should have condemned him it was I. But I did not. I was too afraid to do it!"

"Everyone had their own gun under the table when we were in the Bunker with Hitler. Do you think it was easy to be a Crown Prince then? You had to say 'yes', but you had nothing to do with the decisions. You were ignored!"

Wheatley: "Your first answer was interesting. I had a similar theory. One's childhood is very important. Did you like your godfather Ritter von Epenstein?"

Göring: "Yes, and when I was a little boy there was no hatred against the Jews. We had no anti-semitism in our family at all. He was strong and just like a God. I was really more fond of him than of my father!"

Wheatley: "Was it really like that?"



Hanna Reitsch

Göring: "Yes, I know it was **Hanna Reitsch**, a female pilot who flew **von Grim** to Hitler's bunker in Berlin came to me when I was a prisoner at **SS** and told me how angry the Führer was at me. He was furious..."

She was a horrible woman in leather boots and a leather coat. The same day I saw my wife Emmy standing in a window when the column of cars started. She had a white frock and a sunhat. Like a good memory of the best days on the beach at the island Sylt when I built sandcastles for Edda.

You must believe me, that's the life I wanted to have. All the other at Karin hall, the castle and the house in Berlin and the red carpets all that was just an escape from a reality I didn't know but felt with great fear. For me it was more important to save beautiful art from the bombs than to save people!"

Wheatley: "Did you invent the concentration camps, the death camps?"

Göring: "Yes, the death camps and the medical experiments but I was not able to deal with that. If I had done that I had destroyed my own family and I was too cowardly for that. Instead I played some sort of a modern **Cesare Borgia!**"

Wheatley: "I will not ask you all the questions already posed by the court and by the judge but I would like to ask questions which go directly to your heart in the hope of getting honest answers. Shall we try that?" I think we just could go on with this **Hombard a la Americaine** with which **Mr. Marlborough** thought a **Ochfener Bocksteiner Natur 1939** would taste good.

SCENE 3:

The two gentlemen are right in the middle of the lobster feast. They drink the good wine and the atmosphere has changed a bit. A gourmet like Hermann Göring can't be uninfluenced by such an array of good food which has been cooked to perfection, but his happy expression disappears when Wheatley starts talking

Wheatley: "It was in fact you who built the first concentration camp?"

Göring: "Yes, that's true, after an English prototype!"

Wheatley: "The Boer War?"

Göring: (makes a bow) I built a couple of camps for the rehabilitation of political enemies. We needed them for the very educated people who didn't have any fault other than the fact that they were our political enemies!"

Wheatley: "But it didn't take long until beating, torture and murder were common stuff in those "education" camps!"

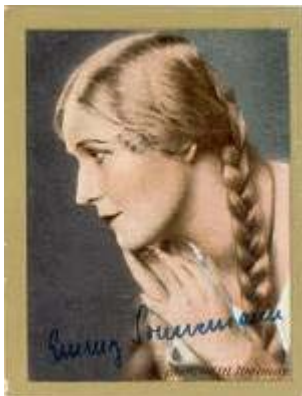
Göring: "When I got the news I closed three camps at once. One in Breslau, one in Stettin and one in Berlin and I let ten thousand out of them. I sent some of my men to investigate a camp in Osnabrück, but they were shot at by the camp people. Via Hitler, Himmler was forced to close it. That was 1933. In April 1934 Himmler took over that camp; after that I had nothing to do with it!"

Wheatley: "And didn't want to either, I think?"

Göring: "That's true, my fear for Hitler was like a panic. I had no hatred for the Jews. My closest friend for many years was Fieldmarshal **Milch** and he was a half Jewish!"

Now we can see **Emma Milch's** face (a witness) wearing a thin veil.

Emma Milch: "**Erhard Milch**, my son the Field Marshall, has a Jewish father, David Milch, who still lives in Breslau. Göring forced me to falsely confess that his father was in fact a certain Baron Hermann von Bier, who I did not even know. I have never been unfaithful to my husband. I did it for my son's career!"



Emmy Göring to the left and Erhard Milch to the right

Ilse Ballin and Ida Gerschman, two elderly ladies in grey cardigans (two witnesses)

Ilse: "My husband is a furniture dealer in München and this is my sister Ida. We are both Jewish and married to Jewish men. In November 1923 when the Nazis tried to make a raid. Hermann Göring was wounded and taken to my husband's shop. "

Ida: We dressed his wounds and ordered a doctor to see him and help came very fast. In the night when it was dark, we took him to a private clinic where a close friend, Professor von Acch, was the director. This was in 1923 and we helped Göring from going into prison!"

Ilse: "After Hitler took over Germany, Göring sent us money in order that we could learn English. Shortly after that we got new passports and were given many thousands of dollar so we could leave Germany!"

Emmy Göring with a simple dark dress (head-witness)

Emmy Göring



Emmy Göring: "Whatever my husband Hermann has been involved in I'm absolutely sure he has not killed or tortured any Jews. He had so many Jewish friends, Lill Eppstein who he really loved, a lot of actors he saved from prison or death. He never stopped helping when I asked him. I remember once when it was almost impossible. It was the Jewish wife of a Polish Military Attache', who was my close friend, and he let her travel in a sealed railway wagon from the war lines in Poland to Switzerland. That was very brave of him....!"

Wheatley: "I think and also know that you saved a lot of people at the beginning of the Nazi era, but what happened later on, let's say after the attack on **von Rath** in Paris?"

Göring: (stops eating and takes a gulp of wine, thinking) "A novelist like you must be very careful with his characters and their credibility. Their thoughts must be believable. I'll give you an example of a real "novel-proof" that I was absolutely innocent of what happened on the so called Crystalnight in Berlin, the massacre and killing. On the 8th of November I was in München to celebrate the day of the riots there one year before (1923). Early in the morning I entered my private train in order to go back to Berlin. When we passed Halle Bodenschatz we saw that the city was burning. When we saw it was burning even in the next city we talked to the chief of the train who told us it was Jewish synagogues burning and the Jewish warehouses. My first thought was that the cities had been attacked by aeroplane in an air attack. I didn't know until I was told that during my absence the Jew Grynspan had killed von Rath. And when I came back to Berlin and was told about all the damage I was furious and phoned Göbbels and said: "It is very easy to start a hunt of Jews, but I am responsible for Germany's finances and they are badly hurt by your ruthless speeches and acts.

Do you believe me now that I'm innocent, Mr. Wheatley?"

Wheatley: "Yes, I'm convinced!"

Göring: (turning his glass between his bejewelled fingers) "My conscience forces me to admit that I have not always been as innocent in my life like here. Talking about "Der Österreiche Anschluss" (= Austria's connection to Germany) I was very active because Hitler believed in a Great Germany (Grossdeutschland) and wanted to have his native town there. And in the case of **Ernst Röhm**, I'm guilty. But there are many reasons for that. I'm a womanizer and when Röhm openly demonstrated his perversions I thought he was a shame for his party and the Führer, well, all Germany, which we wanted to be as strong and blonde as possible. It was their lives or ours. I had no joy in murdering people...it was only a sad necessity. But it was a real crime I admit, the only one I did in cold blood.

(Göring is thinking but he has some difficulty finding the right words to express himself...)

One man, **von Gehrlich**, accused me in a lot of articles, for taking brides from BMW to recommend their fighting planes. That was during the First World War. That insult I'll never will forgive and I personally put his name on a list of Röhm sympathizers. He was shot.

(Göring stands up and starts walking like before)

"Just this which I've told you now was enough for a death sentence and still he was on the suspect list. But those 50 British pilots I was accused for having killed, I'm innocent of. I didn't know anything about that. People got behind my back. Everyone knew I would not have given permission for that. Afterwards I was devastated and not only because of the thought that my pilots could get the same fate in your prisons of war. I've always said; in the air we are enemies but on the ground we are comrades!"

Wheatley: "Yes, in that case I have actual proof

Göring: (with a great smile) "No, tell me...!"

Wheatley: "One of my friends told me that as a young lieutenant he had an air battle with a pilot in the Richthofen squadron. They were flying around a long time shooting at each other and at last my friend was forced to land on German ground.

He had hardly hit the ground when he saw the German plane land just behind him. Out came a young officer running towards the British plane. He would easily have been able to shoot the German, but didn't. When the German pilot reached him he took my friend's hand and said: "You are a good flyer. My name is Hermann Göring!"

Wheatley: "There is another terrible thing I want to ask you about right now at the moment of truth. In Germany for a long time there were 'scientific experiments' with prisoners in so called compressed air chambers and cold chambers. They were said to be of value for the German air force...!"

Göring lifts both his hand in an indignant gesture.

Göring: "No, it was Himmler who was responsible for those inhumanities and neither I nor Milch knew of such things happening. They accused Der Luftwaffe for being responsible for things they didn't do. V-missiles didn't belong to us. They belonged to the Army. And I can tell you that even if we had known about them we could not have done anything about it. It was not our area.



You didn't know our Führer. No one could influence him and if you talked too much it was to risk your own life. I begged him not to go for Russia. I was not alone. But he was the one who had the final word. But once, I succeeded. It was when he had decided to invade Sweden. Sweden was like my second homeland, my beloved first wife's homeland. This time he listened to me and maybe because it didn't mean too much to him then. He was happy to get his iron ore and his troop transports through Sweden. But that was also the only time I dared to raise my voice to Hitler.

Karin Göring

(Wheatley clears away the empty plates and sets down a big bowl with giant pears and a tray with cheese, a bottle of Dry Sac and two very thin glasses. Göring takes a pear and splits it in two and chuckles)

Indirectly I saved England when I stopped Hitler pushing all your troops into the sea with his armoured tanks. I wanted my Air Force to do the main thing and he let me. And you could evacuate your troops at Dunkerque. And between us, your Spitfire was better than my Messerschmitt.



There were some happy moments during those many years. I remember specially one. The night after Anschluss I was sitting on our terrace at Karinhall. I had the radio on and heard all the people shout in exultation in Vienna greeting the Führer. I had a blanket over my legs and all the birds were singing in our garden. I had a telephone call with Ribbentrop of all people and I could not keep out my happiness. I thought that was the last conquest and that the future was just in front of us. Then came the attack of the Austrian Jews. That time I was very brave. I told both Hitler, Himmler and Heydrich that I wanted to burn my uniform as a protest !"

Wheatley: "Was it ever burned?"

Göring: "No, I was probably too scared of them all and too weak to use my beautiful uniform. People were laughing at my fantasy uniforms but it was the same with them as with the monuments and my collecting of art. It was just some sort of therapy to keep my mind from all that was happening around me. There was a reason for using those special uniforms. I was very fat at that time and I thought maybe the uniforms would draw attention away from my fatness. And now it is gone. I have lost 60 kilos here

(Göring stands up and shows Wheatley)

But I'll never get a new one. This is the last uniform for me!"

Göring at Långbro Hospital the year 1925



“The maids at Veldenstein used to give me the guest uniform caps to play with when my Godfather Epenstein had a party. The morphine was the same. A way of escape from reality. But first to hide my shame for what happened in München, the shame to be an ex combat flier and not at all worthy of my beloved Carin who died for my sake. She should have been in bed but instead she joined me on all my meetings and missions in Europe. When we lived in Sweden, her country, I was in such a bad condition/shape that I had to be locked in at **Långbro Hospital** for six whole months.

Chief doctor Hans Hallgren (witness)

Hallgren: “Hermann Göring was for six months under my supervision and was after that time free from drugs. He is a man who invented things, is a liar, he lacks morality and braveness. He is a hysterical man, with an unstable character, sentimental but also very hard, and a man with a violent temper driven by fear. As with many other men who can display great courage, he doesn’t have the form of courage you need to confront moral problems.

As soon as Göring was free and got the power of the Prussian police behind him he sent agents to the hospital to get the files from our archives, but his agents did not get there until after anti-Nazi agents had taken photos and published everything.

Wheatley: “A minor question I always have wanted to get the answer to is why you changed uniform five-to-six times a day. Was that a form of therapy?”

Göring: “Not at all. I was sweating so terribly that my uniform was completely wet in just in a few hours. That’s why I had all those uniforms stupid people thought I played Nero in. Plus the sandals. They were wonderful to wear.

SCENE FOUR

The pears are still on the table but the cheese has been finished. Wheatley pours coffee from a thermos. Then he pours cognac into the thin tulip glasses. It’s very silent, but it is a meaningful silence. Both men have the feeling that the supper is coming to an end.

Göring: “Many unimpeachable men were killed after the fire in Berlin. Many of them knew too much. I was thinking of the anticommunist Dr. Oberfohren who was stupid enough to write a memorandum about the fire and Dr Bell who was a good friend of Röhm. In all this I was innocent but I did a much worse “murder”.

(Wheatley looks at him, waiting for a further and more horrible confession)



The fire in Berlin had not even burnt out when I signed *a Proclamation of State*. With a stroke of my pen I removed all the paragraphs protecting human rights from the **German Constitution**. Almost everything was forbidden for the people, but the State could do what they thought best for the State. No press freedom, no rights at all, no secrets on the telephone, telegraph, letters etc. Bugging was allowed, house searches too.

It was I who eagerly did what the Führer wanted and it was I who killed German democracy. I gave Hitler, Himmler and Heydrich all possibilities to use their reign of terror. I was a coward.

But there were brave men. **Stauffenberg**, who put his briefcase at Hitler’s feet with the bomb in **Rastenburg**.

Von Stauffenberg



And Field Marshal **von Witzleben** and General **Stieff** and General **Höpner** plus all brave men who offered their lives to make an end of Hitler. They got a most painful and devilish death under torture. And **Rommel**, the man with so many victories gave up everything to make peace. It was only I who walked after Hitler like a bull with a ring through its nose. Don't think one is not influenced when one sees what's going on around you and what's

Erwin Rommel von Witzleben General Höpner

happened to all the brave. I heard Hitler say: "We will just put them all into the Peoples' Court, no long speeches, and two hours after the verdict is delivered they will be executed!" And so it was.

They took the false teeth from Witzleben, they dressed the prisoners in filthy clothes so they looked like crooks. They were unshaved. Everything was filmed and was shown to Hitler the same evening. I was not there but I have talked to Göbbels and he said that he was close to fainting when he saw the generals were hanged on butchers hooks on the walls with thin steel wires around their necks. They were hanging there struggling against death like animals. 4,980 brave men died like that. Göbbels had to put his hands in front of his eyes. Otherwise he would have fainted. But Hitler saw the film many times and enjoyed every second of it. He was laughing loudly.

This was going on the whole Autumn 1944 until the beginning of 1945 when you were bombing Germany day and night. The court was hit by a bomb, and the chairman **Freisler** was killed. He had learned about this sort of trial from the Russians. He was a Russian communist till 1924 and Hitler called him "our own **Vysjinski**".

Funnily enough I know that the German people loved me.

Wheatley: "How can you be sure of that? I think it must have been as difficult for the people to be honest to you as for you to be honest to Hitler!"

Göring: (smiling) "I know that because of a psychological truth we talked about when we talked about that story of the English and German pilots. Maybe you remember that at the beginning of the war I gave a radio speech where I said that English aeroplanes could not reach the inner places of Germany. If they do my name is not Hermann Göring any more. Then you can call me **Meier**. Everyone thought it was very funny.

So, on the 20th of April, Hitler's birthday, we all were in his bunker to congratulate him. When I later on was on my way back south to Berlin with my staff there was heavy bombing from a lot of American bombers. I wanted to find a public shelter and went in there.

-May I introduce myself, I said. My name is Meier!

You should have seen them. During that raid everybody was laughing like mad and I got a great deal of applause. And still the bombs were falling.

Why did they laugh? Because I told them my name was Meier. I was one of them, a person as afraid as they were but still dared to go opposite that mad man in the bunker. I was Meierand very soon not even that. Salut!"

Wheatley: "Salut!" By the way. It's funny to think that if Hitler hadn't been so afraid of water maybe Admiral Raeder might also have had an accident?

Göring: "Yes, I understand what you mean. He didn't like to fly either. You should see the collapsing of Fieldmarshall **von Blomberg** and the chief of the Army **von Fritsch** as the Nazi revolution's fulfilment.

Wheatley: "If I remember it right you took an active role in the trial of von Fritsch!"

Göring: "Yes, he thanked me afterwards although we never had been close friends.

Wheatley: "And what about the cabinette?"

Göring: "That was my idea!"

Wheatley: "There are some words from **Goethe**, I remembered just now when you were talking about the twelve years of fear. I think it was like this:

"One day Fate will get the German people because they have betrayed themselves in not wishing to be what they are. It's a pity they don't feel the pleasure of truth, abominable that fog, smoke and bestiality are them so dear. It is pathetic they so willingly submit to the power of any mad dog..."

Göring: "Yes, that's absolutely right!"

(Wheatley just a little surprised continues)

Wheatley: I think Goethe was a bit of a prophet and I think he meant all of you!"



General Udet

Göring: "I once had a friend, a friend from my youth, the happy, joyful General **Udet**. When he understood where we/Germany was going, how power corrupts and how I, his friend and hero, followed the mad leaders, he took his life. He didn't want to follow that mad crook. I was deeply sorry when I attended his funeral and cried so hard I hardly saw the coffin. When Udet died a bit of my own life died. That part was also the part I had with my beloved Carin.

"Dear Dennis Wheatley, you have got me so far that for the first time in twelve years I confess to you that being loyal to Hitler was a real crime. I confess my deal in the concentration camps and the murder of millions of Jews, and I think I have to deal with this guilt with the German people – God forgive us – it was not what I said in court that the people was without guilt!"

SCENE FIVE

(Göring is sitting on his bed, head down and seems to be thinking deeply. Wheatley is rolling his glass of cognac. There's a feeling of finality in the air. Suddenly Göring raises his body and sits straight up)



Cranach

Göring: Well, it was a very sad summary, I think. Almost everything I touch in my memory hurts. I was thinking of **Lucas Cranach's** paintings which I loved and collected for so many years. What was it I liked about his paintings? That old court painter from Wittenberg. Now I remember it, it was the royal hunting scenes and the brilliant details when painting the clothes.

Wheatley: "You are right. That was Cranach's strength.

Göring: "Yes, it is possibly so. This was only a sideline here. When I think of all these people I have met and known in Germany there was only one person who was the same all the time. She did not change at all and it was **Chilli**, Carin's maid. She stayed with me till the end.

(Chilli Wachowik a typical young farmers girl with clear eyes. A witness)

Chilli: I came to Mrs. Carin Göring as early that I saw all those men when they arrived in their silky trench coats and dirty skirts. I can understand why they chose brown colour...Mrs. Göring offered them Swedish pea soup with meat plus apple pie and vanilla sauce, which they scoffed down - Hitler, Göbbels, Schacht and the others. Fritz Thyssen was also there promising them millions. He later went off when he realized who they were. He didn't like the camps and the "final solution". They shot him in a villa at the Riviera.

The only one who didn't act like a crook in fact was Göring. I liked both him and his Carin. To me I had a feeling that Göring always played. He did it with his model trains and with all his uniforms.

Wheatley: "Isn't it strange that most people outside Germany were thinking like Cilli. That the Nazi leaders were crooks, dressed up like that.

Göring: "I don't know. Maybe we have to go back to Goethe!"

Wheatley: "I think it was a good explanation. This trial you are going through now is something really unique in history. It's the first time there has been a trial against the leaders and military in a defeated country!"

Göring: "I said to my fellow prisoners at the beginning that maybe we should sabotage the whole thing by answering: "Kiss my Ass" to all the questions. But then I understood it was a fair trial and that our guilt was big. The only thing I can't understand, after we had admitted our guilt for the Blitz against London, is how you could free your own Generals for all the raids and bombing of our cities. Can you answer that, Wing Commander Wheatley?"

Wheatley: "Of course you are right. The whole military system is immoral. It is of course an outrage against all the civilians who don't want to be soldiers. When I was working in Churchill's Joint Planning Staff I was as guilty as you. And if Hitler had overcome over his fear for water and crossed the Channel it is possible that I would have been hanged. But I have a feeling that trial would not have been as fair as this one. By the way, have you often thought about death by hanging?"

Göring: "Yes, I have and who couldn't think of it, being in my situation? It is the unavailability which scares me. I asked Colonel Andrus, the commandant here... (Wheatley nods to show he knows him too) to be put in front of a firing squad in order to die like a soldier rather than be hanged like a crook.

Wheatley: "What happened?"

Göring: "My wish was denied. But I don't want to be hanged and I will not... Would you like to be given a confidence by an old soldier?"

Wheatley: "Yes, lieutenant Göring, brave lieutenant Göring!"

(Göring seems to very touched by all the memories this title reminds him of. He can remember his straight life before he became a Nazi).

Göring: "When they took away all my drugs. I didn't care at all. I was already cured. They also took from me a capsule of cyanocalcium. I gave it to them of my free will and felt OK. But I still have one capsule left.

(Göring stands up and goes to the wash basin)

"This one I hid behind the wash basin and since I came to this cell it has not been searched!"

(Göring takes out a small capsule of thin white glass)

"This one I will take in a few hours when I have been thinking of our long and very nice conversation here. And I'll play with my diamonds. They let me keep three of them here!"

(From his pocket he shows Wheatley three big diamonds and puts them beside the capsule)

In that way I think I can be calm when confronted with my death.

Wheatley: (he takes out from his pocket the black box). "Our Mr. Marlborough had the same idea as you and this little box contains a similar capsule, but a British one!"

(Wheatley puts the black box back in his pocket)

"It's better you put yours away too, I suggest!" I'm leaving you now and will return to London and let Mr. Marlborough know about our meeting. I'll try to remember everything we talked about. As consolation during your last few hours I can say that you will at least be remembered heroic in one way or another

Göring: "Like **Herostratos** who burnt the Diana temple in Ephesus? Well, well! I put all Germany on fire and the ruins are still smoking. Old Meier..."

(Wheatley walks to the door and knocks on it. Göring hides the capsule. The soldier/guard opens the door and escorts Wheatley out. Two soldiers take the trolley and the guard checks that no knives, forks or spoons have been left in the cell.)

The door to cell number 5 is locked and Wheatley and the guard disappear down the corridor)

An open jeep with Dennis Wheatley in one of the front seats passes a well guarded gate. The chief of the guards salutes Dennis Wheatley.

A clock tower shows 0800 then 0900 then 1000 and finally 1045.

SCENE SIX

(Shows the corridor between the cells. A guard walks slowly from one cell to another looking into each one carefully. Everything looks calm until he comes to cell number 5. He looks into it.)

(This is the cell familiar to us. Göring lies on his bed with the blanket up to his face. His left arm is hanging beside the bed. He is dead.)

(In the corridor there is a very loud noise and soldiers are running about and alarm signals are ringing)

Bernhard Stenholm

March 13 1974.



The way Hermann Göring wanted to see himself

(photo from Google)