

smashed. Architects estimate it will take 12 years to tear down and remove the rubble and another 25 years to reconstruct. Familiar landmarks such as the Kaiserhof Hotel, Wertheim's Department Store, Anhauser Railroad Station—are all obliterated.

This vicinity is still mined and full of booby-traps. We are warned to be cautious.

### *What Happened to Hitler*

At Hitler's Chancellery offices—completely smashed—a Russian guard (small Mongolian type; looked about 15 years of age) stopped us. When we gave him a few cigarettes he passed us in.

The roof was completely gone. The rain fell on the walls of pink Italian marble. Everything was in shambles. Hitler's large desk was overturned and its marble top smashed. We observed warnings and looked overhead for falling masonry and girders.

Pete Huss, the INS correspondent most familiar with the building, took us to Hitler's private office, showed us where the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis was signed in the ambassador's room. Here we saw the ruins of beautiful crystal chandeliers hanging from a wall. Went through Hitler's private offices and walked out into adjoining gardens. Huss warned us to follow closely behind him, as the gardens had been mined—two Germans were killed there last week by booby traps. We carefully followed Huss to two large pill-boxes. There we came to the entrance to Hitler's underground air-raid shelter.

Huss displayed a map drawn for him by Hitler's chauffeur, whom he had recognized and picked up on a street in southern Germany. The chauffeur vowed that Hitler unmistakably committed suicide just before the surrender of Berlin. The chauffeur drew for Huss a complete diagram of Hitler's air-raid shelter. The man confessed Hitler had said he would never allow his body to be displayed in Moscow Red Square as a museum piece.

Hitler ordered his adjutant and chauffeur to await in a small reception room in the air-raid shelter adjacent to his private sitting room and told them when they heard two shots to enter and carry out his body and that of his wife (Eva Braun, whom he married 2 days before his death), dig a grave, cremate the bodies with gasoline, and bury them in one grave in the gardens. The chauffeur said the grave could be seen just outside the air-raid shelter. Six blue jerry-cans of gasoline were used to cremate the bodies. He also stated the blood of Eva Braun would be visible on the sofa in Hitler's private sitting room; that Hitler shot himself bending over with his head on his knees and was picked up from the floor, while Eva Braun was shot on the couch. I saw the grave—I saw the six blue empty jerry-cans, and went on to see the other evidence.

Strange as it may seem, no Russian guard was at the entrance of the air-raid shelter, though the electric lights were burning. Huss said, "The stupid Russians—they must have left for lunch—they do things that way."

We toured the shelter completely, saw the small waiting room, about 15 feet long and 8 feet wide; went into the small personal sitting room and saw the couch with bloodstains at the head of sofa—the blood the chauffeur claimed was that of Eva Braun. We then went into Hitler's small student-type personal bedroom. His bed was made of cheap laminated wood and the wood had curled from moisture. Personal effects were strewn throughout the place. It looked as if very few people had visited that historic shelter.

Adjacent to the small sitting room, on the opposite side from Hitler's bedroom, was a small bedroom and dressing room and bath used by Eva Braun. Here we saw her personal effects—combs, perfumes, etc.—strewn on her dressing table. Everything was damp and clammy, with about 4 inches of water on the floor. Pictures had been taken from the wall. Dishes and silverware had been thrown about, indicating that the Russians had done some looting, but that souvenir seekers had not been in the place.

Visited the kitchens. The entire shelter was ventilated with an air-conditioning system and must have been quite habitable.

Huss states that the Russians moved Hitler's remains to Moscow. Hitler's dentist, taken to Moscow, identified his dental work. Hitler's adjutant also went to Moscow to testify. Huss says Hitler is unmistakably dead but the Russians, in their usual manner, wish to envelop his demise in mystery; the Russians will surreptitiously release a news story that Hitler has been found in Spain . . . another story that he has been discovered in Argentina, then one that he is in Manchuria, Japan, etc. This causes great embarrassment, as State Departments write notes of inquiry to countries mentioned and this engenders bad feelings among various nations. Merely another form of Russian chicanery.

We picked up a few things in the Hitler air-raid shelter—just like any G.I. souvenir collector—things that had no intrinsic value; letter-heads, combs, keys, etc.

### ***Russians in Berlin***

Leaving Hitler's fatal shelter, we motored throughout the city. Everywhere we saw complete destruction. The beautiful horses are shot from the Brandenburg Gate . . . the trees of the Tiergarten have no leaves, the branches destroyed by shellfire. I saw 50 corpses exhumed in the Tiergarten almost under the Brandenburg Gate.

There is a black market going in the Tiergarten—from 6,000 to 10,000 people, mostly Russian soldiers, buy watches or anything that one has to sell as I explained in my remarks about Russian-printed Occupation marks. One of our party sold a \$20 wrist watch for \$460. He subsequently cashed the \$460 in Russian Occupation marks into American funds. Watched women selling calico—and Russians buying everything.

I was wearing an expensive wrist watch, worth about \$500.