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NOTES ON DISCUSSIONS WITH REICHSMARSCHALL GOERING,
HELD ON MAY 15 - 16, 1944, ON THE SUBJECT
OF FIGHTERS AND FIGHTER PERSONNEL

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TRANSLATED BY

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Notes on discussions with Reichsmarschall Goering, held on May 15 and 16, 1944, on the subject of fighters and fighter personnel

1. General Galland describes the fighter personnel situation.

Losses in daily operations for the month of April:

Luftflotte Reich	38%
Luftflotte 3	24%
Luftflotte 2	18.2%
Luftflotte 5	12%
Luftflotten 4, 6 and 1	11%

Altogether there was a loss of 489 pilots, (including 100 officers) in the month of April, while there was only a reinforcement of 396 pilots (including 62 officers).

2. Measures to relieve this situation:

(a) General Galland proposes that all fighter pilots be withdrawn from staff appointments if they are still fit for flying.

(b) General of Flying Schools has made available 80 - 100 instructors.

(c) Some qualified night fighter pilots should likewise be transferred to daylight operations.

(d) The Reichsmarschall emphasises that great importance should be attached to good training of pilots who are transferred from other commands, especially in the case of the older pilots.

3. As further measures, General Galland proposes:

(a) that 2 fighter Gruppen should be withdrawn from the east, should be given refresher courses, and should be used in the defence of the Reich.

The Reichsmarschall agrees, and orders have in the meantime been issued to this effect. (II/J.G.5 and IV/J.G.54)

In connection with this, the Reichsmarschall orders that the re-equipment of ground attack units with Fw 190's should be speeded up.

(b) Transfer of II/S.G.2 from the ground attack sector to fighter command. In this group there are 11 pilots with 5 - 90 victories to their credit. The Reichsmarschall refuses this on the following day, after report from Chief of General Staff.

General Galland suggests that if this is not possible, ground attack command should release all pilots with more than 5 victories.

On the following day the Reichsmarschall decided on the suggestion of the Chief of the General Staff that ground attack pilots may only be transferred to fighter command on voluntary application.

Ground attack command must not be decisively weakened by this measure.

(c) To exercise economy in unit commanders, 3 Gruppen of the single-engined night fighters are to be dissolved and both aircraft and pilots transferred to the remaining 6 single-engined night fighter Gruppen. At the same time, 2 Geschwader of single-engined night fighters are to be dissolved. The Reichsmarschall agrees in principle, having regard to the high material losses of the single-engined night fighters in relation to their successes.

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(d) Withdrawal of fighter Gruppen from Luftflotte 3 and their employment in defence of the Reich. The Reichsmarschall does not agree to this.

4. General Galland proposes that any Gruppe Commander who is absent for more than 14 days owing to sickness, wounds etc., be replaced.

The Reichsmarschall does not agree. These cases are to be settled individually. In general the time allowed is to be 4 weeks. General Galland is to form a reserve of Gruppe Commanders and Staffel Captains, who can continually replace commanders who are forced to be absent from duty. This reserve is to be kept together in the form of a course.

5. To improve training General Galland suggests continuous withdrawal of one fighter Gruppe in each division for a period of 8 days to 4 weeks.

The Reichsmarschall agrees, provided the withdrawal of both fighter groups from the east goes on. He wishes that all fighter units should have their own practice ranges.

General Galland is to report to the Reichsmarschall when this order has been carried out.

6. The Reichsmarschall orders that a twin-engined fighter Geschwader shall be combined with each fighter Gruppe and be made operational as soon as possible. Operational range of enemy fighters includes Berlin, Vienna and Munich. The Reichsmarschall expects good results, with bearable losses, from closely combined fighter protection.

In addition, one single-engined night fighter Gruppe from the Berlin area is to be combined with and subordinated to Z.G.26, and also one night fighter Gruppe from the Vienna area with Z.G.76. The main task of both these Gruppen is twin-engined fighter protection, and after that, further single-engined night fighter operations.

Of the remaining single-engined night fighter Gruppen, one Gruppe is to be put into operation in the Dortmund area (remaining Gruppen have not been dealt with by the Reichsmarschall).

7. Regarding the equipment of twin-engined fighters with 5 cm.cannon, the Reichsmarschall is consulting test reports. In accordance with the suggestion of General Galland, it has been decided that, for the time being, only one twin-engined fighter Gruppe (II/Z.G.26) will be equipped with 5 cm.cannon. I/Z.G.76 is to be the first Gruppe to receive 2 machine cannon 103 (besides 2 m.g.151 and 2 m.g.131), while all other twin-engined fighter Gruppen (Me 410) will retain the normal armament of 4 m.g.151 and 2 m.g.131. These also will eventually be equipped with 2 machine cannon 103 in place of 2 m.g.151.

8. The Reichsmarschall wishes the employment of twin-engined fighters in defence of the Reich to remain unchanged for the time being. The idea of using twin-engined fighters in other theatres of war (south-east, east and north), is flatly rejected by the Reichsmarschall, because of their inferiority to enemy fighters.

9. General Galland reports that the aircraft transit depots are not operating quickly enough. At the beginning of May there were 287 night fighters alone in the transit depots.

The Reichsmarschall orders that aircraft depot personnel is to be strengthened by the Generalluftzeugmeister (General in charge of G.A.F. equipment). (Notification through Reichsmarschall's Adjutant)

10. General Galland submits the following as the main problems of night fighting:

(a) The danger of jamming of SN 2 (airborne Radar) after landing of SN 2 aircraft in Switzerland.

Counter measure: Use of SN 3 and Neptun I (airborne Radar)

(b) The fight against Mosquito aircraft.

Counter measure: Use of He 219 with high altitude supercharger and of Me 109 and 190 with GM 1 (emergency acceleration fuel).

11. General Galland will request priority for greater numbers of technically improved fighters at Fighter H.Q.

These are:

Me 109(AS), Me 109 K.(DB 605 D), Me 109 H (increased wing area)
Fw 190(TS), Fw 190(Jumo 213a), Ta 152(Jumo 213e)

12. Generalmajor Schmidt requests strengthening of operations groups of divisions, and also increased authority for the Operations Staff, and formation of a section to cover night operations.

The Reichsmarschall had been informed that the War establishment provided for this arrangement.

13. General Schmidt suggests establishment of a Flak Operations Director with the Staff of Jagdkorps I, corresponding to the Flak Operations Commander with the Jagddivisionen. General Schmidt reports that the subordination of Flak Operations Commander to the Luftgau has not proved effective, as the Luftgau Commander still decides fire control, etc., in doubtful cases. General von Arthelm agrees.

The Reichsmarschall orders Chief of General Staff to confer with General of Flak Artillery as soon as possible.

14. General Schmidt suggests that the transmission to the civil population of reports on the situation in the air should be carried out by the Jagddivisionen. Transmission based on Flak reports does not always correspond to the actual air situation.

It is pointed out that because of the reorganisation of the Air Report Service, which makes the Jagddivisionen responsible for the air situation reports (including Flak reports), this question may be solved.

15. General Schmidt suggests direct subordination of Jagdfuehrer Ostmark to Jagdkorps I and renaming of Jagdfuehrer Ostmark as Jagddivision 8 after completion of news service reorganisation.

The Reichsmarschall objects to this at first, but agrees to the direct subordination of Jagdfuehrer Ostmark to Jagdkorps I, after General Schmidt has stated that the combination of the forces of Jagddivision 7 and Jagdfuehrer Ostmark in this area is the task of the Jagdkorps.

16. General Schmidt proposes the transfer of the fighters of Jagddivision 7 from the Munich and Frankfurt area to the Ansbach-Buernberg area so that a compact group of 4 - 5 fighter Gruppen may operate against the enemy.

The Reichsmarschall agrees, but emphasises again the importance of making the fighter forces into a compact whole at least in Geschwader, and, if possible, in divisions.

General Schmidt proposes the transfer of II/J.G.27 from Jagddivision 7 zone to Jagdfuehrer Ostmark so that this Gruppe may be brought up to full strength again with its Geschwader.

The Reichsmarschall agrees, but wishes to confer with Chief of General Staff. Chief of General Staff agrees. The order can be issued.

17. General Schmidt, in agreement with General Galland, proposes that the flight commanders' course of I/J.G.27 be dissolved.

The Reichsmarschall agrees.

18. General Schmidt proposes that fighter Gruppen should be retained in the Reich, even if the Allies should invade.

The Reichsmarschall decides that only the third Gruppe of fighter Geschwader will stay in the Reich on surrender of their serviceable aircraft and pilots who are fit for flying, in accordance with orders already issued.

19. The Reichsmarschall wishes that when there have been low-flying attacks on airfields, with heavy losses of men and material, defence and dispersal measures should be thoroughly tested by Luftwaffenfuhrungsstab (G.A.F. Operations Staff).

The Reichsmarschall requests an improvement in the training of station companies in firing with AA weapons.

20. The Reichsmarschall wishes to propose to the Fuehrer that American and British aircrews who fire indiscriminately on towns, civilian trains, or men descending by parachute should be executed on the spot.

21. When General Schmidt referred to the difficulties of fighter training at Myo, the Reichsmarschall emphasised that he attaches great importance to the fact that, according to orders already issued by him, the formation leader on every station, being the officer with the longest service, is an authority on such questions, and if necessary can also give orders.

22. General Schmidt proposes the resubordination of I and III/N.J.G.5 to Jagdkorps I.

The Reichsmarschall refuses operational resubordination, but agrees to disciplinary resubordination of these Gruppen to their Geschwader, and at the same time approves the establishment of base airfields in southern Germany for these Gruppen.

23. Generalmajor Kreipe suggests that the monthly fuel allocation be increased to 60,000 metric tons. The Reichsmarschall decides that in view of details submitted to him, the General of Aircrew Training shall receive 50,000 metric tons per month.

24. Generalmajor Kreipe reports that the monthly quota of aircrew volunteers is adequate, but difficulties may arise after autumn.

The Reichsmarschall orders that measures be taken immediately to relieve this situation. (Copy of message to OKW).

A.H.B.6. Distribution

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