

**The Great Telephone Hoax: a forensic Analysis of the "Hitler Telephone"**  
**(sold by Alexander Historical Auctions)**

**The Adolf-Hitler-Telephone-Group**  
**Compiled and Written by Herbert Schwarz, 2018**

## Introduction:

We wrote our forensic analysis despite the fact that a long article, concerning this matter, was written for "Telephone Collector's International" and published in "Singing Wires" in July, 2017. The driving force behind our analysis was that further clarification of the one or the other point in the article was felt to be necessary, as well as that some *very* interesting facts came to light by clearly thinking things through to their logical conclusion.

Before proceeding further, it is necessary to agree upon a common terminology to aid in understanding all of the evidence. To this end, we have decided upon the following definitions for various entities, telephones, etc.: **the generic designation "PTT" shall define the postal, telephone and telegraph administration of the country named.** The German PTT entity *prior* to 1945 shall be defined as the "Reichspost," whose legal successor (the German PTT entity which came into being *after* the fall of the Third Reich) shall be defined as the "Bundespost."

The term "private branch exchange" shall be defined as a "PBX," and the term "public switched telephone network" (which refers to the public telephone network of a national PTT) shall be defined as "PSTN."

The British "General Post Office" (British PTT) shall be abbreviated as "GPO;" original equipment manufacturers shall be defined as "OEMs."

The German term for a magneto telephone is "Ortsbatterie" (literally: local battery), and the defined abbreviation shall be "OB;" the German term for a dial telephone is "Wählapparat" (literally: selection apparatus), and the defined abbreviation shall be "W." Numbers preceded by either "OB" or "W" define the year in which the relevant telephone was either first designed or first placed into service (usually the former).

Thus, a W38 is a dial telephone, first conceived and manufactured in the year 1938, an OB33 is a magneto desk telephone designed in 1933. An exception to the rule is the "W/OB35" desk telephone – this one had a dial and a magneto, but it could only be used *either* as a standard dial telephone, *or* as a standard magneto telephone, but *not* both at the same time; it was first built in 1935.

There is one exception to the telephone-naming rules given above, namely the Siemens dial desk telephone, model 1936 (which shall be defined as the M36): Siemens originally intended the M36 to be the successor to the Reichspost W28, but it *wasn't* accepted on various grounds (amongst which were: the position of the cradle switch, the anti-sidetone circuit, the Bakelite of the housing being too thin, etc.), so it was *only* used in connection with Siemens PBXs. Since the M36 *wasn't* used on the PSTN in Germany, it was never *officially* known as a "W36" telephone by the *Reichspost* (the Reichspost only assigned "W" numbers for telephones connected *directly* to the PSTN; the same also applied to the German Bundespost). However, a *late* version of the M36 (Fg. tist. 221, as opposed to the original Fg. tist. 166) *was* listed as a "W36" in Siemens *company internal* literature of the 1950s.

The terms "M36" and "W38" are used in an entirely *generic* manner throughout this analysis (since both carried *various* Siemens I.D.s throughout their technical life) *except* when direct reference is made to the "Hitler Telephone." The M36 carried such I.D.s as "Fg. tist. 166," 221, 222 or 224, while the W38 was known as a "Fg. tist. 182" or as a 242. We commonly show a model W48 telephone when referring to general, *physical* characteristics of the *W38*, since there was no difference between the two in such respects (however, there were slight *electrical* differences).

Telephones seen in photos of Hitler's rooms in the Berlin bunker are addressed as being "M36 (or W38)" since it is unknown which type they truly were – one would need to be able to get a look the *back* of the phones to be certain (the line cord entrance is different between the two types).

The M36 telephone which we have generally used in an illustrative manner in our analysis is an early-date Fg. tist. 166i, manufactured in Vienna, Austria, in the year 1938.

The term "shadow" applies to more or less blank spaces where objects stood or lay on horizontal surfaces during, and shortly after, the abortive fire in laid in Hitler's bunker quarters, most such objects having been removed while there was still smoke and soot in the air.

Urea-Formaldehyde thermosetting plastic resins will be abbreviated "UFTP," while the term "Bakelite" (*Phenol-Formaldehyde resin*) will only be used when referring to classic black or brown thermosetting plastic. UFTP is practically white in color, thus lending itself to dying in practically any color, as is witnessed by a multitude of colored UFTP articles of all sorts (including telephone housings) from the 1950s and 60s.

The abbreviation "CB" denotes a telephone, a telephone line or an exchange which is operated on a common battery signaling and talking basis (as opposed to magneto operations) – most European telephone collectors differentiate between non-dial CB equipment and dial equipment, while collectors in the U.S.A. usually do *not* differentiate between the two.

The firm "Alexander Historical Auctions" will be abbreviated as "AHA" in this analysis and the German magneto field phone, model 1933, will be abbreviated as "FF33." The German air force observer "Erwin Henschel" will have his last name written *without* a "t," since this is the spelling which Wehrmacht sources used, *irrespective of the fact that internet sources spell the last name as "Hentschel"* – we accept it as a fact that Wehrmacht propaganda companies knew the correct spelling.

*Very* much additional material, comments and observations received during the writing of this analysis has been added in the form of a large appendix; we *apologize* that the material in the appendix is *not* in chronological order. We deeply feel that the information in the appendix is at least as important as the body of the analysis, if not even more so. There is also much information in the appendix which has no *direct* bearing on the "Hitler Telephone," but which was thought to be of possible interest to readers as well.

This analysis was written from a telephone collector's point of view, with additional input (from three Nazi relic/regalia collectors and two dealers of militaria) as found necessary. The analysis is the collective effort of a group of 7 west European telephone collectors (including an *expert* from Great Britain and Herbert Schwarz of Vienna, Austria), one of whom is an *acknowledged expert* on Siemens PBX telephones, as well as input from a telephone collector residing in Australia. The Nazi relic/regalia collectors, as well as the militaria dealers, wish to remain anonymous for the simple reason that collecting Nazi relics or regalia of any sort is prohibited by law in most western European countries. This analysis was researched to approximately 65 percent by, as well as edited, compiled and written by Herbert Schwarz of Vienna, Austria, European Union.

The views and opinions expressed herein are *solely* those of the group of authors, and do not represent those of the members of Telephone Collector's International, either individually or as a body, nor those of the TCI Board of Directors or of the "Singing Wires" Editorial Board, nor does anyone endorse this analysis in any way or by any means.

The first, and foremost, question in this analysis is: **why** on earth should Hitler have run around with a telephone bearing his name? Because it was either given to him by two high-ranking officers of the Wehrmacht, by the generic Wehrmacht itself (thru its adjutancy), or by three Luftwaffe flying aces?

It just **doesn't** make sense in *any* case – everybody *knew* he was Hitler, so *why* should he have a telephone with his name on it, and *why* should he have taken it with him anywhere?

And *why* should the supposed "Hitler Telephone" have been so very **crudely** manufactured, instead of having the look and feel of a high quality item – as any other item given or presented to Hitler most *certainly* had?

We will first concern ourselves with the "paper trail" of the telephone, analyzing its makeup and content, to see if there is *anything* there which **positively and verifiably** supports the belief in the existence of a red "Hitler Telephone" (specially anything putting it directly in Hitler's hands), and then move on to the phone itself, which offers a *very* wide field of investigation. We will round our analysis off with an examination of photographs of Hitler's rooms in the Berlin bunker complex and see what we can find there in the way of **positive and verifiable** proof of the existence of a "Hitler Telephone" **and** its association with Hitler.

*We will determine just how much of the legend surrounding the "Hitler Telephone" is based upon **hard and verifiable facts**, and to what extent it is purely **apocryphal** in nature ....*

(And, we will also be debunking the *myths* concerning two *other* "Hitler Telephones" in passing.)

## EXHIBIT F

During 1985 I asked a German friend, Paul Epping, to write to Rochus Misch, telephone operator in the Fuhrerbunker, who, I had discovered from a TV programme, was living at 133 Petunianan Weg, Berlin. Wanting to find out more about the history of Hitler's red telephone, I was hoping that Paul would visit Misch in Berlin, but his reply (now badly faded), apart from confirming that the telephone accompanied Hitler throughout the second half of WWII, did not encourage him to do so.

Sehr geehrter Herr Major Epping,

vielen Dank für Ihren Brief vom 20. September.  
Auf dem Foto erkenne ich das rote Telefon welches meinen  
Vater während der letzten beiden Kriegsjahre ständig begleitet  
hat.  
Es wäre von großem Interesse für mich, es zurückzubekommen

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

*Sehr geehrter Herr Major Epping*

*vielen Dank für Ihren Brief vom 20. September.  
Auf dem Foto erkenne ich das rote Telefon welches meinen  
Vater während der letzten beiden Kriegsjahre ständig begleitet  
hat.*

*Es wäre von großem Interesse für mich, es zurückzubekommen.*

*Mit freundlichen Grüßen.*

**Dear Major Epping**

**Thank you for your letter dated 20 September.  
From the photo I agree that this was the red telephone that  
accompanied my father (he worshipped Hitler) constantly during the last  
two years of the war.**

**It would be of great interest for me to see it again.**

**With friendly wishes.**



There are *quite* a number of things to be said concerning the *supposed* fax from Mr. Rochus Misch, among which: it is **undated** and bears **no** signature. There is **not one single shred of evidence** linking Mr. Misch to either the faxed letter or to the fax itself. The original German text (including wrong capitalizations, etc.) of the faxed letter is as follows:

"Sehr geehrter Herr Major Epping, vielen Dank Für Ihren Brief vom 20. September. Auf dem Foto *erkenne* ich das rote Telefon welches meinen Vater während der letzten beider Kriegsjahre ständig begleitet hat. Es wäre von großem Interesse für mich **es zurückzubekommen**. Mit freundlichen Grüßen"

An *unknown and unnamed person of dubious qualification* translated the text into English (it is unknown whether the consignor did so, or if someone else is responsible for the atrocious quality of the same). The English translation is *given* as being:

"Dear Major Epping, thank you for your letter dated 20. September. From the photo I *agree* that this was the red telephone that accompanied my father constantly during the last two years of the war. It would be of great interest for me *to see it again*. With friendly wishes."

The **original German text** raises one, *all-important*, question because the **correct** translation is as follows:

"Dear Major Epping, many thanks for your letter of September 20<sup>th</sup>. On the photograph I *recognize* the red telephone, which constantly accompanied my father during the last two years of the war. It would be of great interest for me *to get it back*. With friendly greetings."

Readers need not take our word for it when we translate the German word "zurückzubekommen" with "to get it back;" below is an excerpt of the German-English half of the "New Cassell's German Dictionary," 1965 edition:

**zurückbegeben, v.r.** return (*an einen Ort*, to a place).  
**zurückbehalt-en, ir.v.a.** keep back, detain; reserve, retain. **-ung, f.** retention; detention. **-ungsrecht, n.** right of reservation or retention.  
**zurückbekommen, ir.v.a.** get back; recover.  
**Zurückbeugemuskel, m. & f.** supinator (*Anat.*).  
**zurückbezahlen, v.a.** pay back, repay, refund.  
**zurückbeziehen, ir.v.r.** refer back; be reflexive (*Gram.*). See rückbezüglich.

"Zurückbekommen" means to "get back" or "recover" something and hence "zurück**zu**bekommen" literally means to "**to** get something back" or to "**to** recover something."

It is obvious that the word "zurückzubekommen" was **purposely** mistranslated as "to see it again," because it is **not** a matter of "seeing it again" *as the translation in "exhibit F" claims*, but rather that Mr. Misch would be interested in *purchasing or otherwise re-acquiring* the "Hitler Telephone" for himself.

And this *interest* has the gravest consequences concerning the authenticity of Mr. Misch's fax, which is one of AHA's **greatest cornerstones** in attempting to build up a legend around the telephone's "unshakeable provenance;" **read correctly**, the fax plainly states the fact that the "Hitler Telephone" had been the property of Mr. Misch at some point in time, and that he wanted it back ... nothing more, and nothing less.

Separating fact from fiction concerning this fax is easy: the legend AHA offers claims that Soviet officers, who were giving Brigadier Rayner a tour of Hitler's Berlin bunker, gave him the "Hitler Telephone," which had supposedly been standing on a bedside table in Hitler's bedroom in the bunker, because Rayner liked the color red.

**But:** the fax from Mr. Misch specifically states that the "Hitler Telephone" had been in the possession of (or the property of) Mr. Misch at some point in time ... the **crux** of the matter being that Brigadier Rayner *couldn't* have found the "Hitler Telephone" in the bunker if it had belonged to Mr. Misch (who certainly *wouldn't* have left it there), and Mr. Misch *couldn't* have been the phone's owner if Brigadier Rayner had found the phone in the bunker, because, as the story goes, Rayner had already owned the "Hitler Telephone" in May of 1945, and later handed it down to his son – thus it would have been in the continuous possession of the Rayner family from 1945 until it was sold ... so, when did Mr. Misch own the "Hitler Telephone," how did he happen to lay his hands on it and under which conditions did he sell, or otherwise dispose of it?

One thing is certain: both versions **cannot** be true at the same time, and thus one of AHA's **greatest cornerstones** as to the phone's provenance and authenticity *crumbles into impalpable dust*.

It is also **not** a matter of Mr. Misch *agreeing* that the telephone shown in the photograph was the red one which had accompanied Hitler, but rather one of *recognizing* it as such.

Another thing: *had* Mr. Misch only been interested in *seeing* the "Hitler Telephone" again (as opposed to re-acquiring it), then the last sentence of his supposed fax would have read: "Ich würde den Apparat sehr gerne wiedersehen," the proper translation of which would be: "I would very much like *to see the phone again*." Once more, readers need not take our word for it, refer to the dictionary excerpt below:

**Wiedehopf, m.** (-e)s, -e) hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) (Orn.).  
**wieder, i. adv.** again, anew, once more, afresh;  
 – *und* –, time and again, over and over again; *hin und* –, now and then, from time to time; *immer* –, again and again. 2. *prefix (sep. except when stated, when the accent is on the root)* = re-, back (again), in return (for). –**abdruck, m.** reprint, new impression, recur, reappear, repeat. –**kunft, f.** return. –**schein, m.** reflection. –**sehen, i. ir.v.a.** see again. 2. *n.* reunion, subsequent meeting; *au* –**sehen!** good-bye! *au revoir!* (*coll.*) so long –**spiegeln, v.a.** reflect, mirror. –**strahl, m.** reflected ray. –**täufer, m.** anabaptist. –**tun, ir.v.a.**

The writer of this analysis, Mr. Schwarz, is a fluent, dual-language native speaker German-English. Those who mistrust his translations and/or interpretations should verify them using a good online dictionary such as <http://en.pons.com/translate>.

By the way: the fax does *not* tell us whether or not the "Hitler Telephone" had ever been in *Major Epping's* hands, nor from *where* the dubious photograph (**supposedly** showing the red phone) came from **or** who took it. Our ideas on this point are as follows:

Although numerous photographs of Hitler's bunker in Berlin are to be found on the internet, and telephones are to be seen in some of these, one photograph which we did **not** find is the one which "Major Epping" *supposedly* sent to, and on which Mr. Misch *supposedly* recognized, Hitler's "red telephone;" there are absolutely **no hard facts** proving the existence of such a photograph at all.

**If** the consignor **had truly done his homework** with respect to the phone's "provenance," and actually **had** either found a picture of a red telephone or one of Hitler using such a phone, and this photo **had** been shown to Mr. Misch for identification and confirmation, then **why** didn't the consignor supply the photo to AHA, or, if AHA **was** in possession of such a photo, **why wasn't it shown** in the auction description? (Possibly **because it wasn't a red** telephone after all?)

The existence of such a photo would have had certain, *but still debatable*, value as "supporting evidence" – debatable for various reasons: **1)** because in a black and white photograph, colors only show up as shades of gray, and **2)** because it would be rather difficult to prove that a certain shade of gray represented the exact red color of the "Hitler Telephone," and **3)** from which side was the telephone photographed? (If it had been a black and white photo, then only one of the back of the phone would have been suitable for positive identification.)

The resulting questions are whether or not it would have been possible for Mr. Misch to have *mistakenly* identified a photo (with or without Hitler on it) of an M36 or W38 telephone in *ivory*, believing it to be red, and did he identify the phone in an *intact* state on the photo (complete with its incorrect British handset and cords)? Did memory perhaps play Mr. Misch a trick as to the color of the phone? (One must remember that his *recollection* was **40** years after the fact.) Mr. **Misch's memory certainly played him a** trick or two while he was writing his memoirs – that much **is** certain.

After all, Mr. Misch does not supply us with so much as a single answer in his supposed fax **from the year 1985; he only wrote "Dear ... Major Epping, ... on the photograph I** recognize the red telephone, which constantly accompanied my father during the last two years of the war."

*Neither* the consignor *nor* AHA provided anything *substantial* in the way of supporting evidence as to the person of "Major Epping," either – **exactly** who was he, **who** sent this supposed photo to Epping, **who took it, when and where** was it taken, was it a color or black and white photograph, **was** "Major Epping" a crony of Mr. Misch and under what circumstances did he and Maj. Rayner become friends, or in **what capacity** did he work during the Third Reich, *what became of the photo*, etc.? **Without** definite, precise and supported answers of an unsurpassable character to these and other questions, "unshakeable provenance" **boils down to wild speculation and conjecture.**

It is notable that, in the entire **260 pages** of his memoirs (entitled "Hitler's Last Witness" in the English-language edition, "The Last Witness" in the German-language edition – which Mr. Schwarz bought and read), Mr. Misch **never** mentions seeing Hitler as a father figure, although Mr. Misch was an orphan (having lost both parents by the time he was 2 ½ years old, and his only brother by the age of five), and **never once** refers to him as his "father," but rather only speaks of him as "der Chef" (the boss), "mein Chef" (my boss) or "der Alte" (the old one). If Mr. Misch had been subject to a father (or hero worship) complex concerning Hitler, then it would have been **very** likely that he *would* have committed suicide after Hitler killed himself – but fact is that he *didn't* do so.

In footnote number 74 of Misch's (German-language) memoirs, it is stated that he was one of only **three** persons (who then lived in the "Berghof," Hitler's alpine retreat, near Berchtesgaden in Germany) who **regularly** attended roman-catholic church services there, which proves that he was a religious person, which was **extremely irregular** for members of the SS. They were usually pressured into leaving the roman-catholic church and having their religious belief **changed from "roman-catholic" (abbreviated as "röm. kath.") to "believes in God" ("Gottgl[äubig]"**) in their pay-books, as may be seen here:

6	Religion	röm. kath. gottgl.	
7	Familienstand	verh.	am 5.9.1962

A religious man could and would hardly have seen Hitler as a father figure under any set of circumstances. It is also not to be forgotten that, while it is true that Mr. Misch was a low-ranking member of an SS formation, and while it is further true that he became a **member of the "Führerbegleitkommando"** (Führer Escort Command) after having been seriously wounded during the invasion of Poland, he was **never** a member of the NSDAP (the Nazi party). Why on earth would someone, who strictly declined becoming a member of the NSDAP, **because he apparently didn't believe in its tenants and racial ideals**, call Hitler his "father?" He just **wouldn't** have done so ....

In his memoirs, Mr. Misch **never** mentions Hitler having or using a red telephone of **any** type – something which **would have been so unusual as to be worth mentioning**; Mr. Misch passed away in the year 2013<sup>1)</sup>, so **why wouldn't he have mentioned a red "Hitler Telephone" in his memoirs, but supposedly did** mention one in a fax from 1985? It is patently unbelievable that he would **not** have done so.

<sup>1)</sup> His memoirs were finished by the year 2006 and were first published in 2009.

It is certainly **curious (and VERY fortunate)** that the consignor of the "Hitler Telephone" **didn't offer it for sale or auction until a few years after** Mr. Misch had passed away, thus precluding **any** chance of Mr. Misch publically stating whether or not the telephone was genuine or a forgery (there is **much** food for thought here).

At the time the fax is purported to be from, it was common that fax machines used thermal paper (today they use plain paper), which has the tendency to fade over time – so **that much may be correct, but** one could just as well have used an old fax machine to make a **modern-day copy** of a faked text which was then artificially aged. The big point here is the missing signature – **that** was something which **couldn't be faked, so** it was left off all together. One can find scans of Mr. Misch's signature on the internet, with which it could have been compared; better to leave it off, rather than risk forging it.

There is also the question as to why Mr. Misch should have dug out his typewriter and **typewritten** his letter, when it would have been simpler and have cost less time to simply **write it by hand** – one **can't do that with a fake, because someone could possibly compare the handwriting with original samples found on the internet.**

There is no doubt that the faxed letter **was**, in fact, written on an **old** (German-language) typewriter, because **various letters (most notably the "e"s – and capital letters)** are not vertically aligned with others, and some are out of horizontal alignment as well – this is evident despite the fact that the fax paper is rather crumpled. There are also several typos – wrong capitalization, missing or superfluous commas, etc., and a word used incorrectly.



The problem is that *just about anyone* with a rudimentary knowledge of the German language could have typed the faxed letter (and made the typos we found) – as we have already stated, **there isn't so much as a single shred of hard evidence** that the letter was, in fact, typed by Mr. Misch. We also raised the question as to why it wasn't a handwritten letter, and pointed out that it would be too easy to compare Mr. Misch's authentic handwriting with any letter supposedly written by him ... we provide the following scans as proof that anyone can find samples of Mr. Misch's handwriting and signature.

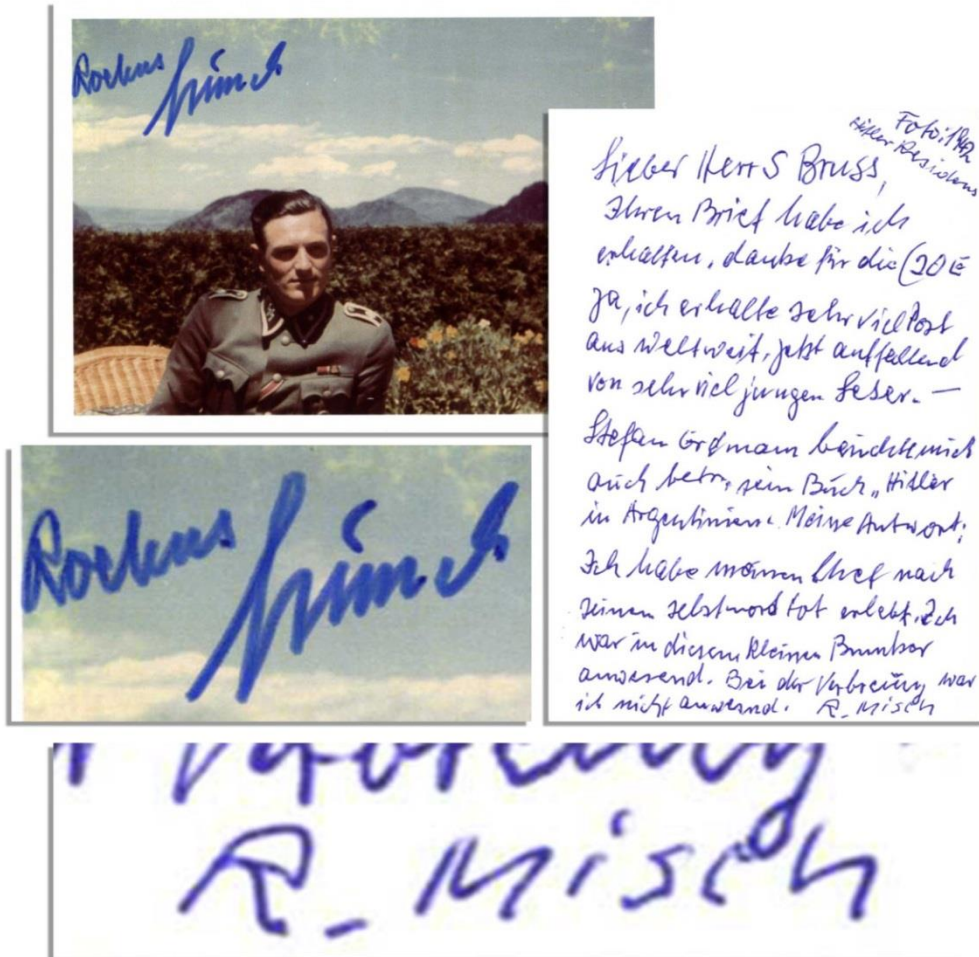


Foto: R. Misch  
Hilfer Resistenzen  
Lieber Herr S. Bruss,  
Ihren Brief habe ich  
erhalten, danke für die (20.15)  
ja, ich erhalte sehr viel Post  
aus Weltweit, jetzt auffallend  
von sehr viel jungen Lesern. —  
Stefan Großmann bündelt mich  
auch betr. sein Buch „Hitler  
in Argentinien“. Meine Antwort:  
Ich habe meinen Brief nach  
meinem Selbstmord tot erlegt. Ich  
war in diesem kleinen Bunker  
anwesend. Bei der Verbreitung war  
ich nicht anwesend. R. Misch

„Foto :  
Führerhauptquartier  
Wolfsschanze  
vor der Baracke in der  
auf die Anwesenden bei  
einer Lagebestimmung am  
20. Juli 1944 das Attentat  
verübt wurde.“

**The "header" of the fax is also missing** – that portion which lists the sender's name, telephone number and the date and time at which the fax was transmitted; since this is missing, there is, once more, **absolutely no independent, hard proof** that the fax was really sent by Mr. Misch, or that it was sent at some time during 1985.

Readers may ask themselves how the fax could have been forged, since one would *normally* require two fax machines to do so: one to scan and transmit the document, the other one to receive and print it out again ... **but there is a much simpler** and more *elegant* method of making a fax look as if it had actually been sent (*if* one were to accept the fact that the header would be missing, **as is the case**): almost all fax machines have a copy function, by which the document is scanned and printed out by one and the same machine. We are **certain** that the supposed fax from Mr. Misch was produced in this manner.

There is also the question as to the provenance of the fax itself – *how, and by what means, did the consignor acquire it?* Did Mr. Misch supply it (possibly for a fee), or was it perhaps (again possibly for a fee) provided by the nebulous "Major Epping?" One must also take into account claims that Mr. Misch never owned a fax machine ....

Now, let's look at the next bit of "evidence" which is supposed to be in "support" of the "unshakable provenance" of the "Hitler Telephone."

**Sir Ralph Rayner, 66, britischer Brigadier, gab sich in London als Entführer eines roten Adolf-Hitler-Telephons zu erkennen, das er 1945 im Führer-Schlafzimmer des Berliner Befehlsbunkers entdeckt und unter seinem Uniformmantel ins Freie geschafft habe. Versuche des Telephondiebes, den Apparat an das englische Fernsprechnet anzuschließen, schlugen fehl.**

The above is the original text concerning Sir Ralph Rayner, as it appeared in an article on page 87 of the German news weekly "Der Spiegel" (The Mirror) in December, 1963, which dealt with various prominent persons, such as Nikita Khrushchev, Charles de Gaulle, Marlene Dietrich, Robert Kennedy, etc.

The proper, literal translation of the German text is:

"Sir Ralph Rayner, 66, British Brigadier, outed himself *in London* as the abductor of a red Adolf-Hitler-Telephone, which *he discovered* in the Führer's bedroom in the Berlin bunker in 1945, and which he smuggled out beneath his uniform coat. Attempts by the telephone **thief** to connect the telephone to the English telephone network failed."

**How on earth** would a *German* news weekly (in 1963!) have known what a certain *British* Brigadier was doing in Berlin in May, 1945? **How** would they have known that he had attempted to get the telephone to work on the English telephone network, and that the attempt *failed*? Only by virtue of someone from the family having told the story (it was most likely Rayner himself), so that the mention in "Der Spiegel" **cannot** be viewed as being an even *minimally* independent source of information, and certainly **not** as any manner of "proof" that the "Hitler Telephone" really existed ... **if** Brig. Rayner really **had** "outed" himself as possessing Hitler's "beloved red telephone," then there *should* have been reports of this in London newspapers – but neither AHA nor the consignor were able to provide any newspaper clippings in support of this tale.

Here's a bit *more* food for thought on the brief article from "Der Spiegel:" according to the story, Brigadier Rayner **stole** the "Hitler Telephone" and **smuggled** it out of the bunker under his coat. How does this jibe with the claim by AHA that "... Rayner went to the Chancellery where Russian officers offered him a tour. On entering Hitler's private quarters, Rayner was first offered Eva Braun's telephone, but politely declined claiming that his favorite color was red. His Russian hosts were pleased to hand him a red telephone ...?"

It boils down to one of three possible scenarios (assuming the phone was authentic):

- 1) Rayner somehow obtained the "Hitler Telephone" from Mr. Misch,
- 2) It was presented to Rayner by the Soviets, or
- 3) Rayner stole it from within the bunker on his own.

Which is the correct answer? There is some evidence that points to number 3 above (aside from the "Spiegel" article): <http://boredomtherapy.com/hitler-phone-auction/> gives the following version of the tale:

"After Nazi leader Adolph Hitler committed suicide on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1945, troops from the **Soviet Union were the first to find and document the bunker where he'd spent his last days and given his last ruthless orders.**

"All Allied troops were **under strict threat of a court martial** not to loot any of his effects so that they could be properly studied, but one soldier, British Brigadier Sir Ralph Rayner risked it anyway. He entered the bunker not long after its discovery, and despite the **threat of a court martial for looting, he swiped Hitler's telephone and sneaked it back to England in his personal effects ....**

This jibes nicely with the article from "Der Spiegel," doesn't it? Much of the evidence presented so far points in the direction of the **supposed "Hitler Telephone" having fallen into Rayner's hands by more or less illicit means ...** (Not very "officer and gentlemanly.")

Readers may wish to also refer to: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4175400/hitler-s-phone-used-scream-instructions-generals.html> for another version of Brig. Rayner as a thief ("He feared he'd be accused of 'looting' - an act British troops had been ordered by their superiors not to carry out under threat of court martial ..."). It makes for some **very** interesting reading! Refer to the appendix for another telling newspaper article concerning the provenance of the "Hitler Telephone."





Let us now focus on the *original color* of the "Hitler Telephone" and its *magical metamorphosis* into one painted red ....

AHA is (for once, finally) **correct**, in that they state that the "Hitler Telephone" was originally made of black Bakelite – in our mind, the question is: when was it painted red?

There is a newspaper photograph of Brigadier Rayner supposedly "using" his "Hitler Telephone" (from 1963) in his obituary, dated July 19<sup>th</sup>, 1977 (Herald Express – see bottom of previous page); the **only** portion of the telephone which is lighter than black is the handset cord – a red telephone would have come out a dark shade of gray, as shown here:



The highlight along the left front edge of the phone in the newspaper photo is from the camera's flashbulb, and such a **bright** highlight only comes from a **shiny** surface – but the red paint on the "Hitler Telephone" is dull, faded and cracked; it simply **wouldn't** have produced such a highlight ... it is therefore relatively safe to say that the phone was **still black** in 1963, no matter that the accompanying newspaper text speaks of a "red telephone."

We are certain that the black and white photograph of Brigadier Rayner on the phone in 1963 was provided to the newspaper either by one of **Rayner's** sons or his daughter; it will also have been this person who told the reporter that the phone was red in color (from which one may deduce that it was probably painted red at some time between 1963 and 1977).

A large percentage of the information provided to the consignor by Mr. Peter v. Siemens in a letter dated January 28<sup>th</sup>, 1988, is factually **incorrect**. The "Hitler Telephone" was **not** produced in April, 1943 (the date code on the base **clearly** dates the phone as being from April, 1940) and it was **not** manufactured in Berlin-Siemensstadt. In actuality, the "Hitler Telephone" was manufactured by a Bavarian telephone company known as the "Vereinigte Bayrische Telefonwerke" ("VBT;" United Bavarian Telephone Works, in which Siemens held a 70 percent interest, and which was founded in 1927).

VBT manufactured W28 and W38 telephones for the German Reichspost, Siemens telephones for its own PBX sales branch, OB33 telephones for the firm "C. Lorenz" and FF33 field telephones for the German Army Weapons Office, as well as for "SAM," a Siemens daughter which was specifically set up for manufacturing and selling electrical components and apparatus of all sorts to the German Wehrmacht.



*Peter von Siemens*

*Otto-Hahn-Ring 6  
D-8000 München 83  
Telefon (089) 636-48700*

January 29th, 1988

Major R. C. Rayner  
Ashcombe Tower  
Near Dawlish  
South Devon EX7 0PY  
Great Britain

*Dear Raulf,*

Thank you very much for your letter dated October 12th, concerning the Austrian chap's telephone. The numbers of the base-plate have the following significance: W38 means that it is a type that has been produced from 1938 to after the end of the war. Your instrument has been produced in April 1943 in our factory in Berlin Siemensstadt.

We could not find out the origin of this variation. The colour red was not included in our range of colours at that time. Even retired people we inquired, were not able to provide us with more details.

Please find enclosed the electric scheme of your type of instrument and sorry that it took so long to answer your letter.

Bettina und I will be in St. Moritz at the Suvretta House from February 20th to March 6th. We hope to see you and Anette, please leave a message at the Suvretta so that we can find you.

Meanwhile best wishes to you both.

*Yours  
Peter*

The scans below prove that the addresses and phone numbers for Siemens and VBT in Munich were identical:

Siemens & Halske A.G. Wer- nerwerk F Abteilung Mün- chen M 25 Hofmannstr 51	Vereinigte Bayerische Tele- phonwerke A. G. M 25 Hof- mannstr 51
Orts- u. Ferndienst ★ 71 97	Orts- u. Ferndienst ★ 71 91
Im Anschluß an die Ruf-Nr. 71 97	Im Anschl. an die Ruf-Nr. 71 91
wird sofort d. Nr. d. gewünsch- ten Nebenstelle weitergewählt:	wird sof. d. Nr. d. gewünsch- ten Nebenstelle weitergewählt
Fabrikleitung Direktor A. Baader	Vorst. Aug. Baader 71 97 [60]
71 97 [60]	+ Privatanruf M 25 Plinganser- str 76 7 05 09
+ Privatanruf M 25 Plinganser- str 76 7 05 09	Kaufm. Leitung Seifert stellv. Vorst. 71 91 [71]
Telegraphen-Prüffeld Boshold	Verkauf: Jais Prokurist
71 97 [72]	71 91 [84]
Außerhalb der Geschäftsstunden	Torwart 71 91 [73]
7 11 39	Hausverwaltung (Nachruf von 17 bis 7 Uhr 30) 71 97 [66]
Kfm. Ltg. Seifert 71 91 [71]	
Einkauf 71 97 [69]	
Torwart 71 97 [63]	
Nachruf d. Hausverwaltung (von 19-7½ Uhr) 71 97 [66]	

The only fact in the Siemens letter which **is** correct is the statement that "The colour red was not included in our range of colours at that time." The only colors that the Siemens telephone model W38 was available in were **black and ivory**; or course, for a fee, Siemens/VBT would have *spray-painted* the phone almost any color the customer wished, but readers should take note that the "Hitler Telephone" would have been *professionally* painted by the manufacturer (complete with an appropriate coat of primer beneath the red paint), but that it was, in fact, very *unprofessionally* painted (as will be proven later on) by one or more private persons.

By the way – readers should be aware of one simple fact throughout this analysis: photographs do **not** show what had taken place **before** they were shot; they are no more than the depiction of a specific situation at the instant the picture was taken – they have absolutely **no** value as to hindsight or to predict future events ... **so that they do not really** tell the whole story as it actually was or is.

There are several photos of Hitler on the phone to be found on the internet, but not a single one of these shows him using any telephone whose color is **anything but black**. Even on black and white photos, red would be a shade of gray, while black would simply be black – **why** are there no pictures of Hitler using a red telephone? Because he didn't have one; it's as easy as that.

**Color** negative material for photographs (as well as the necessary color positive paper), and **color** lantern slide material **did** exist in Germany during WW II, although such material was rather expensive ... but it *wasn't* out of financial reach for most people. Even simple Wehrmacht soldiers used it on occasion, for such mundane things as pictures of themselves in barracks (please refer to the appendix). So, why is there no *color* photo of Hitler using his "red telephone?" Again – because he didn't have one.

**Where, please, are the cold, hard facts?** (Such as a simple, primitive black and white photograph of the "Hitler Telephone" *actually sitting on the bedside table in Hitler's bunker bedroom?*) *Why did no one think of photographing the phone in situ before removing it? Taking a photo would have been the simplest thing in the world and would have offered some measure of proof – and yet this wasn't done!* It is absolutely **unbelievable** that someone like Brigadier Rayner wouldn't have had a camera with him to document Hitler's bunker (and his "find") at the time!

One person who almost always *had* a camera ("Retina" model, sold by Kodak) at hand was Mr. Misch; this fact is mentioned several times throughout his memoirs – **why didn't he** ever take a photograph of the red "Hitler Telephone?" It would have been *very* easy for him to have done so, since he was on general guard duty in the Wolf's Lair Complex in East Prussia, and sometimes even guarded Hitler's private quarters there ... if, as written in the epilogue of his memoirs, Mr. Misch was capable of taking *very* candid and personal photographs of Hitler and his retinue (such as one of a *frowning* Eva Braun) – and actually **did** so – then *why* (oh, why?) **didn't he** ever bother taking one of the red "Hitler Telephone?" Once more: **because** such a telephone is a figment of imagination.

AHA claimed that "... the handset itself [is] marked "S.B.&CO. LTD" by maker Siemens Brothers in the UK, an independently owned one-time branch of Siemens Germany which until World War II was still actively trading on many different levels with its original owners in Germany. This receiver, in Siemens Germany's stock, was custom-fitted to this phone simply to keep it from bouncing off the cradle while in transit."

The British handset (and cords) were **never** "... in Siemens Germany's stock ...;" it is a **hard fact** that Siemens of Germany **never** stocked *any* British phone parts from Siemens Brothers, since they were of **no** use whatsoever on German (and *other* continental European) telephone systems. Telephones and components *had* (and still *have*) to meet national PTT standards, in order to be allowed to be connected to the relevant PSTN. Telephones and components from *other* countries would have to be modified to meet national PTT standards concerning form, fit, electrical function, etc. The Reichspost would **never** have allowed a British telephone handset and cords to be used with one of their phones, **not even on a PBX, and not even for Hitler.**

Besides which, Germany and Britain had been at war with one another since September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1939, and *there just wasn't any commerce, at any level, between the two nations.* One should also not forget the fact that Siemens of Germany only held a *minority* of Siemens Brothers stock (fifteen percent), and that there was practically **no trade** between the two companies *after WW I.* These simple truths contradict AHA's claim that "... Siemens Brothers in the UK, an independently owned one-time branch of Siemens Germany which until World War II was still actively trading on many different levels with its original owners in Germany ...." We wonder just *whose* pipe-dream this was ....

The consignor of the "Hitler Telephone," and AHA (with its nonsensical claims concerning Siemens Brothers), should have read [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siemens\\_Brothers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siemens_Brothers) for the whole, true story ... but AHA *wasn't interested in the truth* – the British handset and cords had to be explained **somehow** – *other* than frankly stating that these components were used to spruce up a defunct W38 which was lacking some rather important parts.



Since AHA claimed that the **handset** was marked "S.B.&CO. LTD.," we undertook the task of checking **every** available photograph of the handset of the "Hitler Telephone" for such a marking ... **we didn't find the slightest sign** of one on **any** of the photographs AHA provided.







Searching the internet concerning the unusual mouthpiece on the handset revealed the following facts: "... two different patterns of handset were fitted to Siemens Brothers **Neophones**: one identical to the GPO #164 ("spit-cup") and another *with a slotted cover* over the microphone. *This slotted cover occasionally turned up on GPO telephones, as mouthpiece #18.*" And that this "mouthpiece #18" was most commonly used on wall-mounted Siemens Neophones, predominantly on model numbers 310-312, 366 and 367.

The photograph below shows a handset belonging to a Siemens model #367 Neophone:



Readers should take note of the fact that the handset handle bears a **very clear** Siemens Brothers logo, similar to the one shown below:



It appears to be that the handset *handle* of the "Hitler Telephone" is *unmarked* and only has the mouthpiece of a Siemens Brothers Neophone handset (which is 100 percent interchangeable with that of the GPO).

The interior of the *mouthpiece* of the "Hitler Telephone" is marked "S.B. & Co. Ltd.," but we could not find a photo of a similar marking on the receiver cap or the handset handle.



As may be seen, the mouthpiece is not only marked "S.B. & Co. Ltd.," but also carries the GPO number 18; what makes us wonder, though, is that the mouthpiece (just as the phone housing and the base – as we will later show) should be painted red on the *inside*. There is no earthly reason why this should be so, and it makes us wonder if the receiver cap was painted red on the inside as well ....



AHA claimed **that** "... a failed attempt to burn the quarters [of Hitler] had been made prior to their capture ...", **and that the** "... paint on the left side of the phone is slightly darkened or scorched, and is crazed ..."

In reality, *a goodly portion* of the "Hitler Telephone" has "crazed paint," *supposedly* from the heat of the fire from the botched attempt to burn Hitler's quarters.

The fire in Hitler's quarters was laid with the aid of one or two jerry cans full of gasoline (20 liters, 5.3 U.S. gallons, each); the gasoline was splashed onto surfaces in Hitler's office, sitting (cum situation) room and bedroom, and set afire with the intent of making it impossible for the Soviets to find any secret documents or trophies there.

After the fire was lit, the door to Hitler's office was closed<sup>2)</sup>, thus cutting the fire off from a supply of air, since the ventilators in Hitler's quarters were shut off; the chief bunker technician, Mr. Johann Hentschel, stated that the closed door was "... as hot as a gridiron ..." and that the door seal was molten by the heat and "... flowed down like lava ...". After the fire was out and the door had cooled down again, it was impossible to open it without brute force, since the molten rubber now acted as glue.

<sup>2)</sup> The door between Hitler's sitting room, and the bathroom and wardrobe (leading to Eva Braun's bedroom) must have also been closed, since there is not the *slightest* sign of any smoke or fire damage in her bedroom.

If readers take a careful look at the red paint on the handset of the "Hitler Telephone" (pages fifteen and sixteen), they will see that the paint is hardly "cracked" or "crazed" at all – it has *peeled off* to some extent ... this is part of what we have dubbed the "selectiveness" of the **supposed** fire the "Hitler Telephone" was exposed to. We will point out other instances of this selectiveness in the further course of this analysis. To be getting on, we will now examine the exterior surfaces of the "Hitler Telephone," based upon the photographs which AHA supplied in the auction photo section.



The photograph on the previous page is a prime example of the selectiveness of the supposed fire the "Hitler Telephone" was to have survived with cracked and crinkled paint.



There is **no** fire damage to be seen on the handset, the handset cradle and the number card holder. The latter is a *great* surprise, since the paint on the **body** of the phone is cracked and crinkled (one can see this thru the window in the card holder very nicely), while the number card holder itself shows *very* smooth paint, *without* the slightest sign of *heat* damage (but with some paint *chipping*).

AHA admits that the Bakelite body of the "Hitler Telephone" was damaged at some point (after having been painted red), the damage being in the form of a big chunk of Bakelite having been broken out along the left side; interestingly enough, the area of the "contemporary" repair is the **only** area on the *entire* body where the paint shows some *real* damage, and it is also this area which is blackened the most.

If one looks close enough, one can see a band around the "contemporary" repair to the Bakelite, where the paint is *somewhat* less cracked ... **this band** is also slightly *lighter* in color than the surrounding paint (especially along the upper edge) – how could this have happened?



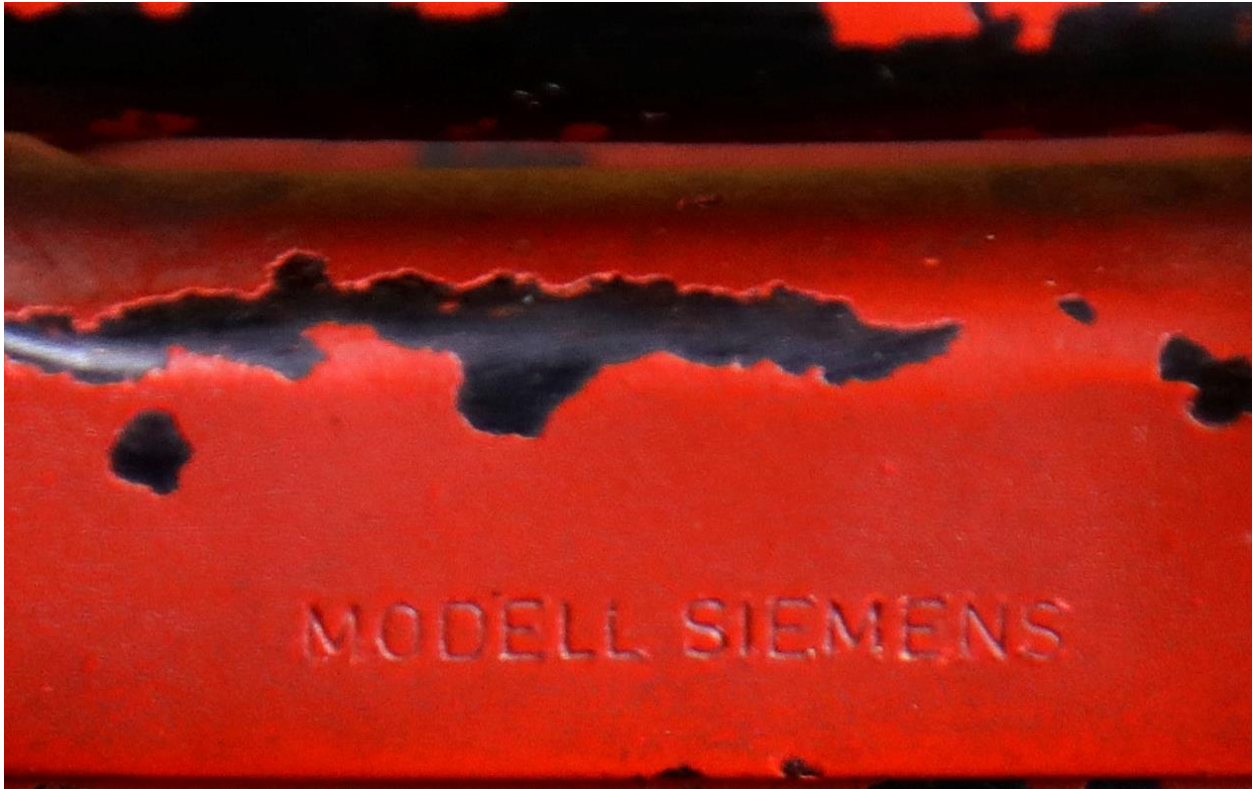
Well – the broken pieces of Bakelite left cracks and gaps after having been glued back into place, and it was necessary to fill these by some means, in order to have a smooth surface for repainting. They were apparently filled-in with white-colored, polyester-based, car body repair putty (white beneath the paint accounts for the lighter color of red); the only problem is that such putties **didn't exist in the 1940s** – they used putties of a different composition, which were invariably of **dark** colors. The putty was obviously sanded smooth after it hardened, which added to the width of the band.

So – was it a “contemporary” repair to the Bakelite, as AHA claimed, or was it a repair dating from the 1960s, when light-colored car body putties were in existence? ***We are of the firm belief that the latter is definitely the case.***



This rear view of the “Hitler Telephone” gives us a *number* of hints as to its true provenance, and we will be dealing with each hint separately on the following pages ....

First off: the paint on the handset cradle is **not** cracked or crinkled from the fire which the telephone was *supposedly* exposed to, and there is **no** primer beneath the paint.



A German telephone collector's website has a thread on the subject of handset cradles with the wording "Modell Siemens," but the combined efforts of several collectors is, alas, very inconclusive on the subject. One theory set forth is that the Reichspost forbade telephone manufacturers from placing their name on phones intended for the PSTN, and the wording "Modell Siemens" was intended to circumvent this.

Whether or not this is the case is *immaterial*, since some photographs of an original "W38" (in the Siemens PBX version "Fg. tist. 182a," with a black, *braided* handset cord) from November, 1939, have recently turned up, and the handset cradle of this phone **has the lettering "Modell Siemens"** – the question being whether the phone we saw in the photographs had been repaired or modified by some collector between 1939 (when the phone was manufactured) and 2017 (when it was photographed). What bothers us a bit is that the **lettering "Siemens"** and the **S&H logo *beneath* the cradle** on the W38 (from 2017) are in a different (faded) shade of white than **the words "Modell Siemens" on the cradle of the phone**. (Refer to the photographs on pages 177 thru 180.)

Then there is the fact that the phone we saw has a numerals disc in the center of the dial; perhaps this was only installed on the PBX version of the phone, and not on the public (W38) version as well (the *German-language* Wikipedia page for the W38, [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tischfernsprecher\\_W38](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tischfernsprecher_W38), says it should be *missing*). One would need access to the original design drawings from Siemens to be 100 percent clear on these points, or else find an original of the **W38 version (NOT marked "Fg. tist. 182a,"** in its *original, sealed and untampered-with* box) for examination in order to be absolutely certain on this point.





One can easily see that the eagle is anything but symmetrically engraved ... the various "islands" in the engraving are not the same size and shape (which they **would** be if a master engraver, using an appropriate template, had been at work), and it is as easily seen that the letters of Hitler's first and last names are **not** evenly spaced horizontally and are **not** vertically aligned – again, the person who executed the eagle and the name was **by no means** a master engraver (see appendix for information on engraving).

*Anything, and everything, made specially for Hitler was of the **very highest quality and workmanship**, executed by master artisans* - such a crude piece of junk, as *poorly* executed as the "Hitler Telephone" is, would **never** have been presented (or given) to Hitler – it would have been a **very** serious affront, and Hitler would have been **deeply insulted** by such a piece of *slipshod* work bearing his name.

The engravings were *originally* filled with gold-colored paint, *previous* to the phone having been painted red – which means that the phone was painted **after** the engravings had been done, and that it was *originally* a classic **black Siemens phone**.

The next question in connection with the engravings which comes to mind is whether or not the proper Nazi eagle (Party or State) is engraved on the phone ....

AHA interviewed the consignor of the "Hitler Telephone" (the interview may be found under <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUoynfNkArM> – refer to page 82ff for a transcript); in the course of the interview, the consignor stated that "... the Siemens telephone was presented to Hitler by the Wehrmacht ..." and "... [Siemens] confirmed that it was built for the German Wehrmacht ...."

This is wrong as we see things; first of all, **if** the (generic) Wehrmacht had indeed presented the "Hitler Telephone" to Adolf Hitler, then the eagle would have been the "State" eagle (as used by the Wehrmacht), which looks towards the **left** (as opposed to the "Party" eagle, which faces towards the right), and there would most likely have been a dedication engraved on the phone – **not** just the eagle and the name. Such a dedication could have looked like this:

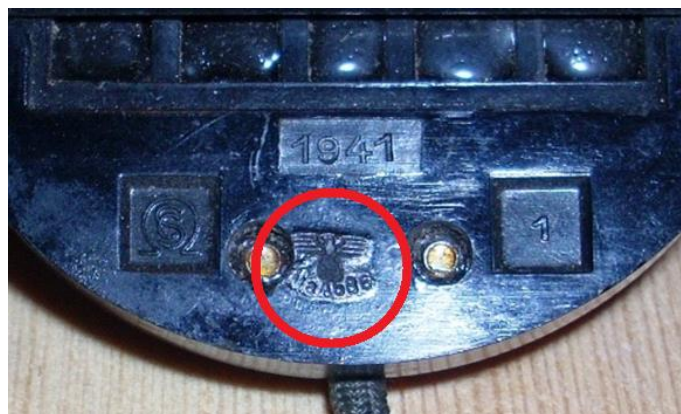


In (literal) English, the dedication reads as "Our Leader, Adolf Hitler, dedicated by the Adjutancy of the Wehrmacht, Berlin, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1940" – and we are **certain** that, had the "Hitler Telephone" *really been* dedicated to Hitler by the (generic) Wehrmacht, then **only** the *combined adjutancy of all three* military forces would have been legally able to make such a dedication (refer to appendix for more information concerning Nazi eagles).

There is **no** such dedication on the phone, but rather the *wrong* Nazi eagle (the Nazis were real nitpickers about such things!) and Hitler's name in Latin letters ... the "Hitler Telephone" was **certainly not** presented to Hitler by the Wehrmacht.

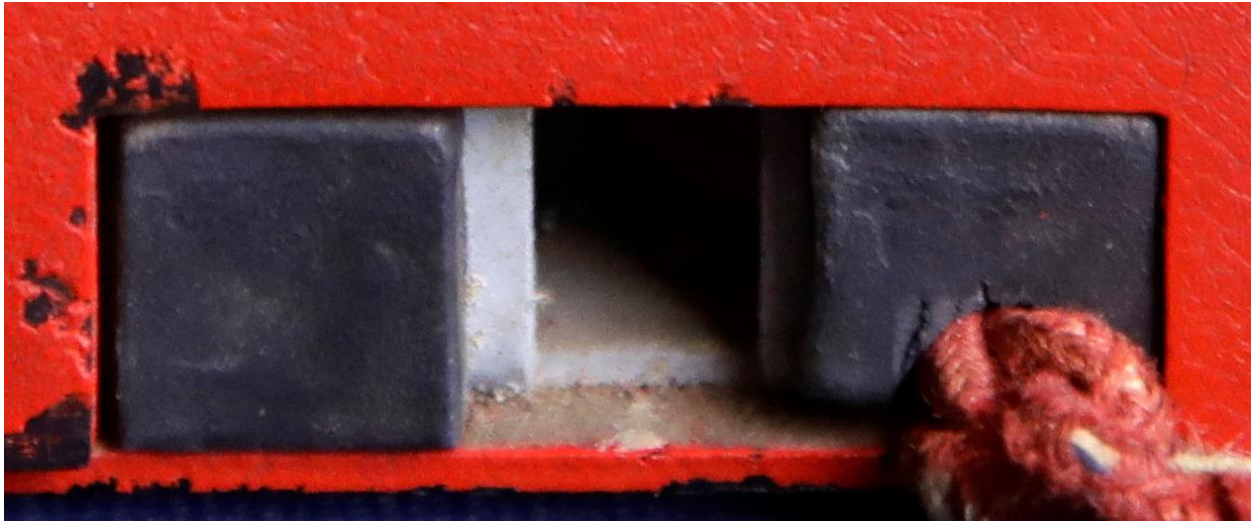
And here comes the next strange bit: "... [Siemens] confirmed that it was built for the German Wehrmacht ...." *Nothing could be further from the truth!* The *only* information provided by Siemens is in the form of the letter shown on page twelve, and there is *nothing* in the letter about Siemens having made this telephone for the Wehrmacht; hence, Siemens/VBT did **NOT** manufacture the "Hitler Telephone" for the Wehrmacht!

**If** the "Hitler Telephone" **had** originally been made for the Wehrmacht, **then** it *would* have borne a Wa.A. acceptance hallmark from a weapons certification office (**Waffen-Abnahmeamt** in German), which would have been hot-pressed into the Bakelite on the rear of the skirt of the phone, and which would have looked like the one shown below.





However, there is **no** such hallmark to be seen on the "Hitler Telephone;" thus, it was never made for, nor the property of, the German Wehrmacht.



On the "Hitler Telephone," the braided line cord is *stuffed thru* a space which was simply chopped out of one of the rubber blanking plugs; this was definitely **not** the way Siemens (or VBT) did things. There are three cable entrances on the rear of the W38 (and its successor, the W48), and the rubber strain relief grommets are held in place by a piece of die-cut, bent metal, with four vertical tangs for holding the three grommets. Simply squashing the line cord onto the metal was going begging for service trouble due to cut-through insulation ... we wonder if **any** reader would find the manner in which the line cord is mounted to be anything even close to Siemens/VBT specifications?

The **middle** hole was **always** used for the line cord, while the one on the left was used for the cord of an auxiliary dial, the one on the right being used for the cord of a watchcase receiver (if such equipment was ordered and installed).



The lower photograph on the previous page shows the (more or less) bare base of a W48 desk telephone; we show it here to help readers identify the tangs for the three cords on the rear of the phone, as well as the two tangs for the handset cord on the left side. As can be seen, the strip with all the tangs is a separate unit which is attached to the base with screws ... **the edges of the various tangs** may well have burrs which could easily cut thru an improperly mounted cord.

The photograph below is a rear view of a W48 desk telephone, showing the proper (round) line and handset cords, *properly* routed thru their respective grommets. The routing of the cords is exactly the same for the W38 telephone.



In this case, the blanking plugs to the left and right of the line cord are made of Bakelite; the one on the right is cracked and damaged. The rubber grommets are made with appropriate slits, into which the tangs slide, as may be seen below.



The handset and line cords **on the "Hitler Telephone"** are of *British* origin and have *no* right being installed on a German telephone – from about 1920 on, Reichspost line cords were *always* of round stock, this also held true for PBX telephones. The handset cords were another matter: on Reichspost telephones intended for direct connection to the PSTN, the cord was also of round stock, but this could vary on telephones used with PBXs.



This is a photo of the rubber strain relief grommets on a Siemens M36 telephone, manufactured in the year 1938; both of them are still intact.

We must digress a moment here and explain a bit about German PBXs in general; these were available to customers in three classes: 1) *rented* directly from the Reichspost (who then also repaired and maintained them), 2) *privately bought* from the Reichspost (who repaired and maintained these), and 3) *privately rented or purchased* directly from the manufacturer (usually repaired and maintained by the manufacturer). In the case of a PBX *privately purchased directly from the manufacturer*, the buyer could carry out repairs and maintenance himself if there was an employee on hand who was certified by the Reichspost to perform such tasks.

*Extension* phones belonging to PBXs of the first two classes had to meet **all** Reichspost specifications, and the phones were supplied by the Reichspost ("W" specification phones, such as the model W38), while those of PBXs of the third class could diverge from specifications, **such as Siemens "Fg. tist."** styles (like the M36); the M36 was *only* sold and used on *privately* rented or owned Siemens PBXs. Thus, the M36 had a *braided* handset cord, while the W38 had a *round* handset cord.

The wire entrance on the strain relief grommet for the braided handset cord on the M36 **isn't much larger in diameter than that for the round line cord, because the braiding stops** at the entrance of the grommet, the four wires being run *in parallel* thru the same (refer to the top photograph on the next page). The braiding on the handset cord of the "Hitler Telephone" **continues right thru** the *remains* of the grommet and ends a few inches or so from the entrance, *inside* the phone (as may be seen in the photo on page 39).





There is more to be said about the British *line cord* on the "Hitler Telephone," notably how it was supposed to be connected to a telephone line: in his interview, the consignor stated **that** "... the cable here had looped ends to it, and that meant that it could be plugged in wherever Hitler went." This explanation of the "wire loops" on the cord is fanciful enough as it is, but AHA makes the claim even more ludicrous: "... connection cord which terminates in four metallic loops: these loops would be pulled over pin-type connectors for quick connection." It would be of interest to find out who came up with *that* nonsense, and we would simply **love** for AHA to attempt to **prove** this ridiculous claim.

**Really now!** Anyone who knows even just a *little bit* about cords and telephones in general would **never** make such an oddball **statement**. The "metallic loops" are the classic, wire-wound ends of tinsel conductors, intended to be **screwed** onto the terminals of a wall junction box; both cords are **typically British**, and **not** German by any means – in most of Continental Europe at the time (*including* Germany), cord tips were crimped spade lugs made of brass, simply because less time was required to crimp lugs than to wind tinsel loops ....



The photograph to the left above shows the terminal strip inside a M36 telephone (all lugs bent upwards at 90°), while the one on the right shows the termination of the handset cord in a W28 ... **in all** instances, the terminations are in the form of brass spade lugs.

Interestingly enough, while the "loops" of the line and handset cords of the "Hitler Telephone" are bare wire, the dial cord *has* the proper spade lugs.



For those not in the know, such “wire loops” look much the same as the ones shown below, although in this specific case they are reconstructed ....



Can anyone, please, tell us just *how* one would go about “plugging” such “metallic loops” into **any** sort of receptacle? *Such an idea is just as crazy as it sounds*; the “open” end of the British line cord of the “Hitler Telephone,” with its “metallic loops,” would *never* be terminated by “plugging” the loops in anywhere; it would have either been connected to a wall terminal or to a special, four-conductor, telephone plug, which the Reichspost dubbed “plug 27” (“Stöpsel 27” in German – first employed by the Reichspost in 1927).



The (German) wall terminal is a straightforward affair which needs no further comment; the “plug 27” is a different matter, though. The one shown here is in its *original* configuration, attached to the line cord of a Siemens W28 PBX telephone. The spring at the end of the plug housing was intended to help keep the cord from being pulled at a right angle, which could lead to premature cord failure due to breakage of the tinsel conductors. The spring and its brass collet were rather expensive items, and their use was discontinued shortly after World War II.

Although one can only see three concentric terminal rings on the plug, it **is** a 4-conductor plug, the fourth contact is made by a pin which is inserted into the *hollow center* of the plug when it is seated in its receptacle.

An interesting "alternative fact" found on the internet:



Wehrmacht and civilian desk dial telephones (used within the Wehrmacht) were **either** hard-wired to a wall terminal **or** to a plug 27; **IF** (and it is a **very** big "if" at that) the "Hitler Telephone" *had* been intended for travel, as the consignor and AHA seem to believe, then it **would** have been equipped with a plug 27 under all circumstances.

In his interview with AHA, the consignor states that "... the telephone is *special*ly built so that the handset will not come off the cradle without being tilted; in other words: it **wouldn't shake off in the command vehicle**<sup>3)</sup>." AHA expands upon this silly notion by writing that "... the handset must be rotated almost 60 degrees before it can be removed from the cradle, this to prevent it from shaking loose during transport in a train, automobile, etc."

<sup>3)</sup> The consignor conveniently *forgot* to mention how he believed that the *phone* would have been mounted or strapped down in a "command vehicle," so as to not fly out the window *itself*, while being "shaken" during transportation.

The very **notion** of Hitler carting his "beloved red telephone" thru battle zones in any sort of "command vehicle," train, automobile, etc. is **very** humorous indeed, and would have been **of no avail whatsoever!**

Why? The answer is a very simple one: the field telephone network of the German Wehrmacht was, like those of almost all other nations, based upon **magneto** field telephones and **magneto** switchboards of varying sizes. In general, only the **very** largest communications centers had some PSTN-based telephone lines connected to their switchboards *via special adapters*; specialists from the Reichspost maintained these lines, which were *primarily* direct lines to other army headquarters, no matter how far away (refer to the excursus in the appendix).

When these PSTN lines were *not* direct ones to somewhere else, they had their own, special routing codes (which *only* the Wehrmacht operators knew) so that civilians **couldn't accidentally ring up places like the Wolf's Lair Complex in East Prussia**<sup>4)</sup>; Hitler **wouldn't** have had **any** knowledge of these routing codes, and magneto field switchboards **didn't** support dial *telephones*; if Hitler had wanted to give orders to anyone in the field, all he would have had to do was grab hold of the nearest FF33, ring up the switchboard and order the connection he wanted.

<sup>4)</sup> *short-distance* (PSTN-based) lines **didn't** have routing codes and were only used under special circumstances; in such instances, the Wehrmacht relied on the fact that their PSTN lines were *unlisted*. One such case was dialing the phone number 851 in the town of Rastenburg in East Prussia – one directly reached the switchboard of the **Wolf's Lair Complex** under this number.

There is also another problem with the handset, aside from it not properly fitting on the cradle; we must also consider the *electrical* conditions imposed by connecting a British handset to a German telephone, *under the condition that the terminal board in the "Hitler Telephone" were properly wired up (which is **not** the case).*

The receiver *element* used with a standard British handset of the period had 85 Ohms, whereas a standard German receiver *capsule* from the same timeframe had 54 Ohms, and the *secondary* coil of the German W38 telephone had a resistance of 33 Ohms – the resistive and impedance *mismatches* which would arise from connecting a 33 Ohm source to a 85 Ohm load would result in very poor receiver efficiency.

A German receiver capsule does *not* physically fit *inside* a GPO receiver *element*, even allowing for the removal of the coils and magnets from the original; the cup is too low to accommodate a German capsule, and its diameter is also smaller than that of a German capsule. Completely *removing* the GPO element would leave the handset handle without any possibility of attaching a capsule *at all*.

GPO carbon microphone capsules of the time had a somewhat larger active surface than their German counterparts, thus necessitating a different voltage across, and consequently a different current thru, the capsule than German microphones. Besides this, the ratios of the anti-sidetone windings on the *primary* side of the induction coils are different: GPO: 75 and 30 Ohms, German W38: 95 and 38 ohms. Connecting a GPO microphone to the 38 Ohm primary of a German induction coil would give too low a current thru the microphone, and thus result in poor transmission quality (and possibly introduce some distortion as well). Since a **red** handset cord was attached to a **black** handset, it is very questionable whether or not the wires were properly connected inside the *handset* when the two were mated.

One may take it for granted that the telephones of other British or U.K. manufacturers (such S.T.C., G.E.C., etc.) would also have to meet GPO standards as to form, fit and electrical function to be allowed to be connected to the U.K. PSTN.

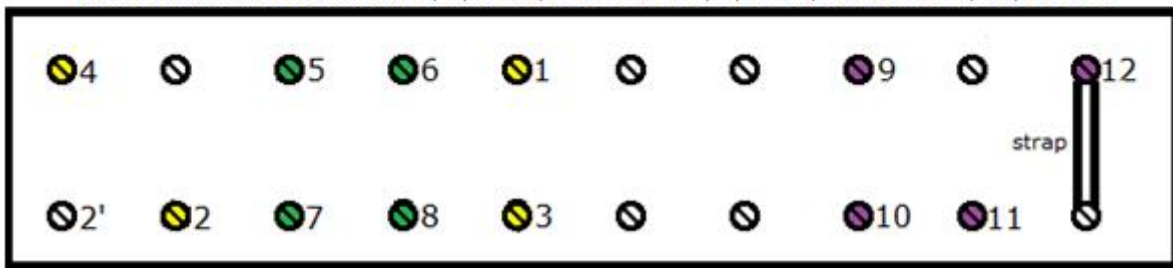
By the way: Hitler would **not** have had a telephone near his bedstead anywhere he was because, if there had been one, *any fool could have woken him up* (please refer to appendix) – but no one would have *dared* to do such a thing on purpos; it is a historical fact that Hitler was *fast asleep* when the Allied invasion began in the wee hours of June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1944, and no one woke him up on this (and other) occasion(s) – **he didn't know the invasion had begun until he woke up by himself around midday.**

So: **what good** would it have done Hitler to have a telephone next to his bed if everyone was **too scared** to have dared to actually have given him a call in case of emergency?





dial is connected to terminals 1, 2, 3 & 4, line cord to 5, 6, 7 & 8, handset to 9, 10, 11 & 12



Terminal block W38 (Fg. tist. 182) telephone

Do any readers notice the *slight* difference in the connection of the cords on the "Hitler Telephone" and those of a *properly wired* W38 telephone? *No wonder* that the phone never worked on the British network – it *wouldn't work on any* PSTN in the entire world! Not yesterday, not today, not tomorrow, and certainly *not even for Hitler*, the way the cords are **actually** hooked up (for instance: *the wires of the dial cord are connected to terminals belonging to the line and handset cords!*).

We will now direct our attention to the claim of the "unshakable" handset, and see what remains of the pipe-dreams of the consignor and AHA at the end of the day.

Below, we have the handset from a classic GPO telephone of the day and age resting on the cradle of a Siemens M36 PBX telephone – notice the opposite curvatures of the handset and cradle; there's no way to simply lift the handset – it *will* get stuck.





"Opposites attract," don't they? Sometimes, they only get in each other's way – as is shown here. It is easy to see that the curvature of handset and cradle are almost a perfect match, and that the handset is "locked in place." AHA claims that "This receiver, in Siemens Germany's stock, was *custom-fitted* to this phone simply to keep it from bouncing off the cradle while in transit ...." **Nope. Siemens Brothers handsets were *never* "... in Siemens Germany's stock ..."** and it is a ***pure coincidence*** that the handset won't come off the cradle.



Lifting and rotating the handset forwards (or backwards) will allow for enough clearance, so that the handset can be removed from the cradle – **there's nothing "special" or "mysterious" about this** at all.

**Some** folks might wish to argue that we are using the handset cradle of a Siemens M36, and not from a W38, telephone for our little experiments, and that the results therefore would ***not*** be valid for a W38 telephone. Sorry to have to ***disappoint*** anyone – the handset cradles used on the German OB33, W/OB35, M36, W38 and W48 telephones ***all*** have the ***exact*** same dimensions.

As a matter of fact, this type of cradle was first used on the OB33 magneto telephone in 1933 and was last ***officially*** used on OB33s manufactured in the 1980s (by "Fr. Rainer" of Munich). The W48 and W49 telephones were made in more colors than the W38 (which was only available in black and ivory), and the cradle was ***always*** of the same size, shape and design; refer to <http://www.fernsprecher.org/> for ***modern copies*** of the W48.



We found *another* handset that would meet the criteria of not bouncing off the cradle: an Ericsson type "RE 1037," belonging to their desk telephone "DE 752!"



From an *electrical* standpoint, the Ericsson handset would have been a *much* better *match* for a W38 telephone than a British one, since *most* continental European telephone manufacturers had similar resistance and impedance values when it came to their induction coils, microphone and receiver capsules.





For those who doubt – the above is a late-model OB33 magneto telephone, manufactured by the firm "Fr. Reiner" of Munich, Germany, manufactured in 1985.

Now we will have a close look at the dial on the "Hitler Telephone":



To the left we have an approx. 1:1 picture of the dial; inserted is a 1:1 picture of a Siemens hex-headed screw, as used to attach the finger-wheel to the dial drive mechanism; an enlargement is shown above. Note the serrated rim of the metal screw molded into the UFTP.

The *hexagonal head* of the screw which holds the finger-wheel is **obviously** missing; breakage *will* occur if one uses an improper tool to tighten up the screw, such as a pair of pliers, instead of the proper (fifteen millimeter<sup>5)</sup>) hex socket ... **but excessive force will** cause the head to crack and break, even *if* one uses the proper tool, and this may have been the case here, since the finger-wheel holes are *misaligned* with the digits below.

Such "skew" can come about in one of two ways: **1)** the numeral ring is loose and has slipped a bit, or **2)** the finger-wheel has too much play on the drive spindle and someone tried to tighten the screw enough so that the finger-wheel holes would remain aligned with the numerals, causing the hex head of the screw to break. There is **no** way to tighten (or loosen) such a screw once the head is broken off.

European telephone collectors are of two minds when it comes to the central numeral disc on the "Hitler Telephone;" some say it *was* a specified part of the dial, while others say that Reichspost W38s were *never* supplied with such discs – the latter appear to be in the majority. It is also possible that the PBX version (Fg. tist. 182) *had* such a disc, while the Reichspost version (W38) *didn't* ... it is also amazing just how *corroded* the aluminum is – even the electrically oxidized black color is flaking off.

<sup>5)</sup> Although U.S. 5/8<sup>th</sup> and 11/16<sup>th</sup> inch sockets are *almost* the same size, they *will* damage and/or break the screw head if used.

The *bad* news is that the *remainder* of the screw and washer were painted **after** the Bakelite hexagonal screw head was broken off – and **that** is a mistake that only an *amateur* would make, and which *proves* that the "Hitler Telephone" certainly **wasn't** originally painted red – and most certainly not by the manufacturer. Further proof lies in the **fact that the engravings of the Nazi eagle and Hitler's name were originally filled with gold-colored paint, and were later painted over** in red.

AHA claims that "The rotary *dial* is comprised of red Bakelite ..., " which *isn't* true; the **only** portion of the dial which is *verifiably* made of red UFTP (which *isn't* Bakelite at all) is the finger-wheel, and this poses a great problem, since red UFTP *wasn't* available back in the late 1930s, early 1940s – **it wasn't until the advent of the German W48 generation of telephones that UFTP dyed red was used** (as of about 1950). The same goes for the "earth" pushbutton below the dial – this appears to be made of dyed UFTP as well.

We are quite willing to concede that *translucent, liquid UFTP* resins were available at the time the W38 was being manufactured, but these were used for jewelry and the like – besides, the finger-wheel and pushbutton *aren't* translucent, but rather of *solid* red. Readers may refer to: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bakelite> for more info.

Refer also to: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thermoplastic> to learn more about the differences between thermosetting resins such as Bakelite and thermoplastics.

So, all told, what can be said as regards "fire damage" to those portions of the "Hitler Telephone" which we have seen until now? The handset, the handset cradle, the number card holder, the finger wheel and the "earth" pushbutton **do not show any signs** of having been heated to *any* extent (**no** chipped and/or cracked paint – only peeling paint, no cracked UFTP, only "flea bite" chips on the finger wheel); only the body of the phone shows heat damage, so that it may be taken for granted that **only** the body was heated (probably with the aid of a blowtorch or a heat-gun) during the forgery of this telephone.

As we have already mentioned: **the fire that the entire phone was supposedly exposed to was more than just selective on the matter of where to crack the paint, and where not to do so.** This phone was in Hitler's bedroom in the bunker, which was set on fire with the aid of gasoline? Most certainly **not!**



The fact that more than half of the telephone was not exposed to fire is further proven in that the line and handset cords are **not** even singed or burned in the slightest – at most, they show definite signs of *fading color*. They are also not discolored by soot in the least!

Speaking of color: Siemens (*and other* continental European telephone manufacturers) did **not** offer cords in colors other than those in which the telephones themselves were available in.



We have already written of the fact that the cords of Reichspost W38 telephones were of round stock, and not braided ... **we concede that Siemens *did* manufacture *round*, red cords** – but these were **not** intended for telephone use, but were instead **only** used on switchboards.



The right-hand side of the "Hitler Telephone" holds no surprises in the manner of extremely cracked paint, large amounts of soot or other damage – one could well simply call it a type of "run of the mill" blowtorch or heat-gun damage and have done with it.





The base of the "Hitler Telephone" is a nine-day wonder in its own right, and this for several reasons: **1)** it was originally painted black (the paint was intended to prevent rusting) and only painted over in red *later on*, **2)** being of iron, it *would* have absorbed the heat from the fire the telephone was **supposedly** exposed to much quicker than the Bakelite, and the paint **should**, therefore, be *very* cracked and peeling – but, instead, it is *very* smooth, **3)** the four feet **should** have molten from the heat, and yet one of them is *nearly intact*, and **4)** the black printing on the red paint *doesn't* meet Siemens standards (quite aside from the fact that the digit "4" in the manufacturing code "31V4" belongs to a *different lettering style*, something which is *quite* unheard of among collectors).



The photograph to the left shows a comparison between a foot heated to 300° C (roughly 570° F) and one left at room temperature. The heated foot shows signs of cracking and has a blister in the rubber – **but it didn't** melt ... *this might* be attributed to the fact that the feet used for this test were made of synthetic rubber ("Buna" in German).



It may be of interest for readers to compare the neatness of the markings on the base of the W28 desk telephone shown here, which was also manufacture by VBT in 1940 (albeit **in November of that year**), with those on the W38 "Hitler Telephone" – the difference is as big as between day and night.

How can it be that the markings from one VBT assembly line are nearly perfect, while those from a different line (in the same year) are executed so poorly as to be almost **illegible**? We believe that the markings on the base of the "Hitler Telephone" were made with a black paint which was incompatible with the red one, which allowed the black markings to simply peel away; **besides this, the red paint on the base of the "Hitler Telephone" was obviously not properly prepared to accept the black markings. To wit:** the red paint would have had to have been degreased and roughened up slightly, in order to ensure that the black paint markings would remain legible ....

Note the proper Siemens lettering style **used here**, as compared to that on the "Hitler Telephone"; refer to close-up on page 53.

The next step in analyzing the "Hitler Telephone" is to take a good, *hard* look at the *interior* of the phone to see what is amiss inside.





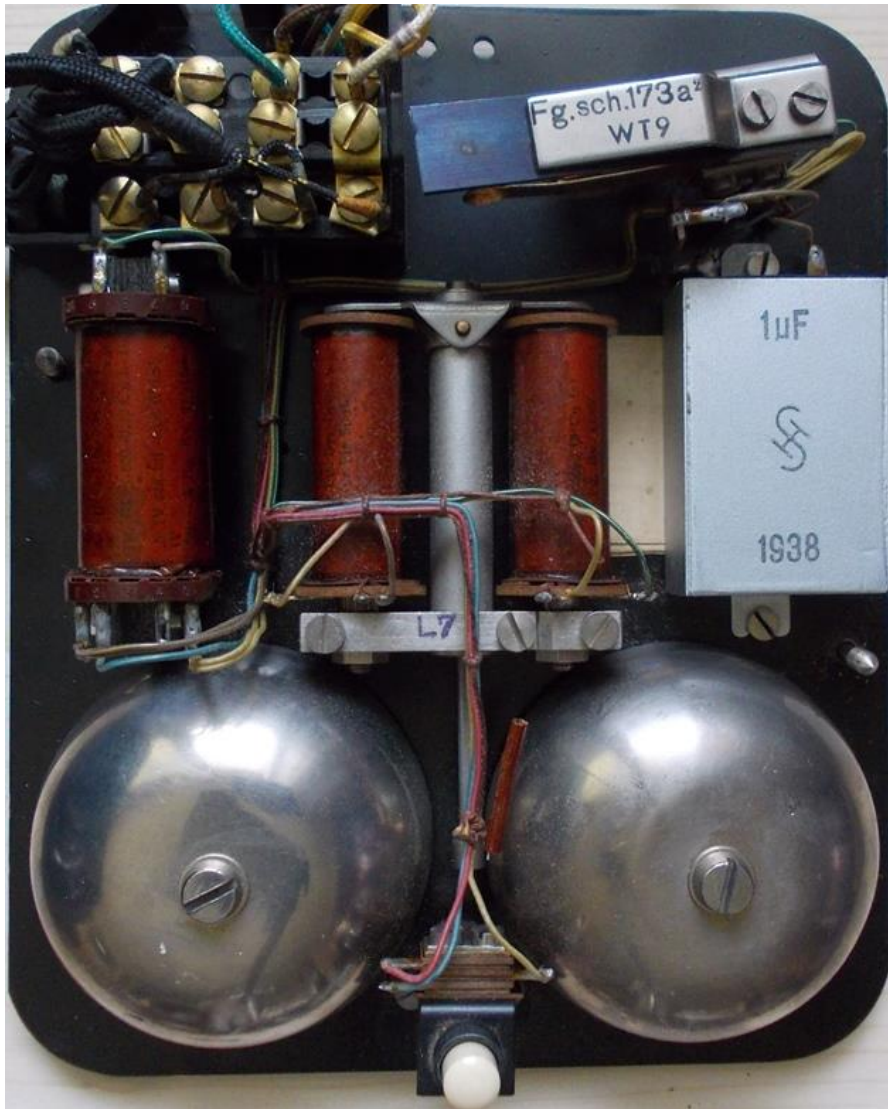
The very first thing one notices is that the base has also been painted red on the inside – which is an **entirely** unnecessary step (as well as being a **waste** of time and money), since it was first painted black and therefore already rust-proofed.

Then we have the date code on the condenser can – “2.39,” meaning that the condenser was manufactured in February of 1939 – **but the phone itself wasn’t manufactured until April, 1940.** *Normally*, the date on the condenser is within a very **few** months of the date of manufacture of the phone – **but here the difference is 14 months, which is so unusual as to be simply unbelievable.**

If any collectable telephone was taken out of service **without** replacement of the ringer condenser, then the date of manufacture (DOM) stamped on the condenser (as was customary in most of western Europe) will **normally** lie somewhere between zero and four months **prior** to the month and year of manufacture of the telephone itself, and if such information as to month and year of manufacture is missing elsewhere on the phone, then European collectors date their phones by the DOM on the condenser (one finds a DOM which lies **after** the DOM of the phone itself only on replacement condensers).

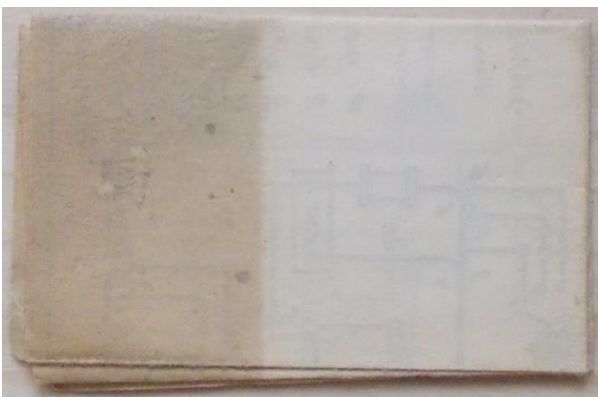
Aside from all this: **had** the “Hitler Telephone” truly been exposed to the heat of a fire, then the pitch used to seal the condenser **would** have molten and leaked out – which is **not** the case! No molten pitch – no fire ....





Although the above are the innards of a Siemens M36, and not a W38, the same principle always applied: **neat wiring!**

But the *really* interesting thing here is the bit of paper to be seen: this is the *telephone schematic*, folded and snuggled up under the capacitor. The "Hitler Telephone" **should** also have such a bit of paper, but this was apparently lost when the phone was amateurishly painted. This bit of paper is interesting in its own right ....



The clean portion of the paper was *beneath* the condenser, the rest was exposed to the ambient conditions inside the phone; the same grime is on all of the components inside the phone, as on the paper. This grime includes vapors from the lubricants used on the dial mechanism – the fierce fire (Hah!) the "Hitler Telephone" was exposed to would have driven all lubricants off from the dial mechanism, and thus the dial *should* be completely stuck (because it's "boiled dry").

Anyway: installing a condenser, manufactured in February, 1939, into a telephone manufactured in April, 1940, is **extremely** irregular, to say the least. This fact leads us to believe that the "Hitler Telephone" was **actually** manufactured somewhere between February and June of 1939, which also supports our opinion that the stamps on the base of the "Hitler Telephone" are "reproductions" (just so as to not have to say that they are outright forgeries – refer to the appendix for more information).

It bothers us that the base should have been **painted over** in red at all – **if** the phone had been painted red by the OEM VBT (as AHA **claims**), then VBT would certainly have taken a new, **blank** base and simply painted it red (after first applying a primer) ... **but this wasn't done, as is witnessed by the sloppy internal wiring in the "Hitler Telephone."**

The poor manner in which the wiring is routed proves that the entire guts were **removed** from the phone prior to painting the base red, and that things were **re-installed** afterwards – a highly inappropriate manner of manufacture. If the base had been painted red **prior** to the phone being wired up, then all the wires would be **neatly routed**, so as to meet Siemens specifications, but this just **isn't** the case.

We wonder why the handset cord was routed **through** the remains of the original strain relief grommet, while the line cord is routed **under** a chopped out blanking plug ... the only logical answer is that the line cord (and its grommet) had been removed from the phone at some time prior to (or during) its forgery. The original handset cord was also disconnected from the phone at some time ... **as is witnessed by the fact that not so much as a single conductor of either cord is attached to its proper terminal** (whoever disconnected the cords was basically just too ignorant to take notes about which wire went where).

As we wrote on page 37, the base **should** have heated up **very fast** during the fire it was **supposedly** exposed to, and this heating **would** have certainly left its marks on the internal components of the phone as well; the insulation of the wires would have **darkened**, just the same as (at least) the **outer layers of paper** on the ringer and induction coil(s), and the **pitch sealant** of the ringer condenser would have **boiled and leaked out** – yet there is not the slightest sign of **any** of these things having happened; the guts look as good as new (except for the rust on the ringer gongs and the general corrosion inside).

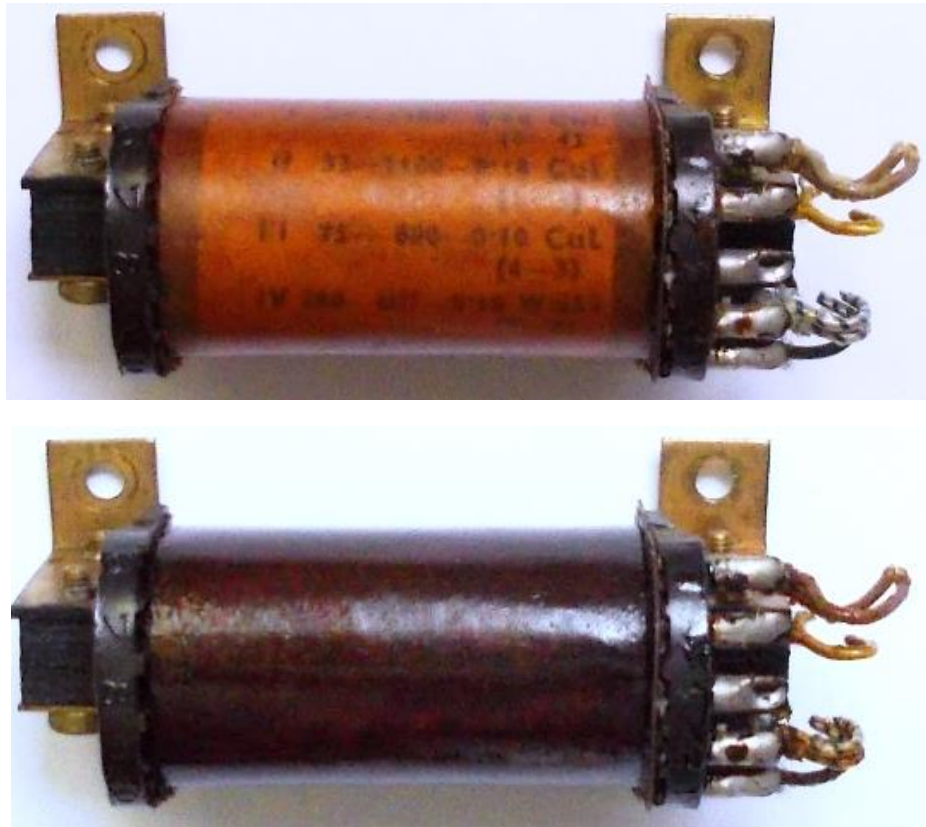
A major point, which AHA, the consignor and the buyer **all** missed, concerns itself with the condition of the innards of the phone: the W38 telephone (as used for the "Hitler Telephone") was anything **but** hermetically sealed or otherwise air- and water-tight. Thus, the air pressure inside the phone would **always** match that outside the phone, even in case of fire ....

What we mean is that, during the fire the "Hitler Telephone" was **supposedly** exposed to (from **all** sides, no less), the air inside the phone would have expanded and escaped (the phone would have "exhaled," so to speak), leaving the air pressure inside equal to that of the fire-hot air on the outside. Now, what would have happened as the fire died down and finally went out? The telephone would have slowly cooled off and **"inhaled"** the sooty and smoky air from outside the housing, in order to maintain equal air pressure inside and out – and the soot from the outside air would have been **evenly distributed** over all of the components within the phone, leaving everything with a thin film of greasy, yellowish, smelly residue – but **nothing** of the kind is to be seen on the photographs of the interior of the phone ... and AHA made **no** mention of any unusual smell inside the phone. No smell or residue: no bunker fire – **that's another** undeniable fact!





The part of wire harness on the previous page, and the induction coil of a German W48 telephone shown below, were heated from an ambient temperature of 20° Celsius (roughly 68° Fahrenheit) to a temperature of 200° Celsius (roughly 390° Fahrenheit; the heating time was roughly ten minutes from 20° C to 200° C), holding that temperature for ten minutes and then slowly cooling off back to ambient (with the oven door open). The heating process was performed in a household electrical oven with a bi-metal thermostat; the temperature reached was *too low* for the flames of a fire, but is *well within the range of hot, smoky and sooty air* resulting from a smoldering fire.



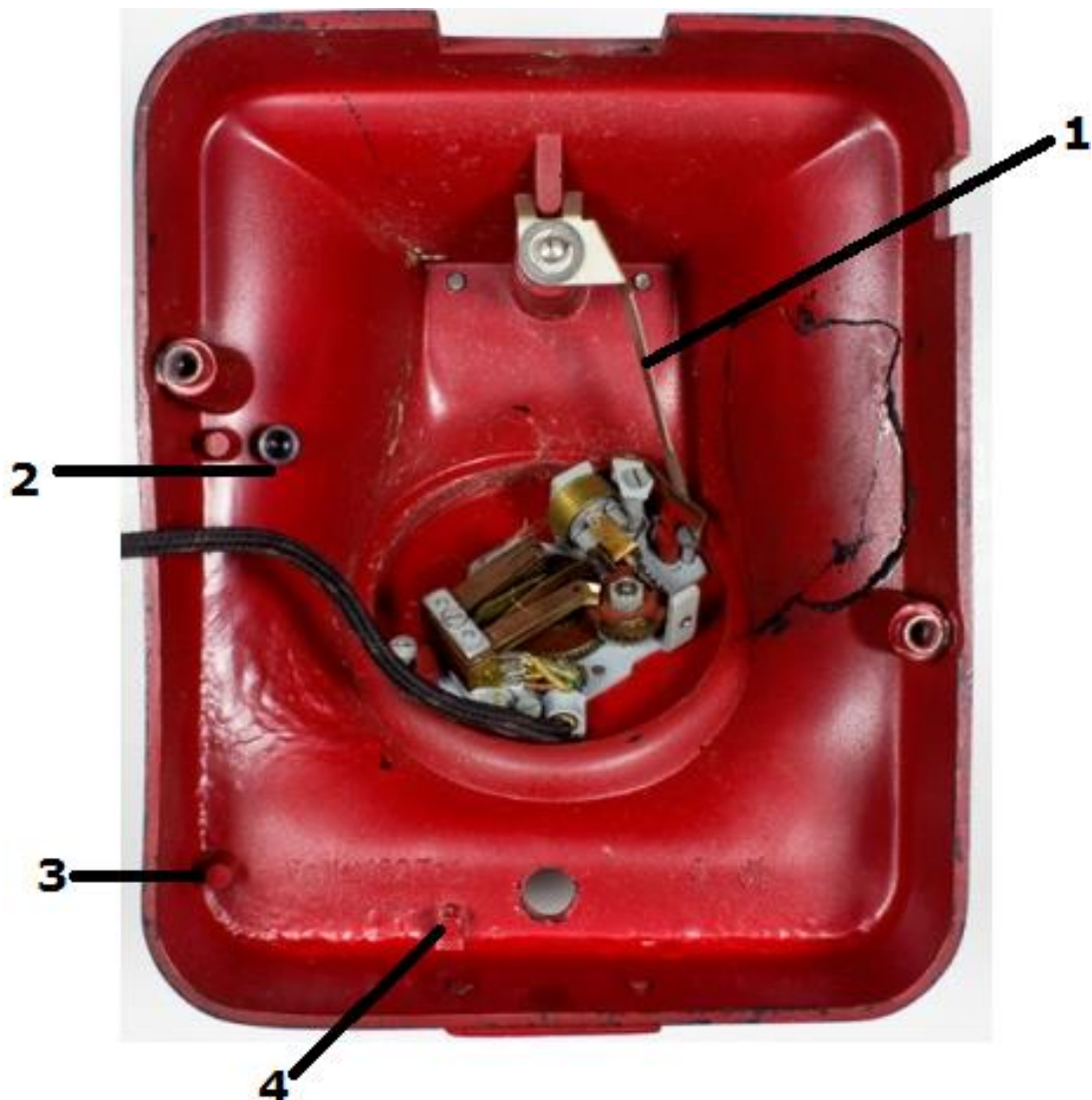
The results show that wire insulation loses its color to a great extent (but doesn't burn), and the waxed cord used to tie the piece of harness remained intact, although the heat *did* evaporate the wax.

Granted: this is *not* conclusive evidence that the insulation on the wires in the "Hitler Telephone" *wouldn't* have charred or burned, since it is unknown whether their insulation was of natural silk (as was most common in the 1930s/40s) or cotton; the wires in the harness from the W48 are insulated with lacquered cotton.

The outer paper wrapping of the induction coil darkened to such an extent that the markings on the white paper beneath it are quite illegible, although the heat was *not* sufficient to burn or otherwise damage the paint on the laminated core of the coil, nor was it sufficient to do any damage to the Bakelite bobbin; however, the heat would *certainly* change the *magnetic* properties of the core to a great extent.

When we consider the results of this heat test, and compare them with the condition of the wiring and components inside the "Hitler Telephone," it is *very* difficult to imagine that the phone was *ever* exposed to the hot gases and soot from any fire, let alone that it was ever directly exposed to flames in Hitler's bunker bedroom.

Even something as simple (not to say downright primitive) as the telephone housing itself gives us clues as to what had **really** happened to the "Hitler Telephone," clues which *quite contradict* what AHA and the consignor claim to be the truth ....



The first thing one notices when looking **inside** the housing is that it is painted red, and that the dial *base* appears to be painted in the same color – *nobody* in their right mind would bother to paint the *inside* of a phone in any color, as no one would ever see the innards; **it doesn't make any** sense at all and is, again, a waste of time and resources.

Then there is that unusual crack on the left side (as seen from the outside) – once more, AHA **makes an unusual claim**: "... a section of the Bakelite body was broken and a contemporary repair was made *with the entire phone repainted ....*" Well, since someone wasted time and energy to originally paint the inside, why wasn't the **inside** repainted after the repair?

No matter; in *this* case, it is a *good* thing that the inside of the housing *wasn't* repainted, because this helps *refute* the claim that the phone was exposed to fire and soot. How so?

Well, if the heat on the **outside** of the phone was high enough to crack and "blister" the paint, then the paint on the **inside** should also be "blistered" and cracked – which is **not** the case ... **it is more as if someone had gone over the outside of the housing with a blowtorch (or heat-gun), without heating the Bakelite to the point where the paint on the inside would be damaged as well.** One would also expect to find a fine coat of soot on the paint **inside** the phone, but there is **none** to be seen.

Aside from this: to have such a large section of the Bakelite break out in only one or two pieces is practically **unbelievable** – Bakelite is brittle enough that one would expect at least five or six shards if such a large area were to be damaged.

There are a few **other details as well: as can be seen in "one" in the photograph on the previous page**, the handset cradle is mechanically linked to the dial – this was to prevent people from rotating the dial with the handset on the cradle; this was a hang-over from the model W28, where such a mechanism was technically necessary – it was also the easiest way to teach subscribers to take the handset off the cradle **before** dialing.

Details "two," "three" and "four" show three stubby pegs molded into the Bakelite of the housing, as well as a threaded insert next to the peg at "two." These pegs were intended for routing the dial cord so **that it wouldn't** interfere with the operation of the ringer, the dial and the cradle switch if it were left hanging free. But the dial cord **isn't** properly routed in the "Hitler Telephone," and there are a screw and a round piece of hard paper (with an off-center hole for the screw) **missing**. Once again: whoever painted the phone was not a careful and conscientious worker (which an OEM **would** have been).



The above is an interior photo of a Siemens M36 desk telephone, showing the proper method of routing the dial cable inside within the housing – no matter that the pegs run off to the right here, while they are located on the left in a W38 telephone ... **the principle remains the same.**



Something else one notices is that there is a folded strip of paper wedged between the metal and Bakelite portions of the dial, near the dial cord.

Every single dial which Siemens/VBT manufactured was stringently tested before being released for use. One of these was a combination dial speed and make/break ratio test, the results being recorded on such a narrow strip of paper. On PBX phones, this strip was commonly folded several times (until it was slightly less than an inch in length), and then wedged between the metal and Bakelite parts of the dial, near the dial cord strain relief clamp – but **the dial on the "Hitler Telephone" is missing** its strip.

The missing strip has certain implications ... **had the "Hitler Telephone" originally been** painted red by VBT, as AHA claimed, then the same would also have applied to the dial. **But** – had VBT truly painted the phone, they would **not** have forgotten to replace the strip of paper after the dial had been reassembled. Granted, in later years (about 1950 onwards), the practice of attaching this strip of paper to the dial was almost universally stopped, which would possibly hint that the dial **body** itself was originally red, and that, therefore, the dial could have stemmed from a red UFTP German model W48.



The photo above is simply an enlargement of the one on page 44, so that everyone may have a good look at the location where the missing strip of paper ought to be.

The photo of the interior of the housing of the so-called "Hitler Telephone" reveals one last (small, but important) detail.



The pins which attach the number card holder on the "Hitler Telephone" are **far** shorter than normal, and are most likely *glued* into the housing – compare with photo to the right<sup>6)</sup>. The reason the pins are so short is that some maladroitness managed to *snap them off* while attempting to *remove* the number card holder *from a different telephone* – removing the two "star" washers (without breaking the pins) requires a *slight* bit of patience and skill, but is, in the end, very easily done without either snapping the pins or cracking the card holder. VBT **wouldn't** have had to remove the number card holder for painting; they would simply have installed it *afterwards* – further proof (as if any more were *really* necessary) that the phone was **not** professionally painted (as AHA claims).

<sup>6)</sup> The photograph on the right at the bottom of the previous page is from the insides of a Siemens M36 in brown Bakelite, rather than in black, but the principle for mounting the number card holder is exactly the same ... compare also with the pins seen in the M36 housing on page 45.

AHA claims that "This Siemens phone, originally bearing a black Bakelite body, was **professionally** painted a deep red ..." – but nothing could be *further* from the truth, as far as the painting is concerned.

Freshly pressed Bakelite is *exceedingly* smooth, so that paint will **not** adhere to it very well, and a professional painter would have sanded the Bakelite down with very fine sandpaper, but this was **not** done, as is witnessed by several splotches, where the paint fell or peeled off very easily.

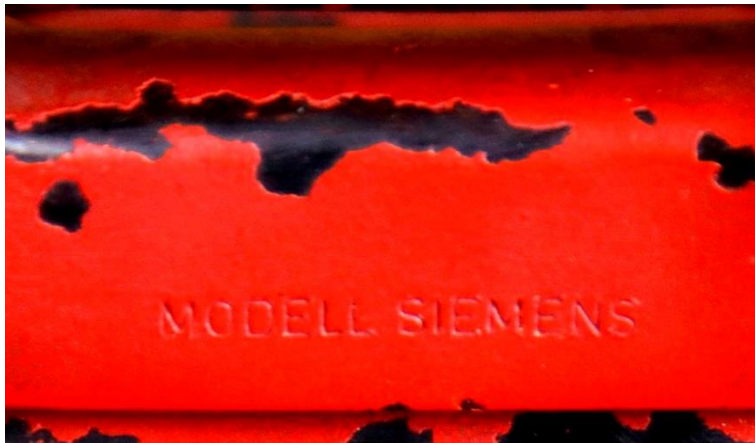


This is a prime example of what we mean ... the black Bakelite shows a certain amount of *light surface scratches* and grime, but **no** signs of having been sanded down in the least, and the Bakelite was also **not** treated with a primer before being painted red.



As we have already noted, the eagle and Hitler's name were *originally* filled with gold-colored paint, and later painted over in red – possibly shortly after the Cuban Missile Crisis, when the “red hotline” telephone was installed between the White House and the Kremlin (although this “hotline” was originally a teletype machine, and **not** a phone) ... the idea being that, if two such important centers of world power had red telephones, then Hitler simply **must** have had a red telephone as well.

Let's see where else the paint is peeling from the phone, and we'll let some of the photographs speak for themselves.



One can see that the paint on the *body* of the “Hitler Telephone” is cracked and chipped, while that on the *handset cradle* shows no signs of any heat-induced damage, but only peeling and chipping.

The visible portions of the original black Bakelite of the cradle show *no* signs of having been sanded or otherwise roughened up, and thus the paint is either peeling or has been chipped off.





The last photograph on the previous page requires some comment – the paint visible **isn't so finely** wrinkled from any source of heat, but rather simply from old age.

In the auction **description**, AHA mentions that the "... paint on the left side of the phone is slightly darkened or scorched, and is crazed ..." **and goes on to state that** "... at some point in time, a section of the Bakelite body was broken and a contemporary repair was made with the entire phone repainted ... this is evident as the paint over the repair (on the left side of the telephone) is uniformly crackled<sup>7)</sup> [*sic!*] and blackened from the heat and soot resulting from the botched attempt to burn Hitler's quarters ...."

Anyone with at least one good eye can see the obvious: the paint is anything but "uniformly cracked and blackened" **where the repair was made** – and the *oddest thing* is that the handset mouthpiece, which is located exactly **above** the damaged portion, **doesn't show even the slightest** signs of heat-induced damage to the paint. How can that be? We have repeatedly stated that we believe that the body of the "Hitler Telephone" (and **only** the body) was heat-treated, so that it is quite natural that there should be **no** heat damage to the paint on the mouthpiece.



<sup>7)</sup> "Crackling" is a **noise** and not a condition or state; "Crackled" is simply the past tense – what AHA *probably* meant was "cracked."





There is exactly **one** spot on the body of the "Hitler Telephone" where the paint isn't simply cracked from the heat treatment, but where there is a downright *scorch-mark*, where the heat was so intense that the paint actually *melted*.

It is on the rear of the skirt of the phone body, on the left side. Such a scorch-mark will *only* occur if the paint is in *intimate* contact with something **very** hot – such as the nozzle of a blowtorch or heat-gun.

As later photographs will show, there was *nothing* metallic anywhere near where the "Hitler Telephone" *supposedly* stood on a nightstand next to Hitler's bed, which could have, even remotely, been responsible for this mark.



We are quite willing to concede that the paint on the handset has very fine *wrinkles* to it – *much* finer than those on the body of the phone. These stem from the paint having dried out completely with age.

What else we can see is that the handset *wasn't* sanded down at all – just the same as the body of the phone ... **the red paint** is just flaking off in larger or smaller portions.





The paint on the *inside* of the body of the "Hitler Telephone" also shows signs of having *dried out* with age – it shows a *very fine pattern of wrinkles* without any signs of cracking or heat damage. However, it is conceivable that the wrinkles in the paint possibly *could* stem from heating, if the paint used were latex- or oil-based. Resin-based paint would, most likely, not have wrinkled, but rather began to peel off.



We have already commented upon the **absurdity** of having cracked and wrinkled paint on the *body* of the telephone, while there are absolutely *no* cracks or wrinkles in the paint of the *number card holder*.

The holder itself is a bit of a mystery in its own right (aside from the paint): it *doesn't* appear to be original to a type W38 telephone at all. How so? One can see round indentations, which correspond to the mounting pins, at the sides of the holder (yellow circles) – and these are **not** found on card holders made of

Bakelite; however, they **are** found on ones made of *thermoplastic* instead. Aside from this, a *Bakelite* holder has rounder corners and a larger "window" than the one on the "Hitler Telephone," as can be seen in the lower photo, which shows the holder belonging to a 1941 VBT M36 telephone.

All German telephones with a Bakelite or UFTP body (M36, W38, W48, W49, etc.) have a number card holder which is made of the same material; one of the first phones in Germany with a *thermoplastic* housing was the M55, manufactured by the firm "Mix and Genest," and this phone had a holder which was also made of thermoplastic – it practically had the same physical dimensions as the ones made of Bakelite or UFTP ... however, the card holder of the M55 phone is clearly marked as being a Mix and Genest product (but this could have been sanded off). *Had* a thermoplastic holder been original to the telephone, *it would have completely molten* during the supposed fire.

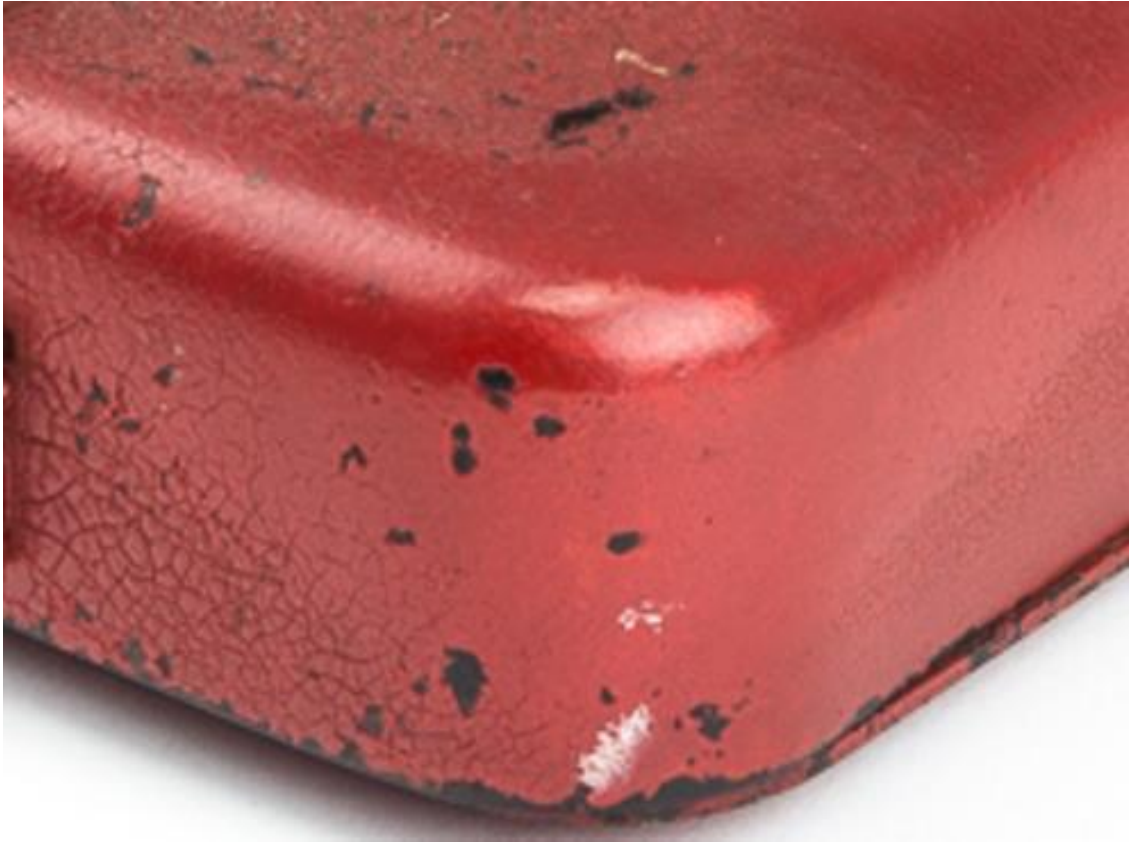


Although we have already mentioned the fact that the paint on the base of the "Hitler Telephone" **would** have cracked and peeled off if it had been exposed to temperatures high enough to have molten the seal on the bunker door leading to Hitler's quarters (since iron is an excellent conductor of heat), we are showing a close-up of a section of the base here so that readers can satisfy themselves as to the fact that the paint is wholly undamaged (and just about as smooth as a baby's behind).

The lettering style used on the base of the "Hitler Telephone" differs *substantially* from that of standard Siemens/VBT phones (please refer back to page 38 and to page 112 of the appendix).

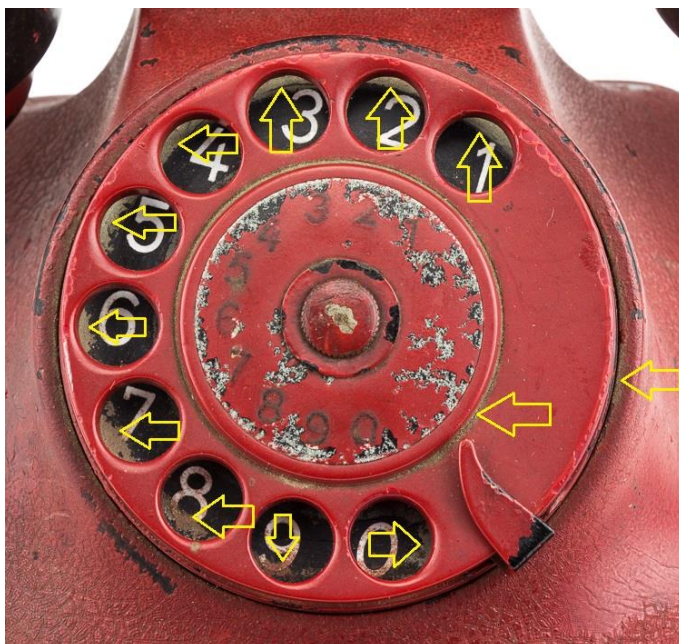
AHA repeatedly claimed that the "Hitler Telephone" had been exposed to a gasoline fire in Hitler's quarters in the bunker: "Paint on the left side of the phone is slightly darkened or scorched, and is crazed." and "... the paint over the repair (on the left side of the telephone) is uniformly crackled [*sic!*] and blackened from the heat and soot resulting from the botched attempt to burn Hitler's quarters ...." This is definitely **not** the case.





They say that a picture is worth a thousand words, and this certainly applies to the one above ... **the cracking and crazing of the paint in the right-hand front corner of the "Hitler Telephone" presents itself in a wide *variety* of patterns** – from very coarse to very fine, even after taking the lighting conditions under which this photo was made into consideration; a **very** selective fire, indeed.

As the tale was told to prospective bidders, the "Hitler Telephone" had *always* been stored in an ancient leather travel case – however, there are certain signs which indicate that it was either not stored in the leather case at all before the auction, or that it only spent its later years in its case (in a safe, no less)!

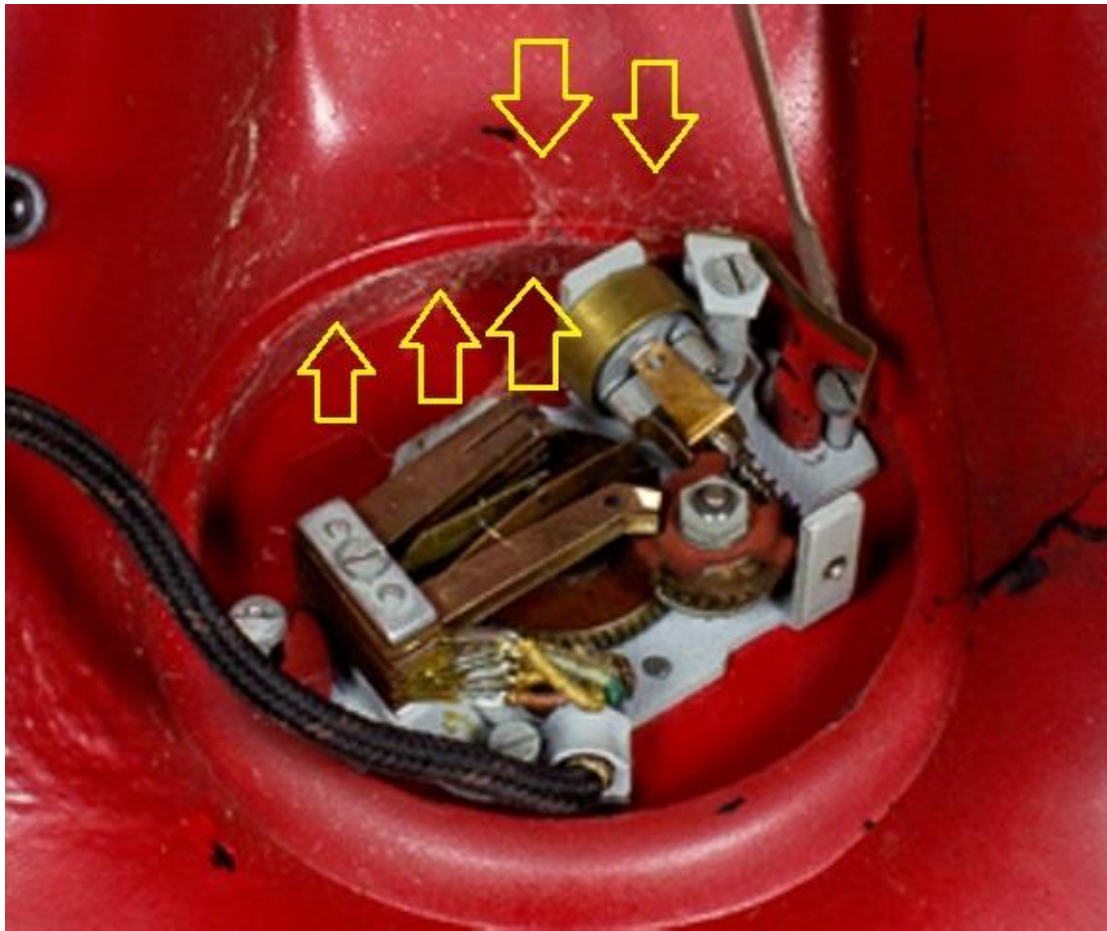


The dirt and grime on the dial has ***nothing*** to do with the telephone's supposed exposure to fire – if it were soot, it would be black ... **but, it's *brown*** instead, rather like old brick dust or something similar.

This would point to storage in a brick garage, basement or other similar environment, but **not** to that encountered in a bunker made of reinforced concrete, or anything of a similar nature.

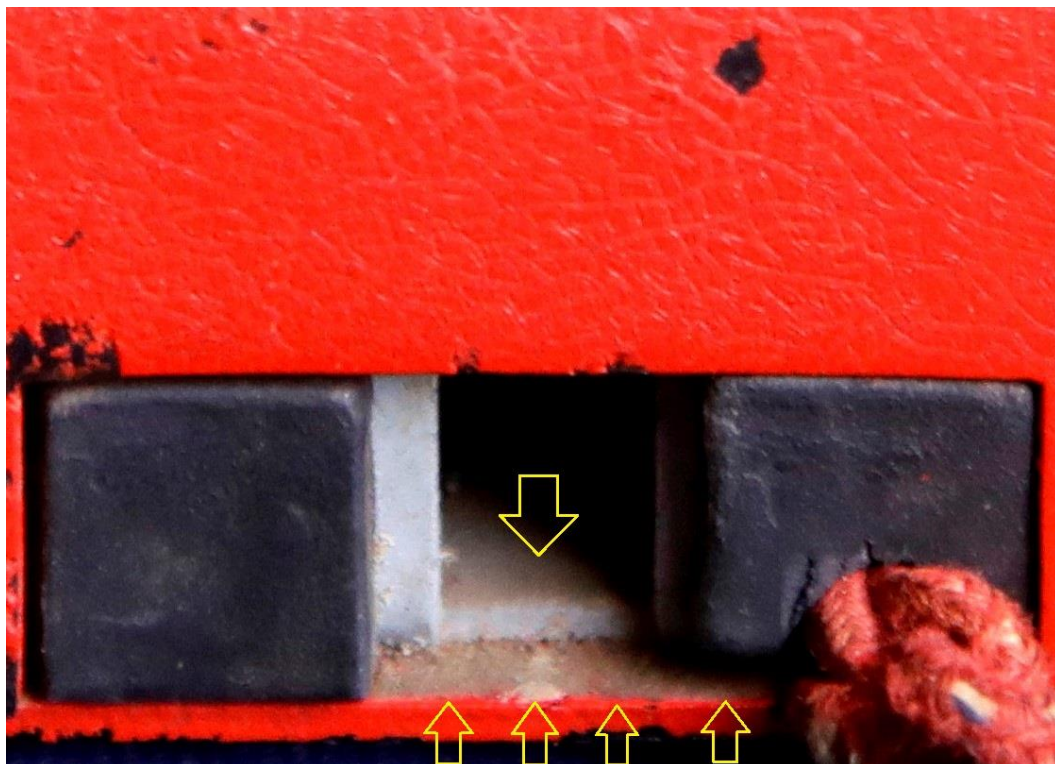
There was sufficient moisture in the air to make the grime stick to the dial – conditions which would **not** be encountered in a leather travel case which was stored in a safe!





There appear to be cobwebs inside the phone! That one or more spider(s) inhabited the "Hitler Telephone" at some time is another indication of storage in a garage or similar area; spiders do **not** crawl into strapped-down leather cases (and from there into any object stored therein), nor do they (as a rule) climb into safes (where the phone was supposedly kept, *inside* its case).

They also do **not** crawl or climb around inside *pitch-black bunkers* and by magic, or other means, find their way into telephones ....



One may also find dust, dirt and grime at the cable entrances at the rear of the phone, even *beneath* the chopped up blanking grommet where the line cord enters; again: the color of the grunge is **not** congruent with cement dust or rubbed-off leather – this stuff, of *very* fine consistency, took *quite* a while to fall and distribute itself so evenly.

As we have already pointed out repeatedly, the finger-wheel of the dial and the “earth” pushbutton of the “Hitler Telephone” are made of dyed UFTP of solid color, and that they most likely came from the remains of a red, German W48 desk telephone, since the W38 from the Reichspost<sup>8)</sup> was only available in black and ivory.

This leads us to an interesting question: **if** the finger-wheel and the “earth” pushbutton truly had been made of *red-dyed UFTP* back in **1940**, then **why** weren’t the body, the handset cradle and the number card holder of the “Hitler Telephone” *also* made of the same material, and **why** wasn’t a *red* Siemens Brothers handset (“... in Siemens Germany’s stock ...”<sup>9)</sup>) installed, instead of painting everything most amateurishly?

<sup>8)</sup> The base of the “Hitler Telephone” is marked “W38,” which indicates that it was manufactured for the Reichspost, since W38s destined for Siemens PBX systems didn’t usually have a Reichspost mark on them; this only happened with approximately ten percent of the phones produced around that time, ostensibly because the Reichspost required more telephones than originally ordered, and thus Siemens Fg. tist. 182s were additionally branded as W38s.

<sup>9)</sup> Since Siemens of Germany **never** stocked telephone components from other countries, even a black Siemens Brothers handset would have been incredible, but a red one an impossibility! (Refer back to our statement on page fourteen.) Besides which: red and green colored “Bakelite” from the GPO, Siemens Brothers, G.E.C. and other manufacturers in the 30s and 40s was just that: *colored* – or, in other words: *spray painted* (there simply weren’t any red or green dyed UFTPs in use back then). Hence, “War Office” telephones from the U.K. from WW II *didn’t* originally have handsets of red or green dyed UFTP, but rather black handsets appropriately spray-painted.

We appear to have reached the point where further observations regarding the “Hitler Telephone” and, at least *some* of the “paper evidence” supplied by AHA, do not substantially add to what we already know about this trumped-up telephone ... **we will** now proceed to an in-depth examination of the auction description as given by AHA, and see just how much they *bloviate* about the “Hitler Telephone” (text by AHA is in red).

#### “ADOLF HITLER’S PERSONAL PRESENTATION TELEPHONE, RECOVERED FROM THE FUHRERBUNKER

There is absolutely **no HARD EVIDENCE** to support this claim; all we find is what is called “hearsay evidence,” *but nothing which proves* that *anyone* presented this telephone to Hitler, nor that it was, indeed, recovered from the Führerbunker in Berlin.

“ADOLF HITLER’S PERSONAL TELEPHONE, presented to him by the Wehrmacht and engraved with his name ...

We have sufficiently dispelled this bit of nonsense, since there is **no** dedication on the telephone to indicate who might possibly have presented it to Hitler, *under the assumption that the “Hitler Telephone” was the “real McCoy” to begin with*. AHA offers **nothing** in the way of evidence to support this fanciful claim. The only thing which *can* be proven is that Hitler’s name is (*unevenly and unprofessionally*) engraved.

"... gifted by Russian officers to Montgomery's Deputy Chief Signals Officer who had arrived at the Fuhrerbunker only days after the fall of Berlin

**AHA did not provide so much as a single shred of evidence to support the claim** that Russian officers had made Brig. Rayner a present of "Hitler's Telephone," nor that Rayner had arrived at the bunker "... only days after the fall of Berlin ..." – all AHA offers in the way of "evidence" is a **copy**<sup>10)</sup> of a letter, from Brig. Rayner to his wife, which he is supposed to have written on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1945 – **quite** a while **after** the fall of Berlin and the unconditional surrender of the German Wehrmacht on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1945. We found a copy of this letter in the auction photo section and show it on page 164 of the appendix.

<sup>10)</sup> It was just a plain old copy of something which may not be a true original at all. There is **nothing** in this letter placing the "Hitler Telephone" into Adolf's grubby little hands, **or proving** that Brig. Rayner had – somehow – laid his hands on "Hitler's Telephone." Brig. Rayner only wrote of Berlin being "a pile of rubble." He also **did not** write that he had been in Hitler's Berlin bunker complex. There is also **no** evidence that the handwriting is truly that of Brig. Rayner, either.

**"ARGUABLY THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE "WEAPON" OF ALL TIME, WHICH SENT MILLIONS TO THEIR DEATHS AROUND THE WORLD**

How did AHA intend to support this ridiculous claim? Millions? Was anyone from AHA **physically near Hitler** on any occasion in 1944 or 1945, when he ordered the death of **anyone** via the "Hitler Telephone," let alone the death of "millions?" And: **why** "around the world?" It sounds good, and is a really **great** yarn, but there is (again) **not one shred of HARD EVIDENCE** to even **minimally** support the claim.

**If** AHA is obliquely referring to what is commonly known as the Holocaust, we can easily offer **contrary evidence: the "final solution" to the "Jewish question" was cemented at the "Wannsee Conference" – of which Hitler did not even partake.**

From a well-founded, historical view: it was **very** seldom that Hitler directly gave **verbal** orders to commanders in the field; it was much more common for him to order his adjutants to handle things, via radio- or standard teletype, so that there would be a written copy available to prove to Hitler that his orders had been passed on.

**"This Siemens phone, originally bearing a black Bakelite body, was professionally painted a deep red and bears on the reverse a 1 1/2" engraved NSDAP eagle and swastika above the recipient's name, "ADOLF HITLER", appearing beneath the handset cradle**

As we have pointed out several times, and offered evidence in support of our claim, the "Hitler Telephone" was **neither** professionally painted, **nor** professionally engraved. We have also proved that, **had** the "Hitler Telephone" really been presented to Hitler by the (generic) Wehrmacht, then the eagle would have been the "State" eagle (which the Wehrmacht used), and not a "Party" (NSDAP) eagle, which the Wehrmacht was **not authorized** to use on letterheads, seals, stamps and the like.

The spiel is nice and, aside of the description of the paint job, is accurate (as far as it goes) – but there simply is **no evidence** as to **when** the phone was daubed red. The mere fact that it has Hitler's name on it does **not** put it in his hands by a wide margin.

Case in mind: there are literally **thousands** of faked Leica cameras floating around, made in Russia, which were **purportedly** used by the German Luftwaffe during WW II, complete with Luftwaffe designations and State eagles engraved into them – these engravings **do not** make the cameras more "authentic" by any stretch of imagination.



"The rotary dial is comprised of red Bakelite with a faded interior number dial on its surface, with a black numbered dial beneath

The above statement certainly proves one thing: AHA *doesn't* know the first thing about telephones in general, and certainly nothing about German telephones in particular, nor anything about chemistry and thermosetting plastics, such as UFTP and Bakelite.

The "rotary dial" is **not** made of "red Bakelite" – the **finger-wheel** of the dial is made of a red-dyed, thermosetting resin known as "Urea Formaldehyde" (which is NOT Bakelite, which is a *Phenol* Formaldehyde resin), which was **not** in widespread use in the 1930s and 1940s. The basic, originally black, telephone in question was a model W38, which was only available in black and ivory from Siemens/VBT (and hence from the German Reichspost). It *may* be that the *body* of the dial was also made of red-dyed UFTP.

Pray, tell us: *what sort of mythical beast* is a "faded **interior** number dial" supposed to be?

Is AHA, *by any chance*, referring to the electrically oxidized, sloppily painted-over disc of aluminum in the **center** of the finger-wheel? The European telephone collector who wrote the German-language Wikipedia entry for the W38 telephone states that this disc was **not** Reichspost standard for the W38 telephone, and thus should **not** be present on the "Hitler Telephone."

One more question: what on earth (or space, or the galaxy) is a "black numbered **dial**?" *Exactly how many dials* does the "Hitler Telephone" have? Ah – what the folks at AHA probably *meant* is the *numeral ring*, which is located beneath the finger-wheel. At least, **we can't** imagine what **else** they might have possibly meant. **If they don't even know** the proper nomenclature for separate parts of a standard telephone dial, then maybe AHA shouldn't be dealing in such things at all – it's as if AHA would offer the following description of an Iron Cross, Second Class: "Iron Cross, Second Class, made of iron." *Gee whiz!*

"The handset bears an approx. 40" braided cord. Interestingly, the handset must be rotated almost 60 degrees before it can be removed from the cradle, this to prevent it from shaking loose during transport in a train, automobile, etc.

We have sufficiently proved that the claim, by which the handset was *purposely* intended to remain on the cradle while the phone was supposedly "in transit," is pure misfortune, because the forgers of the "Hitler Telephone" didn't have access to a proper Siemens handset and were therefore forced to use one from the U.K. instead.

We have further proven that, had it truly been the intent and purpose of an oddly shaped handset to not fall from the cradle, then there were other options available than using an electrically completely **incompatible** U.K. handset on a German telephone.

What **documentary evidence** does AHA have to support their *claim* that the handset was *intentionally* chosen so it wouldn't shake off the handset? **None at all.**

We have also incidentally proven that not only the handset cord, but also the line and dial cords, are *incorrectly connected* to the terminal strip inside the phone, which is quite more than enough to prevent the phone from **ever** working – and this **proves** to 100% that the phone **wouldn't** have worked for Hitler, either. This under the assumption that the "Hitler Telephone" was genuine and that no one had **ever** tampered with the terminal strip – and AHA did **not** make any statement to the contrary concerning the manner in which the terminal strip is wired up.

"The phone also has a 54" braided connection cord which terminates in four metallic loops: these loops would be pulled over pin-type connectors for quick connection

Hah! We'd simply *love* to know what **documentary evidence** AHA has to offer which would **prove** that the "Hitler Telephone" was connected to *any* telephone line by pulling the wire loops over "pin-type connectors."

This is a good example of the *highly* fanciful claims which AHA made – no matter that they probably simply enlarged upon the consignor's foolish statement, whereby the "metal loops" were "plugged in" somewhere ... as anyone familiar with telephones and telephone cords is aware of, simply pulling those wire loops over pins (or simply sticking them in anywhere) is bound to cause trouble in the way of very *poor* electrical connections.

"On the bottom, the phone is ink-stamped: "W38 Fg. tist 182b 31V.4." [Model W38 Fernsprechgeraet Tischstation 182b.; 31 representing the factory Berlin-Siemensstadt, "V" for 1940, "4" for April], and it is marked "A.23." in one corner

AHA just parrots back what Peter von Siemens *incorrectly* stated in his letter to the consignor: "31" is **NOT** the code for Berlin-Siemensstadt! It never was, and never will be. "31" was, as we have already stated, the production code for the "Vereinigte Bayrische Telefonwerke" (VBT) in Munich, Bavaria between 1938 and 1945.

**Granted:** between 1927 and 1937, VBT had the production code "B" (for Berlin) – but being attached to Berlin was only an *administrative* matter; VBT was physically situated in Munich throughout its existence as a Siemens plant. Besides which, we are talking about 1940 – a time at which the "31" code was definitely in use.

Readers may wish to refer to the following to verify our evidence:

<http://www.matilo.eu/technish/ontcijferen-van-siemens-datumcodes-op-telefoontoestellen/?lang=en>

There is *something* amiss with the marking "A.23." in the right-hand lower corner of the base: it is *much* too large in relation to the other markings, and should **not** have any "periods" or "decimal points" in it ... at least when we compare it to *all* of the Siemens telephones in our collections. To date, we have only found such designations beginning with either the letter "A" (as here) or "R," together with a one or two-digit number (and *no* collector, even among the Siemens specialists, knows exactly what these mean).

"Paint on the left side of the phone is slightly darkened or scorched, and is crazed

Something which is "scorched" has been heated to such an extent that carbonization has taken place, which is not evident in the area mentioned – there *is* exactly one scorch-mark on the paint, but we have already dealt with that, and given a plausible explanation as to its existence.

Aside from this, the paint is "slightly" darkened almost all over the phone and handset.

"Dimensions 6" wide, 7 1/2" deep, 6" tall"

Can't argue with that very much – it's one of the *few* accurate statements AHA made.

"The telephone is stored in a vintage leather carrying case with strap which belonged to Brigadier Rayner and which bears various shipping line and destination stickers of the time, as well as a British wartime mail economy notice bearing the officer's typed name

The "Hitler Telephone" may have been stored in a vintage carrying case for *a while*, but, as we have already pointed out, it apparently spent much time *outside* of this container, accumulating dust, dirt and grime in a damp environment in the process.

The information AHA offers here is just window dressing – information **not** having **any** direct bearing on the "Hitler Telephone" or its purported provenance.

"This incredible relic, unequaled in historic importance, is accompanied by unshakeable provenance. It has been consigned by a direct descendant of Brigadier Sir Ralph Rayner (1896-1977)

Just because AHA **claims** that there is an "unshakeable" provenance to the "Hitler Telephone" doesn't make the plain facts any truer: it is unshakably a fake, intended to put *much* ill-gotten money into some people's pockets.

Of course, it would be possible to explain away the one **or** the other fault we have found, but, under no circumstances **all** of them ....

"Rayner was commissioned into the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, in which he served as a signals officer. He was seconded to the Royal Flying Corps in 1916. During the First World War he served on the Western Front and India. He then entered politics and was Member of Parliament for Totnes from 1935 to 1955, and was Knighted in 1956. Early in the war, Rayner rejoined the Royal Corps of Signals, fought with the B.E.F., and was evacuated at Dunkirk. Promoted Brigadier, he served under Major-General C.M.F. White, Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery's Chief Signals Officer

More window dressing without **any** value as to proving the provenance of the "Hitler Telephone." Rayner's obituary has him listed as "**Deputy** Chief Signal Officer (Control Commission) of 21<sup>st</sup> Army Group," which might be correct, since Major-General White was Monty's **Chief** Signals Officer – one has to read carefully in order to not get misled into believing that Rayner was Chief Signals Officer. This stuff was probably written to "prove" that Brig. Rayner was an "officer and gentleman," who wouldn't even *dream* of forging the "Hitler Telephone" – but, alas, it doesn't **prove** anything of the kind at all.

"On May 5, 1945, a day after the German surrender, ...

Wouldn't it be nice if AHA got something right, *at least now and then, especially historical facts*? May 4<sup>th</sup> was the day the Germans *partially* surrendered to Montgomery, at the Lüneburger Heath.

**Berlin** formally and unconditionally surrendered to the Soviet legions and Western Allies on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1945, with General Jodl signing for the Germans – so the Germans did **not** surrender on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1945 (since AHA claims that May 5<sup>th</sup> was the day *afterwards*) ... the German forces didn't unconditionally surrender until May 8<sup>th</sup>.

One would expect that those at AHA would at least *get the very basics of world history right*, considering that they deal with historical materials in every auction, but, apparently they are too lazy to do so much as basic research concerning their items.

Readers may wish to refer to the following to verify our evidence:

<https://www.secondworldwarhistory.com/fall-of-berlin.asp>



"Brigadier Rayner was order by Montgomery to establish contact with the Russians in Berlin

Let's see now ... Berlin surrendered on May 1<sup>st</sup>, Rayner was ordered to go there on the 5<sup>th</sup>, and very likely didn't get there much before the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> of May – because the Germans were still fighting on the western front until the unconditional surrender of **all** German forces on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, 1945 ("VE-Day" -> **V**ictory in **E**urope). As an aside: "Brigadier" Rayner was *never* in Berlin – he held the rank of Colonel at the time, and there is no hard data available as to when he was promoted ....

He may *not even have gotten there* by the 10<sup>th</sup>, because the first indication we have of him *actually being in Berlin* is his (supposed) letter from the 18<sup>th</sup> of May.

"Very likely the first non-Soviet victor to enter the city, Rayner went to the Chancellery where Russian officers offered him a tour

So, from what AHA is telling us, Rayner did *not* first seek out and "... establish contact with the Russians in Berlin, ..." but rather went on a Disneyland-type tour of Hitler's former bunker with some Soviet cronies.

AHA is also not exactly what one would call *precise* when they engage in wild speculation and conjecture in writing that Rayner was "very *likely* the first non-Soviet to enter the city ...;" either he was, or he wasn't – but **AHA can't prove it either way**, so they make some *more* window dressing out of it and *imply* that he was the "first non-Soviet to enter the city." But, it's just *more* of a yarn (which is getting longer and longer).

"On entering *Hitler's private quarters*, Rayner was first offered Eva Braun's telephone, but politely declined claiming that his favorite color was red

AHA is historically incorrect here (once *again*): Eva Braun's bedroom was a *separate* unit (aside from Hitler's private quarters), with a bath and wardrobe, which was cut off from Hitler's sitting (cum situation) room by a door ... so Rayner can't have been in "Hitler's private quarters" if he was "first offered Eva Braun's telephone" – he **must** have been in **her** bedroom instead. And: if he was in Eva Braun's bedroom, there was simply **no** way for him to see into Hitler's bedroom, where the phone was supposedly found.

We will be presenting a drawing of the relevant portions of the so-called "deep bunker" ("Tiefenbunker" in German, where all of these rooms were located) further on in our analysis, so that the veracity of our statement may be verified.

"His Russian hosts were pleased to hand him a red telephone - the telephone offered here

Anyone interested in world history should digest the above slowly and draw his own conclusions ....

Let us be *very* charitable and assume that Brig. Rayner actually made it to Berlin on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1945 – the Russians had been in control of Berlin and the Führerbunker since May 1<sup>st</sup>, and had certainly looted the bunker like crazy (as witnessed by photographs we found on the internet, and which we will later provide).

**Is it very likely** that something as special as a red "Hitler Telephone" would have been *ignored* by freebooting Russians, that *all* who entered the bunker prior to Rayner (*if* he was ever inside at all) simply *ignored* it and left it to remain where it supposedly was? As the British say: *not bloody likely*.

In fact, isn't it much **more** likely that some Soviet field-marshal would have laid his hands on such a prized "personal possession" of **Hitler's**, or that it might possibly have been spirited away to Moscow, for Stalin to gloat over?

The Soviets actually let it sit there, in the dark and dank bunker, to rot away, until Brig. Rayner supposedly found it in **Hitler's bedroom**? We just **don't** see it happening ....

By the way: there is a **second** desk telephone, a W28 this time, **without** any sloppy engravings or daubed-on color, which claims its name to fame as being "**Hitler's last telephone** – The bedside telephone of Nazi German Chancellor Adolf Hitler. This telephone was recovered from his Berlin Führerbunker, where he spent his final days."



We would like to point out that the **plug** on this telephone, although of the correct **type**, is **not** original, since **white UFTP** wasn't available in Germany in the up until about 1950. Besides this, were the plug original, it would have a strain-relief spring, the same as on the plug shown back on page 28 of this analysis. There is also **no** sign of a matching wall jack to be seen in any of the photographs of Hitler's bunker bedroom which we found .... (Just some food for thought for the inquisitive.)

So, **just how many** "Hitler bunker bedroom telephones" *are* actually out there in the woodworks, and should we believe that **any** of them is the real McCoy? In the further course of our analysis, we will be providing a photograph of where "Hitler's bunker bedroom telephone" (the one *as* the other) **supposedly** stood, and let our readers decide for themselves.

"Brigadier Rayner also left the bunker with an Allach porcelain Alsatian, likely gifted to Hitler as well (and offered elsewhere in this auction)

Readers: let this melt on your tongues ... "... **likely** gifted to Hitler as well ...." *It's really just that easy* for an auction house like AHA to claim association of an article with Hitler – simply say "it's likely" (even if there is absolutely **NO** basis upon which such a claim might be staked), and you've got brainless bidders going crazy to outbid each other.

As we have already pointed out, there isn't so much as a **single** photograph showing the "Hitler Telephone" (or the "porcelain Alsatian") *in situ in the bunker*, or in Brig. Rayner's grubby little hands – in reality, all we have is *hearsay evidence and hot air* as to the provenance of **both** objects.

"Included with the lot is: the consignor's very detailed notarized letter of provenance which fully sets forth his personal recollection of the telephone being brought to England and his research on its history

Sounds **very** fishy to us – **anyone** can go to a notary public with a bit of written paper (such as the fanciful and fictional history of a telephone) and get the thing notarized; no problem *at all*. **All** the notary public is doing, by signing and sealing the paper, is certifying that, on a specific date, a certain person signed a bit of paper in his presence, in order to have the **signature** notarized. **A notarized letter isn't verified as to its contents being true or not – that's the trick of it.** A notarized letter **sounds** very important and **highly** legal, but, as proof of provenance, it is actually **worthless**.

It would have been *somewhat* different, and just *slightly* more believable, had the person with the bit of paper sworn an affidavit as to the truth and authenticity of everything set forth and described in the letter – but that *wasn't* done, possibly to avoid being hauled before a court of law for perjury, if the truth were to be known?

However, even **if** the person had sworn an affidavit as to the veracity of his "recollections," there is absolutely **no proof** that these "*recollections*" were true in the least. So, once again, there is **no hard evidence** which would put the "Hitler Telephone" anywhere near Adolf Hitler's person, let alone in his hands.

"... a 1977 newspaper article showing Brig. Rayner with the telephone

Well, once again, AHA is being rather *coy* with the absolute truth. It is not "a newspaper article," but rather a long-winded *obituary* for Brig. Rayner, dated July 19<sup>th</sup>, 1977.

Providing this newspaper clip as evidence for the existence of a red "Hitler Telephone" is akin to a cat chasing after its own tail; the data in the obituary (especially that concerning the existence and provenance of the "Hitler Telephone"), as well as the photograph of Big. Rayner "using" his "Hitler Telephone," were provided to the newspaper either by one of Rayner's sons or his daughter – most likely in order to bolster future claims as to the authenticity of the telephone.

This obituary **cannot** be even *minimally* considered as being independent, valid and true evidence ....



HERALD EXPRESS 19/7/77

# Former Totnes MP dies at his home



BRIG RAYNER IN 1963, USING HITLER'S TELEPHONE.

THE former Conservative MP for the Totnes constituency, Brig Sir Ralph Rayner, has died at his home, Ashcombe Tower, Dawlish, aged 81.

Sir Ralph, who died on Sunday, represented the parliamentary division from 1935 to 1955. He was a former member of Devon County Council and a well-known landowner and farmer. A memorial service is to be held early in September.

Sir Ralph began his career in the diplomatic service, but on the declaration of war in 1914 went into the Army.

He transferred to the Indian Army in 1917 and to the

Royal Signals in 1926. He served in the third Afghan War and was a member of the British mission to Kabul.

From 1928-30 he was ADC to the Governor General of Canada, the first Marquess of Willingdon, and he retired from the Army in 1933. He was recalled in 1939 and went to France with the BEF.

Later he became Chief Signal Officer, Northern Ireland, and in 1944 went to Germany as Deputy Chief Signal Officer (Control Commission) in 21 Army Group.

While in that post Sir Ralph picked up one of his most cherished souvenirs—a blood red telephone which

Hitler kept by his bedside. Sir Ralph was one of the first allied officers to enter the dictator's Berlin bunker when the city fell and he acquired the instrument one of the few objects remaining intact.

After the war he was honorary colonel 43rd Wessex Divisional Signal Regt, Deputy Lieutenant of Devon 1958, chairman of the Western Area Conservative Association 1955-61 and of the Royal Society of St George 1954-64.

He was knighted in 1956. In 1931 he married Elizabeth, daughter of the late S. A. Courtauld, and they had three sons and a daughter.

Readers may also let the following quote melt on their tongues: "... a blood red telephone which Hitler kept by his bedside. Sir Ralph was one of the first Allied officers to enter the dictator's Berlin bunker when the city fell ...."

**First objection:** he certainly wasn't "... one of the first Allied officers to enter the ... bunker when the city fell ..." – all of Berlin had been captured and occupied by **Soviet forces** as of May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1945, and Soviet forces were the **first** to enter the bunker after Berlin had capitulated; it wasn't until sometime **after** May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1945, that Rayner was seconded to Berlin at all, the exact date **not** being known, and it **not** being known (and therefore **not proven**) when, exactly, he arrived in Berlin.

There is a supposed letter from Rayner to his wife, dated May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1945, "... mentioning meeting with the Russians in 'a pile of rubble ...'" – luckily, AHA showed a scan of this letter in the auction photo section, as they also did with some other so-called "corroborating evidence." A copy of a letter from Rayner's daughter, dated September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006, was **not** shown (both do **not** materially add to the "provenance" of the "Hitler Telephone" under any circumstances anyway).

**Second objection:** the caption below the photograph claims Rayner is "... using Hitler's Telephone ...," which is an outright lie, since the terminal strip inside the phone is wired up helter-skelter, and not so much as a single wire of the handset, dial and line cord is attached to the screw it should be connected to. The paragraph in the article from "Der Spiegel" from 1963 *specifically states* that Rayner **never** got the phone working. ("Attempts by the telephone thief to connect the apparatus to the english telephone network **failed**.")

As we have also already pointed out, the "Hitler Telephone" was **black** in 1963, but the newspaper cannot be faulted for that, since they were most likely provided with a black and white photo of Rayner "using" his phone and had to take someone else's word for it that the phone was red.

"... a Jan. 29, 1988 letter from Peter von Siemens to the consignor offering manufacturing details of the telephone and stating that the color was not typical of that produced by the firm

Most of the "manufacturing details" given by P. v. Siemens are simply incorrect; the telephone was **not** manufactured in April of 1943, but rather in 1940, and it was **not** manufactured at the Siemens plant in Berlin-Siemensstadt, but rather by VBT in Munich, Bavaria.

We cannot comment on whether the schematic ("electric **scheme**") P. v. Siemens supposedly provided the consignor with belongs to a Siemens W38 or not, and **if** so, to which **variant** of the same (there were a few during the war years, so that it would be important to have the **exact** schematic matching the phone), since AHA didn't bother providing a scan of the schematic for anyone to look at – *maybe with good reason*, such as the schematic having been for an **entirely** different phone (such as an W48) all together?

And, *once again*, AHA is **bending** the truth a bit; P. v. Siemens did **not** state that "the color **was not typical** of that produced by the firm" but rather *specifically* wrote that "the colour red **was not included** in our range of colours at that time" – which is just *slightly* different in context.



"... a copy of a photo of Luftwaffe aces Dieter Hrabak, Hans-Ulrich Rudel, and Erwin Hentschel [*sic!*] at an awards ceremony in **April, 1943** possibly handing Hitler the gift of a telephone

AHA *really should* get into the habit of **not** constantly *inferring* things which **aren't** there, **and also get their historical data correct!** "*Possibly* handing Hitler the gift of a telephone ...." Oh, my Aunt Polly's eye teeth!! Any fool in the world can **clearly** see that it is Hitler handing Rudel something *rather small*, and **not** the other way round, namely Rudel handing Hitler *anything even remotely resembling a telephone*.



Hitler has just presented Dietrich ("Dieter") Hrabak the Oak Leaves to the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross (he can be seen holding the presentation case in his right hand), is just awarding the Swords to the Oak Leaves of the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross to Hans-Ulrich Rudel (for his successful completion of 1,500 sorties against the enemy – Rudel is just reaching for Hitler's hands to accept the open presentation case), and will be awarding the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross to Rudel's observer/radio operator, Erwin Henschel (for his successful completion of 1,200 sorties against the enemy, most of these flown together with Rudel) in a moment or two.

This award ceremony took place at the Wolf's Lair Complex in East Prussia, on **November 25<sup>th</sup>, 1943** – **NOT** in *April* of the same year! This was the **only** occasion upon which these three Luftwaffe aces **and** Hitler were photographed together.

Again, nobody need take our word for it, refer to:

<http://www.pilotenbunker.de/Stuka/Rudel/rudel.htm>

Although the website is in German, the owner also provides a brief English translation of the information on the page (although his does English leave a bit to be desired).



However, we **can** see **just how tempting** it must have been (what with P. v. Siemens **wrong** manufacturing date of April, 1943 for the "Hitler Telephone") for AHA **to bend history thoroughly out of shape** and claim that the award ceremony took place in April – it **would** have been **such** a **perfect** match! **Sigh!**

But an above-board, serious and honest enterprise **wouldn't** go and rewrite history (**and purport their oddball view of things as being true**) just to match their own pet theory, **or would they?** Perish the thought ....

Anyway, AHA **somehow** managed to overlook **one teeny, tiny detail** in the whole affair: their **own** claim that the **Wehrmacht** (which was the **combined** land, sea and air forces of Nazi Germany) had supposedly presented **the red "Hitler Telephone" to old Adolf (ADOLF HITLER'S PERSONAL TELEPHONE, presented to him by the Wehrmacht)** – while Hrabak, Rudel and Henschel were **Luftwaffe** (air force) personnel ... so, **which of AHA's own**, weird stories **are** we to believe, then: the one in which the **Wehrmacht** presented Hitler with the phone, or the one where it was **three Luftwaffe aces** who handed the phone to Hitler? **Neither**, actually, as we have just successfully proven.

Oh, yes – we shouldn't forget to mention that the photograph we provided on the previous page is from the internet, of which AHA supplied "a copy" to the successful bidder. It wasn't that the consignor had the **original** photograph in his hands – he just found the same photo on the internet as we did and had a digital print of the same. This only proves that the consignor can browse the internet with some measure of success, but is **most certainly not** evidence as to the existence of a "Hitler Telephone."



The notice to the left, scanned from the German Naval Front Newspaper for the Channel Coast, number 238, dated October 12<sup>th</sup>, 1943, reports of Hans-Ulrich Rudel's 1,500<sup>th</sup> sortie against the enemy (flown on October 9<sup>th</sup>); that he is the first flying ace to achieve such a high number of sorties; that he had also destroyed 87 enemy tanks; that his radio operator/observer Henschel flew most of the sorties together with Rudel, and that Henschel completed his 1,200<sup>th</sup> flight against the enemy on the same day and on the same sortie.

This **proves** that *the occasion for which Hans-Ulrich Rudel and Erwin Henschel were later decorated* (their 1,500<sup>th</sup>, respectively 1,200<sup>th</sup> sortie) took place on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 1943 – **how could they have been decorated in April for something which they would not have achieved until October?** We'll let AHA think about that a bit ... and **try** to worm their way out with some manner of convoluted, oddball, weird and fanciful explanation.

"... an original fax message (faded) with translation from ROCHUS MISCH (1917-2013), SS-Oberscharführer and a member of Hitler's personal bodyguard, from Jan. 16, 1945 telephone operator in the bunker, states: "... From the photo I agree this was the red telephone that accompanied my Father [Hitler] constantly during the last two years of the war ....

This is where AHA gets **really** cryptic and convoluted – people should re-read the above a few times to catch the drift of what they **actually** mean.

They *don't* mean "... an original fax message ... from Rochus Misch ... from Jan. 16, 1945 ...," although it seems so from the weird manner in which AHA wrote this long sentence.

In small bites: **1)** there is a severely faded fax, *supposedly* from Mr. Rochus Misch, which is *supposedly* from 1985 ("Exhibit F"<sup>11)</sup> at the very beginning of this analysis), complete with a *partly incorrect translation* of the same; **2)** Mr. Misch last held the rank of SS Oberscharführer (a rather *low* rank, equivalent to that of Quartermaster-Sergeant); **3)** Mr. Misch was **a member of Hitler's** personal bodyguard; **4)** Mr. Misch was a telephone operator in the Führerbunker as of January 16<sup>th</sup>, 1945; and **5)** the *supposedly* correct translation of a portion of the German-language fax reads as "From the photo I agree this was the red telephone that accompanied my Father [Hitler] constantly during the last two years of the war."

<sup>11)</sup> One wonders what happened to exhibits "A" through "F" and "H," since AHA didn't show **any** of these in the auction photo section; exhibit "G" may be found on page 98.

We have already dispelled the *myths* associated with numbers one and five at the beginning of our analysis. We will concede that AHA is (for once) correct in giving Mr. Misch the SS rank of Oberscharführer (number two) – there are *plenty* of photos around which show him in uniform, and that he was the telephone operator in the Führerbunker per January 16<sup>th</sup>, 1945 (number four).

Concerning number three: Misch spent *much* more time as a courier between the Wolf's Lair Complex and Berlin, than as a bodyguard to Hitler, although there are photographs which show him on *general guard duty at the Wolf's Lair Complex*. Hitler never had **a** personal bodyguard (in the singular), but only a *group of guards* that was responsible for his protection, thus Mr. Misch was never Hitler's **personal** bodyguard (*as he claims in his memoirs*).

For those who wish the *full story*, we recommend reading the book "Hitler's Last Witness" (the memoirs of Mr. Misch); for those who don't want to delve in *quite* so deep, we offer the following English-language links:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rochus\\_Misch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rochus_Misch)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS-Begleitkommando\\_des\\_F%C3%BChrers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS-Begleitkommando_des_F%C3%BChrers)

From what we can find on the internet, Mr. Misch seems to have spent a *great* deal of time *away* from guard duty, since he shot so many candid photographs ... **one can't have** guards standing around, who are busier take snapshots than guarding anyone, can we now?

Naturally, Mr. Misch had his own private extension telephone at home, which was connected to his extension number (127) at the Old Chancellery, so that he could always be reached; we wonder when **this** marvel will crop up at some auction (**if it really was** his extension phone, which is *quite* doubtful for technical reasons – see below).



Interestingly enough, Mr. Misch claimed copyright to photographs he **didn't** take and which have **prior copyrights** on them, such as the one shown below ... which we found on the internet, complete with **Misch's** copyright notice! The address is: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4334322/Bodyguard-Hitler-Eva-Braun-s-dead-bodies.html>.



Those are **American** soldiers in the photo, examining the sofa on which Hitler and his wife Eva are supposed to have committed suicide – was Mr. Misch **present** at the time and **did he snap this shot?** **No** – he simply copied this photo off the internet and used it in his memoirs; the photo is from June, 1945, and was taken by **William Vandivert**, who photographed for LIFE magazine from the late 1930s through 1948; he covered World War II extensively and travelled throughout Europe after the war.

Maybe Mr. Misch would have wished to hold copyright on the **color** version of the above photograph as well?

We **demand** to know whether or not Mr. Rochus Misch bought a **license** to the above photograph from Time & Life Pictures/Getty Image – **if he didn't**, this shows him in **quite an unfavorable light** indeed, because he cannot claim copyright to anything which someone else has already copyrighted – it is absolutely illegal to do so!





Of course, the question that immediately comes to mind is that, if Mr. Misch went and claimed copyright to a photograph to which he held **no** rights whatsoever, how far could one trust him generally, and specifically how far as to what he wrote in his supposed fax **and** in his memoirs? Nope – **things don't look very rosy for "Misch the fish"** (as the Goebbels children called him).

That the photograph is truly one of Mr. Vandivert's can be seen on:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53035820@N02/sets/72157626887336319/>

(It *may* take a while for the page to load completely, so readers should be patient).

And: if one **can't** trust Mr. Misch on such a **simple** matter as a copyright license – **what** does that say about the man **in general, and his veracity as to the "provenance" of the "Hitler Telephone" specifically?** (Supposing the fax **was** really sent by him.) As we wrote – **it doesn't look good; can anyone truly believe that the fax** (page 3 of this analysis) **was really written and sent by Mr. Misch, and that the "Hitler Telephone" AHA sold is the real thing, with a clear conscience?** We think not.

We would like to insert a few words about copyrights in general at this point; according to international copyright laws, copyright **always** remains with the original holder, such as the author of a book, a painter or a photographer – **if he or she "sells" a photograph, a manuscript or a painting to someone else, what is really happening is that an exclusive (or non-exclusive) license** to use the material is sold (and **not** the copyright itself – copyrights **cannot** be sold, but they *may* be inherited<sup>12)</sup>); in cases such as photographs taken or books written by a **single person**, copyright expires 70 years **after the death of the original copyright owner**. In the case of newspapers, telephones books, etc., the copyright expires 70 years after **publication**.

In either case, the work may be used royalty-free in the **71<sup>st</sup>** year (and one may claim a new copyright to it then, too). However, one thing must be noted: copyright holders **may** claim further copyrights on their works **at a later date**, in which case the last copyright date is the important one.

<sup>12)</sup> When Hitler killed himself in 1945, Bavaria (a state of the Federal Republic of Germany) became the copyright holder **of Hitler's book "Mein Kampf,"** and copyright ran until 2015; a historically commented version of the **book couldn't be published until 2016**, when the 70 year statutory limit had **fully** expired.

**We ask:** did Mr. Vandivert pass away 70 years ago, that Mr. Misch could claim copyright to one of Mr. V's photographs? **No** – Mr. Vandivert passed away on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1989; this means that his photographs will **not** be free of copyright until the year **2060** (71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of his passing away).

So ... **now we will continue with AHA's tale concerning the "Hitler Telephone."**

**"Photos of Russian soldiers in Hitler's quarters"**

More window dressing in the form of further photographs **from the internet**; we will be showing some of these photographs later on. **Nothing** in **any** of the photographs we found **proves** the **existence** of a **"Hitler Telephone"** or adds **anything** to the **legend** built up around, and concerning, the same.

"Imprints of the telephone's feet visible on the soot covered table (a failed attempt to burn the quarters had been made prior to their capture)

**First objection:** there were **two** low, soot-covered tables to be seen in Hitler's bunker bedroom – which of these is AHA referring to? (We gather that they didn't know which one of these they meant themselves.)

**Second objection:** Contrary to the footprints left by humans and animals, four round imprints in the soot on a table are **by no means** evidence that it was the "Hitler Telephone" that had been standing there ... they would only prove that **some** telephone had stood there at some time during, or shortly after, the fire.

AHA **should** have shown the relevant photo(s), because, from the size and spacing of the imprints, one could have deduced whether it was a W38 (or M36) telephone, a "bunker telephone 39" or a model W28 desk set which made them ... but even **if** the imprints **had** been from a W38 phone, such photos would **NOT be supporting evidence** which would "prove" that the "Hitler Telephone" ever stood there, or even existed.

More on this later ....

"A copy of a May 18, 1945 letter from Brig. Rayner in Germany to his wife mentioning meeting with the Russians in "a pile of rubble"; and a copy of a Sep. 9, 2006 letter from Rayner's daughter also mentioning her knowledge of her father returning from Germany with the telephone

As we have already stated: copies of some letters provided as window dressing; they have **no** bearing on the authenticity of a supposed "Hitler Telephone," for all that Rayner's daughter *claims* that she could "recall" her father having brought the "Hitler Telephone" home from the war. Brig. Rayner's letter *does not* mention his having been in the bunker, either alone, or with some Soviets.

**Anyone** can write a letter and **claim** to "recall" a specific situation – this is **by no means documentary evidence** that the situation recalled bears even the slightest or remotest resemblance to reality. Readers may, *or may not*, believe in the veracity of a letter written **62** years after the fact.

Point in question: how many of our readers can **vividly** recall a specific family situation that took place 62 years ago (assuming they are old enough)?

"There are additional photographs and research further buttressing the authenticity of this incredible museum piece

*Of which AHA didn't so much as show a single piece in the auction photo section*, so that these may be viewed as being further window dressing ... **if** the "additional photographs and research" had **any** direct bearing on the authenticity of the "Hitler Telephone," then AHA **should** have provided photos and/or scans of the evidence.

By the way: to "buttress" something means to "prop [it] up," and the "Hitler Telephone" certainly needed **all** the propping up it could get.

As to a "incredible museum piece:" an American English pocketbook dictionary defines the word "incredible" as "**not to be believed**" – which sums things up **very** tidily. The consignor offered the "Hitler Telephone" to several museums **before** selling it at auction (the Imperial War Museum, London, being among them), and the very fact that the museums didn't want to have anything to do with the "Hitler Telephone" tells its own tale.



"It would be impossible to find a more impactful relic than the primary tool used by the most evil man in history to annihilate countless innocents

So, AHA has finally *lost count* of just how many people were "annihilated" – previously it was "millions." Again, we ask the question: was anyone from AHA close to Hitler at some point during 1944 or 1945, so as to actually **hear him give orders** "to annihilate countless innocents?" Certainly **not**; the statement is just some more window dressing, **intended to get bidders primed to go crazy over the "Hitler Telephone,"** and, once again, there is **NO HARD EVIDENCE what so ever** to support this unheard-of claim!

"Lay waste to hundreds of thousands of square miles of land, and in the end, destroy his own country and people ... with effects that still menacingly reverberate today

This is just some *more* pretty spiel ...

As we have already pointed out, Hitler was used to giving out *military* orders in written form, so that his generals couldn't argue with him, or interpret the orders to their liking. Hitler did *not* call anyone up on the phone to start the invasion of Poland, the war on the western front or to begin "Operation Barbarossa" – the attack on the Soviet Union. Everything was done by military (radio-) teletype, so that there was a written copy which could be handed to Hitler in order to prove that his orders had been passed on.

Even the so-called Commissar Order was in written form; this was an order issued by the German High Command (OKW) on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1941, before Operation Barbarossa. Its official name was Guidelines for the Treatment of Political Commissars ("Richtlinien für die Behandlung politischer Kommissare" in German). It instructed the Wehrmacht that any Soviet political commissar identified among captured troops be summarily executed as an enforcer of the Judeo-Bolshevism ideology in military forces.

"This was not a staid office telephone used to solicit contributions to the party, or to answer polite calls at the Berghof ... this was Hitler's mobile device of destruction, used in vehicles, trains, his field headquarters, at the Wolf's Lair ... and in the last desperate days deep beneath Berlin

This is *more* sloppy spiel – **where is the hard evidence** that Hitler toted his "beloved red telephone" around with him in "vehicles and trains?" – there simply *isn't* any to be had.

Apparently, the folks at AHA are in a *bit* of a feeding frenzy *themselves* at this point, because they claim that the "Hitler Telephone" was used in Hitler's "... field headquarters, at the Wolf's Lair ..." – apparently *not* realizing that the Wolf's Lair Complex **was** one of those "field headquarters!" Gee whiz.

The entire *legend* concerning the provenance of the "Hitler Telephone" stands and falls with the credibility of what is contained in the *supposed* fax from Mr. Misch; we have already proven that the fax is *mistranslated*, and that there is **no solid evidence** which would indicate that the fax was from Mr. Misch at all – *there even seems to be some evidence that Mr. Misch never even owned a fax machine.*

"While Hitler vehicles, tunics, accessories, tableware, and other personal items are readily available, an item of this importance with such solid provenance is offered perhaps once in a lifetime

Really now – "Hitler vehicles" are *readily* available? Exactly **how** would one even go about proving, *beyond the last shadow of a doubt*, that Hitler sat or rode in a specific vehicle? License plates are no good as proof, because they can *easily* be forged (especially in Germany).

The same goes for tunics and other clothing – **how** would one go about proving, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that Hitler actually *had* worn this or that bit of apparel?

What sort of “accessories?” After all, Hitler wasn’t exactly a Barbie Doll.

“Tableware:” there is probably enough Polish “Hitler **tableware**” floating around to have lasted 50 Hitler’s the whole duration of the fairytale 1,000 year Reich.

Sheesh – just because someone with a bit of paper, or perhaps a grimy, old photograph, claims that this, that or the other thing was worn, ridden in, sat on, eaten or written with by Hitler only **goes to prove that dealing in such “memorabilia” is big** business, but the respective “proof of provenance” is usually anything *but* true, and we are going to prove this **here and now**.



It would be **very** easy to come up with a **faked legend** concerning the gold teeth shown to the left, along the lines that one of us found them in the mud, near one of the crematoriums at the Auschwitz concentration camp.

We could write the story up and have it “notarized,” adding another photo of the teeth in some nondescript mud from the back yard ... **and then** give the whole lot to some auction house and let them do a good spiel on the teeth.

In such a case, these gold teeth could well fetch \$25k at auction – although, in reality, they belonged to the **writer’s** grandfather and are not worth more than their gold value of maybe \$150 (but they would have been a **perfect** match, since the gold alloy is from the 1930s). This is the manner in which a **multitude** of Nazi and/or Hitler artifacts **of all sorts** are born every day. Even the marks on the teeth are a match, being from the **exact** same type of tooth extraction tool which the Nazis used in the concentration camps.

“ADDENDA: The handset to the telephone is **not typical** of those which usually were fitted to the Siemens Model W38

AHA only came up with the addenda **after a telephone collector** pointed out that the handset simply didn’t belong to a German W38 telephone; “not typical” is *the* understatement of the year. As we have already proven, the handset has **no** right to be on a German W38 phone **at all**, and that it would only work poorly (from a transmission and reception point of view), **even if the “Hitler Telephone” were properly wired up**.

“The ear cup of the handset and the handset itself are both marked “S.B.&CO. LTD” by maker Siemens Bros. in the UK, an independently owned one-time branch of Siemens Germany ...

We certainly **couldn’t** find the **slightest** evidence of the **handset** handle having **any** markings on it, let alone the one “S.B.&CO. LTD,” from all the photos which AHA provided of the phone and its handset. **If** AHA made such a claim, then they should have backed it up with photographs – but they **didn’t**, which allows us to say that there **are** no markings on the handset handle. Let AHA prove otherwise, if they can ... beside this, the GPO **didn’t** allow manufacturers to mark their phone products with their names or logos **on any visible surfaces**. This was only allowed on PBX extension phones and on phones that were intended for export to U.K. territories (such as Australia or India). We **didn’t** find a photo of the **ear cup**, but the **mouthpiece** is branded “S.B. & Co. LTD.”

"... which until World War II was still actively trading on many different levels with its original owners in Germany

Where did AHA pick this jewel of **misinformation** up from? Siemens of Germany only held a fifteen percent interest in Siemens Brothers of London after *WW I*, and there was practically **no** trade between the two, simply because German equipment of all types would have to have been specially constructed to meet British standards, and vice versa. Such operations would have been **far** too costly to even be considered, let alone realized.

"This receiver, in Siemens Germany's stock ...

We are **still** amazed by the sheer cheekiness of AHA in making **unsubstantiated claims** of all manners. Do they have **any hard evidence**, such as a signed letter from someone at Siemens, which would **prove** this ludicrous claim? **Of course they don't**.

As we have already pointed out, telephone equipment of **all** types was required to meet national PTT standards as to form, fit and electrical function – hence, there was simply **no demand** for **any** telephone equipment from the U.K. (irrespective of whether from the GPO, or a private firm, such as Siemens Brothers, G.E.C., S.T.C., etc.) in Germany, and any handset from the U.K. would **fail** Reichspost specifications as to electrical resistances and impedances, not to mention form and fit specs.

As we previously wrote: **instead of coming clean and stating that the "Hitler Telephone"** had been missing essential parts, such as a handset and cords, **before being "repaired"** in England, AHA came up with the oddball spiel that the handset was is Siemens **Germany's stock**, which is pure cow crap (just so **that we don't** have to use the other expression).

"... was custom-fitted to this phone simply to keep it from bouncing off the cradle while in transit

The "Hitler Telephone" would also **never** have travelled with Hitler in any sort of "vehicle" in which he visited any section of any front, **because the German field telephone system didn't support dial telephones** and Hitler could have simply used **any** convenient FF33 field phone to transmit his orders with; it is most **unlikely** that Hitler would have taken his "beloved red telephone" (*had he owned one*) along with him during his rather rare tours to behind the front.

As to the phone having been designed so that the handset wouldn't fall off the cradle while "in transit" on a train – consider the following: any railway line so poorly built and/or maintained that a train would **pitch** severely enough so that a handset could **jump** off its cradle would have been far too dangerous for **anyone**, let alone Hitler, to travel on in the first place. And curves are taken slow enough that there would have been no danger of the handset **sliding** off the cradle ... **because**, were curves taken faster, passengers could slide off their seats as well, and the train could, in fact, derail.

Hitler's personal railroad train, originally code-named "Amerika," had a total of fifteen wagons and two steam locomotives (readers may wish to refer to: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F%C3%BChrer\\_Headquarters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F%C3%BChrer_Headquarters) for further info); one of these was a combined communications and conference wagon, stuffed full of radio transmitter and receiver sets. Various telephones were strewn throughout the wagons, these being magneto desk sets 38, and a few dial telephones (**possibly** W38s). A portion of one such desk phone may be seen in the photograph on the following page, which shows part of the interior of the press wagon ... please take note that the handset is a classic **Siemens** handset, as used on the M36 and W38 telephones, and **not** some Siemens Brothers thingamabob handset – this one could (theoretically) "fall" off the cradle.





The **only** reasons why the handset must be rotated are because it is **curved**, while the handset cradle was designed for a handset with a relatively **straight** handle, **and** that the transmitter cup and cap, as well as the receiver element with its cap are larger than those of a German handset; therefore, they will not physically pass the ears of the cradle without rotation; **there's** nothing *special* about that, it's just a matter of tolerances.

"The heat-blistered paint on the body of the telephone and the braided cord match those seen on the handset and further prove that the handset is original to the telephone

What in the world is AHA talking about now? "... the heat-blistered paint on the body of the telephone and the braided cord ..." – we have shown numerous photos of the "Hitler Telephone;" does anyone see blistered paint on the *handset cord*?

We would like to point out that AHA (*once again*) misstates the facts – *nowhere* on the entire telephone is the paint "heat-blistered!" It is darkened, shows cracks and chips, but most assuredly *no* blisters at all (*not even a teeny-tiny one*). It is a **fallacy** typical of AHA that the handset simply *must* be original to the telephone, because it is daubed the same color of red, and the paint is flaking off, just like on the body of the phone. As may be seen on the rear of the "Hitler Telephone," the original black Bakelite is deep black and shiny (a dark fingerprint in the grime where the Bakelite is missing the paint), while that of the handset shows the typical *grayish* color of *well-used* Bakelite - the two shades of black simply **don't** match up, which means that the handset was **anything but** new when it was attached to the rest of the telephone.

We have also already noted that the paint on the handset does **not** show **any** heat damage even remotely similar to that on the body, meaning that the handset was **not** exposed to the same heat source as the body of the phone ... *certainly* not.



The difference between the black Bakelite of the telephone body and the grayish "black" on the handset is easily seen – so how can the handset be "original to the telephone" if it doesn't match *in original color*? Another thing: **IF** Siemens of Germany really **had** had a Siemens Brothers handset in stock, wouldn't it have been a **new** handset, rather than a **used** one? As any telephone collector knows, it would have been a new one, but it's a moot point since the handset was added to the "Hitler Telephone" during its transformation into a "Frankenphone" while in England.

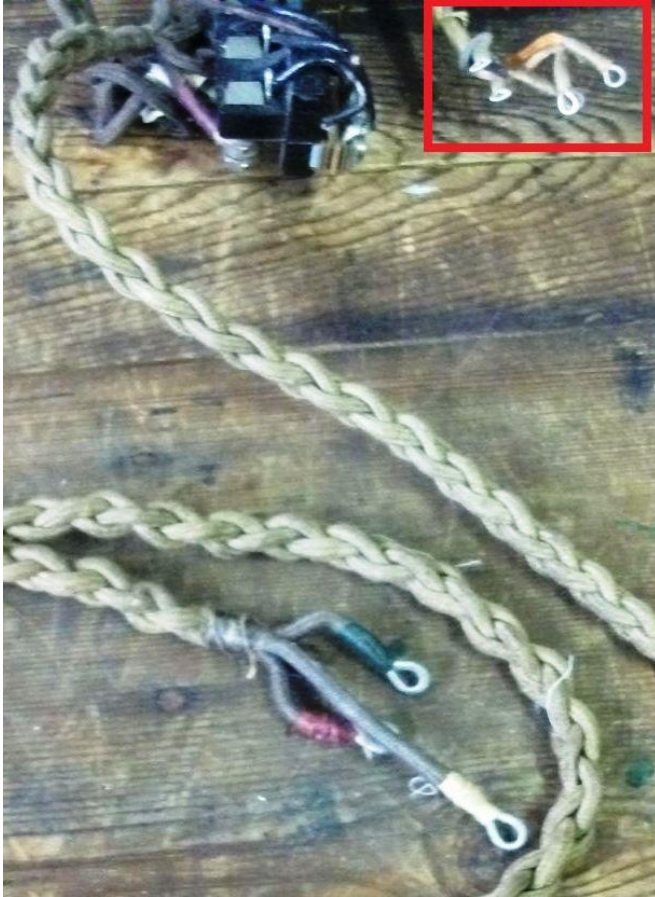
Although we have already noted that the telephone cords are of British manufacture (this was **verified** by an expert British phone collector), and since AHA deemed it wise to mention the handset cord, we will show a few examples of U.K. telephones with braided cords from the 1950s, and let our readers decide if we are telling the truth or not.

The line and handset cords of the "Hitler Telephone" are 100 percent of British origin, and the wire loops on the end of the line cord were **not** intended to be slipped over metal pins for quick connection, as may be seen in the following photographs of telephones and cords from the U.K.

This 6 conductor, original NOS line cord has wire loops on **both** ends (as was standard in the U.K. up until the late 1950s) – such loops were **always screwed tight** to whatever they were connected to (and not "pulled over metal pins for quick connection").







This photo shows some of the innards of a **British "Tele 232" telephone**.

Notice that not only does the line cord have wire loops, but also the dial cord (inside the red box).

Here, again, the loops were **screwed** to the relevant terminals inside and outside of the phone ....

The line cord loops are marked as red, white and green, while a 3-wire Reichspost cable would have the colors **brown**, white and green ... **and a** four-conductor Reichspost cable would have the colors brown, white, green and yellow – which do **not** match the colors on the line cord of the "Hitler Telephone."



This is a type 312L desk phone from the 1950s, complete with braided handset and line cords ... **as may be seen**, the ends of the line cord **terminate in the classic GPO "wire loops."**

The line cord has five conductors in this case; the colors of four of the wire ends can be seen: blue, red, brown and yellow. One can make an educated guess that the fifth wire has the color green ... **only** brown, yellow and green would meet Reichspost standards, but these three colors would **not** constitute a standard three-conductor Reichspost line cord.





This is a British number 162 desk telephone; as may be seen, both the handset and the line cord are braided ... **and they both enter thru the back of the telephone via a single hole.** Note that there is no grommet of any sort for the cords; this is no problem here, since the cord hole is smooth and entirely made of non-conductive Bakelite.





This is a prime example of *well-worn* Bakelite - the shade of black of the handset is a *near match* to that of the handset on the "Hitler Telephone;" if the Bakelite were new, then everything would be glossy black beneath the paint - but it *isn't*; the handset here *probably isn't original to its telephone, either*. Compare how shiny the Bakelite of the rest of the phone is in contrast to the dull, grayish color of the handset.

Readers need not take our word for it that the cords of the "Hitler Telephone" are of British origin, refer to:

[https://www.ebay.co.uk/sch/Telephone/985/i.html?\\_ipg=200&\\_trkparms=65%253A12%257C66%253A2%257C39%253A1%257C72%253A5699&catref=1&sop=1&dcat=985&Decade=1950s&rt=nc&trksid=p2045573.m1684](https://www.ebay.co.uk/sch/Telephone/985/i.html?_ipg=200&_trkparms=65%253A12%257C66%253A2%257C39%253A1%257C72%253A5699&catref=1&sop=1&dcat=985&Decade=1950s&rt=nc&trksid=p2045573.m1684)

"Additionally, photographs shown here reveal that the interior of the telephone and its electrical fittings are original

Granted: the *guts* are original, although the wiring of the components was *seriously* disturbed when they were removed for the repainting of the base - we do *not* know what **else AHA is referring to by the words "interior of the telephone," since these would** normally refer to the electrical components and their wiring. Maybe AHA means the interior side of the base?

"They also show that the telephone and handset were painted red AT THE TIME OF MANUFACTURE

**No**, the photographs show *no more* than that the entire "Hitler Telephone" was painted red at some *unknown date* (since we **do not** find the markings on the base to be originals) - there is **absolutely no evidence at all** proving that the phone was painted red at the factory (**after** the engravings were made and filled with gold-colored paint, no less). Aside from this, AHA *also* claimed that the German Wehrmacht painted the phone red, and *not* VBT! So, which tale is correct? (Aside from the obvious choice of *neither*.)

"At some point in time, a section of the Bakelite body was broken and a contemporary repair was made with the entire phone repainted, certainly while in Hitler's possession

We have already stated our opinion as to when the body was broken and how the repair was made. We believe that the phone was painted red in the 1960s or 70s, after the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union installed their "red telephone" hotline. The Bakelite was damaged at some point thereafter. We emphatically *disbelieve* that the break and its repair "certainly" happened while the phone was in Hitler's possession (he **didn't** have a red phone).

There is **no** proof one way or the other, but taking into account that the engravings were originally filled-in with gold-colored paint, and that the engravings were *later* daubed over in red, thus *hiding* the gold-colored paint, it is a sure sign that the phone was **NOT** painted red by VBT. It would have been a bit more believable if the engravings had been filled-in with gold-colored paint *after* the phone was daubed red, but this *isn't* so.

"This is evident as the paint over the repair (on the left side of the telephone) is uniformly crackled and blackened from the heat and soot resulting from the botched attempt to burn Hitler's quarters in the Fuhrerbunker

AHA themselves **claims** that the fire, to which the "Hitler Telephone" was supposedly exposed to in its entirety, was very selective – *why else* would only the area of the repair be "uniformly cracked and blackened," while the paint on the rest of the body is only moderately darkened and shows cracks of varying size? Why is there **no** comparable "fire damage" to be seen on the handset, handset cradle, dial or number card holder, and **why didn't the number card holder melt in the fire** (seeing that it is made of a *thermoplastic*)?

Of course we have already answered these questions in the course of our analysis up to now, so they are rather moot points – we just wanted to recall them to our **reader's** minds ....

"Estimate \$ 200,000-300,000

That was a good guesstimate – but the phone is really only worth a few paltry dollars as a one-off curiosity and crude falsification.

We will look at the facts of the Berlin bunker themselves and see what evidence, for or **against the existence of a "Hitler Telephone," we can find there** after first concerning ourselves with the text of the *consignor's* interview.

As an aside: in the German-language edition of "The Bunker" (by James P. O'Donnel), the chief bunker technician, Mr. Johann Hentschel (*no* relationship to the flying ace Erwin Henschel) stated the following: '... some of the *first* Soviets to enter the bunker complex were female doctors and apprentices, who had come to plunder. The following were **among the things they "liberated:"** table lamps, helmets, vases, SS daggers, carpets, crystal glassware, monogrammed silver tableware, and a *desk telephone* ....'

Alas, he did not know (or at least mention) from *where* in the bunker that desk telephone came from, or what *type* it was – but it was definitely a trophy; these were no peasant women, but rather well-trained medical doctors, who would have been more discerning as to what would make a good trophy.

**General** information regarding the Berlin bunker may be found at:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F%C3%BChrerbunker>



We must not neglect a verbatim transcript of the *consignor's* interview with AHA as a *possible* source of valuable information, and conduct an in-depth examination of the transcript and see just how much *he* bloviates about the phone (*consignor's* text is in red).

"Welcome, and this is my father's house, Ashcombe Tower. My father, Brigadier Sir Ralph Rayner, built this in 1935, and this is where I was born in that year. From this window, we've got a magnificent view some 80 miles out across the ocean. And, interestingly, when I was just the age of 9, I built a treehouse in that tree out there ... and saw a German Heinkel bomber come past, just underneath, on its way to bomb the local city

Plenty of window dressing with **absolutely no bearing** on the "Hitler Telephone" – maybe the consignor wished to impress potential bidders by showing the stone villa he lives in. The problem with such rambling old villas is that their upkeep is *very* expensive, and that many such abodes are in the hands of the British National Trust, who then pays for their upkeep. Anyway, a hundred thousand quid would go a *long* way towards repairs.

"A year later, at the end of May 1945, I and my sister Fleur remember distinctly my father returning from Germany with two amazing pieces of Hitler's personal possessions

Or, at least, that is how the *story* goes – there being **no hard evidence** to "buttress" this "recollection" ... Maj. Rayner was only ten when his father returned in 1945 ... how much trust *can* one place on the memories of a mere child??

"My father was second in command of all the communications in 21<sup>st</sup> Army Group, of Field Marshal Montgomery's army in Germany, and when he signed the peace treaty, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May at Lüneberg Heath in Germany, Montgomery sent my father to meet the Russians as they fought their way to Berlin

More window dressing to dazzle the prospective bidder; someone who was as "important" as Brig. Rayner surely **wouldn't** go and lie about the provenance of the "Hitler Telephone," *or would he* ...? He's just human, after all.

**Even the consignor gets his historical data wrong;** the *partial* capitulation of German forces (those in Holland, in northwest Germany including the Frisian Islands, Heligoland and all other islands, in Schleswig-Holstein and in Denmark, to the C-in-C. 21 Army Group) took place on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1945 (and *not* on May 5<sup>th</sup>!) Readers may refer to [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German\\_surrender\\_at\\_L%C3%BCneburg\\_Heath](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_surrender_at_L%C3%BCneburg_Heath) for full information.

"Yes, my father found the opposite number, his opposite number, in the Russian army, and the head of their communications invited my father, amazingly, to go down into Hitler's bunker, being the first person other than the Russian probably ever to enter it

**This story is at odds** with that told by AHA, who wrote that "... very likely the first non-Soviet victor to enter the city, Rayner went to the Chancellery where Russian officers offered him a tour ..." Oh, well, it's **hearsay evidence** anyway, since the consignor **wasn't** with his father in Berlin at the time.

"In the bunker, my father was taken both to Eva Braun (or Eva Hitler's) quarters and also to Hitler's

Rayner was *first* taken to Eva Braun's bedroom, which was *adjacent* to Hitler's quarters – so how could Rayner have known there would be a "red telephone" in Hitler's bedroom, if he **wasn't there** first?

"Beside Eva Braun's bed was a black telephone, which was very appropriate as a gift, as a trophy of war, but my father refused it because he knew, and saw, that Hitler had a red telephone by his bed, and he loved the color red

**More hearsay evidence without so much as a single shred of hard evidence to support the "facts;"** as we just wrote, Rayner was *first* in EB's bedroom, so how could he have known about (or seen) a "red telephone" in *Hitler's* quarters? Was Rayner *clairvoyant*? (Readers may wish to refer to the bunker drawing on page 87 for details.)

"This is the amazing trophy of the red telephone which my father took from the bunker, and which *probably*, in fact, *without doubt*, was used by Hitler

The consignor **doesn't** so much as say that Soviet officers made Rayner a *gift* of the "Hitler Telephone" – rather, Rayner "took it from the bunker", which is quite a different kettle of fish; refer to the "Spiegel" article (page 9) and (once again) to <http://boredomtherapy.com/hitler-phone-auction/>.

And, the consignor *himself* isn't really certain as to whether or not Hitler ever used his "red telephone," because he states "... which **probably**, in fact, **without doubt**, was used by Hitler ...." Well, which is it to be? "Probably," or "without doubt?" Neither, actually.

"Rochus Misch, Hitler's personal telephonist, who died in Berlin only a few years ago, confirmed that this was Hitler's personal telephone for the last two years of his life

We have already dealt with **all** aspects of the *supposed* fax from Mr. Misch, and have *sufficiently dispelled the myth that he wrote the text and sent it*. Besides – it was a good thing that Mr. Misch had died *before* the phone went up for auction; no one could ask him any possibly very embarrassing questions about its "provenance."

"The Siemens telephone was presented to Hitler by the Wehrmacht, by two of their most senior officers, of which we have a photograph. The telephone was built by Siemens, and they confirmed that it was built for the German Wehrmacht ...

AHA did **not** provide this mythical photograph in the auction photo section, and anyway, now we have **two senior officers of the Wehrmacht**, who supposedly presented the "red telephone" to Hitler (**there being no hard evidence to support this claim**), instead of **three** Luftwaffe aces (which we have sufficiently proven to be incorrect), **or** the Adjutancy of the Wehrmacht, which we have proved incorrect due to the missing dedication.

There is **no evidence** to support the claim that Siemens manufactured the "Hitler Telephone" *for the Wehrmacht* – in fact, there is **hard** evidence **disproving** this claim!

"... who, themselves, colored it red and *then* had it inscribed with the German Swastika and eagle, and the name "Adolf Hitler," probably the only instrument or artifact with his full name on it

Once again, there is **absolutely no hard evidence** that the phone was painted red and engraved by the Wehrmacht (or at its behest). As a matter of fact, AHA tells us a *different story*, since they wrote that "... they [photos of the interior of the phone] also show that the telephone and handset were painted red AT THE TIME OF MANUFACTURE."

So, once again, whose yarn are we to believe, then? That of the consignor, by which the Wehrmacht painted the phone red, or that of AHA, who claims it was painted red by VBT? And, once again, neither story turns out to be true ... and: **the "red" telephone was not** engraved *after* painting, but *before*!

"As an instrument, it was then used, no doubt, as a "cell phone" and went wherever Hitler was travelling

**Where is the hard evidence** that Hitler toted his "red telephone" around with him, had he had one? **There is none to be had** – it's no more than *wild speculation* on the part of the consignor.

"The telephone is especially built so that the handset will not come off the cradle without **being tilted; in other words: it wouldn't shake off in the command vehicle**

We have provided more than enough data to thoroughly debunk this weird notion.

"Also, it is most interesting that the cable here had looped ends to it, and that meant that it could be plugged in wherever Hitler went

If the consignor wants to "plug" the "looped ends" in anywhere, we suggest he stuff them up his nose or the nether end of his digestive tract. We have sufficiently proven **how weird the consignor's idea** is and proven that the loops would have either been connected to a wall terminal, or else wired up to a "plug 27," **if** the phone had been intended to be portable.

"My father, before he left the bunker, was also presented with a white porcelain Alsatian dog, which had been presented to Hitler, *apparently*, by the German police force, and *probably* by Himmler himself, who ran the Alsach [sic!] porcelain factory which happened to be in Dachau concentration camp

Now, the consignor is being **exceptionally** fanciful ... **1)** there is, *once again*, **no hard evidence** that Brig. Rayner was presented a porcelain Alsatian from **Hitler's** bunker by the Russians (or by anyone else, or that he found it himself), **2)** there is **no hard evidence** that it had been "presented" to Hitler *by anyone*, let alone by the German police force *or* by Heinrich Himmler himself, and **3)** Himmler certainly did **not** "run" the Allach porcelain factory **himself**; it was operated as one of *several* companies which were owned by the SS, and which employed concentration camp slave labor. We do not know which *fairies* instilled such weird notions inside the consignor's head. Refer to the appendix for further information concerning the Allach factory.

"The Alsatian, which was later given to my sister, is, vividly remembered again by my sister, when my father returned from Germany

Once more, something is "vividly *remembered*" by someone the small trifle of **73 years after the fact!** (We certainly wish our collective memories were that good!)

"And she remembers my father saying this was actually given to him as he left the bunker in Berlin

**Hearsay evidence**, since the sister "remembers" her father "saying" something, it being *implied* that the Soviets made Rayner a present of the porcelain Alsatian dog; AHA *blindly* supports and propagates this claim, **without a single shred of evidence to back it up with.**



In his memoirs, Mr. Misch writes that the "Führerbunker" (Hitler's bunker in Berlin) **wasn't** intended to be a command post, but rather only as an bomb-proof *air raid shelter*; construction had only begun in 1944 and **wasn't really completed by the time** Hitler and his entourage moved in on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January, 1945, (some of the external towers were still under construction). He also writes that the cement was still sweating moisture and that the air inside the bunker was *very damp and stale*, despite forced ventilation.

We must thus definitely include the bunker in Berlin as a source of very high humidity, which *would* have certainly caused **very much rust and corrosion** on the "Hitler Telephone" (**much** more than is actually to be seen).

The communications room in the bunker, which contained the telephone "switchboard," also contained a teletype, a voice scrambler (*analog* scrambling of secret telephone conversations<sup>13)</sup>) and two typewriters of the brand "Silenta." These were especially quiet in use, which is a bit of a joke, since the communications room was located next door to the room which contained the emergency electrical diesel generator, various pumps and a master *electrical* switchboard ...

<sup>13)</sup> Mr. Misch *mistakenly* refers to the scrambler as an "Entwerter" (a machine used to validate tram, train and bus tickets with), instead of the proper term "inverter," in his memoirs. Such a scrambler inverts speech using a ring modulator and a variable carrier frequency, resulting in two frequency spectra:  $f_1+f_2$  and  $f_1-f_2$ ; the carrier frequency and spectrum selection varied on a daily basis – the exact settings were a state secret.

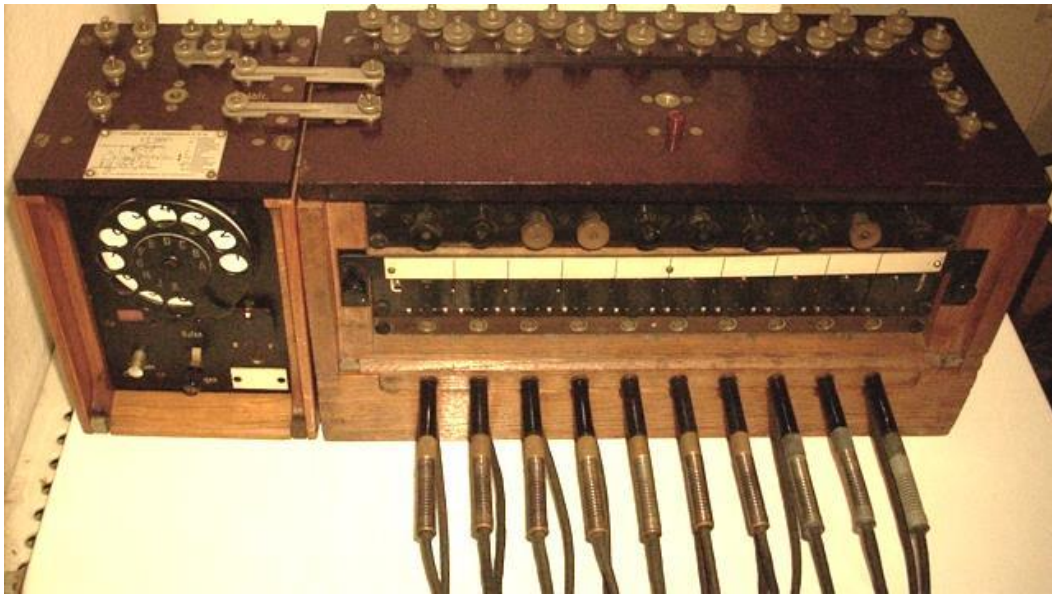
Refer to: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ring\\_modulation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ring_modulation), and especially to the paragraph "One application is spectral inversion, *typically of speech*; a carrier frequency is chosen to be above the highest speech frequencies (which are low-pass filtered at, say, 3 kHz, for a carrier of perhaps 3.3 kHz), and the sum frequencies from the modulator are removed by more low-pass filtering. The remaining difference frequencies have an inverted spectrum—High frequencies become low, and vice versa." Such inversion renders speech unintelligible.

The pumps were of two different kinds: the one type was used to pump drinking water up from a well below the bunker, while the other was used to pump water that seeped **into the bunker out into Berlin's canal system**, since the floor of the bunker was below the underground water level.

Since the bunker was *not* intended to be a command post, the phone switchboard there was *very* small – Mr. Misch describes it as being "... as big as a shoe box<sup>14)</sup> ..." which **would have only been** "... fit for use in a very small boarding house ..." – this description leads us to believe that the switchboard *may* have been a German military magneto board for ten lines (shown on the next page), of which five lines served magneto telephones in the bunker<sup>15)</sup> – there might have been one line connected to the PBX in the Old Chancellery (via a PSTN line adapter).

<sup>14)</sup> However, it *may* have possibly been the base of a "large field switchboard" with one or two magneto line boxes (for ten lines each), because Mr. Misch describes *destroying* it by "pulling out the cords left and right until there was a *pile* of them" (and ten cords do not constitute a "pile" the way we understand things).

<sup>15)</sup> According to Mr. Misch's memoirs: one in "Hitler's rooms" (whatever *that* refers to), one in the room of professor Morell (Hitler's doctor), one in the room of Hitler's personal valet, Linge, one for the SS guards and one, for general use, in the corridor which ran the length of the "deep" bunker.

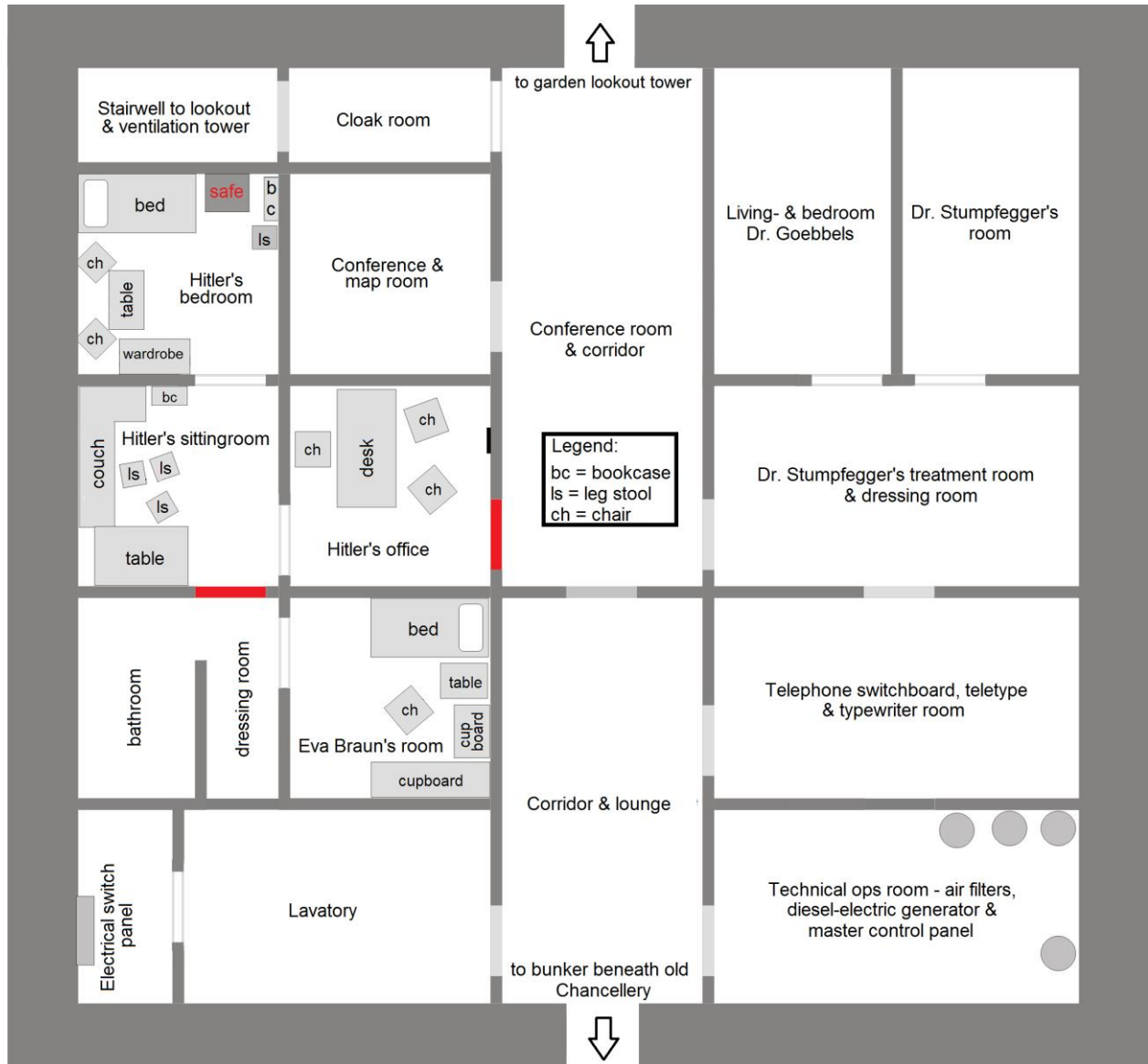


Above is a small field switchboard for ten lines, complete with an adapter for a single PSTN line. It is, indeed, not much larger than a shoe box, and would match Mr. Misch's description *very* well.

Below is a photograph of a "large field switchboard" with a *single* magneto line unit box attached to it – perhaps Mr. Misch meant something like this, most likely with two or three line unit boxes (since a mere ten lines could be connected to one another with a maximum of five cord pairs).



The **dial** telephones seen on one or two of the photographs taken of rooms in the bunker between May and July 1945 were not connected to the magneto "switchboard;" we believe that they were extensions the PBX in the Old Chancellery, which *may* have had its own "cord board" style switchboard in the bunker as well.



Although not an exact drawing of the "Führerbunker," it is good enough to be able to locate the various rooms of interest. The two doorways marked in *red* are the ones which *must* have been closed during the fire in Hitler's quarters, since Eva Braun's room does *not* show signs of soot or smoke, and those laying the fire didn't want it to spread to the rest of the bunker (hence they closed the bunker door leading into Hitler's office).

The "conference and map room" in the top-left of the drawing is given as being 3.5 by 3.5 meters square (approximately fifteen square yards or 132 square feet), so as to give readers a rough indication of the size of the various rooms.

Doors in light gray were supposedly gas-proof, air-raid bunker type doors, while those shown in outline were most likely made of wood and were therefore not air-tight.





This is most likely a view of Hitler's office, with the bunker door (to the corridor) just off-picture to the right. There are two phones to be seen here: an M36 (or W38) PBX phone on the table in the background (with thick, **round** cords), and a Wehrmacht (magneto) "desk set 38" (or possibly a magneto "bunker set 39").

As can be seen, the walls and the large table show signs of fire, there being several shadows on the table where some objects stood or lay while the soot settled. There are **no** signs of any **other** telephones and, although there are no footprints of any phones to be seen in the soot, there **is** a shadow (to the right and slightly in front of the dial phone) which could be the shadow of the magneto phone. The gas cylinder is most likely an emergency oxygen supply for Hitler; the fittings at the right side of the photo are a moisture-proof A.C. light switch and power receptacle.

The oval object on the wall **could** be the empty frame of an oil painting of the Prussian king Frederic the Great, which was **one of Hitler's favorites**. The painting itself was removed by SS Major-General Hans Bauer (one of Hitler's chief pilots) prior to his escape from the bunker (taking the painting with him).

As we have already stated, any photographic evidence only shows things as they were the instant the photo was taken – thus, there is **no** way of **unequivocally** stating that the two phones shown here were original to the room. However, seeing as this is most likely **Hitler's office**, there is no reason why they **shouldn't** be original to the room ... final proof would be an additional photo which shows the junction boxes connecting the phones to their respective lines (however, we **didn't** find such a photo on the internet).



This is purportedly a view of Hitler's sitting (cum situation) room<sup>16)</sup>; one can see that the walls are black from soot and smoke. The seat cushions from the couch are on the floor, so that soldiers won't get wet feet.

There is one telephone on the table to the left: an OB33 desk phone in the background, and one can see a watchcase receiver (or possibly a complete handset) in the foreground, beneath a pan.

An *unusual* object is lying on the front cushion on the floor: a Wehrmacht radio (whether a receiver or a transmitter is unknown). It is unusual because the bunker was only intended as an air-raid shelter, and was therefore *not* originally equipped with Wehrmacht radio equipment of any sort, but only with a good, standard, *commercial* radio receiver.

Radio communications with Wehrmacht field units was performed with the aid of equipment in other, nearby bunkers, such as that of the Propaganda Ministry or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

<sup>16)</sup> All recollections of persons present at the time agree upon the fact that only Hitler's quarters were set on fire; there is *no* information which would point to the adjacent (and separate) conference and map room also having been fired, which is why we believe that the room shown is, in fact, Hitler's sitting room.

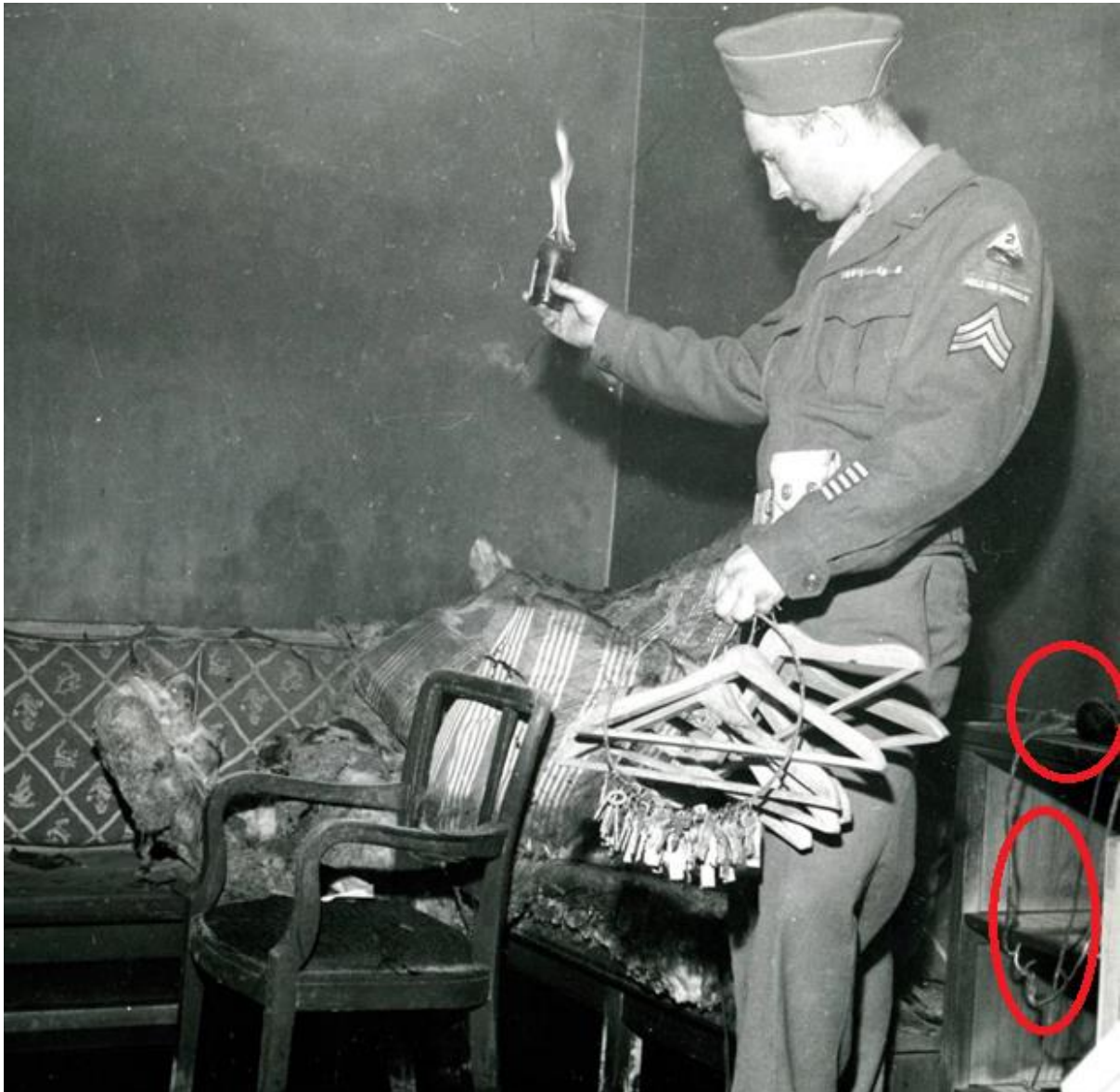


A close-up view of the table in the sitting room, giving a clear view of the OB33 desk phone (this is possibly **the magneto phone Mr. Misch wrote was in "Hitler's rooms"**). It is unusual in that there is a round, Bakelite unit with two vertical toggle switches attached to the front. The exact use of the switches is unknown, but one was *possibly* used to transfer calls to a second magneto phone (**perhaps in Hitler's office**), while the other one maybe **to switch a "watchcase" receiver in or out of circuit**.

At least one (maybe two) watchcase receiver(s) can be seen along the right-hand front edge of the table – the white object is certainly one, with a rubber doughnut (to help keep out external noise) above and to the left. A second receiver *may* be lying near the bottom edge of the table (but this could also be one of a pair of headphones without a head-band).

One more interesting fact may be ascertained from the photo: the OB33 has a *thick*, round handset cord. Among west European telephone collectors, it is accepted that OB33s with fat cords were specially manufactured for the Wehrmacht, since thicker cords mean thicker conductors and longer service life (and, incidentally, higher manufacturing costs).





The most interesting thing about this photo of **Hitler's sitting** (cum situation) room is the bookstand behind US Sergeant Ernest Pappas; there is a black phone handset resting on top, *possibly* belonging to a dial PBX telephone. The cloth-covered cord is very twisted and appears to be partially covered with white mold (or else the cloth covering is peeling off).

An interesting thing to be noted is that the large key-ring supposedly carries all of the various keys to doors, closets, cupboards, wardrobes, whatnot, belonging to or in the bunker (at least, according to the memoirs of Mr. Misch). It is not known why Mr. Pappas is carrying seven coat hangers; **maybe they were prized "loot" from the bunker?**



This is one of the very few photos of **Hitler's bedroom to be found**; there is an open wardrobe at the left front, behind which there appear to be two chairs, followed by a small, low table and a nightstand. One can imagine how much smoke and soot developed here during the fire – just look at the bottom shelf on the low table (the shadows **are spaces where something stood or lay**). There doesn't seem to be a telephone here, but this is **not proof** that the "Hitler Telephone" had existed and already been taken away.

The splotchy thing in the right-hand foreground is **Hitler's personal safe**, which someone (probably from the Soviet Army) opened with the aid of a blowtorch.

The soldier in the photograph is Semyon Budyonny, who was a Soviet cavalryman, military commander and politician.

The books lying on top of the safe are purportedly volumes of a technical encyclopedia, and they show *suspiciously* white paper, considering that there was a fire here.



The lower photo on the previous page tells us **why** the paper is so white ... **we are** looking at the **bottom** of the books, which were standing upright in the bookcase next to the safe. There is very dark soot on the shelves.

Analysis of the black and white photos shown so far leads us to the conclusion that the **fire laid in Hitler's quarters was short-lived** (and generated enough heat to melt a door seal), with very dense smoke and soot. Some **loose papers on the table in Hitler's sitting** (cum situation) room darkened from the heat (a few are even scorched), and (as far as can be seen) the books in his bedroom were only damaged by soot. There is little direct damage from flames to be seen.

This, in turn, leads us to the conclusion that the components **inside the "Hitler Telephone" should** at least be slightly sooty<sup>17)</sup>, and that the braided cords should be somewhere between brown and black in color from the soot (and **should** smell of smoke, even after all these years). Yet – the cords and the innards of the phone are both free from any signs of soot, and, apparently there is no smell reminiscent of fire.

<sup>17)</sup> Since the phone was **not hermetically sealed**, it would "breathe" in and out with changes in air pressure. After the fire, **the phone would have "inhaled"** the cooler, sooty and smoky air – thus drawing soot inside the phone. This soot **would** have settled on the components, but there are **no traces of any soot inside the "Hitler Telephone."**



This photo shows a female Soviet soldier looking for booty in what was **Eva Braun's** bedroom. The walls and furniture are **very** clean, indicating that the door leading to **Hitler's quarters next door must have been closed** – otherwise there would be some damage from soot and smoke from the fire here as well.

**Eva Braun's** M36 (or W38) desk telephone is sitting on the nightstand to the right of her bed, with the handset off its cradle; since neither her phone, nor the one on the desk back on page 88, is shown from the back, it is **impossible** to definitely state exactly which type either one actually is.





The only odd thing here is that the handset cord *appears* to be unusually thick – it is certainly **not** a *coiled* cord, since these did not exist in Europe at the time; maybe the cord is only throwing an unusual shadow.

However, juggling with the values for brightness and contrast revealed that the *line cord* of the phone is **also very thick for a “standard”** M36 (or W38) telephone, so it is possible that the cords of the PBX phones were thicker than normal. In any case, both cords are of round stock and **not** braided.

Another interesting fact concerning the phones in the bunker in general: while the magneto “desk set 38” (and “bunker set 39”) as well as the OB33 were specifically designed to function perfectly well under conditions of high humidity, this is **not** the case with Reichspost M36 or W38 dial telephones – these were specifically designed for *indoor use*, in *dry* places. We wonder why special, moisture- and gas-proof (mine) telephones **weren’t used instead** – but, then again, the M36 (or W38) phones were possibly a stop-gap measure, since the bunker was only intended to be an air-raid shelter.

There are a few more photographs to be found on the internet, which show Soviet soldiers in the bunker, but despite **very** intensive research we did **not** find any photo of the “Hitler Telephone” (in situ or otherwise).



Here we have a Soviet soldier standing in what was Hitler's sitting (cum situation) room, looking for the entire world as if he had taken the bunker single-handedly.



Here's a second photo of the same soldier – he apparently got tired of posing and decided to sit down on the remains of the sofa. The watchcase receiver/earphone cords mentioned on page 90 can be seen next to the soldier's right-hand elbow.

So, now let's have a look at the feet of the various telephone types which *might* have been in use in the Berlin bunker ... and see if we can find a match.



This is the base of a typical Siemens model W28 dial desk telephone, exactly like the one a museum in Kentucky claims to be the "original" Hitler telephone from his bedroom in the bunker ... **does anyone see four matching white spaces or a matching shadow on either of the small desks (or desk and nightstand) in the photo on page 99?**

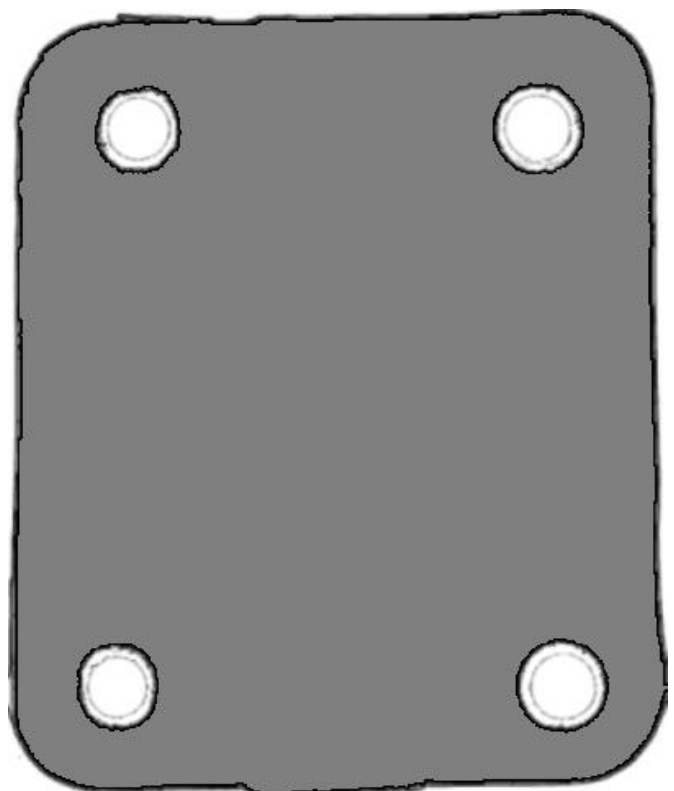
**We certainly don't**, so the phone from Kentucky certainly **wasn't** anywhere near Hitler's bed during the fire.



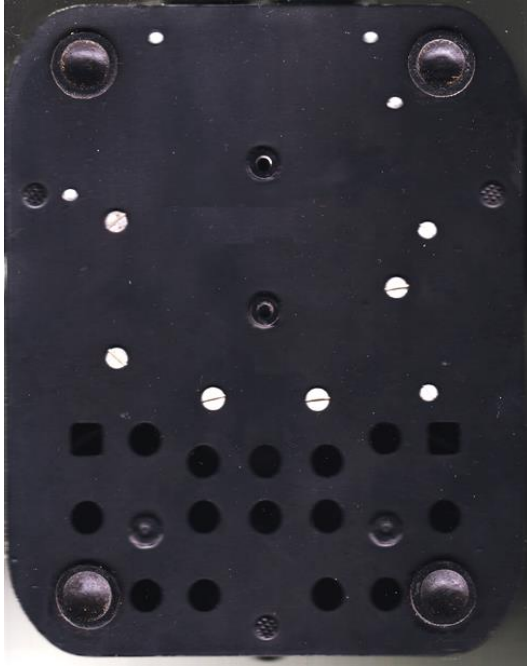
This is the base of the so-called "Hitler Telephone" (a Siemens W38) – the feet are spaced differently between front and back.

There are **no** footprints *or* shadow of this type of phone to be seen on either of the tables.

The drawing to the right was made by inking the four feet of a M36 telephone (same type and spacing of feet as on the W38 "Hitler Telephone"), pressing the feet onto a sheet of paper, drawing the outline of the phone while it was on the paper and then reworking it so as to give readers an idea of what the white footprints in the soot (*and the phone's shadow*) *would* look like, **if** these had been present.



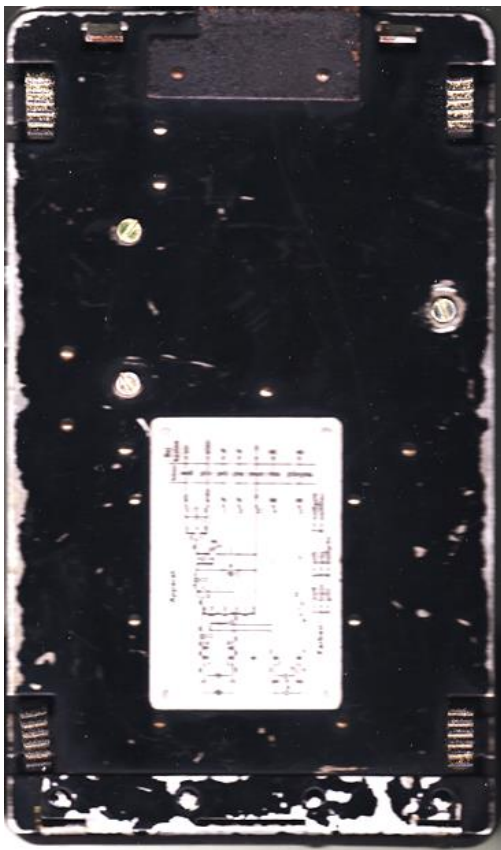




This is the base of a Siemens OB33 magneto telephone, as used in the bunker ....

Once again, there are **no** footprints or shadow matching such a phone to be seen on either table in **Hitler's bedroom**.

(For the sake of argument, a W/OB35 dial/magneto desk set has exactly the same footprint.)



This is the base of a magneto desk telephone model 1938 (the base of the magneto bunker telephone model 1939 has the same dimensions).

Here, again, one **cannot** see any corresponding footprints or shadow in the soot on either of the tables.

We believe that the scans of the bases, even though not to scale, **definitely prove** that there was absolutely **no** telephone sitting on either the table or the nightstand in Hitler's bedroom in the Berlin bunker prior to (or during) the fire, since **no** footprint(s) of **any** of these phones can be seen in the soot. Likewise, there are **no** shadows of **any** phone and/or of round or braided telephone cords to be seen anywhere.

The consignor *should* have been wearing his eyeglasses **and** used a strong magnifying glass to study the photo of the *supposed* "imprints of the telephone's feet visible on the soot covered table" minutely, because then he would have realized that the photograph **doesn't offer even the slightest bit of evidence to support his claim!**

We now come to "Exhibit G", which *supposedly* holds the photograph with the magical, mythical "imprints of the telephone's feet" ....

## EXHIBIT G

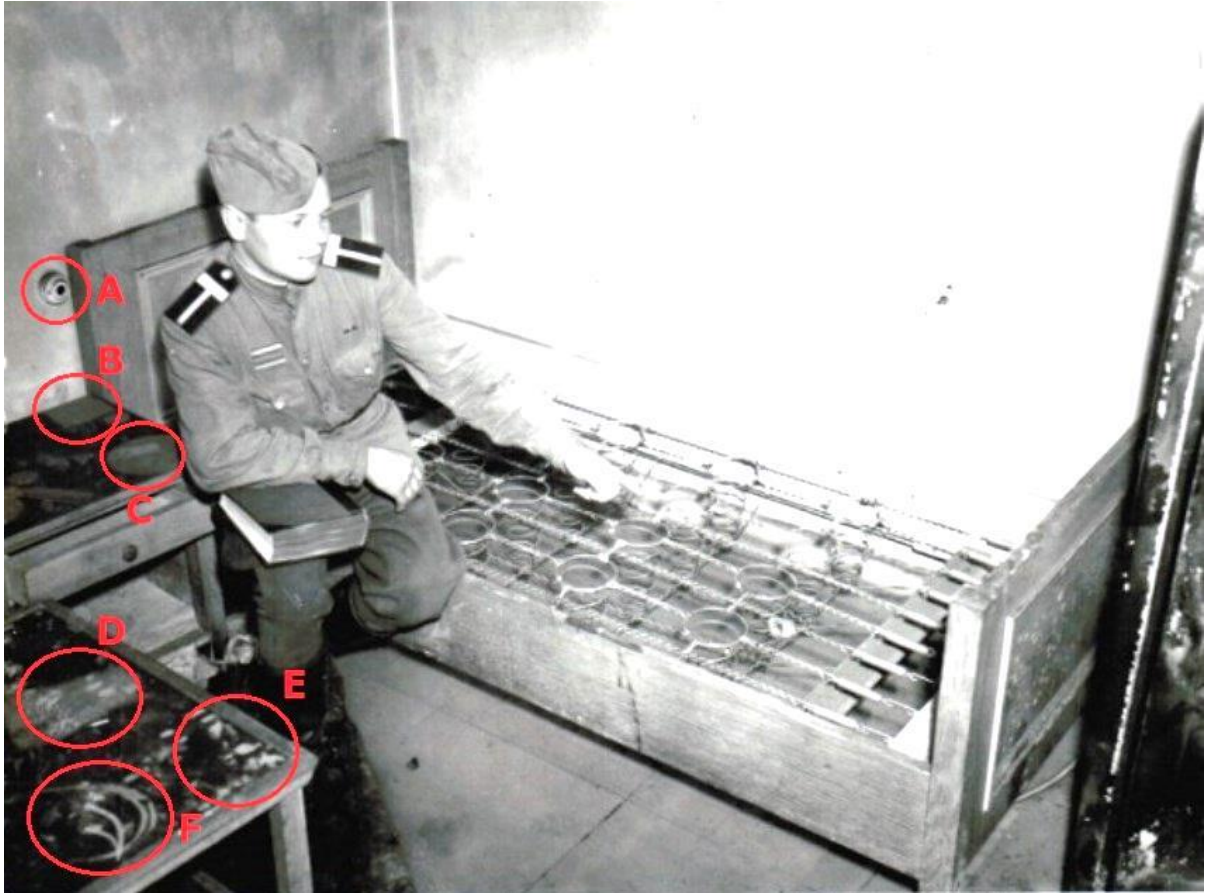


Eva Hitler's bedroom in the Führerbunker. A Russian soldier tries her black telephone.



Hitler's bed. The scorch marks show where the red telephone had been at his bedside

Let there be **no** mistake about it; the caption reads: "Hitler's bed. The scorch marks show where the red telephone had been *at his bedside.*" Thus, we **must** be able to see those "imprints of the telephone's feet" in exactly this photograph:



This is an enlarged photo of Hitler's bed, the table and the nightstand. It *seems* to be that a heavier coat of soot fell first, after which various objects on the tables were removed, whose shadows were then covered by a further, lighter coat of soot.

"**A**" is the electrical pushbutton which rang a bell in the room of Hitler's personal valet, Mr. Linge. "**B**" is the **only** rectangular shadow in the entire photo; it is **far too small** to belong to a telephone, there are **no** footprints within the shadow and **no** shadows of telephone cords; besides this, *the corners of the shadow are at right angles*, while W28, M36 and W38 telephones all have **rounded** corners! "**C**" is a double-shadow which shows that practically all of the objects on the night-table were removed while there was still soot in the air. "**D**" is a *trapezoid-shaped* shadow, which is of the **wrong shape and size** for a period telephone; the item which stood here was removed while there was still soot in the air, as witnessed by the lighter-colored shadow. "**E**" shows very *clear*, oblong smudges and fingerprints in the final coat of soot. "**F**" shows the **only** shadows which even *remotely* look like they could stem from round cords of *some* sort, but there is **no** corresponding shadow of a telephone and there are **no** footprints to be seen.

What we **should** have seen are four clean, light-colored footprints in the soot ("scorch marks"), left by the rubber feet of a telephone; **however**, we do **not** see even so much as a **single** imprint in the soot, **let alone four**, so there certainly was **no telephone of any sort** on **either** the table or the nightstand in Hitler's bedroom during the fire. What we also do **not** see is *anything in the soot even remotely resembling the shadow of any telephone*.

So, what happened to the "unshakable provenance" of the "Hitler Telephone?" It went up in smoke and was gone with the wind.



We are providing an *unmarked* copy of the same photograph in an extra-large size, so that readers can see for themselves that there is absolutely **no** evidence as to the presence of **any** telephone during the fire – **Hitler wouldn't have needed one** anyway, since he would only have had to push the button next to his bed to call his valet, Mr. Linge.



Hitler's head The scorch marks show where the red telephone had been at his bedside

As one can **also** clearly see, there is absolutely **nothing metallic** anywhere near *either* the table or the nightstand, so **how** did the paint on the "Hitler Telephone" become scorched in one place (refer to photo back on page 51) – if the damage **wasn't** from a blowtorch nozzle (or other similar, very hot, object)?

One might argue that neither the table or the nightstand is to be seen in its **entirety** in the relevant photograph, but one **must** bear in mind that the consignor and AHA offered the photo with the **specific caption** that the "... scorch marks show where the red telephone had been at his bedside ...," **which means that the footprints are to be seen in the photograph!** (They should be on the **nightstand**, since this was "at his bedside.")

Sorry, there just **aren't** any telephone footprints, **nor** the shadow of a phone, to be seen in the soot, no matter how much the consignor and AHA would wish otherwise – **seeing truly is believing** (at least in this specific instance). In the same vein, the **footprints** of the "Kentucky Hitler Telephone" are **not** to be seen on *either* the table or the nightstand; this also applies to the shadow the phone **would** have left – **it's just not** there.

Another thing: considering the amount of soot on the table and the nightstand, the **cords of the "Hitler Telephone"** simply **must** be dark brown, if not black, from the soot – but instead, they are plain, faded red. Did anyone ever remove the cords from the phone and wash them? AHA doesn't say that this was done, **so what happened to the soot on the cords (and on the phone's innards)?**

**In the final analysis, what are the most likely facts concerning the "Hitler Telephone?"**

It started out as a standard, **black** W38 Bakelite dial desk telephone in **April** of **1940**, having both the markings "W38" and "Fg tist 182b. 31V.4." It is **highly** debatable whether the markings on the red paint on the base are originals or not – **we are of the firm belief that they are fakes** (refer to appendix). It was **not** a Wehrmacht phone, but rather one from the Reichspost, since there is **no** Wehrmacht acceptance hallmark to be seen on the phone.

There is **not one single thread of viable evidence** that it was ever located anywhere in the Wolf's Lair Complex in Rastenburg, East Prussia, or in Hitler's bunker in Berlin; it may have been there, or possibly not – **either in black, or in red**. "Footprints in the soot" do **not** exist, and would **not** be proof that a **red** telephone (of all things) had stood on a table in Hitler's bunker bedroom in Berlin under any circumstances.

In the same vein, **there is no hard evidence** that Brigadier Rayner was either given the "Hitler Telephone" by Soviet officers (it is **much** more likely that such a trophy would have found its way to Moscow), or that he smuggled it out of the bunker under his coat.

There is **no evidence** that the phone was presented to Hitler, either by the "Wehrmacht" (as a generic entity), **or** by some German flying aces, **or** by anyone else.

The "... consignor's very detailed notarized letter of provenance which fully sets forth his personal recollection of the telephone being brought to England and his research on its history ..." of "... such solid provenance ..." **isn't even worth considering as proof of authenticity**. Nor is any of the other "evidence", such as "... additional photographs and research further buttressing the authenticity of this incredible museum piece ...."

The fax, **supposedly** from Mr. Rochus Misch, which "gives evidence" that Hitler had a red telephone, and which Mr. Misch recognized on some **unnamed and unknown photograph**, **is also not worth considering as proof of authenticity, since the fax lacks all identification marks which could even remotely link it to Mr. Misch**. We simply "must" believe the consignor that the fax is from Mr. Misch – no matter how much evidence there is to the contrary.

It all boils down to a standard, black W38 desk telephone, made in April of 1940, **from somewhere (anywhere) in Germany ... without any hard facts** linking it to Hitler, to any of his field headquarters or to the Berlin bunker. There remains one *important* question: **where** was the telephone knocking about *before* its magical mutation into the "Hitler Telephone," since it was manufactured in April of 1940, but was supposedly *not* in Hitler's possession until 1944-45 (the last two years of the war)? This is a question which must remain unanswered, simply because anyone's guess would be as good as ours.

At some unknown time, the phone was damaged – the handset having been broken<sup>18)</sup> or been simply missing); the (broken) handset was disconnected from the phone at an unknown date.

<sup>18)</sup> This can happen when one slams the receiver down onto the cradle *very* hard.

It also seems likely that the dial finger-wheel (possibly even the entire dial) and the "earth" pushbutton were broken or damaged, either at the same time, or later on.

The *exterior* surface of the *housing* shows heat damage and soot, most likely from a blowtorch or heat-gun, since the paint *inside* shows **no** true heat damage, nor do the feet or the guts of the phone themselves. If the phone had been in a fire, then the **entire** phone *would* have been damaged, but this is *not* so.

**Hypothetically** taking into account that an unmarked, damaged, black phone really was taken from somewhere (anywhere) in the Berlin bunker complex, **and there being no viable evidence as to this fact**, it would be logical to engrave a Nazi eagle with swastika, along with Adolf's name, on the back in order to "prove" its provenance, and to fill the engravings with gold-colored paint; no matter that the engravings certainly **weren't executed by a master artisan**, nor even by an apprentice. The plain truth is that no one would have **dared** to give Hitler a black telephone with such *cruddy* engravings.

However, having a *damaged* black phone, even if from "Adolf Hitler," wasn't such a great thing – it would be *much* nicer to have an *intact* phone instead, so the missing parts were replaced as good as they could be – all the way to attaching an *utterly wrong* handset (which was *supposedly* supplied by Siemens Brothers of London, there being **no evidence** to support this "fact") to the phone, and misconnecting *every* single wire on the terminal board (and possibly wiring the handset and its cord incorrectly as well).

There may either have been a damaged German W48 in red-dyed UFTP on hand, or one was somehow obtained, with the finger-wheel, the center aluminum numerals disc (or possibly the entire dial) and the "earth" pushbutton being robbed and attached to the black phone – the idea being that someone as important as Adolf was certain to have a "red phone" (which didn't come into use after the Cuba Crisis, when it was felt that a direct hotline between the superpowers would be a good thing<sup>19)</sup>), so the phone and handset were painted red – while making the mistake of painting **over** the gold-colored Nazi eagle, **Adolf's name** and the aluminum disc. We will repeat it once more: the paint job was by **no** means original to the phone.

<sup>19)</sup> This was originally a *teletype* link, later replaced by a plain *beige* Bell telephone at the White House end of the line.

The phone was now red all over, *even* in places where painting was *wholly* unnecessary, such as the inside, complete with a British handset and cords. At some time after painting, a good-sized chunk of Bakelite was broken out of the left side of the housing – something which required a lot of force, since the Bakelite is pretty thick in the area where the damage occurred. It was glued back into place and the phone (at least partially) repainted to hide the damage.



Then there is certainly the question as to why someone (anyone) should have presented Hitler with a telephone with a **British** handset. Yes, *supposedly so that it won't fall of the cradle*, but we have already debunked that notion with photographic proof as to this being a pure coincidence and having proven that there were better options available. Aside from this, *all sorts* of purely mechanical locking devices (intended to hold a handset on its cradle) had already been invented and put to practical use, so **why** wasn't such a device used with the handset of the "Hitler Telephone?"

The paint was still smooth at this point, but someone found it expedient to do something more to hide the damaged Bakelite, so the body (and **only** the body) of the phone was worked over with a heat source; the heat cracked and blackened the red paint, with the most heat damage being (oh, *wonder!*) exactly where the Bakelite had been repaired.

Besides hiding the damage to the Bakelite, the cracked and darkened paint lent some *slight* credence to the fiction that the phone had been in a fire – but there is **no** heat or fire damage to the red paint on the handset cradle, the handset itself, on the number card holder, the dial finger stop, or to the base and the guts of the phone in general ... **isn't it wonderful**, just how **selective** a gasoline fire can be?

Now we have a **non-functional**, red-painted telephone, **selectively** cracked and darkened by "fire," with **no** evidence of damage to a **great** number of parts, which is crudely engraved with a wobbly Nazi eagle and swastika, and with unevenly engraved letters of Adolf's name. Just the right thing to get someone to part with hundreds of thousands of dollars for a "genuine Hitler Telephone," which would be about as rare as a splinter of wood from the Holy Cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified – **and just about as authentic**.

We seem to recall having once heard that, if one took all the *supposed* splinters from the Holy Cross and weighed them, they would weigh **several tons**. We have also heard that a fool and his money are easily parted ....

The supposed fax from Mr. Misch, from 1985, is the most important cornerstone of AHAS claim as to the authenticity of the "Hitler Telephone" – debunked in the extreme because it lacks **all** attributes which could even *remotely* link it to Mr. Misch.

The second cornerstone is the photo of the "... scorch marks [which] show where the red telephone had been at [Hitler's] bedside ..." – which we have thoroughly debunked because there are **NO** footprints of **any** telephone to be seen in the soot at all.

The third and fourth cornerstones are the engravings on, and the red color of, the supposed "Hitler Telephone" – which we have also debunked, leaving nothing left at all but an *immense* amount of hot air (enough to crack the paint on the *outside* of the phone with [insert smile here]).

The following sentence (which we read somewhere) sums things up very prettily: "Come up with something that's close enough so that it just *could* be true, add some supporting evidence that *sounds* authentic, lay back and await the results."

That is the quintessence of the "Hitler Telephone," and in our opinion, as long-time collectors of telephones and Nazi relics/regalia, this specific Frankenphone is one of the cheapest and crudest sort, and **that any and all claims as to its authenticity** of ever having belonged to Adolf Hitler, that it was *originally* painted red, that the British handset and cords are *original*, that it *was* exposed to the fire in the bunker and that it *was* found in Hitler's bedroom in the bunker, are purely apocryphal legerdemain and may safely be relegated to the realm of myths, unicorns, gnomes, trolls, fairies, hobbits, and urban legends.

It is our well-founded, collective opinion that the so-called "Hitler Telephone" is made up of components belonging to a total of **seven** different phones: **1)** the body and electrical components of a Siemens/VBT Fg. Tist. 182b (W38) desk set, **2)** the braided cords from a British phone which was either painted red or of red-dyed UFTP, **3)** the dial finger-wheel and the "earth" pushbutton (*and* possibly the center numerals disc of the finger-wheel) from a *late-model* Siemens **W48** telephone in red-dyed UFTP<sup>20)</sup>, **4)** an (for all intents and purposes) *unidentifiable* British handset handle, **5)** the transmitter cap from a Siemens Brothers "Neophone" *wall* telephone, **6)** an unmarked receiver cap, and **7)** the number card holder from an unknown *thermoplastic* telephone.

<sup>20)</sup> We concede that it *may* well be possible for the *entire* dial to be from a red W48, since the *base* of the dial is also red; it is impossible to tell whether the dial base was painted red or not. Somehow, we **can't** imagine the forger having been mechanically competent enough to have completely disassembled the dial in order to paint the base.

The so-called "Hitler Telephone" has a practical, commercial value of perhaps \$20 to \$40 as a curio and forgery. Had it been an *undamaged*, original black W38 from Siemens, it would have been worth between \$250 and \$300 to a telephone collector.

It is certainly **not** worth the **\$243,000** that an **unsuspecting and highly naïve "collector"** paid for it (but it *certainly serves him right* for having done so). One *really shouldn't* bid on something of which one *obviously* has **no** knowledge, and **not** believe everything that an auction house claims to be "unshakeable provenance" as being true.

It is also **unbelievable** that AHA was **equally naïve** in selling it as "ADOLF HITLER'S PERSONAL PRESENTATION TELEPHONE, RECOVERED FROM THE FUHRERBUNKER" – the folks there *apparently haven't the slightest idea* of what **any** real telephone, let alone one from the Third Reich, looks like, and have singularly **failed** to prove the existence of a red "Hitler Telephone" on **all** counts.

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The following is Mr. Schwarz's translation of an article concerning the fake "Hitler Telephone," published in the *online* version of the German newspaper "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung" ("FAZ" – Frankfurt General Newspaper) dated February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (original text in red).

"If there is anyone in Germany who knows about historical telephones, it is Frank Gnegel. The Departmental Head of Collections at the Frankfurt Museum of Telecommunications is responsible for one of the largest and most significant collections of telephones in Europe. It encompasses some 2,000 telephones from the Reichspost and the post offices of Bavaria and Wuerttemberg, which were used in public telephone networks from 1881 onward. These are supplemented by intercom telephones and equipment from PBXs; besides these, the collection also has the first [German] desk telephone from 1887 and the first [German] telephone equipped with a dial.

"A telephone which is not in the collection has changed ownership in the past few days and made headlines as well: 'Adolf Hitler's old telephone was sold for \$243,000 in the United States' was the headline published on FAZ.NET. Gnegel says that 'it is definitely a forgery.' Why does he believe so? 'The basic telephone was manufactured by Siemens and Halske, but the handset is from a British telephone. Something like that was never produced.' His presumption: 'The parts must have been put together in England later on.'

"The phone was there [in England] for a long while: it was supposedly found in the Berlin bunker after Hitler's suicide and the fall of the Third Reich. According to the auction house, Russian soldiers first offered an Englishman Eva Braun's telephone. But he would rather have had a red phone, so he decided on Hitler's telephone, which he later bequeathed to his son, who now had it auctioned off.

"This claim is pretty ridiculous

"Early on, phone collectors voiced their doubts concerning the authenticity of the phone via the internet. A relevant text appeared on the home page of a restorer of historical telephones residing in the Netherlands on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. In an addendum, dated February 16<sup>th</sup>, the author reported that a friend of his, who works in a telephone museum, had **written a letter to the auction house. Did the reply convince the experts? 'No,' he wrote. 'On the contrary, I am all the more convinced that it wasn't Hitler's telephone.'**

"What the auction house had to say could be found under "addenda" in the item description: the dealer **admits that the handset doesn't fit in with the rest of the phone. The reason for this was that it was a special construction, so that the handset couldn't fall off the phone during transportation. To this, the expert from the Netherlands replied: 'This claim is pretty ridiculous. Telephone models exist which are specially constructed so that the handset will sit tight; and, one can clearly see that the British handset doesn't fit the German telephone very well.'**

"The auction house further wrote that the handset was produced in England by an independent sub-firm of Siemens Germany, which closely cooperated with the mother company until the beginning of World War Two. Gnegel **says: 'Why should a firm in Britain construct a handset for Hitler before the war? Siemens would have gladly manufactured a new telephone for Hitler.'** [Mr. Gnegel completely misses the point that Siemens of Germany only held a mere fifteen percent interest in Siemens Brothers of England and that there was **no** close cooperation between the two companies at all, while totally ignoring the minor fact that Britain and Germany had been at war with one another since September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1939, as well as that British phone parts would fail Reichspost form, fit and function criteria.]

"The idea can only have come from the 'cell phone' generation

"He also wonders that the phone was painted red. **'Siemens would have manufactured a nice telephone of colored Bakelite, instead of amateurishly overpainting a black telephone.'** The engravings on the back of the phone were overpainted. **'Everything manufactured for Hitler was of very high quality, so why should the engravings be overpainted? It is also not plausible that Hitler had a phone with a dial – because he was manually connected by the exchange<sup>21)</sup>.'** However, there are many photographs which show Hitler using a dial telephone. **'There were telephones wherever he went, so why should he take his own one with him?,'** Gnegel asks.

<sup>21)</sup> This is only *partly* correct. The unlisted phone number at the Old Chancellery in Berlin (12 00 50) was connected to a pushbutton switchboard which, in turn, was connected to the dial PBX there. The extension telephones connected to the PBX were all furnished with dials, since any extension could call any other extension – with the **exception that Hitler's personal extensions (private rooms, his Chancellery office, etc.)** could only be rung from the switchboard, whether or not the call was from another extension or one from an outside line.

Those phones in the Führerbunker, which were possibly connected to the PBX, were also equipped with dials, while the other phones there were magneto-operated.

Hitler's mobile command center, the Führer-Train (code-named "Amerika" until November 1941, when the name was changed to "Brandenburg"), was equipped with both dial (W28/M36/W38?) and magneto desk telephones (model 38?); both types were necessary, so that telephonic communications could be achieved at any railway station the train happened to stop at, independent of the type of exchange system used at the locality in question.



Hitler would not need a dial telephone during his rare visits to command posts (he **never** paid visit to any command posts which were within shelling range), irrespective of whether or not he arrived by car or train, because he could simply use one of the FF33 phones at hand for any calls he might have wished to make – even if the number called was connected to a dial exchange.

"He holds the description of the phone as a 'telephone for travel,' which could be read **about everywhere, to be a 'pure absurdity.'** The auction house had claimed that Hitler had given most of his orders over exactly this phone in the last two years of the war. In an advertisement, the auction house claims "it was probably the most destructive of weapons of all times, which brought about the death of millions." Hitler is supposed to have taken this "mobile tool of destruction" with him everywhere. 'Where does this information come from?,' Gnegel asks [we ask ourselves the **very** same question]. The auction house itself refers to a fax from Rochus Misch from 1945 [*sic!*], who was a **member of the "Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler"** [something which Gnegel probably didn't know until he heard about it somehow, because AHA *doesn't* mention this specific fact], in which he writes that he recognizes the phone as the one Hitler always had with him during the last two years of the war.

"Besides which, there are photographs of Russian soldiers – but only in '**Hitler's** quarters' [whatever **that** is supposed to refer to]. But, despite the fact that the auction house shows numerous photographs of the phone itself, there is apparently **not a single photo** showing Hitler with [any] red telephone. It is also unclear [to everyone] in which photograph Mr. Misch wants to have recognized the telephone on. Gnegel **says that 'the** idea of taking the phone along on trips can only stem from the cell phone generation.'

'Back then, phone plugs and jacks didn't exist. Phones were hard-wired to wall-mounted terminal boxes. You couldn't just take them with you.' The auction house writes of a "model W38 desk telephone."

[Mr. Gnegel is in **error**, when he claims that portable phones with plugs and their respective wall-mounted jacks didn't exist "back then." The German Reichspost had placed a 4-conductor, concentric contact, telephone plug and jack system into service during the year 1927.]

"Caroline Lange is a historian at the University of Wurzburg, who is currently researching **Adolf Hitler's behavior concerning his modes of communication. She says: 'We do not** have very much in the way of written matter from Hitler, and historians have been searching for the order leading to the holocaust for decades on end.' This search is entirely in vein 'because it will not have existed [in written form].' Hitler left traces very unwillingly. 'The idea that he should have used one and the same phone during the 1940s, over which he – as the auction house insinuates – gave out his murderous orders, stems, I believe, from our wish to somehow prove his guilt. Since there is no document, we at least have a telephone to nail him down with.' The wish for unequivocal proof is greater than the possibility of a single telephone, which Hitler always used.

"In internet forums, collectors are meanwhile making fun of the "Führer-Telephone." One user wrote: 'Folks seem to take the phone seriously. But certainly not with such awful paintwork ... and then all the writing about mobility. Well, that would have worked for a single person within a certain radius – but not with a standard telephone.' [We don't see why not!] A user replied: 'How nice! I'm going to get that phone for myself. It's a perfect addition to Napoleon's original field phone, which the Prussians captured as Waterloo, which I already own, the same as the Morse telegraph with which Julius Cesar sent the famous words "Veni Vidi Vici" to Rome. To have history at home, first hand, is a great thing!'

The following is a translation of two comments from readers of the online version of the "FAZ." Once again, original text is in red.

"One doesn't begrudge the "Führer" his red telephone! But now history must be rewritten! There was already a "red telephone" in Hitler's bunker at a time when nobody at the White House or the Kremlin had thought of such a thing! One of these days, they'll find Hitler's cellphone, complete with nude photographs of Eva Braun as well! [See below.]

"Nazi memorabilia are still a big hit in America – and, as we know – **there's a fool born every minute.** However, in this case, I will vouch as to the fact that this phone is a guaranteed, genuine fake. I was personally present when Konrad Kujau<sup>22)</sup> demonstrated the phone to the Minister of the [German] Federal Post Office, Christian Schwarz-Schilling, during the Radio and Television Expo in Berlin in 1991, which Kujau had previously painted red in Stuttgart in the fall of 1988 (using original paint dating from **Hitler's early years, when he had wanted to become an academic painter in Vienna, Austria).**

<sup>22)</sup> Mr. Kujau was an East German who forged 60 volumes of the so-called "Hitler Diaries" between 1981 and 1983, and which he managed to sell – *as originals* – to a German weekly magazine called "Stern" (they paid several *million* dollars for the diaries). Full details may be found at: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hitler\\_Diaries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hitler_Diaries).

## Hitler's phone, 'the most destructive 'weapon' of all time,' sold for \$243,000

By Judith Vonberg, CNN

Updated 6:15 AM ET, Mon February 20, 2017



**WONDER WHAT HIS OLD NOKIA WOULD FETCH**

imgflip.com phone, which was originally black, was painted red and engraved with his name and a swastika.

Mr. Bill Panagopoulos of Alexander Historical Auctions recently made the following statement concerning the "Hitler Telephone:"

"Needless to say, we stand by the telephone's authenticity<sup>23)</sup>," ... adding that the claims otherwise were "insulting to the reputation and memory of a distinguished British officer and his family"... as if a Greek autograph geek would *really* care about the sentiments of a British family – the only thing **he's really** worried and cares about is his **own** reputation, which is now *very* well-dented, banged-up and tarnished.

"The only people who are making any claims about it are this guy in Frankfurt<sup>24)</sup>, a guy who runs a blog<sup>25)</sup> and a little museum in a shed<sup>26)</sup>," Mr. Panagopulos said. Nobody else in the world has questioned it.

**That isn't quite correct** – we even had input to this analysis from Down Under and from a collector of Nazi relics/regalia from the Ukraine.

<sup>23)</sup> He **has** to say that, because otherwise, someone might realize that the auction was fraudulent and that he and AHA could be taken to court for fraud (despite their disclaimer that certain material is only guaranteed authentic for a period of 21 days).

<sup>24)</sup> **"This guy in Frankfurt" happens** to be Mr. Frank Gnegel, the Departmental Head of Collections in the Frankfurt Museum of Telecommunications, who is responsible for one of the largest and most significant collections of telephones in Europe ... **so, according to** Mr. P., Mr. Gnegel is a perfect nincompoop, whose opinion one may safely **ignore** – while those at AHA simply know **everything** there is to know about **European** telephones, and are **real, died-in-the-wool experts** on the subject matter, **right?**

<sup>25)</sup> Mr. Arwin Schaddelee, a well-known collector of telephones, from the Netherlands.

<sup>26)</sup> The non-profit **"American Telephone Museum"** in Waltham, Massachusetts ([www.telephone-museum.org](http://www.telephone-museum.org)).

Mr. P. is a maleficent little gnome who obviously believes that, **when you don't have any sane** arguments, the best approach is to **denigrate** your opponent, with vituperative statements such as:

"My God, you are a pathetic, publicity-starved fool. I will be certain to circulate this imbecilic quote to the press. Hilarious!

And:

"Just as you have injured the reputation of a British war hero and his family, so will I be certain to expose you for the unqualified thoughtless and reckless fool that you have proven yourself to be.

The above comments were directed towards Mr. Schaddelee, and despite the fact that Mr. P. has no gills, fins or scales, there is something **rather** fishy about him. We may safely quote back to Mr. P. and "... expose [him] for the unqualified, thoughtless and reckless fool that [he] ha[s] proven [himself] to be." **He himself is a "... pathetic, publicity-starved fool" now.**

Mr. P. **must** either have something to hide or **is** afraid of something, **because lashing out blindly at others** is a certain sign that something is **very** amiss indeed. It is true that, where there is smoke, there is also a fire and if Mr. P. truly **had** nothing to hide, he **should** have taking things **strictly in stride** and have shown some **equanimity** ... **but** it is a documented fact that he is **anything but** calm about the matter. This should cause readers to wonder **about the authenticity of the "Hitler Telephone."**

**He also stated that** "A lot of these guys are commenting on aspects of the phone that they know nothing about ..." – but about which Mr. P. simply knows **everything**, eh? As we have already written, those at AHA simply know **everything** there is to know about **European** telephones and the European Nazis, and are **real experts** on the subject, while European telephone collectors and collectors of Nazi relics/regalia are **absolute neophytes** and **dunces** ... **Sheesh! Talk about hubris.** Besides: AHA got **so many things wrong** in the auction description of the "Hitler Telephone," **why should they finally** get something (anything) right?



## Appendix

One of the militaria dealers we contacted during the research for this analysis was able to provide us with a good scan of a Nazi eagle **very** similar to the one on the phone.



To the above left, we see Hitler's *private* letterhead as used from circa 1936 onwards, and on the right the Nazi eagle as engraved on the phone; the similarity is **quite** striking, but, according to the collectors of Nazi relics/regalia we contacted, it is the **wrong** eagle for the Wehrmacht – it is namely the eagle of the **Nazi Party** (NSDAP).

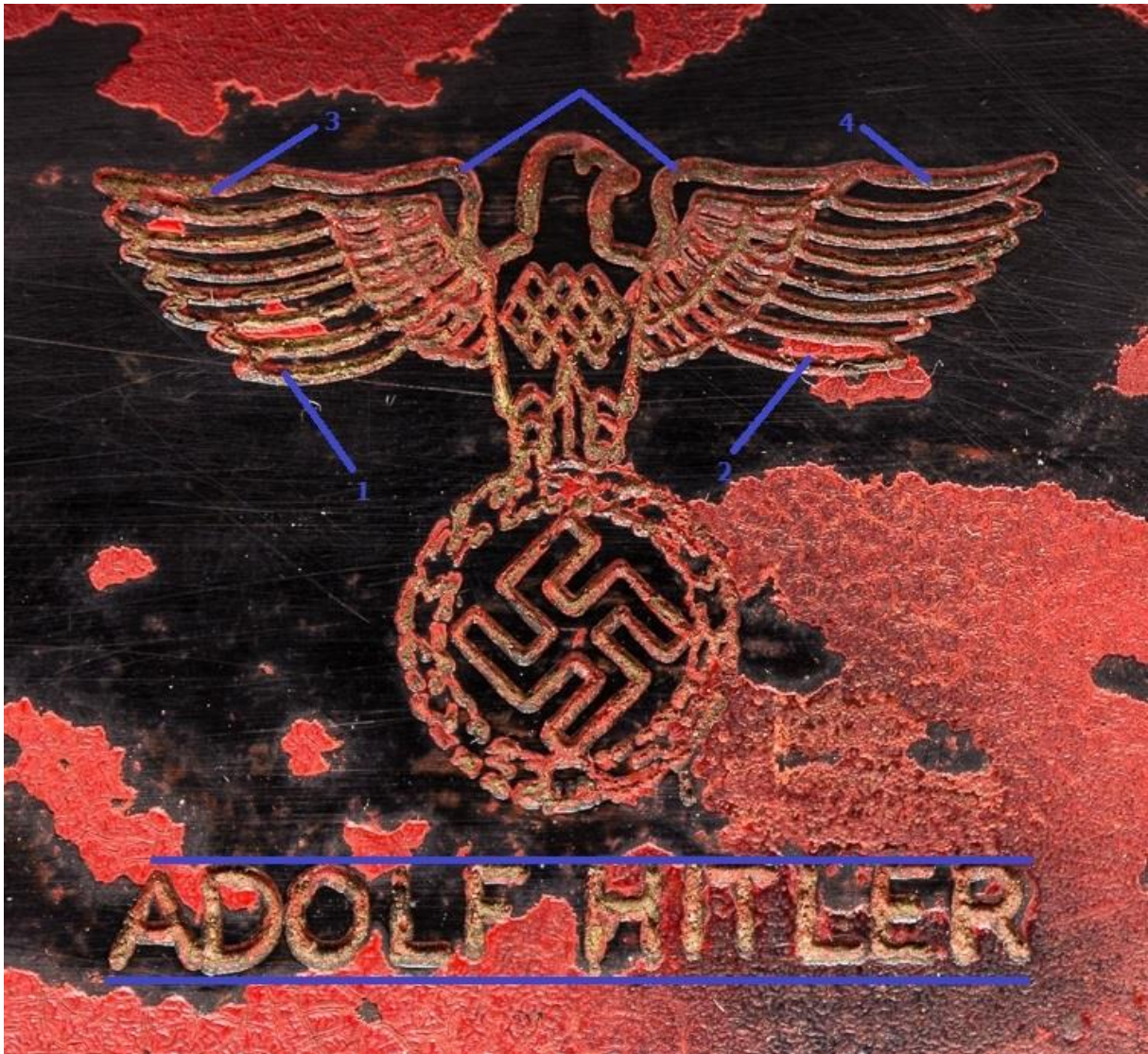


The paper seal on the left belongs to the "Chancellery of the Leader of the NSDAP" (Kanzlei des Führers der NSDAP), which was a **political (NSDAP) office**; it was **legally bound** to use the Party eagle, which faces towards the **right**. NSDAP (party) letterheads, seals and stamps **invariably** had Party eagles on them.

The seal on the right belongs to the "Adjutancy of the Wehrmacht with the Führer" (Adjutantur der Wehrmacht beim Führer), and since this was a **military** office (viz: **not** affiliated with the NSDAP), it was **legally bound** to use the State eagle (facing towards the **left**) throughout its existence. Hence, if the "Hitler Telephone" *had* been given to Hitler by the **Wehrmacht**, then the eagle engraved on the phone would **legally** have had to be the State eagle, and most certainly **not** the Party eagle. This distinction held true for **all manner of letterheads, seals and stamps**, but **not** for uniform effects, medals, etc., which often had the eagle facing towards the right all the same.



We wish to *expand* on some of the information which we gave, concerning the Nazi eagle (as engraved on the "Hitler Telephone"), in the body of our analysis, and to *add* some additional information in support of our claim that it is the *wrong* eagle.



As we have previously pointed out, the eagle on the "Hitler Telephone" is *asymmetrically* engraved, and the lettering of Adolf's name is misaligned. Points one and two, three and four, and the unmarked blue caret above the eagle's head (in the photo above), all show various "islands" in the engraving which are **not** the same size and shape (which they **would** be if a master engraver, using a template, had been at work), and it is easily seen that the letters of Hitler's first and last names are **not** evenly spaced horizontally and are **not** vertically aligned.

We wish to point out that the eagle used on the "Hitler Telephone" was **not** among the miscellaneous variations of State and Party eagles which were *officially sanctioned*; instead, it has an uncanny resemblance to one of Hitler's *private* Party eagles – the hitch being that neither the Nazi Party itself, nor the Nazi State (in the form of the Wehrmacht) were allowed to use such *non-sanctioned* eagles *anywhere* ... and only the various authorities were allowed to use Nazi eagles on letterheads, stamps, seals, whatever *at all* – private persons were absolutely *forbidden* to use *either* style of eagle in letterheads, advertisements, etc. without prior legal approval.

Such things were governed by the Nazi law "For the Protection of National Symbols" ("Gesetz zum Schutze der nationalen Symbolen" in German), and infractions were dealt with seriously.



Here we have two "tinnies" (as English-language collectors call them) from the Third Reich; the one on the left was sold during the May Day celebrations on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1939. Since the May Day celebrations were held by Nazi Germany (and thus by the Nazi State), the eagle used faces to the left (State Eagle).

The one on the right was intended to be sold during the Nazi Party Rally beginning on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1939 (which was cancelled in August of that year without any reason being given). Since the Party Rallies were obviously a Nazi Party function, the eagle is that of the Nazi party (NSDAP), which faces towards the right (Party Eagle).

For those readers who wish to sift down to the bottom of things, here's a link to information concerning the Party Rallies: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuremberg\\_Rally](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuremberg_Rally).

It may thus be seen that the Nazi's took things concerning their national and party symbols **very** seriously, since the proper symbol was even used on such small, everyday items as tinnies; it **all boils down to the simple fact that the Nazi eagle on the "Hitler Telephone" was *neither* an officially sanctioned State eagle (nor one belonging to the Party), but rather a private eagle of Hitler's own (possibly even designed and drawn by him) – which **no one**, other than persons or authorities empowered directly by Hitler, could have had ordered to be used on a letterhead, any sort of stamp or seal, template or, as a matter of fact, on the "Hitler Telephone" itself.**

For all intents and practical purposes, ***only Hitler himself*** (as the leader of the Nazi party) could have authorized the use of his own (unofficial) Party eagle as an engraving on the "Hitler Telephone" – yet we have three versions of the tale by AHA and/or the consignor, according to which it was either the Wehrmacht (as a generic entity in itself), two (high-ranking) officials of the Wehrmacht, or three Luftwaffe aces who supposedly presented the phone to Hitler ... **but none** of these people or entities could have **ordered Hitler's private** Nazi eagle to be engraved on the phone, which leaves us with a very nice **contradiction in facts, unless one accepts that the "Hitler Telephone" is a fake, manufactured *after* the demise of the Third Reich.**



This is an examination and comparison between the markings on the "Hitler Telephone" and those of three Siemens/VBT M36s and one VBT W28.



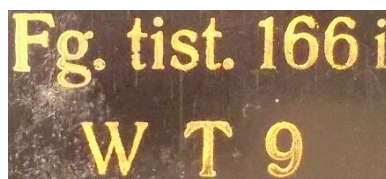
VBT 1941



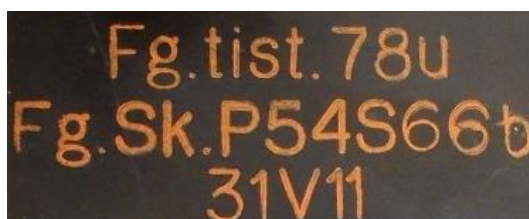
Siemens Vienna 1939



Siemens Vienna 1938



VBT 1940



As can **clearly** be seen, the size and style of letters stamped on the "Hitler Telephone" **significantly differ** from those of Siemens/VBT telephone *of the same era* (1938, 39, 40 and 41<sup>1)</sup>), especially the letters "Fg", "W", "b", "t"<sup>2)</sup>, "V" and the digits "three," "four" and "eight" ...; this comparison materially strengthens our claim that the markings on the "Hitler Telephone" are **not** originals. There is **no logical reason** as to why VBT should have *diverted* from the *Siemens norm* in marking the "Hitler Telephone!"

The blue circles drawn on the base of the "Hitler Telephone" show "periods" which should **not be present**, while the green circles show where "periods" **are missing**. The small letter "b" should not have a horizontal tail at its beginning (yellow circle).

<sup>1)</sup> The phones from '38 and '39 were made in Vienna, the other two in Munich, which supports the claim that the Siemens/VBT style was **universal** during that timeframe.

<sup>2)</sup> The "tail" of the "t"s in "tist" on the "Hitler Telephone" are *far too long* (gray circle)!

Due to artificial lighting, most of the sample markings are yellowish; they are, in fact, of the same shade of reddish orange as in the last photograph.

Now we will look at the marking "A.23." on the "Hitler Telephone," and compare it with similar markings on some Siemens/VBT M36s (the VBT W28, marked Fg. tist. 78u", does *not* have such a marking and is thus not included here).



The footpads are all nearly to the same scale, taking into account that the one from the "Hitler Telephone" is *seriously* deformed. The middle one in the top row is 2 cm (0.787") in diameter, while the ones with the pins<sup>3)</sup> are 2.3 cm (0.906") in diameter (natural size). Again, there is **no logical reason** why VBT should have *diverted* from the *company norm* with the "A.23." marking on the "Hitler Telephone," and we are certain that it, too, is **not** an original.

<sup>3)</sup> Although these are original Siemens telephone footpads, they are from the 1950s, even though both of the "R4" markings stem from the late 1930s, early 1940s. The discrepancy may be explained as follows: the original footpads on these phones **eventually became as deformed as the ones on the "Hitler Telephone,"** causing the telephones to rock whenever a number was dialed; since it would have been foolish to replace the entire phone due to damaged footpads alone, only these were replaced.



Speaking of markings on the base of the "Hitler Telephone:" we find one *very* important mark to be *missing*, namely the Reichspost ownership stamp, with which it marked *practically all* of its telephone plant.

In the example to the left, we have the boxed "RP" stamp on the inside of the lid of the leather carrying case for a *lineman's butt-set*; this stamp was *normally* executed in white ink or paint.

Granted: the "Hitler Telephone" bears a "W38" stamp, which was the Reichspost designation for the phone, but the "RP" stamp, which would have indicated *ownership* by the Reichspost, is missing – thus, we firmly believe that, while Siemens had marked the phone as a W38, the Reichspost had **not** yet paid for the phone and therefore *wasn't* the phone's original "owner" (or else the forger(s) forgot this stamp after painting the phone red).



The pantograph-based engraving machine shown to the left is of the old, hand-operated, variety, such as **would** have been used to engrave the "Hitler Telephone" with.

At the lower end there is a base-plate, in true (square) alignment, to which either a pattern template or letter templates may be attached. Templates are always in true alignment themselves, so that the engravings on the target material will be perfectly aligned as well (which is **not** the case with the "Hitler Telephone").

The engraving machine shown is set up to cut two rows of letters, and one can see that the letters are **evenly spaced** horizontally, and that they are **vertically aligned** (both of which are **not** true for Hitler's name as engraved on "his" phone).

Engraving is performed by manually guiding a stylus over the templates, while a motor-driven cutter engraves the grooves of the template(s) into the target material. The engravings may be 1:1, smaller or larger than the template is; this is accomplished by means of the pantograph, which has the form of a parallelogram, and which is used for the mechanical copying of templates to **any** predetermined scale.

Readers may wish to refer to the following for further information:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pantograph>

**Had** the "Hitler Telephone" been engraved by a master of his trade, then such a hand-operated machine would have been used – but this was obviously **not** the case.

The following **excursus** is intended for those of our readers who are familiar with the electrical aspects of CB, dial and magneto telephones, those of PSTN CB and dial exchanges (as well as of long-haul toll lines), who are able to interpret European telephone schematics to some extent and who understand the A.C. characteristics of capacitors and chokes.

One of our **major** claims concerns itself with the fact that the "Hitler Telephone" **could not** have been connected to **any** Wehrmacht telephone field exchange (not even in the Wolf's Lair Complex), because the field telephone network was **wholly** magneto-operated. We find it necessary to expand upon this claim and to prove it beyond the shadow of a doubt, since field telephone exchanges **could** have connections with PSTN CB or dial exchanges (Army Group Headquarters were prime examples of this).

All in all, the Germans had **three** different types of adapters for connecting one or more PSTN lines to the field telephone network; one thing which they all had in common was that they blocked the D.C. path of PSTN lines from the magneto network, with the aid of condensers, so that **only the A.C. component** (speech) was fed into the magneto network (and vice-versa).



The most interesting of these adapters was the "Amtsanschließer 33" (literally: "Exchange Connector," model 1933, abbreviated "AA33" herein), because it could not only be used to interface a CB or dial phone line with a magneto line, but it could also be used as a standard, stand-alone CB or dial desk telephone.



The AA33 was a more or less *universal* interface, since it could *not only* be used to connect a magneto field phone line to a PSTN line, but also be used as an *adjunct* to a FF33 in connection with certain special field switchboards (using cord-boards type "C").

To this end, the AA33 was equipped with two molded jacks, labeled as the "exchange" jack and the "magneto" jack (actually "induktor" jack in German, since the "inductor" is the German name for a magneto); the latter was the jack for use as an adjunct for a single FF33 – we are only concerned with the "exchange" jack here. The exchange jack is located *beneath* the handset, so that it is impossible to hang the AA33 up while there is a conversation in progress.

In its mode of operation as an exchange interface, the AA33 was most commonly used during military maneuvers *prior to* WW II, because it was intended to be patched **directly** to a FF33. There were usually several FF33s wired up in parallel within a short distance of each other (in order to simulate a front-line battlefield position), and the AA33 was used to patch these phones into a PSTN line (which was rented from the Reichspost for the duration of the maneuver<sup>1)</sup>), which simulated the magneto line to a higher echelon switchboard. Under actual battlefield conditions a small, front-line position would have been equipped with a ten- or twenty-line magneto switchboard, using one or more of the magneto lines for connection to the next higher echelon switchboard.

<sup>1)</sup> It would have been *far* too costly to actually set up larger magneto exchanges and to connect these to the simulated front-line positions, via 4-conductor field cables, just for the sake of maneuvers.



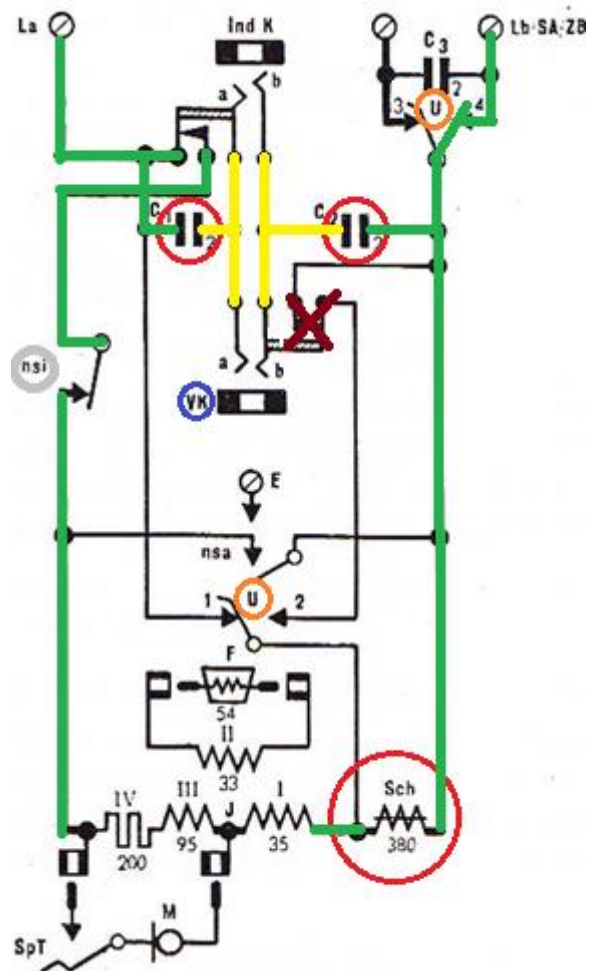
The photograph to the left shows the AA33 in its role as an interface between a PSTN and a magneto line, it being directly patched to a FF33, using one of the two patching jacks, which were physically mounted one over the other and which were wired in parallel with the line terminals of the field phone.

The schematic for the AA33 is shown on the right; as with most western European phone schematics, it is drawn with the handset on its cradle – thus the cradle switch contacts “U” (indicated by the small orange circles) are at rest (spring contacts to the *left*).

When the handset is removed from the cradle, D.C. line current flows via the paths highlighted in green (spring contacts “U” to the *right*); the dial pulse contact is denoted “nsi” (small light gray circle). The loop is held via the primary side of the induction coil and the A.C. buzzer “Sch” (large red circle) when a plug is inserted into the jack “VK” (small blue circle; the contact “xed” out in brown is open in this case).

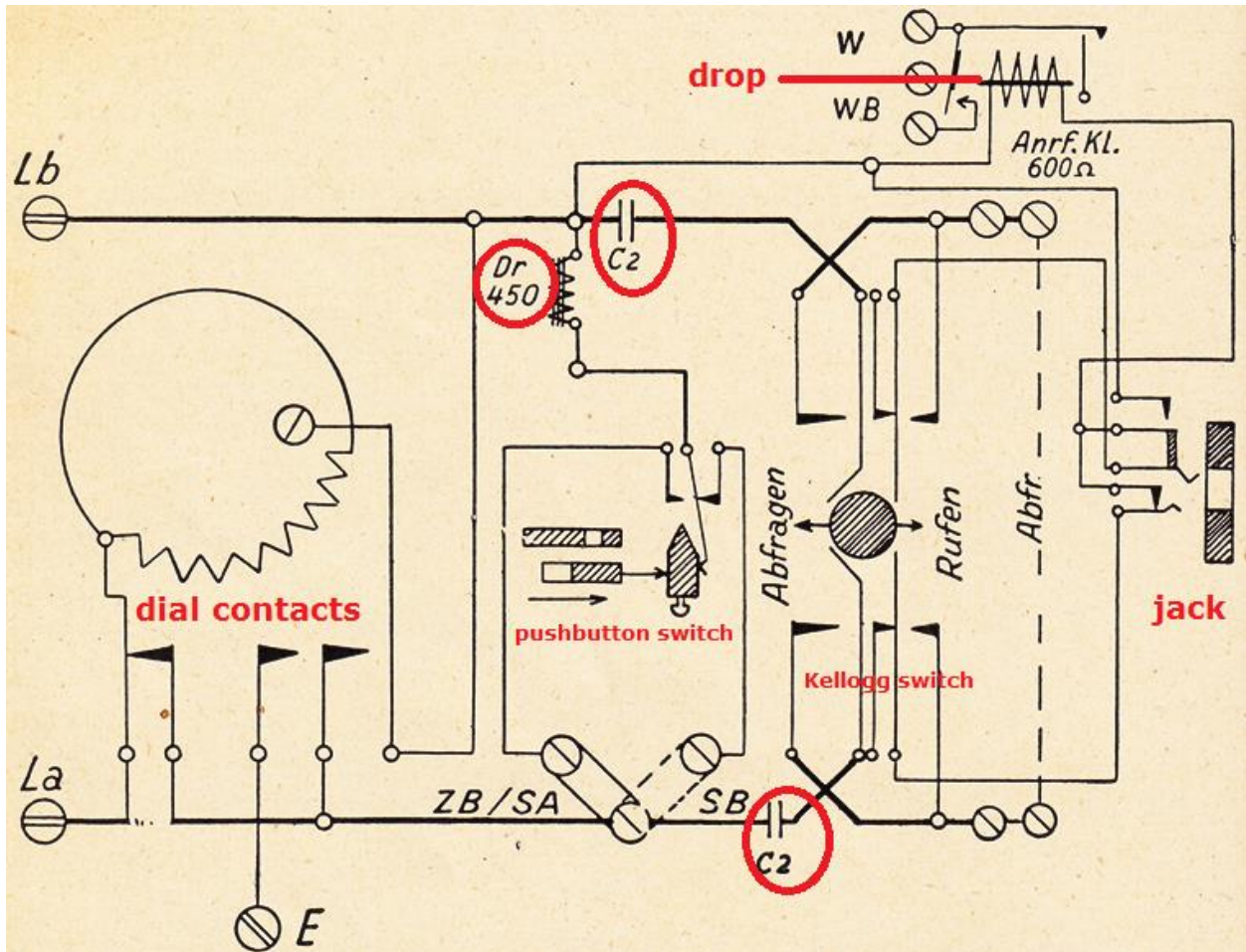
The D.C. path to the “exchange” (“Vermittlungsklinke” = VK) jack is *blocked* via the capacitors  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  (yellow paths), while speech currents can flow to the contact springs “a” and “b” of the jack (equivalent to “tip” and “ring”).

In this circuit, the A.C. buzzer acts as a choke, while the other two adapters use dedicated chokes for the same purpose.





The small magneto switchboard shown on page 86 of this analysis is equipped with a PSTN line adapter for a single phone line. The exact mode of operation of this adapter (which involves a Kellogg-style switch and a latching pushbutton) is not of interest in this excursus ... **what interests us here is** a schematic of the same.



The terminals "La" and "Lb" (respectively equivalent to "tip" and "ring") are connected to the PSTN line; the choke "Dr 450" (450 Ohms D.C. resistance) is used to keep D.C. loop current flowing thru the phone line while the adapter is in use, while the two capacitors (2uF each) block direct currents (thus keeping them away from the magneto phone line jack at the extreme right of the schematic). The 600 Ohm drop fell when a call was received.

Although it **was** possible to equip a ten-line field switchboard with such a PSTN line adapter, this did **not** happen very often under actual (battlefield) conditions, because this would have meant that **thousands** of additional, directly reachable, PSTN phone numbers would have had to be included in the Wehrmacht telephone routing directories, which were top secret.

The major problem would have been constantly **updating** these directories with new (direct) PSTN numbers as the units using such switchboards and adapters moved from place to place. It was **much** easier to connect such small switchboards to ones at higher echelons via one or more **magneto** lines, from where the PSTN lines were mostly **dedicated** lines, which permanently linked large exchanges to one another, such as direct lines from Berlin all the way **to the Wolf's Lair** Complex in East Prussia.

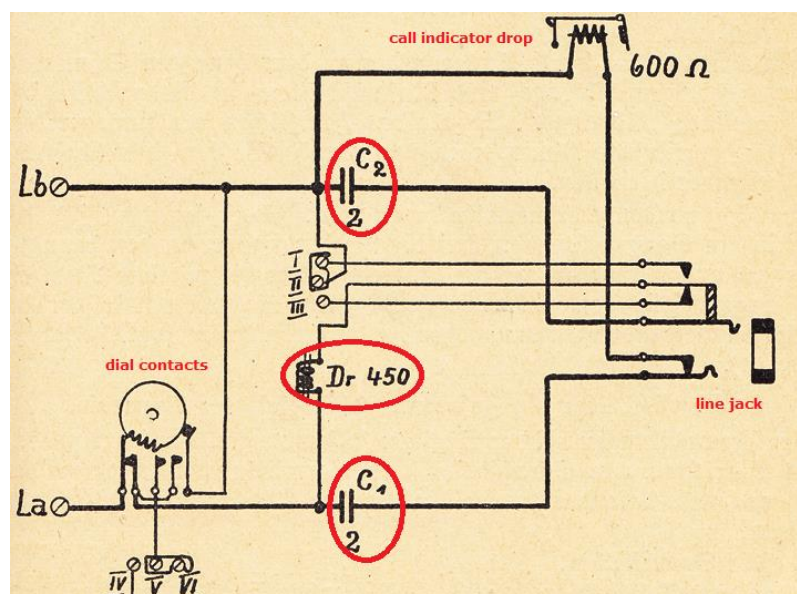




This is the front view of a PSTN line adapter as used with the large variety of magneto field switchboard. This one was used in Belgium (it has dials manufactured by BTM), and the three lines were dedicated *direct* lines – the three line designator tags bear the following legends: “A” – “OKW” (“Oberkommando der Wehrmacht,” High Command of the Wehrmacht), “B” – “III. Berlin” (High Command of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army Group in Berlin) and “C” – “IX. Kassel” (High Command of the 9<sup>th</sup> Army Group in the city of Kassel).

Thus, the line designated “OKW” was directly connected to the central SxS switch belonging to the High Command of the Wehrmacht (originally in Berlin, later terminated in the largest military communications center in Nazi Germany, code-named “Zeppelin”), while the other two were direct dial lines to the SxS switches upon which the headquarters of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Army Groups were hosted.

Here, too, the phone numbers reachable on the relevant SxS switches were listed in the top secret directories; Hitler **wouldn't** have had *any* knowledge of *any* of the numbers reachable on the relevant exchanges, so that his red telephone would have been *useless* to him; he would have given any orders in the field via the next reachable FF33.



The schematic at the bottom of the previous page is for a single line of a three-line PSTN adapter; its operation is much simpler than that of the PSTN line adapter intended for the small (10-line) magneto switchboard: an incoming call would cause the drop to fall; **plugging the "answer" cord of any cord pair from the switchboard into the jack would cause the choke "Dr" (450 Ohms D.C. resistance) to hold the loop, while the two capacitors (2uF each) would block D.C. from the switchboard.**

Placing a call would involve **plugging the "call" cord of any cord pair from the switchboard into the jack**, which would cause the same actions as for answering a call, but then one would simply dial the number required.

While it would have been *theoretically* possible to tap directly into the PSTN line on either the AA33 or the adapter for the ten-line switchboard **(and thus connect the "Hitler Telephone" to a dial line)**, this would have been difficult to do on a three-line adapter, since **all** components of large field switchboards were equipped with one or more 30-conductor jack(s) on the rear of the units.

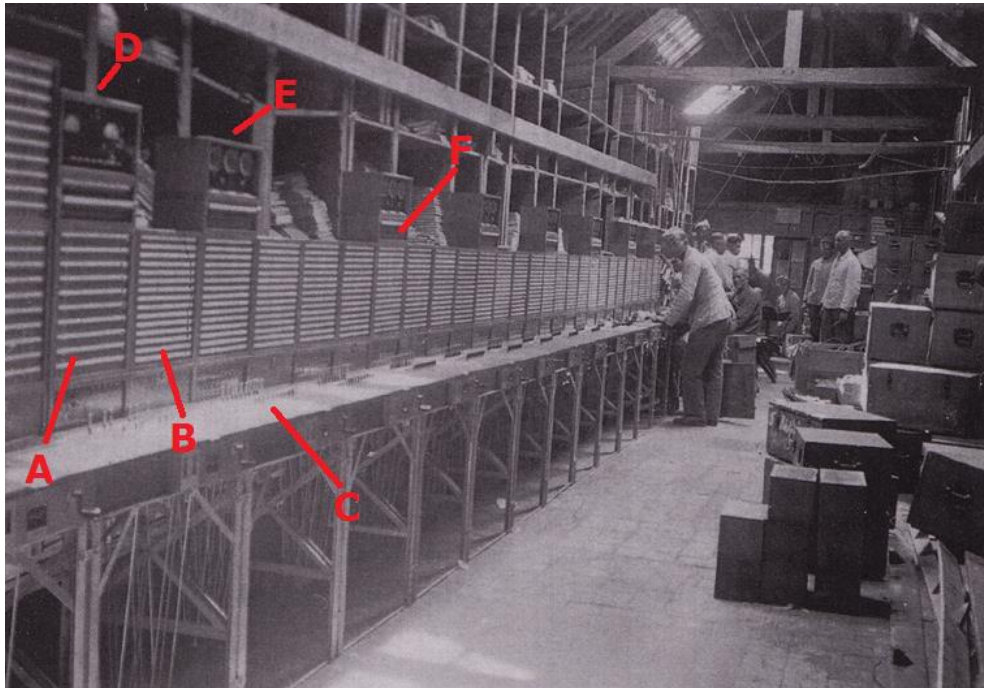


Normally, only the "tip" and "ring" terminals ("a" and "b") were wired up; the exception to the rule were the line jack multiple units, which required the "sleeve" ("c") lead for the "click-busy-test."

The large magneto field switchboards were *fully modular* in construction, the most common components being the cord-board "A" (equipped with ten cord pairs and all the necessary components to initiate and answer calls), the cord-board "B" (which had the same size as the "A" unit, but which was *without* electrical components, except a battery and a D.C. bell for night operations), the ten-line jack/drop unit to connect up to ten FF33s (or other magneto phones), the line jack multiple units for either 50 or 150, two-wire, lines each, the three-line PSTN adapter and conference-jack units (ten jacks without drops, wired in parallel). All units had housings made of solid oak wood.

There were also some special purpose units, among which were: cord-boards "C" and "D" (the former was for faster service on magneto field phone lines, the latter equipped with cords and all the necessary components for long-distance lines – both with the same physical dimensions as the "A" and "B" units) and 100-line, *four-wire*, multiple units.





The exchange shown above, still under construction, was used by the 1<sup>st</sup> Garrison of the OKW General Staff ("Erste Staffel des Generalstabes" in German) and was located in the town of Chimay in France. As is evident, this was a **very** large exchange ....

The photograph shows the following modular units of which the switchboard was made up: "A" – 100-line, *four-wire* multiple (used as *two-wire* units to save space; all outside lines ran thru these multiples, which were used for troubleshooting), "B" – 150-line (standard, two-wire) multiple, "C" – cord-board "A" units (alternating with cord-boards "B"), "D" – volt/amp/ohm-meter unit (for troubleshooting lines), "E" – three-line PSTN adapter and "F" – ten-line jack/drop unit. This particular switchboard catered to approximately 100 magneto and 30 PSTN lines (most of which were direct, long-distance, lines). One item originally overlooked was the *cord-board "D" beneath "A"*, used for troubleshooting with *item "D."*

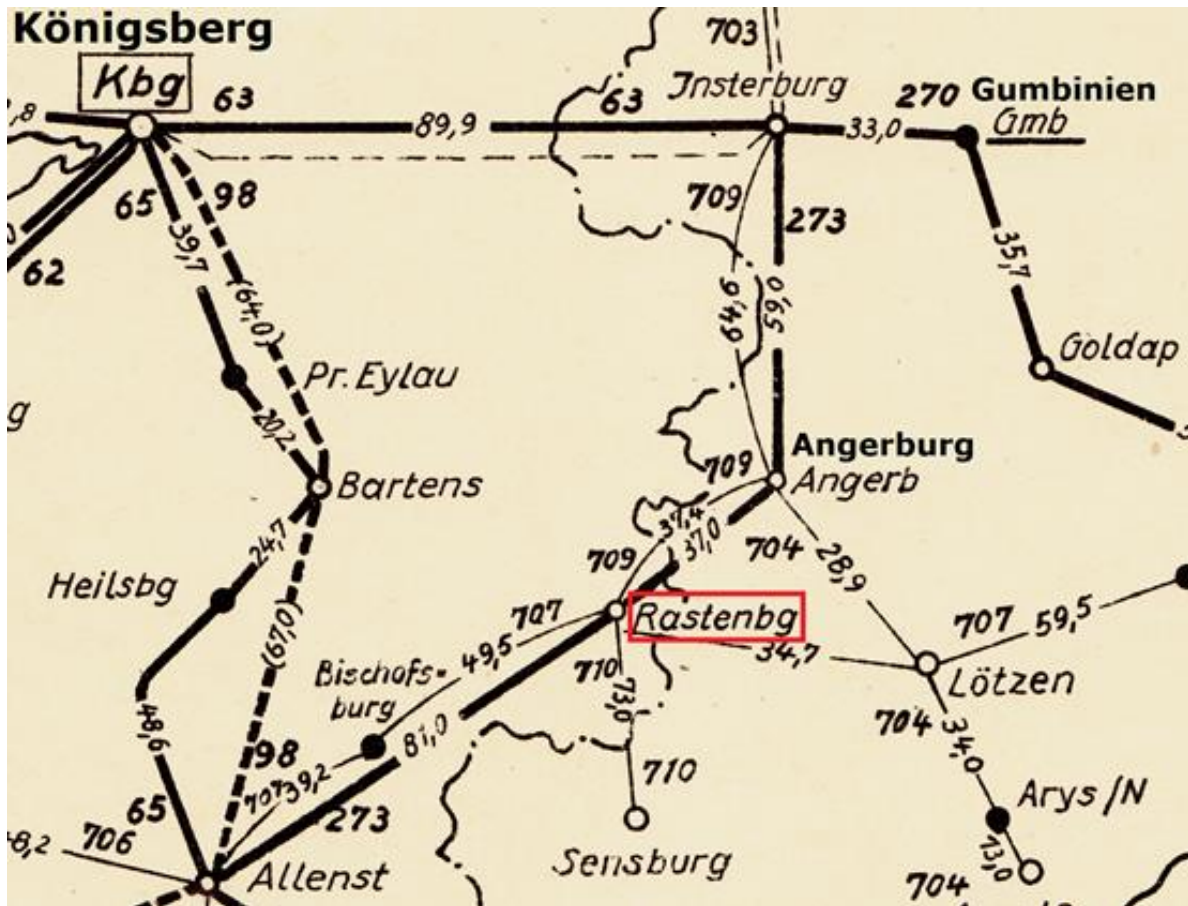


The map excerpt to the left shows the long-distance Wehrmacht *magneto* phone lines and exchange nodes in occupied Russia, dating from November 1941.

The abbreviation "HGr" stands for "Heeresgruppe" (Army Group), "Nord" = north, "Mitte" = mid and "Süd" = south.

Inside the red circle is the city of Insterburg, a major communications node, which may also be seen on the map on the next page.





This is a scan of a *small* portion of a large Reichspost toll cable map dating from shortly before operation "Barbarossa" (the invasion of the Soviet Union); the map and its associated list of toll cables are marked as "Geheime Reichssache" (State Secret).

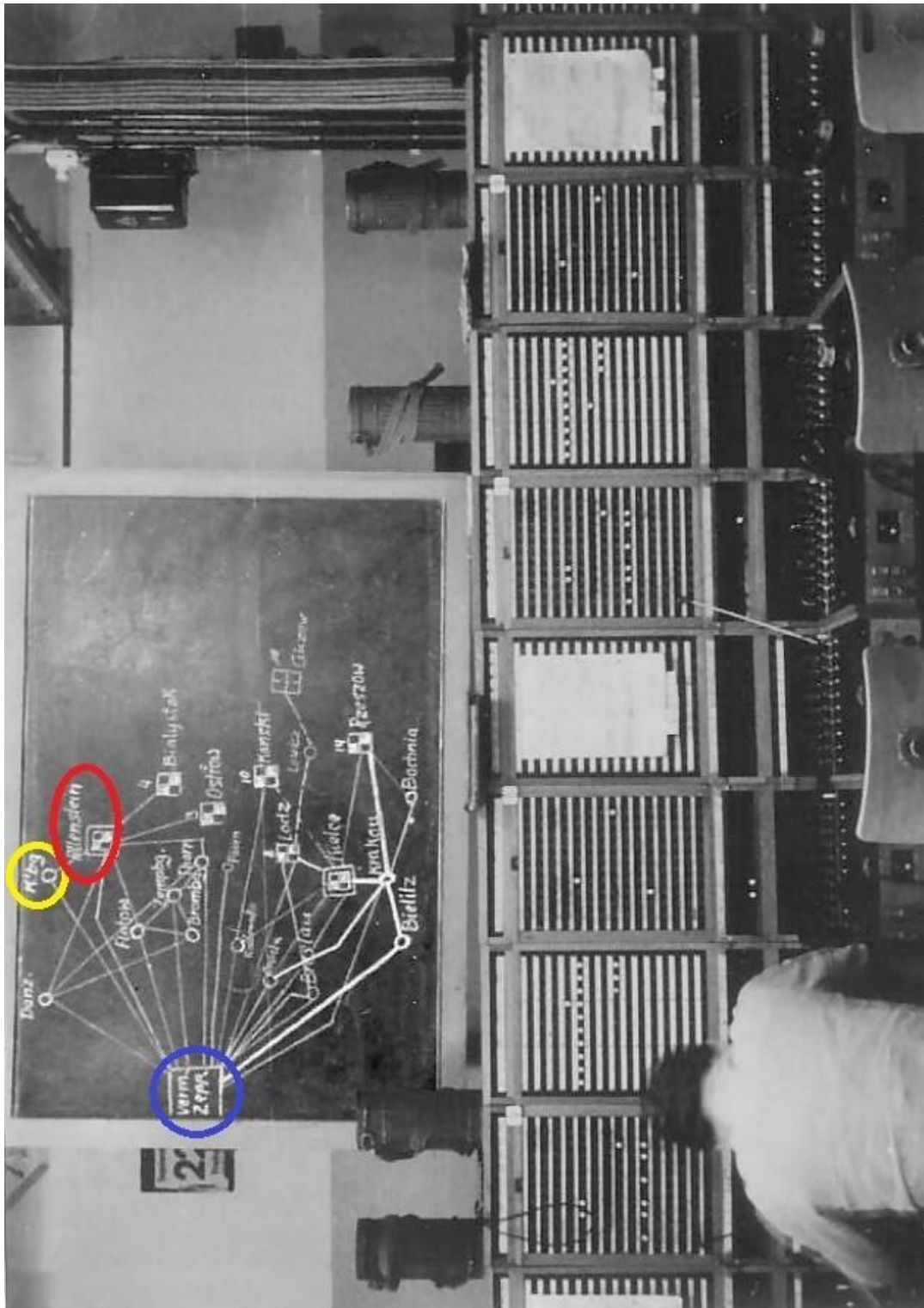
Thick black lines represent existing buried toll cables, thick dashed lines planned buried toll cables, while thin solid lines denote auxiliary *aerial* toll cables; thin dashed lines are planned auxiliary aerial toll cables ... numbers with commas (such as 49,5 [European] = 49.5 [US]) denote the cable length in kilometers, while numbers without commas (such as 707 or 709) denote the toll cable number.

The aerial toll cables were necessary in order to augment the buried cables, so that places such as Rastenburg ("Rastenburg;" the location of the Wolf's Lair Complex) and Insterburg<sup>2)</sup> (class I toll exchange with cutover to the military magneto long-lines system – refer to map on previous page) had sufficient toll lines to support the military traffic load; these toll lines were *always* separate from those belonging to the PSTN (although often in the same cables), and were truly "long lines" in that they ran over repeaters<sup>3)</sup> all the way to Berlin and/or the communications bunker "Zeppelin" *without interruption*.

<sup>2)</sup> Written as "Insterburg" on the map (top, right-hand section); it was common orthographic practice in Germany (at the time) to write capital "I"s as capital "J"s.

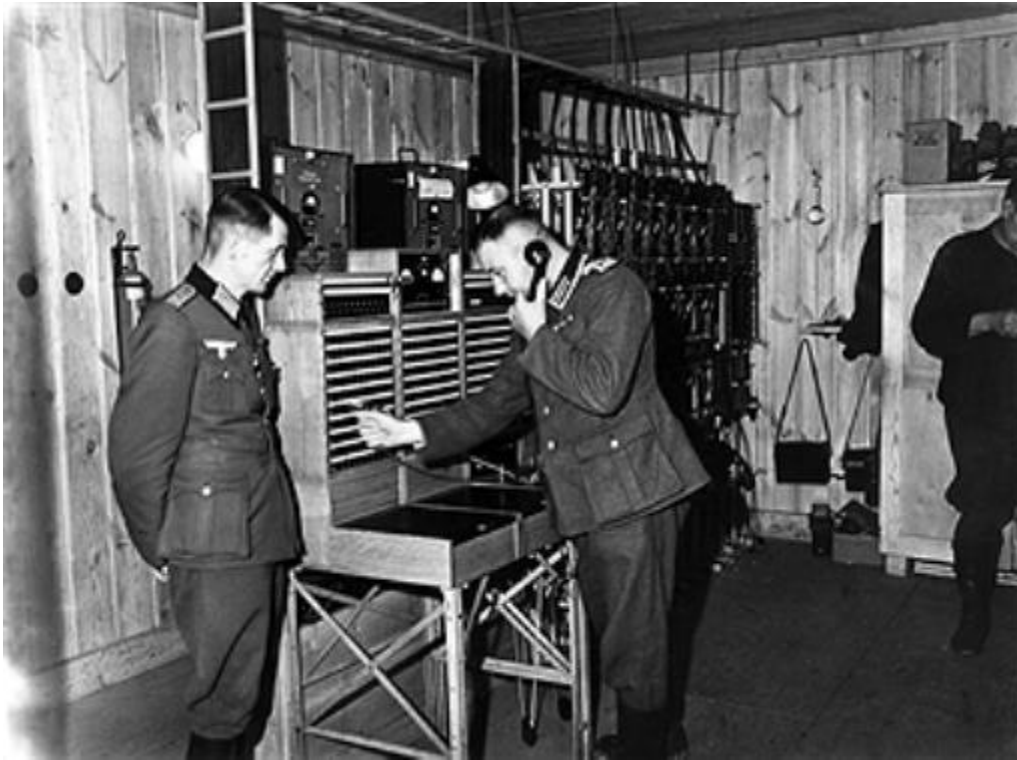
<sup>3)</sup> Vacuum-tube voice repeaters *and* electromechanical dial pulse repeaters.

There is simply **no way** in which Hitler could have found his way around the various phone networks in order to have called *anyone* with his red telephone; besides, the Adjutancy of the Wehrmacht was **always** located near to Hitler in his various field headquarters, and any orders he would have given were to the adjutants directly – there was **no need** for Hitler to place PSTN phone calls to *anywhere* with his red telephone.



This is a photograph of a portion of the long-distance Wehrmacht magneto exchange, codenamed "Zeppelin" (refer to [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maybach\\_I\\_and\\_II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maybach_I_and_II) - section on "Zeppelin"). The blue circle denotes the "Zeppelin" exchange, the yellow one the network node "K'bg" (Königsberg in the upper left-hand portion of the cable map on the previous page), and the red one, which denotes the node "Allenstein" (abbreviated "Allenst" in the lower, left-hand portion of the same map).

The photograph *supposedly* shows this portion of the exchange as it existed on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1939, prior to the attack on Poland – referring to the calendar partially hidden by the blackboard on the left, one can see that it was, in fact, the 22<sup>nd</sup>.



The photograph above shows a main distribution frame (MDF), complete with three 100-line (four-wire) multiples (for troubleshooting lines), with two ten-line jack/drop units and a volt/amp/ohm-meter unit. The units are mounted on two cord-boards "B" and what appears to be a cord-board "D" (on the right). The equipment sitting on top of the test board is unidentifiable. This test board was *supposedly* the one installed at the **Wolf's Lair** Complex, but there is *no* hard evidence to support this.

It is very obvious, taking the proof we have given here into account, that Hitler could **not** have used his beloved "red telephone" **anywhere** in the field, in conjunction with **any** one of the three types of dial line adapter used by the Wehrmacht, since all three only provide A.C. (speech) to the magneto side, while a CB or dial telephone requires direct current for its operation.

The "Hitler Telephone" **wouldn't** have been directly tapped to a (or the) dial phone line on **any** of the three types of adapter, either, because old Adolph would **not** have known which number he would have had to dial to reach anyone anywhere ... so: *goodbye to the myth* that he took his red telephone with him into the battlefield **anywhere** at all.

We offer the following photograph for the further education of our readers:





It *supposedly* shows the field phone exchange at the Wolf's Lair Complex at Rastenburg in East Prussia – but this is **not** correct. It is a propaganda company photo, taken from an *elevated position*, most likely from the steps of a ladder; aside from this, the exchange shown is in a barrack with *open windows*.

The exchange at the Wolf's Lair Complex was in a *window-less, concrete bunker* which was equipped with an gastight bunker door and which was constantly kept under *positive* air pressure to prevent any gas from entering the exchange, which could either kill the operators or render them unconscious. This was necessary in order to ensure that this communications node would remain up and running despite any sort of enemy action (such as bombing raids and chemical warfare), short of actual capture.

The out-of-focus photo shown below is an illicit snapshot of exchange at the Wolf's Lair Complex, and was hastily shot from a sitting or kneeling position.



It may be of interest to readers to note that field switchboard operators were **not** members of the SS, but were rather simply Wehrmacht soldiers from various communications regiments. One such operator was a Mr. Alfons Schulz, who was a switchboard operator at the Wolf's Lair Complex for three years, beginning on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 1942<sup>4)</sup>. He wrote a book about his experiences there, called "Drei Jahre in der Nachrichtenzentrale des Führerhauptquartiers" (Three Years in the Communications Central of the Führer-HQ; the photo shown above is taken from page 59 in the book).

In his book, Mr. Schulz mentions a highly *illicit* look into *Hitler's private bedroom* at the Wolf's Lair Complex, while Hitler was away – he did not *see* (or at least did not *mention* seeing) **any** telephone there<sup>5)</sup>. The exact quote concerning the contents of Hitler's bedroom is: "The furnishings in the bedroom were Spartan. I only saw a field bed, above which there was a bookshelf holding two books, a wardrobe, a washing basin, a table and two chairs. I was interested in what sort of literature "my Führer" was reading. I was disappointed to discover that both books concerned themselves with digestive disorders."

<sup>4)</sup> Since Mr. Schulz was an operator in the Wolf's Lair Complex for three years, these were the years 1942-44, and since Hitler *supposedly* had his red telephone in 1944 and 1945, Mr. Schulz would have been likely to see it – *if* it had existed.

<sup>5)</sup> We believe that any "red telephone" would certainly have been unusual enough as to have warranted mention in his book.

On page 89 of his (German language) memoirs, Mr. Misch long-windedly recalls an incident at the Old Chancellery (shortly after the new Siemens dial PBX was installed), in **which someone accidentally dialed Hitler's extension number.** Our *partial*, literal translation is given below.

"The telephone exchange at the Reichskanzlei was a very modern Siemens PBX with pushbutton operation at the switchboard ... **this had variously colored pushbuttons; white, green and yellow.** One line was reserved for Hitler. When it was in use, a red pushbutton lit up.

This pushbutton had its own history. **It wasn't installed until after there had been problems with Hitler's extension a few times.** One night, while on duty, a comrade of mine misdialed an extension number and reached Hitler by mistake; the poor guy asked Hitler: "Hey, comrade, how late is it? How ... how late is it? Well, how late is it? I have forgotten my watch!"

After Hitler had been rung out of bed on a similar occasion just a few nights later, something had to be done about it .... After this, all calls to Hitler were routed via the **switchboard, and Hitler's extension was only reachable from there; his extension** could no longer be directly dialed."

Thus **Hitler's telephone, even at the Old Chancellery, was cut off from *direct* dial service,** and Hitler had to go thru the switchboard to place any calls.

Upon proofreading our analysis, we discovered that, although we mentioned the Wehrmacht (magneto) "desk set 38" and magneto "bunker set 39," **we didn't explain** what, exactly, they were and what differences existed between the two types.

The magneto desk set 38 was wired up similarly to the FF33, but with a few additional components so that it could either be used as a magneto desk telephone (in military barrack-office installations) or as a CB (non-dial) telephone if connected to a PSTN CB switchboard. It had a combined (but separate) battery/junction box unit for a single 1.5 volt cell with a capacity of 400 mA/h, and it used the same handset as the FF33 field phone (with a push-to-talk [PTT] switch, standard Wehrmacht capsules and 5-pin plug). **Its use as a CB phone necessitated a special mode of operation called "common-battery signaling, local battery talking" (aka "CBS-LBT").**



This photograph *supposedly* shows the chief clerk's annex belonging to the **military post office at the Wolf's Lair** Complex at Rastenburg, East Prussia.

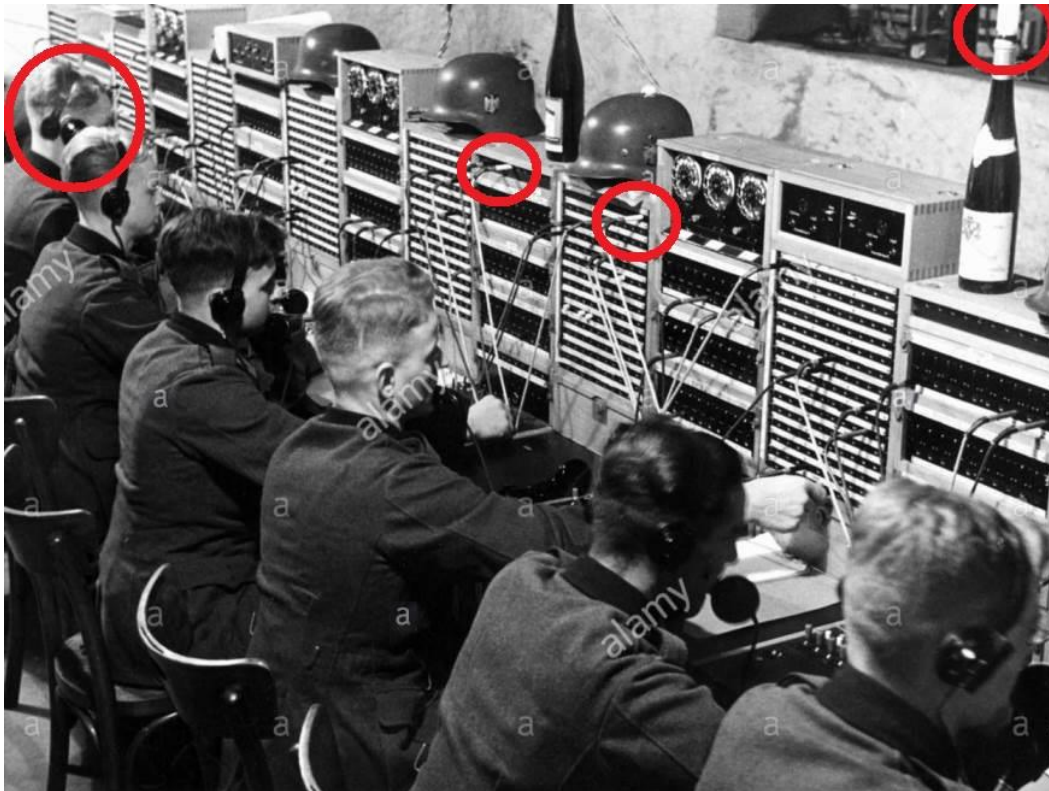
The clerk is using either a desk set 38 or a bunker set 39; we will describe the latter on the following page ....

For some reason, the clerk has two different typewriters: the large one to his left, and a light-weight travelling typewriter (in its case) behind his seat.

The magneto bunker set 39 is different from the desk set 38 with respect to a few features, among which is that the bunker set 39 *isn't* equipped with a combined battery/junction box, but rather only with a standard, four-wire wall terminal; two of the wires were for the magneto line, while the other two were for the microphone battery, which was in a central location within the bunker complex.

Such a microphone battery consists of several (usually three to five) 1.5 volt, 400 mA/h cells wired in parallel, which supplied current to between five and ten bunker sets simultaneously. Such a battery was decoupled via low-resistance chokes inserted into one leg of each supply lead, so that there was no crosstalk via the battery.

We simply *couldn't* resist showing the following (staged) press photo of part of the "Wehrmacht HQ at Kreuznach in Germany," *supposedly* taken on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1939:



There are *several* errors to be seen: the switchboard is made up of alternating cord-boards "A" and "B," whereby "B" positions were **never** manned (although they are manned here); then, the operator (whose head is encircled in red) is using a handset **and** a combined headset/breast microphone *at the same time* – which *never* occurred, and (as *the* piece de resistance): *two* of the operators in the foreground have plugged the 21<sup>st</sup> plug (white sleeve, a "line supervision plug") of their cord-boards "A" into jacks they were *never* plugged into. The one on the left is plugged into a ten-line, parallel-jack "conference panel," while the other one has inserted his supervision plug into one of the multiples; *neither of these was* ever *a* standard *or a* special *practice*!

There are also too few helmets (four for six soldiers) in the photograph, and readers should also take note of the *open wine bottle* to the left of the helmet in the foreground; alcoholic beverages were **NEVER** allowed while on duty! The switchboard itself also has a few deficiencies to be noted: the multiple-jack panels are for **150** lines, while there are ten-line units for *at least* **210** lines; hence, the entire board was *specifically* set up for a Wehrmacht propaganda unit to photograph – they *wouldn't* show an actual HQ board in operation, would they now?





This is a portion of a large field switchboard during

restoration ... there are two things to take note of on the cord-board "A" on the left, namely **1)** the supervision plug is the only one with a white sleeve, and **2)** the drops (and the jacks above them) were used in conjunction with the ten standard cord pairs. The drops fell when the lines were rung

off, while the jacks immediately *above* the drops were used to monitor calls via the white plug. Tip, ring and sleeve of the white plugs **were routed to a special "supervisory position," which was capable of handling** traffic from ten style "A" cord-boards. The fuzzy photo below shows the exterior of such a call supervision unit.



"1" is a Kellogg switch which allows the supervisor to talk or listen to *both parties at once*; pushbuttons "2" and jacks "6" were both used to monitor a specific line (PB for brief listening in, jacks for longer term use). Kellogg switch "4" was used to select either the PBs or the jacks, while drop "3" was used to signal the supervisor that a call was available for monitoring.

Kellogg switches "5" were used for *splitting the line at the cord-board* – the left one for speaking and listening to the calling line *alone* (while cutting the other party off *completely*), the one on the right was for the same functions on the called line.

Readers should not mistake call supervision under military regulations with civilian supervision. In the field, the supervisors were mostly officers of the secret field police (Geheime Feldpolizei), whose job it was to ensure that all rules of secrecy were being adhered to and who could, if necessary, even terminate calls of the highest level at will.

In the course of our research, we chanced upon some photographs of what is part of a magneto field switchboard multiple, *supposedly* from the Wolf's Lair Complex in Rastenburg, East Prussia. The photos are from a British military site and may be found at: <https://collection.nam.ac.uk/detail.php?acc=1992-10-113-1>.



There is something to be said **about this multiple ... the hand-written numbering** (along the left edge) begins with line number 751 and ends with number 851 – the exchange at Rastenburg never had that many lines; refer to the illicit photo shown on page 124.

In that photo, one can see that there is exactly one 150-line multiple, with a 50-line multiple sitting on top of it, mounted on each cord board "B," alternating with cord boards "A" – giving a *maximum* multiple capacity of **200** lines! Thus, this multiple cannot be from the Wolf's Lair Complex, no matter what the museum *claims*!

The lower photo, of the left-hand side of rows 751 thru 771, *suggests* that Hitler's lines were terminated here.



But: "der Führer" means nothing **more than** "the leader," and "F. Stand" *actually* refers to a Flak (anti-aircraft gun) position (stand). Thus, the two lines here were actually to the leader of an anti-aircraft emplacement!

Aside from this, were the jacks *really* connected to two lines for Hitler, then these would have been line numbers 761 and 762 in *this* multiple, and it is unbelievable that Hitler wouldn't have had lower line numbers than that ....

Quite aside from this, when the Wolf's Lair was evacuated, the communication troops *dismantled* the switchboard and left *nothing* behind other than an empty bunker – and it *weren't* British troops that **took charge** of the remains of the Wolf's Lair, so how did a British war museum lay their hands on this multiple? The Brits certainly *didn't* capture it!



In our analysis, we made mention of the fact that **color** photo material **was** available in Nazi Germany, and one of our Nazi relic/regalia collectors was able to provide us with the following scan of a German soldier in barracks, in color – as opposed to photographs which were taken in black and white, and which were subsequently **colorized by hand**, a sample of which we also have a few scans of, and which we provide for our readers information.



That this is truly a color photograph, from 1941, (and **not** a colorized black and white photo) is evident from the fact that the colors are very sharply lineated – the yellow piping surrounding the shoulder boards is **very** precise (as is also the yellow stripes on the collar tabs), and as is the white color of the window frames, that of the grime on the wall, that of the weeds in the background, etc. Colorized black and white photos always have some color “**splash over**,” as may be seen in the following photograph and excerpts.







In the excerpts above, the faces of the men in the foreground *should* have the same flesh tone, since they are *both* sitting in direct sunlight – but this is *not* the case; the man's face in the background in the right-hand excerpt (yellow circle) is only *partially* colorized ... his left ear and his forehead show a different tone than the rest of the face.

The swastika armband in the left photo excerpt *definitely* shows splash over.

Another unmistakable sign of colorization is that the details in such photographs are always *very* fuzzy, while they are sharp in true color photos.

The photos shown **prove** that *true* color photo materials *were* available in Germany during WW II, seeing as the color photo carries the handwritten note "Angerau 1941" – so why **didn't** anyone bother to photograph the "Hitler Telephone" in all of its red splendor? We are certain that the photo industry of the British Isles was on par with that of Nazi Germany (at least towards the end of the war in Europe), and that thus Brig. Rayner could well have been in possession of color negative material with which to **document** his "finds" at the time – but, as we have *repeatedly* pointed out and for unknown reasons, he *didn't* bother to do this (either with black and white or color photos).

It stands to reason that someone as "important" as the second in command of all the communications in the British 21<sup>st</sup> Army Group would have had a camera with him, so that he could take photos of his exploits in Europe – and yet we haven't see so much as a single photograph of his ....



We offer the true black and white studio photograph on the left as a contrast to the *colorized* black and white photo of SS soldiers.

In the true color photo, one can easily see the weave of the uniform – the same as one can here. One can also see that things are perfectly lineated, just as one would expect of such a photo.

We wonder if any of our readers notice anything *unusual* about the photo, aside from the fact that it is a studied-pose, studio photograph of an anonymous Army soldier in regulation uniform?

That's just the point: he's **not** dressed according to regulations – the flaps of his breast pockets are *not* buttoned down! Oops.

We have already **thoroughly** debunked the "Hitler Telephone" as auctioned off by AHA, the same applying to the one in an Ashland, Kentucky museum (shown on page 62; refer to [https://www.tripadvisor.com/LocationPhotoDirectLink-g29443-d581205-i112034549-Highlands Museum and Discovery Center-Ashland Kentucky.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/LocationPhotoDirectLink-g29443-d581205-i112034549-Highlands_Museum_and_Discovery_Center-Ashland_Kentucky.html) for a different photo of the same phone, which is shown on page 137 later on).

We have found yet **another** "Hitler Telephone" on the web; however, this one was (at least) not purportedly from his Berlin bunker bedroom – it was *supposedly* "liberated" from Hitler's "library" at his Berghof retreat at Berchtesgaden in Germany. This phone may be seen at: <http://www.roadsideamerica.com/story/24865>, complete with a color postcard, which is *claimed* to show the desk upon which the phone sat. The relevant **text states**: "To stress the connection, the phone sits in front of ... an old postcard of the library with the phone visible on a desk." The **only problem** with this is that the postcard does **not** show Hitler's *library* at Berchtesgaden, but rather his **private study**, instead. At least this W28 phone has a black "plug 27" attached to its line cord, although one *can't* tell if it's original because the strain relief spring *isn't* visible.

(We **must** note here, and **protest against**, geoblocking of the above link; it can **no longer** be accessed from Austria. Attempting to access the page results in "403 ERROR - The request could not be satisfied. The Amazon CloudFront distribution is configured to block access from your country." Using the "Tor Browser" circumvents this block easily.)

There is something to be said about it having supposedly been one of Hitler's telephones: all the available photographs show that telephones *permanently used* by the Führer in his various residences (even in the Berlin bunker) had thick, round cords and were *permanently wired* to wall terminals!



Although the photograph shown on the Roadside America website itself **isn't** all that large, it helped to identify further photos of the same room at Berchtesgaden, all apparently shot on the same occasion, including at least two different color postcards.



The portion of the color postcard on the right (within the red square) is approximately the view in the postcard behind the telephone in the photograph on the left. The desk is shown closer up in the photograph below:

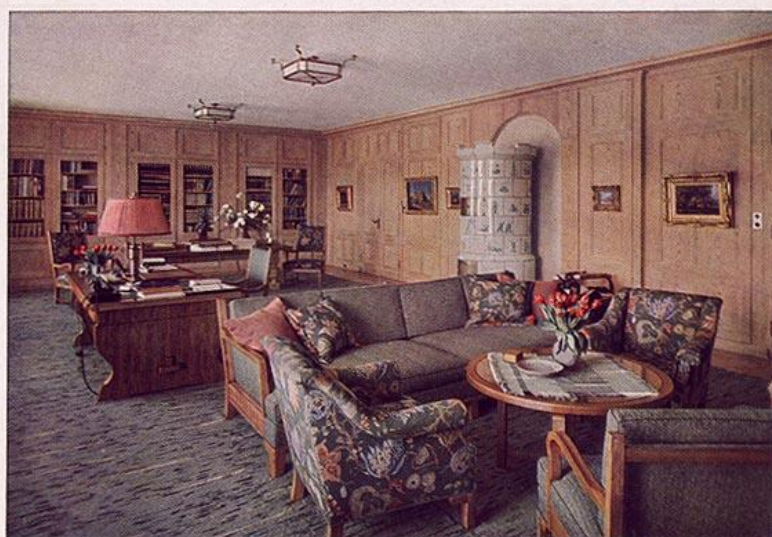


What one may clearly see here is that the phone on Hitler's desk is a W28, with **very thick - round -** cords! Compare these with the spindly round line and braided handset cord on the telephone used with the "Hitler Library Telephone," as shown in the upper photo on the next page.





In part, the text on the brass plaque reads as: "Taken from the library of Hitler's retreat at Berchtesgaden, June 13, 1945, presented to Maj. Gen. H.C. Ingles, U.S.A. Chief Signals Officer, by Maj- Gen. ... 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division." While it *is* debatable whether or not the phone shown **came from Hitler's library** at the Berhof retreat at Berchtesgaden, it most certainly *doesn't* have much resemblance with the W28 on Hitler's desk in the **study** at the Berghof (which *undeniably* has thick, round cords), with which it is associated by the color postcard in the display. Below is a second color postcard of Hitler's study at Berchtesgaden, taken from a different vantage point.



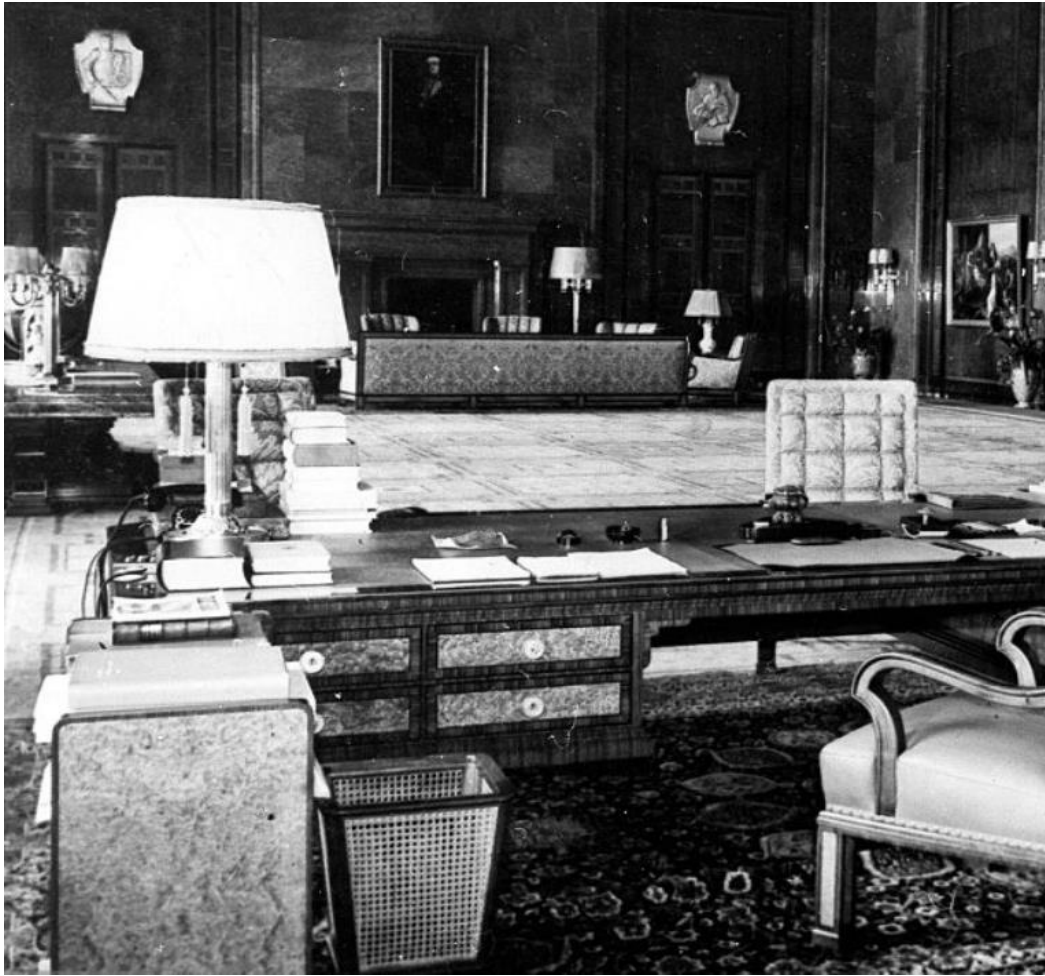
In this view, one can see just how thick the line cord **is**, and that it **isn't** laid out **on** the carpet, but rather runs in a (slightly raised) wooden conduit *beneath* the same. There is no way a line cord installed in such a manner could be unplugged and the phone moved – such a cord could only be connected to a wall terminal.





This is a photo of Hitler's desk in his office in the "Neue Reichskanzlei" (New Chancellery) – it is easy to see that the W28 has thick cords – and once again, the line cord is run in a wooden conduit beneath the carpet, so that Hitler wouldn't be liable to trip or stumble over it.





This is a slightly different view of Hitler's desk in the New Chancellery, in which his W28 telephone is partly hidden behind a desk lamp – but one can, at least, see how thick the handset cord is; below is a poor scan of a supposed **photo of one of Hitler's rooms** at an unspecified location. The thing to note here is the round wall terminal to which the (thick) line cord of a W28 telephone is connected.







This is a view of Hitler's study in the *Old* Chancellery, taken after the 1934 renovation. There is telephone to the left of Hitler's desk, which has the size of a small side-table. It is of special interest because of the unusual dial used (readers may wish to refer to Mr. Swihart's work on Telephone Dials, Pushbuttons, etc., for a description of such a dial).

From what is known about those telephones which may be considered to be permanent installations, and which are to be found in several **photographs of various of Hitler's** rooms, it may safely be inferred that telephones intended for use by Hitler invariably had thick, round handset and line cords, which were attached to the phones per specification at the time of order, while those for guests, etc., had the cords supplied by Siemens as standard for privately purchased PBX telephones.

At the beginning of this segment of the appendix (as well as on page 131 within it), we **mentioned a further photo of the "Hitler Bunker Bedroom Telephone,"** on display at Ashland, Kentucky – here it is:



The oddest thing is that, in the *other* photograph, the concentric contact rings of the plug 27 *were darkened by oxidation*, whereas they are *nice and shiny* in this photograph. **True** collectors do **not polish up historic artifacts** from time to time, or otherwise handle them, except for an occasional dusting ... **metal** oxides are a part of the overall *patina* of such items, *and collectors know better than to remove patina!*

There is also something to be said about the *weird notion* that "Hitler library/bedroom telephones" were equipped with number 27 plugs at all; there would be absolutely **no** need for Hitler (or anyone else) to move *any* of those phones from place to place, there having been enough *other* phones nearby which he could have used just as well.

Interestingly enough, the various "Hitler" **W28** telephones have central aluminum disks on the finger-wheel with the letter sequence "A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, J and K." This sequence was in use in Berlin until April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1937, when the first telephone directory *without* exchange letters was published for the city. This is of interest in connection with the auctioning off of what was supposedly Hitler's *private* phone/address book for Berlin, photos of which are shown on the following pages.



N a m e	Amt oder Gruppe	N <sup>o</sup> .
Gau Gross-Berlin	A1	0029
Gekleine Staatspolizei	A2	0040
Goebls, Dr. - Privat	A2	3234
Göring, Adjutantur	A2	6451
Gross, Dr.	D2	4412
Görliken, Littenfelde, Limonenstr. 7		
Grolmann	H9	3200
Gstattenbauer	F6	3228

As can be seen, the pages in the book have three columns – name, exchange or group designation and (phone) number. The exchange designators "A1, A2, D2, F6" and "H9" are listed on this page, while the phone numbers are given as four digits, for a total of 6 pulls of the dial. During the conversion of 1937, the exchange *letters* were replaced by the appropriate *numerals* on the dial – thus the exchange designators were then "11, 12, 42, 66" and "89". Below, we show two excerpts from the 1941 *public* telephone directory for Berlin:

<b>D. Luftwaffe</b> Oberbefehlshaber der Luft- waffe + W 8 Leipziger Str 7 Fernsprechkreis ununterbro- chen Ortsdienst * 12 00 47 + * 21 82 41 + * 52 00 24 + Ferndienst * 21 80 11	<b>Sicherheitspolizei und SD</b> Der Chef der Sicherheits- polizei u. des SD + * 12 00 40 <b>Reichssicherheitshauptamt</b> + SW 11 Prinz-Albrecht-Str 8 * (12 00 40) Dass. SW 68 Wilhelmstr 102 * 12 00 38 <b>Reichssicherheitshauptamt- Reichskriminalpolizeiamt</b> + C 2 Werderscher Markt 5 * 16 43 11 <b>Inspekteur der Sicherheits- polizei u. des SD in Berlin</b> NW 87 Jagowstr 18 * 89 77 31 <b>Staatspolizeileitstelle Berlin</b> + C 2 Grunerstr 12 * 51 00 23 <b>SD-Leitabschnitt Berlin</b> C 2 Kaiser-Wilhelm-Str 22 * 51 52 61
<b>Reichsluftfahrtministerium</b> + W 8 Leipziger Str 7 Fern- sprechkreis ununterbrochen Verm. RLM. Leipziger Str Ortsdienst * 12 00 47 + * 21 82 41 + * 52 00 24 + Ferndienst * 21 80 11 Verm. RLM. Tplhf + Ortsdienst * 75 00 19 * 66 00 19 + Ferndienst * 66 53 71	

The number in Hitler's phone book for Hermann Göring's adjutancy is not listed (entries on the far left), but this number *may* have changed between pre 1937 and 1941.

The number in Hitler's book for the *Gestapo* (Geheime Staatspolizei – secret state police) – A2 0040 **is** listed in the *public* directory (12 00 40), so it is **not** some sort of special "hotline number" for Hitler; *anyone* could dial this one.

The *last* entry on the Hitler phonebook page is for Gstattenbauer (Franz), the owner of a workshop and store for orthopedic products (1941 directory number 66 32 28) – did Hitler require orthopedic shoes or shoe inlays?

The very *first* entry on this page reads as "Gau Gross-Berlin" ("Gau" was the largest administrative unit in Nazi Germany), but the number (11 00 29) *also* belongs to the Office for National Health, Gau Berlin, of the NSDAP.



Name	Art oder Gruppe	Nr.
RFSS	St	6181
Reichsjugendführung	St	7491
Reichskammer	St	6841
Reichspropaganda	St	5181
Reichspropaganda	St	8181
Reichspropaganda	St	1005
Reichspropaganda	St	5181
Reichspropaganda	Privat St 4	0891
Reichspropaganda	Privat St 2	0015
Reichspropaganda	Privat St 9	7705
Reichspropaganda	St 2	6280
Reichspropaganda	St 9	6552

Heinrich Himmler's number as "Reichsführer SS" (RFSS) is either a private number (11 61 01), or it, too, changed between 1937 and 1941, because the phone number of the RFSS in the public phone directory from 1941, at the notorious address "Prinz Albrechts-Strasse 8" is given as "12 00 40", which is the same phone number as for the Gestapo, Sicherheitsdienst (SD) and the Reichs-Sicherheits-Hauptamt (RSHA) under the relevant listing (refer to previous page and below).

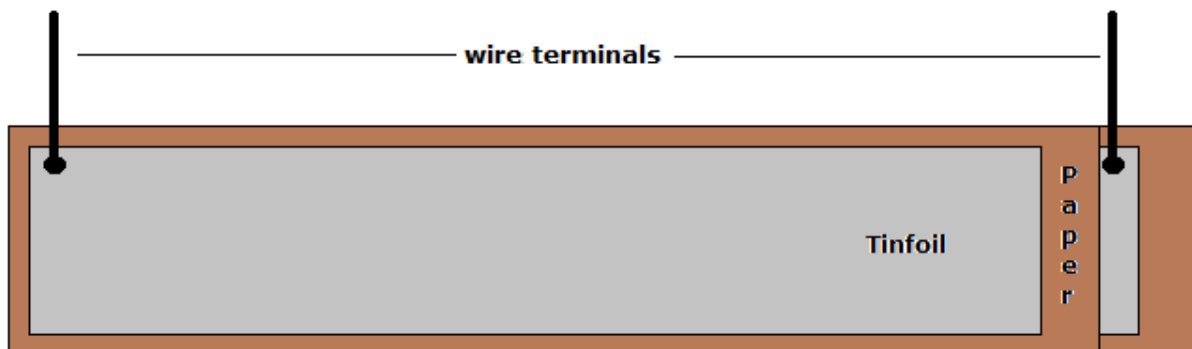
Himmler's listing is also *not* from Munich – the Personal Staff of the RFSS could be reached there under 37 20 85.



So – some of the interesting listings in what is *supposed* to be Hitler's private phone book are *no more than public telephone directory listings*, while others may (or *may not*) be true private listings. In any case, it is a *pre-war* address book, no younger than 1937, and it is very likely that Hitler would have re-written it with the "new" phone numbers at some time after April, 1937 (i.e.: a later version of this address book should also exist).

On page 39 in the body of our analysis, we wrote: "Aside from all this: *had* the "Hitler Telephone" truly been exposed to a fire, then the pitch used to seal the condenser would have molten and run out – which is **not** the case! No molten pitch – no fire ...."

We must explain what we meant by that. Up until the 1950s, in most European countries, telephone ringer condensers had the following makeup: a certain length of a special, thin, waxed dielectric paper, followed by a strip of *tin foil* (slightly narrower and shorter than the paper, to which a short, bare wire was soldered, upon which another layer of paper was laid, followed by another strip of tin foil (with wire), to make up a four-layer "pack" (as shown below), which was then rolled and pressed so as to neatly fit inside a rectangular metal (iron or aluminum) can, which was open at one end.





This is a rough drawing of what the finished condenser "roll" looked like, before it was placed in its can ...

After the capacitor was placed inside its can, the wires were soldered to terminal pins mounted on a strip of phenolic paper ... **then, the** can was filled with molten pitch (a compound akin to tar) almost to the top, and the terminal strip was placed on top, held in place with two (or sometimes four) tangs at the open end of the can. Such condensers were manufactured in a wide variety of sizes, depending upon the capacity and dielectric strength required; some of the very early condensers were equipped with spade terminals mounted on the terminal strip – in any case, the method of connection was different from those capacitors used in the U.S.A., which were often supplied with flying leads which were terminated to spade lugs.

As can be seen on the right, the terminal pins are reinforced with small washers, which were also made of phenolic paper – these were intended to help keep the pins in place in case the person who was soldering the external wiring heated them long enough to melt the pitch. The condenser shown here is from an M36 telephone, and it has an unusually high breakdown voltage of 750 V.D.C. (250 V.A.C.), which accounts for its size. As with most capacitors of its size and type, the terminal strip is held in place with the aid of two bent tangs.



The strip of phenolic paper *doesn't* fit very tightly on top of the condenser can, so that a small gap exists – if the pitch were to melt, it would *easily* run out of the condenser. Since the dual condenser (1uF and 0.3uF) of the "Hitler Telephone" *was* of the construction described, and was mounted *directly* on the metal base of the phone, it *should* have heated up to the point where the pitch would melt, fume and run out, **if** the base *had* been heated up by the fire it was supposedly exposed to – *but* the paint on the base itself is *wholly* undamaged, and the condenser did *not* run out, so that one may, *with 100 percent certainty*, say that the "Hitler Telephone" *was never* exposed to any fire as a whole, which it *would* have been *if* it had, as claimed, really been inside Hitler's bedroom in the Berlin bunker.

Since the fire laid in Hitler's rooms *was* actually hot enough to melt the gas-tight seal of the bunker door between Hitler's office and the corridor (as witnessed by the chief bunker technician, Mr. Johann Hentschel, and described in his own words in the book "The Bunker", by James P. O'Donnel), it *would* also have been hot enough to heat the base of the "Hitler Telephone" sufficiently to cause the pitch in the capacitor to melt, boil, smoke and leak out of the phone – *incidentally leaving a dark stain under the phone*, where the pitch ran out and eventually solidified again. But **no** such stain is to be seen on any table surface visible in the relevant photograph of "exhibit G" (please specifically refer to the photo back on page 100). Although the table tops are *very* dirty from the soot caused by the fire, there are absolutely **no** signs whatsoever of any stain which could possibly arise from molten pitch.

**If**, as was claimed, the "Hitler Telephone" *had* been subjected to the fire in the bunker, then something else would have shown up in consequence of the pitch running out of the condenser and its fuming: some of the pitch fumes *would* have slowly condensed *on the innards* of the phone, as it cooled down after the fire had extinguished ... *and, since the phone would have "inhaled" soot as well while cooling down (as we mentioned back on page 41), the soot would* have tenaciously adhered to the innards of the telephone.

The combination of condensed pitch fumes and soot would therefore have been **exceedingly difficult** to remove without totally removing the printing from, say, the capacitor can – yet everything is well legible; this is further, **very** strong, proof that the “Hitler Telephone” was **not** exposed to **any** sort of fire **as a whole**, but that only the outside of the housing had been heated with the aid of a blowtorch (or other source of sufficient heat) **in order to produce “fire-induced damage” to the paint.**

We wished to re-create the molten pitch and the damage it would cause, and to this end we were recently lucky enough to be able to lay our hands on a Siemens M36 telephone sans handset, and we used it to test our claim against reality – an idea suitable to shock any true telephone collector, but let us be frank: as any astute collector knows, **all** of the parts of any telephone must have shared a common history to be in the exact same condition and have the same shade, so to be truly collectible; simply hanging any old black handset on the phone would have been falsifying it (and its history), so we found it very suitable for the test we had in mind.

We first cleaned the dust from its exterior, and then placed it in a household electrical oven and attempted to heat it to roughly 480° F ... **but, it started to emit dark gray smoke before we’d even reached 270° F** – so we had to abort this experiment very quickly. As can be seen in the first photograph of **our test subject, the “earth” pushbutton was molten, which was something we hadn’t expected, since the pushbuttons on “older” M36s were made of white UFTP (which *wouldn’t* have molten; the subject phone was from 1959).** One can also see that the pitch was molten to such an extent as to literally run out of the phone (lower, right hand corner in the photograph).



Heating the telephone in a complete and closed state (excepting the missing handset, which was not necessary for the experiment) raised another interesting point which is at odds with what we saw in the photos of the “Hitler Telephone” – the Bakelite housing of our test phone developed a **multitude** of small blisters (as can be seen within the red ovals). **Had** the “Hitler Telephone” truly been in a hot fire in the Berlin bunker, then its **Bakelite** simply **must** have also developed blisters; however, and once more, this was not the case ... **the**

Bakelite (of the “Hitler Telephone”) which had lost its paint on the housing and the handset is virtually smooth – more proof that the phone was never in a fire as a whole, and that the heat applied (which was only hot enough to damage the paint on the exterior of the phone, and not the interior as well) was **not** hot enough to blister the Bakelite.

These blisters stem from the fact that **pure** Bakelite resin was seldom used; it was **common practice to “stretch” the resin by adding one of a number of possible filler materials**, the most common having been nothing more than **very** fine sawdust. Although the sawdust was absolutely dry at the time the Bakelite was formed (a prerequisite to prevent blisters from forming during the original molding process), those small grains on, or very close to, the surface would absorb moisture over time, and naturally release it as steam when sufficiently heated; this steam formed the blisters.



As can be seen in the photo on the previous page, we had placed our M36 phone on top of a layer of aluminum foil, which itself was inside a rectangular pan, with the piece of foil large enough to be folded over the rim of the pan on all sides. We had hoped that **this would prevent the pitch from spoiling the pan's surface ....**

Since the can of our M36 was rather large for a single condenser, there was much pitch inside; this ran out completely, so as to not only make a small pool on the aluminum foil, but also to form a thick pool on the underside of the phone, and (alas) on the pan itself – one of the housing screws had torn a small hole in the foil while the phone was being heated.



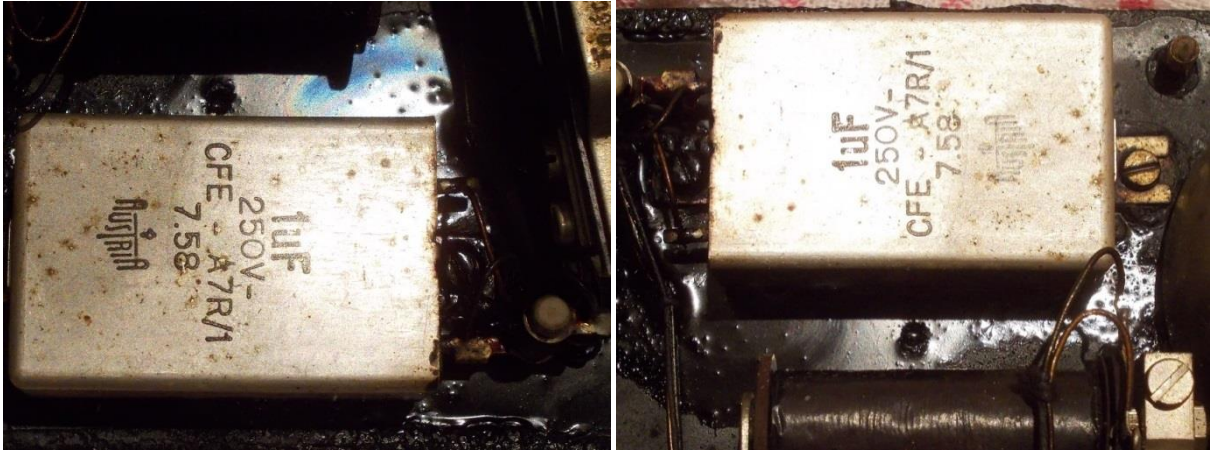
As one can see, there are very heavy and thick deposits of pitch on the bottom of the phone and in the pan; the silvery bits seen in the pitch in both photos are small pieces of the aluminum foil which were too tedious to remove (and whose removal would not materially add to what we can see).

As is also obvious, we removed the footpads from the base prior to commencing our **experiment, because we didn't want to have them possibly melt as well and thus spoil our results.**



We wiped one half of the right hand gong clean with a solvent (**after** having taken the other photos), so that the deposit of coalesced pitch fumes on the other half would become more apparent.

The deposit is of a slightly golden color, similar to that found on the walls and furnishings of houses in which heavy smokers have lived for decades on end; such golden stains on walls or metal are mistakenly called **"nicotine" stains, while they are, in truth,** stains from the tar condensate from the tobacco smoke.



These two photographs give a good representation of how the pitch flowed out of the condenser can and solidified on the interior of our test phone – **if** the capacitor in the “Hitler Telephone” (which is of pretty much the same shape and size as the one in our experiment) **had** been exposed to the heat of a fire hot enough to melt door seals, **then** we simply **must** see such flows of pitch inside **and** outside the phone, but we don’t see the slightest sign of the pitch having molten even in the slightest (to wit: not even as much as a teeny-tiny, dark patch anywhere).



This is an excellent photo of what the damage from flowing pitch inside the “Hitler Telephone” **should** have looked like; one can see that the wires leading to the capacitor are literally “glued” to the base by the pitch.

The photo shows up another obvious fact: if the “Hitler Telephone” **had been** exposed to a hot fire in its entirety, then the phenolic paper would have warped in the heat (as seen here), since such paper is made by hot-pressing several layers of paper saturated with phenolic resin. Since the resin and the paper expand at different rates when sufficiently heated, the compound phenolic paper will warp or bend, widening the gap and allowing the pitch to flow easier.

We are quite willing to concede **one** fine point: since the “condenser” of the “Hitler Telephone” actually houses **two**

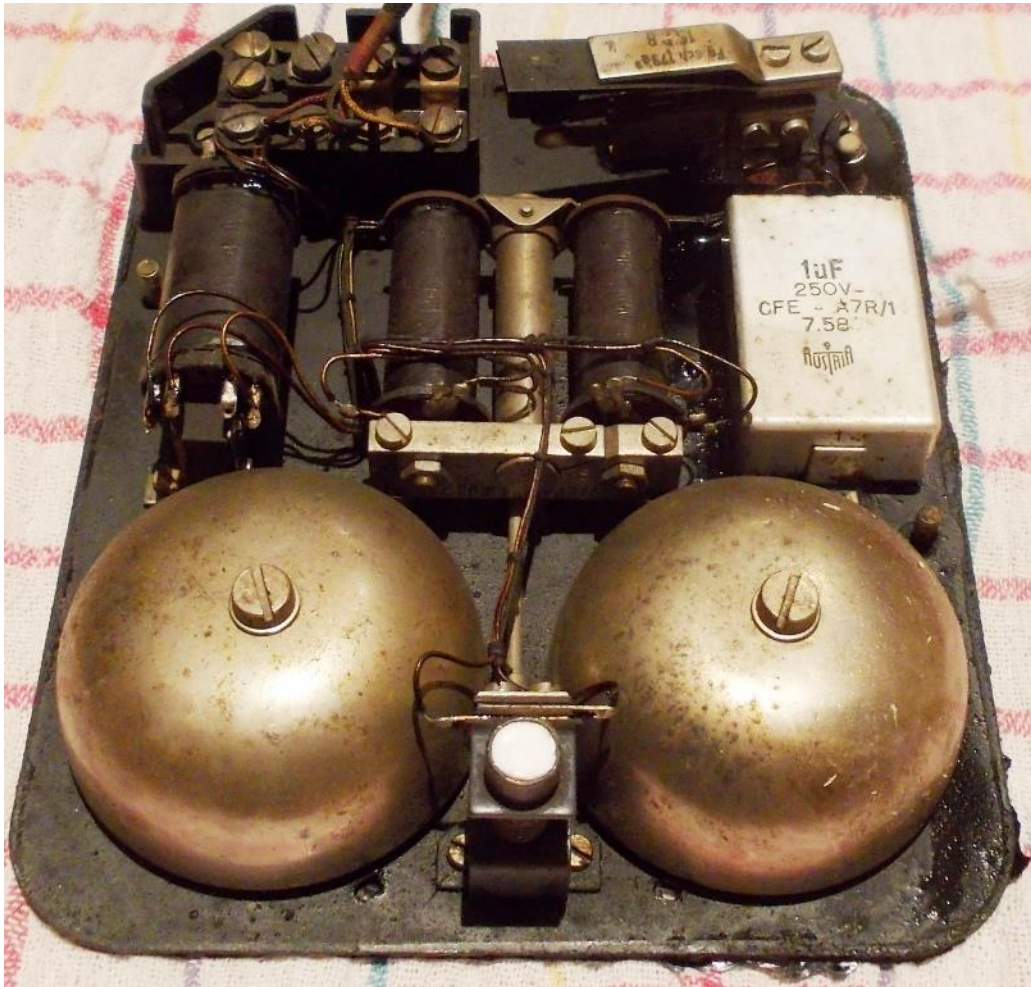
capacitors, which are assembled into a single can, the **volume** of pitch would be **smaller** than that of our test object – but it would have flowed out just the same as in our test, and would have left its mark inside **and** outside the phone all the same, even leaving pitch **stains on the nightstand (or table) in Hitler’s bedroom in the Berlin bunker** – but there are **no** stains (of any kind) to be seen at all.

We **reiterate**: the pitch inside the condenser (mounted **directly** on the base of the “Hitler Telephone”) **would** have spoiled the phone inside and out **if** it had molten and flowed due to a very hot, flaming environment, but did **not** do so.



This **directly** proves that the phone was never exposed to the heat and flames of a fire as a complete unit, but that only the paint on the exterior of the housing was heated (most likely with the aid of a blowtorch or heat-gun) to **simulate** the damage from the fire the phone was **supposedly** exposed to.

Last, but not least, we offer the following photo of the interior of our test telephone, so that readers can see the yellowish condensate on all of the internal parts (entirely lacking in the "Hitler Telephone"), as well as that the wire insulation darkened (the wires were insulated with cotton in our test phone), and that the outer paper wrappings on the ringer coils and the induction coil was severely darkened by the heat – even though the heat in our test was lower than that used in our previous experiment (as illustrated on pages 42 and 43 of our analysis).



One can clearly see the condensate of the pitch on the gongs, the ringer magnet bar and the upper metal piece of the cradle switch.

In the course of our research into the possible provenance of a "Hitler Telephone," we came across a photocopy of a page from a newspaper entitled "BT WESTWARD NEWS," dated January, 1988, which appears to have been published somewhere in the U.K. (The photo of the photocopy may be found on page 147.) We deciphered the following text, of which some parts are **quite** revealing (!). Original text is in red:

**Headline: "World's most infamous phone ... HITLER'S HOTLINE"**

**"This is the most infamous telephone of all time. It's German Führer Adolf Hitler's "hot line" instrument from the Berlin bunker where he made his last stand.**



There is absolutely **no** proof that this was a “hotline” telephone of any sort, since the bunker in Berlin was never intended to be a command post and “... where he made his last stand ...” is just some newspaper flunkies notion – it is a historical fact that Hitler **didn’t** die while fighting off the Russians (“making a last stand”), but that he committed suicide inside the well-protected bunker; some “last stand” indeed. It’s all of a game by Maj. Rayner to help build up the *legend* around the phone.

“It belongs to Major Ranulf Rayner of Ashcombe Tower near Dawlish. It was recovered by his father from the bunker in May, 1945, just days after Hitler’s death.

We’ve heard this bit so often that it makes us nauseous ... but: Brig. Rayner “recovered” the phone from the bunker (direct looting, as opposed to indirect looting when accepting the phone from a third party, such as the Russians).

“Major Rayner’s father, Brigadier Sir Ralph Rayner, was sent to Berlin by Field Marshal Montgomery to establish communications with the Russians after they entered Berlin.

We’ve certainly read that before, too.

“When he entered the bunker with his Russian counterpart, they found **two** telephones on Hitler’s **desk** – one white, the other red.

Ah, let’s see now ... according to Maj. Rayner’s own words in his YouTube interview (page 82ff of this analysis): “... **Beside Eva Braun’s bed was a black telephone, which was very appropriate as a gift, as a trophy of war, but my father refused it because he knew, and saw, that Hitler had a red telephone by his bed ...**” this is obviously *at odds* with what is written in the newspaper – and this is the *first* (and *only*) *time we’ve* ever heard about there being a **white** telephone on Hitler’s **desk** (or anywhere *else* in the bunker) as well. We certainly wonder about three things concerning this “white phone:”

- 1) Why didn’t the consignor mention it in his YouTube interview or as “corroborating evidence” in the material he supplied to AHA?,
- 2) When will some *enterprising soul* now offer “Hitler’s White Telephone, fresh from the Berlin bunker” for auction?, and
- 3) Hitler most certainly did **not** have a **desk** in his *bedroom*, from whence the “Hitler Telephone” was supposedly taken ... there were but two small, low tables there. So, where did this mythical white phone *actually* sit – the only “desks” seen were in his office and living (cum situation) rooms in the bunker.

Aside from this, we have shown a photograph of what we honestly believe to be Hitler’s office on page 88 of this analysis, and the only phone we consider to be original to the room is the black dial phone on what appears to have been the original desk there. There is **no** evidence which would point to a second (dial) phone having been on the desk (i.e.: no footprints or shadows of the phone and/or its cords). None the less, the consignor and AHA repeatedly claimed that the “Hitler Telephone” was found on a small, bedside table in Hitler’s **bedroom** – so, which is the *correct* “yarn?”

Of course, there is also the question as to why the Soviets should have left such a neat memento of Hitler as a **white** telephone sitting in the bunker all by its lonesome self?

Besides this, the phone *wouldn’t* have been white, but rather ivory-colored, as white *wasn’t* available back then.

“The red instrument was taken by Brig. Rayner and has been identified by the makers, Siemens, as that used by Hitler throughout most of the war.

Ah – here we have more confirmation: Brig. Rayner **took** the phone from the bunker (**directly** looting it), instead of it having been a **present** from the Russians (**indirect** looting), as Maj. Rayner had claimed. Aside from this, there is absolutely **NO proof** that Siemens has **ever** “identified” the phone “... as that used by Hitler throughout most of the war ...” in any form or manner! Readers may wish to refer back to Peter v. Siemens letter on page 12 of this analysis for an account of what **anyone** from Siemens had ever said or written about the phone; we only have hearsay evidence from **two dead men** as to the provenance of the “Hitler Telephone” – should we believe it?

**Besides this:** “... that used by Hitler throughout **most** of the war” would appear to encompass a longer timespan than just the years 1944 and 45. Which story should we believe to be true?

“It has been secured in a West Country bank vault for ten years now and rarely sees the light of day. But Major Rayner agreed to be photographed with it after a counter-claim by a former counter-intelligence officer that he was in possession of the phone.”

Now this is **very** interesting, and aside from Rochus Misch’s claim to the phone, this is the **first** we’ve heard of **anyone else** claiming ownership to the same phone (except for the fake in Kentucky, which belongs to the “Paul G. Blazer family” – and we **do** wonder where they got **their** fake from?).

The newspaper page in question shows a very small photo of Maj. Ranulf Rayner with his “Hitler Telephone,” while most of the space on the page is taken up by a large photo of the rear of the phone – of course, both photos are in **black and white**.

“The instrument is inscribed with a swastika and a German eagle, together with the words Adolf Hitler. It still bears marks of having been scorched by fire.

As we have already pointed out, there is but a **single** scorch-mark on the entire phone.

“Major Rayner has no idea how much it could be worth, but in view of the part that it undoubtedly took in the course of the war, it could well be priceless.

Or rather: the **perceived** value it might have for someone with too much money to spend, **if** enough spurious “evidence” could be concocted as to the “provenance” of the “Hitler Telephone.”

**Small photo caption:** “Major Ranulf Rayner and the Führer’s phone, recovered from the bunker in 1945.

In other words: “Look at me, world! I have this here “Hitler Telephone,” which I **claim** is red, and which my dad **supposedly** found in smelly old Adolf’s bunker in Berlin. I have arranged for this newspaper article to appear in order to support my **claims** as to the authenticity of the phone and its **purported** provenance. Gee, **wasn’t I smart?**” Yep – smart enough to fool **one** poor cluck into paying \$ 243,000 for a bit of junk ...

**Caption beneath the phone:** “HITLER’S PHONE: his name and the German eagle and swastika can clearly be seen. It’s probably priceless and ... [Illegible]

We wonder: did the newspaper interviewer feel that the “Hitler Telephone” was “priceless” **on his own**, or was the idea instilled by Major Rayner’s words during the interview? We readily agree that the phone is “price-less,” since it is questionable exactly what price tag one could hang on a fake.

**Footer:** “Grim reminder of Nazi evil.

**T**HIS is the most infamous telephone of all time. It's German Fuhrer Adolf Hitler's "Hot-line" instrument from the Berlin bunker where he made his last stand.

It belongs to Major Ranulf Rayner, of Ashcombe Tower near Dawlish. It was recovered by his father from the bunker in May, 1945, just days after Hitler's death.

Major Rayner's father, Brigadier Sir Ralph Rayner, was sent to Berlin by Field Marshal Montgomery to establish communications with the Russians after they entered Berlin.

When he entered the bunker with his Russian counterpart, they found two telephones on Hitler's desk - one white the other red.

The red instrument was taken by Brig. Rayner and has been identified by the makers, Siemens, as that used by Hitler throughout most of the war.

It has been secured in a West Country bank vault for 10 years now and rarely sees the light of day. But Major Rayner agreed to be photographed with it after a counter-claim by a former intelligence officer that he was in possession of the phone.

The instrument is inscribed with a swastika and German eagle, together with the words 'Adolf Hitler'. It still bears marks of having been scorched by fire.

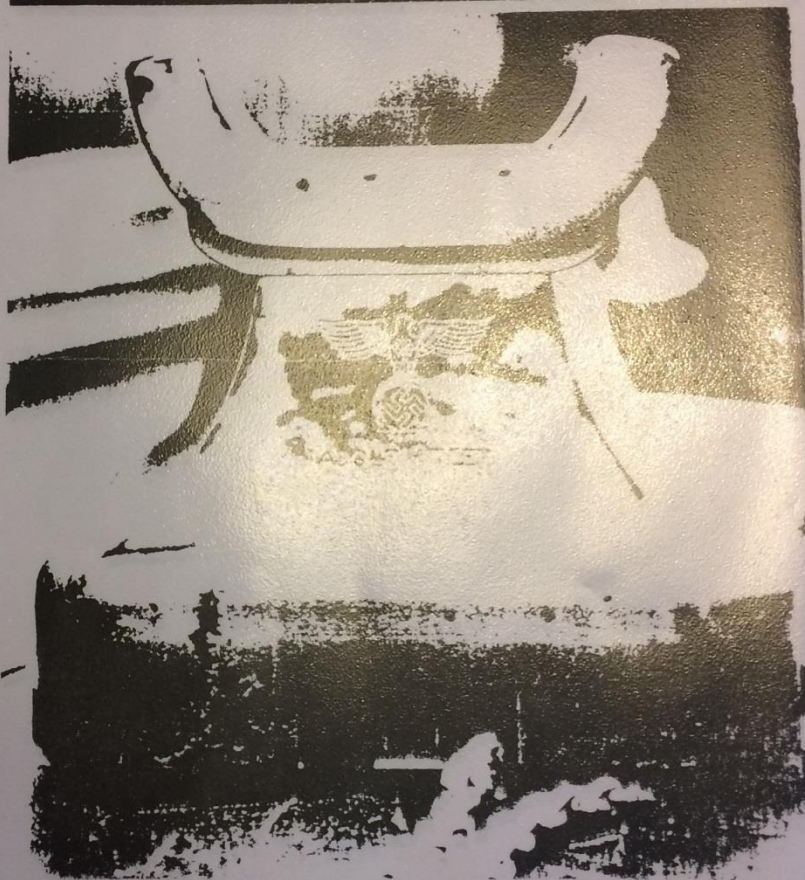
Major Rayner has no idea how much it could be worth, but in view of the part it undoubtedly took in the course of the war, it could well be priceless.



■ MAJOR Ranulf Rayner and the Fuhrer's phone, recovered from the Berlin bunker in 1945.

## World's most infamous phone

# HITLER'S HOTLINE



■ HITLER'S PHONE. His name and the German eagle and swastika can be clearly seen. It's probably priceless and is kept in a box.

## Grim reminder of Nazi evil

BT WESTWARD NEWS, Jan 1988



There's simply no end to the fun we're having with the "Hitler Telephone." Readers should refer to: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ralph\\_Rayner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ralph_Rayner); in *this* version of the Wikipedia entry, Rayner was "... **given** a red telephone as a souvenir by Soviet soldiers and **used** it at Ashcombe Tower ...." How *very* quaint! It was "*given*" to him, and he "*used*" it! (HA! – we have proven that, the way the phone is wired, it would **never** have worked for *anyone*). In contrast to that, an *older* version of the *very same tale* of daring-do ([https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ralph\\_Rayner&oldid=763967748](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ralph_Rayner&oldid=763967748), dated February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 8:04 am) **states that** "Sir Ralph **took** a red telephone as a souvenir and **used** it at Ashcombe Tower ...."

Even **more** revealing is the fact that "taken" *wasn't* changed to "given" **until** the version of **February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017** (3:47 pm), which was, *curiously* enough, the day after the auction for the "Hitler Telephone" ended (it ended at 4 p.m. CET, on February 19<sup>th</sup>). Thus, the auction winner could "check up" on Brig. Rayner and read that he was (in "fact") given the "Hitler Telephone" by the Soviets – are we to *truly believe* that this change of tit for tat **wasn't** specially intended to mislead? Readers may wish to refer to [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ralph\\_Rayner&oldid=766506282](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ralph_Rayner&oldid=766506282) for the very *first* version of Rayner's history to claim the "Hitler Telephone" was GIVEN to him) ... **just in the nick of time** to match the "spiel," "tale," "yarn" (or outright lie) from the consignor re. the Soviets having "given" the phone to Brig. Rayner. Once again, we can see just how *information was falsified* to match the consignor's subterfuge.

Just who do these folks think they are fooling, anyway? One only has to read up on previous versions of the Wikipedia entry to disclose this petty foolishness (lucky for us that they keep previous versions online) – especially since the information as to Rayner having "taken" **AND** having been "given" the "Hitler Phone" came from exactly one and the same source (refer to footnote [7] in **both** of the latter versions) namely one "Griffith, R. S. LI. (2009). Personal communication."

One can most easily see the exact changes made by viewing the following link: [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ralph\\_Rayner&diff=766506282&oldid=763967748](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ralph_Rayner&diff=766506282&oldid=763967748) ... here we can see the alteration of "took" to "was given" and the addition "by Soviet soldiers" most clearly.

**SO:** did this unknown, anonymous and mysterious "(Mr.?, Mrs.?, Ms.?) R. S. Griffith" – in one and the same "personal communication" from 2009 – state that Rayner had **both** taken AND been given the "Hitler Telephone?" How could this be true? To **whom** did he or she state this in a "personal communication?" Pray, show us a *true copy* of this "personal communication," so that we may read for ourselves what was actually "communicated."

Fact is: we now have *a few more* unsavory characters in the game, akin to Major Epping in Mr. Misch's nebulous fax ....

We hope that readers can clearly recognize that even a Wikipedia entry was forged to match the "unshakable provenance" of the "Hitler Telephone;" a neat bit of subterfuge which wouldn't have been necessary **if** the provenance, as given by the consignor, were true even in the slightest.

Sad to say that the administrators, chief auditors and veteran editors of "en.wikipedia.org" *were all caught with their pants down* and made party to this illegal bit of subterfuge ... **it's certainly a good thing that they keep a concise and complete history of each modification online**, so that others can verify what we found.

Folks might want to refer to the scoundrel, who hides behind the IP-address 146.90.4.36 (**no pseudonym is given for this "entity," which is, in itself, and once again, very telling!**), and ask him **who** had requested him to do this bit of forgery, and what monetary considerations he received for having performed it ... **we were not** able to find **any** logs concerning this anonymous user at: [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Special:Log&type=&user=146.90.4.36&page=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FRalph+Rayner&tagfilter=&hide\\_thanks\\_log=0&hide\\_patrol\\_log=0&hide\\_tag\\_log=1&hide\\_review\\_log=0](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Special:Log&type=&user=146.90.4.36&page=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FRalph+Rayner&tagfilter=&hide_thanks_log=0&hide_patrol_log=0&hide_tag_log=1&hide_review_log=0)

We really *should* find some better words than "highly informative" and "most revealing" – but that is *exactly* what the global contributions list for "146.90.4.36" is: this "entity" has made exactly ONE "edit" (change) to ONE "project" (article) at "en.wikipedia.org," and *nothing* more. See: <https://tools.wmflabs.org/guc/?user=146.90.4.36> for the nifty details.

We can't get any closer to our culprit than: <https://ipinfo.io/146.90.4.36>, where the information peters out – perhaps one of our readers is more resourceful, when it comes to *hacking* the internet, than we are and can find out exactly *who* our liar is; his "host" is: "36.4.90.146.dyn.plus.net," which translates to: PlusNet Plc, The Balance, 2 Pinfold Street, Sheffield, S1 2GU, UK, phone: +44 114 2200084.

BTW: we would have *loved* to find a copy of the U.K. newspaper article "Museums rejected Hitler bunker phone," dated February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (found on page 26 of that issue<sup>1)</sup>) at the site: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/>, but, *unfortunately*, one **cannot** access back issues at the site **without** having a subscription, and we are not going to pay for information which *should* be free to all – but, seeing that such an article exists is proof of our claim that museums wanted to have *nothing* to do with the "Hitler Telephone" – for a *very* good reason, as we believe. Maybe one of our readers can access the article in question, and find out exactly *why* museums didn't want the old codger's phone.

The closest to the truth concerning the museums we can get is the Times article: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/hitler-s-bunker-phone-in-controversial-sale-vkxhgbjzj>, in which it is written that "Mr. Rayner said that the phone was rejected by British museums, including the Imperial War Museum." (Readers beware: The Times now requires one to *register* in order to be able to read the *full* article!)

We provide screenshots of what we, ourselves, found under the links given in this portion on the next six pages, so that readers may verify the truth of our claims.

<sup>1)</sup> Refer to footnote 6 in the screenshot shown on page 151.

W

https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ralph\_Rayner&oldid=325037338

Ralph Rayner - Wikipedia

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# Ralph Rayner

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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(diff)

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Brigadier **Sir Ralph Herbert Rayner** MBE (13 January 1897 – 17 July 1977) was a British Conservative Party politician.

Rayner was commissioned into the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, in which he served as a signals officer. He was seconded to the Royal Flying Corps in 1916. During the First World War he served on the Western Front and India. He was seconded to the Indian Army in 1917 and served in the Third Afghan War. He transferred to the Royal Corps of Signals in the 1920s. Between 1928 and 1930 he was ADC to the Marquess of Willington, Governor General of Canada. He was promoted Captain in 1916 and Major in 1919 and retired in 1933. He then entered politics and was MP for Totnes from 1935 to 1955. He rejoined the Army during the Second World War and reached the rank of Brigadier.

He was made Deputy Lieutenant of Devon in 1952, knighted in 1956, and became High Sheriff of Devon in 1958.

He lived at Ashcombe Tower, Devon, built in 1934 for Sir Ralph and Lady Rayner, who was a member of the Courtauld family. Brian O'Rorke was chosen as the architect for the project on the grounds that he had never designed such a house before and would therefore be open to her ideas. At Ashcombe Tower, the Arts and Crafts style meets Art Deco.<sup>[1]</sup>

As one of the first British officers to enter Adolf Hitler's Berlin bunker in WWII, Sir Ralph took a red telephone as a souvenir and used it at Ashcombe Tower.<sup>[2]</sup>

References

1. ↑ Powers, Alan (2005). *The Twentieth Century House in Britain from the Archives of Country Life*. Aurum Press; ISBN 1 84513 012 x

2. ↑ Griffith, R. S. LI. (2009). Personal communication.

• *The Times* obituary, 19 July 1977









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**en.wikipedia.org**

For 146.90.4.36 (contribs | talk | block log | uploads | logs | filter log) | 1 edits

- (diff | hist) 15:47, 20 Feb 2017 Ralph Rayner

Limited to 20 results per wiki.



On page 69 of our analysis, we gave a link to an article in the U.K. press (<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4334322/Bodyguard-Hitler-Eva-Braun-s-dead-bodies.html>) in connection with matters concerning copyrights. We have copied a few *more* of the photographs shown in the article, which we present in the following; they are photographs to which Mr. Misch could never have held any copyright what so ever.



This photo of Mr. Misch, together with a Mr. Joseph Graf, was taken by someone *else* than by Mr. Misch – and it is the *photographer* who holds the copyright, not Mr. Misch!



Here are two more examples of photographs taken by others, to which Mr. Misch *wrongfully* claims a copyright – the one on the left is an especially good example: it was taken by a professional photographer in his studio!

Granted, Mr. Misch had one (and *only* one) right to such photos, namely the right to allow (or disallow) their publication – because he is the *subject* of the photos.



We specifically stated that he is the subject, because, in the case of photographs of other objects and subjects (such as buildings or animals), the owner of the building (or animal, or whatever) has a say as to whether or not the relevant photograph may be published or not – but he holds **no** copyright to the photo(s) whatsoever.



This is definitely a press photo, taken some time *after* the end of World War II (no earlier than the second half of 1945), and certainly **not** one taken by Mr. Misch! How so?

First of all, the photo shows that the rubble from the bombed-out buildings has been cleared away from the streets, which **wasn't the case** immediately after the surrender of

Berlin, and secondly: Mr. Misch was a prisoner of war at the time the photo was taken – thus, he (once again) cannot be the photographer, and therefore **not** be the copyright holder. And yet he claimed copyright. And, once again, we ask ourselves just how truthful Mr. Misch was on *other* subjects if he went and illegally claimed copyright to photos upon which he never had any rights at all?

We offer the following as proof that Mr. Misch **had and has no** rights to the above photo:



*Durch ein Kellerfenster des Borsigpalais an der Ecke Wilhelmstraße/Voßstraße flieht Rochus Misch am 2. Mai 1945 über den Wilhelmplatz zum U-Bahnhof Kaiserhof (rechts im Bild)*

#### ABBILDUNGEN

Sofern nicht anders angegeben, handelt es sich bei den Abbildungen im Buch um bislang unveröffentlichtes Bildmaterial aus dem Privatarchiv von Rochus Misch.

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der Truppe von General Rauch anschließen, das sollte ich auch versuchen.

Schädle führte mich, wegen einer Beinverletzung humpelnd, weiter durch endlose Gänge. Bis vor Kurzem war hier noch alles voller Zivilisten gewesen, nun herrschte überall gähnende Leere. Das wirkte auf mich fast noch unheimlicher als die Bunkeratmosphäre. Wir gelangten schließlich zu einem Kellerfenster des Borsigpalais auf der Ecke Wilhelmstraße/Voßstraße. Von diesem aus konnte ich ins Freie und auf dem schnellsten Weg in die nahe gelegene U-Bahn-Station am Wilhelmplatz gelangen. Ich blickte Schädle fragend an. Der begriff, was ich wissen wollte und schüttelte den Kopf: »Ich kann nicht.« Er deutete auf sein verletztes Bein. Schädle musste sich schon länger entschlossen haben, nicht mitzukommen. Wir verabschiedeten uns. Der Kommandochef wünschte mir alles Gute. Unmittelbar nachdem er mir hinausgeholfen hatte, erschoss er sich in der Neuen Reichskanzlei.

Ich kletterte, Schutt beiseiteräumend, aus dem zur Wilhelmstraße hinausgehenden Kellerfenster. So wand ich mich bäuchlings aus dem Borsigpalais hinaus auf den Wilhelmplatz. Der Morgen

Leider konnten die Bildrechteinhaber der Abbildungen auf den Seiten 74, 75, 177, 186, 187, 197, 211 und 223 bis Redaktionsschluss nicht ausfindig gemacht werden. Der Verlag bittet gegebenenfalls um Mitteilung, um berechnete Ansprüche abzugelten.

These are two excerpts from the German-language version of Mr. Misch's memoirs; the photo on page 235 (to the left) is attributed as being copyrighted by the Archives of the Province of Berlin, yet anyone can see that Mr. Misch himself also claims copyright – did he purchase any rights to the photo from the Berlin archives? He most certainly did **not** do so.

Translated, the book photo caption reads as: "Rochus Misch fled through a basement window of the Borsig-Palace, at the corner of Wilhelm and Vosz Streets, on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1945, crossing the Wilhelm Square to reach the subway station "Kaiserhof."



*Rochus Misch, der Augenzeuge am 30. April 1945: Er sah die tote Eva Braun und Hitler im Tiefbunker. Im Juni 1945 untersuchen US-Ermittler das Sofa, auf dem die beiden Selbstmord begingen*

der Schwelle zum Arbeitszimmer sehe ich, dass man Hitler zwischenzeitlich auf den Boden gelegt hat. Im Flur stehend, mache ich dann zum letzten Mal Platz für den »Führer«. Linge, Günsche, Kempka und ein mir unbekannter Kamerad vom RSD haben ihn in eine graue Decke eingewickelt und tragen ihn an mir vorbei. Die Stoffhülle ist zu kurz, um den Leichnam ganz zu bedecken, Hitlers Schuhe ragen heraus.

Goebbels verkündet, er werde jetzt oben im Garten so lange umherlaufen, bis er tödlich getroffen werde. Ich gehe wieder zu Retzbach, um mich nochmals abzumelden. Er ruft mir hinterher,

223

#### ABBILDUNGEN

Sofern nicht anders angegeben, handelt es sich bei den Abbildungen im Buch um bislang unveröffentlichtes Bildmaterial aus dem Privatarchiv von Rochus Misch.

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Fotoarchiv Hoffmann: Seite 185

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The text at the bottom right states that the publishing house was **not** able to determine the copyright owners for the photographs shown on pages 74, 75, 177, 186, 187, 197, 211 and **223** in the memoirs, and that it is kindly requested to notify the same of who holds copyright, so that the publishing house may pay royalties to the copyright owners.

So, how awfully weird is it that, on the one hand, the publishing house actively seeks copyright holders, who were unknown at the time of publication, while, on the other hand, Mr. Misch goes and claims copyright for himself concerning some of the photos? While the publishing house is above reproach, because it seeks the copyright holders with the intent of paying royalties, the same does **not** apply to Mr. Misch even one iota.

The caption below the photo on page 223 translates as: "Rochus Misch, the eye witness of April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1945: he saw the dead bodies of Eva Braun and Hitler in the "deep bunker." U.S. officers of inquiry examine the sofa, on which both committed suicide, in June, 1945."

Readers who clicked on the link on page 155 in this appendix will recognize the photo as being identical with number 19 of the newspaper article; it is also identical with the upper photo found on page 70 of the analysis – the latter proving that the photo was licensed to "Time & Life Pictures/Getty Image," while the link provided on page 71 proves that the original copyright holder is Mr. William Vandivert (resp. his heirs).



On page 67 in the body of our analysis, we showed an excerpt from the German Naval Front Newspaper for the Channel Coast [between England and France, 3<sup>rd</sup> year of publication], number 238, published on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 1943, consisting of a paragraph of text concerning Hans-Ulrich Rudel's 1,500<sup>th</sup> sortie against the enemy. We also provided an *abbreviated* translation of the text; we provide a *full* translation, as well as photographs of both halves of the front page of the newspaper, here.

### "The 1,500 Sortie

"Berlin, October 11<sup>th</sup> – Oak Leaves bearer<sup>1)</sup> Captain Hans-Ulrich Rudel, group commander of a dive-bomber squadron, flew his 1,500<sup>th</sup> sortie against the enemy on the Eastern Front on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Captain Rudel is the first German pilot to have reached such a high number of flights against the enemy. His success against enemy tanks is also specially worth mention; he has destroyed 87 enemy tanks to date. Observer/radio operator Master-Sergeant Henschel, who flew most of these sorties together with Captain Rudel, flew against the enemy for the 1,200<sup>th</sup> time on the same date and sortie.

<sup>1)</sup> It was common for Nazi media of all sorts to only mention the highest decoration of the Iron Cross bestowed when mentioning a person by name. Hence: Rudel's highest decoration of the Iron Cross at that date was the Oak Leaves of the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross. The entire class of Iron Cross decorations was as follows: Iron Cross 2<sup>nd</sup> class; Iron Cross 1<sup>st</sup> class (these two being worn on the breast); Knights Cross of the Iron Cross; Knights Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves; Knights Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves and Swords; Knights Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves and Swords with Diamonds; Knights Cross of the Iron Cross with Golden Oak Leaves and Swords with Diamonds and finally the Grand Cross of the Iron Cross (all of the latter are neck decorations).

Originally, the highest decoration of the Iron Cross was to be the Knights Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves and Swords with Diamonds (aside of the Grand Cross, which was only awarded to Hermann Göring). Since there were a goodly number of awards of that level, it was decided that the *very* best were to be singled out and decorated with the Knights Cross of the Iron Cross with Golden Oak Leaves and Swords with Diamonds – there were to be a *maximum* of 12 awards of this class, with only one actually being awarded, namely to Rudel, on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1945. He was also promoted to the rank of Colonel at the same time; Hitler forbade Rudel to fly any further sorties, on account of Rudel's importance to the German youth as a role model and due to his vast experience.

Rudel replied to Hitler that he would refuse both the rank and the award if he were to be grounded, to which Hitler replied that Rudel might continue to fly, but that he must watch out for himself because the German nation needed him.

Below to the left is a photo of what is supposedly Colonel Rudel's Knights Cross of the Iron Cross with Golden Oak Leaves and Swords with Diamonds, while on the right we have a perfect jeweler's copy of the Golden Oak Leaves in gold-plated silver, with synthetic white sapphires, closely modeled after the original.





## 3. Jahrgang

An der Kunststätte, Dienstag, 12. Oktober 1943

Nadamer 218

## Die „Beute“ der Vorpostenmänner

Wieder 8 Feindschiffe mit 40 200 BRT von U-Booten versenkt

# Die Bewährungsprobe der deutschen Luftabwehr

## Zaehe deutsche Abwehr an den Brennpunkten der Ostkaempfe

## Der Canossa-Gang

[illegible]

Deshalb, was der Gang nach Moskau für die Prokuren bedeutet, wird man sich in London und Washington kaum Illusionen machen. Eine wirkliche Förderung des russischen hat man überhaupt nicht, und damit die Kunst in gruppierender Weise zu fördern, die sich dem Namen "All-Union-Chamber" verleiht, die einen kleinen Teil der russischen Kunst auszuwählen erlaubt, die Politik der Sowjetunion nicht mit dem allmählichen Wachsen nach der Wiedervereinigung der russischen und der deutschen Kunst zu tun haben.

**Gesteigerte furchtbare Waffenwirkung unserer Jaeger**

[illegible]

Noch nicht das Endstadium

W. v. Glöckner und andere, das Ende

Millionen Pfund. Bei einer kleinen Rechts-  
wendung, die durch das britische Handelsge-



Vor 10 Minuten hat Gitter Vorpriesterei über einem Hafen an der Kanalhälfte eines sog. Bomber abgeblasen. Nur 2 Mann der Besatzung konnten sich durch Fallschirmsprung retten. Das Fallschirm fliegen sich die Vorpriesterei aus dem „Bock“. Er wird als Beste an Bord gebracht und mit starker Freude in Augenschein genommen.

FK-Abt. Kempten. (schles.) (SdL)

### Bombenterror gegen Bezahlung

Van Admiral van Schoute (Melaleki)

Die internationalen Beziehungen zwischen den beiden größten Fliegernationen der Welt, den USA und der Sowjetunion, sind in der letzten Zeit sehr kompliziert worden. Die Beziehungen zwischen den beiden Ländern sind in der letzten Zeit sehr kompliziert worden. Die Beziehungen zwischen den beiden Ländern sind in der letzten Zeit sehr kompliziert worden.





Last, but not least, our readers may be interested in:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4260928/Hitler-s-wartime-telephone-FAKE.html>

What did we write in the body of our analysis about Rayner being “an officer and a gentleman,” who would have no need of the money the “Hitler Telephone” brought him? We wrote that he could sure use the money, because the upkeep of such a place as Ashcombe Tower eats up money like a horse eats hay; the following article strenuously denies this: <http://www.foxnews.com/science/2017/02/27/hitler-phone-controversy-auction-house-denies-fake-claim.html>, writing that “He [Mr. Panagopulos] defended the phone’s details, as well as Rayner, the British signals officer *credited* with originally retrieving the phone, saying the man was *respectable* and *had no need for money* — and thus *no incentive to peddle a fake*.” Oh, sure, we’re all *truly* shocked and put out by the mere *notion* that Maj. Rayner *might* just have found GBP 100,000+ *rather* handy.

More news:

<http://nationalpost.com/news/expert-casts-doubt-on-the-authenticity-of-hitlers-personal-phone-sold-for-243000>

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/2006/01/instrument-of-terror/> - a bit more of the phone’s fanciful life and tale – **Montgomery didn’t send Brig. Rayner to Berlin before May 5<sup>th</sup>**, and **yet the consignor claims** “This was about two days after Hitler committed suicide ...” (making the date Rayner was dispatched May 3<sup>rd</sup>); the tales simply *don’t* match up.

<http://www.dbknews.com/2017/02/23/hitler-telephone-auction-immoral/> - a very interesting view of the auction, and **another tale**: “Along with the telephone, Rayner *smuggled* a porcelain figurine of a dog made by slaves in a concentration camp ...” – so, what about the tale that Rayner was presented the figurine by the Soviets? No matchup.

<http://www.konbini.com/us/lifestyle/hitler-personal-telephone-sold-at-an-auction/> - we love the photo of Trump with the phone; note also, too, that this site tells of the phone being looted.

<https://newsline.com/hitler-phone-sold-24300-authentic-auction-house-refutes-fake-claim/> - another one where Mr. Panagopulos stresses that Ralph and Ranulf Rayner were well-to-do and would have no need to sell a fake: “He defended that Rayner was respectable and had no need for money, making it impossible for the notion that he would sell a fake relic” ... it is only impossible to those who are not used to *thinking independently*. And, we all know the exact truth behind the “Hitler Telephone,” so that it is not at all “impossible” that Maj. Rayner “... would sell a fake relic.”

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/02/20/europe/hitler-phone-sold/index.html?sr=fbCNN022017hitler-phone-sold0100PMStoryLink&linkId=34677640>  
In this one, Maj. Rayner himself, indirectly, claims that his **father looted the phone**: “If British soldiers were caught looting from the Germans, Ranulf Rayner explained, they would face a court martial. Ralph Rayner returned to Devon in western England with both the phone and a porcelain model of an Alsatian, also taken from the bunker, hidden in his suitcase” ... **so, once again, it wasn’t** a present from the Soviets as always claimed?

As we have already alluded to in the body of our analysis, Brig. Rayner is supposed to have **looted** the “Hitler Telephone,” **instead of** having received it as a gift (as the consignor has *repeatedly* and *vociferously* claimed). However, this would have been a **moot point** (if the “Hitler Telephone” had been genuine), **since we have several accounts** of Brig. Rayner having looted the phone, as well as of the story that the Soviets had looted the phone and then given it to Rayner – ill-gotten loot would remain loot under all circumstances.



*We have found further evidence to support the story that it was looted ... refer to: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-39105852>. The story goes, "... While Sir Ralph was in Berlin, Montgomery had decreed that anyone caught looting would be court martialed." So, what's it to be? We have two independent, online, public accounts of Rayner having looted the phone – versus the consignor's claims down thru history that the "Hitler Telephone" had been *given* to Rayner by the Russians (who, themselves, had looted it) – whom should we believe? We feel that (at least) the BBC had its information from the consignor – because so many other details jibe with *his* odd fairytale.*

The same BBC report also makes mention of the fact that "... there is mention of it [the phone] in German magazine [*sic!*] Der Spiegel as far back as 1963 ..." – as we have shown back at the beginning of our analysis. This detail was probably also supplied by the consignor – **even though the paragraph in "Der Spiegel" calls Brig. Rayner a telephone thief** (which is further proof that the supposed "Hitler Telephone" was looted, if anything).

We have thoroughly proven that, **if** Brig. Rayner had either stolen or received any sort of **dial telephone from Hitler's Berlin bunker** (or from *anywhere else* in Germany or an occupied country), then that it was a **black** Siemens W38, **without** any engravings or red paint, which was **missing** major components (such as the cords, the complete handset, the dial finger-wheel [possibly even the entire dial], the "earth" pushbutton and the number-card holder), **it having been transformed into the infamous "Hitler Telephone" at some time after World War 2, possibly as late as the 1980s.**

All of this is a rather moot point in the meantime, because AHA has, apparently, taken the phone back (because it is *obviously* a forgery) and refunded the money to the winning bidder – but it may well serve as a tip-giver on what to look out for when contemplating to buy or bid on any Nazi "artifacts."

Those at AHA have taken precautionary measures to prevent the reoccurrence of a debacle surrounding anything they auction off: it is now mandatory for people to register online with AHA (including giving out **valid** credit card data) before being allowed to view **any** items from past auctions (aka **viewing "results"**). **One can only** access the **current** auction (and also download it as a PDF) without having to register. Readers may wish to refer to the following link and attempt to view past auction items **without** first registering: <http://www.alexautographs.com/>.

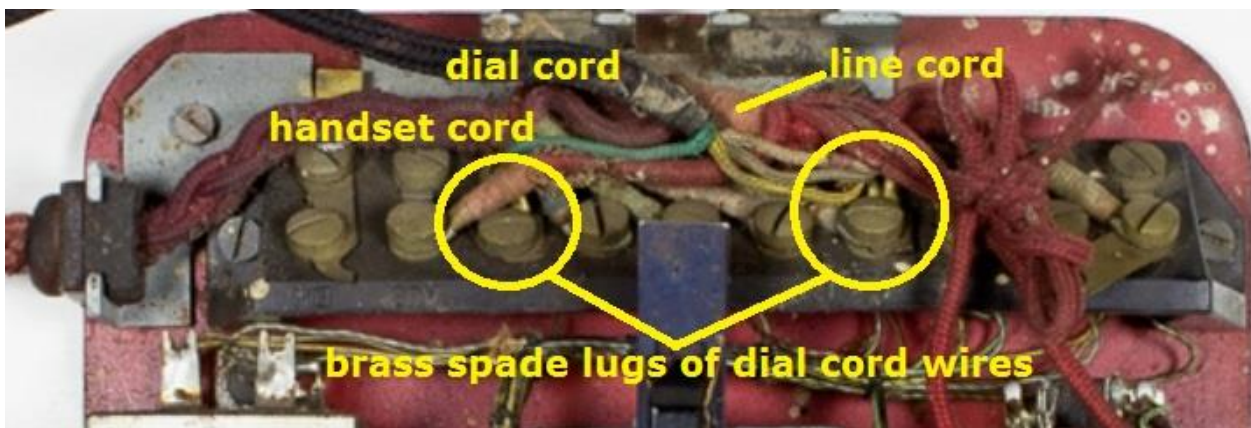
A very interesting term of auction at AHA is that "Non-autograph items are guaranteed genuine for a period of twenty-one (21) days of receipt<sup>1</sup>. If determined to be not authentic by two independent dealers or authenticators acceptable to both parties to the sale within the twenty-one (21) day period the item may be returned for a refund of the purchase price only."

Under this provision, the "Hitler Telephone" was only guaranteed to be the real McCoy for 21 days after the successful bidder received it – after that, well, **hard luck** for the schmuck! **And, what's more, the bidder would lose the 26.5 percent buyer's premium he paid for the item after the auction (i.e. the premium is **not** refunded).** It would appear that those at AHA wish to disavow any and all knowledge of their **ever** having handled or having auctioned off anything as trashy as a **supposed "Hitler Telephone."**

<sup>1)</sup> It's a bit akin to Cinderella's golden coach turning back into a pumpkin at midnight – items are only authentic for 21 days; after that: poof! – and you're stuck with a pumpkin from a bumpkin. As a matter of fact, our suspicion that AHA auctions a goodly portion of Nazi relics, regalia or "memorabilia" which are *not* originals was confirmed by the European collectors and dealers whom we contacted in the course of our research. Especially such items as SS collar tabs, sleeve-bands and various *rare* Nazi medals & awards are in a too perfect condition to really **be originals** .... Maybe AHA should just stick to peddling autographs?

Although one can *no longer* access any photos of the "Hitler Telephone" on the AHA homepage, one *can* do so at a few other online auction platforms; readers may refer to: [https://www.liveauctioneers.com/item/50650171\\_adolf-hitler-s-personal-presentation-telephone](https://www.liveauctioneers.com/item/50650171_adolf-hitler-s-personal-presentation-telephone) (this was the only site on which we found a photograph of the *interior* of the handset mouthpiece), and <https://www.invaluable.com/auction-lot/adolf-hitler-s-personal-presentation-telephone-r-36C42369C9>. Alas, *neither* of these sites offers more in the way of a "paper trail" than we were able to find at the AHA site after the auction had ended ... although it appears that AHA may have had more paper material online while the auction was still in progress.

The most complete collection of photos of the "Hitler Telephone" and its leather storage case, as well as of exhibits F, G and I, the obit. and P. v. Siemens's letter is here: <https://www.the-saleroom.com/en-gb/auction-catalogues/alexanderhistorical/catalogue-id-alexan1-10003/lot-7ba5f4f7-d52e-418e-a3c2-a7070144ac26>. We found this site by accident, actually ... it was informative in that we now know that the "exhibits" belonging to the auction didn't end with "H," and we wonder if there were any more after "I." One thing we did find at the above site was a copy of Brig. Rayner's letter to his wife, from May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1945 – which we will show and comment upon on the next pages.



On page 27 of our analysis, we made note of the fact that, at the time the "Hitler Telephone" was supposedly manufactured, dial, line and handset cords were terminated with *brass spade lugs* crimped onto the wire ends, and a careful look at the terminal board of the phone reveals the fact that the dial cord wires *are* properly terminated with brass spade lugs, while the line and handset cords have the old-fashioned, *British*, "loop" terminations.



On page 17 of our analysis, we showed an *excerpt* of the photograph of the interior of the handset mouthpiece, so that readers could see the markings on the inside. We are providing the photo on the left to prove that the *inside* of the mouthpiece was *completely* painted red. We would also like to point out that AHA claimed that the *ear piece* was marked "S.B.&Co. LTD.", rather than the mouthpiece.

## EXHIBIT I

Headquarters  
21. Army Group  
B.L.A.  
Germany.

Darling little one

I am at present stuck at Headquarters so am able to write again. I am for the moment in fact Chief Signal Officer of all the British Armies and General White who will have telephoned you, is still away, so I have plenty to do. I was working hard till 1 am this morning and now at it again at 5 am.

We met the Russians and established communications on a pile of rubble. The rest was utter horror. I will be able to give you some idea of our strange but fantastic trip to Berlin when I return home.

It was a tremendous task and when you remember that practically every bridge is down, roads are masses of debris, and telephone systems are just like spiders webs that someone has trodden on, you will realize our difficulties.

As far as I can see I may be in England again about the 30th May, but it is not likely to be much before that.

I simply loved your long letter I found at last at 21 Army Group, the one dated April 25th I mean. Indeed there were things in it you have told me about when I saw you.

Greens love, dearie.

Yours  
Ralph

18/5/45



The text of Rayner's *supposed* letter to his wife, dated May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1945, reads as:

Headquarters  
21 Army Group  
B.L.A.  
Germany

Darling little one

I am at the present stuck at Headquarters so am able to write again. I am for the moment in fact Chief Signal Officer of all British Armies as General White who [illegible] telephoned [illegible] is still away. So I have plenty to do. I was working hard til 1 am this morning and now at it again at 5 am.

We met the Russians and established communications in a pile of rubble. The rest was utter horror. I will be able to give you some idea of our strange but fantastic trip to Berlin when I return home.

It was a tremendous task and when you remember that practically every bridge is down roads are masses of debris and telephone systems are just like spiders webs that someone has trodden on you will realize our difficulties.

As far as I can see I may be in England again about the 30<sup>th</sup> May but it is not likely [2 words illegible] before that.

I simply loved your long letter I found at [2 words illegible] 21 Army Group. It was dated April 25<sup>th</sup>. I mean I [6 words illegible] here [3 words illegible] when I see you.

[illegible] love dearest  
your  
Ralph

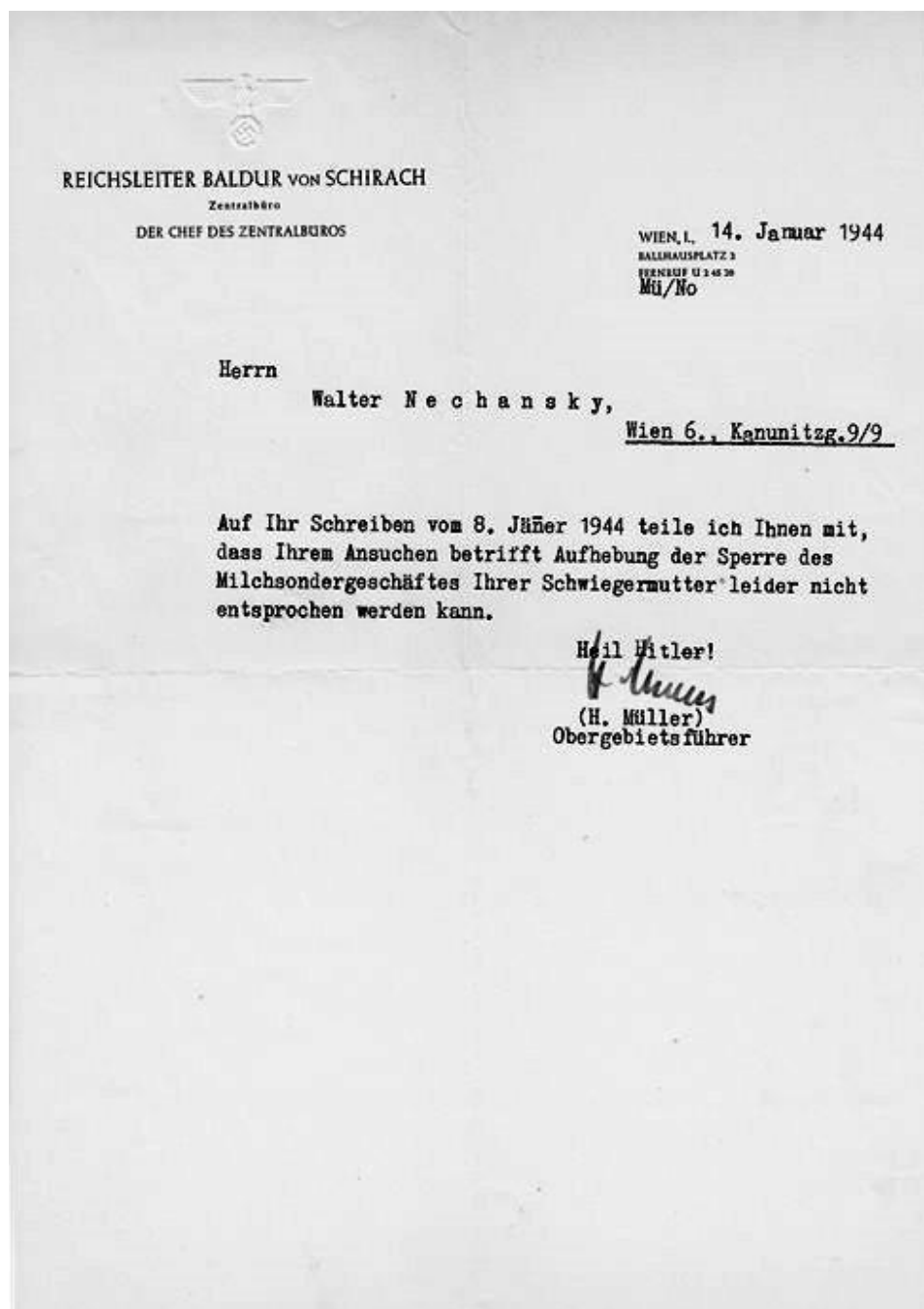
18/5/45

Part of the spiel AHA did on the "Hitler Telephone" ran as follows: "Very likely the first non-Soviet victor to enter the city, Rayner went to the Chancellery where Russian officers offered him a tour ...." This is in **no** way supported by the contents of Rayner's letter to his wife – as a matter of fact, Rayner was **not** "very likely the first non-Soviet victor to enter Berlin," since he specifically wrote "**We** met the Russians and established communications in a pile of rubble," meaning he *wasn't* the only Brit in Berlin at the time (and therefore **NOT** "very likely the first non-Soviet victor to enter the city ..."). There is also **no** mention of his "bunker tour" in the letter, so we "must" accept AHA's (and the consignor's) word that Rayner was in or near the bunker **at all** ....

We firmly believe that, **had** Rayner been given a tour of the Berlin bunker complex, or else had been there on his own, this would certainly have been interesting enough for him to write to his wife about it – and yet, there is no mention of anything of the kind in his letter, so that his letter has **absolutely no bearing** on the "provenance" of the "Hitler Telephone."

Another point: there is **no** documentary evidence that the **handwriting** is Rayner's at all – once again, we have to take other folks word for it, **but we'd rather not** do so. And: since only a **grayscale** photocopy (or scan) of the letter was provided, it is impossible to say whether the paper of the "original" letter showed signs of ageing, because the copy is **grayish** (on account of the poor contrast of the copy), while 70+ year old paper is usually brownish or yellowish with age. Another interesting fact is that the "original" letter does **not** appear to have been folded (**no** crease marks visible in exhibit "I"); it would **have** to have been folded in order to be able to stuff it into an envelope.

We offer the following (greyscale) scan of a folded letter from 1944; both creases are visible and may easily be seen. We tried adjusting brightness, contrast and mid-tones on a copy of the supposed letter from Brig. Rayner (as found on the internet), but we **couldn't find the slightest signs of *any* crease at all** – no matter how much we juggled the values.



So, how did Rayner's letter get sent, if it wasn't folded into an envelope? Another question comes to mind as well: why wasn't a scan of the *envelope* provided in the auction? Military postmarks always carry the date the letter was received at the P.O., and an envelope bearing a military postmark with May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1945 (or a slightly later date) would have lent *some* credence as to the provenance of the letter – but without the envelope, who knows *when* the letter was *actually* written (maybe in the 1970s?).

The BBC article concerning the "Hitler Telephone" (refer to the link on page 162) offers the following (unretouched) photograph with a rather *misleading* caption:



The caption in the BBC article **reads**: "A similar telephone<sup>1)</sup> can be seen in this picture of Adolf Hitler's bunker after the fall of Berlin (far left)."

<sup>1)</sup> As can just barely be discerned, the telephone in the photo is a model OB33 *magneto* telephone; we wonder just which clown at the BBC believed it to be "... a similar telephone ..." to the *dial* "Hitler Telephone?" Their "similarity" to one another is on par with the similarity between day and night. Refer to the photograph on page 90 in the analysis for a clear view of the phone.





In AHA's YouTube interview with the consignor, concerning the "Hitler Telephone," a white porcelain Alsatian dog, supposedly from the Führerbunker in Berlin as well, was also mentioned. Since we wanted to sift to the bottom of things, we hoped that we might find some more of the "paper trail" concerning either item in the auction description of the porcelain dog – unfortunately, there were no letters or other bits of paper shown to prove provenance ... just *lots* of hot air, and references to the provenance of the "Hitler Telephone." As usual, the original text is in red.

"ADOLF HITLER'S ALLACH PORCELAIN ALSATIAN, TAKEN FROM THE FUHRERBUNKER  
Adolf Hitler's porcelain Alsatian figure made by slave labor at Dachau and almost certainly personally presented to Hitler by Heinrich Himmler.

This is somewhat at odds with what the consignor said in his interview, namely: "My father, before he left the bunker, was also presented with a white porcelain Alsatian dog, which had been presented to Hitler, *apparently, by the German police force, and probably* by Himmler himself ..." Well, what now: **a)** apparently, **b)** probably, **c)** almost certainly or **d)** none of the above?

O.K. – all of the Nazi police forces were *nominally* under the control of the SS, and the consignor says it's only "probable" that Himmler gave the dog to Hitler, while AHA claims it to be an "almost certainty" – **another** instance of tit for tat.

"The figure represents a reclining Alsatian dog, his front paws crossed, and it measures 17" long and about 10 1/2" tall. The piece is marked on the bottom: "TH. KARNER", with the number "76" with the Allach hallmark incorporating stylized SS runes. Fine condition, with absolutely no damage or repairs visible.

Sheer window-dressing with **no** bearing on it ever having belonged to Hitler.

"This important relic is accompanied by excellent provenance, *identical* to that supplied with Adolf Hitler's personal telephone offered elsewhere in this sale.

Which we have proven, beyond any shadow of doubt, to be a fake, and that the "excellent provenance" isn't even worth dirt.

"It has been consigned by the daughter of Brigadier Sir Ralph Rayner (1896-1977).

Well, at least that jibes with what was said in the interview, namely: "The Alsatian, *which was later given to my sister*, is, vividly remembered again by my sister, when my father returned from Germany ..." and "... she remembers my father saying this was actually given to him as he left the bunker in Berlin." **It's all of a yarn** to have Fleur (Maj. Rayner's sister) "vividly remembering" things *very* many decades after they happened.

"Rayner was commissioned into the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, in which he served as a signals officer. He was seconded to the Royal Flying Corps in 1916. During the First World War Rayner served on the Western Front and India. He then entered politics and was Member of Parliament for Totnes from 1935 to 1955, and was Knighted in 1956. Early in the war, Rayner rejoined the Royal Corps of Signals, fought with the B.E.F., and was evacuated at Dunkirk. Promoted Brigadier, he served under Major-General C.M.F. White, Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery's Chief Signals Officer.

More of the exact same sort of spiel which we already had to suffer through concerning the "Hitler Telephone" – there is **nothing** new here, and nothing which proves the provenance of the Alsatian dog as having been found in the Berlin bunker or that it belonged to Hitler at any point in time. In fact, the above is a 1:1 copy of a portion of AHA's text regarding the "Hitler Telephone," to be found on page 60 in the analysis.

"On May 5, 1945, a day after the German surrender, Brigadier Rayner was order by Montgomery to establish contact with the Russians in Berlin. Very likely the first non-Soviet victor to enter the city, Rayner went to the Chancellery where Russian officers offered him a tour. On entering Hitler's private quarters, Rayner was first offered Adolf Hitler's personal telephone, and as he left the bunker he was given the Allach porcelain Alsatian.

Here, once again, we have the soap-opera of Rayner's trip to Berlin and his supposed Disneyland-type tour of the Berlin bunker complex. **There's a big** mistake in the above yarn: "Rayner was **first** offered Adolf Hitler's personal telephone ..." – AHA and the consignor had *always claimed* that Rayner was **first** offered Eva Braun's telephone! And, **once again, AHA misstates history, since "the Germans" didn't** surrender on May 4<sup>th</sup> – the partial capitulation of German forces (those in Holland, in northwest Germany including the Frisian Islands, Heligoland and all other islands, in Schleswig-Holstein and in Denmark) took place on that date. **Nazi Germany didn't capitulate until May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1945.**

"Included with the lot is our consignor's letter of provenance on her personal letterhead, Sep. 9, 2016, in part: At the end of May, 1945 my father ... returned from Germany with ... a large porcelain model of an Alsatian dog ... My father told me that as we [*sic!*] was about to leave Hitler's apartments in the bunker he had admired the white porcelain model sitting on [Hitler's] desk...He was then given the Alsatian by the Russians....

Another "letter of provenance," on Fleur's personal letterhead, **no less** (maybe folks are supposed to freeze in total reverence because it's her personal letterhead?); this letter was **not** found in the auction. Again, we feel compelled to point out that anything set forth in her letter is pure hearsay evidence, written down in the year 2016 – a mere 71 years after the fact. Besides: the dog is described as being a full 17 inches in length; we can find **no corresponding shadow of** "... the white porcelain model sitting on [Hitler's] desk ..." in the photos on pages 88, 90 and 99 of our analysis.

"Additional provenance present includes: a copy of the telephone consignor's very detailed notarized letter of provenance which fully sets forth his personal recollection of the telephone and porcelain being brought to England;

We have thoroughly dealt with the "... telephone consignor's very detailed notarized letter of provenance ..." and pointed out that a notary public **only** notarizes signatures, but does **not** verify the contents of documents. Witness the following note (need we say more?) –

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

"... **three original photos of the daughter holding the porcelain and a detail of the piece;**

Which were, in all likelihood, undated and bear **no** witness to the authenticity of the legend surrounding the porcelain Alsatian (unless the photos could be **proven** to have been taken in 1945).

"... a copy of a May 18, 1945 letter from Brig. Rayner in Germany to his wife mentioning meeting with the Russians in "a pile of rubble"; a copy of a 1977 newspaper article with photo in which Brigadier Rayner is shown with Hitler's telephone;

We have very thoroughly dealt with all aspects of the "Hitler Telephone," having proven, beyond any shadow of doubt, that it is a "Frankenphone" of the worst kind – so that **parroting pieces of the "provenance" of the same back as "proof" that the Allach porcelain Alsatian was the real McCoy** is another example of the cat chasing after its own tail.

"... and a copy of a 2016 email from the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial in Germany stating their *belief* that such high quality items were sent by the SS to Berlin.

This is another bit of "proof of provenance" which we did not find in the auction photo section – and: "belief" is anything **but** solid evidence.

"The porcelain factory "Porzellan Manufaktur Allach" was *established* as a private concern in *1935*. In *1936* the factory was *acquired by Heinrich Himmler* to produce works of art that would represent, in his eyes, true Germanic culture.

This is historically **wrong**: the Allach Company was originally founded by Franz Nagy senior in Munich-Allach, and erected on a private property of 2,000 square meters in size; this was in the year **1925**. The factory was *expropriated* by the **SS** in **1939**, and belonged to an economic conglomerate, which was owned by the SS and administered by the "SS Economic Administration Head Office" (Wirtschafts-Verwaltungshauptamt, WVHA). This office was founded by SS General Oswald Pohl in March of 1942.

The offices "SS Central Administrative Office and Economics" and the "Central Office for the Budget and Construction" (the latter belonging to the Ministry of the Interior), both of which were under Pohl's control, were assimilated into the WVHA. The WVHA administered SS-owned industries, trades, factories and undertakings in the concentration camps and grouped these together as individual concerns. Pohl was in charge of the financial undertakings of all concentration camps from around 1942/43 on.

"Production was based at Allach, the largest sub[sidiary] camp of Dachau, and it used slave labor in the production of these pieces.

This, too, is simply **wrong**! Owing to rapid expansion, the original factory became too small, and for this reason a *segment* of production was moved to the grounds of the SS *Training Camp adjacent* to the terrain belonging to the Dachau concentration camp. It began operations there on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1941, with approximately 25 to 30 civilians and about 50 inmates of Dachau being employed by Allach.

"Himmler was especially proud of the porcelain produced at Allach, and made a habit of gifting the finest pieces to those close to him.

Again, **not true**. One of the most important functions of the Allach factory was the manufacture of porcelain "State Gifts," which were presented to "political **guests**" of the Third Reich, as well as to members of the diplomatic corps. However, fully two-thirds of annual production went to the SS, Police and the Wehrmacht itself. Besides: where is the **documentary evidence to back up AHA's statement? There's none** to be found. We ask: was anyone from AHA on such good terms with Heinrich Himmler that they would actually know (and could *prove*) what his personal habits actually were? **We doubt it ...**

"... it is therefore almost a certainty that Heinrich Himmler himself gave this figure to Adolf Hitler, who would have receive [*sic!*] and displayed it with great pleasure.

**Not really – why** should it be an "almost certainty" that Himmler had given Hitler a plain, *white* porcelain Alsatian dog from Allach, when the same was also available in a *painted* version, of which we show a photo on the following page? Take note of the similarity with a front view of the auctioned-off, white, Allach Alsatian next to the painted one.

There are also other instances in which Himmler made Hitler presents of *painted* Allach porcelain, as may be seen in the black and white photo at the bottom of the following page.





The one looks a spittin' image of the other, except that the painted one is *much* nicer!



The English translation of the German caption belonging to the photo above reads as: "Chief of the SS, Heinrich Himmler, giving Hitler a group of porcelain soldiers on his 55<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1944 – manufactured at Dachau." As may easily be seen, the figurines are painted. Since Allach porcelain was obviously available painted in color, why (*oh*, why?) should Himmler have been satisfied to give Hitler any such porcelain in plain, boring, white? It just doesn't seem to make sense at all ....

Last, but not least, we must point out that the winning bid on this “marvelous” piece was \$20,000 (plus 26.5 percent premium, for a total of \$25,300). We can only assume that such a ridiculous price was attained because of an **inferred** and **perceived** association with Hitler; the painted Alsatian shown on the previous page can be *bought* – over the counter – for 1,500 Euro (approximately \$ 1,680 at the time of writing, one US\$ being 0.893 Euro). We wonder just how much one could have sold such a painted Alsatian for, if one were to claim that it had belonged to Hitler and that it was looted, say, from his study at the Old Chancellery?

“Normally, Panagopulos said, a similar porcelain figure might be worth \$2,500, but **Rayner’s sold Sunday to a different bidder for \$24,300 [sic!]**. Panagopulos said the figure has SS lightning bolts on the bottom and was made by slave labor. Any time an item is connected to Hitler, he said, collectors are willing to shell out tens of thousands of dollars”. (Found at the [www.nationalpost.com](http://www.nationalpost.com) site.) ... Should we say more?

On page 163 of the appendix, we wrote that “... our suspicion that AHA auctions a goodly portion of **Nazi relics, regalia or “memorabilia”** which are *not* originals was confirmed by the European collectors and dealers whom we contacted in the course of our research. Especially such items as SS collar tabs ... **are in a too perfect condition to be originals.**”

We intend to prove the veracity of this statement by way of comparing two SS collar tabs, one of which was proffered by AHA as an original, while the other one is a verified forgery. First, the one from AHA:



Now, for the forgery (manufactured circa 1965):



Taking the difference in background lighting into account, there would appear to be little, or no, major difference between the two – **except that the AHA “original” brought in well over \$400**, while the forged one can be bought for about 80 Euro (approximately \$89 at the time of writing).



The forged one even has something going for it which would appear to bear out it's fictive age, namely some material damage ....





Naturally, the SS runes need some backing or other, since just embroidering them onto the felt-covered canvas would leave them *much* too flexible, so that the wire-wound thread (silver-plated brass on very early collar tabs, aluminum on later models, as on our forgery) would quickly bend and break. The backing was usually made with cut-outs of stiff cardboard, over which the wire threads were stitched, as may be seen in the close-up at the bottom of the previous page.

The matching collar tab denoting the rank – in this case that of an SS Hauptsturmführer<sup>1)</sup> – is also available (cost approximately Euro 60 - \$67); if we weren't above a bit of nefarious skullduggery, we could easily consign the pair for AHA to auction off at their convenience, and pocket \$700 for our troubles (*very* easy money).

<sup>1)</sup> Equivalent U.S. rank is captain.

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We find that we must protest *against*, and historically *amend*, a statement Mr. P. v. Siemens made in his letter to Maj. Rayner – **namely where the former writes of "... the Austrian chap's telephone ...."** (It's a common mistake the Germans **love** parading.)

Hitler *automatically* became a *German* national when he volunteered for enlistment in the Imperial German armed forces *in 1914*, having entered military service in the **Imperial Reserve Infantry Regiment "List,"** to which he remained faithful until the end of World War I. Hitler could *never* have legally attained German Chancellorship as an Austrian – he needed *German* citizenship in order to be able to be elected.

From a historical point of view, Hitler was naturalized as a German in 1914, and he retained his German citizenship until his suicide in May, 1945. This is also proven out by **the fact that the Bavarian government in Germany became copyright holder to Hitler's** utterly *unreadable* book "**Mein Kamp**" – had Hitler been an Austrian citizen, then the Republic of Austria would have been the copyright holder; but it never was. Refer to footnote twelve on page 71. Thus, although having been *born* in Austria, and originally having had Austrian citizenship, Hitler was (for all intents and purposes) a **German** national from 1914 onward!

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We very recently discovered the following photograph on the internet, which is supposed to show part of Eva Brown's living-room at Hitler's Berghof retreat at Berchtesgaden:



On the table, one can see a W28 desk set, complete with a *thin* handset cord – as was common with Siemens telephones *not* usually used by Hitler himself. We find this to be **further proof that phones intended for Hitler's personal use had *thick* cords.**

One thought that has been knocking around on the “back burner” throughout the writing of this analysis (and the appendix) is the question as to the fate of the Fg. tist. 182b (W38) dial desk telephone (the “Hitler Telephone” *in being*) between the time it was manufactured (supposedly in April of 1940<sup>1)</sup>) and its debut **as the “Hitler Telephone”** in 1944<sup>2)</sup>.

<sup>1)</sup> There was some debate among the various telephone collectors in our group as to **whether the “V” in the manufacturing code might not, in reality, be a “Y” which has lost its “tail.”** “Y” would mean that the year of manufacture would have been 1943 – but, as we know, the ringer condenser was manufactured in February, 1939, and it is but *pure* fantasy to believe that a condenser from 1939 would have ever been installed in a telephone from 1943. For the reasons we have previously stated, **it’s** difficult enough as it is to believe that it was installed in a phone dated April, 1940, let alone from 1943!

<sup>2)</sup> **According to the supposed fax from Mr. Rochus Misch, the telephone was in Hitler’s possession during the years 1944 and 45.**

**Was the “Hitler Telephone” *in being*** in use elsewhere prior to its magical metamorphosis, or was it just lying around in a corner of the VBT plant in Munich, gathering dust for four years?

One hypothesis set forth by a German telephone collector, who wrote his own exposé **concerning the “Hitler Telephone”** for the newsletter of a German telephone **collector’s** association, rightly pointed out that Brig. Rayner may have *bought* the phone from some unknown person, instead of having found it himself, since the Allies were really nuts for “authentic” memorabilia (*especially* anything having to do with Hitler) no matter *how* dubious the quality and how shaky the purported provenance might have been, and paid top dollar for such items.

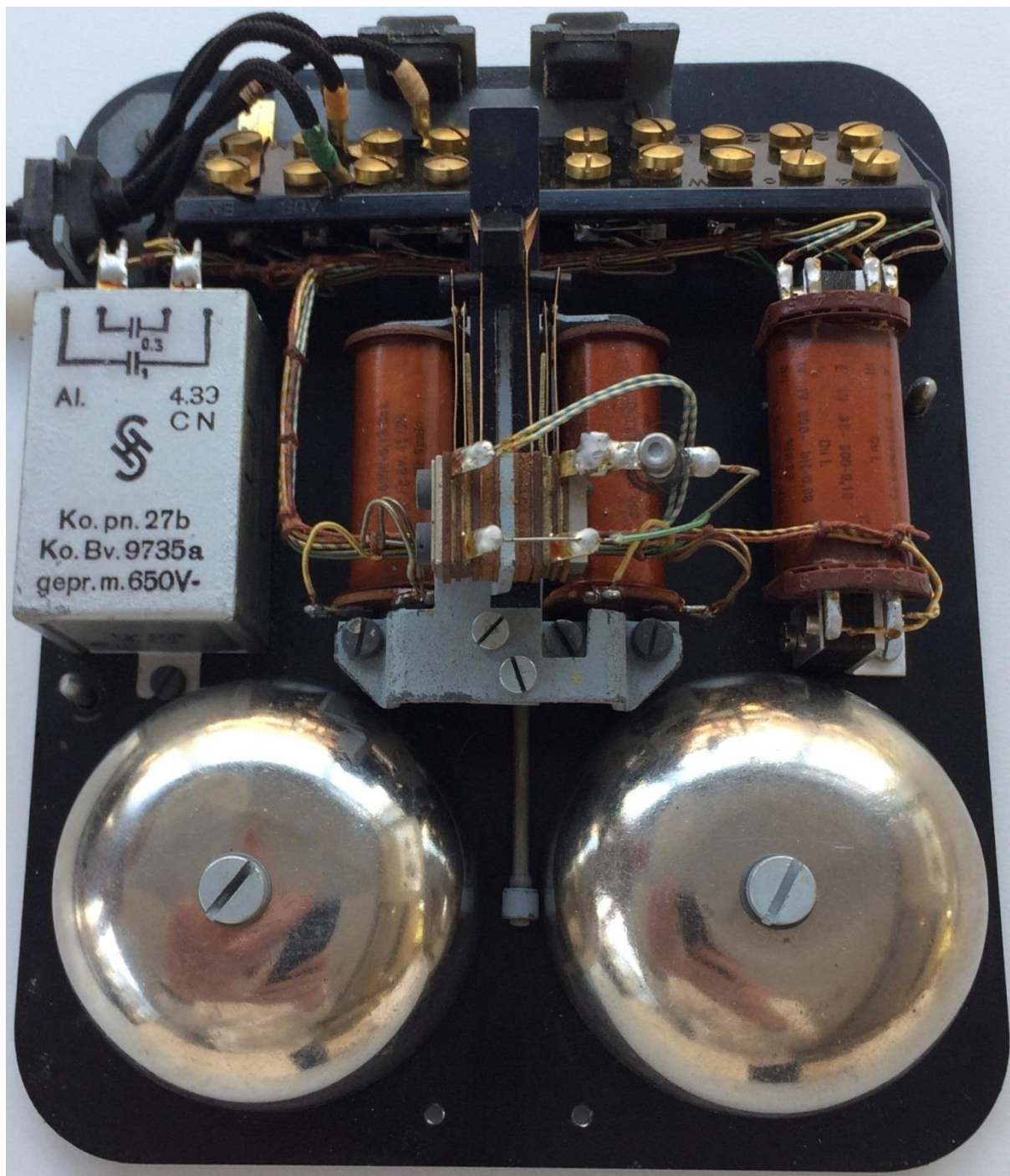
According to the theory, the phone was offered to Rayner as a black Siemens phone, missing a goodly number of parts, but already sloppily engraved with the Nazi eagle and **Hitler’s name, and that Rayner bought it, took it home, and replaced the missing pieces** as good as he could (using a number of British and late-model German W48 phone parts in the process). The engravings *may* have already been filled in with gold-colored paint when he bought the phone, and it is felt that the phone was *afterwards* painted red, with a red finger-wheel and “ground” pushbutton being added for good measure, possibly immediately after the Cuban missile crisis, or maybe many years later.

A thorough *chemical* analysis of the red paint (which AHA neglected to have made) would have been necessary in order to determine its approximate age and type. We are agreed upon that the red paint is most likely some sort of boat paint, because such paints would be readily available **at Dawlish in Devon, England ... after all, in his interview, Maj. Rayner stated that “... we’ve got a magnificent view some 80 miles out across the ocean ...”** and, where there is an ocean at hand, there are boats and companies which sell boat paints.

**The paint on the “Hitler Telephone” could well be an oil-based boat hull paint**, since there are so many fine wrinkles to be seen in the paint on the inside of the housing, and such wrinkles are most commonly associated with oil-based paints. Besides this, oil-based paints have a high viscosity and thus leave relatively thick layers, as is the case.

However, it *could* also be a latex-based paint – *both* types would adhere more or less well to untreated Bakelite and leave an (originally) intact “skin” on the same; and both types would eventually begin to peel and flake off the Bakelite, since the same is completely untreated in the way of sanding and primer paint. Likewise, latex-based paint would also be wont to wrinkle as it dried out.

We had just called it quits when we finally received several photographs (as referred to on page 21) of an original W38 from a member of **the German telephone collector's group "SIG"** (Sammler- und Interessen-Gemeinschaft für das historische Fernmeldewesen e.V. – **Collector's and Community-Interests Group** for historical telecommunications, a registered society); the four photos are © 2017 by SIG and were originally published in volume 57 (July '17) of their journal.



This W38 is a "Fg. Tist. 182a," without the "earth" pushbutton. Points of interest are: the spade lugs on the handset cord (although not terminated where they belong according to the schematic), the DOM on the condenser (4.39), that the condenser is actually comprised of two separate units in a common can, and how neat the undisturbed wiring is.





Points of interest: the manner in which the number card holder is attached to the housing, the dial cord is terminated in spade lugs, the dial cord is properly routed and **the dial itself is marked as being model "N 38"** (which is correct). The DOM on the dial is 8.39 and the dial is marked with the Reichspost stamp of ownership near the left-hand attachment screw (refer to page 113 for more info on the "RP" stamp).

As can also be seen, the dial is mechanically linked to the handset cradle, which is proper for a W38.

An interesting thing to take note of is that the dial of this W38 has **six** wires instead of the usual four – the extra two wires (slate and pink) belong to a **second** off-normal contact, which is the correct dial for early versions of the W38. This second off-normal contact was used to directly short the receiver capsule out when dialing; it was deleted from later W38s which thus had dials with only four wires.



Points of interest: the markings on the base are the correct and original ones, typical of Siemens/VBT; take special note of the numeral "3" in "31" – this is the correct style for VBT markings for that date and age. The two markings "A44" and "A46" are of the proper size in relation to the other markings, and do not contain any "periods" or "decimal points." The marking "A.23" of the "Hitler Telephone" is *much* too large in comparison, and the "g" in "Fg" is variant to the norm (refer to page 112).

The base is double-marked "W38" and "Fg. Tist. 182a," which "officially" means that it was a Reichspost phone, but it is lacking the boxed "RP" ownership stamp.

The DOM on the base is "U11" (November, 1939), which is believable for a phone with a condenser from April, 1939, and a dial from August of the same year. On the other hand, the DOM of the condenser and the W38 from which the "Hitler Telephone" were manufactured do not match up so well.

We do not feel that the feet on this W38 are originals, since they are of the "pin" type, which we find to be more common for the 1950s (refer to page 113).



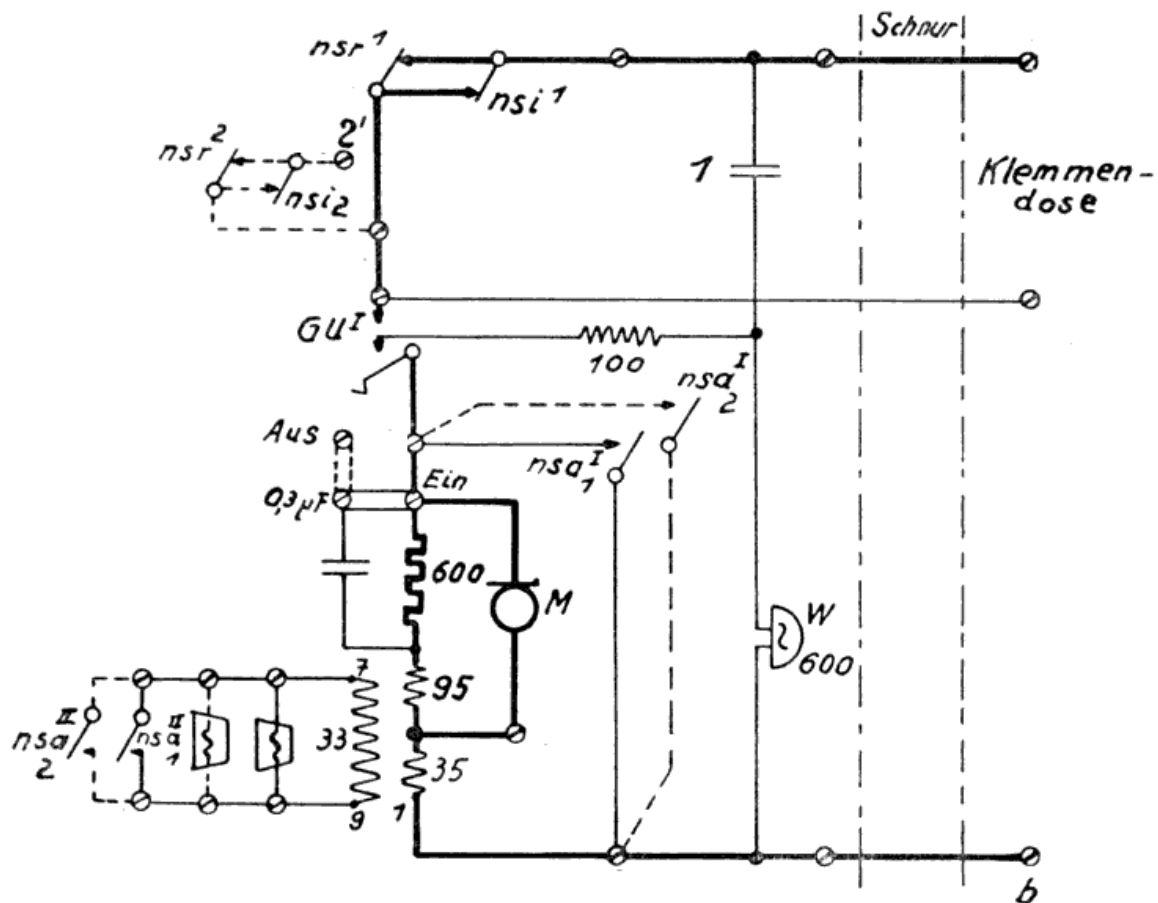
Points of interest: both rubber blanking plugs are intact, the middle slot being where the line cord enters the phone; neither is chopped out as it is **on the "Hitler Telephone."**

The body shows a an odd *discrepancy* when viewed from the rear – while the handset cradle carries what we deem to be the proper marking for a W38 telephone, the housing should **not** carry a logo decal from Siemens, because this is ostensibly a Reichspost phone, and the Reichspost *forbade* manufacturers of phones (which were to be connected directly to the PSTN) to brand their phones on exterior surfaces.

Then there is the fact (as mentioned on page 21) that the color of the decal is much lighter than that of the wording on the cradle – this would *normally* indicate that the two were of different age; we are unable to explain this anomaly.



In the course of our far-reaching research into the "Hitler Telephone," we also found a schematic for the early-style Fg. Tist. 182a (as shown in the previous four photographs). We present it here for those who are interested in such things ....



We concede that we have modified the schematic in that we have *expunged* all traces of the screw terminal numbers to which the line, dial and handset cords are connected to, so that only someone with the proper knowledge can figure it out – as we already wrote on page 31, the terminal strip of the "Hitler Telephone" is **incorrectly wired up**, and we have no desire to help *anyone* wire up the terminal strip correctly.

We do wonder whether or not this schematic bears *any* resemblance to the one Peter von Siemens supposedly supplied to Maj. Rayner ....

To finally come to an end:

It is a **known fact** among collectors that more than 98 percent of the Nazi regalia on the market today are forgeries (ranging from the shoddiest to the most cunning). If one is so obviously unable to spot fakes – **then don't bother dealing in them** and cheating folks in the process .... No one should buy such trumped-up junk, **and** no one should bolster the most **unsavory** trade in the same.



*You never know who's on the wires!*

**BE CAREFUL  
WHAT YOU SAY**