

Was Germany ready to drop a nuke on New York?  
Did they have the technology needed to do it?

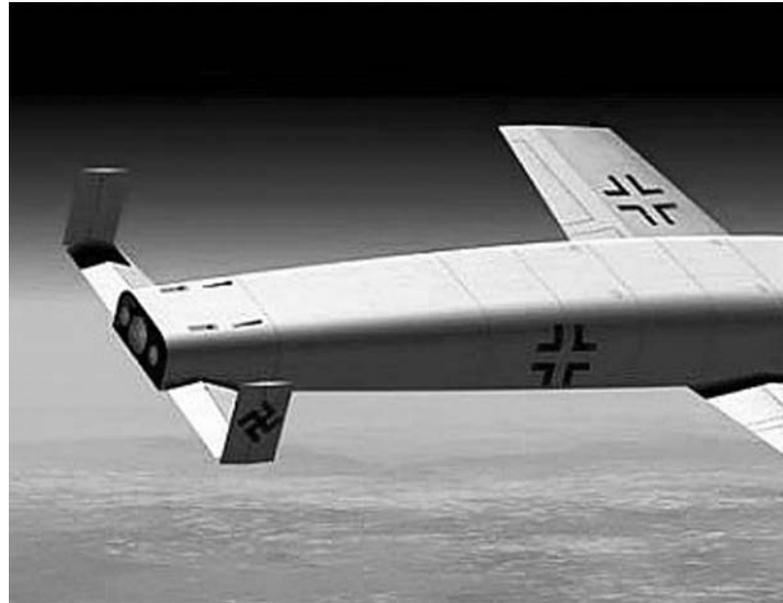
# The Nazis' Big Apple

AMERICA HAD A COUPLE OF TIGERS by the tail when our people foolishly allowed themselves to be stampeded into war against Germany and Japan in what is now known as World War II. While neither Axis country wanted war with the United States, they were capable of putting up quite a fight. What few have ever realized is that both nations had nuclear weapons, and at least one of them—Germany—had ICBMs. Did the Big Apple escape being nuked by the skin of its teeth? Would Adolf Hitler—as so many honest Hitlerian scholars insist—have actually agreed to drop an atomic weapon on the United States and his Anglo-Saxon brethren unless his own nation faced utter annihilation? The possibility is discussed here.

BY PHILIP RIFE

On January 8, 1945 (four months before Germany's surrender in World War II), a Navy admiral responsible for America's East Coast defenses held an extraordinary briefing for members of the local press aboard a warship anchored in New York Harbor. The purpose was to prepare the public for what seemed a very real threat of an enemy attack:

Gentlemen, I have reason to assume that the Nazis are getting ready to launch a strategic attack on New York and Washington by robot bombs. I am here to tell you these attacks are not only possible, but probable as well, and that the East Coast is likely to be



buzz bombed within the next 30 or 60 days.

The thing to do is not to get excited about it. [They] might knock out a high building or two, might create a fire hazard, and most certainly would cause casualties. But [they] cannot seriously affect the progress of the war. It may only be 10 or 12 buzz bombs, but they may come before we can stop them.<sup>1</sup>

“Buzz bomb” is the name the Allies gave to Germany's jet-propelled V-1 guided missile. The V-1's relatively limited range (approximately 160 miles) ruled out a land-based attack on the U.S. mainland. However, Allied intelligence may have learned the Germans had recently devised a method for launching V-1s from submarines.

# A-Bomb



**Hermann Goering** realized that if Germany were to be able to attack America, it would need a craft capable of crossing the Atlantic and returning. Scientist Eugen Saenger thus suggested the Silbervogel (“Silver Bird”) artist’s conception shown left. A more likely carrier for an atomic weapon would have been a rocket with submarine launch capability or a two-stage, long-range rocket like the A-9.

Whether launched from a ramp on land or catapulted from the deck of a surfaced U-boat, V-1s in their horizontal flight could be seen and heard and (as the British had proved repeatedly) often shot down by anti-aircraft guns or fighter planes before they reached their intended target. That may explain why the admiral didn’t seem overly concerned about V-1s possibly being aimed at American cities.

The V-1 threat to America never materialized. But what the admiral had no way of knowing was that a much greater threat may have been ready for use against them: the revolutionary two-stage A-9 long-range rocket.

In a postwar book he wrote, the general in charge of

the National Socialists’ rocket program described what made the A-9 such a fearsome weapon:

The missile was planned to reach a height of about 20 kilometers [12 miles], a maximum speed of 4,400 kilometers per hour [2,800 miles per hour] and then go into a shallow curving glide with a peak of nearly 30 kilometers [18 miles]. On arrival over the target, at a height of 5 kilometers [3 miles], it was planned to dive vertically.<sup>2</sup>

In today’s parlance, the A-9 was the world’s first intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). In the 1940s, there was no effective defense against a weapon of this type.

The National Socialists’ nicknames for the A-9—“America Rocket” and “New York Rocket”—left little doubt as to one of its ultimate intended targets. Just how narrowly America dodged the A-9 “bullet” is one of the most-overlooked stories of World War II. In the end, the United States was spared as an A-9 target, thanks largely to massive Allied bombing raids that forced the Germans to relocate their rocket production to bomb-proof facilities laboriously tunneled into solid rock in the sides of mountains, thereby delaying the A-9’s deployment for several crucial months.<sup>3</sup>

Even so, there are reports that successful test flights of the A-9 were made in January and March of 1945—and there’s a tantalizing clue suggesting the Germans may have used at least one other A-9 in combat against a different foe. A Cold War-era article in a Russian science

**“The V-1 threat to America never materialized. But a much greater threat may have been ready: the revolutionary two-stage A-9 long-range rocket.”**

magazine contained a curious allusion to the mysterious destruction of a Soviet munitions complex near the Ural Mountains sometime in 1945 by a “terror attack” representing “fascist perfidy.” The writer likened it to American B-52 bomber strikes during the Vietnam War. However, the only National Socialist weapon capable of penetrating more than 2,000 miles of Soviet-controlled airspace at the time was an ICBM.<sup>4</sup>



## Teutonic Ingenuity in Action

To overcome the great distance that prevented Germany from attacking the United States, an official of the German Labor Front, Director Otto Lafferenz, suggested that a watertight container be constructed, in which a V-2 ballistic missile could be brought within range of the American coast. The idea was discussed at the Penemunde research facility. The plan was to send three 500-ton displacement containers towed by a submarine. Each container, adjusted to neutral buoyancy, concealed a V-2. Upon reaching the launch location, the containers would be trimmed to a vertical position and the rockets launched. The idea was filed away until 1944, when it was given the code name Prufstand XII and work secretly began. While the records indicate that one such submarine launch container was completed, it was never tested with a live firing. The concept was proven sound by the Soviets in the 1950s. Using captured plans and German engineering assistance they produced the Golem submarine towed missile. At left are shown several smaller ship-to-ship rockets being test-launched from a U-boat.

But even if the Germans succeeded in deploying rockets capable of reaching the U.S. mainland, it would have required a large number of well-targeted strikes to significantly impair the nation's war-making capacity. This calculus might well change, however, if the National Socialists were able to fit their rocket warheads with something more destructive than conventional explosives.

As it turns out, National Socialist scientists were hard at work on the same weapon of mass destruction we were: the atom bomb.

For decades following World War II, the conventional wisdom was that the Germans lagged far behind the Allies in the race to build an A-bomb. However, some recent revelations have called that long-held belief seriously into question.

As reported by an American news-wire service in 1998: "Once top-secret files on Nazi Germany's race to build an atomic bomb are being opened to the general public for the first time. The documents suggest that German research into the atomic bomb was 'nearly parallel' with efforts in the United States."<sup>5</sup>

Actually, even that surprising reassessment underestimates German progress in the area of atomic weaponry.

One particularly well-placed American weighed in on the threat of National Socialist atomic weapons development at the time, albeit off the record. A close friend and confidante of President Franklin Roosevelt recorded the following incident in her diary: "He had just gotten a secret report from a German source that the Germans had developed a bomb which will kill by concussion everything within a mile. They are planning to use it on New York City. The Germans are way ahead of us in that direc-

tion, though we are doing a lot of research to catch (up) to them."<sup>6</sup> (The U.S. wasn't developing a "concussion" bomb, but we were trying to build an atom bomb.)

For his part, Adolf Hitler was apparently quite bullish on Germany's atomic progress. A doctor who treated the National Socialist leader in the final months of the war later recalled a memorable statement his famous patient made to him in February of 1945:

In no time at all, I'm going to start using my victory weapon, and then the war will come to a glorious end. Sometime ago, we solved the problem of nuclear fission, and we have developed it so far

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that we can exploit the energy for armament purposes. They won't even know what hit them. It's the weapon of the future. With it, Germany's future is assured.<sup>7</sup>

In fact, there is some intriguing eyewitness testimony suggesting Germany's atomic weapons development progressed well beyond the theoretical stage.

In 2003, a leading German magazine recounted the strange wartime experience of a onetime resident of a secluded area of central Germany where a number of secret governmental research facilities were located: "She had seen a glowing light as bright as 'hundreds of bolts of

lightning, red inside and yellow on the outside, at approximately 9:30 p.m. on March 4, 1945. [The woman] went on to describe how a powerful squall had moved across the mountains. The next day, she said, she and others in the area had nosebleeds, headaches and sensations of pressure in their ears.”<sup>8</sup>

In 2005, an Italian man revealed his still-vivid memory of an incident that occurred when he represented Hitler’s ally Benito Mussolini at the test of a “disintegration bomb” conducted on a German island in the Baltic Sea in October 1944:

They took me to a concrete bunker with an aperture of exceptionally thick glass. There was a slight tremor in the bunker, a sudden blinding flash and then a thick cloud of smoke. It took the shape of a column and then that of a big flower.

The officials there told me we had to remain in the bunker for several hours because of the effects of the bomb. When we eventually left, they made us put on a sort of coat and trousers which seemed to be made of asbestos, and we went to the scene of the explosion.

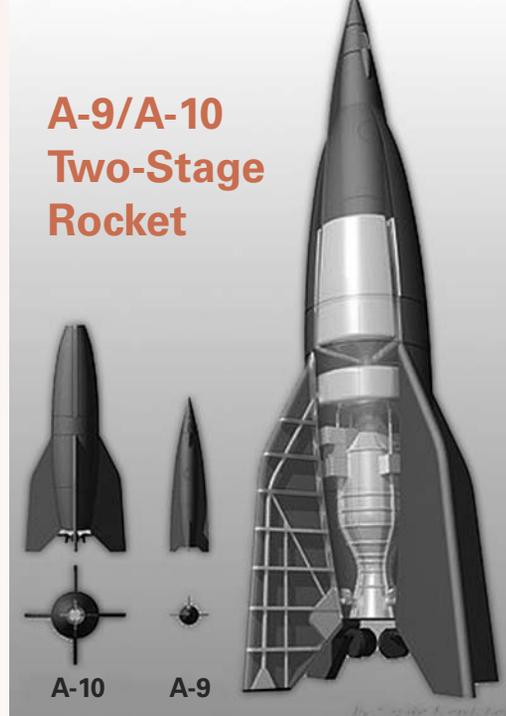
The effects were tragic. The trees around had been turned to carbon. No leaves. Nothing alive. There were some animals—sheep—in the area, and they too had been burnt to cinders.<sup>9</sup>

(This was more than nine months before the first acknowledged test of an American A-bomb in the New Mexico desert.)

A former German military pilot said he observed another apparent atomic test in northern Germany from the air earlier in October:

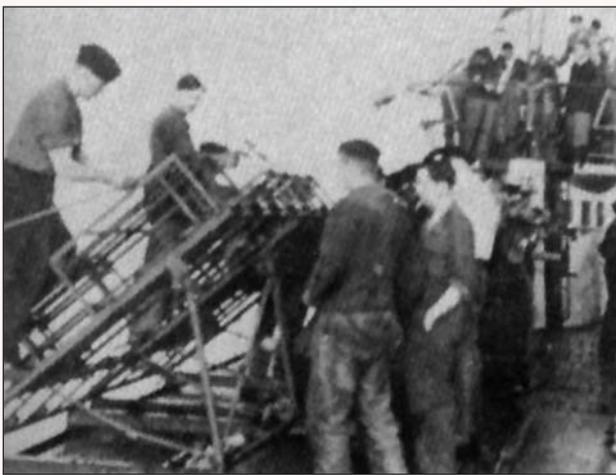
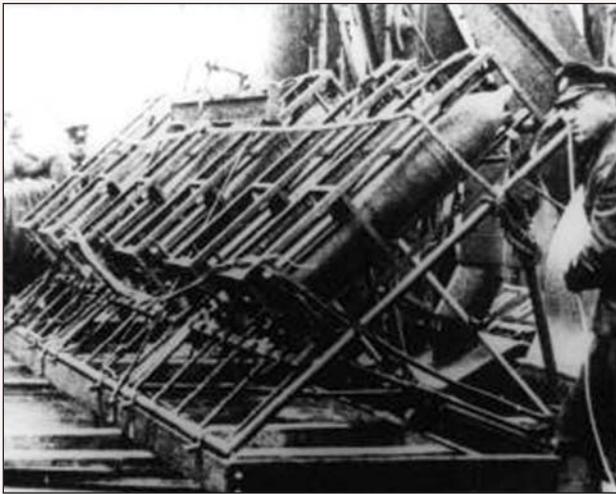
I [was] about 12 to 15 km (7.5-9.3 miles) from an atomic bomb test station when I noticed a strong, bright illumination of the whole atmosphere, lasting about two seconds. The clearly visible pressure wave escaped the cloud formed by the explosion. This wave had a diameter of about 1 km (0.6 mile), and the color of the cloud changed frequently. It became dotted after a short period of darkness with all sorts of light spots, which were, in contrast to normal explosions, of a pale blue color.

The witness landed at this point, but when he took off again an hour later, the unusual residual effects of the massive explosion were still very much in evidence: “A cloud shaped like a mushroom with turbulent, billowing sections stood over the spot where the explosion took



## The A-9/A-10 Rocket

The A-9/A-10 rocket represented one of the earliest detailed studies of a multistage rocket, capable of crossing the Atlantic Ocean. According to Werner von Braun’s own writings, the rocket of this class was envisioned as early as 1936, when yet-to-be built propulsion testing was designed to accommodate engines with thrust up to 200 tons. It would have been roughly enough for a trans-Atlantic rocket. The A-9/A-10 concept emerged far ahead of its time, but it was fueled by a dream of some in the WWII German government to bomb America, which also gave it a name—“Projektile Amerika.” To reach New York, the A-10 upper stage would have to follow a string of radio beacons deployed on submarines spread across the Atlantic. For its final guidance, the rocket could use a transmitter installed by agents in a window of a high-rise hotel in the heart of Manhattan. Another concept called for a manned version of the A-9 stage guided by a daring pilot. The manned version of the missile would be equipped with a pressurized cockpit, featuring life-support systems, cartographic radar and, apparently, an ejection seat, which would allow a pilot to bail out shortly before impacting the target. The original concept of the A-10 rocket envisioned a test version with a propulsion system made of six combustion chambers. The complexity of the rocket forced the Nazi leadership to abandon the idea around 1943, so the development center could concentrate on the all-but-flight-ready A-4. However, author Philip Rife believes the design was further along than the court historians have admitted. Above, artist’s rendering.



## German Rockets on U-Boats

Before the German submarine *U-234* surrendered to the U.S. Navy in the North Atlantic on May 14, 1945, the U.S. lacked sufficient enriched uranium for its Hiroshima bomb and a fuse to properly detonate its plutonium (Nagasaki) bomb. The *U-234*'s cargo—which ironically had been *en route* to Germany's ally Japan when Germany surrendered—included both enriched uranium and new infrared fuses unfamiliar to American scientists. The atom bomb dropped on Nagasaki less than three months later was detonated by an infrared fuse. (Hydrick, Carter P., *Critical Mass*, Whitehurst & Co., 2004.) Top photo: A German heavy rocket launcher Type 41. These could be mounted on wooden frames on the upper deck of a vessel. Lower photo shows the installation and testing of rocket equipment on *U-551*. All the equipment is German army-issue, 30 cm Wurfkorper 42 Spreng rockets then under development, firing from a Schweres Wurfgerat 41 launcher.

place. Strong electrical disturbances and the impossibility to continue radio communication as by lightning turned up.”<sup>10</sup>

Another eyewitness report suggests the Germans may have deployed a small tactical atomic weapon in combat against the Red Army on the eastern front. The information, recently declassified by the U.S. National Security Agency, apparently originated in an intercepted wartime message sent from the Japanese embassy in Stockholm, Sweden to Tokyo under the title “Reports on the Atom-Splitting Bomb”:

In June of 1943 the German army tried out an utterly new type of weapon against the Russians at a location 150 kilometers [93 miles] southeast of Kursk. Although it was the entire 19th Infantry Regiment of the Russians which was attacked, only a few bombs sufficed to utterly wipe them out to the last man. Colonel Kenji saw the actual scene immediately after. All the men and horses [within the area of] the explosion of the shells were charred black.<sup>11</sup>

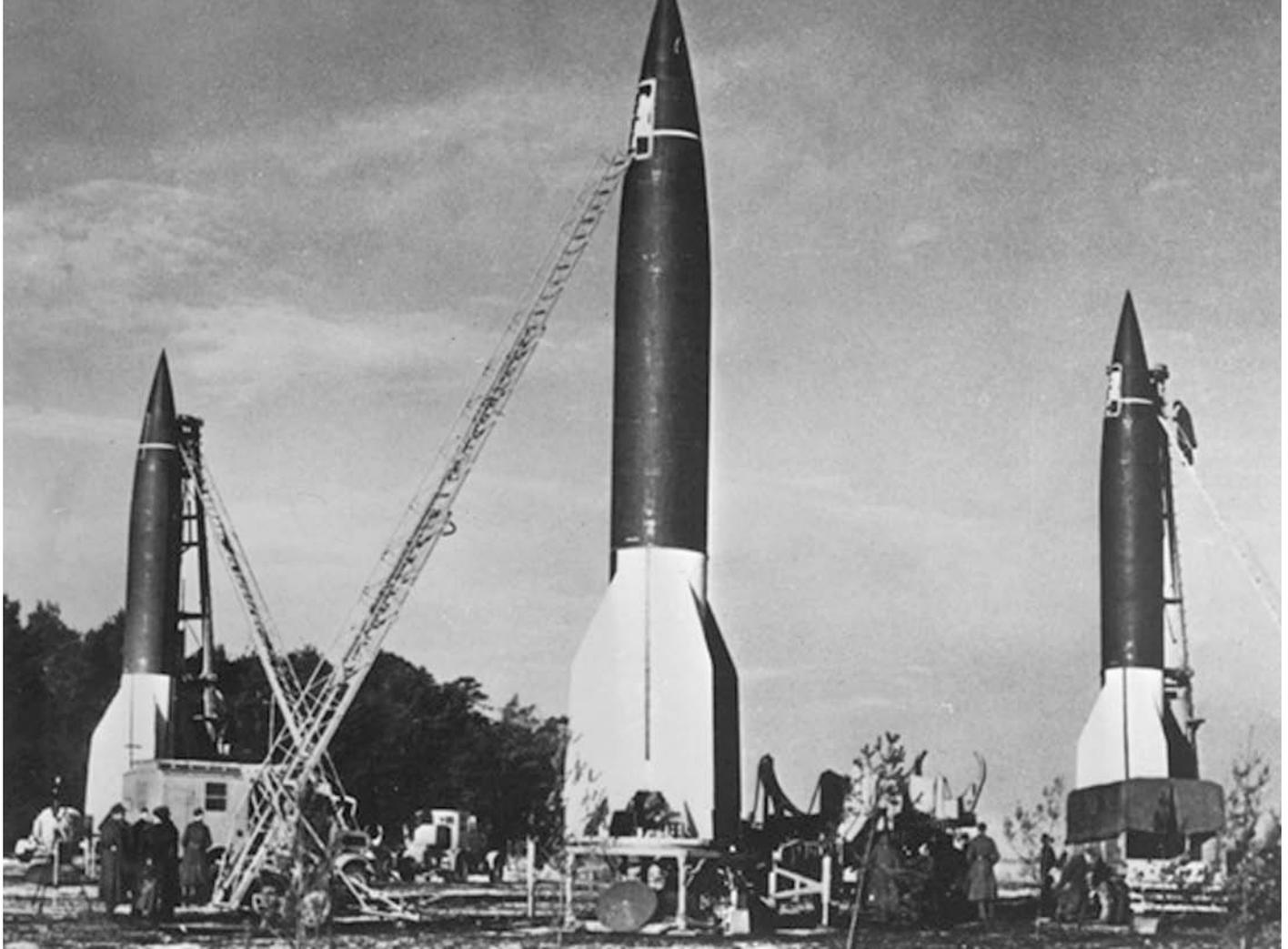
It is at this point that our old friend the A-9 rocket/ICBM once again enters the picture.

We learn the following from the memoirs of a Spaniard who was a top member of the National Socialist espionage service:

I had been receiving reports from our men in the United States and South America of a new American secret weapon. The reports hinted at an entirely new type of bomb of devastating destructive power. At the same time, I understood that Nazi scientists were working desperately to design a workable nuclear warhead for our rockets.”<sup>12</sup>

In World War II as today, the miniaturization of nuclear weapons presented added technical challenges. It's a little-known fact that, by late in the war, the Germans had several four- and six-engine planes (one of which reportedly flew to within 12 miles of New York City on a test flight in 1944) capable of carrying a full-size atom bomb and reaching North America. But they evidently opted for developing smaller tactical nukes delivered by ICBMs—which couldn't be shot down—rather than larger atom bombs carried by aircraft, which could be shot down. (The U.S. had no such delivery system option for its atomic weapons during World War II.)<sup>13</sup>

If what one group of eyewitnesses reported is true, the Third Reich's scientists did in fact succeed in miniaturizing an atomic weapon for a rocket warhead in order to achieve Hitler's goal of hitting the U.S. homeland.



**National Socialist Rockets: The Legacy**—V-2 rockets armed with conventional explosives were used with considerable effect against London and other cities. Over 3,000 V-2s struck their targets without warning after being launched from sites in German-occupied Western Europe beginning in September 1944. When the war in Europe ended, hundreds of unassembled V-2s along with many of the scientists who designed them and other German rockets (including future NASA pioneer Werner von Braun) fell into Allied hands. They formed the foundation of both the U.S. and Soviet ICBM and space programs in the postwar years. The dependence of both sides on former National Socialist scientists was so widely recognized that when the Soviets launched the world's first manmade satellite in 1957, comedian Bob Hope offered this explanation in one of his TV monologues: "Their Germans are better than our Germans." (Bar-Zohar, Michel, *The Hunt for German Scientists*, Avon Books, New York, 1970.) Above, V-2 rockets ready for launch in Poland, 1944.

The account, which appeared in a French magazine in 1958, described how a V-2 rocket (a smaller single-stage predecessor of the A-9) destroyed a collection of structures built to simulate a small town. The source of the account was apparently one or more French POWs employed as laborers by the National Socialists in northern Germany.

According to the article:

The rocket landed almost in the center of the buildings with a deafening detonation. There was a huge flame, and everything was covered with a dense, gray, heavy smoke, while a warm, breath-cutting puff of air spread rapidly. It took more than

one hour for this dense curtain to clear. From the buildings, only debris remained. Metallic constructions stuck out of the ground, shapeless and melted.

The tall trees were no more than burned trunks. At the point of impact, the ground was . . . furrowed with deep crevasses, actually burning in some points and dug as if subjected to an enormous pressure. The cars parked in the street were reduced to debris or violently thrust by the explosion against the houses on fire. The concrete train station had partly collapsed. The locomotives had resisted the blow, but the smashed and tipped-over [railcars] showed their insides.<sup>14</sup>

Further confirmation of the Germans' tactical nuclear ICBM approach comes from a French civilian who worked for the Germans during the war. He said he saw blueprints for a specially designed rocket-launching site scheduled to be built near the western coast of occupied France—a fine location from which to launch rockets across the Atlantic toward North America. (V-2s were fired from mobile launchers when used in combat.)

In addition, he recalled German engineers assigned to the project boasting that the National Socialists were developing a powerful new weapon capable of destroying everything within a 1/2-mile radius of the target—a damage pattern more indicative of a small tactical nuke than either conventional explosives or a full-size atom bomb.<sup>15</sup>

Apart from any physical damage inflicted on war production facilities, nuclear missiles raining down on U.S. cities without warning could be expected to take a toll on morale and support for the war.

A document captured by U.S. forces in Germany showed just how precisely the National Socialists planned the delivery of their nuclear warhead-equipped ICBMs. It included a detailed map of New York City with a bull's-eye positioned near Delancey Street and the Bowery in lower Manhattan.<sup>16</sup> ♦

**ENDNOTES:**

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7. Irving, David, *Hitler's War*, Avon Books, New York, 1990.
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15. Henshall, Philip, *Vengeance*, Sutton Publishing, Phoenix Mill, UK, 1998.
16. Stevens, *op. cit.*

*PHILIP RIFE* is the author of *The Pariah Files: 25 Dark Secrets You're Not Supposed to Know—Surprising Facts About 22 Famous Deaths, Premature Burials: Famous and Infamous People Who Cheated Death and Hoodwinked History* and more.

# HITLER Democrat

## The Personal Memoirs of Gen. Leon Degrelle

When retired Belgian General Leon Degrelle—the last surviving major figure from World War II—died in Spain in 1994, he was in the early stages of a proposed fourteen volume series of works to be collectively titled “The Hitler Century.” At the time of his death, the colorful and outspoken—and exquisitely literary—Belgian statesman had completed some three volumes, but outrageous and insidious intrigues by certain enemies of truth in history sabotaged most of his work. However, thanks to the energetic efforts of a group of honest historians—graciously supported by Madame Degrelle, the general’s widow—a substantial portion of his work was rescued and published over a period of years in *THE BARNES REVIEW*, the bimonthly journal of Revisionist thought. Now, that material appears here in *Hitler Democrat* between two covers for the first time. In the end, this volume is not only a monumental work of history, a genuine epic, but it is also in its own fashion a tribute to the man behind it: front-lines fighting Waffen SS officer Leon Degrelle.

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