

“Inside Hitler's Bunker”

*Who would have thought it of us?
Yes it will rise again.
Certainly it won't come overnight,
But just after the dark of the night
The sun laughs again,
So will the lindens bloom along Unter den Linden.
Berlin remains forever Berlin."*

SOURCE: Life Magazine,

<http://www.life.com/image/ugc1042742/in-gallery/42032/wwii-inside-hitlers-bunker>, visited October & November , 2010.

“In April, 1945, as Russian and German troops fought -- savagely, street-by-street -- for control of the German capital, it became increasingly clear that the Allies would win the war in Europe. Not long after the two-week battle ended, 33-year-old LIFE photographer William Vandivert was on the scene, photographing Berlin's devastated landscape. . . Vandivert was the first Western photographer to gain access to Hitler's *Führerbunker* (translation: "shelter for the leader") after the fall of Berlin . . . Hundreds of thousands perished in the Battle of Berlin -- including untold numbers of civilian men, women, and children -- while countless more were left homeless in the ruins. But it was two particular deaths -- that of Hitler and his longtime companion and (briefly) wife, Eva Braun -- in a sordid underground bunker on April 30, 1945, that truly signaled the end of the Third Reich. Here, LIFE.com presents never-before-published images from both the bunker itself, and the decimated city beyond its concrete walls.”

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Berlin, 1945: Dead City

“A never-before-published photograph of a main street in central Berlin, Oberwallstrasse, where some of the most bitter fighting between Nazi and Soviet troops took place.”

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Inside Adolf Hitler's Bunker

“A new view of a photograph that appeared, heavily cropped, in LIFE of Hitler's command center in the bunker, partially burned by retreating German troops and stripped of valuables by invading Russians.”

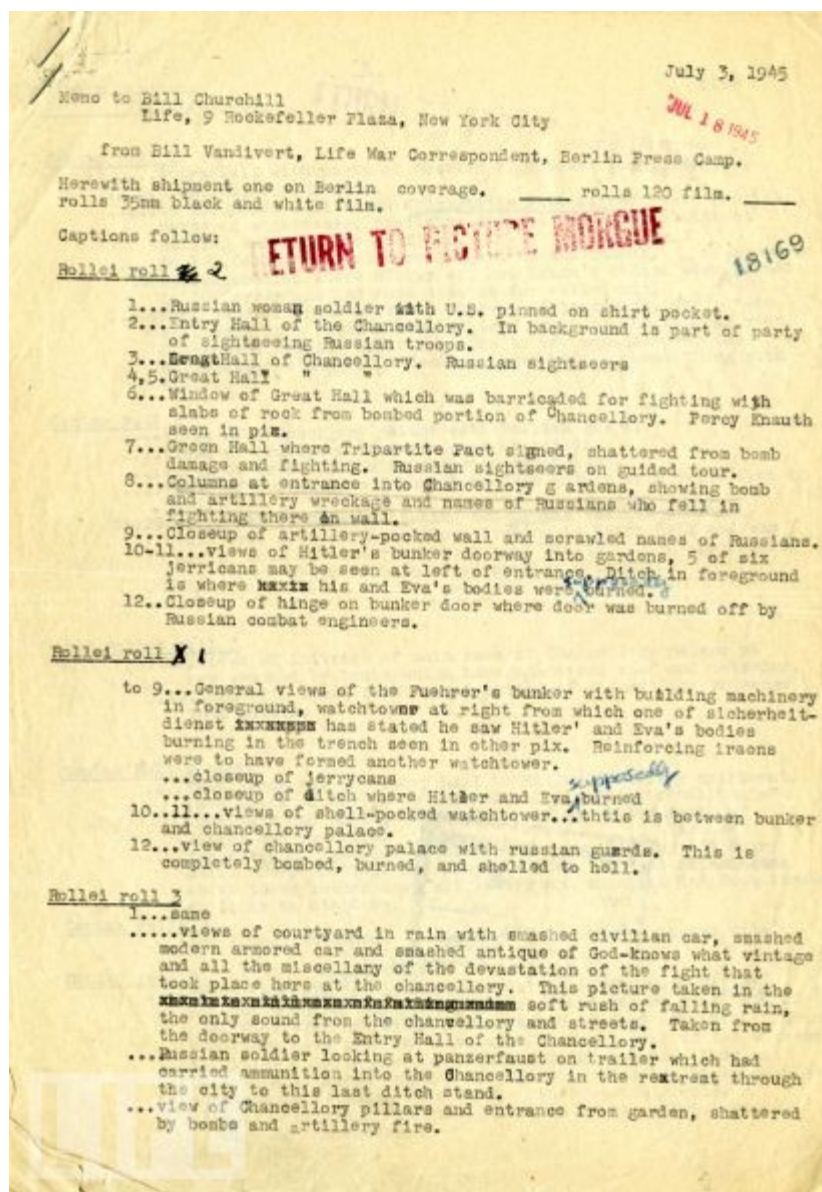
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Stolen Relics

“This never-before-published image not only captures the chaotic state of Hitler's bunker when Vandivert made his way there in 1945, but also features an item that recalls the wanton gangsterism and greed that characterized Nazi rule: a 16th-century painting looted from a museum in Milan. In the typed notes (see next slide) that Vandivert sent to LIFE's New York offices "immediately after getting to Berlin," Vandivert described his intense and harried visit to the bunker: **"(Note and note well)," he wrote "These pix were made in the dark with only candle for illumination since lights were only on in two rooms and when we were there there were no lights at all. Our small party of four beat all rest of mob who came down about forty minutes after we got there."** ”

[Why do these prejudiced reprobates always say any “art” found in the possession of National Socialists is “stolen art”, when they have no proof of it other than assertions of other people?]



'Bombed, Burned, and Shelled to Hell'

"This is the first of the 20 or so pages of notes that Vandivert typed up for LIFE's editors back in New York, describing not only the pictures that were taken on each roll of film, but also the mood and the atmosphere pervading his experience of examining Hitler's bunker and the Reich Chancellery grounds. (An example of Vandivert's terse, vivid notations: "... view of chancellery palace ... This is completely bombed, burned, and shelled to hell.")"

[Note how two handwritten blue-pencil entries say "supposedly" in "... ditch were Hitler and Eva *supposedly* burned" There is NO PROOF that Hitler or Braun were dead; only assertions from others whose loyalty would be so strong as to withstand any interrogation, if they survived at all. Everyone else acquainted with or hearing any activity merely *assumed* these two committed suicide and were dead. No one really knows what happened to Hitler and Braun, and for all anyone knows, Hitler's faithful followers forced them both to leave Berlin.]

Rollei roll 5 (reportedly)
...Pix of Huss and Knauth looking at sofa where Hitler and Eva
shot themselves. Note bloodstains on arm of sofa where Eva
bled. She was seated at far end. Hitler sat in middle and
fell forward, did not bleed on sofa. This is in Hitler's
sittingroom.
...several variations of same, one with Fleischer and Huss looking
with candle on floor, but water had obliterated marks
...taken without them in, too.
(Note and note well) ... These pix were made in the dark with only
candle for illumination since lights were only on in two rooms
and when we went there there were no lights at all. Our small
party of four beat all rest of mob who came down about forty
minutes after we got there. Had to work fast and almost blindly
to get what you see here. Pix on rolls 1-3 (Rollei) and
first contact roll were made long before any other correspondents
discovered the garden bunker and the spot where Hitler was burned.
Percy and I got down there Tuesday afternoon immediately after
getting to Berlin, made a second trip with Huss and Fleischer to
verify some things they had discovered while Percy was away from
Berchtesgaden.
....pix of couch from burned out entry hall.
....closeup of bloodstains on end of couch.
....Hitler's desk seen from about position of couch in sittingroom.
....moldy SS cap lying in water on floor of sittingroom.

Rollei roll 6
...Pix of Linz Gallery portfolio which lying on table in Hitler's

Close-Up of Vandivert's Notes

"Here, Vandivert describes his brief time in the very place where Hitler and Eva Braun ended their lives: "Pix of Huss and Knauth looking at sofa where Hitler and Eva reportedly shot themselves. . . Had to work fast and almost blindly to get what you see here."

[Note again, the use of handwritten blue-pencil entries of "reportedly", as in, "where Hitler and Eva *reportedly* shot themselves..." and "where Hitler's body was *supposedly* burned..." They don't know.]



Blood in the Bunker

“With only candles to light their way, war correspondents examine a couch stained with blood (see dark patch on the arm of the sofa) located inside Hitler's bunker. In his typed notes Vandivert wrote: **"Pix of [correspondents] looking at sofa where Hitler and Eva shot themselves. Note bloodstains on arm of soaf [sic] where Eva bled. She was seated at far end Hitler sat in middle and fell forward, did not bleed on sofa. This is in Hitler's sitting room."** Remarkable stuff -- but, it turns out, only about half right. Historians are now quite certain that Braun actually committed suicide by biting a cyanide capsule, rather than by gunshot -- meaning that the blood stains on the couch are quite likely Hitler's, and not Eva Braun's, after all.”

[Well, maybe not! Here we find our dynamic trio looking about like real detectives – in the dark! Has there been known any blood analysis of the *supposed* bloodstains? Does anyone know what Hitler's and Braun's blood types were? If it was a gunshot death for either or both, where is the bullet damage to the wall, if the slug went thru his head, as it most likely would? It is the oft-repeated Jewish view that Hitler had taken the Teutonically cowardly way out by cyanide poison,

rather than the approved, heroic manner of “falling upon one's own sword” by self-inflicted gunshot. Some believers actually suggest Hitler did both: first chewing on the cyanide and then shooting himself. An odd if not impossible combination. Anything to perpetuate the myth. (This same image is also found elsewhere in this greater MK Image Gallery).]

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The Ditch

“In a never-published Vandivert photograph, LIFE war correspondent Percy Knauth (left) sifts through dirt and debris in the shallow trench in the garden of the Reich Chancellery where the bodies of Hitler and Eva Braun are believed to have been burned after their suicides. Vandivert's typed notes around this scene include one of the more laconic of the photographer's sometimes-slangy observations of what he witnessed while exploring outside the bunker: “[S]hattered bird feeding box on tree trunk ... These bird feeding boxes are also seen all over the Berchtesgaden hangout [i.e., Hitler's mountaintop retreat in the Bavarian Alps]. Seems to have been a great thing with Hitler.””

[Again we see “are believed” as in “where the bodies of Hitler and Eva Braun *are believed* to have been burned...” And there must have been plenty of “ditches” to look at. Remember, the Soviets had already been here and left, with whatever they could assert as true, in the Soviet manner of “true”. (Bracketed text above as in the Original Text).]

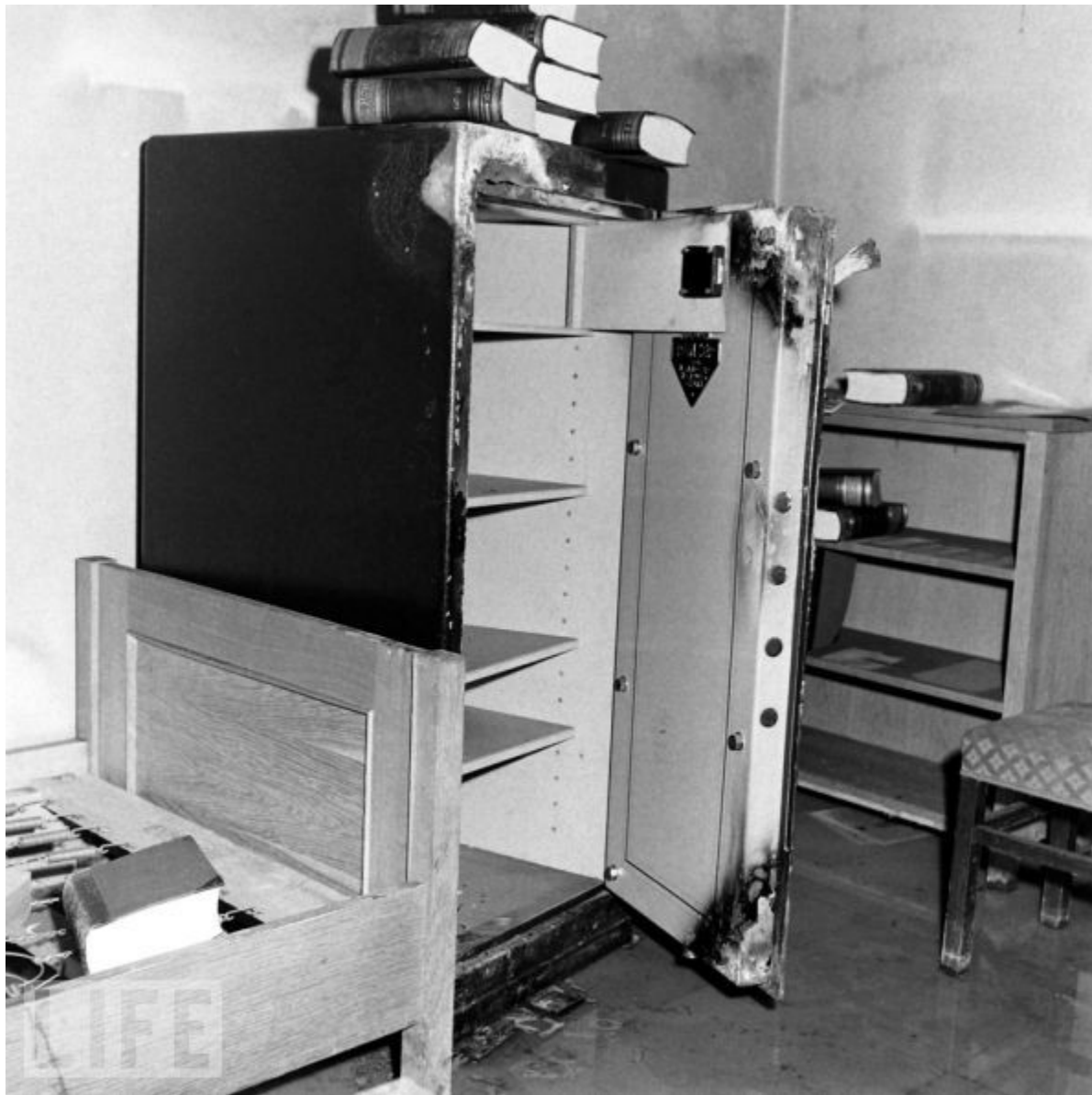


Death's Head

“A never-published photograph of an SS officer's cap, with the infamous "death's head" skull emblem just barely visible. Of this image, Vandivert's notes state simply: **"moldy SS cap lying in water on floor of sitting room."**”

[There is far too much mold on that cap to be so recently abandoned, but possible, if mold is also on the desk leg. Note also the upper emblem on this cap is missing, for some reason.]

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Loot

“The phrase "raping and pillaging" might sound like something from the Middle Ages, but nothing could more accurately describe the actions of countless Soviet troops as they entered and eventually conquered Berlin. No army in history has been completely innocent of these acts: "the spoils of war," after all, is little more than a nice way of saying "victors take whatever the hell they like." It's hardly surprising, then, that Russian troops stripped Hitler's bunker of whatever valuables might have remained after German troops torched the place and absconded with whatever could be easily carried. Pictured: A ruined, empty safe stands at the foot of a bed inside Hitler's bunker.”

[And exactly whose “loot” was it? Hitlers? Some Nazi's? Or the Soviets? Could the “raping and pillaging” be part of the “looting” of German virtue, as well? It is not known to

many that the Declaration of War by the U.S. Congress in 1941 has not come to an end: The “conclusion of peace” has not yet been accomplished; therefore, while a “cessation of hostilities” is in effect, Congress has yet to finally “conclude peace.” This may be why the U.S. Military has so many military bases in and/or near Germany and Japan.]

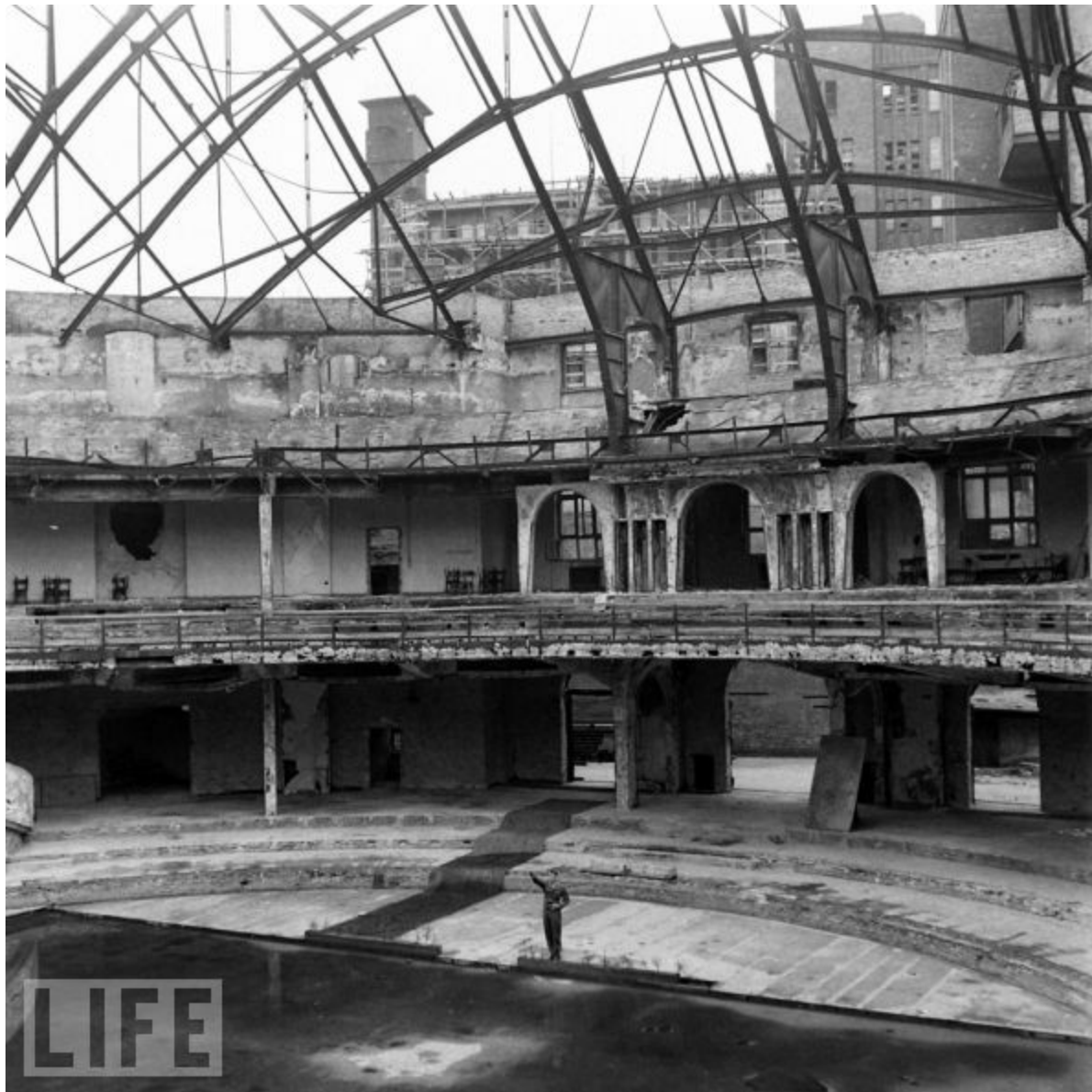
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No Living Thing: Berlin Beyond the Bunker

“Vandivert, LIFE reported, “found almost every famous building [in Berlin] a shambles. In the center of town GIs could walk for blocks and see no living thing, hear nothing but the stillness of death, smell nothing but the stench of death.” **Above:** A never-before-published aerial view of bombed-out buildings and wrecked gasworks in and around the Schöneberg section of Berlin. Between August 1940 and March 1945, American, RAF, and Soviet bombers launched more than 350 air strikes on Berlin; tens of thousands of civilians were killed, and countless buildings -- apartment buildings, government offices, military installations -- were obliterated.”

[“Tens of thousands killed” is a very small number.]



Empty Salute

“Allied troops (British, American, French, and Soviet) had fairly free rein in Berlin after the German surrender in May, 1945. “Free rein,” however, hardly meant basking in victory. For months after the Nazi defeat, the hard work and responsibility of bringing some sort of order to a ravaged city and a defeated, demoralized people fell to weary foot soldiers who wanted nothing more than to simply go home. **Above:** A never-before-published photograph of an American soldier, PFC Douglas Page, offering a mocking Nazi salute inside the roofless, bombed-out ruins of the Berliner Sportspalast, or Sport Palace -- a venue where the Third Reich often held huge political rallies and where Hitler and others frequently speechified. (Propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels once called the hall “our big political grandstand.”) Private Page is standing on the spot where Hitler usually stood while making speeches, before the building was destroyed during an Allied bombing raid on January 30, 1944.”

[The little puke could never stand there in the days of National Socialism; fortunate he would be to merely get inside the building as a janitor. And the Soviets were not at all in a hurry to go home.]



Fallen Eagle

“In a never-published photo, Russian soldiers and an unidentified civilian struggle to move a large bronze Nazi Party eagle which once loomed over a doorway of the Reich Chancellery in Berlin. **“They are loading this on to a truck,”** Vandivert typed in his notes, **“to be carried away as a trophy.”**

[More likely it will be used for scrap metal, eventually. 'Dollars to doughnuts' the “unidentified civilian” is a Jew, right?]



Graffiti

“A never-published Vandivert photograph, illustrating a common practice of soldiers through the centuries: scrawling graffiti to honor fallen comrades, insult the vanquished, or simply announce, *I was here. I survived.* **"Columns at entrance into Chancellery gardens,"** wrote Vandivert of this eerie scene, **"showing bomb and artillery wreckage and names of Russians who fell in fighting there."**”

[“I was there” might be most likely. Nothing indicates Vandivert knew any Russian language, so he must have been told of this supposed memorial effort by some lying Soviet. And why not? Who’s to say it isn’t?]



Forever Berlin?

"A never-published photograph -- almost too-perfectly symbolic of Berlin in the last weeks of April, 1945 -- features a crushed globe and a bust of Hitler lying amid rubble and debris outside the Reich Chancellery building. In LIFE magazine, the mood and scene in Berlin in the months after the city fell were described like this: "At week's end, as last-minute preparations were rushed in Berlin's suburb, Potsdam, for the Stalin-Churchill-Truman meeting, Allied occupation authorities did not know what to do about a subtly defiant song. Called *Berlin Kommt Wieder* (*Berlin Will Come Back*), it was spreading quickly from lip to lip. It wasn't the words themselves that made a Russian call the song "very dangerous," it was the way the people sang them: *Who would have thought it of us? / Yes it will rise again. / Certainly it won't come overnight, / But just after the dark of the night / The sun laughs again, / So will the lindens bloom along Unter den Linden. / Berlin remains forever Berlin.*" "

[See also in this MK Image Gallery, "Misc. Hitler, National Socialist, Military and SA/SS Leaders," at Images "Der Fuehrer's Reichskanzlei-Bunker artwork" and "Der Fuehrer's Reichskanzlei-Bunker, today"]