

● PSF: Subject File

Carter, John Franklin
Memorandum on Ernst
Jünger 12/6/43

(Pope interview of Hanfstaengl)

J.F. Carter for doc 3-13

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"We, the People"
"The Week in Washington"

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REPORT ON INTERVIEW WITH PUTZI HANFSTAENGL.

The attached report by Arthur Upham Pope is based on a long interview with Putzi Hanfstaengl. Pope has known Putzi for many years and, under proper conditions of secrecy, I thought that his impressions would be valuable.

J.F.C.
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December 6, 1943

MEMORANDUM ON ERNST JÜNGER

Dr. S. has called particular attention to ERNST JÜNGER because he believes him to be the coming man in Germany.

Dr. S. states that "Jünger is a man of very strong character, that he is a very able, patriotic and intelligent person and that people regard him with immense respect; that Hitler knows of him and fears him.

"Although he is known to be in Germany (probably in the Harz Mountains), and in contact with his associates, he moves around a great deal, and the Gestapo have not been able to put their hands on him.

"Furthermore, although he manages to evade apprehension, Ernst Jünger is known to a very large number of under-cover, liberal anti-Nazi forces in Germany."

The following notes on Ernst Jünger have been compiled from three sources (Nos. 2, 3 from O.S.S. files).

1. Dr. Robert M. W. Kempner, chief legal adviser to the centralized Prussian Police system 1928-1933, and now expert before Federal Courts and consultant to Federal Agencies, has supplied the following:

"Born in Heidelberg, March 29, 1895.

"His last known address, around 1940, was Ueberlingen am Bodensee, Weinbergstrasse 11.

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"He became very famous through his post-War books, all of which treated the themes 'Germany lives and should never perish,' 'the sacrifice of the first World War must not be in vain.'

"He became one of the most read nationalistic writers--a kind of counterpart to Erich Maria Remarque's 'no more war' philosophy as expressed in 'All Quiet on the Western Front.'

"The works of Juenger are: 'In Stahlgewittern,' 1920; 'Der Kampf als inneres Erlebnis,' 1922; 'Feuer und Blut,' 1926; 'Das abenteuerlich Herz,' 1929; 'Total Mobil-machung,' 1931; 'Der Arbeiter, Herrschaft und Gestalt,' 1932; 'Blaetter und Steine,' 1934; and 'Afrikanische Spiele,' 1936.

"During World War I the then Lieutenant Juenger was with the 111th Infantry Division. He was wounded six times, holds the Iron Cross first and second class, and received the high order of Pour le Merite on September 22, 1918.

"There exists a book about Juenger written in 1934 by W. C. Mueller. A picture of Juenger may be found in the writer's files if desired.

"After Hitler came to power, Juenger became a kind of poet-hero. However, I was surprised not to

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find his books so widely distributed in Nazi libraries. Maybe his super-nationalistic front fighter philosophy became too moronic-metaphysical for the more earthy-tough-gunman approach of the present Nazi gang.

"Juenger belongs to the group of the most potentially dangerous saboteurs and revival evangelists of a fifth Reich."

2. According to Der Grosse Brockhaus, 1931:

Political writer; born in Heidelberg in March, 1895; fought in World War I as a line officer, and was awarded the Pour le Merite; served in Reichswehr until 1923, and since 1925 has lived in Berlin and Leisnig pursuing his career of writing.

From personal experiences in the war, he wrote:

In Stahlgewittern, 1920; Der Kampf als inneres Erlebnis, 1922; Wäldchen 125, 1925; Feuer und Blut, 1925; Das Abenteuerliche Herz, 1929; has also written for Standarte, Arminius, Vormarsch, Die Kommenden.

In his writings he elevates the spirit of war over the bourgeois love of security; the most influential advocate of the "new Nationalism."

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3. According to "German Psychological Warfare" published by the Committee for National Morale, September, 1941, New York City:

Leader of a small but influential group of German military intellectuals who were stunned by the defeat of 1918, and joined together to salvage the "heroic spirit" of World War I, he urges the necessity of voluntary participation of a heroic nation united in "German Socialism," morally mobilized for the only possible goal: permanent struggle, i.e., war. Wrote Total Mobilization in 1930; in 1926, wrote War as a Spiritual Experience, in which war is described as "the religion of combat"; it is a most important book for the understanding of the motivating power of German youth in battle.

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