

7 Continued

7

MILCH
Ridiculous? It's disastrous!

As they go out, the door to the FUHRER's office opens -

A. D. C.
Baron von Richter.

RICHTER is one of Ribbentrop's diplomats; strained and rather aristocratic-looking. He is wearing his GERMAN DIPLOMATIC UNIFORM. We stay on RICHTER as he walks towards the office doors.

8 C. S. LADY KELLY BRITISH EMBASSY BERNE DAY 8
coming towards CAMERA.

LADY KELLY
Max ... How lovely to see you.

9 INT. HALL BRITISH EMBASSY DAY 9

In a REVERSE SHOT we see RICHTER - dressed differently, handing the BUTLER his hat and coat.

LADY KELLY
But when did you get back to Switzerland?

RICHTER graciously takes her hand and kisses it.

RICHTER
An hour ago. Straight from Berlin.

KELLY'S P. A. appears from the inner sanctum.

P. A.
The Ambassador will see you now, sir.

10 INT. KELLY'S ROOM DAY 10

The AMBASSADOR, SIR DAVID KELLY, is standing by his desk. Behind him, on the wall, hangs an official portrait of King George VI.

RICHTER pauses, standing stiffly and formally in front of KELLY.

RICHTER
Sir David, I am again instructed to emphasise that the Fuhrer wishes to avoid further bloodshed. England is not our natural enemy,

RICHTER (Cont)

and he offers guarantees for the British Empire if you give Germany a free hand in Europe.

KELLY stares silently at RICHTER, who continues -

RICHTER

Your Government's acceptance of this generous Appeal to Reason would save many thousands of lives, and I beg you to give it your most earnest consideration.

KELLY turns and crosses to a side table.

KELLY

I'm sorry, Max, I can never take your official manner very seriously.

KELLY starts to pour tea. RICHTER is not amused.

RICHTER

(goes to Kelly)

Berlin is getting impatient, David. Goering and his Luftwaffe would like to flatten London ...

KELLY continues pouring.

RICHTER

... As a prelude to invasion ...

KELLY

Two lumps you take, isn't it?

RICHTER

(frowns)

David, will you please listen? What's left of your army abandoned its weapons at Dunkirk. You're defenceless and just playing for time. We know the moves you are making in Washington - and we know the Americans won't be drawn in. If you want to know, their Embassy in London gives you two weeks at the outside.

KELLY

So what's stopping you?

RICHTER

Look, the Fuhrer's being very reasonable.
He offers guarantees ...

KELLY

Experience shows that the Fuhrer's
guarantees guarantee nothing.

RICHTER

All right, and what about Churchill?
After our last Appeal what do we hear?
"We will fight them on the beaches ..."
(pause)
What with?

KELLY

(keeping his patience
with an effort)
Winston gets carried away, sometimes.

RICHTER

(scoring a point)
With liquid courage, so they tell me.

KELLY glares at RICHTER, but manages to restrain his reply.

KELLY

Clearly you don't know him. And don't
assume that all English courage is liquid.

Both men are on the verge of losing their tempers; there is a moment
of tense silence.

RICHTER decides to make one last attempt. He takes a step towards
KELLY.

RICHTER

David ... We're not asking for anything.
Europe is ours. We can walk into Britain
when we want to. We just want to avoid
needless bloodshed.

KELLY

We never wanted this war, Max. And if
you think we're going to gamble on Herr
Hitler's guarantees, you're making a grave
mistake. All those years in England seem to

KELLY (Cont)

have left you none the wiser. We're not easily frightened and we also know how hard it is for an army to cross the Channel. The last little Corporal to try it got a bloody nose.

(beginning to lose his temper)

So don't order us about until you're marching down Whitehall - and even then we won't listen.

SILENCE.

RICHTER crosses to the door, where he turns to gaze at KELLY.

RICHTER

(quietly and without lifting his arm)

Heil Hitler.

11 INT. CORRIDOR BRITISH EMBASSY DAY

11

RICHTER comes from KELLY's room. A few steps along the corridor LADY KELLY is doing her flower decoration. She looks towards RICHTER.

But RICHTER doesn't even check his stride as, with the curtest of nods and a slight bow, he walks straight past her.

12 INT. KELLY'S ROOM

12

KELLY is pouring himself a drink, as LADY KELLY enters.

KELLY

(cross)

It's unforgiveable...

LADY KELLY waits for the revelation, but -

KELLY

... I lost my temper ...

LADY KELLY studies her husband a long moment.

KELLY

... What's so maddening is that he's right. We aren't ready and we're on our own. We've been playing for time ... And it's running out.