

Colonel Claus Schenk Earl of Stauffenberg - Chronology of the 20. July 1944 in Berlin

07:00

Claus von Stauffenberg leaves his flat in Berlin - Wannsee, Tristanstreet 8 with his Brother Berthold, they drive on the motorways A115 and A10 to the air station Rangsdorf.

08:00

Start of the flight over 560 km to Hitler's headquarters in Rastenburg, together with Stauffenberg's aide lieutenant Werner von Haeften. The courier plane starts just about 8 o'clock because of fog and lands at 10.15 o'clock in Rastenburg. From the airport Stauffenberg is driven 6 km to the northern entrance of the prohibited area II of the „Wolfsschanze“.

11:00

Within the prohibited area I. Stauffenberg hears, that the present „situation“ (situation discussion) doesn't take place at 13:00 as usual, but even at 12:30. The reason is the visit of the Italian leader, „il Duce“. On the way to the situation discussion he notices, that not the bunker, but the so called „Teahouse“ was fixed as conference room.

12:15

Stauffenberg takes the first explosive charge out of the briefcase, which Haeften had carried since they were landed. On the explosive charges there are two British chemical - mechanical detonators, which Stauffenberg starts with pincers.

During this difficult work they were disturbed unexpected. Staff sergeant Werner Vogel steps into the room and calls their attention to the situation discussion. Because of the confusion the assassin can arm only one of the both explosive charges. Nobody knows why Stauffenberg thought that one package would last and didn't take the second to the situation discussion.

12:30

After that Stauffenberg goes to the „Teahouse“. In the conference room Adolf Hitler welcomes the colonel in the general staff with his usual, searching look. „You are a little late!“ Besides Himmler and Göring, who are absent, the usual persons are present.

12:37

Claus von Stauffenberg goes to the map table in the head quarter and steps between general Kortenbach from the air force and colonel Heinz Brand. He sets the briefcase with the armed bomb on the floor and pushes it under the table, approximately 1.30 metre away from Hitler. From now the bomb is able to burst within 5 minutes.

925 gram plastic-explosive for a new Germany

12:40

Stauffenberg excuses his leaving of the conference room with a phone call used as a pretext. About ten minutes pass since Stauffenberg starts the fuse of the bomb.

12:42

Stauffenberg speaks with Erich Fellgiebel, the general of the signal corps, for a few minutes, and then an enormous explosion happens.

12:44

Stauffenberg is accompanied by second lieutenant Erich Kretz and his aide to the gate-keeper of the prohibited area I. Out of the driving car, a Horch, they saw the following:
„A dark cloud lies over the hut, map scraps fly through the air.“ They also can hear voices calling a doctor.

Stauffenberg gets a wrong impression of the effect of the bomb: „As if a 15 cm shell stroked! Almost nobody can be alive.“ On the entrance the car is stopped. Stauffenberg explains to the gate-keeper, that he had to reach the airport by all means.

13:15

Punctual the twin-engined propeller plane He-111 starts from the airfield on the estate Wilhelmsdorf to the flight to Rangsdorf.

13:30

The news blackout is already in force and the news of the attempt is transmitted to Berlin.

16:00

Stauffenberg lands on the air station Rangsdorf

16:05

Phone call Stauffenbergs with Bendlerstreet: „Hitler is dead!“

16:35

Stauffenberg arrives in the Bendlerstreet. He reports on the attempt, phones his cousin, lieutenant Cäsar von Hofacker in Paris: „Hitler is dead!“

since 14:00

First problems appear. General Friedrich Olbricht wants to start the coup d'état already on early afternoon, but he is hold back by colonel-general Fritz Fromm. So Fromm phones immediately with Keitel in the headquarters and get the answer: „What should be happened? It's all right.“ When he asks for the attempt Keitel answers: „There happened an attempt, but fortunately it failed.“

In the meantime there start first measures in Vienna, Prague, Paris and Kassel. Later the military department spreads the failure of the attempt between the forces marching to Berlin. This doesn't miss its effect.

17:00

Since quarter an hour the fundamental coup d'état order is given out to the army. However the whole communication runs very awkward. Every single telex has to be done several. One dispatch on a code recorder takes about quarter an hour, and all together about three hours.

19.13

The general in Prague, Ferdinand Schaal, speaks with Stauffenberg, who explains him: „Hitler is dead, I've been there myself. Previous and further information of the radio are wrong. Ordered steps against the SD (security service, subdivision of the SS) have to be speeded up!”

19:55

Stauffenberg phones the part of the army unit north, which is got in trouble on the eastern front and informs their chief of Hitler's death.

since 20:00

In the meantime the forces arrived in the Bendlerstreet. An armed group rushes in Olbrichts rooms. All officers standing in the corridor were pushed in Olbrichts rooms. Herber goes to Olbricht and asks him: „General, are you pro or versus Hitler?” Olbricht does not answer. In that moment Stauffenberg gets there. Herber and his men hold him tight.

23:15

Colonel-general Fromm reports: „A drumhead court-martial, consisting of three generals, condemned four men to death: Mertz, colonel in the general staff, Olbricht, general of the infantry, the colonel, whose name I don't know yet (Stauffenberg) and the lieutenant (Haeften).” Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg explains in only a few, firm words, that all of them acted as soldiers and his subordinated and that he bears the responsibility. Olbricht, Mertz, Haeften and Stauffenberg leave the room and were leaded away immediately.

00:05

In the dark yard of the Bendlerstreet ten non-commissioned officers and a second lieutenant stay ready -the execution squad-

The four defendants were putted in front of a sand heap. The glaring headlights of the vehicles standing in the yard light up the darkness. The order sounds. Stauffenberg shouts even louder: “Long live Germany!”

00:10

Colonel-general Fromm spreads the report of the execution by telex. The executed men were buried by a sergeant on the St. Matthäus - graveyard

in Schöneberg. The bodies were exhumed and burned on the next day. Their ashes is scattered over the Rieselfelder in Berlin.

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