

# Newsweek

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## Krautikaze?

Hanna Reitsch, a crack pilot and an ardent Nazi, first let out secrets of the Nazi regime when she described the last days of Hitler in Berlin (NEWSWEEK, Dec. 17). Last week, the Luftwaffe's female star turned venomously on her boss, Hermann Göring, and let out some more secrets.

Describing Göring as an incompetent egomaniac, befuddled by drugs and a "Caesar complex," she charged that his persistent falsification of air-production figures and distortions of Luftwaffe strength cost hundreds of thousands of German lives and prolonged the war for months after saner Nazis knew it was lost.

But Göring committed his greatest



### Göring stopped Hanna in midair

crime—in Hanna Reitsch's eyes—when he denied a suicide squadron its chance to cripple the Allied fleets massing against Germany before the 1944 invasion. Led by Captain Reitsch, a group of pilots wanted to fly planes carrying 4,000-pound bombs (or if possible V-1 flying bombs) directly into Allied warships. By their suicide, they believed they could halt an Allied invasion of the Continent. But Göring dismissed the idea as fantastic. Hitler and Himmler, Hanna Reitsch added, proved equally stupid.