

18 July 1943

The Bell Laboratory

Pennemunde Rocket Facility, Germany

13:32 Hours

“Dr. Lehovic...Dr. Lehovic! We are ready to test.”

“Ok. Let’s make sure we have all the variables set like I have asked. If I have done my math correctly, and I know that I have, then we are about to send this clock ahead in time precisely one minute. Note that both that time piece and the control clock are showing exactly the same time.”

While his team was making last minute notes and setting up last minute items, Franz was contemplating what this would mean if the test was successful. Time travel was theoretically possible and he, Dr. Franz Lehovic, was on the cusp of achieving it. As a scientist he should be giddy with excitement and anticipation. Why then did he have a knot of fear down deep in his stomach?

The laboratory was inside the Peenemunde rocket complex in North Germany. He was as safe from the Allies as could possibly be, yet he was afraid none the less. What he was afraid of, he couldn’t quite put his finger on, but it was there, just under the surface, waiting to attack him and he knew it. He was just about to give the go ahead on the experiment and the door to the lab was opened by two SS guards.

General Kammler walked in and looked around. Once he made eye contact with Franz he stepped over.

“How are we coming along, Doctor?” His words were crisp and sharp and full of expectation.

“Well, Herr General, we were preparing to start our first experiment with an object when you came in. I asked you for no interruptions as they would only slow us down.”

“So...I am an interruption?”

“Well, of course not.” Lehovic tried to back-pedal, but it was too late.

“Doctor. Could I speak to you for a moment in private?” Kammler asked, but it was actually an order and Franz knew better than to push his luck with this man. He stepped into his lab office and General Kammler stepped in behind him and closed the door.

“Doctor, Do I need to remind you that you work directly for me?” He didn’t wait for a reply but continued “When we were given this task from Der Furher, did he not make it clear to you that I am in command?! I will NOT be questioned in front of others!” He spoke very softly and added “Do I make myself clear?”

“Yes, Herr General. You are clear, and I didn’t mean to imply that you were an interruption. It will not happen again.”