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'INFORMANT' SAYS NO

Story of Bormann Debunked

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BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — The man who gained worldwide fame recently as the dogged "Argentine intelligence officer" who had traced down Martin Bormann, the world's most wanted Nazi war criminal, says that he has never seen Bormann, never, in fact, even looked for him and has no knowledge of whether he is dead or alive.

Juan Jose Velasco, who was identified as the star informant this month in the newspaper version of Martin Bormann's fate that was researched by Ladislav Farago, said last week in a series of

interviews in Buenos Aires that the documents used by Farago are forgeries.

A week-long investigation also revealed that the man whose picture had been published around the world for the last two weeks, identified as Bormann, is alive and well in Argentina. His name is Rodolfo Nicolas Siri and he is a 54-year-old high school teacher, not a 72-year-old Nazi on the run.

These two men — Velasco and Siri — are the key to the latest and most sensational of many journalistic versions of what happened to Hitler's deputy at the end of World War II.

In the articles, Farago calls his informant Jose Juan Velasco, but there is no doubt that the pictures published with the Bormann articles in two news-

papers are of Juan Jose Velasco.

Velasco, who wears tinted glasses, described himself as a former intelligence agent. He is 36 years old and carries a valid Argentine identity card in that name.

"I think he's dead," said Velasco in a discussion of Bormann. "Sure, he's dead. He died in Berlin back in 1945, so far as I'm concerned. But who can prove it?"

Farago's articles on Bormann began appearing in the London Daily Express and the New York Daily News on Nov. 27.

The photographs published with Farago's account are actually of two friends, Velasco and Siri, talking outside the Cafe Tortoni on the Avenida de Mayo in downtown Buenos

Aires late in the afternoon of last Oct. 5. They are not of an intelligence officer and his quarry, Martin Bormann, facing one another in the border town of Mendoza, as they had been described.

Velasco also says that the documents were written to order, with official stamps cut from other papers and pasted onto them. He does not say who ordered the documents changed.

"That man Farago has burned me for good," Velasco told this correspondent. "The Argentine documents he has are false — at least the ones I've seen in the papers. I can prove they are false because I have the originals — in a safe place. You have only to see the originals to know they are false."



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