

OFFICE OF US CHIEF OF COUNSEL
APO 403, US ARMY
INTERROGATION DIVISION

11.08

Nurnberg, Germany.
31 October, 1945

Brief of
Interrogation of OTTC OHLENDORF

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by
Lt Colonel S. W. Brookhart
30 October 1945, AM

OHLENDORF sketched the area of operations for Einsatz Gruppe D on a map to designate where operations had been carried out during his year of command.

OHLENDORF was unable to identify document 654-PS, but was familiar with certain actions taken pursuant to the policy expressed therein. He explained in what particulars he believed the policies became effective against Jews and Poles, and in what particulars there was no subsequent action.

OHLENDORF identified document L-316. He was unable to identify document L-5. The rest of the session was taken up with his explanation of why he considered Thierack, Minister of Justice, as having done the best job he could under the circumstances.

There will be a further interrogation of Ohlendorf at a later session on operations of the SD and the Gestapo.

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Interrogation of OTTO OHLENDORF
By Lt. Col. Brookhart
Time 2 November 1945, PM

Not all SD agents were known, even in RSHA. Most local agents were chosen by district leaders. No central list of names was ever made. This was a secrecy precaution which was maintained at all times. Ohlendorf's position was stronger because not even Himmler could require the names of all agents. Ohlendorf does not know the total number of SD agents but estimates that Amt III had about 3,000 full time employees of whom about 350 were in the head office. He believes the honorary members outnumbered the full time agents 10 for 1. The latter were not paid and came from every walk of life. While the overwhelming percentage were SS, he doesn't believe this was true of all.

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Interrogation of OTTO OHLENDORF
By Lt. Col. Brookhart
Time 3 November 1945, AM

Ohlendorf dictated an affidavit regarding the organization of the SD and Gestapo which he will execute when it has been prepared in German.

Ohlendorf also dictated for execution an affidavit regarding Kaltenbrunner's responsibility in the RSHA.

A third affidavit by Ohlendorf relates to the actions by Einsatz units on the eastern front.

[Faint handwritten marks, possibly initials 'A' and 'D']

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Interrogation of OHLENDORF, Otto
By Lt. Col. S. W. Brookhart
Time 9 November 1945, PM

Ohlendorf has known Funk since 1935 and has had closer connection since 1938 when Ohlendorf became Chief of Reichsgroup Commerce, with more personal contact in 1943 when Ohlendorf submitted a memorandum against self responsibility for the economic program of Speer, Minister of Armament, and Kerrl from the Ministry of Economy. Ohlendorf objected to methods employed to obtain business secrets from competitors under guise of their being furnished to the State when they were actually made available to the same business leaders who operated government departments and personally benefited from such disclosures. Quotas for raw material, for the amount of production, decisions for financing industrial and commercial enterprises were partly decided upon by the same people who benefited from the arrangement of such quotas. Ohlendorf's memorandum was a SD report and Minister Funk agreed with his conclusions.

Funk and Ohlendorf opposed the closing of private industry and both were in opposition to further expansion of enterprises owned by SS. SS interests were broad and extended to numerous industries, including agriculture, electrical and particularly the armaments industry made through the concentration camps. These enterprises were headed up by Pohl and were always kept secret within Pohl's organization. Pohl's aim was to produce everything the SS needed and he was constantly trying to get an increase in funds both inside and outside the Reich budget. SS interests were substantial but Ohlendorf was unable to estimate their asset value or the income therefrom. Concentration camps figured prominently in SS industrial activities and Ohlendorf believes that labor from these camps was used for several special projects such as the V-1 and V-2 programs and the jet propelled aircraft. Ohlendorf believes that corruption was common in the administration of SS projects, but said that investigation by his agents was difficult because any agent found investigating by Pohl would be interned in a concentration camp.

Ohlendorf said that SS obtained its property from the State after it had been confiscated. He mentioned that payments were made to the State, but did not explain who determined the price or in what manner payments were arranged. The Minister of Finance decided the price in most cases, but it is difficult to say what proportion because some of this confiscated property was under the jurisdiction of some other resource or individuals.

Ohlendorf said that the SD salaries were paid out of party funds issued by Schwarz, Party Treasurer, whereas the secret police and all civil servants were paid by the State. All funds required for expenses of honorary SD agents who were not on any regular payroll also came from the party under heading Intelligence Funds on request of RSHA, and were transmitted in turn to local sectors for appropriate distribution. Ohlendorf believes that funds for the construction of concentration camps originally came from the State. The legal basis for protective custody originated with Frick and the financial affairs were under the Ministry of Finance.

(Interrogation of OHLENDORF, Otto - - - 9 November 1945 cont'd)

Pohl, as head of the main department for economy and administration of the SS negotiated about the SS budget with Schwarz, but determined salaries of personnel under his jurisdiction. These salaries usually were higher than those paid in the RSHA and Kaltenbrunner, who was on good terms with Schwarz, went directly to Schwarz to obtain a more equitable salary adjustment, which was approved. Ohlendorf was unable to identify R-102, the October 1941 monthly report on Einsatz Groups, but stated that similar reports existed as prepared by Kommando Stab in RSHA and that the large distribution (100 copies) indicated that it was circulated throughout RSHA and to Goebbels, Lammers and Goering, but not necessarily to all the Ministries.

Ohlendorf was unable to say whether Kaltenbrunner was informed about the administration of SS properties or enterprises or interested therein.

Reports addressed to outside or higher authorities from Department Chiefs of RSHA were all routed through Kaltenbrunner.

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Interrogation of OHLENDORF, Otto

By Lt. Col. S. W. Brookhart

Time 12 November 1945, PM

Witness examined presentation 61-SPD-OCC, being a chart of
PSHA. Witness suggested three changes and declared he would certify
as to the correctness of the chart.

Witness also suggested two slight changes in presentation No. 53.