

26.04
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Interrogation of Gunther Pancke,
the former General of the Police in
Denmark, in the Castle Copenhagen,
September 21, 1945.

When asked about the originator of the order which prohibited going out on the streets at the end of June 1944 and which resulted in the strike, the defendant declares, this is not entirely clear to him; he believes that the order has been issued by Best, presumably after the previous acts of sabotage have been discussed. When asked whether he had reported the issuance of this curfew, to Berlin the defendant declares that he had not and could not have done so. Best must have ordered it; it is possible that the defendant suggested this curfew. The defendant had on the whole only little to do with the event which were connected with the general strike, since the army (General Richter) took over the task to maintain peace and order. The defendant would have liked to take this task over himself, but received no support from General von Hanneken.

According to a further statement of the defendant, he and the other German leaders soon realized that they made a mistake with the premature issuance of the curfew order and it was in their interest to get out of that business.

There was an earlier order from von Hanneken; according to it all towns which were striking to a greater extent (probably 60 per cent), should have been completely paralyzed by a kind of counterstrike, since it was thought that such a measure would be the most effective means to combat the strike. The code word for this counterstrike was "Monsoon"; the counterstrike was to be carried out by enclosing the town into a certain circle, by occupying the most important plants and by closing them to such an extent as was feasible.

The defendant has no knowledge that other measures but the Monsoon action were contemplated against the strike. He denies that aggressive measures such as burning of town districts, shooting with other purpose but to enforce the curfew or taking of hostages were planned. As far as the defendant knows, it was not intended to support the resistance movement with the strike and, in order to have work started again, he agreed to ease the curfew as soon as possible.

When asked, whether the defendant has planned attacks against the Danish civilian air defense, he replies that this was not the case. However, General Lindemann had sometimes talked about dissolving the C.B.U., against which the defendant protested. When asked whether in a few special cases their attention was directed against the air defense, because this subject or some other part of the discussions have been given to them beforehand, the defendant admits that he vaguely remembers to have received certain notes but he cannot remember their purpose more closely.

When asked whether he had not ordered Bovensiepen to investigate in a case of atrocity which came to his knowledge during a visit at the Frøslev camp, the defendant deposes that he cannot remember it. In Frøslev he saw 3 people suffer from hunger typhus contracted after a stay in Germany, but he says there was no talk about atrocities.