

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

27, 05

Nurnberg, Germany.  
30 October, 1945.

Brief of  
Interrogation of Erich von BACH-ZELEWSKI

by  
Lt Colonel Thomas S. Hinkel.

30 October 1945, AM.

BACH-ZELEWSKI furnished a hand-written statement concerning the Polish uprising in Warsaw in October 1944. He stated that he had received orders to suppress the uprising and altogether used about 30,000 men. There were about 20,000 casualties in the German forces during the six-week operation. The Polish forces consisted of approximately 40,000 men and the casualties ran approximately 50,000 (this included civilians).

With reference to Jewish persecution, Bach-Zelewski stated that in Silesia, von Worysch, the SS leader, had been replaced because of complaints made against him by the Wehrmacht. These complaints were to the effect that von Worysch had shot around 1,000 Jews in the main Jewish settlements there. Bach-Zelewski was the successor of von Worysch.

At a meeting with Himmler in East Prussia in 1941, Himmler asked Bach-Zelewski why no pogroms were occurring in the area under Bach-Zelewski's control. Bach-Zelewski stated that for the first time he had learned that pogroms were not spontaneous but were organized. Himmler stated that 5,000 Jews in the vicinity of Brest-Litovsk were to be shot as a revenge action for looting. Bach-Zelewski said that he refused to do this, was relieved and was thereafter sent to the eastern front where he worked under General Schenkendorf on anti-partisan activities. (Bach-Zelewski stated that in 1934/1935 he learned from Himmler for the first time that no peaceful settlement of the Jewish question was contemplated).

With reference to the burning of Jewish synagogues in November 1938, Bach-Zelewski stated that some two or three days prior thereto, he, together with a number of SS officers, was informed by Goebbels that that action would occur. He learned later that Party Court proceedings were instituted to determine whether any looting of Jewish shops had occurred. He further stated that the burnings had been badly organized by the Gestapo and extraneous elements of the population had in fact looted Jewish shops.

Bach-Zelewski stated that he had knowledge of the organization of the Security Police and would furnish a statement with reference thereto.

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