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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH
BIOGRAPHICAL REPORT

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Region: J 1 a, J 1 b

Occupation: 6A, 25A,
25F

Political
Attitude: 13

Name: POSSE, Hans Ernst

Nationality: German

Region: Berlin-Zehlendorf, Irmgardstrasse 22

Positions: Staatssekretär (State Secretary) in the Reich Ministry of Economics,
1933----

Stellvertreter des Generalbevollmächtigten für die Wirtschaft
(Deputy of the Commissioner General for the German Economy -
Funk), 1939 (?)----

Member of the Board of Directors, Vereinigte Aluminium-Werke AG,
Berlin,

Reichskommissar für den Unilever Konzern (Reich Commissioner for
the Unilever Concern), etc.

Education: Posse studied law at the Universities of Berlin and Bonn.

Work and Political History: Posse passed his civil service examination
(Referendar) in 1909 and entered the district administration in
Cologne. Subsequently he served with the county administration
(Landratamt) in Neuthen, Upper Silesia, and in 1918 became a
consultant (Hilfsarbeiter) in the Prussian Ministry of Commerce
and Trade (Ministerium für Handel und Gewerbe). He was promoted
to the rank of Ministerialrat and in 1924 shifted from the
Prussian to the Reich Administration, becoming head of the tariff
and trade division (zoll-und handelspolitische Abteilung) of the
Reich Ministry of Economics.

As soon as the Nazis came to power (1933), he was promoted to
the position of State Secretary (Staatssekretär) in the Reich
Ministry of Economics and at the same time was appointed State
Secretary in the Prussian Ministry of Commerce and Trade. After
the outbreak of the present war, he was appointed Deputy of
Funk as Commissioner General for the German Economy (Stellvertreter
des Generalbevollmächtigten für die Wirtschaft). The Commissioner
General for the German Economy was a member of the Ministerial
Council for the Defense of the Reich (Ministerrat für die
Reichsverteidigung). He controlled the civilian sector of the
German war economy, in particular the Ministry of Economics, the
Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the Office of the Reich Forest
Master and the whole corporative organization (National and Economic

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Groups) of German business and industry established by the Nazis in 1934.

Posse was connected with two important business enterprises controlled by Vereinigte Industrie Unternehmungen AG (VIAG), the Reich holding company. He was (from 1929 on) a member of the Board of Directors of Vereinigte Aluminium-Werke AG, (owned 90 percent by VIAG), the largest German aluminum concern which accounted for about 70 percent of German aluminum output. He was likewise a member of the Board of Directors of Deutsche Revisions und Treuhand AG.

He was a member of the Board (Verwaltungsrat) of the Reichskreditkasse the German Military banking organization which had an important part in the economic exploitation of German Occupied Countries. Posse was also Reich Commissioner of the Dutch Unilever Concern, the world's largest vegetable oil, fat, and soap concern.

As of 1941-1942 Posse is listed as a member of the Board of Directors of Schluffer & Budenberg GmbH, Magdeburg, a machinery producing concern.

Summary: By virtue of his positions as State Secretary in the Reich Ministry of Economics, as Deputy of the Commissioner General for the German Economy (Funk), as member of the Board of Directors of Vereinigte Aluminium-Werke AG and the Reichskreditkasse and as Reich Commissioner for the Unilever Concern, Posse is responsible for determining and executing Nazi economic policies in Germany and in German Occupied Europe.

Sources: OSS Source S, May 1945.
OSS Source F, M 356-2 T, 1 February 1944.
Würendträger im Dritten Reich, 1943.
Wer Leitet, 1941-1942.
Deutsches Führerlexikon, 1935.

BR-2
29 May 1945

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