Name: POSSE, Hans Ernst

Nationality: German

Region: Berlin-Zehlendorf, Irmgardstrasse 22

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

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

Member of the Board of Directors, Vereinigte Aluminium-Kerke 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 count administration (Landratamt) in Deuthen, Upper Silesia, and in 1913 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 1921 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 (1/33), 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 Generalbevollmächtigen 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
Groups) of German business and industry established by the Nazis in 1934.

Posse was connected with two important business enterprises controlled by Vereinigte Industrie Unternehmen AG (VIA), 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 VIA), 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 organisation 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 Schüffer & 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.


29 May 1945

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