Brig u Gen Maj d Pol Ernst August RODE was Chief of Staff of Kdo Stab RFSS from 1943 until the end of the war. He is well acquainted with the last days of the Nazi regime. His information is considered reliable.

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1. REFERENCES

PIR, 12th Army Group Interrogation Center, dtd 12 June 45. Memo to G-2 (CIB), HQ 12th Army Group, dtd 12 June 45.

2. REASON FOR REPORT

Information contained in this report is believed to be of immediate interest.

3. REPORT

Life History

1894 Born 9 Aug, WESTWALTERSDORF, Silesia
1911 Completed school
1911-1913 Clerk
1914-1918 German Army, discharged as Lieutenant
1918-1920 Clerk
1920 Entered Schupo (later Orpo)
1924 Commissioned as police officer
1929-1939 Taught police tactics and police law
1933 Entered NSDAP, 1 May
1939 Campaign in Poland
1940 Bdo Norway
1941 April-May, in charge of police battalion in Yugoslav campaign; June, assigned to Kdo Stab RFSS as Stuaf; later became II.

Jan 42-Feb 43 Ia of Kdo Stab RFSS
Feb 43-Apr 45 C of S of Kdo Stab RFSS
1943 May-September, in charge of 19 Lithuanian Waffen SS Div, committed on East Front
1944 Promoted to Brigf and Gen Maj d Pol und Waffen SS
4. CONCLUSIONS

None.

5. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

RODE spoke freely. Information given by him is considered reliable. He falls into the automatic internment category.

For the Commanding Officer:

22 Oct 45

Distribution "D"
RODE received an invitation from KALTENBRUNNER, 22 Apr 45, to attend a conference to be held on that same day in AIGN (nr SALZBURG). The following men were present: KALTENBRUNNER, Brigf SCHULTZ, O/Fuehrer PANZINGER, Standf RUPPENKOTHEN, O/Stubaf SKORZENY, O/Stubaf HUBER, Stubaf RADL, and two adjutants whose names RODE does not recall.

SKORZENY was present in order to receive the Oak Leaf to his Ritterkreuz, which KALTENBRUNNER had brought him from HITLER. KALTENBRUNNER reviewed the seriousness of the war situation and disclosed that HOFF had signed a truce with the Allies in Italy, that Gau Leiter HOFER of INNSBRUCK could no longer be trusted, and that a collapse of the whole Southern front was imminent.

KALTENBRUNNER showed RODE a power of attorney from HIMMLER making KALTENBRUNNER the sole representative of HIMMLER in the South. KALTENBRUNNER used this power to overrule an order by HIMMLER that HSSPF VON EBENSTEIN be replaced by Gen VON HENNEBERG, and instead appointed VON EBERSTEIN chief of the Orpo in the South. O/Gruf BERGER, at that time in INNSBRUCK, had a similar power of attorney and disapproved KALTENBRUNNER's action. RODE informed KALTENBRUNNER and BERGER that he would not recognize their power of attorney in his sphere of interest, and that he was in touch with HIMMLER through O/Stubaf GROTTMANN. He sent a message to HIMMLER to that effect, but never received an answer.

From subsequent conversations with KALTENBRUNNER, Standf BAUER (chief of HIMMLER's personal staff), and with Gen KOLLER, C of S of the GAF, and from Frau HIMMLER's departure from the Koenigsee to UERAN, RODE concluded that HITLER and HIMMLER were no longer able to control all of Germany. RODE, therefore, decided to take the initiative and asked Gen/Pi KESSELRING to appoint O/Gruf HAUSER as chief of the Waffen SS in the South in order to assure an orderly retreat of the Waffen SS.

RODE continued to maintain contact with the OKU through Geb WINTER and established HQ first in HIMMLER's personal train in TAKENBACH, and later, turning the train over to the OKU, set up HQ in HOLLERSBACH (nr ZELL AM SEE).
RODE met HIMMLER for the first time in 1941, at the beginning of the Russian campaign. RODE was at that time made Ist of Kdo Stab RF3S upon the recommendation of Gen Maj FREITAG. RODE considered HIMMLER to be a man of outstanding qualities even before he was able to observe him closely as C of S of Kdo Stab RF3S. HIMMLER was, according to RODE, a very hard worker, but wasted much of his time with unimportant matters. He wished to have a hand in every activity. He was easily convinced. He was not averse to lying if it were to his advantage, and placed blame for the failure of his own plans or orders on his subordinates. If he desired to rid himself of some associates he would play one against the other until they resigned. In this way he sent away Gruf EBRECHT, Gruf KORSEMANN, Obst Von BONIN, Gen/Maj BUTTLAR, and others.

RODE states that HIMMLER often acted like a despot and would accept no arguments. For this reason the HSSPfs were often more willing to accept orders blindly rather than to behave as energetic and conscientious officers. RODE believes that all HSSPfs were well aware of conditions in the concentration camps in their districts, and that they should have attempted to improve conditions there even against HIMMLER's orders.

RODE was not afraid to argue with HIMMLER, even at the risk of losing HIMMLER's favor, because he believed that his thorough knowledge of the police system was indispensable. HIMMLER did not like to associate with men who were older than he, fearing that they would possess more knowledge and might try to correct him.

HIMMLER's ambition was to become HITLER's successor, but he erred in breaking with BORMANN. BORMANN drew closer to FUEGELIN after the debacle of HIMMLER's Army Group Weichsel. HIMMLER then turned to GOERING, but GOERING was arrested shortly thereafter by order of HITLER. RODE thinks that HIMMLER began to fear BORMANN after GOERING's arrest. At this time, HIMMLER was preparing for a flight to Sweden. His Finnish masseur, KIRSTEN, left for Sweden early in 1945(?) to prepare a possible future hideout for him.

RODE saw HIMMLER four times after September 1944.
ANNEX III
GOERING's ARREST

PRISONER: Brig u Gen Maj d Pol RODE, Ernst August

On the morning of 23 Apr 45 RODE was visited by one of GOERING's adjutants, with the request that he transmit the following message to HITLER:

"Mein Fuehrer, nach Vortrag des Generals KOLLER befuerchte ich, dass Sie nicht mehr die volle Handlungsfreihet besitzen, sondern in BERLIN eingeschlossen sind. Ich nehme deshalb an, dass meine Vollmacht in Kraft tritt, falls ich bis 22 Uhr keine Antwort habe. GOERING."

"My Fuehrer, according to the report of Gen KOLLER, I am afraid that you no longer have a free hand, but are encircled. Therefore, unless I hear from you by 2200 hrs, I shall assume full power. GOERING."

On the following night RODE received a phone call from O/Stubaf FRANK, summoning him immediately. FRANK informed RODE that HITLER, through Det BORJANN (under Landes gericht Praesident MULLER) had ordered GOERING's arrest. Additional messages expelled GOERING from the NSDAP and ordered him to relinquish all his duties. GOERING complied by wire.

GOERING was put under house arrest by guards of the Waffen SS. Dr LAMMERS was also arrested in BISCHOFSTIENES. Later an order arrived from BORJANN to shoot GOERING and his associates in the event that BERLIN surrendered. ROSE ordered FRANK to shoot no one under any circumstances.

RODE visited Gen KOLLER in BUCHTESSEGEN, 23 Apr 45, in order to ask if any further instructions regarding GOERING had been received from Gen/FM von ORSCH, GOERING's successor.

GOERING was transferred to HAUTENHOF by order of KALTENBRUNNER because of air attacks on OBERSALZBERG.
PRISONER: Brigf u Gen Maj d Pol RODE, Ernst August

Kdo Stab RFSS was organized, Spring 1941, along the lines of a military HQ. Its first functions were to establish liaison between RFSS and the HSSPfs in occupied countries, to combat guerillas, and to collect stragglers. It moved, July 1941, from BERLIN to ARYS, E Prussia, where it remained until June 1942 as a liaison agency between HIMMLER and the three HSSPFs in the East: FRITZLANN (Russia-South), Von dem Bach (Russia-Center), and JAECKEL (Russia-North). The staff consisted of the following men:

Brigf KOELLAUCH C of S
Obst/Lt FREITAG Ia
Stubaf NAY Ic
Maj RODE Id
Stubaf KOZIG I-N(communications)
H/Stuf RICHERZER IIa
O/Stubaf BENDER III
Stubaf OTTO IVa
Gruf Prof Dr CRAWITZ IVb
O/Stubaf BUEGER VI

Kdo Stab RFSS moved to ZHITOMIR, June 1942, and back to E Prussia to KRUGLANKEN, September 1942. Part of the unit always accompanied HIMMLER to SALZBURG whenever the Fuehrer Haupt Quartier was moved to BERRCHESSODDEN.

RODE became IA, January 1942, and replaced KOELLAUCH as C of S early in 1943. Kdo Stab RFSS, in addition to its original functions, had to maintain liaison between OKH, OKW, and SS Fuehrungs Hauptamt. This additional duty was handled by Gruf FGZLZIN, 20 Jul 44 - April 1945, after which RODE took over once more.

Because of the German retreat in the East, Kdo Stab RFSS moved to GLASENBACH (nr SALZBURG), September 1944. It maintained liaison between HIMMLER and HSSPFs ROSEBER (Alpenland), WOLFF (Italy), GLOORZER (Trieste), and KALISZEDER (Croatia).
In April 1945, Kdo Stab RFSS contained the following:

Gen Maj ROEDE
O/Stubaf BUEHRMANN
Stubaf MAURER
Stubaf WELSBRICHT
Maj BOULLY
Stubaf KUNZEL
Maj HOFMANN
H/Stubaf SACHAROW
U/Stuf HOPPE

C of S
Ia
Ib
Ic
I N
III
Adj
Ordonanz
2nd "

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ANNEX V
PERSONALITY LIST

PRISONER: Brig U Gen Maj d Pol ROES, Ernst August

1. AATTENBERGER, Georg Obst d Schupo SS Standf, Moravia Insd d Protectorate Pol in Moravia in BRUNN 1938-45
   lives BRUNN, Lehmgasse 1.68 m
   Mise: Married; 2 children. Wife lives above address. CPI Buff Card 410203.

2. von dem BACH, Erich CG Oder Corps, Feb-Apr 45
   lives BRESLAU last in RIEZLERN
   Career: Until 1939 HSSPf in BRESLAU. Until 1943 HSSPf in Central Russia. 1943-44 CO of the anti-partisan units (Ban den Kampf Verbaende).
   Mise: Married; 5 (?) children. Wife lives RIEZLERN. CPI Pink Card 57779; FPU #4 CIR 4/6 dtd 31 May 45.

3. BAUMERT, Paul SS Standf C of S Personal Staff Reichs Fuehrer SS, AIGEN nr SALZBURG until the end
   lives BERLIN last in TEGERNSEE(?) 1.70 m muscular blond hair blue eyes
   Mise: Married. CPI Pink Card 2137.

4. BENDER, Horst SS O/Fuehrer d Waffen SS Chief Judge (Chef Richter) with Teuchs Fuehrer SS, AIGEN nr SALZBURG, 1939-Apr 45
   lives TEGERNSEE(?) FW of US(?) born 1906 in E Prussia 1.76 m blond hair brown eyes
   Mise: Married; 1 child. Wife lives TEGERNSEE(?). Speaks English and French.
   CPI Buff Card 78014.

5. BOULLY (fru) SS Standf Maj d Schupo Signal Officer Kdo Stab Reichs Fuehrer SS, ZELL/See, May 45
   lives PRAGUE last in HOLLERSBACH nr ZELL/See born 1910 1.65 m slender blond hair brown eyes
   Mise: Married; 2 children. Wife lives PRAGUE(?)

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6. BUSENBEHN, Werner SS O/Stubaf Obst/Lt d Schupo I-a Kdo Stab Reichs Fuehrer SS, ZELL/See until 1945

last in HOLLERSBACH near ZELL/See 1.76 m muscular blond hair blue eyes

Misc: Married; 2 children.

CPI Buff Card 85230.

7. GRUNENWALD, Hans Dietrich Bdo CRACOW, dismissed 1943

lives PRIEN/Chiem See(?) 1.85 m muscular blond hair ruddy complexion blue eyes

Misc: Married; 2 children. Wife lives PRIEN. Speaks English and French.

CPI Buff Card 31243.

8. HALLWACHS, Kurt (?) SS Stubaf I-a Feld Kdo Stelle Reichs Fuehrer SS, Aigen nr SALZBURG, later ZELL, until the end

last in HOLLERSBACH nr ZELL/See born 1912 1.75 m muscular black hair brown eyes

Misc: Married. Speaks English and French.

CPI Buff Card 432.

9. KEILHAUS, Wilhelm(?) SS Brigf Chief SS u Pol Signal Officer, SALZBURG until Apr 45

last vic ZELL/See 1.75 m slender gray hair

CPI Buff Card 400146.

10. LORENZ, Erika Head Secretary to Reichs Fuehrer SS, NEUKIRCHEN, until the end

last in NEUKIRCHEN nr ZELL/See born 1910 1.76 m slender blond hair grey eyes

Career: Administered property and correspondence of Reichs Fuehrer SS.

CPI Pink Card 108903.

11. MASCUS, Helmut SS Brigf Bdo Holland until the end

1.65 m frail black hair brown eyes mustache slight limp

Misc: Speaks English and French.

CPI Buff Card 84376.

12. MAURER (fnr) SS O/Stubaf Obst/Lt d Schupo Motor Officer Kdo Stab Reichs Fuehrer SS, GLASENBACH nr SALZBURG until the end

lives HAMBURG last in HOLLERSBACH nr ZELL/See born 1912 1.75 m muscular blond hair

Misc: Married. Wife lives HAMBURG.

CPI Buff Card 420.
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13. MEISSENER (fnu)  Gen/Insp d Gend, BERLIN until the end
   presumably prisoner of US  born 1888  1.95 m slender  gray
   hair  blue eyes
   Career:  Until 1943 HSSPf in Serbia.
   Misc:  Married.

13. SCHWALM (fnu)  SS Stubaf  Signal Officer Reichs Fuehrer SS,
   AIGN nr SALZBURG until the end
   born 1915  1.80 m black hair  wears glasses  one eye
   Misc:  Married.  Wife lives AIGN.

14. SUCHANEK, Mili  O/Stubaf  Obst/Lt d Schupo  Pol Adj to Reichs
   Fuehrer SS, NEUKIRCHEN until the end
   lives NEUKIRCHEN nr ZELI/See  1.78 m muscular  blond hair
   gray eyes
   Career:  Associate of KALTENBRUJNER.
   Misc:  Married; 2 children.
   CPI Pink Card 205438.

15. TIEFBACHER, Joseph Sepp(?)  SS Standf Hq Commandant, Reichs
   Fuehrer SS, AIGN nr SALZBURG, Apr 45
   lives TEGERNSEE
   CPI Buff Cards 3479; 80519.

16. WEIBRECHT, Hans  O/Stuf d Waffen SS, Leib Standarte ADOLF HITLER,
   Apr - May 45
   born 1910  1.80 m blond hair  fair complexion  blue eyes
   Career:  1942-Apr 45 SD Officer.  With I-c Feind Nachrichten.
   Misc:  Married; 3 children.