

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH
BIOGRAPHICAL REPORTS

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Region: J 1 a

Occupation: 4D, 6C,
17B, 17H, 22E

Political
Attitude: 13

Name: UNGEWITTER, Dr. Claus
Nationality: German
Region: Berlin, Sigismundstrasse 6
Major Position: Manager of the Economic Group Chemical Industry
(Geschäftsführer der Wirtschaftsgruppe Chemische Industrie)

Birth Date and Place: 25 April 1890, Gmunden, Austria

Family History: Ungewitter is a descendent of an old Hannover family. His wife is a White Russian who fled Russia before 1918.

Education and Work History: Ungewitter studied law at the Universities of Berlin, Munich and Königsberg. He is said to have travelled extensively in France, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Spain, and North Africa. In World War I, he served with the 5th Guard Regiment until 1916. He was injured; and subsequently worked in industrial plants and banking establishments. For a brief time he was employed by the Kriegschemikalien AG., until he was appointed head of the central administrative office for caustic alkali and sodium carbonate (Leiter der Zentralstelle für Atzkalien und Soda) within the war economic administration. In 1920 he received the title of a Chief Manager (Hauptgeschäftsführer) of the central industrial organization (Spitzenverband) of the chemical industry.

Although, according to an interview source, Ungewitter maintained friendly relations with progressive and liberal elements in Germany before 1933, he developed intimate relations with leading Nazi officials as soon as the regime changed, especially with Count Helldorf, then President of the Berlin police.

When the groups were established under the Nazis in 1934, Ungewitter was appointed Manager of the Economic Group Chemical Industry (Wirtschaftsgruppe Chemische Industrie, and he has held this position until recently. In 1940 he was, in addition, entrusted with the functions of a Reich Commissioner of the Examination Board for Reichsbeauftragter: Chemical Industrie (Prüfungsstelle Chemische Industrie, Reichsstelle "Chemie") which controlled exportation of chemicals as well as Reich Commissioner for Industrial Fat Supply (Reichsbeauftragter für Industrielle Fettversorgung).

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He also became chief manager of the Association for the Promotion of the Interests of the Chemical Industries (Vereinigung zur Wahrung des Interesses der Chemischen Industrie Deutschlands E.V.). He was a member of the committee dealing with legal problems arising from economic developments (Ausschuss für Rechtsfragen des Wirtschaftsaufbaues) of the Academy for German Law, and published numerous articles and essays on German economic problems, particularly on the structure of the organization of the German chemical industry, on German foreign trade in chemical products, as well as on public finance and tax reforms.

Thus promulgating Nazi ideologies, he took great interest in Nazi party organizations, acquiring membership in the NSKK, DAF, AND NSDJ.

Summary:

As manager of the trade association of the chemical industry and as manager of the Economic Group Chemical Industry from 1920 on, Ungewitter exerted great influence on Nazi activities in this field. He expounded and propagated Nazi theories in his writings and put them in practice through his membership in party organizations.

Sources:

Das Deutsche Führerlexikon, 1934/35
Wer ist's 1935
Wer leitet, 1941/42
OSS Source F, M 356-2T, 1 February 1944
OSS FU I, 23 May 1944

1 May 1945

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This record is a summary of such intelligence (from one or more sources as indicated) as was available at the time of preparation. It may consequently be subject to amendment by additional or more recent intelligence. Index numbers and letters are solely for indexing statements in the report.

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