

PERSECUTION AND MURDER OF JEWS

(Witnesses available through X-2 Branch, C.S.S.)

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Report of Dr. KASTNER, former President of the Zionist Organization of Hungary. After the German invasion of Hungary, KASTNER was commissioned by the Zionist Organization and leading Hungarian Jews to contact the German authorities with a view to alleviating the lot of Jews in Hungary. He was engaged in this activity in other countries as well as his own, since the beginning of the war. His statements are consistent with the organization of the RSHA. He accuses AICHMANN of being the person who initiated the program of extermination of Jews. Other evidence confirms that AICHMANN was Chief of Amt. IV B 3 - Matters concerning Jews; matters concerning evacuations. It is believed that in view of the within information, KASTNER would be a very good witness to the charge against the RSHA for mass executions of Jews.

QUOTE:

"The number of Jews destroyed by the Germans ranges between 6 and 7 millions. A closer statement is not possible, chiefly because: 1) the number of emigrants from Europe between 1933-1941 is unknown. 2) the number of Jews contained in territories occupied by the Russians has not been presented (It is known, however, that of the 3,750,000 Polish Jews, about 50,000 remain in the Poland of today). 3) The Ukrainian Foreign Minister, in a declaration of May 6 gives the number of persons murdered in his area as 2,500,000, that of deportees as 1,500,000 and adds that the Jewish population was especially affected. Therefore, it does not seem clear how many Jews have been murdered or deported and how many have succeeded in withdrawing before the Germans.

"In the period from 1933-1940, the conditions of Jews in Germany and in the parts of Austria and Czechoslovakia occupied by them had gradually worsened. After the conquest of Poland and SS Corps organized pogroms. It is certain that the decision to exterminate the Jews of Europe fell simultaneously with or shortly after the determination of Hitler to attack Russia.

"So far as it appears from conversations with higher officers of the SS, the order for the destruction of Jews was given out by Hitler himself. I can discern the collaboration of two persons:

"1) The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem

"2) The SS Obersturmbannfuhrer Adolf AICHMANN, Gruppenleiter in the RSHA, Abteilung IV-B, Referent der Judenfrage.

"The proposal itself was laid out by AICHMANN and took the following hierarchical course: SS Gruppenfuhrer MULLER, Chief of Abteilung IV, RSHA to SS Heinrich HIMMLER, to Adolph HITLER.

"In the occupied regions of Russia the Jews were shot in mass fashion. After this manner proved too costly and shocking, the gas rooms were introduced. An experiment with a machine in which 10 to 12 persons could be gassed at one time appears to have given satisfactory results.

"At the beginning of 1941, SS Standartenfuhrer FLOEL was charged with plans for the construction of gas chambers.

"The first 'institution' was put to work in Tremblink in the middle of November. A week later followed that at Maidanek and in the beginning of 1942 was started the organization of the largest institution at Auschwitz.

"Up to the end of '42, they were gassed indiscriminately. Then it was decided to let live the Jews who were capable of working so long as they could be supported. Sick or feeble Jews were sent to one of these places.

"The organizing of the deportation of Jews from different countries of Europe was directed centrally from Berlin. The SS officers, who had to collect the deportation trains, were obliged to turn over to every train leader a declaration or way-bill addressed to the Commandant of the destruction camp. In this letter the life or death of the deportees was determined. Without this letter or the order of AICHMANN, the Commandant could not pass them.

"The officers of AICHMANN's close staff who are especially well known as organizers of deportations are:

"1) SS Obersturmbannführer KREMER

"2) SS Hauptsturmführer WISLICKY, HUNSCHE, NOVAK, DOMBOUR, dr. SEIDL, SCHMIDTKE, SCHMILT.

Central representative of AICHMANN: Sturmbannführer GUNTHER.

Especially bloodthirsty collaborator of AICHMANN's:

SS Hauptsturmführer BRUNNER (BRUNNER I & II and GUNTHER II).

"Commandant of Auschwitz: Obersturmbannführer ROSS.
Executives: Officers, under-officers and personnel of Sicherheits Polizei and Sicherheitsdienst; The 'death's Head Brigade' of Waffen SS; the Gestapo under the direction of SS Obergruppenführer KALTENBRUNNER and LORENZ. "

"May 22, 1945
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NOTE:

The KARTNER report is corroborated by a report of Herbert KATSKI, Representative of the War Refugee Board, who is now attached to the American Consulate in Geneva, after nine months of activity in Ankara, Turkey, on behalf of the Refugee Board.

QUOTE:

"The Reichssicherheitshauptamt as commanded by HIMMLER is composed of six Abteilungen and three organizations: Geheime Staatspolizei, Sicherheitspolizei and Sicherheitsdienst. Abt IV is divided into two Referate: IV-A or Church Referat, and IV-B or Jewish Referat with headquarters at Burfurstenstr. 116, MULLER (Liaison between AICHMANN and HIMMLER). The Jewish Referat is headed by SS-Obersturmbannführer Adolf AICHMANN. Stellvertreter are SS-Sturmbannführer GUNTHER (in Theresienstadt towards end of fighting) and SS-Hauptsturmführer JENSEN (Probably in Prague when the city fell).

"Adolf AICHMANN had under him a Corps of SS officers and non-coms who specialized in Jewish persecutions and whose activities were limited to this special field. These officers and non-coms who were organized into Kommandos followed the Wehrmacht into occupied and friendly countries in order to organize the 'ghettoizing'. AICHMANN was in Berlin on April 19, 1945.

"The best known of these officers are the following:

"SS-Obersturmbannfuhrer:

"1. KURUCY. Was on the staff of AICHMANN, Chief of the Sonder Einsatzkommandos in Hungary and Commandant in Lodz, 1941-1944.

"SS-Hauptsturmfuhrer:

"1. Dieter WISLIZENY. Organized the deportation of Jews in Hungary, Bulgaria, Greece and Slovakia. Probably in Salzburg area at end of fighting.

"2. E. NOVAK. An expert in transport of Jews. In Hungary he forced the deportations from the camps of Sarvar, West Hungary, and Kistarcsa, near Budapest. As a result, 6,000 Jews were sent to Auschwitz at a time when it was agreed that deportation should stop. Also active in Poland.

"3. DANEGGER. Active in Austria, Poland, France and Hungary. In Hungary he was in charge of the camp gendarmerie.

"4. Dr. SEIDL. First Commandant of Theresienstadt. Extremely strict disciplinarian who sent people to Auschwitz for the slightest cause. Sent 800 Hungarian Jews from Vienna to Auschwitz.

"5 & 6. BRUNNER, Senior and BRUNNER, Junior. Both specialists in deportations of Jews from Austria, Poland, France, Slovakia and Greece. The latter was in Salzburg toward close of hostilities.

"7. GUENTHER, Junior. Specialist for the Protectorate in organization of deportations.

"8. SCHMIDGIEREN. Organized the deportations from Poland and the Baltic states.

"Of the numerous non-coms, one SS-Unterscharfuhrer Giza TAKACS was especially noted for brutality.

"This special Corps was everywhere backed up by the Gestapo.

"The annihilation camps, Auschwitz, Majdanek and Treblinka were also under AICHMANN. (Belzec, Buchenwald, etc. were not annihilation camps but 'ordinary' Concentration Camps commanded by SS-Obergruppenfuhrer HELMUTH BRUNNER.) They were organized at AICHMANN's instigation. The plans of the gas chamber were worked out by

SS-Standartenfuhrer FLORE. The officers who headed the camp organization were instructed by AICHMANN. At the head of the Auschwitz camp was SS-Obersturmbannfuhrer HOESS.

"Particular attention should be paid to HUMMEY and WISLICKENY. The first has helped several times in saving Jews. The second - very intelligent and well educated - who belonged to AICHMANN's intimate circle of friends, was however Alibi-Ritter (alibi knight) and could be used as an important witness.

"Liquidation of Jews in the different countries was directed always from the head by AICHMANN. Information on every step taken by AICHMANN's people came to Berlin. No gassing could be done without a written order of the official who had sent the Jews from any corner of Europe to Auschwitz, or without a telegraphed order from AICHMANN."