

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES  
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH  
BIOGRAPHICAL REPORT

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This report supersedes previous report on BORMANN.

Name: BORMANN, Martin

Nationality: German

Positions as of 1945:

Reichsleiter of the NSDAP, 17 October 1933 - 1945 1/

Mitglied des Reichstags (Member of the Reichstag), November 1933 - 1945

Stabsleiter des Stellvertreters des Führers (Chief of Staff of the Deputy of the Führer), 1933 - 1941

Mitglied der Reichsregierung (Member of the Reich Government) in his capacity of Leiter der Parteikanzlei (Head of the Party Chancellery), June 1941 /officially since March 1942/ - 1945 1/, 3/

Sekretär des Führers (Secretary to the Führer), March 1942 (?) - 1945 2/

Mitglied des Ministerrates für die Reichsverteidigung (Member of the Council of Ministers for the Defense of the Reich), March 1942 (?) 1945

Mitglied des Beirats der Deutschen Reichsbahn (Member of the Advisory Council of the German National Railroads), 1 January 1943 - 1945 11/

Mitglied des Obersten Parteigerichts (Member of the Supreme Party Court), 17 October 1943 - 1945 1/

Member of the Zentrale Planung (General Council for Central Planning, December 1944 - 1945 4/

SA - Obergruppenführer 10/

SS - Obergruppenführer, March 1942 - 1945 10/, 4/

Birth Date and Place: 17 June 1900, Halberstadt, Province of Magdeburg, 5/.

Religion: Protestant, 5/

Family History: He is married and has nine children, 1/. One younger brother, Albert Bormann, Hauptamtsleiter of the Nazi Party and NSKK-Gruppenführer, was a personal adjutant of Hitler, 6/.

Education: He attended schools in Weimar and Eisenach, 7/.

Work and Political History: Bormann joined the German army in June 1918 as a private in an artillery regiment, 7/. Demobilized in February 1919, he immediately became a member of the Rossbach Free Corps fighting the Bolsheviks

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Work and Political History (cont'd.):

in the Baltic states, 7/. After the peace treaties had been concluded between these states and the USSR, the German Free Corps were to be disbanded. Members of the Free Corps, however, were employed by the great land owners of Eastern Germany, ostensibly as farmhands, but in reality as protectors of the estates and in preparation for the day of anti-republican and anti-democratic action, 9/. 1922-1923 Bormann was Mecklenburg section head of the Rossbach Free Corps, 9/. He was nominally a student of agriculture and general manager of a large estate in Mecklenburg, 1920-1926. During this period his principal activities were political rather than agricultural. He was implicated in the Fehmorde, the assassination of persons who<sup>2</sup> the Free Corps members accused of having betrayed the secrets of the organization and gone over to the republican authorities. In one of these cases, the Fehmord Kadow, he was said to have instigated the murder, 8/. He was taken into custody and held in jail from July until December 1923, pending trial, 8/. In March 1924 he was sentenced to one year's imprisonment for complicity in the murder, despite his denial of any connection with it, 10/.

After his release from prison, Bormann joined the Frontbann until his entrance into the NSDAP, 11/. He served as chief of the press office (Gaupresseobmann) of the NSDAP in Gau Thuringia, 1927-1928, 5/. On 1 April 1928 he also became Bezirksleiter (district leader) and Gau-geschäftsführer (secretary general) of Gau Thuringia of the NSDAP, 5/. From September 1928 until August 1930 he worked in the Supreme Command of the SA (Oberste SA-Führung). Until July 1933 he was also head of the relief to the families of Nazis who had been arrested by the republican authorities and to those who had lost their jobs because of their Nazi activities, 9/.

In July 1933 he was appointed chief of staff to Rudolf Hess, the Führer's Deputy, and remained in this position until May 1941 when Hess made his spectacular flight to England, 1/. In this capacity he became a Reichs-leiter of the NSDAP on 17 October 1933, 1/. This position gave him access to the inner circle of the Nazi Party. From November 1933 on, he was a member of the German Reichstag, 7/.

Bormann held the rank of SA-Obergruppenführer (date of appointment unknown), his connections with the SA having begun in 1928 (see above), 10/.

After Hess' flight to England in 1941, Bormann advanced rapidly. He became, in fact, successor to Hess as Leiter der Parteikanzlei (head of the Party Chancellery) in June 1941, although the office of Deputy Führer was henceforth left vacant. His appointment was confirmed by decree of March 1942. In this office Bormann made or prepared decisions in all questions pertaining to personnel in the Party and exercised the functions formerly held by the Deputy Führer. As head of the Party Chancellery he also became ex-officio member of the Reich Government (Reichsregierung), 13/. Furthermore, Bormann received the newly created post of Sekretär des Führers (Secretary to the Führer) in March 1942, 2/. Hitler thereupon appointed him a member of the Council of Ministers for the Defense of the Reich (Mitglied des Ministerrates für die Reichsverteidigung) and honorary SS - Obergruppenführer. (Bormann had held the rank of SS-Gruppenführer since 1940), 11/.

Work and Political History (cont'd.):

On 1 January 1943 Bormann became a member of the Advisory Council of the German National Railroads (Mitglied des Beirats der Deutschen Reichsbahn, 14. Apparently it was hoped to improve the efficiency of transportation by placing prominent Nazis in key positions. Thus Bormann also became influential in the economic sphere.

Bormann was then in position—in the immediate entourage of Hitler—to take decisive action with little fear of contradiction. After the German defeat at Stalingrad (January 1943) he ordered rigid curtailment of the organizational and administrative offices of the Nazi Party apparently in order to ward off criticism directed against the deferment from military service of party officials and against the behavior of high Party officials, 15/. According to source 16/, Bormann also managed the appointment of General Zeitzler as Chief of the German General Staff in 1942. Zeitzler, who like his close friend, Bormann, favored the increase in influence of the SS, had previously represented Himmler at Hitler's headquarters, 16/.

On the tenth anniversary of Bormann's appointment as Reichsleiter (17 October 1943) it was revealed that he was also a member of the Oberstes Parteigericht (Supreme Court of the Nazi Party). This court treated matters pertaining to internal Party disputes. Here, again, Bormann was in an excellent position to wield influence in the Nazi hierarchy, 1/. Hitler's trust in Bormann is further shown by the fact that Bormann was manager of Hitler's estate, Obersalzberg, near Berchtesgaden, 1/.

Bormann is reported to have indulged in favoritism within the Party, 8/, 16/. According to reports, he was in constant rivalry with Bouhler, chief of the Führer's Chancellory, and, for some time, with Goebbels. Bormann was an old friend of Sauckel (Gauleiter of Thuringia and Reich Commissioner for European Labor Allocation) and had the confidence of Himmler, 11/. Bormann is said to have represented the extremist SS group in the Nazi Party, 8/. According to source 8/, Bormann was very hostile to the Catholic Church and argued that the spirit of Christianity was incompatible with the philosophy of National Socialism.

In June 1944 Bormann is reported to have ordered the liquidation of concentration camps, starting with the one at Dachau, 17/. This order is said to have aimed at extermination of concentration camp inmates because the Nazis felt that this group constituted a potential element of opposition and embarrassing witnesses before post-war tribunals, 17/.

On 11 December 1944 he was reported to have been appointed a member of the Zentrale Planung (General Council for Central Planning) following the dismissal of KBrner and other Göring men, 18/. The General Council, coordinator of government functions, was set up originally by Göring. At the time of Bormann's appointment to the council, it consisted of Speer, Dietrich, Milch, and Funk. However, there is no evidence of Bormann's actual participation in the work of this council inasmuch as German organization disintegrated rapidly in the following months.

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Work and Political History (cont'd.):

One of Bormann's last official acts is believed to have been his opposition to the Ribbentrop-sponsored Komite zum Schutze Europaischen Menschentums (Committee for the Protection of European Humanity) founded in Berlin on 3 April 1945 under the chairmanship of the Duke of Coburg and K.A. Mair of the Foreign Office. This organization planned to "combat Bolshevism by immediately establishing contact and cooperation with the Western Allies." As early as December 1943 Bormann was said to have favored reaching an agreement with the Soviet Union and in continuing the battle against Britain, 20/.

In 1943, one source described Bormann, Ribbentrop, and Himmler as the three most powerful men in Germany, 21/. Bormann's unusually rapid rise as a dominant force in the Nazi Party leadership was made possible by the flight of Hess and by Bormann's excellent standing with Hitler and Himmler. Bormann played a leading policy-making role during the last years of the Nazi regime and it was he who tried to rally the German people to a last-ditch stand against the Allies.

Bormann was reported to have died in the battle of Berlin. Source 22/ says that his charred body was identified by the Russians in Berlin on 10 May 1945. However, he was later reported to be a prisoner on the United States Army, but this later report probably refers to his brother Albert, 23/.

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20 August 1945

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Appendix

The Party Chancellory has jurisdiction over the following party offices:

Sachbearbeiter für innere Parteiangelegenheiten  
(Office for Internal Party Affairs)

Sachbearbeiter für staatsrechtliche Fragen  
(Office for Constitutional Questions)

Sonderbeauftragter bei der Partei-Kanzlei  
(Special Delegate attached to the Party Chancellory)

Hauptarchiv der NSDAP  
(Main archives of the NSDAP)

Der Leiter der Auslands-Organisation  
(The Leader of the Foreign Organization of the NSDAP)

Der Beauftragte der NSDAP für alle Volkstumsfragen  
(The Delegate of the NSDAP for all "Folkdom" Questions)

Der Beauftragte für den Neubau des Reiches  
(The Delegate for the Reconstruction of the Reich)

Der Beauftragte für alle Fragen der Technik und ihre Organisationen  
(The Delegate for all Questions of Technology and its Organizations)

Der Sachbearbeiter für alle Fragen der Volksgesundheit  
(The Delegate for all Questions of Public Health)

Der Leiter des Rassenpolitischen Amtes der NSDAP  
(The Leader of the Race Policy Office of the NSDAP)

Der Leiter des Amtes für Sippenforschung  
(The Leader of the Office for Genealogy)

Der Beauftragte für Fragen der Finanz- und Steuerpolitik  
(The Delegate for Questions and Financial and Tax Policy)

Reichslager der NSDAP, Bad Tölz  
(Reich Camp of the NSDAP, Bad Tölz)

Reichsschule der NSDAP, Feldafing  
(Reich School of the NSDAP, Feldafing)

The functions of the Party Chancellory are officially describes as follows:

The Party Chancellory is the Office of the Führer in his capacity as head of the NSDAP. The head of this office, directly responsible to the Führer, is Martin Bormann. He centralizes for the Führer the treatment of all basic planning and suggestions from the Party sphere. Through him, the directives established by Hitler himself or prepared in his behalf for the entire Party go the respective offices for execution. The entire field which arises from the political leadership assignment of the Party and from its directive-relationship to the state, is centralized in the Party Chancellory.

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All internal Party planning, all questions of political leadership of vital interest to the people, the basic recommendations of the Reichsleiter, Gauleiter, and leaders of formations [SS, SA, etc.] are examined by the Chief of the Party Chancellery on behalf of the Führer and are considered in the light of over-all political requirements. The Party Chancellery is responsible for carrying out the manifold tasks of the NSDAP in the field of human leadership. The Party Chancellery directs the varied activities of the Party organs in the total internal conduct of the war and the Party work in the incorporated and occupied territories. The Party Chancellery also has the responsibility of acting upon all questions of common concern to the Party and the Wehrmacht.

Within the sphere of the Party Chancellery is also the central handling of the entire field concerning the securing of the unity of Party and state. Through decree of the Führer of 29 May 1941, the chief of the Party Chancellery has the authority of a Reich Minister and is a member of the Reich Government. He alone represents the Party before the Supreme Reich authorities. The following individual powers have been conferred on him:

1. The Chief of the Party Chancellery is to be consulted from the outset about drafts of Reich laws, decrees and executive orders of the Führer, decrees of the Council of Minister for the Defense of the Reich, as well as decrees of the supreme Reich authorities, including stipulations for executing them. The same procedure holds in the case of approval of laws and decrees of the states (Länder) and of approval of decrees of state governors (Reichsstatthalter). In this process the Chief of the Party Chancellery represents the views of the Party as guardian of the National Socialist philosophy. Recommendations and suggestions for legislation from the Party, its formations, and affiliated organizations, are transmitted to the appropriate supreme Reich authorities only through the Chief of the Party Chancellery.
2. The Chief of the Party Chancellery passes on the appointment and promotion of officials and Labor Service leaders, insofar as this prerogative is not previously exercised by the Gauleiter. In this way the execution of state personnel policy is assured on the basis of the National Socialist philosophy.
3. In all other fundamental and political questions the communications between the supreme Reich authorities and supreme authorities of the states (Länder) on the one hand, and the Party on the other, pass through the Chief of the Party Chancellery exclusively. Thus in all state spheres of jurisdiction there is assured a uniform attitude of the Party, its formations, and affiliated organizations.
4. The Chief of the Party Chancellery has a number of powers for the securing of the influence of the Party in matters of self-administration of regional entities (Gebietskörperschaften) [which applied originally to incorporated Austria and Sugenten regions].

This survey of the jurisdiction of the Chief of the Party Chancellery (Martin Bormann) has been taken from the original German text which is available in Nationalsozialistisches Jahrbuch, 1944, pp. 181-182.

Footnotes

- 1/ Das Reich, 17 Oct . 1943
- 2/ Mins - SS July 1944
- 3/ Who's Who Monthly Scuplement, May 1945
- 4/ OSS Source S, 16 January 1945
- 5/ Wer Ist's, 1935
- 6/ Nationalsozialistisches Jahrbuch, 1944
- 7/ Der Grossdeutsche Reichstag, 1938
- 8/ OSS Source X, 1 April 1943
- 9/ OSS Source T, 13 August 1945
- 10/ Würdenträger im Dritten Reich, 1943
- 11/ OSS BR 70. 4
- 12/ OSS Source T, 8 February 1943
- 13/ TVB, 1943
- 14/ OSS Source D, 23 February 1943
- 15/ OSS Source T, 1 April 1943
- 16/ OSS Source D, 21 May 1943
- 17/ OSS Source D, 16 June 1944
- 18/ OSS Source S, 16 January 1945 and 27 January 1945
- 19/ OSS Source S, 9 May 1945
- 20/ OSS Source S, 31 December 1943
- 21/ OSS Source D, 10 August 1943
- 22/ OWI European News Digest, 12 May 1945 (quoting London Radio of 10 May 1945)
- 23/ OSS Source F, July 1945

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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