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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH
BIOGRAPHICAL REPORT

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in Report

Name: KALTENBRUNNER, Ernst
Nationality: Austrian
Region: Berlin and Vienna
Last major positions: SS Oberguppenführer and
General der Polizei;
Chief of the Security Police and of the SD
(Reichssicherheitshauptamt); Member of the Reichstag
Birth date and place: 4 October 1903, Ried im Innkreis, Upper Austria
Religion: Roman Catholic
Family History: Kaltenbrunner comes from a middle-class family. 5/
However, no details are known about his family's
background.

Education, work and
political history:

Kaltenbrunner went to primary school in Raab,
attended Real Gymnasium in Linz, and studied
law from 1921 to 1926 at the University of Graz;
here he obtained his LL.D. degree at the age of 23
in 1926 and served as Rechtspraktikant (lawyer
apprentice) for one year at the Landesgericht
(Court of Appeals) in Linz for one year. In 1928
he became a junior barrister in Salzburg and held
the same position in Linz after 1929. 4/

Like many members of the Austrian intelligentsia,
especially in the provinces, Kaltenbrunner was not
satisfied with a regular career and became active
in politics. 4/ He joined the Nazi Party at a com-
paratively early date, since his party card has the
low number of 300, 179. Immediately after becoming
a party member, he also joined the SS with the mem-
bership number 13,039, which also indicates member-
ship in the very first years of this organization. 2/
He advanced rapidly in the Austrian Nazi Party. As
long as the Nazis in Austria had the status of a legal
party (until 1933), Kaltenbrunner held the official
position of a Gau speaker (Gauredner) and legal ad-
viser to SS Abschnitt VIII (Austria). After the Nazi
party in Austria had been outlawed, Kaltenbrunner
became leader of the SS Standarte (regiment) 37,
which comprised about 1200 to 1300 men, and later,
of the whole SS Abschnitt VIII. 2/ He is also re-

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KALTENBRUNNER, Ernst (cont'd)

ported to have been a member of the party's central executive committee in Austria, with headquarters in Vienna. 4/ Kaltenbrunner also reorganized the Austrian SS formations after 1933 and as their leader was largely responsible for the acts of terrorism committed by these formations between 1933 and 1938 in order to undermine the independence of Austria and to prepare for the forcible incorporation of that country into Germany. 2/ 5/

In connection with his activities he was arrested by the Austrian police and held in the prisons of Linz and Wels for ten months, and in a concentration camp for 4½ months. 2/ He must have been released from prison prior to the invasion of Austria, since he is reported to have given orders to the SS in Austria immediately before the crossing of the Austrian border by German troops. 4/ Immediately upon the occupation of Austria he was officially appointed Leader of the SS Oberabschnitt Oesterreich and Secretary of State for Security in Seyss-Inquart's Cabinet; subsequently he was appointed Höherer SS und Polizeiführer bei den Reichsstatthaltern in Wien, Oberdonau, und Niederdonau im Wehrkreis XVII (Senior SS and Police Leader at the Hq. of the Reich Governors in Vienna, Upper Danube, and Lower Danube in Military District XVII. 3/ In this capacity he was in charge of all police activities in these regions and brought about the coordination (Gleichschaltung) of Austria with Germany, employing the most ruthless methods. 5/ Soon after the invasion of Austria he was also appointed a member of the Greater German Reichstag. 2/

On 26 January 1943 Kaltenbrunner was appointed the successor to Reinhard Heydrich as Chief of the Security Police and of the Sicherheitsdienst. 6/ In this position he was in charge of all matters concerning political police (Gestapo), criminal police, press police, etc. and in charge of supervision of the personnel of the SS and of the Gestapo; thus, he was Heinrich Himmler's deputy, at least in these matters, and the second in command of the Gestapo. 1/ 4/ Kaltenbrunner also signed decrees and orders by "Der Reichsführer SS and Chief der Deutschen Polizei (i.V. -- in Vertretung)" which, according to the usage of German administration indicates that Kaltenbrunner did not act in each case on Himmler's special orders, but was his permanent deputy, empowered with general jurisdiction over the German Police. 5/ It should also be stressed that Kaltenbrunner was Himmler's aid in charge of concentration camps. 2/ He was also frequently reported as instrumental in the killing of about 4,000,000 persons in the so-called gas chambers in concentration camps and is said to have agreed with Hitler and Himmler on the gas chamber program at a Berlin conference in 1942. 8/ In April 1943 Kaltenbrunner was also put in charge of the Abwehr organization (German Secret Counter-Intelligence), replacing Admiral Canaris. 2/ During the last weeks of the war Kaltenbrunner was reported as one of the organizers of the Werewolves, the organization planned by the Nazis to continue underground activities against the Allies after the occupation of Germany. 10/

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KALTENBRUNNER, Ernst (cont'd)

On 15 May 1945 Kaltenbrunner was discovered by Austrian patriots in a fortified chalet near Alt-Aussee in Styria and arrested by troops of the United States Third Army. 8/

Sources:

- 1/ Taschenbuch für Verwaltungsbeamte, 1943, pp. 20, 87
- 2/ Der Grossdeutsche Reichstag, 1938, p. 270
- 3/ Who's Who in Nazi Germany, 1944 p. 80
- 4/ Current Biography, 1943
- 5/ OSS Source, T, 17 August 1945
- 6/ OSS Source S, 26 April 1943
- 7/ OSS Source S, 28 April 1944
- 8/ New York Times, 16 May 1945
- 9/ OSS Source S, 25 March 1944
- 10/ Press Intelligence, New York via Bern, 6 April 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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