

Kaltenbrunner  
3802

OFFICE OF U. S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL  
FOR THE PROSECUTION OF AXIS CRIMINALITY

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of ERNST KALTENBRUNNER

By: Colonel Brundage, 21. September 1945, p.m. Nuremberg.

1. ERNST KALTENBRUNNER

- a. Duties in RSHA (12-15).
- b. Responsibility for issuing orders (16-18).
- c. Mass deportations of forced labor (3).
- d. Attitude on the church (19-20).
- e. Jewish question (20-21).
- f. Concentration camps (21-25, 31-32).
- g. Relation to: (1) Gestapo (11, 28); (2) NSDAP (11); (3) SD (13-15); (4) SS (15).
- h. Relation to: (1) Glueck (18); (2) Hitler (8, 12, 20); (3) Heydrich (2, 3, 9, 11); (4) Huber (3); (5) Mueller (3-4, 7-8, 10, 19, 22); (6) Ohlendorf (14); (7) Ribbentrop (20); (8) Eichmann (18-19); (9) Seuckel (30); (10) Himmler (1-4, 8, 20).

2. CANARIS

- a. Position in SS (16).
- b. Relation to Himmler (16).

3. EICHMANN

- a. Relation to Mueller (18-19).

4. GLUECK

- a. Relation to Pohl (18).

5. GOERING

- a. Aggressive action in Austria (3).

6. GRAWITZ

- a. Position in Government
- b. Concentration camps (32)
- c. Relation to Himmler (32).

7. HIMMLER

- a. Concentration Camps (21-22).

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8. HEYDRICH
  - a. Concentration Camps (21-22).
9. MUELLER
  - a. Concentration camps (22).
  - b. Relation to: (1): Eichmann (18,19); (2): Himmler (4,7,8,10);  
(3): Schellenberg (4).
10. NEBE
  - a. Position in Government (5).
  - b. Relation to: (1): Himmler (7,10,18); (2): Mueller (4,18).
11. OHLENDORF
  - a. Position in government (5).
12. POHL
  - a. Position in Government (18).
  - b. Concentration camps (22,32).
  - c. Relation to Glueck (18).
13. RATTENB AUER
  - a. Position in Reich Security Service (26).
14. SCHELLENBERG
  - a. Position in Government (4).
15. WOLFF
  - a. Concentration camps (21).

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(1) KALTENBRUNNER'S DUTIES AS CHIEF OF THE RSHA

Following the death of Heydrich in June 1942, Himmler personally directed all the matters of the RSHA (2). The task was too great. When asked by Himmler in December 1942 to take over leadership of the RSHA K refused because: (a) He had no police experience; (b) He was ever an enemy of Heydrich's and opposed the political concepts of the Party in Austria which called for a revolutionary rather than evolutionary development of the Austrian NS movement. (p3)

K was called to Himmler's field headquarters on 15 January 1943 and was "ordered" as his "war effort" to assume the position as Chief of the RSHA. Himmler retained the executive branches, offices 4 and 5 (with Mueller as Chief directly under Himmler). K was to concern himself solely with the Internal Information Services, (Amt 3): Schellenburg, formerly a close associate of Heydrich's, was to retain control of Amt 6. Himmler told K that he regarded him as merely a "political man with no police knowledge." (pp 3-4)

K states that Himmler told all "present chiefs of office" of this new arrangement. (4) (Note: Apparently meaning) "all chiefs of office who were present" at the time. HLH)

K never received a written order to assume his duties. (p5). He never took an oath of office - either before Himmler or Hitler. (p 8)

K vehemently insists on pp 6-8 that he was Chief of RSHA in name only; that Mueller (Amt 4) for example, acted independently of him at all times, his authority coming directly from Himmler; that his function consisted merely in making objective reports to the "leading posts", regarding political, cultural and religious activities within the Reich. (pp 6-8). K admits that "practically" he should have appeared on an organizational chart between Hitler and Himmler (p6) but in fact he did not appear in any such organizational scheme because at the outset he had refused to accept the former status of Heydrich. (p 6; also pp 7-9). "I was naturally called the chief of this office but I haven't actually been the chief..." (p7) K states he had no authority over the State and Criminal Police, no authority to dictate policy; that he performed no executive functions; that he had no authority to order an arrest. (pp 9-11; see also p 28). "Responsibility according to our laws is relative to the functions that one actually executes".... "Whatever I have done I am responsible for". (p 10)

"It was my duty to gather all informations that was reported to me, add my own remarks to it, then draw an objective line to all cultural, social and political affairs in the State and send it on to the higher leading posts". (p11). K insists that many times he made reports which criticised the policy of the NSDAP in the matter of administrative procedures and policies. (p11)

As sources of information K relied on the SD Inland and "his personal connections". (p 12) He "never used the Gestapo. (p 11)

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The SD consisted of two groups. (1) the Chief Office Group ( 3 to 5 thousand persons) and (2) the Honorary Office Group. (p 13) When K desired information re a particular matter he would make a request to the head of one of the Departments, i.e. Ohlendorf in Gruppe III, for the Information. -- or K would rely on his " own connections". (p 14)

#### OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

Kaltenbrunner denies that he was head of the Security Office for Occupied Territories. This was the function of the SS police leaders in each occupied area (the area commandant of the Order Police and commandant of the Security Police. As such they reported directly to Himmler. The matter was never referred to K. (p 15)

#### ORDERS ISSUED OVER KALTENBRUNNER'S NAME.

Orders for Offices 4 and 5 were issued by the respective chief of those offices. K had no executive authority. (p 16) k states that Offices 4 and 5 might well have issued orders over his name which he does not know about. (p 16) K insists that if any orders were issued bearing his name they must refer only to matters of the SD In and -- never anything regarding the Gestapo (p 17) nor the Kripo (18). Orders affecting the latter two groups could only be issued by Himmler, Mueller, or Nebe.

K admits that Pohl, Chief of the Economical and Administration Chief Office might have issued orders over his ( K's) name. denies that Glueck, subordinate to Pohl could have issued such orders or that Eichmann, Office 4, could have issued such orders. (p 18)

In response to the question as to whether or not K was Mueller's superior he stated, " I was just one rank higher than he." (p 19) Regarding Pohl, K states that he was not Pohl's superior; that Pohl operated in a separate main office. (p 19) 5Note: K asserted there was " physical separation"; he did not answer the question as to whether or not Pohl was in fact a subordinate.)

K denies that he was ever Hitler's body guard, that such was under the Reich Security Office, headed by Rattenhuber. (p 26) K states that during February, March, and April 1944 he went to the Reich Chancery for or five times week, although he only saw Hitler about once a week. (p 26).

K admits having made reports on the effects of mass importations of foreign labor. However, he denies having any connection with the formulation of policy. (p 30) K made no investigation re matter of medical experiments. Such investigations would have been under the Chief of the Sanitary System, the Chief Physician of Himmler, Grawitz.



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#### KALTENBRUNNER AND THE GESTAPO

K states that he had no connection with the Gestapo whatsoever --its operations or otherwise. He states that he never received any of the reports submitted by the Gestapo. (p28)

#### KALTENBRUNNER AND THE CHURCH-JEWISH QUESTIONS.

K denies that he ever took positive action on the church question, though he admits that the subject was discussed in his "objective reports". pp 19,20. He insists that his opinion differed from the Party line; that he protested the Jewish question, but "there was nothing he could do about it". (pp 20-21)

#### KALTENBRUNNER AND CONCENTRATION CAMPS.

K. professes to have made numerous reports re the "horrible rumors that circulated" regarding the camps. He states that Pohl, Gluecks, Himmler are mainly responsible for conditions existing in the Camps. Mueller is not responsible; that any orders for arrests resulting in confinement in a camp were issued "by Mueller by order of Himmler". K states that the Camp Commandant would not be authorized to execute an order received from one other than the three named. (pp 21-25) No one could gain admission to a concentration camp for any purpose without first gaining permission from Himmler, Pohl or Gluecks. (p32)

#### ATTEMPTS TO RESIGN.

K states that he attempted to resign in protest over the concentration camps and other issues. He could not resign because he had been ordered to execute the mission as his "war effort", he was never responsible for the condition--merely for reporting the rumors he heard about it. (pp 22-23)