

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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of: Ernst KALTENBRUNNER
By: Lt. Col. Brookhart, , 9. October 1945, A.M.

PERSONS; ORGANIZATION IMPLICATED AND SUBJECTS.

1. KALTENBRUNNER:

a) Discussion of Publications

- (1) "Die Deutsche Polizei", by Dr. Werner Best (p3)
- (2) "Die Schutzstaffel Als antibolschewistische Kampfor-
ganization" (pp.6-7)
- (3) "Organization der NSDAP" (pp.7-8, 10)
- (4) "Fifty Questions and Answers for the SS Man" (pp.17-18)
- (5) "Das Buch der NSDAP" (pp.18-19)
- (6) "Das schwarze Korps" (pp.19-20)
- (7) "Völkischer Beobachter" (p.19)
- (8) "Die Geschichte" (19-21)
- (9) The requirements to render a publication "Official":
(pp 6-7 and p 9)

b) SS

- (1) Membership and status in the SS (pp.7-8)
- (2) Oath of the SS (pp.17-18)
- (3) Similarity in structure of the SS and the SA (pp.18-19)
- (4) "Das Schwarze Korps", SS newspaper. (pp.19-20)

c) RSMA

- (1) Employment of repressive measures by the SA and
Gestapo. (pp.14-16)

d) The Nazi Party in Austria (pp.5-6)

e) Relationship with: Goebbels (pp.22-23); Himmler (pp.1-2
pp.12-13) Heydrich (pp.1-3, 16-17); Günther D' Alquen (p.20);

2. HIMMLER:

- a) Himmler's Formula for Obedience (pp.12-13)
- b) "Die Schutzstaffel" Als antibolschewistische Kampfor-
ganization"-- propaganda, aims of Himmler. (pp.6-7)

3. HEYDRICH

a) Police Function

- (1) Exercise of Executive Police Power (pp.1-3)

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PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO PARTY ORGANIZATIONS

Dr. Werner Best's "Die Deutsche Polizei": Kaltenbrunner stated that "not being on the scene at the time" he could not state whether this book, prior to its publication in 1940, had received the approval of Himmler or Heydrich; that likewise he had no way of knowing whether or not the volume is an authoritative work.

(pp.1-2) At the time the book was published Heydrich was Chief of the Security Office and he doubted that anyone, including Dr. Best, could get a clear insight of the structure of the Security Office. (p.2) Kaltenbrunner could neither deny nor affirm that Dr. Best, in his position as Ministerial Director, might have been able to publish the book without the official sanction of Heydrich or Himmler. (p.3)

Kaltenbrunner states that he was "certainly" not the author of any books or pamphlets referring to Party matters. His only writings were the reports which he made to Himmler and Hitler. (p.4)

Re "Die Schutzstaffel als Antibolschewistische Kampforganisation":

Kaltenbrunner states that it was generally regarded as pure propaganda, undoubtedly reflecting Himmler's ideas. It could be purchased at any news-stand or book-store. "I don't think you can regard it as an official Party publication". He would assume that it had been "passed by some kind of office". There was a special division in the Party which was concerned with authorizing official documents in the name of the Party. (pp.5-7) Was asked to read pp. 20-22 of the pamphlet. He characterized the Passages as reflecting the Fantastic aims of Himmler, he did not know whether or not it was a correct statement of the policies of the SS as established in 1925. The reference in the text to Himmler's "Formula for Obedience" is characterized by Kaltenbrunner as being nothing more than that generally required of any one who had joined the Army, -- that Himmler required strict obedience was known to all. (pp.12-13)

Requirements to render a publication "Official".

If a pamphlet were published by the Central Press of the NSDAP such did not, in itself, make it an official publication of the Party. The Central Press of the NSDAP was supervised by the Eher Publishing Co., which company published a great many other books which were not issued under Party Sponsorship.

Ermst Kaltenbrunner, 3. Oct., 1945
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To be an official publication the fact that permission for such publication was obtained through the Reich Party leadership must appear on the title page. (pp.6-7; also p.9)

Re the "Organisationbuch der NSDAP", issued in 1940 through the Central Press of the NSDAP: Kaltenbrunner stated that it would not be regarded as an official publication of the Party, although it was generally regarded as a handbook of the Party. (pp.7-8) see also pp.8-10 where official nature of the book is also discussed.) Kaltenbrunner was referred to PP.431-432 of the book referred to above and was apparently shown certain insignia indicating his rank when he was an SS leader in Austria and later when he became Chief of the RSHA. Kaltenbrunner stated that in 1938 he held the rank of Brigade-Fuehrer; 1942-1943 he became Gruppenfuehrer and in 1944 he became Obergruppenfuehrer, Kaltenbrunner likewise admitted that he, as did all SS personnel, enlisted and officers, wore the Totenkopf (Death head) of the SS (pp.7-9)

On p 29 of the same book, it is stated that the SD and Gestapo were regarded by Himmler as agencies for the Protection of Germany from the Interior that many people in Germany will faint if they see the black blouse. Kaltenbrunner stated that such was fantastic; that there were many other agencies for the protection of the Reich besides the SD and Gestapo. Kaltenbrunner indicated that the reference to the "people's reaction" referred to the counter-revolutionary measures which would of necessity be employed as part of the duty of these organizations. (pp.14-15) Kaltenbrunner stated that undoubtedly there were many people who held great fear of the Gestapo, especially "the ones who did not like the Government". However, the SD, as such, is not to be regarded as having indulged in the use of the repressive methods employed by the Gestapo. Kaltenbrunner insisted that the ~~distinction~~ between the two organizations must always be kept in mind. (p.15-16) Kaltenbrunner conceded that the SD was probably "misused" in the sense that it performed executive police functions while Heydrich was Chief of the RSHA. The basic distinction remains, however, -- the Gestapo was an executive organization and the SD was not." Kaltenbrunner insisted that after he assumed control, this distinction was maintained. (pp.16-17)

Re the "Fifty Questions and Answers for the SS Man". Referring to (pp.26-27) of that publication, Kaltenbrunner believed that the SS oath was correctly quoted. He stated, however, that he never took the oath when he became a member in Austria. The only oath which he ever took was the oath of a soldier in 1940. He believed that the oath, in substance, was the same as that referred to in the book "fifty Questions". (pp.17-18)

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He evaded the question as to whether or not he had taken the oath " seriously". (p.18). (See also pp.23-24)

Re "Das Buch der NSDAP" by Walter Espe, published in Berlin 1934: Kaltenbrunner denied any knowledge of the book; agreed that the statements to the effect that the SS was similar in structure to the SA and that the Reich leader of the SS was subordinate to the Chief of staff of the SA, were correct. (p.18) On p 8 of the book is a chart entitled " The Organization of the SA and SS". Kaltenbrunner stated that the chart with one or two exceptions is a correct statement of " organizational structure as of 1934. (p.19)

Re "Das Schwarze Korps": Kaltenbrunner stated that this newspaper was probably published in Munich; that it was a propaganda instrument of the SS; that it contained no official information. (p.19-20)

Re "The Völkischer Beobachter": Kaltenbrunner stated that this publication was the official newspaper of the NSDAP. (p.19)

Re "Die Geschichte", by D'Alquen. Kaltenbrunner stated that the author Gunte D'Alquen was known to him as a writer for the SS Newspaper " Das Schwarze Korps". He denied any knowledge of the book, however stated that it would not be regarded as an official publication; that the author was a "mere" journalist and " not a responsible man". Kaltenbrunner stated that he did not regard anything that D'Alquen wrote as authoritative. (pp.19-21)

AUSTRIAN NAZI PARTY:

Kaltenbrunner denied that during the period 1934 to 1938 in Austria, he received any literature of SS material from Berlin. He furthermore contended that he was not " working illegally" after 1938, but rather he used his office to influence the SS "that they should not work illegally" He however, did admit that sometimes officials came to Austria, made speeches . After the Anschluss books and pamphlets were available. (pp.5-6).