

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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of: ERNST KALTENBRUNNER

By: Lt. Col. Brookhart, 12 October 1945, A.M. Nurnberg

PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS IMPLICATED AND SUBJECTS

1. KALTENBRUNNER

- a. Police Function
 - (1) Signing of Orders (ppl - 2, pp 7-8)
 - (2) Signing of Arrest Orders (pp 11-13)
 - (3) Signing of Orders for Death Sentence (pp 22-25)
- b. Persecution of Jews
 - (1) Stahlecker's Action Group A (p 20)
 - (2) Einsatzkommandos (p 19)
- c. Concentration Camps
 - (1) Responsibility for Administration (pp 4-5; pp 25-26)
 - (2) Conferences regarding (p 14)
- d. Execution of Allied Prisoners of War (p 23)
- e. Employment of Foreign Workers
 - (1) Breach of Contract by Foreign Workers, (pp 5-9)
- f. Spoliation of Property
 - (1) Resettlement Actions (pp 15-16)
- g. Relationship with: Himmler, p 2, pp 4-5, pp 7-8, p 13, p 21;
 Mueller pp 2-4, p 13, pp 17-18, p 22, pp 24-25; Schellenberg
 pp 1-2; Pohl pp 4-5, p 14, pp 17-18, p 22; Gluecks, pp 4-5;
 Heydrich pp 15-16; Eichmann pp 17-18; Sauckel p 8.
- h. Discussion of documents: L-41 (p 3); L-38 (p.11-12); L -35(p.13);
 L 137 (p.22-23); L-49 (p.17);

2. HIMMLER

- a. Concentration Camps (pp 4-5)
- b. Police Function
 - (1) Retention of Executive Police Power (p 13; p 21)
- c. Persecution of Jews (pp 17-18)

3. HEYDRICH

- a. ~~Spoliation of Property.~~
 - (1) Resettlement Actions (pp 15-17)

4. SCHELLENBERG

- a. Police Function
 - (1) Signing of Orders (pp 1-2)

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5. MUELLER

- a. Police Function
 - (1) Signing of Orders (p 2, p 6)
- b. Concentration Camps (pp 4-5)
 - (1) Persecution of Jews (pp 22)

6. POHL

- a. Concentration Camps (pp 4-5)
- b. Persecution of Jews (pp 17-18, p 22)

7. GLUECKS

- a. Concentration Camps (pp 4-5)

SIGNIFICANCE OF ORDERS SIGNED BY KALTENBRUNNER AND SUBORDINATES

- a. If the report came from Schellenberg's foreign Department then Kaltenbrunner would sign the document--that is, reports which "were worked over by me and partly approved by me and which were transmitted as political information". (pp1-2)
- b. If, on the other hand, the report came from Schellenberg's Military Department (Mil) then Schellenberg would have signed them. (p2)
- c. However, if there were not any arrangements between Reichsfuehrer SS and the Wehrmacht, then either Himmler signed himself or Kaltenbrunner in representation of Himmler with the German lettering "I.V." meaning "in representation" or else "I.A." meaning "by order". (p 2)
- d. When Mueller signed documents with the phrase "by order" preceding his name he was signing on Himmler's authority -- never, of course, on Kaltenbrunner's authority. (p 2) Likewise Mueller signed all documents from his own Department himself; this was done "on the authority of his relationship with Himmler". (p 2)
- e. Documents of Department 5 were signed by Nebe on authority of Himmler. (p 2)
- f. Documents of Department 3 "in the internal traffic" were signed by Nebe (?); but whatever "had been given up to me (K) from Department 3 or Department 6 had been signed by me (K)". (p2)

K stated that there was no one in his office authorized to sign his, K's, name. He stated that he "cannot remember" any occasions on which he (K) signed as Deputy of Reichsfuehrer SS. The only possibility would have been where Himmler on written order would have stated; "Will you order this and this in my authority?"-- in such a case K would sign as Deputy. He could not, however, recall any such instance. He stated that such authority would never have been given orally. On further reflection he could recall one instance wherein he met with Red Cross authorities in Innsbruck (1945) -- on that occasion he was authorized to act as Himmler's Deputy. (pp 7-8)

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CONCENTRATION CAMPS

K was shown document L-41. It related to the internment of some 35,000 persons under detention; that such persons should be sent to concentration camps "for work". The Document was apparently in two parts, one dated 17 December 1942 and signed "Mueller", preceded by the words "by order"; and the second was dated 23 March 1943, signed "the Deputy" with Mueller's signature. (p 3) Regarding the 17 December portion of the document, K stated that Mueller undoubtedly signed "by order of" Himmler. (p4) Likewise, K was quick to point out that the first portion of the document referred to a period prior to the time that K was in Office. K denied ever having seen any part of the document; K insisted that in his work--reporting on conditions within the Reich--this document had never come to his attention; that these matters were handled by Himmler, Mueller, Pohl and Gluecks. (pp 4-5) Referring to the "distribution" which appeared on the document "through Dept 3" it was noted. K is certain that the "3" refers to a "division" of Mueller's Amt 4 and not to Ohlendorf's Amt 3 (with which office K had previously admitted being closely aligned. (p5)

Document L-38 which is an affidavit of an SS Oberfuehrer, commanding Buchenwald (1942-1945) stating that except for the "mass deliveries" all prisoners were sent to Buchenwald on orders of the Main Security Office of the Reich, Berlin. "Preventive arrest orders were in most cases signed by Kaltenbrunner." K vehemently denied that there is "one order in existence in the Reich that has been signed by my hand in which an order is contained that one man should be sent to a concentration camp". (pp 11-12)

Document L-35 is an affidavit of Colonel Mildner, former Chief of Security Police in Vienna, to the effect that orders assigning persons to concentration camps were signed by "...K and his ... Deputy Mueller". Such could only have been signed by Mueller, "... only he, he himself, has the authority to do anything like that and I never had any authority for any such thing." K admitted that his name might have been "printed" on the form, but if so it was a mis-use of his name. People may have thought that he signed many of these orders because they were not aware of Himmler's retention of the executive police power while K was Chief of RSHA. (p 13)

Document L-137 is testimony of a shorthand typist who stated that "... all death sentences in concentration camp Dora had been signed by Kaltenbrunner." K denied ever having heard of Dora. The testimony also indicates that "... K ordered how many slave laborers were to die..." K denied the statement as "completely mad". (pp 22-23)

K denied that he had ever held any conferences with Pohl re the matter of concentration camps. This, in spite of the fact that numerous witnesses were alleged by the interrogator to have stated that K did in fact have such conferences. (p 14)

K categorically denied having issued any orders of execution to standartenfuehrer Zierass, commander of Camp Mauthausen, such orders signed at times by Kaltenbrunner and on other occasions by Mueller. (p 24) "Either they were signed by Mueller or he mis-used my name." (p 24-25)

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K denied the testimony of the Adjutant of Camp Mauthausen to the effect that K had visited the camp several times while Chief of the RSHA. (p 25) although he admitted having been in the vicinity of the Camp to "attend a wedding". (pp 25-26)

EXECUTION OF ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR:

K denied that he had ever issued a teletype order calling for the execution of captured Allied Soldiers in January 1943--this, in spite of Standartenfuhrer Zierass testimony that he had. (Re Doct.L51; p 23)

EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN WORKERS:

Document L-157 is an Order of the Reichsfuehrer SS, issued by Kaltenbrunner on 13 July 1943 as Deputy for Himmler. The document relates to the methods of combating breaches of contract by foreign workers. (p.5) Kaltenbrunner disclaims ever having seen or ever having signed the documents. (p.6.) Kaltenbrunner states that the matter is one where Himmler "should have signed himself", but since he "... had been used to having Mueller sign the orders for him he undoubtedly had followed that same procedure in this paper." The fact that Kaltenbrunner's name was signed and not Muellers, merely indicates that Mueller did not want to sign the document himself and used Kaltenbrunner's name. (p.6) Kaltenbrunner denies that the situation regarding the breach of contracts by laborers was ever reported by him in any of his Information Reports. However, he does state, "... in the general reports about the labor situation it was naturally reported that breaches of contracts were increasing as war went on, ... but this was never reported in any of my reports... only ... in the General Report." (p.9)

JEWISH PERSECUTION

Kaltenbrunner stated that he had heard when he took the position as Chief of the RSHA that Jews had been killed and that "some had found their end in the concentration camps; but that Himmler had assured him that he would never be burdened by this matter since he, Himmler, was to retain the executive Police power of Amts. 4 and 5. (p.21)

Kaltenbrunner denied all knowledge of Document L-180 which is a report reflecting the activities of Stahlecker's Action Group A, which during June to October 1941 was responsible for the extermination of some 135,576 persons--mostly Jews. (p.20)

Kaltenbrunner was asked whether or not he had heard that 6 to 7 million Jews had been exterminated under the Nazi Regime; whether he had ever reported on such matters to Himmler. He stated that he had never heard any specific numbers given; that he had heard rumors regarding the extermination of the Jews but knew of no factual material; that only Himmler and Pohl had access to that information. Kaltenbrunner stated that he had never conferred with Eichmann, specialist on the Jewish question, regarding the matter. (pp.17-18)

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Kaltenbrunner stated that it was because of the Nazi policy regarding the Jews under the Nuremberg Laws that he had been reluctant to accepting the position as Chief of the RSHA. "The Nurnberg Laws do not include Jews being killed in a 'systematic form'". Asked then how it was intended that the Jews be disposed of, Kaltenbrunner stated, "In any way, it was nothing that meant any physical harm to them. It was only a legislative taking away of rights." (p.19)

Kaltenbrunner denied any knowledge of the Einsatzkommandos which were organized by the SS and the SD for the extermination of Jews in Poland and Russia. "I never assigned any Einsatzkommandos." (p.19)

Kaltenbrunner denied that he issued any orders for the extermination of some 4 million Jews that were killed after he took office. Such orders had to be "... referred to Mueller or his subordinate Pohl." (p.22)

RESETTLEMENT ACTIONS

Document L-49 is an affidavit of SS Obergruppenfuehrer Otto Hoffmann to the effect that the "execution of the so-called resettlement actions (the sending away of Poles, Jews and people of non-German origin who were settlers in the area of Poland destined for 'Germanization') was in the hands of Heydrich and later Kaltenbrunner,... Chief of RSHA." (pp.15-16) The affidavit also asserted that the RSHA had supervision and authority to issue orders over the so-called Immigration Center (EWC), which classified the Germans living abroad and those returned to Germany, and which directed such persons to individual farms in German territory which had been "freed" (pp.15-16) Hoffmann, Kaltenbrunner stated, was head of the Race and Settlement Head Office (the R.v.S.H.m. which had no connection with Kaltenbrunner's RSHA). Heydrich did have a part in the Resettlement Actions--but Heydrich had the executive powers in Departments 4 and 5 which Kaltenbrunner did not have-- these powers Himmler assumed when Heydrich died, "...and he didn't give this authority to Kaltenbrunner, UNTIL MONTHS LATER." (p.17)