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6

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PRINCIPAL NAZI ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN THE COMMISSION OF WAR CRIMES

THE NAZI PARTY

(Part IV)

Draft for the Use of the War Crimes Staff

Owing to the urgency of forwarding this material abroad, the finished draft has received only a cursory proof-reading. For the errors which will inevitably stud the text, our apologies.

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IV. THE "FORMATIONS" OF THE NSDAP

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THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST PARTY (NSDAP)

PART IV. THE "FORMATIONS" OF THE NSDAP

Introduction:

The National Socialist Party "formations" were organizations which, although not actually within the Party proper, were an integral and important part of the Nazi movement. Membership in a formation, however, did not necessarily imply membership in the Party. A man may very well have been a member of the SA, for example, and not held a Party card.

According to official sources, there were seven formations:

1 the SA (Sturmabteilungen - Storm Troops), the SS (Schutzstaffeln - Protective Guard), the NSKK (NS Kraftfahr Korps - NS Motor Corps) the Hitler Jugend (Hitler Youth), the NS Frauenschaft (NS Women's Organization), the NSD Studenten-Bund (National Socialist German League of Students), and the NSD Dozentenbund (National Socialist German League of Teachers).

Although some of the formations, such as the SA, SS, and HJ, were more important and powerful than others, all performed a vital service in the National Socialist movement: they were the "shock troops" of the Party, composed of the most reliable and convinced Nazis, whose task was to whip the rest of the population into line, through force, persuasion, or organization. After 1934 the specific task of the SA was the para-military training of Party members and the population in general. The main responsibility of the Hitler Jugend was the indoctrination of German youth. The NS Frauenschaft,

1. Listed in the decrees of 29 March 1935 and 5 December 1935, carrying out the law of 1 December 1933 for the Securing of Unity of Party & State, RGBl, p. 502, 1523.

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a selected group, exercised control over the Deutsches Frauenwerk, the mass organization for German women. The NSD Dozentenbund and NSD Studentenbund, composed of Party members, were responsible for educating university teachers and students in the National Socialist ideology. The NS Kraftfahr Korps, originally a part of the SA, took charge of pre-military and post-military training for the motorized and mechanized units of the Army, and acted as one of the chief transport and supply agencies of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. (In addition, the NSKK gradually assumed certain "terror" functions).

Leadership of the formations varied. In the case of the SA, Hitler himself was the Supreme Commander, although the organization was actually run by Wilhelm Schepmann, Chief of Staff, who was responsible to the Führer. The SS was autonomous: its director was the Reichsführer SS, Heinrich Himmler. The NSKK, headed by Erwin Kraus, was likewise an independent formation. The HJ was administered by the Reichsjugendführung (Reich Youth Directorat), headed by Artur Axmann. The NS Frauenschaft was directed by the Frauenführerin Gertrud Scholtz-Klinck. The NSD Dozentenbund and NSD Studentenbund were directed respectively by the Reichsdozentenführer and the Reichsstudentenführer (Dr. Gustav-Adolf Scheel).

Only those formations which are deemed to have borne the greatest degree of responsibility in connection with the perpetration of war crimes are discussed here.

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The SS (Schutzstaffeln)

1. Definition

Among the Nazi organizations charged with the actual commission of atrocities, the SS ranks supreme. In official statements, including the Declaration of Potsdam, and in individual reports on Nazi crimes, reference is made, alternatively or collectively to the SS, SD, and Gestapo as the perpetrators of various atrocities. The differentiation in most cases appears to be arbitrary and based on the assumption that, in speaking of SS, SD, and Gestapo, one is confronted with three different agencies which, although similar in type of activity, are each independent and self-sufficient from an organizational point of view.

Actually both SD and Gestapo were organizations which functioned under the command of the Reichsführer SS (Reich Leader of the SS), Heinrich Himmler, who, simultaneously, was Chef der Deutschen Polizei (Chief of the German Police). They were simply organized in separate offices, namely III, IV, and VI, of the Reichssicherheitshauptamt (Reich Security Main Office). The Reichssicherheitshauptamt, in turn, was a so-called Hauptamt (Main-Office) within the Reichsführung SS (Supreme Command of the SS) and, at the same time, part of the Ministry of the Interior, immediately subordinate to the Chef der Sicherheitspolizei (SiPo) und des Sicherheitsdienstes (SD) (Chief of the Security Police and Security Service), Ernst Kaltenbrunner, and ultimately subordinate to the Reichsführer SS und Chef der Deutschen Polizei (Reich Leader of the SS and Chief of the German Police), Heinrich Himmler.

There was, however, one significant difference between the SD and the Gestapo in their relationship to the SS. The SD stemmed functionally from the SS; it was, in fact, the intelligence service of the National Socialist Party even prior to the seizure of power and was composed exclusively of members of the SS. The Gestapo, by contrast, was instituted and continued to function as a government agency and drew, for staffing purposes, on officials of the old Sicherheitspolizei (Security Police). Members of the Gestapo were required to possess "SS-Fähigkeit", i.e., the racial, physical, and political qualities prerequisite to membership in the SS; however, they did not need actually to join the SS.

In other words, crimes committed by members of the SS did not necessarily fall under the jurisdiction of either the SD or the Gestapo; while crimes committed by members of the Gestapo, though not always executed by individual members of the SS, were by origin and implications always attributable to SS commands on the top regional and/or local levels.¹

1. For details on the criminal responsibility of the Gestapo see "Principal Nazi Organizations involved in the Commission of War Crimes: the Gestapo", R&A Report No. 3113.6

SECRET2. Historical Background

a. Review: Rise of the SS to a Ruling Group. In the twenty-two years of its existence the SS grew from a mere Stabswache (HQ Guard) for the protection of Hitler to the most powerful organization within the Nazi system. Within the Party structure the SS was a so-called Gliederung (formation) of the Party, equal in status to the SA, the HJ (Hitler Youth), the NSKK (National Socialist Motor Corps), etc. Actually, the SS, in 1944-1945, had become not only a state within the state, but a Party superior to the Nazi Party, the Government, and the Armed Forces. As a super-Nazi party, the SS carried the ideology of the Party, specifically the racial principle, to extremes; as a super-state, the SS had a legal and moral code of its own, an executive apparatus of its own, and a judiciary of its own; as a super-army, the SS had its own military machine which, even at an advanced stage of the war, could still boast of having the cream of the Nazi youth within its ranks. Its privileged status was in harmony with Himmler's definition of the SS as a "National Socialist, soldierly Order of Nordic men and as a pledged community of its clans" ("ein nationalsozialistischer, soldatischer Orden nordisch bestimmter Mannen und als eine geschworene Gemeinschaft ihrer Sippen").¹ i.e., a new aristocracy dedicated to the defense of Teutonic paganism and Prussian authoritarianism with an ample sprinkling of anti-bourgeois prejudices.

However, the exclusiveness of the SS, while maintained in principle, was modified in view of the growing tendency to expand and to infiltrate into the official ruling groups of the regime, high bureaucracy, supreme command of the Armed Forces, and industry. To back up their political demands with

1. Heinrich Himmler, in Die Schutzstaffel als antibolschewistische Kampforganisation, Zentralverlag der NSDAP, 1937.

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figures indicative of numerical strength, the SS even lowered some of their membership standards and, within the Waffen SS, deviated from the principle of voluntary allegiance and introduced compulsory drafting.

b. Early History. The early history of the SS faithfully reflects the ups and downs in the life of the Nazi Party. The SS had its origin in the Stabswache of the SA, founded in March, 1923, but soon transformed in the Stosstrupp Hitler (Hitler Assault Troop), under the command of Joseph Berchtold. Following the abortive putch in November 1923, the Stosstrupp Hitler was dissolved. In 1925, after the resumption of political activities by the Party, the Fuhrer ordered the organization of so-called Schutz-Staffeln for the express purpose of "protecting" the speakers of political meetings and assemblies organized by the Party, but actually to replace the SA, which remained under official ban. Leader of the SS was then Julius Schreck; later, in 1926, it was Berchtold. Upon official rehabilitation of the SA, the SS dropped in importance.

c. Period of Infiltration. In 1929, Himmler was appointed Reichsführer SS. From then on the ascendancy of the SS paralleled Himmler's own career. In April 1933 Himmler became "Politischer Polizeikommandeur" (Commander of the Political Police) for Bavaria. In April 1934, Goering, then Chief of the Gestapo, made Himmler his deputy. The test case for his new office came at the end of June, when Goering and Himmler, with the help of the SS, quelled the Roehm revolt. The putsch of 30 June 1934 meant the political execution and supersession of the SA by the SS. The SS was separated from the SA. Whereas the SA sank to a third-grade power, the SS, now an independent formation of the Party, gained steadily in influence and size.

The following years witnessed the gradual infiltration of the SS into key agencies of government and Armed Forces and the final assumption of control

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of these agencies by Himmler and the SS. Himmler's appointment as Chef der Deutschen Polizei (Chief of the German Police), in 1936, created, according to semi-official interpretation, not merely a union in the person of the officeholder ("Personalunion") but a permanent association ("dauernde Verbindung") between the police and the SS. In 1939 Himmler was made Reichskommissar für die Festigung des deutschen Volkstums (Reich Commissioner for German Folkdom) which led to the establishment of another Hauptamt (Main Office), the Stabs-Hauptamt des Reichskommissars für die Festigung des deutschen Volkstums (Staff of the Reich Commissioner for the Consolidation of German Folkdom). In August 1943 Himmler became Minister of the Interior and, at the same time, Reich Commissioner for Administration in the Ministerial Council for the Defense of the Reich, positions relinquished by Wilhelm Frick. The SS thus gained control of the heart of the entire German bureaucracy.

Early in 1944, finally, the SS started to make their decisive inroads on the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces and of the Army. Divisions I, II, and III of the Abwehr (the Espionage, including the Sabotage and Counter-espionage functions of the German military intelligence service) passed from the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces (OKW) to the jurisdiction of the Militärisches Amt (Military Office) within the Reichssicherheitshauptamt (Reich Main Security Office) of the SS Supreme Command. In July 1944, Himmler was appointed Befehlshaber des Ersatzheeres (Commander in Chief of the Replacement Army) and Chef der Heeresrüstung (Chief of Military Armament).

1. ROBI, part I, p. 487.
2. Werner Best, in Die Deutsche Polizei, 1940.

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Himmler immediately installed the chief of the SS Führungshauptamt (SS Operational HQ), Hans Jüttner, as his deputy, and August Frank, chief of Ant W Wirtschaftsunternehmen (Economic Enterprises) within the SS Wirtschafts- und Verwaltungshauptamt (SS Economic and Administrative Main Office) head of the Heeresverwaltungsamt (Army Administration Office). Furthermore, by decree of the Führer, the Higher SS and Police Leader in Belgium and Northern France, Jungelaus, was appointed Chief of all Armed Forces stationed in this area. Similar arrangements were made later in Slovakia and other places. After 1 October 1944, Himmler assumed the responsibility for all PW affairs and appointed his chief of the SS Hauptamt (SS Central Office), Gottlieb Berger, chief of the PW system. In addition, Himmler was reported to have assumed, at least temporarily, the command of two army groups in the field.

d. SS in Power. Himmler's rise to virtually the Number Two position in the regime -- approximated, perhaps, only by that of Martin Bormann -- benefitted the SS as a whole. The SS gradually spread its influence to all vital phases of public life. Himmler's authority as Minister of the Interior and Chief of Police broadened the terroristic powers of the SS and, above all, conferred upon extra-legal measures of the SS a semblance of legality. SS pressure appeared well-nigh irresistible. On the strength of its added powers, the SS penetrated deeper into the bureaucratic machinery, the Armed Forces Command, and German economy. With the help of resources conquered abroad the SS even became an entrepreneur in its own right. It grew to be a matter not only of political opportunism but of social distinction to join the SS.

Within the Party Hierarchy, the following officials ranked high in the SS: Bormann, Schwarz, Rosenberg, Bouhler, Amann, Buch, Conti, Cassel, Bohle,

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and Ruberg; and within the Government, Goering, Lammers, Ribbentrop, Thierack, Stuckart, and von Neurath. Moreover, the SS saw to it that high government positions were filled by SS leaders; for example, Pohl, chief of the SS Wirtschafts- und Verwaltungshauptamt (SS Economic and Administrative Main Office) was a Ministerial Director in the Ministry of Interior; Jung was head of the Reich Inspectorate for Manpower in the Ministry of Labor; Hayler and Ohlendorff were key officials in the Ministry of Economics; Greifelt in the Central Office of the Reich Commissioner for the Consolidation of German Folkdom; Brner, Keppler, and Weinberg in the Office of the Four Year Plan; and Kahrl as leader¹ leader in the Economics Group of the Textile Industry.

Conversely, the SS established a system of political patronage for its own purposes by enlisting the active sponsorship of leading circles in the field of banking, business, and industry. Persons who could not themselves become members of the SS but who feared for their vested interests could buy "protection against revolutionary tendencies" by choosing to become so-called "Fördernde Mitglieder" (Patron Members). Membership was obtained in return for a monthly contribution to SS funds, the amount being staggered proportionately to the income of the sponsor. All sponsors were organized in the "SS Wirtschaftsring" (SS Economic Ring). The SS Wirtschaftsring was administered by the SS Economic and Administrative Main Office and also appears to have had a representative on the Personal Staff of the Reichsführer SS. The scope of this organization is unknown. A captured membership card made out in December 1935 bore the number 612,101. Whether or not this figure is indicative of the

1. For details and additional names, cf. "The SS Fifth Column", in SHAEF Handbook E.D.S./9/8, The Allgemeine SS.

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numerical strength of the SS Wirtschaftsring, little doubt can be entertained that a substantial part of the money which financed SS operations flowed from this source.

e. Expansion of Organization. The inroads made by the SS in the various sectors of the Government, the Armed Forces, high industry, high finance, and big and small business netted a considerable accrual of functions which in turn called for the creation of special machinery within the SS. The SS, indeed, developed a bureaucracy of its own which equalled, in many respects, if not surpassed, in scope and complexity, that of the Party organization. Moreover, the progressive acquisition of new functions required a permanent revision and reorganization of the administrative apparatus. This, to no small degree, accounts for the variegated and often contradictory information available on the SS organization, its chain of command, distribution of responsibilities, order of battle, etc.

Furthermore, the extended nature of duties to be performed by the staff of the SS necessitated, after 1933, a shift of part of the personnel from a part-time basis to a full-time employment. The result was eventually the formation of special units within the General SS, e.g., the SS Verfügungstruppen (SS Special Service Troops) which included the Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler, the SS Standarte 1 Deutschland, the SS Standarte 2 Germania, and later, after the occupation of Austria, the SS Standarte 3 Der Führer and the so-called Totenkopf Verbände (Death's Head Formations). The latter were put in charge of the guarding of concentration camps. SS Obergruppenführer Hauser was appointed Inspector of the Verfügungstruppen.

In view of the specific tasks assigned to the SD (Security Service) this part of the SS was separated functionally from the Allgemeine SS as early

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as 1931. When the association of the SS with the Police began in 1930, the SD, although technically still a part of the SS, was integrated functionally into the SiPo (Security Police) and has therefore frequently been considered as a special "branch" of the SS.

The outbreak of the war extended the security functions of the SS in occupied areas. Moreover it witnessed the full emergence of the Waffen SS (Combat SS), which was formed, originally, from part of the SS Verfügungstruppen and, later, through recruitment of members of the Allgemeine SS (General SS), of the Hitler Youth, and, to a considerable extent, of so-called Volksdeutsche (Racial Germans) or youth from German-occupied and satellite countries. The employment of non-citizens within the Waffen SS produced the so-called Germanische SS (Germanic SS), a category which comprised three groups: Germanic volunteers and units within the regular Waffen SS; the native Germanic SS in Flanders, Holland, and Norway, and Germanic workers inside Germany organized in so-called Germanic Sturmabanne (battalions) staffed by German, Dutch, and Flemish SS men and officers.

f. Numerical Growth. The multitude of tasks assigned to the SS resulted in an enormous increase of its membership. In 1925, the SS consisted of 250 men organized in so-called "Zehnerstaffeln" (Squads of Ten) scattered all over the country and set up only at Party strongholds. When Himmler became Reichsführer SS, the total strength of the SS was 280. By 1930, the SS had 400 professional guards and 1500 part time volunteers. When the Party seized power in January 1933, the SS was 52,000 strong. From 1933 to 1935, accrual of new members was considerably reduced by systematic weeding out, resulting in an expulsion of a total of 60,000. But by 1935 SS membership had reached 210,000.

After the outbreak of the war a large number of SS men were drafted into the Armed Forces. If a report by Himmler can be believed, no less than 175,000 out of a total of 250,000 had joined the Wehrmacht, notably the Army. It appears that the General SS never recovered from this loss. Recent estimates name a total of 25,000 - 50,000 at the end of 1944, exclusive of police units. The creation of the Waffen SS not only stopped the exodus, but resulted in a total membership which soon exceeded any previous figures. In 1939, the Waffen SS seems to have included 40,000 men. The Order of Battle of the German Army, published in March 1945, lists altogether 13 SS Corps, 31 SS Divisions and 3 Brigades, some of which appear to have been disbanded prior to the report. After defeat, the total strength of the Waffen SS, including all ranks, was given by Von Herff, Chief of the SS Main Personnel Office, as 1,200,000. The total for officers, including those of the Allgemeine SS and Waffen SS, was estimated by him as 37,000.¹

3. Purpose and Functions of the SS

According to the official Party definition, "the protection of the Führer is the original and the most distinguished task of the SS." ("Die ursprüngliche und vornehmste Aufgabe der SS ist es, für den Schutz des Führers zu sorgen.")² This function was widened, by decree of the Führer, to include the task "of securing the Reich internally" ("das Reich im Innern zu sichern.")³ Subsequent to the outbreak of the war and the occupation of enemy, neutral, and satellite territories, the security function of the SS was expanded. To secure the Reich now implied to secure the hold on those territories and populations

1. Interrogation of Maximilian von Herff C.S.D.I.C. (U.K.) G.R.G.G. 317 (C) on file with OSS, XL-11928.
2. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 417.
3. Ibid.

which through military conquest had come under German domination. Finally, if recent information received on post-war subversive organizations (e.g., the Werewolf, Aktion Bundschuh, etc.) can be considered reliable, it is first and foremost the SS which has been entrusted with the task of organizing post-war resistance, in order to perpetuate Nazi terror beyond military defeat.

a. Protection of the Führer. In the words of a high SS officer and official interpreter of the purpose and functions of the SS,¹ "the SS [is] a team of the best -- i.e., not merely the physically best but also the most reliable, the most loyal, and finally, in terms of character, the most valuable -- men from all parts of the Movement." They were selected so that they might meet first of all the fundamental requirements of the formation, namely, "to protect the best possession of the Movement, the Führer himself." In keeping with this tenet, it was Himmler's professed ambition to make the SS "the Führer's most personal elite Guard" (des Führers ureigenste, erlesene Garde).

Historically speaking, the protection of the Führer was the first assignment of the SS, already performed by the two predecessors of the SS, the Stabswache and the Stoßtrupp Hitler (see above). In 1926 the assignment was somewhat enlarged through the inclusion of Party speakers and leaders and finally of the whole Nazi Movement, as the charges of the SS. Eventually, the protection of the Führer became the prerogative of specific formations within the SS, e.g., the Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler under the command of Sepp Dietrich. SS men predominated in the immediate entourage of Hitler. Among those regularly attending conferences at the Führer's Headquarters

1. Gunter d'Alquen, in Die SS, Geschichte, Aufgabe und Organisation der Schutzstaffeln der NSDAP, published upon the order of the Reichsführer SS, Berlin, Junker und Dunhaupt Verlag, 1939.

were SS Gruppenführer Feglein, Liaison Officer to Himmler; SS Brigadeführer Rattenhuber, Commander of Hitler's SS escort unit and head of the Reichs-sicherheitskommando (see below); SS Sturmbannführer Haenschke and SS Hauptsturmführer Kersten, both Adjutants to Hitler; and SS Standartenführer Zander, representative of the Party Chancellery. According to recent intelligence Hitler is said to have been strongly under the influence of Feglein and Rattenhuber regarding strategical and political decisions.

However, the actual protection of the Führer and leading Nazi personalities appears to have been assigned to specially formed units of professional security agents, namely the Reichssicherheitsdienst (RSD - Reich Security Service) and the Schutzdienst (Protective Service).² Neither the RSD nor the Schutzdienst were regular parts of the SS, although they must be presumed to have been both directed and staffed by SS officers. The RSD had sprung from the Führerschuttkommando (Führer Protection Command) which was created in 1933 by order of Himmler, then Police Commander in Munich.

The RSD, a so-called "Selbständige Polizeibehörde" (independent Police authority, was charged with the unmittelbare Schutz (immediate, i.e., personal protection) of the Führer as well as such leading Nazi personages as Goering, von Ribbentrop, Goebbels, Frick, Karl Hermann Frank, Seyss-Inquart, Terboven, Doenitz, Best, Kaltenbrunner, Ley, Koch, et al. Hitler was Supreme Commander of this organization, but the actual chief appears to have been Himmler, who in turn had delegated his authority to SS Brigadeführer Rattenhuber, the Kommandeur des RSD (Commander of RSD). According to service regulations the RSD was directly responsible for the safety of the Führer and the leading personalities of the State, the Party, and the Armed Forces. It detailed

1. Not to be confused with the Sicherheitsdienst (SD).
2. For details see SHARP, E.D.S. Report #38, OSS document XL-12635.

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bodyguards to its various charges, but it did not conduct investigations of its own except for preliminary checks. Instead it reported its observations and findings to the Schutzdienst. Personnel of the RSD was recruited from the Kripo (Criminal Police), but some apparently were drafted from the Gestapo and others from the Waffen SS. In general, RSD men wore civilian clothes and only occasionally the uniform of the Waffen SS with the shoulder boards of the Police.

The Schutzdienst was responsible for the mittelbare Schutz (indirect protection) of the Führer and leading Nazi personalities, i.e., security checkups on places of permanent or temporary abode, meetings, visits, etc. The Schutzdienst was part of the Gestapo and was controlled by the Referat (sub-section) IV A 5a of the Reichssicherheitshauptamt (RSHA-Reich Security Main Office) within the Reichsführung SS (RF-SS-SS Supreme Command).

b. Security of the Reich. This task has been outlined by Himmler himself as follows:

"We shall, unremittingly, fulfill our task of being the guarantors of Germany's security internally. We shall see to it that the Jewish-Bolshevist revolution of sub-humans shall never again be rekindled in Germany, the heartland of Europe, either internally or by emissaries from abroad. We shall act as a ruthless sword against all those forces whose existence and whose ways we know,

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whenever they make the least attempt, either today or in
1
decades or in centuries to come."

i. Racism as the Foundation of Internal Security (Prerequisite for
terror).

(1) Interdependence of security of race and security of the Reich.

Himmler's definition of the Nazis' task established the SS as the organization
predestined by record and purpose to secure the spoils of political conquest and
to maintain the Nazi Party in power. However, according to Himmler, the ful-
fillment of this task remained contingent on strict adherence to the directives
issued by the Führer and to the virtues taught peculiarly to the SS. The first
of these directives was implied in the principle of "Blood and Elite" (Blut und
Auslese). Out of this principle grew the definition of the mission of the SS
as being that of "a National Socialist soldierly order of Nordic men and as a
pledged community of its clans."
3

Security of the Reich, thus, comprised two functions interrelated,
seemingly, only in theory: first, the organization of a political force equal to
the task of policing Germany with unorthodox, or, in Hitler's own words, "even
most brutal weapons," and, second, the policing itself. The establishment of
4

1. Himmler, in Die Schutzstaffel, p. 29: "Wir werden dafür sorgen, dass niemals
mehr in Deutschland, dem Herzen Europas, von innen oder durch Missäre von
aussen her die jüdisch-bolschewistische Revolution des Untermenschen entfacht
werden kann. Unbarmherzig werden wir für all diese Kräfte, deren existenz
und Treiben wir kennen, am Tage auch nur des geringsten Versuches, sei er
heute, sei er in Jahrzehnten oder in Jahrhunderten, ein gnadenloses Richt-
schwert sein."

2. Op. cit., p. 20.

3. Op. cit., p. 31.

4. Mein Kampf, p. 784.

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an elite according to biological principles, however, had some practical reasons behind it as well. With the Party entering ever more closely into an alliance with the ruling groups, an organization had to be chosen in which the main principles of the Nazi system, specifically the racial ones, would not only be jealously guarded but would be carried to such extremes as to inspire or intimidate the rest of the population. Furthermore, in view of the unlimited scope of Nazi aspirations, and in view of the unpredictable nature of popular reactions with which Nazi aspirations would meet, the situation called for an organization in which there would be assured expediency and total discretion on the part of the leaders, and blind obedience on the part of the members.

It is this complete reliance on biological standards and total indifference toward all rules established by tradition, ethics, and law which explain the extra-legal and illegal nature of measures adopted by the SS in the course of its operations. Maintenance of the security of the race, overtly an innocuous assignment irrelevant to the commission of war crimes, evolves as a function indispensable for the ideological preparation and organization of crimes committed as part and parcel of the overall task of securing the Reich against internal and external opponents and of preserving the spoils of conquest.

(2) Race and Membership. Security of the race was guaranteed, first of all, through the racial quality of the members of the SS themselves. The SS, according to official definition, ¹ was "a homogeneous fighting corps (Kampftruppe), firmly bound and mutually pledged through common ideology, the fighters of which are selected from the best that Aryan mankind has to

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offer ("aus bestem arischem Menschentum"). Membership, thus, was defined in strict adherence to Hitler's statement pronounced in January 1935 to the Wehrmacht:

"I am a convinced supporter of the idea that what matters in the world ultimately is only good blood. ...I have approached my task from this angle. It means that actually the only good blood, according to our reading of history, is the leading creative element in every state, and, in particular, the blood engaged in military activity and, above all, Nordic blood."

This theorem determined the selection of SS candidates. Every applicant had to provide a family tree going back to the year 1800, and an officer candidate had to go back to 1750, establish his Nordic or at least Aryan - i.e., non-Jewish - descent, and prove absence of hereditary taints and the possession of good physical health. A Race Commission examined his racial characteristics as apparent from physique and physiognomy. However, SS eligibility tests were extended to cover not only the candidate himself but his "Sippe" (kin, clan) as well. The Party Manual stipulated that a SS man might marry only a woman of racial affinity (die ihm arteigene Frau).¹ Consent to conclude a marriage (Heiratsgenehmigung) depended on the proven existence of hereditary qualities in both parties which would seem to guarantee the creation of "a clan, valuable from the point of view of hereditary health and of German Nordically-determined type" (die erbgesundheitlich wertvolle Sippe deutscher nordisch-bestimmter Art). Issuance of permits was the responsibility of the Rassenamt (Race Office).²

1. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 417.

2. For details see Himmler Order of 31 December 1931, reprinted in Gunter d'Alquen, Die SS, pp. 9-10.

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Proof of racial quality, however, had to be furnished not merely to attain membership in the SS, but to meet an obligation implicit in SS membership to reproduce such proof through satisfactory procreation. This¹ was made the subject of a specific order by Himmler, of 28 October 1939. Procreation, in fact, became a demand of such outstanding significance and urgency that it was not made contingent on the proof of marriage. The same Order of Himmler contained the following passage directed to all members of SS and Police:

"Above and beyond the limits of civil laws and habits, which generally speaking, are perhaps necessary, it will be high challenge to German women and girls of good blood, to bear children out of wedlock - - not out of light highmindedness but in deep moral earnest - - to soldiers who are going to the front..."²

To foster this policy of procreation various measures were adopted to protect the offspring of legitimate and illegitimate children of SS men. This was the purpose of the "Verein Lebensborn" (Fountain of Life).³

(3) Race and Ideology. Racial purity was furthermore secured, apart from physical qualification, by SS philosophy. The Party Manual, following closely the directives laid down by Himmler in his monograph on "Die Schutzstaffel",⁴ prescribes that:

1. Referred to in Himmler's Order of 30 January 1940 OSS CID #132749; see also Himmler's "Order to the Last Sons", of 15 August 1942; OSS CID #131600.
2. Ibid.
3. For details see Race and Settlement Main Office, below, and paper on Nazi Health and Racial Policies, R&A No. 3214.7
4. PP. 20 ff.

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"the recognition of the value of blood and soil are essential determinants (richtungweisend) in the selection of the SS. Each SS man must be deeply imbued (tief durchdrungen) with the meaning and character of the National Socialist Movement."

Other virtues demanded are "Will to Freedom coupled with Fighting Spirit (Freiheitswille und Kampfgeist), Loyalty and Honor (Treue und Ehre), Obedience (Gehorsam), and Bravery (Tapferkeit). The aggressive and militant qualities entailed in these commandments were needed to break down the last residues of moral or social resistance inherent in any member which might have been a serious impediment to the execution of SS brutalities ordered by the higher echelons. It is here that the deliberate departures from all principles of social conduct other than those of race and biology came to full fruition. Nothing can illuminate this better than Himmler's definition of "Obedience" as one of the cardinal virtues of the SS. Himmler demanded as the fourth of the SS virtues

"Obedience which springs from highest volition, from the service to the Weltanschauung, readiness to sacrifice everything, including pride, perquisites, and all that is dear and valuable to us personally; obedience which never hesitates but executes unconditionally, every order originating with the Führer or rightfully (rechtmässig) with superior officers; obedience which keeps silent in the time of political struggle when the will to freedom cries for revolt, which, though fully awake and tensely alert, does not as much as touch the opponent, but which attacks, even/once in

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a while, in his heart that he cannot bring himself to do it ("zum Angriff geht, auch wenn er einmal glauben sollte, es in seinem Herzen nicht überwinden zu können.")

The Party Manual adds here:

"It is for this reason that every SS man is willing to execute blindly any order originating with the Führer or issued by one of his superiors, even if it demands the highest sacrifices."¹

(4) Legal Implications. It should be noted that, in the version of the Party Manual, the qualification that orders by superiors should be "rightfully" (rechtmässig) issued is missing. The question arises whether this qualification, present in Himmler's own statement, could be construed as a permission for the individual SS man to check the "legality" ("Rechtmässigkeit") of orders, not of the Führer himself, but of any authority below Hitler, including Himmler and high SS officers.

The choice of the term "rechtmässig" is significant. It recalls the parallel expression in Article 113 of the German Legal Code. Article 113 permitted resistance against the authority of the state, if an official representing the state did not act "in rightful administration of his office" (Rechtmässige Ausübung seines Amtes). That is to say, in cases in which an individual was faced with an order or act by an official or even by a superior officer, which he did not consider rightful (rechtmässig), he could resist, or, at least, refuse to obey, provided one or several of the following conditions prevailed: (a) the order did not originate with the proper authority; (b) the order was not addressed to the proper person; (c) the proper form was not employed, or (d) the situation did not actually warrant such an order, or the authority which

1. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 418.

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had issued the order had not used proper judgment as required by the duties of his office. Article 47 of the German Military Code went a step beyond. It prohibited military obedience in cases in which an order was known to be related to an action which aimed at the perpetration of a crime or felony punishable by civil or military law.

It may be questionable whether Himmler, in introducing the term "rechtmässig", actually meant to set a limit to his own authority and to recruit, conditionally, civil or military disobedience on the part of the SS. Nevertheless, the qualification is contained explicitly in the manual written by Himmler's own hand and intended to lay down the fundamental rules for the conduct of the SS. The omission of this phrase in the Party Manual would seem to indicate that Himmler, aware of the implications of the term, meant to forestall any interpretation detrimental to his authority a posteriori.

(5) Principal Agencies: The principal agencies entrusted with the task of administering matters of racial policy within the SS were the Rasse und Siedlungshauptamt (Main Race and Settlement) through its Rassenamt (Office for Racial Matters), its Heiratsamt (Marriage Office), and the Verein Lebensborn (Fountain of Life Society), which was part of the Main Office. In addition, all offices charged with political indoctrination - e.g., the Dienststelle Heissmeyer (Office Heissmeyer); the SS Hauptamt (SS Central Office), through its Amtsgruppe (Division) C, the SS Personalhauptamt (SS main Personnel Office) through Amt II of Amtsgruppe A (Office II of Division A), which was in charge of the SS Junkerschulen (SS Officer Training Schools) - played a vital part in the maintenance of SS racial policy. Finally, the Hauptamt SS Gericht (SS Main Legal Office), as the authority charged with enforcing SS discipline in accordance with the SS special code of conduct, must likewise share the responsibility for the

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execution of measures designed to sustain the principle of racial purification and discrimination.

11. The Maintenance of Internal Security (The use of Terror). Official SS spokesmen rationalized the regime of terror instigated and maintained essentially by the SS as follows:

"Subsequent to the formal conclusion of the revolution of our Weltanschauung after we were in power and hence bore the exclusive and unlimited responsibility for the principal and incidental theses of the idea, there began the greater, although, on the surface less heroic phase of penetration¹ (Durchdringung)."

1. d'Alquen, op. cit., p. 26.

The implications of this policy were explained in retrospect, by Himmler in his speech before Wehrmacht officers in Bad Schachen on 14 October 1943. Essentially, it implied a systematic attempt to eliminate all political and ideological opposition, not merely active obstruction of the Nazi regime but all individual or organized manifestations of thought, behavior, or appearance deviating from the norms and standards set by the Nazi regime. The elimination of this opposition ran the gamut from social or professional ostracism to physical extermination. The task was begun with the establishment of certain natural or artificial categories of opposition sufficiently elastic to enable charges to be brought against practically any individual under a suitable label. Himmler in his speech enumerated the following:

"All over the world we are up against all the ideological enemies which National Socialism and Germany have ever had. In the first place, I name the Jews...In the second place I name Freemasonry...The same applies to the democracies, the same applies to plutocracy. They all hate us...In addition to these enemies whom I have named, Jewry, Freemasonry, Bolshevism, democracy, plutocracy, and whatever their various organizations may be called, I may well mention the Churches dabbling in politics. One sector, the Protestant Church, is in England the established Church. In the other sector Catholicism has its own far-reaching dreams of power and its plans and dispositions for power..."

1. Quoted in News Digest, No. 1566, 30 September 1944, Supplement.

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During the war, new categories of actual or potential opponents emerged. They were, first of all, the foreign workers, who represented a security problem of increasing importance. In October 1944, Himmler was charged with the custody of all prisoners of war. The deterioration of conditions in foreign labor and PW camps must, to a considerable extent, be attributed to the transfer of supervisory authority to Himmler and the SS. The organization and the execution of measures taken against these categories of oppositionists will be described below in connection with the analysis of the Security Service. (For further details, reference is made to "The Gestapo," R&A Report No. 3113.6.)

The principal agencies specifically in charge of the maintenance of internal security within the SS were the Reichssicherheitshauptamt (Reich Security Main Office), the Wirtschafts und Verwaltungshauptamt (Main Economic and Administrative Office), the SS Hauptamt (SS Central Office) the Hauptamt Ordnungspolizei (Main Office for Order Police), all within the SS Supreme Command, and the Höhere SS und Polizeiführer (Higher SS and Police Leaders) on the regional level, as well as the regional or local offices subordinate to them. The Reichssicherheitshauptamt comprised the Sicherheitspolizei (SiPo-Security Police) i.e., the Geheime Staatspolizei (Gestapo - Secret State Police) and the Kriminalpolizei (KriPo-Criminal Police), and the Sicherheitsdienst (SD - Security Service). The Wirtschafts und Verwaltungshauptamt was in charge of Concentration Camps. The SS Hauptamt (SS Central Office) supervised such formations as the SS Bahnschutz (SS Railroad Guard); presumably the SS Funkschutz (SS Radio Service Guard), and the Hitler-Jugend Streifendienst (Hitler Youth Raiding Service). Of the aforementioned constituents of the Reichssicherheitshauptamt

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only the Sicherheitsdienst (SD) was, by purpose and record, a part of the SS and, although technically severed from it and integrated with the Sicherheitspolizei (SiPo), continued to be regarded as part of the Allgemeine SS (General SS). The Ordnungspolizei and Sicherheitspolizei, - i.e., Geheime Staatspolizei and Kriminalpolizei, by contrast, were part of the Government and the civil service and will therefore not be discussed in this report. Other SS formations assisting the police in the maintenance of internal security were the SS Werkspolizei (SS Plant Police); the SS Industriemannschaften (SS Industrial Safety Crews); the SS Hafensicherungstruppen (SS Port Security Troops); the SS Bordschutzmannschaften (SS Security Crews on Board Ships); the SS und Polizei Verkehrsdienst, ~~and~~ (the SS and Police Traffic Service).

c. The Maintenance of External Security (Safeguarding the "New Order"). The conquest of foreign territories, after the outbreak of the war, bestowed new duties ^{upon} the SS. The SS became the protector and guarantor of the "New Order". The objectives of the "New Order" were, above all, two: 1. military security, and 2. Pan-Nazism. The first, military security, was outlined by Hitler as follows:

"For us the end of this war will mean an open road to the East, the creation of the Germanic Reich in this way or that...the fetching home of 30 million human beings of our blood, so that even during our lifetime we shall be the sole and decisive power in Europe. That means that we shall then be able to tackle the peace, during which we shall be willing for the first 20 years to rebuild

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and spread out our villages and towns, and that we shall push the borders of our "Folkdom" 500 km. further out to the East.

"And that means...that we then want to have a defensive frontier (Wehregrenze) in the East which will be constantly mobile, which will keep us eternally young, and from which we shall gradually be able to grope forward (vorwachsen) so that our grandchildren and great-grandchildren will have a military security belt such as will be essential in any modern war of the future if we are not to be smashed to pieces by our enemies' bombs." ¹

The second, Pan-Nazism, was part of the SS credo and was formulated as follows:

"We, SS men, believe that we, in the wider plan of Providence, have the historical task of reuniting the Germanic peoples and of erecting the Reich as the European Big Power." ²

In pursuance of these two objectives, the SS assumed responsibility, in some cases exclusively, in others partially, for the following tasks:

1. Subjugation and Elimination of Native, i.e., Non-German, Populations in Occupied Areas. Treatment differed according to area and racial stock. Populations in the East, e.g., in Poland, the Baltic Countries and Russia, were subjected to a more sweeping policy of extermination than

1. Hitler speech, ibid.

2. Quoted from captured document found among the papers of a German parachutist unit, titled "Der Orden der SS und seine Ordensgesetze-Orden nordischer Rasse". Document report from PWB; S 201 Dis, 202, 31 August 1944

those in West. But within Poland; for instance, differentiation in treatment was legal¹ized through the introduction of the so-called "Deutsche Volksliste" which permitted distinctions according to the degree of racial or political affinity with Germany. Methods of treatment varied from social and political discrimination, terrorization, compulsory evacuation, and slave labor, to actual extermination. It was, particularly, in the area of extermination that the SS showed unprecedented brutality not only in the thoroughness² of its policies but in the choice of its methods. There is no question that the wholesale execution of political prisoners, Jews, and native populations was not the whim of individual SS commanders but was carefully prepared and guided at the top level. While the suppression of political resistance was, essentially, ^{the} domain of the SS and Police and was ruthlessly executed through the destruction of all opponents, sympathizers and, frequently, their kin, wholesale extermination of native groups was not contingent on the existence or operation of opposition groups. It was fundamentally based on a policy of applying a double standard to Germans and non-Germans. This is² evident from statements by Himmler such as this:

"I consider that in dealing with members of foreign, especially some Slav, nationality we must not start from German points of view and we must not endow these people with decent German thoughts and logical conclusions of which they are not capable, but we must take them as¹ they really are."

1. Cf. correspondence between SS commanders and RSHA Amt III D concerning delivery and operation of so-called "Death Vans". Documents captured at Bad Lippspringe. Originals are available in the Documents Section of the X-2 War Room in London.
2. Speech at Schapbach, quoted above.

Once the basis of civil equality had been eliminated, it was possible to impose such conditions as appeared warranted by political or military expediency alone. Himmler himself suggested some of the standards of treatment, of which the following may serve as examples:

(1) Regarding political status:

"I want to state, that we must be greatly concerned not to unite the people of the East, but to dissect them into as many parts and splinters as possible. Also within the ethnic groups it is not our endeavor to lead to unity and to greatness, perhaps even to instill national consciousness into them, and a national culture. We must dissolve them into innumerable small fragments and atoms. A grouping toward the top will not be tolerated. Only by dissolving this whole stew of people in the Government General, numbering some 15 million inhabitants, and likewise the 8 million of the Eastern provinces, will we succeed in carrying through racial selection, which must remain the foundation of our plans. We will sift the racially valuable elements out of this stew and lend them to Germany, there to assimilate them."

(2) Regarding deportation of foreign offspring:

"Obviously in such a mixture of peoples there will

1. Captured document written by Himmler on 26 May 1940, quoted in Semi-weekly Intelligence Summary, published by HQ 12th Army Group, Report No. 6, 29 May 1945.

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always be some racially good types. Therefore I think that it is our duty to take their children with us, to remove them from their environment if necessary by robbing or stealing them...Neither we win over any good blood that we can use for ourselves and give it a place in our people, or...we destroy this blood."

(3) Regarding terror against native populations:

"I, or rather we, the police, are very severe in our penalties for members of a foreign people who enter into relations with German girls or women...the foreigner will be sent to a concentration camp for life. In bad cases he will be hanged on the spot."

ii. Germanization of conquered territories: The subjugation and elimination of the indigenous populations had the immediate purpose of making room for the German settler. This was the new meaning of German colonization which was defined by Himmler himself as follows:

"It is not our task to Germanize the East in the old sense, i.e., to teach the people there the German language and German law, but to see to it that only people of purely German and Germanic blood live in the East."

1. Himmler speech at Schachen, quoted above

2. Ibid.

3. Statement made in August 1942, quoted in British Handbook for Military Government, Part III, Chapter III: Germanization: No. 032; original source: Deutsche Arbeit, August 1942.

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Methods of Germanization varied in the different territories. Essentially they consisted in the introduction of the German administrative system as well as of German legislation - e.g. the Nuremberg Laws in the occupied territories. Furthermore, schools for German children including Napolas, Deutsche Heimschulen, and even universities, were opened. Cultural societies sprang up. It was, however, the ruthless policy of resettlement ruthlessly executed which was primarily relied upon to cleanse the blood in the various territories and to guarantee the purity of the German race. People of doubtful racial stock or doubtful political loyalty were forcibly evacuated in order to be "de-nationalized" and "reeducated in purely German surroundings." Himmler had native families face the following choice:

"Parents with children of good blood will have to decide between two alternatives. Either they remain (not to procreate again, thereby avoiding the threat of a dangerous, because equal, slave) and let their children go, or the parents oblige themselves to move to Germany and to become loyal citizens."

Resettlement of these potential Germans has been described as a procedure that involved uncounted hardships. Conditions prevailing in the so-called Sammellager or Auffanglager were reported to resemble those existing in concentration camps. It was, presumably, with a view to public criticism that had arisen regarding procedures followed in the resettlement that Goauleiter Simon anxiously to assert in May 1943:

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"Resettlement cannot be compared with deportation in any way; it is just a measure of political necessity to strengthen the people of the frontier community, and it also gives the Volksgenossen concerned the opportunity to become faithful members of the people's community more rapidly."

Swift reconversion to Germanism was attempted through rigid indoctrination of the repatriated Volksgenossen. Meanwhile, German settlers and SS families moved into the homes and farms relinquished by deportees from occupied territories.

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iii. Economic exploitation of occupied territories. An incidental feature of SS colonial policies, but one which acquired increasing importance during 1941-1944, was the massive exploitation of economic resources in areas conquered by the German Army. It established the SS as an entrepreneur in its own right and contributed substantially to the success of the SS's drive toward political autarchy and hegemony. Inroads made by the SS into the sphere of government and military administration were now supplemented by actual economic competition with industry. This move was facilitated by the fact that the SS could acquire the needed raw materials from sources which flowed generously and gratuitously, and could exploit them with cheap labor furnished by SS internment and concentration camps.

In the course of the years the SS competed in the following fields: building materials, stone quarries, food industry, armament production, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, textiles, leather, porcelain, etc. To operate the business side of these enterprises the SS set up powerful combines such as the "Deutsche Erd- und Steinwerke (DEST)", the "Gesellschaft für Textil- und Lederverwertung, mbH.", and, above all, the "Deutsche

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Aufrüstungswerke" (DAW). These companies were incorporated into the SS administration proper, and production plants were operated by high SS officials.

The center of control was located in the SS Wirtschafts- und Verwaltungshauptamt WVHA-SS Economic and Administrative Main Office). Amtsgruppe W; Wirtschaftsunternehmen (Division W: Economic Enterprises) became a sort of holding company for the various industrial corporations integrated in the WVHA. The choice was a logical one in view of the fact that the WVHA was likewise in charge of the administration of concentration camps, which greatly eased the administrative problem of coordinating industrial projects with labor supply. For industrial operations in occupied areas, notably Russia, so-called SS Wirtschaftskommandos (SS Economic Commandos) were formed; in other places so-called "Betriebsgruppen" (plant groups) were established. It is possible that these groups were subordinate to the so-called SS Wirtschaftler (SS Economic Commander) who, in occupied areas, was frequently attached to the staff of the Higher SS and Police Leader (HSSPF) and was in

1. For a description how these enterprises were administered and operated, and how concentration camp inmates were drafted for work in various factories and plants, see report on "The Numerical Expansion of the Concentration Camp Buchenwald during the Years 1937 - 1945," No. B-2833, on file with OSS

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charge of concentration camps and such functions as were normally handled by the SS Verwaltungsführer (SS Administrative Leader).

iv. ¹ Principal Agencies. The increase of functions assigned, to the SS in the wake of German military conquest inflated correspondingly the bureaucratic apparatus of the SS command. Among the various agencies created to secure the Nazi hold on the new territories, from a military and racial point of view, the following are the most important: the Stabshauptamt des Reichskommissars für die Festigung des Deutschen Volkstums (Staff HQ of the Reich Commissioner for the Consolidation of German Folkdom), which was one of the Main Offices within the SS Supreme Command and, simultaneously, a department within the Office of the Reichskommissar für die Festigung des deutschen Volkstums (Reich Commissioner for the Consolidation of Germanhood), a government agency established in October 1939 for the purpose of Germanizing and colonizing occupied territories; the Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle (Bureau for Repatriation of Germans), the SS Supreme Command, and a department within the Office of the Reichskommissar; Amt III and VI (Office VI) within the Reichssicherheitshauptamt, which comprise the various branches of the SD, at home and abroad; the Siedlungsamt (Settlement Office) ^{of the} SS Rasse- und Siedlungshauptamt (SS Main Race and Settlement Office),

1. British Handbook, ibid.

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which was in charge of the registration of SS men willing to settle as farmers in occupied territories in the East; the Amtsgruppe D (Division D) of the SS Hauptamt (SS Central Office), which was responsible for controlling the so-called Germanische SS (Germanic SS); the Amtsgruppe W (Division W) ^{of the} SS Wirtschafts- und Verwaltungshauptamt (SS Main Administrative and Economic Office), which was in charge of the economic exploitation of occupied territories (see above); offices responsible for the recruitment and employment of foreign manpower for military purposes, in the Waffen SS (Combat SS), or for forced labor--e.g., the SS Hauptamt, the SS Führungshauptamt (SS Operational Main office), and the SS Wirtschafts- und Verwaltungshauptamt; and, finally, the Höhere SS und Polizeiführer (Higher SS and Police Leaders) in occupied territories.

d. Post-war Activities: The millennial character of the Nazi Movement, as proclaimed by its leaders on countless occasions, was most likely to be guarded ^{for the future} by the organization, the members of which had pledged themselves to unconditional obedience and unlimited loyalty. Available information indicates in fact that by a secret order of Himmler, the SS has been given the lion's share in the organization and operation of underground activities to perpetuate National Socialism beyond the

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limit of military defeat. Among the agents entrusted with the execution of post-war resistance and subversion, the names of Higher SS and Police Leaders, notably Bruetzmann, figure prominently. The Reichssicherheitshauptamt, especially Amt III and Amt VI (SD), is reported to have played a considerable part in the planning and organization of such undertakings as the Werewolf, Aktion Bundschuh, and other clandestine groups.

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4. The Component Parts of the SS. In the course of years, the SS developed into a extremely complex organization in which certain functions became the specialty of units which were either created ad hoc--e.g., the SS Bahnschutz, or SS Postschutz--or which, in performing specific duties, had come to be identified with these functions to such an extent that they gradually acquired an organizational status of their own--e.g., the SS Totenkopfverbände (SS Death Head Formations), through their function as guards of concentration camps. It has thus become customary to distinguish between several "parts" or "branches" of the SS, namely,

1. Cf. testimony by SS Obergruppenführer Benno Martin, Higher SS and Police Leader of SS Oberabschnitt "Main", OSS CID #XL11148.
2. For details see Weekly Intelligence Summary, No. 47 for period ending 031200 July 1945, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2 Division; Intelligence Report issued by the Intelligence Division Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, 25 June 1945, OSS CID #XL12705.

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the Allgemeine SS (General SS), the Waffen SS (Combat SS), the Sicherheitsdienst (SD-Security Service) the SS Totenkopfverbände (SS Death Head Formations), etc. The distinction is legitimate as far as functions are concerned. In terms of administration, it is practically non-existent. All branches of the SS were subordinate to the same commander, i.e., Reichsführer SS Himmler, and were supervised by the various main offices within the Supreme Command of the SS.

a. The Allgemeine SS (General SS)

1. Composition. The Allgemeine SS was the original nucleus of the SS from which eventually came the various special units. It is, in fact, maintained that, with the exception of the Waffen SS and the SS Totenkopfverbände, none of the special units, including the Sicherheitsdienst (SD), severed their ties completely with the mother organization, and that they can therefore still be regarded as parts of the Allgemeine SS. It is, indeed, safe to assume that various special units continued to be staffed from the ranks of the Allgemeine SS. In fact, the Allgemeine SS, in all likelihood, served as a pool from which the Higher SS and Police Leaders, the chiefs of the Sicherheitspolizei und Sicherheitsdienst would draft manpower for use in whatever

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actions were planned by the special units under their command. This appears to be confirmed by^a statement of Reinhard Heydrich, Chief of Sicherheitspolizei and Sicherheitsdienst, made in 1936. Heydrich explained the relationship of the Allgemeine SS to the SD as follows:

"The men of the SD are SS leaders and SS men of the SS as a whole (Gesamt SS) who have their commands alternatingly within the SD and within the Allgemeine SS..."

ii. Strength. The Allgemeine SS was a regular formation (Gliederung) of the Nazi Party. Its numerical rise and decline was sensational. After a steep climb from roughly 250 in 1925 to 250,000 within fifteen years, it had sunk after five years of war to a mere fraction of its greatest strength. This was due, chiefly, (as noted above) to the transfer of SS men to the Armed Forces, the Police, and, later, as a result of the increasing importance of the Waffen SS, to the latter as the fighting formation of Himmler and the real power behind the ascendancy of the SS leadership to a ruling group.

iii. Functions. The functions of the Allgemeine SS per se were those of a para-military organization.

I. Volksischer Beobachter, 28 April 1936 (on file with the State Department).

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They were normally confined to participation in rallies, meetings, parades, camps, and competitions and to military drill. As indicated above, there is reason to assume that, at special occasions, members of Allgemeine SS were detailed to render auxiliary service to the police and to partake in "Sonderaktionen," campaigns and raids organized by the supreme Reich or regional authorities of the SS.

iv. Constituents. In terms of membership the Allgemeine SS consisted of the SS Führerkorps (Officer Corps) and the ranks. The Officer Corps, generally at least above the rank of Sturmabführer (Major), was employed on a full-time basis and was attached either to the command of units or to headquarters. This applied to the so-called "Aktive SS Führer" (Active SS officers), to the "Zugeteilte Führer bei den Stäben" (officers attached to staffs. It did not apply to the "Führer in der Stammabteilung" (Officers of the Reserve) or to the "Führer zur Verfügung" (Officers at Disposal). All other ranks, i.e., the vast majority of all SS members, were used on a part-time basis, except for those who were assigned to full-time service with individual units or to headquarters and for those who were listed as so-called "non-active" members.

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v. Ranks. Ranks within the Allgemeine SS

ran as follows:

Officers

SS rank	Military equivalent	
	German Army	U.S. Army
Reichsführer SS (RF-SS)	Generalfeldmarschall	General of the Army
SS Oberstgruppenführer (Obstgrf.)	Generaloberst	General
SS Obergruppenführer (Ogruf.)	General der Infanterie, etc.	Lieutenant General
SS Gruppenführer (Gruf.)	Generalleutnant	Major General
SS Brigadeführer (Brigf.)	Generalmajor	Brigadier General
SS Oberführer (Oberf.)	Oberst	Colonel
SS Standartenführer (Standf.)		
SS Obersturmbannführer (Ostbf.)	Oberstleutnant	Lieutenant Colonel
SS Sturmbannführer (Stbf.)	Major	Major
SS Hauptsturmführer	Hauptmann	Captain
SS Obersturmführer	Oberleutnant	First Lieutenant
SS Untersturmführer	Leutnant	Second Lieutenant

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SS Rank	Military equivalent	
	German Army	U.S. Army
SS Sturmscharführer	Stabsfeldwebel	Master Sergeant
SS Hauptscharführer	Oberfeldwebel	Technical Sergeant
SS Oberscharführer	Feldwebel	Staff Sergeant
SS Standartenjunker	Führerich	Advanced officers candidate
SS Scharführer	Unterfeldwebel	Sergeant
SS Junker	Fahnenjunker-Unteroffizier	Officers Candidate
SS Unterscharführer	Unteroffizier	Corporal
SS Rottenführer	Ober-Gefreiter	Private First Class (acting Corporal)
SS Sturmman	Gefreiter	Private First Class
SS Oberschütze	Oberschütze	Private (Senior)
SS Schütze	Schütze (Grenadier)	Private (Ordinary)

vi. Functional Command. Supreme Command over the Allgemeine SS

was exercised by RF-SS Himmler and various Nazis officers on the Reich level.

The executive headquarters of the Allgemeine SS, under SS Gruppenführer

Leo Petri, the so-called Kommando der allgemenen SS (Command HQ

of the General SS), was situated in Amt (Office I) of Amtsgruppe A

(Division A) within the SS Führungshauptamt (SS Operational Main Office) which

was headed by SS Obergruppenführer Hans Jüttner. Recruitment for the

Allgemeine SS was supervised by the SS Hauptamt (SS Central Office), under

SS Obergruppenführer Gottlieb Berger, which also was responsible for the

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systematic indoctrination of SS members. Personnel affairs were handled by the SS Personalhauptamt (SS Personnel Main Office) under SS Obergruppenführer Maximilian von Herff, legal and disciplinary matters by the Hauptamt SS Gericht (SS Legal Office) under SS Gruppenführer Franz Dreithaupt, and matters pertaining to racial qualifications, social welfare etc. by the SS Rasse- und Siedlungshauptamt SS (Race and Settlement Main Office) under SS Obergruppenführer Richard Hildebrandt.

vii. Regional Organization.

(1) Oberabschnitt. Regionally, the Allgemeine SS was sub-divided into so-called Oberabschnitte (Oa - District or Corps Area). Each Oberabschnitt, in turn, comprised two to three Abschnitte (Sub-Districts). Below the Abschnitt the Allgemeine SS was organized on the basis of military units rather than territory. That is to say, each Abschnitt controlled two to four SS Fuss-Standarten (equivalent to an infantry regiment). Each Standarte was composed of three active Sturmabteilungen (battalions) and one Reserve-Sturmabteilung. An active Sturmabteilung, in turn, had four Stürme (Companies), a Sanitätsstaffel (Medical Detachment), and a Reserve-Sturmabteilung comprised of two Reserve-Stürme and a Reserve Sanitätsstaffel. Each Sturm was divided into three or four Trupps (platoons). Each Trupp included three Züge or Scharen (Sections). The smallest unit, below the Schar, was the Rotte. The Oberabschnitt was generally considered the basis of the regional organization. The Party Manual for 1943 lists altogether 18 Oberabschnitte inside and Germany and Austria, namely:¹

- | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1. Donau | 5. Südwest | 9. Weichsel | 13. Elbe | 17. Spree |
| 2. Alpenland | 6. Rhein | 10. Nordost | 14. Main | 18. Ostsee |
| 3. Süd | 7. West | 11. Warthe | 15. Fulda-Werra | |
| 4. Westmark | 8. Nordsee | 12. Südost | 16. Mitte | |

1. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 427a.

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In addition, the Party Manual records four Oberabschnitte in the occupied territories,¹ namely:

1. Northwest (Niederlande)
2. Nord (Norwegen)
3. Ukraine
4. Ostland

Subsequently, the Oberabschnitte Rhein and Westmark appear to have been merged to form the Oberabschnitt Rhein-Westmark. In March 1944, Bohemia-Moravia, which until then had been a so-called "independent and immediately subordinate" (selbständig und unmittelbar unterstellt) Abschnitt within the Protectorate was upgraded to become the Oberabschnitt Böhmen-Mähren. Within Germany, the Oberabschnitte corresponded by and large to the Wehrkreise (Military Districts of the Army High Command - OKH) and were therefore frequently referred to by the Roman number of the corresponding Wehrkreise.

(c) The Higher SS and Police Leader (HSSPF). Each Oberabschnitt was, as a rule, commanded by the Höherer SS und Polizeiführer (HSSPF), Higher SS and Police Leader) who was the delegate of the Reichsführung SS for that particular district and therefore responsible for the execution of SS and police matters and for all special assignments which fell under the jurisdiction of any of the Hauptämter (Main Offices) within the Reichsführung SS. At the same time, each of these "little Himmlers" was accredited to all higher administrative authorities, e.g. Reich Governors, Provincial Presidents, State Governments, whose area of jurisdiction was part of the Oberabschnitt or Wehrkreis. Actually, there were more HSSPF's by far than Oberabschnitte. In view of the complicated problems of security which arose in all territories occupied by German forces, it was found

1. Ibid.

expedient to assign HSSPf's to the various military and civilian authorities operating in areas outside Germany.¹ In consequence, HSSPf's were appointed for the General Government, France, Denmark, Serbia, Black Sea, Italy, Adriatic Coastal Zone, Hungary, Greece, Belgium and Northern France, and Croatia.

SS District (Oberabschnitt)	Military District (Wehrkreis)	HSSPf
Nordost	Wehrkreis I (Königsberg)	SS-Gruf. Jost (formerly SS-Gruf. Ebrecht)
Ostsee	Wehrkreis II (Stettin)	SS-Ogruf. Emil Masow
Spree	Wehrkreis III (Berlin) City Berlin ²	SS-Ogruf. Huisemeyer
Elbe	Wehrkreis IV (Dresden)	SS-Gruf. Rudolf von Alvensleben (formerly SS-Ogruf. von Voyrsch)
Südwest	Wehrkreis V (Stuttgart)	SS-Ogruf. Otto Hofmann
West	Wehrkreis VI (Düsseldorf)	SS-Ogruf. Karl Gutenberger
Süd	Wehrkreis VII (Munich)	SS-Ogruf. Karl Freiherr von Eberstein
Südost	Wehrkreis VIII (Breslau)	SS-Ogruf. Ernst Heinrich Schmauser
Fulda-Werra	Wehrkreis IX (Kassel)	SS-Ogruf. Julius Erbprinz zu Waldeck und Pyrmont

1. Cf., for instance, Section 2, paragraph 1 of Second Order for the enforcement of the Decree of the Führer and Reich Chancellor concerning the Organization and Administration of the Eastern Territories, of 2 November 1939, RGBl. part I, p. 2133, which stated that "A ranking SS and Police Chief shall be attached to the office of the Reich Governor and shall be personally subject to the direct orders of the Reich Governor. He shall at the same time serve as the agent of the Reich Commissioner for the Strengthening of Germanism."
2. This area is geographically part of the Wehrkreis but has a HSSPf of its own.

SS District (Oberabschnitt)	Military District (Wehrkreis)	HSSPF
Nordsee	Wehrkreis X (Hamburg)	SS-Gruf. Graf Georg Hennin von Bassewitz-Behr
Mitte	Wehrkreis XI (Braunschweig)	SS-Ogruf. Rudolf Querner (formerly SS-Gruf. Hermann Höfle)
Rhein-Westmark	Wehrkreis XII (Wiesbaden)	SS-Ogruf. Josef Stroop
Main	Wehrkreis XIII (Nürnberg)	SS-Ogruf. Benno Martin
Donau	Wehrkreis XVII (Vienna)	SS-Brigf. Schimana (formerly SS- Ogruf. Rudolf Querner)
Alpenland	Wehrkreis XVIII (Salzburg)	SS-Ogruf. Edwin Rösener
Weichsel	Wehrkreis XIX (Danzig)	SS-Gruf. Friedrich Katzmann
Warthe	Wehrkreis XX (Posen)	SS-Gruf. Heinz Reinefarth
Böhmen und Mähren	Böhmen und Mähren (Prague)	SS-Gruf. Karl Friedrich Graf von Pückler-Burghans
	General Government (Krakau)	SS-Ogruf. Wilhelm Koppe
Nord (Norway)		SS-Ogruf. Wilhelm Radiesse
Nordwest (Netherlands)		SS-Ogruf. Harms Rauter
Ukraine		SS-Ogruf. Hans Prützmann
Ostland		SS-Ogruf. Friedrich Jeckeln

Additional HSSPFs in territories annexed or occupied by Germany were the following:

Territory	HSSPF
France (Paris)	SS-Ogruf. Karl Albrecht Oberg
Denmark (Copenhagen)	SS-Ogruf. Günther Pancke
Serbia (Belgrad)	SS-Gruf. Hermann Behrends (formerly SS-Gruf. Heyzner)

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<u>Territory</u>	<u>HSSPF</u>
Black Sea (Odessa)	SS-Ogruf. Richard Hildebrandt
Italy (Verona)	SS-Ogruf. Karl Wolff, <u>Höchster</u> (Supreme) <u>SSPf in Italy</u> SS-Ogruf. Richard Hildebrandt, HSSPf Verona
Adriatic Coastal Zone (Trieste and Fiume)	SS-Gruf. Odilo Globocnik
Hungary (Budapest)	SS-Gruf. Otto Winkelmann (formerly SS-Ogruf. Georg Koppler)
Greece (Athens)	SS-Brigf. Franz
Belgium and Northern France (Brussels)	SS-Gruf. Richard Jungklaus
Croatia	SS-Gruf. Kalmrath

To discharge the various duties falling upon the HSSPF as head of SS and Police, each HSSPF had at his disposal a staff of full-time, part-time, and honorary SS officers. Within the framework of the Allgemeine SS the HSSPF commanded the following officers:

- The Stabsführer der Allgemeinen SS (Chief of Staff of the General SS)
- The Verwaltungsführer (Administrative Officer)¹
- The Oberabschnittsarzt (District Medical Officer)
- The Oberabschnittsausbildungsführer (District Training Officer)
- The Oberabschnitt Personalchef (District Personnel Officer)
- The Nachrichtenfürher (Chief Signals Officer)

1. In occupied countries the Verwaltungsführer was often replaced by the SS Wirtschaftler (SS Economic Commander), see above.

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In addition, the HSSPf controlled the offices as were assigned to him by virtue of his function as regional representative of the Reichsführung SS and as regional commander not only of the Allgemeine SS but as the supervisor and coordinator of the activities of the Security Police, the Security Service, the Order Police, specifically, as the immediate superior of the following commanders:

The Befehlshaber (Inspekteur) der Sicherheitspolizei und des Sicherheitsdienstes (Commander of the Security Police and Security Service)

The Befehlshaber der Ordnungspolizei (Commander of the Order Police)

The Führer im Rasse- und Siedlungswesen im SS Oberabschnitt für die Aufgaben des Rasse- und Siedlungswesens (Commander in Race and Settlement Affairs on behalf of Race and Settlement Affairs)

This included supervision of all regional and local Gestapo and SD Offices and such auxiliary units and operational commands as were organized to enforce

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orders of the Reichsführung SS in areas inside and outside of Germany.

Outside Germany one of the foremost responsibility of the HSSPF was the combatting of partisans. Such orders had to be channeled through the office of the HSSPF, which thereby became party to all crimes and authorities ordered by the Reichsführung SS and executed, upon his directives, by the local Sipo and SD offices. A case in point is the execution of Himmler's order forbidding interference by the Police with the killing of Allied fliers by the local population.¹ Both, in Germany and in occupied territories, the HSSPF had the power over life and death of all so-called "Fremdvölkische", i.e., foreign nationals. According to an order by Himmler of 1 November 1944, the HSSPF alone decided the executions of foreign elements.² SS und Polizeiführungsstäbe für Bandenbekämpfung, i.e., special staffs for the combatting of partisans, are known to have been created, which, far from confining themselves to military combat, relied on the wholesale slaughter of populations, the taking and killing of hostages, and collective reprisals. An example are the so-called Black Brigades which were formed and employed under the auspices of the SD and which operated under the command of Obergruppenführer Karl Wolff, Höchster SS und Polizeiführer (Supreme SS and Police Leader) in Italy, under that of SS Brigadeführer Harster, Befehlshaber der Sipo und SD and of various HSSPF's commanding in Italy and areas adjacent to the Adriatic Sea.

1. Testimony by SS Obergruppenführer Lenno Martin, OSS, CID # XL12706.

2. OSS CID #125978.

3. For details on area of operation, chain of command, distribution of responsibility, orders demanding the taking and killing of hostages, and the execution of collective reprisals against the local population, cf. Mussolini's official demarche of 15 September 1944; orders by Kesselring, Wolff, von Pohl, and subordinate commanders, OSS, No. A 59772 (photostats of originals on file with OSS). See also interrogation of Giuseppe (Don Cornelio) Biondi, SD Verona agent, OSS (12) document.

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In fulfillment of these functions the HSSPf was empowered by orders of Himmler¹ to order so-called Sühnemaßnahmen (literally, penitentiary measures) as reprisals for "grave terroristic and sabotage acts," especially in cases in which the real perpetrators could not be identified or apprehended. Such measures, for reasons of prestige, were to be initiated, as a rule, against foreign nationals who could not be regarded as the offenders, but who belonged to the "Lebenskreis" (literally sphere of life, i.e., the personal and social circle) of the perpetrator. This order, unquestionably, was meant to sanction the practice of taking hostages and collective reprisals.

Furthermore, the HSSPf was also an executive officer of the Reichsführer SS in his capacity as Reichskommissar für die Festigung des deutschen Volkstums. It was the combination of all these functions in the person of the HSSPf which led to the inauguration and execution of some of the worst atrocities committed in occupied territories.²

After Himmler, in October 1944, had been given authority over PW affairs, HSSPf appears to have become regional executives of Himmler in matters pertaining to the treatment of PW's. This has been expressly confirmed in the statement made by SS-Oberf. Berne Martin, HSSPf of Ca Main. (Footnote; OSS document XL 11148). The HSSPf admitted that he was "the highest supervisor of PW's in the Wehrkreis". During the time of Martin's supervision, PW's interned in Hoesenburg, according to eyewitness account, were hanged, others¹⁰²⁰² transferred to concentration camps (Dachau). Personal belongings

1. Order of Himmler of 4 November 1941, OSS document, CID 125973.
 2. Cf. Second Order of HSSPf Krueger, implementing the Order of 26 October 1939; concerning introduction of forced labor for the Jewish population of the Government General, of 12 December 1939, see "The Criminal Conspiracy Against the Jews", RMA 3114.3, where the following examples are cited: The actual execution of most of the worst crimes and atrocities against the Jews of Poland was the province of the various
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of PW's were retained and sent to SS headquarters to equip foreign agents.

(Source: Ustf. Bruno Sierka and Fred Koch, OSS doc. XL-11148.)

At a relatively late stage in the war, HSSPF seem to have been given functions of a specific military nature. An order of Hitler of 7 September 1944 ordered the HSSPF Rhein-Westmark to join the Commander of Wehrkreis XII with all his forces in the event of airborne landings and appointed the HSSPF as successor to the Commander, should the latter become a casualty. In a sense, this arrangement reaffirmed the HSSPF in a function which was probably anticipated at the time his office was created. His extraordinary executive powers made the HSSPF the logical choice as the "strong man" with authority to decree and enforce internal security in case of emergency, e.g. war. By the same token, the HSSPF was given a seat on the Defense Committee set up by the Ministerial Council for the Defense of the Reich in each Patch Defense Zone. In some occupied territories, e.g., the Protectorate, Slovakia, and

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police offices which were centered in the Secretary of State for Security and Higher SS and Police Leader for the GG (Wilhelm Krüger). Despite the fact that this office was technically under the Governor General, in security matters and in the program for "strengthening the German nationality" it was subordinate to Himmler (according to a Hitler decree of May 1942) in his dual capacity of Reichsführer of the SS and Chief of Police and Reich Commissar for the Strengthening of German Nationality.

As Higher SS and Police Leader of the GG, Krüger issued the decrees imposing restrictions on the freedom of movement and residence for Jews (Poland #14); imposing forced labor on all Jews between 14 and 60 years of age (Poland #15); compelling the Jewish Councils to assist in the conscription and induction of Jewish forced labor (Poland #22); creating ghettos in each of the five districts of the GG, and ordering Jews to be deported from all other places of residence (Poland #128 and #129).

According to other decrees issued by the Governor General he was to organize forced labor battalions from all Jewish inhabitants of the GG (Poland #2) and to assist in the seizure of Jewish property (Poland #24).

Under the Higher SS and Police Leader responsibility for the "supervision" of Jews in Poland was lodged in the Commander of the Security Police (Bierkampf).

1. For further details on the lower echelons see Chart on the Allgemeine SS, Oberabschnitt Organization.

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Belgium and Northern France, the HSSPF was actually made Commander-in-Chief of all military forces.

Finally, HSSPF appear to have been selected to prepare post-war hostilities in Germany. In accordance with an order by Himmler of March 1945, HSSPF were appointed to organize and direct "Werwolf" activities in their respective areas of command.

(2) Other sub-divisions. The SS Abschnitte, although it had fundamentally a territorial designation, comprised SS forces approximating division strength. They were referred to by the town where the HQ was located or by the regions which they included. As of 1941 there were altogether 45, with a total of 7,000 to 11,000 SS men in each. Head of the Abschnitt was generally an SS officer of the rank of Standartenführer or Oberführer, with a staff modelled as regards functions on that of the Oberabschnitt.

The SS Standarte averaged in 1941 between 1,300 and 2,000 men, in 1944 between 300 and 400. SS Standarten were numbered from 1 - 125 consecutively. Each was commanded either by an SS Standartenführer, an SS Obersturmbannführer, or an SS Sturmführer, who was assisted by a small staff and a full-time headquarters unit.

The SS Sturmbann was considered the basic unit for tactical purposes. It consisted in peace-time of 500 - 800 men. The Sturmbann was commanded by an SS Sturmbannführer assisted by an adjutant.

1. SHAFB, CI Monitor, #3, 3 February 1946, OSS Document, CID 125662.
2. Statement by Ognaf. Martin, HSSPF, of Ca Main, OSS Document XI-11148.

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Aside from the regular units of the Allgemeine SS, there were a number of so-called Sondereinheiten (Special Units) attached to each Oberabschnitt and Abschnitt. They included SS Reiter Standarten (SS Cavalry Regiments), SS Nachrichten Sturmbanne (SS Signals Battalions), SS Pionier Sturmbanne (SS Engineer Battalions), SS Sanitäts Stürme (SS Medical Companies), SS Kraftfahr Stürme (SS Motor Transport Companies), and SS Krad Stürme (SS Motorcycle Companies).

(3) Special units.

(a) SS Postal Railway and Radio Guards. Among its many other activities the SS was responsible for the provision, organization, and control of special guards for the postal, railway and radio services within Germany.

The Bahnschutz (Railway Guards) and the Postschutz (Postal Guards) were originally units of the Sonderpolizei (Special German Police). They did not come under the central police administration, but were separately maintained by the postal and railway authorities. In 1942 both groups were transferred to the SS, reorganized and put under the command of SS Obergruppenführer Berger. At the same time the SS Funkschutz (Radio Guards) appeared, charged with the policing of radio installations and the detection of illicit radio stations and even of illegal listening to foreign stations.

Ever since the unification of the German State Railway system under the Weimar Republic, the Deutsche Reichsbahn (National Railways) had its own small police force, known as Bahnpolizei, charged with the general maintenance of law and order on the railways and its properties. Members of the Bahnpolizei were employees of the Reichsbahn, which operated under the supervision of the Reichsverkehrsministerium (RVM-Reich Transport Ministry).

A major change, however, occurred under the Nazi regime: in accordance with an agreement of the Reichsführer-SS und Chef der deutschen Polizei Himmler, the Bahnpolizei also acted as auxiliaries to the Security Police forces, and came, therefore, under the Reichssicherheitshauptamt and, to the extent to which its members were engaged in Security Police (Sipo) duties, under the Chef der Deutschen Polizei.

The Bahnschutzpolizei were a branch of the Bahnpolizei. When, together with the Postschutz, a similar organization of the postal authorities, it was taken over in late 1942 by the SS, under SS Obergruppenführer Berger, they were both reorganized and a third, the SS Funkschutz, was formed to guard and police radio installations, such as the Rundfunkhaus (Central Broadcasting House) in Berlin, and transmitters and power plants.

Personnel of these special units presumably were full-time members of the Allgemeine SS and wore the black uniform of that branch of the SS when on duty. They were armed and received military training.

(b) Other units. The various Oberabschnitte and Abschnitte also controlled the activities of auxiliary branches, some of which were:

SS Sport: There was one such organization within each Oberabschnitt. It was organized into SS Sportabteilungen (Sections) and SS Sportmannschaften (teams), which trained with the Hitler Youth and with the Reserve of the Allgemeine SS.

SS Werkspolizei (Industrial Police). This organization, trained and controlled by the SS, furnished officers for the Werkenschutz (special protective services in factories). Its functions included counter-espionage, counter-sabotage, and counter-propaganda. In addition to these general duties were added emergency duties during air-raids and enemy attacks.

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These officers were responsible to the Führer of the Oberabschnitt (SS Regional District) where they functioned, and thus acted as a direct link between the factories and the SS.

SS Industrieschutzmannschaften (Industrial Safety Crews). These units were cadres of SS officers in charge of employees of plants, who served as liaison officers with the various forces of the Ordnungspolizei (Regular Police) concerned with fire-fighting and passive air-raid precautions.

Hafensicherungstruppen (Port Security Troops). These special units of the Allgemeine SS which patrolled the waterfronts of the major ports in cooperation with police authorities and the Security Service, especially during raids, were at the disposal of the Chiefs of the coastal SS Oberabschnitte (Nordwest, Nordsee, Ostsee, and Nordost). They reinforced the regular Wasserschutzpolizei (Waterways Protection Police).

Bordschutzmannschaften (Shipboard Security Crews). By proclamation, in 1941, of SS Obergruppenführer Karl Kaufmann, Reich Commissioner for Merchant Shipping, all ships plying for Germany's war effort which were manned partially or entirely by Dutch, Danish, Norwegian, and other non-German crews were to have on board so-called Bordschutzmannschaften. These units were assigned by the Führer of the Oberabschnitt in the ports from which the vessels cleared. The proclamation said these units would "man flak guns and assist the German officers of such ships and provide security for the non-German crew members." It was not stated whether or not these crews were subject to maritime law, nor was their relationship to the masters of such vessels defined. Actually, these crew members were tools in

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the hands of the Sipo and SD, and were particularly suited to assist the Kripo in throwing out Kriegsfahndung (emergency police dragnet in time of war), in searching for stowaways, as well in checking on the other members of the crew.

SS und Polizei Verkehrsdienst (SS and Police Traffic Service)

This service was staffed by Allgemeine SS men and by members of the depot units of the Waffen-SS.

HJ Streifendienst (Hitler Youth Patrol Service). This was a disciplinary patrol service for members of the Hitler Youth, composed of senior boys of the HJ under the command of SS or Police officers. A board of high local HJ and SS leaders considered the individual applications for service in the Streifendienst, applying the rigorous standards of the original Allgemeine SS.

b. The Sicherheitsdienst (SD - Security Service).

1. Relationship between SD, Sipo and SS. The Sicherheitsdienst has been described as being technically still a part of the Allgemeine SS, although it was functionally integrated with the Sicherheitspolizei (Sipo-Security Police). In the interpretation of Nazi legalists, the SD remained a Dienststelle, i.e., a service bureau, of the SS and the NSDAP, although it has been drafted to assist the Sicherheitspolizei, i.e., the Security Police of the Government.

1. Werner Best, Die Deutsche Polizei, p. 56.

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As a part of the Allgemeine SS the SD has no membership different from that of the Allgemeine SS but merely forms an administrative hierarchy of its own entrusted with the execution of a vital part of SS policy. Reinhard Heydrich, Chief of the SD, defined the relationship between SD and Sipo on the one side, and of SD and SS, on the other, as follows:

"The State Police (Gestapo) is assisted in the discharge of its duties by the Security Service (SD) of the Reichsführer SS, which is not vested with executive powers. This Security Service is a branch (Zweig) of the SS as a whole (Gesamt-SS). The Reichsleitung (Reich Directorate) of the Party has assigned to the Security Service the intelligence research and surveillance (nachrichtendienstliche Erforschung und Überwachung) of the ideological opponents of National Socialism. The geographical subdivision of the SD corresponds to that of the Allgemeine SS. The men of the SD are SS leaders and SS men of the SS as a whole (Gesamt-SS) who hold commands, within both the SD and the Allgemeine SS. While the functions of the Police are of a tactical and executive nature, the SD has the intelligence and research function of furnishing the strategic prerequisites (Grundlagen) for the leaders of the Movement¹ and therewith of the State."

1. Völkischer Beobachter, 28 April 1936 (on file in the State Department).

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The integration of SD and Sipo in 1939 appears to have blurred somewhat the original borderlines between the SD as a mere fact-finding intelligence service and the Sipo as the police branch charged with the actual execution of decisions deemed expedient on the basis of such findings. According to certain reports, the SD in Italy partook in punitive campaigns against partisans and controlled indigenous forces organized to combat partisans.¹ The amalgamation of Sipo and SD at the Reich level, in the person of the Chief of Sipo and SD, and on the regional level in the office of Höhere SS und Polizei Führer (HSSPf - Higher SS and Police Leader) and in that of the Befehlshaber der Sipo und des SD (BdS - Commander of Security Police and Security Service) subordinate to the HSSPf made the distinction between Sipo and SD even more complicated. (In occupied territories Sipo and SD are known to have operated through one office only.) Finally, the convenient arrangement which permitted the temporary recruitment of SS men for SD services rendered it even more difficult to establish the auspices under which SS men were operating in any given situation.

Thus seen functionally, SD and Sipo are complementary services; for all practical purposes they generally worked as a team. References to the SD as an operating outfit guilty of the commission of atrocities may yet warrant examination as to whether or not it may stem from a loose application of the term. At

1. Cf. Interrogation of Guiseppe (Don Cornelio) Biondi, SD Verona agent, on file with OSS.

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any rate SD and Sipo may frequently have performed similar, if not, identical functions. A number of functions and crimes listed below thus may be attributable to either or both the SD and Sipo. Although in most cases the SD may have confined itself to doing the intelligence part of the project, and the Sipo the executive one.

ii. Origin and History of the SD. The Sicherheitsdienst (SD) existed prior to the advent of the Nazis to power. The SD, in fact, was a typical creation of the "Kampfzeit" (period of struggle), in which the Party and all Party formations organized so-called "Nachrichtendienste" (intelligence services) of their own to the end of counteracting "designs of attack on destruction" by the opponents with the help of "reconnoitering and evaluating".¹ No attempt was made to act according to an over-all plan or to co-ordinate the various intelligence services at a central place.

The SS, in consequence, ran its own intelligence service within the framework of the functions allotted to this formation. This was the so-called "IC-Dienst", later named the PI-Dienst (Press-Informationen-Dienst - Press Information Service). Head of this service was Reinhard Heydrich, one of Hitler's closest advisers and most ruthless hangers-on. Heydrich succeeded in building up the PI-Dienst to the most powerful intelligence service of the Nazi system. In an article in the official magazine of the

1. d'Alquen, Die SS, p. 21

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German Police, Heydrich reviewed the performance record of the Sipo and SD.¹ About the early beginnings of the SD, Heydrich said the following:

"The SD of the SS was created before the seizure of power at a time, in which the Party had no (official) executive powers but, on the contrary, was opposed by the executive (of the government)....The most important prerequisite for discharging its assignments thus was to explore the opponent theoretically and practically by means of an intelligence service....Those opponents were, first of all, the visible antagonistic forces which were organized within the German Party, i.e., at first the KPD (Communist Party), the SPD (Social Democratic Party), the Zentrum (Catholic Party), the DVP (German People's Party), the DNVP (German National People's Party), etc....Behind these formations there were active, all over Germany, the same ideological opposition forces: Jewry, Communism, Political Church, Freemasonry, etc. Finally, the ideological opponents (gegnerischen Geisteskräfte) were determined."

After the Nazis' rise to power, in 1933, the SD, according to testimony of Nazi experts,² gave proof that "owing to the systematic build-up of its organization, free of all personal commitments, it had overcome all opponents and conquered spheres of activities (Lebensgebiete, lit. spheres of life) of actual

1. Reinhard Heydrich, "Der Anteil der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD an den Ordnungsmassnahmen im mitteleuropäischen Raum", in Die Deutsche Polizei, Berlin, 1 January 1941.

2. d'Alquen, Die SS, p. 22.

or potential significance for the new National Socialist state." In recognition of these merits, the SD, by decree of 9 June 1934, was made the sole political intelligence service of the National Socialist Party. The decree stipulated that "aside from the SD of the RF-SS, no intelligence or espionage service of the Party is permitted to exist." All other intelligence services within the Party were dissolved and the personnel transferred to the SD. Organizationally the SD was directed by the so-called Sicherheitshauptamt (Security Main Office), one of the three main offices then in existence within the Reichsführung SS (SS Supreme Command).

When, in 1936, Himmler became Chief of the German Police he appointed Heydrich as Chef der Sicherheitspolizei (Chief of the Security Police) which combined the functions and administration of both the Gestapo (Secret State Police) and the Kripo (Criminal Police). However, despite the merger within the top command, as noted above, both Sipo and SD retained their organizational identity and continued to function as two separate services. The decree of 11 November 1938¹ established a somewhat closer liaison between the two services. The decree stated:

"The Sicherheitsdienst of the RFSS (SD) as the intelligence organization for Party and State -- especially to assist the Sicherheitspolizei -- has to perform im-

1. Printed in the Ministerial Bulletin (Ministerialblatt) of the Reich and Prussian Minister of the Interior, No. 48, p. 1906, 1938, quoted in Werner Best, Die Deutsche Polizei.

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portant tasks. The SD therewith is acting upon governmental order. This requires close and sympathetic collaboration between the SD and the administrative offices of the General Governmental Administration and of the Administration of the Interior."

Thus, the SD was designated to become an agent of the State, although it remained a part and function of the Party.

The amalgamation of the functions of both agencies occurred on 27 September 1939, when by decree of Himmler, the Hauptamt Sicherheitspolizei within the Ministry of the Interior was merged officially with the SS-Sicherheitshauptamt to form the Reichssicherheitshauptamt (Reich Security Main Office), which was organized as part of the Reichsführung SS and of the Ministry of the Interior. Heydrich assumed the title of Chef der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD (Chief of the Security Police and the SD). This step crowned a development which was intended to realize "the principle of the 'ordensmäßigen' (lit., order-like) permeation of an institution of national order (Volksordnung) by the carrier of the National Socialist Movement."¹

The SD reached the pinnacle of its power in 1944 when part of the Abwehr of the OKW, the intelligence service of the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces, passed to the jurisdiction of the SD.

1. Werner Best, op. cit., p. 94.

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ii. Purpose and functions of the SD. The SD was undoubtedly one of the most vicious services established by the Party, and generally composed of fanatical Nazis. It was with reference to the SD that Himmler stated:¹

"I know that there are many people in Germany who feel sick to their stomach when they see this black coat; we have understanding for this and we do not expect that we will be loved by too many. Those who have Germany close to their heart will and shall respect us; those who have somehow or somewhere a bad conscience toward the Führer or toward the nation ought to be afraid of us. For those people we have built up an organization called the Sicherheitsdienst."

(1) General functions

(a) Intelligence (domestic). The function of the SD has been described by authentic sources as follows:²

"The Sicherheitsdienst, as the intelligence service of the National Socialist Party has, above all, the task of exploring and keeping watch over all forces, events, and facts which are of importance for the continued rule of the National Socialist idea and Movement within the German space (im deutschen Raume). In support of the work of the Sicherheitspolizei to render the German national Order (die deutsche Volksordnung) secure against disturbances and destruc-

1. Heinrich Himmler, Die Schutzstaffel, p.29.

2. Best, op.cit., p. 38.

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tion of all kinds, the Sicherheitsdienst has to keep a watch on all spheres of activities of the German people with regard to the activities of the forces of our opponents and to the effectiveness of governmental and political measures, and to inform the governmental authorities and the Party offices about its findings. Finally, the SD has to investigate and to explore the activities and the connections of the great ideological arch-enemies (Todfeinde) of National Socialism and of the German people, in order to render possible a purposeful (zielbewusste) and effective fight against them."

However, it was the Chief of the SD, Reinhard Heydrich, who defined the SD's functions and activities in the most succinct and the most revealing fashion. He epitomized them as follows:

"To understand the opponent completely from the angle of his ideology, to recognize and to detect by means of criminology his form of organization and his personnel, and finally to fight him systematically, to destroy him, to paralyze him, and to eliminate (ausschalten) him with the help of executive power."

Heydrich's definition points to espionage as the basic function of the SD. Study of Art III of the Reichssicherheitshauptamt (RSHA) within the Reichsführung SS, successor to the old SD-

1. Article in Die Deutsche Polizei, quoted above.

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Hauptamt and operational headquarters of the SD, gives a clear indication of the scope of activities assigned to the SD. The title of the office "Deutsche Lebensgebiete" (German Spheres of Life) suggests the multitude of functions involved. In all spheres of political, economic, cultural, legal, and military controls and operations, the jurisdiction and responsibility of the SD was well-nigh all-inclusive. It supervised a network of espionage in which practically all agencies, public and private, and every single individual inside Germany and a substantial number abroad, were enmeshed. No public authority, including the Government, no organization, including the Nazi Party, the SS, and the Gestapo, and no individual, including Nazi leaders, were exempt from investigation and denouncement by SD agents.

Little doubt can be entertained that it was the efficiency, smoothness, and thoroughness of the SD machine which accounted substantially for the rise of Himmler and for the predominance of the SS over German public and private life. SD agents forced their way into the school system, cultural pursuits and entertainment, propaganda, the churches, the law, the military administration and military intelligence, the Government, the police, labor (particularly foreign labor), production, supply, and foreign trade, food and agriculture, transportation and communications, the administration of occupied territories, etc. Reports, so-called Lageberichte, submitted by SD agents as a result of their findings, formed the basis for legal, administrative, judicial,

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police, or propaganda action. Pressure brought to bear by the SD on the German High Command to tighten judicial procedures and to impose harsher sentences is said to have resulted in the issuance of the famous "Nacht- und Nebelerlass" (Night and Fog Edict). This edict authorized the secret transfer to Germany of persons on trial before military courts in occupied areas, when it was thought that such trials might endanger "the security of the Reich". Recommendation for the deportation of such persons again originated with the SD.

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(b) Intelligence (foreign): paramilitary and military espionage and sabotage. A veiled admission of intelligence functions including or, at least, bordering on military espionage was contained in Heydrich's¹ statement, in which the Chief of the SD and the SD stated:

"... Sicherheitspolizei and SD had to prepare the solution of the next parts of tasks and complexes of work assigned them, i.e., especially political, semi-scientific preparations for the seizure and punishment of those opponents who, following England's leadership, took part in the plans of encirclement and annihilation, i.e., the old Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and the other vassals of England. Here specifically, the Führer had ordered the SS and the Police (especially the Sicherheitspolizei and the SD) to take over after the military had completed their mission, the task of establishing, politically and ideologically, the security of these new spaces."

What is called here the establishment of security in areas outside Germany subsequent to military action was actually the exploitation post factum, not merely of military

¹ Quoted above.

conquest but of espionage and infiltration tactics carried out preparatory to military occupation. This was the work of a large number of Government, Party, Party-affiliated or Party-sponsored agencies and organizations, among which the SD played a prominent part.

However, SD espionage activities were by no means limited to immediate targets of military aggression. They were the faithful accompaniment of Nazi infiltration in non-German territories and gained enhanced importance wherever overt or clandestine military action was part of the plan. Evidence has been established of the active participation of leading personalities of the SD in the Spanish Civil War. A list of so-called "Ordensvorschläge", i. e., recommendations for receipt of decoration, of persons who distinguished themselves by the active support they gave the Franco regime in its attempt to establish itself by force, contains the following names:

Reinhard Heydrich,	<u>SS Gruppenführer, Chef der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD</u>
Bruno Streckenbach,	<u>SS Brigadeführer, Gen. Maj. der Polizei beim Chef der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD, Amtschef I, Berlin</u>
Hugo Goppelt	<u>Kriminalrat, ^{aat} Stappolizeileitstelle Wien</u>
Rudolf Barth	<u>SS Obersturmführer, beim Inspektor der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD, Umwandlungszentralstelle Potsdam</u>

Willi Linke	<u>Kriminalobersekretär</u>
Paul Pietsch	<u>Kriminalobersekretär</u> ["]
Johannes Athen	<u>Kriminalsekretär</u> ["]
Heinrich Rademaker	<u>Kriminaloberassistent</u>
Hilberich Hillers	<u>Kriminaloberassistent</u>
Gustav König	a. pl. <u>Kriminalassistent</u>

In support of the recommendations, the following reasons are listed:

re Heydrich: "Under the resolute personal guidance of the Chief of the Sicherheitspolizei and SD, the first tactical actions (Einsatzaktionen) of the security police were executed for Spain."

re Streckenbach: "St. pushed through the Spanientransporte (presumably transports of troops and supplies) during the first illegal period."

re Goppelt: "Examination, for security reasons, of fugitive Germans from Spain and arrangement for their transportation to Germany."

re Barth: "Security Police official attached to IC (German Military Intelligence in the Field); captain of the Spanish Militia."

<u>re Linke, Pietsch,</u>	} "Took over 35 Russian prisoners... from the Spanish military 1) authorities."
Athen, Rademaker,	
Hillers, König	

In the years preceding the outbreak of the war, and particularly during the war, the SS began to build up, piece by piece, an espionage service of its own. This service was no longer confined to political intelligence inside Germany nor to post-hostilities intelligence in German-occupied or annexed territories but ~~which~~ began to duplicate, to a considerable extent, the espionage and counter-espionage branches of the German Armed Forces, with regard to enemy targets. At the beginning of the war the demarcation line between the jurisdiction of the Abwehr (the military intelligence service of the OKW) and the SD appears to have been clear cut. In fact, cooperation between Abteilung I (section I) of the Abwehr and Amt VI of the RSHA seems to have been devoid of major friction.

Gradually, however, a state of competition developed between Abteilung II of the Abwehr and Amt VI of the RSHA with other sections, e.g., Abteilung I and II, also being drawn into the conflict. Abteilung I of the Abwehr was in charge of espionage, Abteilung II in charge of foreign minorities and active sabotage, and Abteilung III in charge of Counter-espionage. Amt VI of the RSHA, called "Fusland", was the foreign branch of the SD intelligence service concerned with espionage, sabotage, counter-espionage and subversive activities in satellite, neutral, and enemy countries. Its original task was to collect political information. This was done through official diplomatic channels.

or, in neutral countries, through political surveillance of local German groups and institutions, through the support of parties useful for German purposes, ^{or} through contact with the local police, etc. A typical example of the scope and nature of the activities of Amt VI is the reported procurement of a photostatic copy of the Teheran agreement shortly after the conclusion of the conference. 1) Gradually, however, it began to organize sabotage groups and commandos in support of military operations. Out of these units there developed the so-called SS Jagdverbände (SS Raiding Detachments) under the command of SS Sturmbannführer Otto Skorzeny which was responsible for the liberation of Mussolini in 1943. The SS Jagdverbände grew in importance and, finally, absorbed parts of the Division Brandenburg, a sabotage outfit of the regular Army. In 1944, the Abwehr was dissolved. The OKW retained the rather insignificant Amtsgruppe Ausland, but Abteilung I, II, and III passed to the RSHA. Abteilung I and II formed the so-called Militärische Amt D, a new office within the RSHA; Abteilung III appears to have been split between the Amt IV (Gestapo) and Amt VI of the RSHA. The absorption of the Abwehr by the SD culminated in a development which not only made the SD the only intelligence service of importance inside Germany but also established

the supremacy of the SS, not merely in political but in military affairs as well.

(2) Special functions and specific targets.

(a) Combatting internal opponents

The ultimate objective, according to Heydrich, was "to guard the internal security of the Reich by way of prevention." Actually, the definition, quoted above, implied the execution of a program which went far beyond the preliminary stage of espionage and investigation and eventually included supervision of, if not participation in, the physical annihilation of the political or military opposition. Information received on the execution of partisans and members of the Allied military forces by the SD fully bear out this conclusion. Heydrich himself described the tasks carried out cooperatively by the Sipo and the SD as follows:

"The task and the demands given to the Sicherheitspolizei and SD were in accordance with historical developments, met by stages. The first of these stages was devoted to establishing internal security in the Old Reich, through all necessary means and measures. These included the singling out and attacking of Jews in order - as has almost been achieved already - to force them to emigrate; the dissolution of all parties hostile to the state (among them all camouflaged organizations, such as the Communists, Free Masons, Rotary Clubs, and church affiliated youth organizations); the supervision of "immigrants" (refugees who came to the Reich from other countries and who are not known definitely to be friendly to the Reich); the persecution of emigres (political opponents who fled abroad); and lastly, the ferreting out and suppression of sabotage, terrorism, and espionage as well as the organization of a reliable frontier police. They also included all measures taken against individuals and organizations who opposed the new fundamental concepts of the German people's community and family."

¶ In short, the SD played a leading role in the preparation and, perhaps, the execution of domestic crimes perpetrated against racial minorities, political opponents, churches and clergy, and all other groups and individuals which the SD, on the strength of their "fundamental exploration" declared to be politically undesirable. A piece of evidence

in point is a circular by Heydrich dated 9 November 1938 which ordered the ill-famed actions against the Jews, especially against their synagogues. It recommended, explicitly, the employment of SD agents for the execution of these measures. 1)

For the SiPo and the SD "the second stage" began during the war. Within the Reich the SD, by decree of 19 August 1942, was empowered to inform Government authorities on popular reactions to all official measures taken. This led to a give-and-take procedure between SD on the one side, and Administration and Judiciary on the other.

(b) Elimination of enemies abroad. In connection with the war effort itself, the SD, in cooperation with the SiPo, received the order "to take over the task of establishing politically and ideologically the internal security of the new spaces", 2) i.e., at first Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and all other countries which, for practical purposes, were labelled as "vassals of England". Heydrich, in his statement, refrained from giving details, since in his own words "the activities and the successes of this type of work are not suited for propaganda purposes". The few examples given by him include "the liberation of the conquered territories," "the investigation and clarification of the Polish mass murders committed against ethnic Germans,"

1. OSS document, CID 125265, CD 131010

2. Heydrich, ibid.

"the reapprehension of thousands of discharged Polish criminals," and, finally, upon the orders of Himmler in his capacity as Reich Commissioner for the Consolidation of German Folkdom, "the great task of steering and transporting ("Steuerung und Verbringung") those alien peoples ("Fremdvölkischer Kräfte") which were required to evacuate those spaces for the reception of the ethnic Germans ("Volksdeutsche") who faithfully returned." This is quite obviously a reference to the compulsory evacuation and deportation of foreign populations for purposes of slave labor or wholesale extermination. These displacements were carried out under the auspices of the Reichskommissar für die Festigung des Deutschen Volkstums, the Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle, and other agencies. A particularly shocking example of the treatment of prisoners held by the SiPo and SD in the Government General is contained in order of 20 July 1944 issued by Commander of SiPo and SD in Radom, Illmer, who stated:

"I again stress the fact that the number of inmates of the SiPo and SD prisons must be kept as low as possible. In the present situation particularly suspects handed over by the OrPo (Order Police) need only be subjected to a short, formal interrogation, so long as there are no serious grounds for suspicion. They are then to be sent by the quickest route to a concentration camp, should no court proceedings be necessary or should there be no question of discharge.

Please, keep the number of discharges to an absolute minimum. Should the situation at the front necessitate this, early preparations are to be made for the total clearance of prisons. In a sudden emergency, which precludes the evacuation of the prisoners, they are to be liquidated and the bodies disposed of as far as possible (burning, dynamiting of the building, etc.). In similar circumstances Jews still employed in the armament industry or on other work are to be dealt with in the same way. It is to be avoided under all circumstances that prisoners or Jews should be liberated by the enemy, whether it be the Western Powers or the Red Army, or should fall into their hands alone."

(G) Fight against partisans: Other assignments implied in Heydrich's statement on German methods of "liberation" concern, undoubtedly, combat activities against political opponents in occupied territories and partisans. Available intelligence shows beyond the shadow of a doubt that it was the SD which, in the later part of the war, was given responsibility for organizing and directing anti-partisan contingents and for action against partisans and local populations suspected of sympathy or even casual contact with partisans. 1) A customary tactic employed by the SD was to enlist the help of the native population as auxiliary

1) cf. Communication of Commanding General of the German Luftwaffe in Italy, 21 October 1944, and 9 December 1944, Br. B Bo. 404/44, to Commander-in-Chief, Southwest, re: Operations Against Partisans and Treatment of Italian Civilian Population, OSS Document A-59772; Telephone message #14002, 1V6 No. 82/44, Kds Radom IV

forces in the fight against partisans. This is openly admitted in official publications of the SiPo and SD. For instance, an article in Die Deutsche Polizei which appeared under the title of "The Mask of the Soviet Bandits" contained the following statement: 1)

"Whenever the German Communiqué for the Armed Forces mentions explicitly the struggle of annihilation against Soviet Banditry in the rear of our front, it is done partly to pay military tribute to the brave conduct of the men of the Sicherheitspolizei, of the SD, of the Waffen SS, and of the Army....

"It was not especially astounding that there were among the (native) population, men ready to participate in the fight against the bandit terror and to place themselves at the disposal of the units which were engaged in the combat against these bandits, e.g., Sicherheitspolizei and SD, Wachmann, WaffenSS and Ordnungspolizei. ...An organization for self-protection, established by the Sicherheitspolizei and SD is now called the Ordnungsdienst (Order Service) abbr. OD.... It relies mostly on itself...Its task as a sort of auxiliary police consists mainly in guard duty..."

Not in all instances was the task of these native battalions as innocuous as would appear from this statement. In Italy so-called "Black Brigades" were formed from Muli Battalions

1. Die Deutsche Polizei, No. 4, Berlin, 15 February 1944

with the aim of rounding up manpower for work in Germany and, in addition, aiding the Germans in the fight against the Partisans. Fugitives from the southern provinces they were, like the SD, mostly ruthless fighters. Officially they were under the auspices of the Fascist Republican Party; actually, they were fully controlled by the SD Commander in each province functioning as Chief of such Fascist formations in his area. SD officers and NCO's took part in important operations executed by these troops. Those arrested by the Black Brigades were transferred to SD quarters, if the seriousness of the case warranted it. 1) According to orders by Himmler, the Chief of the SiPo and SD and the local Commander were given authority to participate in decisions concerning individual executions or collective reprisals against so-called Fremdvölkische (alien nationals) in the course of operations described above, or independent of such actions. 2)

(c) Liquidation of Allied Commandos, parachutists, and fliers

In 1942, however, the SD, upon personal order of Hitler, was given a new assignment, the execution of which constituted a flagrant violation of international law. On 18 October 1942, Hitler decreed that "all enemy troops encountered by German troops during so-called commando operations in Europe or Africa, though they may appear to be soldiers

1. of. interrogation of Giuseppe (Don Cornelio) Biondi, SD Verona agent, on file with OSS (X2)
2. OSS Document, CID 125978, quoting Himmler's orders of 1 and 4 November 1944; see below

in uniform or demolition groups, armed or unarmed, are to be exterminated to the last man, either in combat or in pursuit." Members of such units were to be handed over to the Sicherheitsdienst "without delay". An order of 10 October 1944 extended the application to include "all members of terrorist and saboteur bands, including (on general principle) all parachutists encountered outside the immediate combat zone" and demanded their immediate execution. Again it was stipulated that "in special cases they are to be turned over to the SD (Sicherheitsdienst)." 1)

The order was explained in detail in an executive order by Jodl (WFSt), attached to Hitler's order. Ample evidence has been received that the orders were carried out to the letter by members of the SS in cooperation with the Armed Forces. The most important incidents in point are the "Ginny" case; 2) the cases of Captain Ross Roper Littlejohn, Sgt. Crowley and Charles C. Parker; 3) the case of Captain Roderick S. Hall; 4) the Dawes case, 5) and others. When in 1944, Allied air attacks on German targets, inside and

1. Both orders on file with OSS, Document XL 5567; see also testimony by witness Dr. Kurt Behnke, interrogated at HQ 3rd Army Group, JA Section, APO 403, Reference No. 3 JA - 150, on file with WCC
2. On file with OSS and WCC, #100
3. On file with WCC and OSS, Index 235
4. On file with WCC and OSS, #101, OSS Caserta #1218, 21 June 1945
5. On file with WCC and OSS. OSS document, APO 512, #1392

outside of Germany proper, grew in intensity. Allied fliers who parachuted to earth or who were shot down in their planes but reached the ground safely began to share the fate of commandos and parachutists even though Hitler's original order of 18 October 1942 had exempted from the threat of extermination "aviators who have bailed out to save their lives during aerial combat."

¶ The participation of the SS or SD took two forms - passive and active. According to the testimony of authentic sources, a secret order by Himmler about the middle of 1944 prohibited the police from interfering with any outrages committed by the population against Allied fliers after landing. This order was interpreted by the regional Chief of the SAPO and SD as to mean that, on the appearance of enemy fliers, arrests were to be delayed so that civilians could attack the fliers without official intervention. In addition, SS, i.e., possible SD, members seem to have been given freedom to participate in the slaying of Allied fliers. Substantial evidence is available to back up these charges. 2

- 1 See interrogation of HSSPF Benno Martin and of Police Councillor Ernst Teichmann, OSS document XL 11148
- 2 See statement by HSSPF Benno Martin, OSS document XL 11148, concerning the killing of American airmen by German policemen. See also the case reported in OSS #A 44351; also the case of Stichling, Ortsgruppenleiter of Gernsbach, on file with OSS (X2) OSS memo FR 1579, 4 July 1945; testimony of PW Hans Barth (SWG-71717) cited in Report FM 000.5, 16 May 1945 (under M) on file with WCC; report by Lt. Col. Stubblefield based on testimony by Major Fr. Kirnbauer, Nurse's Aid Lottie Tauber, and Chief Surgeon Dr. Metzler, on file with OSS, #1413; report by Robert Perry on file with OSS, document 01218.

(c) Maltreatment of prisoners of war. Early in the war, i.e., long before custody over prisoners of war had been transferred to Himmler, SiPo and SD commanders, in agreement with the OKW, organized so-called "Einsatzkommandos" (special commandos) who were distributed through PW camps. Their task consisted "of the political testing of all inmates of the camp, the selection and further treatment of a) political, criminal, or in any special manner undesirable elements; b) any individual who can be utilized for the reconstruction of occupied areas." Reports on findings were to be sent to the Reichssicherheitshauptamt (RSHA - Reich Security Main Office) for further instructions. Prisoners could then be handed over to the commandos, if so indicated by these instructions. From then on the PW was at the mercy of the SS. He could even be executed - though this was not to take place in the camp or in its immediate vicinity.¹ After Himmler in October 1944 had been put in charge of all PW affairs, conditions in camps appear to have deteriorated even further. Ample evidence could be provided by Allied PW's released or freed during German captivity.² To what extent SD agents during the German December offensive 1944 were responsible for the killing of Allied PW's prior to their transfer

1. Document captured at Bad Sulza containing "Instructions for Commandos of Chief of Sicherheitspolizei and SD stationed in SEALAGS" of 17 July 1941, on file with OSS (X2), available in Document Section of X-2 War Room in London.

2. For specific instances of Nazi brutality in PW hospitals see reports by Roland, No. PWIS (H)/KP/463, OSS document

to a PW camp is not yet fully established,¹ but may be ascertained through testimony of German PW's who participated in the Ardennes offensive. Reports have been received that the 150th Panzer Brigade, a sabotage unit under the SD command, had a vital part in these operations.

(f) Post-war underground activities: Finally, it appears that SD agents were given a major part in the organization and execution of subversive activities after the end of hostilities in Europe. Amt III and VI of the RSHA, both in charge of SD operations, have been mentioned as the planning and organizing agencies for post-war hostilities.² Amt III, under the direction of SS-Gruppenführer Ohlendorf is reported to have prepared a widespread information service, divided into four geographical sections and operated by a network of reliable agents of various nationalities. The information gathered by them was to form the basis for the organization of terrorism and sabotage by picked groups. Amt II, Section 3 under Otto Skorzeny, was to supply sabotage materials (and presumably agents) for the "Werwolf". SD agents reportedly were picked to stay behind Allied lines as informers and presumably as saboteurs as well.³

1. In this connection see Order by BdS Illner, quoted above, on file with OSS (I2)

2. See Intelligence Report issued by the Intelligence Division Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, 25 June 1945, OSS XL 12075, also statement by Ogruf. Martin, OSS XL 11148

3. Cf. report on the interrogation of SS Hauptsturmführer Kurt Hennings, OSS document XL10402

Some of them appear to belong to the so-called "Aktion Bundschuh", an outfit organized to maintain illegal communications and to carry out espionage and sabotage activities.¹ SD agents are likewise said to have been put in army uniform, in order to be able upon release to engage in subversive activities under false identity.²

iii. Functional Command. The national controls of the SD were located in the Reichssicherheitshauptamt (RSHA). Amt III: Deutsche Lebensgebiete (German Spheres of Life), under SS-Brigadeführer Ohlendorf, handled the principal functions of the SD, i.e., intelligence outside Germany and, to some extent, in occupied Europe, and was also the Reich control office for all regional sub-divisions of the SS in Germany and occupied Europe. Amt VI: Ausland (Foreign Countries), under SS-Brigadeführer Schellenberg, was in charge of SD espionage, sabotage, and counter-espionage. Amt VII: Weltanschauliche Erforschung und Auswertung (Ideological Research and Evaluation), was formerly under SS-Oberführer Six and then, according to some reports, was placed under SS Obersturmbannführer Dittel. While not strictly an SD outfit, AMT VII was functionally related to the SD and supplied SD and SiPo with the results of the investigations it conducted at institutes of learning and education, etc. Finally, the Militärisches Amt D, which was also under SS Brigadeführer Schellenberg, was closely associated with Amt VI as well as through the affiliations of its chief.

iv. Regional Organization.

(1) The Commander (Inspector) of SiPo and SD (BdS or IdS). Regionally,

1. Cf. OSS document XL12075

2. CI Monitor No. 14, 21 April 1945, OSS #126401

the SD was controlled by the Befehlshaber (Inspekteur) der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD (BdS-Commander (Inspector) of the Security Police and the Security Service) who was directly responsible to the Höhere SS und Polizei Führer (HSSPF-Higher SS and Police Leader) within each Wehrkreis (Military District). The BdS was the permanent deputy of the HSSPF and, through the HSSPF, was responsible for liaison between SiPo and SD on the one hand, and government authorities and Nazi Party and military officials, on the other. The term "Befehlshaber" (commander) is in use for SiPo and SD officers in occupied and frontier areas whose functions, owing to the activities of partisan forces, were of a semi-military nature. The execution of punitive actions against partisan forces and of collective reprisals became one of the major responsibilities of the BdS.¹ Altogether the powers of the BdS (IdS) were considerable and, with regard to activities within the scope of SiPo and SD, second only to the Chief of SiPo and SD and to the HSSPF in his area. In general, the BdS (IdS) would execute or implement directives received from the HSSPF. A case in point is the established complicity of Naumann, the JGS Nürnberg, in the willful dereliction of his duties which facilitated the killing of Allied fliers. Naumann issued the instructions to the local security forces implementing directives received from HSSPF Benno Martin.² The BdS (IdS) likewise shared with HSSPF responsibility for disciplinary supervision of foreign workers in his area of jurisdiction.³ This

1. Cf. Interrogation of Giuseppe (Don Cornelio) Biondi, SD Verona agent with regard to activities of BdS Harster, on file with OSS (X2)

2. Cf. Interrogations of HSSPF Benno Martin and of Ernst Teichmann, Kriminalrat and Chief of Criminal Police, Regensburg, OSS document KLIA148

3. Ibid.

supervision included the recommendation to the HSSPF of executions of so-called "Fremdvölkische" i.e., foreign nationals and, in the absence of the HSSPF, the right to order such executions on the exclusive authority of the BdS (IdS).² By means of the same token the BdS (IdS) had the power to initiate or, as substitute for the HSSPF, to order the aforementioned "Sühnemassnahmen" (penitentiary measures) as reprisals for "grave terrorist and sabotage actions".² The names of the various BdS or IdS inside and outside Germany were, according to their specific area of jurisdiction:

<u>SS District</u> <u>(Oberabschnitt)</u>	<u>Military District</u> <u>(Wehrkreis)</u>	<u>BdS or IdS</u> ³
Nordost	<u>Wehrkreis I</u> <u>(Königsberg)</u>	SS Standf. Constantin Canaris
Ostsee	<u>Wehrkreis II</u> <u>(Stettin)</u>	SS Ostb. Sens (formerly SS-Brig. Naumann, SS-Standf. Werner)
Spree	<u>Wehrkreis III</u> <u>(Berlin)</u>	SS-Brig. Erik von Heim- burg (formerly SS- Brig. Naumann, SS- Oberf. AchamerPierrade)
Elbe	<u>Wehrkreis IV</u> <u>(Dresden)</u>	SS Standf. Hans Geschke (formerly SS-Oberf. Klein)
"Südwest"	<u>Wehrkreis V</u> <u>(Stuttgart)</u> <u>(Elsass)</u> ⁵	SS-Oberf. Fischer SS- Oberf. Fischer

1. Order of Himmler, of 1 November 1944, OSS document CID 125978
2. Order of Himmler of 4 November 1944, OSS document CID 125978;
see above
3. For meaning of abbr. title see above
4. Name of city refers to seat of Hq.
5. Area is geographically part of the Wehrkreis but has its own BdS.

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West	<u>Wehrkreis VI</u> (Düsseldorf)	SS-Standf. Albath (Formerly SS-Standf. Blume)
" Süd	<u>Wehrkreis VII</u>	SS-Oberf. Paul Schmitz- Voigt
" Südost	<u>Wehrkreis VIII</u> (Breslau)	SS-Standf. Rohme
Fulda-Merana	<u>Wehrkreis IX</u> (Kassel)	SS-Standf. Bovensiepen (Formerly SS-Standf. Spatzen)
Nordsee SS-Brigf.	<u>Wehrkreis X</u> (Hamburg)	SS-Brigf. Johannes Thiel
Mitte	<u>Wehrkreis XI</u> (Braunschweig)	SS-Oberf. Rapp (Formerly SS-Oberf. Fuchs)
Rhein-Westmark	<u>Wehrkreis XII</u> (Wiesbaden) incl. Luxembourg	SS-Standf. Somann (Formerly SS-Standf. Achsamer-Piffrader)
Lothringen-Westmark ¹		SS-Brigf. Duncern
Main	<u>Wehrkreis XIII</u> (Nürnberg)	SS-Brigf. Naumann (Formerly SS-Oberf. Klein)
Donau	<u>Wehrkreis XVII</u> (Vienna)	SS-Brigf. Huber
Alpenland	<u>Wehrkreis XVIII</u> (Salzburg)	SS-Brigf. Brunner
Weichsel	<u>Wehrkreis XX</u> (Dantzig)	SS-Brigf. Helmut Willich
Warthe	<u>Wehrkreis XXI</u> (Posen)	SS-Brigf. Duszog (Formerly SS-Standf. Hans Geschke)
" Böhmen und Mähren	Böhmen und Mähren (Prague)	SS-Standf. Erwin Weinmann

1. Area is geographically part of the Wehrkreis but has its own BdS.

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General Government
(Krakow)

SS-Oberf. Bierkamp (former)
SS-Brigf. Eberhard
Schöngarth

Nord (Norway)

SS-Standf. Fehlis

Nordwest (Nether-
lands)

SS-Brigf. Eberhard
(Schöngarth (formerly
SS-Brigf. Harster,
SS-Oberf. Naumann)

Ukraine

SS-Standf. Böhm

Ostland

SS-Ostbf. Fuchs (formerly
SS-Oberf. Achamer-
Pfister, SS-Standf.
Kenzinger)

Additional RAS in territories annexed or occupied by Germany were the following:

Territory

RAS (RAS)

Denmark
(Copenhagen)

SS-Standf. Boversiepen

Serbia
(Belgrad)

SS-Oberf. Emanuel Schäfer

France
(Paris)

SS-Standf. Knochen

Belgium
(Brussels)

SS-Ostbf. Ehlers

Hungary
(Budapest)

SS-Standf. Hans Geschke

Italy
(Verona)

SS-Brigf. Harster

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The headquarters of the BdS (IdS) appear to have been organized on the model of the RSEA. This at least was true of HQ's in occupied territories where the tasks of the SiPo and SD were extensive and complicated. Within Germany, the apparatus was probably on a somewhat smaller scale.

(2) Regional sub-divisions¹.

(a) Inside Germany. Inside Germany the sub-divisions subordinate to the BdS (IdS) were assimilated originally to the Oberabschnitte (Districts) and Abschnitte (Sub-Districts) of the Allgemeine SS. This system, however, was abandoned in favor of an organization which was patterned after the regional breakdown of the SiPo. SD sub-divisions were renamed SD-Leitabschnitte (SD District HQ) SD-Abschnitte (SD Sub-District HQ) SD-Hauptausseustellen (SD Main Field Office) and SD-Ausseustellen (SD Field Office). In 1940, the number and location of SD-Leitabschnitte and SD-Abschnitte still showed a tendency to lean on the existing Wahlkreise and SS-Oberabschnitte. The following are known to have then existed.²

SD-Leitabschnitte

Berlin
Breslau
Danzig
Dresden
Düsseldorf
Hamburg
Karlsruhe
Königsberg
München
Münster

SD-Abschnitte

Aachen
Allenstein
Augsburg
Bayreuth
Bielefeld
Braunschweig
Bremen
Chemnitz
Darmstadt
Dessau

1. For illustration of the regional structure refer ^{to} chart on SS Oberabschnitt Organization.
2. Werner Best, Die Deutsche Polizei, 1940

SD-Leitabschnitte (Cont'd)

Posen
 Prag
 Reichenberg
 Stettin
 Stuttgart
 Wien

SD-Abschnitte (Cont'd)

Dortmund
 Frankfurt a.M.
 Frankfurt a.O.
 Graz
 Halle a.d.S.
 Hohensalza
 Innsbruck
 Karlsruhe
 Kassel
 Kattowitz
 Kiel
 Klagenuft
 Koblenz
 Köln
 Leipzig
 Liegnitz
 Linz
 Litzmannstadt
 Lüneburg
 Neusatz a.d.W.
 Neustettin
 Nürnberg
 Oppeln
 Potsdam
 Salzburg
 Schwerin
 Tilsit
 Thorn
 Troppau
 Weimar
 Würzburg

In 1944, there were altogether 17 SD-Leitabschnitte and 27 SD-Abschnitte in greater Germany. Gradually, areas controlled by SD headquarters came to be identified with the Gaue and Kreise of the Party, perhaps as a result of the increasingly close cooperation between SD officers, on the one hand, and Gauleiter, Kreisleiter, and Ortguruppenleiter of the Party.¹ The Gauleiter, as the highest Party official within the Gau, was in a sense, the Party superior of the SD official within the Gau and could assign

1. A particularly convincing proof of cooperation was given in the pogrom in November 1938, OCS document CID 125265

specific missions to the latter. While this practice, in a number of instances, may have established the complicity of the Gauleiter for actions executed by SiPo and SD, it did not seriously affect the chain of command within either SiPo or SD, which extended from the Chief of SiPo and SD within the RSHA to the BdS (IdS) and from there to the Leiter (Chief) of the SD-Leitabschnitt, SD-Abschnitt, etc.

SD-Leitabschnitte were established, in general, in the same locality as the Stapo-Leitstelle to facilitate cooperation between the two offices. They were responsible for all SD affairs within their sphere of jurisdiction. The Leiter received his orders from, and reported to, the RSHA, although in matters of supervision and coordination he was subordinate to the BdS (IdS) as his immediate administrative superior. In general, the BdS, who was responsible for both SiPo and SD services, was taken from the ranks of the SD.

SD-Abschnitte were usually established in the locality of the corresponding Stapo-Stelle. They were, however, not subordinate to the SD-Leitabschnitt within the same area, but constituted an independent agency responsible to the RSHA or the BdS (IdS), respectively. However, as the more important agency within the area, with larger files and a larger staff, the SD-Leitabschnitt frequently functioned as a guiding and coordinating agency with power to issue directives in order to guarantee uniformity of procedures and actions and to prevent duplication of effort.

SD-Hauptausstellen and SD-Ausstellen were local branch offices of the SD established to ensure full coverage of intelligence matters down to the smallest geographical unit. The difference between

both was one of size. Both acted as the local listening posts for the SD-Leitabschnitte and SD-Abschnitte and both were administratively subordinate to the SD-(Leit)-Abschnitt in their areas. In 1944, there were altogether 56 SD-Hauptausstellen and 556 SD-Ausstellen in Greater Germany. However, during the war and particularly during the German retreat, a large number of SD-Abschnitte were downgraded to become SD-Ausstellen.

In addition to the system of regional and local agencies, the SD maintained a vast network of individual agents to spy on practically every household in the last German hamlet. These agents were regular full-time members of the SD and were assisted by honorary members. Both full-time and honorary agents controlled and directed the work of so-called Beobachter (observers), i.e., spies placed in factories, offices, and even Party organizations, including the SS itself; so-called Vertrauensmänner (confidential agents) who received their orders from, and reported to, the Beobachter; and so-called Zubringer (informers) who were generally employed on a temporary basis only, to secure certain specific items of information.

(b) Outside Germany. Outside Germany, regional headquarters of the SD occasionally formed branch offices, i.e., Aussenkommandos (Field Commands) or Ausstellen (Outposts). In general, however, the major administrative burden was carried by the combined HQ of SiPo and SD. In contrast to the situation outside Germany, SD activity in occupied Europe had more of a field-operational nature, with emphasis on semi-military actions, and was carried out, usually, in combined commands of SiPo and SD.

The designations for these units varied according to size, locale, and assignment. The largest was known under the name "SiPo und SD-Einsatzgruppe" and was headed by a Chef. It covered presumably a whole country and was sub-divided into SiPo und SD Kommandos, or sometimes Einsatzkommandos (France), and headed by a Kommandeur der SiPo und SD. The average strength of such commandos was 70 to 80 men.

(c) Special Units. For specific tasks so-called Sondereinsatzkommandos (Special Task Commandos), Sonderkommandos (Special Commands), Teilkommandos (Section Commands), and Kommandos z.b.V. (Commandos for Special Employment) were formed. Their existence often depended on the nature and length of their assignment. For example, Einsatzkommandos were created in and for STALAGS to spy on, denounce, and execute prisoners of war.

1. See above, SS document captured in Bad Sulza; original available in Document Section of the X-2 War Room, London

c. The Waffen-SS (Combat SS)

i. Definition. The Waffen-SS was not, as the name suggests, the armed part of the SS - all formations of the SS were armed and trained in the use of arms. Rather, the Waffen-SS was a full-time military formation of the SS which was recruited, trained, and organized for combat duty and employed in regular field operations. In terms of administration, the Waffen-SS was and remained a part of the SS, subject to the jurisdiction of the Reichsführung-SS (SS Supreme Command). In the field, however, for all strategical and tactical purposes, Waffen-SS units came under the command of Commander-in-Chief in charge of military operations at a given sector of the front.

ii. Origin and Growth. The official Party Manual¹ dates the origin of the Waffen-SS back to the creation of the so-called "Stabswache" (Staff Guard) which was ordered on 17 March 1933. The Stabswache consisted of 120 picked men utterly devoted to the Nazi cause. Contrary to previous practice, they were full-time members; all other members of the SS, at this time, with the exception of senior officers, were engaged on a voluntary or, at best, part-time basis. Out of this nucleus of fanatical militant Nazis grew the so-called SS Verfügungstruppen (SS Troops for Special Employment). The first large full-time unit was the Leibstandarte-SS "Adolf Hitler" which was organized in 1933 and stationed at Berlin-Lichterfelde. Its commander was Sepp Dietrich. This was succeeded by the SS Standarte 1 "Deutschland," with

1. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 427a.

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headquarters in Munich, and this in turn by the SS Standarte 2 "Germania," with barracks in Hamburg, Arolsen, and Hadolfszell. Subsequent to the occupation of Austria, the SS Standarte 3 "Der Fuehrer" was formed, with headquarters at Vienna, Graz, and Klagenfurt. Next came two special battalions, the SS Pioniersturmbann, Dresden, and the SS Nachrichtensturmbann, at Unna/Westphalia. Aside from these barracks regiments and battalions, full-time units were also formed to take over the guarding of concentration camps. Altogether four units were established, known as SS Totenkopfverbände (see below), while officer training schools were set up at Bad 181z and Braunschweig. The original designation of these special units -- "Politische Bereitschaft" (Political Emergency Troops) -- was changed to SS Verfügungs-
truppen, and Paul Hausser, a former Lieutenant General of the Reichswehr, was appointed Inspekteur der Verfügungsgruppen.

Hausser immediately began systematic military training of the Verfügungstruppen as motorized infantry regiments. In 1935, estimates of the number of SS troops equipped with arms varied between 10,000 and 16,000.¹ According to confidential reports,² these SS regiments were equipped with the following ordnance: machine guns, anti-aircraft guns, and three batteries of 77 mm. field pieces. In 1938 and 1939 SS Verfügungstruppen participated in the occupation of Austria, the Sudetenland, and Bohemia-Moravia, serving as integral parts of the German Armed Forces. During the months following the march into Czechoslovakia the military training of the SS was intensified.

1. Report by Embassy of the U.S.A., Berlin, 18 October 1935, State Department files No. 862.20/1081 and No. 862.00 P.R./174.
2. Ibid.

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Its total membership in 1939 was 40,000, organized in regular military units.

When war came SS Verfügungstruppen, including Totenkopfverbände, participated in the campaign in Poland. In the winter of 1939/1940 those regiments which had seen military action were expanded into brigades and then into regular divisions, the first of which became the SS Totenkopf Division (later called the SS Panzer Division "Totenkopf"). It was then that the military formations of the SS acquired a designation of their own, namely, Bewaffnete SS (literally, Armed SS) and finally Waffen-SS (Combat SS). This was the beginning of a cumulative effort on the part of the Reichsführung SS to increase the volume of its combat units. Gradually, as the war went on and more and more neighboring countries came into the German fold, SS standards were relaxed to permit the recruitment of Volksdeutsche (racial Germans), into the ranks of the Waffen-SS. The Waffen-SS then emerged as the protagonist of the "Nordic" peoples, in order to justify the incorporation of "Germanic volunteers," e.g., Danes, Norwegians, etc. In consequence, the Standarten Nordland and Westland were combined with the existing Standarte Germania to form the Wiking Division. As the need for manpower became paramount, the voluntary character of the SS gave way to recruitment by force, stealth, and trickery. At the same time, foreign elements, including Russians, Moslems, and Italians, were admitted who no longer could lay even a remote claim to Nordic descent. By the fall of 1943, it was estimated that half of all Waffen-SS members were Volksdeutsche or foreigners.

While racial requirements were more and more frequently sidestepped, there is evidence that physical standards of the Waffen-SS were maintained,

on a fairly high level. The Waffen-SS, in particular, became the preferred outfit for fanatical Hitler Youth who had gone through Wehrerichtigungslager (military fitness camps). (The SS Panzer Division Hitler Jugend was especially preferred.) The Waffen-SS remained, moreover, the best-trained and best-equipped fighting outfit of the German Army. Its morale was higher than that of the Army, owing partly, no doubt, to the fact that SS officers and men, more than others, were implicated in atrocities systematically perpetrated in the course of the fighting, and consequently felt they had no option but to fight on for their lives. The losses of the Waffen-SS have not been reported in full, but it is known that at Kharkov, Cherkassy, the Ardennes, and other engagements, Waffen-SS units bore the brunt of the battle. An estimate given by von Herff, chief of the SS Personnel Main Office, gives 1,200,000 as the total strength of the Waffen-SS toward the end of hostilities.¹

The rapid growth of the membership is reflected in the increasing number of field divisions. At the end of 1941 there were six divisions, at the end of 1942 18, at the end of 1943 more than 30.

iii. Purpose and Functions. Nazi definitions of the Waffen-SS's purpose were always kept markedly vague and inane. The recruitment booklet, "Dich ruft die SS" (The SS Calls You), did not go much beyond the definition which was valid for the Allgemeine SS, except to say that "these armed units in barracks...owed their existence to the expansion of the tasks of the

1. Interrogation report, British Document, C.S.D.I.C. (U.K.) - G.R.G.G. 317. (C); on file with OSS, XL 11928.

Allgemeine SS: to protect the Führer and his collaborators from attack by brute force and to safeguard the purity of the National Socialist idea as the most precious treasure for the further development of...national life; to detect in time all opponents of our Weltanschauung and their destructive schemes and to render them harmless." To this end, it was stated, the Führer needed "for specific tasks, especially reliable troops, ready to strike."¹ Gunter d'Alcuen's monograph on the SS, published in 1939,² was somewhat more explicit. It described the function of the so-called "Kasernierte Truppe" (barrack troops) as follows:

"There is a conceivable danger that an organization of political soldiers created only for domestic purposes will see itself prevented from fulfilling these great, all-inclusive tasks at a time which demands the effort (Einsatz) of the whole people externally. The Führer has countered this conceivable danger by creating an active SS formation, stationed in barracks, out of SS cadres with a long service record and with the best military and political training."

A more precise definition came, only four years after the outbreak of war, in the Party Manual. Here it was stated that:³

"The Waffen-SS was born from the idea of creating for the Führer a selected formation with a long service record, for the performance of special tasks. It was to render it possible for members of the Allgemeine SS as well as for volunteers who meet the special requirements of the SS to fight in war with arms in hand for the realization of the National Socialist idea, within the framework of the Army, yet in their own formations."

This statement stressed the two most vital characteristics of the Waffen-SS: its establishment as a combat unit for participation in operations

1. Dich ruft die SS, p. 6.

2. SS, p. 14.

3. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 427a.

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in the field and its status as a self-contained unit the independence of which was guaranteed by its having an administrative command separate from that of the German Armed Forces (the Reichsführung-SS), by having an organization with membership different from that of the Armed Forces, and by maintaining political obligations of a special and exclusive nature, as defined by Nazi doctrine and SS standards.

The Waffen-SS's first and foremost purpose -- participation in combat -- did not become evident until the outbreak of the war. As a matter of fact, while the militarization of the SS in the years preceding the outbreak of hostilities had been a matter of international concern and a subject of diplomatic observation, the reasons advanced and reported for this development were phrased somewhat differently. The official explanation remained, consistently, that the SS was to serve as a bodyguard for the Führer and to be available for the handling of any emergency situation in which interference by the Armed Forces was not warranted and the police should prove to be inadequate. The unofficial version spread in diplomatic and private circles differed somewhat. Significantly, this second explanation was related to the possibility of war but, at the same time, was meant to provide a rather innocuous alibi for the SS. It was stated that, in the event of hostilities, the larger part of the Waffen-SS was to remain in the country to guarantee internal security and to prevent acts of sabotage, while only a smaller portion would be selected to protect General Headquarters.¹

1. Report by the Embassy of the United States, Berlin, 18 October 1935, on file with State Department 862.20/1081.

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Both versions exploded when the SS marched into Poland. From then on, the military function of the Waffen-SS remained undisputed. A reference to the SS in a speech by Hitler, on 26 April 1942, reaffirmed the military nature of the Waffen-SS. Whether it could be considered as an admission of initial intentions to create the Waffen-SS for use in war, is at least open to conjecture. Hitler said:

"In speaking of the infantry I should like to emphasize today for the first time the consistent and exemplary bravery and toughness of my brave SS-Divisions and SS-Police formations. I have regarded them from the very beginning (von vorn-heran) as unshakeable troops, obedient, loyal, and brave in war as they had pledged to be in peace."¹

The independence of the SS as a paramilitary and, later, strictly military organization was likewise the source of much discussion in military circles at home and abroad. There can be little doubt that the German High Command always looked askance at the growing power of the SS as a semi-military force. The militarization of the SS in the years preceding the war was resented, as was the favoritism shown the SS with regard to the elaborateness of their training and the quality of their equipment.²

The war brought the issue to a head. An alleged draft of 175,000 SS men into the Armed Forces confronted the Reichsführung-SS with possibility of a total loss of status and membership. The organization of the Waffen-SS as a private army of Himmler's saved both.

In the course of the war, mutual resentment appears to have increased proportionately to the growing influence of the SS within the German High

1. Quoted in "Dich raft die SS," p. 3.
2. See Embassy dispatch, quoted above.

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Command. The SS gradually developed from an army outside the Army to an army above the Army. Key positions in the Army administration were occupied by high SS leaders, and important field commands fell into the hands of SS generals. The SS did not merge with the Army; its status as an independent unit remained untouched.

The independence of the SS was anchored, in part, in the Decree of 17 October 1939¹ and in the subsequent Executive Decree of 17 April 1940.² The Ministerial Council for the Defense of the Reich stipulated in these decrees that members of the SS, including the SS Verfügungstruppen, were not subject to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces in matters pertaining to the jurisdiction of the Military Courts. Instead, their cases were to be adjudicated in the name of the Reichsführer-SS by the Hauptamt SS Gericht, a Main Office within the SS Supreme Command. Apart from this, the Waffen-SS, by order or agreement, was subject to the SS Supreme Command in matters of recruitment, training, organization, promotions, supplies, welfare, etc. (see below). Only in matters of strategic or tactical employment in the field would the Waffen-SS come under the orders of the military commander within a given sector of the front. In such instances, Waffen-SS units would be incorporated in the Armed Forces. The Allgemeine Heeresmitteilungen of 21 June 1943, however, stated explicitly that the subordination of SS units under Wehrmacht command was to be understood as a temporary arrangement only, lasting no longer than the period during which SS or Police

1. RGBL. part I, p. 2107.

2. RGBL. part I, p. 659.

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units were actually incorporated in the Wehrmacht. Such Waffen-SS contingents as were incorporated often proved to be a very difficult problem for the Army command from the standpoint of discipline. Army group commanders complained about the lack of cooperation shown by SS unit commanders and about the bureaucratic obstacles which frustrated their attempts to enforce military discipline among SS troops under their command.¹ In other instances, e.g., in Italy, Army and SS commands appear to have cooperated smoothly and successfully with the Commander-in-Chief of the Army Group, who exercised undisputed authority over the regional SS officers.

iv. Organization. The top command of the Waffen-SS was located within the various Main Offices of the Reichsführung-SS. Although certain parts of the RF-SS appear to have been predominantly concerned with affairs of the Waffen-SS, no single Main Office was exclusively responsible for the Waffen-SS or handled by itself its various administrative and organizational aspects. In terms of administrative structure and policies within the Reichsführung-SS, the Waffen-SS was not treated as a separate or privileged branch but as part and parcel of the SS as a whole, and as such had to share with other SS formations the organization's bureaucratic apparatus, provisions, and supplies. The Waffen-SS and the Allgemeine SS used in common the following office: the SS Führungshauptamt (SS-FHA - SS Operational Main Office), which included not only the Kommandoamt (Operational HQ) of the Waffen-SS but that of the Allgemeine SS as well; the SS Hauptamt (SS-HA - SS Central

1. Interrogation of Field Marshal von Weichs, OSS #CID 134036, Ref. No. PWB/SAIC/5.

Office) in charge of recruitment; the Wirtschafts- und Verwaltungshauptamt (WWHA - Economic and Administrative Main Office), which administered supplies; the Hauptamt SS-Gericht (SS Legal Main Office), which dealt with disciplinary cases; the SS-Rasse- und Siedlungshauptamt (RuSHA - Race and Settlement Main Office), which looked after the personal welfare of Waffen-SS and Allgemeine SS members; and the SS-Personal-Hauptamt (SS-PHA - SS Personnel Main Office), which took care of personnel affairs (promotions, transfers, etc.).

For operational purposes, however, the Waffen-SS was organized in separate units on a corps and division basis. The following units were found to have been in operation toward the end of 1944:¹

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Commander</u>
I Panzer Corps (I, SS Panzer Corps <u>Leibstandarte-SS</u> Adolf Hitler)	<u>SS-Gruf. und Generalleutnant der</u> <u>Waffen-SS Hermann Priess</u>
II SS Panzer Corps	<u>SS-Ogruf. und General der Waffen-</u> <u>SS Willi Bittrich</u>
III SS Panzer Corps (III. (<u>germanisches</u>) <u>SS-Panzer Corps</u>)	<u>SS-Ogruf. und General der Waffen-</u> <u>SS Felix Steiner</u>
IV SS Panzer Corps	<u>SS-Ogruf. und General der Waffen-</u> <u>SS Herbert Gille</u>
V SS Mountain Corps	<u>SS-Ogruf. General der Polizei und</u> <u>der Waffen-SS Friedrich Wilhelm</u> <u>Kruger</u>

1. Order of Battle of the German Army, March 1945, published by MID, Washington.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Commander</u>
VI SS Infantry Corps (VI. <u>SS Freiwilligen-</u> <u>Armee-korps</u>)	<u>SS-Ogruf. und General der Waffen-</u> <u>SS Walter Krüger</u>
VII SS Panzer Corps	Unknown
IX SS Mountain Corps (IX. <u>Waffen-(Gebirgs-)</u> <u>Korps-SS (Kroatiches)</u>)	<u>SS-Ogruf., General der Polizei und</u> <u>der Waffen-SS Karl v. Pfeffer-</u> <u>Wildenbruch</u>
XI SS Infantry Corps	Unknown
XII SS Infantry Corps	<u>SS-Ogruf. u. General der Waffen-SS,</u> <u>General der Infanterie Gunther</u> <u>Blumentritt</u>
XIII SS Infantry Corps	<u>SS-Gruf. u. Genlt. d. Waffen-SS</u> <u>Max Simon</u>
XIV SS Corps	<u>SS-Ogruf., General der Polizei und</u> <u>der Waffen-SS Erich von dem Bach-</u> <u>Zelewski</u>
XVIII SS Corps	<u>SS-Gruf., - Genlt. d. Polizei und</u> <u>der Waffen-SS Heinz Reinefarth</u>
 <u>SS Divisions</u>	
1st SS Panzer Division (1. <u>SS-Panzer-Division</u> <u>Leibstandarte-SS Adolf</u> <u>Hitler</u>)	<u>SS-Oberf. Wilhelm Mohnke</u>
2nd SS Panzer Division (2. <u>SS-Panzer-Division</u> <u>Das Reich</u>)	<u>SS-Brigf. u. Genmaj. d. Waffen-SS</u> <u>Heinz Lammerding</u>
3rd SS Panzer Division (3. <u>SS-Panzer-Division</u> <u>Totenkopf</u>)	<u>SS-Brigf. u. Genmaj. d. Waffen-SS</u> <u>Helmuth Becker</u>
4th SS Panzer Grenadier Division (4. <u>SS-Polizei-Panzer-Grena-</u> <u>dier-Division</u>)	<u>SS-Standf. Walter Harzer</u>

SS DivisionsCommander

5th SS Panzer Division (5. <u>SS-Panzer-Division-Wiking</u>)	<u>SS-Standf.</u> Rudolf Mühlenkamp
6th SS Mountain Division (6. <u>SS-Gebirgs-Division Nord</u>)	<u>SS-Gruf. Genlt. d. Pol. u. d. Waffen-SS</u> Karl Heinrich Brenner
7th SS Mountain Division (7. <u>SS-Freiwilligen-Gebirgs-Division Prinz Eugen</u>)	<u>SS-Brigf. u. Genmaj. der Waffen-SS</u> Otto Kumm
8th SS Cavalry Division (8. <u>SS-Kavallerie-Division Florian Geyer</u>)	<u>SS-Brigf. u. Genmaj. der Waffen-SS</u> Joachim Rumohr
9th SS Panzer Division (9. <u>SS-Panzer-Division Hohenstaufen</u>)	<u>SS-Oberf.</u> Sylvester Stadler
10th SS Panzer Division (10. <u>SS-Panzer-Division Frundsberg</u>)	<u>SS-Brigf. u. Genmaj. der Waffen-SS</u> Heinz Harmel
11th SS Panzer Grenadier Division (11. <u>SS-Freiwilligen-Panzer Grenadier-Division, Nordland</u>)	<u>SS-Brigf. u. Genmaj. d. Waffen-SS</u> Joachim Ziegler
12th SS Panzer Division (12. <u>SS-Panzer-Division Hitler - Jugend</u>)	<u>SS-Standf.</u> Hugo Kraas
13th SS Mountain Division (13. <u>Waffen-Gebirgs-Division-SS Handschar</u>) (<u>Kroatische Nr. 1</u>)	<u>SS-Brigf. u. Genmaj. der Waffen-SS</u> Humpel
14th SS Infantry Division (14. <u>Waffen-Grenadier-Division-SS (Galizische Nr. 1)</u>)	<u>SS-Brigf. u. Genmaj. der Waffen-SS</u> Fritz Freitag

SS DivisionsCommander

15th SS Infantry Division (15. <u>Waffen-Grenadier-Division</u> <u>SS (Lettische Nr. 1)</u>)	<u>SS-Oberf. Nikolaus Heilmann</u>
16th SS Panzer Grenadier Division (16. <u>SS-Panzer-Grenadier-</u> <u>Division Reichsführer-SS</u>)	<u>SS-Oberf. Otto Baum</u>
17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division (17. <u>SS-Panzer-Grenadier-</u> <u>Division Gotz von Berlichingen</u>)	<u>SS-Standf. Fritz Klingenberg</u>
18th SS Panzer Grenadier Division (18. <u>SS-Freiwilligen-Panzer</u> <u>Grenadier-Division Horst Wessel</u>)	<u>SS-Standf. Wilhelm Trabandt</u>
19th SS Infantry Division (19. <u>Waffen-Grenadier-</u> <u>Division-SS (Lettische Nr. 2)</u>)	<u>SS-Gruf. u. Genlt. der Waffen-SS</u> <u>Bruno Streckenbach</u>
20th SS Infantry Division (20. <u>Waffen-Grenadier-</u> <u>Division-SS (Estnische Nr. 1)</u>)	<u>SS-Brigf. u. Genmaj. der Waffen-SS</u> <u>Franz Augsburg</u>
21st SS Mountain Division ¹ (21. <u>Waffen-Gebirgs-Division-SS</u> <u>Skanderbeg (Albanische Nr. 1)</u>)	<u>SS-Brigf. u. Genmaj. der Waffen-SS</u> <u>August Schmidhuber</u>
22nd SS Cavalry Division (22. <u>Freiwilligen-Kavallerie-</u> <u>Division-SS (Ungarisch)</u>)	<u>SS Brigf. u. Genmaj. der Waffen-SS</u> <u>August Zehender</u>
23rd SS Mountain Division ¹ (23. <u>Waffen-Gebirgs-Division-</u> <u>SS Kama (Kroatische Nr. 2)</u>)	Unknown
24th SS Mountain Division (24. <u>Waffen-Gebirgs-Karstjäger-</u> <u>Division-SS</u>)	Unknown

1. Believed disbanded before 1945.

SS DivisionsCommander

26th SS Panzer Division
 (26. SS-Panzer (?) Division
 (Hunyadi))

Unknown

27th SS Panzer Grenadier Division
 (27. SS-Freiwilligen-Panzer-
Grenadier-Division Langemarck)

Unknown

28th SS Panzer Grenadier Division
 (28. SS-Freiwilligen-Panzer-
Grenadier-Division Wallonien)

SS-Stabf. Leon Degrelle

29th SS Division
 (29. SS-Division)

Unknown

30th SS Infantry Division
 (30. Waffen-Grenadier-Division-
SS (2. Russische))

SS-Ostuf. u. Obstlt der Sch.
Hans Biegling (?)

31st SS Infantry Division
 (31. Waffen-Grenadier-Division-SS)

Unknown

SS Division "Charlemagne"
 (SS-Freiwilligen-Division
 "Charlemagne")

(SS-Brigf.?) Gen. Puaux?

SS Brigades

2nd SS Assault Brigade
 (2. SS-Sturmbrigade)

SS-Oberf. Oskar Dirlewanger (?)

4th SS Panzer Grenadier Brigade
 (4. SS-Freiwilligen-Panzer-
Grenadier-Brigade Nederland)

SS-Brigf. u. Genmaj. der Waffen-SS
Jürgen Wagner

SS Italian Infantry Brigade
 (Waffen-Grenadier-Brigade-SS
 (Italienische Nr. 1))

SS-Standf. Constantin Heldmann

v. Criminal Activities. Most of the Waffen-SS units saw action at focal points of at least one front. Some of them specialized in operations of a different nature. This is true of such units as the SS Mountain Corps, the 7th SS Mountain Division, and the 18th Panzer Grenadier Division, which were either engaged in action against partisans, or, like the 4th Panzer Grenadier Division, performed security duties in the Protectorate and in the Government General.

The record of the Waffen-SS units, in general was that of a ruthless fighting force with utter contempt for normal rules of warfare. Responsibility for atrocities committed in occupied countries, such as the wholesale slaughter of local populations, is not always easy to assign specifically to the Waffen-SS.¹ In only a few cases has the identity of the units been established. More often, available intelligence failed to indicate whether the crimes were committed by units of the Allgemeine SS, the SD, the Gestapo, or the Waffen-SS.

However, the testimony of German PW's has established the responsibility of certain commanders for the killing of Allied prisoners after capture. Thus the commander of the SS Panzer Division Hitler-Jugend is quoted as having issued the following command:²

"I ask you and expect you not to take any prisoners, with the possible exception of officers who might be kept alive for the purpose of questioning."

1. For example, the massacre of St. Gingoiph; the mass execution of hostages at the Ardeatine Caves, near Rome, et al; the burning of civilians at Oradour-sur-Glane, OSS source R 1450 D; and the report by a German PW of the burning of civilians in a Russian locality, OSS document CID 135595.
2. Document SPJHI 6-23; 12-207 through 12-213 on file with WCC; War Department, Classified Message Center, #E91022.

SECRET

Evidence too, has been furnished that Untersturmführer Schnittker, commanding officer of the 10th Company, 3rd Battalion, 19th Panzer Grenadier Regiment of the 9th SS Panzer Division Hohenstaufen, ordered his troops to kill all American prisoners of war; and that Unterscharführer Wolther, aided by Oberscharführer Werner Ackermann, carried out this order. Ackermann, himself is reported to have locked British PW's in a cellar near Arnhem and blown them up.² Similarly, according to a statement by an SS PW, members of the Totenkopf Division were informed that the Division did not take prisoners of war,² while the 1st SS Panzer Regiment of the 1st SS Panzer Division Leibstandarte-SS Adolf Hitler actually shot 120-150 PW's south of Malmedy on 17 December 1944.³ Volksgrenadier troops under SS command appear to have been guilty of the same practice.⁴ Reasons given soldiers to justify such action included the following:

1. To take prisoners is a tactical hindrance during attacks;
 2. Europe is no concern of the Americans;
 3. Prisoners would cut down the German food supply.
- d. The SS-Totenkopfverbände (SS Death Head Formations).

1. Definition. The SS-Totenkopfverbände (TV) have been defined by some sources as a part of the Allgemeine SS, by others as a part of the Waffen-SS. Actually, they belonged to neither but were a self-contained organization with special assignments. It is true, however, that at some

1. War Department, Classified Message Center, No. S 75013 on file with WCC.
 2. War Department, E 91022; C.I.-IN-26262.
 3. Ibid.
 4. Ibid.

SECRET

time in their history, SS Totenkopfverbände, had formed part of the SS Verfügungstruppen, a large part of which were organized later to become the Waffen-SS. As to their function, the SS-Totenkopfverbände have come to be known as the organization charged with the guarding of concentration camps. Probably no other part of the SS has committed a higher percentage of atrocities than have the men and women of the SS Totenkopfverbände.

ii. Origin. The SS-Totenkopfverbände were drafted in 1933 from the ranks of volunteers within the Allgemeine SS. These volunteers had to sign up for 12 years, which were considered as military service. They were paid according to Wehrmacht schedules and received military training; nevertheless, they were not considered as part of the regular Army. The name was derived from the insignia of skull and crossbones worn on the right collar patch and on their headgear, with the exception of their steel helmets. The first 150 Totenkopf SS men were picked on 17 March 1933. On 18 March 1933 the concentration camp at Dachau was opened.

Originally, the SS-Totenkopfverbände were organized into four standarten named after the areas in which they were stationed, namely

Oberbayern, with home station at
Dachau, near Munich

Brandenburg, with home station at
Sachsenhausen, near Berlin

Thüringen, with home station at
Buchenwald, near Weimar

Ostmark; personnel of this Standarte
was recruited from Austrian
SS units.

The name of each of the above home station indicates the site of a concentration camp. All four Standarten were placed under the command of SS-Gruf. Eicke, who became the Commander of all Totenkopfverbände and concentration camps.

With the intensification of Nazi terror, the number of concentration camps grew and with it the need for additional personnel for the TV. By 1939 the TV, according to some sources, numbered 40,000.¹ After the outbreak of the war SS-Totenkopfverbände fought alongside the regular forces during the campaign in Poland. Possibly in recognition of their meritorious conduct before the enemy, those SS-Totenkopfverbände and other Verfügungstruppen which had seen front service were merged to form the SS Totenkopf Division. This military section of the Totenkopfverbände must not be confused with its civilian counterpart, the Totenkopf-Standarten and Totenkopf-Sturmabteilungen, which stayed behind and continued to operate as concentration camp guards. Owing to the transfer of large numbers of men to the Waffen-SS during the war, these units underwent a considerable shrinkage. To replenish the depleted ranks, foreign volunteers, notably "Volksdeutsche," but also women, appear to have joined the TV, or, at least, to have performed some of the functions assigned to the TV.

iii. Purpose and Functions. The chief purpose of the TV has been defined, officially, as the guarding of concentration camps.²

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1. This estimate appears to be at variance with other statistics which give a figure of 40,000 as the total for all SS-Verfügungstruppen.
 2. Gunter d'Alquen, Die SS, p. 20.

"Aside from the task of educating the armed political soldiers, it is their duty to guard the enemies of the State interned in the concentration camps."

In addition, TV units were assigned the function of searching for escaped prisoners, training and commanding detachments of the Hitler-Jugend Streifendienst (Hitler Youth Patrol Service), and furnishing execution squads.

Details of methods applied by the TV in the performance of their duties can best be ascertained from the multitude of reports by concentration camp inmates. All of them agree that the guard duty of the TV man included the ruthless exploitation of prison labor, the willful and often purposeless torture of prisoners, and the extermination of prisoners unfit for heavy work.¹

iv. Organization. Functionally, the SS-Totenkopfverbände must be presumed to have been under the jurisdiction of the Antsgruppe D, Führung und Verwaltung der Konzentrationslager (Division D, Command and Administration of Concentration Camps) within the Wirtschafts- und Verwaltungshauptamt (WHA - Economic and Administrative Main Office) of the Reichsführung-SS (SS-Supreme

1. See report on Buchenwald, based on the complete records of the competent service units, on file with OSS (SI) Report B-2833; report on Buchenwald and Lublin by PW Heinke, OSS document CID 127249; report on Lönneburg by US Embassy in Berlin, on file with State Department, #GRC 362.00/3173; report on Auschwitz-Birkenau, by two escapees, OSS Field Memo 257 (FR-425); report on Dachau by Vaclav Krejci, OSS document XL 11779; report on Lublin by PW Willi Kempf, MIS document C171997, OSS document CID 135595; report on Oberstdorf by German PW, OSS document CID 135595; report on Kraftfahr-Ersatzteillager 601 by German PW, OSS document CID 135595; report on Dachau by German PW, OSS document XL 11981; report on Sachsenhausen by German PW, OSS document XL 11969; report on Mauthausen by 2 U.S. Army physicians, LH-11; report on Ausserlager Gross Raming, on file with OSS (SI); report on Auschwitz by a German PW, OSS document XL 9716; report on Bolzano, on file with OSS; report on concentration camp personnel in Estonia, Poland (Lublin), Bohemia-Moravia; Lodz, Theresienstadt, on file with OSS (SI).

Command). Head of Amtsgruppe D was SS-Gruf. und General-leutnant der Waffen-
SS Richard Glücks.¹

The various units of the TV were organized along the lines of their specific assignments. The following units are known to have been organized:

Streifendienst und Rollkommandos
(Patrol Service and Raiding Squads)

Wachverbände
(Guard Formations)

Sonder-Verbände
(Formations for Special Employment)

Organizationally, Totenkopf-Standarten were subdivided into Sturmbanne (battalions) which, in turn, were composed of so-called Hundertschaften (companies), each of which comprised at least 30 to 120 men.

5. The Reichsführung-SS (SS Supreme Command): SS Hauptämter (SS Main Offices). The Reichsführer-SS, Heinrich Himmler, exercised supreme command over all branches of the SS, the Police, and special agencies subordinate to his jurisdiction. This authority was concentrated in the Reichsführung-SS (SS Supreme Command), a conglomeration of twelve Hauptämter (Main Offices) with variegated functions. Central responsibility for the administration of policies executed by the Allgemeine SS, the Waffen-SS, the SiPo and SD was vested in one or several of these Main Offices. Although each of these Main Offices was responsible for very specific tasks -- indoctrination, recruitment, training, supply, guarding of concentration camps, etc. -- the character of the SS as closely-knit "order" of men pledged to mutual loyalty prohibited

1. See report on the "Gestapo," R&A No. 3113.6.

a strict separation of functions. The SS Supreme Command, in fact, was so organized that various offices would share automatically in responsibility for the efficient operation of various branches of the SS. The Central Office recruited, the Operational Main Office commanded, and the Economic and Administrative Main Office supplied units of the Waffen-SS and of the Allgemeine SS. Furthermore, the heads of all Main Offices, at least at one time, were automatically attached to the Personal Staff of the Reichsführer-SS.

The Reichsführung-SS developed over the years from a small group of administrative offices with restricted and heterogenous functions to a bureaucracy which, in power and scope, matched, if not surpassed, the combined functions of government and military authorities. It even commanded economic resources of considerable size which, to no small degree, contributed to the autarchic character of the SS as a state within, if not above, the State.

On the other hand, the haphazard way in which the SS accumulated its functions is clearly discernible in the structure of its Supreme Command. The growth of the SS called for frequent radical changes in the top command. In consequence, there was a total lack of administrative tradition, a wide use of discretion by individual officeholders anxious to revise and reorganize the offices under their control, and, finally, duplication of effort and overlapping functions. This may account for the apparent absence of rules determining the jurisdiction of individual Main Offices and the repeated recurrence of similar titles and functions in different offices. The latest

Party Manual¹ lists the following Main Offices as existent in September 1942:

Persönlicher Stab des Reichsführers-SS
(Personal Staff of Reichsführer SS)

SS-Hauptamt
(SS Central Office)

SS-Führungshauptamt
(SS Operational Main Office)

Reichssicherheitshauptamt
(SS Reich Security Main Office)

SS-Rasse- und Siedlungshauptamt
(SS Race and Settlement Main Office)

SS-Wirtschafts- und Verwaltungshauptamt
(SS Economic and Administrative Main Office)

SS-Personalhauptamt
(SS Personnel Main Office)

Hauptamt SS-Gericht
(SS Legal Main Office)

Hauptamt Ordnungspolizei
(Main Office for Order Police)

Dienststelle SS-Obergruppenführer Heismeyer
(Bureau SS-Obergruppenführer Heismeyer)

Stabshauptamt des Reichskommissars für die Festigung
deutschen Volkstums
(Staff HQ of the Reich Commissioner for the
Consolidation of German Folkdom)

Hauptamt Volksdeutsche Mitterstelle
(Main Office for Ethnic Germans)

a. Hauptamt Persönlicher Stab Des Reichsführers SS (Personal Staff of
Reichsführer-SS. After 1941 the Personal Staff of the Reichsführer was

1. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 419.

considered a Hauptamt of the SS Supreme Command (Reichsführung-SS). However, it differed markedly in both organization and function from the other SS Hauptämter. While once described by Gunther d'Alquen as the Central HQ of the SS Supreme Command (Zentrale Befehlstelle der Reichsführung SS),¹ it became finally a heterogeneous collection of offices which had only their subordination to the Reichsführer SS in common. What coordination there was among their activities emanated from the office of the Chief of the Personal Staff (Der Chef des Persönlichen Stabes) in Berlin. Chief of the Personal Staff, for many years, was SS-Obergruppenführer Karl Wolff, General of Police and Supreme SS and Police Leader in Italy (Höchster SS und PF Italien).

Functionally the Personal Staff had four major parts:

- (1) The Feldkommandostelle (Field Command HQ), which was the personal HQ of Himmler.
- (2) Special officers, appointed by the RF-SS and responsible to him through the Feldkommandostelle.
- (3) The Office of Chief of Staff and offices which were responsible to him.
- (4) Offices personally supervised by Himmler without channelized reference to either the ^{supervised} Feldkommandostelle or the Chief of Staff.

The most important function of the Personal Staff were centered in the Feldkommandostelle, Himmler's actual field HQ. In organization the Feldkommandostelle closely resembled a military HQ and, for the greater

1. d'Alquen, Die SS, Berlin, 1939, p. 24.

part of the Russian campaign, was stationed in the central sector of the Russian front following the operations of the Waffen-SS. It became the normal channel for the personal business of the RF-SS. From there his decrees and orders to lower echelons of ^{the} SS organization were issued.

The chief of the SS adjutancy, Obersturmbannführer Werner Grothmann, was commanding officer of the Feldkommandostelle; his assistants were Hauptsturmführer Peiper (1st Adjutant), Sturmbannführer Macher (Adjutant for the Waffen-SS), Major Volimar (Adjutant of the Reserve Army), Oberst-Leutnant Suchanek (Police Adjutant), Hauptsturmführer Schnitzler (Chief of the adjutancy), and Miss Dreyer (Chief woman secretary). Grothmann's predecessors were Graf Dohna, adjutant in 1941 and 1942, and Conrad, who held the post from the end of 1943 to the end of 1944.

Other officers in the Feldkommandostelle in a more personal relationship with the RF-SS were Kriminalrat Kiermeier (Chief of Himmler's Personal Body Guard), Dr. Rudolf Brandt, (Himmler's personal adviser and coordinator of all medical affairs), Obersturmführer Grieger (personal aide), Dr. Mueller (personal physician) and Hauptsturmführer Lukas (Himmler's chauffeur).

Just before the fall of Germany, the RF-SS was acting through the following liaison officers: Gruppenführer Ohlendorf (between Himmler and Doenitz); Obersturmbannführer Malz and Fegelfin (between RF-SS and Hitler); Sturmbannführer Werth (between Himmler and Kaltenbrunner).

Including Waffen-SS Flak, Signal, and Escort battalions, the total strength of the Feldkommandostelle was believed to be over 3,000. The HQ staff was divided as follows:

- Ia. Operations and Intelligence
- Ib. Supply
- IIa. Officer Personnel
- IIb. Other Ranks Personnel
- IVa. Administration
- IVb. Medical

A second important category of functionaries within the Personal Staff was the group of Special Officers responsible to Himmler personally, but immediately subordinate to the Feldkommandostelle. They were:

(1.) Chef des Fernmeldewesens beim RF-SS und RM d I (Chief of Communications on the Staff of RF-SS and Minister of Interior). The communications chief, SS-Obergruppenführer and General der Waffen-SS Ernst Sachs, had his headquarters in Berlin. He was charged with the supervision of all signal communications for the Police, SS, and Ministry of the Interior. His office conducted technical research in communications and trained officers and enlisted personnel, both men and women, in signal services.

(2.) Reichsarzt SS und Polizei (Reich Medical Officer of SS and Police). SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS, Ernst Robert Grawitz, the head of the SS Medical Bureau, served on the Personal Staff as advisor to Himmler. His office was responsible for medical service in all SS and Police installations. His office also supervised the training of SS medical officers and conducted special medical research. In this connection the possibility exists that he may have been associated with the utilization of concentration camp prisoners for medical experiments.¹ Outside the SS he held the office of executive president of the German Red Cross. Within the

1. See OSS, R&A, Field Memo 257 (FR-425), 10 May 1945, p. 27.

SS his staff included at least the following two offices:

(a.) Sanitätszeugmeister beim Reichsarzt SS und Polizei (Chief Medical Quartermaster). SS-Gruppenführer and General-Lieutenant der Waffen-SS Dr. Carl Blumentrater administered the disposition of medical supplies for the SS.

(b.) Corrater Hygieniker Reichsarzt SS und Polizei (Chief Medical Officer for Hygiene). SS-Oberführer Dr. Joachim Kugowsky was the officer responsible for medical conditions of camps and training institutions.

(3.) SS-Richter beim RF-SS Person. Stab. (SS Legal Office in the Personal Staff). Dr. Bender was the advisor to the RF-SS on legal and disciplinary questions. The importance of this office can be gauged by the extent to which SS operations modified and circumvented traditional (even legal) practices.

(4.) Beauftragter für das Diensthundewesen (Delegate for Canine Matters). SS Brigadeführer Mueller was supervisor of the training of dogs for sentinel and guard duties.

(5.) Beauftragter für Jagd-und Forstwesen (Delegate for Hunting and Forestry). Name or function of this office is not available; it is believed to have been connected with the economic exploitation of occupied territories.

(6.) Der Chef des Protokolls (Chief of Protocol). This office corresponded to that of social secretary.

The third function of the Personal Staff was carried out in the office of the Chief of Staff. Originally the position of the Chief of Staff was

conceived as that of a liaison officer between the RF-SS and the HQ of the Führer.¹ As Chief of Staff he coordinated the activity of the miscellaneous offices. They included:

(1) Rohstoffamt RF-SS (Raw Materials Department RF-SS). This office had its headquarters in Berlin and branch offices in various foreign countries. All bulk purchases for the SS except leather and textile goods had to be handled through this office. In addition, the Rohstoffamt aided SS authorities in their individual purchases and prescribed appropriate sources of supply. It is possible that this office was in charge of disposition of bulk goods confiscated during SS operations.

(2) SS Mannschaftshauser (SS Mens' Halls). Strictly speaking these institutions were an office (Dienststelle) of the Allgemeine SS; actually they were administered by SS-Oberführer Ellersieck from his office on the personal staff of the RF-SS. The function of the Men's Halls was to train SS officers who intended to take up careers in the professions or civil service -- in short in occupations outside the professional SS career. The intent was to secure SS influence in areas of German life which in general were less accessible to political pressure. It was in a sense the SS counterpart of the old student fraternity. Activities were carried on in Halls in the larger cities where the students would meet for tea, political

1. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 420. "Der Chef des Persönlichen Stabes ist ständiger Verbindungsführer des Reichsführers-SS im Führerhauptquartier und bearbeitet dort alle Fragen der SS einschliesslich der Waffen-SS und der Polizei"

discussions, and participation in group athletics. Membership involved a two weeks course in military tactics annually at the SS-Junkerschule at Bad Tolz. After the war began only a few reserves and discharged men continued the use of these halls.

(3.) Die Ahnenerbe- Forschungs- und Lehrgemeinschaft ("Ahnenerbe" Society). This society, with HQ in Berlin under Dr. Karl Brandt, chief coordinator in matters of Public health for Party, Reich and Armed Forces, existed to promote genealogical and biological research in support of the Nazi racial theories. Its liaison officer on the Personal Staff was Dr. Wuest. It is believed to have had some connection with medical experiments on concentration camp inmates at KL Natzweiler.

(4.) Verein Lebensborn ("Lebensborn Society). The main office of this society, which was integrated with the RuSHA, was in Munich under SS Standarte-führer Max Solimann. It maintained a liaison office on the Personal Staff RF-SS under SS-Oberführer Dr. Gregor Ebner.¹

(5.) Press-stelle des RF-SS (The Press Bureau of the RF-SS). This Bureau advised Hitler on his personal press relations and on official SS publications and activities.

(6.) Abteilung Wirtsschaftliche Hilfe (Section for Economic Assistance). This section handled the liquidation of debts incurred by the SS or its members before the Party took power in 1933. There was no mention of its activities after 1941.

¹ "A detailed description of the organization see War Crimes Paper "Criminal Responsibilities in the Health and Racial Policy of Nazi Germany." R&A 3114.7.

(7.) Die Abteilung für Kulturelle Forschung (Section for Cultural Research).. This section supervised SS archeological excavations and publications to support the "Nordic racial" concept of German history. It is presumed to have been disbanded in 1941.

The fourth functional aspect of the Personal Staff was the activity of offices directly supervised by the RF-SS himself.

(1.) Das Amt für Bevölkerungspolitik (Bureau of Population Policy). This bureau was presumably identical with one of the same name within the RuSHA. It is understood to have gone out of existence.

(2.) SS Wirtschaftsring (The SS Economic Ring). This office was one of the main sources of income for the SS (see above). It included as honorary members (Fördernde Mitglieder) high industrialists and financiers who contributed substantially to the budget of the SS. Its function on the Personal Staff was most likely that of an advisory board to the RF-SS. The actual administration of the Ring was reportedly located in the SS Wirtschafts- und Verwaltungshauptamt (WVHA).

In addition to these widely differentiated offices and persons within the Personal Staff, the chiefs of the other departments (Hauptämter) should be considered as part of the Personal Staff in the sense of being advisors to the RF-SS.

b. SS-Hauptamt (SS Central Department). Former address: Berlin-Grünwald, Douglasstrasse 7-11. The chief of the SS-HA was SS Obergruppenführer and Waffen-SS General Gottlieb Berger. His predecessor was SS Obergruppenführer August Heissmeyer, and his personal aide was Obersturmbannführer

Eckstein, who seems to have succeeded Standartenführer Dr. Dambach and Obersturmführer Werner Blessau.

The SS Hauptamt was one of the three original SS Departments. Previous to the administrative reorganization of the whole SS in 1940 it included functions since incorporated into the Führungshauptamt (FHA), the Personalhauptamt (PHA), the Wirtschafts- und Verwaltungshauptamt, (WVHA), the Reichssicherheitshauptamt (RSHA), and the office of the Chief of Communications on the Personal Staff. Its position within the SS was gradually reduced from the most important single office to an office for recruitment and training of SS personnel.

The most succinct description of the functions of SS-HA is to be found in the "SS Soldier's Handbook" (Soldatenfreund) for 1944. "The task of SS Hauptamt is to create a close, and exclusive communal order" ("ein streng geschlossener Orden"). It is responsible therefore for the selection of men suitable for the SS, the registration of SS members and their families, and, in addition, for the philosophical and political direction, education, and training of the whole SS and Police, as well as for the welfare of mobilized units of the SS and Police (Troops Welfare). A further task is the physical training and pre- and post- military training of the SS. Of particular importance is the selection, organization, and direction of the SS in Germanic countries and the propagation of the Germanic idea in all spheres of life.

Among these functions, indoctrination (Amtsgruppe C), recruitment (Amtsgruppe B), and care of Germanic SS (Amtsgruppe D) deserve particular

attention, not merely because they were the most significant features of the work of the SS Central Office but because the activities performed under these rubrics bear close scrutiny from the angle of war crimes. The political education of the SS laid the groundwork for the completely a-moral attitude of the SS officer and SS man and must be considered as the intellectual source for crimes and atrocities committed by the SS. The recruitment policy, although ultimately determined by the FHR, was executed by the various SS Ergänzungsstellen (Draft Bureaus) inside Germany and by the Ersatzkommandos (Replacement Commands) and SS Ersatzinspektionen (SS Replacement Inspectorates) outside Germany with the help of deception and terror to satisfy the ever-growing need of the Waffen-SS for additional and fresh manpower. Finally, the conquest of territories with the so-called "Germanic" populations provided the SS with the opportunity of holding in check the native population at home and imported foreign labor, with the help of their "Germanic" compatriots.

The general division of functions between the four Amtsgruppen within the Hauptamt was as follows:

- A. General Administration
- B. Recruiting and Registration
- C. Propaganda, Education, Physical Training
- D. Germanic SS

AMTSGRUPPE A - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Amt I. The Zentralamt (Central Office) coordinated the work of all other departments within the Hauptamt and maintained liaison with outside

offices. It also controlled¹ the Personnel Section of the Hauptamt (Personalstelle).

Amt II. Leitender Arzt beim Chef SS-HA (Chief Medical Officer), dealt with all medical questions arriving in the Hauptamt.

Amt III. Verwaltung (Administration) under Obersturmbannführer Otto, was in charge of schools, camps, and other establishments administered by the Hauptamt.

ALTSGRUPPE B - RECRUITING AND REGISTRATION

Amt I. Ergänzungsamt der Waffen-SS (The Recruiting Office of the Combat SS) was supervised by Gruppenführer Heinrich Jürs. This office carried out its policies through the Recruiting Offices (Ergänzungsstellen) in every SS District (Oberabschnitt), and through the Recruiting Agencies (Ersatzkommandos) and SS Ersatzinspektionen in occupied territories. The compulsory recruiting of foreigners for the Waffen-SS must be attributed to this office.

Amt II. Erfassungsamt (Registration Office) was the authority for strength records, including casualties, of the entire SS and for maintenance of all except officer personnel records.

AMTSGRUPPE C - PROPAGANDA, EDUCATION, VOCATIONAL, AND PHYSICAL TRAINING

Brigadeführer Fick was in charge of this entire branch, and was also inspector for the ideological training of the entire SS and Police.¹

Amt I. Weltanschauliche Erziehung (Ideological Instruction) was headed by Obersturmführer Webendorfer. It was responsible for general education, propaganda directives, and publications, as well as for special service

1. See Report of Interrogation, No. 5375, p. 3.

publications for all nationalities represented in the Germanic SS.

Amt II. Truppenbetreuung (Troop Guidance) under Obersturmbannführer Wolff, was responsible for services maintaining the morale of SS troops.

Amt III. Bild und Film (Pictorial Presentation) was headed by SS-Hauptsturmführer Dr. Hayd. It prepared pictorial material for SS-Hauptamt projects and publications.

Amt IV. Schrifttum (Literature) under Sturmbannführer Wezel supervised book stores, publishers, and archives.

Amt V. Leibeserziehung (Physical Training) under Edler von Daniels was charged with the physical training of the Allgemeine SS and supervision of pre-military training and sports of affiliated reserve formations, such as auxiliary police forces.

Amt VI. Berufserziehung (Vocational Training).

AMTSGRUPPE D - GERMANISCHE LEITSTELLE (GERMANIC AFFAIRS)

Head of this division was Standartenführer Spearmann. In occupied territories where Germanic SS recruiting offices were set up, a branch of the Department for Germanic Affairs supervised political propaganda and recruiting procedures, and maintained liaison with the newly formed units. This office was also responsible for the enlistment of foreigners in the SS, both for Combat service and for guarding foreign workers inside Germany.

Amt I. Germanische Leitstelle (Germanic Liaison Office).. Aside from supervising Germanic SS offices abroad, this office also directed the Germanic House at Hannover, maintained the Inspectorate of Germanic Offices, and controlled the SS Field Post Censorship Office, which censored mail from abroad

for foreign SS troops. The office supervised the relations between the SS and the Germanic SS.

Amt II. Germanische Ergänzung (Germanic Recruiting). This office dealt with recruiting Germanic units. Much of its activity overlapped with Amtsgruppe B. Amt I.

Amt III. Germanische Erziehung. (Germanic Training). This office was probably responsible for instructing foreigners at Germanic training schools and camps.

Other offices controlled by SS Hauptamt:

(1) Hauptstelle für Völkische Schutzarbeit (Protective Measures for non-Germans). This office was headed by SS Gruppenführer F. Weber. It was established officially to protect the welfare of eleven million foreign workers in Germany, but there is a strong possibility that it was also used to control foreign labor which was considered a potential threat to internal security.

(2) Amt Zwischenstaatlicher Verbände und Einrichtungen (Liaison Office for SS-related organizations abroad). Heinz Lorenz, brother of SS Obergruppenführer Werner Lorenz (head of the Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle and Volksbund für das Deutschtum in Ausland (VDA)), headed this office which maintained contact with para-military organizations in occupied countries, such as the Hlinka Guards in Slovakia and the Arrow Cross formations in Hungary.

(3) Amt für Nachrichtenverbindungen (Communications Office). After 1941 this office was probably incorporated into the office of the Chief

Signal Office at the Führungshauptamt.

(4.) Liaison office with SS Legal Department.

(5.) Section for Rest Homes for Waffen-SS men on furlough. This office managed at least six rest camps for SS men on furlough and their families.

(6.) Attached Section of the Hitler Youth (Kommandierte Abteilung HJ), which was divided into (Streifendienst) Patrol Service and (Landdienst) Land Service. This was one of the organizations, attached to the SS, which carried on terroristic activity. The chief contact between SS and HJ was organized in and through the SS Hauptamt. The SS provided officers for the HJ Streifendienst; instructors for the so-called Wehrertüchtigungslager (Defense Training Camps), and both officers and instructors for the Landdienst. In turn, the SS drew its HJ recruits mainly from the HJ Streifendienst.

(7.) Front Service of the German Post Office (Fronthilfe DRP). This was special transport service for the Waffen-SS with vehicles provided by the German Post Office.

(8.) Finnish Liaison Section (Finnische Verbindungsstelle).

(9.) Office of Garrison Commands (Standortführungsamt).

(10.) Office for Administration of Regulations (Vorschriften Verwaltung).

(11.) Schools and Camps.

The SS Behnschutz (SS Railroad Guards) and the SS Postschutz (SS Postal Guards) were reported to have been, at least temporarily, under the jurisdiction of the Chief of the SS Hauptamt. Effective as of 1 October 1944 Himmler, by decree of the Führer, was given the custody of all internees and prisoners

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of war. Himmler delegated the newly gained authority to Gottlieb Berger. There is no record, however, as to whether Berger discharged his duty through the SS-Hauptamt or through a military office outside the Reichsführung-SS. Inasmuch as Berger was directed to cooperate in his new function with the Head of the FHA, Juettner, the head of the WVHA, Pohl, and the head of the RSHA, Kaltenbrunner, it is quite possible that the center of gravity for the administration of the new task was placed in the Reichsführung-SS and, specifically, in the SS-HA.

c. SS-Führungshauptamt (SS Operational Main Office). Former address: Berlin-Widmersdorf Kaiserallee 138. Chief of the Operational Main Office of the entire SS was Obergruppenführer and Waffen-SS General Hans Juettner

The Operational HQ was the largest and most important of all SS Main Offices. Originally, the Führungsamt (Operational Office) within the SS Hauptamt (SS Central Office) had charge of the organization and training of the Allgemeine SS, the SS Verfügungstruppen, and the SS Totenkopfverbände. In August 1940 the Führungsamt of the SS Hauptamt, the Medical office, and the Inspectorate of the Combat Troops were merged to form an independent Hauptamt. Since the Waffen-SS expanded to more than 30 divisions (from four regiments in 1939), its Operational Main Office was augmented commensurately, and finally, was larger than the entire SS Supreme Command before the war.

The unprecedented enlargement of the Operational HQ of the SS attests to the administrative autonomy which the Waffen-SS enjoyed within the German military organization. This office was in charge of the organization and training of a separate military force. Training schedules differed from those

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of the Wehrmacht. Schools, even in highly technical fields such as medicine and signals, were operated apart from the Army. Tables of supply and material, as laid down in the Operational HQ, differed from Wehrmacht tables for similar troops, and distinguished the Waffen-SS divisions for their superior equipment and high morale. Thus the Operational HQ served as a separate planning staff for a separate branch of the Armed Forces which came under Wehrmacht jurisdiction only for specific tactical employment. Führungshauptamt (FHA) remained the operational HQ for the rest of the SS and for this purpose included the Command HQ of the Allgemeine SS in Ant I of Antsgruppe a (Office I of Division A). The FHA, thus, has been described, quite accurately, as the SS Main Office responsible for the organization, training, and within limits set for units of the Waffen-SS by the OKW or OKH, the operational employment of the Allgemeine SS and Waffen SS.

A functional breakdown of the Operational HQ shows the following

Antsgruppen (Divisions):

- A. Operations, Personnel, Supply
- B. Training
- C. Inspectorates
- D. Medical

AMTSGRUPPE A - OPERATIONS, PERSONNEL, SUPPLY

Chief of the Antsgruppe was SS Brigadeführer and Maj. General of Waffen-SS Schwab.

Ant I. Kommandoamt der Allgemeinen SS (Command HQ of General SS)

under SS Gruppenführer Leo Petri. After the outbreak of the war the administration

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of the Allgemeine SS was greatly decentralized. Moreover, due to the induction of a large number of its members into the Waffen-SS, this office declined in importance within the SS.

Amt II. Kommandoamt der Waffen-SS (Command HQ of the Combat SS) under SS Obergruppenführer and General of Waffen SS Hans Jüttner. This office was divided into two sections: Operational Section (Führungs-Abteilung). and organizational Section (Organisations-Abteilung).

Operational Section

The following functions are known to have been performed within the section:

1a. Operations, under SS Standartenführer Ruoff

1c. Intelligence and Security. This sub-section controlled the Field Post Section and the Pass and Permit Office.

1d. Training. This sub-section coordinated all training except training for gas warfare. It was responsible for the instruction and training of staff officers. It supervised the writing and publication of SS regulations and training manuals.

1g. SS Military Geologists

1N. Signals Section

VI. Welfare, racial questions, education.

Organizational Section

1a. Operations (see also Operational Section)

1b. Administration of supply

1c. Intelligence (see also Operational Section)

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1e. This sub-section for strength and reinforcements had branches in both Amt II and IV; presumably the office was divided into Organization (Amt II) and Personnel (Amt IV).

Amt III. Zentralkankte (Central Chancellery). This office coordinated certain activities for all Offices; it received and distributed correspondence through the DRP (German Post Services) and its own courier service, which extended to all occupied Europe; it contained the records, and the war archives of the Waffen-SS.

Amt IV. Verwaltungsamt (Administration Bureau), under SS Obersturmbannführer Mueller. It was concerned with matters of rations, clothing stores, buildings, and pay. It probably also included the section for Supply Commands (Abt. Nachschubkommandantur). Possibly the Clothing Maintenance Depot, the Finance Administration and the Pay Office of the Waffen-SS were also controlled here. This office was taken over bodily, including personnel and files, by the SS Personalhauptamt (SS Personnel Main Office, FHA) and became Amt II of the PHA. The transfer took considerable time and gave rise to the assumption that FHA and PHA shared in the responsibility for matters of personnel. Actually all that was left in FHA was one officer, presumably Jüttner's adjutant, to facilitate appointments and promotions within the FHA proper.

Amt V. Personalamt (Personnel), under Gpf. and Gen. of Waffen SS Kurt Knoblauch.

Amt VI. Equitation Office. It dealt with all matters relating

to cavalry, horsed units, and veterinary service.

Amt VII. Supply Office under SS Standartenführer Ziersch.

Formerly called the SS Waffenamt, the office was expanded to include

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administration of Waffen-SS supply and equipment, and SS Ordnance Depots.

Amt VIII. Ordnance Office.

Amt IX. Technical Equipment and Machinery, including signal equipment, special munitions, repair and maintenance equipment.

Amt X. Motor Transport, under SS Standartenführer Hoffmann.

This office controlled Motor Pools and repair shops.

AMTSGRUPPE B - TRAINING

The head of this Amtsgruppe Gruppenführer and Lt. Gen. of Waffen-SS Kurt Knoblauch, was in charge of all training of personnel in combat tactics. The following functions of the division have become known:

Amt XI. Officer Training, under SS Brigadeführer and Maj. General of Waffen-SS Dörffler-Schuband. This office was concerned with SS Officer Training Schools (Junkerschulen) and, in cooperation with other offices, supervised schools and courses.

In December 1944, functions and personnel of this office were transferred to the SS Personalhauptamt (SS Personnel Main Office) to form Amt II (Office II) of Amtsgruppe A (Division A) of the PHA. The PHA, however, retained responsibility for the subjects taught at the schools.

Amt XII. Non-commissioned Officer Training. This office supervised NCO training schools and courses.

AMTSGRUPPE C - INSPECTORATES.

The following inspectorates of the SS are believed to have existed. Infantry; Equitation (Fegelein); Artillery (Guthberlet); Engineers; Armored Forces; Signal Troops (Keilhaus); Ordnance; Mountain Troops, Motorized Troops

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(Knapp); Anti-Aircraft (Guthberlet).

AMTSGRUPPE D - MEDICAL

This division was headed by SS Obergruppenführer and General of Waffen-SS Dr. Karl Genzken, who was also inspector of the SS Medical Academy.

Amt XIII. General Administration. This office included sections for enlisted personnel, officer personnel, welfare and pensions. It also supervised SS hospitals.

Amt XIV. Dental Bureau.

Amt XV. Medical Supply and Equipment. The office was controlled by Brigadeführer and Maj. General of Waffen-SS Dr. Carl Blumenreuter.

Amt XVI. Bureau of Medical Treatment.

OTHER OFFICES OF THE OPERATIONAL MAIN OFFICE

1. War Reporters Section. This office was headed by Gunther d'Alquen, chief editor of the Schwarze Korps (official SS Newspaper). The SS corps of war reporters was officially known as SS Standarte Kurt Eggers.

2. Headquarters Section. This office included a special signals branch, a transportation officer under 55 (Obersturmbannführer Ladewig), and probably also the Courier Office (see Amt III) and the Travel Office.

d. Reichssicherheitshauptamt (RSHA) (Reich Security Main Office of Security) Former address:

Albrechtspalais, Prinz Albrecht
Str. 8-9
Berlin S.W. 11

Chief of the Reichssicherheitshauptamt was SS-Obergruppenführer Ernst Kaltenbrunner. The Reichssicherheitshauptamt was one of the main offices of the Supreme Command of the SS and at the same time a division within the Ministry of the Interior. It represented an amalgamation of the functions and administration of the regular police forces with those of the Party. In 1934 The Hauptamt Sicherheitspolizei (Main Office of the Security Police) was merged with the SS-Sicherheitshauptamt der Reichsführung SS (Reich Main Office of the SD, i.e., the Security Office) to form the Reichssicherheitshauptamt.

This office became the combined headquarters of the Sipo and SD. It also controlled a number of police training schools.

The RSHA was divided into eight offices:

Amt I - Personal (Personnel). Chief was SS Gruppenführer Erwin Schulz. The office was concerned with personnel matters of both Sipo and SD. However, Amt VI retained a considerable measure of autonomy in the administration of SD personnel and agents abroad.

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Amt II - Organisation, Verwaltung und Recht
(Organization, Administration, and Law).

Chief of this office was SS-Obersturmbaum-
fürher Hachel. Amt II was concerned with
the organization and administration of the
combined Sipo and SD. Evidence has been found
which indicates that Section D of this office
in charge of Motor Transport was in charge
of the fitting and disposal of the "Death Vans"
used for the gassing of internees and prisoners.^{1/})

Amt III - Deutsch-Lebensgebiete (Spheres of
German Life). Head of this office was SS-Brigf.
Ohlendorf. This office directed the principal
functions of the SD inside Germany and
occupied territories. It was the control head-
quarters for all SD Leitabschnitte, Abschnitte,
Hauptausstellen and Ausstellen in the
Reich. It also functioned abroad where it was
represented by Abteilung III ⁱⁿ any given Einsatz-
kommando and in the office of a BdS. Its main
task was the collection, by open or secret
methods of information concerning events and
tendencies liable to affect Nazi control at home
and gathered intelligence for the control of all

1. Captured Document, available in the Document Section of
the X-2 War Room in London.

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religious, cultural, and economic activities, especially for the suppression of anti-Nazi elements. Its organization followed these lines:

Geschäftsstelle (Administration Office)

Personalangelegenheiten (Personnel Matters)

Geschäftsverteilungsplan (Distribution of Work)

Geschäftsaktenplan (Standard Filing System)

Statistik (Statistics)

Geheimregistratur (Registry of Classified Documents)

Gruppe III A (Gemeinschaftsleben

Allgemein (General Community Life)

III A 1. Organisation der Arbeit (Organisation of Work) also known as Allgemeine fragen der Lebensgebietsarbeit (General Questions of Amt III work) This office planned and recorded the work carried out by Amt III.

III A 2. Rechtsleben Allgemein (General Legal Matters) Did research on laws and forwarded the results to the Reichsjustizministerium. It also appears to have dealt with specific cases of violations of the law, reporting such cases to the Gestapo or Kripo for action.

III A 3. Verwaltung Allgemein - (Administration in General) Investigated administrative matters. Supervised all police personnel.

III A 4. Allgemeines Volksleben (General National Life) Had almost unlimited scope in the surveillance of individuals and the community to detect possible anti-Nazi tendencies, written or spoken. Also investigated relations between the Party and the Armed Forces.

III A 4g (Geheim - secret) Reported to have kept under surveillance all leading personalities in the Nazi Party with the rank of Kreisleiter and above.

III A5 This section took care of cooperation between SIPO and SD, and other police and government agencies; it also handled general problems of police law.

Gruppe III B - Volkstum und Volksgesundheit (The Welfare of the German people and the German Race)

III B1. Deutsches Volkstum (German "Racial Heritage"). III B1 is believed to

have been intended to become an important office only after German victory. Reports indicate that it made extensive plans for German expansion.

III B 2. Fremdes Volkstum und Minderheiten

(Foreign "Races" and Minorities). This section dealt with relations between Germans and people of other nations as well as minorities within Germany. It is reported to have been instrumental in the liquidation of the Jews in Poland, the resettlement of Poles, and their "Germanization." Utilization of foreign workers is another question known to have been dealt with by this office.

III B 3. Rasse-und Volksgesundheit (Health of the German Race and People) Handled general aspects of national health. This office is apparently also interested in the composition of the "Germanic" SS formations. It probably maintained liaison with the SS Rasse-und Siedlungshauptamt (SS Race and Settlement Department).

III B 4. Staatsangehörigkeit, Wanderung und Siedlung (Citizenship, Migration, and settlement). Dealt with such matters as the resettlement of families who came under German jurisdiction as a result of the expansion of the Reich. Close liaison was probably maintained with the Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle. This office also handled all questions of citizenship and naturalization from the SD point of view.

III B5. Innerpolitische Lage der besetzten Gebiete (Political Conditions in Occupied Territories) This section studied the attitude of the native population in occupied territories.

Gruppe III C Kultur (Culture)

III C 1. Wissenschaft und Hochschule - (Sciences and Higher Education) Mainly the supervision of universities, colleges, and similar institutions.

III C 2. Erziehung, Religiöses Leben und Sport (Education, Religious Matters and Sport) This was one of the largest offices in Amt III. Its sub-offices

dealt with a) schools; b) youth in general (including disciplinary camps for juveniles); c) sport; d) religious problems. Among the specific problems known to have been dealt with in this last category were reports on the clergy's attitude to political speeches and propaganda among opposition church groups.

III C 3. Kulturelles Leben (Cultural Matters)

In general, the investigation of artists from the Nazi point of view.

III C 4 Allgemeine Propaganda-Presse, Schrifttum,

Rundfunk (Propaganda in general - Press, Literature, and Radio) This was the counterpart of III C 3. in the field of propaganda and literature.

Gruppe III D Allgemeine Wirtschaftspolitik
(General Economic Policy)

III D 1. Agrarpolitik, Forstwirtschaft und Ernäh-

rung (Agricultural Policy, Forestry and Food Distribution) This undertook the investigation of every aspect of agriculture and forestry.

III D 2 Handel, Handwerk und Verkehr (Trades, Crafts, Traffic, and Communications)

III D 3. Finanzwesen (Finance)

- III D 4. Industrie und Energiewirtschaft (Industry and Power Supply)
- III D 5. Arbeitseinsatz und Sozialwesen (Employment of Labor and Matters of Social Welfare).

Amt IV-Gegnerforschung und Gegnerbekämpfung (Investigation and Combatting of opposition) - also known as the Geheime Staatspoliziamt, abbr. Gestapo. Head of this office was SS-Ibergruppenführer Miller. It was responsible for the investigation and suppression of opposition to the Nazi regime. It controlled a vast network of headquarters of various sizes, called Leitstellen, Stellen, Aussendienststellen, and Aussenstellen. After the dissolution of the former Abwehr, a section of the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces, it took over from Military Intelligence all counterespionage work and combined it with similar activities in the political field. This necessitated a complete reorganization of Amt IV during the summer of 1944.

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Amt IV received much of its direction and many of its cases from the SD and shared the function of domestic espionage. Its decisions were not subject to, or limited by, any revision of the ordinary judiciary. It could call on the services of all other police branches in Germany and occupied territories and issue order and directions to them.

In German terminology the Gestapo was "weisungsberechtigt gegenüber allen anderen Zweigen der Polizei." (Endowed with directive power over all other branches of the Police). Amt V-Verbrechensbekämpfung (Combatting of Crime) Head of this office was SS-Oberführer Panzinger (formerly SS-Gruppenführer Arthur Nebe also known as the Reichskriminalpolizeiamt (RKPA). This office was the national headquarters of the Reichskriminalpolizei (Kripo-Criminal Police). It controlled a vast network of criminal police offices. The line dividing cases of interest to the Gestapo and those within the field of the Kripo was frequently rather vague. Cooperation between Amt IV

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and Amt V was therefore very close. Whereas the Gestapo was concerned with crimes menacing the German Reich, the Kripo was supposed to deal with crimes menacing the German people. The Nazi regime extended the concept of combatting crime to include prevention in the most ruthless sense. It was the duty of the Kripo not only to protect public safety in the face of crime but beyond that to strengthen and safeguard the German nation. This led to the arrest of potential criminals and the persecution of "anti-social" elements.

Amt VI - Ausland (Foreign Countries)

Head of this office was SS-Brigadeführer Schellenberg, as the foreign branch of the SD intelligence system, the Ausland was mainly concerned with espionage, sabotage, and subversion in territories not under the direct control of the Reich, so that its functions did not overlap those of Amt III. The work was reinforced after June 1944 by the military intelligence and sabotage services of the former

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Abwehr (Military Intelligence of the OKW).

Much of the information needed by Amt VI for the successful execution of its main assignments had to be collected in occupied territory by its agents, who therefore worked in cooperation with those of Amt III. In addition to this, Amt VI maintained an extensive network of agents for espionage in every satellite, neutral, and hostile country; the information gained was then sent back to Amt VI, where it was sorted and evaluated.

Offices of Amt VI were established as Abteilung VI within many of the SIPO and SD headquarters in occupied territories. In many instances, a clear-cut chain of command and channel of communications could not be maintained; frequently, therefore, Amt VI representatives received orders from and submitted reports to the main headquarters in Berlin without intermediaries.

Breakdown of Amt VI ^{1/}

Business Offices

A. General Duties -- SS-Obersturmbannführer Filber

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1. General organization of intelligence service
2. Management of media of intelligence
3. Care of the VM (meaning unknown - perhaps Verkehrsmittel, i.e., means of communication) in foreign countries - SS Hauptsturmführer Seidel.
4. Intelligence service, cooperation with state and political organizations - SS Obersturmführer Vorauer
5. Radio monitoring - SS Obersturmführer Gottlob
6. Review of foreign press - SS Sturmbannführer Siebert
7. Liaison with Intelligence School

B. Communication of Intelligence and Technique of Intelligence in Foreign Countries

SS Sturmbannführer Naujoks

East -- SS Sturmbannführer von Viettinhoff-Scheel
 Southeast -- SS Sturmbannführer Götsch

1. Hungary, Slovakia -- SS Hauptsturmführer Hanke
2. Yugoslavia
3. Rumania - SS Obersturmführer Wanneck
4. Bulgaria, Greece - SS Obersturmführer Langlotz
5. Turkey and Near Eastern States - SS Hauptsturmführer Hagen

South -- SS Sturmbannführer Rossner

West -- SS Hauptsturmführer Bielstein

Northwest - SS Sturmbannführer Daufeldt

1. England - SS Obersturmführer Zuchristian
2. USA
3. North

C. Observation of "Weltanschauliche" opponents in Foreign Countries -- SS Sturmbannführer Knochen

1. Masonry and Anti-Masonry
2. Jewry and Anti-Semitism
3. "Political churches" - SS Hauptsturmführer Hagen
4. Communism and Marxism
5. Liberalism and the emigration
6. Legitimism and Rightist movements - SS Hauptsturmführer Christensen

Amt VII Weltanschauliche Erforschung und Auswertung (Ideological Research and its Exploitation) Head of this office was SS-Obersturmbannführer Dittle (formerly SS-Oberführer Six). Amt VII was added to RSHA in 1940. It dealt with occupied and satellite countries and was concerned with political warfare and of ideological supervision especially in the academic field. The result of its research was made available to the RSHA and the Foreign Office.

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Militarisches Amt. The Militarisches Amt (Military Office) was incorporated only fairly recently into the RSHA. It had previously existed as the Abwehr (Military Intelligence of the OKW German High Command). Originally, the SD, as the political information service of the Party and State, and the Abwehr, as the military intelligence system operated by and for the Armed Forces, were able to function side by side without clashing. However, as the war progressed and the German military situation deteriorated, friction arose between the two organizations. One of the reasons for this friction was the basic difference between the personnel of the two agencies, the SD being staffed by the most fanatical followers of the Nazi Party, and the Abwehr being composed of General Staff officers, most of whom had favored National Socialism only for reasons of political expediency. Another reason was the expansion of the SD; as military conquests added foreign territories to the Reich, the SD, through Amt VI, took over many functions of espionage and sabotage which might ordinarily have been the responsibility of military intelligence.

In June 1944, the influence of the Party in military matters had increased to such a point that the

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Abwehr was disbanded. Its offices became a bureau of the RSHA under the name of Militarisches Amt, and the major part of its functions, as well as the funds allotted to them, were taken over by the SD. The Militarisches Amt became closely associated and perhaps actually attached to Amt VI, under the command of SS Brigade-Führer Schellenberg.

The functions of the Militarisches Amt, as taken over from the Abwehr, were: a) Positive Intelligence, including army, navy, and air force intelligence (consolidated into one section of the Militarisches Amt), radio, secret inks, and economics; b) Sabotage, and c) Counter-Intelligence (including military counter-espionage and counter-espionage of civilian agents).

Attache-Gruppe. A special independent section in the RSHA, directly subordinated to the Chef der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD was the Attache-Gruppe. This section was founded in August 1942 to combine all functions connected with the work of the Polizei Attaches (Police Attaches) at German embassies and legations in neutral satellite states.

- e. SS-Rasse und Siedlungs Hauptamt (SS Race and Settlement Main Office) Address: Berlin SW 68 Hedemannstrasse 23-24

The head of the department was SS Obergruppenführer and General of the Police Richard Hildebrandt. Former heads

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of the department were SS Gruppenführer Günther Pancke and Gruppenführer Otto Hoffmann. The Rasse und Siedlungs Hauptamt was one of the three oldest main departments of the central direction of the SS (Reichsführung SS). Prior to 1940 it had a wide range of activities, but in 1940 in the general reorganization of the central administration of the SS, the Rasse und Siedlungs Hauptamt lost several of its departments.

Its main function was to translate into practice the general racial theories of the SS ideology. ^{1/} In putting these theories into practice the RSHA assumed authority in all matters of applied "race" geneology, e.g., the issuance of marriage permits within the SS. It was responsible for the execution of the policy of settling SS men, especially ex-servicemen, as peasants and colonists (Wehrbauern) in the borderlands of the Reich and in occupied (Eastern) territories of the Reich. In the resettlement of racial Germans repatriated from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe it cooperated with such SS-controlled organizations as the Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle and the Office of the Reichkommissar für die Festigung des Deutschen Volkstums (Reichs Commissioner for the Consolidation of German Folkdom).

^{1/} For details of the ideology see paper Nazi Health and Racial Policy. R&A No. 3114.7.

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RuSHA was also responsible for the welfare of families of SS men. Here it had three main obligations:

1. Care of orphans and widows of SS men killed in the war
2. Care of all children born to SS men during the war, including care of pregnant women
3. Care of families and dependents of SS men serving in Armed Forces or in the Waffen SS in all cases of distress, hardship, or private difficulty

In July 1944, the administration of pensions for non-active members of the Waffen-SS, Police, and SD was transferred to the Reich Labor Minister, but RuSHA retained responsibility for pensions for those on the active list and for the welfare of the whole police force. Members of the Waffen SS enjoyed the advantages of the welfare and pensions system established by law for the Armed Forces, plus those of the private SS welfare system.

There is no exact information on the internal organization of RuSHA. In 1941 it was thought to comprise four main bureaus:

I. Amt Verwaltung und Organisation (Office for Administration and Organization) This office

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coordinated the other bureaus of the RuSHA. It was responsible for all problems of organization, personnel, and equipment. It probably controlled Personalstelle RuSHA (Personnel Section) which, it is believed, dealt with the administration of the personnel of RuSHA and its regional officers and staffs.

II. Rassenamt or Rassennaupamt (Racial Office) Chief of this office was SS-Gruf. Harald Turner. This office had the general task of demonstrating and publicising the basic racial dogma of the SS that "blood" alone determines history, ethics, law, and economics.

It probably absorbed most of the functions of the former Sippenamt which was responsible for:

1) Maintenance of doctrines of family or tribal solidarity in the SS as a whole.

2) Supervision of general welfare of the SS, especially the welfare of dependents of SS men in Armed Forces.

3) Examination of racial fitness and ancestral descent of both present members of SS and of new entrants into SS; maintenance of the Sippenbuch (Genealogical Book) of the SS.

It probably controlled:

1) Hauptabteilung Fürsorge (Welfare Section)

This section dealt with the domestic welfare work of the SS and also with supplementary welfare assistance given to SS men in the Armed Forces or to their dependents over and above any state financed assistance.

2) "Amt für Angehörigenunterhalt im Ausland"

(Office for Dependents' Allowances Abroad) Chief of this Office was SS-Standf. Uhlig. This office dealt with the welfare of dependents of foreign SS men.

3) Ahnentafelamt (Office for Genealogical Research) This office undertook research into the ancestry and genealogy of members of SS. It assisted in producing requisite genealogical data for engagement and marriage applications from SS members.

III. Heiratsamt (Marriage Office) This office was originally part of the Sippenamt but appears to have been separated. It was responsible for scrutinizing engagement and marriage applications and taking decision upon them.

IV. Siedlungsamt (Settlement Office) This office was responsible for the registration of all SS men who were willing to settle as farmer colonists in occupied eastern territory and for employment of those

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no longer fit for active service in SS settlement and welfare schemes in that area.

In December 1944 RuSHA was described as comprising not only the foregoing bureaus but also the following:

Das Schulungsamt (Office of Education) This office handled racial propaganda.

Das Amt für Archiv-und Zeitungswesen (Office of Records and Propaganda) This office employed various media of information to disseminate propaganda advocating what was described as a "German peasantry bound to the soil at home, the expansion of German farmland abroad, and thus the creation of a new German agriculture." This bureau also organized exhibits in order to promote its theories.

Das Amt für Bevölkerungspolitik (Office of Population Policy) This office was described as the "highest office of decision in matters of hereditary health." It trained physicians in matters concerning "racial" principles, heredity, and sexual problems.

Das Amt für Volksgesundheit (Office for National Health) This office disseminated information on eugenics and provided medical education for the German public in general.

Das Umsiedlungsamt (Office for Population Transfers) The title of this office is self-explanatory.

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Other branches and offices connected with RuSHA were:

Sammelstelle für Verluste im Kriege (War Casualties Office) According to a decree of RFSS dated June 1940, this branch of RuSHA was responsible for the care of children whose fathers had been killed in the war, and of their mothers. The Sammelstelle had the responsibility, in cooperation with the SS Oberabschnitte, of investigating the economic circumstances of the dependents of fallen SS men. In cases where the state pension and allowances were insufficient, immediate assistance was to be granted. It is possible, however, in view of the overlapping nature of the work and the close connection between RuSHA and HFVA, that this branch was identical with the Auskunftsstelle für Kriegsverluste der Waffen-SS (Information Office for Waffen-SS War Casualties).

Hauptfürsorge und Versorgungsamt der Waffen SS (Chief Welfare and Pensions Office of the Waffen SS) Chief of this office was SS-Brigf. Herman Haertel. This office was the supreme Reich authority on matters affecting the welfare of the Waffen-SS (Welfare and Pensions Offices)

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Originally this office was in the Reich Ministry of the Interior. In 1943 it probably passed under the general supervision, if not control, of RuSHA.

It controlled the SS Entlassungsstelle (Discharge Office). It was responsible for the retraining, rehabilitation, and discharge of medically unfit SS men.

Verein "Lebensborn e.V." (The Lebensborn Society). "Lebensborn" was a registered society attached to, and supervised by, the Personal Staff of the RFSS. It was responsible for the care for children of SS men. There was fairly close cooperation between RuSHA and Lebensborn, owing to the overlapping nature of their work. Functionally, Lebensborn represented an extension of the field of activity of RuSHA. It was incorporated in RuSHA, although it retained its separate identity.

This office was the executive headquarters of the society. It controlled the Lebensborn homes, dealt with the ordinary business of the society, and with RuSHA, which was the normal channel through which instructions were received from the Reichsführung-SS.^{1/}

1/ For detailed information, see report on Nazi health and Racial Policies, R&A No. 3114.7

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On the regional level RuSHA controlled the Section for Rasse-und Siedlungswesen within the Administration of the SS-Oberabschnitte (SS Districts) as well as the Sippenpflegestellen (Family Eugenics Offices) in these areas.

f. SS-Wirtschafts-und Verwaltungs Hauptamt (SS Economic and Administrative Main Offices) Main address: Berlin-Lichterfelde, branch offices throughout Germany and occupied Europe. Chief of this main office was Obergruppenführer and General der Waffen SS Oswald Pohl. It is worthwhile to note that he was also a high official in the Ministry of the Interior, president of the SS-operated Deutsche Siedlungsgesellschaft German Colonization Corporation which was the largest landowner in Europe, and in charge of all Legal and Property Matters for the German Red Cross. In his post as administrator for the entire SS (Verwaltungschef-SS) he was the representative of the Party Treasurer (Reichsschatzmeister), Schwartz.

His deputies were Obergruppenführer August Frank and SS-Gruppenführer and Lt. Gen. of Waffen SS Lorner.

Following the organizational shake-up in 1941 the WVHA combined the operations of the Hauptamt Haushalt und Bauten in the Ministry of Interior (of which Pohl was chief, the Inspektorat der Konzentrationslager (under

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Richard Glücks), and the Verwaltungsamt of the SS (under Frank). The importance of the WVHA can hardly be overestimated. As the administrative office for the concentration camps, ^{it} is directly responsible for the administration of policies permitting the perpetration of uncounted atrocities against millions of inmates. However, within the general function of the WVHA, the administration of concentration camps was only a part, though a vital part, of the over-all policy. This policy aimed at the establishment of the SS as an entrepreneur of the first order, through exploitation of the natural resources of occupied Europe. The cheap labor which the concentration camps offered was one of these resources and one which permitted it to compete successfully on the market, so to expand the productive capacity of Germany as to provide the surplus output necessary if war were to be risked.

Himmler, in his speech to high officials of the OKW, on 16 October 1943, pointed out "But as you have them (the political and criminal prisoners) under lock and key -- using them, by the way, in a very practical manner for armament purposes and thus supplying the armament industry with many millions of working hours -- the security position has become better year by year." The close coordination of concentration camp administration with the

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SS Economic Enterprises and with the Administration of the entire SS was a vital part of the Nazi plan for exploitation of Europe:

Functionally, the WVHA was divided into five divisions:

- A) Finance, Law, and Administration (Truppenverwaltung)
- B) Supply, Billeting, and Equipment (Truppenwirtschaft)
- C) Works and Buildings (Bauwesen)
- D) Concentration Camps (Führung und Verwaltung der Konzentrationslager.)
- E) Economic Enterprises (Wirtschaftsunternehmungen)

Amtsgruppe A - Truppenverwaltung (Finance, Law and Administration) Chief of the division was Brigadeführer Fanzlau, also in charge of Amt V. Though the Finance Division of the SS was responsible to the Hauptamt VI. Reichsrevisionsamt (Reich Auditing Office) of the Party Treasurer, it is not known to what extent the Party Treasurer actually administered SS property. The finances of the Waffen-SS ^{were} by an order of 28 June 1939 placed under the control of the Reichs Minister of Finance and its property under that of the Ministry of Interior.

Offices within the division were:

Amt I. Haushaltsamt (Budget)

Amt II. Kassen und Besoldungswesen

(Administration under SS-

Obersturmbannführer Eggert of pay
and allowances)

Amt III. Verwaltungsrechtswesen (Legal Admin-
istration). This dealt with rents,
mortgages, lawsuits, and compensa-
tions.

Amt IV. Prüfungsamt (WVHA Auditing Office)

Auditing procedure of the Waffen-
SS differed from that of the Wehrmacht.
Accounts were sent direct from finan-
cial offices to the Prüfungsamt, in-
stead of through the Corps Area Commands
of the Army. It is another indication
of the high degree of autonomy which
the SS enjoyed.

Amt V. Personalamt (Personnel Section) under

SS-Brigadeführer Heinz Fanlau. There
appears to have been four sections, but
but only one has been identified; it
was the section for Wehrangelegenheiten

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(Military Matters), with with Sturmbann-
" fuehrer August Harbaum in charge which dealt
with personnel within the division.

Other Offices controlled by Amtsgruppe A
were the Rechnungsstelle (WVHA Accounts Office); and
the Hauptkasse (WVHA Financial Office at Munich.

Amtsgruppe B: Gruppenwirtschaft (Supply,
Billeting, and Equipment) Chief of the division was SS-
" brigadefuehrer Lorner. It must be kept in mind that the
SS maintained its own system of supply distinct from the
Wehrmacht, and not subject to army control. It ran a net-
work of depots and stores throughout Germany and Occupied
Europe. Operationally, these came under the control of
the Fuehrungshauptamt, but the WVHA, through Amtsgruppe B,
was in charge of the detailed administration of depots.
The Fuehrungshauptamt dealt with armament and technical
equipment, while the WVHA directed procurement of rations,
clothing, wood, coal, fodder and personal equipment.

Amt I. Verpflegungsamt (Rations); office chief
was SS-Obersturmbannfuhrer Moser. The bureau was pre-
sumably divided into three sections, Planning, Procurement
and Experimentation. It also controlled a Chemical Labor-
atory.

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Amt II. Bekleidungswirtschaft (Clothing, Uniforms, and Personal Equipment), also referred to as Kleiderkasse. This office was headed by SS-Obersturmbannführer Fritz Lechler. It probably included sections for Planning, Procurement, and Production.

Amt III Unterkunftswirtschaft (General Provision of Equipment and Stores for Billets and Accommodation) This office was headed by SS-Standartenführer Roberlein his deputy was Sturmbannführer Anton Blaser

Amt IV. Rohstoffe und Beschaffung (Raw Materials, Bulk Purchases Foreign Currency) This office was headed by SS-Sturmbannführer Weggel. He was in charge of bulk purchases of leather and textiles for the SS, and maintained close contact with the Raw Materials Office of the Personal Staff and with Amstgruppe (Economic Enterprises in matters directly related to its activities.

Amt V. Verkehrswesen (Motor Transport, Machinery, Weapons and Supply). This office was headed by SS-Obersturmbannführer Rudolf Scheide.

Amstgruppe C: Bauwesen (Works and Buildings) Gruppenführer and Lt. Gen. of the Waffen-SS Dr. Ing Kammler supervised the building activity of the SS. His division worked in close liaison with Hauptamt Haushalt und Bauten under the Chief of the German Police in the Ministry of the Interior, and was responsible for the

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construction of barracks, camps, training grounds, field works and fortifications, roads, and even experimental rocket sites. It also took part in the re-opening of mines and the exploitation of timber lands.^{1/} In addition, Kammler is presumably identical with The high SS leader who was in charge of the development of V₁ and V₂ weapons

In occupied territories Front Labor Units (SS-Baubrigaden (Construction Brigades) composed of concentration camp prisoners assisted in clearing bombed areas under SS direction. Within the Works and Buildings Division the following bureaus existed:

Amt I. Allgemeine Bauaufgaben (General Building)

This bureau probably had four sections, three of which were identified as Waffen SS. Allgemeine SS and Concentration Camps.

Amt II. Sonderaufgaben (Priority Undertakings)

were directed by SS-Obersturmbannführer Max Kiefer

Amt III. Technische Fachgebiete (Technical

Problems)

Amt IV. Künstlerische Fachgebiete (Decoration

and Furnishing) SS-Sturmbannführer Thilo Schneider and Fritz

^{1/} cf. Interrogation of Professor Osenberg: Evaluation report 51. OSS #XL 11010

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blaschek were in charge. There were two sections, one for Municipal Projects and another for Rural Projects.

Amt V. SS Zentrale Bauinspektion (Central Building Inspectorate). Deputy Chief was SS-Sturmbannführer Prinz (E) L. This office dealt with all matters affecting the personnel, supply and operations of the SS-Construction Units and Construction Enterprises both inside and outside of Germany (i.e., SS-Frontarbeiterunternehmen, SS-Baubetriebe, etc).

Amt VI. Bauunterhaltung und Betriebswirtschaft (Building Upkeep and Maintenance).

Amtsgruppe D: Führung und Verwaltung der Konzentrationslager (Concentration Camps). Chief of Concentration Camp Administration was Gruppenführer and Lt. General of Waffen-SS Richard Glücks. His adjutant was Untersturmführer Volkmar. Hq of this division were located in Oranienburg. ^{1/} This division was sub-divided as follows:

Amt I. Zentralamt (Central Office) This office was headed by SS-Obersturmbannführer Rudolf Hoss, formerly by Obersturmführer Arthur Liebehenschel who was transferred to the SS Hauptamt. The office was responsible for general

^{1/} For discussion of the function of Amtsgruppe D see R & A Report No. 3113.6

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policy of camp administration, security regulations, public relations, and coordination of bureaus within the division.

Amt II. Arbeitseinsatz der Häftlinge (Allocation of Prison Labor). This office, under Standartenführer Gerhard Maurer, included three sections, Einsatz (Allocation), Ausbildung (Training) and Verrechnung (Accounting).

Amt III. Sanitätswesen und Lagerhygiene (Medical Administration). In charge of this office was SS-Standartenführer Dr. Enno Lolling. He was responsible for all medical and health facilities in concentration camps, and supervised medical personnel, both staff and prisoners.

Amt IV. Konzentrationslagerverwaltung (General Administration of Camps and Camp Staff). Chief of this office was Anton Kaindl. Three sections have been identified, Haushalt (Finance), Kassen (Treasury), Versorgung (Welfare).

Amtsgruppe W: Wirtschaftsunternehmen (Economic Enterprises) ["] Obergruppenführer August Frank was chief of the division, which carried on decentralized operations in all parts of Germany and Occupied Europe. The Concentration Camps, as has been noted, gave the SS virtually unlimited, cheap labor of all types and skills. When it was not expedient to set up an industry within the camp, inmates

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were farmed out to private enterprise or used on government sub-contracts. It is estimated that one to two million workers were involved. This labor made the SS an almost independent economic system, with control of raw materials, factories to process them, workers to operate the factories, and hundreds of outlets for the finished products.^{1/}

Amt. W. I. Deutsch Erd- und Steinwerke. (Germany Pottery Works and Quarry), under SS-Sturmbannführer, Karl Mummenthey. Three sections included Klinker (Bricks). Granit (Granite), and Porzellan Betriebe (Porcelain Works).

Amt II. Baustoffwerke, Zementfabriken und Ziegeleien (Building Material Plants. Cement Factories, and Brickworks in the east) Obersturmbannführer Hanns Bobermin was in charge. There were three sections: one for the production of bricks; one for that of granite, and one for porcelain.

Amt III. Ernährungs Betriebe (Food Industry). Three branches have been accounted for: Mineral wasser (Mineral Water); Freudenthaler Getränke (Mineral Water) and the Deutsche Lebensmittel Gm.b.H

Amt IV Deutsche Ausrüstungswerke - D.A.W. (German Armament Works). This office also contained three

^{1/} For details, see Report B-2833 on Buchenwald, on file with OSS (SI)

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sections: the D.A.W.; the Holzbearbeitungsbetriebe (Carpentry and Cabinetmaking Industry); and the Flechterei (Weaving).

Amt V. Land- Forst- und Fischereiwirtschaft (Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries). Chief was SS-Obersturmbannführer Heinrich Vogel. There were three Sections:

- 1) Deutsche Versuchsanstalt für Ernährung und Verpflegung (German Research Institute for Nutrition and Food Supply);
- 2) Forestry;
- 3) Fisheries.

Amt VI. Textil- und Lederverarbeitung (Re-processing of Textiles and Leather). This office includes the Gesellschaft für Textil- und Lederwertung, mbH. - KL. Dachau, al.

Amt VII. Buch und Bild (Books and Pictures). Chief of this Office was SS-Obersturmbannführer Horst Klein: it contained three sections:

- 1) Gesellschaft zur Förderung und Pflege deutscher Kulturdenkmäler (Society for the Improvement and Upkeep of German Monuments).

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- 2) Externsteine Stiftung (Externsteine Foundation); ran a sanctuary in the Teutoburger Wald, König Heinrich Gedächtnis Stiftung (King Henry Memorial Foundation); Genesungs- und Erholungsheime (Convalescent and Rest Homes);
- 3) Kulturbauten (Cultural Monuments).

Other Branches and Offices:

1. Stabskompanie (HQ Company). As in the SS Führungshauptamt, a Stabsabteilung (Camp Commandant); probably also exist.
- 2) Signals Branch. Within this Branch there were a Nachrichtenführer (Signal Officer), Nachrichtenbetriebsstelle (Signals Office), and Funksstelle (Radio Station).
- 3) Frontarbeiterleitstelle (Front Labor Control Office). This office, under SS-Sturmabführer Rall, was located in Berlin Nikolassee. Its responsibility extended to the recruitment and disposition of SS Front Labor units made up from foreign and German workers. It probably also

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supervised the SS Frontarbeiterdurchgangslager (SS Front Labor Transit Camps) which were set up throughout Europe.

g. SS-Personal Hauptamt ^{1/} (SS Personnel Main Office)

Address: Berlin-Charlottenburg

Wilmsdorferstrasse 98-99

Chief of the SS Personalhauptamt (PHA) was SS-Obergruppenführer, General der Waffen-SS and Lt. Gen. of the Police Maximilian von Herff. Deputy Chief of the SS-Personal Hauptamt was SS-Brigf. Adolf Katz. The SS Personnel Main Office (SS Personal Hauptamt) was a development of an earlier SS central administrative institution, the SS-Personalkanzlei (Personnel Chancellery). In the reorganization of the SS central offices that took place in 1940, the Personalkanzlei was raised to the status of a Hauptamt and given its present title.

The PHA was responsible for the selection and appointment of SS personnel in all strategic positions. Its principle functions were:

- 1) Maintenance of the personnel records of all officers of the SS, Allgemeine SS, SD, and Waffen-SS, including the Germanische-SS.

^{1/} A substantial part of this information is based on the interrogation of Maximilian von Herff. British document C.S.D.I.C. (U.K.) JSS document CID, XL 11928

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2) Preparation of the necessary papers in connection with dismissals and discharges from the SS, except where these had taken place as the result of disciplinary or judicial proceedings.

3) Confirmation of all appointments in the officer establishment of the SS, except in so far as individual exceptions were made for the duration of the war.

4) Confirmation of all officer promotions
Note: It has no voice in promotions or appointments of SS Officers other than those serving in field and depot units.

5) Production of the SS seniority List.

(Dienstalterliste der SS).

6) Award of the Totenkopf Ring and the SS dagger of honor. The granting of both the Totenkopf Ring and the SS Dagger was discontinued as of the beginning of 1943.

7) Selection of candidates for officer courses at SS Officer Training Schools (Junkerschulen) at Bad Tölz and Braunschweig. In April 1945 the PHA was believed to consist of

Amtsgruppe A

This was a title only; the Amtsgruppe as such had no personnel. Under it were two "Amter":

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Amt I. Head of this Office was Ostbr. Franke Gricksch. Amt I included the following sections:

Amt I a (Zentral Kartei) Registry of incoming and outgoing correspondence.

Amt Ib Stabsabteilung: Camp Commandant

Amt Ic Fuhrerreserve Abteilung (Section for Officers in reserve) This office was formed from the personnel of the Abt. of the same name in Amt V of PHA. It was taken out of Amt II after incorporation in PHA. It controlled all officers awaiting postings to field units. Officers in reserve were mostly convalescent or attached to replacement units.

Abt Ia Aktenhaltung Abteilung (Section for Records) This office kept records of all SS officer personnel. However, except for the officer staff in the PHA, SS Oberabschnitte and Abschnitte, and latterly also the Junkerschulen, individual files (Personalakten) were kept either in the Personal Amt of the officers' Dienststelle, or with the HQ of the next senior formation.

Amt II: Head of this Office was SS-Brigf. Dorffler-Schuband. This office was in charge of Junkerschule und Fuhrerernachwuchs (Officer Training School and Leadership Recruitment) In December 1944, PHA took over the functions and personnel of Amt XI of PHA. The PHA, however, was still responsible for the subject matter of the courses at the schools. The three schools controlled were in Tolz,

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Klagenfurt, and Prague. Before the war, the PHA (then called the SS Personalkanzlei) had controlled the Junkerschulen, but relinquished this command to the PHA at the end of 1939.

Hauptabteilung B (Main Section B). Chief of this section was Standf. Becker. In fact, if not in name, this was the Personalamt der Allgemeinen SS. It controlled the mobilization of staffs (Wob Stabe) of the Allgemeine SS, which still functioned - if only to a very reduced extent - through the SS-Oberabachnitte. This section also kept records of the SS officer personnel in the Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle (Vomi), Stabshauptamt für die Festigung des Deutschen Volkstums, and Dienststelle Heissmeyer. Hpt, Abt, B had Liaison officers with the Rasse- u Siedlungs-Hauptamt (RuSH)

Amtsgruppe C: Personal-Amt der Waffen SS (Personnel Officer of the Combat SS) Head of this division was Brigf. Katz. This division was responsible for promotions and discharge of Waffen-SS officers in combatant units and in special services, i.e., judges, doctors and so-called Fachführer. When a new Waffen-SS Division was formed, the Chief of the PHA the entire responsibility of filling the officer establishment.

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Hauptabteilung D (Polizei) (Main Section:

Police) This section had two liaison officers, one each with the Orpo, Obstet. Moller-Franzen and one with the Sipo, Stubf Lopass. The section's main function was the recording of promotions and appointments and coordinating of police rank with SS rank. Other offices under PHA jurisdiction:

Verbindungs Offizier zur Wehrmacht (Liaison Of-
ficer to the Armed Forces) Liaison officer with Army, Navy, and Airforce was Standf. von Holsbrinck. His contacts were exclusively through the Personnel offices of the services. In view of the comparatively late expansion of the Waffen-SS, a considerable number of officers of the Allgemeine SS, had been absorbed into the three services. The PHA had no powers to demand their return, but had to approach the respective services with a request for the release of the man concerned. This was carried out by the Verbindungsoffizier.

h. Hauptamt SS-Gericht (SS Legal Main Office) address:

Munich 33, Karlstrasse 10 Evacuated to Prien am

Chiemsee - 35 miles SE of Munich - The Chief of

the Hauptamt SS Gericht was SS Obergruppenfuhrer Franz

Breithaupt. The SS Legal Main Office (Hauptamt SS Gericht)

which was in existence several years before the outbreak of

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war. When its new powers were conferred upon it the SS Gericht was elevated to the status of an SS Hauptamt and given its present title. The Hauptamt SS Gericht was intended to deal with questions of discipline with complaints, and with matters concerning the "personal honor" of SS members, but its powers were steadily expanded until it came to have complete jurisdiction over the SS, including the Waffen SS, and the Police. By decrees of 17 October 1939 and 17 April 1940 the leadership of the Allgemeine SS and Waffen SS was exempted from the military jurisdiction of the German Army, and SS courts composed of SS men with SS prosecutors were established. ^{1/}

There were a few exceptions to the general practice of submitting SS personnel to independent SS legal jurisdiction. By an agreement between the RfSS and the Wehrmacht a regulation was published in 1940 which made individual members of the SS and Police subject to Armed Forces jurisdiction in specific instances. The Wehrmacht was to exercise jurisdiction over members of the SS and Police if, as reservists liable to military service, they had committed an offence against military law or if they had been actually inducted. Finally, if they were attached

^{1/} Decree of 17 October 1939 (Reichsgesetzblatt, Part I, p. 2107) Decree of 17 April 1940 (Reichsgesetzblatt, Part I, p. 659).

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to a unit of the Armed Forces, the Wehrmacht had authority over them in matters concerning their tactical employment for and during operations. It did not, however, exercise legal control over general administrative or personnel matters.

Amt I Rechtsamt (Legal Administration) Chief of this office was SS-Oberführer " " Gunther Reinecke. The office dealt with general legal and juridical questions; with the organization and administration of SS courts and SS legal personnel; and with special legal research. The department is believed to have been divided into the following sections:

- A. Recht und Rechtspflege (Legal Administration)
- C. Verwaltung (General Administration)
- D. Personal (Personnel)

Amt II Disziplinar und Beschwerdewesen (Disciplinary Matters, Complaints, and Appeals) Chief of this office was SS Obersturmbannführer " " Eberhardt Hinderfeld. This office dealt with general matters connected with disciplinary offences and complaints forwarded through disciplinary channels. It was also the department for all matters relating to the SS code of honor and cases arising from it.

Amt III Gnadenwesen, Strafvollstreckung, Strafvollzug (Pardons, Reprieves, Enforcement and Execution of Sentences) Chief of this office was SS-Obersburunbannführer " " Gunther Burmeister. This office dealt with the general executive

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action taken after the sentence of the court was pronounced, i.e., with details of imprisonment; postponement or change of sentence; commitment to prison, punishment camps, or special rehabilitation units; pardons, reprieves, and remissions of sentence.

Amt IV Inspektion (Inspectorate) Chief of this office was SS Obersturmbannführer Hans Brausse. This office supervised the general work of the SS courts and scrutinised all individual cases that came before SS Hauptamt Gericht for final adjudication. In addition, it was responsible for the instruction and training of SS legal officers.

1. Hauptamt Ordnungspolizei (Main Office of Order Police) Address: Berlin. Head of the Hauptamt prior to 1943, was SS-Oberstgruppenführer Kurt Daluge; he was replaced in 1943 by SS-Obergruppenführer Alfred Wunnenberg. However, Daluge remained nominal Chief of the Hauptamt Orpo, while Wunnenberg was called Chef der Ordnungspolizei m.d.F.b. (mit der Führung beauftragt, i.e., Acting Chief). The Hauptamt Ordnungspolizei was not one of the regular main offices of the Supreme Command of the SS, but was generally listed as being under the general control of the RF-SS. Actually, it operated as a department in the Reich Ministry of the Interior

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All Police activities concerned with the maintenance of order and the protection of public safety were combined in the Ordnungspolizei (OrPo-Order Police) which constituted more of a para-military force than an organization of public servants. There were two categories of OrPo: 1) the Polizeivollzugsbeamte (Regular Uniformed Police, literally Police Executive Officials) who maintained order, directed traffic, protected public safety, etc., and 2) the Verwaltungspolizei (Administrative Police) who did the administrative work.

The Hauptamt Ordnungspolizei was divided into seven " Ämter - three major offices and four lesser bureaus:

- I. Das Kommandoamt (High Command or Operational Headquarters of the Regular Police) Head of this office was SS-Brigf. Flade. This office dealt with employment and other personnel problems, as well as with medical and hygienic services. It was responsible for training and supply.
- II. Das Amt Verwaltung und Recht (Office of Administration and Judicial Matters) Head of this office was SS-Grub. Bracht. This office

originally handled all budget, legal, and administrative affairs. Due to the increase of the burden placed on this office during the war, some of its functions were handed over to Amt III.

III. Das Wirtschaftsverwaltungsamt (Office for the Administration of Budget and Supply) Head of this office was SS-Ogruf. August Frank. Amt III was added to the Hauptamt OrPo some time in 1943 to deal with some of the extra work brought about by the war in the field of problems of administration and supply. It cooperated closely with the WVHA.

IV. Das Amt Technische Nothilfe (Bureau of the Technical Emergency Corps) Head: SS Gruf. Willy Schmelcher.

V. Das Amt Feuerwehren (Bureau of Fire Brigades) Head: Gennay der Polizei: Schnell

VI. Das Kolonial polizeiamt (Bureau of Colonial Police) Head until middle 1944): SS-Ogruf. Karl von Pfeffer-Wildenbruch.

VII. Das Amt Technische SS und Polizeiakademie (Bureau of the Technical SS and Police Academy). Head: SS-Brigf. H Gerloff.

In addition to these seven main bureaus, the Hauptamt OrPo also included the following Inspectors who supervised the activities of the OrPo and were directly responsible to its head:

Der General-Inspekteur der Schutzpolizei des Reiches (Inspector General of the Reich Protection Police)

Der General-Inspekteur der Polizeischulen (Inspector General of Police Schools)

Der General-Inspekteur der Feuerschutzpolizei und Feuerwehren (Inspector General of the Fire Protection Police and of the Fire Brigades)

Der General-Inspekteur für das Sanitätswesen (Inspector General of Police Medical Services)

Der Inspekteur für das Nachrichtenwesen (Inspector of Signals)

Der Inspekteur für Weltanschauliche Schulung (Inspector for Ideological Indoctrination)

Der Inspekteur der Wasserschutzpolizei (Inspector of the Waterways Protection Police)

Finally, the following technical Inspectorates existed:

Inspektion für das Kraftfahr- und Verkehrswesen (In K - Inspectorate of M/T and Traffic Control)

Inspektion für Waffen und Geräte (In W.G - Inspectorate of Arms and Equipment)

Inspektion für die Luftschutzpolizei und den Luftschutzeinsatz (In L - Inspectorate of Air Raid Protection and Air Raid Protection Police)

Inspektion für das Veterinarwesen (In Vet- Inspectorate of Police Veterinary Services)

There were, further, a number of institutions and schools under the direct administration and supervision of the Hauptamt OrPo. These included hospitals, officers schools, research institutes, and general training schools for the police.

j. Dienststelle SS-Obergruppenführer["] Heissmeyer (Bureau SS-Obergruppenführer August Heissmeyer) Chief of this office was SS-Obergruppenführer August Heissmeyer. This office, attached to Heissmeyer's Superior S S and Police Command in Berlin, was responsible for the supervision of the Nationalpolitische Erziehungsanstalten ("Napolis") 1/ and the Heimschulen (German Folk Schools). Both types of schools were financed by the Government and were designed to train run-of-the-mill Party leaders. Candidates of higher caliber were trained at the Adolf Hitler Schulen and the Orden-sburgen.

The first Napolis were established in 1933 to take the place of former military schools for commissioned officers; by the end of the war thirty-four schools of this type were functioning. Their specific aim was to train a corps of reliable commissioned officers and non-coms

1/ According to a recent report, Genlt. d. Pol Kurt Göhrum is believed to have replaced Heissmeyer as Inspector-General for Napoli and the Heimschulen in the latter half of 1944 (OSS CID 119740)

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for "leading and directing the large mass of folk comrades." In 1941 Heissmeyer's office was put in exclusive charge of them; the increase in SS influence was marked.

Political reliability rather than professional competence was the criterion in selection of the teaching staff. Most of the schoolmasters were SS leaders, and even the head of the schools did not have to be a teacher or have a degree in education. The curriculum was like that of an ordinary secondary school, with sports being stressed most. Graduates of the Napolis who were permitted to select any career they desired, chose military careers.

[The Napoli at Rottweil, indeed, is reported to have been given the task of setting up the Werewolf organization]

During the war the Napolis were supplemented by the Heimschulen. These were supervised directly by officials, responsible to Heissmeyer, in the offices of the Gauleiter and Reichstatthalter. The Heimschulen provided both elementary and high school education. They were intended primarily for the education of the "children of front soldiers, men killed in action, armament workers, political workers and evacuated families, with special emphasis on those active in the Eastern territories." Most of them were located in the border territories of the Reich and in annexed or occupied territories. One of their functions was apparently to re-Germanize "Racial German"

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children.

Stabshauptamt Des Reichskommissars Für die
Festigung Deutschen Volkstums (Staff HQ of the Reich
Commissioner or the Consolidation of German Folkdom)
Former address: Berlin - Halensee and Dahlem

This agency was under the personal direction of
Himmler in his position as Reichsführer-SS and as Reich-
kommissar für die Festigung des deutschen Volkstums. His
chief of staff was Obergruppenführer Ulrich Greifelt, whose
deputy was Brigadeführer Creutz.

The agency was established in October 1939, after
the conquest of Poland, with the object of settling the
General Government with Germans and in general carrying out
the Germanization of this area.

Regionally and on lower levels, this agency was
closely coordinated with the regional set-up of the Sipo
and SD with the higher SS and Police Leader (HSSPL) serv-
ing as the regional representative of the agency.

The following bureaus and sections included within
its organization: Siedlungsamt (Office for Settlement and
Resettlement) under SS-Sturmbannführer Dr. Stier.

Amt Personal Abteilung (Office for Personnel) under
SS-Obersturmführer Graf.

Amt Registratur (Registrar) under SS-Obersturm-
führer Schuh. This office files all Volksdeutsche (ethnic

Germans) qualified for resettlement.

Amt Geheimregistraur (Secret Registrar) This office maintained secret files and indexes.

Amt Bauten (Office for Building) Under SS-Sturm**"**bannführer Noel. This office dealt with housing projects.

Planung und Zentralbodenamt (Office for Planning and Central Soil Allotment) under SS-Oberführer**"**Konrad Meyer This office planned the allotment of soil and land in Eastern occupied territories. It was described in an interrogation of Obergruppenführer Sepp Dietrich as one of Hitler's key offices, and as one source of his personal enrichment.

Amt Finanz (Finance Office) under SS-Oberführer**"**Schwarzenberger.

Amt Landwirtschaft (Office for Agriculture), under SS-Obersturmbannführer**"**Ferdinand Hiege.

Abteilung Wiedergutmachung (Section for Compensation).

Rechtsabteilung (Section for Legal Matters) under SS-Hauptsturmführer**"**Dr. Wirsich.

Südtiroler Kartel (Files for South Tyrol). Possibly a sub-division of one of the above offices.

Sonderreferat Italien (Special Subsection for Italy) under Oberregierungsrat Schumeier.

1. SS-Hauptamt Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle, Chief of the Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle was SS-Obergruppenführer Herner Lorenz. The Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle (VOMI) was founded in January 1937. Its early history and functions are obscure. Listed as an SS Hauptamt within the Reichsführung-SS, VOMI was also part of the office of the Reichskommissar für die Festigung des deutschen (Reich Commissioner for the Consolidation of German Folkdom)

VOMI was organized as follows:^{1/}

Chief office: Berlin W 35, Am Karlsbad 20

Chief: SS Obergruppenführer Werner Lorenz, General der Waffen SS, M. d. R.

Deputy of the Chief and Chief of Staff: SS Brigadeführer Dr. Behrends, later: SS Oberführer Ellermeier

Press and Political Department: SS Obersturmbannführer Riemann

Finance Department: Heim Lohl

Personnel Department: SS Obersturmbannführer Radunski

Economic Department: Lothar Heller

Library and Archives: SS Sturmführer Dr. Luig

Repatriation and Man power Department:

SS Hauptsturmführer Klingsporn

Representative of VDA: SS Sturmbannführer Dr. Puls

Liaison Officer with HJ: unknown

Head of Frauenschaften: unknown

VOMI had also a number of regional offices

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VOMI's main functions, according to its chief were: 1/

- "a) to look after the interests of all people of German descent living abroad;
- "b) to encourage and carry out the repatriation of people of German descent from certain areas." 2/

VOMI concerned itself chiefly with persons of German descent in Central and Eastern Europe who were not German citizens. Again, according to Lorenz, Vomi carried on the following activities:

a. Vomi gave economic support to German minorities abroad by supplying individual Germans with capital, land or equipment, organizing cooperatives, founding banks, etc.

b. Vomi cared for the welfare of individuals or groups within the emigration - facilitating travel of Germans to Spas, establishing maternity homes, founding NS Frauenschaften and HJ groups (with substantial subsidies) building German hospitals, etc.

c. Vomi tried to influence persons of non-German descent - admitting them to German maternity homes and

1/ The name is probably best translated as Central Agency for Ethnic Germans. Whether it grew out of the Mittelstelle fur Auslandsdeutsche Volksforschung which was founded in January 1937 by the Deutsch Akademie Munchen (Haushofer) and the Deutsche Auslandsinstitut cannot be determined with assurance.

2/ Based on the interrogation of Werner Lorenz, 26 June 1945, OSS CID XL 11920.

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hospitals, inviting foreign doctors to Germany, and running camps for non-German workers in Germany.

d. During the War, Vomi was the chief Reich agency carrying out large scale repatriation measures. By July 1944 it had handled over 900,000 persons for resettlement. VOMI had field offices for this purpose. Although it was not the only organization charged with resettlement, it was probably the most important operating agency of the Reich in this field. For this purpose VOMI undoubtedly helped to build up a file of all ethnic Germans living abroad which was kept in the office of the Reich Commissioner for the consolidation of Germanism.

Vomi's relation to the Umsiedlungsamts (Resettlement Office) which was also under Werner Lorenz but which was part of the SS Rasse- und Siedlungshauptamt, is not entirely clear. It is possible that VOMI acted as the executive branch of the latter in its resettlement activities. For purposes of resettlement VOMI controlled a 'private' company, the Deutsche Umsiedlungsgesellschaft (German Resettlement Company)

e. Vomi had a definite say in the supervision of German minorities abroad, a function which it probably shared with the Volksbund für das Deutschtum im Ausland (VDA - Folk League for Germanism Abroad)¹ Vomi paid subsidies

¹/ See discussion of Volksgruppen in VDA section of this Appendix.

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to leaders of German minorities and seems to have contributed substantially to their Nazification. A liaison office of VDA was represented on the administration of Vomi, and, conversely, various leaders of German minorities were Vomi agents. 2/

As a sideline, Vomi reportedly engaged in black market operations. In this connection, it is said to have collected loot, e.g., liquor, in occupied countries, transported it in truck convoys, and either used it to reward persons helping the SS or sold it on the black market. 3/

Aside from its official activities, Vomi undoubtedly carried on subversive work in line with the political objectives of the Reich. Lorenz himself stated that the work could not always be done openly, adding that Vomi's activities were not permitted in Italy, Slovenia, Albania, and Switzerland. In many instances, Vomi operated through cover agencies such as native banks. Its welfare work, in particular, is believed to have served as effective camouflage.

2/ OSS CID XL 11920

3/ Joel Sayre, "Letter from Berlin" 23 July 1945, The New Yorker, 4 August 1945.

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B. The SA (Sturmabteilung)

1. Origin and Development. The SA (Sturmabteilung, Storm Troop) was a formation (Gliederung) of the NSDAP.¹ Its nuclei were the so-called Ordnungstruppen (order-maintenance troops), formed by the Nazis in 1921 in order to "protect" their leaders, meetings, and demonstrations. In 1921, after a violent battle between the Ordnungstruppen and anti-Nazis at a rally in Munich, Hitler gave these troops the name Sturmabteilung (SA). From then on, the SA developed into the principal terroristic mass organization of the NSDAP, a function which it maintained until 1934, after which it was gradually overshadowed by the SS.

The SA bore the brunt of the first mass demonstrations of the NSDAP during the years 1922 and 1923; together with the Vaterländische Verbände (a Free Corps), the SA demonstrated against the Law for the Protection of the Republic in Munich in August 1922 and participated in the stormy nationalistic-militaristic Deutsche Tag (German Day) in Coburg in October 1922.²

In 1923, after the occupation of the Ruhr by the French, the SA was reorganized into a Wehrverband (military league) and mobilized for the active fight against the "foreign invaders."³ As such, the SA joined the Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Vaterländischen Kampfverbände

1. Hitler, Mein Kampf, Chapter IX; Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, ed. Der Reichsorganisationsleiter der NSDAP, München 1940, p. 358 ff.; Handbuch der SA, ed. with the permission of the Supreme SA Command, Berlin 1939, p. 13; Daten der Geschichte der NSDAP, ed. Hans Volz, Berlin 1939.
2. Ernst Bayer, Die SA., ed. on commission of the Supreme SA Command, Berlin 1938, p. 9.
3. Ibid.

(Association of Patriotic Leagues), a peak organization of para-military nationalistic and anti-democratic organizations.¹ In March 1923, Hermann Göring took over the command of the entire SA.² In May of the same year, the SA, now armed, demonstrated in Munich together with other para-military organizations,³ later it participated in the unsuccessful Hitler putsch of November.

As a consequence of the putsch, the NSDAP and its formations were prohibited, but the SA "continued to exist illegally."⁴ In 1925, after Hitler's return from prison, the NSDAP was reorganized and with it the SA. The latter was officially stripped of its military functions and established as a "party organization for the protection of rallies and for propaganda."⁵ In 1926, with the dissolution of the Free Corps, the SA was greatly enlarged through the entrance of the members of the various Free Corps Rossbach.⁶ In the same year, the Supreme SA Command was created in Munich, and Hitler appointed the NSDAP Gauleiter and former Free Corps leader, Franz von Pfeffer, Supreme SA Leader. The SS (founded in 1925) and the Hitler Youth (founded in 1926) were subordinated to the Supreme Command of the SA.⁸

1. Ibid., p. 9.

2. Ibid., p. 9 f.

3. Ibid., p. 10.

4. Ibid.

5. Ibid.

6. Ibid., p. 11.

7. Ibid., p. 12.

8. Daten der Geschichte der NSDAP, loc. cit., p. 96.

The SA was then centrally organized into Groups, Brigades, Standards, Troops, and Storms, -- an organization basically maintained until the breakdown of the Nazi regime. In 1930, after a brief revolt of the radical elements in the SA,¹ Pfeffer was retired from the leadership and Hitler made himself Supreme Leader of the SA; Ernst Röhm was appointed Chief of Staff of the SA, a position which he held until his assassination in 1934. The SA was enlarged by the formation of the SA Reserve (for Party members over forty years of age) in 1929, and of the SA Motor Troop in 1930. In 1931, Hitler opened the first School for Reich Leaders of the SA and SS in Munich.

In the years just prior to Hitler's ascent to power, the terroristic activities of the SA reached a new high, culminating in the brutal murder of Potempa in the Summer of 1932.² Under pressure by the leftist parties, the SA was again prohibited for the entire Reich territory in April 1932, but the government of von Papen lifted the ban as early as June 1932.

With the seizure of power in 1933, the SA became the mass instrument for the open Nazi terror against political, racial, and ideological opponents of the regime.³ As such, the SA played a prominent part in the arrests and persecutions, the assaults and property seizures, and the pogroms and arsons which took place during

1. See 3, b, below.

2. See "The Attitude of the Nazi Party Toward Political Terror," R&A Report No. 3114.1.

3. See "Crimes Committed in Violation of Domestic German Law," R&A Report No. 3114.2.

the first years of the Nazi regime. In February 1933, Göring, as Prussian Prime Minister, issued an order incorporating members of the SA into the Prussian police as an "auxiliary police force," and the SA was placed in charge of the concentration camps then in existence. For example, the concentration camp Oranienburg was officially designated as Konzentrationslager Oranienburg der SA Standarte 208, with SA Sturmabführer Schaefer in command.¹ After the purge of 1934, the SA gradually relinquished this function to the SS.

In June 1933, the Stahlhelm, the para-military organization affiliated with the rightist German National People's Party, was incorporated into the SA.² The SA was now at the peak of its power: it had fulfilled its function as "the Guard of the National Revolution" which had "carried this revolution to victory."³

Its now legalized supreme authority found expression in the Law for Safeguarding the Unity of Party and State, according to which the Chief of Staff of the SA entered the Reich Government as a Minister, in order to "secure the closest cooperation between the Party and SA authorities on the one hand and the public authorities on the other."⁴

1. SA Sturmabführer Schaefer: Das Anti-Braunbuch über das erste deutsche Konzentrationslager, "Konzentrationslager Oranienburg."
2. Bayer, Die SA, loc. cit., p. 15.
3. Hitler, speech at Kiel, 7 May 1933 (quoted in The Speeches of Adolf Hitler, ed. N. H. Baynes, London-New York, 1942, p. 181).
4. Reichsgesetzblatt 1933, I, p. 1016.

The turning point in the history of the SA came with the so-called Röhm purge of June 1934.¹ This elimination of the SA leadership signalized the decline of the SA, which influential conservative circles (particularly in the Wehrmacht and among the industrial leadership) regarded as the spearhead of "brown bolshevism." Its terroristic functions were taken over by the SS. The SA, nevertheless, remained one of the most important organizations for ideological, political, and physical training "in the spirit of National Socialism."

As a consequence of the purge, the SA was subjected to a thorough reorganization. Ernst Röhm was succeeded in the leadership of the SA by Victor Lutze, who held this position until his death in May 1943. The ten highest SA Groups (SA Obergruppen) were dissolved, and many SA Group Leaders replaced by new persons. The SS, until then subordinated to the Supreme SA Command, was made an independent organization² (the Hitler Youth had been separated from the SA in 1932³). The SA Motor Troop was likewise separated from the SA and incorporated into the National Socialist Motor Corps (NSKK).⁴

Beginning in 1939, the SA gained new importance by reason of the fact that it was charged with the pre-military training of the German youth. The Hitler Decree of 19 January 1939 made the SA "the bearer of the pre- and after- military training (vor- und nach-militärische Wehrerziehung)"⁵ The same decree ordered all soldiers honorably

1. See "Criminal Responsibilities in Connection with the Purge of 1934," R&A Report No. 3113.1.
2. Daten der Geschichte der NSDAP, loc. cit., p. 101 ff.
3. Ibid., p. 107.
4. Ibid., p. 102.
5. Reprinted in Handbuch der SA loc. cit., frontispice.-Heeresverordblatt, vol. 21, no. 61.

discharged from active service to enter so-called Wehrmannschaften (Defense Units) and to affiliate (angegliedern) with the SA. Organization and training of these units was carried out in co-operation with the Wehrmacht.¹

These Wehrmannschaften apparently formed the nuclei for the full-fledged revival of the SA which took place during the years 1943-1944, after the appointment of Wilhelm Schepmann as successor to Lutze. The Wehrmannschaften were called up throughout the territory of the Greater German Reich and were made, together with the numerous auxiliary Nazi police organizations, the chief instruments for maintaining the morale of the home front,² and the core of the Nazi Volkssturm.³

2. Membership and Strength. Membership in the SA was voluntary until 19 January 1939. "Membership in the SA is voluntary."⁴ The SA constitutes the "voluntary political soldierdom" of the Nazi movement. The voluntary character of SA service is greatly emphasized by official Nazi sources. Thus, the Organisationsbuch der NSDAP says:⁵

"Service in the SA is and remains voluntary. Propaganda (Werbung) for entrance into the SA shall neither promise advantages nor exercise pressure of any kind. The SA man shall have the possibility to leave the SA if he no longer feels in agreement with the line of the SA, or if he is no longer capable of discharging fully the duties imposed upon him through his membership in the SA."

1. Ibid.
2. See for example Kieler Zeitung 29/30 May 1943; Marburger Zeitung 21 June 1943; Essener Nationalzeitung 8 December 1943.
3. See 3, c, below.
4. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, loc. cit., p. 358, 365.
5. Ibid., p. 367.

Eligible for membership were persons fulfilling the following qualifications:¹

"blameless character" and willingness to devote oneself completely to the ideas of the Führer and the tasks of the SA; Aryan descent; Worthiness of membership in the NSDAP; Physical ability.

Volunteers were to report to the leader of their local SA Storm with the "voluntary declaration of their wish to enter the SA."² A special commission decided on the application after thorough ideological, racial, and political investigation.

Reliable figures on the strength of the SA are scarce. According to official Nazi sources, the SA had eleven "bands of 100" (Hundertschaften) in 1922;³ by 1930 the membership probably exceeded one hundred thousand. Hitler spoke of "half a million SA men" in 1934.⁴ The official Party statistics give the figure of 3,543,099 for 1 January 1935, after the Rohm purge.⁵ Of the membership 28.3 percent were members of the NSDAP. Reliable figures for the later years are not available, but the Decree of 19 January 1939, quoted above, made membership in the SA compulsory for soldiers discharged from active service.

3. Chief Functions and Activities. In describing the functions and activities of the SA, three periods must be distinguished, corresponding to the three main periods in the development of the SA

1. Ibid., p. 365.

2. Ibid.

3. Bayer, Die SA., loc. cit., p. 9.

4. Das Braune Heer. 100 Bilddokumente. Berlin 1934, p. XIII.

5. NSDAP Partei Statistik 1935, ed. Der Reichsorganisationsleiter der NSDAP, vol III, p. 70.

described in section 1. They are: a. 1921-1934: the SA as the chief terroristic Nazi organization; b. 1934-1939: the SA as a political and ideological training corps; c. 1939-1944: the SA as a para-military and police organization.

a. 1921-1934. Nazi sources emphasize the character of the SA as an absolutely reliable volunteer corps of militant fighters, resolved to carry out the war for the "conquest of the street" openly, as a mass organization, and with unconditional loyalty to the principles and aims of the NSDAP. In outlining the principles for the organization of the SA, Hitler stated that the work of the SA

"has to be done, not in secret conventicles, but in enormous mass demonstrations, and ... by the conquest of the street,"

and that this work required

"a hundred thousand and again a hundred thousand fanatical fighters for our view of life."¹

The very size of the SA as a militant mass organization prevented it from remaining a secret association, and the mass organization of the SA meant that

"the fight against the State of today was taken out of the atmosphere of small actions of revenge and plotting and was lifted up to the greatness of a weltanschauliche war of destruction against Marxism and its creatures."²

The emphasis on the "conquest of the street" indicates the real function of the SA during this period: it was a disciplined corps of fanatical Nazi fighters, organized for terrorizing the opposition and

1. Hitler, Mein Kampf, chapter XI (Houghton Mifflin edition p. 798).

2. Ibid., p. 803.

chasing it from the streets. The official SA historian admitted this aim:

"Possession of the street is the key to the State power -- the SA marched and fought for this (goal)."¹

The Horst Wessel Song

"Clear the streets for the Brown Battalions...."²

epitomized the terroristic function of the SA.

This terroristic function was carried out first of all by strictly organized, uniformed, and partly armed contingents, varying in strength from a hundred to many thousands. Such contingents attended the Nazi rallies and demonstrations and engaged the opposing democratic and anti-Nazi forces in regular battles.² The first battles were described by Hitler himself in chapter XI of Mein Kampf. With the growing strength of the Nazi movement, the SA carried its activities into the workers' districts of the large cities and undertook assaults on newspaper offices, workers' houses, and on the residences of particularly hated political opponents. In almost all these cases, the SA justified its activities by explaining them as counter-measures against "Red" provocations.³

The second chief form of SA activity was assault on political opponents by small groups -- assaults which often resulted in actual murders. In brief, the tradition of political assassination initiated by the Free Corps was continued by the SA, many of whose leaders, indeed,

1. Bayer, Die SA, loc. cit., p. 11.

2. For a Nazi description of these activities, which belonged to the almost daily occurrences under the Weimar Republic, see for example Wulf Bley, SA marschiert, Stuttgart 1933 (with numerous photos); Joseph Goebbels, Kampf um Berlin, and Vom Kaiserhof zur Reichskanzlei, Berlin 1937.

3. See for example Heinz Lohmann, SA räumt auf, Hamburg 1933.

were former Free Corps members.¹

With the ascent of the Nazi government to power, the terroristic activity of the SA was partly legalized through the incorporation of SA men into the auxiliary police force.² It was after this, between February 1933 and June 1934, that the terroristic activity of the SA achieved its most brutal and broad expression -- the pursuit, arrest, torture, and internment of political, racial, and religious opponents, the "liquidation" of uncounted anti-Nazis, the seizure of property, the occupation of trade union and labor buildings.³ The boycott and the pogroms against the Jews, too, were in most cases instigated, carried out, and supervised by the SA.⁴ During the same period, the SA -- as mentioned above -- was in charge of such concentration camps as had been established. It thus shares responsibility for the crimes committed in these camps.

b. 1934-1939. During this period, beginning with the Rohm purge, the SA receded into the background. The purge and its aftermath eliminated the "radical" elements in the SA, which had been characteristic of the first "revolutionary" period of the movement. It is not surprising that the SA, organized on a mass basis and recruited chiefly from the lower strata of the city population, which had been severely hit by the post-war crises, included many elements

1. This part of SA activity is discussed in "The Attitude of the Nazi Party Toward Political Terror," R&A Report No. 3114.1.
2. See the Decree Quoted above, section 1.
3. Much of the material is collected in the Brown Book on the Hitler Terror, London 1934.
4. See "The Criminal Conspiracy Against the Jews," R&A Report No. 3114.3. Numerous photos have been published in the German and other foreign press showing the participation of the SA in anti-Jewish activities.

took seriously the term "socialist" in the National Socialist Party title and believed in the revolutionary character and aim of the Hitler movement. (Even prior to the seizure of power, In 1930-1931,) these elements in the Berlin SA had revolted against the growing "bureaucratization" of the NSDAP and against the "bourgeois" tendencies of its leadership.¹ Otto Strasser (who separated from the NSDAP in 1930), Walter Stennes (leader of the Berlin SA, who ~~sent~~^{went} to China around 1935), and the former Supreme Commander of the SA, Franz Pfeffer, were the chief exponents of the radical tendencies in the SA. Although the early revolt was quelled, the Nazi leadership and its conservative supporters among business and the Wehrmacht remained apprehensive of the danger of SA radicalism. Not until the Röhm purge of 1934 was this danger removed once and for all and the SA made an obedient instrument in the hands of the now firmly consolidated and bureaucratized Nazi leadership.

This change was accompanied by a decline in the functions of the SA. The SA during this period became what the official Nazi handbooks describe it to have been from the beginning: chiefly an organization for ideological, political, pre-military, and physical training in the spirit of Nazism.

"In the SA, the ^{young} ~~young~~ German... is being strengthened ideologically and in his character, and trained to be the bearer of National Socialist philosophy and ideas. Moreover, it is the task of the SA to promote the military spirit (Wehrgeist) through the practicing of soldierly virtues ... and to prepare the individual

1. See especially Otto Strasser, Ministersessel oder Revolution? Berlin 1930, and his later writings.

for service in the Wehrmacht.¹

"Moreover, the SA has the task of training its units for their utilization (Einsatz) as a domestic-political fighting corps and for practical service to people and state."²

The SA remained an organization subordinated immediately to Hitler; the Chief of Staff of the SA acted as deputy of the Führer.³ This arrangement indicates that the Nazi leadership continued to regard the SA as an instrument of supreme importance for the movement: unconditional loyalty to the Führer and unquestionable obedience to the principles and policies of the NSDAP remained the chief duties of every SA man.⁴

The official Handbuch der SA, which was published in 1938, is almost exclusively filled with detailed prescriptions for physical, athletic, and pre-military training. In addition to these activities, the SA was widely used for the numerous collections carried out by the Nazi regime among the population (Winter Relief Work, clothing, scrap, paper, and other collections).

c. 1939-1944. With the Führer Decree of 19 January 1939,⁵ concentrating in the SA all pre-military and post-military training and incorporating into the SA Wehrmannschaften soldiers discharged from active service, the SA entered a period of late revival.

In the course of the war, the function of pre- and post-military training naturally assumed greater significance. However, this training was only partly designed for purely military purposes. The development

1. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, loc. cit., p. 358.

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid., p. 358 ff.

4. See Handbuch der SA, loc. cit., pp. 17-18, 63-75.

5. See sec. 1, above.

of the SA Wehrmannschaften, their use, and their affiliation with the numerous auxiliary police organizations which the Nazis established during the last years of the regime (City Guards, Rural Guards, Factory Guards, etc.) suggests that the resurrection of the SA was primarily designed for strengthening Nazi controls over the home front. The concerted ubiquitous propaganda to and for the SA, which began in 1943, emphasized strongly the morale function of the SA on the home front.¹

The Volkssturm, founded by decree of 18 October 1944² as the last Nazi measure for the mobilization of the civilian population for the fight in the homeland, drew heavily from the SA in organization as well as personnel. Wilhelm Schepmann, the Chief of Staff of the SA was appointed Inspector for Arms Instruction, and the sub-leaders of the Volkssturm were furnished chiefly by the SA, SS, and NSKK.³

Special emphasis must be placed on the fact that the SA was introduced and used also in German-occupied territories. Here, they worked in or with the other police and terror organizations of the German administration, chiefly in combatting partisans and other anti-Nazi groups. In Poland, for example, in 1942, a branch of the SA was⁴ officially organized and new recruits were sworn in as late as March 1944.⁵ During the same year, SA rallies took place also in Czechoslovakia.⁶

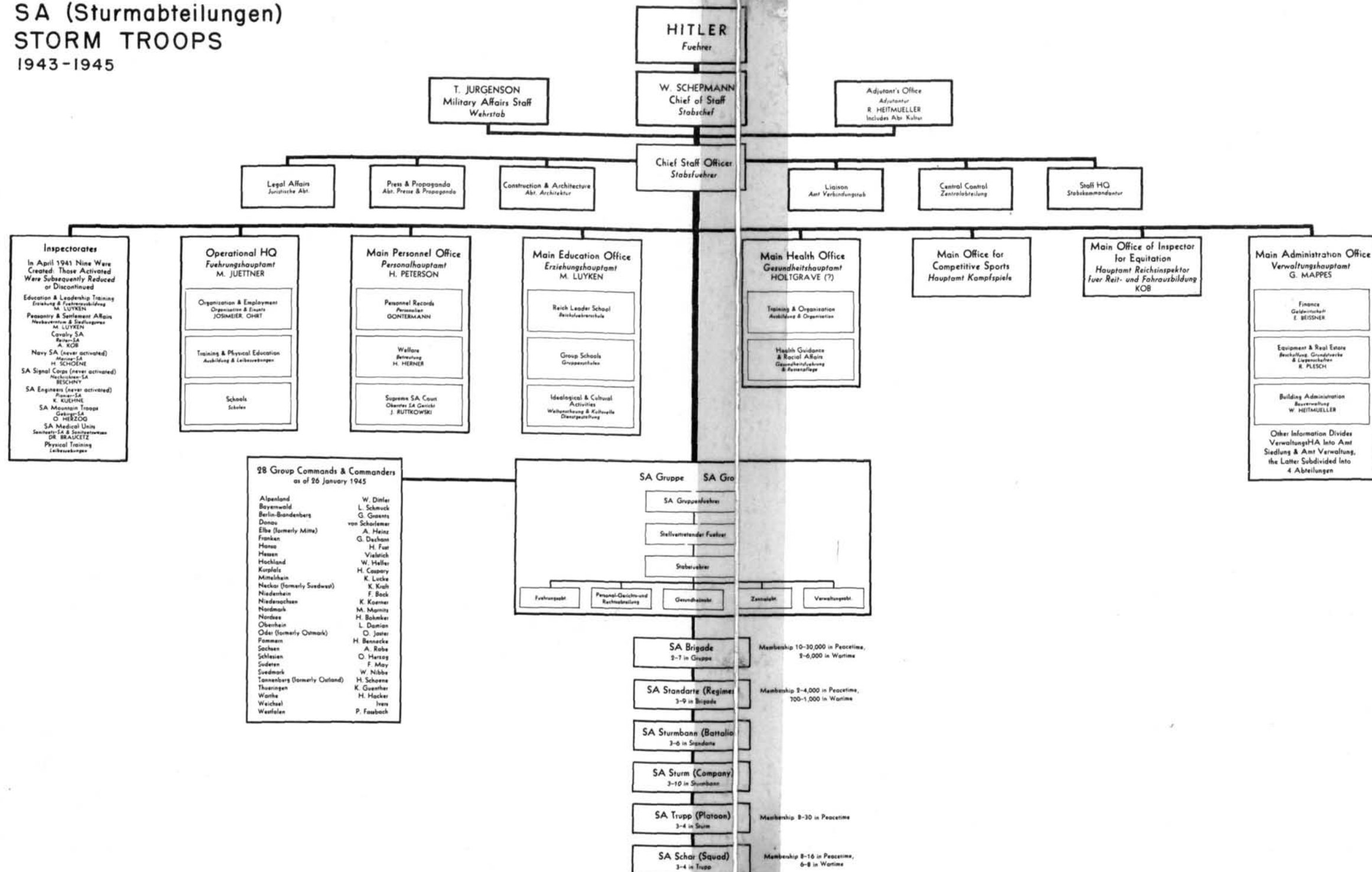
1. The German newspapers during this period are full of reports on this propaganda campaign.
2. Transocean, 18 October 1944.
3. Ibid. See Situation Report: Central Europe, 21 October 1944. Ref: 1113.62
4. Verordnungsblatt für das Generalgouvernement, vol. 16, 1942, p. 187.
5. Government General Home Service, 20 March 1944.
6. Der Neue Tag, 20 June 1944.

The SA is also reported to have participated widely in the functions and activities of the German frontier and customs guards.¹

4. Organization. The organization of the SA is shown in the appended table.

1. See SHAEF Basic Handbook: The SA of the NSDAP, p. 7 f.

SA (Sturmabteilungen) STORM TROOPS 1943-1945



C. Hitler Jugend (Hitler Youth)

1. Definition. The Hitler Jugend (H.J.-Hitler Youth) was a formation of the National Socialist Party which exercised control over all German youth. It was originally a volunteer activity; soon after the Nazis' advent to power, it became the state-sponsored organization for youth, although membership still remained voluntary, but by 1939, HJ membership was made compulsory for all German youth.

2. Legal Basis. The first fundamental decree concerning¹ the Hitler Youth appeared on 1 December 1936. It provided that all German youth within the Reich territory were to be organized in the HJ. The task of educating the Hitler Youth was entrusted to the Reichsjugendführer of the NSDAP, one of the Reichsleiter of the Party, who was henceforth called Youth Leader of the German Reich. His office was in Berlin, and he was responsible directly to the Führer.

This decree was amended by two decrees of 25 March² 1939 by which membership in the Hitler Youth was made obligatory for all boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 18. Youths with certain physical infirmities were exempted, while Jews were ineligible. The amendments also established four categories of membership within the Hitler Youth and specified certain penalties for any who attempted to evade service in the Hitler Youth. The categories of membership will be discussed below.

1. RGBl, I, 993

2. RGBl, I, 709

3. History. The Nazi youth movement was founded as early as 1922 as the so-called Jugendbund der NSDAP (Youth League of the Party). The name "Hitler Youth" was coined by Streicher in 1925. In 1926, it became a junior branch of the SA. In October 1931, Hitler appointed Baldur von Schirach, then leader of the National Socialist Students League, as Reich Youth Leader (Reichsjugendführer) of the NSDAP. On 13 May 1932, after it had been formed by the Reich government, the HJ severed connections with the SA. Its membership was then less than 100,000, far below that of other youth organizations.

On 17 June 1933 von Schirach was appointed Youth Leader of the Party for the German Reich and all other youth groups in Germany were put under his control. Despite the fact that German had strongly organized into a variety of organizations (by confession, political party, etc.), these youth organizations were either prohibited or gradually absorbed into the HJ. By 1 December 1934, the HJ was declared Staatsjugend (Government-sponsored Youth); by that time its total membership was six million.

The decree of 1 December 1936, although it established the Hitler Youth as the only legal youth organization in Germany, did not make HJ service obligatory for German youth. Membership remained voluntary. Although enormous pressure was exerted by the Party to induce German youth,

only seven out of a possible twelve million German boys had joined by 1939. Therefore the decree of 25 March 1939 which made membership compulsory was deemed necessary. At the same time, those youths who had volunteered before 1938 were organized separately into the so-called Stamm Hitler Jugend (Nuclear Hitler Youth); members of these units were considered by the Nazis as the elite of German youth. However, the attempt to set this group apart caused considerable confusion and was finally abandoned.

4. Functions of the Hitler Youth. The task of the Hitler Youth, according to the Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, was to "educate (einführen)¹ the entire German youth in the National Socialist ideology." By educating a whole new generation in this way of thinking, the Nazis hoped to lay the ideological foundations for perpetuation of the National Socialist state. Adolf Hitler constantly stressed in his speeches to the Hitler Youth--and with increased emphasis in the months before the defeat--that they were the future leaders of Germany and the guarantors of Germany's future. "In you Germany will live again and when we are no more than you must take up the banner, which we lifted² high out of nothingness, into your hands."

1. 1943 edition, p. 437

2. Hitler at the 1934 Parteitag of the NSDAP, quoted in Das Dritte Reich, 1934, p. 214

The training given in the Hitler Youth was of two types: political and physical. Political indoctrination was steadily provided at every level by trained leaders; physical training was of such a highly technical and thorough nature that it was, even before 1939, training for war. This training began at an early age, so that the HJ became the chief medium by which the Nazis were able to create millions of fanatical young Nazis. As many P/W interrogations have shown, a high proportion of Hitler Youth members were, by virtue of their training, thoroughly militaristic, jingoistic, and completely loyal to Adolf Hitler. Moreover, Hitler Youth leaders were designated to form part of the terroristic organizations (Werwolf) established for subversive activities after defeat. What the Nazis intended the Hitler Youth to be is revealed by the following remark made by Goering in a speech delivered 28 October 1935 at a meeting of the Party Leaders in Silesia. "In the borough, in the province, everywhere, the Party presents the candidates for authoritative positions and influential leaders. And first of all, the future leaders of Germany will issue¹ exclusively from the Hitler Youth."

5. Structure of the Hitler Youth. The designation "Hitler Youth" covered the four main branches of the

1. Quoted in Nazi Guide to Nazism, published by the American Council on Public Affairs, Washington, D.C. 1942.

organization: two for boys, and two for girls. Boys from 14 to 18 years were organized into the HJ proper. Boys from 10 to 14 years were trained in the Deutsches Jungvolk (DJ); Girls from 14 to 21 years were organized in the Bund Deutscher Mädel (BDM), and from 10 to 14 years in the Jungmadelbund. A sub-section for girls of 7 to 21 known as Glaube und Schönheit (Faith and Beauty) was founded in June 1938. Children from 6 to 10 were supervised in the children's groups of the NS-Frauenschaft and the Deutsches Frauenwerk.

Those boys and girls who completed their eighteenth year left the HJ and entered the other formations of the Party; they had their choice among the SA, SS, NSKK, and NSFK. A few of them were selected as members of the NSDAP itself.

6. Structure and Organization of the Reichsjugendführer.

The policy and administration of the Hitler Youth were determined by the Reichsjugendführung (Reich Youth Directorate - RJF) of the National Socialist Party. From October 1931 to 1940, Baldur von Schirach headed the Hitler Youth. From 10 August 1940 to German defeat, Arthur Axmann held the post of Reich Youth Leader (Reichsjugendführer).

According to the Organisationsbuch der NSDAP,¹ the Reichsjugendführung was divided into six special executive branches and six Hauptämter.

The executive branches were as follows:

Zentralamt - Central Office

Auslands-und Volkstumsamt - Office for Foreign Relations and Germanhood in charge of the foreign political work of the HJ, foreign youth of German extraction, Volksdeutsche, travel abroad, student exchange, etc.

Die BDM-Reichsreferentin - in charge of women's branch of the HJ

Erweiterte Kinderlandverschickung - Extended Evacuation of Children

Kriegsbetreuungsdienst - War Emergency Foster Care

Kommandeur der AH Schulen - Commander of the Adolf Hitler Schools. Within each Hauptamt, there were the following Ämter:

a. Hauptamt I

Personalamt - Personnel Office. Concerned with the selection of leaders, the Streifendienst (see below), and the supervision of criminal and political elements among the youth.

Organisationsamt - Organization Office

1. 1943 edition, pp. 445 et. seq.

Amt HJ-Gerichtsbarkeit - Office for Legal Affairs

HJ. Concerned with the punishment for evasions of HJ service.

Der Mobilisations Beauftragte der Reichsjugendführung

Delegate of the Reich Youth Directorate for Mobilization.

Arbeitsausschuss Langemarck - Langemarck Working

Committee, which took its name from a battle in the first World War in which volunteer German student formations took part.

b. Hauptamt II

Amt für Wehrrertüchtigung - Office for Military

Training. Supervised the training given in the special units of the HJ. (Navy HJ, Motor HJ, Air HJ, Communications HJ, Cavalry HJ, merchant marine HJ).

Amt für Leibesübungen - Office for Physical Training.

In charge of physical training, the Reichs Sport Academy of the HJ and BDM, and sport in foreign countries.

Amt für Führerausbildung und Schulen - Office for

Training of Leaders and Schools. Concerned with the Academy for Youth Leadership with training of leaders in the units, with the Reichsschulen and schools for leaders, technical schools, and with questions relevant to schools and universities.

c. Hauptamt III

Amt für Weltranschauliche Schulung - Office for Ideological Schooling. Concerned, among other things, with the Reich School for Ideological Training, racial political work among the youth, and schooling of units and leaders.

Kulturamt - Office for Culture

Presse - und Propagandaamt - In charge of the press in and outside of Germany, propaganda abroad, active propaganda, and the film.

Reichsinstitut for nationalsozialistische Jugendarbeit - Reich Institute for National Socialist Youth Work. Devoted to evaluating the work of youth and preparing a record of the achievement of the Hitler Youth. (These "war diaries" of the HJ would probably furnish useful evidence for use in the war crimes trials).

Reichsschrifttumstelle der Hitler Jugend - Reich Literary Office of the HJ. In charge of political literature, libraries, and the Reich youth library. (This latter institution might be a useful source of evidence for war crimes.)

d. Hauptamt IV

Soziales Amt - Office for Social Affairs. In charge

among other things, of laws affecting youth community work and youth duties, the Reichbann for the blind and deaf, the drafting of youth for the Winter Aid work, political-economic and social teaching work, and youth social work abroad.

Amt für Gesundheit der Hitler Jugend - Office for the Health of the HJ

Amt Bäuertum und Landdienst - Office for Peasantry and Rural Service. In charge of the farm work of the HJ, and vocational work among Hitler youth coming from farms, etc.

e. Hauptamt V

Bauamt - Construction Office. In Charge of construction of Hitler Youth buildings.

Amt für Heime und Herbergen - Office for Homes and Hostels.

f. Hauptamt VI

Der Reichskassenverwalter der Hitler Jugend - Reich Treasurer of the HJ. Also included the Office for Legal Administration, Economic Office, etc. The sections and sub-sections of the Ämter were respectively known as Hauptabteilungen and Abteilungen.

7. Organization of the Hitler Youth. The HJ in Greater Germany was organized into forty-three regions (Gebiete). Each Gebiet was headed by a Gebietsführer at the head of

the Gebietsführung (regional directorate), which, in turn, was organized into Hauptabteilungen. The functions of the latter sections generally corresponded to those of the Hauptämter of the Reichsjugendführung. The Gebietsführung carried out the policies established for the regions by the Reichsjugendführung.

The highest local authority on all matters concerning German youth was the HJ Standort (HJ Garrison) under the command of the Standortführer, frequently a Bannführer.

Below the Gebiet, the HJ was organized into the Bann (regiment), which were composed of 4 to 8 Stämme; the Stamm (Tribe) was composed of 3 to 5 Gefolgschaften; the Gefolgschaft (company) was composed of 4 Scharen; the Schar (platoon) was composed of 4 Kameradschaften, (Comradeship); each Kameradschaft was made up of approximately ten individuals.

From the top officials down through the Bannführer, HJ leaders were paid on a full-time basis. There were about 30,000 of these altogether. But even Scharführer and Gefolgschaftführer would receive pay in cases of unusual zeal.

8. Hitler Youth Activities. Even before the outbreak of the war, pre-military training was the most important work of the HJ. The oath which the little Pimpf (Cub) of

ten had to swear to the Führer on his acceptance into the Jungvolk, and which he repeated twice after, the second time when he was accepted into the Party or one of the Party formations, ran as follows:

"In the presence of this bloodflag which represents our Führer, I swear to devote all my energies, all my strength to the savior of our country, Adolf Hitler. I am willing and ready to give up my life for him, so help me God. One People, one Reich, one Führer." (Emphasis supplied)

Besides general military training from an early age (marching, drilling, map-reading, field exercises, shooting), special formations of German youth were already receiving special military training (Sonderausbildung) in¹ peacetime. These units, including Flying Units, Naval Units, Motorized Units, Signal Units, and Mountaineering Units, will be described below. Apart from this specialized training, general military training was given in the regular units of the HJ. After the outbreak of the war, from the age of sixteen this training was intensified and every member of the highest age class (seventeen) had to undergo a final course in a pre-military camp (Wehrtuchtingungslager), which is described below.

1. See British Handbook on Youth, (1853 - HBG. - Pt. II), p. 797.

In wartime the other duties of the HJ members increased. According to Pas Junge Deutschland,¹ the official organ of the HJ, the war service performed by the Hitler Youth into was divided into several classifications:

Service with the Party, including dispatch and guard duties with the authorities and distribution of propaganda material.

Service for the state and municipalities, including duties in ARP Service, the Fire Service, the Reich Postal Service, auxiliary service with the police and authorities, e.g. distribution of ration cards, guide service in the blackout, and railway station service.

Service with the Armed Forces: messenger and dispatch service (e.g. the distribution of call-up orders), distributing food to soldiers in transport, assisting in local telephone service.

Service with Trade and Industry: distribution of food, stevedoring, sales assistance.

Service with the Winter Relief Scheme: Reich Street Collection, salvage collection, collection of firewood, leaves, medical plants, and wild berries, book collections.

Land and Harvest Service

Domestic and Auxiliary Service with NSV

Work in the National Health and Cultural Services

(e.g., entertaining wounded soldiers).

a. Relation of the Hitler Youth to the traditional institutions of education. In order to maintain the Party's hold over the youth, the Hitler Youth changed gradually from an extra-curricular activity to the chief source of political education for youth. Most of the time not spent at school was given over to HJ activity. The other political and confessional youth organizations, which had flourished before the Nazis' rise to power, were reduced in numbers and eventually eliminated entirely by a ruthless policy of "coordination". Indeed, as early as 1934, Baldur von Schirach could begin his book Die Hitler Jugend--Idee und Gestalt (Hitler Youth, Concept and Organization) with these words: "What was formerly¹ called the German Youth Movement is dead."

The traditional authorities in education, family, church, and school, were systematically undermined in favor of the HJ. Instances have been recorded of children reporting their parents to the authorities, because the youthful fanatics felt that the spirit prevailing in the home was not in harmony with National Socialist beliefs. In another case, a father who did not wish his son to join the² Hitler Youth was sentenced to two months prison. Reverence for religion and church was discouraged. Numerous cases

1. Die Hitler Jugend--Idee und Gestalt. (Hitler Youth, Concept and Organization) p. 13.

2. Junges Deutschland, July 1942

have been reported of the mobbing of Catholic clergymen by HJ groups. The outlawing of the Catholic youth groups was itself a violation of an agreement with the Church.

As far as the schools were concerned, the Hitler Youth succeeded in using up a good part of the time formerly spent by the students on academic studies. So much friction was caused between the school authorities and the HJ by the increasing demands of the latter on the time of the students that an agreement had to be made between the Reich Youth Leader and the Reich Minister of Education.¹ The settlement provided for the following program: two afternoons a week were allotted for HJ activities, the students' time during holidays and vacations was to be at HJ's disposal, and in cases of emergency students were to be permitted to leave school during teaching hours for HJ duties.

b. Cooperation with the Party, Party Formations, and other Reich organizations. Cooperation and contacts with the Party were very close on the leadership level. For example, requests to hold meetings, marches, and similar events had to be channeled through the Party. But more important, of course, is the fact that the HJ served as a reservoir for Party personnel. Hitler Youth leaders over 17 years of age, for instance, could be

1. CA Handbook II 356-15, p. 7

appointed to positions as Ortsgruppenleiter¹. The leadership schools of the HJ were run in collaboration with high Party authorities. The cream of the HJ organization was taken into the Party.

Cooperation between the SS and the HJ was three-fold: through the Hitler Youth Patrol Service (Streifendienst), for which the SS provided officers and from which HJ recruits for the SS were mainly drawn; through the military training camps of the HJ, for which the Waffen-SS as well as the Army provided instructors; and through the Land Service (Landdienst), for which the SS also provided officers.² A striking instance of the relationship was provided by the 12th SS panzer Division which bore the name "Hitler Jugend."³ Formed in the summer of 1943 in Belgium, it consisted largely of recruits from Wehrertüchtigungslager (see below) of the Hitler Youth and of cadres from the SS panzer Division "Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler." Reich Youth Leader Arthur Axmann paid tribute to members of this division killed in action and stated that the division had become an example of fighting youth, for a great number of volunteers from the HJ were⁴ "ready to fill the gaps in this division." Furthermore,

1. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 81-82.
2. SHAEF Handbook - the Allgemeine SS, p. K 7, CID 27751
3. MID Order of Battle of the German Army, p. 343
4. DNB, 25 September 1942, quoted in the OWI European News Digest

cooperation among the Reichsjugendführung, the Hitler Jugend Gebiete (Regions), and Amt Bl of the SS was developed for the purpose of recruiting SS Helferinnen (Female¹ Signal Auxiliaries).

Cooperation with the Army was maintained in the operation of the Wehrertüchtigungslager. The OKW and the three branches of the services each had a professional officer as liaison with the Reichsjugendführung; the latter, in turn, had advisors in youth affairs (HJ Referenten) attached to each High Command. Similar liaison existed between the Wehrkreis Army Corps Area Commands and lower units of the HJ.

9. Activities Bearing Direct Relations to War Crimes

a. Indoctrination in Chauvinistic and Warlike Attitude.

i. Within the HJ organization. Baldur von Schirach, Die Hitler Jugend - Idee und Gestalt, summed up the part that ideological training played in the Hitler Youth when he stated that the "Hitler Youth is a community of ideology and a specific indoctrination."² He went on to say that "whoever marches in the Hitler Youth is no number among millions, but the soldier of an idea."³ The schooling of the HJ, according to Schirach, was to be conducted by

1. SHAEF E.D.S. Report No. SS Helferinnen CID 124562
2. op.cit p. 130
3. ibid, p. 130

comrades "who have arisen out of the ranks of the HJ and the struggles of National Socialism."¹

At least one weekly meeting of a HJ local unit was given over to lectures by trained political leaders. These meetings, called Heimabende (campfire meetings), were held in special Hitler Youth homes, the construction of which was obligatory in communities of more than three hundred inhabitants. In addition to attending the Heimabend, the Hitler Youth also spent a week or two in HJ camps. Schirach wrote that a camp provided the most ideal form of life for youth. Even there indoctrinating was part of the curriculum which included gymnastics, tournaments, singing, and ideological training.²

The playtime of the youngsters in the HJ was filled with glorification of militarism and stress on the superiority of the Germans and their "Mission" to conquer the rest of the world. Two songs from the HJ Liederbuch (published by the HJ district leadership of Ruhr-Niederrhein) give succinct evidence of what the young German learned in the ranks of the HJ:

I Don't Know the Way

There are surely enough streets
In the red land of France, rich of grapes,
In her white mountains, the Alps,
In the black swamps and sand of Russia.

1. ibid p. 131

2. op cit., p. 107

There are plenty of streets
 But if there were three times more,
 The German victory banners would fly over
 them all,
 We are the army of the Swastika
 We conclude no brotherly pact,
 Not with Jewish nor with Welsh foreign people
 Because they falsified German Liberty
 We conclude no brotherly pact with tyrants
 Even if they condemn us to deepest misery.
 We conclude no brotherly pact with cowards
 Because we must overthrow the meanness of
 Europe.

Look - What Power

Now brave sword, deeply honored, show your
 value,
 Brilliant steel, break our torture with your
 flames
 Smash to the ground those who dishonor our
 hero
 The blood of these bastards shall splash our
 doors
 Our road goes over ruins and dead bodies;
 Cowardly knights of the hangman, come on!
 We shall defend you, Fatherland.
 The blood of the false enemy will flow like
 a stream.¹

Songs of this type were always sung while hiking,
 camping, traveling through Germany, and while staying at
 HJ hostels.

The Hitler Youth was further indoctrinated by means
 of the official HJ periodical Wille und Macht (Will and
 Might) and the Jugendfilmstunden (organized film performances).²

In addition, propaganda troops for the presentation
 of pageants and plays expounding Nazi ideology were formed.

1. Translated in "For the German Youth" by Heinrich Mann,
 prepared for the World Peace Congress of Youth in New
 York, pp. 15 and 16.
2. CA Handbook 356-15 - Education, p. 8

Every Gebiet and some Banne maintained a Spielschar¹
(propaganda troop).

ii. In the School System. In order to assure the ideological and political coordination of youth, the HJ established close contact and supervision over the activities and educational program of public schools. Controlling the schools was not difficult, since all the students belonged to the HJ and all teachers were organized in the National Socialist Teachers' League, an affiliated organization of the Party. Moreover the future teacher was henceforth to be drawn from the HJ. "The new generation to be educated in the colleges for training of teachers is to be chosen exclusively from the ranks of the Hitler Youth and the BDM," said the Reich Leader of University Lecturers at a meeting of NS Lecturers, on 5 March 1938.²

The impact of the Hitler Youth indoctrination was³ made widely felt by a number of developments:

1. Hitler Youth leaders were given preference in appointments to positions.
2. The Hitler Youth was represented in all schools by a trustee teacher.
3. The Hitler Youth had a representative on every school council.
4. Hitler Youth leaders among the students were chosen as class leaders.

1. SHAEF - E.D.S./G/5 The Hitler Youth, p. 19

2. Quoted in Nazism, p. 147

3. CA Handbook M 356-15 - Education, pp. 6, 7

111. In special Party schools. The HJ established many schools of its own in order to train the future leaders of the organization and of Germany.

(1) Gebietsführerschulen controlled by the Gebietsführung (regional directorate), served as training centers for leaders and potential leaders. The students were trained to fill posts within the structure of the Gebiet.

In 1936 a three-weeks course at a Gebietsschule included sixty-five hours of ideological training, out of a total of 175. These sixty-five hours covered political instruction, current affairs, Heimabend and preparations for them, singing instruction, and "discussions." BDM leaders were given special instruction in heredity, racial theory, and population policy.

(2) Reichsführerschulen (Reich Leader schools)

These schools were attended by the cream of Reich youth. The HJ leadership training scheme for 1943-1944 listed fifteen subjects to be studied by the would-be leaders, and stated the ultimate aim of these course as follows: "They will have achieved their object when their members are able, with sure and unerring instinct, to coordinate historical events, both past and present; the manifestations of every-day life and all the prospects of our future as a race within the total picture of our ideology. It will

1. See the British Handbook, p. 799. Von Schirach at p. 138 of Die Hitler Jugend gives a somewhat smaller number of hours, but his book is dated 1934.

then be easier for our leaders to educate the boys and girls in their charge to become fanatical upholders of the Nazi ideology.¹

There were four of these schools, the most important and best known being the Akademie für Jugendführung in Brunswick, which opened on 18 February 1938. The teaching staff consisted of reliable NS teachers. According to one source, successful completion of studies at the Akademie entitled the student to the diploma of Youth Leader and an appointment as Bannführer. The graduate was compelled to remain in the service of the Hitler Youth for twelve years, after which he could choose Party or government service.²

(3) Adolf Hitler Schulen. These schools were organized by the Reich Youth Leader in 1937, in collaboration with Alfred Rosenberg, director of the educational training program of the Party, and Robert Ley, Reich Leader of NSDAP organizations. Although it had been planned to have one of these schools in each Gau, the project was never completed; the number of these schools eventually opened was reported to range from 11 to 14.³

The Adolf Hitler Schulen were free boarding schools designed to provide secondary education for those who needed special assistance. Each school was directly under

1. Quoted in the British Handbook, p. 800

2. CA Handbook II 356-15, pp 81-82

3. For one list, see ibid, p. 76.

the supervision of the respective NSDAP Gauleiter (Party district Executive).

Students were selected with utmost care from the Deutsches Jungvolk. Upon graduation, the students were free to choose any career. Of the first graduating class in 1943, 67 percent aspired to political positions in the Party.¹ One-fourth of all AH Schulen graduates were selected to reassemble after seven years of Party and HJ work and to enter one of the Ordensburgen (Order Castles),² where they were trained to become the future masters of Germany.

b. Discrimination. The Nazi racial laws were applied by the Hitler Youth, since "non-Aryans" were not permitted to join the organization.³

c. Violation of International Law. Hitler Youth appears to have been instrumental in the killing of Allied PW's. Division Commander Kraemer of SS Panzer Division "Hitler Youth" is reported to have said to his division. "I ask you and expect of you not to take any prisoners, with the possible exception of officers who might be kept alive for the purpose of questioning."⁴

d. Coordination. Schirach states that the first⁵

1. Ibid, p. 78.

2. See "The Nazi Party" Parts I and II, R & A #311307.

3. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 438.

4. Plain Cable #765 American Legation Berne, 20 February 1945.

5. Die Hitler Jugend, p. 36.

thing he undertook was the dissolution of the Cross-deutsches Bund. He had already forbidden "Marxist Youth", as well as all political youth organizations. The above-cited official decrees tell the rest of the story.

c. Terror.

i. Hobbing of Catholic clergy. Hitler Youth members took an active part in attacking Catholic Church leaders on several occasions.

The Bishop of Trier, in a letter of 15 August 1935 to Baldur von Schirach, stated that "this kind of brutality has hitherto been unknown to me....I feel compelled to note that official persons in the Rhineland make propaganda for the Hitler Youth by exercising an incredible terror and moral compulsion against teachers, an act which is unworthy of a civilized nation."

ii. The Streifendienst (Patrol Service - SRD)⁴
The SRD was the cadet formation (Nachwuchsorganisation) of the SS, according to an agreement concluded between the Reichsjugendführung and the Reichsführung SS. The most disciplined and ardent Nazi youth were to be found in this service. Applicants from the SRD for the SS

1. For a detailed description of the measure used by Schirach to coordinate all pro-Nazi youth organizations see State Dept. Memo No. 2009, dated 2 May 1934. "Memorandum on the Organization of Youth in National Socialist Germany."
2. See "The Persecution of the Christian Churches, R & A #3113.4, pp. 42, 43, 46, 48.
3. Quoted in Nazi Guide to Nazism, p. 90.
4. For further details on SRD see SNAEF EDS/I, 90704 (27 May 1945 and E.D.S. Report 23.

were passed on by a board of high HJ and SS leaders, who applied the rigorous standards of the original Allgemeine SS.

It was originally founded in 1933 for the purpose of breaking up oppositional youth movements and also to act as a disciplinary force within the HJ. Its role changed somewhat after that time, but general disciplinary supervision and counter-intelligence work seem to have been its duties. In 1942 the SRD became a full-time service and a special formation of the HJ. In 1944 police duties over refractory youth were given to Überwachungsdienststellen (supervisory offices) of the HJ; it is not known whether they replaced or supplemented the SRD in this respect. In April 1944, training of the SRD was given over to the Ordnungspolizei because of the shortage of trained SS personnel.

The following activities of the SRD have been reported, and are of such a nature that they may have been closely related to war crimes:

1. Rollkommandos: pursuit detachments, commanded by SS Totenkopf (Death's Head) leaders
2. Execution squads:
3. Auxiliaries of the Sicherheitspolizei (Security Police), under the orders of Security Police Officials

Among the instructors of the SRD were HJ officers, SS officers, Police officers, Gestapo officers, and Sicherheitsdienst officers.

Below are other functions carried out at various times by the SRD which seem either to have been transferred to other organizations or discontinued altogether.

1. Frontier Patrol Service (SRD an der Grenze).

Inspection of youth entering and leaving German territory, in order to prevent the escape of enemies of the regime and the entry of persons who were potentially anti-Nazi.

2. Counter-Intelligence Index (Gegnorkarte).

Collection of information on the political opposition.

f. Militarization. Intensive preparation for war was one of the cardinal principles of the Hitler Youth from its inception. In describing the rise of the HJ movement, Schirach says that many attempts had been made to bring about a synthesis of youth and a militaristic movement (¹Wehrbewegung). German youth did not play at being soldiers but received a thorough physical, mental, and intellectual preparation for service in the Armed Forces. Even the sports activities were devised to provide the maximum of military training.

1. Institutions at which physical education was formally stressed were known as the Nationalpolitische Erziehungsanstalten (abbreviated as Napalis). These were first decreed on 20 April 1933. After 1941 they were supervised by an Inspectorate headed by SS chefführer

1. Op cit. p. 15

Heissmeyer. Most of the teachers were SS men. Each school was considered as a separate unit of the Hitler Youth and was led by a Bannführer. The curriculum was like that of an ordinary secondary school with special emphasis on sports. In order to graduate the pupil had to win the SA sport badge. Almost all of the graduates of the Napolis chose military careers.

ii. With the purpose of increasing the supply of manpower for the Armed forces, formal pre-military training under direct supervision of the Armed Forces was introduced in 1942.

(1) Wehrtüchtigungslager (Pre-Military Training Camps - WEL). Every 17-year old boy was required to take a three-weeks basic course at one of these camps before being drafted for labor service or before entering the Army. Intensified ideological training was introduced into these camps in June 1944. As a result of the training, up to 80 percent of the boys volunteered for the Army.

There were about 300 of these camps in Greater Germany. Instructors were officers of the Army or the Waffen-SS. The director of the Camp was an Army officer who had formerly been a HJ leader. Professional or semi-professional HJ leaders served as assistants and

1. Nachrichtendienst Deutscher Zeitungsverleger 27 June 1944 quoted in News Digest, #N86.

administrators.

There were special WEL for recruits for the Luft-waffe, the Navy, and the Waffen-SS; the motorized and signal troops had their own groups of camps. At the end of the course the students received a Kriegsausbildungs-schein (War Training Certificate).

In a telegram to Axmann on the occasion of the anniversary of WEL day, Adolf Hitler stated that "a soldierly way of thinking and acting, based on the National Socialist ideology, is the aim of this education."¹

(2) Sondereinheiten (Special Units). Thirty-five percent of each HJ age group had to supplement their basic training in special service units, where they acquired a rudimentary knowledge of the various branches of military service. HJ members of specialist units were organized into separate Scharen, or attended a special WEL.

(a) Nachrichten HJ (Signals). This service prepared boys for duty in the signal units of the Army and Air Force. Training was conducted under direct supervision of the Armed Forces.

(b) Motor HJ. This service, founded in 1939, was designed to train future recruits for the motorized and armored divisions of the Army.

1. FCC: Ticker, 4 September 1943

(c) Marine HJ. This service furnished replacements for the Navy and Merchant Marine. Training was under the supervision of naval personnel, and included practically all phases of naval activities.

(d) Flieger HJ (Aviation HJ). This service prepared boys for service in the German Air Force. Training was controlled by the Oberkommando der Luftwaffe (Air Force High Command) but instructors, establishments, and training equipment were furnished by the NSFK (National Socialist Flying Corps).

(e) Gebirgs-HJ (Mountaineers). This service provided mountain training in preparations for future service with mountain troops.

g. Infiltration. On 31 December 1937 Schirach delivered a speech in which he said that "in the coming year the work of the Hitler Youth will serve the great aim of building new bridges from the German to foreign youth." This was but one in a series of such speeches. While Schirach claimed that no propaganda was intended, Heinrich Mann points out that other German publications gave him the lie. Hakenkreuz Banner Mannheim of 10 October 1937, dealing with the foreign relations of the Hitler Youth, said that youth can feel "out cautiously and reconnoiter the territory abroad where the official policies of their

1. The SHAEF Handbook "The Hitler Youth" was consulted for later phases of the HJ activities.
2. Quoted in Heinrich Mann, op. cit. p. 48.

country are no longer allowed to expose themselves." ¹

As early as 1933, a foreign department was set up in the Reichsjugendführung. There was also created a bureau called the "Mittelstelle für volksdeutsche Jugendarbeit". The object of this bureau, which had a special sub-department Mittelstelle Deutscher Jugend in Europa, was to instil Nazi ideas into young members of ethnic German groups all over the world and particularly in Eastern and ² Southeastern Europe. The foreign department had its own Press Service and special news sheets. All Reich German youths living abroad were forced to join the special Foreign Territory Section (Gebiet Ausland). The periodical Volk und Reich was issued for their consumption, as was a mass of literature published by the Directorate. In addition, the central office of the RJF cooperated closely with the Auslande-Organisation of the NSDAP, the Deutsches Ausland-Institut, and the Volkshund für das Deutschtum in Ausland.

Full fledged Hitler Youth organizations were organized in the Sudetenland and Austria. Units of this formation were established in Luxemburg, Alsace, Lorraine, and parts of Poland in the wake of Nazi victories. In other countries, not annexed but occupied, local youth organizations in imitation of the Hitler Youth were

1. Quoted ibid, p. 49

2. The British Handbook, pp. 805 et seq. was consulted, among others, for this section.

promoted as far as possible.¹ Hitler Youth Leaders visited abroad; and Germany was toured by Hitler Youth leaders from these foreign countries.

Schirach attempted to consolidate European youth in September 1942, Deputations of European youth from 14 different European nations were invited to Vienna. At this meeting a "League of European Youth" (Europäischer Jugendverband)² was founded. The purpose of the League was declared to be the "unequivocal adherence to the reconstruction of the New Europe."³ Schirach was an honorary President and Axmann an acting President of this League. The League published its own monthly periodical Junges Europa (Young Europe), appearing in twelve different languages.

10. Divisions of HJ Guilty of War Crimes.

Inasmuch as the HJ was an organization with compulsory membership for the whole of German youth, responsibility for crimes committed cannot be attributed to all members. Yet those who were guilty of setting policy and administering the HJ bear a heavy responsibility for war crimes committed by the organization. The entire RJF may be considered guilty for this reason, but certain

1. Information in this paragraph derived from Ernst O. F. Gohn, The Organization of the Hitler Youth in Germany, pp. 18-19.
2. Official German Broadcast to Germany, FCC: Daily 7 September 1942.
3. British Handbook p. 805

Hauptämter may be especially singled out:

Hauptamt I: Personalamt (in charge of the Streifendienst). Responsible for terror.

All of Hauptamt II: Office for Military Training, Office for Physical Training - responsible for militarization. Office for Training of Leaders and Schools - responsible for Indoctrination.

Hauptamt III: Office for Ideological Training - responsible for indoctrination. Press and Propaganda Office - responsible for indoctrination and infiltration.

Hauptamt IV: Soziales Amt - responsible for infiltration.

The Gebietsführung, which administered every "region", should bear responsibility for war crimes, with special emphasis on the Hauptabteilungen corresponding to the above-mentioned Hauptämter.

All paid leaders in the HJ may be held responsible, the severity of their punishment to depend on their place in the hierarchy.

Teachers at the various schools conducted by the RJF may be singled out, especially those who gave courses in ideological training.