

ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE  
SCHUTZSTAFFEL

(Translation of pages 120 to 122, incl., of the official publication, "Organisationsbuch der NSDAP", 1943 edition. Original book available through X-2 Branch, OSS)

"The organization of the Schutzstaffel follows from the ramification of its duties. The Reichsfuhrer SS exercises supreme authority over the entire SS. For the issuing and carrying out of his orders and directives for the entire SS, the Police, and other extensive spheres of work which are in his charge, he employs the head offices of the Reichsfuhrer SS which are directly subordinate to him, and a number of other offices which are responsible to him. As of September 1942, the latter were the SS Medical Service, the Police, and the Long-distance Communications Headquarters.

"The head offices of the Reichsfuhrung SS have been built up in the following order in the course of time:

SS Head Office,

Head Office for Reich Security,

SS Head Office for Racial and Settlement Matters,

Head Office of the Civil Police,

SS Head Office for Economic Matters and Administration,

Personal Staff of Reichsfuhrer SS,

SS Legal Head Office,

Head Office SS Executive,

Office of SS-Obergruppenfuhrer Heismeyer,

Staff Head Office of the Reichskommissar for the Preservation  
of the German People,  
Head Office for Volksdeutsche Matters,

Functions of the SS Head Offices

"The SS Head Office.

The duties of the SS Head Office are the direction, education and training of the SS in political matters and in matters relating to their outlook on world affairs, the furnishing of supplies to the whole SS and Police and to the organizations which are subordinate to the SS, and the care of members of the SS and their relations. Further duties are the physical education and the cultural welfare of the SS. The development and direction of the SS in the Germanic countries is of especial importance.

"The Head Office for Reich Security.

In the Head Office for Reich Security all matters concerning organization, personnel and economics, and technical matters, for the Security Police and the Security Service are dealt with. In addition it is the Central Office of the State Police and the Criminal Police Executive as well as the central directing office of the communications network of the Security Service.

"The Head Office for Racial and Settlement Matters.

The Head Office for Racial and Settlement Matters of the SS deals with racial selection of the rising generation of the SS, guides the SS-men in the choice of consorts, and encourages prolific families worthwhile from the hereditary and biological point of view. For suitable SS-men, who want to be settled, the means of getting their own homes are made possible.

**"Head Office of the Civil Police.**

The spheres of duty of the Head Office of the Civil Police are police administration as well as taking charge of and leading the defence police of the Reich, the Gendarmerie, the defence police of the rural districts, the river defence police, the air defence police, the fire defence police, defence personnel in the occupied areas, the colonial police, the voluntary fire-brigade, the duty and youth fire-brigades, the organisation for the maintenance of supplies, and SS and police academy of technology.

**"The SS Head Office for Economic Matters and Administration.**

The SS Head Office for Economic Matters and Administration deals with all duties, in the economic and administrative sphere, assigned to it by the Reichsfuehrer SS and Chief of the German Police, Heinrich Himmler.

**"Personal Staff of the Reichsfuehrer SS.**

The Personal Staff is the central Head Office. Developed from the adjutant department of the Reichsfuehrer SS, beyond that are subordinate to it all offices ((Dienststellen)) entrusted with the realisation of the special plans of the Reichsfuehrer SS. The Chief of the Personal Staff is permanent head of liaison of the Reichsfuehrer SS in the Fuehrer's H.Q. and deals there with all SS questions, including those of the Waffen-SS and the Police.

**"SS Personnel HeadOffice.**

The SS Personnel Head Office embraces the following spheres of work: dealing with the personnel matters of all leaders of the SS, both General SS, Waffen-SS and Sicherheitsdienst, with reference to admission, promotion and discharge. Further it deals with the SS seniority list, the conferring of death's-head rings ((sic)) and swords of honour, as well as the appointment of the General SS.

**"SS Legal Head Office.**

The SS Legal Head Office deals with matters of discipline and complaints as well as matters concerning the protection of honour for the Reichsfuehrer SS. Besides that it is central office and ministerial court of first instance for the special penal jurisdiction of the SS and Police (to it, amongst others, are attached the highest SS- and Police court of justice and 30 SS- and Police courts of justice). The SS Legal Head Office executes too other legal duties assigned to it by the Reichsfuehrer SS.

**"Head Office SS Executive.**

The Reichsfuehrer SS avails himself of the Head Office SS Executive as H.Q. ((Kommandostelle)) for the direction of the Waffen-SS and for pre- and post-military direction and training of the General SS. The Head Office SS Executive arose in August 1940 out of the necessity of uniting in one place all functions connected with the employment, direction, organisation and training of the units. In the Head Office SS Executive work the following offices: Kommandoamt of the Waffen-SS, Kommandoamt of the General SS, SS-Administration Office, SS-Ordinance Office, Office for training leaders, SS-Medical Office, Inspectorate Department..

**"Office of SS-Obergruppenfuehrer HEISSMEYER.**

The Office of SS-Obergruppenfuehrer HEISSMEYER has the duty of looking after the National Political education institutions, to take care of their development for further extension, and further to carry out the conversion of the boarding-schools in the Reich into German Home schools, to extend and re-organise these. Chiefly admitted into the German Home schools are the children of fallen soldiers, civil servants and all of German nationality ((Volksgenossen)), who, by reason of frequent occupational changes of place of work, would not otherwise have the

opportunity of furnishing their children with a regular education.

"The Staff Head Office of the Reichskommissar for the preservation of the German people.

The duties of the Staff Head Office of the Reichskommissar for the preservation of the German people in the Reich and in the territories under the domination of the Reich are the entire planning of settlement and construction and its fulfilment, including all administration and economic questions connected with settlement, especially the employment of persons for settlement purposes.

"Head Office for Volksdeutsche Matters.

The SS Head Office for Volksdeutsche Matters deals with questions of nationality, especially matters of German nationality. It carries out commissions of the Reichsfuehrer SS from the point view of policy in nationality matters, in the foreground of which work is the strengthening of the feeling of belonging together of all Germans, with the practical policy deductions regarding nationality arising from this.

"Relation of the SS in the Party and to the State Offices ((Staatstellen)).

Within the framework of the duties assigned to the Reichsfuehrer-SS by the Fuehrer, all SS-Fuehrer are instructed by the Reichsfuehrer-SS to establish understanding through co-operation with the powers ((Hoheitstraegern)) of the Party and to see to it that National Socialist authority is preserved.

"Promoter members ((Foerdernde Mitglieder)) of the SS.

Service in the SS, which chiefly at Fuehrer-assemblies puts forth extraordinary claims, is economically and fundamentally much more difficult, because the individual units of the SS are situated farther away from each other than the units of the SA. This stipulates much higher

transport expenses for the execution of its duties.

The Fuehrer has therefore granted the SS the establishment of the FM-Organisation. The FM, who do not require to be Party members, pay certain amounts each month. Only the Dienststellen of the SS, entrusted with this by the RFS. (Administration Office SS), are empowered to collect these contributions. The FM-Organisation is of the greatest importance for the maintenance of the SS and, in its work, cannot be interfered with by any other Dienststelle.

During the war the contributions are not cashed.