

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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of: Gottlieb BERGER
By: Colonel Brundage, 19 September 1945.p.m.

PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS IMPLICATED AND PER

1. BERGER

- a. Personal History (pp.1-3)
- b. Membership in NSDAP (pp.2-4)
- c. Membership in SS (pp.4-6)
- d. Employment of Foreign Workers (pp.7-11)
- e. Prisoners of War (p.10)
- f. The Volkssturm (pp.10-12)
- g. Concentration Camps (p.9; 12; pp.14-15)
- h. Kaltenbrunner (pp.6-7); (pp.12-13)
- i. Relationship with: Copische (p.10;12)

PERSONAL HISTORY

Berger stated that he is 49 years old, born in 1896; married. Berger was a member of German Army in World War I; became a teacher in 1919; later became principal of a school in Wuertenberg. (pp.1-2) Studied at the University concurrently with teaching until 1932. (p.3).

PARTY MEMBERSHIP

Became a member of Party in 1931 subsequently held honorary positions no salaried positions. (p.2) Then in 1932 headed all SA activities for the SA in Wuertenberg. Dismissed from SA in 1933. Severed all connections with the Party in 1933. Occasioned by his adherence to Party Group which opposed large standing Army, the Roehm faction. (p.3) Was Director of Party Sports Institution and "official in charge of sports in Wuertenberg Ministry of Education." (p.4) Later served with Education Commission. (p.4)

MEMBERSHIP IN SS

Ordered to SS in 1938 as Reichsfuehrung, however he served with the SS recruiting office. (p.4) This position he held until 1940. He then became Hauptamt der SS, remained in charge of recruiting and general supervision of all who joined the SS from other countries and territories.

Gottlieb BERGER, 19 September 1945 p.m.

Also was concerned with matters relating to personal welfare of SS members and their families. (p.5) Berger had contact with the Hitler Youth in the course of recruiting for the SS. (p.6) Berger denied that he was connected with any Hitler Youth program calling for the suppression of the church. (p.6)

EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN LABOR

Berger vehemently denied any connection with the importation of foreign labor to Germany from occupied areas. (p.7) Berger acknowledged connection with the Care and supervision of certain "young people" from Oslo (arrested students) who were brought to the University in Freiburg. (p.7) Denied any knowledge of evacuation of young men from the East. Berger admitted knowledge of Sauckel's program for importation of foreign labor but denied any connection with it. (p.8) Berger admitted however, that after young men had been brought into Germany, "when they entered the Germanic Sturmabanner" then he was charged with their "welfare". He executed his task through one Copiske. The group involved not only young men; "there were also elderly people". All were "volunteers". There "...were perhaps 6000 in all". (pp.10-11)

PRISONERS OF WAR

In October 1944 Berger was put in charge of all prisoners of war and their affairs. He held this position until the "end". (p.10)

THE VOLKSTURM

In October 1944 Berger was charged with the organization of the Volkssturm. Berger stated that the Party then took over this function. "There was nothing left" for him to do. (Note: apparently Berger's connection with the Volkssturm involved handling those persons from Norway, Belgium, Denmark "and other countries" that volunteered for duty with the Volkssturm in Germany). (pp.10-11) The age group included persons from 18 to 54 years of age. Berger's assistant Copiske handled the matters of "inspection" etc. (p.12)

CONCENTRATION CAMPS

Berger denied any connection with a conference regarding treatment of inmates of concentration camps which was allegedly held in January of 1945. (p.9) Berger denied any knowledge of an order requiring that persons no longer physically able to work were to be thrown into a concentration camp. (p.12) Berger stated that he visited concentration camps on two occasions: (1) Oranienburg --re criminals who had violated hunting regulations; (2) the vitamin research clinic at Dachau. Berger denied that he was aware of any experiments being made on human beings. (p.14-15)

Gottlieb BERGER, 19 September 1945 p.m.

KALTENBRUNNER

Berger stated that he knew Kaltenbrunner --that the latter was not his superior though on occasion he "pretended to be". (p.6) "Kaltenbrunner always emphasized that he had personal discussions with Hitler and that he got personal orders to carry out through him". (p.7) Regarding an order issued by Himmler for the internment of certain persons in a concentration camp, Berger was asked, "And when Himmler did that, that order always went through Kaltenbrunner didn't it?" Berger replied, "That went only through Kaltenbrunner. It would have to go through Kaltenbrunner. ...There was no other intermediary..." And then Kaltenbrunner would issue such orders "...certainly if he got it from Hitler or Himmler, he would have done so." (pp.12-13)