

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES  
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH  
BIOGRAPHICAL REPORT

*General Source* 53,032  
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Index of Statements  
in Report

Name: KLAGGES, Dietrich On Region: C 7 a  
Nationality: German On Occupation: 2 B, 17 F  
Region: Brunswick, Löwenwall 3, 1/ On Political  
Position: Prime Minister of the State Affiliation: 1-13

of Brunswick, also Brunswick State Minister of the  
Interior, Finance and Public Education, since 1933.

1/, 2/, 3/, 4/.

Former Brunswick Minister of the Interior and Public  
Education, 1/, 2/, 3/.

Former Regierungsrat (government councilor) in the  
Brunswick Ministry of Public Education, 1/, 2/, 3/, 4/.

SS- Obergruppenführer, 5/.

Birth Date and Place: 1 February 1891, Forsthaus Ostheide, Herringsen, Kreis  
(county of) Soest, province of Westphalia, 1/, 2/, 3/, 4/.

Religion: Protestant, 2/, 4/.

Family History: Married to Amalie Krugmann on 27 March 1919; five children, 11/.

Education and Work History:

According to sources 1/, 2/, 3/, 4/, Klagges attended Primary  
school in Neuengeseke, later the teachers' colleges of Holzwickede  
and Soest. He was first a primary school teacher in Harpen,  
near Bochum, Westphalia, later, a Mittelschullehrer (secondary  
school teacher) in Wilster, province of Schleswig-Holstein,  
1/, 2/, 3/, 4/. Some years later he was appointed Mittelschulkorrektor  
(co-principal of the secondary school) in Benneckenstein in the  
Harz Mountains, District of Erfurt, 1/, 2/, 3/, 4/. From this  
position he was discharged by the Prussian Government, according  
to same sources, on account of his membership in the NSDAP  
(National Socialist German Workers' Party).

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I. Klagges' Government Jobs: According to source 3/, Klagges was appointed Regierungsrat (government councilor) in the Brunswick Ministry of Public Education by the Brunswick Government in January 1931, and in September 1931 he became Minister of the Interior and Public Education of the State of Brunswick, 3/. In 1933 Klagges became Prime Minister of Brunswick and was also in charge of the Brunswick Ministries of the Interior and Public Education, 3/, 4/, and later also of the Ministry of Finance, 1/, 9/.

In 1944, according to source 7/, Klagges was appointed Reich Commissioner for Wood Transport (Reichsbevollmächtigter für die Holzbringung) after having previously replaced State Secretary and General Wood Master (Generalforstmeister) Alpers (q.v.) who had been called to the colors.

After Brunswick was occupied in 1945, Klagges was retained as Prime Minister by the occupation forces for a short time, 8/.

II. Klagges' Business Jobs: Klagges also held important positions in the field of economics. According to source 6/, he was chairman of the supervisory council (Vorsitzender des Aufsichtsrats) of

(1) the Wasser-und Energieversorgungsgesellschaft-m.b.H. (Water and Electric Power Company with limited liability) Görlingerwerke (Görling Works), Waterstedt near Brunswick;

(2) the Braunschweigische Bohrgesellschaft-m.b.H. (Brunswick Drilling Company with limited liability), a company presumably designated to drill for petroleum;

(3) the Flughafengesellschaft (Airport Company) Braunschweig-Waggum G.m.b.H. (company with limited liability), Waggum-Brunswick.

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KL-<sup>sory council</sup>  
District

- III. Klagges as a Writer: According to sources 1/, 3/, 4/, Klagges contributed articles to the periodicals Die Deutsche (The German School), Die Volkische Schule (The Racial School), Deutschland's Erneuerung (Germany's Reconstruction). He was the chief of the periodical Nordlicht (North Light). In 1921 he published his first book entitled Was Ist Uns Heute Marx? (What does Marx mean to us today?) In the following years he wrote these books: Das Evangelium Jesu, (The Genuine Gospel of Jesus); Der deutsche Glaube (The German Faith), 1926 ; Kampf den Marxismus (Fight against Marxism), 1930 ; Die Weltwirtschaftskrise (The Economic Crisis of the World), 1931 ; Reichtum und soziale Gerechtigkeit (Riches and Social Justice), 1932 ; Idee und System (Idea and System), 1933 ; Nationalrichtsunterricht als national-politische Erziehung (Teaching of National Policy as a matter of education in national policy), 1936. According to source 11/, Klagges was a member of the Academy of German Law.

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IV. Klagges' Military and SS Career:

Klagges received his military training with the 15th Infantry Regiment at Minden, participated in World War I and was severely wounded at Neuve Chapelle, France, 1/, 4/.

Within the SS he held the position of SS-Gruppenführer in 1938, 1/, and SS-Obergruppenführer in 1944, according to source 5/.

Political History: It is not known when Klagges joined the NSDAP, but he must have belonged to this party some time prior to 1930 since he was dismissed by the Prussian Government in 1930 because of his National Socialist activities, 3/, when he was co-principal of the Benneckenstein secondary school. At that time was not only local and district leader of the Nazi Party but was also elected town councillor of Benneckenstein on the NSDAP ticket and alderman of the Benneckenstein town council. He also was a member of the county-council (Kreistag) of the county (Grafschaft) of Hohenstein, district of Erfurt, 4/.

Klagges' name received publicity in Germany in September 1930, after a new Brunswick diet had been elected. In this diet a coalition of nine National Socialists and twelve members of other rightist parties stood against seventeen Social-Democrats and two Communists, 12/. After Preussen, the National Socialist member of the government, had resigned in 1931 because of internal Nazi Party differences, Dietrich Klagges, then Regierungsrat in the Brunswick Ministry of Public Education, replaced him as Minister of the Interior and Public Education in September 1931, 12/, 2/. Klagges, whose nomination was backed by Hitler, 12/, expressed his appreciation in 1932 when the Brunswick Government, consisting of Prime Minister Küchenthal (recently appointed President of the Brunswick State Bank by British occupation forces, 13/), and Klagges appointed Hitler, then an Austrian subject, to the post of a Brunswick government counsellor (Regierungsrat), and thereby, according to German law, made

him a German citizen. 8/.

In 1932 Klagges was, for the first time, elected a member of the German Reichstag on the NSDAP ticket for the electoral district of Sudhannover-Braunschweig (South Hannover-Brunswick), 4/, a position he held under the Nazi regime, 1/, 4/.

## PRIMARY:

Dietrich Klagges, Brunswick Prime Minister from 1933 on, SS-Obergruppen-Führer, was not one of the top men of the National Socialist regime but belonged to the leading group of fanatical and determined followers of Hitler. His high rank in the SS organization indicates that he was highly regarded by Hitler and Himmler.

Report covers time up to 1945.

## SOURCES:

- 1/: Der Grossdeutsche Reichstag 1938, O. 277.
- 2/: Handbuch des öffentlichen Lebens 1931, p. 70.
- 3/: Meyers Lexikon 1939, vol. 6, p. 1143.
- 4/: Reichstagshandbuch 1933, IX. Wahlperiode, p. 228.
- 5/: OSS Source F, 19 July 1944.
- 6/: Wer Leitet, 1941/42, p. 484.
- 7/: Die Deutsche Volkswirtschaft, 1 Augustheft 1944, No. 22, p. 628.
- 8/: OSS Source T, 17 August 1945.
- 9/: T V B 1943, p. 131.
- 10/: Der Neue Brockhaus 1938, p. 643.
- 11/: Wer Ists 1935, p. 318.
- 12/: Stammes, Die Vierzehn Jahre Der Ersten Deutschen Republik, p. 553.
- 13/: OSS Source S, 16 July 1945.

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