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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES  
RESEARCH AND ANALYSTS BRANCH  
BIOGRAPHICAL REPORT

RESTRICTED

Index of Statements  
in Report

Name: PORSCHÉ, Ferdinand Region: W 1a, J 1a  
Nationality: German Occupation: 6A, 22 D,  
25G,  
Region: Stuttgart Zuffenhausen,  
Spitalwaidstrasse 2 Political  
Attitude: 13  
Positions: Head of Panzerkommission  
(Tank Commission) in the  
Reich Ministry of Armament  
and War Production, 1941----

Head of Arbeitsgemeinschaft für  
Luftgekühlte Motoren (Working  
Committee for Air Cooled Engines)  
in the Reich Ministry of Armament  
and War Production, 1942----

General Manager of Volkswagen GmbH,  
Fallersleben,

Honorary Professor (part time professor)  
at the Technische Hochschule, Stuttgart,

Wehrwirtschaftsführer

Birth Date and Place: 3 November 1875; Maffersdorf, Czechoslovakia

Work and Political History:

For some time Porsche was technical manager of the Steyr automobile works in Upper Austria, where he designed and developed the Austro-Daimler automobile models. About 1924, according to an interview source, he was appointed co-manager of the Daimler Motorenengesellschaft in Stuttgart, which subsequently merged with the Benz automobile manufacturing company under the name of Daimler-Benz AG. Porsche is said to have designed mainly heavy types of cars for racing purposes. He remained Direktor (Manager) and a member of the Management Board (Vorstandsmitglied) of Daimler-Benz AG until 1928, when, according to interview source, Wilhelm Kessel (q.v.) forced him out of the company, because he considered Porsche's construction uneconomical. Porsche established himself as a consultant engineer in Stuttgart.

Hitler is said to have consulted Porsche frequently on technical problems. At any rate Porsche was entrusted with the execution of one of the favorite Nazi schemes, the designing and construction of the Volkswagen (Peoples Car), a low cost automobile for the German masses. As the scheme did not find any support from private industry, it was sponsored by the German Labor Front. Porsche was made Leiter and Betriebsführer (Head and General Manager) of Volkswagen GMBH, with the main plant at "Stadt des Kraft durch Freude Wagens," near Fallersleben, Thuringen, and two branch plants at Braunschweig and Ustom. The money and equipment collected for the manufacture of the Volkswagen, however, was diverted toward the manufacture of tanks, tractors, and other military equipment, which

were produced in increasing quantities at the Fallersleben plant under Porsche's direction.

The experience and skill that Porsche displayed in designing tanks lead to his appointment in June 1941 as head of the newly created Panzer Kommission (Tank Commission) in the Reich Ministry of Armament and War Production. Its main function was research and development in the field of tank production. In addition Porsche was appointed Head of the Working Committee for Air Cooled Engines (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Luftgekühlte Motoren).

Porsche was Honorarprofessor (part time professor) at the Technische Hochschule (Institute of Technology) in Stuttgart (from 1940 ? on). He received many honors from the Nazis. He was given the title of Wehrwirtschaftsführer, which is granted only to keymen in the German war economy who are in excellent standing with the Nazi Party. He was also named Pionier der Arbeit (Pioneer of Labor by Hitler).

Summary:

By virtue of his positions as Director of Volkswagen GmbH, as well as his positions as Head of the Tank Commission and the Working Committee for Air cooled Engines in the Reich Ministry of Armament and War Production, Porsche has played an important part in equipping the Nazi war machine, and shares in the responsibility for deterring and executing Nazi economic policies.

Sources: OSS, Source D, 5 July 1944  
OSS, Br-FU #3807, 19 June 1944  
Frankfurter Zeitung, 4 May 1942.  
Who is Who in Nazi Germany, 1944.  
Würendträger im Dritten Reich, 1943.  
War Leitete, 1941-1942.

17 May 1945

This record is a summary of such intelligence (from one or more sources as indicated) as was available at the time of preparation. It may consequently be subject to amendment by additional or more recent intelligence. Index numbers and letters are solely for indexing statements in the report.

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