

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH
BIOGRAPHICAL REPORT

RESTRICTED

53,050

Name: Pott, Alfred

Index of Statements in
Report

Nationality: German

Region: W 1 b

Region: Gleiwitz, Markgrafenstrasse 2

Occupation: 6 B, 25 E,
25 F, 25 H

Positions: Generalbevollmächtigter des Herrn
Nikolaus von Ballestrem (Deputy General
of Nikolaus von Ballestrem in the manage-
ment of the Ballestrem concern).

Political Attitude: 13

President (Vorsitzender des Grubenvorstands) of Gewerkschaft
Castellongo-Abwehr, Gleiwitz,

Chairman of the Board of Directors, Vereinigte Oberschlesische
Hüttenwerke AG, etc.

Member of the Board of Directors, Demag AG, Duisburg,
Dynamit AG, Troisdorf,
Oberschlesische Lokomotivwerke AG, Gleiwitz, etc., etc.,

Leiter, Bezirksgruppe Oberschlesien der Wirtschaftsgruppe
Eisenschaffende Industrie (Head of the District Group Upper
Silesia of the Economic Group Iron Producing Industry),

Member of the Präsidium (Executive Committee) of the Reichs-
vereinigung Eisen (National Association Iron), 1944---

Birth date and place: 7 December 1882, Witten.

Education: Pott studied chemistry and engineering in Darmstadt and Karlsruhe
and in 1907 started his career as Betriebsingenieur (plant manager)
and chemist.

Work and Political History: Pott became manager of one of the first synthetic
nitrate plants in Germany in 1915. Two years later he became associated
with the Stinnes concern and by 1922 was Chairman of the Management
Board (Vorsitzender des Vorstands) of the major coal mines belonging to
the Stinnes concern (Gewerkschaften Victoria Mathias, Graf Beust, Carolus,
Magnus, Friedrich Ernestine,), of the Wühlheimer Bergwerksverein, and
other undertakings belonging to the Stinnes concern, such as Glaswerke
Ruhr AG. In addition he was in the twenties a member of the Board of
Directors of a considerable number of firms of the chemical and glass
industry. While working for the Stinnes concern, Pott is reported to
have developed the hydrogenation of coal (Bergius process) on
a commercial basis, thus establishing his reputation as one of the

RESTRICTED

- 2 -

Pott, Alfred

leading industrial chemists of Germany.

Pott retained his positions in the Stinnes concern until 1938, when, due to disagreements with Hugo Stinnes Jr., according to source, he withdrew from all Stinnes enterprises and joined the Ballestrem concern, the leading industrial combine of Upper Silesia. It is reported that Pott, as a chemist, was chosen for a leading position in the concern partly at least with a view to developing the production of synthetic gasoline on a large scale in the Ballestrem plants. He was appointed deputy general of Nikolaus von Ballestrem, senior member of the Ballestrem family, in the management of all the Ballestrem enterprises. The Ballestrem combine had lost some of its Upper Silesian properties to Poland after World War I. After the Nazi conquest of Poland, however, the Ballestrems, through the Haupttreuhandstelle Ost under Max Winkler (q.v.), an agency of the Four Year Plan Office, not only regained many of their former properties but, together with the Göring and Schaffgotsch combines, took over extensive mining and industrial interests from the Polish state and from Polish citizens.

As of 1941-1942, Pott held the following positions in the Ballestrem concern:

He was President (Vorsitzender des Grubenvorstands) of Gewerkschaft Castellengo-Abwehr, one of the largest mining properties of the combine, which furthermore, owned more than ninety-seven percent of the stock of Vereinigte Oberschlesische Hüttenwerke AG, the largest unit in the Ballestrem concern. After the conquest of Poland, Castellengo-Abwehr, in addition, acquired fifty-two percent of the stock of Friedenshütte Schlesische Berg- und Hüttenwerke AG, Kattowitz, (which had belonged to the Ballestrems before World War I), from the Haupttreuhandstelle Ost. Pott was Chairman of the Board of Directors (Aufsichtsrat) of both the Vereinigte Oberschlesische Hüttenwerke AG and the Friedenshütte Schlesische Berg- und Hüttenwerke AG. He was, furthermore, Chairman of the Board of Directors of

RESTRICTED

Work and Political History: (cont.) Ferrum AG, Kattowitz, and a member of the Board of Directors of Oberschlesische Lokomotivwerke AG, Kattowitz, in both of which the Friedenshütte held the majority participation. The Ballestrens had acquired both Ferrum AG and Oberschlesische Lokomotivwerke AG along with the Friedenshütte as a result of the German annexation of Polish Upper Silesia. Among other properties which came under the control of the Ballestren concern at that time were the machinery factories at Sosnowice and Dombrowa and a number of coke and coal mines (Pokoř, Concordia, Wolfgang-Wasel, etc.)

Pott was Chairman of the Board of Directors (Vorsitzender des Aufsichtsrats) of:

Carlschütte Maschinen und Stahlbau Gesellschaft mbH, Waldenburg Altwasser,
Lokomotiv Vereinigung GmbH, Berlin,
Lokomotiv Vereinigung GmbH, Kattowitz
VIII - Vereinigte Holzindustrie AG für Holzhandel, Breslau,
Vereinigte Holzindustrie AG, Gleiwitz.

All these companies were affiliated with the Ballestren combine.

Pott was Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors of Oberschlesische Eisenbahnbetriebe AG, Gleiwitz, mainly a holding company, which owned considerable stock in the major companies of the Ballestren combine.

Pott's industrial holdings extended beyond the Ballestren concern. He was chairman of the Board of Directors of:

Oberschlesische Hüttenwerke AG, Bleckhammer, Upper Silesia,

and Deputy Chairman of the Board of

Maschinenbau AG Balke, Bochum,
Ruhrgas AG, Essen, Ruhr,

He was a member of the Board of Directors of

Daimler AG, Duisburg, the most important German machine producing company,
Dynalit AG, vorm. Alfred Nobel, Troisdorf, largest European manufacturers of dynamite and other chemicals,
Schlesische Elektrizitäts und Gas AG (OEW), Gleiwitz
Ferngas Collection AG, Breslau,
Hoch Tief AG für Hoch- und Tiefbauten, Essen,
Elektrobleibau GmbH, Berlin
Ruhrstahl AG, Witten,
Waldhofwerke AG, Berlin, etc.

Although it is reported that Pott did not become a member of the Nazi Party until 1939 and is said to have had no great sympathy for Nazism, he actively cooperated with the Nazi regime and held at least two important positions in Nazi sponsored organizations for the control of German business. He was head of Gesamtsgruppe Oberschlesien der Wirtschaftsgruppe Eisenverarbeitende Industrie (District Group Upper Silesia of the Economic Group Iron Producing Industry), which forms part of the corporative organization of German business established by the Nazis in 1934. In this capacity Pott exercised organizational control over the iron producing industry in the Upper Silesia area. In September 1944, Pott was appointed a member of the Executive Committee (Präsidium) of the Reichsverbandung Eisen (National Association Iron), the super cartel established by the Nazis in 1941 to further centralize control over the German steel industry. The Reichsverbandung Iron controls over three of Iron and Steel production

POTT, Alfred

- 4 -

RESTRICTED

Work and Political History: (cont.) from the mining of ore to the wholesale finished products, regulating market conditions, fixing prices, etc.

Summary: By virtue of his dominant position in the Ballestren concern and his membership on the Board of Directors of such leading companies as Demag AG, Dynamit AG, etc., as head of the District Group Upper Silesia of the Economic Group Iron Producing Industry and as a member of the Executive Committee of the National Association Iron, Pott shares in the responsibility for planning and executing Nazi economic policies. Through his connection with the Ballestren concern, he has had an important part in the economic exploitation of German occupied Polish territories, particularly Polish Upper Silesia.

Sources: OSS, R & A 1910, 25 July 1944
OSS, BR-FU, # 935, 2 November 1944
OSS, BR-FU # 1541, 8 April 1944
Wenzel, Deutscher Wirtschaftsführer, 1929
Adressbuch der Direktoren und Aufsichtsräte, 1930
Wer leitet, 1941-1942
Wirtschafts- und Sozialpolitik im Dritten Reich, 1943
Kölnische Zeitung, 27 September 1944

BR-2
1 June 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.

RESTRICTED