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BIOGRAPHICAL REPORT

Index of Statements  
in Report

Name: QUANDT, Günther  
Region: J 1 b  
Nationality: German  
Occupation: 25B, 25F  
25E  
Address: Berlin SW 11, Askanischer Platz 3  
Positions: President of Accumulatorfabrik AG Berlin, Political Attitude: 13  
President of Deutsche Waffen und Munitionsfabrik AG, Berlin  
President (Vorsitzender des Grubenvorstands) of Gewerkschaft Wintershall, Heringen.  
Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors, Wintershall AG, Kassel  
Member of the Board of Directors of Deutsches Kalisyndikat GmbH (potash syndicate)  
Member of the Board of Directors of Deutsche Bank, and other banking and insurance firms,  
Chairman or member of the Board of Directors of numerous other companies of the chemical machinery and textile industries,  
Wehrwirtschaftsführer,

Birth Date and Place: 28 July 1881, Pritzwalk, Prignitz

Work and Political History:

Günther Quandt is one of Germany's leading industrialists whose holdings, considerable before 1933, have greatly expanded since Hitler's rise to power.

He began his business career in his father's textile firm of Draeger Brothers (Gebrüder Draeger) in Pritzwalk, which manufactures cloth for military purposes, and, at the age of nineteen, was entrusted by his father with the management of Tuchfabrik Wilhelm Wegener in Wittstock. During World War I, he was head of Reichswolle AG, a government corporation, which controlled the manufacture of woollens for German war needs. Although his most important holdings in later years centered in the chemical machinery and munitions industry, Quandt has maintained his interest in the textile industry. In addition to his co-ownership in the Draeger concern (Gebrüder Draeger, Pritzwalk, and Draeger Werke GmbH, Potsdam-Babelsberg), he controls the majority stock and is chairman of the Board of Directors of Deutsche Wollwarenmanufaktur AG, Grünberg, Silesia (1930), and is a member of the Board of Directors of Kammgarnspinnerei Stöhr & Co., AG, Leipzig (1930), as well as of the Deutsches Tuchsyndikat GmbH, one of the cartels in the textile industry.

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Work and Political History, cont'd:

In the twenties, Quandt became interested in the potash industry, soon gaining control over a considerable share of German potash and chemical production through his part-ownership and his position as President (Vorsitzender des Grubenvorstands) of Gewerkschaft Wintershall, Heringen (1930), a mining corporation which controls the Wintershall AG, Kassel (1930), Germany's largest potash producers and next to the IG Farben the largest chemical concern. Wintershall AG alone (excluding the Gewerkschaft Wintershall) accounted for forty percent of German potash production under quotas established by the potash syndicate (Deutsches Kalisyndikat GmbH). Quandt exercises direct control over two of Wintershall AG's largest subsidiaries, as a member of the Management (Grubenvorstand) of Gewerkschaft-Victor Stickstoffwerke Castrop Rauxel, and as Chairman of the Board of Directors (Vorsitzender des Aufsichtsrats) of Bergbau AG Lothringen, Bochum-Gerthe. (The latter position Quandt relinquished in 1943). Quandt's influence extends to the potash industry as a whole, as he is a member of the Board of Directors of the Deutsches Kalisyndikat GmbH, (potash syndicate), one of the most important and most tightly organized German cartels, which unites all major potash producers, determines production quotas for each mine, fixes prices, etc.

Beginning in the thirties and particularly since the outbreak of World War II, Wintershall has expanded its interests to include oil production and refining, as well as synthetic fuel and lubricant production. Wintershall is one of the founders and stockholders of the Kontinentale Öl AG, organized in 1941 for the control and exploitation of oil wells in Eastern Europe, particularly Poland, Rumania and Russia.

Quandt is chairman of the Board of Directors of two other chemical firms, the Dominitwerke GmbH, Berlin, manufacturing particularly explosives, and Eyk-Guldenwerke Chemische Fabrik AG, Berlin

Likewise in the twenties, Quandt acquired important interests in the electrical industry. He obtained ownership of the majority stock and became President of the Accumulatorenfabrik AG, Berlin, 1930, manufacturers of storage batteries. Under Quandt's leadership the firm greatly expanded, acquiring subsidiaries abroad which it had lost during World War I, and was able to make a profit even during depression years. He is chairman of the Board of Directors of one of the subsidiaries of the Accumulatorenfabrik AG, the Concordia Elektrizitäts AG, Düsseldorf (1930). He is a member of the Board of Directors of AEG (Allgemeine Elektrizitätsgesellschaft) (1930) next to the Siemens & Halske AG, Germany's largest electrical concern.

In the field of metal processing and machine construction Quandt also made important gains. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Daimler-Benz AG, the second largest German automobile manufacturing company and is chairman of the Board of Directors of Busch-Jaeger, Lüdenscheider Metallwerke AG, Lüdenscheid Westfalen, which processes non-ferrous metals. Other firms with which he is connected included the following:

\*The date 1930 following any position (in parenthesis) indicates that Quandt has held this position at least since 1930. All business connections and positions are subject to change.

Work and Political History cont'd:

Vereinigte Kugellagerfabriken AG, Schweinfurt (ball bearings),  
Dürener Metallwerke AG, Berlin (1930) (non ferrous metals),  
Nordisk Aluminiumindustrie (Aluminum), Norway  
Berlin Erfurter Maschinen Fabrik Henry Peis & Co., AG, Berlin, etc.

In the spring of 1933 Goebbels is said to have become interested in Quandt's industrial undertakings. In 1931 Goebbels had married Quandt's former wife. On the basis of claims for alimony for Quandt's son, who had been placed under Mrs. Goebbel's guardianship, Goebbels obtained part of the industrial stock held by Quandt. If Quandt sustained any loss in this transaction, he was amply compensated by the subsequent expansion of his interests under Nazi auspices. In the course of the thirties Quandt became one of Germany's large armaments and munitions manufacturers. He obtained control of the Deutsch Waffen und Munitionsfabrik AG, formerly one of Germany's largest munitions factories, which had, however, declined considerably in importance through the restrictions on German armaments imposed by the treaty of Versailles. Quandt was able to secure the support of the big banks, and, soon after he became Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company, he reorganized and expanded it. In 1935 the Deutsche Waffen und Munitions Fabrik AG, once more was able to pay dividends, and in the years of Nazi preparation for war which followed, reaped handsome profits and once more became one of Germany's leading armament firms. The important Mausier Werke AG at Oberndorf, another armament concern, also became part of the Quandt interests.

Finally, in the thirties Quandt entered the insurance and banking fields. As of 1941/1942 he <sup>was</sup> reported to be Chairman of the Board of Directors of:

Friedrich Wilhem Lebensversicherungs AG, Berlin, (life insurance)  
Gerling Konzern, Rheinische Versicherungsgruppe AG, a large Cologne  
insurance concern,

and a member of the Board of:

Westfalenbank AG, Bochum Westfalen, a subsidiary of Wintershall AG  
(see above), serving the financial interests of the Wintershall  
combine,  
Deutsche Bank, Berlin, the largest German bank.

Quandt was granted the title of Wehrwirtschaftsführer, an indication not only that the Nazis recognized his important share in the German rearmament program, but that he is an excellent standing with the Nazi Party.

Summary:

Although Quandt holds no official position in the Nazi administration of German industry, he shares in the responsibility for formulating and executing Nazi economic policies and for the economic exploitation of German dominated territories through his control of the Wintershall combine, Germany's largest potash and chemical concern, his membership on the Board of Directors of the potash syndicate, his share in the German armaments and

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Summary cont'd:

munitions production as President of the Deutsche Waffen- und Munitionsfabrik AG, and through his positions with numerous other industrial and financial undertakings.

Sources:

OSS source S, 26 September 1941  
OSS source S, 9 November 1943  
OSS, R & A 1910, 25 July 1944.  
Wer Leitet, 1941-1942.  
Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 26 August 1941.  
Frankfurter Zeitung, 23 April 1943.  
Europa Kabel, 22 October 1943  
Das Reich, 20 July 1941.  
Die Zeitung, 20 July 1943.

18 April 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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