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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES  
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH  
BIOGRAPHICAL REPORT

53.056  
RESTRICTED

Name:	REEMTSMA, Phillip F.	Index of Statements in Report
Nationality:	German	Region: A
Region:	Hamburg-Klein-Flottbeck, Parkstrasse 51.	Occupation: 25 A, 25B, 28, 6A
Positions:	Partner and manager of <u>H. F. and Ph. F. Reemtsma, Hamburg.</u>  Member of the Board of Directors, <u>Deutsche Bank, Berlin</u> <u>Vereinigte Glanzstoff Fabriken AG,</u> <u>Elberfeld,</u>  Head of <u>Fachuntergruppe Zigaretten-</u> <u>industrie der Wirtschaftsgruppe</u> <u>Lebensmittelindustrie</u> (Special Group Cigarette Industry of the Economic Group Foodstuffs industry),  Member of the Advisory Board (Beirat) of <u>Reichsgruppe Industrie</u> (National Group Industry),  <u>Wehrwirtschaftsführer</u>	Political Attitude: 13

Birth Date and Place: 22 December 1893, Osterholz Schammbeck.

Family History:

His two brothers, Herman and Alvin were partners in the Reemtsma concern.  
Subject was married twice.

Work and Political History:

Phillip Reemtsma is known primarily as Germany's largest cigarette manufacturer. He was partner and manager of H. F. and Ph. F. Reemtsma AG, Hamburg, which is said to account for more than eighty percent of German cigarette output. He is said to have built up his business by ruthless methods of cut-throat competition, selling below cost until his competitors were forced to sell out to his concern. 1/

The Reemtsmas are said to have been "inveterate foes" of the Weimar Republic. 2/ At any rate, apparently a typical opportunist, the Reemtsmas prospered under the Nazi regime. According to his interview source, Phillip Reemtsma subsidized many political parties before 1933, as his main purpose was the promotion of his business interests. He is said to have maintained relations with Göring, to have made the personal acquaintance of Hitler, after 1933, to have joined the NSDAP and to have complied not only with Nazi regulations concerning the dismissal of Jewish personnel, but to have fulfilled the personal wishes of top Nazi leaders in joining financial support to extravagant Nazi ventures.

Work and Political History, cont'd:

They obtained a cigarette monopoly in Danzig and brought many small companies in Germany under their control.

Phillip Reemtsma in addition to his tobacco interests was connected with leading enterprises in other fields. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Deutsche Bank, the largest German Bank. Reportedly under indirect control of the Deutsche Bank was the Vereinigte Glanzstoff Fabriken AG, Germany's largest individual rayon concern of which Reemtsma was a member of the Board of Directors. In 1940 he acquired the majority of the stock of the German Afrika steamship line.

Reemtsma held several important positions in the Nazi administration of business. He was head of Fachgruppe Zigarottenindustrie in der Wirtschaftsgruppe Lebensmittelindustrie (Special Group Cigarette Industry of the Economic Group Foodstuffs Industry), which forms part of the corporative organization of German business established by the Nazis in 1934. In this capacity he exercised control over the entire German cigarette production.

Reemtsma was, furthermore, a member of the Advisory Board (Beirat) of the Reichsgruppe Industrie (National Group Industry), which played an important part in controlling German industry. Reemtsma was a member of the Industrie und Handelskammer (Chamber of Industry and Commerce) in Hamburg (which was later merged into a gau Economic Chamber) and a member of the Advisory Board (Beirat) of the Deutsche Reichsbank.

Reemtsma received the title of Wehrwirtschaftsführer, which is granted only to keymen in the German war economy who are in excellent standing with the Nazi Party.

Summary:

By virtue of his control over the German tobacco industry, as partner and manager of the largest German tobacco company, H. P. and Ph. F. Reemtsma, and as head of the Special Group Cigarette Industry of the Economic Group Foodstuffs industry, by virtue of his business positions with such important firms as Deutsche Bank, Vereinigte Glanzstoff Fabriken AG, etc., Reemtsma plays an important part in determining Nazi economic policies.

SOURCES: 1/: OSS, BR, FU I, 6 Dec. 1945 A. 1086: Business & personal acquaintance  
2/: OSS, R & A 1910, 25 July 1945. B. 1012: business acquaintance  
3/: Die Zeitung, 12 December 1944.  
4/: Würendträger im Dritten Reich, 1943.  
Wer Leitet, 1943-1942.

5 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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