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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH
BIOGRAPHICAL REPORT

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Index of Statements
in Report

Name:	ROHLAND, Walter	Region:	M 1d, J 1a
Nationality:	German	Occupation:	6A, 25 F
Region:	Krefeld, Vluyler Platz 6; Also Berlin	Political Attitude:	13
Positions:	<p>Member of the Management Board (Vorstand) of <u>Vereinigte Stahlwerke AG</u>,</p> <p>Member of the Board of Directors of <u>Deutsche Eisenwerke AG, Mülheim</u>, and other companies owned by <u>Vereinigte Stahl AG</u>,</p> <p>Member of the Board of Directors of <u>Vereinigte Oberschlesische Hüttenwerke AG, Gleiwitz</u>,</p> <p>Deputy Chairman (Stellvertretender Vorsitzender) of the <u>Reichsvereinigung Eisen</u>, etc.</p> <p>Head of the <u>Hauptausschuss Panzerwagen und Zugmaschinen</u> (Main Committee Tanks and Tractors) of the Reich Ministry of Armament and War Production,</p> <p>Deputy Head (Stellvertretender Leiter) of the <u>Hauptring Eisenerzeugung</u>, (Main Ring Iron Manufacture) of the Reich Ministry of Arma- ment and War Production.</p> <p>Member of the Central Planning Office (<u>Planungsamt</u>) under Speer</p>		

Birth date: 1898

Work and Political History: Walter Rohland is one of the younger leaders of the German Steel Industry, who, in recent years, has held powerful positions in the Nazi administration of German business.

Rohland's business interests center mainly in the Steel Trust. He is a member of the Management Board (Vorstand) of the Vereinigte Stahlwerke AG, one of Germany's most powerful industrial concerns, owning the Gelsenkirchner

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Work and Political History, (cont'd.):

Bergwerke AG, Germany's largest coal producer, the Hochruher Verein für Gusstahlfabrikation and a large number of other important companies in the coal and steel industry.

Rohland is a member of the Board of Directors of leading subsidiaries and affiliates of the Vereinigte Stahl AG, including

Hüttenwerke Siegerland AG, Siegen,
Deutsche Eisenwerke AG, Muhlheim,
Bergbau und Hütten AG "Friedrichshütte," Merford
Dortmunder Union Brückenbau AG, Dortmund,
Bandelsenwalzwerke AG, Dinslaken,
Ruhrgas AG, Essen

The other major German Steel combine with which Rohland is connected is the Ballestrem concern. He is a member of the Board of Directors (Aufsichtsrat) of Vereinigte Oberschlesische Hüttenwerke AG, Gleiwitz, the main unit in the Ballestrem combine, which has had a considerable part in the economic exploitation of Polish Upper Silesia since its annexation by Germany. As of 1943, he is reported to have been a member of the Board of Directors of Bayrische Motorenwerke AG, a large Bavarian motor and machinery producer.

Since the outbreak of World War II, Rohland has been appointed to major positions in the Reich Ministry of Armament and War Production under Speer. He was head of the Hauptausschuss Panzerwagen und Zugmaschinen (Main Committee Tanks and Tractors), one of twenty-one Main Committees under Speer, controlling the production of every type of war equipment. The Main Committee Tanks and Tractors has at least eight subcommittees covering all phases of Tank and tractor production. At the same time Rohland was Deputy Head of the Hauptring Eisenerzeugung (Main Ring Iron Production), which controls the output of iron and steel needed in the manufacture of war equipment. In the spring of 1944 Rohland was appointed a member of the newly created Central Planning Office operating directly under Speer, which is believed to be the Supreme German planning agency for war production. Rohland was removed from the Committee late in 1944, however.

Rohland derives further power over the German Steel Industry from his position as Deputy Chairman of the Reichsvereinigung Eisen, one of the Nazi super cartels established in 1942 to further centralize control over German industry. The Reichsvereinigung Eisen controls nearly all phases of the steel industry from the mining of ore to the wholesale of finished products. Its functions include rationalization and increase of production, procurement and allocation of raw materials, market regulating, price fixing, etc.

Summary: As a member of the Management Board (Vorstand) of Vereinigte Stahlwerke AG, and as member of the Board of Directors (Aufsichtsrat) of other large companies of the steel industry, by virtue of his positions in the Reich Ministry of Armament and War Production (Head of Main Committee Tanks and Tractors, Deputy Head of Main Ring Iron Production, Member of the Central Planning

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Summary, cont'd:

Office) and as Deputy Chairman of the Reichsvereinigung Eisen, Rohland has an important share in determining and executing Nazi economic policies.

Sources: OSS Source D, 5 July 1944
OSS Source S, 27 January 1945
OSS R & A 1910, 25 July 1944.
OSS CID #A-48341
Berlin Radio, 27 May 1943 (FCC -Br, 28 May 1943.)
Würendenträger im Dritten Reich, 1943
Wer Leitet, 1941-1942.
Who is Who in Nazi Germany, 1944.

25 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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