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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH
BIOGRAPHICAL REPORT

53.063
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		Index of Statements in Report
Name:	ROHNERT, Hellmuth	Region: J1a, J1a
Nationality:	German	Occupation: 6A, 25F, 28 29, 25 G
Region:	Berlin Grunewald, Lynerstrasse 23	
Positions:	President (Vorsitzender des Vorstands) of Rheinmetall Borsig AG, Member of the Management Board (Vorstand) of Reichswerke AG Hermann Göring, Chairman of the Board of Directors (Aufsichtsrat) of Reichswerke AG für Waffen und Maschinenbau Hermann Göring, and of other Göring subsidiaries, Junkers Flugzeug und Motorenwerke AG, Dessau, Topedo Werke AG, Frankfurt, etc. Member of the Board of Directors of Accumu- latores Fabrik (afa) AG., Berlin Dresdner Bank, Berlin, Gerling Konzern Rückversicherungs AG, Köln, etc. Member of the Rüstungsrat (Armament Board), Member of the Advisory Board (Beirat) of Reichs- gruppe Industrie (National Group Industry).	Political Attitude: 1 -- 13
Birth Date:	21 April 1888.	

Work and Political History:

Before Hitler came to power Röhnert was General Manager (Generaldirektor) of Lüdenscheider Metallwerke AG, vorm. Julius Fischer & Basse, and a member of the Management Board (Vorstand) of the Vereinigte Elektrotechnische Fabriken F. W. Busche & Gebrüder Jäger. These two companies, which manufactured metal products and electrical equipment, were subsequently merged under the name of Busch Jäger Lüdenscheider Metallwerke AG, Lüdenscheid, of which Röhnert was a member of the Management Board (at least until 1941-1942). He was before 1933 also General Manager and Chairman of the Board of Directors (Aufsichtsrat) of Wilhelm Böhmer AG, a small firm manufacturing electrical equipment, and was a member of the Board of Directors of Hannoversche Industrie Aktiengesellschaft, a holding company which controlled the Lüdenscheider Metallwerke.

Röhnert is said to have joined the Nazi Party about 1931. (OSS Source S, 15 October 1943). At any rate he must have enjoyed the favor of high Nazi leaders, for after Hitler came to power Röhnert's business interests

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Work and Political History: (Cont'd)

expanded tremendously until he held leading positions with many top ranking German industrial concerns. He was one of the most powerful men in the Göring combine, which organized originally in 1937 and, reorganized in 1941, had become the third largest industrial trust in Europe. Röhnert was a member of the Board of Directors of the original Göring company, Reichswerke für Erzbergbau und Eisenhütten AG, established in 1937. In 1938 Göring acquired from VIAG, the Reich holding company, a controlling share (53.3 percent) in the Rheinmetall Borsig AG, one of the largest machine and metal working concerns in Germany. Röhnert became President (Vorsitzender des Vorstands) of Rheinmetall Borsig AG, which since the outbreak of the war has been devoted entirely to armament manufacture. After the reorganization of the Göring combine in 1941, Röhnert became a member of the Management Board (Vorstand) of Reichswerke AG Hermann Göring, the overall holding company of the combine, which directly or indirectly controls all Göring enterprises. Furthermore Röhnert was Chairman of the Board of Directors (Aufsichtsrat) of two of the three most important subsidiaries of the Reichswerke AG Hermann Göring:

Reichswerke AG für Waffen-und Maschinenbau Herman Göring, which comprises the machinery, motor and armament companies of the Göring combine and the

Reichswerke AG für Binnenschiffahrt Hermann Göring uniting the Göring transportation interests.

He was a member of the Board of Directors (Aufsichtsrat) of:

Reichswerke AG Alpine Montan Betriebe Hermann Göring, Linz formerly the Alpine Montanwerke AG, Austria's leading steel concern, taken over by German interests (Steel Trust) after the annexation of Austria and acquired by the Göring combine in 1939,

Wohnungs AG der Reichswerke Hermann Göring, Berlin.

Röhnert is connected with a number of important metal and machinery producing concerns outside the Göring combine. According to one source (Würendträger im Dritten Reich, (1943), he was Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Vereinigte Stahlwerke AG (Steel Trust), one of the largest German coal and steel producing combines controlling such important companies as the Gelsenkirchner Bergwerks AG, the largest German coal producer. He was a member of the Board of Directors of:

Accumulatoren Fabrik (afa) AG, Berlin, the largest German producers of storage batteries, owned by Günther Quandt (q.v.)
Maschinenbau AG, Balcke, Bochum.

He was Chairman of the Board of Directors of:

Sächsische Metallwarenfabrik Wellner Söhne,
Kardex AG für Büro Artikel Saarbrücken,

and Chairman of the Advisory Board (Vorsitzender des Beirats) of

Work and Political History, (cont'd):

Fahrzeug und Motorenwerk GmbH, vormals Linke und Hoffmann, Breslau,
belonging to the Flick combine (q.v.)
Magdeburger Werkzeug-und Maschinenfabrik GmbH, Magdeburg.

In the field of airplane construction Röhnert played an important part in his capacity as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Junkers Flugzeug-und Motorenwerke AG, Dessau, by far the largest German airplane manufacturers. In addition he was a member of the Board of Directors of Arado Flugzeugwerke GmbH, Potsdam.

Other industrial undertakings with which Röhnert was connected as Deputy Chairman or as member of the Board of Directors (Aufsichtsrat) include the following:

Berliner Kraft und Licht (Bewag) AG, Berlin, (Light and power),
Torpedo Werke AG, Frankfurt,
Alexanderwerk AG, Remscheid,
Deutsche Wollwarenmanufaktur AG, Grünberg (cloth manufacturing
company owned by Günther Quandt, (q.v.)
Hermann Herzog & Co., AG, Neugersdorf, Sachsen,
Gebrüder Heyne GmbH, Offenbach,

Along with his industrial undertakings Röhnert became interested in the banking and insurance field. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Dresdner Bank, Germany's second largest bank, which as a result of Nazi military aggression controlled important banks as well as vast industrial properties throughout German occupied territory, particularly in Southeastern Europe. He also served as a member of the Regional Board (Landessausschuss) for Westphalia of the Dresdner Bank. Of one of the leading private banks, Hardy & Co., Berlin, Röhnert was likewise a member of the Board of Directors. Two insurance companies in which Röhnert holds membership on the Board of Directors are the Friedrich Wilhelms Lebensversicherungs AG (life insurance), Berlin, and Gerling Konzern Rückversicherung AG, Köln.

In connection with the corporative organization of German business Röhnert was a member of the Advisory Board (Beirat) of the Reichsgruppe Industrie (National Group Industry), the most important of the seven National Groups, which exercises organizational control over all German industry. In 1942 Röhnert was appointed a member of the Rüstungsrat which is composed of representatives of the army, the navy, government and industry, and serves as a planning agency for war production.

Summary: By virtue of his leading position in the Göring combine, his position as chairman of the Board of Directors of Junkers Flugzeug und Motorenwerke AG, Vereinigte Stahlwerke AG, and his many other business connections, as well as by his membership on the Rüstungsrat and on the Advisory Board of the Reichsgruppe Industrie, Röhnert shares in the responsibility for determining and executing Nazi economic policies.

Sources: OSS Source S, 15 October 1943.
OSS R & A 1910, 25 July 1944.
Wenzel, Deutscher Wirtschaftsführer, 1929
Wer Leitet, 1941-1942
Frankfurter Zeitung, 7 May 1942.
Würendenträger im Dritten Reich, 1943.

2 May 1945

This record is a summary (from one or more sources as indicated) of such intelligence 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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