

This supersedes previous
report (No. 209), undated.

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH
BIOGRAPHICAL REPORT

53,066
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Name: SCHIEBER, Walter
Nationality: German
Region: Rudolstadt, Thüringen; Richard
Wagnerstr. 5
Positions: Chief of Rüstungslieferungsamt
(Office of Armaments Supply)
in the Reichsministerium für
Rüstung und Kriegsproduktion
(Reich Ministry of Armament
and War Production), 1941 (?)
1944.
Stellvertretender Leiter der
Reichsgruppe Industrie (Deputy
Leader of the National Group
Industry), 1942—
Vorsitzender des Verwaltungsrat
(Chairman of the Board of Directors)
of Gustloffwerke Weimar.
Vorsitzender des Vorstands (President)
of Thüringische Zellwolle AG, Schwarz. a.
Hauptgeschäftsführer (Chief Manager),
Zellwolle und Kunstseide Ring GmbH,
Berlin

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in Report

Region: J 1a, F 4
Occupation: 6A, 25B, 25F
Political
Attitude: 15

Birth Date and Place: 13 September 1896; Beimerstetten.

Work and Political History: Originally a Prokurist (employee of a firm empowered to transact business and sign in behalf of the firm) of the IG Farbenindustrie AG, Schieber in a few years rose to a dominant position in the German war industry, thanks to his close connections with such top Nazi leaders as Hans Kehrl and Wilhelm Sauckel. His spectacular career began when, in 1933, he was appointed chairman of the Board of Directors (Vorsitzender des Verwaltungsrats) of the Gustloffwerke Weimar, a combine owned by the NSDAP and administered by Sauckel, which is composed of several firms, including

the Suhler Waffen- und Fahrzeugwerke, formerly Simson Werke AG, Suhl, which was seized from its Jewish owners in 1933.

Heymer & Pils AG, Maschinen und Eisen-Giessereien, Meuselwitz, Thüringen

Hirtenberger Patronen, Zündhütchen und Metallwarenfabrik, an Austrian munitions factory taken over after the "Anschluss" in 1938. (Until then owned by Fritz Mandl, now in Buenos Aires).

As the next step in his career, Schieber obtained control over a considerable sector of the synthetic fiber industry, which expanded tremendously in the

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Work and Political History (Cont'd.):

thirties. He founded the Thüringische Zellwolle AG, Schwarza, which soon dominated the Zellwolle und Kunstseide Ring GmbH (cell-wool and Rayon Ring), a combination of twelve leading firms in the synthetic fiber industry and the second largest combine in this field in Germany. Schieber became chief manager of this association, after the German occupation. The Cell-Wool and Rayon Ring acquired substantial interests in the French and Belgian artificial silk and fiber industries. (Schieber resigned as President of the Thüringische Zellwolle AG in 1944, but assumed the position of Chairman of the Board of Directors (Vorsitzender des Aufsichtsrats) so that he still controls long range policy, although he has retired from active management.)

In addition Schieber is a member of the directorate or management of 6 of the companies composing the cell-wool and rayon ring. He is manager (Vorsitzender des Vorstands) of the following:

Lenzinger Zellwolle & Papierfabrik AG, Agerzell, Austria
Schwäbische Zellstoff AG, Röhningen
Westfälische Zellstoff AG, Alphenint,

He is a member of the Board of Directors of:

Spinnstoff-werk Zehlendorf AG, Berlin-Zehlendorf,
Spinnstoff-werk, Glauchau, Glauchau,
Solanum GmbH, (Riesa).
The Thüringer Robstoff AG, of which Schieber is Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors, and the Spinnstoff-gesellschaft GmbH, Berlin, of which he is chairman of the advisory Council (Vorsitzender des Beirats) are not connected with the cell-wool Rayon Ring.

During the earlier years of the Nazi regime Schieber had served as Gauwirtschaftsberater (Gau Economic Advisor) of the NSDAP Gau Thüringen, a position he later relinquished. When Speer's Ministry of Armament and War Production was given decisive control over war production (1941), Schieber was made head of the Rüstungslieferungsamt (Division of Armament Supply) which controlled the Industrial Rings and Main Committees operating under the Ministry, for the organization and supervision of the production of every type of equipment and material necessary to carry on the war. He also controlled three special committees within the Speer Ministry, the Spezialsonderausschuss für Ölfeldbedarf (Special Committee on Oil Field Equipment), the Energiestelle beim Chef des Rüstungslieferungsamtes (Electric Power Board attached to the Office of Armaments Supply); and of the Sonderausschuss Generatoren (Special Committee Generators). Further, he was head of the Zentralstelle für Generatoren (Central Office for Generators) which promotes the use of solid instead of liquid fuels for motor vehicles.

In 1942 Schieber's power was further increased when he was appointed Stellvertretender Leiter der Reichsgruppe Industrie (Deputy Leader of the National Group Industry), the most important of the seven National groups (Reichsgruppen)

Work and Political History (cont'd):

operating as part of the corporative organization of German business established by the Nazis in 1934. Schieber is said to have exploited his various positions to enrich himself, as it enabled him to study the patents and secret processes of other firms.

Upon the sixth anniversary of National Socialism's rise to power, Hitler bestowed the Golden Medal of Honor (Goldenes Ehrenzeichen) of the NSDAP upon Schieber, and in September 1943 awarded him the Knight's Cross of the War Merit Cross. In 1943, Schieber accepted a position as member of the Board of Directors of the Dresdner Bank acting as Vertrauensmann (representative) of the Nazi Party. The Dresdner Bank is one of the most powerful banks of Germany, closely linked to the Nazi regime; as a result of German aggression it controlled numerous credit institutions in German satellite countries and occupied territories.

Whether Schieber's connections with Göring, or the criticism brought against his ruthless methods by many industrialists was a factor in his resignation as head of the Rüstungslieferungsamt (Division of Armament Supply) is not known. At any rate, when the Ministry was reorganized November 1944, Schieber was eliminated from the organization. No information on his subsequent status is available.

Summary: By virtue of his positions as head of the Rüstungslieferungsamt (Office of Armaments and Supply) and other key positions in the Reich Ministry of Armament and War Production, and as Deputy Leader of the National Group Industry, as well as by his control over the textile industry which he retained after relinquishing his official positions, Schieber is one of the most influential leaders in the Nazi war economy. He was specifically responsible for the expansion of the synthetic fiber industry in Germany and occupied Europe.

Sources: OSS, Source D, 5 July 1944.
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Wer Leitet, 1941-1942.
Das Archive, No. 58, January 1939 and No. 61, April 1939.
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Völkischer Beobachter, Nol 264, 21 September 1943.
Die Zeitung, 2 September 1941, p. 2
Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 9 July 1942
Frankfurter Zeitung, 9 July 1942
Der Neue Tag, Prague, No. 172, 24 June 1942.

March 29, 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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