

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH
BIOGRAPHICAL REPORTIndex of Statements
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Name: SCHMITZ, Hermann

Nationality: German

Region: Berlin-Dahlem, Miquelstrasse 66 (1942)

Positions: President (Vorsitzender des Vorstands) of I.G. Farben Industrie AG,
Frankfurt a/M,

Chairman of the Board of Directors (Vorsitzender des Aufsichtsrats) of:

Dynamit AG, vormals Alfred Nobel & Co., Troisdorf,
Rheinische Stahlwerke AG, Essen,
A. Riebeck'sche Montanwerke AG, Halle/Saale
Deutsche Industriebank, Berlin, etc.Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors (Stellvertretender Vorsitzender des
Aufsichtsrats) of Vereinigte Stahlwerke AG, Düsseldorf,Member of the Board of Directors (Aufsichtsrat) of:Metallgesellschaft AG, Frankfurt a/M.
Deutsche Bank, Berlin, etc., etc.Member of the Reichstag,Wehrwirtschaftsführer, etc.

Birth date and place: 1 January 1881; Essen

Religion: Protestant

Family History: Schmitz married Margarete von Mallinckrodt; they had two children.Education: Schmitz attended high school (Oberrealschule) and business college
(Handelshochschule).Work and Political History: From 1906 to 1914 Schmitz was a director of the Metallbank
(Frankfurt ?), and at the same time a member of the Board (Aufsichtsrat) of a
number of affiliated companies in London and Paris. He thus established
valuable foreign connections and gained experience in international financial
affairs, which he later used a good advantage in building up the I.G. Farben
concern.At the outbreak of World War I, Schmitz was a Lieutenant in the Reserve.
He subsequently saw action with the 81st Infantry Regiment as company
commander and was seriously wounded in October 1914. From 1915 to 1916
he served as Commissioner in the Raw Material Department (Kriegsrohstoffabteilung
of the Ministry of War (Kriegsministerium)). In 1917 he became economic
adviser (wirtschaftlicher Beirat) to the Reich Treasury Department,
(Reichsschatzamt). From March to June 1919, he was attached to the German
peace delegation as (economic) expert (Sachverständiger der Reichsregierung).

After the war Schmitz returned to private business. On 1 July 1919, he became a member of the Management Board (Vorstand) of the Badische Anilin und Sodafabrik, Ludwigshafen a/Rh., one of the leading German dye and chemical concerns. When in 1925 the Badische Anilin & Sodafabrik merged into the newly founded I.G. Farben-industrie AG, Schmitz became a member of the latter, and took charge of the financial department of the company. The I.G. Farben became not only by far the largest German chemical and dye trust, but the largest industrial combination in Germany. As a member of the management of this huge concern, Schmitz exercised tremendous influence not only over the chemical industry, both in Germany and abroad, but over other branches of German industry. He had important connections with the German metal and heavy industry as well as with some of the leading banks.

By the end of the twenties Schmitz was one of Germany's leading businessmen. (See list below). Under the Nazi regime he not only retained his position, but in 1935, following the death of Carl Bosch, he became President (Vorsitzender des Vorstands) of the I.G. Farben Industrie A.G. and acquired other important positions in the years after 1933. A list of his important business connections as of 1941-42 follows:

A. Companies owned by I.G. Farben Industrie AG:

Ammoniakwerke Merseburg GmbH, with a stock capital of RM 135,000,000, one of the largest properties of the I.G. Farben (1930)* - (President),
AG für Stickstoffdünger, Kampsack, Kreis Köln - (Chairman of the Board of Directors),

Deutsche Cellulloid Fabrik AG, Eilenburg (1929) - (Chairman of the Board of Directors),

American I.G. Chemical Corporation, New York (1930) - (Member of the Board of Directors),

Kalle & Co. AG, Wiesbaden-Biebrich (1930) - (Member of the Board of Directors),

Deutsche Länderbank AG, Berlin (1930)-(Chairman of the Board of Directors),

B. Companies Affiliated with I.G. Farben:

Dynamit AG, vorm. Alfred Nobel & Co., Troisdorf (1930), the largest European company manufacturing explosives, in which I.G. Farben held 44 percent of the stock and in addition had a profit sharing and dividend guarantee agreement - (Chairman of the Board of Directors),

*The date after the name of the company indicates that Schmitz has been connected with that company at least since the year indicated

Rheinische Stahlwerke AG, Essen (1930), one of Germany's important coal mining properties, proving the raw material basis for much of I.G. Farben's coal derivatives. (Its steel mill interests were transferred to Vereinigte Stahlwerke AG, with I.G. Farben is in close contact.) - (Chairman of the Board of Directors),

A. Riebeckische Montanwerke AG, Halle/Saale (1929), owning important lignite mines in Central Germany and controlled largely by the Rheinische Stahlwerke AG - (Chairman of the Board of Directors),

Norsk Hydro Elektrisk Kvaestofaktieseselskabet, Oslo, (1930), with which I.G. Farben had a profit sharing and dividend guarantee contract, -(Member of the Board of Directors),

Wolff & Co. KGaA, Walsrode (1930) - (Chairman of the Board of Directors).

C. Other Companies:

Vereinigte Stahlwerke AG, Dusseldorf, (Steel Trust) (1930), one of Germany's largest and most powerful coal, iron and steel producing combines, - (Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors),

Metallgesellschaft AG, Frankfurt a/M (1930), the largest German company producing non-ferrous metals -(Member of the Board of Director),

Norddeutsche Affinerie, Hamburg (1930), producing particularly precious metals; affiliated with Metallgesellschaft AG - (Member of the Board of the Board of Directors),

Bochum Gelsenkirchner Bahngesellschaft GmbH, Gelsenkirchen, -(President)

Rheinische Gummi und Celluloid Fabrik, Mannheim Neckarau, (1930) - (Member of the Board of Directors).

D. Banking and Insurance:

Deutsche Reichsbank, Berlin (1929) - Member of the Advisory Board (Beirat) and member of the Currency Commission (Währungsausschuss-),

Deutsche Golddiskontobank (1930) - Member of the Commission of Seven (Siebener Ausschuss),

Bank of International Settlement, Basle - (Member of the Board of Directors),

Deutsche Bank, Berlin, the largest German bank, which in addition to its influence in German industrial and financial affairs has played an important part in the Nazi economic exploitation of German dominated Europe -(Member of the Board of Directors),

Reichskreditgesellschaft AG, Berlin, (1930), owned by Vereinigte Industrieunternehmungen AG (VIAG), the Reich holding company, and serving the financial needs of the vast Viag enterprises, in addition to regular commercial and industrial banking transactions - (Member of the Board of Directors),

Deutsche Industriebank, Berlin, which played an important part in financing industrial undertakings - (Chairman of the Board of Directors),

Allianz Versicherungs AG, Berlin, one of the largest and most important German insurance firms.

Schmitz was a member of the Board of Directors of one of Germany's most tightly organized and most effective cartels, the Stickstoffsyndicate GmbH (1930), which allocated production quotas for each nitrate manufacturer, fixed prices, etc. It was Schmitz, furthermore, who in 1930 succeeded in organizing the nitrate industries of ten European countries in the European Nitrogen Convention (CIA), of which he remained President until the outbreak of World War II, acting in this capacity as the representative of the European nitrate industry in negotiations affecting the world nitrogen market.

Although at different times a member of the Democratic Party, the Bavarian People's Party and the Center Party, and although officially he joined the Nazi Party at a rather late date, it is reported that Schmitz privately financed Hitler and thus facilitated his rise to power. He is, further, said to have consented to the use of I.G. Farben's vast international connections as an espionage system for the Nazis under a commercial cloak. At any rate, in November 1933, he became a member of the Nazi Reichstag and later he received the title of Wehrwirtschaftsführer, which was granted only to keymen in the German war economy who were in excellent standing with the Nazi Party. It is reported that it was Schmitz who in 1938 provided much of the money for the building of the mausoleumlike Reichschancellory for Hitler in Berlin and that he also financed the building of the Haus der Deutschen Kunst (House of German Art) in Munich, one of Hitler's pet projects. He was Chairman of the Management Board (Vorstandsrat) of the Haus der Deutschen Kunst. On the occasion of his 60th birthday (1 January 1944), he was honored by Hitler, the Nazi Party and the German press. He was a member of the Akademie für Deutsches Recht (Academy of German Law), a Nazi institution.

Summary: As President of the I.G. Farben Industrie AG, as Chairman or member of the Board of Directors of such leading industrial enterprises as Vereinigte Stahlwerke AG., Metallgesellschaft AG etc., and as a director of some of Germany's leading banks (Deutsche Bank, Industriebank, Reichskreditgesellschaft, etc.), Schmitz has had an important part in determining and executing Nazi economic policies in Germany as well as in German dominated Europe.

Sources: OSS, R & A 1910, 25 July 1944.
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27 June 1945.
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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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