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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES  
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH  
BIOGRAPHICAL REPORT

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Index of Statements  
in Report

Name: TRENDLENBURG, Ernst

On Region: J1a, J1b

Nationality: German

On Occupation: 13A, 25F,  
25G

Region: Berlin-Dahlem, Miquel-  
strasse 61

Political  
Attitude: 13

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

Vereinigte Industrieunternehmen AG  
(VIAG), Berlin,  
Vereinigte Aluminium Werke AG, Berlin  
Alpen Elektrowerke AG, Vienna,  
Ilse Bergbau AG, Grube Ilse Bei  
Santenberg, etc.

Member of the Board of Directors  
(Mitglied des Aufsichtsrats) of:

Reichskreditgesellschaft AG, Berlin,  
Rheinmetall Borsig AG, Berlin  
Rheinisch Westfälisches Elektrizitäts-  
werk AG, Essen  
Deutsches Nachrichtsbüro GmbH (DNB),  
Berlin, etc.

Birth Date and Place: 13 December 1882; Rostock.

Family History: His father, Friedrich Trendelenburg, was professor of surgery at the Universities of Rostock, Bonn and Leipzig. His mother was Charlotte Fabricius. He married Klara Schaedel; they have three children.

Education: Trendelenburg attended gymnasium in Leipzig and Bonn and subsequently studied law at the universities of Bonn and Leipzig.

Work and Political History: Trendelenburg passed his examination for the higher civil service (Referendar) in 1906. In 1908 he obtained the rank of Gerichtsassessor and was employed (Hilfsarbeiter) in the Reich Ministry of Justice and later in the Department of the Interior (Reichsamt des Innern). In 1918 (April), he was transferred to the Department of Economics (Reichswirtschaftsamt), obtaining the rank of Ministerial Director (Ministerial Councillor) in 1922. By 1932 he had advanced to

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Work and Political History (cont'd.):

the position of State Secretary (Staatssekretär) in the Reich Ministry of Economics (Reichswirtschaftsministerium).<sup>\*</sup> From 1932 to 1933 he served as Assistant Secretary General of the League of Nations (Untergeneralsekretär des Völkerbundes).

Trendelenburg began his business career under the Nazi regime. In 1934, he became Chairman of the Board of Directors (Vorsitzender des Aufsichtsrats) of Vereinigte Industrieunternehmungen AG (VIAG), Berlin, the Reich holding company which controlled vast industrial properties throughout Germany, and he obtained leading positions in industrial firms owned by or affiliated with VIAG. He was Chairman of the Board of Directors of the following subsidiaries of VIAG:

Vereinigte Industrieunternehmungen AG, Berlin, the largest German aluminum producing concern which accounts for about seventy percent of German output,  
Alpen Elektrowerke AG, organized by the Nazis after the annexation of Austria which controls the major power works of Austria,  
Deutsche Industriewerke AG, Berlin, producing metals and machinery,  
Elektrowerke AG, Berlin, electric power works,  
Innwerke AG, München, electric power works,  
Ilse Bergbau AG, Grube Ilse bei Senftenberg, one of Germany's old and important coal mines, in which VIAG is one of the largest stockholders, (about 26%),  
AG für Deutsche Elektrizitätswirtschaft, Berlin,

Trendelenburg was a member of the Board of Directors of:

Reichskreditgesellschaft AG, Berlin, a bank owned by VIAG, which serves the financial needs of the VIAG enterprises in addition to regular commercial and industrial banking transactions,  
Deutsche Revisions und Treuhand AG, Berlin,  
Oberschlesische Stickstoffwerke AG, Königshütte, a VIAG subsidiary manufacturing nitrates,  
Süddeutsche Kalkstickstoffwerke AG, Trostberg, (nitrates),  
Bayrische Stickstoffwerke AG, Berlin, (nitrates)  
Rheinisch Westfälisches Elektrizitätswerk AG, Essen, the most powerful German public utilities holding company,  
Rheinmetall Borsig AG, one of the largest German machinery producing concerns, which Göring combine acquired in 1938,  
Deutsches Nachrichtenbüro GmbH (DNB), Berlin, the official German news agency,  
Feldienst für private und amtliche Handelsnachrichten GmbH, Berlin a commercial news agency.

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<sup>\*</sup>Under the Republic the former Reichsämter were transformed into Ministries.

Work and Political History (cont'd.):

In addition to his powerful business connections Trendelenburg held important positions in Nazi organizations for the control of German economy. When the Nazis established their system of corporative organization of German business in 1934, Trendelenburg was appointed Head of the National Group Industry (Leiter der Reichsgruppe Industrie), the most important of the seven national groups forming part of the system. The National Group Industry exercised organizational control over the entire German industry. Although Trendelenburg later relinquished this position, he remained a member of the Advisory Board (Grosser Beirat) of the National Group Industry. He was, furthermore, Chairman of the Foreign Trade Office (Aussenhandelsausschuss) of the National Group Industry.

Trendelenburg was Deputy of the Head of the Reich Economic Chamber (Erster Stellvertreter des Leiters der Reichswirtschaftskammer). The Reich Economic Chamber controlled and coordinated the activities of all German Chambers of Commerce and Gau Economic Chambers, as well as the National and Economic Groups. In the Reich Economic Chamber he was head of the Trade Division (Handelspolitischer Ausschuss).

Trendelenburg received the title of Wehrwirtschaftsführer from the Nazis which was granted only to keymen in the German economy who are in excellent standing with the Nazi Party. He holds the rank of Standartenführer in the SS.

Summary: As Chairman of the Board of Directors of VIAG, the Reich holding company, and as chairman or member of the Board of Directors of such major German industrial concerns as Vereinigte Aluminium Werke AG, Alpen Elektrowerke AG, Ilse Bergbau AG, Rheinisch Westfälisches Elektrizitätswerk AG, etc., as well as by his positions in the Nazi administration of German business (Head and later member of the Advisory Board of the National Group Industry, Deputy of the Head of the Reich Economic Chamber, etc.), Trendelenburg has had an important part in planning and executing Nazi economic policies.

Sources: Wer Ist's, 1935  
Wer Leitet, 1941/42.  
Würdenträger im Dritten Reich, 1943  
OSS Source S, 18-September 1942.  
OSS, R&A, 1910, 25 July 1944.

22 June 1945  
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