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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

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RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH

Region: J 1 b, J 1 a

BIOGRAPHICAL REPORT

Occupation: GA, 25D  
28

Political  
Attitude, 13

Name: WINKLER, Max

Nationality: German

Region: Berlin

Positions: Director of the Haupttreuhandstelle Ost under the Four Year  
Plan Office,

Partner (persönlich haftender Gesellschafter) of the Deutscher  
Verlag, Berlin,

Reichsbeauftragter für die Deutsche Filmindustrie (Reich Commissioner  
for the German movie industry),

Head of the holding company of UFA-Film GmbH,

Member of the Advisory Board of the Deutsche Reichsbank,

SS Sturmabführer,

Birth date and place: 7 September 1875.

Work and Political History: An SS-Officer and ex-mayor of Lodz (Litzmannstadt) in German occupied Poland, Winkler has played an important part in the economic exploitation of Poland in his capacity as director of the Haupttreuhandstelle Ost in the Four Year Plan Office. The Haupttreuhandstelle Ost was the receiver of all property confiscated from the Polish state and from Polish citizens after the German occupation. By the middle of 1941 it had taken over thousands of commercial and industrial enterprises in Posen and Lodz (Litzmannstadt), and was responsible (with the consent of Himmler, who as Reich Commissioner for the Strengthening of the German Race exercises ultimate authority,) for the transfer of a large share of the industrial undertakings and mines of Upper Silesia to such German interests as the Göring combine and the Ballestrem and Schaffgotsch concerns.

In addition the Haupttreuhandstelle Ost acquired vast holdings of land confiscated from its Polish owners (about 73,000 pieces of landed property by 1941), turning them over to German settlers or keeping them for soldiers after the war.

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Winkler likewise profited from the "aryanization" of Jewish property in Germany. He was partner (persönlich haftender Gesellschafter) of the Deutscher Verlag, which took over the properties of the former Jewish owned Ullstein Verlag, one of the largest and most prosperous publishing firms in Germany. The Deutscher Verlag in turn was controlled by the Eher Verlag, publishers of the Völkischer Beobachter, owned by Hitler, Amann and other top Nazis. Winkler is said to have served as agent (Strohmann) in the purchase of the Eher Verlag for the Nazi Party. The Eher Verlag absorbed many Jewish and anti-Nazi publishing concerns. Winkler also acted as Deputy for Goebbels and Amann in the administration of Nazi newspapers (Beauftragter für die wirtschaftliche Lenkung der Zeitungsverlage).

#### Winkler

Another field in which Winkler played an important part was the film industry. He was Reichsbeauftragter für die Deutsche Filmindustrie (Reich Commissioner for the German Film Industry) and head of the holding company (Dachgesellschaft) of UFA-Film GmbH, largest German movie producers which have flourished under Nazi auspices. Winkler is said to have contributed considerably to the monopolization of the German film industry.

Winkler was a member of the Advisory Board (Beirat) of the Deutsche Reichsbank. This appointment, as well as all his others, Winkler undoubtedly owed to his good standing in the Nazi Party.

#### Summary:

As director of the Haupttreuhandstelle Ost under the Four Year Plan Office Winkler has played an important part in the economic exploitation of Polish territories, and has shared in the formulation of German economic policy in regard to conquered territories. He has likewise profited from the "aryanization" of Jewish property in Germany. He has had considerably influence in Nazi publishing enterprises and in the German movie industry.

#### Sources:

OSS R & A 1910, 25 July 1944.  
 OSS Source S, 10 August 1943.  
 OSS Source S, 26 April 1943  
Who is Who in Nazi Germany, 1944.  
Wer Leitet, 1941-1942.  
Würendenträger im Dritten Reich, 1943.

1 May 1945.

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