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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH
BIOGRAPHICAL REPORT

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Region: J 1 b

Occupation: 6A, 25E,
25F

Political
Attitude: 13

Name: WISSELMANN, Heinrich

Nationality: German

Region: Berlin W 62, Einemstr. 24

Positions: President (General Direktor) of Preussische Bergwerks- und Hütten AG (Preussag), Berlin,

Member of the Board of directors of Bergwerksgesellschaft Hibernia, Herne.

Reichswerke AG für Berg- und Hüttenbetriebe "Hermann Göring",

Salzdetfurth AG, etc. etc.

Head of Wirtschaftsgruppe Bergbau (Economic Group Mining),

Member of the Advisory Board (Beirat) of Reichsgruppe Industrie (National Group Industry),

Member of the Executive Committee (Präsidium) of:
Deutsches Kalisyndikat GmbH,
Reichsvereinigung Kohle.

Birth date and place: 14 January 1881.

Work and Political History: Originally a government mining engineer (Bergassessor), Wisselmann under the Nazi regime has become one of Germany's powerful industrialists, with top positions in government owned and private undertakings, as well as in the Nazi administration of German business. His chief interests are in the field of mining, in the chemical and in the oil industry.

Wisselmann controls a considerable portion of major government owned mining properties. He is President (General Direktor) of the Preussische Bergwerks- und Hütten AG (Preussag), owned by the Vereinigte Elektrizitäts und Bergwerks AG (Vebag), the holding company of the state of Prussia. With a stock capital of RM 120,000,000 in 1942 and many large subsidiaries, Preussag ranks high in importance among German mining enterprises. Wisselmann, furthermore, is a member of the Board of Directors of three of Preussag's subsidiaries:

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Anhaltische Salzwerke GmbH, Stassfurt Leopoldshall,
(salt mines),
Luise Schiffahrtsgesellschaft GmbH, Berlin (shipping),
Sodafabrik Stassfurt GmbH, Stassfurt, (chemical plant)
owned 50 percent by Preussag.

The second chief subsidiary of the Vebag holding company, is the Bergwerksgesellschaft Hibernia, Herne, Germany's third largest coal producer, of which Wisselmann is a member of the Board of Directors. He is a member of the Advisory Board of M. Strohmeier Lagerhausgesellschaft, Mannheim, affiliated with Hibernia, which in turn controls various transportation firms as well as the Oberbayrische AG für Kohlenbergbau, München, (coal mining concern), which Wisselmann is a member of the Board of Directors. Another company in the Vebag combine, of which Wisselmann is a member of the Board of Directors is the Eisenwerk Weserhütte AG, Bad Oeynhausen, an iron mill controlled by the Preussische Elektrizitäts AG, the third largest of Vebag's major subsidiaries.

Wisselmann is a member of the Board of Directors of Saargruben AG, Germany's second largest coal producing company, owned by the Reich and of the Bayerische Berg - Hütten - und Salzwerke AG., München, comprising all mining properties belonging to the Bavarian State.

In the Göring combine, organized in 1937 and reorganized in 1941, which has become the third largest industrial trust in Europe, Wisselmann holds the position of member of the Board of Directors of Reichswerke AG für ~~und~~ Hüttenbetriebe "Hermann Göring," the largest of the Göring undertakings, comprising the mining and steel mill properties of the combine.

Wisselmann is connected with a number of private mining and metal processing firms. He is Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bleiberger Bergwerks Union, Klagenfurt, Austria, is President (Vorsitzender des Grubenvorstands) of Gewerkschaft Baden, and Gewerkschaft Markgräfer in Buggingen, and is a member of the Board of Directors of:

Mansfeld AG für Bergbau und Hüttenbetrieb, Eisleben, a large concern belonging to the Salzdettfurth combine and producing copper, silver, gold, platinum, salt, etc., and semi-finished products such as wire, tubes, etc.

Messingwerk Unna AG, Unna, Westfalen, which manufactures copper and brass tubes and pipes.

In the chemical and oil industries, Wisselmann likewise holds considerable influence. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the following:

Salzdethfurth AG, Berlin, the second largest German potash producers, which also has important copper, salt and lignite works,

Rütgerswerke AG, Berlin, which originally produced mainly petroleum derivatives, tar products and various chemicals, but in the thirties also acquired a considerable interest in the mineral oil production, including the Rumanian oil fields,

Westfälisch-Anhaltische Sprengstoff AG Chemische Fabriken, Berlin, an important combine producing chemicals and explosives, controlled by the Steel Trust groups, Röchling, etc.

Gewerkschaft Deutsche Erdöl Affinerie, Hannover,

Gewerkschaft Neue Erdöl Affinerie-Merag, Hannover,

Kontinentale Öl AG, established in 1941 by German banks and oil interests, mainly as a holding company for the control and exploitation of oil properties in Eastern Europe, especially Poland, Rumania and Russia,

Karpaten-Öl AG, a subsidiary of Kontinentale Öl AG established in 1942, which was given exclusive control over the exploration, exploitation and refining of petroleum and natural gas in German Occupied Poland.

He is Chairman of the Board of Directors of:
Staatliche Glasmanufaktur Karlsbad AG, Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad) a glass factory in Czechoslovakia.

Wisselmann's power over German industry is further based on his membership of the Executive Committee (Präsidium) of two important cartels, the

Deutsches Kalisyndikat GmbH (potash syndicate), one of the most tightly organized German cartels which determines production quotas for all potash mines, fixes prices, etc., and the

Reichsvereinigung Kette, the first of the Nazi supercartels organized in 1941 to further centralize control over the German coal industry.

Within the corporative organization of German business, established by the Nazis in 1934, Wisselmann is head of the Wirtschaftsgruppe Bergbau (Economic Group Mining), and a member of the Advisory Board of the Reichsgruppe Industrie (National Group Industry). He is a member also of the Advisory Board of the Deutsche Reichsbank.

Wisselmann received the title of Wehrwirtschaftsführer, which is granted to key men in the Nazi economy who are in excellent standing with the Nazi Party.

Summary:

By virtue of his position as Head of the Economic Group Mining, his membership on the Executive Board of the Reichsvereinigung Kohle and the Potash Syndicate, as President of the Preussische Bergwerks-und Hütten AG, and as a member of the Board of such important government owned and private industrial undertakings as the Reichswerke AG für Berg-und Hüttenbetriebe "Hermann Göring", Bergwerksgesellschaft Hibernia AG, Saargruben AG, Salzdethfurth AG, etc., Wisselmann shares in the responsibility for formulating and executing Nazi economic policies.

Sources:

OSS, R & A 1910, 25 July 1944.
OSS, R & A 2057, 14 July 1944.
Würendträger im Dritten Reich, 1943.
Wer Leitet, 1941-1942.
Die Organization der Gewerblichen Wirtschaft, published by the Reichswirtschaftskammer, 1939.
Frankfurter Zeitung, 23 March 1941.

20 April 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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