

OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL
FOR THE PROSECUTION OF AXIS CRIMINALITY

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of: Karl WOLFF

By : Col.H.B. Brundage 6 September 1945

PERSONS AND ORGANISATIONS IMPLICATED, AND SUBJECTS

1. Karl Wolff

- a. Persecution of religious institutions (p.1)
- b. Knowledge of concentration camps (p.17)
- c. Relationship with Daluge (p.3)
- d. Mass arrests of Jews (p.14 - 16)

2. LEY

- a. Subversive influence over German workers (p.12)

3. STREICHER

- a. Propaganda against Jews (p.2)

4. Daluge

- a. As head of Order Police (p.3 - 5)
- b. As subordinate of Goering, Prussian Prime Minister, from 1933 - 1936, (p 5)
- c. Mass arrests of Jews (p. 7 - 9, 16)
- (1) Anti-Jewish demonstrations (p.11 - 13)

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

He can not add anything to his previous statement about orders concerning the destruction of Jewish synagogues (1), and that he has no information about the planned activities against churches (1), although he remembers Himmler's remark that before the end of the war there can't be a forced decision (1).

LEY AND GERMAN WORKERS

Accuses Ley of Bolshevizing Germany on account of his talks about rights but not duties of the workers. (12)

NATIONAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

Concerning the internal control of Germany, he forgot to mention yesterday the National Women's Organization (Frauenshaft) and different trade and professional unions, for instance, of physicians, instructors, students, and other organizations reaching down to everything and controlling the entire German life (2).

Karl Wolff, 6 September 1945 P.M.

STREICHER AGAINST THE JEWS

Concerning Streicher, admits that in spite of different statements by Streicher, he is the inventor and propagandizer of the persecution of the Jews, and he didn't make a good living out of an idealistic attitude. Admits that Streicher, after being suspended as Gauleiter, didn't receive any more pay (2).

DALUEGE'S ORDER POLICE

States he knew Daluege and his activities in general but had no official connection with him (3). The Order Police under Daluege had to keep order with Blackjacks and with machine pistols at large demonstrations and was identical with the Land Polizei, which was founded after the Treaty of Versailles (3-5), without doubt to be used in an emergency as a part of the Wehrmacht (3). Although he does not deny to a certain extent the military "build-up" of the Land Polizei, which originated from the hundred-year-old Gendarmerie with military insignia, - nevertheless insists that the uniforms were of light green cloth and never used by the Wehrmacht (4). Explains that his police force was put in barracks because it was necessary to have a corps ready to keep order at meetings of Communists, Reichsbannermen, the Iron Front, and the Nazis, to prevent murders (4). This corps worked independently from the local police and shot at Hitler Goering, and Ludendorf during the Hitler putsch of November 9, 1923 (5). Keitel had no connection with the creation of this unit. (5)

General Daluege's position after the Party came to power was that of a subordinate to Goering as Prussian prime minister from January 1933 to December 1936. In 1936, Himmler with the consent of Goering took over and created the Reichs Police Force out of the police forces of the different German countries (5). The Reich Police Force worked with the local police (5), but traffic control and keeping order was handled by the Order police of Daluege but not by the Land Polizei (6).

ARRESTS OF JEWS

Testifies that he never experienced small arrests similar to the arrests of Jews, but he thinks that it would be rather the task of the Gestapo. Informed that the question of "large" arrests of Jews is now under discussion, he declares that it was not the duty of Daluege and the Order Police, but if the police couldn't manage it, the Gestapo was possibly called to "help" (7). Regarding an order from Berlin "headquarters Secret State Police Mueller" about demonstrations against Jews and synagogues, the witness declares that on account of his position in general and on account of the standard procedure, Daluege did know about such an order. Concerning the ordered arrest of 20,000 to 30,000 Jews, the local police and Daluege may have participated because the Gestapo had not sufficient men to carry it out (8-9). Does not know whether the SS was called up (9).

Regarding to the order's content that the emergency and regular SS troops may be drawn upon for all phases of the action but the State Police remaining in control, he says that Mueller and the Fuhrungsamt communicated (9) and conferences between the Security Police and the Fuhrungsamt took place, but he insists not knowing or seeing any orders officially or unofficially (10). The witness thinks it possible that the demonstrations against the Jews were a "form of hitting back" because a Jew killed Legation Secretary Rath in Paris (10-11).

Karl Wolff, 6 September 1945 PM.

Regarding an order signed by Heydrich, addressed to all Police, Branch Offices, all Security Service Commands etc, concerning the "expected anti-Jewish demonstrations" and arrangements of the "planned" actions permitting the destroying of homes or synagogues but stressing the saving of valuable documents for the Security Service Office, he realizes that on account of the speed the orders were given to the inspectors of the police forces and Daluge was notified by copy. Streicher would know about it as a single person and in his capacity as gauleiter (14). Buch as chief Party judge would not be involved (14).

At this time Himmler was on furlough; therefore Heydrich and Daluge made decisions (14). He denies having seen such an order (14), having known about the arrest of such a big number, 20,000 to 30,000 Jews, or having seen a firm destroyed, having attended any conferences in connection with these happenings or having known the plans for any participation of the SS (15). Admits that he would be in the position to recognize the signature of Heydrich. After these demonstrations he heard about them by rumors, and considering the mass number mentioned to him, he thinks that the Jews were put in concentration camps without giving them a trial (16).

CONCENTRATION CAMPS

He remembers Dachau, Mauthausen, Flossensburg, Buchenwald, Oranienburg as camps known to him as existing at that time, but he denies that an order dated October 12, 1938 and addressed by Heydrich to all police headquarters, Security Police, SD, Reichs Criminal Police Department would come to his desk (17). It would reach subordinate service places of the Security Police and the Criminal Office. In connection with the order mentioned above,, Party members would be arrested in connection with actions of November 1938, the Gaurichter, a real judge (18) (each gauleiter had one), would judge all affairs in connection with Party members (17-18),

Listening to the order read to the witness that "arson, wilfull destruction, demolishing of synagogues and Jewish Cemeteries will definitely not be prosecuted", he explained that this shows that Heydrich had direct instructions from Hitler in this respect and every Party member but even non-Party-members were free of punishment (18). According to this last part of the order, Buch should have been notified (19).