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of 13 November 1943 and  
12 November 1944.

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES  
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH  
BIOGRAPHICAL REPORT

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Region: K 1 a, J 1 a

Occupation: 6A, 25F

Political  
Attitude: 1-13

Name: ZANGEN, Wilhelm

Nationality: German

Region: Düsseldorf, Alte Garde Ufer 6/8

Positions: President of Hammesmann Röhrenwerke, Düsseldorf,  
Head of Reichsgruppe Industrie (National Group Industry),  
Deputy Head of the Reichswirtschaftskammer (Reich Economic Chamber),  
Member of the Rüstungsrat (Advisory Council on Armaments) under  
Speer,  
Head of Hauptausschuss Wehrmacht und Allgemeines Gerät (Main  
Committee Wehrmacht and General Equipment) of the Reich  
Ministry of Armament and War Production,  
Member of the Executive Committee (Präsidium) of the  
Reichsvereinigung Eisen,  
Chairman of the Eisen- und Stahlwerksgemeinschaft of the  
Reichsvereinigung Eisen.

Birth date and place: 30 September 1891; Duisburg.

Religion: Protestant.

Family History: Zangen is married to Marie Eberhard and has several children.

Education: Zangen served his apprenticeship at the August Thyssenhütte AG,  
Duisburg-Hamborn, at the Gelsenkirchner Bergwerks-gesellschaft  
and at the Maschinenfabrik AG, Duisburg, all three leading German  
industrial concerns.

Work and Political History: There are few men more powerful in the German steel  
industry today than Wilhelm Zangen. He started his business  
career in the Demag concern, one of the most important German machine  
companies producing especially heavy machinery (mining, railway  
and bridge equipment, etc.). In 1919 he was appointed Demag's  
Berlin representative. In this position he was instrumental in  
expanding the Demag interests considerably. Among the  
enterprises Demag acquired through Zangen's efforts is

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Carl Flohr AG., one of the largest manufacturers of elevators in Germany. About 1925 Zangen became a member of the Management Board (Vorstand) of Demag.

After Hitler came to power Zangen rapidly acquired a predominant position in German heavy industry and in the Nazi administration of German business, having been a member of the NSDAP since 1927 and being a wholehearted supporter of German expansionism and militarism. In 1934 he resigned from the management of Demag (although remaining a member of the Board of Directors) to become President (Vorsitzender des Vorstands) of the Mannesmann Röhrenwerke, Düsseldorf, originally a tube and sheet metal concern, which developed into one of the largest vertical combines of the German steel industry. Under Zangen's leadership the Mannesmann Röhrenwerke rapidly expanded through the acquisition of important Jewish industrial properties which were "aryanized" by the Nazis. The most important addition to the Mannesmann concern was the Mahnsche Werke AG, a leading tube and steel products concern. Wolf, Netter & Jacobi AG, and M. Stern AG were likewise taken over by the Mannesmann Röhrenwerke. Following the German conquests in the East and West in 1939 and 1940, the Mannesmann combine further expanded its holdings in the German occupied territories.

Zangen personally acquired important industrial positions in these years. He is Chairman of the Board of Directors of several large Mannesmann subsidiaries, including

"Kronprinz" AG für Metall Industrie, Solingen Ohlings, Mannesmann Röhrenwerke Komotau AG, Chomutor, Czechoslovakia  
Mannesmann Stahlblechbau AG, Berlin,  
Maschinenfabrik Meer AG, München-Gladbach,  
Prager Eisen Industrie Gesellschaft, Prague, (full control acquired after 1938)

Extending his interests beyond the steel industry, Zangen became a member of the Board of Directors of the following leading concerns in other fields:

AEG (Allgemeine Elektrizitätsgesellschaft), the second largest electro-technical combine in Germany,

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

Schiess AG, Düsseldorf, a large machinery manufacturing company,

Westfälisch Anhaltische Sprengstoff AG Chemische Fabriken, Berlin, leading manufacturers of all sorts of chemicals, particularly explosives,

Deutsche Revisions und Treuhand AG, Berlin, owned principally by Vereinigte Industrie Unternehmen AG (VIAG), the Reich holding company,

Allianz Versicherungs AG, important in the insurance field,  
Deutsche Bank, the largest German bank,  
Deutsche Reichsbank,

At the same time that the scope of his industrial interests expanded, Zangen acquired a number of key positions in government agencies controlling the German economy. He is Commissioner General for the Rationalization of German Industry in the Four Year Plan (General Bevollmächtigter für die Rationalisierung der Deutschen Industrie). As head of the Reichsgruppe Industrie (National Group Industry) since 1938, Zangen holds one of the most important positions in the corporative organization of German business established by the Nazis in 1934. The Reichsgruppe Industrie with a large number of Wirtschaftsgruppen (Economic Groups) subordinated to it, exercises control over all enterprises of the German industry. Furthermore, Zangen is Deputy Head of the Reichswirtschaftskammer (Reich Economic Chamber), which coordinates the activities of the National Groups and of the Gau Economic Chambers. On the regional level he was Vice-President of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Düsseldorf, until its dissolution in 1942 and head of the Stock Exchange of the Rhineland and Westphalia (Reinisch-Westfälische Börse).

With the outbreak of war Zangen acquired additional powerful positions. He was appointed Head of the Hauptausschuss Wehrmacht und Allgemeines Gerät (Main Committee Military and General Equipment) of the Reich Ministry of Armament and War Production, one of Speer's twenty-one main Committees controlling the production of every type of war equipment. The Main Committee Military and General Equipment has some twenty-five subcommittees, covering such varied types of equipment as optical and precision instruments, army footwear, heating installations, bicycles, chemical products, etc. He is also member of the Rüstungsrat (Advisory Council on Armaments), composed of representatives of the army, navy, airforce, industry, and government. This body, however, never exercised very important functions.

Zangen is a member of the Executive Committee (Präsidium) of the Reichsvereinigung Eisen (Reich Association Iron), one of the supercartels organized by the Nazis in 1942 to further centralize control over German industry. The Reichsvereinigung Eisen controls nearly all phases of the steel industry from the mining of ore to the wholesale of finished products. Its functions include rationalization and increase of production, procurement and allocation of raw materials, market regulation, price fixing, etc. Zangen, furthermore is head of the Eisen- und Stahlwerk Gemeinschaft ESOG, a second super-cartel,

subordinated to the Reichsvereinigung Eisen, established to control steel and rolling mills and to coordinate cartels in this branch of the iron and steel industry. In its sphere it performs all the functions of the Reichsvereinigung Eisen.

## Summary:

As Head of the National Group Industry and Deputy Head of the National Economic Chamber, as Head of the Main Committee Military General Equipment of the Reich Ministry of Armament and War Production, as Chairman of the Eisen- und Stahlwerk-gemeinschaft and as a member of the Executive Committee of the Reichsvereinigung Eisen, Zangen is one of the most prominent German business leaders responsible for determining Nazi economic policies. Through his business positions (Mannesmann Röhrenwerke etc.), he has direct control over important industrial enterprises and has had an active share in the "aryanization" of Jewish firms and in the exploitation of conquered territories.

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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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