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THE SS (SCHUTZSTAFFEL)

a. The SS (Schutzstaffel) of the NSDAP, was established by order of Hitler in 1925 as a protective bodyguard for leaders of the Nazi Party and speakers at Party meetings. For a time it consisted of small scattered units, operating under the general control of the SA (Sturmabteilung). In January 1929, Heinrich Himmler was designated by Hitler as Reichsfuehrer-SS with the directive to transform the SS into an elite, absolutely trustworthy body of troops. In conformity with this directive, the SS expanded in size, from a few hundred men in 1929, to 52,000 when Hitler became Chancellor of the Reich in 1933, and to more than 250,000 in September 1939. Membership in the SS was entirely voluntary. Applicants were carefully selected in accordance with Nazi physical, racial and political theories, and fully trained and indoctrinated in Nazi ideology and in methods of violence and brutality. Through these methods of selection and training the SS was made the elite organization of the Party, composed of the most fanatical, ruthless and unscrupulous Nazis, pledged to uncompromising obedience to Hitler. It was organized on a military basis and was a uniformed private Army of the Nazi conspirators. On 20 July 1934, it was made an independent formation of the NSDAP under the leadership of Reichsfuehrer-SS Heinrich Himmler, directly responsible to Hitler.

b. During the period immediately preceeding the accession of the NSDAP to power in 1933, the SS was employed by the Nazi conspirators as one of the terroristic agencies to create disorder and intimidate and destroy political opponents. Immediately after Hitler became Chancellor of the Reich, it was similarly employed to subvert free popular elections and to suppress by force and violence opponents and potential opponents of the Nazi regime.

c. After the accession of the Nazi conspirators to power, agencies of the SS together with agencies of the State were consolidated into a unified repressive police force and through such consolidation the SS acquired domination and control of all internal security and political intelligence agencies in the Reich. In 1933, the Nazi conspirators created a Secret State Police (Die Geheime Staatspolizei or Gestapo), the functions and activities of which are more fully described in paragraph ___ of this indictment. At about the same time there was created as a department or agency of the SS an intelligence and espionage system, known as the Sicherheitsdienst des Reichsfuehrer SS (the SD), the functions and activities of which are more fully described in paragraph ___ of this indictment. The officials of the Gestapo were in large measure SS members, and the SD, as an agency of the SS, was entirely composed of reliable SS members. Both the SD and the Gestapo worked in close collaboration to investigate and detect all events, tendencies and individuals actually or potentially hostile to the Nazi regime and to repress and destroy all its enemies. In June 1936, Heinrich Himmler, then Reichsfuehrer-SS, was appointed Chief of the German Police by Hitler,

thereby acquiring control over the entire German police force. Shortly thereafter Himmler designated Reinhard Heydrich; then Chief of the SD, as Chief of the Security Police and SD, thereby placing under centralized control the operations of the criminal police, the Gestapo and the SD. In 1939 formal consolidation in the SS of all police and intelligence functions was effected by placing the criminal police, the Gestapo, and the SD in a newly created department, Reichssicherheitshauptamt (Department of National Security) under Himmler as Reichsfuehrer-SS and Chief of the German police. Through its agency the SD, and its collaboration with and control over the Gestapo, the SS is responsible for repressive and terroristic police and espionage activities within Germany, including, among other matters, imprisonment without judicial process, torture and murder of opponents and potential opponents of the Nazi regime, despoilment and persecution of persons not of "German blood," suppression of dissemination of information and expression of free opinion, and establishment of a complete totalitarian system over Germany.

d. In addition to its police and espionage activities, the SS acted as the principal agency for the administration of concentration camps. Beginning in 1933 special full-time SS units, known as SS Totenkopf Verbände (Death's Head Formations) were created from selected SS volunteers to act as guards for concentration camps. Thereafter the SS assumed and exercised control over the entire internal administration of concentration camps, both within Germany and in conquered and occupied territories, including the furnishing and supervising of camp personnel, the establishment of policies as to the treatment of inmates, the control of labor and industrial undertakings carried on by inmates, the disposal of the products of such labor, and official contacts between the camps and those outside. Through its functions in this respect the SS is responsible for the exploitation, degradation, torture and murder of hundreds of thousands of persons.

e. Together with other para-military organizations, the SS was used by the Nazi conspirators after their accession to power as a method of developing military training and increasing the size of the armed forces in violation of the limitations on the German Army established by the Treaty of Versailles. In addition to regular SS formations, which were military in character, there were established, beginning in 1933, regiments of armed, garrisoned, full-time SS troops, composed of specially selected and trained SS volunteers, known as SS-Verfügungstruppen (General Service Troops). These forces and other armed SS units participated in the invasion of Austria in March 1938, in the seizure of Czechoslovakia in March 1939, and in the attack on Poland in September 1939. Thereafter the size and number of armed SS units was steadily increased and all became known collectively as the Waffen SS, consisting in 1944 of over twenty full divisions. The Waffen SS participated in the waging of aggressive war against, among others, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, France, Great Britain, Russia, Greece and the United States. In the course

of such war, the Waffen SS committed atrocities against military and civilian personnel, tortured and murdered prisoners of war and the civilian inhabitants of occupied territory, wantonly destroyed cities, towns and villages, unlawfully killed hostages and plundered public and private property.

f. The SS, through its agencies, departments and formations and other agencies, departments and organizations affiliated with or controlled by it, including, among others, the Reichssicherheitshauptamt, the Gestapo, the Sicherheitsdienst, and the Waffen SS, performed security police duties in territories conquered or occupied in the course of the aggressive wars referred to in the preceding subparagraph. As such it served as a principal instrument of the Nazi conspirators in the control and exploitation of such territories. In the performance of this function it imprisoned, deported, tortured and murdered hundreds of thousands of persons, unlawfully seized and murdered hostages, wantonly destroyed property and exploited and enslaved large segments of the population of such territories.

g. From the time of its formation the SS served as one of the principal instruments for planning, disseminating and carrying out the racial, biological, eugenic and population doctrines of the Nazi Party. It selected its members on the basis of Nazi theories of racial purity, and indoctrinated them in theories of the superiority of "German blood" and the inferiority of other races. It disseminated generally propaganda directed toward the persecution and annihilation of those not of "German blood," the encouragement of illegitimacy and the destruction of churches and church doctrines. It formulated plans for the deportation and extermination of peoples in conquered territories and the resettlement of areas thus depopulated by persons of "German blood."

h. The SS extended its influence and control throughout the NSDAP and the State by conferring membership and high rank in the SS upon important governmental and Party officials and by securing the appointment of its members to positions of importance in the State. Acting through its members as representatives in important ministries in the Reich, in official positions in local government, in industry and trade, in State and Party agencies and organizations, the SS participated in the planning and execution of all phases of the conspiracy.