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INTERROGATION BRANCH

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Interrogation of : A. LIEBHENSCHHEL  
Interrogated by : Mr. Cotmann, 18 September 1946, Wuremberg  
Section & Att'y : SS - Mr. Rigney  
Compiled by : HEW

PERSONS MENTIONED

GERLICH - SS Colonel, Commanding 27th SS Regiment  
(Standarte), Frankfurt/Oder (p.7)  
TEUFEL - SS Major, Gerlich's successor (p.7)  
GLUECKS - SS General, Inspector of Concentration  
Camps (p.10)  
LOLLING - SS Lt Colonel, Chief of Section III  
(Amt III) Department D (Antagruppe D).  
(p.13)  
POEL, Oswald - SS General (pp.13,18)  
MAHRER - SS Major, Gluecks' deputy (p.14)  
VERTZENSTEIN - SS Major, Commandant of Camp II, Au-  
schwitz (p.17)  
SCHWARZ - SS Captain, Commandant of Camp III,  
Auschwitz (p.17)  
KEMPLER - Chief of Department (Antagruppe) C (p.20)  
HOESS - Commandant of Auschwitz (p.21)  
BAIER - SS Captain, Liebhenschel's successor  
at Auschwitz (p.23)  
WEISS - SS Lt Colonel, Commandant of Lublin  
Concentration Camp, Liebhenschel's  
predecessor (p.25)  
SCHMELIN - Kohl's deputy (p.27)  
WELZER - SS Captain, Liebhenschel's deputy  
at Lublin (p.28)  
Dr. REINER - Gauleiter at Klagenfurt (p.32)  
EGGER - Gaubmann at Klagenfurt (p.33)  
VOGT - SS Captain, accountant (p.35)

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SUMMARY

A. LIEBEHENSCHHEL was born in Posen on November 25, 1901. He attended grade school, and then the School for Administration and Economy. On October 1, 1919 he volunteered for the Reichswehr. On October 3, 1931, he was discharged as a medical non-com. From 1932-1935, subject was employed by the Finance Office of Frankfurt-Oder.

LIEBEHENSCHHEL joined the General SS on February 1, 1932, and became a party member No. 932766 in the same month. He joined the SS No. 39254 as a private and his last grade, in 1945, was Lieutenant Colonel. Since October 1, 1939, source was a member of the Waffen SS and transferred from the General SS as a Major.

When he was commandant of Lublin Concentration Camp he belonged to the SS Death Head Units.

Since August 1934 LIEBEHENSCHHEL was employed as adjutant and head of personnel by the 27th SS Regt. (Standarte) then stationed in Frankfurt/Oder. SS Colonel GERLICH was his superior until January 1935 when the regiment was taken over by SS Major TEUFEL. Subject stayed with the 27th SS Regiment until March, 1935 when he fell seriously ill with pneumonia. During the three years of his illness he was paid 250 RM a month by the SS. In 1938, he started working for the SS Main Office (SS Hauptamt) as a department chief for weapons and equipment. His superior officer at that time was SS Captain WEINHOEREL who later was killed in the war. LIEBEHENSCHHEL stayed in this position until he was transferred to the Economic Administration Department (WVHA Amtgruppe D), in January 1942. Again he worked in the weapons and equipment department. His tasks consisted chiefly of checking books of various units and to keeping count of weapons and equipment.

LIEBEHENSCHHEL headed the Central Office (Zentralamt) which handled communications, administrative matters, weapons, equipment, and motor vehicles until November 15, 1943. This section of Amtgruppe D was called Section (Amt) I. GLUECKS was charged with its supervision and with the inspection of all concentration camps, including those located outside of Germany proper, such as Auschwitz and Lublin.

Subject admits having been GLUECKS' deputy until November 1943 when MAURER became deputy. LIEBEHENSCHHEL claims that he had no authorization to make decisions independently.

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On November 15, 1943 subject went to Auschwitz where he stayed until April 5, 1944. This transfer was considered a punishment. When LIEBEHENSCHHEL arrived at Auschwitz, there were 3 commandants: Camp 1, LIEBEHENSCHHEL; Camp 2, Major HERTZENSTEIN; Camp 3, SS Captain SCHWARZ. Each of these commandants had equal authority and was independent in his own camp. These men were responsible to Amtsgruppe D and to POHL.

According to source the commandants were responsible for feeding, billeting, treatment and employment of the prisoners. LIEBEHENSCHHEL's camp had between 13,000 and 14,000 inmates. Source states that the gassing and crematorial facilities were located in Camp 2. Subject states that Amtsgruppe C, headed by SS Brigadier General KEMMLER, was responsible for the construction of the crematorium.

When HOESS was in Auschwitz, he had jurisdiction over all three camps. The appointment of the commandants of the three camps was made in Berlin by POHL who also briefed them for their future work at Auschwitz. The splitting up of the camp into three camps was done by order of POHL. Upon his departure from Auschwitz LIEBEHENSCHHEL was succeeded by SS Captain BAUER, POHL's adjutant.

LIEBEHENSCHHEL was transferred to Lublin Concentration Camp on May 19, 1944 and stayed there until July 21, 1944. His official title was Commandant of the Lublin Concentration Camp. At the time of LIEBEHENSCHHEL's arrival at Lublin, there were only 450 inmates within the camp who were used for maintenance work. Later 450 more prisoners were employed in several factories in Lublin, making a total of up to 900 prisoners. The capacity of the Lublin Camp is indicated as from 10,000 to 15,000. When the Russians approached Lublin the prisoners were sent to another camp. This information was given to LIEBEHENSCHHEL by his predecessor SS Lt. Col. WEISS. According to WEISS, the majority of the prisoners were sent to Buchenwald, Mauthausen, and Auschwitz.

On July 15, 1944 subject was ordered to attend a conference in Cracow. There it was planned to tear down the Lublin factories in order to build positions against the advancing Russians. This conference was presided over by SCHELLIN who was POHL's deputy in matters of administration and economy. Subject was told by SCHELLIN in Cracow how many barracks were to be destroyed. The transportation of the remaining prisoners out of Lublin was also discussed. The remaining 900 prisoners were transferred to Auschwitz by subject's representative, SS Captain MELZER. According to subject, the prisoners reached Auschwitz.

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After having left Lublin, LIEBEHENSCHHEL volunteered for front duty but was not accepted because of physical reasons. He was then detailed to Trieste and Leibach where, as Section Chief in Department I, he was to supervise the construction of fortifications. Source states that all SS leaders who were unfit for combat duty were sent there. LIEBEHENSCHHEL was then attached to the SS Main Operations Office, Staff Department. (SS Fuehrungs Hauptamt, Stabsabteilung). At first he belonged to Construction Group East at Trieste, later to Construction Group Leibach.

85% of the workers were supplied by the native population. These workers were chiefly Italians and in the Leibach territory, Slovacs. According to source, these men worked voluntarily and had to construct trenches, fox holes, anti-tank positions, etc.. The workers were supervised by Party members, members of the German Labor Service and the Todt Organization. At first all these men wore Party uniforms. Later they received field grey uniforms without any insignia except a brassard bearing the words "Stellungsbau Italien". The Party had administrative charge of these construction projects. Gauleiter and Reichstatthalter RAINER, Klagenfurth, ordered what was to be built. Subject received his directives from a party member by the name of EGGERT who was Gau Oomann in Klagenfurth. On May 7, 1945 LIEBEHENSCHHEL was taken prisoner by U.S. troops.

Asked about his opinion of POHL, LIEBEHENSCHHEL states that the latter had committed suicide and ruined his family. Only part of the high SS leaders considered POHL an efficient administrative leader.

LIEBEHENSCHHEL reveals that SS Captain PRUEFER was an accountant who audited the books in various German government pay offices. Subject describes PRUEFER as a slim man with white hair.

The following is a statement which LIEBEHENSCHHEL made concerning the organization of Amtsgruppe D: Amt I (D I) was the Central Office (Zentralbuero). Its tasks were communications, welfare of SS troops guarding concentration camps, the procurement of and care for motor vehicles, etc..

Amt II (D II) was headed by SS Major MAURER. It handled the employment of concentration camp inmates for work, the construction of concentration camps, and the liaison between such camps and the industries, and the construction of armament camps (Ruestungslager).

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Amt III (D III) was headed by SS Lt. Colonel LOELING and concerned itself with medical matters and employment of physicians.

Amt IV (D IV) was concerned with the administration of concentration camps as well as supplies, clothing, and food for such camps. There was another office in the Economic Administration Office which was concerned with troop supply.

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