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INTERROGATION SUMMARY NO. 890

Interrogation of : Karl MUTTENHEIY, Manager of W I, VWHA

Interrogated by : Mr. Wolff, 9 January 1947, Nuremberg

Division & Atty : SS - Mr. Hart

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PERSONS MENTIONED:

Dr. SALPETER -	(pp.4,7,12,14,21,25)
Dr. BARTHELMUSS -	SS-Maj. Assistant to Salpeter (pp.4,7)
POHL -	(pp.6,10,13,21,22,25)
KLEIN, Horst -	SS Lt. Col. Associate of Muttenthey in Leagl Dept. of Dept. III (p.6)
AHHENS -	Manager of German Earth and Stone Industries, 1933 (p.6)
STOCKER, Karl -	Book examiner (p.7)
MAUNER, Gerhard -	Co-manager of German Earth and Stone Industries (pp.7,21)
SCHONDORFF, Erduin -	Technician (pp.7,10,28)
PETERS, Carl -	SS-Cpt., Industrialist and adviser to Pohl (p.7)
Dr. CREMER -	SS-Lt. Industrialist and adviser to Pohl (p.7)
SCHWARZ -	SS-Maj. Head of Granite Quarries (pp.10,28)
OPPELBECK -	SS-Lt. Head of Earth and Stone Div. (pp.10,11,28)
Dr. HOHBERG -	Book Examiner (p.10)
BURBECK -	SS-Cpt. Head of Prisoner Allotment Sect. (pp.14,21)
EICKE -	(pp.14,21,25)
GLUECKS -	(p.21)
RONGE -	Works Superintendent (p.25)
SCHUEPFT, Lex -	" "
KUENETHEL -	SS-Lt. Col., Commander of KL Flossenburg (p.25)
MOECKEL, Karl -	Head of III B (p.26)
WARRENBERG -	SS-Maj. Head of Porcelain Section of W I (p.26)
BURGER -	Clothing Section in Div. I, (p.32)
LECHLER -	Superior of Burger (p.32)
LOETNER -	SS-Lt. Gen. (p.32)

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SUMMARY

Karl Kurt Andreas Emil, called Karl, WUPPERTHEIM, was born in 1906, in Saxony. After graduating from commercial high school, in 1924, he entered the Olbernhauer Volksbank as trainee. In 1927, he started his higher education and took courses in economics and law at the universities of Frankfurt, Kiel and Leipzig, passing his law examination in Leipzig, in 1934. During the following three years he worked as Junior Assistant in law offices and, finally, on Feb. 1, 1938, he became Assistant in the Legal Dept. of SS Administration Office (SS-Verwaltungsamt) Munich, by answering an advertisement in a law gazette; he was interviewed for the position by Dr. SALPETER, the head of the department.

Subject joined the SS-Cavalry in 1934, with a number in the 280,000 series, and entered the WSDAP in 1938, receiving a number in the 4,400,000 series. His ultimate rank in the General SS was that of Major; called to the Waffen SS in 1940, he attained the Reserve rank of Lt. Col.

During Dr. SALPETER's frequent absences in Berlin, the Legal Dept., known also as V.C.M.F., was headed by Dr. B. RTHEL, 1SS. The Legal Dept. was in charge of all real estate contracts, checked all contracts entered into by the higher administrative offices, and handled various endowments, such as the Externstein-Stiftung, Koenig Heinrich Stiftung, the Society for the Care of German Cultural Monuments, the German Earth and Stone Works and other business enterprises as they were established. Subject's functions in the Legal Dept. of Section III A included checking of all real estate contracts for the General and Waffen SS, and dealing with liability cases for the Waffen SS arising from drivers' accidents. Subject is not sure whether liability cases of the General SS were also dealt with in his department. Another worker in the department was Horst KLEIN, who became head of Section III B, with the ultimate rank of SS-Lt. Col.; Section III B handled the German Society for the Care of German Cultural Monuments, SS recuperation resorts, etc.

In the spring of 1939, subject became executive assistant (Prokurist) to the head of the German Earth and Stone Industries Corp., an agency of the SS-Administration Main Office (Hauptamt SS Verwaltung), as temporary replacement of AMENS; in this position he had to make daily reports to POHL, and a cumulative report when AMENS returned. Dr. SALPETER then was made head of the German Earth and Stone Industries Corp., as superior of AMENS; SALPETER made a thorough investigation of the business of the corporation, which led to AMENS's resignation, in June, 1939. Subject was given the vacancy. Shortly afterwards Gerhard THURM entered the Corporation as Associate Manager. Upon recommendation of two industrialists, SS-Cpt. Carl REITER and SS-Lt. Dr. GIERE, advisers to POHL, an engineer, SCHNEIDER, was called in to make a study of production difficulties in the brick yards.

The German Earth and Stone Industries Corporation, 1939, comprised the following plants:

(1) Brick Works Berlstedt, near Weimar, with about 15 or 20 civilian employees and several SS non-coms and privates; the labor force consisted of an average of 200 KL laborers.

(2) Clinker Works Neuhengamme, near Hamburg. Some 800 to 1200 KL prisoners were engaged in building the works, but the production labor force would average 800.

(3) Brick Works Oranienburg, near Berlin. Some 2000 KL prisoners were engaged in building the works, which were not finished by April, 1945.

(4) Granite Quarries at Flossenbuerg, in the Oberpfalz. The initial force of 1000 prison laborers was increased to 2000 in 1943, when production was undertaken for the Messerschmidt Aircraft Concern.

(5) Granite Quarries in St. Georgen, near Linz, and the stone quarries at Gasterhof and Hendergraben, which had around 3000 prison laborers; towards the close of the war, production was undertaken, here also, for Messerschmidt.

The total of KL laborer worked by the German Earth and Stone Industries in 1939 was about 7,800.

The Granite Quarries were managed by SS Lt. SCHWARTZ, a businessman from the stone industry, and SS Lt. SCHEIDORFF, a brick production expert. Before he joined the WVHA, SCHEIDORFF was instructor for brick production at the Polytechnic School at Lage-lippe.

Subject's department in the German Earth and Stone Industries was the Earth and Administrative Department under Dr. SALPETER. The work of this department was largely concentrated in Berlin so that a large personnel was necessary; it reached a total of 167 by the time that subject and SS Lt. OPPEBECK assumed management of the Division (Firmengruppe) Stone and Earth in 1941. The resulting heavy overhead charges consequently were criticized by Dr. HOEBERG, Comptroller of all business enterprises, including the German Business Enterprises Corp., and business adviser to POEL.

In addition to the Stone and Earth Division (Firmengruppe), administered jointly with OPPEBECK, subject was manager of Section III A 8, Dwellings and Homes Corp. (Gesellschaft für Wohnung- und Heimstätten G.m.b.H.), in Berlin, but the position was merely nominal, not executive; such anomalous appointments were not unusual in the SS.

All hiring and promotion of personnel for the German Earth and Stone Industries was in the hands of Dr. SALPETER, with subject

making some proposals and looking over the applications and background of candidates. KL labor for the German Earth and Stone Industries in 1939 was obtained from the K.L. Inspectorate, subsequently Dept. D II. For larger number of prisoners, Dr. SALPETER contacted POHL but when only a few were needed the plant superintendents could requisition them directly from the nearest concentration camp.

SS-Cpt. BURBECK, subject remembers after the name is mentioned to him, was in charge of prisoner allocation, either under POHL or under EICKE and, on further prodding, recalls that he himself applied to the Prisoner Allocation Office when he needed prison labor for any of the newly-established SS factories. BURBECK belonged to Dept. Budget and Structures (Amt Haushalt und Bauten), but had his office in Oranienburg, and not in Berlin, where the other offices were. The labor requisitions were made by letter or telephone, to BURBECK or his assistant. "If BURBECK said "No", or "We have none", or "Not yet", we would have to go to POHL". The figures for the requisitions were furnished by the technical superintendents of the new factories, who would make an estimate of their labor needs. On the other hand, commanders of concentration camps, in 1939, often would assign prisoners for labor without notifying the K.L. Inspectorate or the main Office; not only the factories controlled by subject, but other factories as well, went directly to the camp commanders.

Minor losses in the strength of the prison labor force, due to death or other causes, could be made up by direct requisition and only larger deficits were reported to Dept. D II. The concentration camp administration was responsible for the feeding of prisoners in the factories. The factory management bought illegally supplementary rations, such as butter and fresh vegetables because the prisoners complained of insufficient food. Outsiders, including subject, were not allowed to inquire into the feeding situation; on one occasion he had seen a meal, which looked alright and adequate in quantity. Still, towards the close of the war, the factories did buy food to supplement the prisoners' meals. Subject answers the question whether that was done because the regular meals given prisoners were inadequate with the re-assertion that he, an outsider, was not allowed to look into the food situation and that, as a matter of fact, the camp authorities resented any attempt to do so. He continues to say that the view of the factory management on the feeding of prisoners was entirely different from that of the camp authorities and that the disagreement went so far that he was threatened with being put into a concentration camp himself. The superintendent of St. Georgen had warned him that he was in danger because of his views on how prisoners should be treated.

In the German Earth and Stone Industries, and the Bohemian and Alich porcelain factories, subject had given instructions that prisoners should be treated decently, that they should not be shouted at but spoken to in a decent manner, that decent working conditions

should be provided and food and clothing; in short, their lot as prisoners should be made easier. He had been told by the superintendents about mistreatment of prisoners at the hands of guard personnel and the so-called block leaders. There were actions bound to make life miserable, such as, swearing at prisoners and knocking off their hats if they did not answer or run quickly enough to suit the guards. In his presence, the guards refrained from beating prisoners; in a way, he had wished to see that for once so that he could have done something about it. As soon as he entered the factory, the word was passed on that he was there; he even tried to make inspections in civilian clothes, but he was invariably recognized. Prisoners had the right to complain, but there was no saying what would happen afterwards to anyone who did complain; whether he was killed or not, enough could be done to him to make him a physical and moral wreck. The factory superintendents no doubt knew more about the goings-on than he did; but as the war went on, they talked about it to him less and less. Subject talked to S. LPETEE about these things and made oral and written reports to POHL. POHL did discuss these matters with GLEUCKE, MAURER and BUSBCK. As long as RICHE was in office, nothing whatever happened. Later an investigation was made and subject was told that he was misinformed about conditions. The superintendent was made out to be a liar, and now the fireworks were set off against him by the camp commanders and his hangers-on. It was very easy to be sent to concentration camp, no matter whether one was civilian employee or member of the SS. Everyone had to sign a nine-point agreement which prohibited gifts of food or cigarettes to prisoners; conversation about private matters, writing of letters for them, taking messages for them, on penalty of confinement in a concentration camp. Subject, too, had to sign such a statement. POHL moreover issued instructions to the factories that anything concerning prisoners employed could be taken up only with the camp commander who would communicate with POHL through Division P. If subject tried to talk to a prisoner, a guard was sure to listen and report the length, purpose and content of the conversation to the camp commander. Many of subject's instructions were simply ignored, even if they had bearing only on production.

Subject saw housing facilities of prisoners in a factory camp once and thought them not too bad; however, toward the end the superintendents complained about the housing conditions for prisoners who often had to sleep two on a cot. What medical care the prisoners had was given them in the camp; the factory had only first-aid kits for accidents. As far as the factory was concerned, the prisoners were given the same conscientious medical care accorded free civilian labor. If a prisoner felt ill or was injured, he was sent back to camp for treatment in the camp infirmary. Subject added that whatever measures the works management took were opposed by the entire personnel connected with the concentration camp.

The guard personnel regarded the prisoners not as members of the factory labor force but as simple units doing labor, and this attitude led them to give orders which were detrimental to production. They would shift prisoners from familiar jobs to new ones, or return trained workers to camp, or tell them how to do things on the job, which was none of their business. Depending on the character of the guard, treatment of the prisoners varied, but they were careful not to be caught beating prisoners, using the prisoner straw bosses for that purpose. The guards were under the control of the camp authorities and could have been held to account for beating prisoners, which was prohibited.

Work in the quarries was made hard for the prisoners. Normally, in a well equipped quarry, all heavy hauling is done by cranes and hoists. Superintendents RONGE and Max SCHUBERT, of the Flossenbuerg quarry told him of an incident in 1938 or 1940, when a group of prisoners, who were not of the quarry labor detail, had to carry all day long chunks of rocks weighing 20 to 30 pounds; the guards explained it was a punitive measure. Subject made representations with POHL, demanding that "this dirty business" be stopped. The result was that on his next visit to Flossenbuerg, subject was stopped by the camp commander Lt. Col. KUENETTER who yelled at him to "mind his own business", and that he would "take care" of RONGE and SCHUBERT; eventually these two men had to be transferred to other factories to keep them from being sent to concentration camp on trumped up charges.

Subject estimates that about 5 per cent of the strength of KL laborers died as the result of mistreatment at the hands of SS guards and block leaders, who either drove them to exhaustion from overwork or beat them; sometimes they simply disappeared. This, to subject, was the only explanation for the large turnover in the labor force, which had to have constant replacements; the prisoners were not known by name, but only by number. Subject remembers that he once was told that the block leaders were even worse than the SS guards. The superintendents complained about the continuous change in labor, but nobody mentioned "accidents" out of fear of attracting the anger of the camp administration.

Continuing the account of his career in the SS, subject states that he remained in the Main Office SS Administration (Hauptamt SS-Verwaltung) until spring, 1939, when he became executive assistant in the German Earth and Stone Industries, in charge of legal matters. Within the Verwaltungsgesamt, Dept. III A and III B had been developed under Dr. SNIPEWER and Karl WOECKEL, respectively. With the reorganization of the WVH, in 1941, Dept. III A became Dept. VI of Division W. At that time also, the table of organization showing the set-up of all business enterprises was drawn up; no other chart was issued after that. Dept. VI absorbed the factories Bohemia, Allich and Porzellan from III B, and thus had the following composition:

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- 1) Brick yards and clinker works; 2) Granite quarries; and
  - 3) Porcelain factories. The heads were SCHONDOFF, SCHMERZ, and SS Maj. WERTENBERG, in that order.

Subject's functions in the new set-up were: Executive assistant in the German Earth and Stone Industries; member of the Board of Directors of Bohemia; and General Plenipotentiary in the Allich works. "The business of W I lay in his hands" after OPPENBECK left, in 1942, to assume the position of head of the Brucker Furniture Factory, Butschowitz, near Brunn; its owner, SS-Cpt. Dr. WY had put it in trust with the WMA.

Clothing for KL prisoners was furnished by the central depot of Division D, headed by BURGER, which, in turn, was supplied by LECHLER; the last word in these matters lay with SS Lt. Col. LOFNER. LECHLER drew the materials needed from the Ministry of Economics and had the clothes manufactured in the Textile and Leather Utilization Works.

The winter clothing of prisoners consisted of overcoats, pullovers, woolen clothing, gloves and caps; subject does not know whether they had any underwear. When working outdoors in cold weather, prisoners had to leave their coats on or take them off as the guard decided regardless of individual needs. Naturally, if the guards wanted to be nasty, they had the prisoners work in the cold without overcoats; colds and other respiratory diseases followed. The technicians of the works made representations to the commanders, for they were men who entered the works from private business and did not come from the SS, the so-called FICKE circle, where those other "friends of mankind" came from. As a result of this intervention by men who, in most cases were inwardly in agreement with the prisoners, some 20 prisoners were released. Subject asserts that applications were made for many more.

As the war years passed, clothing for prisoners became increasingly deficient. In the beginning, too, the prisoners had clothes which were more adapted to the nature of the work. Accordingly, inquiry was made by one of subject's plants, to obtain authority to issue to prisoners overalls marked "DSE" instead of with Prisoners' numbers, so as to relieve during work at least the unpleasant feeling of wearing prisoners' clothes; visitors, too, would not know at first sight that prison labor was employed. If there had been more material available, subject feels sure that this measure would have been put into effect everywhere. In any event, this innovation would have been against the desires of the camp commanders who always objected for "security reasons".

"Penal detachments" had nothing to do with the works and were paid only when they did work for the plant, e.g., digging or clearing work. The candidates for these detachments were selected

by the camps. Asked about the so-called "death detachments" where selected prisoners were deliberately worked, or put, to death, subject alleges ignorance but states that, in the light of revelations about the camps, he would not doubt their existence.

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