

#### SECRET.

Summary of Information. No. 30. June 1945.

# UNITED NATIONS WAR CRIVES COLVISSION.

(Rosearch Office).

GESTAPO EXECUTIONS IN CONCENTRATION CAMPS.

# Gestapo Personalitios:

Dr. KIJTENBRUNNER, Head of the "R.S.H.A."

Oswald PCII, Head of the W.V.H.A.

Heinrich MÜLLER, Head of the "Gestapa" (Gestapa Office).

Field-Marshal KEITEL, Author of the Keitel Decree of 7th December, 1941.

As mentioned in (Research) Report No. 10 of September 1944, the administration of Concentration Camps was carried out under the "N.V.H.A." at the head of which is Oswald POHL, by General GLUECKS (Amtsgruppe "D"). (+)

The commitment of prisoners to the camps, however, was in the hands of the Gestapo (see Dr. Schwelb's paper C.106 on this subject) and in certain cases of the KRIPO; the orders for their commitment omanated from Amt IV of the R.S.H.A." (i.e., from Heinrich MILLER's "Gestapa" office), which directed the operations of the Gestapo under the higher authority of Dr. Kaltenbrunner.

(+) As will be seen from the following order, extracted from the C.I. Monitor" of 13. 1. 45, the control of the camps passes, in times of emergency, to the HSSPF. (Higher SS and Police Leader) of Mehrkreis (Defence Area):

"D.(17 Jun 44) RESS:

"Camp Commandants continue responsible to the WVHA for all general administrative matters except during alert periods (A-Fall), when the HSSPF (Hohere SS und Polizei Führer) assumes complete control of Concentration Camps in his Wehrkreisand the Camp Commandants become members of his staff. The HSSPF is, henceforth, responsible for the military security (militarische Sicherung) of all Concentration Camps and Work Camps (Arbeitslager) in his district with the exception of Special Purpose Camps (Sonderlager) and Political Sections (Politische Abteilungen)."

A report by an ex-internee (M.I. 14 d - 5th April - 1/45), which was circulated to National Offices in January 1945 referred to the important part played in a concentration camp by the Political Department (Politische Abteilung) which was likewise an organ of the "R.S.H.A." It stated:-

"This department was the representative in the camp of the police authorities and exercised wide security and political powers. To a large extent it was an independent and autonomous authority within the camp administration, though it did not control, neither was it subject to the Camp Commandant. At the head of the Political Department was a Political Commissar who took the orders not from the Camp Commandant but from the central police authorities. Assisting him was a legal official known as a Gerichtsassessor whose main duty was to prepare cases for consideration by a special court (Sondergericht) believed to have been located at WARSAW."

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"The Sondergericht usually tried cases and passed sentences in the absence of the prisoners. The Political Department in the appropriate K.L. (Concentration Camp) would then be notified and held responsible for the execution of the sentence. Prisoners condemned to death were invariably hanged, although to comply with the regulations they were recorded as having been shot. Frequently skilled tradesmen or men employed on some special task had their sentences postponed until a substitute could be found or the job was finished. In no case however was the condemned man informed of his sentence, or even of the fact that proceedings were pending against him, until immediately before execution."

That action of this kind was taken under Heinrich MULLER's authority is shown by the following order, issued over Muller's signature, and received in the English translation through SHAFF:-

"D (Aug 43) RSHA IV A 1 d,

The Stapoleitstellen and BdS are no longer obliged to submit applications for mitigation of death sentences passed on political criminals. In future,

Stapo(leit)stellen are to send their conclusions to officials dealing with the pardon, enclosing required passport photographs and returning any ap repriate documents. Exceptions are made in cases of condemned men who, by origin, profession, east or present political attitude, or their contacts with leading personalities are to be considered separately.

"Main consideration is whether the crime was committed before or after outbreak of war. If it took place since the beginning of war, only in very exceptional cases will a pardon be granted. Pardon will NOT be granted for the following: traitors, terrorists and saboteurs; Communists or Marxists who were officials or notably active members; reactionaries or other disturbing elements (grumblers etc.) who are convinced enemies of the State; Czechs and Poles.

"In the case of an application for pardon which has been refused, if the condemned man has played such an important part in the enemy organisation that he could be useful for further investigations, there may be a short postponement of the death sentence, though never a mitigation.

"It is emphasised that when the law against the transportation of corpses comes into force, it is forbidden to bury them. At a time when thousands of German soldiers are dying abroad, it is not fit that political criminals should be given a burial.

Signed SS-Gf Muller."

Additional light on the functions of the Political Department in a Concentration Camp (Dachau) is given by the interrogation of a Gestapo prisoner (KICK) attached hereto as Appendix I.

Certain political prisoners, and others considered dangerous were committed to concentration camps as "N.N." (Nacht und Nebel; Night and Mist) offenders and received specially rigorous treatment.

This category of victims was created under the so-called KEITEL Erlass (Field Marshall Keitel's decree of December 1941, which is referred to as follows in the (SHLEP) C.I. Monitor of 13.1.45.

#### "NACHT-und- NEBEL-ERLASS" or "KEITEL-ERLASS"

"D (7 Dec 41) OKW KEITEL .-

Outlines the procedure for handling individuals committing acts against the Reich or the Occupying Forces. Offences dealt with under this decree are: espionage, sabotage, communistic intrigues, activities which are the unrest, giving aid to the enemy or unauthorised possession of weapons. The death penalty is decreed for all non-German civilians charged with any of the aforementioned acts. Speed in dealing with the offenders is stressed throughout the decree and the offenders are to be punished in the occupied territory only if the death penalty can be meted out without delay. If this cannot be done within one week of apprehension, the accused is to be transferred to Germany proper. Offenders who are brought to Germany are only dealt with under military procedure when special military interests demand it. Headquarters in Germany or abroad are only allowed to disclose that these individuals have been arrested. No further information concerning the accused may be give out.

"BACKGROUND: The policy of deporting arrested nationals of occupied countries to Germany where they are never heard of again is well known.

"Captured KL records have shown the designation "NN" after the names of some of the inmates.

"COMMENT: The above decree, is of fundamental importance as a basis of German policy. NN immates of KLs are of special CI interest since they were all at one time involved in anti-Nazi activities."

Some information in this connection was recently given in a "direct interrogation report" (DIC - MIS./C.I. 20 of April 18th 1945) by a member of the Gestapo. He stated that prisoners sent to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp were classified by the Gestapo for (a) mild treatment: subject to camp restrictions and labour duty with a prospect of release; (b) normal severe treatment: with a slight prospect of eventual release; and (c) most severe treatment. This, he said, amounted to a death-sentence; the prisoner would either be executed at and on arrival at the camp, or at the end of a gradual process. The latter treatment would appear to correspond to the "Nacht- und-Nebel" classification mentioned above.

Responsibility for the fate of prisoners who perished in this way is therefore attributable to Field Marshal Keitel, as author of the decree under which they were deported to the camps for "Nacht und Nebel" treatment; to Heinrich Müller, who signed their death warrants; and on the next higher level to Dr. Kaltenbrunner as head of the "R.S.H.A."

The ruthless barbarity of the concentration camp regime in the final phase of the wer is revealed by one of Himmler's last orders, transmitted through Oswald POHL (head of the WVHA), the text of which has been received from the American 7th Army.

#### HIMLER'S ORDER

Auszug aus dem Befehl des Reichsfuchrers SS- Himmler fuer Dachau and Flossenburg, in Beantwortung des Vorschlages des Lagerkommandanten das Lage den Alliierten auszuliefen.

"Am 14.4.1945.

"Die Ucbergabe kommt nicht in Frage. Control of the State of the Sta Das Lager ist sofort zu evakuieren. Kein Haeftling darf lebendig in die Haende des Feindes Kommen.

Die Haeftlinge haben sich grauenhaft gegen die Zivilbevoelkerung in Buchenwald benommen.

Gezeichnet:

# /-/ H. HIMMLER

Auszug aus dem Bericht des SS-Hauptsturmfuehrer Schw rz, der am 24.4.1945 dem SS-Obergruppenfuehrer P o h l vorgelegt wurde.

Dachau den 4.5.1945.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY Office of the A.C. of S., G-2
G-2 Translation Section U.S. Army лро 758 16 May 45.

Extract for the order of SS-Reichsfuehrer Heinrich HIMLER in answer to the suggestion of the Camp Commandant of Dachau and Flossenbuorg that the camp be turned over to the Allies.

"14 April 1945

The handing over of the camp is not to be considered. The camp is to be evacuated immediately. No prisoner shall be allowed to fall into the hands of the enemy alive. The prisoners have behaved barbarously to the civilian population at Buchenwald.

Signed: H. HIMMLER."

Extract from the report of SS-Hauptsturafuehrer SCHWARZ which was given to SS Obergruppenfuehrer POHL on 24 April 1945.

Dachau, 4 May 1945.

It will be seen from the footnote on page 1 of this Summary that responsibility for the execution of such an order would rast also on the Higher SS and Police Leader of the Wehrkreis in which the comp was situated.

APPENDIX I .....

#### SECRET.

APPENDIX T.

#### GESTAPO OFFICIALS IN DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP

Interrogation Report by the 7th Army dated 8th May, 1945.

(No. 4052e)

SUBJECT: KICK Johann - Kriminal Sekretar - SD Untersturmführer
Head of STAPO Aussenstelle Dachau, and
Chief of the Political Department (Leiter der
Politische Abteilung) of Dachau Concentration Camp.

- 1. On 6 May 1945, upon information furnished by an informant of this section of the DIC Detachment, 7th /rmy, these Agents apprehended KICK, Johann Chief of the Political Department of the Dachau concentration amp, at 4, Braumauer Str., Dachau. Interrogation of SUBJECT was conducted by these Agents to obtain all information concerning SUBJECT'S department and related departments of the Dachau Concentration Camp.
- 2. KICK stated that the Dachau Concentration Camp was divided into six departments, responsible for the operation of the camp, as follows:

I - The Kommandantur (Head of the Camp)

II - Politische Abteilung (Political Department) (See Appendix"A"

III - Schutzhaftlage (The body of the camp)

IV - Verwaltung (Administration)

Muller.

- V Lagerartztamt (Office of Camp Physician)
- VI Schulungs Abteilung (Training Dept.)

KICK related that he was the Leiter of the Politische Abteilung (Chief of the department), and that he entered the Political Department of the Dachau Concentration camp on 20 May 1937, as a hearer of cases, and that in January 1938, he was named chief of the department by SS Sturmenführer EECK, Oberregierungsrat, Gestapo, Munich, and that he held this position until August 1944. KICK stated that functions of this Political Department were the admission of political and other types of prisoners, the keeping of their records, the notification of the higher interning authorities of the deaths, discharges, or other disposition of the internees. He further stated that he received death sentences of the prisoners from Chief of the Einlauf/these Amt IV, RSHA, Polizeirat, SS Sturmbannfuhrer POMERANING, and that upon execution of above, he had to turn in a final report of the carrying out of those orders to the RSHA. KICK stated that Amt IV, B, 4b, of the RSHA issued the execution orders and that those orders were signed by SS Gruppenführer

- 3. KICK stated that the Political Department was subordinate to the Kommandantur of the camp, and that the concentration camp of Dachau was organized, directed, and supervised by the So Wirtschaftsverwaltungshauptamt in Oranienburg, which stemmed directly from the RSHA. The Wirstschaftsverwaltungshauptamt was directly responsible for the establishment and supervision of all concentration camps KICK stated.
- 4. Further interrogation reverled that KICK, born 24 Nov, 1901, in Waldau, Bavaria, Germany, had obtained professional police training, beginning in 1921, in Furth, where he was with the Landespolizei of the Police Head-quarters, and remaining in this training until March, 1925. In March, 1925 SUBJECT left Furth to attend a course of instruction in police work in Furstenfeldbruck, remaining until July, 1925. SUBJECT then secured employment

with the Schutzpolizei in Munich, remaining with this until July, 1932. SWIECT was subsequently transferred to the Polizei Praesidium, Abteilung VI in Munich. In March, 1933, he was transferred to the Political Department of the Polizei Praesidium in Munich, which was absorbed into the Geheime Staatspolizei. Here SUBJECT worked in Abteilung VI (Pass und Ausländer Ant), from which Polizei Praesidium in Munich, SUEJECT was detached to the Dachau Concentration Camp on 20 May, 1937, but retaining his connection with Abteilung VI until the present time.

- 5. KICK stated that the Geheime Staatspolizei was located at 32-34 Dietlinder Strasse, Munich, and that its chief was Obersturmbannführer SCHAEFER, and that the Regierungsrat was Hauptsturmführer PFLUEGER, and that the "riminalrat was Sturmbannführer Dr. LEBKNECHNER... Other members were Kriminalinspekteur BAYER, Kriminalinspekteur MURMANN, Kriminalrat Haupsturmführer SCHUMANN, Kriminalsekretar Untersturmführer GAITH, Kriminalsekretar Untersturmführer SONNTAG.
- 6. KICK stated that the following named Gestapo men had come from Munich to carry on interrogations at the Dachau Concentration Camp, varying from few days to a period of weeks: AMMER, XAVER, Kriminalsekretar, ACHTER, fnu., Kriminalsekretar Stehr, fnu., Kriminalsekretar (address: Pestalozzi Str., Munich). Fräulein Bernecher, temporary employee, for special jobs, SPRETTER, fnu., temporary employee residing in Obermanzing, Bavaria, GAITH, Edward, Kriminalsekretar, and SONNTAG, fnu., Kriminalsekretar. SUBJECT stated that GAITH and SONNTAG were responsible for the interrogation and abuse of Russian prisoners of war, who were from the officer camp in Moosburg, and who had formed an underground movement among the Russian prisoners. 150 of them were executed in June and July 1944. Obersturmführer SCHAEFTER, chief of the Dienststelle in Munich, gave the orders for inhumane interrogation of the Russian prisoners of war. KICK stated further, REMPI, was employed in the Munich office of the Gestapo as an interpretor, also a Frau BECK, aria, living in the East Station section of Munich, Frau WINGRUPPER, also residing in East Station section.
- 7. KICK stated that an interpreter, known as "Alex", but whose real name ended in -OLKIN, was very abusive in the interrogation of the Russian PW's. This interpreter, a Balkan-German spoke Russian fluently.
- 8. KICK related that in Augus 1944, he was replaced in the Politische Abteilung by SS Hauptscharführer KLOPMANN, and that he was ordered to establish a S.D. Aussenstelle in Dachau. From August 1944 to January 1945, KICK worked in Amt IV, I A (Vorbereitung zum Hochverrat). From January 1945 until the present time, KICK worked on a special separated group of internees marked "N.L" (Nicht aus dem Lager), having no association with other inmates of the camp, whose offenses were either very minor or severe, to recruit these internees to work in his new S.D. Aussenstelle.
- 9. KICK declared that he joined the Gestapo as riminalhauptwachmeister on 15 March 1933, in Munich. SUBJECT continued in this position until his promotion to Kriminalsekretar on 1 August 1937. In the autumn of 1941, he bacame Staffelmann in the Sicherheitsdienst. In fall of 1942, he was promoted to Sturmscharfuhrer in the S.D. In August 1944, SUBJECT stated he was working in Stape IV, I a (Vorbereitung zum Hochverrat treason cases.) From January 1945 to the present, he established a new Aussenstelle in camp Dachau.
  - Dachau Concentration Camp for espionage purposes, and further stated that he uses intimidating methods for the obtaining of espionage (Nachrichtendienst) agents. SUBJECT stated that the recruiting of espionage agents was one of his duties in the new Gestapo Aussenstelle which he established after leaving the Politische Abteilung. KICK declared that orders for the establishment of this new Aussenstelle were issued by Regierungsrat Sicherheitsdienst Sturmbannführer Dr. FREISE, fnu., residing in Herzogpark Section, Maurerkirche Str., Munich. KICK stated that due to the destruction of the Munich Jail by air raids, the prisoners whom the Gestapo held there were transferred to the Dachau Concentration Camp for continued investigation and interrogation, and that these cases were handled by a SPRCTTER von KRAUTENSTEIN, who dealt in perticular with the French and Belgian cases, and is residing at Obermenzing-Waldhorn Str., near Munich. Fräulein Bernecker, living in Neuhausen, near Munich, also handled French cases. KICK stated that a LAWRYCHKO, fnu., handled Polish cases, and that a KLEMENTITSCH handled Jugoslavs and Croat cases. STEHR, Joseph, a German, residing on Pestalozzi Str., in the vicinity of Sudfriedhof, Munich, handled German Prisoners.
- Interpreters name: PEREJOLKIN, Alex.

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- Interpreters name: PEREJOLKIN, Alex.

- 11. At Christmas 1943, and on 14 June 1944, KICK stated he visited the RSH. in Oranienburg, at which time he had instructions to see an SS Obersturmbann-führer WEISS, fnu.,
- 12. KICK stated that RUPPERT, Willi, formerly connected with the Lublin Concentration Camp, and last head of Department III (Schutzhaftlage) may reside in St. Gilgen in the Hand am Sec, which was owned by the former camp commander until 1937 SS Oberfuhrer LORRITZ.
- 13. These Agents, upon information furnished this section, apprehended on 9 May 1945, Frau ERNST, Walburga, former Secretary in the Politische Abteilung for KICK from September 1943, until January 1945, and then secretary for the new head of the Politische Abteilung SS Hauptscharführer Kriminalsekretar KLOPFM/NN. Information furnished by Frau ERNST aided in the obtaining of further details from KICK. She stated that KICK dictated correspondence to her addressed to the Stapostellen, andrate, Wehrmeldamter, private firms and civilians. KICK himself, she stated, handled all matters of correspondence called cheime Reichsachen (secret Reich matters) to MUKILER, SS Gruppenführer Chief of Amt IV, RSHA, and to SS Gruppenführer General der Polizei GLUCKS, SS Wirtschaftsverwaltunghauptamt, Oranienburg.
- 14. Frau ERNST stated that political prisoners of the Gestapo were brought in to the Dachau Concentration Camp from various Stapostellen, criminal prisoners from the Kripo, prisoners from foreign countries from the Sipo and S.D., transports of prisoners from other concentration camps, especially frequent in the last months. Frau ERNST further stated that Cestapo men who came from all sections of Germany had to pass through KICK or the Lager Kommandant S. O. WEITER. Frau ERNST declared that on 26 April 1945, she was president in the office of KLOPPMINN, new head of the Politische Abteilung, when he stated to an SS Unterscharführer URFELS that one transport in box cars from Concentration Camp Buchenwald had arrived with 1,000 dead. These people died of starvation en route and SS Standertenführer PIESTER, fnu., from Buchenwald was responsible for this. PIESTEF himself was in Dachau around 26 April. Frau ERNST stated that most of the correspondence was addressed to SS Wirtschaftsverwaltunghauptemt, Oranienburg, and from there was cleared the RSH. Frau ERNST stated that Kriminalsekretar HUTZLER, from the Munich Gestapo, working with KICK in the Politische Abteilung, carried out many interrogations of the prisoners, presumed to be living in Ost-Bahnhof section,

APPENDIX II ...

# APPENDIX II.

#### Abteilung II

# Political Department of Camp Dachau

KICK, Johann Kriminal Sekretar, SS Untersturmführer in charge, 5/37-8/44

KLOPPMANN, Willy SS Hauptscharführer in charge from 8/44 to 5/45

HUTZLER, Adam Kriminal Sekretar from Munich, assistant in charge

THULKE Registrar

URFEHR, Visiting authority, SS Unterscharführer

ERNST, Walburg Frau Secretary

GEIGENSCHEIDER, In charge of files and records. SS Hauptscharführer

SCHUSSLER Files and records

SCHMIDT, Standesamt (Marriage office) SS Hauptscharführer

Rapp, Files SS Oberscharführer in the

Rappl, Files, SS Unterscharführer

BLUM, Deaths, SS Obersturnführer

PREISS, Visitors passes, SS Rottenführer

SCHMIDT, Registration, SS Rottenfthrer

BAUTZ, Registration, SS Hauptscharführer

HOCH, Registration, SE Hauptscherführer