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Entry 171/T 301
Net # 117
File # NID 14462

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES
APO 696-A
US ARMY

STATE EVIDENCE ANALYSIS

BY: O. Verber
Date: 28 January 1948.

DOCUMENT NO:

NID 14 462

TITLE AND/OR GENERAL NATURE:

Statement by Reichsbank direktor
Karl Friedrich Wilhelm about Puhl's
activity in connection with the SS.

DATE: 23 January 1948

SOURCE (Location of original, etc.):

OCC C
EB Document Room

PERSONS, FIRMS OR ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED:

Reichsbank
SS
Puhl, Karl
Melmer
Pohl, Oswald

TO BE FILED UNDER THESE REFERENCE HEADINGS:

Support of the SS - Puhl.

SUMMARY (Indicate Page Nos):

See title.

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END.

TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT No: NID 14 462
OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR M.P. CRIMES

STATEMENT UNDER OATH

I, Karl Friedrich WILHELM, former member of the directorate of the Reichsbank, herewith state under oath the following facts, which are known to me from my own knowledge:

From 1 February 1939 until the collapse I was in charge of foreign exchange at the directorate of the Reichsbank.

One day - I believe it was about 1942 - I was in the office of Vicepresident Puhl, who told me in a very casual manner: "By the way, SS Ogruf. Pohl visited me and stated, that he desired the Gold and jewelry deposits, which are now in Lichtenfelde in a cellar of the Gardeschützen barracks to be put under the care of the Reichsbank". It is possible, however, that Mr. Puhl told me, that they were already deposited at the Reichsbank. I told Mr. Puhl, that those things, which did not become property of the Reichsbank, did not concern me, because I as foreign exchange chief, was only concerned with gold and foreign currency which were property of the Reichsbank. I warned him against taking such deposits with the words: "That will kick back against the Reichsbank someday!", meaning it would be to its disadvantage. Mr. Puhl replied "You are right, it is none of your business. I just wanted to inform you of these deposits. I will deal with this matter alone." Therefore, Mr. Puhl did not behave reluctantly towards these projects but approved them. At that time I did not know of the value of these deposits and I have never seen them. Mr. Puhl also told me, that Funk had talked to him about this, but he did not tell me the content of the conversation. I remember that, maybe a year later, Puhl told us at a meeting of the directorate, that minister Funk desired credits to be given by the Degeo to the SS for its industrial enterprises, which had been erected in or close to concentration camps and which mostly employed concentration camp inmates.

I, myself was in the Aufsichtsrat of the Golddiskontbank from 1940 until the collapse. Aside from myself, the following members of the Reichsbank directorate were in the Aufsichtsrat of the Degeo:

Vicepresident Puhl, Reichsbank director Kretschmann and Ministerialdirigent Bayrhoffer

Staatssekretar Dr. Landfried of the ministry of economics was also a member of the Aufsichtsrat of the Degeo, but was not a member of the Reichsbank directorate.

Ministerialdirigent Baynhoffer became a member of the Aufsichtsrat of Degeo instead of State secretary Reinhardt of the Reich ministry of finance.

As far as I know, the credits of the Golddiskontbank to the SS enterprises amounted to about 10,000,000 RM. It is very well possible, that money from the credits granted by the Golddiskontbank were transferred to the Dresdner Bank or Deutsche Bank and charged against the SS, however I do not have knowledge of this. Degeo could not grant these credits without the approval of Vicepresident Puhl.

(page 2 of original)

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I also remember that/said, on occasion of a meeting of the directorate or at a business discussion, that he wanted to visit the concentration camps in connection with the credits of the Golddiskontbank. I personally warned Mr. Puhl against making such visits. In spite of this it became known to me later on that Mr. Puhl had visited

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TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT No. NED 14462 (Cont)

concentration camps.

According to my recollection the following men were present at the meeting in Vicepresident Puhl's office. Puhl told that credits were to be granted to the SS:

Vicepresident Lange
Reichsbankdirector Kretschmann
Reichsbankdirector Ernde
Ministerialdiregent Baynhoffer.

However, I cannot make an exact statement about these persons.

I also remember, that at one of these meetings, in connection with the statement that the SS had given or was going to give us such deposits, Mr. Puhl brought up the question of their realization by the Reichsbank. The idea of what Mr. Puhl said was, that the SS probably wanted to sell the gold and jewelry mentioned through the Reichsbank. I stated, that the Reichsbank, according to banking law, was to have nothing to do with such sales. I still remember the expression I used: "The Reichsbank is not a dealer in second-hand goods".

I remember that this affair developed as follows:

When the opportunity for a sale arose, the SS withdrew the requisite amount of jewelry and gold from the deposit and sold it to the respective customer. As far as my information goes, this was especially the pawn brokerage office of the City of Berlin. The deposit at the Reichsbank was administrated by the Reichsbank main treasury, the head of which at that time was Mr. Feplaff. The transactions as such were mainly carried out by Reichsbankrat Thoms. He was charged with taking over the things from the SS and to issue them again if required. The deposit at the Reichsbank had the name "Deposit Helmer" and I assume, that this was the name of the man charged by the SS with this task.

It is known to me, that SS-Ogruf Pohl and members of his staff variously had breakfast in the Reichsbank building upon invitation of Vicepresident Puhl. Because of my generally known aversion against this group of people I was never invited to these breakfasts. I have never talked to or even seen the SS-Ogruf Pohl.

I have made the above statements voluntarily and without any coercion. I have carefully read the 2 pages of this statement under oath and have signed them. I have made the necessary corrections myself and have initialled them. I herewith state under oath that all statements made by me in this statement under oath are the full truth according to my best knowledge and conscience.

signed: Karl Friedrich Wilhelm

Signed and sworn to in my presence by Karl Friedrich WILHELM known to me to be the person making the above affidavit.

Berlin - 23 January 1948.

signed: Otto VIBBER
Interrogator
U.S. Civilian A.C.C. No. 44385
O.C.C.C., LPO 696-A,
U.S. War Department.

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TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT No: NID 14 462
(Continued)

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION

7 January 1948.

I, Jan H. Friedlaender, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the English and German languages and that the above is a true and correct translation of Document No: NID - 14 462.

signed: Jan H. Friedlaender
JAN H. FRIEDLAENDER
DPO: 20067
Civilian.

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END



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NOEL # 108

T-FORCES

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

30 January 1945

To: R.R.B. Attride
From: - Henry Brodie
Subject: Japanese Intelligence Targets

Henry Brodie and Frederick Burkhardt visited Major Magnus of SHAEF, January 27, 1945, to investigate whether or not Japanese Intelligence targets had been submitted to SHAEF for inclusion in T-Force operations. Major Magnus checked his first and second target priority lists and found these included 7 Japanese targets all located in Berlin.

There followed a general discussion of how the T-Force will operate. Major Magnus pointed out their function will be to seize and freeze the contents of designated targets. A team of 20 men is assigned to cover each target. In addition, approximately one-fourth of the T-Force personnel going into any area is kept in reserve to cover targets of opportunity. If designated target areas are captured by the Russians while British and American forces are still held on the Western Front, T-Force operations will be air-borne.

No target will be accepted by SHAEF unless a specific address is given. Accepted targets are turned over to ISTD which investigates from air cover if the structure still stands, what its physical characteristics are, etc. In view of the manpower required per target, Major Magnus suggested that we confine our recommended targets to those of very high priority.

As members of CIOS, OSS personnel will enjoy access to targets taken over by the T-Forces. Except in special circumstances, no documents can be removed from the target sites. Accordingly, it will be necessary to provide microfilming or photostating facilities in the various target towns. However, it may well be that in case of Japanese materials, arrangements can be made for their removal.

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OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL
FOR WAR CRIMES
APO 696-A U.S. ARMY

STAFF EVIDENCE ANALYSIS

By : L. Guenther
Date: 13 Jan 1948

Doc. No.

NID - 13 819

TITLE AND / OR GENERAL NATURE:

Report of (KROPP) utilization of jewels
and other valuables acquired
by official agencies for Germany,
in order to realize their value.

DATE:

31 March 1944

SOURCE (LOCATION OF ORIGINAL, ETC.):

Finance Division
O M G U S

PERSONS FIRMS OR ORGANIZATIONS SPECIFICALLY INVOLVED:

Deutsche Reichsbank
Municipal Pawn Shop - Berlin
KROPP
Hermann GOERING - Reichsmarschall
FUNK - Minister of Economics
MAEDER - Min. of Finance, Sigmaringen

TO BE FILED UNDER THESE REFERENCE HEADINGS:

PUHL, Emil / President, Reichsbank
Support of SS
SCHWERIN v. KROSICK - Finance Min.

SUMMARY (Indicate page nos.):

- 1) Report states that increasing objects will be processed under code name "Melmer".
- 2) It is also stated that letter of GOERING of 19.3.44 directs objects to be delivered to Reichsbank.
- 3) Report closes with suggestion that uniform utilization system be established.

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Bran 171

1001 # 112

P. 10 # NID 13819

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL
FOR WAR CRIMES
APO 696-A U.S. ARMY

STAFF EVIDENCE ANALYSIS

By : L. Guenther
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AG 238

Bran 171

1001 # 112

File # NID 13819

TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT NO. NID-13819

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR

CRIMES

C O P Y

Berlin, 31 March 1944

A

Subject: Utilization of jewels and so forth, which were acquired by official agencies in favour of the Reich.

According to the oral confidential agreement between vice president Mr. Puhl and the Chief of one of Berlin's public offices, the Reichsbank took over the selling of local and foreign currencies, gold and silver coins, precious metals, securities, jewels, watches, diamonds and other precious objects. All incoming objects will be processed under the code name "MELMER".

The large number of precious objects acquired hereby have been turned over to the Municipal Pawn Shop, Div. III Main Office Berlin N 4, Elsaesser Str. 74, for the best possible utilization after checking the number of pieces and their weight, provided they have not been smelted. As it is evident from the enclosed copy of a letter from the Pawn Shop, dated 29.3.44 it refuses further acceptance of such items and declines to process items already to their possession, whose processing has not yet been completed.

We have been informed that the City Treasurer, to whom the Zentralstelle as a municipal office is subordinated wants to use its personnel in the office for war damages.

The question of a uniformed utilization of the precious objects is important not only because the Reichsbank has still to sell unprocessed jewels, etc. from the Melmer delivery the same way as it did before, and not only because its equivalent belongs to the Reich, but also due to the following reasons.

So far the Pawn Shop made the purchases according to the world-wide gross prices minus 10% for purchasing charges. In case the price obtained in the final disposition was a higher one, this surplus went to the benefit of the Reich. Through sales to foreign countries a considerable amount of foreign currency must have been acquired. A large number of goods ready for export are still in possession of the Pawn Shop. Among others, diamonds of 35,000 carats and very small diamonds (roses) of a very high value.

The Reichsmarshal of the Greater German Reich, the deputy for the Four Year Plan, informed the German Reichsbank, in a letter of 19.3.44, a copy of which is enclosed, that considerable amounts of gold and silver objects, jewels and so far at the Main Office of the Board of trustees should be delivered to the Reich-

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TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT NO. NID-13819
(cont'd)

bank according to the order issued by Minister of the Reich FUNK and Graf SCHWERIN v. KRCSIGK. The utilization of these objects should be accomplished the same way as the Melmer deliveries. The Reichsmarshall informed us also about the utilization of objects of the same kind, which have been acquired in the occupied Western territories. We do not know to which office these objects have been delivered and how they were sold.

We received a further inquiry about the utilization of jewels a.s.f. from the Reichsbank in Kattowitz (compare with the enclosed copy).

Besides the above mentioned cases, where the Reichsbank is, or will be indirectly participating in selling of jewels there is yet to clear the question of utilization of jewels a.s.f. which have been acquired as war booty. As we know, the entire war booty consisting of jewels a.s.f. is in the safes of the Reichshauptkasse. Probably there are objects and items still fit for export which after smelting can give us gold and silver. The official in charge of it is Ministerialrat Dr. MAEDE, as attorney - in fact - from the Reichs Ministry of Finance in Sigmaringen.

It is very desirable that an uniformed utilization be established of goods acquired by official agencies. The simplest solution would be to separate the pawn institution, which has the necessary skilled personal and the connections necessary for sale abroad from the Municipal authorities for this war job. Should this be impossible, another reliable agency should be appointed for this work.

Considering the large amount of incoming foreign currency as a result of the sale of these objects in foreign countries and the considerable requirements of gold and silver not fit for export from smelting - the immediate settlement of this problem seems to be very advisable.

Hauptkasse
(signed) KROPP

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION

I, Loretta Guenther, AGO-D-230285, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the English and German languages and that the above is a true and correct translation of Document No. NID-13819.

LORETTA GUENTHER
AGO-D-230285
U.S. Civilian
War Department

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