

26.05
Contd

INTERROGATION
OF THE FORMER COMMANDER OF THE GERMAN SECURITY POLICE
IN DENMARK, OTTO BOVENSIEPEN, IN KASTELL COPENHAGEN,
30 AUGUST 1945

Questioned what Best knows about the Peter-Group, the accused replies that Best knew Peter (Schwerdt), and when asked if Best also knew the purpose of Peter's presence in Denmark, the defendant answered yes, naturally. Best discussed the actions with Peter and Peter had also been in his house once or twice. In any case he had conferred several times with Best. The same applies to Issel (Waldenburg) who repeatedly conferred with Best, and the defendant adds that he himself sent Waldenburg to Best, in order to have him discuss matters with Best. Questioned if Peter or Waldenburg themselves had submitted plans to Best, the defendant declares, that in any case Waldenburg had proposed the City-Hall affair in Aarhus, and that he had received Best's consent for it. The two had also conferred with Best together with the defendant. Pancke knew also the two leaders of the Peter-Group and their activities. Asked if the two also submitted plans to Pancke, the defendant states that this was not necessary, as the authorization of Pancke was not necessary in advance.

Questioned if Prince-Axel had been proposed as a target for assassination, the defendant answers that he remembers that Prince Axel had been mentioned, but that, as far as he recalls, there was no definite proposal to that effect. Prince Axel was rather to be kidnapped and brought to Germany under such circumstances that one would believe in Denmark that he had been murdered. This proposal had only been discussed by the members of the Peter-Group and the defendant. The defendant does not believe that the Royal Family was to be involved.

Questioned, to what extent the doctors had the permission or duty to examine sick or wounded prisoners, the defendant declares not to have the slightest idea about it. This must have been regulated by the Prison-Director, but he doesn't know in what manner. Besides, he believes that wounded prisoners were taken to the German Military Hospital, NIELANDSVEJ.

Asked, what members of the Peter-Group he knows, the defendant answers that he knew only the leader personally. He knows various names, however, and has perhaps once also given orders to others; confronted with the present list of the members of the group, he declares to know the names HARALD (not HARALD JENSEN), JOHAN, PERLETAND, maybe HEMME, SÖHNLEIN, LUDVIG, FRITZ, PETER, TAGE HANSEN, POUL BERTELSEN, MARIEGAARD, ISSEL (WALDENBURG), NOLTE and by their correct names PAUL LENSING, SS-Major SCHMIDT and BIRKEDAL HANSEN. He did not know though, that they all, as for instance BIRKEDAL HANSEN, were members of the Peter Group, and he never knew exactly how large the group was. He also knows a person by the name of RADL, does not believe though, that this is a cover name, and states that the individual in question held a higher rank than SS 2d Lieutenant, namely adjutant to SKORZENI in Berlin. He does not know if this RADL has ever been in Denmark, at all.

With respect to the present list of terror-actions in the execution of which BRONDUM and BOTHILSEN NIELSEN participated or about which they had made statements, the defendant is ready to point out the actions which he had ordered.

He declares spontaneously during the examination of some of the first cases when the names of social democrats such as teacher IBSEN, SLAGELSE are mentioned to him: "We were not allowed to touch Social-Democrats" and when questioned who had ordered this, he said the Reich-Plenipotentiary.

The defendant was then handed the list for his comments.