

OFFICE OF U. S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL
FOR THE PROSECUTION OF AXIS CRIMINALITY

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of GOERING, Hermann

By: Colonel Amen, 8 October 1945, p.m.

Persons and organizations implicated, and subjects

1. GOERING

a. Maltreatment of PW's

- (1) Turning over of PW's recaptured upon escape to Himmler (4-5)
- (2) Turning over of PW's to SIPO and to the SD by Himmler and OKW (5)
- (3) Placing of entire PW's under Himmler (6)
- (4) Presence of police at Luftwaffe PW Interrogation Center (6)
- (5) Term "Kugelaktion" (6)
- (6) Meaning of Roman Numeral III
- (7) Use of forest by Himmler's police (3-4)
- (8) Killing of PW's by order of Hitler (7)

Goering admits that one of his offices was that of Reichsforstmeister, which is the same as Minister for Forestry. As far as he remembers, it was founded in 1935, and it functioned to the very end. He was the minister and, at the end, Alpers was the State Secretary in the Ministry (1).

The different departments in the Ministry were: one for the administration of all the forests of the Reich; one was concerned with legislation in connection with forests; one for planting in the forests; one for the safety of the forests; one for the safety of raw material; one for the protection of nature, and one concerned with the legislation about hunting (1-2).

Asked who the leading personalities were, he recalls only State Secretary Alpers and Oberlandesforstmeister Abers; he does not know what the responsibilities of the latter were because "he was not interested what happened below the plane of State Secretary." He also recalls Oberackermeister Schurping, the other names have slipped his memory. (2)

Goering, Hermann

8 October 1945, p.m. Nuremberg

Goering calls the connections existing between the RSHA, especially the SIPO and SD and the Ministry for Forestry, quite normal. The criminal police were informed only in cases of extensive poaching or thefts in the forests. But, in general, the officials of the ministry had police jurisdiction in the forests. (2)

Repeats that only the criminal police were notified in cases of extensive poaching or damages, and then it may have happened that the criminal police appeared in foresters' uniforms. They were detailed from their regular service. (2)

Denies that the Reichsforstverwaltung played any role whatever in post-war resistance against the Allies; says he just doesn't know " what they could have done with my trees." (3) It is, of course, possible that if some SD official was on friendly terms with a forest official " he may have hidden him somewhere in the woods, but that he - Goering- has no knowledge of it. (3)

During the rapid retreat from the East, Himmler's intention was to establish a partisan movement in the forested areas. Goering remembers that Himmler's deputy in this matter inquired as to how far the local officers of the Forstverwaltung would be able to place their knowledge of the localities at disposal, for the establishment of caches for food and ammunition. Yet, this happened only during the last three or four months of war; and it is possible that conditions were the same in the West (p.3)

Goering says that local representatives of the agencies had knowledge and were responsible for these activities. (4)

He does not remember any conference at any time in the matter of the escaped 50 POW's from Stalag Luft 3 at Sagan; there ever were conferences held in matters of that nature. (4)

Recalls one case Hitler had some of the escaped POW's shot; he turned some of them over to Himmler, those who had been found in civilian clothes. All aspects of this case became known to Goering only when he talked with Marshal Keitel at Mondorf; he does not know from which camp they escaped, or what the date was. Things like that happened all the time. (4-5) He knows that some escaped from Sagan.

Reiterates that there never were conferences about such incidents. At the daily discussions, where all were present, the escapes of larger numbers of prisoners would be reported. Everybody, in fact, could learn about it who merely traveled on German roads, because cars would be stopped every five minutes. (5)

Goering Herrmann

8 October 1945, p.m. Nuremberg

Denies knowledge of an agreement between OKW and Himmler, to turn over to the SIPO and the SD all recaptured escaped POW's, etc. Also denies knowing what the term "Kugelaktion" stands for (5).

He does recall however, that the entire POW department was placed under Himmler's control, perhaps in July or August, 1944; but he does not know of any such general order (6).

With regard to prisoners of the Luftwaffe, he concedes to have received only two orders from Hitler. The first was, that representatives of the police were to be present at interrogations in Oberursel transient prison camp (6), so that they could ask and discuss political questions with prisoners.

The second order concerned the many escapes effected by English aviators from camps guarded by air force. These guards were mostly quite elderly men. The criminal police was empowered to make investigations, etc. (6) Repeats he does not know the meaning of "Kugelaktion", but believes it may have connection with the case of the 40 aviators just mentioned (6).

Repeats, under oath, that he knew of only the one instance where Hitler had escaped POW's shot. He told Hitler that it was the duty of any English aviator to make at least one attempt to escape, and that better guards were needed in the prison camps. (7)

Explains that the POW's bribed guards with their ample supplies received in Red Cross parcels. At one time, he says, 80 POW's walked out in broad daylight. (7)

The term "Stufe Roman numeral III" is unknown to him, claims to hear it for the first time. The Luftwaffe as such had nothing to do with POW camps. The directions were issued by the OKW. (7)