

HEADQUARTERS TWELFTH ARMY GROUP  
Mobile Field Interrogation Unit No. 4.  
Counter Intelligence Report  
on Head of the RSHA  
KALTENBRUNNER, Dr. Ernst

CIR 4/3

25 May 1945

Preamble

This is a preliminary report on the interrogation of KALTENBRUNNER, Ernst, head of the RSHA (German Security Service) and right hand man to Heinrich HIMMLER. KALTENBRUNNER was apprehended by 80 CIC Det at ALT AUSSEE, Austria, on 18 May 45 and arrived at MFIU No. 4 on 17 May 45. The interrogation is being continued.

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1. Early Life

1903 Born in Ried, Upper Austria  
1913 - 1921 Real Gymnasium, LINZ.  
1921 - 1926 Studied law at the University of GRAZ. Worked his way through school as a RR laborer.  
1909 - 1913 Attended elementary school in RAAB  
1926 - 1927 Served as lawyer with the Land Gericht, LINZ.  
1927 - 1935 Successively employed in the law office of Dr. VILAS, Dr. LASSER, and his father, Dr. Hugo KALTENBRUNNER.  
1935 Expelled from the bar because of previous Nazi activities. KALTENBRUNNER retired from public life and, until 1938, spent his time collecting and selling stamps.

2. Pre-Anschluss Activities

In 1932 KALTENBRUNNER joined the SS and the NSDAP (member No. 300179). At that time he also became head of the "Juristen Bunde" (Lawyers' club) of LINZ, an organization whose Pan-Germanic tendencies became outspokenly National Socialist in 1933. During this time he frequently made speeches at first at "Heimat Schutz" gatherings under the leadership of Count STAKHBERG, later on at Nazi meetings. KALTENBRUNNER claims that his political activities ceased when the Party was declared illegal in Austria in the summer of 1933. On 14 Jan 1934 he was arrested together with all known Nazis in Austria and imprisoned without trial. In May 1934 he was released because of serious illness and returned to LINZ, where he remained as a convalescent until November of that year.

KALTENBRUNNER disclaims any connection with the DOLLFUSS affair. Because his political activities were confined to Upper Austria, he had no part in the happenings at VIENNA. He states that the plot was formulated and carried out by Landes Inspekteur HABICHT over the protests of the Austrian Party Leaders, particularly FACKSCH and BOLEK. They were not confident of the Party-following and advocated instead the application of parliamentary methods for the time being. In an effort to appease the government, which had undertaken repressive measures against the Party, KALTENBRUNNER now took an active part against these radical elements. He believes that his own counter-action made possible the subsequent formation of the "vaterlaendische Front", a nationalist coalition in which the Nazis were represented. In this manner the way was made easier for the events of 1938.

### 3. Reorganization of the Austrian Police.

Until the Anschluss in March 1938, KALTENBRUNNER held the rank of SS Haupt Sturm Fuehrer, although he claims to have been inactive in Party affairs. He was then promoted to SS Ober Fuehrer and appointed State Secretary without portfolio. Shortly afterwards he was made Sekretar des Sicherheits Wesens (Secretary of Security), succeeding Dr. SKOBL whom HIMMLER and HEYDRICH regarded as politically undesirable because he had persecuted Austrian Nazis. In his new capacity KALTENBRUNNER had charge of all Austrian police forces and was to effect their integration into the police organization of Greater Germany. This process was completed by the spring of 1941, at which time he was appointed HSS Pf for Austria, within the new system.

### 4. Leadership of RSHA

In 1943 HIMMLER called KALTENBRUNNER to BERLIN to head the RSHA. Kaltenbrunner claims that he took over this position in name only, that in reality he was solely concerned with Amt III and Amt VI and interested mainly in the gathering of news and political information. In matters of policy all other department heads took direct orders from HIMMLER. In this manner KALTENBRUNNER neatly disposes of his responsibility for affairs pertaining to concentration camps and related spheres of RSHA activity.