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OFFICE OF US CHIEF OF COUNSEL  
APO 403, US ARMY  
INTERROGATION DIVISION

Nurnberg, Germany,  
2 November, 1945.

Brief of  
Interrogation of Gottlieb BERGER

by  
Lt Colonel S. W. Brookhart.

31 October 1945, PM

At the request of Section III, Berger was questioned as to the manner in which the border incidents in Sudetenland were arranged in the summer of 1938. He denies knowledge as to any fictitious arrangements made in Sudetenland in 1938 since he was attached to the SS Recruiting at that time. He was told by Himmler to determine whether any of the thousands of Sudeten Germans who were crossing the border into Germany were eligible for membership in the Waffen SS. Thereafter, three regiments were recruited for the Free Corps, which were supposedly made up of these refugees but actually contained Germans as well. Berger, as Liaison Officer of Himmler, inspected the Free Corps. They were armed with rifles and machine guns from Army depots in Austria. Berger believes there were issued about 18,000 rifles and 40 machine guns for which the ammunition was inferior. On paper the Free Corps had a strength of 40,000 but Berger does not know its true strength. Berger's testimony as to the actions that took place is somewhat incoherent, but in substance he stated that there were numerous exchanges of rifle fire across the border in the days preceding the advance into the Sudetenland. He believes these incidents were all bone fide, but admits that there may have been fictitious incidents staged as well. He recalled that when the advance took place, wood piles and haystacks were burned to make it appear that heavy engagements actually took place. Berger says his knowledge was confined to the area from Asch to Weiden and that he does not know what occurred at other places on the border. He believes that Naujocks may have information as to other incidents.

Berger states he knows nothing about incidents on the German/Polish border in August 1939; that he had been in Berlin during the months preceding the Polish war.

Witness will be recalled at a later session for a further questioning on the SS.