

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

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27 October, 1945.

Brief of

Interrogation of RUDOLF BILFINGER

by

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BILFINGER identified his questionnaire which includes a statement of his activities in the various police posts held by him. He was questioned particularly as to his acquaintance with and service under STAHLCKER in Württemberg in 1934 where he worked under him in the Political Police. Later he was in Vienna with Stahlcker and participated in setting up the Austrian police system in coordination with the German police system. These matters were directed by HEYDRICH and KALTENBRUNNER was in charge as Secretary for Security in Austria. BILFINGER was in Vienna from April until June 1938 and then went to Berlin where he was active in Amt I of the RSHA. The work of his section was later shifted to Amt II. In 1940 he served under SS Brigadefuehrer STRECKENBACH in Cracow, Poland, as Section Chief. He returned to Berlin in December 1940 to his old post. In May 1943 he went to Paris and to the office of the Chief of the Security Police and SD in France, Standartenfuehrer KNOCHEN, who in June 1943 assigned him as commander of SIPO and SD in Toulouse, France. His work consisted of the protection of the German Occupation Forces from the point of view of the SIPO. Between January 1944 and January 1945, BILFINGER partly worked in the RSHA in Berlin and partly as Section Chief in the Office of SIPO and SD in Cracow, Poland, where, by that time, Brigadefuehrer BIERKAMP was the Chief. From February until April 1945, BILFINGER, according to his statement, was in Berlin without his services being used. In April 1945 he went to Prague to the Office of the SIPO and SD, but he states that he did not work there.

BILFINGER described the organization of the Einsatz Commando Units for operation on the Eastern front. He said the coordination of these units with the Army was agreed to in the spring of 1941 and the agreement between OKW, OKH, and RSHA was signed by top officials of those organizations and Himmler. He has seen the agreement which he recalled as consisting of 3-4 pages. The agreement was deemed necessary by Hitler because of the differences which had arisen between the Army and the Secret Police in the occupation of Austria and Poland. The arrangements which were made to attach commando units to Army units in the field were worked out during the spring of 1941 in order to avoid difficulties in Russia as had been experienced in prior campaigns. Bilfinger denied having knowledge of the activities of particular groups in the field and said he could not identify Stahlcker's report (Document L-180) pertaining to the first 3½ months of operations of Action Group A. Bilfinger was unable to recall much about the reports from Einsatz Commando Units and professed to know nothing about the figures submitted pertaining to executions. He gave the definite im-

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pression of holding back and evading whenever pressed for information in these matters.

Bilfinger said that while he was personally friendly with Stahlecker and their wives were intimate friends, he did not see or hear from him after Strahlecker took command of Group A in the Baltic States except for a few incidental meetings in Berlin.

Bilfinger mentioned several times the Secret Field Police (Geheime Feldpolizei) as being the Army Organization with which the Einsatz Commando Units had differences and that this was one of the reasons why the agreement between the OKW, OKH, and the RSHA was concluded.

It is suggested that the jurisdiction and activities of the Secret Field Police (Geheime Feldpolizei) be made the subject of interrogation of the higher military figures in custody.