

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH
BIOGRAPHICAL REPORT

53,091
RESTRICTED

Region: J 1 b

Occupation: 25B, 6A

Political

Attitude: 13

Name: VITS, Ernst Hellmuth (Dr.)

Nationality: German

Region: Berlin Charlottenburg, Kranzallee 53

Positions: President of Vereinigte Glanzstoff-Fabriken AG,
Head of the Reichsvereinigung Chemische Fasern (Reich
Association Chemical Fibers)

Head of the Fachgruppe Chemische Herstellung von Fasern
(Special Group Synthetic Fiber Production), etc. (See Work
and Political History)

Work and Political History: A member of the Board of Directors of Schwelmer Eisenwerk, Müller and Co., AG, Schweim, Manufactures of iron kettles, storage tanks, barrels, etc. Before 1933, Vits shifted his main interest to the synthetic fiber industry, becoming one of the leaders in this field under the Nazi regime. Of his present business connections his most important is his position as President of the Vereinigte Glanzstoff-Fabriken AG, the largest rayon concern in Germany, and through stock holdings, license agreements and cartel arrangements a center of world wide rayon interests before the outbreak of World War II. The majority stock of the Vereinigte Glanzstoff-Fabriken AG was held by the Dutch AKU (Algemeene Kunstzijde Unie NV), Arnhem, of which Vits is member of the Board of Directors, the latter however is controlled by German interests (Deutsche Bank, and others).

Vits is President of several of the major subsidiaries of Vereinigte Glanzstoff-Fabriken AG:

I. P. Bemberg AG, Wuppertal-Oberbarmen,

Spinnfaser AG, Kassel-Bettenhausen,

Glanzstoff Fabrik Lobositz AG, Lovosice, Czechoslovakia

Erste Österreichische Glanzstoff-Fabrik AG, St.
Pölten, Aasmia,

Glanzstoff-Fabrik Kolmar AG, Alsace, founded in 1943 by
Vereinigte Glanzstoff-Fabriken AG in conjunction with
several other firms.

Barmer Maschinenfabrik AG, Remscheid Lennep.

RESTRICTED

Vits' business interests outside the textile field include membership on the board of directors of:

Deutsche Umsiedlungs Treuhand-GmbH, Berlin,

Reichs-Kreditgesellschaft AG, owned by Vereinigte Industrieunternehmungen AG, (VIAG), Berlin, ^{the Reichs} holding company and serving the financial needs of all the undertakings connected with VIAG, in addition to general banking operations and the financing of big industrial enterprises in private ownership.

Deutsche Revisions und Treuhand AG, Berlin, owned likewise (7/10th) by VIAG.

When the Nazis established their system of corporative organization of German business in 1934, Vits became head of the Fachgruppe für Chemische Faser Herstellung (Special Group Synthetic Fiber Production). By far his most important position in the administration of the German synthetic fiber industry, however, is that of Chairman of the Reichsvereinigung Chemische Fasern, one of the super cartels organized in 1942 to centralize control over industry. The Reichsvereinigung can issue binding orders to its members. It regulates the type of products which can be manufactured, allocates distribution quotas, controls marketing, imports, agreements with foreign producers, agreements among producers concerning exchange of experience in the production and processing of artificial fibers, etc. In 1943 the Reichsvereinigung Chemische Fasern was authorized by the Price Commissar to fix prices and to regulate other strictly economic matters. The scope of the organization indicates the large power Vits has over the synthetic fiber industry.

His standing in the Nazi economy, moreover, is indicated by the fact that Vits was named Wehrwirtschaftsführer, a title granted key men in the German war economy, who are in excellent standing with the Nazi Party. In February 1944 Vits was appointed a member of the Board of the Gauwirtschaftskammer Düsseldorf, which exercises control over all business enterprises in the District, except war plants proper.

Summary:

By virtue of his positions as Chairman of the Reichsvereinigung Chemische Fasern and as head of the Glanzstoff combine, Vits is one of the business leaders responsible for the planning and carrying out of Nazi economic policies.

Sources:

Wer leitet, 1941, 1942.
Who is Who in Nazi Germany, 1944
Handbuch der Deutschen Aktiengesellschaften, 1931
Addressbuch der Direktoren und Aufsichtsräte, 1930
OSS, CE, 7 February 1944
Europa Kabel, 11 February 1944.
OSS R & A, 2057, 14 July 1944
OSS R & A, 1910, 26 July 1944

RESTRICTED

sources as indicated) as was available at the time of preparation. It may consequently be subject to amendment by additional or more recent intelligence. Index numbers and letters are solely for indexing statements in the report.