

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES  
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH  
BIOGRAPHICAL REPORT

53,092  
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Region: J 1 b, J 1 a

Occupation: 6A, 25F  
25G

Political  
Attitude: 1 - 13

Name: VOSS, Wilhelm

Nationality: German

Region: Berlin Grunewald, Tauberstrasse 20

Positions: President (Vorsitzender des Vorstands) of Reichswerke AG für  
Waffen-und Maschinenbau, Hermann Göring,

Member of the Management Board (Vorstand) of AG Reichswerke  
Hermann Göring, 1940 (?) - 1941,

President and Chairman of the Board of Directors (Vorsitzender  
des Executiv Komitees und Präsident des Verwaltungsrats) of  
AG vorm. Skoda Werke Pilsen, Prague,

President (Vorsitzender des Executiv Komitees) of Waffenwerke  
Brünn AG, Brünn,

Chairman of the Board of Directors (Aufsichtsrat) of: Steyer-  
Daimler-Puch AG, Steyr,  
Simmering-Graz-Pauker AG, Vienna,

Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors, Rheinmetall Borsig AG,  
Etc. etc.

Wehrwirtschaftsführer.

Birth date and place: 1 July 1896; Rostock

Family History: Voss is married and has several children.

Education: Voss is reported to have studied law and economics and to speak  
English.

Work and Political History: Voss, who under the Nazis became one of Germany's  
most powerful industrialists, had no business of his own before  
1933. In the early twenties he is reported to have been adminis-  
trative secretary of a group of employers' associations  
(Arbeitgeber-Verbände) of the chemical industry. Subsequently he  
became a public accountant, and, according to source, was very  
active in organizing the profession and in raising its standards  
by promoting statutory enforcement of standard qualifications for  
certified accountants, etc. He was president of the professional  
association of public accountants.

Source reports that as early as 1933 Voss publicly displayed  
pro-Nazi leanings at an international congress of accountants in  
London, although it is not known whether he was a member of the NSDAP

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at that time. After 1933 his accounting business rapidly expanded, due to his connections with leading Nazis, particularly with Wilhelm Keppler (q.v.) and later with Göring (q.v.). He is reported to have received accounts of important firms such as the I.G. Farben dye trust. 1/

When, in 1937, the Göring combine - which became the third largest industrial trust in Europe - was organized, Voss became one of its main leaders. In addition to membership (as of 1940) on the Management Board (Vorstand) of AG Reichswerke Hermann Göring, the holding company of the combine, Voss held leading positions in many important companies controlled by the Göring Works, particularly those taken over by the Nazis in Austria and Czechoslovakia after the German Occupation. He was President of Reichswerke AG für Waffen - und Maschinenbau Hermann Göring which combines all machinery, motor and armament interests of the Göring works. He was directly connected with the following major companies under the control of Reichswerke AG für Waffen- und Maschinenbau or under that of the two other top operating companies of the Göring combine; Reichswerke AG für Berg- und Hüttenbetriebe Hermann Göring, combining the mining and steel mill properties and Reichswerke AG für Binnenschifffahrt Hermann Göring, combining the transportation and trading interests:

Germany:

Rheinmetall Borsig AG, one of the largest machine and metal working concerns in Germany, which Göring acquired from Vereinigte Industrie Unternehmungen AG (VIAG), the Reich holding company, in 1938 - (Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors).

Austria:

Steyr-Daimler-Puch AG, Steyr, Austria's largest manufacturers of automobiles, tanks, locomotives, etc. - (Chairman of the Board of Directors),

Simmering-Graz-Pauker AG, Vienna, second in Austria only to Steyr Daimler Puch AG in the manufacture of heavy machinery - (Chairman of the Board of Directors),

Veitscher Magnesitwerke AG, Vienna, the largest magnesite producing company in Europe - (Member of the Board of Directors),

Omnipol Handels AG, Vienna, established in 1941, acting mainly as a trading company for the Göring enterprises in Austria, (Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors)

Erste Donau Dampfschiffahrtsgesellschaft AG, Vienna, a large shipping company (President - Vorsitzender des Vorstands - as of 1940).

\*Steyr-Daimler Puch AG was taken over by Klöckner in 1944.

Czechoslovakia:

AG vorm. Skoda Werke Pilsen, Prague, one of the largest armament factories in Europe originally controlled by French interests, later by the Czechoslovakia State and taken over by the Göring combine. (President and Chairman of the Board of Directors; -it was reported that Voss was ousted from this position in 1945 for failure to meet German production quotas 2/)

Waffenwerke Brünn AG, Brünn, formerly owned by the Czechoslovakia State and affiliated with the Skoda Works- (President),

Explosia Explosivstoff AG, Prague, also owned by the Czechoslovakia State, controlled by Waffenwerke Brünn AG, which held a monopoly for the manufacture of explosives in Bohemia and Moravia- (President),

Synthesia Chemische Werke AG, Prague, founded by Explosia Explosivstoff AG for the manufacture of chemicals needed in the manufacture of explosives, - (President),

Erste Brünnner Maschinenfabrik Gesellschaft, Brno, an important machinery company - (Chairman of the Board of Directors),

Avia AG für Flugzeugindustrie, Prague, an aircraft factory - (Chairman of the Board of Directors),

Omnipol AG, Prague, an affiliate of Skoda and sister company of the Austrian Omnipol Handelsgesellschaft AG (see above) - (Chairman of the Board of Directors),

Eisenwerke Podbrezova AG, Pressburg, iron works originally owned by the Czechoslovakia State - (President and Chairman of the Board of Directors).

Italy:

Omnipol SA, Milan - (Chairman of the Board of Directors).

In 1943 Voss was reported to be Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Prager-Kreditbank, a large Czech bank which had come under the control of Skoda after the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia. Voss' influence in Czechoslovak affairs was strengthened by his position as President of the Deutsch-Slovakische Gesellschaft (German-Czechoslovak Society).

For some time (1942-1943) Voss is reported to have held a high position in the Reich Ministry of Armament and War Production.\*) He received the title of Wehrwirtschaftsführer which was granted only to keymen in the German war economy who were in excellent standing with the Nazi Party.

\*) The 1942 Taschenbuch für Verwaltungsbeamte lists a Dr. Ing. Voss as head of Zentralausrüstungsrat. Another source (OSS Source F, M-356-2T, 1 February 1944), mentions Voss as head of Rüstungsausschuss.

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Summary:

By virtue of his dominant position in the Göring combine, Voss had an important part in planning and executing Nazi economic policies. Through his positions in numerous important Austrian and Czech companies taken over by the Göring Works after German occupation, he is responsible for Nazi economic exploitation of these countries.

Sources:

- 1/: OSS, Source S, no date (1944 ?)
- 2/: OSS, Source S, # A - 53722, 13 April 1945.  
New York Times, 16 May 1945.  
Wer leitet, 1941-1942; 1940.  
Würendenträger im Dritten Reich, 1943  
OSS, R & A 1910, 25 July 1944.  
Deutsche Volkswirtschaft, 4 September 1943.  
Taschenbuch für Verwaltungsbeamte, 1942

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1 June 1945

This record is a summary of such intelligence (from one or more 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.

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