

August 13, 1949

Office of Military Government for Germany (US), Special Branch Investigation Report, Number RC 1596

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Summary:

The Office of Military Government for Germany's Report on Hans Kammler's whereabouts after the war.

Credits:

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Original Language:

German

Contents:

Original Scan Translation - English Office of Military Government for Germany (US) SPECIAL BRANCH INVESTIGATION REPORT Number: RC 1596 Date: 13 August 1949 Pa/mei Subject name: Kammler, Hans Date of Birth: 26 Aug 1901 Aliases: [blank] Address: until April 1945, Bln.-Grunewald, Taunusstr. 8 Suspected of: [blank] Cause of investigation (continue on reverse side or attach additional sheets if necessary): Investigation of the Office of Military Government for Hesse, Office of the Denazification Advisor, APO 633 US Army, Wiesbaden Investigation from 13 June 1949. See attached Report [signed] Oskar Packe Special Investigator [signed] Carl E. Westrum Chief, Investigation Section [over] Office of Military Government **Berlin Sector** Public Safety Branch Investigation Section Berlin, Germany APO 742-A, US Army 13 August 1949 Pa/mei Subject: Investigation Report on Hans KAMMLER To: Chief, Investigation Section 1. The Office of Military Government for Hesse, Office of the Denazification Advisor, APO 633 US Army, Wiesbaden, requests with the letter from June 13, 1949 for investigations regarding the subject's political conduct during the Nazi dictatorship. 2. Subsequent requests or subsequent investigations of American and German offices had the following results: a. The "Party Statistical Register 1939" that is available to the named offices contains a questionnaire that was filled out by the subject and signed in July 1939 in his own hand with the following information: Entry into the Party: End of 1931, March 1, 1932 Membership number: 1 C11 855 Job in occupation: Civil servant in public employment Member of the SS: in this, active in a leadership capacity Further Memberships: **NS-Public Welfare** Reich Union of German Civil Servants NS-Union of German Technology **NS-Union of German Students** Sports Badges: Riding Badge III

Added to the signature is: Doctor of Engineering, Upper Administration Construction Council and Advisor in the Reich Aviation Ministry. (Photo copy of the guestionnaire, see attachment page 1 and 1a) B. In the Berlin Document Center, the following is listed about the subject: Born: 26 Aug 01 at Stettin Occupation: Construction Director Party No: 1 011 855 Entered: 1 Mar 32 (NSDAP Master File) Member of SS, NSV, Reich Union of German Civil Servants and DABF (German Academy of Architectural Research) (Engineers File) SS No: 113 619 W SS Rank: SS Group Leader and Lt. General of the Waffen SS 30 Jan 44 SS Entry: 20 May 33 W SS Entry: 1 Jun 41 Last W SS unit: Reich Leader SS Other W SS units: Economic Administration Central Office, Central Office, Budget and Constructions. Administrative and Economy Central Office, Race and Settlement Office. In 1919 he belonged to the Freikorps Rossbach. On 20 Apr 40 he was appointed "Construction Director of the Luftwaffe" (Colonel) and on 29 May 41 he was discharged as such. He was Special Representative of the Reich Leader SS. He was a training speaker, political director (1933-36 section leader, District Greater Berlin, Housing and Settlement). Employee in the Office for Agricultural Policy 33/34 Honorary Master of German Craft (3 Jun 35) Upper Government Construction Council 1 Jun 37. Since 5 Sep 44 in charge of the V-Program In connection with which he was awarded the German Cross in Gold. Holder of Death's Head Ring. Bearer of Honor Sword. Occupation: SS Leader (Construction master Doctorate of Engineering) Picture available. Statement on his career written by him available. No further details given. (SS Officers File) Occupation: Councilor No further details given. (Party Chancery Correspondence File) The following listed details from the attached photocopied documents from the Berlin Document Center reveal further identifying references: 1) Subject's positive attitude regarding National Socialism: In addition to his full-time activity as an advisor in the central authorities, the subject was active during the years 1931 to 1937 in the following organizations, in part in a leading capacity: 1931-33: Employee of the Engineering Department of the District Greater Berlin

1933: Examiner of Aryan descent in an SS-Sturm and in an SS-Standard.

1933-34: Employee in the Office for Agricultural Policy in the Reich leadership of the NSDAP

1933-35: Buildup and leadership of the Reich Union of Garden Plot Holders and Small Estate Holders

1933-36: Department Head for Housing and Settlements in the District Greater Berlin, Employee in the Race and Settlements Central Office of the SS

1937: Training Speaker for ideological training of the Berlin uniformed police Just how much the subject made the National Socialist maxims and outlooks his own reveals itself by the fact that he already quit the evangelical church in 1932, did not baptize his children and did not let them take part in religious courses in school.

2) Subjects professional career track:

1931-33: Advisor in the Reich Work Ministry

1933-36: Advisor in the Reich Food Ministry

From 1940 as Construction Director

1941: Head of Department II in the Central Office Budget and Constructions of the SS Economic and Administrative Central Office

1942: Chief of the Office Group C in the SS Economic and Administrative Central Office

3) Subject's period of military service until his absorption into the Waffen SS:

1919: 2 Months Leibhusaren-Regiment 2

2 Months Volunteer Storm Troopers Rossbach

1935: 1 Month) Cavalry-Regiment 3

1936: 1 Month) Final Judgement:

1937: 6 Weeks) Eligible for Lieutenant of the Reserve

4) Subject's SS Affiliation

Subject was a carrier/recipient of the following SS decorations:

Angle (old fighter)

Death's Head Ring

Honor sword

Yule Lantern

Promotion Dates: General SS since 1933

Untersturmführer - 1936

Obersturmführer - 1937

Hauptsturmführer - 1937

Sturmbannführer - 1938

Obersturmbannführer - 1939

Standartenführer - 1940

Waffen-SS, Intake as

Oberführer - 1941

Brigadeführer - 1942

(Gen.Maj.d.WSS)

Gruppenführer - 1944

(Gen.Ltn.d.WSS

5) Subject's Deployment in the Sense of a Known Support of the Military Goals of National Socialism

August 1943: Expansion of the underground production site for the A 4 – Program (Long-range rocket A 4)

March 1944: Completion of the major underground construction measures for the protection of Jäger production

August 1944: Leadership of the entire development and manufacturing, production of deployment ability and provision of supplies and armaments for the long-range rocket A 4

Sept. 1944: Leadership of the FR-Troop (Long-range rocket A 4), Deployment against Paris and London

6) Subject was the bearer of the following awards

Service Cross of the Badge of Honor of the German Red Cross

Commemorative Medal Sudetenland

War Merit Cross 2nd and 1st Class with Swords

Iron Cross 2nd and 1st Class

German Cross in Gold

Suggested for the Awarding of the Knight's Cross of the War Merit Cross with Swords (Photocopies as special attachment)

c) The subject is not found in the files of the archives of the People's Court Files, other documents about him are also not available there.

d) According to the documents found at the CIC, the subject was responsible for the construction of concentration camps. Later, he worked on the V 1 and V 2 weapons. The subject spoke at the grave of SS-Gruppenführer Grimm on July 26, 1944 in Schliersee. Grimm was removed in the process of the "cleaning up" following July 20th, 1944. In the interest of the reputation of the party and of the SS, this fact was concealed through an "honorable burial."

The subject was allegedly the bearer of the Blood Order. However, this decoration was not mentioned in any of the numerous available personal materials. As known from other cases, there however exists the possibility that this decoration was only bestowed to him retroactively in the last months before the collapse for his uncompromising efforts in a national-socialist sense.

On May 9, 1945, the subject was captured along with his staff in the Messerschmidt works in Oberammergau by American troops. However, the subject and other high-ranking SS leaders from his staff succeeded in escaping captivity in the direction of Austria or Italy. It is suspected that the subject now finds himself in Soviet custody and works in the Soviet occupation zone of Germany. Thus far, evidence for this could not be brought forth.

e) In the attached excerpt from the chapter "External Camps and Wartime" from the book "The SS State, the System of German Concentration Camps" by Eugen Kogon, in which the subject is referred to by name, the following sentences are indicators that the criminal nature of these installations was supported by the subject's personal initiative:

"Most new constructions (meant here are concentration camps) warrant the so-called protected area of the SS....The conditions in the protected areas can only be designated as inhumane....The regulations over them lay in the hands of SS-Gruppenführer Dr. Ing. Kammler, who had his office in Berlin, from which he, playing the wild man, sped around the country. The main camps had ever more slaves to deliver."

(Excerpt, see Attachments page 2 and 3)

f) Index card (old) of the 154th Police Station:

Occupation: SS-Oberführer

Married to Jutta born Horn (born April 12, 1908 in Naumburg)

Earlier Apartments in Berlin

1932-1934 Berlin-Marienfelde, Esterstr. 48

1934-1943 Berlin-Lichterfelde-Ost, Salzunger Pfad 4

1943-1945 Berlin-Grünewald, Taunusstr. 8

g) The subject has not been entered into the criminal records of the State Court of Berlin since the register only shows data about persons who were born in Berlin. The large index card of the NSDAP attached as a photocopy contains a criminal endorsement in the form of a "St." on the front side under the rubric "SS- and Civil Crimes"

3. Statements from 8 witnesses from the previous living areas of the subject, from the circle of his former staff and a relative:

a) The witness Kurt SPRENGER, residing in Berlin-Marienfelde, Berliner Str. 18a, interviewed on the matter on July 29, 1949, states that he knew the subject in the

time period 1932-34, when both were living in two neighboring single-family homes in Berlin Marienfelde, Esterstrasse. Things were not going well economically for the young married couple Kammler because the subject had to make the household himself and multiple children were born one after the other. As a neighbor the subject was courteous and ready to help and was a good husband and father in his family. It was known to the witness that the subject was a member of the NSDAP and the SS, which was very much resented by the subject's father. Based on neighborly communication, the subject never appeared to the witness as a fanatical National Socialist. Rather the subject was from the perspective of the party too soft due to an incident during the 1933 election between non-party-members and NSDAP election smugglers, in which it was necessary to uphold Party interests. As the subject told the witness at the time, the subject was reprimanded by Himmler personally for this. After the subject moved away in 1934, the witness only spoke to him a few more times. From 1936 onwards, the witness did not see the subject anymore and only learned about his advancement through the press.

The witness himself was not a member of the NSDAP or one of its organizations. In terms of occupation, the witness is a commercial employee and since October 1948 unemployed.

(Statement, see attachments page 4).

b) The witness Anna SPILLECKE, born Ebert, residing in Berlin-Lichterfelde-Ost, Salzunger Pfad 2, interviewed on the matter on July 7, 1949, declares to have known the subject since approximately 1934 when he settled almost at the same time as the witness on Salzunger Pfad. The subject was the property neighbor of the witness until he moved in approximately 1941 to Taunusstr. 8. While the subject's wife made a quiet and modest impression, she was known to the witness not as a national socialist but as a religiously minded pastor's daughter, there was never doubt about the subject's convinced National Socialist mindset to the witness. The subject counted as a cocky bigwig in the neighborhood, vis-à-vis whom everyone conducted themselves in reserved fashion. In his being, the subject was very brutal and overbearing, in his manner of speech very loud, as if in barracks yard tone. He conducted himself vis-à-vis his family in such a fashion as well. The subject bore political disagreement without it having to be feared that he would complain to the police. In this relationship, he was generally not feared within the neighborhood. Similarly, the subject did not in any way bother a Jewish woman that was living across the way from him. Economically, the family had until then lived in a modest and homely manner. The subject's then rent of approximately RM 145.- would have appeared too much for him in comparison to his income then. On the occasion of a visit that the witness once made later to Taunussstrasse, she was able to determine that the subject had the same furniture in use there that the witness knew from his apartment in Salzunger Pfad. Nothing is known to the witness regarding the subject's whereabouts after 1945. She feared that during the collapse the subject would kill not only himself but his entire family in his fanaticism. Such an act would have thoroughly conformed to one possessing such a mentality known to the subject as fanatically National Socialist. In the neighborhood there, the subject was not engaged in party politics since he would have felt himself above that due to his high position within the SS. The witness was not a member of the NSDAP or one of its organizations. She does not have a career.

(Statement, see attachments page 5)

c) The witness Margarete HERMANNS, born Schricker, residing in Berlin-Grunewald, Taunusstr. 9, interviewed on the matter on July 4, 1949, declares that she knew the subject's family, who lived at Taunusstr. 8 from 1943-45, only from sight, since they very much distanced themselves from the population due to their position. While the subject's wife made a good impression, the subject himself was known in the entire area to be very rabid. He often screamed so loud that it could be heard across the street. The causes for this were not known to the witness, however. Shortly before the collapse, the subject went away one night with his family. Afterwards the witness heard nothing about his whereabouts.

The witness was not a member of the NSDAP or one of its organizations.

(Statement, see attachments page 6)

d) The witness Hans EWERT, residing in Berlin-Grunewald, Taunusstr. 8, interviewed on July 4, 1949 on the matter, declares that until the collapse in 1945 he lived at Kronberger Str. 7-9 directly neighboring the house at Taunusstr. 8. The subject was not known to him personally, but he knew that he acquired the house at Taunusstr. 8 approximately in 1943, which previously was a Jewish property of the family Abraham. The subject occupied the house alone, only the family of his driver Baum likewise lived there. From hearsay, the witness also remembered that the subject was known in the entire area as inconsiderate and ruthless. Even towards his driver, who is now deceased, but whose wife told the witness in 1946 that the subject also forced her husband to drive when he was sick and had a high fever. The address of Mrs. Baum is not known to the witness. The witness himself still remembers that the subject yelled uncontrollably so that it could be heard across the street. The causes for this were not known to the witness. The specialist for properties of the Finance Ministry, who determined the rent for the house at Taunusstr. 8, stressed to the witness only recently that he had difficult encounters with the subject regarding this matter. Further, it is known to the witness that the subject had 6-8 concentration camp prisoners tidy up the house and garden. Shortly before the collapse, the subject moved away; nothing is known to the witness regarding his whereabouts. The house at Taunusstr. 8 was emptied out after the Russians marched in and only acquired by the witness and other renters in fall 1945.

The witness was neither a member of the NSDAP nor one of its organizations. He is self-employed and active in property management.

(Statement, see attachments page 7)

e) The witness losef BERNDT, residing in Berlin-Wittenau, Strasse 133, Nr. 40b, interviewed on the matter on July 4, 1949, declares that he dealt with the subject as the renter of the house at Taunusstr. 8 multiple times in the years 1941 and 1942 officially in his previous position as a tax inspector and assessor for Reich Rent and Service Apartments at the Upper Finance Presidium Berlin. This had to do with the determination of the rental value of the apartment that the subject took possession of on November 1, 1941. Based on this, the witness had the impression that the subject was attempting, due to his high position, to obtain personal advantages for himself in the rent determination by alleging value-reducing reasons which were not admissable according to the existing regulations. In the verbal negotiations, the subject affected a bossy, commanding tone and in so doing brought to bear characteristically the arrogant claim to power of leading National Socialists. As the witness later was able to determine by telephone from the subject's adjutant, Schürmann, then an SS-Oberscharführer, the subject actually had financial advantages from the rental contract, in that he paid a far lower rent than that which was set by the Upper Finance Presidium. The set rent amounted to 585 RM. As far as the witness could remember, the subject paid in contrast only about 240 RM in rent monthly. Nothing is known to the witness regarding the subject's current whereabouts since he otherwise had no relations with the subject.

The witness was neither a member of the NSDAP nor one of its organizations (except for the NSV). Currently, the witness is an employee of the Financial Ministry for Real Estate.

f) The witness Frieda WILLER, born Dünsing, residing in Berlin-Grunewald, Taunusstr. 7, interviewed on July 4, 1949 on the matter, declares that for approximately 4 months in 1944 she maintained the cleaning of the office and household Taunusstr. 8, in which the subject lived. The subject's wife and children had then been evacuated to the neighborhood of Oranienburg due to the bombings. The subject lived alone in the house with his chap, whose name the witness can no longer remember, but who was a convinced SS man. The subject behaved properly towards the witness although he knew that the witness was not in the party. It was also not known to her that the subject conducted himself ruthlessly towards the driver Baum, though not in the time in which the subject, amongst whom a Ms. NERGER, who also lived in Zehlendorf. The successor to the witness was a Ms. TIMME, who now resides in Grunewald. The sister of the subject's wife, with the name PRACHT or BRACHT, who lives on Hohenzollerndamm, often stopped by at the subject's house. Concentration camp

inmates once tidied up the house after it was hit by firebombs. The witness did not have the impression that the inmates were treated badly. The daughter of the driver Baum, who now resides with her mother in Erfurt, told the witness in 1947 that her father was wounded and died as a result of this while on the run with the subject in Bavaria. The subject himself allegedly shot himself while on the run.

The witness was not a member of the NSDAP or one of its organizations.

(Statement, see attachments page 9).

g) The witness Gertrud TIMME, residing in Berlin-Grunewald, Humboldtstr. 30, interviewed on July 5, 1949 on the matter, declares that she was active in the subject's household at Taunusstr. 8 approximately since May 1, 1943 as a housekeeper. The subject's wife was already evacuated at this time and lived at a property in Gross-Kyritz in Oranienburg. Regarding the subject's behavior towards her, the witness had no complaints. The same applied as well for his remaining staff. Often the subject was fairly harsh. The subject personally did not deal with the concentration camp inmates that occasionally worked in the house. Around the end of the war, he was only seldom in Berlin and in the house. In mid-April 1945 (approximately 16.-18.), when the Russians stood around lüterbog, the most necessary things were packed up to drive away. The subject arranged that the witness drove along and allowed her to take her then 16-year-old son with her. Along with other SS leaders, their staffs and their relatives, a column of approximately 15 cars was made which drove together to Prague via Dresden, where it arrived on the evening of the next day. From Prague they drove on the next day to Munich and stayed there for approximately 14 days. The subject's wife was already evacuated to Oberammergau by then. From Munich, the column drove to Ebensee by Salzburg, where the subject had a command post. Approximately on May 2, the drive continued in the direction of Prague. On the way there, they got lost. The witness herself then came from Steierling next to Weizenkirchen (Austria), from there to Giessen and then to Berlin. Nothing is known to the witness regarding the subject's whereabouts. She also does not know where the subject's first adjutant, STRACK, stayed. The second adjutant, SCHÜRMANN, should now again live in Berlin-Zehlendorf after he was in an English prisoner of war camp. In the house at Taunusstr. 8 the following people aside from the subject lived:

Adjutant STRACK, Driver BAUM with family, Driver PREUCK, a secretary, whose name the witness has forgotten. A second secretary, Ms. NERGER, and also the adjutant SCHÜRMANN lived in the SS residence in Zehlendorf. The witness could not express anything regarding the subject's political views since she exclusively concerned herself with the household. The subject also never tried to influence the witness politically although he knew that she was not in the party. In the subject's house, the civilian staff never greeted each other with "Heil Hitler." The subject also always greeted these staff members with the respective daily greeting. The files regarding the V weapons that were in the subject's possession were destroyed on the flight from Berlin.

The witness was not a member of the NSDAP, only a member of the DAF. She has been a bricklayer's helper since 1946.

(Statement, see attachments 10 and 11).

h) The witness Walther BACH, residing in Berlin-Nikolasee, Cimbernstr. 12, interviewed on the matter on July 10, 1949, declares to have met the subject approximately in 1926-27 in the house of his mother-in-law in Berlin. The subject married the sister of the witness's wife. The subject then made the impression of a technically very interested man with above average talents and with an absolutely clear and goal-oriented career path. In a political sense, the subject then viewed him as a national-minded person. The witness could not detect a tendency towards National Socialism then. Only after the so-called seizure of power did it become known to the witness that the subject was a member of the NSDAP. Their topics of discussion were purely technical in nature; after 1933, they avoided political topics out of a mutual awareness of their diverging political viewpoints. The subject's rapid career advancement began in 1936 when he came to the Air Ministry. The witness is of the conviction that the subject owed his rapid advancement in the Luftwaffe primarily to his outstanding technical qualities. Clearly made aware of the subject through his good work and surely also convinced of his political reliability, the subject

was then acquired by the Waffen SS. Without a doubt this guick advancement was supported by the subject's strong personal ambition. Of the subject's personal experiences in the Luftwaffe, it is known to the witness that the subject was well liked and very respected by his subordinates and in general by his superiors. Nothing is known to the witness from his own personal observation regarding the subject's personal influence as Department Head C on the deployment of concentration camp inmates. The witness knows however from his knowledge in the Luftwaffe that the subject consequently carried out assignments and commands, and in so doing was ruthless towards others, as well as towards himself. On the other hand, the subject had an understanding for the necessary consideration in particularly serious cases. Personal contact between the witness and the subject restricted itself privately to familial things, and in so far as the witness had contact with the subject officially in light of his activity in Air District Command III, on purely official basis, without their being related leading to any promotion or preference for the witness. The witness saw the subject for the last time at the beginning of April 1945 in Naumburg. Then, the witness had the impression that the subject had clearly recognized the fact of that the war had already been lost. Nothing is known to the witness regarding the subject's whereabouts. According to hearsay, the subject allegedly shot himself in Czechia near Pilsen out of a recognition of the hopelessness of his situation. The former members of the subject's staff were personally not known to the subject.

The witness was not a member of the NSDAP. As a member of the NSKK, he was categorized in Article II Paragraph XVII according to his die stamp and was rehabilitated on June 29, 1947 by a decision of the Zehlendorf Denazification Commission. He is currently employed as a Superior Construction Manager with the Non-Profit Land Settlement and Apartment Society m.b.H., Berlin.

(Statement, see Attachments page 12 and 13)

4. Regarding the former members of the subject's staff who were named by the witnesses in the interrogations (BAUM, NERGER, PREUCK, SCHÜRMANN, STRACK), nothing could be determined here.

5. Conclusion:

The evaluation of the numerous files and sources, which are very conclusive due to their variety, leads to the result that the subject was a convinced National Socialist, who played a leading role in a decided and goal-oriented manner in the realization of the party goals.

Even if no indications are perceptible that the subject was already politically active during his studies (1919-1923), the fact of his membership in the Freikorps allows the conclusion that he already tended towards political movements at this time which according to their tendencies were to be seen as forerunners of National Socialism. After the completion of his technical education and already before his official entry into the NSDAP on March 1, 1932, the subject had already devoted work for the party in keeping with his career, so that from 1933 onwards after the so-called seizure of power, markedly National Socialist activist activity unfolded. He worked along, at times in a leading role, with the building up and organization of the various institutions of the NSDAP and beyond that, contributed as an educational speaker for the "ideological direction" of the Berlin uniformed police in order to reform this already existing organization into a willing instrument of the NSDAP.

The political reliability which was evidenced through his extraordinary activity found its external recognition in his professional advancement, in his unusually rapid promotion first by the general SS and later, from 1941 onwards, by the Waffen SS, as well as in his decoration with all available SS honors (Death's Head Ring, Honor Sword, etc.) and during the war with the awarding of the highest orders.

As proceeds from the chronologically ordered witness statements, the subject's character development evinces to an increasing degree the typical markings of a party member climbing to a be a great "big shot" in these years. The subject also exploited his leading position in the state and the party in order to create considerable personal benefits for himself (unjustified lowering of the officially designated apartment rent to monthly RM 345., cost saving through the employment of concentration camp inmates for the carrying out of private work on his property). In the available recommendations for the awarding of orders, it is emphasized again

and again that the subject possessed the capability to carry out the orders and assignments given to him with the utmost ruthlessness. This capability was clearly the reason, along with his proven political activity and reliability, for trusting him with assignments that essentially required exactly this ruthlessness. The subject proved this then in particular in his official role as "Department Head C" in the SS Economic Administration Main Department when he was responsible for the construction of the underground production facilities (the so-called SS restricted areas) for the "A 4-Program" (long-range rockets) and for the "Jäger Program" during the years 1943-1944. In the attached excerpt from the book, "The SS State, the System of German Concentration Camps," which is to be valued as an authentic source, it is thoroughly reported and confirmed with attribution that the concentration camp inmates and foreign workers that were deployed to the "SS restricted zones" at the subject's personal instigation had to work there under inhumane conditions. With this, it can be viewed as proven that the relentless exploitation of these forced laborers was not only known to the subject but was emphatically promoted by him in order to complete the assignments given to him in part before the deadline, as was credited to him in the recommendations for awards.

The subject thus made himself guilty of crimes against humanity and through his conduct, which can be traced back to his own initiative, contributed to the necessity of labelling the character of the SS as criminal in the proceedings before the International Tribunal in Nürnberg.

The subject's suicide, which has been assumed by the witnesses and allegedly confirmed, is refuted by the exact details from the CIC regarding his capture and flight in May 1945. Evidence that the subject currently finds himself in Soviet custody and works in the Soviet occupied zone of Germany could not be produced here.

Oskar Packe Special Investigator Approved Carl E. Westrum Chief, Investigation Section