

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
 (2)(A) Privacy
 (2)(B) Methods/Sources
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 Date: 2001

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

ABSTRACT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	XI
DATE	JUN 45

INFORMAL BIOGRAPHIES, PORTUGAL

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 JUN 45

1. Johan or Johannes Eberhardt Franz BERNHARDT

Av. del Valle 3, Madrid

Married with at least three children. He holds the following passports: (1) #1621/40; (2) No. 01567 issued Madrid January 30, 1940; (3) #2031 issued Madrid October 5, 1943; and (4) #1936.

Subject is an officer of the SS, his rank being probably either Gruppenfuehrer or Obersturmfuehrer. He is a native German, born January 1, 1897 at Osterode, East Prussia.

At the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War in 1936 BERNHARDT, who was then living in Spanish Morocco, offered his services to Franco, a personal friend of his. It was arranged that subject handle the exchange of Spanish products for German war material; the holding companies ROWAK in Berlin and HISMA in Tetuan were set up for the purpose and became important economic factors on the Nationalist side.

In 1938 SOFINDUS (Sociedad Financiera y Industrial, Av. del Generalisimo Franco 1, Madrid) replaced the earlier corporations. As managing director of SOFINDUS in Madrid since at least 1941, subject collaborated closely with both the Sipo & SD and the Abwehr. Under his direction SOFINDUS, in addition to serving as a purchasing agency for wolfram and other strategic commodities, handled foreign exchange transactions for the German Government and the German intelligence services, provided cover employment for the Sipo & SD agents, sometimes paying a part of their salaries, facilitated the granting of Spanish visas to Abwehr agents by promising employment, set up bank deposits (probably in Spanish names) to provide for Abwehr expenses in case of a diplomatic break between Spain and Germany, and assisted the German intelligence services in other ways. Specifically, subject is known to have handled the transfer by SOFINDUS to the German Embassy Ptas. 16,000,000 for the use of KdM Spain in November 1944. Between October 1944 and April 1945, he collaborated with the German Embassy, their Naval Attache and KdM Spain in a number of unsuccessful attempts to ship supplies from Spain to the German garrisons holding out in France.

BERNHARDT has many influential connections with high officials of the Spanish Government.

BERNHARDT is the self-declared founder of both SOFINDUS and HISMA (since dissolved). He is also vice-president of Geral. de Lanac, S.A. (Lanaco), vice-president

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of Exportadora de Pieles, S.A. (Pielco), and a director of Nova, S.A. During the German domination of France, BERNHARDT held extraordinary powers to control transportation for the more efficient delivery of goods, not only in Spain, but in France as well. He started a branch of SOFINDUS in Lisbon, under the orders of Bethke of ROWAK, and was rumored to have participated in the running of the "pirate" radio station "Atlantik", because he received a Christmas present from the German Government which also went to others connected with the station.

BERNHARDT is also said to have a substantial camouflaged interest in Prodag (Productos Agrícolas, S.A.).

In June 1945, the British reported that BERNHARDT had offered to direct SOFINDUS in the interest of the United Nations, with an Allied committee as its Board of Directors. He (BERNHARDT) estimated the present assets of the company at Ptas. 500,000,000.

2. Anton (Antonio) WAHLE

Calle Castellán 2, Madrid, July 1945

German engineer. President of the Consejo de Administracion of the Cia. General Importadora de Lanás, Ayala 10, Madrid.

Given on Board of Directors of SOFINDUS and H. GAERTNER, S.A.

WAHLE is also President of Geral. de Lanás, S.A. (Lanaco) and of Soc. Exportadora de Pieles, S.A. (Pielco) and on the board of directors of Hermann Gaertner, S.A. de Productos Resinos.

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A report dated June 1944 reveals that correspondence from German agents in South America is sent via Spanish seamen addressed to subject or to Carlos ARNOLD, who uses HIS FIRMA, LANAS, as a cover for intelligence activities.

WAS USED
3. Dr. Friederich BETHKE X

Apart from Managing Directorship of ROWAK, Berlin, no additional information as yet.

4. Dietrich FROPPE

Calle Ponzano 62, Madrid

Subject has been associated with the management of SOFINDUS and at one time appeared on its Board of Directors. Subject is secretary to the following firms: PRODUCTOS AGRICOLAS, S.A.; TRANSPORTES MARION, S.A.; ARALAR, S.A.; and General de LANAS, S.A.

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5. Hermann Gaertner SCHWIEKER (also SCHWEIKER)

President, Hermann Gaertner, S.A., de Productos Resinos.

Subject was reported as a member of the German colony in Madrid who has not been politically prominent and who deserves complete confidence.

6. Fernando GARRANZA (also GARANZA and GARRONZA)

In May 1944, CARRANZA, a naval commander, acted as assistant to Colonel ZEA in Tetuan. Colonel ZEA at that time was head of Spanish I.S. in Spanish Morocco.

CARRANZA is a director of NOVA, S.A., and of Cia. Explotaciones Mineras de Aralar, a SOPINDUS holding. Was a joint founder with (BERNHARDT) of HISMA.

LINKED WITH SUBJECT OF []

7. Ernesto KLINGENBERG (also KLINKENBERG, KLINKENBURG, and by FEA, KINGENBERGER)

General Pardinias, 114, Madrid

On Board of Directors of NOVA, S.A., SOPINDUS, and Hermann Gaertner, S.A.

Is the German Director "Gerante" of Baquera, Kusche y Martin (BAKUMAR), Plaza de las Cortes 3, Madrid.

In 1944 he was one of the men who received the power of attorney to vote the shares of Slomann from the Slomann heirs. He is considered a Slomann man. He says that he was advisor to the German Embassy and dependencies on shipping and transport matters throughout the war. At several places including one occupied by an intelligence officer of the German consulate, the phone pads contained the name of Klingenberg as one of the principal Germans in Spain who was available for specific kinds of assistance such as shipping, etc. It appears that Klingenberg entered Bakumar in June 1924. As Consul he is believed to have received 8,000 to 10,000 pesetas per month.

8. Juan Barber ALANDETE

Salamanca, SPAIN LINKED WITH OVERT AXIS FUNDING AND CARRIER ACTIVITY.

On April 16, 1943, reported as one of the owners of Marion, S.A. Later he is given as Technical Director on the Marion Board of Directors. In May 1945, he was reported as the Managing Director of Marion.

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The American Embassy in Madrid reported on May 17, 1945 that Serrano SUNER, a lawyer for Marion (Franco's brother-in-law?), asked Barber to choose someone to go to Lisbon in order to obtain some secret Axis funds from the Portuguese Minister of Finance and bring the money back to Spain.

In April 1945, BARBER was reported to be organizing two cover firms for the concealment of Marion physical assets. The first was the firm Minerva, S.L., at Travesia de Luis Vives 2, Salamanca, and the second Transportes Ebro, S.L., Calle Zamora, Salamanca. The first was started by Don Gaetano Lo Grasso Vinceguerra and Don Leonard Criado Garcia. Lo Grasso is Barber's brother-in-law, and Italian, and the address of Minerva, S.L., is his own private residence. Transportes Ebro, S.L., was started by Jose Morollon, and two office employees of Marion. Both firms are being given trucks and equipment by Marion without making full payments.

9. Berkhardt ANGER (either Burkhardt or Bernhardt is correct)

Gerant General of Transportes Marion. Also executive of German Consorcio, Madrid. Reported to have assisted in the removal at different times (April 1945) of 400 liters of gasoline and 200,000 pesetas from the Marion garage and offices to his own home.

10. Jose Martinez ORTEGA (Conde de Argillo)

Cava de San Miguel 6, Madrid

Vice-President of Sierra de Gredos, Cia Minera, and of Cia. Explotaciones Mineras de Aralar. Also reported head of SOMAR, S.A.

ORTEGA is an important Spanish financier and it is probable that his name will be used as the owner of a considerable portion of SOFINDUS' mineral properties.

11. Guillermo PASCH

G. Pasch Hermanos: Madrid Office: Alcala 48, Piso F 24,
Also the Palace Hotel

(In the same office building are: Maschinenfabrik Augsburg-Nuernberg Diesel Iberio, S.A., subsidiary of main German firm represented by Pasch. Also the Banco de Vizcaya.)

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Bilbao Office: Calle de Perez Galdes,
Also has quarters at Guecho,
Bilbao, Calle de Carmen,
7.

He reportedly used the
Hotel Excelsior, in Bil-
bao, for contacts with
German agents.

G. Pasch Hermanos is the association for Karl ^{Adolf}
and Wilhelm Pasch, two Germans acting as independent com-
mercial agents in Spain. It appears that Karl, or Carlos,
Pasch is generally in Bilbao and Wilhelm, or Guillermo, in
Madrid. ENGAGED IN UNDERCOVER GERMAN ACTIVITIES.

The firm is engaged in two principle fields of
commerce, the exploitation and shipping of ores for and to
German consumers, and the development of Spanish hydro-
electrical projects using German capital, equipment, and
personnel. Since December 1944, their activity in mining
and shipping has almost ceased.

The two brothers came originally from Germany.
It is known that Wilhelm was born in Hochdahl, Germany, in
August 1889. Hochdahl is about ten kilometers away from
Dusseldorf and about thirty kilometers from Oberhausen,
the two main centers for Gutehoffnungshuette and the Haniel
family, the most important Pasch customers. This may be
coincidence, although it is hardly likely that both Pasch
and his customers have not discovered the fact.

Guillermo Pasch is believed, by many sources, to
be very strongly engaged in espionage activities. It has
been recently reported that the U. S. and British Embassies
requested his expulsion from Spain. He was reported in-
terned in February 1945, but in May, 1945, another report
said that Wilhelm Pasch was negotiating for the purchase
of a valuable piece of property on the outskirts of
Torrelavega (Santander) which belongs to a local business-
man, Jaime Diestro. Diestro is said to have asked 1,000,000
(pesetas?) and Pasch seemed ready to agree.

The Pasch brothers have been, in various ways,
connected with Sociedad de Minerales y Metales, a Lipper-
helde y Guzman-I. G. Farben subsidiary; with the Banco de
Vizcaya; SOFINDUS; and Sociedad Espanola de Construcciones
Electromecanicas. Most of their Spanish associates in
business are of the group that has always been strongly
pro-Nazi and is suspected of continuing their efforts to
gain control and cover for German individuals and assets
in Spain. The Pasch brothers seem to be undoubtedly en-
gaged in undercover German activities, and, as such, are a
known security problem. In addition, their company may
already have provided a channel for the escape of large in-
vestments or accounts from Germany to Spain.

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12. Enrico de ASTIGARRAGA

No additional information. There appears to be also a Ramon ASTIGARRAGA who is connected with Hijos de Astigarraga. This firm owns the Naviera Bachi at Bertendona 4-1, Bilbao. On April 20, 1945, it was reported that Bachi was sold to Rafael ARRANCUDIAGA on behalf of German interests to cover the real ownership. Most of the vessels of the firm are still in operation.

13. Ernesto PECHE

Maria de Molina 22, Madrid

Member of Nazi party. Member of SOFINDUS. Gerante of Productos Agricolas, S.A. (PRODAG), and through them controls the PRODAG subsidiary, "FRUTAL" in its operations in VITAL, S.A. *DOE 6 55 17 Spain 001 1000000000*

14. Angel PEREZ de LEZA (or Lesa, and Losa or Loza)

Hotel Gaylord, Madrid, *SPAIN 45*

Forty years old, small, very dark, dresses well. Reported clever and unscrupulous.

Founded the "Fluoruros Corporation", with the following on the Administrative Council: Tomas de Bordegaray, Elorza, Rafael Perez G. Salvador, Angel Perez de Leza, and Juan Mans Cordoni.

In 1941 or 1942, Leza visited the United States and upon returning to Spain announced that he had been named President of the International Commission on Fluorspar. Negotiations were opened with the American Purchasing Commission with Juans Mans Cardoni acting as negotiator between the Commission and Fluoruros. During these negotiations de Bordegaray and Mariano Elorna (Elorza?) resigned from the company and were substituted for by Rodolfo Carneal and Carmelo Eguigurea.

Between July 1942 and August 1943 Leza sold large quantities of fluorspar to the USCC. Just before delivery of the last lots, Leza told Mr. Walsler, then Chief of USCC, and Mr. Barrel, Chief of the fluorspar section, that a new contract must be signed immediately. The Commission offered a temporary request for 3,000 tons, pending advice from the American Government, but the offer was refused in favor of the Germans.

Brugarolas and Mans Cardoni resigned, apparently with the approval of Mr. Henry Ellison. They turned in their shares of stock, amounting to 10% of the company.

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(None of the above American names, facts or figures have been checked by OSS in Washington.)

Leza made an agreement with Buttellier, Purchasing Delegate of the Germans, for the supply of minerals. The British Embassy reported at this time that negotiations were under way for the acquisition by SOFINDUS of Fluoruros. The negotiations were apparently conducted by someone named Muller, De Leza and Perez G. Salvador. The purchase was made reportedly at 20,000,000 pesetas, part of the payment being made in Swiss francs. Perez G. Salvador renounced his shares in Fluoruros, because of fear of Allied black-listing. Perez de Leza then liquidated all shares in the company but his own, basing the redemption price on the profit made from the sale to SOFINDUS. The payment from SOFINDUS was made through the Banco Germanico, and the payment by Leza to the shareholders through the Banco Viscaya.

A different report stated that Leza worked with the Bilbao company, Importacion de Minerales, supplying the Germans with wolfram and other minerals. During this period he is supposed to have made several trips to Galicia on behalf of the Germans. It was thought that he made a profit of several millions, particularly through an alleged illegal acquisition and re-sale to Germans of valuable mines in Leon or Asturias.

During the Spanish Civil War, Leza belonged to the S.I.M. and is now thought to belong to the Gestapo. It is believed that he has assisted the Germans in hiding capital. Apparently, he has made or stolen large sums of money, and may also have had money entrusted to him by German interests for placing in Argentina or other South American companies.

Leza was reported in February 1944 as a Falange exterior agent in Argentina.

In June 1945, it was reported that Leza was the head of a company known as Sociedad Americana de Fomentos Comercial y Industrial, which is also known as the Grupo Financiero de la Safoci, with offices in Madrid and Buenos Aires. He is believed to be connected with Juan OLASO.

15. Joaquim and Heinz SIEVERS

No record of Heinz Sievers.

A Sievers supposed to have purchased with Pecho the Prodag, S.A., on behalf of Fisselhof.

Joaquim Sievers reported July, 1944, as German agent in Vigo. Given on list of Lufthansa departures from Barcelona for Germany on December 5, 1944.

Sievers-Becker, Joachim. Staff Fuehrer in the SS division (Oberschnitt) XIV at Bremen, 1944.

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