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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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Report on the Interrogation of

PW DO/13/O/Lt. HERG, Johann Walter
arrested at FLENSBURG on 19 May 45.

1. PREAMBLE.

PW is well-educated, but rather subservient type, who asserts that he was called-up from his unit to OKW Abwehr - I Luft, but played only a negligible part in the work of the section. After prolonged interrogation it is believed that this infm is reliable.

2. PERSONAL HISTORY.

DoB: 10 Jun 1908	Born FLENSBURG.
1915-1927	Oberrealschule II FLENSBURG.
1927-1929	Studied law at MUNICH.
1929-1931	" " " KIEL.
Nov 1931	Referendar exam at KIEL.
Dec 1931 - Feb 1935	Referendar in TONNING, FLENSBURG and KIEL.
29 Apr 1935	Assessor's exam in BERLIN.
1935-1936	Probationary year as Assessor in ALTONA.
Sep 1936 - Jan 1939	Assessor at Amtsgericht in RENDSBURG.
6 Feb 1937	Married Kaethe Johanna MANNING of Danish descent.
Feb - Sep 1939	Amtsgerichtsrat at Amtsgericht FLENSBURG.

3. MILITARY HISTORY.

Mar 1933	Joined the Stahlholm; attained rank of Oberscharführer.
1935	As member of Stahlholm compulsorily taken over into SA, but took no further active part.
1936-7-8	Took part in mil exercises as R.O.A. (Reserve Offiziersanwärter) in I.E.B. 26.
1 Jul 1939	Commissioned Lt. d. Res.
26 Aug 1939	Called-up to 3 Coy I.R. 26 SCHLESWIG; took part in Polish campaign.
Regt Oct 1939	Regt returned to LITTEL; then to WRELFELD vicinity.
1 May 1940	When returning from Officers' May celebrations, PW was thrown from his horse while drunk and sustained fractured skull. Spent 14 days in hospital at KEMPEN, and 14 days at GLADBICK.
Jul 1940	Joined Gen Btl 58 at FLENSBURG.
End Mar 1941	Joined I.E.B. 26 at SIEGAARD.
End Apr 1941	Whole bn moved to RINGSTED and VORDINBORG.
15 Aug 1941	PW asked to be returned to his regt; joined it in STARAJA RUSSA.
15 Jan 1942	At orders of Regt Comd he joined Gen Btl 160 on account of his ill health, as result of skull injury and further knee injury.
End Feb 1942	Rejoined I.E.B. 26 VORDINBORG.
Apr 1942	I.E.B. 26 moved to HÖVELTE Lager.
End Oct 1942	Summoned to OKW I Luft BERLIN for interview.
Mid Nov 1942	Spent 14 days at OKW Abwehr I Luft BERLIN, then sent to KOPENHAGEN, where he was attached to the Wehrwirtschafts HQ.
Jun 1943	PW was tired of inactivity in KOPENHAGEN and got himself brought back to BERLIN.

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
(2)(A) Privacy
(2)(B) Methods/Sources
(2)(G) Foreign Relations

COORDINATED WITH ARMY

Beg Sep 1943	OKW Abwehr I, Luft moved to WUENSDOFF on account of air raids.
5 Jul 1944	Abwehr I Luft moved to BARUTH, and after 20 Jul was gradually taken over by R.S.H.A.
End Sep 1944	Abwehr I Luft moved to FUERSTENWALDE.
Feb 1945	Returned to BARUTH; PW sent with two other officers on detachment to SELZIG, after SCHEFFENBERG's order to disperse. Remainder went to PROBSTZEHLA, then to CHERMSEE nr OBING.
9 Apr 45	On approach of Allies, PW was told by C.O. he might as well go home.
14 Apr 1945	Arrived in MUELSBURG, reported to WMA.
7 May 1945	Received discharge.
19 May 1945	Arrested by PSP.

4. PW's CONNECTION WITH ABWEHR I LUFT.

(a) First contact.

Oct 1942 - PW was with I.N.B. 26 at MOEWATE when he received a phone call from OKW BERLIN, telling him to report to OKW Tirpitzufer 80/82, Room 333: he learnt later that the originator of the call was the Adj of Abwehr I Luft, Eptm BREME. This call was followed by a TFP message confirming the summons, and signed by Major BREME. PW left at once for BERLIN, where he was interviewed by Major BREME, who told him that his knowledge of the Danish language was already known to them, and he was asked whether he would like to go to KOPENHAGEN as a Bearbeiter for Abwehr I Luft. When PW asked if this meant as an agent, it was explained that he would merely have to act as a "Welfare Officer" to certain people who would be sent there at some future date: it was further emphasized that he would NOT be stationed at the Ast. PW decided to accept and then returned to his bn. About ten days later he was told to meet Major BOECKEL at KOPENHAGEN A/P and together they went to HQ of PW's div, where BOECKEL had a conversation with the Div Comd. Then BOECKEL went alone to Kap. z.S. HOWOLD (Chief of Ast KOPENHAGEN) and to the WERFWIRTSCHAFT HQ, to which it had been decided to attach PW. This was followed by a courtesy visit to PW's bn comd a couple of days later.

Mid-Nov 42 PW received TFP order to join OKW Abwehr I Luft in BERLIN. Here he spent 14 days reading up Ic reports and studying RAF uniforms, aircraft types etc. He was treated very peremptorily and received no instruction, but was chiefly employed as a "stooge" by Major BREME.

(b) Subsequent activities.

End Nov 42 PW was sent to KOPENHAGEN where he met Major BOECKEL again and was taken to the Ast, where reception was very cool. Finally he was installed with the WcWI HQ and told it would not be possible to send anyone to him yet as the personnel had to be trained in their work first, meanwhile he should get acquainted with the district and local conditions. PW found life extremely boring and asserts that his only activity was in assisting at Courts Martial in 160 I.D. During his stay (in Apr), he was visited by a Major v. BENWHEIM, and he also saw HOWOLD concerning PW.

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- May 1943 A new head to Abwehr I Luft was appointed in the person of Major HELMHOLDT, and PW sent in a request to be brought back.
- Jun 1943 PW returned to BERLIN, where BOSCHKE told him he was to receive some instruction and then be sent back to KOPPELACKEN. PW protested against this and asked to be R.T.U.
He was then retained in BERLIN where he worked in the distribution office, dealing with agents' reports from SPAIN on Allied shipping activity and convoys: written messages were passed on from Marine Abt.: then passed to Ic Lw Führungs Stab.
- By Sep 1943 Abwehr I Luft moved to WUENSdorf.
- Apr 44-May 45 In view of his knowledge of Danish, and consequently his ability to read Swedish, PW was given job of making extracts of info of operational value from Swedish press; e.g. news of forced landings by Allied aircraft in SWEDEN etc.
- 5 Jul 1944 Moved to BARUTH with Abwehr I Luft.
- After 20 Jul Abwehr I Luft was taken over by R.S.H.A. and incorporated into Amt VI: a great deal of confusion resulted owing to the new naming of various depts. PW's dept was called Mil. Amt C (OST).
- End Sep 44 Moved to nr FORSTENWALDE.
- Feb 1945 Returned to BARUTH; then, on the dispersal order from SCHLEIERBERG, PW, with Major BECKMANN and O/Lt. NOSSBACH, was sent to BELZIG.
- 9 Apr 1945 Major BECKMANN sent PW back home to PLENSBURG to attend to family affairs; but as pretext he was sent to KdM STETTIN, then in RATZBURG.

5. CONTACTS WITH AST STETTIN.

At the end of Sep 44, PW acted as stand-in at Abwehr I Luft for the officer who dealt with correspondence with Ast STETTIN. This was O/Lt. BURKIN, who was away ill for 14 days.
In Oct 44, PW requested short leave in order to visit his wife and children at GLAVE nr KRAMOW-am-See; and Obstlt OHLEITZ arranged a duty visit to STETTIN for him.
His second visit occurred on about 9 Apr 45, when he was on his way home from BELZIG. It was then that he met ILLING.

The following were known to PW:

- (i) Kap. z.S. WIERS - Chief of Ast STETTIN.
- (ii) Obstlt. SCHWIERTZ - I. II. ? (description OSDIC SER 1682 confirmed).
- (iii) Lt. SEWICH - Assistant to SCHWIERTZ.
- (iv) Kalou ILLING - WF offr (?).
- (v) Major SCHUTZLER - (description OSDIC SER 1682 confirmed).

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