



8-23-1946

Evidentiary Document: NO 157

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OFFICE OF U. S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL
SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS DIVISION
APO 124-A U. S. ARMY

STAFF EVIDENCE ANALYSIS, Criminal Organizations

By: Henry Sachs
Date: 23 August 1946

Doc. No. or other description: NO-157
Title and/or general nature: Statement by Mrs. Olga Oechner re: documents on mercy killings.
Date: 19 July 1945
Source (location of original, etc.): Nurnberg Document Room
Language of Original: English
PERSONS OR ORGANIZATIONS IMPLICATED: Semler
Pg. Blankenburg
Dr. Hummel
Pg. Erchert
Pg. Knoechel
Pg. Kachst
TO BE FILED UNDER THESE REFERENCE HEADINGS: Same as above
Lathanasia Program.

FOOTNOTES (Indicate page nos. of original or translation):

This is a two page statement by Mrs. Olga Oechner who had been examining documents at the Third Army Document Center at Freising, Germany. She gives the English translation of two German documents dealing with mercy killings. The first of these documents is a memorandum by Semler dated 1-10-1940. He states that 30,000 have been attended to and another 100,000-120,000 are waiting. It also gives names of party people who apparently had something to do with the mercy killings. The names mentioned are: Dr. Hummel, Pg (Party Comrade) Blankenburg, Pg. Erchert, Pg. Knoechel, Pg. Kachst.

The second document translated in Mrs. Oechner's statement is an order addressed to "Hospitals and Nursing Homes" (Charity Homes), dated Nurnberg 6-12-1940. It gives some details on the procedure taken in regard to mercy killings. Hospital and Charity Institutions are visited by a special commission which examines the patients and decides which persons are "to be freed from their suffering". It also gives orders as to what to do with the corpses of the victims. The corpses are to be burned and the ashes are to be placed at the disposal of the relatives.

I, Mrs. Olga Oechsner, do hereby certify that on 14 July 1945 while examining documents at the Third Army Document Center at Treising, Germany, in a folder dealing with extermination of weak and feeble-minded people I found on the back of one of the papers in Sellmer's own handwriting the following, which is a substantially true and correct translation:

"Visit of Pg. Blenkenburg, Berlin. Action will take place shortly. Hardly any mistakes have occurred so far. 30,000 attended to. A further 100,000-120,000 waiting. Keep the circle of those in the know as small as possible. If necessary, inform the 'Kreisleiter' in time. Inform Dr. Hummel. If possible, give me following information from each Province: 1) Institutions, Homes, 2) Attitude (reaction) of the doctors, 3) Situation of the Home, 4) Who is the 'Kreisleiter'.

"The Fuehrer gave the order (anordnung). The law is now in effect. Today we will deal only with clear cases, 100% executions. Later on this will be enlarged. The information will immediately be recorded in authentic form.

"Informed are the following: 1) pg. Erchert, 2) Pg. Knoechel, 3) Pg. Kaehst.

1.10.1940."

I further certify that at the same time and place I found an order, the translation of which is substantially as follows:

"HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES (CHARITY HOMES)

"The following announcement is to be noted and the document must then be destroyed:

"Since some time, the inmates of hospitals and charity institutions have been inspected by a Commission, who are working under the instruction of the highest authority. The Commission has been ordered to ascertain which patients were to be transported to certain specified institutions. The Commission decides as to the reliability of the institution in each case. The patients who have been transported will then be examined in whatever institution the Commission has decided upon, and it will then be decided whether or not they should be freed from their suffering.

"The corpse is to be burned and the ashes are to be placed at the disposal of the relatives. It will be unavoidable to prevent small mistakes being made when advising them. The Commission insists that great care is taken in this respect. I could give you further information but would prefer it if you would pay me a personal visit in the district office.

"I believe that we must welcome this act, which may be extremely difficult for certain individuals, as one of National Socialism. I ask you, therefore, to stress our views in this matter wherever rumors or gossip are concerned.

Heil Hitler

Nurnberg 6.12.1940.

Sellmer
'Gauamtleiter''

Mrs. Olga Oechsner

Subscribed and sworn to before me at Paris, France, this
19th day of July 1945.

Major J. B. Millas, Inf.