

# Archives Unbound: Nazi Bank and Financial Institutions



## **Nazi Bank and Financial Institutions:**

### **U.S. Military Government Investigation Reports and Interrogations of Nazi Financiers, 1945-1949**

**Date Range:** 1945-1949

**Size:** 17,000 pages

**Source Library:** U.S. National Archives

This publication comprises two collections:

- Records Regarding Bank Investigations
- Records Relating to Interrogations of Nazi Financiers

These collections are from the records of the Office of the Finance Division and Finance Advisor in the Office of Military Government, U.S. Zone (Germany) (OMGUS), during the period 1945–1949.

#### **Records Regarding Bank Investigations, 1945–1949**

This collection consists primarily of memorandums, letters, cables, reports, exhibits, newspaper clippings, and civil censorship intercepts on the financing of the German war effort and German financial institutions. The records include reports on Nazi gold, the use of Swiss banks, and links between German and Swiss banks, inclusive of Commerzbank, Deutsche Bank, Deutsche Golddiskontbank, Dresdner Bank, and Reichs-Kredit-Gesellschaft. The investigations contain information regarding Aryanization, bank operations outside of Germany, industrial ties, liquidation proposals, and the restitution of Hungarian property.

The Division undertook investigations based both on captured German records and on interrogations of German officials. These investigations sought to locate German assets concealed abroad in “safehavens” secured through secret arrangements between the Nazis and German industrialists that would fund party operations in case of the defeat of Germany. The Division continued to block and freeze those assets in order to prevent their possible use in funding underground Nazi activities from within postwar Germany.

Records include:

- Censorship Requirements and Submissions, 1945–1947
- Report on the Investigation of Commerzbank
- Deutsche Bank Report
- Deutsche Golddiskontbank Report
- Deutscher Reichsanzeiger re J. Dreyfuss & Co. and Merck, Finck & Co.
- Dresdner Bank Exhibits
- Hungarian Restitution – Restitution of Gold and Silver
- Names of Persons and Industrial Groups Affected by the Application of the Denazification Program to Banks
- Investigation of Reichs-Kredit-Gesellschaft: Report, Exhibits, and Annexes
- Stock Exchange Statistics and Correspondence

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## Records Relating to Interrogations of Nazi Financiers, 1946–1947

This collection consists of interrogation reports and transcripts, exhibits, and questionnaires. Names included are Bernhard Berghaus, Alois Alzheimer, August von Finck, Eduard Hilgard, Kurt Schmitt, and Franz Schwede-Coburg. Also among these records are files relating to Carlowitz & Company and Japanese firms operating in Germany.

- Alzheimer Interrogation, July 17, 1947
- Bernhard Berghaus – Interrogation Reports: Exhibits 1–31
- Berghaus Companies: Report of the German Auditing and Trust Corporation – Berlin, Concerning the Previous Audit of Maschinenfabriken Bernhard Berghaus – Berlin-Lübeck) (1942)
- Büro der Kaiserlich Japanischen Marine – Berlin, Apr.–May 1941
- Carlowitz & Co. – Hamburg/Dairen/Manchukuo, Aug. 1939–Apr. 1940
- Dr Walter Eggerss – Interrogation, Aug. 17, 1947
- August von Finck – Interrogation, Sept. 22, 1947
- Hilgard Interrogation, July 14, 1947
- Illies & Co. – Hamburg/Berlin, 1937
- 8 Illies & Co. – Hamburg/Berlin, 1938–1941
- Illies & Co. – Hamburg/Berlin, Jan. 1942–Feb. 1943
- Illies & Co. – Hamburg/Berlin, Mar. 1943–Mar. 1945
- Japanische Botschaft – Berlin
- Mitsubishi Shoji Kaisha – Berlin
- Schmitt Report: Exhibits 1–43
- Schmitt Interrogations, July 8-9, 15, 21 and 24 1947
- Schwede-Coburg Interrogation (includes Statement)
- Zank Interrogation, May 27, 1947

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