

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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ORGANIZATION TODT
NO DATES(?)
MAY 1945(?)

33

391
DTG 271210B

TIME: 271200 PRECEDENCE: PRIORITY
OFFICE: ALCON LIAISON 5 A (FISKE) CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

FROM: ALCON REPRESENTATIVE FIVE ARMY LIAISON GROUP FROM FISKE
TO : ALCON HEADQUARTERS FOR JOINT DIRECTOR'S FINANCE SUBCOMMISSION
DISCOVERED HERE PAREN ONE PAREN DIRECTOR FOR ITALY OF REICHBANK CIA
DE REICHBANK PAREN TWO PAREN TOTT ORGANIZATION RECORDS PD QUERY
COLON ANY SPECIAL INFORMATION REQUIRED

Norman E. Fiske
Colonel
Allied Commission Rep. 5 Army Liaison Group

FROM: ALCON REPRESENTATIVE FIVE ARMY LIAISON GROUP FROM FISKE
TO: 5 ARMY HEADQUARTERS FOR JOINT DIRECTOR FINANCE SECRETARIAT
DISCOVERED HERE TAKEN OFF PAPER DIRECTOR FOR ITALY OF MICHAEL CMA
DE HANOVER TAKEN TWO PAPER NOT ORIGINALLY RECORDED PD CURENT
COUN ANY SPECIAL INFORMATION REQUIRED

Norman E. Fiske
Colonel

Allied Commission Rep. 5 Army Liaison Group

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Originating from the idea that a workman who receives a normal salary with extras paid and special contributions and supplements will be able to obtain better results in his work as a soldier put on duty for work, the Organisation Todt was especially created as a civil organisation. The had a rather small staff of own personnel, resulting in the most capable experts of construction who had to superintend all constructing tasks. The constructions itself were conducted by German and later on also by foreign firms of constructions who were freely engaged and worked under strict contracts.

As regards to legal forms the OT is a company of public law. In 1942 it was intended to give all tasks to private firms as limited society (Kommandit-Gesellschaft), but this was not concluded.

The members of the OT were no soldiers (those that have not been soldiers before the outbreak of the war even had no military instruction at all), they were treated in regard to their connection with the Wehrmacht as employees and workmen of private industry. Many were the difficulties to get them indispensable from military service by Military recruiting offices (Wehrbezirkskommandos). With the going on of the war the younger classes of these men were taken away from the OT and became soldiers with the Wehrmacht.

When the OT was employed beyond the borders of Germany, they were called Wehrmachtgefolge (those following military units) as they had to take part in several institutions as penal law, distributing of food, travelling and so on, controlled abroad by the Wehrmacht.

Within the borders of Germany and during the first years even beyond them, members of the OT worked in civilian

1. Legal form.

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Within the borders of Germany and during the first years even beyond them, members of the OT worked in civilian clothes. When later on all Germans working outside the borders of the Reich were supposed to wear uniform, also the members of the OT got a special kind of uniform, as working dress, to distinguish them from military units and civilians of the occupied territories. This kind of uniform can be compared with that of post and railway officials.

The necessary means in Reichsmark were put at the disposal by the CT-Central offices in Berlin, the German currency by the German Embassy in Italy who passed the distribution on by the Chief Intendant. The accounts were in no ways made with the Reichsbank, but only with the chief accounting offices of the German Reich in Potsdam.

II.) Works in Italy.

Constructing tasks to be fulfilled were passed on to the CT by army divisions or other interested public or civil institutions.

Besides the absolutely military constructions (as fortifications, flying fields and so on) all damages caused by air attacks were removed and the security of art treasures against destruction by air-raids were fulfilled. Approximately 80 German and 700 Italian constructing firms with the maximum of about 300 000 workmen were employed, whose social and medical treatment were in the hands of the CT.

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