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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES  
ART LOOTING INVESTIGATION UNIT  
APO 413  
U.S. ARMY

DETAILED INTERROGATION REPORT NO. 5

15 August 1945

Subject: GUNTHER SCHIEDLAUSKY

*J. S. Plaut*  
J. S. PLAUT  
Lieutenant, USNR  
Director

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By *CD/ED* NARS, Date 22 MAY 1975

GUNTHER SCHIEDLAUSKY

Note: SCHIEDLAUSKY was interrogated at Füssen/Neuschwanstein, Bavaria, on 10 - 11 July 1945. This report is supplementary to Consolidated Interrogation Report # 1, "Activity of the Einsatzstab Rosenberg in France," dated 15 August 1945.

I. PERSONAL

(a) Birth and Family

Born 28 November 1907, at Berlin. Father, Arthur SCHIEDLAUSKY; mother, Elsa SCHIEDLAUSKY, nee HOFFMANN. SCHIEDLAUSKY believes that his father is still in Berlin and his mother somewhere in Thuringia.

(b) Education

Primary and secondary schools in Berlin. Further study at the Universities of Berlin, Vienna and Marburg. Received a Ph.D. in Art History at Marburg in 1934. The thesis for his doctorate was written on the Baroque architecture of Berlin.

(c) Positions

Became research assistant in the Department of Sculpture of the State Museums, Berlin, in February 1935. His immediate superior was Dr. DEMNLER. In 1936 and 1937 he was assigned to the work of inventorying the cultural monuments in the vicinity of Oppeln, Upper Silesia. Shortly thereafter he was granted a fellowship for study at the Kunsthistorisches Institut, Florence. From the outbreak of the war until June 1940, he was engaged in the protection and concealment of the works of art belonging to the Berlin museums.

(d) Political Affiliation

Became a member of the NSDAP in 1931, allowing his membership to lapse in the following year. In 1934 he rejoined the Party, so as not to be "handicapped" in obtaining a museum position. From 1934 on he remained a member of the Party.

(e) Military Career

SCHIEDLAUSKY was drafted in June 1940, and ordered to duty with the 23rd Motor Transport Division at Sorau/Niederlausitz. In August 1940 he was transferred to the 32nd Pioneer Battalion, stationed near Brest (France), as a driver. In October 1940 he was transferred to the Kunstschutz organization in Paris. On being ordered to the Kunstschutz, he was temporarily detached from active military duty and given the rank of Kriegsverwaltungsassessor (KVA), equivalent to status as a civilian employee of the War Department with simulated rank of Captain. He stated that this was the lowest rank accorded specialists in the Kunstschutz organization, and that Graf METTERNICH, as its chief, had the rank of Kriegsverwaltungsabteilungschef. This position was revoked on 1 December 1941, when SCHIEDLAUSKY was called to active military duty on the Eastern front for a period of six months.

## II. ACTIVITY WITH THE EINSATZSTAB ROSENBERG

In November 1940 SCHIEDLAUSKY was transferred to the Einsatzstab Rosenberg as a specialist with the Sonderstab Bildende Kunst. He stated that his first assignment with the Einsatzstab was the preparation of an exhibition, for GÖRING, of works from the newly-acquired SELIGMANN Collection. He further stated that when he reported for duty, the most significant portions of the ROTHSCHILD collections had already been confiscated, as well as the KANN Collection at St. Germain and the WEIL-PICARD, David WEILL, WILDENSTEIN and SELIGMANN Collections. SCHIEDLAUSKY was ordered to prepare the exhibition in four days, from the contents of two hundred cases which had not as yet been examined or even unpacked. Three erstwhile colleagues, Drs. JERCHEL, ESSER, and WIRTH, were ordered from the Kunstschutz to the Einsatzstab to assist him in the undertaking. These scholars, however, were transferred as enlisted military personnel on temporary detached duty.

SCHIEDLAUSKY stated that this was the first of a series of ten exhibitions of Einsatzstab material which were arranged under his personal direction for GÖRING. The exhibitions took place on the following dates:

3 November 1940	1 May 1941
5 November 1940	3 May 1941
5 February 1941	13 August 1941
11 March 1941	15 August 1941
14 March 1941	4 December 1941

In addition, he was directed to prepare an exhibition for Reichsleiter ROSENBERG, who visited Paris on 28 November 1940.

SCHIEDLAUSKY was further charged with the responsibility for research, and for the cataloguing and inventorying of material confiscated by the Einsatzstab. He was occupied exclusively with the aforementioned duties until 13 April 1941, when the first shipment from Paris to Germany of confiscated works of art took place. Together with Dr. KUNZE, who had been assigned to the Sonderstab Bildende Kunst in February 1941, SCHIEDLAUSKY supervised and accompanied this shipment; and from this date on, the two men divided their time more or less equally between Paris and Schloss Neuschwanstein/Fussen (Bavaria), the deposit to which the Einsatzstab material was being brought. On 27 September 1941 SCHIEDLAUSKY was transferred to Neuschwanstein as custodian of the deposit, and on 1 December 1941 he was again drafted for active military service. He was permitted to remain at Neuschwanstein until February 1942, when he proceeded to Berlin and subsequently to the Russian front, where he went through combat as an infantryman.

In July 1942, through GÖRING's personal intervention, he was transferred to the Luftwaffe as an enlisted man, and assigned again, on a "leave from active duty" basis, to the Einsatzstab. He returned to Neuschwanstein, and proceeded shortly thereafter to Paris at the request of Lieut. von INGRAM, in order to assist von INGRAM and SCHOLZ in the "revision" of the Einsatzstab's activity. On 22 August 1942, he prepared for von INGRAM a report relating to his earlier activity with the Einsatzstab. While working on this report he was ordered abruptly to Neuschwanstein, to prepare a special exhibition of Einsatzstab material for Reichsleiter ROSENBERG and Reichsschatzmeister SCHWARTZ. He returned to Paris to complete the report, and stated that he was in Paris on only one other occasion, for a few days in May, 1943.

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From the time of his return to the Einsatzstab, SCHIEDLAUSKY was given personal responsibility for the care of the major Einsatzstab deposits at Neuschwanstein, Buxheim and Chiemsee. He received no written orders delineating his authority. At the time of the evacuation of the most important confiscated material from these deposits and their transfer to the salt mine at Alt Aussee, Austria, SCHIEDLAUSKY was responsible for the complicated details of the undertaking. The movement began in February 1944, and continued through thirteen months.

In the period 9.- 25 April 1945, the central files of the Einsatzstab were transferred on SCHOLZ' authority from Schloss Kogl/St. Georgen (Austria) to Neuschwanstein. Most of this material was transferred by LOHSE. On the day following the arrival of 7th U.S. Army personnel in Füssen/Neuschwanstein, SCHIEDLAUSKY placed himself at the disposition of the American authorities. He remains under house arrest in Hohenschwangau/Füssen.

### III. SUMMARY; RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

SCHIEDLAUSKY was a confirmed National Socialist, who appears to have had no quarrel with the "ideological" basis for the confiscations effected by the Einsatzstab Rosenberg in France. In spite of his political convictions and his acknowledged complicity in the Einsatzstab undertaking, however, it is believed that he acted in good faith within the limitations of his assignment. There is no evidence available to indicate that he ever derived personal profit from Einsatzstab activity, or that he ever initiated -- or participated in -- looting operations. He belonged to the more moderate, professionally responsible element of the Einsatzstab, which prepared inventories through which it has become possible to trace and make available for restitution the great majority of the works confiscated. SCHIEDLAUSKY is believed to have made a conscientious effort (irrespective of the motives involved) to bring some method and order out of the chaotic welter of Einsatzstab seizures.

Unless it should be determined that all Einsatzstab personnel are to be held responsible personally for the criminal acts perpetrated by the organization, there appears to be no tangible basis for the retention of SCHIEDLAUSKY as a war criminal. However, because of his long, intimate and authoritative connection with the E.R.R., both in France and in Germany, it is recommended (a) that he be held as a material witness in such war crimes proceedings as may be directed against other Einsatzstab personnel, and (b) that he be employed in a controlled technical capacity in the work of checking and sorting objects confiscated by the E.R.R., preparatory to their final disposition.

J.S.P.

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