

Alfred Bentz, Prof. Dr. (1897-1964)



Inspection of an oil field at Majkop, 11/1942

Profession: Petroleum Geologist

1922: PhD

1923: Prussian-Geological State Institute

1936: State Geologist and Professor

1938: "Authorized representative for oil production" in Göring's four-year plan for war preparation

1939: Steering function for the conquered Galician oil industry (Beskydy-, then Carpathian-Oil)

1941: Responsibility for the oil regions occupied by German troops

1942: Inspection of occupied oil fields in the Majkop district

1945: uninterrupted continuation of his career as a geologist, President of the Federal Institute for Soil Research

As a principal oil geologist, Bentz was instrumental in the planning of the occupation and plundering of foreign oil reserves.

In order to be able to present a successful record as a commissioner for oil production, Bentz objected to Himmler's order to liquidate the forced labour camps of Karpathen-Öl AG. He was not only informed about the use of Jewish forced laborers and the extermination of the Jews, but also, together with Carl Krauch (authorized representative for oil processing), called on Karpathen-Öl AG at the end of 1943 to speed up "combing out and replacement actions": Combing out meant the extradition of Jewish forced laborers for extermination, and replacement replacing Jewish skilled workers with non-Jewish workers.

(Telegram 13.12.1943, „Abzug jüdischer Arbeitskräfte“, ITS Archive, Bad Arolsen, 1.2.7.8. / 82187353)

Sources: Sandkühler, „Endlösung“ in Galizien; Eichholz, Krieg um Öl; Karlsch, Faktor Öl; Bauchmüller, Erdöl für den Führer, in: SZ, 8.10.2016; Kockel, Deutsche Ölpolitik 1928-1936; Karpathen-Öl „Judeneinsatz“, 1.2.7.8 (2056000), ITS Bad Arolsen