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OFFICE OF US CHIEF OF COUNSEL
APO 403, US ARMY
OPERATIONS SECTION
INTERROGATION DIVISION

Nurnberg, Germany.
5 November, 1945.

Brief of
Interrogation of August EIGRUBER.

by
Colonel Curtis L. Williams, IGD.
on 3 November 1945.

EIGRUBER explained his part in the illegal Nazi Party in Austria from 1926 until March 12, 1938. He identified two groups of illegal Nazis in Austria, one led by Seyss-Inquart, and the other by Captain Leopold; he himself being a follower of Leopold, a more radical National Socialist in Austria.

On the evening of March 11, 1938, at 8 o'clock PM, he received two telegrams, one from Seyss-Inquart and one from Dr Rainer. Seyss-Inquart, in his telegram to Eigruber, appointed Eigruber Gauleiter of Steyr. The telegram from Dr Rainer appointed Eigruber leader of the National Socialist Party in Steyr. It is significant that the appointment of Eigruber as made by Seyss-Inquart, was made at 8 o'clock PM on that date. However, at that time, Seyss-Inquart was not the Federal Chancellor of Austria inasmuch as his appointment was not made by President Micklas until between the hours of 11 and 12 o'clock that night. Technically speaking, Dr Rainer had no standing, and could not officially appoint anyone leader of the National Socialist Party in Austria at 8 o'clock in the evening of March 11, 1938. On March 12, 1938, at 5 o'clock AM, Eigruber received a telegram from one of his "wardheelers" that the German Army had crossed the frontier of Austria and was then marching toward Linz. Eigruber then hurried to Linz where, at 2 o'clock PM in the afternoon, he met Himmler, Hitler, Seyss-Inquart, and a few other leading proponents of the Nazi Anschluss and knew that Seyss-Inquart, Keppler, and Dr Huebner were discussing in the hotel at Linz the reorganization of the Austrian Government for incorporating it into the German Reich.

Eigruber was later in the year of 1938 made Landeshauptmann and subsequently in 1939 temporary Gauleiter for Upper Austria under Seyss-Inquart. Eigruber testified that the confiscation of Jewish property; the removal of Jews from certain offices was headed up in Vienna by Seyss-Inquart and that the policies established by the German Reich were passed through Seyss-Inquart to the temporary Gauleiters for their execution. That, as far as he knew, the treatment that was being accorded Jews in his Gau was to be such treatment as outlined in the Nurnberg Laws. Eigruber testified that the only atrocity committed against Jews, which was not justified in his Gau, was the burning of the synagogue at Linz which he was careful to explain was done in his absence.

In regard to the Concentration Camps located in his Gau, he alleges

that he had no responsibility therefor, that these camps were centrally controlled by Himmler and the Gestapo from Berlin. That his only responsibility towards such concentration camps was supplying all food through his nutrition officers. But he did testify that he knew that thousands were starving to death in the concentration camp at Mauthausen because of the lack of food. That he once met Himmler in 1944 and that Himmler made him President of the "Defense Counsel" and that, while in conversation with Himmler on this occasion, Himmler informed him that 40,000 Jews would arrive in Mauthausen the following day. Eigruber explained to Himmler that this was impossible, that already people were starving to death in Mauthausen for the lack of food. Himmler ordered: "You will get the food for them", and then departed. The Jews did arrive as scheduled and in addition tens of thousands of others who were arriving daily at Mauthausen, but Eigruber denies that he knows what happened to the Jews who came to Mauthausen. He admits that he visited Mauthausen on several occasions but on most of these occasions he only went to the headquarters of the Camp Commandant. He does however admit visiting the Camp with Himmler and Kaltenbrunner but that on those occasions the portion of the camp which he was permitted to visit with these two personages was clean and well kept. He admitted however, that he did not visit the sections of the camp that were notoriously known as the unclean portions. He did visit the crematorium and there it was explained that every well regulated city in Germany had to have a crematorium and, inasmuch as Mauthausen was as large as many of the cities of Germany, that they too had to have a crematorium. Eigruber denies that he ever struck a single individual or took the life of any man.

After close observation and examination of Eigruber by the interrogator, I am of the opinion that he yet has not begun to "sprout wings". However, a further examination will be made of this witness.