

E IGRUBER

- ✓ HAVE YOU BEEN PREVIOUSLY INTERROGATED AT NUREMBERG, GERMANY
- ✓ STATE YOUR NAME, LAST ADDRESS AND OCCUPATION
- ✓ YOU BELONGED TO THE NAZI PARTY IN AUSTRIA SINCE 1926?
- ✓ IN 1930 YOU WERE LEADER OF THE STEYR DISTRICT IN THE NSDAP?
- ✓ IN THE SAME YEAR YOU ORGANIZED THE HITLER YOUTH ~~IN~~ AND WAS LEADER IN THE COUNTY OF STEYR?
- ✓ IN 1932 YOU WERE APPOINTED AT DISTRICT LEADER OF STEYR STADT?
- ✓ ON THE 19TH OF JUNE 1933 YOU WERE ARRESTED BY THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT? WHY?
- ✓ YOU WERE A CLOSE FRIEND OF ~~ADOLF~~ KOCH, A LEADER OF THE HITLER YOUTH?
- ✓ YOU DEVOTED MUCH OF YOUR TIME TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PARTY DURING THIS PERIOD DIDNT YOU?
- ✓ WELL, IN FEB. 1930 YOU RELINQUISHED YOUR POST AS TOP FUNCTIONARY ~~OF THE~~ BECAUSE OF SOME HOME AFFAIRS?
- ✓ AFTER THE DEATH OF DOLLFUSS IN JULY 1934 YOU WERE ARRESTED AND JAILED?
- ✓ 1935 YOU BECAME THE MANAGER OF THE ~~UPPER AUSTRIA~~ GAU IN UPPER AUSTRIA, AND IN 1936 WAS APPOINTED AS GAULIETER, UNDER THE ILLEGAL NATIONAL SOCIALISTS?
- ✓ NOW AS GAULIETER OF UPPER AUSTRIA YOU HAD SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH SEYSS- INQUART DURING THE YEARS OF 1937-38?
- ✓ THEN IN 1938 WHEN THE GERMANS MARCHED IN, YOU MET HITLER IN LINZ AND WAS APPOINTED AS LANDESCHAUPTMANN OF UPPER AUSTRIA.
- ✓ IN 1939 YOU HELD THE HIGHEST POSITION IN UPPER AUSTRIA- THAT OF REICHSTATTHALTER- OR GOVERNOR.
- ✓ AS GAULIETER OF UPPER AUSTRIA YOU HAD ONLY AS YOUR SUPERIORS HITLER AND THE EICHMINISTERS?
- ✓ NOW YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXECUTION OF ALL ORDERS SENT TO YOU AS GAU LEADER? AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REICH IN YOUR GAU?
- ✓ NOW YOU REMAINED IN THIS POSITION UNTIL 1943, THAT IS TOWARD THE END OF 1943?
- WHILE YOU WERE THE LEADER OF THE GAU IN UPPER AUSTRIA, YOU HAD JURISDICTION OF THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS, DIDNT YOU?
- ✓ YOU WERE NAMED PRESIDENT OF THE STATE DEFENSE COUNCIL FOR UPPER AUSTRIA IN 1943?
- ✓ AS PRESIDENT OF THE DEFENSE COUNCIL YOU WERE AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE ORDERS AND DIRECTIVES TO ALL THE AUTHORITIES IN UPPER AUSTRIA?
- ✓ WHO INTRODUCED THIS COUNCIL FOR DEFENSE IN THE REICH GOVT?
- ✓ IN 1944 YOU VISITED LINZ PRISON AND WHILE THERE TALKED WITH SOME OF THE PRISONERS, DIDNT YOU?
- ✓ DO YOU REMEMBER A MAN BY THE NAME OF GAROMIR COUNT CZERNIN?
- ✓ WHY DID YOU STRIKE HIM IN THE PRISON ?
- ~~NEW HAD ABOUT THE HMMNTHAUSENHPTBONFMOHTWEHEHBBH~~
- ✓ IN MARCH 1945 HIMMLER GAVE YOU ADDITIONAL POWERS DIDNT HE? WHAT WERE THOSE? SEE PAGE 4 PAR 2
- ✓ EVEN BEFORE THIS YOU HAD ESTABLISHED THE STANDGERICHT ON FEB 45- WHAT POWERS DID THAT COURT HAVE? SEE PAGE 4 PAR 2
- ✓ WELL, YOU HAD POWER OF EXECUTION EVEN UNDER THAT COURT DIDNT YOU?
- ✓ DR. SCHELEIN WAS ONE OF YOUR TRUSTED ASSISTANTS WASNT HE?
- ✓ HE HAD ACCESS TO ALL CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS COMING OVER YOUR DESK?
- ✓ YOU WERE WELL ACQUAINTED WITH THE CONDITIONS AND THE TREATMENT OF THE INMATES OF THE MAUTHAUSEN PRISON CAMP. WERENT YOU?

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✓ YOU VISITED THAT CAMP MANY MANY TIMES?

✓ TWICE YOU WERE THREE WITH HIMMLER?

✓ ONCE WITH HIMMLER AND KALTENBRUNNER?

✓ YOU EVEN HAD TO APPROVE THE BUILDING OF THAT CAMP?

✓ IN EARLY 1945 YOU VISITED THE HOSPITAL AT THE CAMP ~~INMATES~~ WHAT DID YOU OBSERVE THERE AS TO THE TREATMENT OF THE PATIENTS?

✓ YOU ATTENDED MANY OF THE GAULIETER MEETINGS DIDNT YOU?

Testimony of AUGUST EIGRUBER, taken in Nurnberg, Germany, on 3 November 1945, 1430-1700, by Col Curtis E. Williams, IGD, CUSCC. Also present: Pfc Richard W. Sonnenfeldt, interpreter, and Pvt Clair Van Vleck, Court Reporter.

COL WILLIAMS TO THE INTERPRETER:

Q Do you solemnly swear that you will truly and faithfully interpret my questions from English into German, and the responses of the witness, from German into English, to the best of your ability?

A I do.

COL WILLIAMS TO THE WITNESS THROUGH THE INTERPRETER:

Q Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you will give, will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

A I swear it.

Q Will you state your full name?

A August Eigruber.

Q Have you previously been interrogated at Nurnberg?

A No. I mean I have never been interrogated in Nurnberg before.

Q You were interrogated in Austria, though, were you?

A Yes.

Q Will you give me your last address, that is, your home address, and your occupation?

A At Linz, Gugel 3. I was the Gauleiter there and also the Reichsstatthalter, which is District Governor.

Q What is your normal occupation?

A I am a plumber by profession. That is, I am a factory worker by profession.

by special request, because I wanted to see just what condition were like in there. For instance I was never in the Gusen branch of the Mauthausen camp. They never would let me in there. That is where, I understand, the conditions were worse. They just cleaned everything up and made it look nice and then showed us that part that was nice.

Q Did he take you to the crematorium while you were there?

A Yes; we went through everything, even the crematorium.

Q You saw the bodies?

A Yes. We were led into the crematorium and it was explained to us that this camp houses as many people as a normal town would, and thus natural deaths would result and that the bodies were disposed of in that way.

Q You saw a bunch of bodies stacked up there at the crematorium, at that time, didn't you?

A No. When Himmler was there, there was nothing there.

Q You had a prison up at Linz, didn't you?

A What kind of a prison? You mean a police prison?

Q Yes.

A Yes; there was also a Land Court there and a District Court, which had their prisons.

Q In 1944 you visited this prison, didn't you?

A I visited the police prison. I never visited the prison of the Land Court. The first time I got in there is when they arrested me.

Q Do you remember a man by the name of Count Jaromir Czernin?

A No. Count Arko? I saw him once.

Q Where did you see him last?



A In the Police Prison.

Q Did you talk to him there?

A Yes. We talked to all the prisoners, but those two names are unknown to me.

Q You said you knew this Count Czernin?

A No; That is completely unknown to me.

Q Do you remember the brother-in-law of Kurt von Schuschnigg?

A No; I don't remember the brother-in-law of Schuschnigg.

Q You don't remember that this same individual was in the Police jail at Linz while you visited there?

A You mean the brother-in-law of Schuschnigg?

Q Yes.

A That I don't know.

Q What did you do to the prisoners there in this police jail when you visited them in 1944?

A I would go in there and I would ask them why they were there and why they had been incarcerated. That wasn't because of sadism or joy to see other people incarcerated, but I myself had been imprisoned nineteen times in my life and I knew very well that people were constantly arrested without being heard or without being informed of what they were being held for. Especially the State Police and the Criminal Police used to arrest people and would leave them in their cells. Then very often I would give the order that they would be set free, or at least that they would be heard and informed why they were there, and the thing would come to trial.

Q Did you strike any of them that day?

A No; I never have struck anybody in all my life, except my children once maybe. I never killed anybody, not with a pistol or anything else, and I never hit anybody.

Q Did you ever order anybody killed?

A No. I couldn't order that anyway, never.

Q You had the authority under this Court to carry out the death sentence on all persons.

A No; that was not me. I had that power through the summary courts, under martial law procedures. That is, the Gendarmerie would indict somebody to prosecute, or would name somebody to the prosecutor and he would indict them. He would call the court to meet and then there was he, the judge, a military officer, and a representative of the party, and then they would have to agree whether the prisoner was to be shot or set free and I would have to sign it, the judgement, which was according to the law, but I could never say "Shoot this man" or anything else. That was martial law procedure. I want to ask you something here. Am I accused of something like that by a witness?

Q That we will bring out later. Did you know one Loederer?

A Yes.

Q Was he the District Attorney of this court, of which you had charge?

A Yes. He was the Prosecutor of this summary court.

Q Do you know Ohlendorf?

A He is not from Linz; he is from Berlin. Yes; I know him. He is a member of the SD.

Q Did he ever work in your district?

A Loederer is a man from Linz, and that is why I couldn't think of him right away. Yes; he had a representative in my district.

Q What was that man's name?

A Gahrmann, and then during the last months there was a certain Dr. Schmid.

Q What was Ohlendorf's representative doing in your district?

A He was a representative of the SD, that is of the Security Service, that had their central office in Berlin. He would report to the central office about all possible and impossible events that were supposed to have taken place in my district, that were supposed to have been participated in by all impossible and possible people, and sometime I got to see those reports, but partly they were secret. However, he was supposed to report on anything that was in anyway connected with economy, the party, armament, and also on anything that the armed forces might be interested in. You know the SD was that kind of an organization, of which anybody with a bad conscience would have to be afraid. I don't think that it was altogether bad, because they were extremely objective and critical, and even people in the highest places would have to fear them because they would judge, namely, on a factual and objective basis.

Q Would it be Ohlendorf's representative's duty to report to



Berlin the number of liquidations that would happen in your Gau, or any of the other Gaus?

A What do you mean by liquidations?

Q Killings of people who were not wanted, such as the Jews, Russians, and so forth.

A Sure, he would report on that. That is if he learned about it, he would report it. Of course, he wouldn't know anything about what happened in Mathausen.

Q I am not talking about Mathausen; I am talking now about your Gau, of which you were the head.

A Sure he could report about it. He couldn't have reported anything about the Gau, though, because there was never a Jew killed there and there were no pogroms or terror activities there, and there was no looting or anything like that going on. The only thing that did happen there was that the synagogue was burned, and that was by order of Himmler and the SS did that. It was not as bad as all that in my district.

Q When the synagogue was burned, there was some people inside of it, wasn't there?

A No; there was nobody inside, but I wasn't there at that time. I was in Munich at a conference, and otherwise the whole thing wouldn't have happened, but they were so ignorant even that they burned that place and endangered the central telephone exchange, which was right next door to it.

Q Then if Ohlendorf received reports that liquidations had