

end. "The more we suffer the more brilliant will be the revival of eternal Germany." "I have sown good seed, I have implanted in the heart of the German people a proper understanding of its war of survival." (25 February). "In this cruel world, in which we have been plunged into two wars, only those white races will survive and prosper who know how to suffer, *who have the courage to fight, even without hope, until death...*" This was the explanation offered by the criminal. But at that time others were explaining it quite differently.

Among the handful of Jews still surviving in these last months of the war, and who were still capable of thought, some pondered the reasons for the delaying of the end and of death and destruction which that delay spelt. They came to this conclusion:

"It is only right and just that the Germans should prove obstinate and carry on the war. Only thus will they feel what it is like to be without a roof, to be expelled and forced to wander, to fear. Only if they prove obstinate will their cities be destroyed, their houses burnt and their factories ruined,—and thereby they will suffer a modicum of punishment."

These Jews recalled the tale of Pharaoh of Egypt whose heart was hardened by God lest he submit to the command, "Let my people go!" It is a story that has always aroused astonishment and doubt. After hardening Pharaoh's heart, could God punish him for that same hardness of heart? But at that time the Jews appreciated the essential justice of the tale:

Sometimes the only way whereby a little justice can be realized in the world, the only way whereby the world can be saved from being converted into Sodom and Gomorrah lies in that Pharaoh's heart continued to be hard and obstinate...

The tale of Pharaoh of Egypt has repeated itself. Without any prospect whatever, without the slightest vestige of faith, without any hope, Germany's blood was being shed.

"Indeed sometimes history develops in such a fashion that there is no other way to salvage a last spark of honesty and justice in the world, but by the criminals themselves becoming the instruments of their own punishment."*

* The above quotations are from an article "In those days" printed in the *Yiddischer Kempfer*, New York, in March 1947, and reprinted in my book, "Wanderings on the Roads of Death," Yad Washem, Jerusalem, 1960.

Eichmann's Role in the Destruction of Jews

By DR. J. KERMISCH

SINCE the Nuremberg Trials—the arraignment of twenty one leading war criminals before the International Military Tribunal in that city is known—the world has become more closely acquainted with the name of SS Obersturmbannführer Adolf Eichmann, "that sinister figure", as he was termed at the time by the American Public Prosecutor Jackson,—"upon whom was laid the duty of destroying the Jews." After the names of the four principal German Nazi criminals, leaders of the Third Reich—Hitler, Himmler, Bormann and Goebbels—that of Eichmann was the one most frequently mentioned in the course of that protracted trial.

It is interesting to cite the verdict of that Tribunal, speaking of Eichmann: The persecution of Jews perpetrated by the Nazis in Germany before the War, however harsh and repressive, cannot possibly be compared with the anti-Jewish policy adopted by the Germans in the territories they occupied during the Second World War. Here the Jews were compelled to live in separate ghettos and to work beyond their strength. But that was not enough. In the summer of 1941 plans began to be prepared for the final "solution" of the Jewish problem in Germany and in all occupied Europe. This final solution of the Jewish problem (the official German term was "Endlösung der Judenfrage") meant: the physical extermination of all the Jews, which Hitler had threatened as early as January 1939 in the event of the outbreak of a world war. For this purpose a special department of the Gestapo was established, under the leadership of Eichmann, who had to implement that policy of extermination.

It must be emphasized that this Jewish "department" of the Gestapo, which was part of the German "Reich's Security Head Office" (RSHA), was declared a criminal organization in the verdict.

Eichmann as the chief expert in all matters pertaining to the Jews in the Third Reich, who evolved the plans for the "Endlösung der

Judenfrage", and at the same time was engaged in the complete implementation of the plans, gave his orders, as far as possible, orally. For obvious reasons this method was also adopted by other important Nazis in carrying out their criminal plans. In spite of this, however, there remains a not inconsiderable body of written documents bearing Eichmann's signature and touching upon this aspect of his work, which have survived. Needless to say, what has reached us is only a small part. We know that Eichmann made a note of every official conversation he had with his superiors. Minutes were taken of all official conferences and meetings dealing with all sorts of details of the implementation of the plans for the destruction of eleven million Jews, who, according to Nazi statistics, were at that time living in Europe.

Eichmann insisted that his colleagues, dispersed over the entire Reich and the occupied territories, submit precise reports on every action they undertook. We know, however, that prior to the defeat of the Third Reich Eichmann took the trouble to destroy all the documents of his office and all proof of his crimes.

But he was not as successful as he wished, and even if he succeeded in destroying the original documents, a large number of copies and other written material of his office, sent to various other offices in the Reich, were not destroyed at the close of the War. In this respect the Eichmann documents to be found in the Archives of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs which were preserved—of which a microfilm is kept in Yad Washem—are particularly important. The question may be asked: What connection was there between the Foreign Ministry and a department of the Gestapo, dealing with purely internal affairs? The Gestapo as a section of the Reich's Security Head Office came under Himmler, who in this respect belonged to the Ministry of Interior. It has transpired however, that the Foreign Ministry had a large share

in the destruction of our people in Europe and collaborated very closely with the Jewish department of the Gestapo in various fields.

The destruction of the Jews in the friendly States (Slovakia, Bulgaria, Rumania, Hungary, etc.), as in the defeated Western countries—France, Holland, etc.—was carried out by Eichmann with the consent of the latter in the countries mentioned. Secondly, Eichmann used to consult the Foreign Ministry on every detail affecting the Jewish citizens of foreign countries, living in Germany. Without the consent of the Foreign Ministry he did not allow himself to take a single step against these Jews. On the other hand, the Foreign Ministry did nothing affecting the Jews, without a prior understanding with the Jewish department of the Gestapo. And when any German Jew applied for permission to leave the country, the Foreign Ministry contacted Eichmann—whose opinion decided the matter. Thanks to this correspondence we have information regarding the various phases of the “Endlösung”, how it was planned and implemented in the occupied territories.

It is known that in the beginning, before he entered the role which ultimately led to his present trial, Eichmann headed the Government office, the purpose of which was “to help” Jews to emigrate from all parts of the Reich.

In connection with this activity in “helping in every possible way” Jews to emigrate from the Third Reich, it is worthwhile recalling a document drafted by the Foreign Ministry, (dated 25 January 1939 and entitled: “Die Judenfrage als Faktor der Aussenpolitik im Jahre 1938”), in which it is stated: “The ultimate aim of the German Jewish policy is the emigration of all Jews living in the Reich”. This must be done mainly because by expelling the Jews from Germany anti-Semitism is intensified in the countries of reception. The report establishes this “factually and convincingly”. The author, seeking ways and means of intensifying anti-Semitic tendencies throughout the world, comes to the conclusion that the poorer the immigrant Jew and the greater the burden he imposes upon the country receiving him, the sharper the reaction in that country, and this is the German propagandist interest.

Between the activities of Eichmann in his capacity of head of the Central Office for Jewish Emigration and this report of the German Foreign Ministry there was a close connection. It was the same activity

with the same end in view: to promote anti-Semitic agitation throughout the world, after which the time would in any case come when the problem would be radically solved.

When, because of the outbreak of War, all chances were lost of generating the hoped-for rising against the Jews, Eichmann—in keeping

with general German policy—was compelled to adopt a new course, though constantly he saw before himself—like his leader, Hitler—the world-enemy, the Jew!

What was the nature of Eichmann’s new duties?

In fact, at the beginning of 1940 Eichmann was no more than a sub-

THE TALE OF

**Der Chef der Sicherheitspolizei
und des SD**

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1597/1-9

Geheim

Schnellbrief

An das
Auswärtige Amt
z.Hd. von Herrn Gesandtschaftsrat Dr. Klingonfuß
Berlin.

Auswärtiges Amt
J III 1129.9
ing. 13. 12. 1942
Anl. (fady) Dopp. 2. Bsp.

Betrifft: Auswanderung des Juden E.M. Meyers nebst Ehefrau und Tochter nach der Schweiz.

bezug: Dort. Schnellbrief vom 2.12.1942 - Nr. J III 1059g - und hies. Schreiben vom 1.12.1942 - IV B 4 a - 1597/42g -

Wie dort bekannt ist, hat der Reichsführer-SS und Chef der Deutschen Polizei im Oktober 1941 die Auswanderung von Juden aus dem Reich und den besetzten Gebieten untersagt. Lediglich in ganz besonders gelagerten Einzelfällen, z.B. bei Vorliegen eines positiven Reichsinteresses, ist von hier nach Prüfung vorgesehen, der Auswanderung einzelner Juden stattzugeben.

In Laufe der nachfolgenden Zeit sind nun Anträge von Juden bei verschiedenen Dienststellen, u.a. besonders beim Reichswirtschaftsministerium und der Reichsbank, sowie bei Rechtsanwälten, insbesondere Schweizer Rechtsanwälten, eingegangen, in denen unter Anbietung hoher Devisenbeträge um Genehmigung der Auswanderung gebeten wird. Trotz schwerster politischer Bedenken, die laufend von hier aus geäußert

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*Im Angelegenheit
12/11
12/11*

On 2 December 1942 the German Foreign Ministry addressed an enquiry to Eichmann’s bureau whether the Reich should grant an exit permit to Professor A.M. Meyers, a Jew, of the University of The Hague, who wished to go to Switzerland with his wife and daughter.

The Swedish Embassy in Berlin had offered a sum of 150,000 Swiss francs for the issue of the permit.

On 11 December, Eichmann replied

as follows to this request: The Reichsführer SS (i.e. Himmler) prohibited the emigration of Jews from the Reich and the occupied territories already in October 1941. Only in exceptional cases, where special advantage accrues to the Reich, may individual Jews be permitted to emigrate.

In view of the shortage of foreign currency the State Bank and the Economic Ministries have proposed that individual Jews be permitted to leave,

ordinate,—an Unterabteilungsleiter of one of the offices, which together constituted the Gestapo. We must recall that at the beginning of the War the so-called Reich's Security Head Office (RSHA) was organized from various German police departments and come under the SS Reichsführer and Chief of the Ger-

man Police, Heinrich Himmler. The RSHA comprised seven departments, betokened by Roman numerals from I to VII. The most important for us was the IV Bureau, the function of which was investigation in connection with opponents of the regime. Popularly this department was known as

the Gestapo (*Geheime Staatspolizei*).

The Gestapo was made up of "divisions", denoted by the letters "A"—"E". Most important for us was the IVB division which engaged in such problems as "political catholicism", "political protestantism", freemasons, Jewish affairs and the like. For these concrete matters the IVB division was divided up into sections, distinguished by the Arabic numerals 1-4. The sections were divided again into sub-section whose token was IVB4b, which dealt with *Judenangelegenheiten*.

In connection with the above it is perhaps worthwhile mentioning what the Gestapo was in the eyes of the Nazi German legislator. What the Gestapo meant for the Germans, and especially for the persecuted nations, particularly the Jews, we know well. Under the law for the *Geheime Staatspolizei* of 1 February, 1936 this body had the following function:

Alle staatsgefährlichen Bestrebungen im gesamten Staatsgebiet zu sammeln und auszuwerten, die Staatsregierung zu unterrichten und die übrigen Behörden über für sie wichtige Feststellungen auf dem laufenden zu halten und mit Anregungen zu versehen...

The Gestapo did not only have to seek out and investigate the enemies of the people but also to charge them and punish them.

Among the enemies which the Gestapo fought, pride of place, was, of course, given to *der ewige Jude*, who according to Nazi doctrine was the principal enemy of Germany and responsible for causing the war, in order to destroy Germany.

The war upon and liquidation of the "internal enemy" was the main function of the Gestapo. From this stemmed its great power.

It may be said that the authority of the Gestapo was unlimited both by Hitlerite law and Hitlerite practice, which was beyond the law. In regard to the former, we have already cited the Gestapo law. This in itself was sufficient to make the Gestapo independent of all other organs of the State. In the Third Reich, however, it was not the written law that decided but what was termed in Nazi German juridical (sic!) literature—*Volksempfinden* (the people's feeling). When the law—even the Hitlerite law—was in favour of a Jew in a given case, it was not the written law that counted, but the unwritten law, the undefined *Volksempfinden*.

The fact that Eichmann was no more than head of a sub-section of a Gestapo department contradicts

PROFESSOR MEYERS

wurden und werden, und des ausdrücklichen Hinweises auf die gefährlichen Auswirkungen solcher Genehmigungen in Ausland wurde von seiten des Reichswirtschaftsministeriums und der Reichsbank mit Rücksicht auf die angespannte Devisenlage des Reiches größter Wert darauf gelegt, von Fall zu Fall Auswanderungsanträgen dann stattzugeben, wenn hohe Devisenbeträge anfallen.

Unter einstweiliger Zurückstellung der politischen Bedenken, die heute bei der Auswanderung von Juden an sich in allen Fällen bestehen, wurde in Anbetracht der vorgebrachten zwingenden wirtschaftlichen Gründe vereinbart, ausnahmsweise eine Auswanderungsgenehmigung dann zu erteilen, wenn bestimmte Voraussetzungen erfüllt werden. Diesen Anträgen wird nur näher getreten, wenn der jüdische Antragsteller und seine Angehörigen im fortgeschrittenen Lebensalter stehen, keine besonderen sicherheitspolizeilichen Gründe der Auswanderung entgegenstehen und ein Devisenbetrag von mindestens 100.000 sfrs. je Person unter Verzicht auf den Gegenwert zur Verfügung gestellt werden.

Die Auswanderung des jüdischen Intellektuellen Meyers (früher Professor in Den Haag), für den die Schweizerische Gesandtschaft die Zahlung von 150.000 sfrs. bei Genehmigung der Auswanderung in Aussicht stellt, wurde, wie bereits in meinem Schreiben vom 1.12.1942 - IV B 4a - 1537/42g - mitgeteilt, ohne Rücksicht auf den angebotenen Devisenbetrag im Hinblick auf seine berufliche Stellung abgelehnt.

Im Auftrage:

Eichmann

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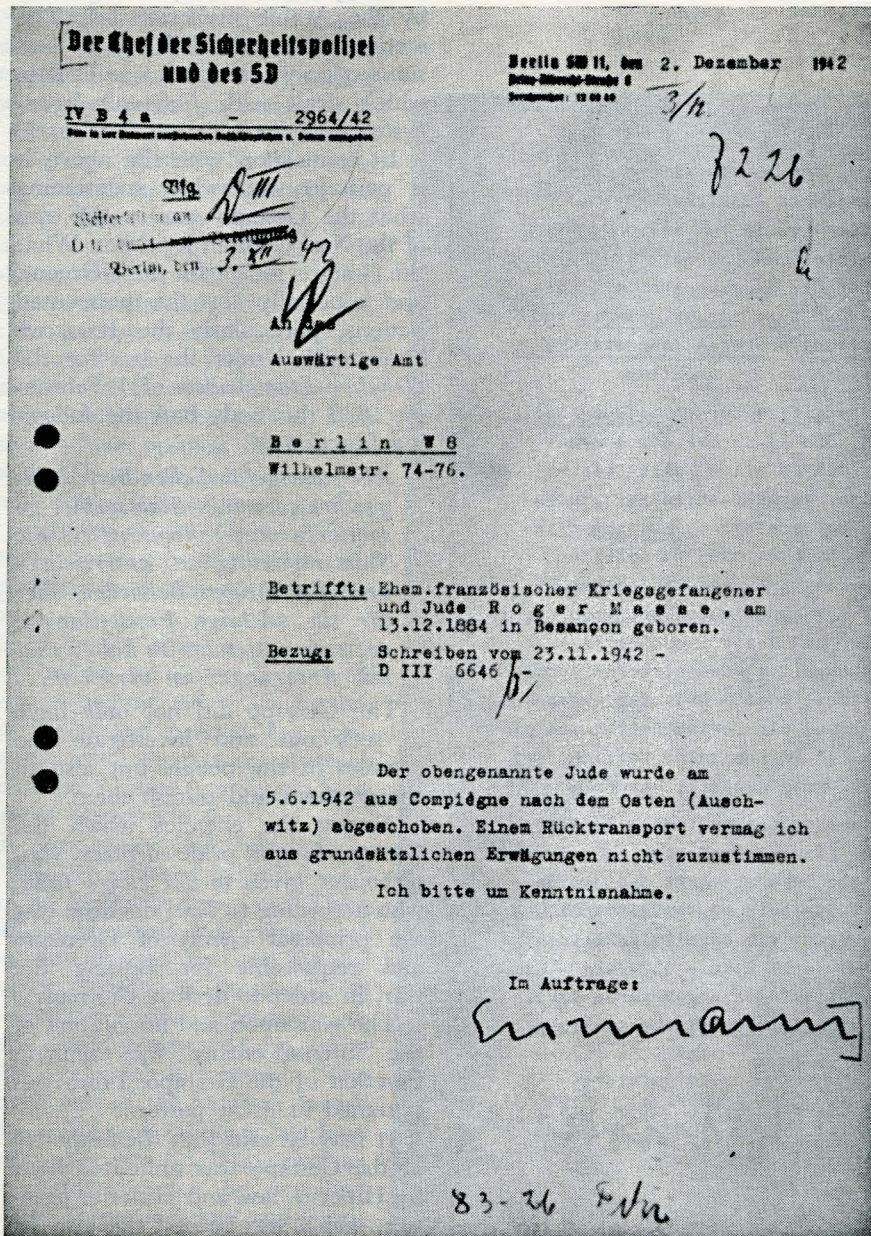
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provided they are prepared to pay substantial sums of money in foreign currency. Permission has been granted, accordingly, in isolated cases to the departure of Jews—notwithstanding the fact that for political reasons all Jewish emigration is undesirable—under the following conditions: the emigrants shall not be young persons whose departure might threaten the security of the Reich; that at least 100,000 Swiss francs be

paid for their departure. In regard to Professor Meyers however, the Eichmann Bureau is opposed to his departure, though, as stated, a sum of 150,000 francs has been offered.

The reasons for this opposition are not sufficiently clear. Eichmann wrote that he was opposed to permitting the Professor to leave "notwithstanding the sum offered because of his *professional standing*".

**A FRENCH (JEWISH) PRISONER OF WAR
SENT TO AUSCHWITZ**



From this document we learn that the Nazis executed not only Soviet but also French prisoners of war. In this letter of 2 December 1942 Eichmann replied to the Foreign Ministry that it was correct that the "above Jew" had been sent on June 5, 1942 from Compiègne where he had been detained in a POW camp, to the east (Auschwitz)

adding: "I cannot agree to his return on principle." It must be assumed that behind this nonsense about "principle" there is a more tangible reason: the man was no longer alive.

The reference is to a former French prisoner-of-war, the Jew Roger Massé, born December 13, 1884 in the town of Besançon.

his true role and the position he occupied in German politics (both internal and external). His importance and power by far exceeded his official rank (the highest rank he achieved was *Obersturmbannführer*), and his position in the ramified and powerfully constructed apparatus of the Security Police. Eichmann's power, accordingly derives from another source. Eichmann was personally appointed by the Fuehrer (or perhaps by the Reichsführer, with the consent of the Führer) as "responsible for the achievement of the solution of the Jewish problem", and as such he was not subordinate to his *Gruppenleiter* or even his departmental chief.

In this context we must recall the role played by "authorized" and "responsible" persons in Hitler Germany. If any problem became urgent in the eyes of the Führer, he appointed a special trusted aide to solve it. The aide was given wide powers, notwithstanding the fact that those powers might encroach upon, or even run counter to, the authority of other organs of the state.

Eichmann had his representatives with the German diplomats. He had his men accredited to the satellite countries (Slovakia, Rumania, etc.) as experts for Jewish affairs, officially known as *Judenberater* or *Judenkommissare*, who dictated to the dependent states what they should do with their Jews. Thus, for example, in 1942 two of Eichmann's representatives toured unoccupied France, visiting the camps for Jewish refugees in Southern France, giving instructions in the crudest terms to the institutions of the French Government, ultimately securing these Jews for their own purposes.

When the fortunes of war changed for Germany, the plan for the solution of the Jewish problem on an international scale once again came to the force. Once again anti-Semitic propaganda was intensified and international conferences were called. It was thought that this time propaganda would prove more successful, as the military victories of the "Jewish Bolshevik" Red Army could be stressed. It was even thought that thereby a wedge could be introduced between the West and the East. Once again it was the Foreign Ministry which took the task in hand to cement a European bloc against world Jewry. The Ministry, needless to say, was assisted by party and State organs, among which we once again find Eichmann's *Judenberater*.

On the other hand the *Judenreferent*—with the consent of his head undertook to conduct negotiations with the representatives of World Jewry. He met with representatives of the Jews in Occupied Slovakia and Hungary (Jews from neutral countries were brought in from neutral Sweden and Switzerland), with the object of saving the Jews, still living in the Third Reich, for a certain price. But the real aim was entirely different: To contact world Jewry with a view to deceiving the latter, to promise and to betray whatever was promised. All means were justified in order to weaken the foes of the Third Reich.

But if "you cannot get over it you must go round it" in the words of the folk saying. Negotiations were conducted with the arch-enemy, the World Jew, regarding the emigration of the Jews surviving in the Reich. It was not the Jews that they were concerned about, but what would they not do to save their own face, and ultimately to secure victory? Hitler's Germany did not like Pacts of non-aggression. Now the time had come to conclude such a pact with World Jewry and in this operation, as we know, Eichmann once again played a central role.

HISTORY OF THE PLAN TO DESTROY THE JEWS

(Continued from page 11)

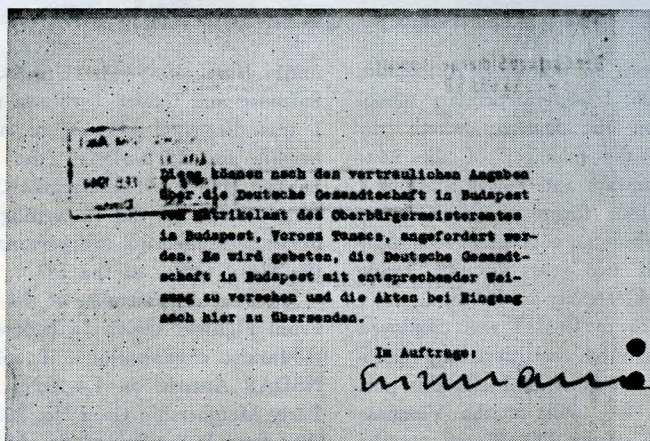
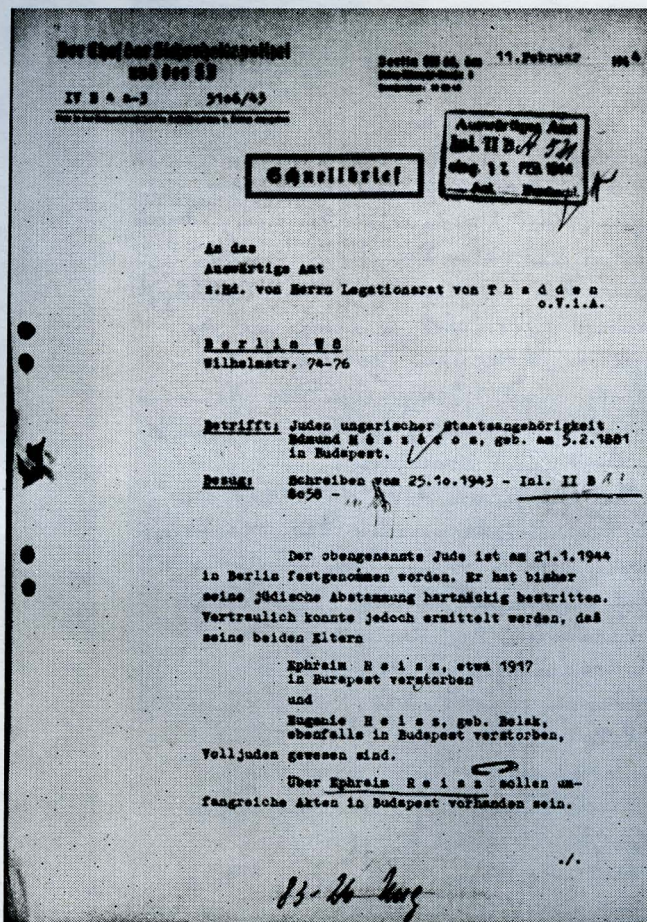
the negotiations for the liberation of one million Jews in exchange for ten thousand trucks, which, it was promised would be used only on the Eastern Front... This was the last trick of the Nazis, a link in their long chain of deceit which had continued from the very first day.

Incidentally the lack of good faith on the part of the Germans in these negotiations is proved by the fact that at this time (the second half of 1944) there were no longer a million Jews in the hands of the Germans, who could be liberated. The negotiations, accordingly, were to create the impression that large numbers of Jews were still alive in the German occupied territories, and to indicate that the reports of their destruction were at least exaggerated.

It is noteworthy that insofar as there still existed a considerable number of Jews in these territories, they were living underground or were members of the resistance. This was the "merchandise" offered for sale.

In short: even at the very last moment the German hangmen continued to deceive the entire world for their own advantage...

EICHMANN'S BLOODHOUNDS ALSO HUNTED INDIVIDUALS



Eichmann, whose net covered all Europe to capture millions of Jews did not stop short at the capture of single individuals. He spared no investigation and did not fail to enlist the aid of various Government bodies in order to seek out a single humble individual, especially when he "feared" that the latter might escape the murderers.

In Berlin a man with a pure Magyar name (Messarash) of Hungarian citizenship was arrested. He strongly denied that he was of Jewish descent. But Eichmann's bloodhounds had already

discovered by "secret means" that the names of his parents were Ephraim and Eugenia Reiss, pure Jews who had lived and died in Budapest. But in order to sentence the man to death "documents" were necessary. So Eichmann wrote the above letter to the German Foreign Ministry (of course, to the notorious Thadden), asking him to instruct the Reich representative in Budapest to investigate in the Office of the Population Registry and to transmit to Eichmann the papers necessary for the killing of the prisoner Messarosh-Reiss.

Adolf Eichmann
11 Hauptplatz
Berlin, den 14. 9. 1933

Lebenslauf

Am 19. III. 1906 wurde ich in Solingen (Rhdld.) geboren. Mein Vater, Herr Franz Adami, war als Leiter der Wasserwerke und Elektrizitätsgesellschaft betätigt, besaß die die Volksschule, 4 Klassen der Hauptschulrealschule und 2 Jahrgänge der Kolonial-Bundeslehranstalt für Elektrotechnik, Wandbau und Hochbau.

Von dem Jahre 1925 bis 1927 war ich als Verkaufsbearbeiter der Oberösterreichischen Elektrizitätsgesellschaft tätig. Diese Stellung übernahm ich auf eigenen Wunsch, da mir von der Vacuum Oil Company A.G. Wien die Vertretung für Österreich übertragen wurde. Bis Juni 1933 arbeitete ich für diese Firma in Oberösterreich, Salzburg und Vorarlberg. Am 1. Juni 1933 wurde ich wegen Angehörigkeit zum NSDAP getrieben für die deutsche Konsul in Linz, Wien und am 1. August 1933 wurde ich als Vertreter in Form eines Schreibens

Dessen Abschrift meines P-Akte im SD-Hauptamt beigelegt ist.

Nachdem ich 8 Jahre Angehöriger der Deutschösterreichischen Frontkämpfervereinigungen war (darin als Leiter der Kampforganisation) trat ich am 1.4.1932 in die NSDAP - Österreich ein und bekam die Mitgliedsnummer 889.888. Zum gleichen Termin trat ich in die SS ein und wurde dem Führeramt 45.326 beauftragt der Organisation der Oberösterreichischen Frontkämpfervereinigungen (darin als Leiter der Kampforganisation) im Jahre 1933 wurde ich vereidigt.

Am 1.8.1933 ging ich auf Befehl des Gauleiters der NSDAP in Oberösterreich, G. Bolek, gewechselt, mit dem Namen Adami in das Lager Lechfeld am 24. Sept. 1933 und ich wurde 19. September 1933 in das Lager Passau Kommando und wurde am 29. Januar 1934 zum Lager Dachau am 1. Oktober 1934 (nach) in die SS in das Hauptamt Kommando, wobei ich heute noch meinem Dienstverhältnis

Adolf Eichmann
11 Hauptplatz

I was born in Solingen, Rhineland, on 19.3.1906. I went to primary school in Linz on the Danube where my father was the manager of the Municipal Tramways and Power Station. I completed four forms of the Government Realschule (non-classical secondary school) and two years in the Trade School for Electricity and Building.

From 1925 to 1927 I was employed as a salesman by the Electricity Company of Upper Austria. I left this post of my own free will, as the Viennese branch of Vacuum Oil offered me the post of representative of the company in Upper Austria. I worked for this firm

until June 1933—in Upper Austria, Salzburg and Upper Tyrol. At that time I was dismissed because of my membership in the NSDAP (the National Socialist Party). The German Consul in Linz testified to this in writing, a copy being appended to my personal file in the Head Office of the SD.

After being a member of the Austrian Front Fighters Union (a belligerent anti-Marxist organization), I joined the NSDAP Austria on 1.4.1932, receiving Party Membership Card No. 889,888. At that time I also joined the SS, according to Identity Card No. 45,326. Upon the occasion of the arrival of the Reichs-

führer SS (i.e. Himmler) for inspection of the organization in Upper Austria, in 1932, I was sworn in.

On... 8.1933, upon orders from the Gauleiter of the NSDAP of Upper Austria, Herr Bolek, I went to the Lechfeld Camp for military training. On 19 September 19... I was transferred to the liaison staff of the SS in Passau, and when this staff was disbanded, in January 1934 I was sent to the Austrian SS in the Dachau Camp. On October 1, 1934 I was sent to the Head Office of the SD where I am employed to this day.

Adolf Eichmann

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