

29 Sep 1952

TAB D

EASA-112

GROSSBAHN - U.S. Citizenship

RELATIONS WITH NSDAP AND DENAZIFICATION

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

(2)(A) Privacy

(2)(B) Methods/Sources

(2)(C) Foreign Relations

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Approximately in March 1932, when I came back from Great Britain to my brother's estate in East Prussia (on which I held certain inheritance rights) I found great difficulties in getting the Government consent for the erection of a cement factory there. At that time Germany was still nominally a democracy under Reichskanzler Brüning, and the state of Prussia was run mainly by the Sozialdemokratische Partei, Ministerpräsident in Prussia was Herr Braun. Any industrial development, especially if proposed by the nobility, met cold disapproval. German military circles, as I was well aware, were interested in developing key industries, especially in East Prussia, because this province was completely cut off from the actual Reich. I had discussions with all party leaders (from the Deutschnationale Volkspartei down to the Sozialdemokratische Partei) and found interest but no support. The then Wehrkreiskommandeur in East Prussia v. ~~Prückelmann~~ who was particularly interested in having a cement factory installed in the vicinity of the "Heilsberger Dreieck" (a planned fortification against any eastern - then it was thought Polish - occupation) thought it wise to come to an arrangement with the "coming" NSDAP. I spoke to the butler of my brother who was NSDAP Ortsgruppenleiter whether he could arrange a meeting for me with Gauleiter Koch; to this he agreed provided that I would fill out a party application. I took this matter as an inferior affair and filled out an application then. I did not meet Koch, I took part in no party affairs and only in 1934, when I was already in Palestine and the Middle East heard that I had been accepted. Even then I did not pay any attention. Somehow my "party membership" followed me through Auslandsorganisation to Palestine and I was there summoned by the Landesgruppenleiter of Palestine who rebuked me for not participating in party activity, since I was an "alter Kämpfer" (a party member pre 1933), I refused to deal with the party. When I came to Germany in 1935 and negotiated with Autounion for the general agency of this firm for the Middle East I was informed that Auslandsorganisation had refused to grant me the representation because I did not comply with party directives. In fact I had greatly insulted the Landesgruppenleiter for Palestine and the Ortsgruppenleiter for Jerusalem by telling them to go to hell. I was summoned to Amtsleiter Stempel of Auslandsorganisation at Berlin and prior to seeing him I went to East Prussia, where I through my brother's former butler, Herman Kraass, who had then become a fairly high Arbeitsfront official arranged to get my party memberbook by paying the fees back to 1932. I thought that I would thereby be protected, but when seeing Amtsleiter Stempel found that I was

*Blomberg

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mistaken. Amtsleiter Stempel called me anything but a swine and I left in a rage after I had told him the fact that he was apparently only trying to protect his good friends the Ortsgruppenleiter and Landesleiter who had themselves applied for the Autounion representation. I left Germany and from Switzerland mailed several letters to Hess, the deputy party chief, and others demanding an investigation. Early in 1938, after my return to Germany, I was informed that I had been cleared. This "clearance" had been greatly influenced by a journalist whom I had met in Palestine in 1933, a Diplomingenieur Leopold Itz Edler von Mildenstein, whom I had stood a number of favors including a good sum of money he needed when he was in the Middle East. I had not been aware that Mildenstein was a referent of SD, and had I known such fact it would not have enlightened me at such time. Mildenstein after my return to Germany had been very friendly to me, and after my helping him financially, had brought me in contact with his chief Werner Göttisch, (fnu) Behrends and Heinz Jost. When in Germany, and after passing the examination as foreign exchange councillor, I was notified that Auslandsorganisation had still not buried the hatchet; my new friends however informed me that as long as I did not go into politics against the Reich I had little to fear. Possibly to increase their income, I met a showdown in winter 1937/1938 when I was arrested by order of Franz A. Six and accused of pro-Jewish sympathies; this happened again in 1938. In both cases I was freed by intervention of Mildenstein, Göttisch, Alfred Naujoks and Jost.

I tried hard to emigrate under the false allegation that I would be able to save my money. Finally I had everything laid on for the end of September 1939. When the war broke out I was called to the Hilfspolizei. I notified "friend" Göttisch and Naujoks who assured me that they would straighten the matter out. Already in fall 1939 I was called for a briefing to Delbrückstrasse and was there informed that I would become chief of intelligence ad interim in Rumania if I wanted to save my skin, if not I would have little chances. After paying a sum of 5,000 Reichsmark to the account of Alfred Naujoks father and a further sum of Swiss francs 10,000 to the banking account of (fnu) Sanner, the Abwehrbeauftragte with AEG, and a number of further smaller sums in favor of Göttisch and friends I was nominated by Jost to Hauptbeauftragter Rumanien and in April 1940 was informed that I had become Untersturmführer der SS, followed by two promotions until early 1941. Göttisch and his deputy Wilhelm Waneck had cooked up a story that I was a reliable "alter kampf" and an SS applicant since 1937 - a statement based on nothing.

RPS

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It was found out during my being under arrest by Gestapo from September 1942 through April 1943 that I had actually never been an SS member and that my party membership was more than dubious. For what reasons I got away I am unable to say. Possibly to save the organizational face of the SS, whose bigshots I had met, I was demoted to SS-Mann and discharged from SS, because I was unbecoming to the dignity of SS.

Previous to this act I had been asked

- a- to volunteer for Waffen SS
- b- to take over other assignments of importance abroad
- c- to run the insurrection in Irak
- d- to kiss Heydrich in a vulgar fashion
- e- to become adjutant of Berger and a good number of other proposals

which I had all declined.

I may also state that I have never been in the pay of SS or the party or the German Government, and I flatter myself that at least in this respect I am an exception. When Gestapo found this fact they seemed greatly baffled and disturbed.

As far as I can remember my party number was 984 212 dating back to sometime in 1932. The SS number assigned to me is not known; I believe that this number never existed since I never passed the prescribed SS school, it seems to me that I only was an "Ehrenführer" but am not sure, my respective Ausweise were taken away by Gestapo during my arrest together with the majority of my personal documents including diplomatic passports certificates etc. and were never returned to me.

Complying with the law I registered on 3 February 1950 with Registrierungsbehörde I. Instanz (Stadtmagistrat Salzburg) as SS Hauptsturmführer and with decision dated 9 February 1950 was exempted from registration according to para 4, Absatz 5 lit. f VG 47 because of my resistance activity. This decision became irrevocable. Thereby my full civil rights were reinstated.

TAB E

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GROSSBAHN - U.S. Citizenship

RESISTANCE ACTIVITIES

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RESISTANCE

My first contacts with resistance, which actually could not be called organized, date back to the time 1933 after Hitler took over. During the years when I was not in Germany this contact remained very loose and only increased after my return (approximately in 1937). I personally had intended to emigrate to the USA and therefor participated only stronger after the outbreak of the war in September 1939 when I found that it was impossible for me to leave.

Resistance planning was somehow vague and concentrated on winning international influence and thereby counter-acting government planning. The majority of resistance interested personalities were however loyal Germans and this fact made planning and working all the more difficult. Their idea of resistance sprang from anti-nazism for economic, religious, racial or humane reasons. No overall organization could exist therefor and I made it my habit to find as many friends as possible and amending their individual anti-nazism to a scheme which I called Pan-Europeanism. Gradually a collaboration developed with Gesandter von Hentig of the Foreign Office, Direktor, Abs of the Deutsche Bank and others. (Thereby I f.i. in 1941 could arrange a meeting for Mr. Harriman with Staatssekretär von Weitzäcker at Berlin). No influence however was sufficiently large to actually help. At such time I also tried to link inter-European trade and industries together as to avoid a German predominance, I found part success in Rumania and Holland but my work was stopped cold when I fell in disfavor on 5 December 1941 and was not allowed to leave Germany again. This was followed up by my arrest in September 1942. After my release in spring 1943 my former contacts were usually scared to deal with me, I commenced to gradually build up again. But always found the terrific trouble that any type of close organization was made impossible because of supervision; this included my contacts to the 20 July circle which I estimated a thoroughly German-nationalistic affair. I found contacts with Vienna resistance clergy but also there saw no immediate possibility. In 1944 my attention was called to a small group in Tyrol by my brother in law. Then rumors existed already regarding an Alpine retreat of German nazis; I thought it worth while supporting this group which later on at least provided cover for a larger number of refugees and deserters. I finally greatly influenced the activity of this group and thereby succeeded in practically breaking up any planned German resistance, opening the way for the advancing American Army etc. until the day of the German surrender. For this activity I received one of the 47 issued "Urkunde" from the Tyrolian Landeshauptmann.

contact with the U.S. ambassador. I believe his name was Junger.

End of April 1945 - June 1945 with 44th Division, Seventh Army Intelligence, Division HQ. From then until end of August 1945 with 103 Division, until December 1945 with 84 Division, commencing then work with Third Army Intelligence and OSS, OMGB until December 1946. From June 1947 until (date of official dissolution of connection) 31 January

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TAB F

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GROSSEHN - U.S. Citizenship

GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN CITIZENSHIP STATUS

APPLICATION for AUSTRIAN CITIZENSHIP

In March 1947 I applied for Austrian citizenship thru my legal friend Dr. Heinrich Brodfeld of Vienna. My application was recommended by the Minister for Trade (Handelsminister) Dr. Kolb in person. My application was then filed with Salzburg Landesregierung. After a considerable time I was informed by Landesrat Weiskind that my file, when being sent to Vienna, had come into Russian hands and that the MVD chief of Vienna had asked Helmer (Min. for Interior) not to grant my application. I have never been able to get a definite confirmation for this allegation. Much later I was informed through Weiskind and later by Dr. Kwisda of the Landesregierung that actually my file was held up by a letter from Ministerialrat Pammer, ~~to~~ who allegedly after contacting CIC had found that I was undesirable. I have personally seen the Pammer letter in my file; the citizenship could pass at any time if Pammer would ~~write~~ his letter ~~back~~. The letter only generally states that Abteilung II of the Ministerium für Inneres (Generaldirektion für die öffentliche Sicherheit) does not consider it desirable that I became a citizen although I had been cleared by denazification. Since this letter is already some years old now it could easily be revoked (and Pammer takes paying advice). **

*revoked

GERMAN CITIZENSHIP

Since the end of the war I have never claimed German citizenship, and it has been much longer that I have described myself German. During my stay in Germany after 1945 I have lived there as an Austrian (assuming that this was correct). With my application for my Austrian citizenship I have given a written statement that I am stateless and do not claim German citizenship nor would I do so. Although such declaration could be merely a file matter I consider it absolutely correct and will do so in the future.

** Landeshauptmann KLAUS assured me that my citizenship would be granted on the day when the land can decide without asking the Ministry; this according to law would be on 27 April 1955 (ten years after the reinstallation of the Provisorische Staatsregierung in Österreich). The law requires a permanent stay for 10 years (the German occupation time does not count), in which case the Land can grant citizenship.

RPS