

ZEUGENSCHRIFTUM

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Translation

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MEURAUSSLER, Johann  
Member of the chapter of cathedral  
Munich,  
Rechnsstreet 7

SUBJECT: ELSER, Georg.

When I was interrogated as a witness in the Dachau Trial on 30 November 1945 I was asked at the end if one of the so-called "special-prisoners" was killed. According to the truth I answered, that I did not know about that, but I suppose that the conspirator of the Buergerbrauekeller of the 8th of November 1939, who was treated as a special-prisoner was "liquidated" on Easter 1945.

On the way back I talked inofficially to an American officer about this affair, whereupon he asked me several times to make a written report. From my memory I have written now the following report containing the main-points.

On November 8, 1939 Adolf Hitler made a speech, as usual, on the occasion of a meeting of the party in the Buergerbrauekeller at Munich. It was obviously that his speech was very short. Still more remarkable was that Hitler did not sit down afterwards with his friends, like in old years, but left the room very soon with his staff and most of the audience.

About half an hour later an infernal machine, hidden in a pillar of the room, exploded, partly layed the room in ruins, killed about 8 persons and a lot of people were wounded.

A few days later the newspapers reported that the supposed conspirator was found, a journeyman carpenter named GEORG ELSER. It was told that he was picked up on the Swiss border with exact plans of the Buergerbrauekeller in his pockets. A report of one of the next days said that ELSER knew the measures of the room so well that he was able to draw an extremely exact plan from memory.

Another report about 14 days later disclosed a new secret. ELSER had contact with OTTO STRASSEN and the two ENGLISH-men HEST and STEVENS, who were deceived by German SS-men about one day after the plot in the Netherlands, overpowered and dragged across the German border that was located about 50 to 100 meters away. The papers showed ~~the~~ photos of the "3 conspirators", one of the two English, calling them the instigators, one photo of ELSER, being a willing and well-rayed tool. At the same time they said that German SS men had made the two English-men believe even weeks ago that the German



military- and party-circles were tired of combat, that they conducted negotiations concerning peace-conditions and constitution of a new government; they had got transmitting sets by the English etc. BEST and STEVENS admitted these false negotiations but denied having anything to do with the plot.

After short imprisonment in Munich respectively Berlin all 3 conspirators were sent to the special building ("bunker") of the Concentration Camp Sachsenhausen-Oranienburg.

Meanwhile BEST and STEVENS received a very rough treatment for a long time (at night they were always put in shackles). ELSER, who allegedly wanted to kill the "Fuehrer" himself and actually killed 8 persons, was not sentenced to death by hanging (not even a trial was held), but got a special treatment, as we SS-men called it, without knowing more about his person. He got his own cell to work with carpenter tools, a lathe, he was allowed to make a zither etc. Officially they took care only that he did not get in contact with anyone in other words he should not have a chance to talk to anybody.

In August-September 1941 STEVENS came to the special building of Concentration Camp Dachau as the 4th special prisoner under the name "Fachs" (Fox), but was recognized immediately by the first three special prisoners (Pastor NIEMOLLER, NEUEHAUSELER, a member of the chapter of cathedral, and Dr. NOECK), as the papers had shown once his photo.

It was a similar situation when ELSER GEORG appeared in the bunker of Dachau towards the end of 1944. His name was changed in ELLER, but thinking of the old published photo he was recognized as the "murderer" of the Buergerwaerkeller. Pastor NIEMOLLER and STEVENS still remembered him very well from Concentration Camp Sachsenhausen. ELSER-ELLER immediately received an exceptional treatment in Dachau. During a few nights some prisoners had to build a new cell at the side of the one he was living in, where he could work and had to provide him with a lathe, carpenter-tools etc. One guard obtained musical instruments for him from Munich. Here again he was kept strictly aside from every other prisoner. During day and night a special guard had to sit in front of his cell. For that reason the guardpersonnel got a few more SS-men. Food, which we gave often to nearly all special prisoners, we could give to "Eller" only through the guard. Knowing who Eller actually was, we were naturally not allowed to mention the secret. Talking about him to somebody else we just called him the "zither-player" and when a few of us were together we just talked about the "Vorsehung (Providence) of the Fuehrer", as the Fuehrer himself mentioned in a speech after the plot that the "Providence" watched over him.

One day, when several highranking persons arrived as "special-prisoners", as far as I remember it was Eastermonday, the 2 April 1945, the day, when SCHUSCHNIG, HALDER AND SCHACHT came to the camp, all



of a sudden he was brought away from supper, without being allowed to carry anything with him and that is how he disappeared for ever.

Everybody in the bunker who heard from this sudden leave without any baggage, even SS-men, found the only explanation: "liquidated."

It is strange that a murderer who dared to attack the "most precious life in Germany" got special treatment for 5 1/2 years by his victim, a not too soft character; it is also strange that he should disappear suddenly.

This riddle was solved according to an explanation of BEST, who came from Sachsenhausen to Dachau in April 1945 by an order, which came in with the transport of Easterners. According to this information it contained besides instructions, how the special-prisoners should be treated in postscriptum: "Concerning the prisoner ELSER Georg he has to be liquidated immediately on special order of Reichsfuehrer SS Heinrich Himmler in accordance with the Fuehrer, and his name shall be published remarkable in one of the next death-records after an air-attack on Munich. BEST is supposed to have received this document personally (by a drunken SS-man of the guard) and brought it to London. SCHUSCHENIG is supposed to have read it personally. On the question: "How can you explain that ELSER was not killed immediately like the other conspirators of the 20 July 1944 or put before a court to be sentenced, but was guarded for years and got a special treatment on highest order? Furthermore that all of a sudden he then was killed without any formalities?" BEST answered: "Very simple. At first ELSER should be used in case of a German victory for a big mock-trial against the Intelligence Service. He should commit perjury that STEVENS and I had persuaded him to commit the plot. But when every hope for a German victory was lost, they wanted to get rid of this uncomfortable witness, who could have stated, where the actual instigators were."

Any informations concerning the sudden, complete disappearance could be given by: Johann KICK, chief of the political section and 1st Lt. STICHLER, who was in charge of the special prisoners and is now in Camp Dachau (he was on the witness stand on 1st thursday), besides leading persons of the camp and eventually some guards of the KA (commander of the arresters or bunker).

But it is quite possible, that even they did not know who actually was "ELSER", that they just considered "Eiler" but not "ELSER" in him.

Maybe he was registered dead in the death-books of CC Dachau?

Munich, 3 December 1945.

J. Neuhäusler