

Enclosure No. 3 to despatch  
No. 592 of November 6, 1935,  
from the Legation at Vienna,  
Austria.

(TRANSLATION)

SOURCE: NEUES WIENER  
TAGBLATT, Vienna,  
October 27, 1935.

THE BATTLE AGAINST THE DEAD.

By Lieutenant-General Franz Ritter Weihs-Tihany  
v. Mainprugg,  
former Commander of the 47th Infantry Division.

I have read an article entitled "The Battle against the Dead" in the NEUES WIENER TAGBLATT of the 24th instant.

I must admit that for a long time nothing has stirred my soldier's heart so much as the news made known therein to the effect that the names of German soldiers who died as heroes for the fatherland are to be stricken from the memorial tablets if they professed the Jewish faith.

As a true Catholic, foreign to every sort of intolerance - as an Austrian officer and a descendant of an old Catholic Austrian soldier family - imbued with old-Austrian chivalrous soldier's spirit, I stand indignant before such an inconceivable ethical misstep. How can people possibly go so far as to violate the reverence towards the soldiers who lost their lives for their fatherland?

I cannot believe that the father of this shameful idea fought side by side with those outlawed war-comrades and went through what those dead heroes suffered and accomplished.

They suffered the soldier's death in loyalty to their fatherland. They sacrificed everything that men can sacrifice. It is inconceivable that people should simply strike out the memory of such noble martyrs.

Thus, as an Austrian officer in solidarity with all the soldiers who fulfilled their duty unto death, and particularly with those who fought with us in the World War, I am filled with repugnance at the thought of a measure which kills the dead a second time, deprives the survivors of the last consolation - the grateful memory of the beloved fatherland, and only arouses new pain.

Our old Austrian soldier's spirit can only ask: what has become of morality, justice, fidelity, gratitude and comradeship?

The German Reichswehr, the heir of the old, fine, chivalrous German army, has the floor.