Preface – Please Read Me First!

The two-part collection of “Tales from an Old Phone Directory” was originally intended for publication in “Singing Wires;” since part one concerns itself with the Nazi era in Vienna and Austria, it was sent to a TCI member of the Jewish faith for his input. He was kind enough to not only give me feedback, but some constructive criticism as well.

The topic of this article is not pleasant but the story is important. Hate and prejudice can manifest themselves in almost trivial ways in the beginning. As the trivial becomes commonplace, the dehumanization of the hated group continues to escalate. Eventually, if not stopped, the horrific happens.

Could it happen again? Perhaps it could. Human nature doesn’t change that much. This article will maybe prepare the reader to recognize prejudice in something as trivial as a listing in a telephone directory (or a web page) so he or she will speak up while there is still a chance.

A minor squabble with the constructive criticism on my part was that it primarily concerned itself with the removal of much of the additional information I had included here. I felt (and feel) that this additional information is necessary for a clearer understanding of the Nazi mindset, and in the end wasn’t willing to have it published in what I consider to be a heavily cropped form.

Part two is entitled “Would You Believe …?” and takes a look at the lighter side of the same directory as was used for this story.
Among all of my other hobbies, such as collecting old telephones, switchboards, telephone test gear, ephemera concerning telephony, &c., I also collect old postcards, documents and newspapers; what I call my “paper archive” has over 3,000 individual sheets of paper (excluding books, magazines & telephone directories, which all count as one piece each).

My paper archive started out back in the 1980’s, after an uncle on my father’s side of the family passed away. He had accumulated quite a pile of old papers and documents, although his real hobby was collecting rare and valuable stamps from the Austro-Hungarian Empire ... he sold his stamp collection a few months before he passed away, and I inherited the odds and ends which were left over.

At first, I thought that the leftovers were only good for recycling, but I decided to give the stuff a look before dumping it. Most of the papers didn’t interest me, but I did come across some very nicely handwritten documents from the late 1800’s which caught my eye. They were written in the old “Kurent” alphabet (there is no English equivalent for this one), which was one of the “six alphabets” once taught in school in Austria (Gothic, Kurent & Latin, in small & capital letters). I taught myself how to read this old handwriting, and I can still do so today – if it is neat ... I also taught myself to read Kurent & Gothic typeset.

Over the years, I found many interesting documents at various flea markets at or near Vienna, and also took to collecting documents with interesting stamp imprints or watermarks (one of my favorites is a big piece of paper from tsarist Russia with a huge watermark consisting of the imperial Russian eagle and the year 1859 – it became an antique in the year I was born), historical newspapers (especially World War I & II vintage), vintage phone books which are historically interesting (such as the last directory for Berlin from 1941), and similar stuff.

I simply loved public garbage dumps and illegal landfills – I found all sorts of interesting papers there, especially from the Nazi era. One series of documents from 1938/39, which I found scattered around an illegal dump, had to do with the persecution of a Jewish woman here in Vienna; these documents were the original motivation for writing this story, but the idea remained on the “back burner“ for quite a number of years. I left it there until now because there are so very many projects in Austria which concern themselves with the Nazi era and the Holocaust that I didn’t believe that one more would even be noticed.

A very large and ongoing project of this type, in the hands of schoolchildren, is entitled “A Letter to the Stars” (referring to those in the sky); they have an online ledger of Jews (mostly from Vienna) who became victims of the Holocaust. I offered them scans of the documents for use on their web site – and never received a reply from anyone associated with the project. I would have thought that scans of rare documents, all relating to the persecution of a Jewish woman, would be welcome ... it was obviously a mistake to think so.
The first document in the set, which is reproduced on the next page, is an open letter from several tenants to the owner of an apartment building in Vienna’s fifth district. The typewritten text states that the tenants refuse to continue to live under the same roof with the Jewish woman Elfriede Lechner, who lived in apartment 11. The most unusual thing about this document is that it was originally written on the letterhead of some office of the National-Socialist German Worker’s Party (aka “NSDAP”). This means that one of the tenants who signed was employed in some branch of the Nazi administration, because they were the only ones with access to such paper.

The reason I know that the document was written on NSDAP letterhead is because of the German text found near the bottom edge of the paper. This text reads as “Höflichkeitsformeln fallen bei allen parteiamtlichen Schreiben weg,” which may be interpreted as meaning that no formalities are to be used in official party letters. Such texts were only to be found on party letterhead … the letter bears six signatures, and I deciphered them quite a few years ago and wrote them down on a bit of paper that I had carefully preserved for many years.

I was always interested in trying to find an entry for one or more of the tenant’s names in Viennese phone directories of the time, but I couldn’t find any one of those nasty folks in the 1938 directory; I struck pay dirt in a tattered copy of the 1943 directory which I once bought. The entry, which is shown immediately below, matches the given and family names of the fourth signature on the left side of the document on the next page.

Mrs. Emma Mattes was the widow of a Captain of the German Wehrmacht; this simple fact may explain why she signed the letter, because a fair number of the officers of the Wehrmacht were either members of the NSDAP or at least thought themselves to belong to a “superior” race. It is logical that officer’s wives would also either be party members or at least be followers of their husband’s beliefs (this was especially true for the fanatics in the SS or SA, both of which were originally purely party formations).

Anyway, at some unknown date I apparently lost the list and hadn’t inserted a note in the 1943 directory so that, when I recently decided to actually write this article, I no longer knew which one of the people who signed the letter had been the culprit I was looking for – and I couldn’t decipher two of the signatures anymore. Since my mother had learned the “six alphabets,” I asked her to decipher the two illegible ones for me … which wasn’t as easy as I had thought. After our both staring at the names for half an hour, we decided that the one family name ended on “…attes,” so it was only a matter of inserting all likely first letters and checking in the directory – that is how I actually found Mrs. Mattes again. The only bits of info I had recalled were that I was looking for a widow who had been married to an officer.

Before I go any further, I must point out that there is a caveat to this article, namely that the story shows various family names in the representative listings. I did this in the interest of historical accuracy. Without the full listings, there is no story. On the other hand, possible family descendants shouldn’t interpret this tale as an attack on their family name. Everyone should be judged by the "content of their own character" and not by religion, family lineage, or nationality.
As if the fate of a single Jewish woman (as reflected in a set of documents and in a single entry in an old telephone directory) weren’t ghastly enough, the 1943 directory for Vienna not only gives readers an insight into the general persecution and discrimination of Jews but also into the machinery of the Third Reich – all the little wheels and gears which were “only following orders.”

One very common form of persecution against Jews was that the German Reichspost (administration of posts, telephones & telegraphs, aka “PTT”) canceled contracts for telephone service with Jews. As an example, I have chosen the Jewish family name “Kohn,” which was very common in Vienna. The telephone directory from 1938 has a total of 6 and 2/3 columns of “Kohn” (circa 290 entries) versus exactly 10 entries in 1943, of which 3 were Jews.
These are some of the listings for "Kohn" from the 1938 directory...
... and this is the rest of them.
These are the ten listings for the family name "Kohn" from 1943. A few pages back, I wrote that three of the listings (to the left here) were for Jews. How did I know that? Well ... these listings show three of the common forms of discrimination against Jews, as practiced in the Third Reich. Firstly, that male Jews were forced to carry "Israel" as their middle name (women were forced to carry "Sara"[1]). Secondly, that their job titles or descriptions were changed – e.g. that lawyers (singular = Rechtsanwalt in German) were only allowed to be listed and called "consultants" (singular = Konsulent in German), and thirdly that, while still allowed to carry their title of doctor of medicine (simply Dr. or Dr. med.) they were not allowed to be called doctors (singular = Arzt in German.)

Mr. Robert Israel Kohn wasn’t listed as a dentist (singular = Zahnarzt in German), but rather only as being “authorized to treat Jews with tooth illnesses” … interestingly enough, the typesetters forgot to include the title “Dr.” in his listing. As will be seen a bit later, other medical doctors were listed as “treaters of ill Jews,” with their specific specialty being given afterwards.

I should explain the methods by which I selected individual telephone listings (especially from the 1943 directory) before carrying on: I started out on this project by reading thru all the listings on individual pages until I came across an interesting one of some sort or another, but with print so fine this quickly caused severe eye strain; I then resorted to randomly scanning pages and reading thru the listings at five-times magnification and copying out all interesting listings (including those I used in part two).

Since more than 80 percent of the entries I copied out are from those random scans, I can’t guarantee that I actually found each and every listing belonging to a Jew, or to officers of the German Wehrmacht, &c., but I can safely say that the entries I use for this part of the article are a representative cross-section of those contained in the directory. For example, the two listings below are the only ones I found for Jewish women, although there may well be more in the directory.

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[1] This was already Nazi law in 1938, but was not yet reflected in the directory for Vienna from May, 1938.
I would like to show two listings from 1938 before delving much deeper into directory listings from 1943 ... of which one name is immediately recognizable:

Dr. Freud’s address and phone number were still valid in May of 1938, because it wasn’t until June fourth 1938 that he immigrated to London, England, where he passed away on September 23rd 1939. It is said that Dr. Freud was the “Father of Psychoanalysis,” but he was also the father of some rather odd notions, such as the idea that cocaine was the ideal drug to cure people who were addicted to morphia.

The second name may be less well-known, but he was someone who helped shape the ”American way of life” – a Jewish architect by the name of Victor Gruen, known as one of the pioneers in the design of shopping malls; his family name was “Grünaum” at Vienna, which he obviously changed by dropping the “baum” (“tree” in German) and by writing the umlaut “ü” in its second form as the diphthong “ue.” He was born in 1903 and immigrated to the States after the Nazi annexation of Austria in 1938.

As I already wrote, the addition of the middle names “Israel” and “Sara” was mandatory according to Nazi law; typesetters are only human, and make mistakes like anyone else ... here, he left the second name “Israel” out.

Dr. Isidor Braun is listed as being a Jewish specialist in the treatment of illnesses of the ear, nose and throat; this medical specialty is equivalent to the eye, ear, nose & throat doctors in the United States.

His office was open from three p.m. until five p.m. Monday thru Friday, and he only warranted a party-line phone number.

His office address is listed as II/27 Schmelzgasse number seven. The Roman numerals identify the administrative district at Vienna, while the Arabic numerals identify the administrative “cell” (Zelle in German) within the district.
Here we have another Jewish specialist in treating the sick, this time for internal medicine.

This gentleman was a legal consultant, previously known as a lawyer. Interestingly enough, I didn’t find a single listing where a woman’s name, such as Lilly here, was given the second name “Sara.”

Dr. Kojcem, on the other hand, was simply listed as a consultant, but the 1938 directory lists him as a lawyer.

There’s no telling what title Dr. Feldsberg held, because he is only listed as “Dr.” in the 1938 directory as well ....

Dr. Platschik moved at some time between 1938 and 1943; his previous residence was in a nobler district of Vienna.

Not every Jew listed in the 1943 directory was a doctor or a lawyer; this gentleman was an arts expert.

There’s a bit of irony in Dr. Fleischl’s name as a Jewish dentist: Fleisch is the German word for meat, “Zahn-fleisch” refers to the gums of the teeth.

Kantor (cantor in English) is interesting as a family name; it could just as well have been his title in a synagogue.

These two entries may appear confusing, but the lower one is just an additional listing under the same name. Dr. Stern was a lawyer according to the 1938 directory, but he was listed under a different address. One of these listings could be home, the other one office.

Here we have the owner of some factories – it’s interesting that the Nazis hadn’t confiscated them yet ....
Here we have another anonymous Dr.; the only difference between the entries in the ’38 and ’43 directories is that his wife’s name (Sofie) was listed in the ’38 directory; her fate is unknown.

Another lawyer, but with an interesting family name, which translates to “hay flower.”

Dr. Neuhaus was a Jewish medical specialist who owned and operated a diagnostic laboratory.

This doctor’s family name was “Spitzer,” he is listed as an authorized treater of ill Jews ... heaven knows what the difference was supposed to be.

This gentleman, family name “Springer,” used to be a chief bookkeeper somewhere. It is most likely that he lost his job in ’38.

Another gentleman with the family name “Stern,” he was a retired secretary-general of some unnamed corporation.

We’ve already seen a few listings for consultants (aka lawyers), but this gentleman of the name Feigel went so far as to have himself listed as a Jewish consultant ....

Dr. Frankel was a Jewish medical specialist for neurological and mental illnesses; he was also head of the neurological department of the Jewish Community Hospital at Vienna.

The Jewish Community at Vienna was listed under the title of “Elders of the Jews at Vienna;” their telephone numbers were changed in 1943, as this notice indicates.

I won’t bother to comment on the remaining listings for persons of the Jewish faith which I found in the 1943 directory, since they are either doctors of medicine or lawyers; practically no other Jews had a telephone in Vienna by 1943.
So much for the victims – which is to say that I didn’t find many more Jews having a phone who were listed in the directory from 1943, but I did find many a possible perpetrator! Most folks interested in world history will know that there were at least three different services, all of which had duties as part of the Nazi police force. On the one hand there were the Schutzstaffeln (aka “SS,” literally “protective forces” – a formation of the NSDAP) and the “regular” police – both of which had Heinrich Himmler as their supreme commander. Himmler’s official title was “Reichsführer SS und Chef der Deutschen Polizei” (Supreme Commander of the SS and Chief of the German Police). Himmler received control over all branches of the police from Adolf Hitler on June 17th, 1936.

The police forces were split into the “Ordnungspolizei” (aka “Orpo,” responsible for public safety) and the “Sicherheitspolizei” (aka “Sipo,” responsible for hunting down criminals, under the leadership of Reinhard Heydrich). The Orpo was subdivided into the “Schutzpolizei” (protective police), the Gemeindepolizei (municipal police) and the “Gendarmerie” (rural police), while the Sipo was primarily composed of the Gestapo (Geheime Staatspolizei – secret state police) and the “Kriminalpolizei” (literally “criminal police,” generally responsible for acts of crime).
It is relatively safe to say that the SS and the police forces were mainly responsible for tracking down Jews, communists, Mormons, Roma, gay persons of both sexes, &c. They were aided and abetted by the “laws for preserving the purity of the Aryan race” (the so-called Nuremberg Race Laws of 1935), whereby every citizen of the Third Reich had to prove his or her Aryan ancestry in the form of the “kleinen Abstammungsnachweis” (“Small Certificate of Ancestry,” which only went as far back as the grandparents – see next page), while members of the NSDAP – and its formations – had to have a “grosser Abstammungsnachweis” (“Large Certificate of Ancestry,” which went all the way back to January first, 1800.)

The "Gauamt für Sippenforschung" (literally “District Office for Racial Research”) was responsible for researching the certificates of birth, marriage and death which were provided as proof of “Aryan ancestry” – which meant that that everyone listed in those papers was either of the roman catholic or the evangelic faith, and that the proper family relationships existed between them.

The “Small Certificate of Ancestry” was issued in one of four categories: 1) “deutschblütig-arisch” (of German blood; Aryan), 2) “Mischling 2. Grades” (literally “mixture of the second degree”), 3) “Mischling 1. Grades” (literally “mixture of the first degree”), 4) “Jude” (Jew). These days, the German word “Mischling” is most commonly translated as referring to a half-breed, but it can also be translated as “bastard,” which is what derogatory Nazi diction intended the word to mean. In my translations, I chose the loose translation “mixture,” since the German root-word “Mischung” means admixture.

Any person belonging to the latter three classes was subject to varying degrees of persecution and discrimination. Many citizens of the Third Reich were hard-pressed to come up with all the documents required, and such people often hired a “Sippenforscher” (literally “clan researcher”) to help them get things right; such researchers received good money for their troubles and grew rich through the plights of others.

I almost forgot about these two entries; the upper one is for an office for race research and genetic health, while the lower one is for the civil court of law for genetic health.
The decision as to who was to be viewed as being of the Jewish faith was based upon the original religion of the grandparents – it made absolutely no difference whether they had converted to Christianity at any point in time or not. Three or four Jewish grandparents meant that one was a “pure” Jew (“Volljude”), while two Jewish grandparents made one a “mixtures of the first degree” (“Halbjude” – half Jew). Having but one grandparent of the Jewish faith made one a “mixture of the second degree” (“Vierteljude” – quarter Jew).
While the USA had (and has) its “Yellow Pages,” the directories of the German Reichspost had their “blue” and “red” pages; the former were a concise listing of all medical doctors, while the latter listed the phone numbers which were changed or newly assigned while the phone book was in the process of being typeset or printed.

The NSDAP fell into the category of newly assigned numbers in 1938, and the listings are a mere half-page in length:

These listings give an insight into the structure of the NSDAP, its organizations and formations as they existed at Vienna after the annexation of Austria. One Nazi organization, whose title was (and is) a grim joke, was the “National-Socialist Alliance of Preservers of Justice” (N.S. Rechtswahrerbund) – otherwise simply known as a lawyer’s association. However, these lawyers were indoctrinated in the methods of cheating Jews, and others, out of their private & personal property, real estate, shops, factories, whatever – for “the greater good of the Third Reich” (and that of their own pockets).

The last column of the listings only has the phone numbers of formations of the NSDAP, such as the SA (“storm troops”), the SS (“protective detachment”), the NSKK (Nazi motor corps – of a paramilitary nature), the NSFK (Nazi flying corps – also of a paramilitary nature), right down to the central publishing house of the NSDAP.
By 1943, 5 years later, Vienna (and Austria) was infested with all sorts of Nazi bureaus, as can be judged by the length of the listings:
Although I didn’t find so much as a single listing for someone who worked for the Gestapo, the office of the Secret State Police itself had a listing – for exactly 10 single-party (private) phone lines. Personally, I don’t find it very surprising that no one wanted their affiliation to (or employment with) the Gestapo to be listed in the phone book; after all, it was the Secret State Police.

After having gotten the Gestapo out of the way (at least figuratively, here), we’ll now have a look at some of the possible criminals from the “Kriminalpolizei.”

The rank of “Kriminalkommissar” is equal to that of a first Lieutenant in the U.S. Army; specifically, Mr. Hol was a first Lieutenant belonging to the (non-secret) State Police directorate in Vienna.

These two men were obviously a bit coy when it came to having their affiliation listed. “Kriminalbeamter” is not a rank; it literally translates as “criminal functionary,” simply meaning that they worked for the “Kripo” in undisclosed positions.

This clown found himself to be very important; he wasn’t only an employee of the “Kripo,” he was also a first Lieutenant of the reserve of an administrative district and a private eye – all wrapped into one.

Mr. K. Mikulitsch was another Nazi policeman who obviously thought he would also make a good sleuth.

Here we have a motley collection of members of the “Schutzpolizei” (literally “protective police”); I wonder just how they protected citizens against crimes, when I consider that a “Schutzhaftbefehl” (an order for protective custody – see next page) was the red bit of paper which represented a one-way ticket to a concentration camp … “protective” custody indeed.
Schulhaftbefehl

Vor- und Nachname: Antoni Dorfer
Geburtsdatum und -ort: 12.6.1907 Tatsach
Beruf: Hilfsarbeiterin
Familienstand: geschieden
Staatsangehörigkeit: Reichsdeutsche
Religion: kath.
Wohnort und Wohnung: ohne festen Schließplatz
wird in Schulhaft genommen.

Gründe:

- Sie — gefährdet nach dem Ergebnis der staatspolizeilichen Feststellungen durch
  sein — ihr — Verhalten den Bestand und die Sicherheit des Volkes und Staates, indem
  sie — auf Grund ihres Vorlebens und ihrer kommunistischen Einstellung zu der Befürchtung Anlass gibt, sie werde
  sich in Freiheit staatsabträchtlich verhalten.

Sgn.: Heydrich

Begleitbrief:
[Unterschrift]
Since the police forces and the SS worked hand-in-hand, it’s no wonder that there was a joint leader of both – the “Higher Leader of the SS and the Police [of the region] Danube.” The person who held this post was also in charge of the regional office of the “Reich Commissioner for the Stabilization of German Nationalism.”

I must digress for a moment here; the largest administrative unit within Nazi Germany and the occupied countries was known as a “Gau.” The Greater German Reich had a total of 42 “Gaue” (“Gaue” = German plural of “Gau”), with the Foreign Division of the NSDAP (Auslandsorganisation der NSDAP) counting as the 43rd Gau. The provinces of Upper and Lower Austria were known as “Gau Oberdonau” and “Gau Niederdonau” – whereby “upper” and “lower” identified whether the province was above or below the Danube River. The region “Donau” (Danube) covered both provinces.

Just to make things a bit more complicated: Vienna was, and is, a separate administrative entity which is situated within the province of Lower Austria, so that there was a separate “Higher Leader of the SS and the Police in Vienna” – but I couldn’t find a listing for that post.

Let’s look at the directory listings for some of the thugs from Hitler’s SS:

This one wasn’t just a “leader” in the SS, he was also the manager of a shop. Would it impress the customers that he was a member of the SS?

There was no such thing as the SS rank “Führer;” almost everyone in the SS held a rank which ended in the word “-führer.”*

“Nomen est Omen” – add a single “m” to this guy’s family name and you have the German word for “dumb” (i.e. stupid).

Mr. A. Horak and Mr. F. Krebs were two more big little men in the SS. Anyone who hid behind the senseless title “Führer” was pretty far down the food chain, because otherwise they’d have been so proud of their rank that they’d want it listed.

Mr. R. Kreiser was probably a very “efficient” man in the eyes of the SS because he was also employed by the German Reichsbahn … don’t just chase ‘em, but also deport ‘em – all in one.

*) The lowest rank was that of “SS Mann” (SS Man), equivalent to a private in the Army.
The following officers of the SS were obviously proud enough of their rank to want the world to know about it – on the one hand, such people intimidated others (e.g. you knew who you could call in order to give an anonymous tip as to the whereabouts of “undesirable” people), while, on the other hand, it was a way to “find new friends” – who wouldn’t want to suck up to someone “important” in the SS? You never knew if such a “friend” mightn’t be useful in some way, someday (at least while the Nazis ruled) …

A “Standartenführer” (US equivalent = Colonel) was pretty far up in the chain of command – he is “only” 6 ranks away from that of Heinrich Himmler (SS Chief).

Mr. R. Pinter was just another cog in the machinery of persecution, oppression and death.

Mr. R. Denk was another one of those “dual purpose” gears in the machine: not only a Lieutenant-Colonel in the SS, but also a senior “civil servant” as well … I wonder what “civil service” meant to the SS.

Here we have another major piece in the machinery of death, namely a Major in the SS.

Captains in the SS were apparently a dime a dozen; Mr. W. Bock was just one of them;

Mr. S. Dietz was another one,

… as was Mr. O. Seeliger; strange that someone from the SS should have such a “typically” Jewish family name.

As already noted, the Nazi police forces and the SS were in an unholy alliance – what could be more fitting than an SS Captain who was also a Captain in the “Schutzpolizei” (protective police)?

Mr. K. Köhler wasn’t only a first Lieutenant of the SS, but also an aide-de-camp; his family name is one of history’s very grim jokes: a “köhler” is a charcoal burner.

How “innocent;” this first Lieutenant of the SS was also a humble clerk somewhere (maybe in a concentration camp?).

Further down the food chain we have a Master-Sergeant.

Mr. H. Gerbing was “only” a Technical Sergeant, but I’m sure he was lethal all the same.
Of course, it wasn't just the SS that was involved in hunting down Jews and other "undesirables;" the German Army had its share of thugs, of all ranks, as well ....

I almost found more generals in the 1943 directory than persons of any other rank. The only problem is that you can't tell some of them apart – whether they were active or retired; the problem lies in the fact that the German-language abbreviation “d. R.” can be read as “der Reserve” (of the reserve) or as “des Ruhestandes” (in retirement). The abbreviation “i. R.” is definite – in German & English: in retirement.

The ten Major-Generals listed below were, in all likelihood, on active service, since there is no information listed which would contradict this.

These eleven miscellaneous Generals are retirees, undefined status, &c.:

I even found 3 very high-ranking Generals listed in Vienna for 1943:

Mr. Wilhelm List held the equivalent US rank of General of the Army (see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilhelm_List](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilhelm_List)).

The German Army rank “Generaloberst” doesn’t have an equivalent, but it is located between General and General of the Army.

General of the Cavalry von Mackensen apparently didn’t bother to have his telephone listing updated when he was assigned to a new post – the listing shown below lists his post as Chief of General Staff of the fifth Army Group. In 1943, Eberhard von Mackensen was Commander in Chief of the 14th German Army in Italy.

He became a prisoner of war in 1945 and was condemned to death as a war criminal in 1947. His death sentence was transmuted to 21 years in prison, and he was released in 1952 (which means he was only imprisoned a mere seven years instead of being hung).
Here we have a few listings for Captains, Majors and Colonels in the General Staff of unnamed army formations:

Here’s one more; he was multi-talented – not only a Colonel, but an author as well... I wonder what he might have written about.

Lieutenant-Colonel was obviously a very “popular” rank. I wonder how many of them were promoted to this rank for “valorous” service during the invasion of the Soviet Union.

This listing is a bit out of the ordinary – is he a Captain, a Lieutenant-Colonel, or both?

- Robert Kapt. Oberstlt. (Emma) XVIII/110 Währinger Gürtel 11
  B 4 14 65
The following Lieutenant-Colonels are rather interesting ....

Although most likely not noble in his dealings with “inferior races,” this man was of nobility – he was a Count. Deciphered, his name was: Leopold Graf von Babenhausen-Fugger.

This name doesn’t really sound “Aryan,” does it?

I also found many a Colonel in the 1943 directory (retired or otherwise) ....

A few of the Colonels have rather unusual listings, so I will cover these separately.

Here we have a Colonel of the Guard, possible already in retirement.

This Colonel is an “Inspector of the Telegraph Troops” – this title isn’t from WW II, where the German communications troops were called “Nachrichtentruppen.”

Another ignoble Noble – this one was a Baron.

This “special” Colonel was a member of the staff of the military defense district 17. This district consisted of the “Gaue” Wien (Vienna), Ober- & Niederdonau (Upper & Lower Austria).
In certain cases, it was necessary to give the confiscation of valuable Jewish art collections, other personal property, real estate, &c. the veneer of legality, so the Nazis needed “dependable” public prosecutors – here we have a few of them.

One doesn’t only need dependable public prosecutors, but also the entire machinery behind them, such as the office of district attorneys (listings shown above) and a suitable court of law (listings on the right) – the “Palace of Justice” – a classic misnomer!

This is most curious indeed – a public prosecutor with a “Jewish” family name; I wonder how that happened.

Although almost anyone in the NSDAP, one of its formations, within any branch of the police or SS, or even a next-door neighbor, might be responsible for the deportation of a Jew (or simply of someone they disliked, or a rival, &c.), there are other perpetrators as well ... here is one of the worst – namely the Deutsche Reichsbahn. The German State Railways were the major form of transportation to the concentration camps and death (thousands upon thousands of cattle-wagons full of deportees). The Reichsbahn transported roughly 3 million Jews to concentration camps and nearly 12 million persons from occupied territories in the east into Germany, where they were employed as slave-laborers in armament factories of all types.
The following is a small cross-section of employees of the Deutsche Reichsbahn, which was a big collection of small gears and cogs in the Holocaust:

I would like to point out two more prominent Jews; one a controversial man by the name of Dr. Benjamin Murmelstein, protagonist of the movie “The Last of the Unjust.”

This is his telephone listing from 1938. He was Rabbi of the Jewish Community in Vienna and a teacher at the Jewish Theological School.

According to creditable sources on the internet, Dr. Murmelstein was the last president of the Jewish Community in the ghetto of the concentration camp in Theresienstadt. He was the only “Elder of the Jews” not killed during WW II and was supposedly the only Jew to have ever sat next to Adolf Eichmann (who was one of the chief architects of the “final solution” for the “Jewish question”). Dr. Murmelstein’s task in the Jewish Theresienstadt ghetto was to keep the ghetto functioning as his Nazi taskmasters wished.

The second one is the mother of Dr. Carl Djerassi, Dr. Alice Djerassi. Miss Alice Friedmann was an Ashkenazi Jew who married a Seraphic Jew by the name of Samuel Djerassi, who was from Bulgaria.

Carl Djerassi spent his first years in the city of Sophia in Bulgaria; his parents separated when he was five years old, when he returned to Vienna with his mother. He fled to his father in Bulgaria after the annexation of Austria in 1938, but eventually immigrated to the States with his mother.
Dr. Carl Djerassi and Luis E. Miramontes worked as researchers for the Mexican pharmaceutical firm Syntex S.A. at the time they synthesized the sexual hormone Norethisterone; they developed the first contraceptive medication (“anti-baby-pill”) together with Gregory Pincus und John Rock in 1951. Dr. Djerassi is therefore commonly known as the “Father of the Anti-Baby-Pill.”

After the annexation of Austria in March, 1938, shop owners couldn’t scramble fast enough to have their shops listed as “purely Aryan operations” (“arische Firma” in German). Several such advertisements from the 1938 directory for Vienna are shown below:

The listing of Kurt Durst (above left) is for a shop which bought and sold old coins, medals, bank notes, &c. This shop was still in existence in the 1980s and was called “Kuriositätenhandlung Durst” (Curio Shop Durst); I occasionally bought stuff for my paper archive there.
The following scan shows the first page of a letter from a prisoner locked away in the concentration camp Dachau 3K. Alas, there is no way of telling who Mr. Eduard Zyto was or why the Nazis deported him to a concentration camp.

Concentration camp prisoners were forced to always include the sentence that they were healthy in any of the sparse letters they were allowed to write to friends or family (if they didn’t do so their letters simply failed censorship) – This sentence can be found in lines six and seven from the top, where Mr. Zyto writes “Gebe bekannt, dass ich gesund bin ...” (I inform you that I am healthy ...).
The following advertisement is for potassium cyanide, which was once commonly used for the legal purpose of pest control ... the brand name was “Zyklon B” (Cyclone B) – the exact same chemical (under the same name) which was also used to murder several hundred thousand innocent people in the gas chambers of Nazi concentration camps.
Although the postcard above has nothing to do with telephone directories, it is still very interesting within the context of Nazi oppression as witnessed in the annexation of Austria. From left to right, the three men in the background are: an archetypal Jew (complete with cash box), an archetypal aristocrat and an archetypal roman-catholic priest. The man with the eyeglasses is Dr. Kurt Schuschnigg (who was federal chancellor of Austria from 29 July 1934 until March eleventh 1938); the little guy in the lower left-hand corner symbolizes the “Vaterländische Front” (Front of the Fatherland), which was a nationalistic Austrian organization.

It may seem surprising to readers, but the Nazis were rather anti-clerical in nature. Anyone who hoped to get ahead in the Nazi era shouldn’t have “roman catholic” (under the heading “religion”) entered in his military service record book ... some soldiers who were destined to become officers were pressured into having the entry changed to read “Gottgl.,” which simply means “believes in God.”

There were many TV documentaries in western Europe during September, 2019, concerning themselves with the beginnings of the European Conflict 80 years ago (it wasn’t truly a world war until the Japs bombed Pearl Harbor on December seventh, 1941); in one of these was told the tale of a Viennese man who became to be known as the “Butcher of Płaszów”; in 1938 he operated a book & arts publishing house in Vienna.

He held the rank of “Hauptsturmführer” (Captain) in the SS and became the commander of the concentration camp Płaszów (in a suburb of Cracow, Poland) in February, 1943. He had the atrocious “hobby” of shooting camp inmates with a rifle from the balcony of his villa, which was located within the confines of the concentration camp – all in all, he personally killed over 500 persons.
Interestingly enough, some of his SS underlings at the camp filed charges against him, so that the SS Court of Law (what a joke!) had him arrested on September 13th, 1944. However, the charges had nothing to do with mass murder, but rather with “theft of Reich property” instead!

I couldn’t find a listing for him in the 1943 Viennese directory (obviously because he was away in Poland at the time), but I did find his listing in the 1938 directory – his name was Amon Göth, and he was a book and arts publisher in Vienna at the time, as may be seen in the listing below.

![Image of Göth Amon listing](image)

The psychology of a mass murderer: from a harmless publisher to the “Butcher of Płaszów” within the span of five years (he became a party member in 1931 - # 510.764, and a member of the SS - # 43.673). After the war, he was charged with mass murder by the Poles, was sentenced to death and hung on September 13th, 1946.

More information may be found under the following link (from September 2019): [https://www.inyourpocket.com/krakow/amon-goeth-camp-commandant-of-kl-plaszow_73045f](https://www.inyourpocket.com/krakow/amon-goeth-camp-commandant-of-kl-plaszow_73045f)

Addendum:

It was a sobering experience for me to be judged on my families’ nationality. Although I was born and raised in the United States, I was subjected to prejudice and discrimination concerning the Nazi era: classmates in junior high and high school in California called me “Nazi” or “Kraut” for the simple reason that I spoke German as well as English.

The “Order for Protective Custody” (shown on page 17) was issued for the arrest of a Roman Catholic woman who happened to be a communist; the “Small Certificate of Ancestry” (shown on page 13) was an interim issue, since data from one of the ancestors was missing; imagine that: an “interim Aryan” (I mean, how ludicrous can one get?)