

MSS LOEB (KURT) PAPERS
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Official correspondence and personal letters of Otto Meissner (1880-1953), head of the Office of the Reich President during the entire period of the Weimar Republic under Friedrich Ebert and Paul von Hindenburg and at the beginning of the Nazi era under Adolf Hitler.

Dates: 1939-1942.

Presented to the Library by Kurt Loeb, a Canadian soldier who served in Berlin at the end of the Second World War, in August 2005.

Material includes birthday greetings sent to other Nazi party officials, invitations to Meissner to attend parades and other gala events, letters received sent by German citizens with suggestions and requests for Meissner, notes accompanying gifts sent to Meissner by various citizens and companies.

Extent: 2 boxes.
 131 folders.
 Box 1 (1939-40).
 Box 2 (1941-42).

BIOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

Meissner was born in Alsace, where he began his career in the German Railroad Administration. He studied in Strasbourg, Berlin and Erlangen, Bavaria, where he earned his Doctor of Laws in 1908. Between 1915 and 1917 he participated in the First World War in an infantry regiment. After the war he served in Kiev as a German business agent for the military government of the Ukraine. In 1919 Meissner became "Acting Advisor in the Bureau of the Reich President" and by 1923 he was named State Secretary. In 1937 Meissner was appointed to the position Reich Minister, with the title "State Minister of the Rank of a Reich Minister and Chief of the Presidential Chancellery of the Führer and Reich Chancellor." After the war he served as a witness in the Nuremberg Trials, and also faced charges in other trials, of which he was ultimately acquitted. Meissner published his memoirs in 1950 in a book titled *Ebert, Hindenburg, Hitler : Erinnerungen eines Staatssekretärs, 1918-1945 (Memoirs of a State Secretary)*.

SELECTED ITEM LISTING

Box 1

Folder 81 Correspondence with Friedrich Werner von Schulenberg, German ambassador in Moscow, Franz Guertner, Minister of Justice, and others regarding the prison sentence of Walter von Falkenhausen.

Folder 86 Letters from Irmengard Brockhausen, writing on behalf of her son's friend, who wishes to be allowed to return to the army. Meissner informs her that Jews of mixed race are not normally allowed in the army, but in this time of war he is willing to make an exception.

Folder 131 Portfolio with Nazi eagle on cover, containing:
Printed form awarding War Merit Cross 2nd Class to Fritz Lehmann from Winkelsheide, signed by Hitler and Meissner; blank printed form pre-signed by Hitler for the award of the Order of the German Eagle with Star; blank printed form pre-signed by Hitler for 50 years of service; 10 thousand mark from 19 January 1922.

Box 2

Folder 3 1941, July 24-Dec. 30. Extensive correspondence with Heinrich Geck concerning takeover of Jewish-owned Pfalz Copper company.

Folder 21 1941, Aug. 12-1942, 18 Mar. Extensive correspondence with Else Harter, whose daughter is mixed race in the 2nd degree and wishes to marry an Aryan before he is sent to the front. She is told that the wishes of non-Aryans are a low priority.

Folder 37 1941, Sep. 12-Nov. 12. Extensive correspondence between Meissner, Alfred Waller and Ministry of the Interior. Waller is a WWI veteran, born Jewish but baptized, who is appealing the decision forcing him to wear a yellow star in place of his military medals.

Folder 54 1941, Sep. 29-Oct. 2. Correspondence with Dorothee von Seeckt, who wants her Jewish housekeeper exempt from having to wear the yellow star.

Folder 75 1941, Oct. 29. Birthday greeting from Meissner to Joseph Goebbels.