

When lunching with General Keyes, in command of the Salzburg area, he told us the population in the Salzburg area was around a million and a half and that there were some 400,000 Poles who refused to go home. Rumanians who did not like Tito's politics were also staying on.

Hitler's Hideaway

Then came an important visit—to Hitler's mountain retreat.

After lunch we motored to Berchtesgaden. Driving up the mountainside to Obersalzburg, Hitler's headquarters, we saw his home, which was demolished. The hotel where the Nazis stayed when visiting Hitler, and Goering's and Hitler's homes were in shambles. This Nazi center took a terrific beating.

We then motored up from Obersalzburg to Hitler's aerie, winding around the mountain through the most beautiful scenery I have ever seen. Arriving at a place 400 feet from the top of the mountain, we walked through a tunnel, 400 feet long and 10 feet wide, carved out of solid rock. It led to the entrance of a passage and we saw two solid bronze doors 10 feet wide. We entered a huge solid brass elevator and ascended through a shaft cut through solid rock 400 feet to the Nazi "Eagle's Nest."

The "Eagle's Nest" consists of a 60-foot semi-oval reception room. In the center is a huge table. Here Hitler laid out his maps and planned his campaigns.

To the left of the large reception room was a long beam-ceiling conference room with an immense table and 28 chairs where the staff assembled.

Adjacent was a breakfast room and toilets, and a kitchen with all modern equipment. A veranda ran around the entire house. A large fireplace in the conference room, 15 feet wide, was done in beautiful marble. In front of the fireplace was a large sofa and many armchairs. To the left, down 8 feet, we entered a "pickled pine" library about 25 x 20 feet, containing a sofa with 7 soft chairs.

The kitchen was about 40 x 40; the breakfast room across from it had green benches and seated about 30 people. The table was about 20 feet long and 3 feet wide.

The view is most glorious from this "Eagle's Nest." I looked out on the gorgeous vista of the Konig See, the village of Berchtesgaden, and also the ruins of Hitler's home.

We again descended in the brass elevator through the shaft cut from solid granite, walking through the long tunnel. At the entrance was a sign "ERBAUT 1938," engraved on an oval shield. We then visited the Diesel engine rooms—used for heating and air-conditioning the Nest. After another look at the beautiful view from the mountaintop, we proceeded down the mountainside in our jeep, which is about the only motor car that can make the steep climb.

The circular road winding about the mountaintop had recently been covered with camouflage nets to obliterate sight of the road from the air. Descending about 3,000 feet, we visited Hitler's home at Obersalzburg, on the side of the mountain.

Everywhere we saw men and women carrying away evergreen trees and branches injured by bombing. They were laying in their winter's supply of wood.

Another Hitler Abode

Hitler's home at Obersalzburg, built of steel and concrete, was a wreck. The interior walls of the entire house were of brown marble. We saw a large living-room 80 x 50 feet. A big window—30 x 18 feet—at the end of this room afforded a magnificent view of the sheer mountainside, and of the peaceful valley below. Opposite the large picture-window a huge fireplace opened. The heating pipes—imbedded in the concrete under the floor with modern vents at convenient places—obviated any necessity for radiators. Imbedded in the floor at one end of the living-room was a mechanical motion-picture screen. At the other end of the room was an aperture for motion-picture machinery.