

15. Schwarzenbergplatz



place Schwarzenbergplatz, I Innere Stadt
time May 14, 1933, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

II.10 The Home Guard (*Heimwehr*) troops, who have taken part in the “Turks Deliverance Celebration” (*Türkenbefreiungsfeier*) in the **gardens of Schönbrunn Palace**, arrive at Schwarzenbergplatz from around 1 p.m. At the same time, the Nazi politicians from Germany, having landed some twenty-four hours previously at **Aspern airfield**, hold a press conference in the **German embassy**. Government papers refer to 40,000, opposition papers to 20,000 men from all over Austria, marching via the Schlossallee, Mariahilfer Strasse, Babenbergerstrasse, and Ringstrasse.¹³⁹ At the head of the parade are the Home Guard leaders **Ernst Rüdiger Starhemberg**, Emil Fey, and Richard Steidle, all with steel helmets and bull pizzles, followed by marching bands and the regional sections in traditional dress or uniform. On **Schwarzenbergplatz**, government members headed by Federal Chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss review the procession.

III.1.1 & Fig. 80, p. 197

III.2.1 & Fig. 74, p. 186

III.1.5

There is great public interest in this **march by the Austrian Homeland Protection** (*Heimatschutz*), which was permitted as a patriotic event despite the current ban on parades. Men raise their hats at the side of the road, women wave handkerchiefs. However, there are also attempts at disruption by political opponents: Social Democrats whistle and throw eggs, National Socialists shout “Heil Hitler!” and sing the **Deutschlandlied**.¹⁴⁰ Mounted police storm the demonstrators, using truncheons and bayonets. 530 people are arrested over the course of the day.¹⁴¹

139 See, for example, “Der Zug der Vierzigtausend durch Wien,” in: *Reichspost* (Vienna), May 15, 1933, p. 1, vs. “Der Spiessrutenlauf von Starhembergs Völkerbund,” in: *Deutschösterreichische Tages-Zeitung* (Vienna), May 15, 1933, p. 1.

140 See “Die Türkenbefreiungsfeier des österreichischen Heimatschutzes in Wien”, in: *Jahresschau 1933 der Bundespolizeidirektion in Wien. Eine Chronik im Laufbild*, 35 mm film, source: Filmarchiv Austria, JS 1933/8.

141 See “530 Personen festgenommen,” in: *Wiener Zeitung* (Vienna), May 16, 1933, p. 4.



Fig. 34: Austrian Home Guard men lower the flags on Schwarzenbergplatz in Vienna on the afternoon of May 14, 1933, as they march past representatives of the federal government and of the Homeland Protection, including Engelbert Dollfuss (second from left) and Ernst Rüdiger Starhemberg (third from left), who review and salute the paramilitary parade. Source: Austrian National Library, H 2012/1.

The *Arbeiter-Zeitung* asked itself in retrospect what was behind “all this enthusiasm from the bourgeois ‘democrats’ for the Sunday parade.” For the official newspaper of the Austrian Social Democrats, the answer was the “mindset of the Jewish bourgeois,” who could happily live with Fascism without antisemitism: “That is why he is against Hitler; he has nothing against Starhemberg.”¹⁴² According to the *Deutschösterreichische Tages-Zeitung*, the National Socialist party newspaper in Austria, “the three-hour march-past offered a ghastly picture,” which had left the impression of a defeated army.¹⁴³ *Die Stunde*, however, was pleasantly surprised: the Homeland Protection did not, as expected, represent a “traditional costume museum come to life,” but “one of the most vital sources of strength for the new Austrian spirit.” Whereas “excited youths” had cheered on the German National Socialists the previous day, the “older vintages” now mustered. “Sunday demonstrated against Saturday,” wrote the Vienna tabloid.¹⁴⁴

142 “Bürgerliche ‘Demokraten,’” in: *Arbeiter-Zeitung* (Vienna), May 16, 1933, p. 2 [our trans.].

143 “Innsbrucker Empfang” der Starhemberg-Heimwehr in Wien,” in: *Deutsch-österreichische Tages-Zeitung* (Vienna), May 15, 1933, p. 2 [our trans.].

144 “Der grosse Heimwehraufmarsch,” in: *Die Stunde* (Vienna), May 16, 1933, p. 2 [our trans.].

