*Volkish Observer*, 12 June 1923, page one

Context: Nazi and other *Volkish* groups honored Leo Schlageter, who had been executed by the French military for terrorist activity in the French-occupied Ruhr region of Germany. Hitler was the third speaker at the *Koenigsplatz* [“The King’s Plaza”] in Munich on Sunday morning in honor of Schlageter. This is a report of his speech, followed by a report about a Catholic mass held at the nearby St. Boniface Church by Abbot Schachleiter, a Catholic priest of the Benedictine order.

Text, Hitler: We must gain from Schlageter's death the realization that freedom will not come by way of protests and demonstrations, not by way of speeches, but only by way of deeds, and training for deeds! This single fanatic Schlageter was more hated by the French than 10,000 members of [German President] Ebert's unity front! It is not the great front of weaklings that will bring us liberating deeds, but rather the fighting front of fanatics!

Yet it appears that this heroic death will eventually pass us by without any practical success. Why? Because we lack what could bring success from such a deed. It is necessary first that such heroes stand at the summit of the Reich itself, heroes who sweep along the *Volk* and rouse them to resistance. For lack of such men we lost - the War - and we are experiencing the same thing now. The spirit of resistance must be enflamed from above! . . .

Lord God! We promise you that we will sacrifice ourselves to the last breath for our freedom, and for that give us your blessing! Not for peace and not for rest is the spirit of resistance, until the day arrives when it will be sounded throughout Germany: The *Volk* arises! The storm breaks out!

The *Deutschland über Alles* [“Germany above all”] song rose powerfully up to heaven.

Text re Abbot Schachleiter: A worthy conclusion to the mourning service was achieved by the memorial mass in the St. Boniface Church. On both sides of the altar the flag- and standard-bearers of the patriotic fighting leagues stood as honor guards during the course of the mass, while the stormtroops and a great crowd filled the nave of the church to the last seat . . .

After the reading of the Gospel, the former Abbot of Emmaus, Msgr. Schachleiter, who had been expelled from Prague, gave a talk to the stormtroops that was aflame with patriotic love, the gist of which was as follows:

The pulpit may well not be the place from which a political speech should be given, even though the time calls for it more than ever before; he has kept to that rule his whole life long and so it shall continue to be.

But what the present hour has brought upon our poor Fatherland is nothing other than the curse of the criminal revolution that cries out to heaven, it is the result of the outrages by those who incurred the guilt for our debacle through their unpatriotic ways.

Albert Leo Schlageter, murdered by the cowardly French, was a German man with his whole heart and soul, a martyr for the German cause. We may not presume to judge the holiness of a human soul, but Schlageter fell in the service of the Fatherland and can approach the judgment seat of God as a sacrifice of the truest fulfillment of duty.

Abbot Schachleiter continued further to say that there is only one single path upward for the German *Volk* from the current oppression and crisis.

That path is a return to true faith, separating and disassociating from all that, in a criminal manner, aided and abetted the unfortunate ending of the War, brought about the revolution, stabbed our victorious army in the back and thereby incurred the guilt for the entire calamity and crisis of the present time.

The salvation of Germany can only succeed in a spirit of deep patriotic sentiment and willing self-sacrifice and strong unwavering faith in God. For that reason everyone who believes in the Fatherland and its future must renounce those who have incurred the guilt for the current calamity - must turn back to the ideas that once made our *Volk* great: to fulfillment of duty, self-sacrifice, fear of God and love of Fatherland. Then the day of reward will not delay.

During the consecration, the flags and standards were lowered at the command "Attention! To prayer" - on either side of the high altar, in the vow, true to the words of the preacher, and in the spirit of the patriotic fighting league, dedicating all our strength to the reconstruction and the future of our *Volk* community [*Volksgemeinschaft*].

Note: Page 2 of same issue of the *Volkish Observer*, June 12, 1923, says that the newspaper *Vorwärts* [“Forward”: Social Democrat newspaper] was furious about German imperial tricolors and swastika flags at the funeral for Schlageter - and denounced as a vile exploitation of nationalist sentiment the talks of Prelate Neumann and Pastor Fricke at the transfer of Schlageter’s body to his home region in the Black Forest.