

On May 1, 1945 American troops approached the Inn River across from Braunau. The Wehrmacht dynamited the bridge to stop them from crossing. The Americans brought up artillery and planes and issued an ultimatum: "Give up by noon tomorrow -- or be destroyed!"

At first, Kreisleiter Reithofer called upon the citizens to fight. He refused to listen to the pleas of the women who crowded his office, that no resistance be offered, their city be spared from becoming a battle field and their homes protected. He threatened to shoot into the mob of "spinless women". But he did not get that chance. Night workers entered his office. They warned him and the commanding officer of the Wehrmacht that they would never leave the room alive unless they agreed to surrender the town at once. Neither of the two leaders were enthusiastic about fighting to the "last drop" of their own blood. They agreed.

A delegation of Braunau citizens rowed across the river to the Americans to report that Hitler's hometown was theirs. They arrived at three minutes before twelve! In another three minutes the bombardment of the town would have reduced it to ashes, like Berlin and Nuremberg.

The house where Hitler was born stands undamaged. It is empty and unnoticed. Before 1938, when it was taken over by the Nazi party, it was a common beer hall. The Nazis renovated it for use as a museum. Painters, favored by the Fuehrer, were allowed to exhibit their pictures there. The completion of the museum was the occasion of the only visit Hitler made to the city of his birth. He did not stay long to fraternize with old friends. He had none. *never to become a* Hitler's childhood home is still a museum. *it housed a record* of all of Hitler's 'works' - his wars, his concentration camps, the ruins of his cities. Pictures and documents have been assembled to show the true work of Adolf Hitler to future generations.