

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

The History of Surgery in World War I: Anton von Eiselsberg (1860 – 1939)

Abstract


The surgeon Anton von Eiselsberg can be regarded as one of Austria's most influential physicians. This article presents historical materials in connection with Eiselsberg, including a letter from him sent on October 17, 1914, when World War I had already begun and the first wounded soldiers had to be treated in the field hospitals. Therefore, I focus on Eiselsberg's role as an admiral staff physician in the Austrian Navy between 1914 and 1918. Eiselsberg's treatment (1915 – 1917) of King Constantine I from Greece and Eiselsberg's visit to the Osman Empire in 1918 are especially interesting and can be regarded as notable aspects of World War I history of medicine in the Middle East. In his autobiography, written in 1937, Anton von Eiselsberg clearly wrote that shots in the abdomen often could not be treated properly in World War I due to the lack of surgical capacities.

Furthermore, I present biographical data of Eiselsberg's life. The Eiselsberg family was part of Austria's landed gentry. Anton von Eiselsberg attended a Christian Catholic monastery school as a child. This might be one of the reasons why his political positions later were often close to religious Catholic Christian conservatism.

Key words: 20th century history of medicine, World War I, Neurosurgery, General surgery

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Introduction

The former Austrian Hungarian Empire was characterized by cultural and ethnical diversity. Before the murder of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria on June 28, 1914, and the consecutive beginning of World War I, ethnical groups culturally connected to different religious beliefs and to a variety of Christian Churches (a Muslim minority and a Jewish minority also have to be mentioned) coexisted side by side as citizens of that state. Since the Austrian Hungarian Empire was geographically localized between the German Empire and the Osman Empire, it faced enormous religious and social tensions.

Anton von Eiselsberg (1860 – 1939)

Baron Anton von Eiselsberg (*“Freiherr Anton von Eiselsberg”*) was born in Steinhaus near Wels (Austria) on July 31, 1860 (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 22; Schönbauer, 1959, p. 410). He was born as the second son to the nobleman Baron Guido von Eiselsberg (1824 – 1887) (*“Freiherr Guido von Eiselsberg”*) (Eiselsberg, 1937, pp. 11–13, 73) and his wife Baroness Maria von Pirquet (1828 – 1904) (*“Freiin Maria von Pirquet”*) (Eiselsberg, 1937, pp. 20–21, 178; Eiselsberg, 1997, p. 448). His father’s family was raised to the landed gentry in the 17th century (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 9). Around 1522, the family name originally could have been Eyssl (*“Eyßl”*) and they could have lived in Breitenbach at the Abersee (Tages - Post, Linz, Newspaper, 1939, p. 3), when they were granted the title “von Eiselsberg” in the year 1662 (Eiselsberg, 1937, pp. 9, 430). Around that time, Matthias Eyssl von Eiselsberg (*Matthias Eyßl von Eiselsberg*) (Eiselsberg, 1937, pp. 9-10) lived in the town of Wels. His first son from his second marriage Franz Placidus Eyssl von Eiselsberg (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 10) was granted the title “Baron” (*“Freiherr”*) in 1688 (*“Freiherr Franz Placidus von Eiselsberg”*). The manorial estate Steinhaus near Wels was connected with the von Eiselsberg family since 1693 (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 10). Anton von Eiselsberg’s elder brother, Peter von Eiselsberg, later lived in Steinhaus and became the official representative head of the von Eiselsberg family (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 427; Eiselsberg, 1997, pp. 51-52, 91, 93). His younger brother, Wilhelm von Eiselsberg, became a staff officer of the Austrian Navy, and his youngest brother, Paul von Eiselsberg, served as an officer in the Austrian army (Eiselsberg, 1937, pp. 219, 358). His maternal grandfather, Baron Peter Martin von Pirquet von Cesenatico (1781 – 1861) (*“Freiherr Peter Martin von Pirquet von Cesenatico, genannt de Merdaga”*), a former Wallonian soldier who later became military officer of the Austrian army, was granted the title “Baron” (*“Freiherr”*) in the year 1818 (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 19; Wurzbach, 1870, p. 341.).

Anton von Eiselsberg attended a monastery school (*Benediktinerabtei Kremsmünster*) (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 28; Eiselsberg, 1997, p. 16). Eiselsberg wrote in his autobiography that he had already performed anatomical sections on animals as a school student in his free time (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 31). Later, as he became a medical scientist in Vienna, Anton von Eiselsberg continued to perform surgical operations on animals for scientific purposes (Eiselsberg, 1890). After school education, Anton von Eiselsberg studied medicine in Vienna, Würzburg, Zurich, and Paris (“physician” and especially “surgeon” were unusual professions for an Austrian nobleman, and perhaps that choice of a profession can be partly explained by Anton von Eiselsberg’s religious background; in the middle of the 19th century, surgeons were still frequently considered to be “second class physicians” (*“Wundärzte erster und zweiter Klasse”*), especially in Prussia, but also in Austria



and in general, boys from aristocratic families were supposed to become either officers in the army, state officials or politicians) (Eiselsberg, 1937, pp. 34-64; Massenbach, 1860, pp. 44-49). Anton von Eiselsberg completed his dissertation in 1884 as a student of the surgeon Theodor Billroth (1829 – 1894). Billroth, who developed new techniques for gastric resections, had a significant influence on Eiselsberg (Eiselsberg, 1936; Eiselsberg, 1997, pp. 15, 179; Wölfler, 1881, pp. 770-772) (Figure 1).

Billroth also published different studies about military surgery in the Franco – Prussian War (1870 – 1871) (Billroth, 1874, pp. 17, 49, 191), and many other influential works.

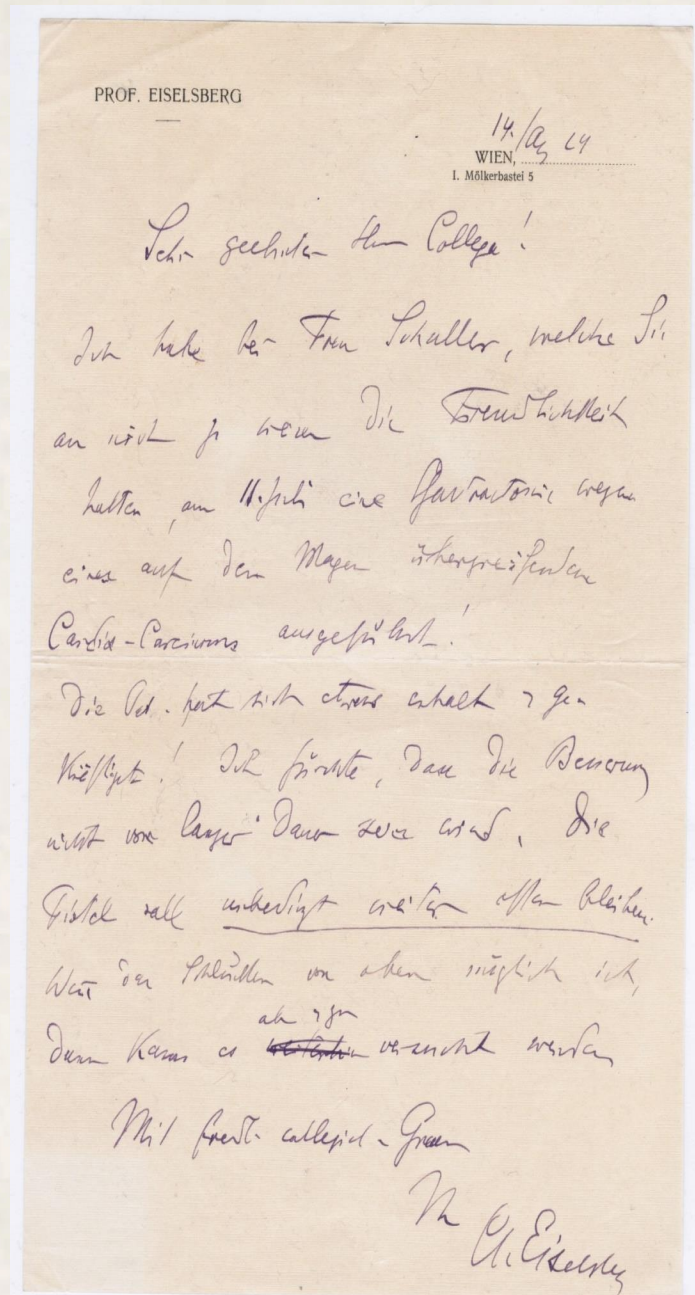


Figure 1. Anton von Eiselsberg's handwritten letter to a colleague from August 14, 1924. The original letter was donated to Vienna Medical University (Manuscript No. MUW-AS-007005-0009-001, 2023).



In 1895, Anton von Eiselsberg married his cousin Baroness Agnes von Pirquet (1875 – 1948) (Eiselsberg, 1997, p. 15). They later had eight children (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 426). With that marriage, his former cousin Baron Clemens Peter von Pirquet (1874 – 1929) (“*Freiherr Clemens Peter von Pirquet*”), who later was appointed to full professor for paediatrics at Vienna University, additionally became his brother-in-law (Pirquet and Schick, 1905; Eiselsberg, 1997, pp. 18-19).

Like his teacher Theodor Billroth, Eiselsberg first became a specialist in gastric, duodenal, and jejunal surgery (Eiselsberg, 1936) (Figure 1). Together with other notable Austrian surgeons, e. g. Viktor von Hacker (1852 – 1933), Eiselsberg modified and improved several surgical techniques invented by Billroth, especially in the field of Gastrojejunostomy (Eiselsberg, 1936; Sailer, 1973, pp. 50-53) (Figure 1). Consecutively, he also contributed to the scientific field of goiter surgery (especially in the possible complications of goiter surgery and the general understanding of thyroid cancer) (Eiselsberg, 1889; Eiselsberg, 1901). Several new surgical techniques in the field of brain surgery (especially in the field of surgery of the pituitary gland) were first performed by Anton von Eiselsberg (Eiselsberg, 1930). Furthermore, Anton von Eiselsberg also contributed to orthopaedics and plastic surgery (Eiselsberg, 1897, pp. 435-444).

Anton von Eiselsberg’s most influential former assistants were Paul Clairmont (1875 – 1942) who specialized in abdominal surgery and radiology (Buess, 1957, p. 257; Eiselsberg, 1937, pp. 214, 336, 337; Eiselsberg, 1997, p. 14), Erich von Redwitz (1883 – 1964) (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 421; Wachsmuth, 1965), Oskar Ehrhardt (1873 – 1950) who later wrote a book about renal surgery (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 135; Garrè & Ehrhardt, 1907), Karl Ludloff (1864 – 1945) (Eiselsberg, 1937, pp. 135, 154), and Alexander Stieda (1875 – 1966) (Eiselsberg, 1937, pp. 135, 154).

Several days before Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was murdered in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914, Anton von Eiselsberg performed a surgical operation on Emperor Franz Joseph’s valet Josef Ketterl, because of goiter (Eiselsberg, 1937, pp. 216, 217). After news from the murder of Sarajevo arrived, Josef Ketterl immediately asked von Eiselsberg to allow him to return to the Emperor, but von Eiselsberg refused (Eiselsberg, 1937, pp. 216, 217). Ketterl had to recover for ten additional days near Trieste (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 217) before he was allowed to return to Emperor Franz Joseph. Josef Ketterl obviously had a very personal and intensive relationship with Emperor Franz Joseph (Konrad, 2019, p. 321). Therefore, Eiselsberg’s decision could have had a specific influence on the outbreak of World War I, although that hypothesis requires further proof.

Anton von Eiselsberg, a military surgeon in World War I

During World War I, Anton von Eiselsberg mainly continued his duties as a full professor for surgery at Vienna University, but simultaneously, he had to travel across the Austrian Hungarian Empire due to his military position as an admiral staff physician (“*Admiralstabsarzt*”) of the Austrian Navy (Eiselsberg, 1997, p. 7). Anton von Eiselsberg visited a large number of Austrian surgical field hospitals in World War I and “supervised” these facilities (Eiselsberg, 1937, pp. 219–337; Eiselsberg, 1997, p. 7).

He described that he performed all kinds of surgical operations on wounded soldiers, especially spine surgery and that, in many cases, decompression of the spinal cord led to the remission of the neurological symptoms (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 221).



According to Eiselsberg's biography, many wounded Austrian and German soldiers in World War I could not be treated properly because surgical capacities were limited (Eiselsberg, 1937, pp. 339-340). He especially reported about soldiers who were wounded by shots in the abdomen. However, elaborate surgical operations were often required to treat that type of injury (Eiselsberg, 1937, pp. 339-340). Although theoretically and also practically, it would have been already possible to save the life of many soldiers who were injured by shots in the abdomen, it was often impossible to perform these surgical operations immediately due to the lack of surgical capacities (Eiselsberg, 1937, pp. 339-340). Anton von Eiselsberg wrote that many soldiers died from abdominal gunshot wounds (Eiselsberg, 1937, pp. 323, 339).

Together with Friedrich Kraus (1858 – 1936), Anton von Eiselsberg treated the Greek King Constantine I in May and June 1915 (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 230). In his autobiography, Eiselsberg stated that he performed a surgical operation on Constantine I because of a thoracic empyema (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 234) (Eiselsberg resected one rib) (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 238). The operation was performed with Novocaine local anaesthesia, and Constantine I was allowed to smoke cigarettes during that operation (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 238). Several months later (December 1915 and January 1916), Anton von Eiselsberg had to travel to Greece again to treat Constantine I because of a small fistula that resulted from his surgical operation in June 1915 (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 265). In October 1917, Ferdinand Sauerbruch (1875 – 1951) performed a second surgical operation on Constantine I in Zurich (Anton von Eiselsberg assisted with the operation), which led to a complete remission of the fistula (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 267; Eiselsberg, 1997, p. 72).

Anton von Eiselsberg became famous for his treatment of Constantine I in May and June 1915. Therefore, he was personally invited by Emperor William II (*Wilhelm II*) of Germany (Eiselsberg, 1937, pp. 281-282) (Anton von Eiselsberg already became acquainted with William II when he was appointed to full professor at Königsberg University/ Prussia, Germany (today Kaliningrad/ Russian Federation) in 1896) (Eiselsberg, 1937, pp. 146-148). Eiselsberg also met with Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 277) and had to report on the treatment of Constantine I. That was especially important because the German Empire and the Austrian Hungarian Empire hoped Greece would join the Central Powers in World War I (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 230). Later, Anton von Eiselsberg also became acquainted with Emperor Franz Joseph's successor Emperor Karl of Austria (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 313). After the first operation of Constantine I, Anton von Eiselsberg received an honorary doctoral degree from Athens University (Karakatsouli, 2021).

Moreover, von Eiselsberg was acquainted with Ferdinand I of Bulgaria (1861 – 1948) and had treated the former Bulgarian prime minister Stambolov (1854 – 1895) in the year 1892 (Eiselsberg, 1937, pp. 101 – 105; Eiselsberg, 1997, pp. 7-8). During World War I, von Eiselsberg visited the city of Sofia four times, on his way back during his first journey to Athens, twice (on his way there and on his way back) during his second journey to Athens, and on his way back during his journey to Constantinople in April 1918 (Eiselsberg, 1937, pp. 241, 261 – 263, 274 – 276, 333). Eiselsberg met Ferdinand I twice (during his first journey to Athens and during his journey to Constantinople) between 1914 and 1918 (Eiselsberg, 1937, pp. 241, 333; Eiselsberg, 1997, p. 8).

Furthermore, Anton von Eiselsberg held a lecture about war surgery in Sarajevo and visited the local "Begova" Mosque around November 1916 (Eiselsberg, 1937, pp. 304-



305). Therefore, Eiselsberg's autobiography indirectly emphasizes that the former Austrian Hungarian Empire also had a small minority of the Muslim population and that the different Christian Churches and the Muslim minority sometimes did not agree on specific political questions (Eiselsberg, 1937).

All in all, Anton von Eiselsberg played a very influential role during the time of World War I.

After the end of World War I

World War I resulted in the end of the Austrian Hungarian Empire (1867 – 1918). The Austrian aristocracy formally lost its privileges in the first years of the First Austrian Republic (1918 – 1933). Nevertheless, as a famous surgeon and physician, Anton von Eiselsberg obviously was not severely restricted by these measures.

Around ten years later, Anton von Eiselsberg was asked by Chancellor Johann Schober (1874 – 1932) to become Austrian minister for education in his third cabinet Schober III (1929 – 1930). Anton von Eiselsberg declined that offer because he wanted to continue his clinical work as a surgeon, as he wrote in his autobiography (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 389; Eiselsberg, 1997, pp. 20-21). That offer clearly emphasizes Anton von Eiselsberg's close ties to political Catholic Christian conservatism.

In January 1928, Anton von Eiselsberg accepted an invitation to Cairo University in Egypt to hold a series of lectures (Eiselsberg, 1937, pp. 377, 378). Eiselsberg was closely acquainted with Rudolf Carl Freiherr von Slatin (1857 – 1932) (Eiselsberg, 1937, pp. 373, 403) (Slatin Pasha, 1896), who spent many years of his life in Egypt and Sudan.

Otto von Eiselsberg, Anton von Eiselsberg's only son who became a notable diplomat, later wrote in his autobiography that his father once received a question from Stockholm about his opinion on Sigmund Freud's (1856 – 1939) qualification for the Nobel Prize. Otto von Eiselsberg wrote that his father answered that question with a "yes" (Eiselsberg, 1997, p. 19). Sigmund Freud never became a Nobel Prize laureate. However, Otto von Eiselsberg explicitly mentioned Anton von Eiselsberg's close friend, Julius von Wagner – Jauregg (1857 – 1940), the psychiatrist, and he became Nobel Prize laureate in 1927 (Eiselsberg, 1997, pp. 19-20).

Anton von Eiselsberg died on October 25, 1939, after his train derailed in an accident near "Sankt Valentin" station. One main reason for that accident was the fact that because of World War II and the danger of air bombardments, lights near the railway had to be switched off, and even the traffic lights had to be dimmed in the area around "Sankt Valentin" station (Eiselsberg, 1997, pp. 49-51). Austria was part of the Nazi Empire in March 1938. Several days before Anton von Eiselsberg died in that accident, Adolf Hitler had officially commanded the beginning of Nazi "euthanasia". From that point on, more than 70,000 patients were murdered by Nazi physicians in the so-called T4 "euthanasia" until 1941 (Burleigh, 1994; Hinz Wessels, et al. 2005, p. 79).

Materials and Methods

This study is partly based on Anton von Eiselsberg's autobiography written in 1937 (Eiselsberg, 1937). It is important to consider that Eiselsberg was 76 or 77 when he published that work. On the other hand, the autobiography is clearly based on Eiselsberg's diaries, intending to document certain events of his life. If we consider that Eiselsberg



treated patients until he died in the train accident in 1939, and also consider that many extremely detailed explanations can be found in his autobiography (especially about his relationship to an uncountable number of different surgeons and physicians) and consider that it does not show apparent inconsistencies, the reliability of that historical source (autobiography) can be estimated as “moderately reliable”. Of course, several exceptions have to be clearly mentioned. For example, Anton von Eiselsberg was involved in urgent surgical operations and partly faced several dangerous situations, especially during World War I. Therefore, his reports about World War I could contain certain inaccuracies. Consequently, it was very important to find other sources that also reported these events or similar events to compare Eiselsberg’s reports. The following sources were compared to Eiselsberg’s autobiography (1937) in detail:

1. Erwin Payr’s autobiography (Payr and Krebs, 1994)
2. August Bier’s biography (Vogeler, 1941)
3. Otto von Eiselsberg’s autobiography. The diplomat Otto von Eiselsberg (1917 – 2001) was born as Anton von Eiselsberg’s youngest child and only son (Eiselsberg, 1997).
4. Ferdinand Sauerbruch’s biography (Eckart, 2016)

The document analysis method in qualitative research was used in this study. German transcripts of the correspondences were prepared by identifying each word and character of the handwritten texts. Some words were not easy to identify, although it was possible to work out the transcripts. Then, the transcripts were carefully translated into English. The contents of the correspondences were analysed by comparing them to other different sources. Step by step, the historical context of the correspondences was highlighted and discussed, resulting in overviews of the presented topics.

The previously presented material (see *Research on History of Medicine* 2022; 4, 233 – 244) is now part of a collection of materials about surgery between approximately 1900 and 1933:

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Both materials shown in this study (see the Figures) and more supplementary materials were additionally archived at Vienna Medical University (Medizinische Universität Wien) MUW-AS-007005.

Results

Letter from August 14, 1924 (Figure 1)

[Translation]

PROF. EISELSBERG

[written by hand] 14. /Ag [August?] 24 Vienna,

I. Mülkerbastei 5



[Eiselsberg's address in Vienna]

Dear Colleague!

I performed a gastrectomy on Mrs. (or Ms.) Schaller on July 11 because she was suffering from a carcinoma of the cardia that already affected her stomach!

The patient has already recovered and strengthened herself slightly! I fear that she will not continue to recover for a long time. It is important that the "fistula" stays open.

If swallowing food from above is possible, it can be tried from time to time.

Yours sincerely, A. Eiselsberg

Letter from October 17, 1914 (Figure 2)

[Translation]

PROF. FREIH. V. EISELSBERG October 17, 1914
WIEN I MÖLKERBASTEI 5

Dear Madam!

Thank you very much for the big packages of finger bandages. We can always use them well for our patients. Both types you sent are excellent, but the shorter tie is sufficient to fix the bandage. If you consider sewing such bandages again, I recommend cutting the tie in the middle at the bottom end for around 20 cm. By doing so, it would be easier to tie the knots. I will take care of the sterilization and thank you again in the name of the poor wounded soldiers.

Kindest regards,
Prof v Eiselsberg

Discussion

The first correspondence (Figure 1) shows that Eiselsberg indeed specialized in gastric surgery (like his teacher Billroth) and that he also performed surgical operations, probably creating fistulas that were used for artificial feeding of the patients, already in the 1920s.

The second correspondence (Figure 2) is connected to a lecture Eiselsberg held on September 15, 1914, at the "Urania"¹ in Vienna, approximately one month before he wrote the letter. The topic was "Caring for the Wounded during War" ("Verwundetenfürsorge im Kriege") (Eiselsberg, 1914). It is assumable that the "madam" who sent the packages could have attended that lecture.

1- The "Urania" in Vienna was also called "Volksbildungshaus" since World War I and could be described as a predecessor of today's non-academic adult education system (it was not part of Vienna University) in Austria and Germany with special further education courses for ordinary people.



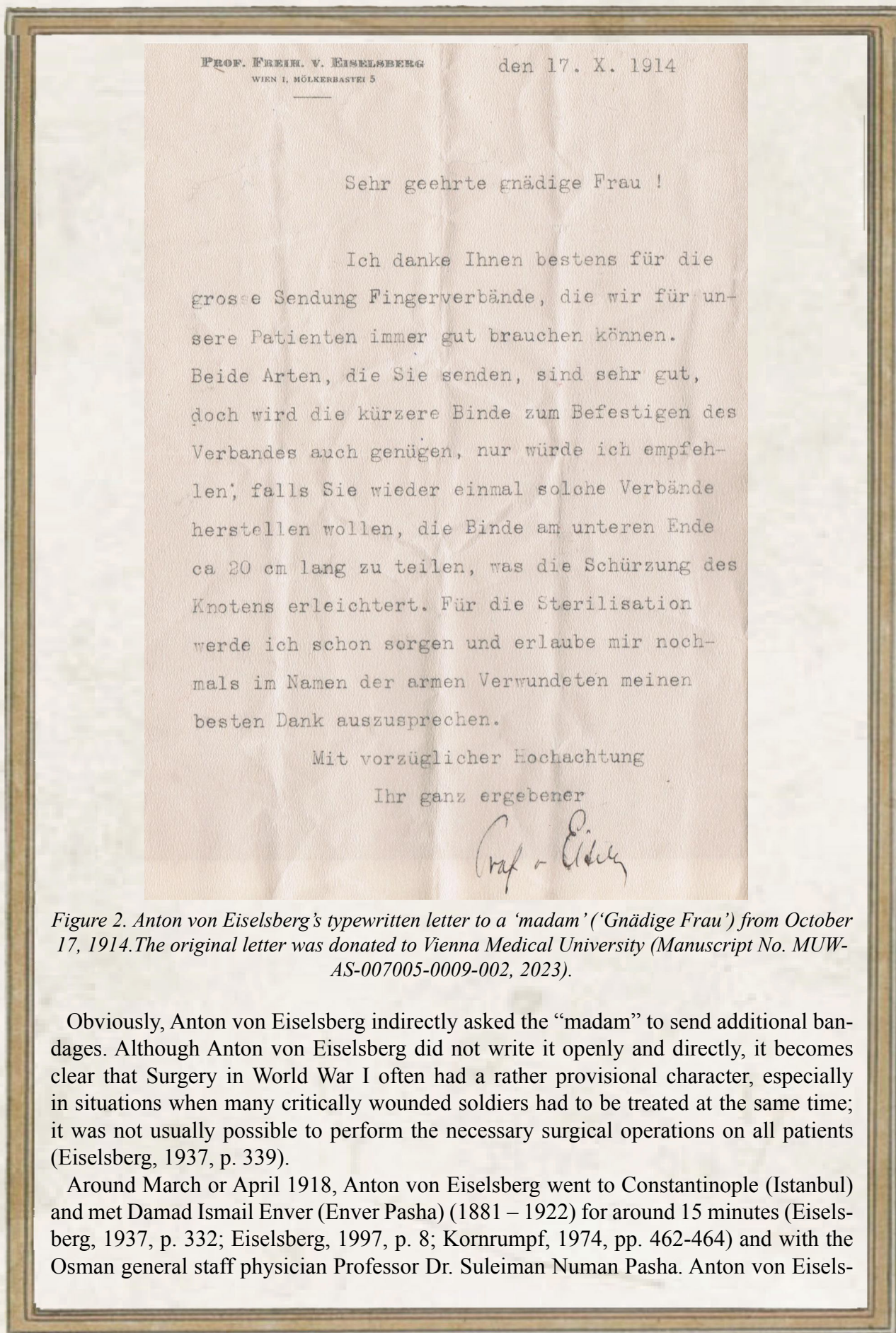


Figure 2. Anton von Eiselsberg's typewritten letter to a 'madam' ('Gnädige Frau') from October 17, 1914. The original letter was donated to Vienna Medical University (Manuscript No. MUW-AS-007005-0009-002, 2023).

Obviously, Anton von Eiselsberg indirectly asked the “madam” to send additional bandages. Although Anton von Eiselsberg did not write it openly and directly, it becomes clear that Surgery in World War I often had a rather provisional character, especially in situations when many critically wounded soldiers had to be treated at the same time; it was not usually possible to perform the necessary surgical operations on all patients (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 339).

Around March or April 1918, Anton von Eiselsberg went to Constantinople (Istanbul) and met Damad Ismail Enver (Enver Pasha) (1881 – 1922) for around 15 minutes (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 332; Eiselsberg, 1997, p. 8; Kornrumpf, 1974, pp. 462-464) and with the Osman general staff physician Professor Dr. Suleiman Numan Pasha. Anton von Eisels-

berg had been asked to hold a lecture about war surgery in Constantinople (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 332).

The huge project of the “Berlin – Baghdad railway” (“Bagdadbahn”) led to close cooperation between the German Empire and the Osman Empire before World War I (Bode, 1982; Lodemann and Pohl, 1982). Furthermore, the Hejaz Railway from Damasco to Medina was completed in 1908 (Pönicke, 1958). That railway theoretically was an alternative transport route to the “Suez” Channel (although the Hejaz Railway did not have direct access to a port at the Red Sea; planned access to Port “Aqaba” could not be realized in 1906 because of British navy interventions near Constantinople) (Bode, 1982; Lodemann & Pohl, 1982; Pönicke, 1958). These projects resulted in severe English economic worries. If the “Berlin – Baghdad railway” (with an end station at the Persian Gulf) had been completed, it would have been another alternative transport route that would have resulted in a competition with the “Suez” Channel (Bode, 1982; Lodemann & Pohl, 1982; Pönicke, 1958). Furthermore, France, Russia, and also Persia had serious concerns about the “Berlin – Baghdad railway”, too (Bode, 1982; Lodemann & Pohl, 1982; Pönicke, 1958).

It is remarkable that Anton von Eiselsberg clearly expressed critical and skeptical opinions about the consequences of War when he wrote his autobiography around 1937. By writing explicitly and in detail about horrible cases of critically wounded soldiers and civilians (for example, children) who partly did not survive World War I, Anton von Eiselsberg obviously tried to warn against a new World War (Eiselsberg, 1937, pp. 244, 275, 316, 323, 326, 334, 339).

He also criticized that the global weapon industries would have supported fake news and “war propagandists”. That way, they would have taken financial advantage of World War I (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 342).

The fact that he attended a monastery school is undoubtedly one reason that Anton von Eiselsberg later politically endorsed positions close to religious Catholic Christian conservatism (for example by fundamentally rejecting euthanasia). The von Pirquet family seemed closely connected to religious Catholic Christian conservatism in the 19th century (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 20).

Although Anton von Eiselsberg did not criticize the Nazi movement directly in his autobiography, it becomes quite clear that he at least partly meant the Nazis by writing about “paranoid and fanatic war propagandists” (“Auch der fanatischste Kriegshetzer würde wohl bei einem solchen Anblick von seinem Wahn geheilt”) (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 324).

In his autobiography written in 1937, Anton von Eiselsberg also clearly rejected euthanasia and wrote that reconciliation between euthanasia and medical ethics is impossible (Eiselsberg, 1937, p. 565). Remarkably, Anton von Eiselsberg wrote such political opinions in the last years of the period of Austrofascism (1933 – 1938). Austria was still not part of the Nazi Empire during that period, but the Austrian Republic had already turned into a fascist state since March 1933 (Gerwarth, 2008).

The second letter (Figure 2) clearly shows that surgery in World War I had a very provisional character to some extent. Bandages were partly acquired from personal donations and still had to be sterilized. The possibility of acquiring bandages from textile factories and manufacturers, probably in a far better quality than the donations, of course, already existed for a long time around 1914.



Conclusion

Anton von Eiselsberg can be definitely regarded as a notable surgeon during the period of World War I. Some biographical details show that he could have had a certain influence on medicine in the Osman Empire and, at least to a minor extent, also on neighbouring states of the Middle East. Considering his autobiography, Anton von Eiselsberg perhaps could have been one of the protagonists who were indirectly involved in the political and diplomatic processes after the murder of Sarajevo and the following outbreak of World War I.

Conflict of Interest

None.

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