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Summary

Karl Wolff (born 13th of May 1900 in Darmstadt) discusses his time in Highschool (Ludwig-Georgs Gymnasium) and his efforts to start his pre-military training at the age of 14 in August 1917. After his Highschool graduation (Abitur), he came to the western front in Flanders (Dutch). He had no military rank and was just a probationary officer cadet (Fahnenjunker). In September 1918 he was a lieutenant in the famous 'Hessischen Leibgarde Regiment'. He was honored for his time during the war with the Prussian Iron Cross (Eisernes Kreuz) of the first and second class. After the war he was hoping to join the much smaller German military (100 000 soldiers), but he was not lucky and so he had to leave the German army at May 31, 1920. He did not want to study, because he did not believe, that his mother could afford this. He feared the recession and the inflation. He started a commercial apprenticeship at the private bank 'Gebrüder Bethmann' in Frankfurt. There he worked as bank official until the summer 1922. At this time, he got engaged with Frieda von Römheld and after their marriage they moved to Kehl am Rhein (on the opposite of Strasbourg). There he worked in a pulp mill, to finish his apprenticeship.

At the 1st of July 1923, he moved to Munich, to be in the environment of the right-wing volunteer corps (Freikorps). At first his wife did not want him to join the right-wing party (NSDAP), because she wanted him just for herself. As a consequence, he did not join the 'Hitlerputsch' in November 1923.

He established his own advertising agency called 'Annoncen Expedition Karl Wolff - von Römfeld, München'. During the late 1920s his friend and wartime comrade Julius von Bernuth brought him to speeches of Hitler and Göring. He joined the Nazi-party in 1931 and he was also active in the militant part of the organization.

To join the SS he needed two guarantors, which were members of the SS. One was his friend von Bernuth and the other was his brother-in-law Klaus Graf von Baudissin. He also needed his certificates to proof his military achievements. It was not mandatory to look like, what the Nazis considered to be, Aryan (blond, blue eyes), but pleasant. But the candidates had to be over 5.7 ft (1,70 m).

At first, he wanted to join the SA, but the officer at the registration convinced him to consider the SS, because of his military experience. He went to a SS meeting (Sturmabend) in the tavern 'Zum goldenen Hirschen' at the Tuerkenstrasse in Munich. He liked the people there and their ideas, so he joined them. After a few weeks of training he had to appear at the Nazi-Party headquarters (braunes Haus), to swear an oath to Hitler. After the ceremony Hitler hold a speech to the new SS members and he gave them signed photos of himself. From Karls point of view the democratic 'Weimarer Republik' was a disorder and he was missing a strong leadership. He expected Hitler to be the right man, because he also served in the war.

According to Karl a lot of farmer's second sons joined the SS, because it was a good opportunity for them to start a career, even without a higher education. Otherwise they had to stay at their farm and serve their older brother. Farmers were also considered to be more Germanic than the people in the cities.

In this interview Karl also talks about how he became the adjutant of Himmler. He met him for the first time in one course at the 'Reichsführerschule', when Himmler gave a lecture. After the rise of the Nazis in Bavaria at the 7th March of 1933, Karl was nominated to be the adjutant of the Bavarian prime minister general Franz Ritter von Epp. Thereafter Himmler

wanted him to be his adjutant, because of Karl's military experience, which Himmler was missing. His job was to manage the office of Himmler and he had to accompany him during business trips. Due to this military experience he got more and more organizational tasks, which he considered to be unusual for an adjutant. He was planning and supervising the building of the castle Wewelsburg, for example. This SS meeting center was considered to be a castle for the SS order of knights.

Karl also explains the relationship Hitler and Himmler had to religion and why they wanted to create a new Germanic one.

At the end of the interview he shortly talks about the occupation of Poland, the Nazi ideology blood and ground (Blut und Boden) and the 'Lebensborn' organization.