

RG-50.160.0002

Summary

Herr Ludwig, born on May 8, 1910 in Stuttgart, Germany; met his future wife when she was 9 and he was 10 in the Waldorfschule, a school which was run by Rudolf Steiner at the request of Emil Multet, a cigarette factory owner, as a place for workers' children; his wife came from Baltic nobility on her mother's side; his wife's father was Dr. Asch, a full Jew and a scientist known for early research on x-rays and who wanted a child from a "super-Aryan" such as he considered his wife; Dr. Asch died before his daughter was born; his wife was later adopted by her stepfather in Esslingen so that she was now considered full Aryan; had few Jewish acquaintances growing up but was aware of and did not like their predominance in the press and in commerce and was against Israel as a state; he was aware of Jews being driven out of Germany already in 1939, including his acquaintances the Ungers; met up with his future wife in 1937 after many years; lived with future wife in Kirschtal before his service although each was registered to live with their respective mothers; met future wife's friend Janet Krause, who was married to a German and also had a child and who later had a relationship with a French guest worker; daughter Christine was born in April 1939 in Germany; saw misery firsthand when he worked briefly collecting weekly payments from Autobahn workers who had been sold bicycles; was once offered the 13-year old daughter of a man in lieu of payment; notes that Hitler was a politician and a benefactor under whom things improved, though his only contact with him was through the radio; also saw Hitler as one who understood rank from his WWI experience and also had to be built up from the outside; witnessed a gathering of 10,000 on the market square in Stuttgart protesting hunger; drafted in 1940, trained for two months in Czechoslovakia; noted that the training tactic was to demean recruits; worked as a radio operator in Poland; during the German occupation of Poland he witnessed attacks on Jews worse than animal slaughter; the worst part of war was losing friends and not knowing allegiance of comrades; ; spoke of an acquaintance named Pieps who once encountered Hitler and who ascribed Hitler's look to the "doppelte Sonne" of his astrological sign; mother and sister were in Schwäbisch Hall during the war; knew early on but especially after Stalingrad that Germany would not win the war; was discharged in 1943 as a non-commissioned officer with no further duties as he was 70% disabled due to head injury for which he was operated; returned to Germany, first to a monastery near Breslau where slightly injured military were cared for; then attended a boarding school in Breslau; reunited with future wife and married on May 20, 1945.