

John M. Steiner collection  
Interviews with former members of the SS, other Nazi officials, and witnesses to Nazi Germany  
RG-50.593

The following is a draft English-language summary of an interview in German from the John M. Steiner collection. The translation has been not been verified for accuracy, and therefore, may contain errors. Nothing should be quoted or used from this summary without first checking it against the taped interview. Moreover, the description of events in the summary may not match the sequence, time-code, or track number of the audio files.

Interview with Karl Wolff, SS-Obergruppenführer and General in the Waffen-SS  
Recorded at various times from 1975-1982

The conversation starts in mid-sentence and focuses on whether Hitler knew what was being done to the Jews. Wolff states that he can't believe that Hitler didn't ask Himmler about what was going on; that if you look at the importance of the Nazi chain of command and the fear of his subordinates to keep secrets, that it was unthinkable that Hitler did not know about it. He says that the genocide began at the end of 1941 and was in full swing in 1942-43, that this could not have been concealed from Hitler, nor would Hitler have given carte blanche to his officers to implement such a vast program.

The conversation then turns to Wolff's position in Italy and says he only took the job on the condition that there be no oppression of church or Jews, which Himmler promised him. He says that he did not get any orders in this regard and that Jews went underground and that they were well taken care of as long as they had money. However, once their funds ran out, people turned them in. Wolff says that there were no killings of Jews in Italy because Mussolini wasn't as fanatic as Hitler. Describes an incident in December 1944/January 1945 when he received a request from an Italian Cardinal to rescue a Russian Jewish woman from a train and he has still has letters thanking him for his intervention.

Wolff discusses an urgent visit from a member of Field Marshal Rommel's staff who confided that he believed that Rommel, after the October 1942 El Alamein disaster, had lost faith in Germany's ability to win the war, that he feared that Rommel could not lead his men to victory, and that there was serious infighting and even incidents of sabotage between Rommel (who commanded the troops in northern Italy) and Kesselring (who commanded the troops in the south); says that this was just at the time that Hitler was going to give Rommel command of the entire Italian army.

Wolff says that he flew immediately to see Hitler and told him that his decision with regard to the Italian command could impact the outcome of the war; says that Hitler tried to force him to reveal the source of the information; that even though he took a great risk, he could not break his word; that the identity of his visitor was never known; that Hitler changed his orders, put Kesselring in

charge and sent Rommel to France; that Hitler was really worked up, having lost his sources of Middle Eastern oil and suffering defeat at Stalingrad; that Hitler complained bitterly about the SS, their secrecy, and their singlehanded actions; that Hitler vowed that the SS would listen to him and that he would enforce this with an iron fist. Wolff says that he defended the SS and reminded Hitler that they had lost 100,000 men and deserved better.

Wolff says that Hitler then brightened up but that he insisted that Wolff go deliver his stern warning to Himmler because he was afraid he might lose his self-control.

CD 2-10.2 John Steiner's Interview with Karl Wolff, SS-[Obergruppenführer](#) and General in the [Waffen-SS](#) (conversation continued from CD 2-10.1. )

Probably recorded on May 8, 1975 (estimate based on interview inventory and subject matter);

Wolff says that Hitler ordered him to go immediately to see Himmler and deliver a stern warning; that Hitler did not trust the telephone; that he (Wolff) complied but tried to soften the message; that Himmler said that he tried to spare Hitler's nerves, that he and the SS were loyal but that unless Hitler could fully accept that, they could not longer work together.

Wolff then focuses on the Blomberg-Fritsch affair and talks about events in 1937, the time of the Hossbach Memorandum, when Hitler was very angry with Werner von Fritsch, whom he considered a reactionary because he opposed waging war on two fronts. He says that Himmler told Hitler that von Fritsch was a homosexual but Hitler initially refused to act on that information saying that it would be indecent and that Himmler should destroy all memos that refer to this. He talks about Werner von Blomberg, who sided with von Fritsch; who had married a woman who was accused of prostitution and theft; and who had to step down as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. He says that von Fritsch was in line to replace him but that Hitler accused him of consorting with a male prostitute; that he was accused of abusing several members of the Hitler Youth; that he was sentenced to three months in prison but that he hired a lawyer and convinced a military court that it was all a mistake; that he was then made an honorary colonel of an artillery regiment and was killed on the front. He also says that Hitler had offered to send Blomberg's wife to South America but that Blomberg refused, remained loyal to her and resigned.

CD 2-11 John Steiner's Interview with Karl Wolff, SS-[Obergruppenführer](#) and General in the [Waffen-SS](#)

Date unknown

Wolff describes the last days of the war in Italy, his negotiations to end the war with Allen Foster Dulles during Operation Sunrise. He says that Dulles discouraged him from returning to Germany; that Dulles offered him and his family safe haven in Switzerland and money because America would need people with his experience and knowledge of the Nazi party to rebuild Germany; but

that he refused a comfortable life knowing that his troops would end up in POW camps due to his betrayal.

Wolff says he went to Germany to try to save the situation and to convince Hitler to negotiate. Spent 12 hours with Himmler and Kaltenbrunner – they did not know that he had been to Switzerland twice and talked not only to Dulles but also to other high-ranking American and British Generals. He asked the two of them to accompany him to see Hitler; he admitted for the first time that he had undertaken singlehanded peace negotiations; said that he was acting in Germany's best interest; told them that they could have his head if they didn't like it; that this was not treason but an honorable ceasefire for the German troops. Wolff and Kaltenbrunner drove into Berlin on night of April 17 and the Reich Chancellery was partly on fire... Hitler asked Wolff how he could possibly negotiate on his own – he didn't know about all the other circumstances. Wolff says that if he had even blinked, it would have been all over but... [Tape ends abruptly here].

CD 2-12 John Steiner's Interview with Karl Wolff, SS-[Obergruppenführer](#) and General in the [Waffen-SS](#) and the States Attorney in Freiburg, Germany  
Date unknown

Track 1 of the tape is mostly small talk (on the telephone) between Steiner and Wolff; Steiner wishes Wolff a happy birthday; says he'll listen to the tapes they made and see what additional questions he has; Wolff expresses his gratitude; says that he is not expecting to be honored by his fellow citizens but says that he has faith that one day the historical archives will be opened and demonstrate that he was a man of achievement and substance.

In the middle of Track 2, Steiner calls Dr. Geier [sp?], the States Attorney in Freiburg and they talk briefly about the return of some documents that Steiner had left with him. The conversation then switches to a lengthy (tracks 3-13) discussion of the crime of price tag switching, why it appears to be less prevalent in Germany than in the US, whether it is spontaneous or premeditated, its causes and penalties.

WOLFF, Karl  
German

Time Coded Notes  
Tape 4-01-1

In this interview, Karl Wolff, German SS-Führer and Himmler's adjutant, discusses the question of who gave the order to exterminate the Jews. He emphasizes that he did not know about it. Talks about the personalities of Himmler, Heydrich, and himself.

### Track 1

00:01 Music playing.

07:55 To the question of who gave the order to exterminate the Jews, he testified at the Nuremberg trials that his comrade Wisliceny, SS Hauptsturmführer, had told him that Eichmann had shown him a written and signed order by Hitler. He cannot believe that Wisliceny had lied, but he was ultimately hanged. He himself was accused of trying to white wash his friends.

### Track 2

01:45 Talks about receiving death threats because of his testimony. In 1960, Eichmann testified at his trial in Israel that there never was a written order by Hitler and that Wisliceny was trying to white wash himself.

05:37 Describes meeting with Himmler in 1942, after the death of Heydrich. Himmler was very upset because he had to bear responsibility for all orders so Hitler would appear blameless. He did not tell him what the orders were because he knew that this would burden him (Wolff) and might even drive him to suicide to avoid acting against his beliefs.

### Track 3

05:18 Talks about Rommel under whose command he had been in Italy.

09:10 He received a posthumous letter from Heydrich telling him to tell the truth to Hitler who needed to know it. (Reads letter.)

### Track 4

05:35 Talks about his own personality, how he flies to Prague to take care of widows and orphans and protect them from Russian and American bombings.

### Track 5

09:23 Talks about Heydrich, whom he had known since 1932 in SS training school.

### Tape 4-01-2

The tape covers a speech by Wolff about the Hitlerjugend. Telephone conversations of the interviewer with (Steiner?) concerning interviews with perpetrators. Wolff talks about his upbringing and family.

### Track 1

02:20 End of the speech about the Hitlerjugend. Applause.

02:32 Telephone conversation of interviewer with Steiner arranging future interviews. Tells him that he is interested in autobiographical details for sociological and psychological research.

08:32 Wolff says that he comes from a social democratic family. His father was jailed for half a year for being a social democrat. He was 13 years old at the time. He joined the SS in high school. He was injured in training. Later studied law.

Track 2

03:18 Telephone conversation between interviewer and Bierbrauer concerning the interview with Wolff.

07:14 Interviewer talks with Steiner (Felix?) and arranges visit.

Track 3

07:08 More telephone conversation about possible interviews.

Track 4

01:35 Continued telephone conversation about meetings.

Tape 4-02

In this interview, Wolff talks about his courtship and marriage, his military training, his help to Jewish friends. Says that Goebbels was responsible for an unacceptable situation in Germany and had a bad influence on Hitler. The incident of killing prisoners during invasion of Norway. His own uninvolved in persecution and killings of Jews in Poland. His trial in Nuremberg.

00:15 Talks about his courtship and marriage.

06:41 Talks about happy childhood and military training, starting at age 14.

09:05 His help to Jewish friends. The bad influence Goebbels had on Hitler. The unbearable situation in Germany.

18:01 Himmler was emotionally upset about the methods used against the Jews. Some SS refused to cooperate. Claims that Goebbels and Streicher were responsible for everything. Reads from a book by Burkhart.

21:43 On February 1932, senators were supposed to be elected to counter Hitler's influence.

34:22 Hitler gave a talk at his graduation from SS course and promised them 2 things: 1) You will never have to take part in a violent take over, 2) I will never give you an order to act against your conscience. That helped him in his future refusals to act against Jews.

41:36 Describes actions during the October 1942 invasion of Norway and cruel killings.

Tape 4-03-1

Track 1

- 00:23 Barselewski's testimony in Nuremberg about decision made to kill 20-30 million people in Regensburg and to exterminate the Russian people not true.
- 07:17 He did not participate in the Wannsee conference. Himmler did not involve him in decisions of killings because he knew that he would refuse to participate at the risk of his own life.
- 14:36 Before he went to Italy, he made a condition with Badoglio that he would not be involved in decisions about Jews and about the church, and he can prove that under him there were no deportations. Müller, who was under Heydrich and was responsible for the Jewish problem, used 3 days on which Wolff was away to deport 1000 Jews. He told Himmler that he cannot be responsible for orders like that. He proved that when he was arrested.
- 18:16 From 1949-1962, he was a free man. After the Eichmann trial, he was arrested again, on fabricated accusations, for two and a half years. He had nothing to do with the extermination of the Jews. In June 1942, Himmler told him to call Ganzemüller to take care of the transports of Jews from Poland and to consolidate the many ghettos to save personnel. Wolff made the call because he could not imagine that 100,000 people could be transported to camps such as Treblinka. He later received a letter telling him that daily transports of 5000 Jews from Warsaw to Treblinka had been arranged.
- 27:53 He had a junior officer write a letter of objection for him to Himmler.
- 34:55 In his third trial in Nuremberg, he gave evidence to clear Milch because Milch had helped him in bad times and because he wanted to set the record straight about accusations about the treatment of Jews.
- 39:01 In June 1947, he testified about SS in camps who were idealists and only sometimes made mistakes, and that he did not know about the things that were described to him in the trial. When his accuser read to him his letter to Müller, he became upset. He thought that the transports were resettlements (seems quite upset trying to explain to the interviewer.)

Tape 4-03-2

In this interview, Wolff talks about his problems with the lawyer who represented him. Also about the breakup of his second marriage and his suffering.

- 00:17 In December 1962, the judge cleared him of charges of murder, but another judge reopened his case, claiming that General Teller had lied when giving evidence about him. Wolff fired his lawyer who in turn helped his wife to divorce him.

- 11:22 Talks about his divorce. He felt helpless and abandoned. (Excuses himself for being so upset.) He wants to live the rest of his life to help others so that injustice that was done to him won't be repeated. He will do anything to help the world.
- 27:50 Talks about being unable to sleep, screams in his dreams, suffers.

#### Tape 4-04-1

In this interview, Wolff talks about his relationship with Himmler and Ribbentrop. Also about Göring and his morphine addiction.

- 00:20 Tells about becoming Himmler's adjutant in June 1933 and the various administrative and organization functions he had.
- 10:54 Talks about Himmler's appreciation of him.
- 13:08 Talks about Hildebrand, who tried to prevent the SS to be set up against the SA. Streicher resisted, threatened him and complained to Himmler about him.
- 18:52 In 1943, Woermann started an intrigue against Ribbentrop and tried to have Hitler dismiss him. Himmler asked him to handle the case. He went with Ribbentrop to Hitler and settled the dispute. Ribbentrop was very thankful.
- 40:13 During El Alamein and Stalingrad, he had to tell Himmler about difficulties with Göring, who was a morphine addict. Describes his shocking behavior in meetings.

#### Tape 4-04-02

In this interview, Wolff talks about plans for the treatment of populations of occupied countries. The cases of honorary Aryans. The personality of Heydrich.

- 00:18 He told Himmler to get Hitler to dismiss Göring if they might lose the war. Himmler was afraid to do it.
- 08:49 After the conquest of Poland, Himmler wrote a document describing the projected treatment of the population in occupied areas. They were to be treated as slaves. Wolff argued with him about it.
- 15:59 Hitler decided what Jews were to be declared honorary Aryans. Describes 2 cases.
- 29:34 Himmler told him that in the case anything happened to him, either he or Heydrich would have to step in his place. Heydrich was fierce, sadistic, and cold. Himmler did not discuss Heydrich with him.
- 34:48 Talks about the unfriendly relationship between him and Heydrich, which later improved. They became good friends. Heydrich had his soft side. He reads a letter he received from Heydrich after his death, telling him to tell the truth to Hitler, etc. He showed the letter to Hitler. Himmler never told him about Jewish affairs because he knew that Wolff might try to escape abroad or topple the government.



48:08 He was asked by an SS-Kleinman to call about the transports to Treblinka, which had to be stopped so that trains to the front in the East could get through. That left the Jews without food and water. (Wolff sounds hesitant and upset talking about it.)

Tape 4-06

In this interview, Wolff talks about an accident of the German air force over Belgium. Also talks about his involvement in the transports to Treblinka.

- 00:35 In 1940, an airplane of the German air force, piloted by an important SS General returning from a conference in Berlin and carrying secret plans, made a forced landing in Belgium because of bad weather. The pilot tried to burn the papers, but was interrupted by Belgians who arrested him. The Führer was outraged and all the plans about bombing France had to be changed. The Belgians thought that the plans that they had found were just a clever ploy by the Germans to mislead them.
- 06:23 Two years later, 1942, Heydrich worked on the secret plan for the extermination of the Jews. Himmler was not involved in it. He did not have the personality for it. He himself did not know anything about the plans. He would not have participated in anything like this and Himmler knew it.
- 11:42 To the question about his involvement with the transports to Treblinka, he explains that in 1942 he was in charge of the transportation system. He was told that it was not safe to keep the Jews in the East and that the 3 million Jews in the ghettos had to be resettled in camps in the South. This was similar to the resettlement of Indians on reservations by Americans. These transports interfered with the large transports of German soldiers to Stalingrad. The trains transporting Jews were stopped for 8 hours with no food or water.
- 24:55 The telephone lines were reserved for only the most important matters. He phoned SS Ganzemüller in Berlin and his subordinate wrote a letter in his name, thanking him for arranging the transport of 5000 of the “chosen people” on a daily basis. This letter was incriminating in his trial in Nuremberg. He vows that he did not know about the exterminations. His duty was only to facilitate the transports.

Tape 4-07 is inaudible.

Tape 4-08 is a duplicate of Tape 06.

### Tape 4-09-1

Wolff talks about the personality of Bormann. Hitler's request to kidnap the pope. Family history.

- 00:08 He told Hitler about his attempt to discuss peace with Roosevelt and Churchill.
- 09:45 Himmler wanted him to destroy Ribbentrop and he refused.
- 15:08 Describes Bormann's personality and why Bormann considered him his enemy. Bormann reported to Hitler about all large and small war events, such as bombings, deaths, etc. Göring changed the facts when he reported to Hitler.
- 22:19 When he served in Italy, Hitler wanted him to kidnap the pope. He told him that it was a bad idea.
- 24:14 Describes Mussolini and his family.
- 27:09 Talks about his family history and his rise in the party and army.
- 41:28 Talks about his friend Dietrich and his career.
- 43:57 Talks about Himmler's personality.

### Tape-09-2

- 00:28 Discusses the reasons his promotion was delayed.
- 06:07 Hitler held Himmler responsible for military losses and demoted him. Himmler believed in and was influenced by astrology.
- 13:14 Talks about the trial of Milch. He was told that if he testified against him he would be released, but he refused to do it.
- 15:31 He saved Milch from hanging by testifying that the medical experiments that Milch conducted were done by volunteers.
- 20:37 In his trial, a Jewish judge claimed that he was a blood-thirsty sadist, a friend of Himmler and Hitler, and that because of that he was promoted. He said that the documents concerning his promotion, which testify to the real reasons for his promotion, are unavailable because they had been sent to the USA. The interviewer promises to help him and make them available.

### Tape 4-11-1

- 00:12 Wolff claims that he understood that the camps were really resettlements where people were recruited to work, and were not killed. He was told to arrange the transportation of 5,000 Jews a day to resettlement camps. This was not his decision, but he was accused of it at the trial.
- 02:04 He talks about the devastating effect that the lost war had on the families of the SS. The SS and their families were decent and honorable people. Most of the SS were arrested, on the very young or low key were dismissed. Friendships and support groups helped.

- 03:31 He was instrumental in establishing a pension system after the war. He gave talks in different places about his war experiences and the problems facing families.
- 05:40 Many families receive compensations and lived peacefully. He talks about the work and sacrifices of the Waffen SS that should be acknowledged.

### Tape 4-11-2

#### Track 1

- 00:12 The younger generations wants to know about the past and he tells them the good things and the truth about what happened.
- 06:30 The church asked him to give talks about what had happened and to defend his honor and truth.

#### Track 2

- 00:40 He talks about honorable people who in the 60ies were unjustly accused.
- 01:37 He received a letter by a famous person Peiper (?) who said that the German honorable battles saved Europe from communism.
- 05:05 Mentions peace talks in which he participated and which failed because the US did not follow the advice to break up with Russia.

#### Track 3

- 01:22 He does not believe that people will learn from mistakes that were made. Families of the SS learned that intolerance of race and religion were an issue, but other mistakes will be made in the future.
- 2:40 Talks about what Hitler had learned from mistakes made in WWI and corrected.
- 07:44 He talks about the things that needed to be done such as the European Union, and the danger of Russian aggression.

#### Track 3

- 01:55 He says that the US was not aggressive enough. He had offered the US to land in Austria to prevent the advance of Russia, but the US and Britain did not believe him.
- 05:43 Talks about the need to do good, namely to fight crime and terrorism internationally. The youth of Europe will have to change. Fanatics like Yehova Witness should not be allowed to function.

### Tape 4-12

- 00:40 He was in jail and then in a denazification camp and asked Professor Stimmmler to help his family, namely his second wife and children, which he did.
- 12:19 His second wife visited him in jail, and after his release for health reasons, came to stay with him. She later went to the US to study and remarried.
- 15:08 Talks about his wife Ingrid and their children. They were married for 2 years.
- 17:45 He was released in 1949, after five years of arrest. His views about the US government.
- 23:45 Talks about Elizabeth Aaron, who was Jewish and a friend of the family whom he helped.
- 26:02 The interviewer challenges him when he claims that there was no policy of extermination of Jews.

#### Tape 4-13

- 00:19 Talks about his first wife and their courtship.
- 05:57 Talks about the years of Depression and how he lost work, but later became independent.
- 11:52 Describes how he entered the Nazi party and his initiation into the SS.
- 21:00 Talks about people who joined the SS.
- 24:05 The lack of options to study in the 20ies and the job offer from Merk in the US that he received but did not accept.

#### 4-14-1

- 00:47 Wolff tells how he went to Hitler to talk him out of his plan to kidnap the Pope. States that he always refused to obey commands regarding Jews, at the risk of his own life.
- 01:58 In 1923 he heard about Hitler in Munich and his position as head of the National Socialist Party. He himself was 23 years at the time, working in a band and newly married. At the request of his wife he did not join the party then.
- 6:28 He joined the party in October 1931 after hearing Hitler talk at the Nazi assembly.
- 9:28 He also joined the Waffen SS. And attended the Reichsfuhrer School, where all prominent leaders talked. He heard Hitler discuss the corruption of the Weimar Republic. He was sworn into the party by Hitler.
- 14:05 At the swearing in Hitler proclaimed that he wanted to fight dictatorship, that he would never use power to attain his goals, and that he would never order them to act against their conscience.

- 16:05 1932 Hitler followed Wolff's career and developed a personal relationship with him when he moved to Berlin. He was invited to dinners and parties with Himmler.
- 19:20 He was invited with Hitler and Himmler to meet Franco in Spain. Hitler was against the inhumanity of bull fights. He was a vegetarian and against killing animals.
- 27:19 In their talks Hitler told him that he liked him because he had the courage to contradict him.
- 31:58 Hitler did not like to drink, he admired women and loved children. He admired and loved Eva Braun.
- 39:00 In 1941 '42 during the war with Russia Hitler did not see Eva Braun, as a personal example to the soldiers who could not see their families. He treated his people well, and was always considerate.
- 45:47 Wolff talks about all the positive things Hitler did, such as getting Germany out of a recession and unemployment. He is upset that Hitler is vilified.

4-15-1

- 00:24 Wolff talks about WWI. He was an officer at age 18 and received the Iron Cross II. He shows documents that describe his courage.
- 09:19 He quotes from documents about him and shows photos. Talks about his various promotions and titles and mentions other people.
- 15:25 Meyer and Schuldengros (?) testified at his trial to the effect that they knew that he, Wolff, had nothing to do with the Jewish problem.
- 18:58 He describes his work in Italy, holding back the Americans from penetrating. He shows documents describing how he got the Italian Army to lay down their arms, and his negotiations with Nehmitzer. (?)
- 20:43 He quotes from Churchill's book where he is mentioned. He testified in Nuremberg and told the truth to save the honor of Germany.
- 24:12 Talks about testifying at the trial of Kesselring (?) who was accused of shooting prisoners.
- 35:00 He asks the interviewer to talk with Mayer (?) to meet him so he could show him the documents that tell the truth about him. He has been denied his pension and rent because the lies told about him.
- 44:00 Mentions other cases in which he helped people and saved lives.

4-15-2

- 00:37 Talks about the question and argument about whether Hitler gave orders to exterminate Jews.
- 04:36 He does not believe that Hitler gave orders because he knew his personality. He never heard about the order from Himmler, and he would have objected to it.
- 08:39 In 1942 he found Himmler very depressed about marital matters and having a child with his secretary. He told him that he Wolff will have to take over after his death.
- 17:32 Himmler complained about the burden he had to take on himself to keep Hitler blame free.
- 19:10 To the question whether he visited Auschwitz with Himmler he answered that he did in 1941 to help negotiate a deal with IG Farben to provide labor for their rubber factory. They were recompensed for the labor. He did not know about killings or gassing of which he was accused at the Nuremberg trials.
- 24:42 Mentions names of lawyers who assisted him, and was told not to testify that Hitler gave no orders for extermination because he would not be believed.
- 33:23 In his first trial, no evidence was brought against him, but in the June 1947 trial Jewish interrogators trapped him when he denied knowledge about the orders for extermination.
- 37:29 At a trial in 1950-51 he testified that Borman suggested to Himmler to order exterminations, and told him that he would cover it politically.
- 44:25 Claims that Eichmann, to save himself, testified that there was never a written order, and that the Jews paid Messenseni (?) to testify that there was an order.
- 47:08 Steiner says that he cannot believe that Borman and Himmler could decided without Hitler's knowledge. He quotes *Mein Kampf* and a book by Kersten. (?) Wolff contradicts him.

4-16-1

- 00:42 Himmler believed in mysticism. He thought that he was the reincarnation of Heinrich I who had lived 1000 years ago. He talks about a mystic Germanic tradition based on archaeological evidence. He gives the location and describes Germanic holy sites. Hitler was the only one who could restore the ancient Germanic tradition.
- 18:11 Himmler believed in predictions of an invasion of East Germany. Weissstor (?) influenced Himmler who believed in the symbolic Germanic "Ring."
- 34:33 Wolff had heard about the Germanic mysticism from his father. Himmler's parents were Catholic and upset that their son persecuted the church.
- 40:13 Himmler wanted to get a certain Gothic, golden piece of jewelry & Wolff helped him.

4-16-2

- 00:20 More about the scandal related to getting the symbolic golden jewelry.
- 07:33 Wolff claims that mysticism and the belief that he was the reincarnation of Heinrich I explain Himmler's actions.
- 12:45 Wolff talks about a claim by Hussman (?) that Dulles and Roosevelt discussed a peace agreement without Russia.
- 21:22 Wolff was involved in building Webelsburg (?) a symbolic Germanic castle. He describes the details of the building and furniture. It was built by Jehovah's Witness prisoners from a labor camp. The building was later destroyed so it would not fall into the hands of American Jews.
- 34:16 Describes how the "Society of Friends" was formed, and mentions names. IG Farben used inmates from Auschwitz for work, and paid for them. Nobody knew that they would be worked to death or gassed.
- 39:42 Webensburg was never finished because it would have been politically incorrect to build a building while the population suffered.
- 42:33 In the spring of 1941, there was an assembly of his SS with Himmler to discuss the invasion of Russia. They discussed the inhumane actions of the Russians and the possibility of a very bloody war.

4-21-1

- 00:11 Wolff talks about people he met in jail in Nuremberg along with other important SS such as Simon(?), Dietrich(?), Baum(?), Krum(?), and Heissmeyer(?).
- 13:20 He talks about women party leaders and the difficult socioeconomic situation after the war.
- 16:00 In preparation for retaking areas that belonged to Germany, men were encouraged to take many wives and to produce many children in order to repopulate the reclaimed land. There was social and financial support for these enlarged families. The model was the old Chinese family with a first wife in charge, and all the wives were living together.
- 23:00 He described his dark-skinned children from his first wife, along with taking a second wife with whom he had two children.
- 39:49 He describes in detail the difficult relationship with his second wife and the interference of Himmler in his marriage.

4-21-2



- 00:30 Mentions Schacht(?), who cracked the American code and could listen to all the conversations of Franklin Roosevelt. There is more about taking wives and begetting children in order to populate conquered lands.
- 04:37 Describes the revolt of some wives and the stormy relationship with his second wife Inge, who was violent.
- 30:37 He talks about a divorce “factory”. Soldiers died, and more children were needed. Excellent childbearing hospitals were provided.
- 38:19 He quotes from the 1980 book, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, p. 127, where Eichmann mentions that Wolff intervened to help Jews, namely two doctors, Sauerbruch(?) and Langbein(?), as well as an old couple. All of them were about to be transported.

4-22-1

- 00:10 There is a continuation of the previous subject, that of helping Dr. Sauerbruch and other Jews. He asked Himmler to defend him against defamatory accusations that he was a Jew-lover.
- 06:43 He talks about a group of Jews jailed with Dr. Sauerbruch in Munich who were supposed to be shot and how he saved them.
- 18:19 Wolff knew that Jews were being deported and got permission from Hitler and Himmler to save friends. Eichmann and Himmler had Jewish relatives whom he saved.
- 24:45 Eichmann reported information about saving Jews, but could not save himself.
- 38:08 He says that Himmler knew that what was done was wrong and was therefore denying it.
- 42:38 The interviewer tells Wolff of a document that proves that Bormann talked with Hitler about the extermination of the Jews, which is proof that Hitler knew. Wolff said that he was upset and had to think about it before he could answer.

4-23-1

Wolff canceling appointment by phone

4-23-2

- 00:28 Talks about prominent Germans who had Jews in their families. There were 20 “concessioned” Jews. Hirn, Himmler, and Heydrich had Jews in their families. Goering had said: “I will determine who is a Jew.”
- 10:31 Ribbentrop nominated many people to top positions. He was not liked because of his personality.

- 16:57 Luther, who owed his position to Ribbentrop, gave Schellenberg a document talking about Ribbentrop's incompetence, mentioning El Alamein and Stalingrad. Luther and Bormann wanted to oust Ribbentrop and asked Wolff for help, which he refused. He went with Ribbentrop to Hitler, who was appalled by the accusations and had Luther jailed.
- 41:33 Wolff says that he joined the Waffen SS to help his country which was in danger of being overtaken by communism. The Waffen SS selected people with high quality personality and intellect.

4-24-1

- 02:21 Steiner asks him about his thoughts regarding racial discrimination. Wolff evades the question and talks about his rise in the SS ranks along with his education.
- 17:36 His thoughts about racism – previous wars and excursions in the Middle Ages resulted in the birth of an inferior race. Himmler wanted to keep that element out of the ruling class and to elevate a superior Nordic race of tall, blonde-haired, and blue-eyed people. The Jews, whose percentage in the population was very small, were disproportionately represented in high numbers in all the high positions and professions, and their numbers needed to be reduced. He said that Polish Jews were rich and corrupt, and that their input needed to be reduced.
- 31:13 He talks about how Jews destroyed the middle class by underbidding. Following the war, people were bitter and crime (specifically drug-dealing) increased. People suffer for the past and suffer injustice. He himself was jailed even though nobody could prove any of the accusations against him. He was jailed because the judges were corrupt and under pressure.
- 47:59 Steiner asks him what he thinks about Israel.

4-24-2

- 00:28 Wolff talks about directors of great industrial firms who contributed to the party.
- 10:52 His attitude toward Israel today: He claims that the Jews declared war against Germany. They exaggerated the number of Jews killed from four to six million in order to get more money for reparations. Wiesenthal also exaggerates. Israel uses the money to fight Egypt and to destroy Lebanon. They are good soldiers because they imitate the SS.
- 30:25 He talks about a book in which he participated. A survivor thanked him for helping him to understand what had happened in Italy. He claims that he did not know about transports from Italy.
- 35:10 He talks about Hitler's love of Prague.

4-25-1

- 00:51 He talks about how he came to marry his first wife instead of an American woman whom his mother wanted him to marry, which would have brought him to the United States and made him an American citizen.
- 06:25 He joined the Youth Military Training school when he was 14 years old, and continued from there.
- 08:48 He talks about always honoring old friendships, including Jewish friends whom he saved.
- 14:09 He describes Goebbels as an evil man, unlike Himmler who was so upset about Kristallnacht that he had a nervous breakdown. (He reads from a book that quotes that Wolff had said that the situation was unbearable)
- 21:00 Describes his SS training in Munich. Hitler and others gave talks. They were sworn in during February 1932.
- 31:00 He complains in regard to unfair reports about him.
- 34:15 At the 1932 ceremony, Hitler reassured them that 1) he would never order them to participate in a power takeover of the government, and 2) he would never give them orders that go against their consciences. This influenced him in all of his actions. Others did not obey these principles.
- 39:33 During October 1942 in Norway, there was the case of the explosion at the heavy water works. A commando was recruited from British criminal prisoners, who were promised that they would be released if they carried out the explosion. Norwegian partisans found out about it and slaughtered the prisoners in a brutal way. Hitler was outraged.
- 42:00 In 1943, when he was in Italy, he found an order to shoot all prisoners and anybody involved in sabotage. He followed his conscience and forbade himself to follow these orders.
- 51:00 He was always ordered to take prisoners of war only, rather than killing people. He risked his life doing this and justified himself before Hitler.
- 58:00 He went from Florence to Rome, and at the end of the war was taken to a mental hospital and put under hypnosis by a psychiatrist in order to reveal secrets that he did not divulge in Nuremberg.

4-25-2

- 00:14 Talks about his life in the mental hospital where he was mishandled. He was held in the hospital to avoid having to testify and the possibility of prison.

- 04:25 His doctor in the hospital told him that he had orders from the Americans to prevent him from testifying at the Nuremberg trials, which he wanted to do. He beat up the doctor.
- 09:48 Another doctor studied his case and promised to help him and told him how to act in order to be released. He followed his advice and was released.
- 13:50 He was arrested and taken on a long trip to a camp. He describes the trip.
- 21:51 He describes his stay at the camp with other members of the SS.

#### 4-28

In this interview, Wolff thanks the interviewer for the thoughtful and understanding talks that they had. They talk about American, British, and German politics. Wolff says that he always treated the wounded and prisoners according to the Geneva Convention. He talks about different people, and also mentions that he feels tired and sick.

Telephone conversations  
German  
Two tapes

Time Coded Notes  
Tapes 4 –19, 4 –20

#### Telephone Conversations

4 – 19

- 00:14 Telephone conversation with(?) Wolff, who thanks Steiner. Wolff also talks about the lack of thanks and appreciation from the public. He does not let this depress him because he knows that he is part of German history.
- 08:43 Telephone conversation with(?) Dr. Geier(?). Dr. Steiner wants to get back documents that he had submitted. There seem to be some legal reasons, and judicial concerns about having them published.  
They also discuss studies of suicidal epidemics (?).

#### 4 – 20

Telephone conversations with(?) three or four different people.

- 00:33 Conversation with(?) Wolff, who tells him about his medical problems and care.

- 02:58 Conversation with(?) (?) about a Borman document that Dr. Steiner wants to receive.
- 06:08 Conversation with (?)  
-End of tape is inaudible