

ARCHIV HORST VON WÄCHTER

Audio recordings

Summary

RG-90.147.0003 part 1 of 2

Kassette 2, Seite 1 [30.27 minutes]

Label: "WIEDEMANN MÜNCHEN DEZ. 1977 im Cafe Vier Jahreszeiten"

Conversation between **Charlotte Wächter** (CW) and **Melitta Wiedemann**, former publisher of Die Aktion. Kampfblatt gegen Plutokratie und Volksverhetzung, recorded in December 1977 in the coffeehouse Vier Jahreszeiten in Munich. Wiedemann recounts how she reconnected with Charlotte Wächter after the war; Wiedemann's relationship with Adolf Hitler; her criticism of Nazi war strategy and the reasons Germany lost the war; how she sought out various higher SS leaders including **Maximilian von Herff**, Steiner (**Felix Martin Julius Steiner?**), **Richard Hildebrandt** of the SS Rasse- und Siedlungshauptamt, and also Otto Wächter; the attempt to come up with a new war strategy based on "reasonable politics" instead of Hitler's "Untermenschenpolitik"; her search for sympathetic SS leaders; the special bond between her and Otto Wächter in terms of a different political approach and war strategy towards Russia; how Wächter removed a collection of related files from her apartment in the winter of 1943 which was the last time she saw him; recounts how she later learned from reading **Bishop Alois Hudal's** biography that Wächter had survived the war and that he had died in the "arms of Bishop Hudal;" states how relieved she was to learn that he was "not torn apart somewhere by the Poles" after the war; states how **Heinrich Himmler** made a mistake by giving the responsibility for a new political direction in the East not to Otto Wächter but instead to SS Gruppenführer Berger (**Gottlob Christian Berger?**) whom she deems incompetent. CW asks her to recount how she met Russian General **Andrey Wlassow** when he was a POW in Berlin. CW talks about how Otto Wächter had a special admiration for General Wlassow. Wiedemann talks about how she consulted the microfilms of the German captured records that were returned to Germany by the United States about her actions during that time, including her letters to Himmler, how she is still convinced that only the "Austrian" Otto Wächter would have been capable to convince Himmler to pursue a new war strategy towards the Russians. CW talks about the great admiration that her husband received from his staff. Wiedemann recounts how her "life partner" knew Stauffenberg (**Claus Schenk Graf von Stauffenberg**) and how Stauffenberg's motives for the assassination attempt were because of Hitler's "failing politics in Russia". CW explains that she is seeking out former associates and acquaintances of her late husband for the sake of her six children who have only heard negative things about their father; how glad she is that eyewitnesses exist who can attest that her husband was not a war criminal who murdered Jews and how Wächter refused an order from Himmler to inspect the camps because he did not want to get involved; Wiedemann states how there cannot be 6 million

Jewish victims because that great a number of Jews never existed; Wiedemann suggests that archival records that prove this are held in Bonn; she states that "something had to be done" to confront the Jewish conspiracy against the German Reich; Wiedemann discusses the role of the Einsatzgruppen in order to combat Jewish snipers and partisans; how the antisemitism among Belorussians and Poles was due to the great number of Jews who lived in the eastern territories.

RG-90.147.0003 part 2 of 2

Kassette 2, Seite 2 [30.27 minutes]

Label: [~~crossed out: 2. April 1977 P[illegible]~~] Lisl in Duernbg Weihnacht 1978. München geschrieben 2. IV. 1977]

Conversation with Melitta Wiedemann continued. Wiedemann states that **Oswald Pohl** in 1942 issued protective orders for Jewish inmates in the concentration camps because all the camp labor, including in Auschwitz, was vital for the war effort and that any cruelty against Jews was hence forbidden. CW recounts how she met with **Sir Oswald Mosley** in Great Britain. CW and Wiedemann affirm to each other their affinity towards Nazi ideology as well as their deep personal religiosity. Wiedemann states how she had personal conversations with Hitler and how she is convinced that Hitler was a religious person; how Hitler asked **Cardinal Michael von Faulhaber** to read a personal mass for him after Hitler became Reichskanzler but that Cardinal Faulhaber refused to do so; Wiedemann assures CW that she is still a passionate National Socialist; CW asks Wiedemann's opinion about the role of women under National-Socialism as she is thinking about writing a book about this topic; Wiedemann and CW discuss the craft of the writer; Wiedemann praises the writings of the wife of **Baldur von Schirach**; CW mentions her personal dislike of Mrs. von Schirach. CW recounts how she attempted to call Baldur von Schirach after the war but he refused to talk to her. [tape skips] Wiedemann mentions that many historians have contacted her over the years and how the German records that had been "stolen" by the United States were recently returned on microfilm; how she printed out certain files about her and has her personal archive now. CW asks Wiedemann what she should do in order to receive a widower's pension which she has not been able to do because of her husband's past; Wiedemann promises to ask historians to look for archival records about Otto Wächter that might help CW in applying for a widower's pension. [tape skips] CW alone, summarizing the interview with Melitta Wiedemann. Sends Christmas greetings to her loved ones. Will be picked up the next day by Mrs. Schönbeck as she intends to visit her daughter Liesl in Fieberbrunn. Regrets that she is not ready yet to write the book she discussed with Wiedemann. Discusses family matters. Reads a personal Christmas letter summarizing the year 1977.