



From David Irving's forthcoming *Himmler biography*: Artur Seyss-Inquart, Marga Himmler and her husband the Reichsführer at a reception in Hitler's Berlin Chancellery: photo by Hugo Jäger (LIFE/Getty archives)

## Frau Marga Himmler DIARIES 1937–1945

1937

On Sunday, November 14, 1937 at noon we arrived in Rome, after traveling for 25 hours by train, in a salon carriage. Here we were expected by the chief of the Italian police, plus a big following; the Italians called it a “small” following. We drove to the hotel and from there to a small “trattoria.” It was a hole in the wall on the ground floor,

but with very good food. In Italy great importance is given to good food. After a short nap, we went to the Coliseum, a fantastic old construction, and then on to Nemi and Gandolfo, where the Pope resides in the summer. On the way back to Rome, we drove along the Via Appia, the famous old road, where there is the tomb of Cecilia Mitella and many other ruins. In the evening, we went to another trattoria by horse and carriage, and went to bed by 10 o'clock.

November 15 First we went to the Castle Saint Angelo, angel's castle, from which we had a beautiful view of St. Peter's cathedral, which was our next stop; inside there is a statue of St. Peter's and people kiss his feet, which consequently looks quite damaged by all the wear and tear. How hygienic! Due to the accommodating politeness of the police, and the SS flag on our car, we were permitted to drive around in the Vatican gardens. There are many beautiful buildings inside the gardens, which we admired from the outside as well as the beautiful landscaping. From there, we went to Tivoli, where we had lunch at "Trume der Sybille" with marvelous sunshine and a beautiful view of the countryside. Sunday we saw the Albano mountains and today the Sabina mountains. Then after a short rest we went to the Napolitan Museum and the Mussolini Museum, where we saw marvelous old statues! In the evening we ate at "Ulpia," a beautiful old place with the police chief Rossini and his secretary, 6 people all together. There was typical Italian music and singing from different parts of Italy. To bed at 11 p.m..

November 16: The day started with sightseeing at the Campidaglio (the Capitol). We went to the Museum of the Dying Gaul, who was wearing the, in Germany, very controversial necklace. H. (Heinrich) was extremely impressed and deeply pleased. Then on to the Forum. There we saw buildings from 2000 years ago, large and in good condition. It seems unbelievable that these marvelous structures were discovered, dug up, restored, and presented to the public only under Mussolini's regime! The history that goes with it is unbelievable. An Italian professor, Bocchoni, accompanied us, also the previous day. In the afternoon, we were too tired to do anything else. One has to digest these enormous impressions first. Today we had the first news from the children, they are well. Tonight we are going to the Schaumburg's, he is with the German embassy at the

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On Hoover Library NSDAP Hauptarchiv microfilm is the *Todesanzeige* for Marga's father Hans Boden, died aged 75 (76?) on August 15, 1939. This identifies the following characters:

Hans's widow: Margarete Boden geb. Sohr [Marga Himmlers's mother]

Heinrich Himmler and Frau Margarete geb Boden

Lydia Boden [Marga's sister]

Hans von Kalkstein [Marga's brother in law] and wife Bertha [Marga's sister]

Franz Holzhausen [Hans's brother-in-law, Marga's uncle] and Martha [Hans's sister, Marga's aunt]

Kurt Boden of Sao Paolo [Hans's brother, Marga's uncle]

Fritz Boden [Hans's brother, Marga's uncle]

Dieter and Lutz Holzhausen (Hans's grandchildren) and Gudrun Himmler (his granddaughter)

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Italian state. Beautiful flowers awaited me when I arrived there. Van Boccini, Buergens, Ambassador to the Vatican, Governors, etc.

November 17: We leave for Naples early. From the car we sightsee Littoria and Sabaudia; all of it Mussolini's work. In Terracina we ate lunch; quite good for such a small town. There were only men in the restaurant, very well behaved. There seem to be no drunkards around here, people are used to drinking wine. After we got here, we did some errands in the city. I had something wrong with my stomach.

On November 18, we went to Herculaneum and Pompeii. It was disturbing to see how people here surprised by sudden death. The wealth in both cities! Each house had an atrium and a garden. A simple fisherman's house with 2 floors and 8-10 rooms. Pompeii, which is closer to Vesuvius, got buried by a rain of ashes and people died by the poisoned gases that emanated. They found many skeletons. The walls of the houses painted with beautiful colors, still well preserved today. Marvelous paintings, marvelous marble tables. Fountains in the gardens, which still spout water like 2000 years ago. Pompeii was a merchant city; they found silver and gold. Cooking pots made of silver. Mosaic floors with the swastika, as well as marble floors. Herculaneum was more a city of legal population. Pompeii had 2 theaters and a bar at every street corner crossing. In the evening we stayed at the hotel.

November 19: In the morning I went with Mr. [Eugen] Dollmann, an SS leader and our interpreter to the villa "La Floridiana" with a beautiful collection of pottery and porcelain. At the times of Frederick the Great in the 18th century, a duke gave it to his mistress. The villa is in a beautiful spot overlooking the sea. The garden too is magnificent, and we walked under blooming camellias. There also was a vegetable garden and a greenhouse and I found that most of it is available in Germany too, just smaller. Then, I saw the old Naples, with its most primitive neighborhoods. Quarters with an indescribable amount of children. Children everywhere – what a blessed country. H. had time to go up Mount Vesuvius with me but did not see much because it rained and it was very windy. As soon as I lay down at the hotel, H. appeared and said that we still had to reach Cosenza and Busento today. We left at 3:30. It was a cumbersome trip in the rain, 350 km over mountains. At 12:30 at night we arrived in Cosenza. The road was all curves and H.'s small car was worn out. Cosenza is a small town of 40,000 to 50,000 inhabitants. Our hotel was quite dirty, apart from good beds. The following morning the prefect invited us to a simple meal. We look at a castle from the Hohensaufen era, and a golden cross that Frederick II donated to the cathedral of Cosenza. Then we ended up at the prefect's house at 12:30 for lunch. A large house with many ornate rooms. Many courses throughout the meal, since every dish is served by itself, everything very tasty. At 1:30 we left. The crowd round the hotel applauded which is a great honor. The prefect was a friend of Boccini's. He had three daughters; one of them died recently. The wife looked like a Roman matron. We had to drive 200 km. It got dark at 4:30 pm with rain and fog. H's car stalled and had to be repaired. I had an espresso in the meantime and was not feeling well. At 7:15 we arrived in Giovanni where a commendatore received us and our police escort left us: under this new protection we

drove another 60 km to Taormina. With many flowers and a lot of luggage we arrived here to spend 17 days of tranquility. We also had to travel 1/2 hour on a ferry.

November 21: We found letters from the children and spent a quiet morning writing and reading. After an afternoon nap we walked through the old town, wanting to see the old theater, but it was closed. There are many Germans here and everybody greeted us. In the evening we ate downstairs like at lunchtime and went to bed early. The magnificent view from the hotel over the ocean is unique.

November 22: I had to go to the hairdresser, he was very good. I played tennis, read, slept siesta, then to the ruins of the theater, from where there also is a beautiful view. Drank an espresso. The ruins date approx. 1500 years back and had a capacity for about 20 to 25,000 people. From 5 til 7 p.m. we played bridge, and then early to bed, because we were planning to get up early to take advantage of the morning sun, because the sun also goes down at 4:30pm here and it gets to be quite cool. The water supposedly is 22 degrees and we want to swim tomorrow.

November 23: Bathing was beautiful with the gorgeous sunshine. Then we played bridge in the afternoon and evening with Mr. Von Hadeln and Mr. Dollmann. H. played tennis in the morning, I watched. I'll play tomorrow.

November 24: I played about 15 minutes with an instructor, watched, and then we went bathing. It was much better than the first day. It is because v.H.n.H. Windorfer remarked. But suddenly the strength diminished. The weather seems to be getting worse.

November 25: H. did not play tennis, there is "scirocco." We went to Syracuse. Magnificent the things we saw. A church with columns that dated to a pre-Christian era. They were probably shortened, so a roof could be put on them. Also in a museum, beautiful old things (ships). A Greek theater, which is still being used every three years. Sculpted out of the rocks with great dexterity. Next to it the family death-chambers. Below the rocks the "Fear of Dynisio." They don't know why it's called that. Nobody knows when it was sculpted out of the rocks, everybody can have their own thoughts about it. The sound effect was impressive! The Greek theater is from the 5th century BC. The amphitheater from the times of Augustus (1st century approximately) but does not measure up to the older one in nobility and proportion. Then we saw the catacombs under the guidance of a Franciscan priest. He was very sly, who left all the questions unanswered. Everybody laughed so hard that one could not understand anything. After driving for 2½ hours we arrived with bad weather back in Taormina. This effort did not agree with me (ears).

November 26: Tonight there was a cyclone. Everybody is very agitated. There had not been a storm like that for 10 years. I stayed home all day. Went to the tennis court. It rained some. We'll play bridge.

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November 27: Mr. [Rudolf] Brandt [Himmler's *pers. Referent*] arrived. Brought news from home. We swam; the ocean had very big waves. Played "Doublehead" [Doppelkopf] in the evening.

November 28: It is not very warm; I stay home while the men went for a swim and played tennis. In the afternoon some bridge and early to bed.

November 29: The weather is cold and rainy. H. is playing tennis. I did errands. I want to study English.

November 30: I also played tennis.

December 1: I did not swim but played tennis.

December 2: We got up at 7:30am and drove to Catania to our plane. Left at 9:30am for Palermo. It lies inside a beautiful bay. It is called a "Golden Valley" because it is so fertile. From the airport we went to Mar Reale, where we looked at a big church, which inside consisted entirely of mosaic in a Moorish-Norman style. From the garden had a beautiful view of Palermo and the valley. Saw a Moorish cross-grath and fountain. Flew to Palermo, where we saw a mosaic chapel inside of a royal castle; then we saw the cathedral and then lunch. Then another  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours to the museum, where we saw prehistoric objects. Then we started back because we had to land before dark in Catania. As the plane started going up we saw the Prefect arrive by car. He was late to say goodbye to H. We landed after a beautiful flight and drove straight back to Taormina, where we arrived at 6pm. Played some bridge and to bed at 10pm.

Dec 3: The weather is terrible – an awful storm. At 5pm we had tea with a Mr. Rain Renir, very nice; he has an antique store. H. bought quite a lot (German figures).

Dec 4: Up not too early and on to Catania. The weather was not good, but the flight to Lybia was OK. We flew  $2\frac{3}{4}$  hours via Malta, very interesting. Changed clothes and went to the city to admire the bazaars. At in the city "Miramare."

Dec 5: We drove 120 km through the desert on a very good road to "Spetis Magna," a city of about 150,000 inhabitants which lay buried under the sand for 1300 years! Now being dug up, it was determined that this city was at its' peak around 150 AD. It was built with great wealth and power by the Romans. With hundreds and hundreds of marble columns and statues. I always thing of the fact why countries are so poor nowadays? Maybe because there are no slaves anymore?

Dec 6: Today it was not warm but cold and windy. When we arrived [at Tripoli?] it even rained which is a wonderful thing for this region. At 9am we flew 600 km into the desert to an oasis, "Sadances"; it has an airport and 3 Italian officers are stationed there. About 3,000 Arabs and Tuaregs live in this place. We saw their living quarters. The Tuaregs are mostly nomads and wander from one place to another or accompany caravans.

At the beginning of our flight we still saw some signs of colonization, but later just endless desert. There was a very nice hotel in Sadance with the only European women anywhere around. The wife of the director and their girls. Homes are built of adobe and one walks into them like a labyrinth. Only the women and children live on the roof. Only once a year on Dec. 23, they come down. I, as a woman, was allowed to go upstairs, the men had to stay in the rooms downstairs. As I arrived upstairs the women ran away and the children screamed and cried and covered their faces. I also saw a kitchen: a tripod stood on the floor and on top a pot in which something was cooking because some wood was burning underneath the pot. Two big basins were sculpted into the well at the side. Everything like 2000 years ago, but everything was clean. All these huts plastered together must be at least 600 years old. People are Muslims. The walls are made of sand and water and are sturdy and thick. But if it would ever rain hard they would fall apart. The most it rains here is once a year for 20 minutes. The Tuaregs live at the edge of the city in round tents. Like at the times of Genghis Khan. The children, like their parents, are blue-black, and they begged. When I gave them something, a 13 or 14 year old boy danced a “happiness” dance and showed luminous, very white, teeth. People suffer from very severe eye diseases. One child had about 20 flies on his face. Two hours later we flew back and stayed home quietly for the evening. We flew there in 2  $\frac{3}{4}$  hours.

Dec 7: This evening we are invited to his excellency Balbo for dinner. I played tennis in the morning. In the afternoon we saw a mosque and the Jewish quarters. The mosque had a very impressive, spiritual atmosphere, and the Jewish quarters horrendously dirty and that stink! The Arabs are much, much cleaner. Dinner: 18 people – short. Mrs. Balbo: pretty, conceited. He’s intelligent, good-looking. H. was delighted, very interesting.

Dec 8: H. already left at 9am to look over soldiers. I spent quiet time at the hotel. Again at Balbo’s in the evening. Again 18 people, of which most of them spoke German.

Dec 9: Today we flew to Naples with wonderful weather and unlimited visibility. Soon after leaving Libya we saw “Aetna” covered with snow; then we flew around Vesuvius and got a good look. In Naples we visited the grave and the place where Konradin was decapitated, the last of the Hohenstaufen. Then bought some things for Christmas. Played bridge. Naples is a very beautiful city.

Dec 10: At IOa, we went to Paestum and saw beautiful Greek temples, from the 6th, 5th and 2nd century BC. Then on to Salerno and then at 5pm back home. (I am writing on the train. Met some Germans.) Then for 1½ hours to the National Museum where we saw incredible things. Tapestries, objects recovered from Pompeii and Herculaneum. A very smart Italian professor was our guide.

Dec 11: We drove to Rome through a beautiful landscape, ate on the way, and were in Rome at 3:30 p.m.. Slept, and then went to the hairdresser. We are invited to the Ambassador von Bergen’s residence [Botschafter beim Heiligen Stuhl 1920-1943 Diego von Bergen

(\*30. Oktober 1872 Bangkok; † 7. Oktober 1944 Wiesbaden). Nice people, a pleasant group of German diplomats of both embassies (Government and Vatican), also some people we had met in Paestum Furdenbach. That same evening there would be a public communique from the Palazzo Venezia by Mussolini, but we were too late, it lasted only 8 minutes. We played cards, but H. did not feel well, and said it was the lobsters.

Dec 12: Father's birthday; we sent him a cable. We sleep late, because H. is feeling badly. We eat outside, overlooking Rome. In the afternoon tea, at Mrs. [von] Hassell (Embassy) [Botschafter Ulrich von Hassell], I don't feel well. In the evening, H. talks to the NS-DAP (German National Socialist Labor Party) in Rome. I feel terrible, have very bad stomach cramps. At 10:30 we drive to Boccini's for dinner. I cannot eat anything. An apartment with so many valuables, I have never seen anything like it. I am taken to the Pullman train compartment at 12 midnight at my request, because I just cannot stand it any more. It became a terrible night. H. arrives at 2am and in the morning we leave for Berlin, I lie down all day and sleep a lot; the pain lessens.

On Dec 14: we arrive in Berlin with a delay of 3 hours. Here there is a terrible family commotion: Hansi and Bertha [Marga's sister].

Dec 15 and 16: We pack and shop for Christmas. The Oswald's come in the evening.

Dec 17: Now we are on the train to M. to spent Christmas in Gmund. Why can't people keep their mouths straight (Bertha [Marga's sister])? Kalkstein's are not joining us for Christmas. [Hans von Kalkstein was Marga's brother in law, had a married Bertha, Marga's sister]

Dec 18: We kill some pigs. I have some meetings. The day passes peacefully.

Dec 19–29: We just returned from Obersalzberg. Christmas has passed and I received many presents but there was only peace while sleeping. Otherwise only agitation, annoyance, and grief. When is this ever going to change?

Many visitors came and more to come, or maybe we leave early because there is a "happening" every day. And there is always trouble with the help! Nobody cares at all about doing things around the house.

Dec 31: Now the year has ended. How much grief and worries it had brought, but for H. also a lot of recognition, advancement, and honors. Our beautiful trip was an outstanding event. We want to spend New Years night with the Oswalds. All five of them were here. The boys left, but Mr. and Mrs. Oswald stayed till Monday morning.

Jan 5, 1938: It is almost like peace and clarity have arrived. I expect a lot from the new year. I try to do a little skiing every day, but it does not work out well. The children do it much better. On the third evening, v. Tschammer, Ostens, and v. Obersteins's, v. Reichenau's came here. H. is too much of a humble man. Otherwise it was very nice. Mr. V. Tschammer will let me know where Püppi can learn to ice skate, she wants it so badly. H. had to see the Führer today.

Jan 8: Tomorrow we drive to Berlin; yesterday the staff was here, 11 people, we played "doubleheader." Things are fine. The eternal packing. How many days during the year are we on the road? One misses too much. No time to read.

Jan 11 [*Berlin*]: The house is full of workmen. H. is very upset and everything is done so poorly. We do have beautiful flowers. The gardener is doing a good job. We also have a new gardener-janitor. We have left him alone. Now invitations are starting again. If I only did not need so much sleep.

Jan 18: We have been invited for three days because the Yugoslav president is here. On Jan. 15 at the Neurath's. Next day we saw "Die Fledermaus" in a special performance with Ballet, at great speed and in beautiful colors. Last night, we were at the Führer's. H. had to leave early to go to Sonthofen; I stayed a little longer but was home by 12 midnight. Today at noon I drove to Klosterbeide to see the school for mothers. Very nice, light and friendly. At 6:30pm I was home and wanted to go to sleep early. The house is getting done slowly; it's high time!

Jan 20: Last night [Jan 19] we celebrated Bertha [Marga's sister]'s birthday and played bridge with Edit and Franz. Martin was here too. The story with Bertha [Marga's sister] is still not quite clear. Bertha [Marga's sister] is terribly agitated about everything. I am trying to learn English again. Tonight we are going to the Oswald's. H. should be arriving any moment. He came by plane from Munich. I was very worried. I slept very badly last night with that storm.

Jan 24: Yesterday [Jan 23] was a quiet Sunday. H. was here too. We played with the children in the afternoon and in the evening we were invited at the Oswald's. Very nice – Thursday evening [Jan 20] H. came, we ate, and packed for him. He attended a meeting and left for Kiel and then on to Munich. On Jan 22 was the opening of the Architect's show and at 5pm H. returned home. In the evening we went to the Egyptian embassy. Mostly foreign diplomats, very nice.

Jan 26 [*Berlin*]: I want to do gymnastics. I saw it on the Reichsplatz and liked it very much. I'll go there Friday with R. von Oswald. In the afternoon we played bridge. Püppi is still doing badly in dictation. We often call her "schwinekin" (piglet) and then one day she answered, "Schwinekin Mommy." Too bad we don't have 6 like this, so lovable. Today Bertha [Marga's sister] [Bertha, Marga's sister], Lydia [Marga's sister] [also Marga's sister], and I go to Countess Wedel. H. has many worries and even more work. Poor Blomberg. I feel sorry for him.



Jan 30: Every day H. has been coming home after midnight from work. How could he stand it? Gymnastics agreed with me but I do have muscle aches. Coffee party was very nice. Püppi tries very hard and studies a lot. Gerhard behaves very badly: he lies, steals, and plays hookie from school. I don't know what to say. H. is very unhappy about this. We told his mother when she was here. Gerhard was not nice to her. We went to the theater: "Lauter Lügen" (All Lies). Very funny.

Feb 2: The Ribbentrops stayed here with us for two nights. Everything went well. Went to the theater "Der kluge Mann," (The Bright Man). Not very good. The story is partially good. Last night we went to see the Lorenzen's – ten people. Interesting conversation. H. very stressed out. I expect the newspaper [*Nachrichten?* news?] daily.

Feb 5: Last night the Oswald's came. Big news: the Führer has taken over the Wehrmacht in person. Ribbentrop is Foreign Minister. Many changes. H. is very nervous. Had to work on this day and night but was not promoted himself. I slept badly last night. Now I am supposed to go to the exhibit of Mrs. Paraskewe von Bereskiné [Russian artist, 1889–1980], where the President himself will be present for the opening. I came home at 9pm last night and we played some bridge.

Feb 9: Heini recovered from his nervousness and is quiet and peaceful. This week we have to go out very frequently in the evening, but otherwise, I try to stay home as much as possible. I want to work on my family tree. Reiner had his pictures shown at the exhibit, they were wonderful. At the Argentinean Embassy, I saw many people I know; at a tea at Mrs. [Vico von] Bülow-Schwante, I talked for a long time with Mrs. Togo, wife of the Japanese Ambassador. Tonight we are at the [Hiroshi] Oshima's (Japanese military attaché).

Feb 14: I have a cold. Yesterday Dr. [Michael] Setzkorn was here to see about the cold. I feel better. We played bridge. It was peaceful, quiet, Sunday [Feb 13]. On Feb 11, we went to a reception at [Konstantin] Hierl, there were about 1000 people. On Feb 12, we went to the French Ambassador [André François-Poncet]. He is the funniest, most amusing person I have ever met. Went home early because my cold was pretty bad.

Feb 16: Last night we were invited at the Führer's with the Diplomatic Corps. There were about 200 people. Gorgeous flowers everywhere, just marvelous. The Führer looked very well initially, quite tired towards the end. We had a good time. No invitation today. On Feb 25, there is an invitation from the Führer for the party which takes place in Munich. I am looking forward to this because I can also go to our house in Gmund.

Feb 21: Yesterday the gigantic speech of the Führer. At home in the afternoon, where Heini is talking about more "addition" (construction). I was extremely tired and went to bed early. I still had to go to a "beer evening" at Hels [*Hierls? Heli's?*]. On Saturday [Feb 19] there was the invitation of the Minister of Propaganda. It was very boring, we left early. H. was also very tired. The poor Wedel's. Today Oswald's are coming.

Tinchen is going to England and wants to say good-bye. Eden left after the Führer's speech yesterday. H. is sitting downstairs having tea with the men. I went to Bülow's with Püppi, many ladies. Tomorrow I'll play bridge with 4 ladies from "Attolico" at my place. In the morning, the Japanese Ambassadress is coming for a visit – she came and stayed 45 minutes and told me many intimate and interesting things.

March 3 [*Gmund*]: I spent almost 5 days in Gmund, mostly sleeping. I did spend 2 days in Munich at the Hotel "Four Seasons." The Führer had invited the entire Party in the beautiful rooms at the "Führer's House." Heini arrived Sunday evening [Feb 27] with the Heissmeier's who only stayed one night. The sun shone brightly the entire time in Gmund. On Sunday [Feb 27] we had tea at the Hess's. Many people. We saw the little boy [Wolf Rüdiger Hess], he played by himself already (3 months) he was happy. Went home early. On Monday [Feb 28] I killed my pig, 120lbs of pure meat. Was alone with Erika and Anna, but it went well.

[*Berlin*]: Back here, many problems and agitation were waiting for us. I lie sleeplessly till midnight and wait for Heini. He is very tired and stressed out with all the annoying things he deals with, and I always think he does not get enough recognition. [*Fritsch Affäre*] Sometimes I rack my brain thinking about this. Are his enemies really that strong? But Heini is pleased and courageous and I try to be the same. We saw a lot of the von Ribbentrops in Munich. Yesterday [Mar 2?], Püppi and I went for tea at the House of Sport. There presentations were mediocre. H. came later but was called to the phone and then left. All evening we worried thinking he might have to leave again.

March 13 [*Berlin*]: We still worry. Everyday there is something new. H., who knew what was happening, was in a good mood. But for us, who just see all this agitation and who had to pack his field uniform, it was depressing. I [*This must be H. - Himmler, because Marga and Gudrun are in Berlin*] went to Munich. I had tea; there was tension in the air, although nobody knew what was going on. Countess Wedel and the Oswald's stayed on and we listened to the radio till 2am [Feb 13 früh] – Austria is now part of the German Reich. H. was the first to arrive in Vienna. The cheers of joy were indescribable when the Führer, on Saturday morning [Mar 12], arrived in Braunau. Now the triumphant entry continues to Vienna. H. phoned from Vienna today – he is very well, he is healthy and overwhelmed from all that's happening. We women are sitting here and must console ourselves with the radio. Püppi got sick tonight with high fever, so that I could not sleep all night. When I sat on her bed and told her it was only 3:30 in the morning and she should try to sleep some more, she said: at this time last night, Daddy marched in; she meant Vienna. The child is preoccupied with her father.

Mar 14: H. called again from Vienna. The Führer should arrive in Vienna today. Tonight I invited the Wedels, the Oswalds, Bertha [Marga's sister], and husband for dinner and maybe for bridge.

Mar 21 [*Berlin*]: H. arrived in the evening, because at 8pm was a session of the Reichstag. The Führer talked very movingly. The Austrian government was here as a guest. The

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Führer was tired and stressed out. H. went there for dinner afterwards. Thousands of people stood outside the Reich Chancery. Everybody wanted to see the Führer. They screamed “Hermann, be a man and bring out the Führer!” – “Führer, please don’t be so hard and show yourself with Seyss-Inquart (the Austrian Reich’s “Governor”). On April 10, our Reichstag will be elected and there also is people’s questioning [*Volksabstimmung*]. H. flew back to Austria again, he’ll be home even less than usual.

Püppi had a terrible cold and also an earache so I called Dr. [Michael] Setzkorn. She could get out of bed, but did not go to school for a whole week. I got sick too and could not go to my exercises and I need it badly because I am getting fat; I weigh 144 lbs. We want to go to the movies with the Wedels’ to see “Vacations on Honor.” Opinions on this movie are very diverse. Even the magazine, “Die Wehrmacht” wrote about H.’s landing at night in Vienna. The headline says “The Husar’s side [*-streich?*] of the S.S. Reichsführer” – he could not abandon his men.” Thank God everything went well. H. talks very little about this. He was nervously exhausted. Today he is looking forward to the showing [film show?].

Mar 23: H. has not called yet. He should be speaking from Vienna and transmitted from all the radio stations. We are supposed to go to the Oswalds. My cold is slowly getting better. The weather is wonderful, it’s really spring.

Mar 27: H. returned from his performance in Austria with great satisfaction, almost jubilant! This human material that he has in his S.S.! Now he is traveling with the Führer, Saturday and Sunday, they were traveling already. H. will be here today and tomorrow. H. tells interesting things the Führer talked about his life. H. wants to put it in writing. Gerhard is often badly behaved. Played hookie at the “Jugendkreis.” It’s so sad. Püppi is sweet and nice. On Friday, 12 ladies came for coffee to say goodbye to the winter season. We want to go to Gmund for Easter. Püppi also wants to go for the first time, because I told her that one cannot really celebrate Easter in the city, no gifts. My cold is better and Püppi is completely well.

Mar 30: Now H. left for 12 days. I would like to use the time for reading. Yesterday Jrmgard Papke surprised us. Her daughter got a job, she was happy and content. We took her along to visit father. Lydia [Marga’s sister] and Püppi also came along. Father looks and feels well, which made us happy. On Friday, I want to invite all my friends for coffee, it’s so nice to have them. With H. we have really no private social life. That’s sad, I miss it! With all our acquaintances, one cannot have intimate relationships, I don’t even know if it would be worth my while.

Apr 1: Today I am giving a tea party, 4 ladies are coming. Mostly old acquaintances, Countess Wedel, whom I like very much. Last night we played bridge at Bertha [Marga’s sister]’s. Very nice, as well as at the Red Cross. Grawitz was happy that all worked out so well. [Ernst-Robert Grawitz (Jun 8 1899 – Apr 24 1945, SS-Reichsarzt) H. just called, but we had to hurry because he had no time. Püppi has a good report card. Gerhard’s is all right too. He is repeating this year for the second time. Today is an

exchange of servants again. The man servant is leaving, the second one this year. He and his wife were fresh and she was lazy, that this kind of \_\_\_\_\_ happening in the Third Reich!

Apr 2: Gerhard is a criminal by nature. He stole some money and lies constantly. I wrote to his mother. We have to put him in an educational institution. More trouble, the servants are not moving out. Oh God, what people! And the Führer works for them. I cannot believe in people anymore. H. is also working himself to death for them. He called today. Was in a good mood. People like these should be locked away and forced to work until they die. Sometimes I ask myself: am I living among human beings or not? Yesterday I had a nice tea for ladies and in the evening Muttchen, Ella, and Miss Glaubitz came. It was nice, but then this morning, this story with Gerhard.

Apr 8: Yesterday I talked to Gerhard's mother. She was very sad but naturally does not want him back. Not even for Easter. She still wants to get money for him. My opinion on mankind has not changed after this conversation. Püppi was very sweet and lovely. She is just laughing happily. Püppi made Easter presents. Much commotion – when she sees me from far she screams and hides something. This afternoon Mrs. Schmitt is coming, she invited herself. I was glad. This way there will be 8 ladies.

Apr 10: There only were 7 for tea. Yesterday afternoon I went to Mrs. [Heli] Bouhler. What a nice house. And in the downstairs of our place it is so bare that one does not like to sit there, although there are all kinds of things in there. We went to vote. Last evening I listened to the Führer's speech with Püppi and then we went to bed. She is so nice. Have not heard from H. And he wanted to come home this morning.

Apr 15 [*Gmund*]: We are in Gmund since April 11. The flight was horrible. First time that I feel this way. We have two Austrian children with us. Gerhard will be going to a Pension in Starnberg. I hope it works out. Johst's were here yesterday. H. looks tired and totally exhausted. On the way to the Aachensee, he drove very poorly. He shares nothing with me. Now he is working again.

Apr 18 [Monday]: Easter, we always used to eat with H.'s employees, this time with his mother. Afterwards we hid Easter eggs. Everything went very quietly. Yesterday I was exhausted all day long. Today is not much better. Yesterday we were able to hide the eggs outdoors, but today it's snowing. H. is working today also.

Apr 24: Now I am preparing things for our trip to Italy. I went with Mrs. Bülow to see Mrs. [Anneliese] von Ribbentrop. We talked about many things; there were 10–11 ladies. I had hoped it would be just the 4 of us. In Germany everything is in masses, masses. I try to adjust to it. My wardrobe is almost ready. We'll see and hear many new things.

May 5 [*Rome*]: We have been here for 2 days now. The trip was pleasant and amusing. We were received regally when we arrived at 10:45pm. Went to bed, next morning took

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a tour of Rome and I could refresh my memories; I am glad I remembered so much. We ate, invited by Mrs. Attolico, on the Pincio (Valadier). At the hotel we rehearsed the bow; a lot of laughter! Unfortunately there was no photographer. In the evening [May 4, 1938] we watched the Führer's arrival. The mayor of Rome greeted him by reading in Italian. In the evening, we saw our husbands. Mrs. R. is calling me now, we want to go to the city. Saw the Sistine Chapel (which I had not seen before) and some churches; had lunch with our husbands and back to the hotel. In the evening we were invited to the King's palace. First we were introduced to the queen. Since we did not curtsy, the whole Court was dismayed. There was a lot of confusion and some comical situations. How we were treated. At Court there are some strange customs. Any outsider is not even a human being, not even a cipher. Afterwards we changed and boarded a train (sleeping car) and were awakened in Naples at 8am. Breakfast at the station and then boarded ships.

May 5 (cont): First time that I am traveling by ship. Beautiful weather – I loved it. Then changing clothes at the hotel. It took very long for the ship's departure, and Mrs. [Otto] Meissner had several fainting spells. In the evening we were invited at the Crown Prince's. Things were even worse here. Rooms full of beautiful flowers, even more beautiful than at the King's. Beautiful tapestries everywhere. We went through at least 20 rooms before we arrived at the dining room. Then we saw a representation of "Aida." Then we went to eat, found it quite bad, and drank Orvieto, which we stuck to from then on, and went to the railroad station. Mr. [Gesandten Alexander Freiherr] von Dörnberg (from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) who is tall and looks very handsome in his uniform was received with deafening applause by the Italian soldiers. We laughed indescribably! Mrs. Hess, Mrs. V. Ribbentrop, and specially Mrs. B. [Bülow] who describes everything in such a funny way. From there we were driven to the sleeping car. From the balcony of the palace of the Crown Prince we saw the display of the ships, it was gorgeous. At both banquets, there was the Duce and the Foreign Minister, but not many fascists. On the train back to Rome there was a small accident just as we were stuck in the tunnel. But only Mrs. von Bülow and I noticed it, but all the other ladies who always sleep so badly slept right through it. In Rome I went to bed immediately and slept til 10 am [May 6, 1938] but was awakened unfortunately. We saw some more churches and squares with our husbands. Slept some more, went for a walk with Mrs. B and Mrs. v. R. and did some shopping. At 5pm we went to the Capitol to a tea-reception. We thought the Führer had already left and almost left too early. We went to bed relatively early. We still went to see the performances at Piazza di Siena. It was beautiful and worked out to perfection. Beautiful costumes. A carousel by the Italian Carabinieri (police). Our seats were not very good.

May 7: The airforce maneuvers were cancelled because of bad weather. We women made ourselves independent. In the afternoon we had tea at Mrs. v. Bergen with Mrs. von Ribbentrop. There we noticed that the Germans already have acquired Italian habits. Prince Waldeck, yes, those princes when they smell the court air. In the evening a banquet at the Palazzo Venezia. Everything was gorgeous. Everybody was seated beautifully, everything functioned perfectly. Beautiful and valuable. We left at 11:30pm, there

was a reception from 11pm, on for 3000 people. The v. Ribbentrops and we talked for a long time. I got along with them best, anyway.

May 8: Had to get up early because of the Airforce display. They were supposedly unbelievable, the ladies were not invited. At 8pm the exhibition at the Mussolini Stadium, sports showing by the Italian youth. They were fantastic. What people Mussolini has created! The 1st act of Lohengrin was very colorful. At the Villa Madama, at dinner, H. was not seated, had to eat at the small buffet. I was sad, I did not like this at all. Things were too much for H., he was tired and stressed out. I changed quickly and went to the train accompanied by Dr. Dollman. We saw the farewell of the Embassy ladies by Mrs. v. Ribbentrop. Princess Schaumburg was absent, which I noticed; I went to bed sadly.

May 9 [*Florence*]: We awoke in Florence. Had a day-room at the hotel. Ate breakfast. Saw the Uffizii and the Pitti Palace, where the Führer was staying. Indescribable treasures. Saw the arrival of the Führer from a store. Mrs. Hess wanted to lecture to Mrs. v. Ribbentrop, "What I had predicted came true." Gala performance at the theater. Lunch we had at Fiosoli, invited by Mrs. Attolica, who had been extremely nice to us; there was a present for every lady on the lunch table. We invited her in the evening. We said goodbye to the Bülowes, Mrs. Hess, Mrs. Meissner, Mrs. [Hans] Lammers, who all left to go back. Fewer left, it became cozier and we talked for a long time. We drove around throughout Italy and arrived in Munich on May 10.

[*Munich*:] We ate at Walterspiel invited by Mrs. v. Ribbentrop and drove on to Berlin, I was very tired and felt that I was going to be sick.

May 14: I finally called Dr. Setzkorn who helped, but even today, May 16, I am not yet well.

May 19 [*Berlin*]: Heini is away on a trip again, traveling a lot. Today [he is at] Wewelsberg. We made the excursion with the children to Potsdam. Yesterday it finally rained! In the evening with H. in German-Italian company. The Secretary of State Tassinari spoke about Abyssinia. H. is tired very frequently these days, he is overworked. Saw beautiful things with Mrs. Ribbentrop.

May 24 [*Berlin*]: H. is away. Aunt Martha arrived yesterday by surprise. Today there is a children's party, about 26 children. Yesterday I spoke with Mrs. Ribbentrop. There certainly are some strange things going on. Hatred and envy, Hilde and Paula Himmler want to come over today. The weather is so-so.

June 5 [*Gmund*]: Now we are in Gmund. The weather is beautiful. The flight was so horrible that we got off the plane in Nuremberg. I couldn't take it anymore. We went to see Dachau and spent the evening at Schobert's. Yesterday at Bircks on the Hunzessee, very nice. There is always a lot to do, specially in the gardens. This year, the weather was very erratic. The house nearly will be ready by June [July?]

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June 7: Tomorrow we are driving. These were beautiful days. H. was always here, only some evenings he went hunting. The weather perfect. I relive every day when I go to bed at night.

June 12 [Sunday]: The drive by car was nice [*presumably without Heinrich*], a little tiresome for Püppi. After driving for 12 hours we arrived home but Daddy was gone already to meet with the Führer. He got some meat poisoning and felt terrible. Now he is in Stettin again and is coming home tonight.

[*Berlin*]: Today, Sunday, I am alone with Püppi. Bertha [Marga's sister] called, said that father is not well; he has heart problems, and has been in bed for eight days; if he'll ever get well. [*He died August 15, 1939*]. The day before yesterday [Jun 10], H., Edith, Bertha [Marga's sister], and Franz played bridge till after midnight; Reichmeisters were here too, it was very nice. Also Ella and Irmgard Papke, who were visiting her dying sister Meta, who has cancer. I'll go and visit her tomorrow. The weather is cool after the rain. There is silence; Püppi is exercising outside.

June 15: Last night [Jun 14] we had dinner at the Attolico's. Many foreigners; I sat next to François-Poncet. One has to be frightfully careful, any completely innocent conversation is interpreted politically. To see people like this once in a while is very interesting. On Monday [Jun 13] the Attolico's were here till 12:30pm. We played bridge, he wanted to play one more rubber, that's why it got to be so late. In the evening we went to the Kaiserhof with the Ribbentrops. Püppi does not like to go to school. [Jun 15:] Weather: cold and rainy.

June 26: On the 21st I had 8 ladies here for bridge, very nice. On the 22 we spent almost the entire day at the Ribbentrops and on Thursday [Jun 23] at Father's. In Preierwalde I visited places I used to know from my school days and also our house from the outside only. A house painter lives there now. H. is never home any more. He sees everything through rosy glasses. Sometimes I am deeply upset about something and for H. it is without any importance. He oversees so many people--that could be the reason. My father is not well. On Tuesday [Jun 28] we are flying to Gmund.

July 3 [1938]: I have been married for ten years today. H. is not here, but called. In spite of my happiness I have had to deprive myself of much. H. is almost never home and is interested in his work only. Here there is a lot of work with the garden and with the gardener. The concierge is also terrible. I don't want to aggravate myself. H. is right – aggravate others, but not yourself. Püppi is sweet and nice. She fulfills my inner life. I hope she'll never get sick.

July 11: The day of the "German Art" has passed. There was a lot of agitation and a lot of aggravation for H. The Führer seems very serious and depressed. He was not satisfied. We attended only the Opera and the procession; it rained a lot, which did not help the general mood. We had tea with the Goebbels, she [Magda Goebbels] is smart and amusing; dinner with the Bankles [Herbert Backe und Frau Ursula?] and then home.

July 24: Today I am picking up [Aunt] Elfriede and [Uncle] Karl from Munich, unfortunately they are staying only 3 days, and we have to leave. Furthermore, today Gerhard Himmler with family and mother in tow are arriving. They always announce themselves in the last minute. Frieda and Röschen are very, very nice. Mrs. v. Schade was here for 14 days, her husband for 8 days. It was a little too long and got on my nerves. My so-called ‘vacation’ is always associated with much confusion and aggravation. The gardens did not work out, the maids eat enormous quantities, I don’t know how they digest all this. Yesterday we went to the Valepp. Püppi and Röschen got wild for the first time, but were happy and content. We ate many wild berries. Everything was very nice.

August 18 [*Berlin*]: I have not had time to write lately. I was too nervous and agitated over the new shameless maid I had. Luckily H. fired her. The cook got sick and I am now cooking myself. Works fine. We also had guests. Today H. is not here and no visitors and a beautiful quiet day with a lot of sunshine. It has been very hot for 3 weeks, the likes I have never experienced before and after that it rained constantly for 4 days.

Sept 9 [*sic*], 1938 [*Gmund?*]: Now the days with Mrs. v. Horthy are over with all the nice accompaniment. I saw a ..... for the first time and visited Helgoland for the first time. Frau [Heli] Bouhler did not appear because apparently “her quarters were not adequate!” I cannot bear the stupidity and snobbishness of some people; how is this possible? She came to our home with her husband [Reichsleiter Philipp Bouhler], and in the presence of Püppi, Ella, Blanks, Lydia [Marga’s sister], and us, and talked about it constantly. People have worries. This person is the wife of a Reichsleiter. Anyway – the arrogance of some people! I finally decided to get rid of all the maids, and two new ones arrived. A housekeeper will arrive soon. Püppi and I went to see Mrs. [Gerda] Bormann. How wonderful it was to play with these lovely children; they will come and visit us soon. Ella is here and is very helpful; Lydia [Marga’s sister] too, but she is a dreamer. Father is doing a little better. Helene and Ella were in Tölz and we saw them often. Ella, as always, was sweet and nice. H. went to attend the “Parteitag” [Nuremberg party rally] and I will try to get some rest until Thursday [Sept 8], then I’ll join him there. It’s raining daily.

Sept 9 [Friday]: It was particularly nice in Nuremberg this time. Many flowers, gifts, and congratulations for my birthday. See a lot of Mrs. v. R – lots of SS wives at the hotel, Mrs. Grawitz, Mrs Buch [wife of Walter Buch (24 October 1883 – 12 November 1949) – Oberster Parteirichter, SS-Obergruppenführer, Vater von Gerda Bormann]. Very nice. This is my sixth time there, and I would miss it a lot if I would not attend it next time. Beautiful buildings in Nuremberg.

[*Presumably a new entry ca. Sep 21:*] These are beautiful days. H. and I spent 2 days in Berchtesgaden at the hotel with the v. Ribbentrops. H. just left to join the Führer at the train to Godesberg [Sep 21]. What is going to happen? Chamberlain was here for the first time, is coming back on Thursday [Sep 22] and I just got a call that H. is coming



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home tonight and leaving tomorrow.

Sep 29: The meetings in Godesberg are over. H. is in Berlin and I am sitting here [*presumably Gmund*]. What will happen? People are disappointed that there is “no action.” The atmosphere in the house is terrible, even Ella is depressed and it is worse when there is no privacy. How I would love to be with H. in Berlin in the large empty house, he is all alone. The weather has been nice; there is a storm today.

Sept 30 (Berlin): I am sitting in my dressing room and am waiting to see if H. comes home from Munich. What is he going to tell me about the meeting of 4 heads of state, and what is going to happen now? Or maybe he will not come at all. [Aunt] Elfriede just called, is enormously happy that there will be no war.

Nov 2 [*Berlin*]: Nowadays [i.e. Munich crisis] there are people without nerves, without brains. It was awful. People you would have never suspected! I cannot entrust the name of this person [*probably Göring*] even to this book. H. was big and strong and so was v. Ribbentrop. We went to Gmund the first days of October, stayed till [Friday] Oct. 28! I went to meet H. in Verona. H. was congratulated a lot in Italy. It's a wonderful feeling to know that he has all this recognition. I am making preparations for our vacation. We want to stay in Salzburg for a few days and then on to Wiesbaden [*Dec 7? see below*]. Lydia [Marga's sister] is coming to stay with Püppi [in Berlin]. The cook has been another big mistake, I gave her 14 days notice. Much activity here. Theater, etc. Yesterday tea at Countess Wedel.

Nov 14: In Salzburg in “Hotel Osterreichischer.” We came here right after [Wednesday] Nov. 9, because H. is on vacation. He wants to do something different every single day. Friday [Nov 11] the city, Saturday [Nov 12] the Gross-Glockner, Sunday afternoon [Nov 13] to Fridolfing – very nice. Today he went hunting at the Krepps estate. I read and write and had news from Püppi [in Berlin], everything goes well. This Jew problem! When is this terrible thing going to leave?! In order to start enjoying life. I am quite tired. I slept badly last night. My feet are not very nice; it's from all the hard work I've had to do. Maybe I complained a lot about hard work when I was young, but today I am firmly convinced that I have earned my place under the sun, and love and happiness. Therefore I advise all young people, if you want to achieve something in life, you have to work for it, it does not fall into your lap.

Dec 3, 1938: Vacation is over and I only now have the time to write again. Today is my deceased [late] mother's birthday [Frau Margarete Boden geb. Sohr]. She should have had as much joy as she deserved. H. thinks she sees it from above. We spent beautiful days together and talked a lot. I studied English and H. read a lot. Lots going on. Did not have time to play bridge. Last night [Dec 2] we invited 15 people. General Gebots, very nice, and intelligent people in general, except that brat Hildebrand [presumably Richard Hildebrandt] and his wife.

Püppi was crying on the phone when we called, she cannot, and does not want to live

without us. We should be happy about this, but I fear for her life as well as Heini's. Prof. Wust and Mr. Kiss were here, it was nice and very instructive. Tomorrow [Richard Walther] Darré is coming. We were also invited at the Gebots, also at the Hildebrands. Went to the movies once, and twice to the theater.

Dec 11: We are home again. I think with nostalgia [wistfully] of the time I spent with Heini. He left for the Reichstag and today he called from Vienna. Wednesday morning we went to Wiesbaden and on to Würzburg, where we ate, then to Nürnberg Rottenstein. We arrived at 5:00. We were received by Prof. [Walter] Wüst, [Wolfram] Sievers [both of Ahnenerbe], Prof. Brand [Karl Brandt?], Lt. Muhlhofer. We went through a very interesting cave for about 3 hours, then we got to the Hotel Buhl-Berneck at 9pm. Went to bed at midnight. Next morning [Dec 8] went to Quedlinburg; Ella was here too and many people at the excavations of the cathedral and the castle. So much old and beautiful culture. At 5:30 we went to Berlin, where Püppi awaited us with tremendous joy. Early to bed. As we were leaving Wiesbaden, General von Ran [??] and the Hildebrand[t]'s came to say goodbye. Other than [Aunt] Elfriede, I have not called anybody. Tomorrow we are going to see Father. He will be 75 years old.

Dec 31, 1938: The year is over. Xmas I spent in bed with stomach trouble. Many problems in the house and a lot of work. The maid situation is catastrophic. What I put up with this year is unbelievable. I don't feel well. H. and Püppi are well, that's the most important thing. Tonight we went to play with the children and then light the tree. P. was enchanted with all her beautiful gifts. Also Gerhard got a lot of gifts; his report card was quite good and so was his behavior.

## 1939

Jan 31, 1939 [Tuesday] [*Hohenlychen*]: I am in bed in Hohenlychen and Prof [Karl] Gebhardt is taking care of my feet. Lydia [Marga's sister] is with Püppi but she did not really want to come up from Gmund. I stayed in bed at home for 8 days even before coming here, with light fever. The Führer held his big speech in the Reichstag yesterday.

Feb 2, 1939 [Thursday] [*Hohenlychen*]: Heini is in bed sick at home and I am here and Püppi too is sick with influenza. I always thought they could not manage without me but they do very well. I read a lot. This place is good for me. Of course they manage without me but the question is how well. H. called twice today. My stomach is not quite all right. Other than Mrs v. Ribbentrop, nobody has called me here. I am happy about it. One has to distance oneself from people; although there are many whose company is worthwhile. My feet get massaged twice a day, and I have to exercise.

Feb 8, 1939 [Wednesday] [*Hohenlychen*]: Days here are almost over and I can go home. The quiet here was wonderful, I read a lot and enjoyed my stay. On Sunday, H. and P. came to see me. H. looks terrible, he never told me how sick he had been, so I would not get upset. Püppi too looked poorly. Mrs. v. Ribbentrop is in the hospital; she is not well. I often studied her card; there are many things I don't understand. [*Lobotomy*]

Feb 18: Life goes on. Many invitations. I am terribly tired again. H. left today on a S day hunting trip to Poland. I am happy for him, but I feel quite bitter about staying alone so frequently. Tonight I am going to play bridge with the Wedel's, the Rodin's, and Hansi K. Püppi is still not completely well. Mrs. Foedisch was here for a week. Lydia [Marga's sister] is staying til Easter.

March 9 [Thursday]: Tonight invitation at the Führer's, with diplomats [see next entry]. On Saturday [Mar 4] the party's invitation was in Munich. Very interesting. If I could just write it all down. On Monday [Mar 6], there was Göring's invitation at Aviators' House [Haus der Flieger]. Many people. Spent time with Mrs. Clement.

March 15: Heini joined the Führer's special train, to be present when tomorrow they make the grand entrance in Prague. Grandiose times and such small people. Today Rich's three children are coming to stay with me because they are moving to Berlin. It's snowing. Püppi has a map of Germany and on it follows the course of her father's travels. At school she is still not doing very well. Mrs. v. Ribbentrop is back, she survived her head surgery [frontal lobotomy] very well. Unimaginable if something had happened to her. Prague was taken peacefully. People are so dumb and fight with each other. We are fortunate to have a Führer, a "brain." On [Thursday] March 9, we were invited at the Führer's to celebrate the day of the "Reichsgovernment." On [Friday] March 10 at the Hungarian Embassy. Very interesting because of the Attolico's and the Avignon's. Mrs. Lutze told stories from her life again. The Führer showed us the new Reichs Chancery. What harmony of color! So many dark and intense colors. Wood and marble on one wall, beautiful pictures and gobelins; it's not quite ready yet. Gerhard passed the exam of admittance for the national-political Educational Institute in Spandau. I am happy about that; I hope everything continues to go well. Since I left Hohenlychen, I have not read a single page in a book. Books that have to be read are accumulating. Last Friday [Mar 10], 15 ladies came to tea. I don't want to go to the theater because it's getting worse and worse, just like the movies. At least, that's my opinion.

March 29, 1939 [*Berlin*, Wednesday]: Heini is not here, as usual. Sunday [Mar 26] he was here, because he had a bad cold. Father is not well, he has been in bed for eight days now. Lydia [Marga's sister] and I have been making a lot of order here. Two employees are leaving again, it's difficult nowadays. A sense of duty and responsibility doesn't exist anymore. We'll see. End of the week [April 1 is a Sat] I am going to Gmund. There I have been to a few nice tea parties within the SS group lately. Püppi's studies are just acceptable.

April 4, 1939: *Gmund*/Tegernsee. Now we are here again and I would have preferred not to go through another move. 8 moves every year. There is still snow on the ground around here, and in Berlin it was spring. But Heini thinks it's beautiful. The snow is melting and the sun is shining.

April 7 [*Gmund*]: Yesterday we had 7 people for dinner. Johst [Hanns **Johst**, 1890-1978; seit

1935 Präsident der Reichsschrifttumskammer (RSK)] Schuberts, and von Kosziewonsky [??] with his daughter. Püppi and I tried out summer dresses. We moved back to the upper floor. Everything is very nice and I am glad to have a sewing room.

April 15 [*Gmund*] [Saturday]: Monday [Apr 17] we are going back to Berlin, I have been able to get a lot straightened out. The garden too is being landscaped. There was a lot of commuting to Munich; my feet hurt a lot. The cattle are doing well. Lydia [Marga's sister] stays here. We went to see the Schirach's and the Jost's, very nice both. I also want to see my heart specialist [in Berlin]. I feel much better. Heini's family was here one afternoon. His mother is not well; my father also is not doing well. We have not had any news from him since we got here. Evenings we play some bridge. The Kalkstein's were here over Easter, very nice. There was little opportunity to have a nice conversation.

April 18 [*Berlin*:] Püppi and I are alone in the house. Heini absent, as always. The maids went into town to see the Führer go over the Axis. We are going to the Ministry of Propaganda to see the torch procession. We had a good view and Püppi was quite enchanted.

May 3 [*Berlin*:] Lydia [Marga's sister] stayed in Gmund, we had no butler and I had too much work so there was no time to write. We also had Hungarian guests and then many invitations. First, at the Führer's, then at the von Ribbentrop's, and then at the Hungarian Embassy – everything was very nice. The Führer attended and Püppi was very excited. It was wonderful to be with him in a small group around the table [*see LIFE photo by Hugo Jaeger?*]. Heini is not in very good health. He has too much work and thinks he has an infection in the root of his tooth. I am having a few dresses made. Politics are unsteady. The Führer is on alert. Göring does not look healthy. Father seems to have water in his lungs. It still could last weeks but may be just days. We (Martha, Frieda, and I) went to see him. He sleeps a lot and has no pain, his mind is clear. H. is away for 8 days. I go to the theater frequently. Püppi has worms, but is otherwise in good spirits. Last night, Countess Wedel and Mrs. Schnitz came over, we talked.

June 4, 1939 [Sunday *Berlin*]: Count Ciano was here, to attend the big military convention. There were 3 invitations. The Regent Prince from Yugoslavia and wife are here. Today is the fourth and last festivity. Püppi plays with Röschen and is very animated and happy. Püppi cried on Friday about the fact that most girls don't want to play with dolls anymore but Röschen does; she is 12 years old. All these invitations are very demanding but interesting.

June 7: Today we have 25 guests. Nice to prepare for it. I also went to the [homecoming victory] parade of the "Legion Condor." Püppi too. It was terribly hot. Things are moving quite well in the household.

June 16: Heini is away again for 8 days. I keep preparing for our trip to the seaside. Before that, I am going to Gmund for 4 days. The hunting lodge Valepp has to be prepared and ready, because H.E. Bocconi is expected there. With Rida, who lives in Weidmannslust,

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I have to be together quite frequently which is nice. Tonight, Edith, Franz, Homer (who is here from Vienna) want to play bridge. Yesterday we went to Mrs. Lorenz, we also played bridge. Now I am going to Ms. Alvensleben's for coffee.

June 26: We are in Kühlungsborn [*not far from Rostock on the Baltic*], Hotel Kaiserhof. It's nice and neat here. We stopped over at father's, he is so-so. He is not in pain and lies peacefully in bed. We have been here since the 23rd. Heini has called twice today. He says that Schades are not coming to Munich. When Heini was called to the Führer, the unfortunate event had not taken place yet. Schade, when he was called to the Führer, behaved so badly that he was rejected. I am appalled. Is there some intrigue behind this? May be even against Heini also? But as a worried wife, one sees too black. Everybody has to finish what one starts. I am ready to offer the personal 'Du' instead of the more formal "Sie" to Mrs. von Schade to show my friendship. Now everything will fall on top of her. I can already see those faces...she will have to bear it. And I am glad that we are going there. Here I am with Püppi all day long and happy about it. Only I have to think about this all day long. Püppi loves the sea and the beach. She is doing so badly in school. So on Sept 1, we'll be back in Berlin. Here, Püppi reads to me every day, but it's really quite bad. She is happy to be here. H. is always so terribly busy. For 3 days the Gau and Oberpräsidium officials are meeting with him. I am happy for him. If he should only stay healthy! I want him to come here for a few days so that we can spend July 3 [*their wedding anniversary*] together. First time during my married life that I am here without Heini. Püppi makes an effort to be good. I am going to the beach where Püppi is playing with a little boy, supervised by his mother. In the afternoon, when I take a nap, I can let Püppi go to the beach which makes us both happy. She still loves to play and I have my peace and can nap.

July 1: These are peaceful days. The weather is quite good. It changes very quickly. Mrs. von Schade very nice, sad but composed. H. is now coming for sure on July 2. It will be 3 beautiful days. In Berlin, we were invited to the Führer's, I declined so I could stay here to enjoy myself and to rest. My back pains are better today for the first time.

July 2: It is raining today and Püppi is playing with some little children, who also live here. H. had somebody call to say he is leaving after von Knochenhauer's state funeral [General der Kavallerie Wilhelm Knochenhauer]. I hope so. The weather is bad, so I use the time to write. Countess W[edel] and Mrs. Schmitt have written me some nice letters. I am finishing my second book today. The first few days I could hardly read I was too tired. My back is also better.

August 8 [*Gmund*] [Tuesday]: We have been in Gmund for 3 weeks now. Every day something new is happening. Frieda was here with Bastel and Röschen for 2½ weeks. It was very nice and I enjoyed it. Martin came for a few days. H. likes to have him around. Aunt Alma is here, she is scared to be away from her belongings in case of war but would like to leave. We cannot understand this point of view. Wedels' were here for one afternoon and evening; he looks much healthier. The Dutch Ambassador and his wife were here; speak good German, are cultured, and motivated. Yesterday the

Swedish National Socialist leader [Sven Olov] Lindholm and his wife were here. They make a nice but insignificant impression. I don't think they were meant to make a big impact on a country. The hunting lodge "Valepp" needs to be fixed up. Therefore I went several times to Munich and to Valepp. Most of it is ready. I went to Tölz once and did some errands; in such a large household there is always something missing. Miss Görlitzer is here now to tutor Püppi. Hansi brought Bertha [Marga's sister] and continued on to Berlin the next day. There is so much going on in the house that I get very little done. I have not even started on a new book. Little Edit from Klagenfurt also is here on summer vacation. She is a cute and good child. She and Püppi play well together. Gerhard did well in school.

August 13 [Sunday]: Püppi has a cold and I am very worried (polio). H. is traveling on a special mission for the Führer. Aunt Alma is leaving tomorrow. Prof. Gebhardt was here yesterday. Ms. Wener is coming for 8 days to take care of Lydia [Marga's sister]'s and my feet. We are making many preserves. Anna had to be fired on the spot because of stealing; one maid less! I have not written anything yet about Püppi's and my trip from the Baltic, via Wewelsburg to Düsseldorf, where we spent almost 8 days. Made many excursions, then went home via Stuttgart. The landscape exhibit [Gartenschau?] was well done and the grounds lent themselves for it. On the Reichsautobahn from Stuttgart to Munich there was one storm after the other. Heini was not home, he was in Munich for the "Day of the German Arts." I did not participate in this.

August 16 [Wednesday]: The words "One People – One Reich – One Führer" were called out for the first time during the Führer's entry into Austria (Ostmark) composed by Heini, as well as "Wehrbauer." My father fell softly into his eternal sleep yesterday at 3pm.\* Bertha [Marga's sister] was still here, but left immediately. We are leaving on Friday [Aug 18]. Heini is with the Führer today.

August 24 [*Gmund*]: Now Lydia [Marga's sister] and I are back from Berlin and Stuttgart. I hope not to hear much from Grete. I am almost afraid of it. It was very hot and a lot of pressure. Heini stayed in Berlin. Yesterday, v. Ribbentrop arrived in Moscow. It was like a bomb exploding! Heini was present at the Berghof, to see how pleased the Führer was; he was very happy. The day before yesterday Heini called and today again. I am anxiously awaiting his call. What is going to happen during the next few days! We are waiting quietly and other than Ms. Görlitzer, no other guests are here.

August 25 [*Gmund*]: We are still waiting if England decides to go to war or not. We keep listening to the radio but no news. There are now food rationing cards. Schick (our valet) is quite upset about it. Everybody is quiet and understanding. We'll have to be careful about the soap but otherwise everything is in abundance. But I am glad that

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\* TODESANZEIGE Hans Boden, Landwirt: 'Die Trauerfeier für unseren lieben Entschlafenen findet am Freitag dem 18. August, vormittags 8,30 Uhr, in der Friedhofshalle in Kyritz statt. Im Anschluss an diese die Überführung nach Stargard i. P. Die Feier und Beerdigung findet am Sonnabend, dem 19. August um 15,30 Uhr von der Halle des Friedhofs aus statt.'

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the cards are out now. If there should be another world war, there will be enough available. H. calls every day and is in a good mood. I had to tell Püppi that if there is a war I have to work with the Red Cross. She, of course, cried a lot and cannot calm down. But who knows if it will happen and I'll have to leave. Püppi sleeps with me and I frequently have to go to bed when she does.

September 9 [*Berlin*]: Now there is war with England and France. I am in Berlin. Püppi, heartbreakingly, said goodbye to me. When she saw that I also was crying she heroically laughed but tears kept streaming down her cheeks. I am glad I left her down there [Gmund]. Hospitals are beginning to be prepared. I am glad I can participate. If everybody cooperates, the war will soon be over, and England will always remember us.

[*See letter from Gerhard to 'Mutti' Sept 10, 1939 in Hoover Library.*]

Sept 11 [*Berlin*]: Unfortunately we had some bad experiences with the doctors, although they are SS. Where is the humility? Every person needs to be reeducated. The nurses outstanding, all Red Cross. My birthday was just work and a lot of annoyance. I met with Frieda and [Aunt] Elfriede. Püppi is coming this week. Gerhard too, because he has to go to school. Püppi will stay with me. Ms. Gorlitzer, whom I really like, will be here again to tutor Püppi. Lydia [Marga's sister] also is coming.

Oct 16: Püppi has quite a good report card, Gerhard has to leave Napola, he cannot keep up with the curriculum but otherwise he has become much nicer and pleasant. I hope he stays this way. So he just learns a little less. Much in that school was not better than in other schools. The war continues. Heini returned sick from his trip to Italy, but otherwise satisfied with the results. He had a happy surprise for his birthday: the Führer named him "Siedlungskommissar" (Settlement Commissioner for all of Germany). A crowning for his work! He really works night and day. He often goes to see the Führer in the evenings. Hospital 106, where I work, is still unstable. It all is Dr. Baecker's fault, he is so arrogant. First I helped out with the bandaging but I noticed from his attitude that he did not want my help, so I don't go there anymore. I explained this for an hour to the Chief Surgeon, that his arrogance makes the entire staff very insecure but he did not understand. He is very nice and decent but does not seem to exercise authority. If everything works like it should, all would be well. I was so much looking forward to surgical work! Püppi calls me all the time, this has to stop; has trouble falling asleep evenings. Her health is not very good in general.

Nov 3 [*Berlin*]: Heini is always on the road. Now I have officially resigned from the hospital and I'll start working at the Red Cross. A few days of rest will be great, I feel quite tired. Mrs. Göring came to the field hospital. We are invited for Saturday. People don't call anymore, not even [Aunt] Elfriede. I am seeing Frieda tomorrow. It is still quiet on the western front. Sometimes we play bridge, yesterday with Martha, Bertha [Marga's sister], Lydia [Marga's sister] and I, like four sisters.

Nov 14 [*Berlin*]: Only on Nov. 11 did I hear about this terrible happening. It is hard to believe that one has to live among these so called “German people.” These disturbing incidents just never cease. There also is always wrong with the maids, although we only have two. Everything OK at the field hospital, I go there twice, maximum three times a week. Heini is almost never home evenings although he is in Berlin. He works hard, is stressed out and tired, he needs some rest. He gets massages and hopes that will make him feel better. On Nov. 11th we should have started our vacation.

Dec. 3 [*Berlin*]: Today would have been mother’s birthday. I received the leadership of all field hospitals in Zone No. III from D.R.K. [German Red Cross] I enjoy going there but it is hard work – there are 63. Mrs. v. Schade was here. Püppi is happy and animated. H. feels better. It is quiet in the west.

Dec. 30 [*Berlin*]: Now the year is almost over. Before Christmas I had a lot of work in my field hospitals. There was a lot of unpleasantness with Bertha [Marga’s sister], so sad to humiliate me in such a way. Ella is quite sick, suffers from frequent heart disturbance. At Christmas I had a stiff neck, probably from riding in cold weather. Christmas was nice and quiet. Many gifts for everybody, many food items. From my mother-in-law, I got a piece of family jewelry. H. was shortly before Xmas in Italy and got some very beautiful things. The Xmas celebration in the field hospital No. 106 was nice and long. The director, Dr. Salchow and Dr. Hurdt were there too. Two not very worthy representatives of womanhood.

## 1940

Jan 14, 1940 [*Berlin*][Sunday]: The year ended quietly and with dignity. The “Jul-light” shone like every year. Ella was here. I was glad the holidays were over, the household really gets behind. And we have to live and work. Gerhard came, he has become much nicer and he feels attached to me. Püppi is back in school and takes ice skating lessons, on today, Sunday. We saw Frieda several times. Once [Oberst Georg] Hofmeister with Jrmgard, Eva and Karla Hess came to visit us. Püppi and I at the Ribbentrops in the evening and saw a beautiful movie: “Mother’s Love.” Ella is now in Bavaria with Frieda and Margarete. I would like to go to Bavaria for 4–5 days. I hope it works out. I don’t feel so well.

Jan 30, 1940 [Tuesday]: I went to Bavaria – very nice. Ella amusing as always. It was very cold on the way down, the trains very dirty. Today H. came back from his long trip. He received the last trek of Wolhynien-Germans at the border in Prycemisl [*richtig*: Przemysl]. I read to Püppi and explained to her what Trek and Return to the Fatherland means. It is an outstanding feat. 1,000 years from now people will talk about it!

March 7: I went to Posen, Lodz, and Warsaw. This Jew trash, these Pollacks, most of them don’t even look like human beings, and the indescribably filth. It is an enormous job to make order out this mess. I started stomach problems there and they continued back here. H. is in Southern Germany, Püppi enrolled in the B.D.M. I see this child



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less and less. Frieda confided in me: Franz cannot live in Berlin and complains all day long. She looks terrible! Everybody carries their own little package.

March 23: Tomorrow is Easter. There is a lot to write. I was out East again, Posen, Bromberg to Fredisch's. Very nice – there is so much to do. These Poles don't die of infectious diseases easily. They seem to be immune. Incomprehensible. Bromberg very depressing. Muhlenkamp[?] and surroundings just terrible. Came back by car. Water everywhere. During the entire Polish period nothing got done in this country. H. wants to be home for Easter.

April 12, 1940: I don't feel like writing anymore. Spring does not want to come, there still is frost every day. Frequently seeing Mrs. v. Ribbentrop and Countess W. I go to the field hospitals with Mrs. Hermann [wife of Professor Hermann]. I am glad to be able to do something. Tomorrow I'll watch a lung surgery.

May 18, 1940 [Saturday]: This morning I stayed home to write; also my diary needs some attention and now Mrs. Kuhlmann arrives to pour her heart out. These intrigues at the D.R.K. [German Red Cross] are almost unimaginable! Everybody wants to have something to say. We are living through one of the biggest wars, all men are supposed to accomplish the utmost and the women fight and pretend to be offended. I work a lot for the D.R. K. and I am often quite tired. H. has been away since Saturday [May 11] at the Führer's headquarters and since yesterday Püppi is often very nervous and doing poorly in school. On [Friday] May 10, the fighting in the west has started and now we are already in Brussels.

June 3, 1940: H. had someone call me, he is not at the Führer's headquarters but farther west. Belgium capitulated. Soon now, an entirely new fight-plan will start. The viewing of my railroad stations has taken place. Dr. Brekenfeld was terribly nervous. He suffers, like most "small" people from an inferiority complex; before, I would be very agitated about this – now I even forget to smile. A man like this is the representative of the capital's D.R.K.s. Maybe I expect too much, there are few real personalities. Püppi has much trouble in school.

June 9: Püppi and I are alone at home until dinner; then the [Artur] Görlitzers [stellvertretender Gauleiter des Gaus Groß-Berlin], Franz and Edith are coming to play bridge. We wrote to Daddy – the war races on. Martin Lietz was killed in battle. His poor mother. Maybe she can find peace with us in Gmund. So much sadness makes it hard to be alone. So in the evenings I mostly play solitaire and read a little. I also have less work at the D.R.K. [German Red Cross] Everything is organized, everybody knows how to do everything and I am no longer needed. I am not quite sure about Ella, I think she is happy to get rid of somebody looking over her shoulder and who got her to this position? But all of them, starting with the Chief Surgeon know where to find me when they want something from me.

Sept 15, 1940: I have been several times down to Gmund because Püppi is still here. Also

on Sept 9 I was there with Heini and Püppi. H.'s mother is there with a friend. Mrs. Görlitzer tutors Püppi there. She broke her arm and is staying 2-3 weeks. Otherwise I would take Püppi to Reichersbeuern [*the Internat Schloss Reichersbeuern at Schlossweg 1-11, 83677 Reichersbeuern, near Bad Tölz*] by bus. Tomorrow some ladies will come here for coffee. Renate H. baked a cake. I now have 2 maids here, for a long time there only was one. It all looked just terrible and even now I just do a sloppy kind of cooking. I don't like it. The maids are nice but are not knowledgeable at all. It is hard to teach them. Miss Schellin wants to come back mid-October; I am glad. At the field hospital we had dinner with some people who had been there for one year already. Very nice, we celebrated and everybody was happy. H. is home today and we sit around in warm clothing, the weather is terrible. There have been air attacks every night and we spent the nights in the cellar. We did sleep through the last 3 nights.

Oct 10, 1940 [*Gmund*]: 10 a.m. Gertrud v. Patow, Lydia [Marga's sister], Püppi, and I are together in the bedroom and I read aloud from my diary. H. was here for 2 days for his [40th] birthday [on October 7]. The Führer congratulated him with a long telegram of beautiful contents and a picture with his signature. There were many telegrams and in spite of the war, many gifts. I have been in bed for almost 2 weeks now with a bladder infection, which is very painful. Mrs v. Patow brought me here, I did not want to stay in Berlin, because one ends up in the air-attack cellar. Berlin has been badly damaged by the English; children are staying home from school, that's why Püppi stays here, and as of Wednesday will be going to Reichersbeuern. I'll look at it today. Saturday back to Berlin. The weather is nice again today. Dr. [Karl] Fahrenkamps [Arzt Himmlers] comes more frequently now. Gerhard got some teeth pulled and his tonsils removed. He is in school in Strauberg, back in the old residential palace.

Nov 17, 1940: On [Sunday] Oct 27, 1940, Dr. Hermann, Prof. Gebhard[t], with his aide and me, went to Belgrade to see the Bessarabian German resettlement. Sunday evening by sleeping car to Vienna. Budapest, stayed at the [Hotel] Gellert there. Beautiful city, good hotel. Evening dined accompanied by gypsy music. Mr. and Mrs. Kienast were at the train station. On to Belgrade. Much commotion; representatives from the Party, Resettlement, A.A. and the Yugoslav Ministry of the Interior. Some shooting took place between Socialist-democratic students, Italians, and police. We saw only peace and quiet. Early to bed. Next morning at 9 went to see the Lager. It was noticeable that D.R.K. [German Red Cross] hospital was missing. Much wind and a strong storm. Saw the departure of the sick – ate lunch at 1½ p.m. at Neuhausen (4 years place). At 4½ p.m. took a walk with Prof. Neuhauser. Dinner with the Ambassador, very nice. At 11 p.m. back to the Hotel. Played cards. Next morning: German Volksdeutsches village, very impressive, clean, and people at work. Name of village: Nova Prohawa. Departure for Bucharest at 2 p.m.. Everybody was at the station, even v. Heerens [Georg Maximilian Viktor „Vicky“ von Heeren, Gesandter des Deutschen Reiches in Jugoslawien von 1933 bis 1941]. The professor was in a bad mood, stayed out late last night. Arrived in Bucharest at 11 p.m. at the Hotel Athenia Palace, the Daessler's and the Lorengen's. Ate lobster at Daessler's. Went for a walk with Bodelschwing, Mrs. Fabricus, Rotte's were at the station. I gave a dinner in the evening for 16 people. Mr. Lorenz was there,

too, nice. To bed at 11pm. Visited the accommodations of the Partei, officers, etc. All cities with graves. On Nov. 2, went on to Kronstadt, over Predial, where we saw the legion's burial places. Very impressive. I arrived in Gmund happy and in good health. Went to Munich for 2 days and flew on Nov. 11 back to Berlin.

Nov. 28: I don't enjoy visiting my diary anymore. Since I got back to Berlin, I am always alone. H. never comes home evenings. I cannot call Püppi very often because it is very expensive. Ella Blank has behaved terribly towards me so I can no longer go to the hospital. So much unpleasantness so shortly before Christmas. Last year it was the same story with Bertha [Marga's sister], this damned alcohol. [See Dec 30, 1939]

Dec 7, 1940 [*Berlin*]: I am alone today, like everyday. I wonder if H. is coming home for dinner? Yesterday I went to Mrs. von Ribbentrop – very nice, then to see Mrs. Hermann. On Dec. 3, it would have been mother's birthday.

## 1941

Jan 4, 1941 [*Gmund*]: The old year has gone by. It took a lot of courage to go through it. Xmas was very busy. Here in Gmund there is peace and quiet. Disappointment with Ella. The D.R.K. [German Red Cross] brought me a lot of joy, and I am looking forward to going back to Berlin middle of the month. Gerhard is, as always, lazy and sloppy. Püppi is nice and sweet, always trying to please us. Got a good report card.

Feb 4, 1941 [*Berlin*]: It's midnight and I cannot sleep. Thinking, thinking. One has to believe everything and be prepared for everything. Life is hard. I have my daughter. We talk on the phone every other day. I have not heard anything from Heini for 2 days, he has been in Norway for 8 days. I don't dare to ask the staff; they are not polite and nobody protects you, everybody knows that, because otherwise this behavior would be unexplainable. And every young girl craves for a man. If they only knew how bitter life is. If I only could protect my daughter from the worst?!

[*Written up later in*] Bolzano, April 6, 1941 [Sunday]:

On March 24, Püppi had her appendix taken out. She was very brave; afterwards she was not well for 2 days. The anesthesia was too strong. H. was also there and that was wonderful. We had to go to a Catholic hospital because of the doctor. They were very nice and above all, very clean, the food good. On March 22, in the evening I returned from my service trip and H. was home so I knew something had happened. We called Dr. Fahrenkamp in Gmund immediately and on Sunday at 11am we flew to Gmund. My knees were trembling.

[*Bolzano*]: Now we are in Bolzano on vacation, but it rains all the time and we want to leave. Today [Apr 6] Heini called, he is not coming home for Easter and we won't see him very soon. Now he leaves and we sit here. I wish we had not come here. I

want to get home soon. We are marching into Yugoslavia and Greece. We don't have a radio here.

We went on a trip to view some soldiers' homes and field hospitals. Mrs. Göring, Mrs. Hermann, the driver and I.

On Friday, March 7, we leave by car to Frankfurt-am-Main. Arrive at 6pm. Visit the service station of the D.R.K. [German Red Cross] care unit. Evening dinner with the officers of the Extra West, commander Lt. Schil. Mrs. Hermann arrived the following morning, and I left together, Strassburg, to go visit some care units. Ate badly at "Valentin's." A citizen showed me around the city. The population very bad – receding foreheads. 1½ hours to Rappertswiler. S.S. waiting for us. Commander Loose, SS officer Bauer. Had dinner with them, and then early to bed. Sightseeing at Reichweiss, Karperlsberg. Beautiful old farmhouses (1660-1750). On to Kolmar, very clean; D.R.K. [German Red Cross] care unit at the railroad station, also saw the lodgings. Very good chocolate in the afternoon. Visited the prisoners camp, 6 escaped. Overnight in Dijon. Mrs. Göring went to lunch at a care unit, and Mrs. Hermann and I ate quietly in a nice restaurant. Sightseeing at the immigration camp, Dr. Wohanka (unpleasant). Accompanied by Dr. Dumrath. On to Chalon-sur-Saône, soldier's home (Miss Horner). Rested in a nice room of one of the helpers. On to Soldier's home Autin, guest of Major Comm., who showed us the Roman theater. Soldier's home Moulin. Nice little hotel. Soldier's home Vevers; modern French company House without natural light. Manager Mrs. Elster (Langenargen). Hotel cold.

On March 11 on to Orleans; had lunch there at the soldier's home. (Mrs. Rohrfels, very nice). Loire Castle, beautiful building. Liberated by pilots. Beautiful furniture, big armoires. Depot for Parisien art objects, highly guarded. Dinner at Chartres with the Soldier's home commander. Next morning, sightseeing at the Cathedral, beautiful, said to be the most beautiful. A young priest was our guide. Mrs. van Ducker joined us, very nice. On to Dreux in 4 cars. Lunch at Soldier's home. Saw castle of Duque Maintenau. Had coffee. Four of us on to Versailles and Paris.

March 12, stayed at the Hotel Ritz in Paris. Called Berlin, three for dinner: S.S. Commanders [Dr. Thomas] Schilling and [Kurt] Lischka [ab 1943 Befehlshaber der Sipo und SD in Paris].

March 13, Soldier's home "Else Sonnemann." Pilot's house, marvelous! Stayed overnight at Dr. Busse in Neuilly. Ate at the Reich Representative for France, very nice. Viewed railroad stations.

March 14, Sightseeing of the city of Paris, with S.S. and Dr. Breschner. Lunch with City Commander Schulenburg; took a nap. Mrs. H. and I went shopping. Had dinner all three of us.

March 15, Mrs. H. [Hermann] got sick. Mrs Göring in Biarritz. I myself went to see the

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D.R.K. [German Red Cross] Field Hospital with Dr. Busse. Lunch in a nice place with Dr. Thomas Schilling, Lischka. Dr. Behner, Dr. Muller, Hermann Göring arrived too. Sightseeing to the Castles Trianon and Versailles. Home at 6pm. Ate with Mrs. H. Talked until 11pm. March 16, Mrs. H. much better. Sightseeing at Fontainebleau, Louvre. Beautiful weather, ate outdoors. In the evening dinner at Ambassador Otto Abetz, with S.S. leaders, interesting. Looked at the house. Monday went to look at the Red Cross with Mrs. Göring and nurse's home in a field hospital in the afternoon; restful evening in the hotel.

March 18: Tuesday early morning to Gent via Compiègne (not much to see). Saw soldier's home and Cathedral at Amiens. The biggest in France. Soldier's homes at Abbeville, Boulogne, Calais (two strange old nurses). Soldier's home in Fünfkirchen, very nice nurses. Staying there, overnight by myself. Fünfkirchen very badly bombed and confusing. Arrived in Gent at 10:30pm.

March 19, Gent very filthy. In the morning, went visiting Soldier's homes in Gent, Brügge, Ostende, Tegllein [??], old field hospital from W.W.I. Saw another Soldier's home (12 killed). On to Nimove [?]. Old hospital being torn down near and old people's home. Nice policeman. Did chores. On to Brussels. Very modern hotel.

March 20: Von Kraushaar in charge, nationality: according how the wind blows. Had lunch with him in a small place. At the hotel, Mrs. v. Schroeder and v. During; went to inspect a hospital; Dr. Peter, jaw specialist. At dinner saw Mr. Stenger. Bought lace. Saw another hospital in Brussels, General Hammerstein.

March 21: Early departure to Tongen over Leuwen [Louvain]. Saw soldier's home at Tongen, Lüttich. Some shopping in Darmstadt [?? sic] with Major v. Moers. On to Bastogne, small soldier's home in the Ardennes. Soldier's home Avlon very nice. Very dark in the evening in Koblenz. Good hotel.

March 22: Saturday, early to Heimburg, which belongs to Dr. Hermann. Beautiful property. In the evening at 8½ on to Berlin. Old soldier's homes made a good impression. The trip was very harmonious. We saw a lot and got a good picture of the performance of the D.R.K, and I am very pleased. I wrote this at the Hotel Greif [Sunday Apr 6] in Bolzano during pouring rain.

We drove to Gmund after 8 days. Called H. immediately, and he arrived the following evening [Thursday, Apr 10] at 8pm. Stayed til 3pm the following day, Friday [Apr 11]. He brought with him from Berlin Aunt Elfriede and Uncle Karl, it was very nice. Püppi went to the Yugoslav front. Right after Easter on Wednesday I returned to Berlin with [Aunt] Elfriede and Karl. In Berlin I wanted to finish up my business with the Red Cross. It went very well. Saw railroad stations and the country seat. Had 10 ladies here for coffee. Went to see Mrs. v. Ribbentrop, and after exactly 8 days went back to Gmund.

April 26, 1941: Here it has been raining now for days. One cannot work in the garden.

Püppi calls up often. Aunt Wendler arrived with Irmgard and Anneliese, who will stay here for the time being. Our ponds are being drained and cleaned.

May 8, 1941 [*Gmund*]: Aunt Wendler and the children left. They were here only for 8 days [*sic. Contradicts entry of Apr 26?*]. Irmgard was always crying, very ungracious. They left, but we have not heard a word from them, Fridl was here for a day, otherwise peace, peace. I am happy about it. H. should come soon. He is now in Athens and we don't hear from him. Before, he used to call every day. The relationship between Heini and Herr von Ribbentrop has ended. Ribbentrop had too many pretensions. Püppi is healthy and happy. It is still cold and rainy and one cannot work in the garden.

Jun 11, 1941 [*Gmund*]: Pentecost [Pfungsten] went by and I was sick in bed. The water heater [Kolensäureapparat] exploded while I sat in the bathtub and the porcelain shattered all over me. Had to get stitches that same night at the hospital in Tegernsee. I bled like a pig and had to be bandaged six places; they spent two hours on my right arm and on my left side of my abdomen there is a big wound, which got infected and often hurt terribly. Ordered to take it easy. Püppi is doing just regular in school. With Gerhard, terrible things are happening continuously.

July 5, 1941: Püppi is sick. The flu arrived so suddenly, it really scared me. I don't know if I'll ever get well again. We hear more frequently from H. now. Hanns Johst with wife and daughter were here, and just at that point, Püppi got sick. It was July 3. The war is progressing beautifully, but people round here only know envy and jealousy, which is the greatest illness of people. Sometimes I cannot even believe what I live through each day. We poor women. Men have an easier lot. I have my child, and that makes up for everything.

July 13: Frieda and Röschen are here. The weather is gorgeous. My stomach is well again. The wounds hurt frequently. I don't want to use this book as a wailing wall.

July 15, 1941: [Son of?] Maj. Wedel died in combat, 18 years old. S.S, racially outstanding, intelligent but also humble and youthful. Poor mother, one cannot console or help. My stomach just does not seem to improve – terrible!

July 29: Yesterday I went to have myself examined by Dr. Fahrenkamp and Prof. Gebhardt. It has not gotten worse. We went to Valepp, it was very nice, beautiful weather. Now it's been raining again for 3 days. At the Valepp there were also Frieda H. with Röschen, Püppi, and I, Liesel, Franziska, and Mr. Sauer. Saw the research carried out by Mr. Fahrenkamp yesterday.

August 12 [*Gmund*]: Thursday I am leaving for Berlin. Everything will be in an absolutely terrible state, specially the garden. Here the garden is beautiful, but the weather is bad. Püppi's [twelfth] birthday [Aug 8] was wonderful for her, we had 9 children. She told me time and again how happy she was about all the gifts. Only Daddy was missing, he called. Mrs. Barmel was here for 2 days; it was nice, she is a bright person.

Sept 14 [*Berlin*:] We were called back from Italy. Grandmother died. H. came, we were together for ½ a day. We had been in Italy with Hoff's and Irmgard, Püppi and I. Püppi gained 4 kg in 8 days.

Oct 26 [*Berlin*:] I have been back in Berlin for some time. For the past 14 days they have been scheming against the D.R.K. [German Red Cross] and myself, or they want to sideline us. Finally there are going to be talks. The instigator is Mrs v. Haase, her husband is Kommandant here [Generalleutnant Paul von Hase, Kommandant von Berlin, (\*1885 †1944)]. A captain was to be made a scapegoat. The whole affair is so crazy, I can't even write about it. Who knows how the D.R.K. [German Red Cross] will deal with it? But I have found Mrs. Hermann and Mrs. Hofmeister, and that makes up for a lot. We are often together. Püppi is doing very badly in school. I want to go there beginning of Nov. for a few days. At home, I have to look after everything, help in the kitchen, Lisl isn't up to it by herself. I am preparing for Xmas, I really love it and I am glad to have many gifts. Ladies come by for coffee frequently and sometimes stay on for dinner. H. calls often, he is healthy. The war I smaking splendid progress! All thanks to the Führer. But people are often so petty. I miss Püppi so much.

Dec 22 [*printed German text says Dec 29*]: The year is slowly coming to an end. It has brought much sadness. But one should not write it at all, it looks even sadder. And one cannot change anything. Poor us women!

I arrived here on [Saturday] Dec. 13, and H. arrived on Dec 20. We celebrated Xmas because he could only stay one day. He was very nice. We received many gifts. Püppi was very happy and content. Gerhard [von der Ahé] is here also, he is sick. The war continues even in the winter and H. is at the Führer's headquarters, or rather nearby. He has a lot to do. Looks healthy now however. Lydia [Marga's sister] is also healthy. Want [wants?] to go visit Martha [other sister] for 8 days.

## 1942

Feb 8, 1942 [*Berlin*:] I am still without my child. Why is it that the war is so hard to bear, mentally that is? The perpetual fear about everything. The annoyances, the D.R.K. [German Red Cross], I am sick since Xmas (colds, stomach), I am in Berlin, I have many dear friends here: [Aunt] Elfriede, Mrs. Hermann, her husband died. I still get on very well with Mrs. Hofmeister. Out there it is still frightfully cold, the poor soldiers. I know that we cannot imagine how much they accomplish and here so much pettifogging. Individuals can be so petty.

March 1, 1942: The fight with Landesst. III continues. Mrs. Berkelm. wrote to me today that she is getting a divorce. Her husband [SS-Gruppenführer Theodor Berkemann, Eintritt in die NSDAP 1929, Abgeordneter im Reichstag, zeitweise Adjutant beim Reichsführer-SS] wants to have children with another woman. This occurs to men only once they become rich and powerful. Otherwise, the older womenfolk have to

nourish them or grin and bear it. What times these are! And outside the battle for existence is raging.

H. called, he is well. We were together 3 evenings in Gmund. Püppi was delighted, had a little cold. H. and I flew back together. Beautiful flight.

March 5: H. called. He was at Hohenlychen for 2 days, so close and did not even call. Now he wants to go to the front for 8 days.

April 19: I was about 3 weeks in Gmund, H. also spent 2 days there, it was very nice and peaceful. Worked in the garden a lot and Püppi was happy and content. Gerhard very bad again. Many pleasant things for me around here, but my stomach is not well here, whiel in Gmund it's ok. I don't want to write about the war, because it's much better described in the newspapers. Martha's husband Franz died. Lydia [Marga's sister] and I did not go there. Frieda is divorced.

May 7, 1942: H. is, as always, at the Führer's headquarters, Püppi in Gmund. I wanted to bring P. with me in the fall to Berlin, but H. does not want it. I told P. and now she wrote me a heartbreaking letter, and after I read it, I started having some serious stomach pains. I am glad I am not on duty today. So it means that my stomach ailments are related to aggravations and nerves. I am going to see the doctor now. Tonight I am going to Mrs. Hermann; I am seeing a lot of her.

July 11, 1942: Surrounded by lies and betrayal; I can't bear it any more. Püppi is away. I am always alone, I would like to go there, but I cannot because Mrs. H. [Hofmeister? Hermann?] is not here. I was still in the east [*at Mitau, see below*] when her husband arrived, got very sick; he is in the hospital in Munich and I cannot get away. H. is so upset about all this. I cannot really get my act together in this world. I could arrange things very well and wait until Mrs. H is arrives. I don't know what's what. The same business again with Werner Fredisch. People are always agitating, agitating. Why should I always go to Gmund? I don't work that much here, at most 3–4 hours at the office of the D.R.K. [German Red Cross]

August 4: Mrs. Elbers left Gmund, it was very nice in her company. Now Mrs. v. Schade and Mrs. Görlitzer are here.

I spent four weeks in Mitau [capital of the government of Kurland; situated about 20 miles from Riga] with Mrs. Hermann, out of which I spent 14 days sick in bed. I got vaccinated against smallpox and worked up a little fever, what a pity. The director had to stay behind and nothing was the way I had imagined it. With Mrs. Hermann it worked out beautifully. The Mitau trip was interesting and instructive. I don't regret having gone there for one moment, in spite of my illness. They were just inaugurating an S.S. field hospital there, the head physician treated me, Dr. Schonthaler. He was a real doctor, not only because he knew what he was doing but also because his manners were such that one agreed with everything he was doing, which means a great deal as far as



I am concerned. General Ostland, Generalleutnant Braemer [General der Kavallerie Walter Braemer], also came to visit me. He is a Brigadeführer in the S.S. Brigadeführer and Mrs. Jost also came, as well as Dr. Grawitz, three times, who was in the east, but heard that I was sick. A Prof. Bischhof from Köln also served as a consultant. I also met the Gebietskommissar and his wife in the most pleasant way. On July 1, liberation day was being celebrated in Mitau. We watched the parade passing the graves of those who had died in battle. I was very impressed by the gravity and numbers of the large population that marched past. On the way there H. waited for us in Tilsit, and again on the way back, and went along with us as far as Königsberg.

Sept 6 [Sunday. *Gmund – Berlin*]: Tomorrow I am going back to Berlin, I was here [*Gmund*] for 7 weeks. At first, Püppi and I spent 8 days at the Hotel 4 Jahreszeiten (Four Seasons) [*in Munich*], 2 of them with Lydia [Marga's sister]. We waited for H. He arrived, visited the graves of his parents, the Exhibition and then we went to the Scharfes [Schades?]. Then Friday evening were in Gmund. H. stayed till Monday. He just called and is surprised that I want to go back to Berlin.

Püppi's measurements:

9/41	149½ cm
11/41	151
2/42	152½
4/42	153
5/42	154½
6/42	155½
9/42	157

Sept 29 [Tuesday]: On [Monday] Sept 7, I went to Berlin. There is a lot to do here at the D.R.K. [German Red Cross], but it satisfies me completely. Without any work outside the house, I could not live through the war. There is plenty to do in the household, always directing the maids very unsatisfactory. Franziska is on a long vacation. I collaborate a lot specially with the sewing. I did most of the preserves also. H. is here since yesterday. There is a lot of interesting news. In the evenings I am almost always alone. In the afternoons some ladies come to visit. Püppi is well, we talk on the phone very often.

Oct 27, 1942: Many things have changed in many different ways. It's a pity I cannot write it down. Many times during life one predicts something and then it comes true! Many times I see details in my surroundings with too much pessimism. When one is alone so much! But mostly there is some truth in it and I am often scared to be alone and brooding too much. Countess Wedel just left. We understand each other most of the time and it is a pleasure to talk to her.

Nov 29, 1942 [*Berlin*]: There is a lot to do with Xmas approaching, but it also pleases me.

If only things would not be always in such a rush. I went to the theater twice, once to the Staatstheater; the story appalling. Volkstheater very good! I went to a fashion show twice; in the city, slow and ugly fashion. At Prof. Benno von Arent [Reichsbühnenbildner], 200 models, beautiful clothes. I spend a lot of time with Nora Himmler and often at her house. I phone Püppi a lot. She and Lydia [Marga's sister] are well.

## 1943

March 2, 1943: War entered a serious phase. Stalingrad was the *Fanal*, a warning beacon. Heini was here; he is in good health, better than a year ago. I don't want to write any more than that. One is too much under the impression of what is happening around us. Püppi and Lydia [Marga's sister] are well too. At the D.R.K. [German Red Cross] there is a more peaceful atmosphere now.

June 9, 1943 [Gmund]: Peace at the D.R.K. but only on the surface. Now we are being brought into the Wehrmacht. There too a great deal is going on, but it is more distant from us. Prof. [Karl] Gebhardt has taken up our cause. I cannot put down on paper whatever else is happening outside the war. How far you can believe in any man, only time will tell. Often one thinks one cannot stand it any longer, but I do have my child. How I despise mankind. Püppi asks me often why I no longer write a diary. Only [Aunt] Elfriede has noticed the change in me; she knows me too well. I am in Gmund. We have visitors quite often.

July 31, 1943 [Gmund]: Now I am in Gmund again. I was in Berlin for 5 weeks, there was a lot to do, because we opened a new place to aid those who were hurt by the bombings in the West, together with the S.S. It took a long time until things got more or less organized and now Mrs. Jost and Mrs. von Griffen, who said they would do it, are also leaving. It is being handled by personnel of the D.R.K. It is also functioning day and night and has become much more difficult. If the nice Mrs. Hofmeister had not taken over, I would not have been able to leave; but I would not have minded staying. Well, my daughter also needs me, she is going to be 14 on August 8.

August 16 [Berlin]: Berlin still exists, and people were saying that it would be demolished on August 15. I spent two weeks in Berlin. The masses have quieted down some. My railroad stations were in perfect condition. Mrs. H. does everything to perfection. As soon as Püppi goes to school, I want to go back there. I need to work. The Wilhelmshallen [1905-06 am Rande des Zoologischen Gartens zwischen Bahnhof Zoo und Gedächtniskirche als 'Wilhelmshallen' durch Carl Gause (Architekt des Adlon) im neoromanischen Stil erbaut] are also slowly being put back in order.

Sept 3, 1943: I wonder about all the things that are going to happen in the next year of my life [Marga's birthday is on September 7]. And I don't mean, in this war. I believe in the Führer and that our country is neither destined to, nor can, go under. Though things do look pretty bad at home. H. [Heinrich Himmler] has been made Secretary of the Interior. The German people think that he can save them. God grant that he does.

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I want to go back to Berlin. My place also is with the working population. Specially since I work with the D.R.K. [German Red Cross] I don't have peace of mind because I am not at my proper post.

Sept 6: I'll soon be fifty and have been through so much aggravation. How insolent was Irmgard Himmler yesterday in my own house. Now Heini is arriving and that will bring more problems. There is nothing to look forward to. I have to put up with it all for my child, and want to too. She is only 14 and should not know more about life's difficulties. She already hears so many things she should not know about.

Dec 12 [Sunday, *Gmund*]: Today would be my father's birthday. It is Sunday. I have been here two days. There were air raids on Berlin, thank you. How's it all going to turn out? Many offices [Dienststellen] are burned out, also the Wilhelmshallen. On ce again we've turned up something for the bombed-out. Since our house was badly damaged, H. happened to be here. This was just as well, everything got sorted out that much quicker. Mrs. Hofmeister whose husband [Oberst Georg Hofmeister] is very sick, lives with me, as well as Mrs. Albers, who's lost everything. Also Mrs. Rausch [Zausch?], Mrs. Ney, and the Rogozinski's [NOTE: a Jewish surname], so five families of strangers. It works out well and one does what one can.

## 1944

Jan 15, 1944 [*still Gmund*]: Xmas and New Years went by. H. was here for 8 days before Xmas and then again until Jan. 8. Püppi was happy and delighted with Xmas. It was again a quiet and peaceful celebration. [Aunt] Elfriede arrived after W. [Weihnachten?] and stayed for 14 days. The dear, she gets so excited about everything and suffers along with every German. How long will she stand it? H. is healthy, seemed happy playing with his daughter and the bridge games. Mrs. Albers is here, sweet and nice as usual. Mrs. Krenslin and Edith B. came often. Liesfelds were here twice and the Burgstallers and Dr. Roths once!

Mar 25, 1944 [Saturday, *Gmund*]: On January 22, I went to Berlin; there were many attacks and not much to do. So on Feb. 1, I went back to *Gmund*, since Mrs. Hofmeister also was there. I am still here. On Feb. 15, our house got burnt very badly; now a new roof will have to be put on. Mrs. H. [Hofmeister] is with her husband in Eifel, And I am sitting here. One does not know what to do anymore. Püppi, my child, if you only knew all the things I have to bear! Will you understand one day?!

May 25, 1944 [*Gmund*]: I was in Berlin for 14 days. I lived through 4-5 air raids. Awful! But other people have to live there too. Yesterday I planted the last bushes and plants for the spring in my garden. Up to now, it has been raining almost every day. Püppi and I are getting massages. Püppi's feet really need it.

August 11, 1944 [*Gmund*]: What a disgrace! German officers wanted to bump off the Führer. It's a miracle that he is alive. I was just on my way down here, July 20 was the day.

Nothing like this ever happened in the history of Germany. H. was here for Püppi's 15th birthday [Aug 8]. I was in Berlin from June 19 to July 20. Now Mr. [Oberst/GenMaj Georg] Hofmeister is Kommandant of Berlin [replaced von Hase, Jul 24, 1944 – Apr 20, 1945]. We had a lot to do in B. with the distribution of clothing to the bombed-out. Standing in the cellars on flagstones for 4 hours every day was none too easy for me. It worked out well though, and we have spread a lot of happiness.

Nov 15, 1944 [Wednesday *Gmund*]: Now I am here again, because H. [Heinrich] is also here, has been since Sunday, Nov. 12, read out the Führer's proclamation in Munich. Friday [Nov 17] I want to go back to Berlin, there is a lot to do because Christmas is just round the corner. I now have an apartment in the Kommandantur, because in Dahlem things got too awkward and insecure. War has now reached Germany's frontiers. It's a tough fight. The air raids on Berlin have diminished. Here [*Gmund*] we have an air raid alert at least once a day. Today for the third time already and it's still only midday.

## 1945

Jan 16, 1945: Gmund am Tegernsee. I have been here since Dec. 18. Munich has already had two heavy air raid warnings. The three of us celebrated Christmas by ourselves in my room upstairs. The little tree looked very nice and it was very cozy on Dec 21. On the 24th the Kern's came and it was nice and harmonious. We played doppelkopf. The Himmlers (Gebhard) [Heinrich Himmler's brother] visited us. Then he asked for a private word with me. I expected the worst. But I never expected that it would be so awful, the coarse and vulgar way he spoke about others and, while interspersed all along with Catholic virtue [*Augenaufschlag*]), about his own parents and Heini – I will never understand it. In spite of that, I had invited them round, that's what he was after in fact and that's what he got. I did it instinctively, not wanting to be the one to break it off with them. How I despise people like these! "I, the jolly one," – I've got to stop, because my fingers are trembling.

We have put Püppi in boarding at Reichersbeuern. She already spent 3 days there and feels very well about it. Has a pretty room with her girlfriend. If only it weren't for the air raids, it is such a large building. She has vacations until January 29, and I'll stay down here until then. Frau Dr. Richter is here and she treats the three of us. It is nice and peaceful. Tonight the Krentzlin's and Edit Boden are coming. The fighting in the East is getting worse, who knows how this will end, it looks pretty serious. H. [Heinrich] is commanding an army [group] in the West [Heeresgruppe Oberrhein], on top of all his other work! It is just too much. But he is happy and in good form when he phones.

Feb 2, 1945: Now H. is in the East [commanding Heeresgruppe Weichsel]. Whenever the going gets tough he has to pitch in. How wonderful that he answers these calls and is able to pull them off. All of Germany looks up to him. Püppi is at that school in Reich[ersbeuern]; they say the school will be converted into a hospital and then she'll

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come back here. The war – what will become of all my many acquaintances in the East? Nobody has reported in here as yet.

Feb 21, 1945 [final entry] [*Gmund*]: Aunt Martha from Danzig is here. Augusta also just called. Everything has entered a serious stage. I am still here because H. wants it this way. I feel very sorry because of my work and my image. Because if you are not at your post when comes, people will look at you askance and rightly so. Püppi went back to school today. The castle is now a hospital. Whether Gerhard [*their troublesome adopted son, Gerhard von der Ahé, aged 16, had joined the Waffen S.S.*] will come home before he's off to the front, is questionable. He is very courageous and loves it with the S.S. in Brünn. The war situation is unchanged and very grave.



*Gudrun Himmler and her mother Marga, photographed in American captivity in Italy in 1945*