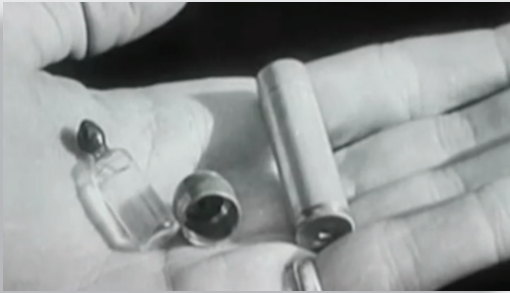
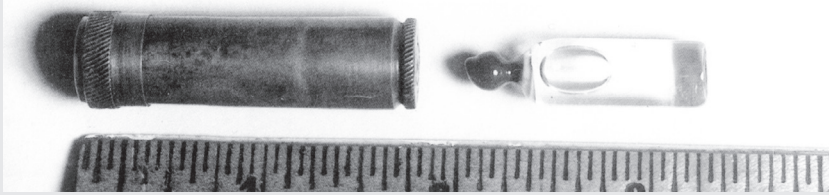




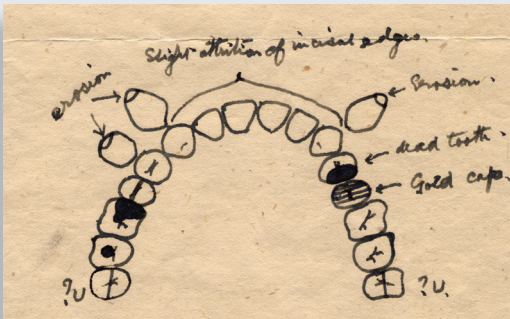
Forensic traces Photos of the room show that somebody has wiped the floor around the body, possibly to remove blood traces – which a suicide would not have left; but army boots have left visible scuff marks in the polish. His eyeglasses have shattered in the scuffle, and those put on him are not his.



Suicide capsule The standard Degesch capsule issued (*left*) is like one found in Herman Göring's possession (*below*): half an inch wide and one and half inches long with a screw cap. It is too bulky to conceal in a mouth.



The Allied armies announce that Heinrich Himmler has killed himself, swallowing cyanide from a glass phial hidden inside a brass casing in a gap in his teeth. Movietone News even produces a capsule (*left*) said to have been found on Himmler. It is unused, the liquid intact. There is a problem. There is no gap in the teeth, no glass splinters are found, and the phial portrayed by the *London Illustrated News* would not have fitted inside the brass container. The suicide story has persisted.



Dental report 'Reichsminister Heinrich Himmler, Report on Dentition, Cadaver examined at 11 hr to 13.15hrs on 25 May 45 at 31a Uelsenerstrasse, [sic] Lüneburg, sgd. G R Atkins, Major'



The remains of tortoise-shell framed eyeglasses which Reichsführer SS Himmler wears on May 23, 1945. The first punch shatters them. Himmler is blind without eyeglasses. They will be sold in 2019 by descendants of Dr John St George Glyn, a medic of Capetown, one of four men present at the examination. Sgt. Glyn serves in a force of South Africans, and later works helping typhus victims found at Bergen-Belsen.

HIMMLER KILLS SELF

Only Los Angeles Newspaper With All Leading News Services—Associated Press, International News, United Press, Dow-Jones

7 STAR COMPLETE SPORTS

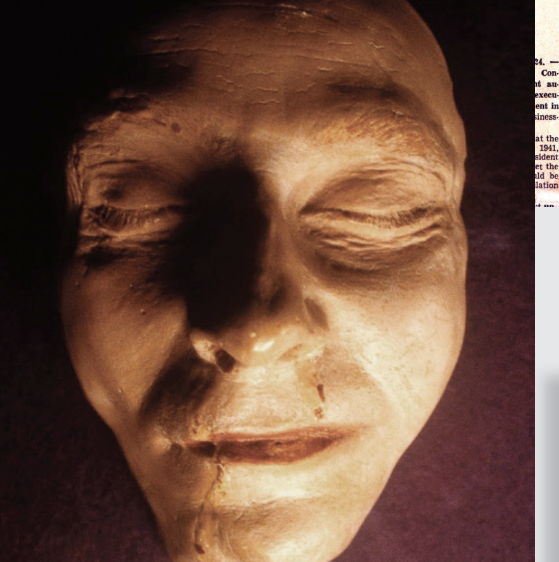
HERALD Express

RACE RESULTS NIGHT FINAL

VOL. LXXV THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1945 NO. 51

Tokio Aflame in B-29 Attack Truman Asks Business Govt.

Hit Jap 'Suicide' OFFER NEW SOCIAL SECURITY PLAN, UPS Wants to Remodel



Captured Hangman Swallows Poison

By KINGSBURY SMITH
International News Service Staff Correspondent

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, May 24.—Heinrich Himmler, creator, organizer and bloodyhanded top executioner of the Nazi German Gestapo, is dead.



The notorious self-styled successor to Adolf Hitler, stripped naked by his captors, committed suicide, swallowing a phial of poison while undergoing a medical examination at British Second Army headquarters.

Himmler took his life at 11:04 p. m. last night while a captive of the British.

He had been under arrest since May 21. On that day he was taken into custody while traveling under the name of Hinzinger, his mustache shaved off and his disguise completed with the aid of a black patch over his right eye.

The arrest had been made at Bremervorde, Prussia, by troops of the Second Army.

Himmler was in British hands for two full days and during this entire period was able to hide the poison on his person.

Apparently he had kept the phial in his mouth, clamped behind his gums.

China
Nips Land More Men,
Fear Yank Invasion

During a routine examination last night, a British military doctor asked Himmler to open his mouth. The physician looked inside and appeared to be startled. But to make certain, the doctor

Lightning speed The Allies flash the story of Himmler's 'suicide' around the world. Two plaster death masks (left) are prepared.

'BLACK MUSEUM' OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE, LONDON



Lüneburg The house 'prepared for prisoners like Himmler' at Uelzener Strasse 31a in 1945 (above) is unchanged to this day.



Two colonels Lieut.-Colonel Michael 'Spud' Murphy, *left*, would write that he brought Himmler over to a house prepared for such men. Lieut.-Colonel Sidney Noakes, allegedly one of the British MI5 officers who interrogated Himmler minutes before his 'suicide'.

Below: First page of the 'Post mortem examination to establish identification carried out at 11.00 hrs, 25.5.45'. It makes no mention of the freshly broken nose seen by the artist

The body was that of an adult male, well nourished and bluish up to average standard. Apparent age middle forties. Post mortem staining was present on points of pressure.

There was an oval scar 1 1/2 x 3/4 on the upper medial border of right patella. Small slightly raised pigmented mole 2 cms in diameter in mid line of back over small thoracic vertebra. Abrasions (recent) - two small circular abrasions over tendo achilles on both heels. Three small scratches on posterior aspect of left hand. Scratch 4" long passing vertically downwards over medial angle of left scapula.

General description.

Head. Average nose, symmetrical, with a light slightly meandering furrow. Dashed flat with no marked line of demarcation at either border of each. There not any well marked furrowed furrows or furrowed. Two vertical furrows running upwards from inner angle of orbit.

Hair. Brown, generally thin; the hair receded from the forehead and there was a bald patch 2" x 2 1/2" in occipital region. Very few grey hairs were apparent. The hair had been recently cut.

Eyebrows. Not long. On the inner third of both eyebrows the hair was growing in a vertical direction.

Eyes. Slightly protruding, blue colour grey. Glasses. Right - 5.75 sphere, Left - 6.0 sphere. Curvature of cornea in both eyes not very pronounced. Pupil could be adequately seen in art.

POST MORTEM EXAMINATION TO ESTABLISH IDENTIFICATION CARRIED OUT AT

11.00 Hours 25.5.45

The body was that of an adult male, well nourished and physique up to average standard. Apparent age - middle forties. Post mortem staining was present on points of pressure.

There was an oval scar 1 1/2 x 3/4 on the upper medial border of right patella. Small; slightly raised pigmented mole 2 cms. in diameter in mid-line of back over seventh thoracic vertebra. Abrasions (recent) - two small circular abrasions over tendo achilles on both heels. Three small scratches on posterior aspect of left hand. Scratch 4" long passing vertically downwards over medial angle of left scapula.

General description:

Head. Average size, symmetrical, with a high slightly receding forehead. Occiput flat with no marked line of demarcation at upper border of neck. Three not very well marked horizontal furrows on forehead. Two vertical furrows running upwards from inner angle of orbit.

Hair. Brown, generally thin; the hair receded from the forehead and there was a bald patch 2" x 2 1/2" in occipital region. Very few grey hairs were apparent. The hair had been recently cut.

Eyebrows. Not heavy. On the inner third of both eyebrows the hair was growing in a vertical direction.

Eyes. Slightly protruding, colour - grey. Glasses. Right 5.75 sphere, Left 6.0 sphere. Curves in skin under eyes not very pronounced.

Nose. Bones of bridges moderately high and well raised, the nose widens in breadth centrally from the bridge to the anterior nares which were wide, the right being slightly larger than the left. The skin over the alar cartilages is drawn tight. The tip of the nose is slightly flattened and deviates towards the right. There is a faint cleft at the tip in the mid line.

Face. Broad in line joining the malar bones and narrowing towards the lower jaw. The cheeks are not full but there is a fullness in both parotid regions. The face is asymmetrical, the left malar bone is higher than the right, the left cheek slightly fuller. Two pronounced creases run from the lateral tip of the nose ridge on each side to the angle of the mouth.



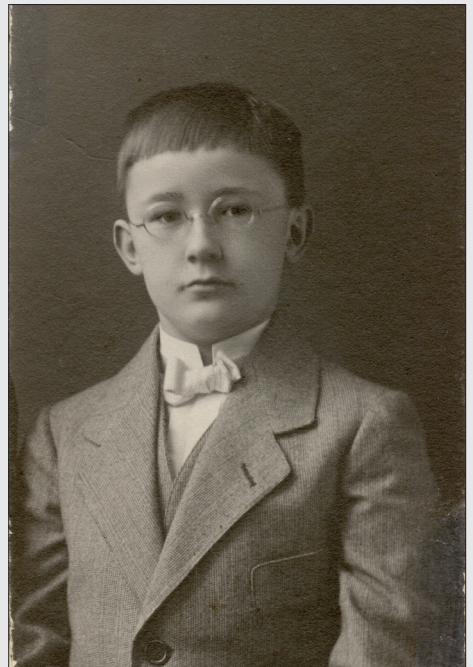
Andenken an die Erste heil. Kommunion

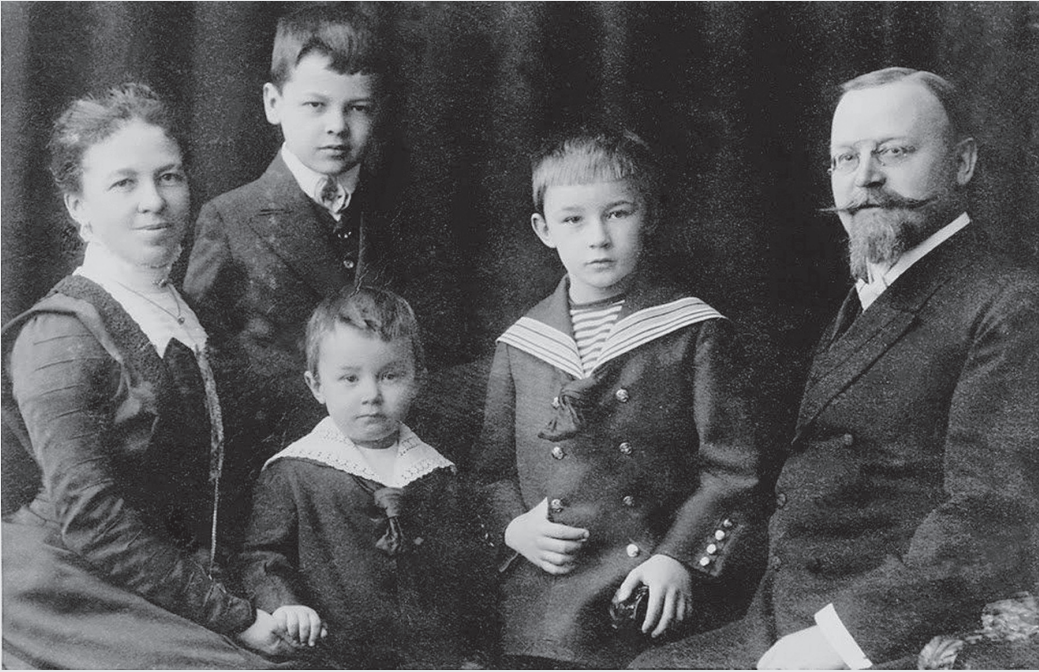
welche *Heinrich Himmler* empfangen hat in der *Ludwig* Kirche
zu *München* am *2. April* 1911

G. Schmitt

Heinrich Himmler preserves the certificate recording his First Communion until the end. He is a Catholic and a devout churchgoer as a young man. For Catholics, suicide is a mortal sin.

PICTURE FROM THE DON BOYLE COLLECTION





Early photographs show Heinrich Himmler in sailor suit, with his older brother Gebhard and little Ernst and their proud parents. Their father is a respected teacher at the the Wilhelm *Gymnasium*. It still stands on a main thoroughfare of Munich, *below*.



ILLUSTRIERTE VÖLKERKUNDE

IN ZWEI BÄNDEN

Unter Mitwirkung von
Dr. A. Byhan, Dr. A. Haberlandt,
Professor Dr. M. Haberlandt, Dr. R. Heine-Geldern,
Dr. W. Krickeberg, Dr. R. Lasch,
Professor Dr. W. Volz
herausgegeben
von

Dr. Georg Buschan

I

Dritte Auflage
(Unveränderter Abdruck der zweiten, vollständig umgearbeiteten
und wesentlich vermehrten Auflage)



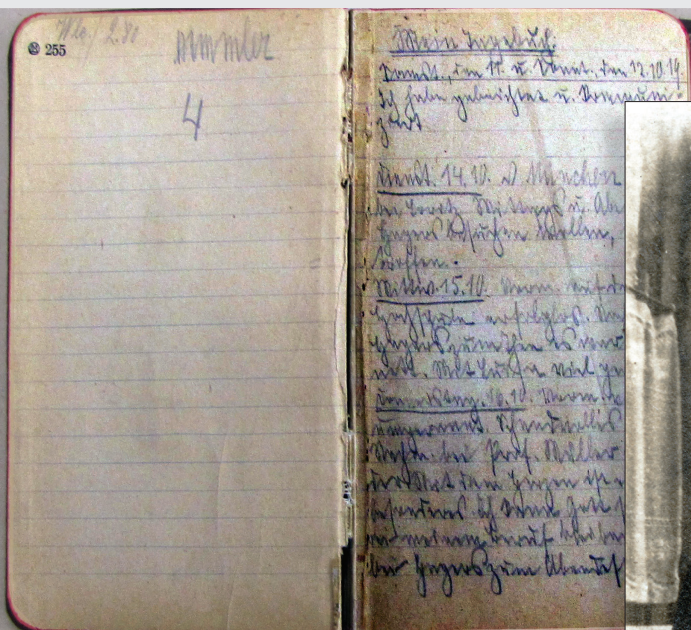
Sioux chief *He-asapa* (Black Rock) in full regalia with buffalo and ermine skins and horned helmet trimmed with eagles' feathers, denoting a warrior chieftain. From an oil by George Catlin, Berlin Museum of Anthropology

ILLUSTRIERTE VÖLKERKUNDE, JANUARY 1922

What a difference a uniform makes: Himmler in the 1920s: two faded photographs from a private album. In 1921 he is promoted to a *Fähnrich*, or ensign, of 11 Infantry Regt

HOOVER LIBRARY, HIMMLER COLLECTION





In October 1919, Heini starts Diary No. 4. Tucked in the back are still some souvenirs – an ice-rank ticket and tiny snapshots (one enlarged, above) which suggest his mind is sometimes elsewhere.

PHOTO COURTESY OF
THE HOOVER LIBRARY,
STANFORD, CA.





Gültig nur für diejenigen Halbjahre, deren Felde der
Universitätsstempel begedrückt ist.

Sommerhalbjahr 1924

Winterhalbjahr 1924/25

Sommerhalbjahr 1925

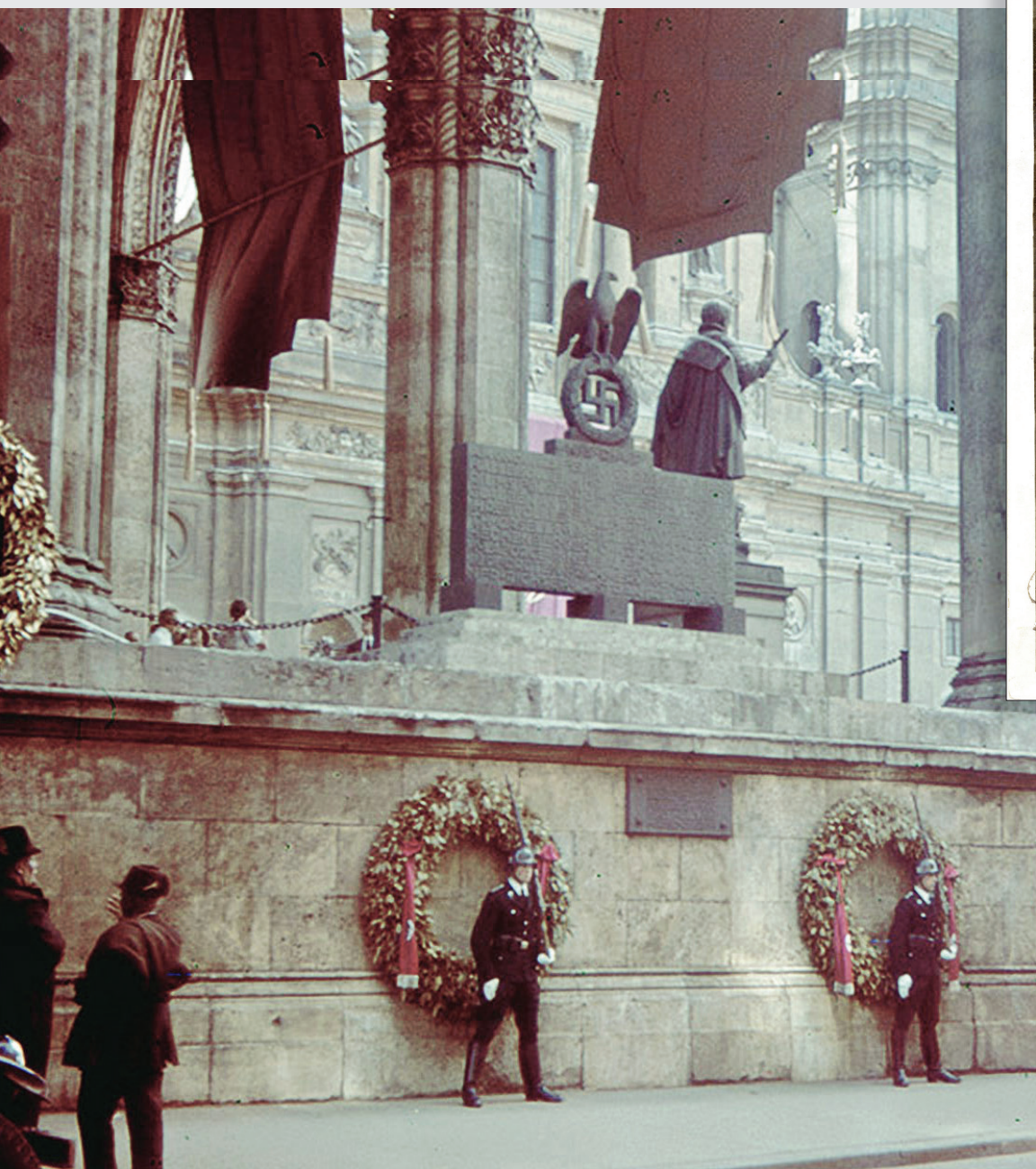
Winterhalbjahr 1925/26

Sommerhalbjahr 1926

Winterhalbjahr 1926/27

‘My darling children’ Himmler’s father Gerhard is an eminent Classical linguist, a school principal, and *Geheimrat* – privy councillor. But Heinrich Himmler dotes on his mother, Anna, and younger brother ‘Ernstl’, standing to his left: ‘He’s another decent chap.’ Gebhard earns pocket money for his accomplished watercolours, ‘I like him frightfully.’ Gebhard makes the occasional liaison of which Heini disapproves.

PHOTO FROM DON
BOYLE COLLECTION



Monument the Bavarian government plots with Hitler and the NSDAP to overthrow the bungling Weimar regime in Berlin. Hitler and Ludendorff stage a coup on November 8, 1923. It fails, after sixteen die at the Feldherrnhalle, including four police officers. The building becomes a holy place for the Party, and two SS men mount a guard of honour on the memorial on the east face, designed by Hitler's architect Paul Ludwig Troost.



Soldier for Ernst Röhm Heinrich Himmler plays a minor role in the putsch. Ernst Röhm issues to him an ID for the Reichs-Kriegsflagge militia, on October 17, 1923, a few days before the Hitler coup.

PHOTO: COLLECTION OF DON BOYLE

Historic photo The Party's photographer Heinrich Hoffmann pictures the coup participants, and each signs the photo – Dr Weber, Frick, Col. Kriebel, Gen. Ludendorff, Hitler, Brücker and Röhm.

Reichs-Kriegsflagge.

Kommando München 12 Nr. 9.

Truppen-Ausweis

Name: Heinrich Himmler

Anschrift: Marzpl. 8/1.

Dienstgrad bei der R.-K.-F.:

Unterschrift des Inhabers:

Himmler

München, den 17. Okt. 1923

Kommando München Kommando der R.-K.-F.

Kommandant



Murder of a monarch Tsar Nicholas II, head of Russia's ruling Romanov dynasty, seen above greeting Jewish worthies in 1911, is overthrown in February 1917. He is murdered on July 16–17, 1918 in Ekaterinburg. Yakov (formerly Solomon) Mikhailovich Sverdlov orders the murder, with Vladimir Lenin. The killers, now all identified as Jews, bayonet the Tsar and the empress with their servants and children. After they rape, strip and rob the daughters, *below*, the murderers mutilate their charred bodies and throw them down a well. There the bodies lie undiscovered until 1979; a second site is found in 2007. In 1998 President Yeltsin calls it a shameful chapter in Russian history. Lenin, grandson of the Ukrainian Moses Blank, is also of concealed Jewish descent.



Proklamation. Vollsgenossen!

Um nach jahrelanger Vernichtung aufzubauen, hat das Volk die Macht der Civil- und Militärbehörden gestürzt und die Regierung selbst in die Hand genommen. Die Bayerische Regierung wird hierdurch proklamiert. Die oberste Behörde ist der von der Bevölkerung gewählte Arbeiter-, Soldaten- und Bauernrat, der provisorisch eingesetzt ist, bis eine endgültige Volksvertretung geschaffen werden wird. Er hat gesetzgeberische Gewalt. Die ganze Garnison hat sich der Republikanischen Regierung zur Verfügung gestellt. Generalkommando und Polizeidirektion stehen unter unserem Befehl. Die Dynastie Wittelsbach ist abgesetzt.

Hoch die Republik!

Der Arbeiter- und Soldatenrat.

Kurt Eisner.



Kurt Eisner, walking in Munich with his wife and Minister Hans Unterleitner. Eisner ends the Wittelsbach dynasty, and proclaims a Soviet republic in Munich, with himself as prime minister. He is assassinated soon after.

Top: **Max Levin**, founder of the Munich Spartacist Bund, July 1919.

PHOTOS: HEINRICH HOFFMANN / U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES



Margarete Boden's childhood home in Goncerzewo, twelve miles north-west of Bromberg in Pomerania. She is photographed standing on the steps aged ten with her father and her siblings in 1904.

FROM MARGA'S ALBUM, IN USHMM

Opposite page: Margarete, future wife of Heinrich Himmler, and her parents' house later, outside Berlin. *Rear:* A pre-war Berlin Address Book lists her and her clinic under 'Siegroth, Margarete'.

She has that certain look Gebhard is dating Paula Stölzle, respectable daughter of a local banker, she sits for a Dachau artist, Ferdinand Mirwald, which earns Heini's displeasure. Heini hires a private detective to dig into her 'past,' badgers his parents, and confronts Gebhard with the results – which are thin indeed by today's standards. Paula is dropped, and Mathilde Wendler wins the hand of Gebhard.

PICTURE COURTESY FRAU
MAG. DANIELA MIRWALD,
VIENNA



In full couleur

Himmler (seated second in front row) with senior members of the Apollo fraternity.



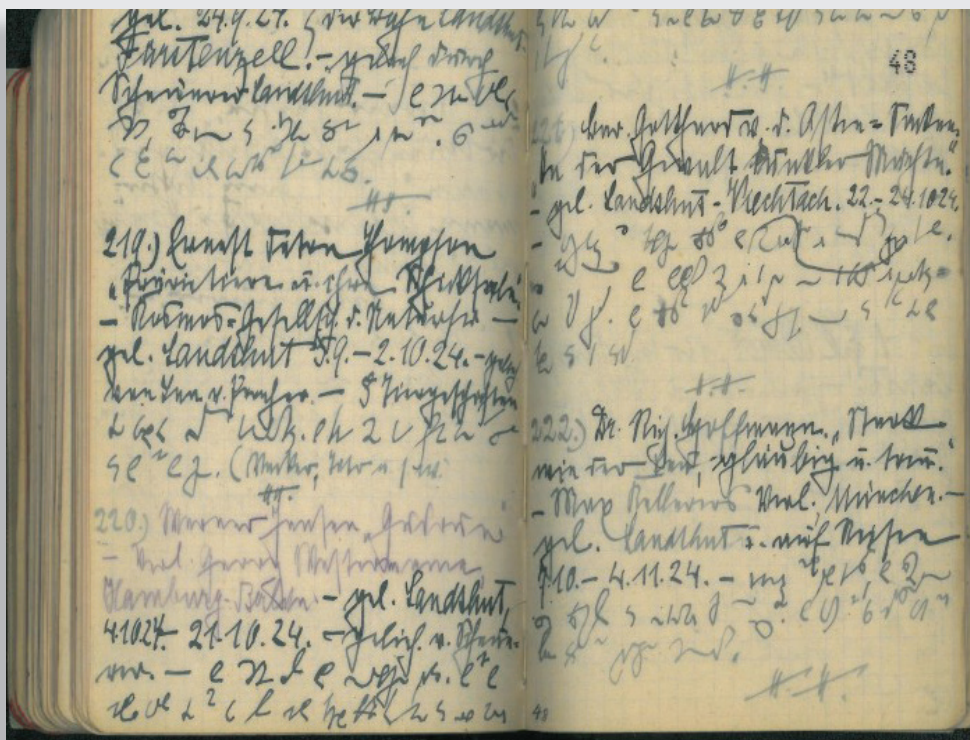
Horsing around Marga horsing around with a sister in a 1911 play.

No photographs appear to survive of Himmler's wedding to Margarete Boden on July 3, 1928 in Zepernick. She does not get on with Heini's parents, and gives them a wide berth. That changes with the birth of Gudrun in 1929.

Captive's fate In May 1928, Himmler introduces Marga, *centre*, to the family. His father wears a smile of the rictus variety, while Heini looks like a recently hanged man. His face shows all the joy of a mediæval captive, aware of the fate in store for him.

PHOTOS FROM MARGA'S ALBUM, IN THE USHMM

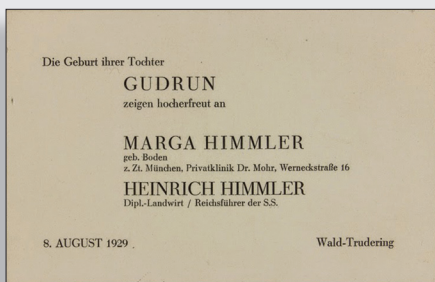




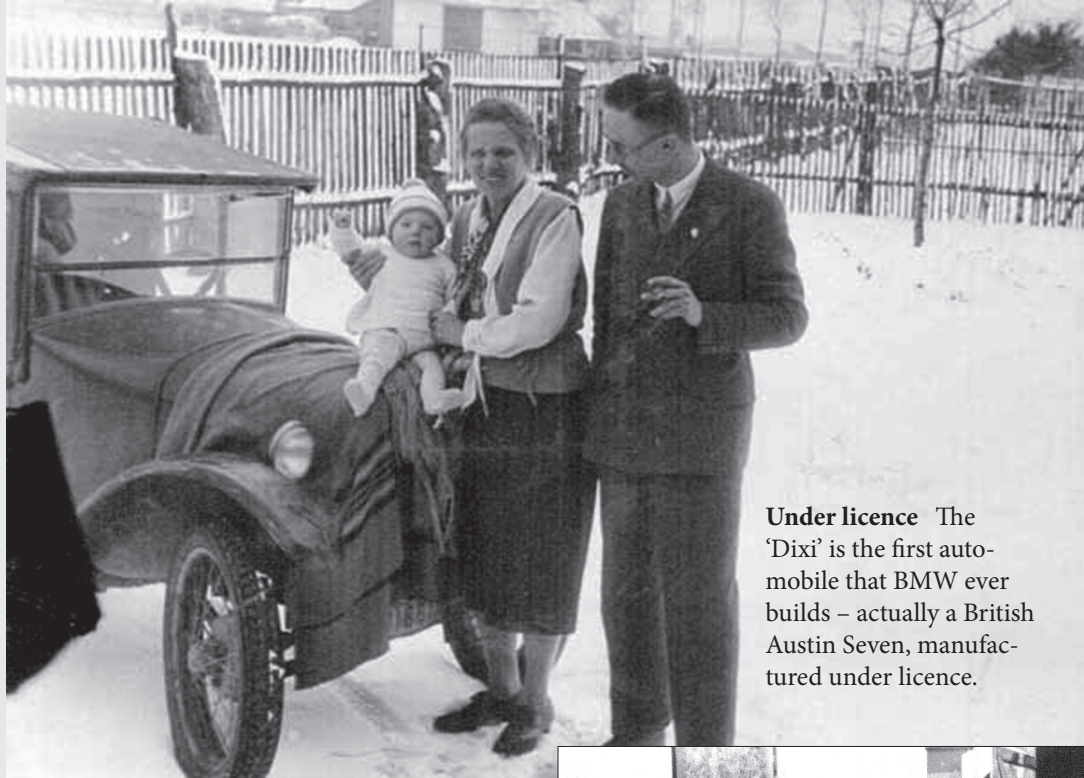
HOOVER LIBRARY, STANFORD, CALIFORNIA



The bibliophile At twenty-four, Heinrich Himmler keeps (above) a record of books he has read, and where (usually on rail journeys). No. 213 is Werner Jansen's *Gudrun*, and No. 222 Dr Richard Hoffmann's *Stark wie der Leu, gläubig und treu* – Strong as a Lion, Faithful and True – the memoirs of an army chaplain who has spent 29 months on the Western Front. Himmler jots brief comments in his shorthand, but it falls into disuse.



Newcomer Himmler, Marga, and, Gudrun, in summer, 1930.



Under licence The 'Dixi' is the first automobile that BMW ever builds – actually a British Austin Seven, manufactured under licence.



With Gudrun, the BMW 'Dixi' becomes a feature of Marga's photo album from 1929 to 1931, though there are no pictures of her actually riding in it.





Reinhard Heydrich with sons Heider and Heiko visit a barber in Fehmarn, 1936.

Below: Himmler breakfasts with Klaus Heydrich in Fehmarn, an island in the Baltic, 1938. Klaus is Lina's last son, and will be run over and killed in 1943.

ALL PICTURES FROM LINA HEYDRICH'S ALBUMS, COURTESY JEAN VAUGHAN AND WILLIAM RASMUSSEN





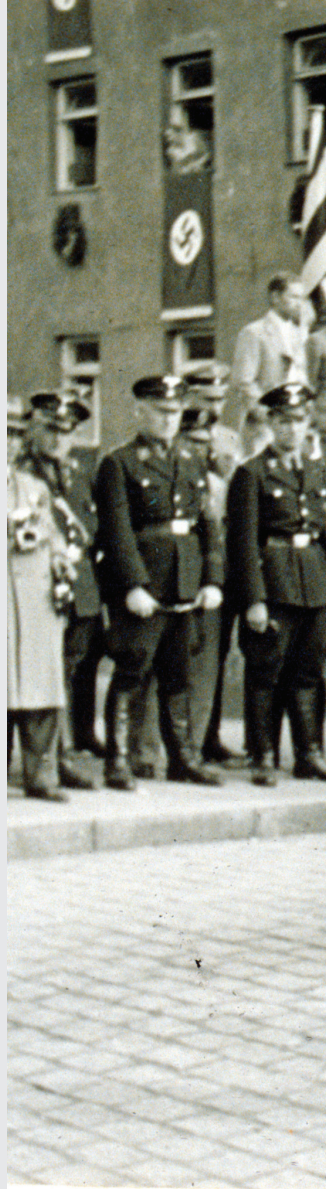
Lina Heydrich in 1940; top, Reinhard in 1932

Am Samstag den 14. 11. 37 kamen wir mittags in
Rom an. 25 Stunden waren wir mit dem Salzwagen
unterwegs. Es war nicht anstrengend. Hier wurden wir
vom Chef der italienischen Polizei mit einem gr.
Gefolge, in Italien sagt man kleinen, empfangen.
Wir fuhren ins Hotel u. dann bald zum Essen,
in eine kl. Trattoria. Es war ein kl. Loch zu ebener
Erde, mit einer sehr guten Küche. In Italien
legt man sehr viel Wert auf eine gute Küche.
Nach kurzem Schlaf ging es zum Colosseum.
Ein fantastischer alter Bau, u. weiter nach Venedig,
Sardolfo, wo im Sommer der Papst wohnt. Zurück
und fuhren ~~in~~ die Via Appia lang nach Rom ~~zu~~
~~nach~~, es war die berühmte alte Treppe, an
der wir das Grabmal der Cecilia Metella u.
viele Rinnen besahen. Abends aßen wir wieder
in einer Trattoria, fuhren mit dem Pferdewagen
nach Hause u. waren um 10 Uhr zu Bett.
15. 11. Erst zur Engelsburg, von wo wir einen
schönen Blick hatten, von da zur Peterskirche,
eingehend besichtigt, Petersstatue, der die
Leute den Fuß küssen, welcher schon ganz abge-
nutzt ist.



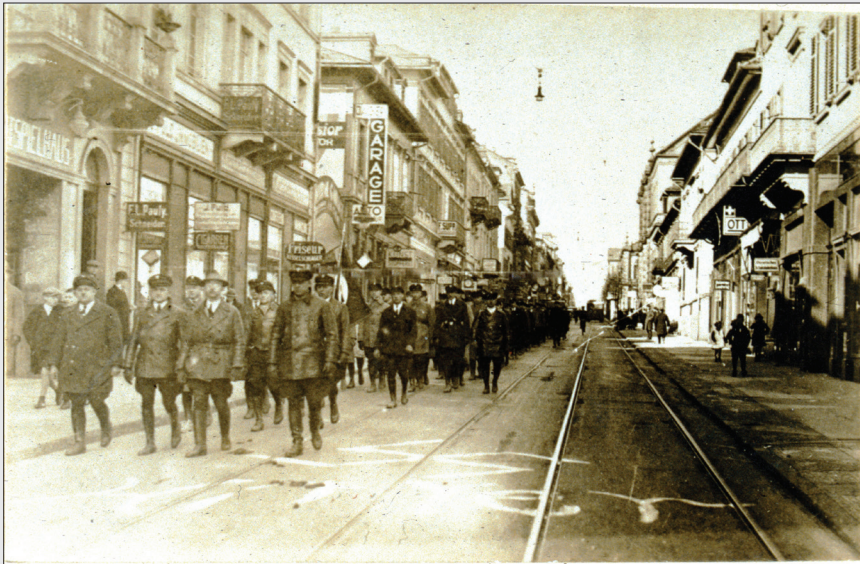
Party Rally. Himmler has removed the wire reinforcing ring from his cap. It gives it a softer look, but was not authorised.

HOOVER LIBRARY, HIMMLER'S ALBUMS



Badges and Ranks Himmler wears the insignia of an SS *Oberführer*. It is 1929, as he is also wearing the diamond-shaped Party Rally badge on his pocket – the commemorative badge for the 1929 Nuremberg Rally. When Erhard Heiden resigned, Himmler was given the title ‘Reichsführer,’ but it did not have official status until after June 1934. In the picture Himmler also wears on his tie the circular NSDAP badge.





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Uniformen der Reichszeugmeisterei
München unter Nr. 53

Marching In 1929 Himmler heads a column of the growing National Socialist Party on a propaganda march through the streets of Hamburg, in North-West Germany. He keeps the photo in his private album.

HOOVER LIBRARY

Hugo Boss, a well-known clothier of Meisingen, becomes a manufacturer of the SA, SS, and Hitler Youth uniforms.

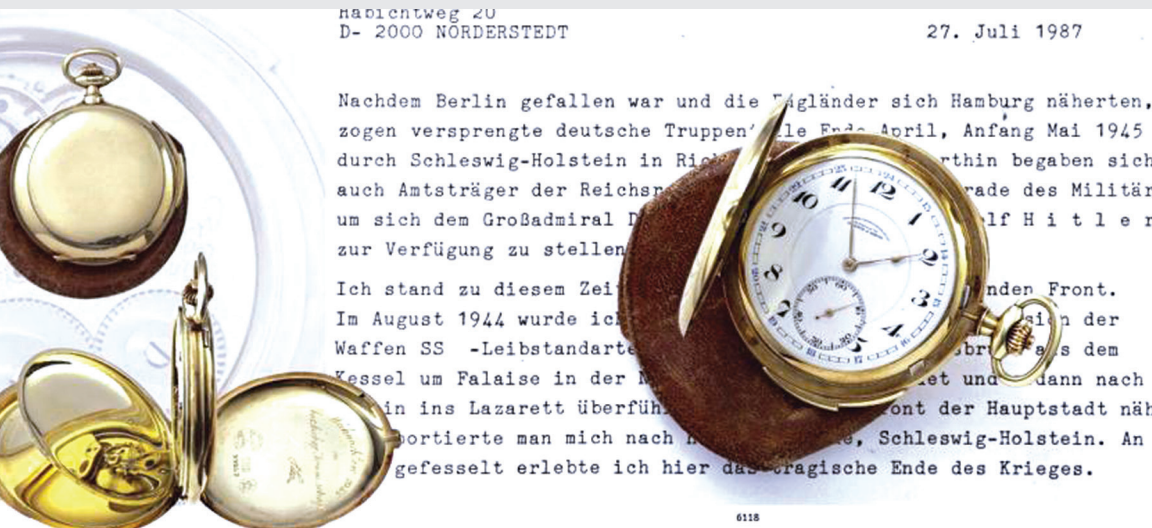
ALB NECKAR-ZEITUNG, JANUARY 1935

Christmas 1935 Adolf Hitler gives a precious Glashütte gold watch to Himmler, who in 1945 passes it on as a farewell gift to SS *Obergruppenführer* Walther Eggemann of the *Leibstandarte's* famed 1st Panzer Division, just days before the Lüneburg events leading to his killing. It still keeps good time.





On the Hesselberg, 1930 Himmler with Adolf Hitler, who appears unconcerned by the gag on public speaking imposed on him. Himmler wears a pair of eyeglasses – a rarity among the top National Socialists.

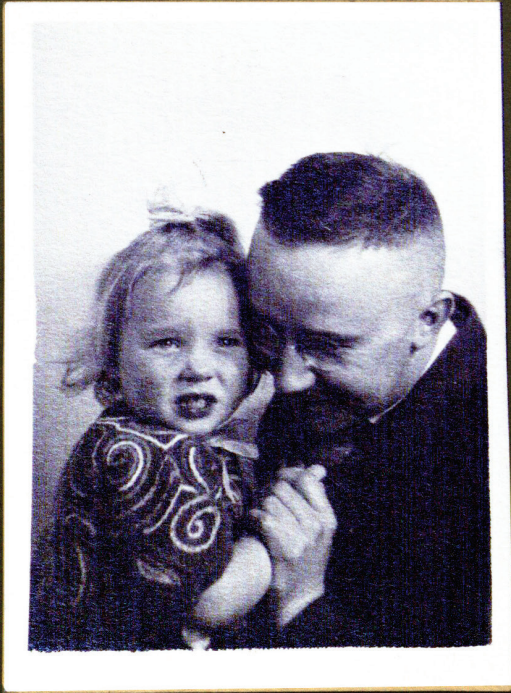


Hadienlweg 20
D- 2000 NORDERSTEDT

27. Juli 1987

Nachdem Berlin gefallen war und die Engländer sich Hamburg näherten, zogen versprengte deutsche Truppen Ende April, Anfang Mai 1945 durch Schleswig-Holstein in Richtung Norden. In der Gegend von Arthrin begaben sich auch Amtsträger der Reichswehr, darunter der Generalstab des Militärs, um sich dem Großadmiral Dönitz zu stellen. Adolf Hitler war zur Verfügung zu stellen.

Ich stand zu diesem Zeitpunkt an der Front. Im August 1944 wurde ich in die Waffen SS -Leibstandarte übernommen. Ich wurde als dem Kessel um Falaise in der Normandie eingeschlossen und dann nach Deutschland ins Lazarett überführt. Dort der Hauptstadt näherte sich. Man portierte man mich nach Schleswig-Holstein. An gefesselt erlebte ich hier das tragische Ende des Krieges.



Sommer
1932
Juli





Summer 1932 photos in Marga's album. Gudrun with her father and an aunt

FROM MARGA'S FAMILY ALBUM AT THE USHMM



Above: Heini smiles proudly on leaving Villa Lindenfycht in 1937

FROM GUDRUN'S 'SHEPHERDESS ALBUM' AT THE USHMM





Squire of Gmund In 1937, Heinrich Himmler and Marga buy a house on the shores of Lake Tegernsee at Gmund, and here they raise their family, including Gudrun and a foster child, Gerhard von der Ahé. Gerhard's father has been murdered by the Reds; Gerhard eventually joins the Waffen-SS, serves with distinction and survives the war. Marga saves the house from 'de-Nazification' measures, as she has raised most of the purchase money.



Studio portrait of Gudrun

April 1932. She tells us in 1993 that she will spend the rest of her life writing a book to clear her father's name. She seems not to have finished this Sisyphean Task.



Daddy retains his bonhomie, however irksome Gudrun can become. He is careful not to upset his foster son, Gerhard von der Ahé



First day at school, June 1936: Gudrun, right with a friend, is nervous, like any other

PICTURE FROM MARGA'S ALBUM, COURTESY USHMM

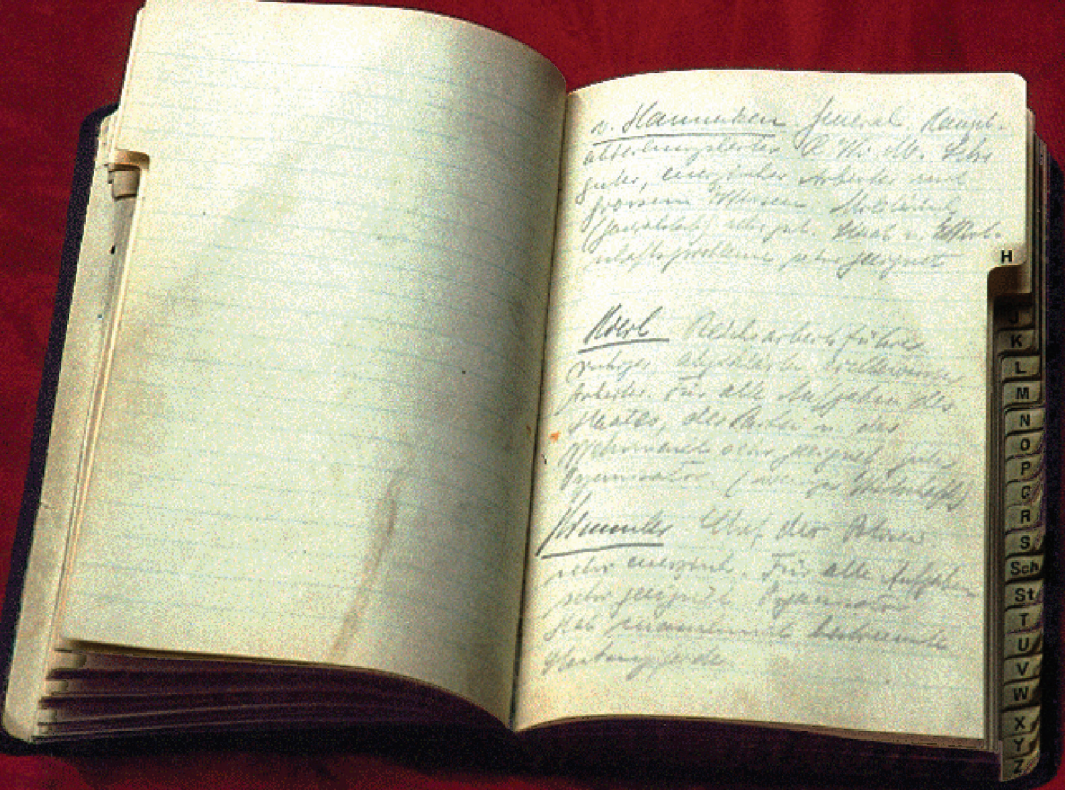


To his beloved parents. Mr and Mrs Geheimrat Himmler, Heinrich sends postcards with Prince Philipp von Hesse like this scrappy one from Rome on December 2, 1932



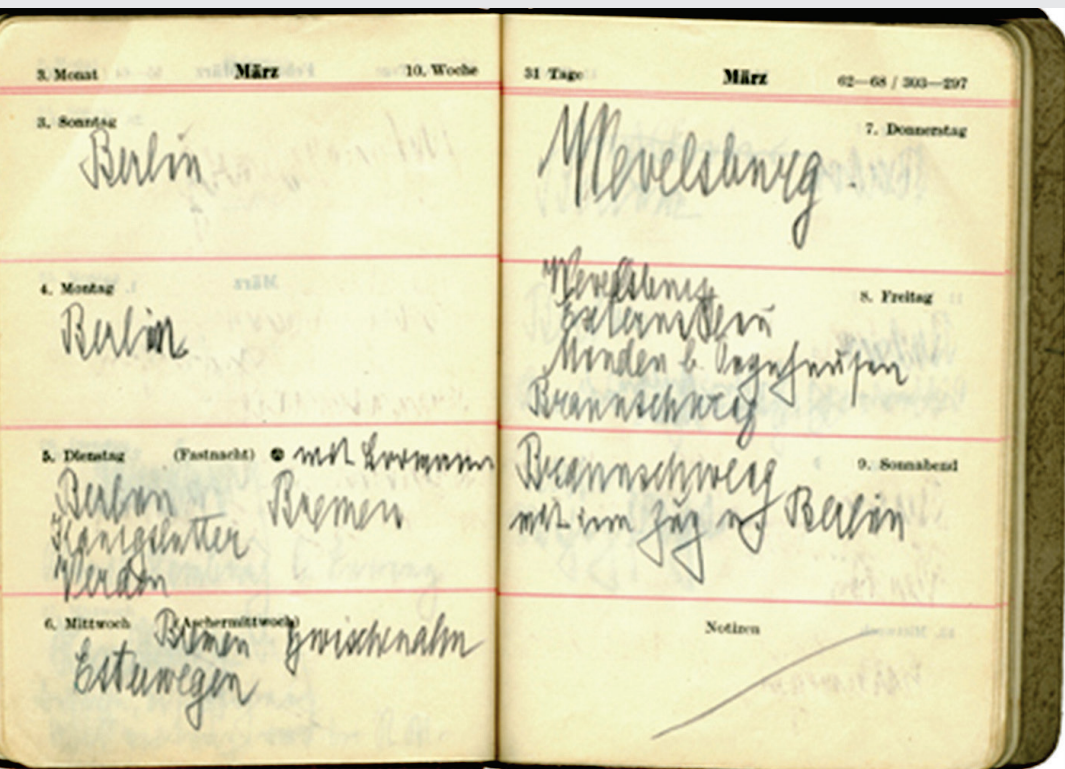
Gudrun with Pappi at a sports meeting in 1937. A stickler for detail, he specifies how many pipes and drums are to be in each SS band, and the length of the tassels. Himmler – here saluting Hitler with Karl Wolff – also perfects the *Parademarsch*





Himmler is assessed by Göring privately in 1935: 'Very energetic. Very suitable organiser for any jobs,' but also: 'Often has quite odd hobby-horses' RENDELL MUSEUM, BOSTON

Himmler's 1935 pocket diary (below) seems normal



On vacation With Marga, Himmler visits the Rhineland town of town of Caub in October 1936, but Marga's mind is already elsewhere. A street photographer snaps them strolling through Wiesbaden. They vacation for a month in Italy and North Africa in 1937.



The SS 'Order' Castle Having turned down a rival site in Caub, in 1934 Himmler selects an abandoned early seventeenth century castle at Wewelsburg in Westphalia for his SS 'Order' and until 1945 devotes time and treasure to getting the construction details right



Felix Kersten becomes Himmler's masseur in 1939. He listens to everything going on around him, and publishes a well-known diary; it has been taken at face value by incautious historians. The diary earns him postwar the Legion d'Honneur, but he dies of a heart attack in April 1960 on the way to collect it.



Kersten has no problems with being photographed alone. But when he is with Himmler, he is more circumspect, and frowns at photographers

Still tinkering Himmler, Wolff and SS-*Gruppenführer* Heinrich Schmauser, commander of *Oberabschnitt* South, inspecting 34 SS *Standarte* at Weilheim in December 1934. The caps and uniforms are pre-1936.





Nuremberg Rally, 1935 Himmler is in his element at the Party Rally in 1935, seated in the front row with Karl Wolff and Martin Bormann, chief of the National Socialist Party

— FROM MARGA'S FAMILY ALBUM, COURTESY OF THE USHMM



In 1933, Reichsführer Himmler and Karl Wolff open 'Sonder-Konto R' at a Munich bank

Konto-Nr. 8160

An die

Städtische Spar- und Girokasse
Mün.

Unter Anerkennung der mit uns - uns - im Abdruck eingehenden Geschäftsbed.
den Verkehr in laufender Rechnung beauftragt ich - wir - die Eröffnung eine
Rechnung auf den Namen

(vollständige Adresse) Reichsführer SS
München
Schellingstr. 31

Fernsprecher N

Zur rechtsverbindlichen Verfügung über das Konto ist - sind - bis auf schriftlich
berechtigt:

und zwar:

1. Heinrich Himmler
2. Karl Wolff
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Die Gut- und Lastschriftanzeigen sollen aus Abhaltung herausgehen an die
überandt werden.

München, den 14. IV. 33.

Antragsteller hat sich ausgewiesen durch: Dr. F. P. L. L. L.
München 695.199 Karl Wolff

Konto angelegt am 19. 9. 33 durch J. L. L.

| Name: <u>Himmler Heinrich</u> | | | | Konto-Nr. <u>8160</u> | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|-----------------------|-----------|----------|------------|
| Reichsführer SS | | | | M. <u>1933</u> | | | |
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Berlin, den 16. November 1936.

Sür die Anteilnahme, die Sie an dem Hinscheiden meines guten Vaters genommen haben, danke ich Ihnen im Auftrage meiner lieben Mutter und meiner Familie sowie im eigenen Namen.

Die Menge der Briefe und Beileidskundgebungen machen es mir leider unmöglich, sogar die vielen herzlichen handschriftlichen Briefe persönlich in der gleichen Weise zu beantworten.

Ich bitte, dies zu verstehen und unseren Dank mit diesen - leider nur gedruckten - Zeilen entgegenzunehmen.

Heil Hitler!

Heinrich Himmler

Reichsführer SS und Chef der Deutschen Polizei

TSt
Köln-Lindenthal

8811 KLN OS 2

Leitvermerk:

21/1740 MDT 211 UEBER 500,-- DM FRL GUDRUN HIMMLER

GEORGENSTR 85/4 TEL VOM EMPFG VERWEIGERT +

Niceties Many write to Himmler in 1936 expressing sympathy on his Father's death; he thanks them, by printed card. Below: Karl Wolff is informed in April 1961 that Miss Himmler has 'declined' the five hundred marks gift he has sent her. HEIDEMANN COLLECTION



Adolf Hitler and his Party Caucus

Into power German voters sweep the NSDAP into power on January 30, 1933. A Party photographer takes a triumphant photo of Adolf Hitler and his Party caucus, including Rudolf Hess (back row, right, with the Reich Chancellor). But Joseph Goebbels, and Heinrich Himmler, seated at the right, must still wait for Cabinet office.

HEINRICH HOFFMANN / U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1933

BUY BRITISH
balito
STOCKINGS

A Daily Express

NO. 10,258.

Today's Weather: Fair; Mild.
FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1933.



ONE PENNY.

St IVEL
CHEESE
Aids digestion
2d., 6d. & 8½d. each.
Ask for St Ivel at your Grocer.
Cheese Ltd., Poulton, Lancs.

JUDEA DECLARES WAR ON GERMANY

Jews Of All The World Unite In Action

BOYCOTT OF GERMAN GOODS

MASS DEMONSTRATIONS IN MANY DISTRICTS

DRAMATIC ACTION

"Daily Express" Special Political Correspondent.
ALL Israel is uniting in wrath against the Nazi onslaught on the Jews in Germany.

Adolf Hitler, swept into power by an appeal to elemental patriotism, is making history of a kind he least expected. Thinking to unite only the German nation to race consciousness he has roused the whole Jewish people to a national renaissance.

The appearance of the swastika symbol of a new Germany has called forth the Lion of Judah, the old battle symbol of Jewish defiance.

Fourteen million Jews dispersed throughout the world have banded together as one man to declare war on the German persecutors of their co-religionists. Sectional differences and antagonisms have been submerged in one common aim—to stand by the 600,000 Jews of Germany who are terrorized by Hitlerian anti-semitism, and to compel Fascist Germany to end its campaign of violence and oppression directed against its Jewish minority.

£151,323 in a minute to £4,000,000 a minute.
This is the record of the public's share for casual vacancies with a starry sky.

When the First Riding County Council issued £1,000,000 of 1½ per cent. stock at 100 per cent. and the price at 100 10s. per cent. the price at 100 10s. per cent. the price at 100 10s. per cent.

The line was closed in five minutes, during which time applications for the line were received for £25,000,000.

THE BIRTH OF AN IDEA



DENNIS CLENNY, the noted British dress designer, finds inspiration for his fashions by designing living models. Every man to his own taste.

HIGHER WAGES FOR STEEL WORKERS

AN INCREASE OF THREE SHILLINGS A WEEK

BRIGHT SPOT IN A BLACK TOWN

THE "Daily Express" has sent a special representative on an unusual mission. He is touring the north in search of high wages. In his tour he is going to tell the facts about all classes of wages, high and low. He is going to show how low wages reduce the morale of the community. He is going to show how courageous spending means favourably throughout the community. In his first dispatch it is revealed that the steel workers of Middlesbrough have been able to make a picture in the cause of high wages.

Fitters in steel works have recently received an increase of 2s. a week. Their wages are not high, but this is a step in the right direction. It is a bright spot in an otherwise black town brought low by wage cuts and

The Powell Duffry Iron Co. Company of South Wales increased its profits by £100,000 last year. Mr. E. J. Jones, the chairman and managing director, said that the company's annual output of pig-iron was 1,000,000 tons. The price of pig-iron was 10s. 6d. per ton. The company's profits were £100,000.

New "Sweep" Bill In The Dail

MR. DE VALERA AND STATE CONTROL

SECRET MEASURE

"Daily Express" Special Correspondent.
DUBLIN, Thursday.
WHILE Mr. Jack O'Shaughnessy, the official announcer of the Irish sweepstakes draw, was driving the remnants of the latest Irish lottery prize fund between lucky ticket-holders in the Plaza Ballroom today I was listening to an Under-Secretary of the Free State Government introducing a Bill which may change the whole future, scope, and purpose of these Irish hospital lotteries.

NO CLUE
A mysterious message entitled "The Public Hospitals Bill, 1933," appeared on the agenda for this afternoon's meeting of the Council.

MR. MACDONALD EXPLAINS HIS TOUR

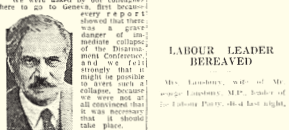
"PEACE CAN BE KEPT IN EUROPE"

MR. RAMSAY MACDONALD faced a crowded House of Commons yesterday afternoon when he spoke about his visits to Paris, Geneva, and Rome, and his talks with Signor Mussolini.

The German, French, Italian, Polish, and Belgian Ambassadors were among a crowd of diplomatic representatives in their special gallery, and Mr. Bruce, of Australia, and other representatives of the Dominions also listened.

Mr. MacDonald, who was greeted with cheers, said:—"I take the earliest available opportunity to inform the House regarding what happened while the Foreign Secretary and myself were at Geneva and Rome."

"We were asked for our colleagues here to go to Geneva, first because every report showed that there was a grave situation in the Balkans, and a general collapse of the Balkan states, and we felt strongly that it might be possible to avert such a collapse, because all concerned that it was necessary that it should take place."



"There are, the Foreign Secretary and I went to Geneva. Our first business was to discuss how matters exactly

LATE NEWS

LABOUR LEADER BEREAVED

Mr. Lansbury, M.P. for the Labour Party, died last night.

Broadcasting Programmes on Page 2.



Hide that headline In March 1933, under American leadership the 'Jews of All the world' declare open war on Germany – and a damaging economic boycott. After they decide around 1970 to trade on the resulting misfortune, they prevail on newspapers, and the provocative 1933 headline vanishes from newspaper archives – almost.





Picnic in the woods Himmler spends rare weekends in 1939 punting on the lake, or at picnics with Marga and her sisters and Reinhard Heydrich in plain clothes



Decoy The 1939 Party Rally is planned in detail, but only as a decoy to deceive the foreign Intelligence.

Like the three Musketeers As the years go past Wolff, Himmler, and Heydrich become inseparable friends – until one of them is murdered







The SS numbers grow Starting with just eight men on November 9, 1925, the day the SS was founded, and around one hundred on December 31, 1925, by the end of 1931 it has swollen to 14,964. Here a crack unit leads a parade on Odeonsplatz, Munich. The SS numbers 52,174 on the day that Hitler wins office in January 1933. By the end of 1938 it will more than quadruple in size, with 238,159 in the Allgemeine SS and its new military arm, the feared Waffen-SS – formerly the Verfügungstruppe. The SS grows to a combined total of 465,798 men in 1942. Their commander throughout is Heinrich Himmler, this extraordinary, unprepossessing man.

PHOTO: PIXPAST



‘The field-marshal’s married a hooker’

While Himmler is in Italy, a crisis brews in Berlin. The security service wrongly identifies army C-in-C Werner von Fritsch (*picture left*) as a homosexual, and compromises Werner von Blomberg, the war minister – seen above with his bride at his mother’s funeral in January 1938. Heydrich is blameless – but not uninvolved. All the principals often meet. *Below* in the front rank from left: Heydrich, Goebbels, Himmler, Hess, Hitler, Blomberg, Fritsch, and Admiral Raeder.





After the Anschluss

Hitler visits, together with Himmler, the industrial town of Leoben in Styria, Austria, greeted at every railroad station by bouquets from citizens. In Leoben they inspect troops, in Austrian army uniforms, which they will soon exchange for German field grey.

— PIXPAST





After the shooting of a German in Switzerland in January 1936, the unprovoked murders by Jews multiply. On November 8, 1938, a young Jewish gunman enters the German embassy in Paris, asks for the ambassador – who is not there – and fires five shots into the First Secretary, young Ernst Vom Rath. Vom Rath dies a few days later, and the Germans take revenge.

Hitler and Joachim von Ribbentrop himself attend Vom Rath's funeral, *below*.

U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES



'This thing with the Jews,' sighs Marga Himmler, as their delayed vacation begins. 'When will this scum leave us alone, so we can get on with enjoying our lives?' Her (rare) remark about the Jews is written without context in her diary of November 14, 1938.

REPENTING HIS RASH ACT?

PARIS, FRANCE....HEAD BOWED ON HIS MANACLED HANDS, HERSCHEL GRYNSZPAN, 17-YEAR-OLD POLISH JEW, IS LED FROM THE "INVALIDES" POLICE STATION FOLLOWING HIS ARREST FOR THE FATAL SHOOTING OF ERNST VOM RATH, THIRD SECRETARY OF THE GERMAN EMBASSY. THE ~~DEATH~~ DEATH OF VOM RATH LED TO THE WORST SERIES OF ANTI-JEWISH ATTACKS EVER SEEN IN GERMANY. YESTERDAY, NOV. 14TH, THE STATE DEPARTMENT CALLED HOME, HUGH R. WILSON, THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO GERMANY.



Jewish murderer Herschel Feibel Grynszpan, a penniless teenager, is arrested by French police at once and questioned about who gave him money to buy the gun – and raincoat.





Himmler's Big Night Newsreel cameras and microphones wait on the plinth of the Feldherrnhalle on Munich's Odeonsplatz on November 8, 1938, as thousands of SS men form up to swear allegiance. 'I vow to you, Adolf Hitler, as Führer and Chancellor of the Reich, my absolute allegiance until death. So help me God.' The SS is here. But where are Hitler and Himmler?

— Elsewhere, disturbances are breaking out all over Germany. It is Dr Goebbels' '*Kristallnacht*.'

HUGO JAEGER





The educated rival Dr Joseph Goebbels is gauleiter of Berlin and has succeeded Himmler as director of propaganda. Himmler loathes Goebbels, tries to undermine him, then gives up.

PICTURE FROM ANKA STALHERM'S COLLECTION

Hitler sends for Goebbels, who issues secret instructions on November 10, 1938 halting the pogrom he has begun (*below*).

YIVO INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH RESEARCH, NEW YORK

Von nachstehender Bekanntmachung des Reichspropagandaleiters
Pg. Dr. Goebbels bitte ich Kenntnis zu nehmen.

Streng vertraulich!

Heil Hitler !

Im Auftrag:

Goebbels

Gauhauptstellenleiter.

"Ich verweise auf meine heutige Bekanntmachung betreffs Beendigung der antijüdischen Kundgebungen und Aktionen, die auch bereits durch Presse und Rundfunk veröffentlicht worden ist. Die Gauleitungen haben zusammen mit der Polizei entsprechende Maßnahmen zu treffen, daß die demolierten Judengeschäfte in kürzester Zeit auf Kosten ihrer jüdischen Inhaber wieder in Ordnung gebracht werden. Es steht eine Verordnung zu erwarten, nach der die Schäden, die bei den antijüdischen Aktionen entstanden sind, nicht von den Versicherungen getragen werden, sondern von den betroffenen Juden selbst. Weiterhin werden in kurzer Frist noch eine Reihe von Maßnahmen gegen die Juden auf dem Gesetzes- oder Verordnungswege durchgeführt werden. Über diese werde ich Sie rechtzeitig unterrichten. Die antijüdischen Aktionen müssen mit derselben Schnelligkeit, mit der sie entstanden sind, nunmehr eingestellt werden. Sie haben den ihnen gewünschten und erwarteten Zweck erfüllt. Sollte sich durch Vorgänge im Judentum des In- oder Auslandes eine neue Lage ergeben, so wird rechtzeitig Mitteilung ergehen.

Heil Hitler !

gez. Dr. Goebbels



In touch Himmler has gone on vacation, but keeps in close touch with SS Gruppenführer Karl Wolff – care of Gestapo HQ in Berlin.

Making history Thanks to Hitler, in the next month one stolen province after another is returned to Germany. In March 1939 the Germans regain their port of Memel, hidden under the Lithuanian name Klaipėda. Himmler goes to Memel to arrange Hitler's triumphal entry, and he and Karl Wolff write to the latter's wife a card with postage stamps already overprinted with the old German name, Memelland.





Model prison camp

Himmler's first camp at Dachau is praised by the French Red Cross as a 'model internment camp'. Dachau prisoners are used by the Allach porcelain factory to produce works like the Dancing Girls (*left*). Himmler likes showing off the camp, as on April 25, 1939 (*below*).

FRIEDRICH BAUER / JOE PAGNANO
COLLECTION





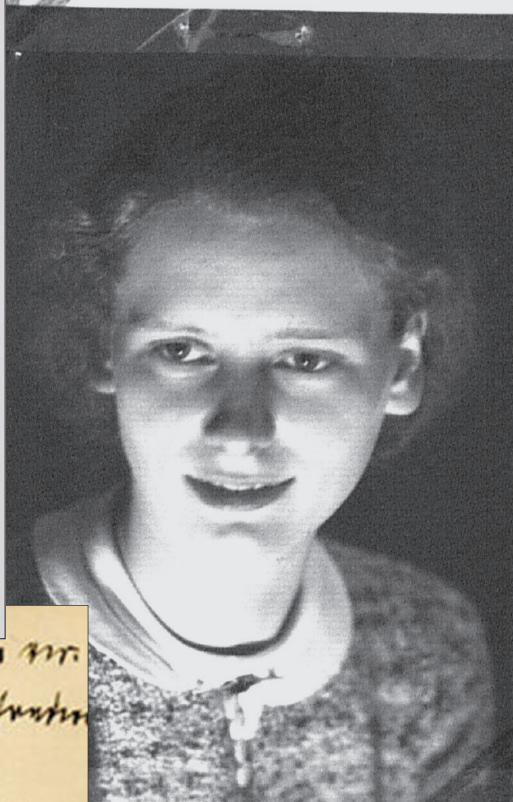
Heinrich Himmler, is now Hitler's right-hand man. He is sent to Warsaw in February 1939 (below) in an attempt to talk the Poles round; he meets Kordian Józef Zamorski, his counterpart as national police chief. His lofty adjutant Alvensleben hovers in the background.



Wenn Du dich so nimmst
 u. lachst Du, wenn Du
 etwas ganz fabelhaftes
 bist und lachst u. weinst
 Du mir sehr dankbar.
 Gattungslos fabelhaft Du magst
 dich nicht fürchten
 Gute Befolgung u. freundl.
 Gruß. Viel Glück!
 H. Müller.

18. VII. 39.

G.V.
 10.10.39



Ich bin in Erinnerung an die
 glücklichen Stunden in der
 Stadt!

Ich bin mir ganz sicher
 nicht ganz zufrieden u. auf die
 Seite des Mannes in der Stadt.

Ich bin aber nicht ganz
 zufrieden mit der Stadt.
 Ich bin nicht ganz zufrieden.
 H. Müller.

Zählend
 Sportverein
 in Berlin

Freiwillig

Freiwillig

Tier.

Das Ganze
 ist

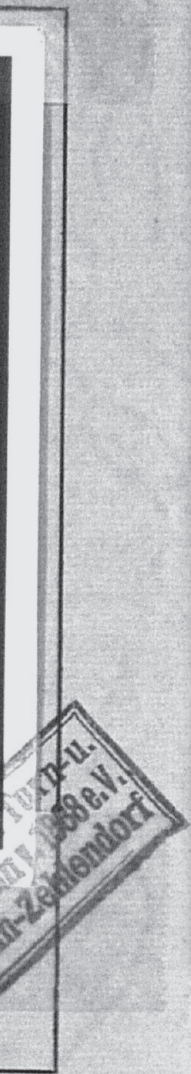
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(Nichtzutreffendes ist zu streichen)



18-
in.

r Bewerberin
mit beglaubigt.
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ausgewiesen.



Hedwig Potthast

Himmler's private secretary has been born in Cologne on February 5, 1912. He writes her on July 18, 1939 (*far left*), a tad formally: 'Please be so good when you have the time and read the two booklets for me, and tell me later what you think. I hope you've got – or have again – digs. Meanwhile get better, and all the best. Heil Hitler! H. Himmler.' A few days later he pens on a regular correspondence card, 'I survived the Day of Art well, but the day was somewhat tiring, lasting at night until 2 or 4 o'clock. The work still piles up but can be managed. I am sending you a book which I hope you will like. Special thanks for reminding me of the various days of note. My best wishes for your further good recovery, and see you again here in Gmund at the end of the month. Heil Hitler, Yours faithfully, Heinrich Himmler.' She keeps them all, in the original envelopes.

Left: Hedwig's photo in her sports certificate. *Above,* from her 1933 proficiency certificate, issued by Handelshochschule Mannheim, Hochschule für Wirtschaftswissenschaften.



BOB PITTARD COLLECTION

Changing guard, 1939 Handpicked officers of the SS regiment *Leibstandarte* 'Adolf Hitler' change the guard at the New Reich Chancellery

The chief of staff Karl Wolff joins the SS and rapidly advances to become Himmler's chief of staff and one of Hitler's favoured generals. Already an *Obersturmbannführer* in this January 1934 portrait, he wears the silver aiguillette of an adjutant. Remarkably, he avoids prosecution and will escape execution by the Americans, as he achieves a cease fire in Italy in 1945, and Alan Dulles speaks for him. His diaries are voluminous — but have vanished.

PICTURE FROM KARL WOLFF'S PAPERS, NOW
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FIFTEEN CENTS

APRIL 24, 1939

TIME

THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE



Conrad Hoffman Baker

HITLER'S HIMMLER

He is the shadow behind the swastika.
(Foreign News)

Top of the stairs By 1939 a jovial Heinrich Himmler has reached a high point in his career; in New York, *Time* magazine features him on their front cover as 'Hitler's Himmler.' Gudrun worships the man who is her father. Married to him, Marga Himmler accepts her fate and buckles under.

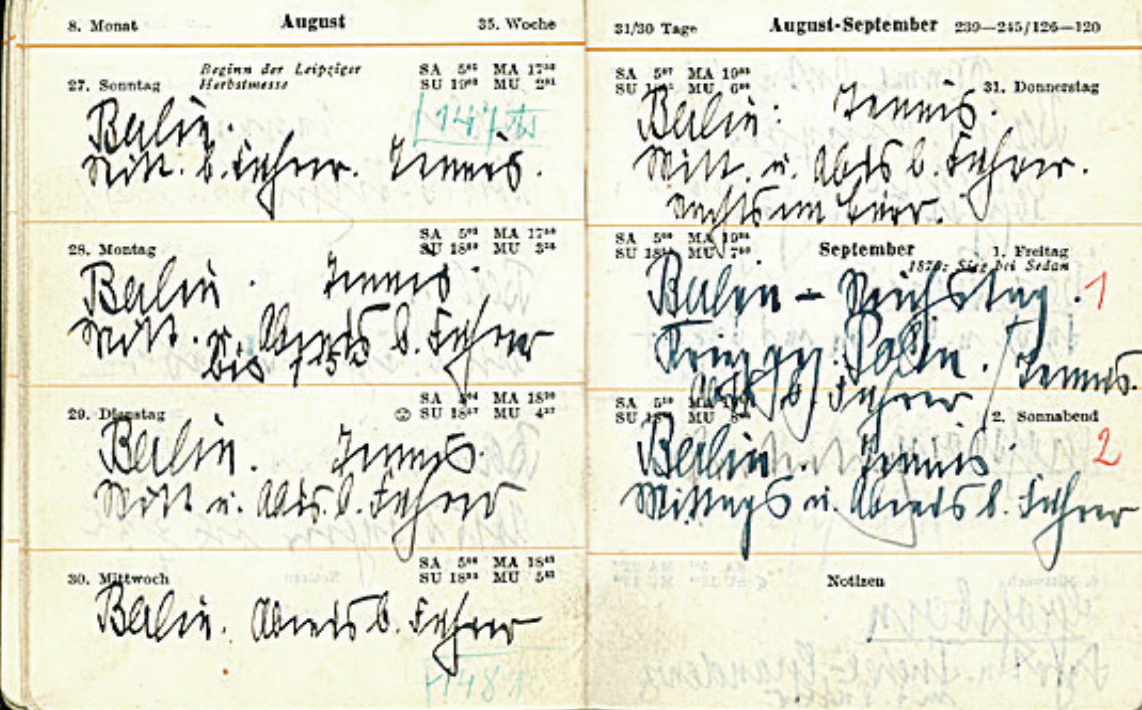


COVER IMAGE, COURTESY OF TIME, INC.

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COURTESY OF THE LATE JAMES TOWNSEND

Himmler's later HQ. All that remains of 'Hegewaldheim,' now in Poland, are the steps down to the Zabinko lake. They were identified by the author (in check shirt) in 2018; the house itself was blown up in 1945. Above: Himmler's 1939 pocket diary, the last days of peace, shows Himmler often dining 'with the Führer' – or playing tennis.

