

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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Miss Johanna Wolf, Hitler's personal secretary since 1928.

Miss Wolf, 45, is an elderly woman, who without being attractive, possesses a pleasant, quiet manner. In simple words she relates about her life, her work under Hitler and about the last days in the Reichs Chancellery. She is quite willing to talk about all she remembers, but her sense of observation, memory and presentation seem to be rather limited.

After visiting both grade and commercial schools, from which she did not graduate, due to the fact that she had to provide a living for herself and her mother, she took a position in the office of the "Munchener Zeitung". In the course of her duties there she became acquainted with Dietrich Eckart, who, in 1920, hired her as his private secretary. Adolf Hitler often visited Eckart's home in order to discuss articles and appeals with him. Twice Hitler requested her to type some articles for him. She said that Eckart believed "that Hitler would once become a man of whom the world will speak". Following Eckart's death she became secretary to Dr. Glaser who was the leader and 'Landtag' member of the "Volkischer Block", which was later absorbed by the NSDAP. In 1928 Hitler called her to the 'Reichsleitung' of the NSDAP and offered her the position of private secretary to the Fuhrer. Shortly thereafter (1928 or 29) she became a member of the Party. Up to Hitler's rise to power she had been the only private secretary, but in 1933 three additional secretaries were hired. Her gross monthly income amounted to RM 800.00, of which only RM 588.00 was paid out. Her savings account at the beginning of this year showed the amount of approximately RM 9000. Concerning her political attitude Miss Wolf states that she always had a "patriotic" outlook, and had always been interested in patriotic organizations. She claims to have absolutely no knowledge of politics. About Hitler, the individual, she had "at that time" felt, as everyone, great admiration. She had admired him because of his iron will, his belief in the cause, and his great creative power.

Her work consisted exclusively of typing his speeches which he always dictated to her as she typed. During those periods in which he did not deliver any speeches, she was often sent on a vacation, or given the task of visiting Hitler's personal friends and acquaintances to inquire as to their personal well-being.

She further claims never to have taken part in sessions or conferences due to the fact that her knowledge of shorthand was not sufficient to take down the minutes. For this purpose four parliament stenographers had been provided, who took down the minutes of the daily talks on the situation in the Reich Chancellery up to the very last. Miss Wolf further states that Hitler had always been friendly and considerate; he often inquired as to her personal problems. When she told him, in 1935, that she intended to marry, he asked her to consider this step, as he did not want to lose her as a secretary. Her marriage, however, did not take place due to other reasons as well. And so, W. remained up to the last day, (April 22) the private secretary to the Fuhrer.

During the Eastern campaign she spent some time in the Fuhrer HQ in the Ukraine and the remainder of her time in the Reich Chancellery or the Berghof. On the night of April 21-22, she was called by the Fuhrer, who instructed her to

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leave with the staff which was leaving Berlin, for Obersalzberg. She was under the impression that Hitler and the remainder of the personnel would follow shortly.

W. goes on to say that during all the years she spent with Hitler, he had never discussed political or Party problems with her. She states further, that she frequently remarked to him about the war and the morale of the people, but that although Hitler listened attentively, he never commented to her on the subject. Particularly during the last few years, when she observed - while traveling and on walks through Berlin - that the morale of the people was rather low, that they possessed a pessimistic and critical outlook which no longer coincided with that of the Reichs Chancellery; she frequently told Hitler of her experiences. "I was more aware of the developments of the war than Hitler, and realized much sooner than he that the war was approaching its end. He saw only the over-all issues - unlike a woman, one of whose family had been lost due to the war...he had lost contact with the people. Up to the very last day, he still believed in victory."

Her comments about other Party big-wigs, although unfavorable, are made hesitatingly. "Goebbels was a demoniacal being." - "Goering was no longer taken seriously." - "I did not care for Borman as a person, but the Fuehrer valued him since he was a hard worker and made decisions quickly."

W. further states that Himmler had appeared at Hitler's home frequently during the last few weeks, but he had always seen him alone. She believes that Hitler must have known of the atrocities in Poland and in the Ukraine, because there had been considerable talk about this subject in the Reich Chancellery. That Hitler knew and could have tolerated such things as are now alleged to have been discovered in the concentration camps, W. considers, "simply unimaginable". "He was always so kind."

The event of July 20 left Hitler a broken man, according to W.. Prolonged standing-up would cause his knees to shake, and his left hand trembled so violently that he would have to steady it with his right. She states also that for a period of several months he was almost completely deaf. After his attempted assassination he is said to have no more personal talks with his military and Party advisors. She states that Hitler spent the evenings in the Chancellery in the company of his secretaries whom he would invite for tea. As a rule one did not discuss the war, and Hitler talked about personal things; stories about his youth, and his experiences prior to his rise to power, she says.

A few days prior to April 22, Hitler is supposed to have remarked that he would take his own life, if he felt that the situation was beyond saving. W., personally, is convinced that he committed suicide.

Eva Braun, whom W. knew only slightly, was generally considered Hitler's mistress. As far as she knows, Hitler did not live with her, (E.B.) or keep an apartment for her. W. claims, however, that E.B. frequently appeared in the Chancellery where she was alone with Hitler.

Hans Wallenberg
HANS WALLENBERG
CAPT P/B-CPT

Ernst L. Lenzendorf
ERNST LENZENDORF
PWB CPT