

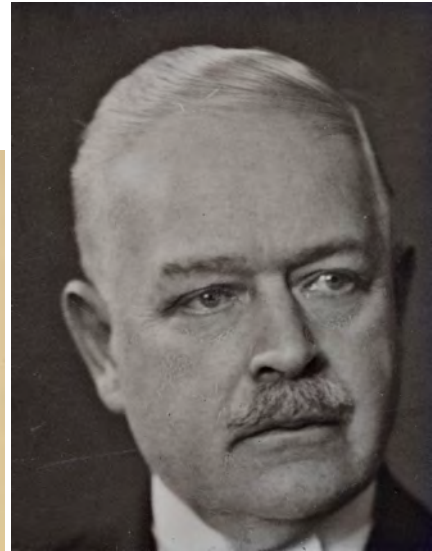
Hans-Wolfgang von Herwarth von Bittenfeld

*23. Mai 1871 Berlin +25. Dezember 1942

Dass dies ein Fremdenbuch bekennt
Es will mit uns in den Vorsteher
Denn wer je fremd bekennt dies Haus
Der geht als Fremder nicht hinaus
5. 10 - 14. 10. 16
Hans Wolfgang v. Herwarth

Gästebücher Bd. VI S. 11

Bildquelle: Bundesarchiv



Wolfgang von Herwarth



1914 in Belgien

Bildquelle: <http://net.lib.byu.edu/~rdh7/wwi/memoir/Legation/images/gibson42.jpg>

Oberst u. Ministerialbeamter

1910-14 Militärattaché in Washington und Mexiko; 1916-18 Leiter der Militärstelle des AA

Quelle:

Harry Graf Kessler: Das Tagebuch Vierter Band 1906 – 1914 Klett-Cotta Stuttgart 2004, S. 1067

Aufenthalte Neubeuern:

6.-27. September 1916 - /5.-6. Oktober 1916 (H.E.) / 5. - 14. Oktober 1916 7 4. – April 1917 / 11. November 1918 / 24.-27. Juli 1921 /
H.E. Sohn / H.W. Heinrich-Wolfgang

1916 war **Baronin Julie von Wendelstadt** sehr beschäftigt um die Soldaten im Lazarett Schloss Neubeuern zu versorgen. Unter den Soldaten traf sie auch einen **Oberst Wolfgang von Herwarth**. Er kam nicht von der Front, sondern aus dem Berliner Hauptquartier und war beim Klettern erkrankt. Das war zumindest die Geschichte die er allen erzählte. In Wahrheit beabsichtigte er die reiche Witwe von Schloss Neubeuern zu erobern. Als Offizier wurde er wie ein Gast behandelt und hatte Zeit die Lage abzuschätzen.

Nach seiner Ankunft traf er **Ottonie** und **Julie** in ihren Rote Kreuz Uniformen. Auf den ersten Blick war er sich noch unsicher welche der beiden Damen er erobern wollte. **Ottonie** die jüngere fand er attraktiver und er machte ihr den Hof, aber sie ignorierte ihn. Er merkte schnell, dass er auf dem falschen Weg war und wandte sich nun **Julie** zu. Hier schien er erfolgreich zu sein. Sie erlag seinem Charme und ich bin sicher nach langen und gründlichen Überlegungen nachdem sie 7 Jahre Witwe war, beschloss sie ihn zu heiraten (9. Dezember 1916). Die Familie und die Freunde waren entsetzt, da sie früh **Herwarths** Absichten durchschauten.



Wolfgang von Herwarth mit Gräfin Ottonie Degenfeld Schonburg
im Oktober 1920 in Hinterhör

Als 8jährige hatte ich eine tiefe Abneigung gegen diesen Mann, der versuchte meine Freundschaft zu gewinnen, da er wusste wie nahe ich der Person war, die er erobern wollte. Ich erinnere mich dass ich untröstlich war. „Du und jeder Stein in diesem Bauwerk wirst ihm gehören“, sagte ich. Nur die Aussicht mit zur Hochzeit nach Berlin zu fahren versöhnte mich vorübergehend. Die ersten Monate waren hoffentlich glücklich für meine geliebte **Sisi** als sie in Berlin lebten. Zu ihrer Freude wurde sie im Alter von 45 Jahren noch schwanger und sie kehrte sofort nach Neubeuern zurück, wo alles für sie und ihr zukünftiges Baby vorbereitet wurde. In diesen Tagen verbrachte sie oft ihre Zeit mit mir in Erwartung ihres eigenen Kindes.

Als die Geburt nahte, gab es Komplikationen. **Julie** bekam eine plötzliche Nierenentzündung. Mittlerweile hatte unser lieber Landarzt einen renommierten Gynäkologen in München gebeten nach Neubeuern zu kommen. Da der Vater des Kindes in Berlin war, fragte er in seiner Verzweiflung meine Mutter um Rat. „Ich befürchte, wir können entweder die Mutter oder das Kind retten. Helfen sie mir die richtige Entscheidung zu treffen.“ Meine Mutter entschied sich eindeutig **Julie** zu retten. Also wurde das Kind geopfert. Das Kind, ein Mädchen mit dem bereits ausgesuchten Namen „**Rosemarie**“ wurde im Altenbeurer Mausoleum beerdigt.

Haeften

„**Hans-Bernd** und **Werner Haeften** waren Freunde und Altersgenossen der beiden Söhne von meinem neuen **Onkel Herwarth, Julius** zweiten Mann. Älter als ich, erinnere ich beide als lustige Buben. Es muß **Hans-Bernd** sein, der die kindliche Zeichnung gemacht hat. Sie waren Teenager. Als später die Nazis Deutschland zerstörten, gehörten sie zum Kreisauer Kreis, die ihr Vaterland retten wollten und endeten (beide?) 1944 am Haken in Plötzensee“.

Quelle: Erinnerungen **Marie-Therese Miller -Degenfeld**

Adel im Kaiserlichen Yacht-Club Kiel 1918

Matrikel der Edelleute im exklusivsten deutschen Segelsportverein

Im Jahre 1887 wurde in Kiel der "Marine-Ragatta-Verein" gegründet. Das war die Geburtsstunde des späteren K.Y.C.: "Die Freude am Segeln zu mehren" war sein Zweck und von Beginn an war er vor allem durch kaiserliche Marineoffiziere und preußische Armeeoffiziere geprägt.

Erster Ehrenvorsitzender wurde der dienstälteste Kieler Admiral v.Blanc, dem Vorstand gehörte u.a. der Rittergutsbesitzer Graf Hahn an. Der Adel war hier besonders stark vertreten, da es sich beim Segeln nicht um einen Massensport handelte, sondern um einen exklusiven Sport, dem sogar der Hochadel huldigte.

Schon 1889 übernahm der Admiral Prinz Heinrich v.Preußen, der Bruder Kaiser Wilhelm II., das Protektorat über den Verein und im gleichen Jahre kam der Kaiser zum ersten Mal als Zuschauer nach Kiel, um den Regatten beizuwohnen. Die erste Wettfahrt für Kriegsschiff-Gigs gewann der Kapitänleutnant v.Usedom; er konnte den ersten Wanderpreis des Vereins entgegennehmen.

In den folgenden Jahren wuchs das Interesse des Kaisers am Verein stark und auch im Marineoffizierkorps wurde die Idee eines Seglersportvereins immer populärer.

Nach vierjährigem Bestehen fanden sich bereits über 500 Mitglieder aus dem militärischen Bereich und rund 50 Zivilisten unter den Seglern. 1891 schließlich benannte sich der Verein unter seinem neuen ersten Vorsitzenden ("Commodore") Konteradmiral v.Reiche, in "Kaiserlicher Yacht-Club" um.

1892 nahm der Kaiser erstmals als aktiver Mitsegler auf der Regatta teil, die fortan in nahezu jedem Jahr von ihm mitbestritten wurde (mit seiner Segelyacht Meteor). 1894 wurden die bisherigen Segelregatten mit einem feststehenden Namen versehen, der bekannten Kieler Woche.

Seitdem ist der K.Y.C. eine feststehende Institution und ein bekannter sowie exklusiver Segelklub geblieben, auch wenn er nach der Revolution von 1918 vom monarchischen Gedanken abfiel und sich in Kieler Yacht Club umbenannte.

Wie exklusiv der Club war, davon zeugt auch das Clubyachtenverzeichnis aus dem Jahre 1918.

Obleich hierin die Mehrheit der Clubyachteneigner nichtadeliger Herkunft waren, sind doch einige bemerkenswerte Eigner vorhanden: neben dem preußischen auch der bayerische und württembergische König, der preußische Kronprinz, dessen Bruder Prinz Eitel Friedrich v.Preußen. Auch die Offizierkorps der Gardes du Corps, der Danziger Leib-Garde-Husaren und des 1. sowie 5.Garde-Regiments zu Fuß besaßen eigene Yachten. Die nicht unerhebliche Finanzierung der Unterhaltung einer Clubyacht teilte man sich dabei in kleine Beiträge auf, wie dies auch bei den kostspieligen Meuten der Parforcejagden stattfand (Abschnitt I. wurde zusammengestellt aus dem Werk von **Kurt Meyer-Döhner**: 75 Jahre KYC. Aus dem Leben eines Yachtclubs, Bielefeld 1962, S.11-59).

A. Alle niederadeligen Ehrenmitglieder (Volltext):

Neben vielen Fürstlichkeiten nur: Krupp v.Bohlen u.Halbach, Frau, Ehrenmitglied seit 1906

B. Lebenslängliche Mitglieder (Volltext):

Herwarth v. Bittenfeld, Obstltn z.D., Schloß Neubeuern am Inn

Quelle: <http://home.foni.net/~adelsforschung/kiel.htm>

Dr. h.c. Hans-Wolfgang Herwarth von Bittenfeld

by T.W.M. van Berkel

(ref: www.nostradamusresearch.org/en/ww2/info_bitt.htm)

A pioneer in the field of propaganda

Dr. h.c. Hans-Wolfgang Herwarth von Bittenfeld, also known as **Hans-Wolfgang von Herwarth**, was born in Berlin on May 23, 1871. His parents, the later lieutenant-general **Wilhelm Hans Theodor Herwarth von Bittenfeld** (Herzberg, January 14, 1835 - Braunschweig, October 12, 1894) and the baroness **Anna von Wimpffen**, born in Berlin on October 30, 1850, married on October 29, 1868. From this marriage, six children were born; three sons and three daughters. Their oldest child, **Theresia Charlotte**, born on July 30, 1869, died one month before her first birthday. **Hans-Wolfgang** was their second child.

Herwarth von Bittenfeld descended from the **Bittenfeld** line of an old noble family with a long military tradition. He followed his ancestor's tracks. In 1890, after being trained in Bensberg and Groß-Lichterfelde, he joined the Second Infantry Regiment as a reserve officer cadet. In the same year, he became an officer. In 1902, after finishing the Military Academy, he became detached at the General Staff. In 1903, he became quartermaster-general; in 1904 captain. In 1905, he was detached at the General Staff of the Eighth Army Corps. In autumn 1905, he returned to the Grand General Staff for one year. From autumn 1906 until summer 1909, **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** was commander at the Hamburg Infantry Regiment. Later, once again he returned to the Grand General Staff.

From August 1, 1910, to 1914, **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** was a military attaché in the rank of major, at the German embassy in Washington and the German legation in Mexico-city. In the course of his work, he became convinced of the necessity to oppose the anti-German propaganda with an efficacious German press politic. His interest in the press and the tendentious way in which the foreign press wrote about Germany, dated from his youth, i.e. the years in which he stayed in Switzerland, Tirol, England, France and Italy. Basing himself upon his studies of the press in fourteen countries, he wrote the eight-volume compendium *Charakteristik der Auslandspresse*. After his return from the United States, he wrote a memorandum which contained detailed proposals to organize and to intensify the German propaganda. As a result of his ideas, the German Ministry of War opened in 1913 a Press department.

In 1914, after his return from Mexico, **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** again became detached at the Grand General Staff. Later that year, at the outbreak of the Great War, he was charged to analyze the foreign press, a task he performed until spring 1916, interrupted by a detachment at the General Staff in Brussels in August/September 1914, where he was charged with all kind of matters related to passports, transit visa etc. and by being appointed to battalion commander in the 136 Infantry Corps. There are clues that in the period in which he was battalion commander, he became invalidated. On April 25, 1915, The New York Times reported that the day before he was decorated in Berlin with the Eisernen Kreuz and that some time before he was invalidated at the front.

In spring 1915, Herwarth von Bittenfeld was promoted to first lieutenant. In summer 1915, he was appointed as head of the Foreign Department of the Press agency of the Ministry of War.

In spring 1916, **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** joined the battle. Because he fell ill, he was discharged with honour in August 1916.

From October 1916 until shortly before the end of World War I, **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** was in charge of the Army affairs department of the Foreign Office. In this period, he became lieutenant-colonel. In 1918, he edited the *Handbuch der Auslandspresse*.

After World War I, **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** had a managing function in Eisenschmidt publishers, Berlin, a publisher of military literature, and Räder publishers, the publisher of the Technische Nothilfe, an organization of volunteers (originally, a military organization), founded in 1919, that in the first years of the Weimar Republic had to protect the railway and public utilities against lightning-strikes and sabotage by left-wing groups.

In well-known German newspapers and magazines, **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** published articles about the function of the press and he propagated the German mentality and the German accomplishments. In foreign newspapers, he also stood up for Germany, as can be read in a letter, published on August 1, 1932 in *TIME magazine*. This letter was a reply to an article about Germany, in which it seemed to be insinuated that **Franz von Papen**, who in June 1932 was appointed as Chancellor by president **Von Hindenburg**, was involved in a conspiracy to blow up the Welland Canal in World War I. **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** argued that **Von Papen**, who in 1914 succeeded him as military attaché in Washington, was a dashing soldier and a good diplomat, and that Germany was satisfied with this Chancellor. According to him, journalists would do better to emphasize the good qualities of statesmen instead of parading old skeletons.

High military decorations were granted to **Herwarth von Bittenfeld**, among which the *Eiserne Kreuz* Kl. I and II.¹

¹ The most important biographic sources:

- dr. Herbert Helbig on Herwarth von Bittenfeld in the section Kurze Nachrichten in Familiengeschichtliche Blätter Jg 41,

The Centuries

When in September 1939 World War II began, **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** started to work at the Ministry of Propaganda. He became *Sonderreferent* in the *Auslandspresse* department, lead by **prof. dr. Karl Bömer**, and was charged with special tasks.

On November 23, 1939, **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** was ordered by **dr. Paul Joseph Goebbels**, the minister of Propaganda, to occupy himself with Nostradamus. By using the *Centuries* for psychological warfare, **Goebbels** wanted to trip the adversaries by taking advantage of the omnipresent superstition. On December 4, 1939, **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** handed over a draft for a brochure, which was the result of a linking of quotes from *Century*-comments. In this draft, he described the imminent future as a period in which Germany and England would have a gigantic struggle, which in the end would be won by Germany. England would disappear from the world theatre and would drag France with her in her fall. **Goebbels**, who was very enthusiastic about what **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** had written, presented his draft the next day in the secret daily propaganda meeting in his Propaganda Ministry. In that meeting, it was decided that **Herwarth von Bittenfeld**, together with **Bömer** and **Leopold Gutterer**, head in the Propaganda Ministry of the Propaganda department, would write the final draft. On December 13, 1939, the final draft was approved and from March 27, 1940, spread in eight languages: Croatian, Dutch, English, Italian, Portuguese, Rumanian, Serb and Swedish. The English version was spread in the USA. Its title: *What will happen in the near future? For an answer we must turn to "Les vraies Centuries et Prophéties de Maître Michel Nostradamus" - The prophecies of the ancient French astrologer Michel Nostradamus and the present war.*²

Honorary doctorate in philosophy

On May 23, 1941, on his 70th birthday, an honorary doctorate in philosophy was granted **to Herwarth von Bittenfeld** by the faculty of philosophy and nature sciences of the Westphalia Wilhelm-University in Münster. On June 14, 1941, **prof. dr. Adolf Kratzer**, the Dean of the faculty of philosophy and nature sciences, handed the charter. Among those who attended this ceremony were delegations of the Reich, the Wehrmacht, the NSDAP and the press.

Herwarth von Bittenfeld's promotion was the first honorary doctorate in the field of journalistic science. **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** got this degree because of his pioneering activities in the press field during World War I. His *Charakteristik der Auslandspresse* was not only praised because of its meaning and usefulness in World War I, but also because of its fundamental importance for the journalistic science, as was his *Handbuch der Auslandspresse*. In his lecture *Die deutsche Kriegspropaganda 1914-18 und heute im Spiegel eigenen Erlebens*, which **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** gave on the occasion of his honorary doctorate, he described his pioneer work in the propaganda field in World War I, larded with examples of trial and error. Back in those days, he had an institute in mind as the Propaganda Ministry which was founded in 1933. He considered it a great honour to work for this ministry and had much pleasure in his work.

Genealogic and literary publications

Herwarth von Bittenfeld had a great interest in genealogy, like his father. From 1899 dates *Herwarthisches, Für die Familienmitglieder zusammengestellt von Hans-Wolfgang Herwarth von Bittenfeld, Schriftführer des Herwarthischen Familienvereins*. This book contains a collection of stories about the family, preceded by a family tree. In *Herwarthisches*, the family arms of the **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** family is depicted: a red owl on silver, armed with gold; an owl also stands upon the helmet with red-silver deck on a square silver pillow with red tassels.

In 1904, the *Zentralstelle für deutsche Personen- und Familiengeschichte* was founded in Berlin. **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** was one of the founders. In 1944, posthumous, as volume 6 in the series *Ahnentafeln berühmter Deutscher*, the book *Ahnentafel des Generalfeldmarschalls Eberhart Herwarth von Bittenfeld und seiner Brüder der Generale Hans und Fritz Herwarth von Bittenfeld* was published, written by **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** and **dr. Herbert Helbig**.

1943 (Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, Leipzig, ZC 249);

- Zeitungswissenschaft; Monatsschrift für internationale Zeitungsforschung 1941, p.399 - 403;

- Herwarthisches, Für die Familienmitglieder zusammengestellt von Hans-Wolfgang Herwarth von Bittenfeld, Schriftführer des Herwarthischen Familienvereins (with thanks to dr. J. Anker, antiquarian bookseller in Kiefersfelden, Germany);

- Advocate for the Doomed - the Diaries and Papers of James G. McDonald, 1932-1935 (Indiana University Press / United States Holocaust Memorial, 2007, p.34);

- A journal from our Legation in Belgium (Hugh Gibson, New York, 1917; the photo of Herwarth von Bittenfeld in this article is a cut-out of a photo, published in this book);

- obituary Herwarth von Bittenfeld (<http://db.genealogy.net/familienanzeigen>).

² Van Berkel: *The German source text of a.o. Hoe zal deze oorlog eindigen?* .

Herwarth von Bittenfeld also wrote a literary book. From 1920 dates *Sonette aus dem Portugiesischen. Nachdichtung von Hans Wolfgang von Herwarth*, published in Munich, a complete, poetical translation of *Sonnets from the Portuguese*, the famous collection of love sonnets, dating from 1845/46, by the British poet **Elizabeth Barrett Browning** (1805-1861).³ The online-version of the [guest book of Neubeuern Castle](#) in Bavaria contains a poem by **Herwarth von Bittenfeld**, dating from September and October 1916, shortly before his marriage with **Julie von Wendelstadt**, the owner of this castle. ([Gästebücher Bd. VI, S. 5,6](#))

Private life

Herwarth von Bittenfeld was married several times. On December 15, 1897, he married **Modesta Friederike Katharina Wagenführ-Tangerhütte**, born in Tangerhütte on August 4, 1879. His wife carried the title of baroness. On November 3, 1898, they got a son: **Hans-Eberhard**.⁴ According to *Genealogisches Handbuch des Adels* (C.A. Starke, 1954), this marriage ended in a divorce on May 13, 1914. On December 9, 1916, **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** married the **Baroness Julie von Degenfeld-Schonburg** (March 1, 1871 - November 12, 1942), widow of **Baron Jan von Wendelstadt**. In 1917, during her pregnancy, she got a kidney infection. As her condition became critical, she had to give birth before the baby was full-term. At the time of birth, the baby, a girl named **Rosemarie**, died.⁵ In 1922, this marriage ended in a divorce. Later, until his death, **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** was married with **Frieda Johanna Schneider** (physician, born on December 15, 1889 in Kümmersdorf). Twice in the *NSDAP*-archives, the date of decease is listed erroneously as November 25, 1942. On December 25, 1942, **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** died at home after a long disease. His mortal remains were cremated on December 31, 1942.

Characterizations

From various writings it becomes clear that **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** was an intelligent, charming personality. In A journal from our Legation in Belgium, his diary, **Hugh Simons Gibson** (1883-1954), an American diplomat who from 1914 to 1916 was secretary at the American Legation in Brussels, described him as a real white man, pleasant to deal with. He knew **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** from the period in which he worked in Washington as a military attaché and made some travels with him.

With heart and soul, **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** dedicated himself to national-socialism and worked as ardent as in the years before. In the diary he kept in the period 1932-1935, the American diplomat **James Grover McDonald** (1886-1964), who from October 1933 to December 1935 was the League of Nations High Commissioner for the Refugees, described a conversation he had with **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** on April 1, 1933. **McDonald** wrote that he was a remarkable Nazi, who became almost lyrical when he talked about topics like racial purity, the supremacy of the Nordic race, the return to primitive German culture, the idealism of the national-socialist leaders, the omnipotence of the Führer and the unique character of the revolution in Germany. According to **Herwarth von Bittenfeld**, Germany had managed to free itself of foreign dictation. In his eyes, the Jews were not Germans, but foreigners or worse, who should be expelled from all government positions. The number of jobs the Jews would have as a people, should equal their percentage of the German population as a whole. **McDonald** could not understand that an educated, courteous man like **Herwarth von Bittenfeld**, a former military attaché in Washington who knew the world very well, had that kind of ideas and could talk about this for hours and hours.

In his diary, Goebbels wrote in November 1939 that **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** had much skill and experience in the field of propaganda, was well informed about the leaders of the adversaries and hated England like no other. In the obituary in 1942, **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** was described as someone who had the utmost confidence in the German victory, worked day and night and was highly intelligent.

In his necrology, dating from 1943, **dr. Herbert Helbig**, with whom **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** wrote

³ Herwarth von Bittenfeld completed this translation in 1919. The title *Sonnets from the Portuguese* suggest a translation by Barrett Browning of Portuguese sonnets into English. This suggestion re-occurs in the title of Herwarth von Bittenfeld's translation. Actually, these were English sonnets, written by Barrett Browning who, following the 16th-century Portuguese poet Luis de Camões, used rhyme schemes, typical for Portuguese sonnets. The suggestion of a translation from the Portuguese had to disguise the fact that Barrett Browning was writing about her own love life. The word Portuguese is also an allusion to the fact that Barrett Browning's husband called her my little Portuguese, because of her long, dark hair (source: [Wikipedia](#)).

⁴ At the outbreak of World War I, Hans-Eberhard, who lived in the United States, returned to Germany. He joined the army as a captain. In September 1918, he was imprisoned by the Americans. During an inspection of the detention camp in which Hans-Eberhard was imprisoned, he was recognized by Baker, the American Secretary of War, who managed to have him released. As a result, Hans-Eberhard decided to make his home in the United States, intending to take up farming in California. He dropped the title of baron (*The New York Times*, November 11, 1922). According to the memoirs of **Marie-Therese Müller-Degenfeld**, two children, boys, were born from the marriage of Herwarth von Bittenfeld and Katharina Wagenführ. According to a 1939-*NSDAP*-questionary, he had three children, all of them older than 18 years. At that time, he was married with Frieda Schneider. It is not clear if this number of children refers to that marriage only or if he referred to all of his marriages.

⁵ [Reinhard Käsinger](#) (Neubeuern Castle) to Van Berkel, April 19, 2008.

Ahmentafel des Generalfeldmarschalls Eberhart Herwarth von Bittenfeld, described him as someone who grew up in the military tradition and who was outstanding because of his charm, versatility, his many interests and his fluency.

The remarks about **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** in the memoirs of **Marie-Therese Miller-Degenfeld**, the daughter of **Otonie von Degenfeld-Schonburg**, **Julie's** sister in law, are in sharp contrast with these descriptions. **Marie-Therese**, for who **Julie** was a second mother, strongly resented **Herwarth von Bittenfeld**, who according to her coveted Neubeuern Castle. Family and friends of **Julie** were quite opposed against her marriage with him. His reproach that **Julie** for reasons of keeping property of the inheritance had not chosen for their baby, was the cause of the dislocation of their marriage. **Julie's** religious conviction kept her from a divorce, but being depressed since her failed pregnancy, she became distressed. A suicide attempt could barely be prevented. Later, taking with him the money of their joint bank account, **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** fled in the direction of Switzerland and never returned to Neubeuern Castle.

Herwarth von Bittenfeld and national-socialism

On April 1, 1933, **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** was inscribed as a member of the *NSDAP*, membership number 1.667.522. His name and title in the member list: **Hans-Wolfgang von Herwarth**, Oberst a.D. He remained member until his decease in 1942. The notes which **McDonald** made of his conversation with **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** on April 1, 1933, show that he was quite familiar with what national-socialism and the *NSDAP* were up to. For the moment, it is not clear why **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** followed national-socialism.

On September 1921, the German Chancellor **Joseph Wirth**, who based himself upon a confidential report of the German Commissioner for Public Safety, accused the Bavarian authorities in Munich of offering protection to **Max Hermann Bauer**, **Hermann Erhardt** and **Waldemar Pabst**, leaders in 1920 of the failed right-wing Kapp-Putsch, and their followers. According to some Munich newspapers, the headquarters of the revolutionaries was located at Salzburg, Tyrol, with a branch in Rosenheim, Bavaria, to be precisely: at **Neubeuern Castle**, where **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** and his wife kept open house for the more extreme monarchists, particularly those who wanted to restore the Bavarian **House of Wittelsbach** and who wanted to found an independent South-German Catholic monarchy which would include Bavaria, Austria and Hungary. Further, it was written that the Hungarian president **Horthy** repeatedly stayed at Neubeuern Castle, accompanied by **Bauer**, **Erhardt** and **Pabst** also visited **Neubeuern Castle** frequently. If these allegations are based on solid grounds, they might contain a clue regarding the question when and why **Herwarth von Bittenfeld** turned himself to national-socialism and joined the *NSDAP*.⁶

⁶ *The New York Times*, September 16, 1921. Item 176 in volume VI of the guest book of Neubeuern Castle contains lines, taken from the battle song of the *Brigade Erhardt*, composed around 1919: *Hakenkreuz am Stahlhelm / Schwarz-weiss-rotes Band / Die Brigade Erhardt / So sind wir genannt!* On the left side of these lines, the flag of this volunteer corps was depicted, a black-white-red ribbon and a soldier's helmet with a swastika. In the night of March 13, 1920, the *Brigade Erhardt*, commanded by Hermann Erhardt, began the Kapp-Putsch by occupying government buildings in Berlin as a protest against the decision that all voluntary corps had to be disarmed. The swastika which this corps carried, was later adapted by the nazi's. Item 176 is dating from January 4, 1923. The year before, Herwarth von Bittenfeld and **Von Wendelstadt** got divorced; **Von Wendelstadt** remained in **Neubeuern Castle**.

BAVARIA DENIES WIRTH'S CHARGES

Assertion That Fugitive Reactionary Plotters Are Protected Called Wild Imagining.

ANOTHER PLOT DISCOVERED

Dreamers of South German Monarchy Said to Gather in Gen. Herwarth's Castle.

By CYRIL BROWN.

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By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BERLIN, Sept. 16.—The shadow fighting between Berlin and Munich has again become acute on paper as the result of Chancellor Wirth's surprise offensive against Bavaria in publishing the confidential report of the Reichs Commissioner for Public Safety, Dr. Welsmann. Munich hotly retorted today that the Chancellor's charges, based on this confidential report, were the figments of a wild, superheated political imagination.

More specifically, Munich denied indignantly that the Kapp arch revolutionists, Colonel Bauer, Captain Ehrhardt, Major Pabst and their followers, lived unmolested in a strongly defended citadel near Munich, and that the Bavarian police defended them at a pinch. Furthermore, the Bavarian Minister of Justice, Dr. Roth, and Munich Police President Poehner issued denials that Bauer, Ehrhardt and Pabst were offices, as charged by the Chancellor.

The affair bids fair to prove one of the biggest political jokes of the fantastic political season. While, as a result of the Chancellor's "revelations," the democratic Berlin Tageblatt calls for impeachment on a charge of treason of Munich's reactionary Police President and Minister of Justice for giving any comfort to the Kapp rebels, for whose arrest the Berlin Government has their buddies and had the run of the issued warrants, the supporters of Bavaria's reactionary leaders rally round them with demonstrations and resolutions of confidence—so much so, that former Premier von Kahr, who is still carrying on the business of his office despite his resignation, but who, two days ago, seemed politically down and out, may now be proposed by his party as his own successor.

Talk of Appealing to Voters.

If he declines, there is talk of dissolving the Bavarian Legislature and holding new elections, so that the people themselves can decide upon the Bavarian Government's final stand in the case of Berlin versus Munich.

When the Bavarian Diet reconvenes, next week, the Chancellor's charges will be thoroughly ventilated. In connection with these there is the humorous fact that the Berlin Government sent its sleuths into Bavaria without notice to and under the noses of the Bavarian police to investigate the activities of the latter in protecting the high malefactors wanted by the Berlin Government for treason.

According to assertions of some of the newspapers of Munich, the central bureau of the Kappist organization is located at Salzburg, Tyrol, with a Bavarian branch at Rosenheim, Southern Bavaria, where a South German monarchy intrigue clique, known as the Orka (abbreviation of Organization Kranzler), after the model of the Orgesch organization, carries on its activities. Ehrhardt, Pabst and Bischof, wanted by Berlin for high treason, have easily slipped over the Tyrolean-Bavarian border from Salzburg, according to these papers, and frequently attended the Orka sittings at Rosenheim.

A few days ago, however, the Orka, with bag and baggage, fled from Rosenheim to the Salzburg sanctuary, it is

declared, presumably frightened by the developments following identification of Erzberger's murderers.

Castle as Plotters' Rendezvous.

It is reported that the refuge near Rosenheim was Neubuern Castle, belonging to the former Countess Dagenfeld, now the wife of General Herwarth von Bittenfeld. The latter before the war was in Washington in an official capacity. Here, it is alleged, the Herwarths kept open house for the more extreme monarchists, particularly, the clique propagandizing their hobby of creating an independent South German Catholic monarchy to include Bavaria, Austria and Hungary, with restoration of the house of Wittelsbach in Bavaria—a petty intrigue which has never been taken seriously and must not be confused with the serious monarchistic reaction in Germany. It is asserted that Admiral Horthy, President of Hungary, has repeatedly been a guest at Neubuern, accompanied by Colonel Bauer, and that Ehrhardt and Pabst likewise have frequently visited there.

The curious way in which the Baden police discovered the identity of the Erzberger murderers became known today. The murderers had stopped at a small village inn within walking distance of the scene of the crime. A peasant girl told detectives how she had seen these two guests at the inn tear up papers and throw the fragments into a small brook. The police changed the course of the brooklet long enough to search the bottom and recover the fragments, which, pieced together, supplied the correct names and addresses of the murderers.

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Quelle: T.W.M. van Berkel



So giebt es doch ein Märchenland,
Nie's einst dem Kind die Mahnung wäh
Hier, wo ein Wink so gütiges Hand
Dich einkeh'n und willkommen hier!

#

Hier, wo das hoffnungsfrohe Grün
Des Tals zu allen Gipfeln bringt
Bei Glockentou die Heerden zieh'n
Des Waldbach rauscht, die Sense klüht

Wo we Terrassen Deinem Spät'n
Ein Garten Eden sich erschleift,
Wo über Klippen, Fels und Höhl'n
Die Abendröte lodend fließt

#

Hier schweifst so athmungsroth Dein Sinn
Den ew'gen Schnee des Firnen zu
Dort unten aber strebt der Inn
Im Silberkleid zur Meeresruh'....

#

Da seinen Fluten webt ein Bild
Es spiegelt es so manchen Tag:
Ein Schloss im Kreuzeszeichen mild
Und - eines Engels Flügel Schlag.

6. - 27. Sept 1916

Haus W. von Herwarth

So gibt es doch ein Märchenland,
Wie einst dem Kind die Mohme pries
Hier, wo ein Wink von güt'ger Hand
Dich eingeh'n und willkommen hieß!

Hier, wo das hoffnungsfrohe Grün
Des Tals zu allen Gipfeln bringt
Bei Glockenton die Herden zieh'n
Der Waidbach rauscht, die Sense klingt

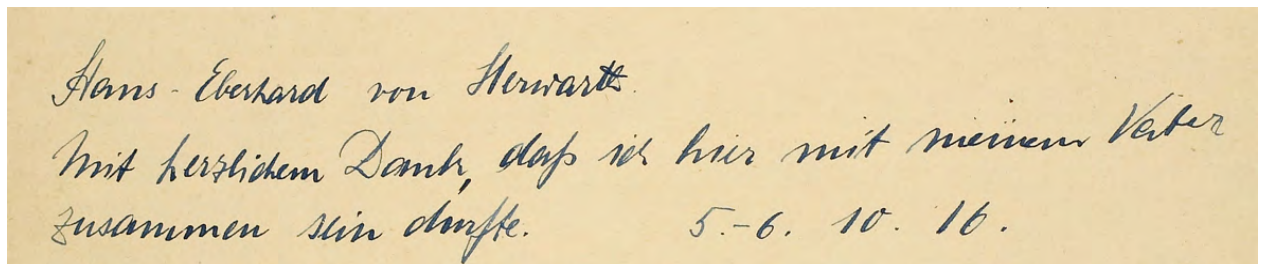
Wo von Terrassen Deinem Späh'n
Ein Garten Eden sich erschließt
Wo über Klippen, Fels und Höh'n
Die Abendröte lodernd fließt -

Hier schweift so ahnungsvoll Dein Sinn
Dem ew'gen Schnee der Firnen zu -
Dort unten aber strebt der Inn,
im Silberkleid zur Meeresruh'...-

In seinen Fluten webt ein Bild-
Er spiegelt es so manchen Tag:
Ein Schloß in Kreuzeszeichenmild
Und – eines Engels Flügelschlag.-

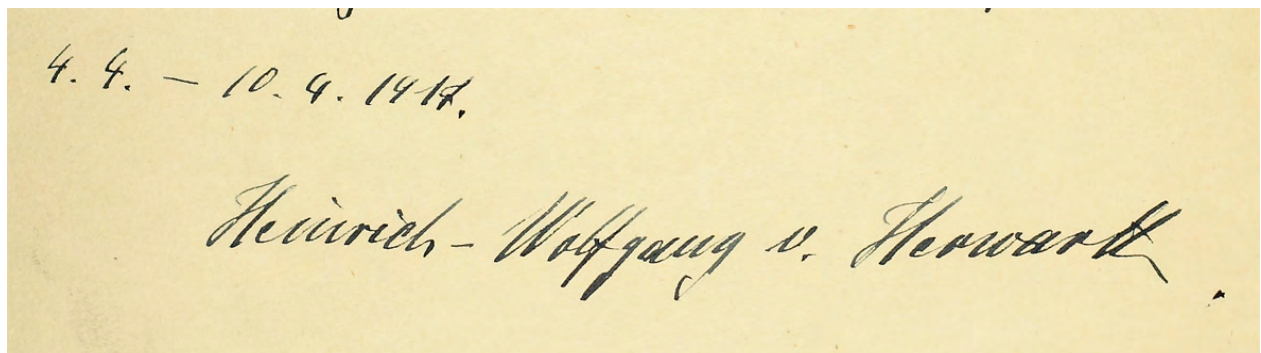
6.- 27. Sept 1916

Hans W. von Herwarth



Hans-Eberhard von Herwarth.
Mit herzlichem Dank, daß ich hier mit meinem Vater
zusammen sein durfte. 5.-6. 10. 16.

Gästebücher Bd. VI S. 7 Hans-Eberhard Sohn von Hans-Wolfgang



4. 4. — 10. 9. 1917.
Heinrich-Wolfgang v. Herwarth.

Gästebücher Bd. VI S. 24 Heinrich-Wolfgang

In Sturm und Brand
Gott schütz das Haus!

Neubüden 11. Nov. 1918

v. Herwarth

Zur Abwechslung die Nachbarschaft im Bild.
W. A. Hildenbrandt 1. XI. 1919.



Gästebücher Bd. VI S. 73 vHerwarth 11. Nov. 1918 Bild Julie von Wendelstadt von „Musche“ Hildenbrandt