

Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals

- "Josef Meisinger On 'Combating Homosexuality As A Political Task' (April 5-6, 1937)". This letter was created between April 5-6, 1937 by Josef Meisinger to address homosexuality issues in Germany and directly talks to the military audience. Talks about homosexuals as dangerous to the decline of birth and military but sees lesbians as less dangerous.

First of all, it was difficult to find source material referring to Josef Meisinger's letter on "Combating Homosexuality As A Political Task." This was a letter that he wrote during his military stay in Poland, whose main audience were military members. Most of the articles found online regarding this letter by Meisinger referred to Grau's work.¹ Therefore, this paper switch route from the original proposal, since most of the material in that proposal was irrelevant and focused on Grau's book. This paper tries to cover the life or at least the relevant information of what Meisinger did during his military service under the Third Reich.

Josef Meisinger was born on September 14, 1899 and was hanged in 1947 in Warsaw.² He was best known as the "Butcher of Warsaw"³ for his acts of violence toward Jews and homosexuals, and he was an SS functionary in Nazi Germany. His main duties were persecution of mostly gays, cases of abortion, and Jews. He was arrested in Japan in 1945, convicted of war crimes and was executed in Warsaw, Poland two years later. This information about him is relevant for the exploration because as Noble notes most of Gestapo and police files were either lost or destroyed near the end of the war, so it is hard to document the most important subjects.⁴ Making it hard for the exploration to expand since most of Google scholar and UCSB library search all point to the book of Grau, which is not my primary source of exploration. There is no

¹ Grau, Günter, and Claudia Schoppmann. 1995. *Homosexualität in der NS-Zeit: Dokumente einer Diskriminierung und Verfolgung*. Frankfurt am Main: Fischer Taschenbuch Verlag. <http://books.google.com/books?id=mM-GAAAAIAAJ>.

² "Matt & Andrej Koymasky - Memorial Hall - Gay Holocaust - Nazi Criminals - Meisinger". 2004. Andrejkoymasky.Com. Accessed February 20, 2019. <http://andrejkoymasky.com/mem/holocaust/06/ho06f.html>.

³ Heinz Eberhard Maul: Japan und die Juden. Studie über die Judenpolitik des Kaiserreiches Japan während der Zeit des Nationalsozialismus 1933–1945, Bonn 2000 (Dissertation, Universität Bonn). Darin: Der „Mann für's Grobe“: Meisinger, S. 203 ff.

⁴ Noble, Dennis L. 1995. "Book Reviews: Social Sciences." *Library Journal* 120 (7):94. <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=bth&AN=9504217649&site=ehost-live>.

explanation why this letter ended in the remote town of Schwerin; maybe, through World War II it was moved around.

Annotated Bibliography in Chronological Order

- "Josef Meisinger On "Combating Homosexuality As A Political Task" (April 5-6, 1937)". (n.d.). http://ghdi.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=1558.
This letter was created between April 5-6, 1937 by Josef Meisinger to address homosexuality issues in Germany and directly talks to the military audience. Talks about homosexuals as dangerous to the decline of birth and military but sees lesbians as less dangerous.
- Location of original German text:
"Bekämpfung der Abtreibung und der Homosexualität als politische Aufgabe," in Landeshauptarchiv Schwerin, 5.12-7/1 Ministerium für Unterricht, Kunst, geistliche und Medizinalangelegenheiten, No. 9674, fol. 34 and fol. 35-37; reprinted in Günter Grau, ed., *Homosexualität in der NS-Zeit: Dokumente einer Diskriminierung und Verfolgung*. 2nd revised edition, Frankfurt am Main: Fischer Taschenbuch Verlag, 2004, pp. 151-53.
This is the original document where Grau shows this letter as an example of Nazi Germany's persecution of homosexuality.
- Film "Gestapo Officer Joseph Meisinger Surrenders" bei gettyimages.co.uk (0:35 min)
Shows Meisinger surrounded to Russian officers in 1945, as he knows he doesn't have anywhere to go, and based on the fact he killed more than 100,000 Polish Jews he would be persecuted.
- "Gay/Lesbian Studies." 1995. *Lambda Book Report* 4 (10): 43.
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=9510042876&site=ehost-live>.
The documents found in this book were kept in East German State archives until German unification in 1990. Reviews Grau's book, and states that it might be difficult to find documents related to homosexuality due to the division and destruction of the war.
- Noble, Dennis L. 1995. "Book Reviews: Social Sciences." *Library Journal* 120 (7):94.
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=bth&AN=9504217649&site=ehost-live>.
Noble states that since some Gestapo and police files were either lost or destroyed near the

end of the war, it is hard to provide the most important subjects. Therefore, it is hard to find more information relating to this famous letter of Meisinger or information related to him and his activities.

- Heinz Eberhard Maul, *Japan und die Juden. Studie über die Judenpolitik des Kaiserreiches Japan während der Zeit des Nationalsozialismus 1933–1945*, Bonn 2000 (Dissertation, Universität Bonn). Darin: Der „Mann für's Grobe“: Meisinger, S. 203 ff.

Meisinger was in his previous use commander of the security police and the security service and head of the Gestapo in Warsaw. Because of his devilish brutality in these functions won him the reputation "Butcher of Warsaw." This article also explains his mission to Japan to get the officials there to treat the Jewish population same as Germany was doing.

- Grau, Günter, and Claudia Schoppmann. 1995. *Homosexualität in der NS-Zeit: Dokumente einer Diskriminierung und Verfolgung*. Frankfurt am Main: Fischer Taschenbuch Verlag.<http://books.google.com/books?id=mM-GAAAAIAAJ>.

English Translation: Grau, Schoppmann, Camiller, Grau, Günter, Schoppmann, Claudia, and Camiller, Patrick. *Hidden Holocaust? : Gay and Lesbian Persecution in Germany, 1933-45*. London: Cassell, 1995.

Grau was the first one to publish Meisinger's letter in this book. Other than that, there is no one else who used this letter, except referring to Grau's research work on this letter.

- "Matt & Andrej Koymasky - Memorial Hall - Gay Holocaust - Nazi Criminals - Meisinger". 2004. Accessed February 20, 2019.
<http://andrejkoymasky.com/mem/holocaust/06/ho06f.html>.

Josef Meisinger, SS-Standartenführer und Oberst der Polizei, was born on September 14, 1899 and was hanged in 1947 in Warsaw. He gave a lecture title "Combating Homosexuality As A Political Task" on April 5-6, 1937, basically reading the famous letter Grau published, according to the source Koymasky.

- En.wikipedia.org. (2018). Josef Albert Meisinger. [online] Available at:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josef_Albert_Meisinger[Accessed 4 Feb. 2019].

Gives a short biography of Meisinger, known as the "Butcher of Warsaw," who was an SS functionary in Nazi Germany. He main duties were persecution of mostly gays, cases of abortion, and Jews. He was arrested in Japan in 1945, convicted of war crimes and was executed in Warsaw, Poland years later.