

**AN EXCEPTIONAL WW1 GERMAN FIGHTER PILOTS AWARD DOCUMENT AND PHOTO ALBUMS GROUP BELONGING TO JEWISH PILOT JACOB WOLFF, ONE OF THE MOST REMARKABLE PILOTS OF WW1 WHO FLEW WITH KEK METZ AND JASTA 17. AN EXTREMELY LARGE GROUP TO A VERY EARLY FIGHTER PILOT WHO FLEW WITH SOME OF THE GREAT ACES AND POST WAR FORMED A CLUB OF AROUND 15 WARTIME ACES CALLED THE 'IRON PILOTS', THIS GROUP AND ALBUMS FEATURING ALL OF ABOVE INCLUDING MULTIPLE ACES AUTOGRAPHS, HIS AERIAL VICTORY CONFIRMATIONS, ETC ETC**

Not only is the group exceptional due to its vast and comprehensive content, the pilot himself was quite remarkable. A rich Jewish businessman (Cigar manufacturer) who at 46 in 1914 was exempt from the Army, yet fought prejudice and his age to become the oldest German fighter pilot of WW1 and possibly of all nations. Originally flying 2 seaters, he flew Fokker EIII's in Kek Metz with the likes of Hermann Goering and other later Aces. As an original member of Jasta 17 when it was formed, he was promoted Lieutenant from reserve NCO rank, it was something almost unheard of in the German Army. He was severely wounded in a dog fight in mid 1917 and did not return to active service due to wounds. At this point he had 4 confirmed victories and 4 unconfirmed, though at least 2 of the latter were so clear cut, he was most unfortunate not to have them confirmed.

**CONTENT OF THE SET OF FOUR BOUND PHOTO ALBUMS**

The first 4 outstanding photo albums with 315 photos, all of which are aviation related, are professionally put together and leather bound/embossed like books, indeed, they are pretty much books ready to print as they are – Wolff was very, very rich so could afford the best and of the many 100 albums I've had through my hands, including some really stand out ones, these are certainly the best as far as the whole lot is concerned, from subject matter, content and a design point of view. Albums are 24 x 18 cm, so pretty much the size of hard backed books, which I guess was the intention.

The albums have been put together in order giving Wolff's entire WW1 service from 2 seater pilot to fighter pilot, to forming of the 'Iron Pilots' in the early 1920's. Wolff tells at the beginning that he is writing his war experience for his family.

The photo content, especially Kek Metz and Jasta 17 is amazing but what adds so much is Wolff has used his logbook, unit war diaries etc to tell of his and his units story. Everything has been professionally typed up with room for photos and documents (all original), which have then been added. Of the paperwork added to tell his story, there are things like the original front page from his Soldbuch, flight barographs, copies of award documents, photographs of his awards, combat reports, newspaper clippings, obituaries of squadron members. There is also a page of cuttings of Wolff's original Postal marks from all his WW1 units; FA 34, KEK Mannheim, KEK Metz and Jasta 17. Other non photographs include a postcard from Hoppener and another of with signatures of many pilots from Geschwader Loerzer in 1918

What is really nice about the group is the last album details meetings with famous German Aces in the early 20's, when they formed an intimate club of around 15 wartime friends called the 'Iron Pilots'; these were some of the greatest living Aces with lots of candid shot of the likes of Baumer, Jacobs, Lothar and Bolko Von Richthofen, Lorezer, Bulow-Bothkamp, Bongartz, Muller, Bolle, Von Boeningk, Schlottmann, Von Haeseler, Schlz-Dornburg etc. Meetings seem to have been held in Wolff's and Bulow-Bothkamp's extensive properties in the early 20's. A signed postcard by most of these pilots is also in the last album.

## **THE FIFTH ALBUM**

The fifth and final album is of a totally different format to the others and looks to be a memorial album made up for each of the above during a weekend at Bulow-Bothkamp's. The content seems to revolve around various hijinks. Champagne and caviar! There are photographs of Josef Jacobs diving in full divers gear, swimming, messing around a makeshift tank! Also shots of one of Paul Baumer's aircraft; he had post war started a commercial aircraft company. It looks like he arrived at the meeting/weekend in his aircraft, so there are various shot of him and others in and around it, including Bulow-Bothkamp's wife ain the cockpit. Like the other albums, there is a commentary of the events, interspersed with comical drawings. From this album and the previous set of 4, Bulow-Bothkamp and Baumer seem to have been particular friends of Wolff's

## **DOCUMENTS SCRAPBOOK ALBUM:**

**1) LARGE GROUP OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS OF THE FIGHTER PILOT LIEUTENANT JACOB WOLFF FROM FELDFLIEGERABTEILUNG 34, KEK METZ AND JASTA 17. ALSO ALL PROMOTION DOCUMENTS, SOLDUCH, PASSES, LETTERS ETC ETC** – Most of Wolff's Award documents are listed below but there is a huge number of other documents and letters related to Wolff's service and a great many documents from Kek Metz and especially Jasta 17. All together there are approximately 250 documents, letters or other items of paperwork!

## **WOLFF AWARD DOCUMENTS:**

- a) Rare award document for Ehrenbecher; HONOR GOBLET FOR THE WINNER IN AIR COMBAT, awarded on 23 February 1917, OU: Lieutenant General. v. Hoeppner with the original copy and the copy of the order of the day
- b) Award document for IRON CROSS 1st class, awarded on May 30, 1917  
enclose the original proposal for awarding EK I.
- c) Award document for IRON CROSS 2nd Class, awarded on July 1, 1916
- d) Award document for PILOT BADGE, presented on 10 September 1916
- e) Award document for House Order of THE WHITE FALCON Knight Second Division with swords, Saxe-Weimar with a cover letter, the statutes and envelope
- f) Award document for HAMBURG HANSEATIC CROSS, awarded on 3 November 1916  
enclose the award proposal
- g) Award document for possession of LANDWEHR SERVICE AWARD 2.CLASS, awarded on 16 April 1903
- h) Award document for TURKISH SILVER MEDAL OF THE RED CRESCENT MOON, awarded on October 3, 1916 with letter and cover letter for the "INSIGNIA", awarded on June 30, 1917
- i) Award document for REMEMBRANCE BADGE the war 1914/18, awarded in May 1919  
with glued envelope and wax seal
- j) Three documents on the application for award of the AVIATOR RETIRED PILOT BADGE

k) Nine documents for the awarding of RESCUE MEDAL - 2x governorates command with the award, a copy of the verlung by the Flight Park 5. Copies of the reports, testimonies and sketches regarding the rescue

l) Ten personal information documents including combat data, data on the ceremonies of the various Orders and decorations etc ....

#### **AERIAL VICTORY CONFIRMATION DOCUMENTS:**

a) Rare document from General Adolf von Oven confirming Wolff's FIRST SUCCESSFUL AIR COMBAT, presented on 20 September 1916

b) Rare document confirming Wolff's SECOND SUCCESSFUL AIR COMBAT, 21 May 1917

c) Two original Rare documents confirming Wolff's the THIRD SUCCESSFUL AIR COMBAT, 12 June 1917

d) Rare document confirming Wolff's FOURTH SUCCESSFUL AIR COMBAT, August 15, 1917 with testimony

#### **OTHER ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS:**

a) TWO SOLDBUCH's, civilian driving license of Jacob Wolff. Both Soldbuch's with the entries of the different squadrons

b) Various documents from Wolff's service prior to World War 1

c) Various letters and documents around the promotion to lieutenant. Wolff had to join a denomination to become Promoted.

e) Three Feldpostbreife Wolff written by him on specially prepared Stationery

f) Two period magazines is where Wolff featured

g) 1918 dated Documents giving detailed description of Wolff's, his ranks, units served with dates, awards/dates, unconfirmed and confirmed aerial victories

h) Various letters regarding the end of Wolff's active service pilot (Age-related and spinal injury) and the subsequent employment with the Hanseatische Flugzeugwerke Karl Caspar AG- Medical records, certificates, letters of hospitals ...

i) After the war, Wolff met with other old fighter pilot and they established the "Iron pilots" Various documents, letters with list of names, addresses etc, reports of meetings, bills submitted (eg 2.2kg Caviar, 36 bottles Campagner, wine .. for 20 man)

j) About 18 condolence letters or telegrams, for example, by Harry von Bülow-Bothkamp, Paul Bäumer (43 victories), Udet (62 Victories), Von der Goltz, the Aero Club Germany and many others ...

k) Post War addresses of a large number of Aces; Baumer, Boeningk, Bolle, Bongartz, Buckler, Bulow, Goltz, Jacobs, Kampf, Loerzer, Muller, Von Richthofen, Udet etc etc

Also a very number of other documents and letters also, a quite incredible collection.

## **2) LARGE PORTRAIT PHOTOS, SIZE 22.5 X 16 CM, AS A LIEUTENANT PILOT WEARING THE HOUSE ORDER. THIS HE WEARS ERRONEOUSLY AS A NECK BADGE**

Also a portrait photo as a sergeant pilot, size 23.8 x 17 cm or 15.3 x 10.7cm

## **3) SPARE TEXT PAGES FROM WOLFF'S SPECIALLY COMMISSIONED PHOTO ALBUMS**

These are duplicate text pages from Wolff's specially commissioned photo albums. Wolff used his logbook, unit war diaries etc to tell of his and his units story. Everything was professionally typed up with room for photos and documents (these albums can be seen in a separate listing) and a large number of these pages without photographs added were kept.

## **4) JAKOB WOLFF LARGE PHOTO AND FAMILY SCRAPBOOK ALBUM**

Album contains a large number of original photographs of Wolff along with copies of some of the documents, pictures etc. Basically the family look to have put this album together as a snapshot of Wolff's military service and post war life, using unused and spare original photos.

Of the original photos in the album, of particular note are some large original portrait photos of Wolff in uniform and flying kit, a large photo of Wolff and Jasta 17 Ace Julius Buckler and a small number of wartime shots throughout.

Wolff remained close friends with a large number of Aces post War, in particular Harry Von Bulow Bothkamp and Paul Baumer. There are a large number of photos from 1924 showing Wolff and Baumer with aircraft from Baumer's civil aircraft company (and another in event in 1925), a signed letter from Von Bulow Bothkamp talking of one of the 'Iron pilot's' events in 1924 with photos from this meeting, more from a visit to Von Bulow Bothkamp's home in 1925. Also photographs and documents relating to a National Balloon event in 1925, a series of photos taken at flying event in 1923 (various personalities), dinner parties with various Aces, the wedding of Von Bulow Bothkamp and post war photos of these Aces, also Udet, Bruno Loerzer. There are numerous photos of Wolff's wife, his home, friends and family. Non original photos include shots of aircraft and Wolff's uniform/awards in the German Air Force Museum. There are also numerous copies of documents from his award group.

## **5) TWO LARGE FILES OF DOCUMENTS AND ARTICLES**

Together with the album, there is an an additional folder full of documents on Jacob Wolff Many of the documents in the Jakob Wolff file are copies of the original documents, articles on Wolff but there are lots of other documents not include in the original document group, copy photos, post War letters, postcards etc etc. Another large folder is included, the content being Eberhart Wolff, his son, who was "allowed" to serve the Luftwaffe as a so called "Halbjuden". Many Nazi documents and letters in this group

## **CONCLUSION**

I must stress that although the above lists of most of the items in the group, it does not list everything, there will be items I've missed out or not even noted myself! Likewise, the pictures of the PDFs are only part of the group, to give a taste of the content. I have photos of the complete group of documents etc that can be forwarded to anyone wishing to see the full content (around 3-400 images!) An article on Wolff can also be forwarded to any potential buyer to give you a better idea of who we are dealing with.

Wolff's medals, Honour Goblet and uniform are displayed in the German Air Force Museum.