

On 12 March 1940 Charlotte Wollermann from Düsseldorf denounces the Protestant pastor Gottfried Hötzel for having given a pro-Jewish sermon¹

Note by Detective Constable Eisel,² Düsseldorf, dated 12 March 1940

Re: Pastor *Hötzel*, Düsseldorf-Oberkassel.³

The wife of Hans *Wollermann*, Charlotte, née Marten, born 5 April 1902 in Braunsberg, residing in Düsseldorf-Oberkassel, 7 Achillesstr., communicated the following:

Around April 1939, together with her husband, Senior Consistory Councillor Dr Hans *Wollermann*,⁴ she attended a service at the Protestant church in Düsseldorf-Oberkassel. There Pastor *Hötzel* gave the sermon.

Throughout his sermon Pastor *Hötzel* discussed the Jewish question. He began with a Bible passage according to which Christ once said that the Jews are the children of the Devil.

Pastor *Hötzel* explained in his comments that this remark has been abused by many. Pastor *Hötzel* essentially said the following: 'It is not the Jews who are the children of Satan, but those who are persecuting the Jews.'

Pastor *Hötzel* championed the Jews in his sermon to such a degree that she was extremely incensed about his sermon.

The statements of Mrs *Wollermann* seem entirely credible.

She is a Party member and in the National Socialist Women's League.⁵

1 LAV NRW R, RW 58/3911. This document has been translated from German.

2 Werner Eisel (1910–1947), police officer; joined the SS in 1933; was employed at the Düsseldorf Gestapo from 1933; joined the NSDAP in 1937; with the commander of the Security Police (KdS) in Cracow in 1941, then in the Einsatzkommando for Special Assignment Lemberg; head of the counter-intelligence section of the KdS in Galicia; SS-Obersturmführer in 1942; head of the Security Police in Czortków after Oct. 1943; with the Senior Commander of the Security Police (BdS) in Hungary; returned to the Düsseldorf Gestapo in Sept. 1944.

3 Hugo Karl Gottfried *Hötzel* (1880–1940), Protestant theologian and pastor; missionary and teacher in China, 1906–1914; pastor in Düsseldorf-Heerdt-Oberkassel after 1917; member of the Confessing Church from 1933; took part in public protests after the November pogroms in 1938; provided support for Protestant non-Aryans in the Grüber Office in 1939; imprisoned from Feb. 1940 to 9 April 1940, and released upon the condition that he was to be banned from Rhineland and Westphalia and from public speaking; died following a stroke.

4 Dr Hans (Johannes) *Wollermann* (b. 1895), lawyer; at the Protestant Consistory in Königsberg, 1927–1933; consistory councillor in the Higher Church Council in Berlin, 1933–1937; at the consistory in Düsseldorf, 1937–1946; served in the war, 1940–1945; prisoner of war, 1945; later worked in schools in Düsseldorf.

5 The complaint was made to the police only after *Hötzel* had been arrested following a lecture he gave to the German Protestant Women's League.