



Adolf Hitler, Max von Oppenheim and Amin al-Husaini

Lionel Gossman's Book and a Revelation on Hitler and al-Husaini

Curt M. [Prüfer](#) kept a diary and, in mid-1943, recorded that Max von Oppenheim had met with him in Berlin. The Nazi diplomat just refers to him in his diary as “uncle Max.” The night before that meeting, Ambassador Prüfer met with Jerusalem’s grand mufti, Amin [al-Husaini](#). Meanwhile, the British looked on as von [Oppenheim](#) plotted [jihad](#) with Arabs in British Mandatory Iraq. London advised the Arabs be told that von Oppenheim was a Jew. It is not easy to say just what he was. His father was a Jewish convert to Christianity and his mother a Catholic. In wartime, as an “honorary Aryan,” he worked for the [Nazis](#). In peacetime, he was an archaeologist unearthing artifacts in Syria. Lionel Gossman explored this [mysterious life](#) in his [seminal study](#) on patriotic Germans of a part-Jewish origin known as “Kaiserjuden.”



Seiner Eminenz dem Großmufti
4 VII. 1943. zur Erinnerung. H. Himmler.

I add that those talks of mid-1943 were not conducted in Berlin, as recorded; Prüfer also doctored his original [diary](#). His talk with al-Husaini of July 4 took place at Heinrich Himmler’s East Prussian “Feldkommandostelle Hochwald” where they had been meeting since July 4. This shows the photograph above, dated July 4, [1943](#), in the [SS](#) leader’s handwriting: “to his Eminence the Grand Mufti--a Memento.” We see one of the typical wooden guest barracks of Himmler’s “Hochwald” place in the rear, formerly Großgarten, now Pozezdrze. They also went to “Hegewald,” near Ukraine’s Szitomir, and Berdichev.

Hitler’s place was nearby, and they met with him too (his second or third meeting with al-Husaini, besides the only known official one on November 28, [1941](#) in Berlin). Prüfer’s text on July 17: “Mufti joined me for lunch, insisted on getting rid of Jewish settlements in Palestine.” But his diary continues on July 19: “The Führer is a very great man.” Prüfer, who had already used his Arabic in World War I, was surely the interpreter there.

[Wolfgang G. Schwanitz](#)

Wolfgang G. Schwanitz is visiting professor at the Gloria Center in Herzliya and an associate fellow of the Middle East Forum in Philadelphia. His many books include [Germans in the Mideast, 1946–1965](#). See also [Islam in Europe, Revolts in the Middle East](#), [a German book of](#) June 10, 2013: Order [here](#) in [Berlin or here](#).