

Hudal, Alois Karl, Bischof (1885-1963)



theologian, bishop, rector of a priests' college

1904-1911: Theology study in Graz, Priest

1911: Studies at the German College for Priests Santa Maria dell'Anima in Rome; habilitation.

1923: Rector of this college for priests in Rome

1933: Episcopal consecration - his motto: For Church and Fatherland

1937: In the book "The Foundations of National Socialism" he criticizes "extreme nationalism", strives for a truly "Christian National Socialism":

education of the youth is a matter for the churches, politics a matter for National Socialism. Goebbels considers the book intolerable. In the Vatican he loses advocates and the prospect of the cardinal's hat

1943-1944: After the beginning of the deportation of the Jews of Rome, he writes a letter to the German city commander with a request for a stop: instead of 8,000, 1,000 Jews are arrested. Hudal hides two New Zealand officers

After 1944: Hudal finds his most important role: as organizer of the escape route for Nazi criminals to South America and the Middle East ("Rat Line")

1953: Internal distancing of the Vatican, embittered retreat to a country estate near Rome

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The Italian press reported in 1949 about Hudal's help for Otto Wächter. He claimed in a letter to the Vatican that this was a defamation by a journalist of Jewish race and Protestant denomination (12.9.49). Later, in his memoirs, Hudal boasts of his help for the Nazi war criminal:

»In the Roman hospital 'Santo Spirito', in my arms, cared for by me until the end, died the vice-governor of Poland, Lieutenant General and Sturmbannführer of the SS, Freiherr von Wächter, who was wanted by allied and Jewish authorities everywhere. While his boss, Governor General Hans Frank, was hanged in Nuremberg, Wächter managed - not least thanks to the touchingly selfless help of Italian religious clergymen - to live under foreign names in Rome for months on end ...«

Sources: Hudal, Römische Tagebücher, Graz 1976; Sachslehner, Hitlers Mann im Vatikan, 2019; Hansjakob Stehle, Pässe vom Papst?, Die Zeit 19/1984, S. 9-12; Benz, Die Mission des braunen Bischofs, tagesspiegel.de, 16.05.2017