**WEDEL/CASEMENT CORRESPONDENCE 1914-16**

**(with seven transcriptions)**

**Letters to Wedel**

27 January 1915 (NLI 13,085/9 original ms of two related draft items of same date).

29 January 1915 (NLI 17,016 typed copy with reply signed Zimmermann 19 February 1915, “R. in Hamburg. 22 Feb. 1915.”).

16 March 1915 (NLI 17,004)

4 December 1915 (NLI 17,580)

11 December 1915 (NLI draft ms 17,580)

24 December 1915 (NLI draft ms 17,580)

30 March 1916 (NLI ts 10,880); NLI (copy of German FO original) 14,914 (2); NLI ts 17587 (4); NLI 43,227 (1); NYPL draft ms Maloney IHP 1/31; TNA HO 144/1637/194A.)

1 April 1916 (cover note to 30 March letter) (NYPL; NLI ts 10,880, ts 17587 (4), 43,227 (2 & 3).

2 April 1916 (NYPL; NLI ts 10880, ts 17587 (4), 43227 (2 & 3).)

6 April 1916 (draft ms & ts NYPL 31; NLI 17587 (4).)

11 April 1916 (NYPL).

**Letters from Wedel**

NLI 13085/27 (7 items):

* 17 December 1914, Chancellor will see you tomorrow;
* 28 March 1915, Quinn mention and Chatterton-Hill’s release from Ruhleben;
* 16 June 1915, Irish Brigade treaty publicity cautioned as too few recruits and not enough Irish American support for Germany;
* 10 July 1915, thanks for photograph, effusive, a friend “I shall never cease to admire”;
* 8 September and 11 September about renewing passport, friendly, but signed by Roedger, not Wedel;
* 1 December 1915 letter via ‘McGoy’ (Irish Revolutionary Union) arrived in Copenhagen enclosed, I think written by McGarrity (3 pages), “Let our friends remember that our usefulness is by no means outlived and greater blows may be struck than are expected by our friends (i.e. Rising).

27 November 1915 (NLI 13085 (24))

11 December 1915 (NYPL IHP 31)

29 March 1916 (NYPL IHP 31, NLI 17587(4))

6 April 1916 (NYPL IHP 31 ms & ts)

**Count Georg von Wedel correspondence - seven transcribed items**

(See 1914-16 Diary and separate file for transcription of 30 March 1916 letter, and ‘A Last Page’ for several others.)

**To Wedel**

1 April 1916 (cover note to 30 March letter) (NYPL; NLI ts 10880; NLI 43,227 (2 & 3).

2 April 1916 (NYPL; NLI ts 10,880; NLI 43,227 (2 & 3).

6 April 1916

11 April 1916 (NYPL)

**From Wedel**

11 December 1915 (NYPL)

29 March 1916 (NYPL; NLI 17,587 (4))

6 April 1916 (NYPL; NLI 17,587 (4))

**11 December 1915**

**NYPL Maloney IHP 31**

**[Casement note:]** R. in Zossen

16 Decr. 1915.

5. P.M.

Berlin, 11th December 1915.

Dear Sir Roger,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 4th December and the accompanying sum of 8000.- Marks, which I have placed back into the hands of the gentlemen who raised this fund last year. At the same time I beg to inform you that the sum refunded by you will be held apart for Irish affairs and that it will be at your disposal should you require it at any time for Irish affairs.

Believe me,

dear Sir Roger,

Yours sincerely

G. Wedel.

**[Casement note:]** The Postmarks were all “Berlin 16.12.15 to ++ V.” x g r

**29 March 1916: NYPL Maloney IHP 31 - manuscript and typed versions and** **NLI 17,587 (4).**

**[Casement note to typed original:]** Recd. 30.3.16 in Berlin

Berlin, 29th March 1916.

Dear Sir Roger,

I beg to inform you quite confidentially that I have received news from America that a man called Ponsonby Stalleys who pretends to be of Irish descent intends to come over to Germany. As Stalleys is suspected of being a british agent I thought it advisable to warn you, in case he should succeed in reaching Germany.

Believe me, dear Sir Roger

yours sincerely

G. Wedel.

**[Casement note:]** He runs away on leave of absence - Caused by "heart failure"! - on 2 April after getting my letter of 30 M’ch in answer to this - There is a double deceit in this letter. It is to pretend goodwill to me & at the same time ignorance of the fact that I am to be shipped off on 8. April very far indeed from Mr. Ponsonby Stalleys! Poor Wedel - another victim of "soulless efficiency"! R.C.

**1 April 1916**

**NYPL Maloney IHP original copy ms (1 p.) and typed copy (1p)**; **NLI ts 10,880; NLI 43,227 (2 & 3). [1April letter is a cover note to the long 30 March letter – see separate file]**

Copy Saturday 1 April 1916.

Dear Count Wedel,

This letter has been delayed by my continued illness. I am in bed by the Doctor's orders and could write it only in bits at a time. I will get up today and if possible go to Zossen tomorrow. I may say that I wrote this at the wish of Lt Monteith - save that he wishes to accompany me on the ship - but I shall require him to stay with the men.

They must be looked after when I am gone - it is for their sakes he wished me to write - altho' I had already decided to write you on Thursday before I saw him. If the Gr. Staff wishes to discuss further with me it might be done through Count Hauchwitz [Haugwitz] who could come and see me.

He speaks good English and to some extent I fancy grasps my point of view.

Personally I shall be delighted to go on this journey, but I cannot bring the men in. Of course Lt. Monteith can come too, if he insists (as I think he will) for he is not in the position the Irish soldiers are in.

Yours very sincerely,

Roger Casement**.**

**2 April 1916**

**NYPL Maloney IHP – original draft (2 p.) and typed copy (1p)**

Berlin 2 April 1916.

Dear Count von Wedel,

After I had sent my letter (of 30th. ult.) to you, I yesterday got a copy of the "Irish World" giving text of Mr. Devoy's speech at the Irish Convention on 4. 5. March.

From Mr. Devoy's remarks it is probable that the impending action in Ireland rests on very justifiable grounds and that were I in Ireland I should personally approve it. Mr. Devoy is precise.

He says the American-Irish are not responsible for anything occurring in Ireland - it is Irishmen themselves who will decide their action - all the American-Irish can do is to help if action arises.

This action would depend on that of the British Government. Briefly, Mr. Devoy's contention is:

The 12000 or so armed Irish Volunteers have forced the British Government to exclude Ireland from the Conscription Bill

The Government are determined to destroy the Irish Volunteers, and once broken up and their leaders in jail, Ireland will be forced by a new Act into the Compulsory Service Camp.

Against this policy the Irish Volunteers are sworn to resistance and will resist. What then should American Irish do? Stand aside - or help?

The answer is clear - help and help largely.

If this be a just statement of the situation I am of Mr. Devoy's way of thinking, and I, too, am most anxious to help, and towards such an effort as this I welcome the help offered by the German Government. I will very gladly go to Ireland with the arms and do all I can to sustain and support a movement of resistance based on these grounds.

For in this case it is far better for Irishmen to fight at home and resist conscription by force than to be swept into the shambles of England's Continental war and lose their lives in an unworthy cause.

Mr. Devoy's speech removes some of the doubts that had so troubled me.

I, therefore, repeat with greater insistence than in my previous letter - nothing should stop the vessel going next Saturday, with me certainly on board and probably Lt. Monteith.

If he insists I cannot refuse his right. He is not in the position the Irish soldiers are in nor do I incur in his case any responsibility - whereas in theirs I incur the entire responsibility and I must act in their regard in the way that seems right to me.

Believe me, Dear Count Wedel,

Yours sincerely,

Roger Casement.

**6 April 1916**

**NYPL Maloney IHP 31 original ms and typescript**

**[Casement note:]** R in Berlin 4.15 p.m. 1916

Auswärtiges Amt

Berlin, April, 6th 1916.

Dear Sir Roger,

I just received the enclosed letter which your friend handed to our minister at Berne yesterday, requesting him to have it forwarded to you as quickly as possible.

Believe me, dear Sir Roger,

Yours sincerely

Georg Wedel.

**6 April 1916**

**NYPL Maloney IHP 31 manuscript; NLI 17587 (4) typescript**

Hotel Saxonia

Berlin

6 April 1916

Dear Count Wedel,

Thank you for the letter you kindly sent on -

I hope to be able to give a reply to Berne tonight and will be very much obliged if you will send it there for me by special messenger.

It is very urgent.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Casement

I have been to the Admiralty: they persist in refusing a submarine.

**11 April 1916**

**NYPL Maloney IHP, typed 2p. Original ms at NLI 13,085/9**

Berlin, 11 April 1916.

Dear Count von Wedel,

I am asking Mr. St. John Gaffney to do what he can on behalf of the Irish soldiers still at Zossen, and have written today a letter to the Imperial Chancellor on the subject.

Such money as I still have left I am handing to Mr. Gaffney to expend on the men in the way already established since they took up their quarters at Zossen.

I think the best thing to do would be to put them to some useful occupation here in Germany until the war is over, and then to send them to America where Father Nicholson is already doing what is possible to provide for their future there.

As the money I leave with Mr. Gaffney will not go very far, I fear, I am forced to recall your letter to me of 11th December last in which you stated that the sum I had refunded (Mks. 8000) would be held at my disposal should I require it at any time for Irish affairs.

It is always probable and indeed very likely that further remittances from my friends in America will be received here in the usual way.

If so, I beg that they may be handed to Mr. Gaffney who will expend them as seems best in the interest of the men.

In any case I wish whatever sum you may hand to Mr. Gaffney from the Fund you and your friends so kindly raised for the Irish cause to be ultimately refunded to you by my friends in America.

I am instructing Mr. Gaffney in this sense.

I should like Mr. Gaffney to have access to the men at Zossen, and beg you as a last act of personal regard to do all in your power for them, to mitigate the cruel disappointment they will surely labour under and to make clear ultimately to them how I left them without any explanation and apparently abandoned them.

I have acted throughout, in what seemed to be their best interests, and now in leaving them behind I feel I am still trying to do my duty to them.

I am concerned about the messenger at Berne too.

I telegraphed to him on the 7th instant asking several questions and wrote a letter of instructions.

The telegram remains without answer; and the letter was returned to me by the General Staff on the evening of the 7th as owing to the change of plan come to at the last moment as to my own means of departure, the General Staff thought the letter need not be sent

I leave Berlin tonight and I should much like the messenger at Berne to be informed.

I enclose a list of the remaining Irish soldiers at Zossen, a copy of which is also given to Mr. Gaffney.

With renewed expressions of warm personal regard,

Believe me,

Dear Count Wedel,

Yours sincerely,

Roger Casement.