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NUMBER AND DISTRIBUTION OF NAZI WOMEN

The following pages will form a chapter in our forthcoming Report on German women by Dr. and Mrs. Robert M. W. Kempner.

Since this information may prove of immediate value, the members of the Staff of "M" Project decided to disseminate this chapter before the entire manuscript has been completed.

Henry Field

CONFIDENTIAL

NUMBER AND DISTRIBUTION OF NAZI WOMEN

The degree of Nazi indoctrination of the German female population can be determined with a high degree of probability from the membership figures of women in the Nazi Party.

In the early years of Nazism, Hitler had a comparatively large following among women. In 1923, during the time of the Hitler Putsch, about 20 per cent of the 25,000 National Socialists were women.

During the following years, the number of organized Nazi women increased, until in 1931 they numbered 20,000. However, this figure shows that the increase of women was comparatively small compared with the increase of the male Nazi members which grew from 20,000 in 1923 to 800,000 in 1931.

The reason is that during the twenties, when the Nazis were fighting for power, the need for active fighters was stressed in the campaign for membership. With regard to women, the policy of the Nazi Party laid more emphasis on the need for women voters than for women Party members.

This policy of the Party had the result that a majority of the male Party members became responsible for such activities as terrorism and propaganda, leading to Hitler's rise to power.

On the other hand, millions of German women who were not Party members played a decisive rôle in the "legal" process of Hitler's rise to power with the help of the voting machinery.

A survey of the growth of the membership figures of the NS Frauenschaft, which has been a formal branch of the Nazi Party since 1935, shows the following:

<u>Year</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Membership</u>
1923	3,000-4,000 ...	Deutscher Frauenorden
1931	19,382	NS Frauenschaft, then the only women's organization of the NSDAP
1932	109,320	NS Frauenschaft

After Hitler's rise to power on January 30, 1933, many of the women who had paved the way for Hitler by voting for him, joined the NS Frauenschaft. This can be shown through the membership figures for December 31, of the following years:

<u>Year</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Membership</u>
1933	844,893	NS Frauenschaft
1934	1,635,094	NS Frauenschaft
1935	2,089,765	NS Frauenschaft

In 1936, after all the German women's organizations had been dissolved or "coördinated" according to the Nazi Fuehrer principle, the NS Frauenschaft became responsible for the Nazi indoctrination of all remaining German women's organizations.

In order to maintain the genuine Nazi standard of the NS Frauenschaft, its ranks were closed to new members. The only new women members admitted were the girls who "graduated" from the Bund Deutscher Maedchen (BDM), and key figures from coördinated women's organizations, the Labor Service, the Labor Front, and women with special merits.

In order to provide a new rallying point for those German women who after 1936 tried to become good Nazi women, the Deutsche Frauenwerk, a new NS women's organization, was formed. Its members can be regarded as Nazi women newcomers. During recent years, especially as a result of common war activities of both groups of women, the originally strong differentiation between the two groups has disappeared.

The membership figures of both organizations of Nazi women on December 31 of the respective years

are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>NS Frauenschaft</u>	<u>Deutsches Frauenwerk</u>	<u>Total</u>
1936	2,218,995	93,643	2,312,638
1937	2,196,235	670,006	2,866,241
1938	2,191,716	945,147	3,136,836

In addition to these 3,000,000 members of the NS Frauenschaft and the Deutsche Frauenwerk, there are approximately 4,000,000 girls between ten and twenty-one years of age organized in the Bund Deutscher Maedchen.

Classification According to Public Danger

A classification of the Nazi women from the point of view of public danger to democratic life shows the following picture:

1. The most dangerous group consists of about 3,000 Nazi-trained career Party leaders, who form the nucleus of the political bureaucracy and hold full-time jobs in the central and district headquarters of the NS Frauenschaft, the Deutsche Frauenwerk, and the co-ordinated women's organizations.

Only a comparatively small number of the names of these Nazi career women are known. Some of them are the heads of Departments in the Party headquarters or the

top women in the districts, known as Gaufrauenschaftsfuehrerin or Gaufrauenschaftsleiterin. Some names will appear in the forthcoming chapter on the organization of the NS Frauenschaft.

2. This consists of about 584,000 Nazi women leaders who are doing voluntary political work for the Nazi Party. They are also trained in NS ideology and organizational work as are the Nazi career women. So far as Nazi activities are concerned, they are no less dangerous than the Nazi career women. The members of this group are the local political bosses or deputies of the county and local units of the Nazi Party throughout the country, known as Kreisfrauenschaftsfuehrerin or Ortsfrauenschaftsfuehrerin.

The main difference between these two groups is that Group 1 includes only full-time Nazi Party workers, while Group 2 consists of volunteer workers whose reward for their efforts is political leadership in their community with all its privileges and financial advantages.

3. The 1,500,000-1,600,000 ordinary members of the NS Frauenschaft who joined the Nazi Party before 1936. Unlike the 600,000 women of Groups 1 and 2, who are trained as political leaders, promoters and indoctrinators, these 1,600,000 form the valuable tools of the Nazi

women's machinery. As far as non-Nazi German women are concerned, these are responsible for keeping the rest of Germany's female population in line with the Nazi State.

4. About 4,000,000 girls in the BDM of the Hitler Youth, all of them highly indoctrinated; 250,000 of them are Leaders.

5. About 1,000,000 members of the Deutsche Frauenwerk, who are the Nazi women newcomers from 1936 until the present time. They are no less ardent in their determination to serve the Nazi Party efficiently than the members of the NS Frauenschaft. As newcomers, they are even more eager to prove their reliability than the members of Group 3. They differ from Group 3 only in so far as Nazi seniority is concerned.

6. About 9,000,000 organized women who are not Party members but are kept in line with the machine of the NS Party as members of coördinated women's organizations, which include the members of most professions and vocations, e.g., teachers, social workers, and nurses.

Membership in these organizations is usually compulsory. Although technically not Party members, these women are controlled by the Party because their leaders are Party Officials and therefore responsible to the Reichsfrauenfuehrung.

7. The unorganized remainder of the German women.

SUMMARY OF WOMEN IN THE NAZI PARTY

<u>Group</u>	<u>No.</u>
Nazi career women	3,000
Nazi women leaders	584,000
NS Frauenschaft	1,600,000
NS Frauenwerk	<u>950,000</u>
Total	3,137,000

The great majority of these women are in the age groups between twenty and sixty. Compared with the total female population of these age groups, the conclusion has to be drawn that every sixth woman between twenty and sixty years of age is a genuine Nazi.

Geographical Distribution of Nazi Women

Among the female population of Germany, the percentage of Nazi women organized in the NS Frauenschaft and the Deutsche Frauenwerk varies in the individual Gaue. The figures for 1938 show the following wide regional distribution for women aged twenty or more:

1. More than 200 Nazi women per 1,000 in the following Gaue:

Magdeburg-Anhalt.
Kurhessen

2. From 150-200 women per 1,000 in the following Gaue:

Ostpreussen
Kurmärk
Halle-Merseburg
Schleswig-Holstein
Ost-Hannover
Süd-Hannover
Weser-Ems
Thüringen
Koblenz-Trier
Saarpfalz
Mainfranken

3. From 100-150 women per 1,000 in the following Gaue:

Schlesien
Pommern
Mecklenburg
Westfalen-Nord
Westfalen-Süd
Essen
Köln-Aachen
Baden
Württemberg-Hohenzollern
Franken
Schwaben
München-Oberbayern
Bayrische Ostmark

4. From 50-100 women per 1,000 in the following Gaue:

Sachsen
Hessen-Nassau
Düsseldorf

5. Less than 50 women per 1,000 in the following Gaue:

Berlin
Hamburg

In general, the distribution of the Nazi women follows this area pattern:

1. Central Germany, the north, and the northeast are the strongholds of Nazi women.

2. The geographical center is the Gau Magdeburg-Anhalt, which is surrounded by the other strong Nazi women's Gaue, such as Kurmark, Halle-Merseburg, Thueringen, Hannover, and Kurhessen.

3. The outposts are Schleswig-Holstein in the north and East Prussia in the northeast.

In the majority of these areas, the Lutheran population has a large majority.

Within the strongholds of Nazi womanhood, the Gaue Berlin and Hamburg are enclaves. They have the lowest percentage of Nazi women because a high percentage of the women of these Metropolitan areas belong to the working class with its old labor traditions.

A compact territory with a comparatively low percentage of Nazi women is western Germany, the south, and the southeast, including Sachsen and Schlesien. As far as religion is concerned, these areas are predominantly Roman Catholic. In the non-Catholic areas of this group, a large percentage of the population belongs to the working class. The only Nazi strongholds in the west,

which form an exception, are the Gaue Koblenz-Trier and Saarpfalz. This might be a result of the especially strong Nazi propaganda in these border areas at the time of the Saar Plebiscite during 1934-1935.

The present geographical distribution of Nazi women almost follows the trend of the votes for the NSDAP during the Reichstag Elections of September, 1930, July and November, 1932, and March, 1933. The regions with a high percentage of Hitler votes before 1933 are now the strongholds of the Nazi women. In contrast, the regions with low Hitler votes now have a low percentage of organized Nazi women.

In areas with more than 15.0 per cent of organized Nazi women, the average percentage of Nazi votes of the Reichstag Elections of 1930-1933 as far as a comparison of these areas is possible was generally more than 33.0 per cent:

<u>Gaue</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
Kurhessen	38.0
Magdeburg-Anhalt	37.5
Ostpreussen	41.5
Kurmark	41.0
Halle-Merseburg	36.2
Schleswig-Holstein	44.0
Ost-Hannover	41.8
Sued-Hannover	39.9
Weser-Ems	33.0
Thueringen	37.1
Saarpfalz	38.9
Mainfranken	35.0

The only exception is the Gau Koblenz-Trier which now has a comparatively high percentage of Nazi women.

In contrast to the above-mentioned Districts, the areas with less than 15.0 per cent of Nazi women among German females generally drew a percentage of less than 30.0 per cent of the votes for Hitler fourteen years ago:

<u>Gaue</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
Berlin	22.8
Hamburg	29.8
Duesseldorf	27.0
Westfalen-Nord	23.7
Westfalen-Sued	24.9
Koeln-Aachen	20.6
Wuerttemberg	27.0
Muenchen-Oberbayern ..	27.0

The main exceptions in this group are Pommern and Baden, once Hitler strongholds in Reichstag Elections, but at present showing a low percentage of Nazi women.