

OFFICE OF U. S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL
FOR THE PROSECUTION OF AXIS CRIMINALITY

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of Schirach

9 September 1945 p.m.

Persons and organizations implicated, and subjects

1. SCHIRACH

a. Personal history (2-6)

b. Youth Indoctrination

- (1) Ages of members of HJ (7-8)
- (2) Schirach's assistants (9-10)
- (3) HJ as reservoir for future Party members (11-13)
- (4) Schirach's books (14)
- (5) HJ pre-military training (16-18)

B. von SCHIRACH, 9 September 1945 p.m.

PERSONAL HISTORY

Schirach describes his early days with the Party and points out that he became Youth Leader of the Party in 1931 (p.2). He joined the Party in 1925. His task was to create and organize a youth organization and coordinate existing ones. He states further that he became Jugend Reichs Leiter in 1932 (p.6), although he remarked on page 2 that he obtained this position in December 1936 (p.2). The Hitler Youth Movement had been under KURT GRUBENPLAUEN and the Pupils' Bund under Dr. von RENTELN (p.6), before Schirach. He belonged also to the SA.

YOUTH INDOCTRINATION

The HJ comprised all youth from 10 to 18 years after which they would become a member either of the SA or the Party, most entering the Party (p.7). He believes that Hitler's idea in founding the organization SA was to have storm troopers (p.8).

The HJ Movement consists of four (4) groups; namely:

MALES (1) The Jung Volk, age group 10 to 14 (Pimpfe)
(2) Hitler Youth, age group 14 to 18

FEMALES (3) B.D.M. (girls), age group 10 to 14
(4) Hitler Youth (girls), age group 14 to 18

Miss GREIFWALDEN was first in charge of the female youth movement and later Miss JUTTA RUEDIGER, who was an assistant of Schirach (p.9). As the most important of the assistants, Schirach names ARTHUR AXMANN and HARTMANN - LAUTERBACHER (p.10)

H.J. RESERVOIR FOR FUTURE PARTY MEMBERS

Up to 1933 Schirach reported to Hitler weekly in educational matters. Later on he reported very seldom because Hitler left it entirely up to him (p.11). The main topic when he conferred with Hitler was money needed for camps, equipment, tents, and hikes (p.11). Hitler never vetoed any of his plans concerning the Youth Organization (p.11). Hitler's idea was that the HJ become the reservoir from which the Party would draw its members (p.13).

He describes his responsibility for the Youth Organization in the following way:

"I want to repeat here again what I have already said several times to the American gentleman who interrogated me. I am responsible for the HJ as I have been before."
(p. 13).

B. von SCHIRACH, 9 September 1945 p.m.

In his agency was also an office established concerned with the indoctrination of the Youth "Reichsschulungsamt."

Schirach wrote two books. One was entitled "Form and Revolution of Education" comprising a collection of his speeches which possibly was used as indoctrination materials (p.14).

Schirach stated that his task was to take care of the youth activities outside of school (p.15).

Concerning pre-military education within the HJ there were several different groups such as the Air HJ preparing for pilots, the Marine HJ preparing for the Navy, and special Signal Corps HJ. Those groups originated in an organic manner and out of the desire of the youth itself. He encouraged the formation of these groups and helped them morally and financially but was handicapped mostly by lack of financial funds (p.16). Regarding the Marine HJ, he admits that the Navy gave them cutters for training and racing purposes, and later on instruction in fundamentals of navigation. he admits it could be considered of pre-military value (p.17). His purpose in encouraging this pre-military training was to shorten the period of military service, but he admits that the period of conscription was never reduced (p.18).

A large part of the time of the HJ was devoted to out-door activities, and especially to body-building sports such as mass gymnastics. Discipline Training was given the participants of the HJ (p.19). Schirach declares that it was important after the conscription was reintroduced to have the youth in the Army who had an all-around physical development (p.20).