

GERMANY'S CRIME SCHOOLS

NAZI POLITICAL EDUCATION SYSTEM TRAINED FUTURE HITLERS

BY WAVERLEY ROOT

Author of "A Secret History of the War" and "Casablanca to Katyn"



LITTLE
HITLERS

The Ordensburg stressed physical courage. Students were required to pass rigorous boxing, fencing, parachute-jumping and swimming tests (including dive from 30-foot-high springboard). Acid test: leap through hoop of fire.

SWOOPING low over Chiemsee, Bavaria, on their way to military objectives, shortly before V-E Day, U.S. bombers roared harmlessly over a group of imposing buildings easily recognizable as a university.

American flyers had strict orders not to bomb cultural targets. But while our pilots were delivering the bombs that ended World War II, a few explosives dropped on the innocent-looking "university" might have nipped World War III in the bud. For the ivy-covered structures actually housed a highly important target: the *Fuehrer Schule*, postgraduate institute of the six *Ordensburgen*. At the very moment our bombers were droning overhead, the Nazis were training future leaders there to fight the next war.

In 1934, Adolf Hitler boasted: "In my *Ordensburg* a virile youth will be developed from whom the world will recoil in terror—a violent, dominating, intrepid, brutal youth indifferent to pain and knowing no tenderness or weakness. In its eyes will be the gleam of pride and the independence of a beast of prey . . ."

What Hitler envisioned, the Nazis, in the next 10 years, systematically brought to fruition. Deliberately kept out of the public spotlight, the *Ordensburgen* were seldom mentioned even in official literature. The *Organisationsbuch der NSDAP* (Nazi Party Code Book) refers only briefly to them on pp. 177 and 182.

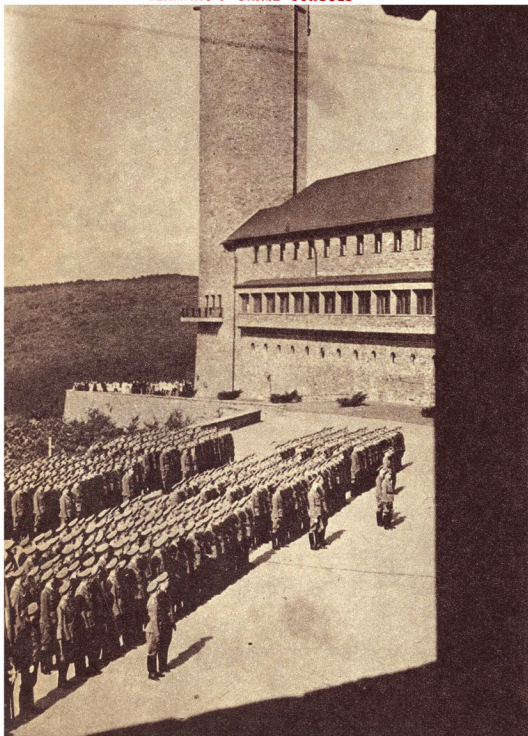
But despite the secrecy which the Nazis maintained about the *Ordensburgen*, a careful study of captured Nazi documents and Allied Intelligence reports gives a fairly complete picture of what went on behind the scenes in these institutions.

The *Ordensburgen* date back to the dark ages, when Teutonic Knights lodged their orders, based on the leadership principle and trained for conquest, in gigantic fortresses.

The Nazi *Ordensburg* became the central link in a chain of Political Education institutions, the other two links of which were the Adolf Hitler Schools and the *Fuehrer School*. There were 32 Adolf Hitler Schools in Germany, with about 4,000 young Nazi boys in each.

A carefully-selected number were admitted annually to one of the six *Ordensburgen* at Croessingsee, Vogelsang, Sonthofen, Bad Toelz, Polzin and Marienburg, where they were unforgettably inculcated with "master race" theories. Talented and promising graduates of the *Ordensburgen* were enrolled at the *Fuehrer School* at Chiemsee, Bavaria.

Significantly, the *Ordensburgen* and the *Fuehrer School*, shut off from out-



Ordensburg objectives, too cynical for popular consumption, were revealed only to fanatical Nazis. Above: Vogelsang cadets hear Reichsmarshal Herman Göring.

side influences and kept under strict surveillance by SS Elite Guards, were practically devoid of swastikas and Nazi symbolism. Approaches bore signs reading: "*Trespassing punishable by death!*" Inscribed over the massive entrance doors was the injunction: "*Unquestioning Obedience!*"

Originally, *Ordensburg* curricula consisted of three-year courses of study, but during the war programs were cut to one year. Basic principles were: 1) loyalty until death, 2) unflinching faith, and 3) honor. Tuition was free and students received salaries, uniforms and lodging. Their families, too, were supported.

"*Der Weg zur Ordensburg*" (The Road to the Ordensburg), last prospectus of the Ordensburg located at Sonthofen in the Eitel Mountains southwest of Cologne, was prepared and issued for 1944 entrants by Dr. Robert Ley (who committed suicide just before he was to be tried at Nuremberg as a top war criminal).

Gushed Ley: "In size and effect the *Ordensburg* reflect the greatness of the *Fuehrer's* new and beautiful gospel. The candidate must have the inner calling to work for his country for the rest of his life. He must be a perfect specimen of health!"



Ordensburg Director Dr. Robert Ley was captured near Berchtesgaden by U. S. troops, later committed suicide to avoid standing trial for his war crimes.



Highly-publicized Werewolves' sinister "Man-in-black" signs stencilled on Bremen subway station entrance (above) are calculated to strike terror into all democratic Germans.

"The Superman type," he continued, "is firm—faltering at nothing, conducts himself correctly not only in high society's polished ballrooms but also in rough peasant hovels. We shall live in these castles not as ascetic monks, but shall mingle with all people, including members of the opposite sex."

And finally Ley declared: "Obedience is the pillar on which virile institutions have survived for hundreds and thousands of years. *Ordensburgen* graduates will be the political leaders of tomorrow's Germany!"

Extreme care was exercised in selecting students for these schools. Candidates had to answer questionnaires giving exhaustive data not only concerning themselves, but affecting relatives and ancestors three generations back. The elicited information was then checked and rechecked by a special Gestapo examining board, on whose final word rested the candidates' ultimate acceptance or rejection.

Successful candidates were required to take a secret oath at the conclusion of a ceremony reminiscent of ancient Teutonic rites.

The neophytes repeated solemnly after the black velvet-robed



Civilians found in the cellar of Honingen house stocked with contraband arms and ammunition are placed under arrest by the U. S. First Army's 99th Division.

Burg-Kommandant (Commander of the *Ordensburg*): "If I betray the secret of the *Ordensburgen*, I will be a traitor and must die; and not only I, but my family, my



Arrested by Allied authorities. Artur Axman was identified as a leader of Nazi underground movement

wife and my children as well." The basic purpose of the *Ordensburgen* was to make "little Hitlers" out of its students, destined to lead the Germans in the development of the future "master race."

But early in 1943, the *Fuehrer* realized that the war was lost. The German army had been defeated at Stalingrad; American and British troops were in North Africa.

The *Ordensburgen* program abruptly underwent a radical change. The embryo *gauleiters* (district leaders) of the German world empire that was to arise, began to learn "how to behave in extreme emergency," i.e., Germany's military defeat.

Indoctrination Courses Abruptly Revamped

The altered *Ordensburgen* curricula had the following objectives: 1) understanding of the techniques of modern espionage; 2) thorough knowledge of the country in which the student was later to work, including language, manners and customs, economy, internal and foreign policy, laws, etc.; 3) complete mastery of undercover methods; and 4) military, physical and mental fitness.

The revamped indoctrination courses taught the young Nazis that if Germany was to survive they must become after defeat a tribe of revenge-conscious warriors, as bold and savage as the ancient Vikings.

During the Third Reich's last two years a *modus vivendi* prescribed by Lieutenant General Horst von Metsch, astute Nazi militarist, was constantly dinned into the students' ears: "The best guns can be destroyed, but a nation firmly united is indestructible. As long as a people is conscious of national honor, its defensive power is inexhaustible. Such a nation cannot be killed. Her ruins will be the seeds of a new nation awaiting its hour!"

Between autumn 1943 and Germany's defeat, the *Ordensburgen* teaching-plan gradually assumed a fanatical, pseudo-religious form with emphasis on *Fuehrer*-idolatry and nihilistic mysticism. Interesting is an article in the official *Schwarze Korps* for November 25, 1943, entitled "The Faith of the Germans." It is, virtually, an exhortation to unite German fanaticism with the Japanese Tenno-worship.

The idolatrous Jap Tenno-worship which steadfastly refused to recognize worldly reality, was adapted to the mentality of *Ordensburgen* students. Scriptural sanction for the new pagan religion was found in Martin Luther's pronouncement that "though life, property, wealth, honor, wife and child be taken from us, and though all else depart, it will still profit nothing, for the Reich will still stand."

Obviously, the Nazis aimed to build up the already fanatical *Ordensburgen* into a holy "sect" as the basis for the resurrection of a powerful Germany.

Those who had expected the Nazi underground to go into action immediately after the surrender of Germany, were puzzled when the threat failed to materialize. But the *Ordensburgen* had warned their Nazi pupils to lie low during the Allied occupation. Only when the time was ripe were they to repeat the terroristic tactics employed after the last war to intimidate and eliminate Germans unwilling to take orders.

Their example would be that of the Black *Reichswehr*, the Free Corps, the Consul Organization of ex-naval officers and the Rossbach Organization of ex-army officers, which among them murdered 354 democratic German leaders between the Armistice and the spectacular assassination of Walter Rathenau on June 24, 1922.

So thoroughly were the courts either intimidated or corrupted that of the 354 cases, only two resulted in convictions; and in both the sentences were extremely light.

Post-World War II's much-publicized "Werewolves" have perpetrated little sabotage to date, are interested primarily in keeping alive the *Ordensburgen* spirit. The propagandistic nature of Werewolf activity is evident from the slogans broadcast by secret radio. Examples: "To avenge today, tomorrow, or at any other time, any misdeed the enemy commits against our nation!" and "If necessity demands, await the hour until you can act!"

Organized Terrorism Awaits Allies' Departure

Judging from experience gained during the post-World War I era in Germany, organized terrorism may be expected when the Allies have removed the bulk of their forces and left anti-Nazi Germans in office. A campaign to frighten the timid and murder the resolute will then begin in earnest. Signs of it have already appeared in Bavaria, where German officials who cooperate too closely

GERMANY'S CRIME SCHOOLS

with Americans are receiving threatening letters.

While terrorism wipes out political opposition, technicians will be at work providing the tools for new German aggression. Even before the Germans learned that we possessed the atom-bomb, they were working on it in the hope of using it to save themselves from the consequences of defeat.

Since 1943, when it appeared that Germany might lose the war, the Nazis have been hiding huge stocks of provisions, arms and funds in foreign currencies in the hills.

On May 24, 1945, American troops unearthed a hoard of about \$1-million hidden at Berchtesgaden by Gestapo Chief Heinrich Himmler. On May 21, 1946, \$5-million was found in Bavaria.

Precisely how much more Germany money is concealed either in Germany or abroad is unknown, but the U. S. Treasury Department announced in October 1945 that a secret Nazi financial ring exists, with connections in Turkey, Argentina, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and Spain.

In these countries, Germany hopes to carry on atom-bomb experiments and to have weapons built for her, just as U-boats were built in a Dutch shipyard in 1922 (according to Grand Admiral Erich Raeder's testimony at the Nuremberg trials).

In April 1943, Dr. Karl Waninger instructed the *Technische-Literarische Gesellschaft* in methods by which Germany secretly continued to produce arms after World War I. He explained how blueprints and construction models were hidden from the Allies; how known artillery engineers were replaced by unsuspected experts brought back from retirement camouflaged as makers of locomotives, mining machinery, enamelware and other non-warlike products.

Accidental Explosion Reveals Munitions Dump

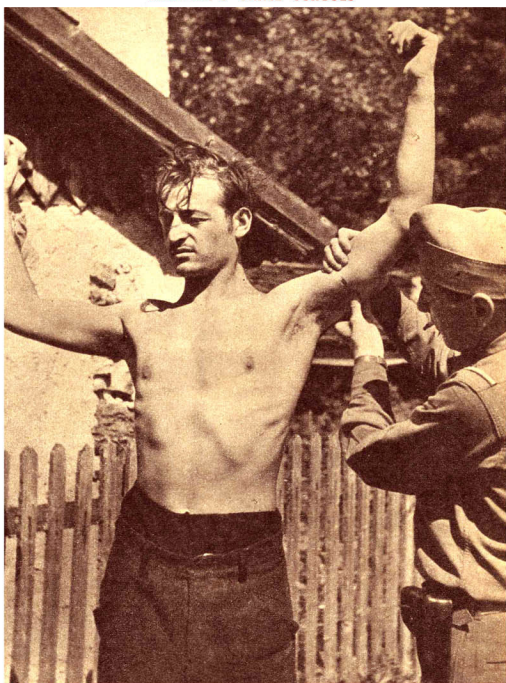
Waninger described how the great *Rheinmetall* armaments company ran an undercover factory disguised as a railroad machine shop in the very heart of Berlin; and how an artillery-testing range was maintained without detection by the Allied Control Commission at Unterluss.

U. S. forces believed they had confiscated all small arms possessed by the population, in a thoroughgoing raid in Frankfort in July 1945. But a fragmentary spot check in November disclosed that 300 small arms, 50,000 rounds of ammunition and 75 radio transmitters had been overlooked.

Discovery at the Krupp works, in April 1946, of a large cache of ball bearings, machine tools and other equipment useful for arms manufacture, was naively attributed by Allied authorities to the Black Market.



Former SS troops hiding out in the Bavarian Alps and the Tyrol, await signal to begin long-expected reign of terror. Truckload of suspects is brought in for investigation.



U. S. Occupation troops examine the SS insignia-branded underarm of Nazi desperado. Skin discoloration indicates an unsuccessful attempt to obliterate the mark.

Last March, an explosion in a German civilian police barracks in the Russian quarter of Berlin revealed what had been a sizable munitions dump of grenades, bazooka rockets, mortar shells and other types of arms (only pistols were authorized).

Aerial bombing-panegyrists have exaggerated the extent to which German industry was crippled by air raids. Actually, Germany still possesses tremendous heavy-industrial resources.

Most of Germany's War Potential Undamaged

Wrote Camille Huysmans, frequent Belgian cabinet member, in Brussels' *Le Peuple*:

"Germany still possesses 4-million tons of . . . machinery and . . . the capacity for producing new machines in a short time. . . . The chemical industry, including explosives, has not even been touched. . . . Bombs have damaged only 20 percent of Germany's war potential; 80 percent still remains as a basis for development!"

Finally, and most important of all, unbiased observers agree that the Nazi ideology, though it often goes by another name, continues to be popular in Germany. The universities (Erlangen, Töttingen, Munich) are hotbeds of militant pan-Germanic thinking. Political parties, including the Communists, favor a strong, united nationalistic Germany. Pro-Nazi and pro-Hitler sentiments are openly uttered by a large proportion of the population and are apparently held by a majority of Germans. (When the public was asked to submit designs for a new postage stamp, the swastika figured prominently in most drawings.)

Great German Liberal Friedrich Wilhelm Forster might well repeat, without altering a word, what he wrote in *Die Menschheit* on July 22, 1927:

"Germany is drawn irresistibly, as if accursed, toward new and ever greater crimes. *This is because the preceding crime has not been recognized and atoned for as such.* The German people drift towards crime because they are composed of a hundred wolves and a hundred thousand sheep, the sheep joining faithfully in whatever the wolves propose; and at present they are kept busy fighting the 'lie of the wolves' guilt,' an occupation they will pursue until the moment the wolves jump at their and their neighbors' throats."

GERMANY'S CRIME SCHOOLS

Under direction of maniacal *Ordensburgen* graduates, the Nazis await an opportunity to break forth and lay waste the world again. *Hatred* is their watchword, *revenge*, their war-cry. Let us not wait until it is too late to stop them!



Long-range planning Nazis were prepared to finance World War III with huge stores of gold and currency cached at home and abroad. U. S. Third Army troops discovered 100 tons of gold bullion, countless bags (*above*) of domestic and foreign currency in a salt mine near Merkers, southwest of Gotha. At Berchtesgaden, they unearthed \$1-million.

SEE

NOVEMBER, 1946

OldMagazineArticles.com