

## Diary of a boy in the Hitler Youth

**1934**

**January-** Joined the German Young People. I am on probation for four months.

**February-** My first cross country march. It was hard work.

**April-** My probation period is up. I had to pass a special test- I had to run 60 metres in 12 seconds, jump 2.75 metres, throw a ball 25 metres and complete a cross country march of one and a half days. That was easy! But the test also included close combat, questions on the history of the Party and finally a courage test- we had to jump in full battle dress from a window of a first floor block of flats. I passed, those who did not are weaklings. I can now wear the knife, shoulder strap and insignias.

**1935**

This year is dedicated to physical training. I reached medal standard in athletics.

**April-** I swore the oath of loyalty as we do every year: 'I promise in love and faithfulness in the Hitler Youth to help the Fuhrer, to do my duty, so help me God, at all times.'

**Sunday morning:** watched special showing of the film 'Hitlerjunge Quex' about the Hitler Youth hero Herbert Norkus. He was 12 years old and stabbed to death by Communist scum. They cut off his upper lip.

**1936**

This year is 'The Year of German Young People'. We should get our friends to join up as a present for the Fuhrer's 47<sup>th</sup> birthday. Good news! Saturday school lessons were cancelled so we can do physical training and military games all day.

**May-** Great day, I am 14 and moved up to the Hitler Youth.

**August-** Went to the Olympic Games where we showed our superiority- Germans won both the men's and women's javelin.

**November-** Received our fortnightly folder; this one told us about the injustice of the Treaty of Versailles. The last one explained how the Jews are trying to take over the world.

**1937**

**July-** Today was the first day of camp. Today's password is, "2Adolf Hitler", and the motto is, "Germany must live even if we die". The camp leader explained that we all have to become fighters for Germany. We sang, 'Behind the flag we march....' During the community hour we read about the brave German fighter pilots in the First World War. We also learnt how to throw hand grenades, read semaphore, lay telephone wires and shoot a pistol. We were allowed to write home, but we had to hand our letters in to the officers' tent without sealing the envelope.

**September-** I told our leader about my grandfather who refuses to greet people with 'Heil Hitler' and raise his right arm. I wonder what will happen to him.

**1938**

**November-** There was a big parade to remember the Munich Putsch. There were thousands of flags, we marched and sang. It was exciting, I am so proud to be German.

**December-** We were taken to the film, 'The Eternal Jew'. Jews are vermin! At today's meeting we had to discuss 'Mein Kampf'; we have a test on it tomorrow. It is Wednesday and I listened to the Hitler Youth educational hour on the radio. I learnt about the great German air ace in the First World War, Baron Manfred von Richthofen.

**1939**

**February-** I had a great week in a Hitler Youth hostel in Austria. We were learning how to be soldiers. I enjoyed the river crossing best- we had to build a raft. I have joined the Hitler Youth Rifle School. I now know how to look after a rifle.

**March-** I had to explain to my younger sister that the fairy story about Cinderella is really about a racially pure prince who rescues a pure princess from her alien unpure stepsisters. I will join the SA or army when I am eighteen.

**October-** I'm enjoying the war and am doing my bit for Germany. Yesterday we delivered the monthly ration cards. Today we painted the kerbs at each street corner white to help people cross the street during a black-out. We were told we will soon be going from house to house to collect scrap metal, bottles and paper.