German Youth Identity
Project Abstracts

OH# 4772
Narrator: Edith Badstubner
Status: Digital Audio; transcribed (84 pp)
Abstract
An oral history with Edith Badstübner, a former Bund Deutscher Mädel (League of German Girls, BDM) member during the Third Reich. This interview was conducted for the German Youth Identity in Nazi Germany, 1933-1945 Project, which later became the thesis titled The Making of Young Nazis: The Impact of Propaganda on German Girls and Boys, 1933 to 1945. The purpose of this interview was to better understand the lives of children who participated in the BDM and lived in Nazi German police state. Specifically, the interview covers Edith Badstübner’s life as a girl during Nazi Germany, her participation (or somewhat lack of participation) in BDM activities, meetings, and parades, and her understanding of Nazi propaganda. She describes how she refused to go to BDM meetings, and her perception and eventual rejection of Nazi ideology and propaganda, and German society in Berlin during the 1930’s. Edith Badstübner also discusses her experience in the early post-war era of Germany (specifically Berlin) and life in West Germany.

OH# 4773
Narrator: Hans-Karl Behrend
Status: Digital audio
Abstract
An oral history with Dr. Hans-Karl Behrend, a former Hitlerjugend (Hitler Youth, HJ) member during the Third Reich. This interview was conducted for the German Youth Identity in Nazi Germany, 1933-1945 Project, which later became the thesis titled The Making of Young Nazis: The Impact of Propaganda on German Girls and Boys, 1933 to 1945. The purpose of this interview was to better understand the lives of children who participated in the HJ. Specifically, the interview covers Dr. Hans-Karl Behrend’s life as a boy during Nazi Germany, his participation in HJ activities and meetings, and his understanding of Nazi propaganda. He describes how children interacted with authority figures, such as parents and HJ leaders, his understanding and perceptions of Nazi propaganda, German society in Berlin during the 1930’s. Dr. Hans-Karl Behrend also discusses his experience in the early post-war era of Germany (specifically Berlin) and life in West Germany.

OH# 4774
Narrator: Klaus Schwerk
Status: Digital audio
Abstract
An oral history with Klaus Schwerk, a former Hitlerjugend (Hitler Youth, HJ) member during the Third Reich. This interview was conducted for the German Youth Identity in Nazi Germany, 1933-1945 Project, which later became the thesis titled The Making of Young Nazis: The Impact of Propaganda on German Girls and Boys, 1933 to 1945. The purpose of this interview was to better understand the lives of children who participated in the HJ youth organization and lived in Nazi
German police state. Specifically, the interview covers Klaus Schwerk’s life as a boy during Nazi Germany, his participation in HJ activities, and meetings, and his understanding of Nazi propaganda. He describes how the HJ appealed to boys, and his perception and understanding of Nazi ideology and propaganda, and German society during the 1930’s. Klaus Schwerk also discusses his experience in the early post-war era of Germany (specifically Berlin) and life in a divided Germany.