

Streicher, Julius

(1856--1946), Nazi Party leader and founder of *Der stuermer*, the Nazi weekly newspaper.

Streicher was born in Augsburg, Bavaria. He became an elementary school teacher, and distinguished himself during World War I for brave military service. He was eventually removed from his teaching position for inappropriate behavior; among other things, Streicher had his students shout "heil hitler" when he entered the classroom.

Streicher was one of the founders of the German Socialist Party, which soon united with the Nazi Party. He then served as a member of the Bavarian legislature from 1924--1932. When Hitler came to power in January 1933, Streicher was elected to represent the Nazi Party in the German parliament (Reichstag). He soon held the rank of general in the Storm Troopers (SA). Streicher used his influence to keep Jews out of public places, and tried to convince the authorities to institute ghettos.

Streicher, a rabid antisemite, founded his newspaper, *Der Stuermer*, in 1923. The name *Der Stuermer* means "The Attacker," and Streicher used the paper as a forum for violently attacking Jews. Every issue contained stories about how Jews had attacked and stolen from Germans, killed Jesus, raped young girls, and other such antisemitic, pornographic drivel. Some Nazi leaders felt the need to disassociate themselves from Streicher, who was constantly plagued with libel suits, bad business deals, and pornographic scandals. They even closed down the newspaper in Nuremberg, where Streicher had his main following. In 1939 Hitler forbid him from making public statements representing the Nazis and in 1940 Hermann Goering launched an investigation into Streicher's dealings. As a result of this investigation, Streicher was removed from all party positions.

After the war Streicher was discovered and arrested by American soldiers. He was convicted at the Nuremberg trials of crimes against humanity and sentenced to death. As Streicher was about to be hanged on October 16, 1946, he shouted out the words "*Heil Hitler*" and "*Purimfest*," alluding to the

Jewish festival of Purim, which recalls the Jews' victory over their enemy Haman, who was also hanged.