

(b) (i)

From his birth in Mannheim in 1905 in Germany, ^{Albert} Speer grew to be one of the leading members of the National Socialist Party (NAZI) that took Germany by storm after World War I.

At an early age, Speer was faced with a terribly destructive family.

In his memoirs: Inside The Third Reich, Speer lays claims to being bullied as a child and his relation with his parents being very poor.

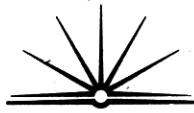
None the less, Speer followed his Dad's advice to be an architect (as he was) and not a mathematician, which Speer wanted to be. It was his studies as an architect that would later



give him the ability to be needed by the Nazi Party and also contribute greatly to him being noticed by Hitler.

After the completion of his tertiary studies, Speer was offered a job to work as an assistant at the university he had been studying. This eventually led to Speer being invited to a party rally of the Nazis ⁱⁿ ~~at the end of the~~ ¹⁹³¹ ~~1920's~~, by his students. Speer comments in Inside the Third Reich, that he knew little about politics and was simply captured by the aura of Hitler at this rally. Due to his visit, Speer joined the Nazi party on 1st March 1931 and became member number 474 481. Later he discovered that his mother, though his father being strictly Democratic, had also joined.

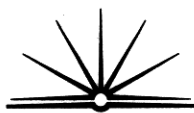
It was his birth in the Nazi Party that started Speer's quick rise within the ranks. He ~~was~~ quickly became Troost's assistant (Hitler's original architect) and worked on things such as the rebuilding of Goebbels' ministry. It wasn't until the rebuilding of the Reich Chancellery and Hitler's headquarters that Speer became noticed by Hitler in 1933. This eventually led to Hitler and Speer becoming very close. He commented at the Nuremberg trials that "if Hitler had a friend... it would have been me." After Troost's death, Speer became Hitler's architect and between 1933 to 1942, he was the GBI for the rebuilding of Berlin, involved in building the Berlin Stadium for the Olympics in 1936, involved in the "law of ruins" project



along with the building of industries and many other features. By 1942, Hitler had taken a great liking to Speer and frequently went over plans with him on the rebuilding of Berlin.

It was after 1942 and Speer's appointment to Armaments Minister that Speer began his real involvement in the War Effort. As Minister for Armaments and Munitions ~~of the Todt~~ or Speer re-organised the War Effort to ~~increase~~^{increase} its capacity. He did this efficiently and improved on the mistakes of Todt who had died in a plane crash and whom Speer replaced.

It is this primary role that landed Speer at the Nuremberg Trials after the war, defending



himself along with 20 other Nazis about his role in the Final Solution: The Mass Extermination of an estimated 6 million innocent Jews.

After convenient tactics of accepting General responsibility for the Nazi war crimes, Speer escaped the hangman's noose and was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for his use of slave labour during his time as Minister for Armaments. His sentence began in the mid-1940's and he served everyday of his sentence in Spandau Prison.