

**Chart 41 | The German Labour Front (DAF for Deutsche Arbeitsfront) – the “Organisation of all Working People”**

Reportedly it was from Adolf Hitler that Robert Ley received the commission to take over the trade unions. During the “storming of the trade unions” on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 1933, leading trade unionists were arrested, abused and some of them were killed. Under the leadership of Ley, the German Labour Front, founded on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May, confiscated the property, the commercial enterprises and took over the members of the trade unions. It was only the General German Federation of Trade Unions owned 500 Million Reichsmark. The DAF was a coercive organisation for all “working Germans – intellectuals and workers”. Employees, businessmen and free lancers were gathered under the roof of this institution. The number of the DAF-members increased from 1933 to 1943 to approximately 23 Million people. The payments of contribution in 1942 alone mounted up to 642 Million Reichsmark. This way the DAF became, member-wise and financially, the strongest organisation of the “Third Reich”.

In terms of representing the interests of the employees, the DAF wasn’t a union. It didn’t command any executive authorities and, on the part of the government, didn’t get a voice in concerns of employment law and pay scale. Its duties were supervision, control and tranquillisation of the employees and ideological training. The ultimate ambition of the DAF was to build a “people and power community for all Germans”. For this purpose, it established an extensive network of caring facilities, controlling nearly all life spheres up to leisure time activities.

The DAF ideologically pursued the concept of assuming internal agreements, as a condition for the external ability to handle conflicts. The promised appreciation of the worker, holiday offers, KdF wagon and the three bed room flat were compensation for stagnating wages and the destruction of the unions. These strategies were embedded in an ideology of alleged equality for all Germans. Not the social origin but the individual capacity was supposed to be decisive. The practice of the DAF changed between “allurement” and “coercion”. But even the attractive elements included strong controlling traits, such as the holidays envisaged for Prora. Even though the DAF only partially corresponded to the worker’s requirements, with its offers and the propaganda it contributed to the stabilisation of the system.



**1.** Strongholds Sachsen, Berlin and Düsseldorf. Number of DAF members compared to the total population. Based on the ratings after December 1936. Annual report of the DAF, 1936.

*Federal Archive Berlin*

**2** . The German Labour Front strived for an omnipotent position. A letter from the Representative Staff Leader of the Führer, Martin Bormann, to the Chief of the Reich's Chancellery, Hans Heinrich Lammers, 15<sup>th</sup> of February, from the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 1938.

*Federal Archive Berlin*

**3** . Growing membership of the German Labour Front. The number of individual members of the DAF from 1935 and 1936. Annual report of the DAF, 1936

*Federal Archive Berlin*

**4.** Increasing contributions. Monthly average contribution of the DAF members 1935 and 1936. Annual report of the DAF, 1936.

*Federal Archive Berlin*

**5.** Advertisement to motivate joining of the DAF. Disguising the apparent differences.

*Federal Archive Koblenz*

**6.** Where are the DAF contributions? Transcript from a letter by the representative of the Führer to the Reich's Leader Ley, 13<sup>th</sup> of September 1939.

*Federal Archive Berlin*

**7** . Advertisement for joining the DAF. Disguising the apparent differences, propaganda poster of the DAF.

*Federal Archive Koblenz*

**8.** Assimilation and rewriting of work songs („Brothers of the Sun, of Freedom“). DAF exhibition, „Healthy Living, Joyous Work“, 1938

*Federal Archive Koblenz*

**9.** Voluntary membership: Contribution or wage decrease? Transcript from Reich's Leader Ley to the leader of the Party Chancellery, Martin Bormann, 17<sup>th</sup> February 1943.

*Federal Archive Berlin*

**10.** Performance report of the DAF „Guarantee for the People's Community“

*Arbeitertum, 1935*

## **z1** To the grave

Robert Ley, „What does the German Labour Front want?“, Gummersbach 1933

“While the old state was a Night Watch man, our State is an Educational State, a pedagogue, a fatherly friend. It accompanies its citizens, from the cradle to the grave. As such we will already start with children, who when they are three years old and already able to think, will be given a flag to carry. This will be followed by school, the Hitler Youth, the SA and military service. We will not let go of them and when everything is completed, the Labour Front will embrace the people time and time again and will not let them go until the grave. May they try to struggle against it!”

*Robert Ley, “What does the German Labour Front want?”, 1933*

## **z2** Decreasing trust in the German Labour Front

The report from the SD outpost in Bad Neustadt (District Main Frankonia), 14<sup>th</sup> of March 1941.

*„The ambiance in these circles is satisfactory. A sense of trust towards the High Command is there. However, there are isolated pockets of distrust that claim that during the war, a new big wig society has established itself and that no concern is given to the People's Community. In some circles one can see that there is little to no trust towards the workforce and no trust towards the work committee or to the DAF. Some go so far as to claim that the DAF is an organisation that is more interested in taking money from the average worker and supporting the employers.*

*Martin Broszat/Elke Fröhlich/Falk Wiesemann (Hg.), Bayern during the NS Era, 1977*

## **z3** “From the Plebs to the Lord” - Social Imperial Ideology of the DAF

*“We have suffered long enough and we have hungered and we tried to do replace everything that world has kept from us, through hard work and diligence.”*

*“We will spring the chains and tear apart the bonds. A folk of 80 million will march into the future and into the world. We became a People of the World, through the power of our bravery and the courage of our Soldier. We all want to live and we also want to experience wealth one day.”*

*“When someone preaches that poverty does not hurt, we reply: Wealth is Better!”*

*“From the plebs to the Lord! From the bourgeois limitations to the wide world! This is the parole of the German Folk of the present. That this parole is realized, and serves us as a belief system for the next thousand years of German history, this the Führer, Adolf Hitler will guarantee.”*

*Robert Ley, “From the plebs to the Lord!” 1940*

## **z4** The DAF Recruits Members

*It is a known fact that the workers under “gentle” pressure are forced to join the DAF. It was initially during the beginning of March that around 15,000 Thüringer Mining employees and friends joined that DAF. The public comment to this is, “It is a sign of pride and dignity that our Miners, who are receiving minimal loans yet still maintain a sense of unity.” How does such a bond develop? We will quote a letter, “The Labour Front is releasing new membership books. Every follower is given the task to ensure that his work force is included in the Labour front. It is emphasized that membership in the DAF is voluntary. But just as important is it to state that individuals who do not wish to join the organisation should and must be laid off. It is by this method that the DAF may boast a 100% victory statistic regarding its unstoppable progress. For no one wants to suffer the consequences that consist of lengthier periods of unemployment and intimidation.*

Report on the situation in the group New Beginning from January/February 1936

*Bernd Stöver, Reports concerning the Situation in Germany, 1996*

## Chart. 42 | Robert Ley – A Biography

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 1933 Ley led the divestiture of the trade unions, in the same year he achieved a jump in his career. He became the head of the DAF. Ley constantly tried to enlarge the DAF's sphere of control and competence which led to numerous conflicts with the respective "Reichs - Ministries". The DAF-empire that developed after 1933 was marked by Ley's vision of an omnipresent organisation re-educating and supervising the Germans. Even though Ley was the head of the DAF he wasn't commanding executive functions for a long time.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 1940, his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, Ley received the "commission of the Führer" to work out plans for a broad "charity of the German people". Very soon he could present first proposals worked out by the Ergonomic Institute of the German Labour front. In these proposals his basic ideological intent was reflected: He proclaimed the advancement of the German worker from the "proletarian to the master" – at the expense of the occupied territories and their population.

In November 1940 Ley was appointed to the "Reichs-commissar for the social housing scheme – proclamation, a position that involved gain in power. Ley commanded far reaching authorities now, which were even extended in 1942 when Hitler appointed him to the "Reichswohnungskommissar". All authorities that were connected to the state housing scheme were assigned to Ley.

After his advancement Ley was afforded a highly luxurious life style. He was considered as mentally unstable and his state degraded towards the end of the war. Ley's alcoholism was known in public and led to the name "Reichstrunkenbold" ("Reichs-drunkard"). At the end of the war American troops arrested him. Ley was meant to be indicted at the trial of main war criminals in Nuremberg but abdicated his responsibility by committing suicide on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 1945 before the trial started.



1. Ley promised the German workers the potential rise to becoming a „Gentleman“-however, at the expense of the excluded and the occupied countries.

*Robert Ley, Vom Proleten zum Herrn!, 1940*

2. Ley around 1940

Otto Marrenbach, *The Fundamentals of Victory*, 1940

**3.** Robert Ley around 1933

*Federal Archive Koblenz*

**4.** Ley during the departure of the „Monte Olivia“, 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 1934 Hamburg.

*Federal Archive Koblenz*

**5** . Rumours regarding Ley's lifestyle. Secret memorandum from the DAF Department, 16<sup>th</sup> of July 1936.

*Federal Archive Berlin*

**6** . Even party officials began to have doubts regarding Ley's mental stability. Report from the Chief of the Security Police to the Higher SS and Police Leader in Danzig West Prussia, 9<sup>th</sup> of September 1942.

*Federal Archive Berlin*

**z1** Disturbing Self Perception

Unsent letter from Ley, to Sir Henry Ford, Detroit USA, 17th of August 1945

Sir! You might have heard of my name from the Press and Broadcasting associations. Also, you may know, that I constructed the Volks Wagon Factory and that I have planned the Tractor Factory as well. Furthermore, I am the founder and supervisor of the German Social Order, the German Labour Front and the free time organisation "Strength Through Joy". You will also know of my success within this area.

Now I am willing to do the same in your great factories. I am a prisoner, however, have committed no crime, other than publish and write books and essays against the Jews, as you would have done yourself. I have done it with the most divine of convictions, for my people.

I have committed no other crime, this I swear. In the interest of my social ideals and also the interests of my unfortunate people, I am prepared to do anything against the Jews. So, please let me work. I had great plans, especially with hindsight, for Volks Wagon, joy and Labour.

Sincerely, Dr. Robert Ley

*Federal Archive Koblenz*

**z2** No More Private Affairs!

No, in Germany there is no such thing as private affairs anymore. When you sleep, then this is your sole privacy, for when you wake up and come in contact with other people you must be reminded of the fact that you are a soldier of Adolf Hitler and must therefore live according to specific regulations, regardless if you are a worker, civilian and administrator. Individual privacy no longer exists. The days where people could and would do whatever they wanted are over. We laugh at the liberal approach; we no longer wish to recognize it. A soldier must obey.

*Robert Ley, Soldier of Work, 1939*

### **z3** Suicide

Impeachment Speech of Robert H. Jackson, Main Accuser of the USA, from the 21<sup>st</sup> of November, 1945.

Robert Ley, the Field Marshal in the battle against the workforce, has answered our lawsuit charge by committing suicide. Apparently he knew no better answer.

*The lawsuit against the main war criminals form the International Military Court, 1948*

### **z4** Crude Anti- Semitism

The ritual murder is no fairy tale. The Jew must and will try to satisfy his desire for blood. Seeing as his blood is corrupted and due to his parasitical nature, lives of the blood of his Host Race. In order to do this, he must commit ritual murders. We will hear about this time and time again. Throughout the millennia this has persisted. The Jew is not a substantial race, he is not a mongrel or a bastard, he is parasite.

*Robert Ley: Fact, 1936*

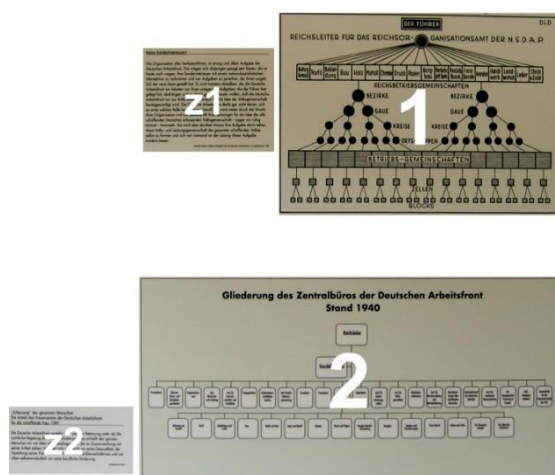
## Chart. 43 | Structure and Duties of the German Labour Front (DAF)

The DAF was an enclosed association of the NSDAP and subordinated to the party. This tight connection shows in the distribution of top positions in both organisations. Top-level functionaries had the same position in the NSDAP as in the DAF. For example, Robert Ley was Reichs Leader of the DAF in dual role with Reichs- Organisational Leader of the NSDAP.

The DAF had the task to keep record and monitor the people at their work places. The companies - the smallest organisational units beside street cells and blocks, which were controlled by single members – ranked among the main fields of activity. Apart from the operational anchoring, the vertical construction of the DAF followed the structure of the NSDAP: local, district and regional administration departments were established. The supreme authority was the headquarter of the DAF with the Reichs Leader on top. Ley was subordinated only to Hitler.

Very important for the strategic alignment and the concrete policy of the DAF were the charges of the headquarter. Assigned departments would focus on specific areas within the economy. Additionally, intersectoral offices working task-oriented were furnished such as the youth welfare office, the office for national health or the National Socialist organisation “Strength through Joy”. It was only during the war, that the structures would be simplified: Thenceforth the operational areas were structured analogically to the central war areas. Beside the centrally subordinated facilities, several other specific organisations were corporately enclosed to the DAF: The Reichskulturkammer, the Reichsarbeitsdienst, the organisation of the industrial economy as well as the associations of doctors and pharmacists. Jurists, teachers and the public servants were also included.

The structure of the DAF gives information about its duties: The facilities were meant to organise, supervise and control all people – young and old – working in industry or public service. The ultimate ambitions were “the overcoming of the class struggle”, the preservation of social peace and the creation of a “people’s and achievement community” in the companies. The working “Aryan” Germans were promised a better, socially equitable future which was meant to be realised, in the end, at the expenses of large parts of the population and the occupied countries.



1 . Vertical structuring of the German Labour Front

*State Archive Berlin*

2 . Outline by the „Brain of the German Labour Front“. (Ley)

*Otto Marrenbach, The Fundamentals of Victory, 1940*

**z1 No Special Interests!**

The process of organizing everyone is solely the function and duty of the German Labour Front. This is orientated towards those have the audacity to disguise their own special interests with the mantel of national socialism and to claim that the State has given them this assignment. It is usually always those, who wish to avoid the duties that have been assigned to them by the Führer, that wish to degrade the role of the People's Community to that of a 'drummer boy'. The German Labour Front is not even going to consider stooping down to that level. Indeed, it will continue onwards, using the power of its organisation and the credibility of its accomplishments to, so to speak, drum people together. It will also take upon itself the duty to mold to whole People's community and to let no one hinder them in reaching this goal.

*Gerhard Starcke, What Duty does the German Labour Front Have? 1936*

**z2 Registration of the Whole Population.**

The Labour of the 'Woman's Administration of the German Labour Front', for the working woman, 1941

The German Work Front understands by social support more than simply the regulation of the law. It includes all people with all manner of living expectation that are associated with his work. It is concerned about his health, the manner in which he conducts his free time, his family affairs and structure and most importantly his career demands.

*Federal Archive Berlin*



## Chart. 44 | The Social Welfare Office of the German Labour Front (DAF) – The Office for Employment of Labour

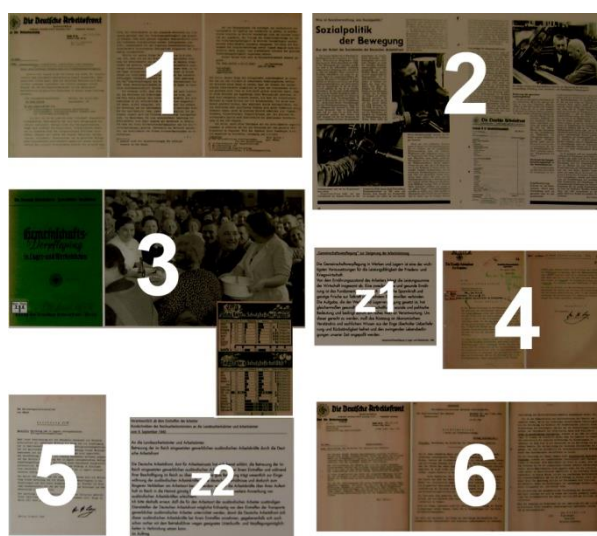
At first the social welfare office of the DAF was in charge of general problems regarding social safety and care. Among the duties of this institution were ranked employment and social laws, including problems regarding social insurance. Wage and tariff policy, employment protection as well as women's work and home work, were also tackled issues. In negotiations with the ministerial bureaucracy about the realisation of own conceptions the office mostly remained unsuccessful.

The duties soon changed to different fields such as the construction and the use of work camps. This specific form of organisational labour gained increasing significance. In April 1938 a department was founded to supervise the workers accommodated in camps. The department attended to the development of camp structures. The social welfare office, together with the "Beauty of Labour" department, designed living barracks and looked after the nutrition in the camps.

Because of this competence change in August 1940, the social welfare office was renamed "The Office for Employment of Labour". It took over the supervision of the foreign industrial workers. In March 1942 Fritz Sauckel was appointed to the chief representative for the employment of labour. The responsibilities of the office would be confirmed. The office was in charge of the entire foreign manpower working in the "Reich" and for the forced labourers.

The supervision basically concerned the planning and realisation of the organisational framework of nutrition, clothing or health services. Questions regarding cultural and athletic care were also included – for example magazines were printed for foreign workers. Of particular importance was the development of a snitches- an espionage network that was supposed to strengthen control and to avoid acts of sabotage. Apart from that the office looked after special problems: It organised amongst others brothel barracks for the foreign workers in order to avoid the contact to German women.

The immense importance of the administrative, organisational and co-ordination tasks, that were incumbent upon the DAF, becomes apparent in view of the statistical data: In the summer of 1944 more than 3.6 million foreign industrial workers lived and worked in Germany.



1 . Dividing the workers according to social groups. A newsletter from the Department of Employment to the DAF, 15<sup>th</sup> of January 1941.

*Federal Archive Berlin*

2 . Uninfluential social politicians.

*Arbeitertum, 1937*

3. Propaganda guide for “Community Provisions”.

*Community Provision within Warehouses and Factory Kitchens, 1940*

4. Mass provisions via German Labour Front. A letter from Robert Ley to Adolf Hitler, 17<sup>th</sup> of April 1942.

*Federal Archive Berlin*

5. Provisions regarding the development of the Wehrmacht. Order from the Reich's Organisational Leader of the NSDAP, Robert Ley, 6<sup>th</sup> of April 1938.

*Federal Archive Berlin*

6. Brothels for foreign workers. A secret letter from the DAF Department of Employment, 21<sup>st</sup> of January 1941.

*Federal Archive Berlin*

**z1** “Social Provisions” to increase the Labour result.

The social provision in factories and warehouses is one of the most important requirements for the performance strength of our Peace and War economy. The nourishment condition of the workers determines the efficiency of the economy.

A healthy and efficient diet is the foundation with which a physical and mental freshness can motivate one to better results. The assignments that are given in factories and warehouses, has both social, political and economic meaning and bears a strong sense of responsibility. In order to live up to these expectations, the armament must get rid of the old shackles which are outdated and embrace the new living conditions of the time.

*Social Provision in Warehouses and Factories, 1940*

**z2** Responsible with the Arrival of the Workers

To the regional Labour Office

Care Taking of the Foreign Labour force, deployed by the German Labour Front within in the Reich.

The German Labour Front has agreed to supervise the foreign work force during their arrival and stay in Germany. A good care taking contributes to the acclimatization of the foreign workforce to the German work conditions and therefore increases the likelihood that they will wish to remain. Also, the workers will have positive things to report in to their home countries, meaning that it will be easier to employ foreign workers. I ask again, that the German Labour Front department, that is responsible for the workspace of the incoming foreign labourers, discuss the proper accommodation and catering with the factory leader, prior to the arrival of the workers.

By order, Dr. Timm

Newsletter from the Reich's Department of Employment to the Regional Labour of Exchange Office, 9<sup>th</sup> of September 1940 ,

*Reichsarbeitsblatt, Teil I, 1940)*

**Chart. 45 | The Women’s Office of the German Labour Front (DAF)**

The National Socialist ideology dictated to women primarily the role as mother. In view of the unemployment they were supposed to be completely dedicated to their own household. With the increasing lack of manpower in the course of armament and war, the Nazi-regime had to increasingly rely on women’s work. The women’s office was in charge of more than 5 Million female members of the DAF. The office lead by Reichsfrauenführerin Gertrud Scholtz-Klink had at its disposal a tight network of female employees. The women’s office’s duties included the women’s employment protection, the maternal leaf, the social supervision at work as well as training in economy and housekeeping. A central concern was the female training at the workplace in sanitary and hygienic regards, with particular consideration to motherhood. So called “race hygiene”, would also be addressed.

After the war had started the women’s office supported the forced professional life for women and took measurements to intensify work and organise children’s care facilities. The seemingly women-friendly engagement of the DAF, in the end, aimed at using women in the armament production. The working women were supposed to harmonically combine family and work because their hand was needed in two ways: for the upbringing of the “Aryan” offspring and for the armament.

The women’s office directed and controlled “social female workers” who were supposed to be engaged in every company occupying more than 250 female workers. The “social female workers” aimed to reveille “work ethic” and “joy of work”. In practice this meant urging women into regular work. Additionally, they were supposed to solve problems within the “Work Community”, particularly tensions between masters and female workers. Conflicts would repeatedly occur within the firms that paid the women who intended to use them for their own interests. The big corporate groups though fended the influence of the DAF on internal processes.

The “Woman’s Factory Group” constituted the female elite of the DAF in the companies. They were supposed to support the “Social Factory Worker’s” supervision and were considered as reliable. This kind of “Female Sub leader -Corps” was meant to guarantee the work discipline of the female workers.



1 . Companies protect themselves from the Social Female Workers. A letter from the Social Bureau of the DAF to the Reich's Industrial Group, Dr. Lohmann, 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 1937.

*Federal Archive Berlin*

2 . "A Man's Love leads through his stomach."

*Arbeitertum, 1935*

3 . Supervision and control of the women via social factory workers.

*Arbeitertum, 1939*

4 . Companies protesting against the influence of the Female Workers Department. A letter from the Economic Chamber Westfalen und Lippe, to the Reich's Group Industry, 1<sup>st</sup> of August, 1939.

*Federal Archive Berlin*

## **z1** Emancipation was never a Goal

A speech by the manager of the Woman's Administration of the DAF, Getrud Scholtz Clinic during the negotiations with the Reich's Industry Group on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1936.

The goals... is never to allow the woman to organize herself in order to embody a counterbalance to the woman's movement or to make her a representative of specific woman's rights. The goal of our woman's organisation is to make use of the powers that a woman has in making herself useful in all areas of life. She must not be forced to do this; she must want to do it willingly. She must feel a great, even noble sense of pride towards the gifts that she has to offer her Folk. We do not want a political woman in the traditional sense, who argues with her husband. We never want a situation that is Man Versus Woman. We want the collabouration between man and woman on a fair and ground level. However, we also want the woman who stands next to her fellow man and knows her place.

*Federal Archive Berlin*

## Chart. 46 | The Office for Vocational Education and Factory Leadership of the German Labour Front (DAF)

The DAF-office for vocational education and factory leadership arose in 1935 out of the German institute for technical work training (DINTA) which had been established on the initiative of the heavy industry and was incorporated into the DAF in 1933. The head of the office was Karl Arnhold, leader of the former DINTA.

Arnhold committed himself to the idea that the “Betriebsgemeinschaft” was to be considered as an element of the “People’s Community”. He demanded of the employee’s voluntary obedience and fidelity. From the factory leaders he demanded a “proper solidary attitude” and duteness. Work, to Arnhold, meant “well-fortified work”: Workers as well as soldiers, were based on pugnacious dispositions which characterized the Germans. Those ideological premises were considered in the realisation of the office’s duties: the selection of apprentices and apprenticeship training as well as the professional direction, simple schooling, the setup of training workshops and the edition of teaching material were subjected to the mentioned ideology. Furthermore, the office was responsible for the vocational training of adults as well as for the restructuring of factories and measurements for operational output increase.

Concerning the target of creating a “People’s Community” the training workshops that were re-functionalised in places of National Socialist education and indoctrination were of particular relevance. Paramilitary elements found their way into the workshops - Arnhold called them “parade ground of the practical life”. The office hoped for similarly disciplining effects in basic courses that they were developing. Particularly the basic course “iron educates” attracted attention. It was supposed to be completed not only by prospective skilled workers from the metal and electronic industry but by all young aspiring apprentices.

The “Volkswagen”-Plant in Braunschweig were skilled workers who were trained as the prestige project. It was founded by the office of vocational education and factory leadership. Arnhold held the view that the training workshop of the “Volkswagen”-Plant was the ideal “trend setting pattern for the entire industry”. In the out work, the technical training was tightly combined with character and ideological schooling.



1 . Advertisement from the DAF, promoting occupational training, 1937.

Federal Archive Koblenz

**2.** The training workshop of VW was often seen as a role model. Training shop of the factory in Braunschweig, 1939.

*Volkswagen AG*

**3** . Strict choices based on achievement. Sheet showing the efficiency of the apprentices. The basic course, "Iron Educates".

*Federal Archive Berlin*

**4** . The department also received interest from certain notables. Göring and Ley visit the building model for the DAF Department for Vocational Education, in Berlin Zehlendorf. Left: Karl Arnhold, far left: Ferdinand Porsche, 3rd of November 1938.

*Picture Archive of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation*

**5** . Increase in efficiency was the highest goal.

*Arbeitertum, 1939*

**6** . Theory lessons within the Braunschweig VW factory.

*Volkswagen AG*

**7** . Good conduct was mandatory. A sheet for evaluating results at the work place of the „Iron Educates“ course.

*Federal Archive Berlin*

**z1** Military life serving as the foundation for "being German".

The soldierly attitude which is revealed during defensive Labour, is nothing else except the expression of the National Socialist work principle: commitment of personality and dedication towards the self assertion of our folk identify this stance. This also includes comradeship, cooperation, responsibility and diligence. This militant attitude has its roots in the army and is mirrored in the factories, even if the goal and purpose of both facilities are different.

*Karl Arnhold, Leadership within the Factory, Berlin/Vienna, 1941*

**z2** The „Slavish Obedience inside the Barracks“ within the National Socialist Vocational Education- Report from the SPD from April/May 1938

The National Socialist vocational education, is a progression of the DINTA System, supplemented by the mysticism of the national socialist belief system and the „slavish obedience“ of the barracks.

Within the DINTA circle, the struggle for the soul of the worker was emphasized and the national socialist education via the Young Folk, the Hitler Youth and the DAF ruthlessly chains the working youth to the totalitarian requirements of the regime.

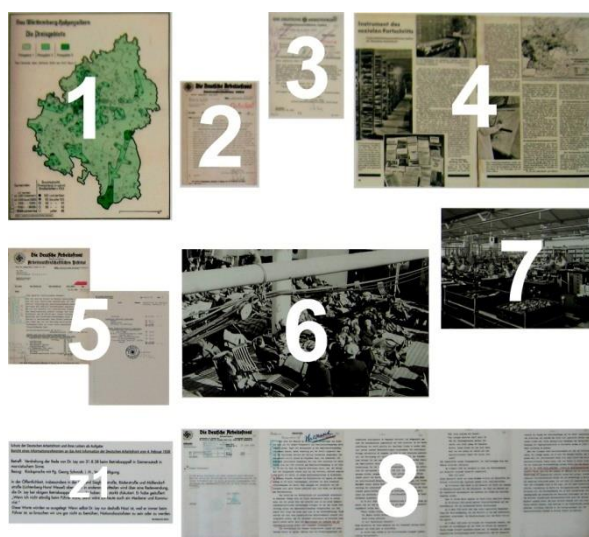
*Germany Reports, The Social Democratic Party of Germany (SoPaDe) 1934-1940, 1980.*

## Chart. 47 | Social Engineering and Social Control

Next to numerous DAF-administrators, DAF-spokesmen and dedicated people inside the factories, two offices assured the social control within the DAF sphere. They were the Ergonomic Institute (AWI) on the political and theoretic-ideological level and the “Information” office, which concerned itself with direct conflicts within the company.

From spring 1935 onwards, the employees of the AWI dealt with the solution of social and politico-economic questions. Up to 1940 the institute developed into one of the biggest research facilities in Europe. The purpose of the AWI was to socially engineer a “domestic political crisis intervention”. Despite the stagnating wages the social peace was meant to be preserved and the labour force potential mobilized for war preparations. The extensive tasks were the following: The institute was supposed to locate hot spots and to re-define the relation of wage and performance. Working out proposals to stabilize the “home front” or to increase the “efficiency” of foreign forced labourers was also part of the agenda. Largely planned post war programmes such as the “retirement pension scheme” promised a higher German standard of living based on the exploitation of the captured countries after the “ultimate victory”.

In autumn 1933 an extensive information and snitch apparatus emerged within the DAF which, in summer 1934 was developed into the “Information” office – an autonomous DAF-office. The staff of the regional administrations (Gauwaltungen) consisted of “Gau-Information-Referents”, and next to them “district or local referents” and “Contact Men”. The focal points of the office “information” concerned observation and elimination of the labour movement. Also important were control and security duties within the DAF-apparatus, such as the persecution of critics or the fight against intended infiltration by elements of the left. The domestic political crisis that began to show at the turn of 1935/36 resulted in a tightened persecution of the remained labour movement. Up to the middle of 1936 the office “information” saved its central role in view of observation of staffs and the internal security within the DAF-apparatus. As a result of the “insufficient” solutions during the wave of strikes in June/July 1936 the office had to give this area of responsibility to the Chief Security Agency of the Third Reich (SD). In March 1938 Ley ordered the dissolution of his intelligence service.



1. Increase in prices was used as a means of social control.

*AWI-Yearbook, 1940/41 II*



**2** . Extensive plans for a progressive pension scheme.

A letter from the leader of the Awl, Wolfgang Pohl, to the Chancellor of the Führer, Head Official Viktor Brack, 19th of April 1940.

*Federal Archive Berlin*

**3.** Due to the increasing intensity of the war, Labour force from eastern Europe would become high in demand. A letter from the Leader of the Awl, Wolfgang Pohl, to State Secretary Syrup of the Reich's Ministry of Labour, 22nd of May 1943.

*Federal Archive Berlin*

**4.** Insight into the activities of the Ergonomic Institute.

*Arbeitertum, 1940*

**5** . Great strain on wage incomes due to deductions.

A letter from the Department of Labour and National Economy of the Awl, Theodor Bühler, to the Head Officials Mehnert, 21st of November 1936.

*Federal Archive Berlin*

**6** . The members of the Information Ministry also supervised the members of the KdF-Travels. KdF- Cruise to Madeira, Passengers on the Sun Deck.

*Photo: Heinrich Hoffmann, Picture Archive Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation*

**7.** The snitches of the ministry are mainly active within the Industrial sector. A view inside the Pollux Arms Factory, 1938.

*German Historical Museum*

**8** . Spying on workers in the factories. A letter from the Staff Department of the DAF, to the head of the DAF's Ministry of Information, Felix Schmidt, 19<sup>th</sup> of June 1936.

*Federal Archive Berlin*

**z1** Assignment for the Protection of the German Labour Front and its Leadership.

Subject Matter: The distortion of the speech by Dr. Ley during the factory roll call in Siemensstadt within a Marxist perspective, 31.8.1938.

Reference: Consultation with the Party Comrade, i. H.

In the general public, especially in the areas of Siegfriedstraße, Röderstraße und Möllendorfstraße (Lichtberg- Horst Wessel), discussions have arisen regarding a phrase mentioned by Dr. Ley, during the factory roll call.

He is said to have stated: "If I would not have constantly met with the Führer, then I too would be a complainer and a communist". These words were interpreted in the following way: If Dr. Ley is only a Nazi, because he constantly met with the Führer, then there is no point in trying to be a National Socialist.

*Report from an Information Consultant, sent to the Information Bureau of the German Labour Front, 4th of February 1938.*

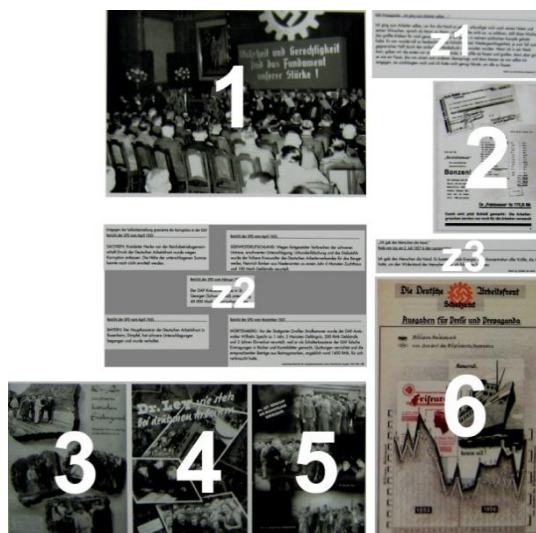


## Chart. 48 | Image Cultivation and Popularisation of the DAF

The German Labour Front was explicitly designed not to assume union duties. A representation of the worker's interests in tariff questions was not envisaged. Nevertheless, the DAF managed itself as the "better" union and as a regulative factor. It claimed endowing commonness and community towards the workers as opposed to the old trade unions of the Weimar Republic which, it blamed for corruption and the fragmentation of the labour movement. On the outside, the DAF used an anti-capitalist attitude in order not to appear as the "Cinderella" of the companies, as Ley once described the target.

The DAF pretended to understand the special problems of the people working in industry and production and to care for all concerns of the workers. This impression was supposed to be confirmed by Ley's trips to German companies, when he – in a public-symbolic gesture – shook the workers' hands. The impression of relatedness was meant to be communicated also by the permanent presence of DAF members in the companies.

The DAF celebrated itself in the mass-deployments of the Nuremberg Rallies and on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, the Labour Day and in the public-oriented "Reich"-conferences. Also important for the image-cultivation were mass campaigns or the initiatives "Beauty of Labour". The events were meant to symbolize the dynamics of the organisation and to suggest possibilities of influence. Apart from that, the DAF procured entry to the public consciousness by massive propaganda. The organisation owned a daily newspaper and several general magazines; it edited books and brochures and advertised with posters, exhibitions as well as broadcasts and films. Despite the staged presentation in the media the DAF didn't advance to a popular organisation – popular was "Strength through Joy". On the ideological level the organisation entered success based on the strategy to wake the workers' hope for advancement and to promise them a better future within the "People's Community", which was meant to be realised mainly on the expense of the excluded and the subdued peoples. The time after the (won) war was meant to be characterised by wealth, social advancement, saved retirement benefits and the access to mass consumption such as the purchase of a "Volkswagen" and other "people's" products. However, most important would be the recreational activities offered via "Strength through Joy".



1. Independent jurisdiction of the DAF: „Truth and Justice?“ A festival in honoring the opening of the Supreme Court of Honor and Discipline of the DAF. The orator is Adrian von Renteln, Chairman of the Supreme Court, 1936.

*Federal Archive Koblenz*

**2** . Defamation of a former Union Leader.

*Arbeitertum, 1933*

**3,4,5** . Ley likes to be seen together with other worker for propaganda purposes. Joy and Labour, 1940; *Federal Archive*

**6** . Despite a high level of press and propaganda, the DAF would remain unpopular. Expenses of the DAF for press and propaganda purposes between 1935 to 1936. Annual report of the DAF, 1936.

*Federal Archive Berlin*

**z1** DAF Propaganda: "I went personally to the worker..."

I personally went to the worker in order to shake his hand. I inquired about his needs and his wishes and spoke to him, man to man. And I am not standing to simply proclaim that this week was one of the greatest experiences that I have ever had in my political battle. It is wonderful to observe how a simple handshake can overcome shyness, depression and to a certain degree hate of the opposition. When I went into a factory, I noticed that people would grudgingly give me their hands, that I had to grab and grip their hands. But then it jumped like fire, from one person to another person. Then they would voluntarily come to me, surrounding me. In the end I did not have enough hands to shake with everyone.

*Robert Ley, The German Labour Front, 1934*

**z2** Contradicting its own image; rumors of corruption within the DAF, Report from April 1935

Report from the SPD April 1935

SOUTH WEST GERMANY: due to consistent crimes regarding severe disloyalty, concealment, forgery of documents and robbery, the former regional administrator Heinrich Bimber from Niedersimten was sentenced to 6 months prison and received a 100 Mark fine.

Report from the SPD from April 1935

SAXONY: The DAF's Regional Leader Henke from the "Reich's Factory Community for Printing" was fired due to corruption. The height of the stolen sum cannot be determined yet.

BAYERN: The Head Cashier of the German Labour Front in Rosenheim, Dimpfel has committed serious embezzlement and has been arrested.

Report from the SPD, February 1936

DAF Regional Leader Jäckle in St. George (Black Forrest) concealed 40,000 Mark of organisation funds.

Report from the SPD, November 1937

WÜRTTEMBERG: The Criminal Chamber of Stuttgart has sentenced the DAF Regional leader Wilhelm Specht to prison for 1 year and 2 months, including a 200 Reich Mark fine. This also includes a two-year loss of civil rights due to false book keeping, destruction of receipts. 1400 Reich's Mark worth of profit from post stamps was used for himself personally.

*Germany Reports, The Social Democratic Party of Germany (SoPaDe) 1934-1940, 1980*

**z3** Speech by Ley on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 1937 in Leunawerken

„I offered people my hand. It required a great deal of energy and a high level of concentration in order to break the resistance of the people which I felt around me.”

*Robert Ley, Soldier of Labour, Munich 1938*

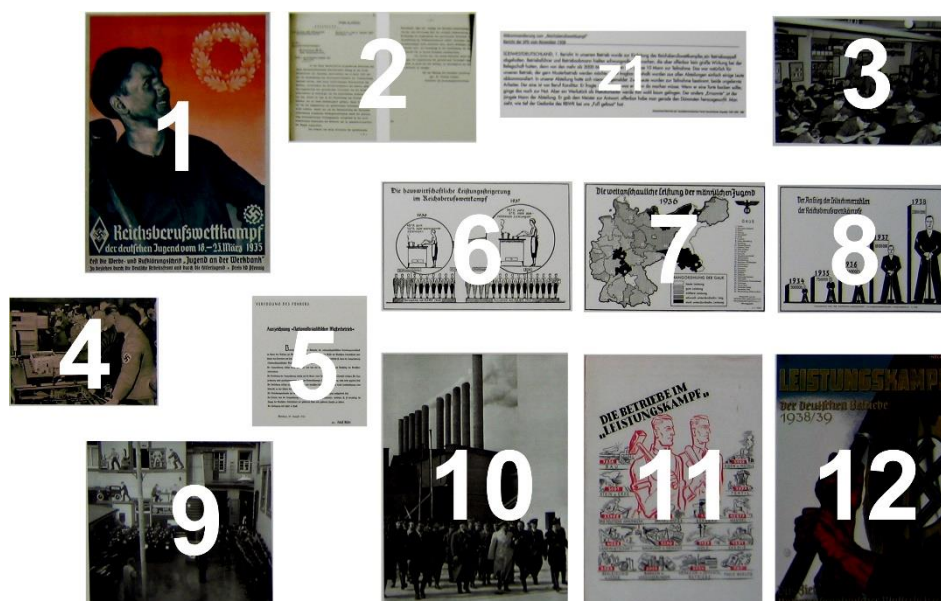
## Chart. 49 | Mass Campaigns of the DAF: “Reich Occupational Competition” and the “Achievement Combat of the German Companies”

With the mass campaign “Reich Occupational Competition” and the “Achievement Combat of the German Companies” the DAF tried to strengthen the “National Achievement Community” as well as its own sphere of control.

The “Reich Occupational Competition” was founded by the Reich Youth Leadership at the end of 1933 and was arranged the first time in April 1934 for the target group of juvenile workers. From 1937/38 onwards, adults also participated. The number of participants constantly increased. In 1934 it was at 500.000 people, in 1939 already more than 3.5 Million people took part. Hitler received the victors of the “Reich Occupational Competition” every 1<sup>st</sup> May; because of their outstanding achievements they were particularly promoted.

The main emphasis of the competitions was the ideological attitude and the practical work – girls and women could distinguish themselves also in housekeeping. Additionally, a sports test had to be completed. The DAF aimed at control in the sphere of vocational training, a general motivation stimulus that was supposed to incite the people’s willingness to perform, as well as increase the number of qualified skilled workers.

From 1936 onwards the “achievement combat for the German companies” was arranged annually by the DAF. Those companies were lauded with the award “National Socialist Model Company” where the “idea of the National Socialist factory community” seemed to be “perfectly realized”. The assessment was concerned with working conditions and the work place constitution, the criteria for judgement had been partly developed by the KdF’s office, “Beauty of Work”. At first a company had to compete and win on the regional level in order to subsequently gain the “Golden Flag of the DAF”. The companies that were regarded as particularly exemplary received special “achievement badges”, for example for health services, housing construction or they received the “General regional diploma for outstanding achievements”. The “Achievement Combat of the German Companies” was a successful activity of the DAF and aimed at the advancement of working conditions, at general mobilization in the everyday company life and at improved performance. The big firms such as Krupp or Siemens refused though the DAF’s claim on control.



**1.** Mass advertisement for the „Reich’s Career Competition“, 1934.

*Federal Archive Koblenz*

**2.** The commercial economy fears for its influence. A letter from the Reich and Prussian Minister of Economy, Hjalmar Schacht, to the Reich Chamber of Commerce, 5th of August 1937.

*Federal Archive Berlin*

**3** . Production of the written edition of „Reich’s Career Competition“ inside a Textile Factory.

*Federal Archive Koblenz*

**4.** Reich’s Career Competition as a means for justifying training workshops. Regional Chairman of the DAF inspects the model of a workshop.

*Gerhard Starcke, The German Labour Front, 1940*

**5** . “The concept of the National Socialist Factory Community must be realized under all circumstances“. Ordinance from Adolf Hitler to the German factories, 29th of August, 1936.

*Federal Archive Berlin*

**6** . Women were relegated to the field of domestic economy. This shows improvement of the domestic economy due to the Reich’s Career Competition during 1936 to 1937.

*Artur Axmann, The Reich’s Career Competition, 1938*

**7** . The world view played an important criterion. Statistics showing the worldview of young men, according to districts, 1936.

*Artur Axmann, The Reich’s Career Competition, 1938*

**8** . The increase in members would be encouraged via enticement and force. Increase in members between 1934 to 1937.

*Artur Axmann, Der Reich’s Career Competition, 1938*

**9** . Festivities for handing over the “Golden Flag” of the DAF to the factory, NSZ/Rheinfront, Publishing Society, Neustadt/Weinstrasse, 1937/38.

*Picture Archive of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, photo: Heinrich Hoffmann.*

**10** . Robert Ley and the delegate for the Battle for Achievement, Theodor Hupfauer, during a factory visit.

Battle for Achievement of the German Factories, 1938/39, 1939

*Federal Archive Berlin*

**11** . Participating factories, split up into various branches.

The German Factories during the first „Battle of Achievement“, 1936.

*Federal Archive Berlin*

**12** . Propaganda regarding the „German Battle of Achievement“, 1938

*Federal Archive Koblenz*

**z1** Drafted for the „Reich´s Career Competition” - Report by the SPD November 1938

“South West Germany, Status Report: In our factory we held an appeal for the Reich´s Career Competition. The factory manager held an enthusiastic speech, however, this did not have much impact on the staff. From a total of 3000 people, only 10 volunteered. Considering that our firm wishes to become a prime example, this is not acceptable. Due to this, we commanded that a certain number of people be sent from all the various branches. Nobody volunteered from our branch, therefore two people would be designated to go, both of them inexperienced people. One of them is a confectioner. He then asked his teacher what he was to do. If he had to bake a cake, then at least he would have something to offer. However, when it involves creating something out of metal, then he most likely will not be able succeed. The other “Chosen One”, is the youngest member of our branch. He gave our boss the answer that, ‘apparently they picked out the dumbest’. It is obvious how much influence the RBWK has over us.

*German Reports about the Social Democratic Party Germany (1934- 1940), 1980*