

## From the Testimony of Judith Becker about Racism

### Lessons in German Schools

From the time of the ascendance of Nazism they used to have the half hour that was "*religionsstunde*" became "*rassenkunde*" - they used to teach the racial theory of Nazism and the teachers who came to teach this were not part of the staff. They were specially assigned by the Nazi party who could disseminate this whole garbage about the races. And Felix's class had half an hour of races almost, not almost, every single morning.

Q: And he had to sit it?

A: He had to sit in. Not only did he have to sit in, he had to be attentive. And one day the teacher - the teacher always wanted to demonstrate what is meant by, you know, racial purity, what are the racial characteristics. One day he picks on Felix, calls him in front of the class. First his face and his forehead and his nose and his cheekbones and he shows them that this is a purely Aryan face and his neck and his ears and then he tells him: "Take off your shirt." So he examines the collarbone and the formation of the arms and the formation of the muscles and so on and so forth. Meanwhile the class is starting to giggle. So now he tells him to take off his trousers and the class is roaring - this is all boys. In Germany they separate the boys and the girls in high school. He went to a gymnasium which is a high school for boys and lyceum is a high school for girls. So when he starts in on his lower body, his legs and his toes and his calves, I mean he goes step by step. So the class is in an uproar and he is furious, he is burning up. He runs out of the classroom and he reports to the director of the school what a terrible class it is and he's putting them on report and they have no discipline and they have no honour for the Fuehrer and how can they behave like that. So the director pacified him. I don't know what he told him, but right afterwards he called my mother and he said: "You have to take your son out." He says: "It's gone too far." He says: "I'm going to be in trouble. I don't know yet how I'm going to get through this because if one of the boys peeps up and says that this was a Jewish boy, then I'm finished, so I have to rely on their discretion and I cannot count on

that. So he cannot be in school anymore." So on one day he left school and frankly I was very happy that he left school because it was a terrible tension for him to maintain himself in that school.

**Source: Yad Vashem Archives 0.3- 9416**