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*Mr. Plessner, born in 1918, begins the interview with the following words:*

"We, the youth and Hitler-youth went through life with open eyes, really open eyes. Remember 1932, Hitler's visit. We went there and took part. We, the Jungvolk and Hitler-Youth leaders, formed a lane and then he passed us and he looks each one in the eyes. And that was impressive.

Imagine the youth of the village was simple, modest. The boys and girls were busy in agriculture from morning till night. When we came home from school, there was a note on the table: you go to such and such a place and take the hoe with you and late in the evening the boys were so tired, they fell asleep on the slate. And the mother said: Now, you go to bed and early tomorrow morning you'll quickly do your homework so that the teacher is content. Everything was in a bad state. And then the Third Reich came. And we experienced camping out, sports. The youth was in motion. The youth was incited. The youth suddenly had a meaning. For us, this was a liberation, and that suddenly one could, pathetically spoken, be proud to be a German boy.

Here in the frontier area, near the Rhine river, right by the Maginot-line; we wrote the essay and the dictation to the sounds of the attacking trumpet of the French soldiers. And on the cupola of the Maginot-line the Senegal-Negroes were standing with their tribal marks, with their scars and looked over at us. Blue-grey uniforms, like ghosts and like evil spirits and that impressed us very much.

We were the pariah among the peoples, we knew that we had to experience much much much evil because of the Versailles dictation. And that we were indebted with billions of gold-marks, payments and things like that. Germany had to be reintegrated into the family of European peoples because that, being the heart of Europe, couldn't be a starving country, which was always to be supported and restrained by

the other peoples. One demanded that *Germany* should become great.  
And Hitler was the incarnation of this idea."

Marks, Stephan (2007), Chapter 3. Why Did They Follow Hitler? The Psychology of National Socialism Patmos Verlag GmbH & Co. KG, Düsseldorf (p 232)