

**Name:** Joseph Goebbels

**Childhood:**

Born in 1897, he was the son of a poor manual worker and was crippled with Polio as a child.

**Appearance and Character:**

- Small and walked with a limp.
- Intelligent and well educated.
- Good orator.
- Spoke in favour of morals and traditional values but often visited nightclubs and had several mistresses.



**Early Career:**

Declared medically unfit to fight during the First World War. He became a journalist after failing as a playwright.

Joined the Nazi Party in 1922. At first, he opposed Hitler, but later supported him.

**Role in the Nazi Party:**

1928: He was put in charge of Nazi propaganda.

1938: He gave orders for Kristallnacht (attack on Jewish property)

1943: Put in complete charge of the war effort. As defeat got closer, he helped organise 'total war', raising morale and help for victims of Allied bombing campaigns.

**Name:** Heinrich Himmler

**Childhood:**

Born in 1900, the son of a teacher. He did well at school.

**Appearance and Character:**

- Timid, frail and clumsy.
- Hard worker and efficient organiser.
- Clever at building up his own power.
- Although he took control of the Holocaust, the sight of death made him faint.



**Early Career:**

Joined the German Army in 1918 but did not fight.

Failed to make a living as a poultry farmer.

Joined the Nazi Party in 1923. Took part in the Munich Putsch.

**Role in the Nazi Party:**

1929: Made head of the SS – Hitler's private army.

1936: Made the head of all police in Nazi Germany, including the Gestapo (the secret police)

1941: Set up the Death's Hand unit of the SS. These groups ran slave labour camps and carried out the Holocaust.