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Das mehrsprachige Webportal publiziert fortlaufend Informationen zur historisch-politischen Bildung in Schulen, Gedenkstätten und anderen Einrichtungen zur Geschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts. Schwerpunkte bilden der Nationalsozialismus, der Zweite Weltkrieg sowie die Folgegeschichte in den Ländern Europas bis zu den politischen Umbrüchen 1989.

Dabei nimmt es Bildungsangebote in den Fokus, die einen Gegenwartsbezug der Geschichte herausstellen und bietet einen Erfahrungsaustausch über historisch-politische Bildung in Europa an.

From the records

Statements of Heinrich R. (born 1912), merchant, beverage manufacturer, one of the vandals at the Harburg synagogue.

Interrogation statement dated June 4, 1945:

"I did not take part in the destruction of the Harburg synagogue. The pertinent witness statements were shown to me and I state that they do not contain the truth. On that evening, I was on a business trip and only returned to Harburg at 7 p.m. On my way home, I passed the synagogue as usual. There was a crowd outside. I stood at the intersection of Albersstrasse and Eissendorfer Strasse and wanted to see what would happen."

Written statement dated September 20, 1946:

"My personal philosophy does not allow me to attack people or things that are part of the divine order. I already recognized at that time the "big lie" that they were trying to tell us: that great values were being created. To the contrary, cultural values that no one can give us again were being destroyed."

Interrogation statement dated November 18, 1946:

"Witness X stated that he observed a man of my height with a south German (Bavarian) accent in front of the temple, and also at the demonstration in town. He also claimed to have seen this man put a tallith and hat on. It must have been someone else."

Interrogation statements from July 10 and 11, 1947:

"I had drunk a lot of booze, but wasn't senselessly drunk. I vaguely remember what took place.... When the synagogue was torn down and roof tiles came down, the crowd screamed with delight. As far as I can remember, I also cheered.... I won't challenge the fact that I took a chair or a chair leg and threw it at the window. That is certainly possible. I don't remember doing it, but I admit it because it was possible and conforms with my personality, and besides, I was drunk."

(In: Abram, Ido and Heyl, Matthias: *Thema Holocaust. Ein Buch für die Schule* [Topic Holocaust. A Book For Schools], Reinbek 1996, pp. 211-212)