

= Julius Schreck =

Julius Schreck (13 July 1898 ? 16 May 1936) was a senior Nazi official and close confidant of Adolf Hitler .

Born on 13 July 1898 in Munich , Schreck served in World War I and shortly afterwards joined right @-@ wing paramilitary units . He joined the Nazi Party in 1920 and developed a close friendship with Adolf Hitler . Schreck was a founding member of the Sturmabteilung (" Storm Department " ; SA) and was active in its development . Later in 1925 , he became the first leader of the Schutzstaffel (" Protection Squadron " ; SS) . He then served for a time as a chauffeur for Hitler . Schreck developed meningitis in 1936 and died on 16 May . Hitler gave him a state funeral which was attended by several members of the Nazi elite with Hitler delivering the eulogy .

= = Early life = =

Julius Schreck was born on 13 July 1898 in Munich , a largely Catholic city in Bavaria . He served in the German Army during World War I. After the war ended in November 1918 , he became a member of Freikorps Epp , a right @-@ wing paramilitary unit formed to combat the communistic revolution . Schreck was an early member of the National Socialist German Workers ' Party (Nazi Party ; NSDAP) , having joined in 1920 and documented as member # 53 . Schreck developed a friendship with the party 's leader Adolf Hitler during its early years .

= = Career in the SA = =

Schreck was a founding member of the Sturmabteilung (" Storm Department " ; SA) , being involved in its growth and development . This was a paramilitary wing of the party designed to disrupt political opponents and provide muscle for security tasks . Hitler , in early 1923 , ordered the formation of a small separate bodyguard dedicated to his service and protection rather than an uncontrolled mass of the party , such as the SA . Originally the unit was composed of only eight men , commanded by Schreck and Joseph Berchtold . It was designated the Stabswache (" Staff Guard ") . The Stabswache were issued unique badges , but at this point the Stabswache was still under overall control of the SA , whose membership continued to increase . Schreck resurrected the use of the Totenkopf (" death 's head ") as the unit 's insignia , a symbol various elite forces had used in the past , including specialized assault troops of Imperial Germany in World War I who used Hutier infiltration tactics .

In May 1923 , the unit was renamed Stoßtrupp @-@ Hitler (" Shock Troop @-@ Hitler ") . The unit was solely responsible for Hitler 's protection . On 9 November 1923 the Stoßtrupp , along with the SA and several other paramilitary units , took part in the Beer Hall Putsch in Munich . The plan was to seize control of the city in a coup d'état and then challenge the government in Berlin . The putsch was quickly crushed by the local police and resulted in the death of 16 Nazi supporters and 4 police officers . In the aftermath of the failed putsch both Hitler , Schreck , and other Nazi leaders were incarcerated at Landsberg Prison . The Nazi Party and all associated formations , including the Stoßtrupp , were officially disbanded .

= = Career in the SS = =

After Hitler 's release from prison on 20 December 1924 , the Nazi Party was officially refounded . In 1925 , Hitler ordered Schreck to organise the formation of a new bodyguard unit , the Schutzkommando (" Protection Command ") . Hitler wanted a small group of tough ex @-@ soldiers like Schreck , who would be loyal to him . The unit included old Stoßtrupp members like Emil Maurice and Erhard Heiden . The unit made its first public appearance in April 1925 . That same year , the Schutzkommando was expanded to a national level . It was also successively renamed the Sturmstaffel (" Storm Squadron ") and then finally the Schutzstaffel (" Protection Squadron " ; SS) on 9 November 1925 . Schreck became SS member # 5 . He was asked by Hitler

to command the bodyguard company and , as such , became the first Reichsführer @-@ SS , although Schreck never referred to himself by this title .

In 1926 , Schreck stood down as Reichsführer @-@ SS and Berchtold took over the leadership . He remained on the SS rolls as an SS @-@ Führer and worked as Hitler 's private chauffeur after Maurice until 1934 . In 1930 , after the SS had begun to expand under Heinrich Himmler , Schreck was appointed an SS @-@ Standartenführer , but had little actual power . He served at Hitler 's side and they were on very good terms .

= = Death = =

In 1936 , Schreck developed meningitis and died on 16 May in Munich . He was a well @-@ liked man and Hitler was distraught when Schreck died . His final rank was SS @-@ Oberführer , a rank between colonel and general . Schreck was accorded a Nazi state funeral with Hitler delivering his eulogy . Schreck 's funeral was attended by many senior Nazi officials , including Hermann Göring , Joseph Goebbels , Rudolf Hess , Joachim von Ribbentrop , Konstantin von Neurath , Emil Maurice , Hans Baur , Heinrich Hoffmann and Baldur von Schirach . As with many other buried Nazi Party members , Schreck 's grave marker was removed after World War II and there is a stone without inscription on the spot where he was buried .

= = = Online = = =

" How Hitler 's Bodyguard Worked " . World Media Rights . Retrieved 23 May 2015 .

" Schreck , Julius " . World War II Gravestones . Retrieved 23 May 2015 .