



Günther Schwarberg at the memorial ceremony in 2007 © Silke Goes



Günther Schwarberg's services to the public won recognition at the end of 2013 when a lane in Hamburg's Schnelsen-Burgwedel district was named after him. © Barbara Hüsing

Journalist Günther Schwarberg

Günther Schwarberg was born in 1926 and grew up in Bremen- Vegesack.

His father, a teacher, was strongly critical of Nazi rule and Günther adopted this view at an early age. He described his childhood and youth as "not joyful". His life was determined by the terrible experiences of National Socialism and the war.

Thus Günther Schwarberg as an 18 year old who had to enlist as a soldier in the war, described the 8 May 1945 as the happiest day of his life.

From the autumn of 1945, he worked as a journalist; initially in Bremen at the Weser Kurier and Bremer Nachrichten; later he worked for instance for a news agency, for Bild am Sonntag, Constanze magazine and finally, well over 20 years at the weekly Stern. Up until his death on 3 December 2008, he was working as an author and freelance journalist. His most important work was the story of the Children of Bullenhuser Damm, which initially appeared as a series of articles in Stern and was later published in book form. Together with his wife, the lawyer Barbara Hüsing, he searched for and found relatives of the murdered children. With them the association Children of Bullenhuser Damm was founded in 1979. Through the association it was then possible to have the scene of the murders, the school at Bullenhuser Damm, declared a place of remembrance and to create the rose garden to remember the murdered victims.

For many years, Günther Schwarberg was chairman of the Children of Bullenhuser Damm association. He and Barbara Hüsing have given numerous talks about the fate of the children. They conceived a large travelling exhibition on the subject and, in 1986, organized an international tribunal chaired by former German constitutional court judge Martin Hirsch. The tribunal dealt with the failure to deal with Nazi crimes perpetrated by federal German justice, using the murders of the children as an example. Günther Schwarberg and Barbara Hüsing were decorated with the Anne Frank medal in 1987 for their work. Günther Schwarberg's last book, "Das vergess ich nie", which appeared in 2007, is a collection of his memoirs as a journalist.

BOOKS BY GÜNTHER SCHWARBERG

- **Der Juwelier von Majdanek**
Gruner und Jahr, Hamburg 1981
- **Angriffsziel Cap Arcona**
Gruner und Jahr, Hamburg 1983
- **Der letzte Tag von Oradour** (mit Lea Rosh)
Steidl Verlag, Göttingen 1988
- **Die letzte Fahrt der Exodus**
Göttingen 1988
- **Der SS-Arzt und die Kinder vom Bullenhuser Damm**
Göttingen 1988
- **Das Getto** (Bildband Warschauer Ghetto)
Göttingen 1989
- **Die Mörderwaschmaschine**
Steidl Verlag, Göttingen 1990
- **Der letzte Tag von Oradour**
Göttingen 1992
- **Meine zwanzig Kinder**
Göttingen 1996
- **Es war einmal ein Zauberberg. Eine Reportage aus der Welt des deutschen Zauberers Thomas Mann**
Rasch und Röhring, Hamburg 1996
- **Sommertage bei Bertolt Brecht. Tagebuchskizzen unter dem dänischen Strohdach**
Rasch und Röhring, Hamburg 1997
- **Bremer Geschichten**
Donat Verlag, Bremen 1999
- **Im Ghetto von Warschau. Heinrich Jösts Fotografien**
Steidl Verlag, Göttingen 2001
- **Dein ist mein ganzes Herz. The story von Fritz Löhner-Beda, der die schönsten Lieder der Welt schrieb, und warum Hitler ihn ermorden ließ**
Steidl Verlag, Göttingen 2002
- **Das vergess ich nie. Erinnerungen aus einem Reporterleben**
Steidl Verlag, Göttingen 2007