



para un trabajo  
de las cosas mas  
superiores para que  
sea un trabajo  
de la mente  
de la mente

14. 10. 51

Reitsch, Hanna, b. Hirschberg (Silesia), March 29, 1912; d. Frankfurt am Main, August 24, 1979, German aviatrix. Reitsch set numerous glider records in the 1930s, and in 1937 was appointed the first female flight captain. In 1938, as a test pilot with Berlin's Deutschlandhalle (Germany Hangar), she flew the first really practical helicopter in the world, the Fw 61. Later, after entering the Luftwaffe, she tested a very wide range of military equipment: the Me 163 rocket fighter plane, the Me 323 "Giant" large-capacity aircraft, and the Fi 103 "Cherry Pit" bomber, better known as the V1.

Reitsch was an avid admirer of Hitler, who awarded her the Iron Cross, First Class, in 1942. As Field Marshal Robert von GREIM's pilot, she visited the Führer in the bunker under the Reich Chancellery from April 26 to 29, 1945. Afterward she was miraculously able to take off and fly out of embattled Berlin. After 15 months of American internment, Reitsch was freed in 1946, and devoted herself once again to motorless flight. At the age of 58 she set a German record. She viewed the Third Reich more critically in her memoirs (1975).



Hanna Reitsch.