

REAL RESISTANCE

Ever since Homo sapiens ceased their nomadic life to come together in clusters called villages and towns then kingdoms to states to countries, narcissistic leaders of tyrannical governments have tried to control the 'subjects' under their sovereignty with harsh rules, absurd regulations, and brute force. Nowhere in recorded history has tyranny won in the long run. People yearn for freedom.



Human nature seeks independence from trepidation, neediness, and hunger. Sooner or later, a subjugated people will first organize then resist via an armed uprising using pitchforks to spears to muskets to AR-15s. Some men, and women, are willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice in the quest to simply be left alone. Such was the case in Nazi Germany.

Greg McClelland is a well-known authority on a subject seldom, if ever, discussed: German resistance to Adolph Hitler and his Nazi mentality of oppression and premeditated genocide. McClelland is an encyclopedia of knowledge concerning the German people's resistance, plus travels to Germany each year

for prearranged interviews with the remaining survivors of Nazi retaliation.

“I’ve been fascinated with WWII since I was a child,” McClelland stated. “I read a book *Hitler Must Die* in 1984 when I was 16 years old. That’s what hooked me on the German resistance which started my lifelong research on the subject.” He discovered 22 assassination attempts on Hitler by Germans; 42 total including blotched attempts by Americans and their Allies during WWII.



McClelland: “Among the various anti-Nazi youth groups were the Rhine River Gangs, **the Edelweiss Pirates**, Kittelbach Pirates, the Navajo’s, and the Roving Dudes. From 1939 on, all boys aged ten and up had to be in the Hitler Youth followed by mandatory labor

service then they entered the military. But not everybody obeyed the Nazis. Numerous German teenagers and young adults dropped out of these compulsory programs because they



didn't buy into the Nazi propaganda. So they organized a resistance, predominantly in towns like Frankfurt, Hamburg, Essen, and Dusseldorf.

Cologne was the most active center for resistance by the Edelweiss Pirates with perhaps over 5,000 members. **Jean Julich** was one of their leaders."

The 'Resistance' started out mainly as pranks and amateurish rebellion, like pouring sugar in the gas tanks of Nazi officials or attaching a rope to a car or streetcar to rip off the bumper. Albeit, defiance escalated with the escalation of the war: The Resistance derailed heavy laden military equipment and troop trains en route to the Eastern Front, destroyed or stole weapons from arsenals, and shot the Mayor of Cologne in 1944. The Nazis eventually cracked down in November of the same year and arrested then executed the majority of Resistance members.

McClelland said, "As far back as 1936, the police estimated over 1,000 resistance groups in Germany. From 1933 to 1945, 3 million Germans were imprisoned for a wide variety of alleged crimes, including 800,000 for active resistance to the Nazis.

Roughly speaking, 27% of the people incarcerated in the concentration camps were German. If you recall, I mentioned the Edelweiss Pirate Jean Julich. He saved a Jewish mother and daughter during the war and is one of 420 Germans to receive the Yad Vashem Award. Approximately 24,000 Gentiles received the award for saving Jews and are recognized in the Israeli town of Yad Vashem at the **Yad Vashem Museum.**”



One would-be assassin of Hitler was Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg, portrayed by the actor Tom Cruise in the movie *Valkyrie*. McClelland stated, “Stauffenberg was a devout Catholic and believed Hitler to be the Anti-Christ. July 20, 1944 marked his third attempt to kill Hitler in an open-air conference barrack at the Wolfsschanze (Wolf’s Lair). The bomb blast failed to kill Hitler, but had Stauffenberg succeeded the war would

have been shortened by over nine months, saving approximately 27 million lives.”



Stauffenberg was executed by firing squad at the Bendlerblock building on July 21, 1944, now called the German Resistance Memorial Center. A plaque at the execution site lists the names of Stauffenberg and 3 of his co-conspirators. The wording on the plaque: Here died for Germany on July 21, 1944.

McClelland commented, “Other Valkyrie plotters were executed in the ‘meat hook prison’, **the Plotzensee Prison** in Berlin. From



1933 to 1945, around 2,891 people were executed in Plotzensee Prison, half of them Germans. The victims included civilians, lawyers, officers, pastors and priests. They were hung with piano wire then impaled on a meat

hook. It took 20 to 30 seconds to die a very excruciating death.”

Stauffenberg’s adjutant, 1st Lieutenant Werner von Haeften, also had a briefcase with 2 pounds of British plastic explosives. Hitler would have been killed in the originally planned upstairs

conference room, but due to the hot weather the meeting was held in the open-air facility. Hitler suffered an arm injury and a couple hundred splinters in his right side and leg from the massive detonation beneath the large oak conference room table. Ironically, the Valkyrie conspirators never considered the possibility that Hitler would survive the explosion. All of the plotters panicked when they found out Hitler was still alive; few of them made it to safety, but several German officers lost their entire families in the reprisals.

McClelland: "I also interviewed Arnold Hencke. He joined the party at 14 years of age in 1929 but by age 17 had been arrested for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets in Hamburg. He was beaten with brass knuckles and clubs at the Fuhlsbuttel concentration camp then thrown into a jail cell spitting up blood and teeth. He received 30 months for 'high treachery' and speaking his mind. His mother went to the Gestapo headquarters daily trying to get her son released, but without any luck. Then, quite by accident, she bumped into two highly decorated and high rankings SS officers. They listened to the lady's story and actually sympathized with her. She must have thought it a miracle, but those SS officers got her son released."

Hencke went back to school for 2 years but was kicked out by the Nazis. McClelland explained, "Since 99% of the teachers were Nazis, poor old Hencke didn't have much of a chance. He worked in a factory and did roofing during the war, but was continually visited by the Gestapo for questioning."

By 1940, if a young man did not join the military he could be shot for 'non-subservience to national defense.' McClelland: "The Resistance movement was not just German officers; this was a grass root thing, 7,000 arrested, 5,000 killed or committed suicide. After the Valkyrie incident, the Resistance movement was pretty much wiped out, many arrests of both guilty and innocent people. This is something you don't learn from high school book or college professors. There is a high price to pay for freedom, always."

McClelland's final comments: "The war had a psychological effect on the surviving members of the Resistance. They wake up in the middle of the night, still visualize themselves in a prison cell, still sleeping with the rats, still terrified of torture and beatings, I think these days we call it PTSD. Americans take their freedom for granted in this country, but the things we speak out against, protest against, even vote against, the Nazis would have executed us for exercising these basic freedoms of a free people. Americans need to understand, oppression doesn't want competition; it silences or kills off the competition. Oppression cannot and will not tolerate dissent. The German resistance applies to what's going on today, but in a reverse way. We Americans are not under a tyrannical government or murderous dictator; the real resistance is in votes and compromise and living together for the better good, not this so-called political 'resistance' exercising anarchy and street violence. I know what real resistance is, I've seen it, talked to it, even looked into the eyes of it, and it's not the over-simplification of a word to

describe the tactics of a desperate people. Anarchy is not resistance; genuine resistance challenges anarchy. People need to wake up before it's too late."



HITLER'S CONFERENCE ROOM AFTER THE EXPLOSION

"Any nation that has lost every sense of right and wrong, good and evil, that tolerates such crimes; deserves to be destroyed."

- General Kurt von Hammerstein, of the German resistance -

