

Questions for the
WORLD WAR II BIOGRAPHY ARTICLE PACKET

The Story of Corrie Ten Boom and the Hiding Place



- 1) What did the Ten Boom Family do to help others during World War II?

- 2) About how many Jews did the Ten Booms save? _____
- 3) On the day the Nazi police (Gestapo) arrested the Ten Booms, why were they unable to find the Jews?

- 4) Corrie and her sister Betsie were sent to which Concentration Camp? _____
- 5) What did Corrie and Betsie do during their time in this camp?

- 6) How many Ten Booms gave their lives for the cause of helping others? _____
- 7) What did Corrie do after the war? _____

Corrie Ten Boom Story on Forgiveness

- 1) What was Corrie doing at this church in Munich?

- 2) Who was she speaking to? _____
- 3) What was the main point of the message that she gave that night? _____

***Extra Credit: Why do you think no one asked any questions after a talk in Germany in 1947?**

- _____
- _____
- 4) Who did she see coming toward her after her talk?

 - 5) What sorts of memories did he evoke? _____

 - 6) Why did this man like Corrie's message that evening? _____

 - 7) What change had taken place in this man's life since the end of the war? _____
 - 8) What did Corrie have trouble doing? _____
 - 9) What did Corrie know she HAD to do? _____
 - 10) What did Corrie do and what effect did it have on her?

The Von Trapp Family



- 1) Have you seen the movie *The Sound of Music* ? YES NO
- 2) Have you read the book *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers*? YES NO

Fact from Fiction

- 3) Maria & Georg (Baron von Trapp) got married how many years before the Nazi takeover of Austria? _____
- 4) Why did Maria marry Georg? _____
- 5) How many von Trapp children were there? _____
- 6) What was Georg (the father) really like? _____
- 7) How did the family actually leave Austria? _____
- 8) Who was the von Trapp family's musical director for over 20 years? _____

The Real Von Trapps

- 9) For what reason did Georg become a national hero in Austria? _____
- 10) Who raised Maria? _____
- 11) Maria was raised according to what sort of worldview(s)? _____
- 12) What happened to Maria when she went to a Palm Sunday service accidentally?

- 13) How many children did Maria & Georg have together? _____
- 14) Why did the von Trapp family lose their wealth? _____
- 15) How did Maria respond to their loss of wealth?

- 16) After the Nazis annexed Austria in 1938, the von Trapp family found themselves to be on thin ice with the new government. For what three reasons were they potentially in trouble with the government?
 - 1 - _____
 - 2 - _____
 - 3 - _____
- 17) For what reasons did they consider leaving Austria?

- 18) What enticements did the Nazis offer that could have tempted them to stay?

- 19) Where did they go when they left Austria? _____

- 20) Where were the von Trapps held for investigation after their Scandinavian tour? _____
- 21) Where in America did they decide to settle down and buy a farm? _____
- 22) What did the von Trapps do while not on their concert tours?

***Extra Credit - What is the Trapp Family Lodge? (Look it up on the internet, if you need help!)**

- 23) How did the von Trapps feel about the way their family was portrayed in the movie *The Sound of Music*?

Lothar Kreyssig: The Man Who Risked Everything



- 1) What was the "Action T4" program?

- 2) Hitler called for how many people to be killed under this program? _____
- 3) To cover-up the killings, they disguised the gas chambers as _____.
- 4) Hitler personally ordered judges not to find doctors guilty for _____.
- 5) Did Judge Lothar Kreyssig obey this order? YES NO
- 6) Kreyssig said, "The Fuhrer's word does not make a _____."
- 7) What consequence did Kreyssig receive as a result? _____
- 8) He was the only judge to stand up to the Nazis which made him very unpopular in Germany at the time. What happened twenty years after his death? _____

Mitsuo Fuchida: Lead Pilot of Attack on Pearl Harbor

- 1) Fuchida was the man who shouted the famous war cry, " _____!"
- 2) What time of day did Fuchida order the attack? _____
- 3) How did he feel about the attack at the time? _____

- 4) How did he feel about the idea of surrendering? _____
- 5) What did he do after the war ended? _____
- 6) Was he summoned by General MacArthur to testify in the war crime trials? YES NO
- 7) Fuchido read a pamphlet that described the story of an American soldier named Jacob DeShazer who had been on a secret mission with the _____ Squadron.
- 8) What change happened to DeShazer while he was a prisoner of war in a Japanese POW Camp?

- 9) What did DeShazer resolve to do after the war? _____

- 10) Reading the pamphlet about DeShazer motivated Fuchido to do what? _____
- 11) How did Fuchido's Japanese friends react to his conversion to Christianity?

- 12) How did Fuchido feel about the Pearl Harbor attack at the time he wrote this article?

The Doolittle Raiders

This is an article from a website that was created by the son of one of the 80 men involved in the Doolittle Raid on Tokyo, Japan.

- 1) How many B-25 twin engine bombers took off from the U.S.S. Hornet? _____
- 2) **T / F** - The Doolittle Raid was the first World War II attack on mainland Japan. TRUE FALSE
- 3) **T / F** - The raid proceeded earlier than originally planned because the Americans destroyed a Japanese fishing boat that may have sent a warning to Japan. TRUE FALSE
- 4) Did the planes have extra fuel on board? YES NO
- 5) Did they have enough fuel to make it from the aircraft carrier to the bombing targets and back again to the carrier?
 YES NO
- 6) Were the planes successful in bombing their targets in Japan? YES NO
- 7) What happened to all but one of the planes? _____
- 8) The one plane that landed safely landed in what country? _____ What happened to the men on this plane? _____
- 9) The writer's father and his crew bailed out of their plane in what country? _____
- 10) Who was the leader of the Doolittle Raid? _____
- 11) Which of the following are some of the "firsts" accomplished in the Doolittle raid?
- First war action where the US Army Air Force and US Navy teamed up
 - First WWII attack on mainland Japan
 - First to drop an atomic bomb on a target
 - First to use special camera recording apparatus
 - First and last to fly land land-based bombers from an aircraft carrier deck
- 12) How many total men were in the raid? _____
- 13) How many men were captured by the Japanese? _____
- 14) Of those who were Japanese prisoners, how many were executed by firing squad? _____

15) How many survived 40 months in prison, primarily in solitary confinement? _____

16) What provided comfort to these men during their imprisonment? _____

Traudl Junge Story

Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei = German National Socialistic Party



- 1) **T / F** - Traudl's father was a national Socialist. TRUE FALSE
- 2) What sort of father was he? _____
- 3) Traudl describes herself as a _____ animal meaning that she followed the crowd like an animal in a herd without thinking for herself.
- 4) Did Traudl join the **BDM** (*League of German Girls – the Socialist indoctrination group for female youth*) as a teenager?
 YES NO
- 5) What was her reaction to the Nazi indoctrination she was exposed to as a member of the BDM?

- 6) On what is Traudl focused as a young woman? _____
- 7) Did she hear about the violence against the Jews? YES NO
- 8) Was she troubled by what the Reich was doing? YES NO
- 9) What interfered in her plan to move to Berlin to become a dancer? _____
- 10) She was able to get a job as a _____ in the Reich _____ in Berlin.
- 11) How old was Traudl at this time? _____
- 12) What special position did she test for? _____
- 13) Did she get this special job? YES NO
- 14) How many weeks or months of working for Hitler did it take her to realize that he was a monster?

- 15) Traudl was in close proximity to the Nazi center of power. Was she aware of the evil that the Nazis were doing?
 YES NO

Sophie Scholl Story



- 1) How did Sophie's father feel about the National Socialists?

- 2) Did Sophie join the BDM (*League of German Girls – the Socialist indoctrination group for female youth*) as a teenager?
 YES NO

- 3) What was Sophie's reaction to the Nazi indoctrination to which she was exposed as a member of the BDM?

- 4) Did Sophie hear about the atrocities being committed by the national Socialists? YES NO
- 5) **T / F** - Sophie believed it was best to put her personal interests in first place and ignore political troubles as much as possible. TRUE FALSE
- 6) **T / F** - Sophie and her brother Hans had a non-conformist mindset and believed in standing up against evil even if it meant putting everything else in second place. TRUE FALSE
- 7) What was the name of the underground resistance group in which Sophie and her brother were involved?

- 8) What actions did this resistance group take to combat the National Socialism?

- 9) After Sophie joined the group, what did she help them do?

- 10) What were Sophie and her brother seen doing early in 1943?

- 11) Did Sophie recant in exchange for leniency? YES NO
- 12) Of what crime was Sophie convicted? _____
- 13) How was she punished? _____
- 14) How old was she at this time? _____

****Extra Credit – Does anything about her ultimate fate remind you of anything we have studied previously this year?***

Traudl Junge – Hitler's Final Witness

- 1) How did Traudl Junge remember Hitler? _____

- 2) What did Junge publish later in her life? _____
- 3) Where did she follow her boss Hitler in April of 1945? _____
- 4) Why did they go there – who was approaching? _____
- 5) What document did she transcribe for Hitler on April 28th? _____
- 6) Did she know about the planned extermination of so many people? YES NO
- 7) What sort of boss was Adolf Hitler? _____



Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Martyr of Faith



Unlikely Choice

- 1) How old was Dietrich Bonhoeffer when he was murdered? _____
- 2) When he was young, what type of education did his mother provide? _____

A Budding Intellectual

- 3) Even before Hitler assumed power, Bonhoeffer spoke out...
 - In support of the Nazi vision and policies.
 - Against the increasing influence of the Nazi's.
 - Against the Jews.
- 4) After being banned from teaching at the University of Berlin, what did Bonhoeffer do?

- 5) Bonhoeffer co-founded the "Confessing Church" which became the center of German Protestant _____ to the Third Reich (the Nazi Government).

Hitler's Final Solution

- 6) What were the new German race laws passed in 1935 called? The _____ Laws.
- 7) Which of the following are true about the Nuremberg laws?
 - They stripped all German Jews of their citizenship.
 - They encouraged Germans to be more open-minded and tolerant of diversity.
 - They made German Jews "subjects" not citizens.
 - They legally enabled the Nazis to begin their atrocities against the Jews.
 - They were a step toward Hitler's "final solution" to the Jewish "problem."
- 8) Bonhoeffer joined the Abwehr. What was the Abwehr?

Stalking a Madman

- 9) The first direct attack against the Jews was called Kristalnacht which means " _____."
- 10) What did Hitler's troops do on Kristalnacht? _____
- 11) Who was the mastermind who engineered Kristalnacht? _____
- 12) Bonhoeffer became involved in the plot to _____
- 13) What was the "Operation 7" mission? _____
- 14) What year was Bonhoeffer arrested for his anti-Nazi resistance? _____

Attempted Assassination of Hitler

- 15) Did all of Hitler's government officials stay loyal to him? YES NO
- 16) What did some of them plan to do? _____

- 17) What was the code name of the plot to assassinate Hitler? _____
- 18) What was Colonel Von Stauffenberg's role in the plot on July 20, 1944? _____
- 19) Was the plot a success? _____
- 20) What happened to Colonel Von Stauffenberg? _____
- 21) Were Bonhoeffer and some of his family accused of being part of the plot to assassinate Hitler? _____
- 22) Bonhoeffer's correspondence from the Berlin Gestapo Prison was smuggled out and published as a book entitled _____.
- 23) Bonhoeffer was transferred to _____, the infamous concentration camp.

Hitler's Horrors Worsen

- 24) What was the name of the infamous man who had been charged by Hitler with the task of carrying out the "final solution" of the Jews? _____
- 25) Concentration camps were part of the "final solution" – what happened at concentration camps on a daily basis? _____
- 26) After Buchenwald, Bonhoeffer was transferred to another concentration camp called _____.

A Martyr's Death

- 27) Who ordered the execution of Admiral Canaris, Bonhoeffer, and the entire resistance group? _____
- 28) How did Bonhoeffer face death? _____
- 29) What was the date of Bonhoeffer's death? _____ (the date of Hitler's death would be April 30, 1945)

Final Monstrous Acts

- 30) T / F - Bonhoeffer's death occurred just weeks before Hitler's suicide and the end of the war in Europe.
 TRUE FALSE

- 31) Name two of the prominent prisoners found remaining at the camp when U. S. troops arrived to liberate it?

Bonhoeffer's Legacy

- 32) In 1996, a German court declared Bonhoeffer _____ of the treason charge that had condemned him

Politically Incorrect Heroes

- 33) Did the mainline German churches express regret for failing to stand up against Hitler and the Nazis? _____



Irena Sendler: WWII Savior of Young Jews



- 1) In what country did Irena live? _____
- 2) How old was Irena during the nightmarish war years? _____
- 3) In your own words, what lessons had her parents drummed into her?

- 4) Irena saved Jews from the **W**_____ Ghetto.
- 5) How many Jewish lives did she save? _____
- 6) Irena has been called the “_____ Oskar Schindler.”
- 7) What brought Irena’s story into the attention of the public?

- 8) What was Irena’s job when the occupation of Poland began in 1939? _____
- 9) What did the Nazi’s do to the Jews in Warsaw in 1940? _____
- 10) How was Irena able to get into the Warsaw Ghetto? _____
- 11) What resistance organization did Irena join? _____
- 12) What did the women in her group begin doing? _____
- 13) What are some of the ways they smuggled children out of the ghetto?

- 14) What was the only “guarantee” Irena and her co-workers could give the parents of children in the ghetto?

- 15) How did Irena keep records about the children so she could try to re-unite them with their families later?

- 16) Where did she keep these records? _____
- 17) What happened to her in 1943? _____
- 18) What did Irena and other women do to resist the German soldiers while in prison?

- 19) When the German soldiers discovered what the women had done, how did they punish the women?

- 20) What was the worst physical torture Irena experienced in prison? _____
- 21) How was she able to get out of the prison? _____
- 22) After the war, was Irena able to re-unite most of the children she had rescued with their parents? _____
- 23) How was Irena honored in 1965? _____
- 24) Who visited her in Warsaw, Poland in 2001? _____
- 25) How did the cast members use the money they raised from the play performances?

26) Irena was nominated for a *N* _____ *P* _____ Prize.

27) How old was Irena when she died? (*Clue: 5th paragraph!*) _____

Simon Gronowski: Escaping the Train to Auschwitz



- 1) How old was Simon Gronowski when the Gestapo agents arrested him and his mother and sister? _____
- 2) What was the “crime” Simon parents had committed? _____
- 3) Most of the prisoners in the detention camp knew they would be deported, but they had no idea they would be _____
- 4) Why was Simon’s father not with them at the detention camp? _____
- 5) What were the conditions inside the trains like? _____
- 6) Where was the train going? (*see the first paragraph or the title! :-D*) _____
- 7) During this train ride, what happened for the first and only time during World War 2? _____
- 8) What did the resistance members do when they stopped the trains? _____
- 9) How did Simon get out of the train car? _____
- 10) Did his mother go with him? _____ (*Can you imagine leaving your mom behind and running across the countryside for your life at the age of 11 - all alone?...*)
- 11) What did Simon do to calm himself? _____
- 12) What was his goal – where did he want to go? _____
- 13) Where did he go to find help? _____
- 14) Why did the village woman turn him over to the police? _____
- 15) How did the police officer treat Simon? _____
- 16) Did Simon find his father? _____
- 17) Why did he and his father live apart during the remaining war years?

- 18) What happened to his mother and his sister? _____
- 19) What happened to the three young Belgian resistance members who stopped the train?

- 20) How was the police officer, John Aerts, honored? _____
- 21) What profession did Simon choose? _____
- 22) How long did Simon wait before sharing his story publically? _____
- 23) In what ways does he share his story? _____
- 24) Why does he feel it is important to share his story?

Tova Grossman - "The Crematorium" Chapter Three of Tova's Story

from *Kinderlager: An Oral History of Young Holocaust Survivors*



Tova Grossman today

The story is about Tova Grossman

- She was the youngest person to survive Auschwitz-Birkenau
- She arrived at Auschwitz at the age of 5 years, 9 months
- She was liberated from Auschwitz at age 6 years, 4 months

- 1) What was Kinderlager? _____
- 2) What was Dr. Mengele doing at the camp? _____
- 3) What happened to the girl Tova shared a bed with? _____
- 4) How did Tova react to this? _____
- 5) What happened to the birthday present Tova got from her mother? _____
- 6) Why do you think smoke was billowing over the camp?

- 7) Where were Tova and her barrack-mates being brought? _____

* **Extra Credit - What is the Crematorium?** _____

- 8) What happened to them there? _____

- 9) How did Tova feel while being brought to the crematorium?

- 10) Where did Tova and her mother hide when the Nazis wanted to march them from Auschwitz into Germany?

- 11) Why did the SS guards leave with the prisoners at this time; what was going on?

- 12) Who came after the SS soldiers and most of the prisoner left? _____

The Death of Hitler

- 1) Where did Hitler move in April of 1945? _____
- 2) Who was advancing toward Berlin at this time? _____
- 3) Hitler issued frantic orders to defend Berlin with armies that were _____

- 4) Would Hitler escape to the mountains? YES NO
- 5) Who did Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels bring to the bunker?

(Do you remember Goebbels? He was the mastermind behind Kristalnacht in a previous article...)

- 6) Who was Hitler's longtime female companion? _____
- 7) Assuming Berlin – and, thus, Hitler – were to be captured by the Soviets, Reichsmarschall Goring offered to take leadership of the Reich on Hitler's behalf. How did Hitler react to this?

- 8) The British New Service reported that S.S. Reichsfuhrer Heinrich Himmler had sought negotiations with the _____ and even offered to surrender German armies to _____.

- 9) How did Hitler react to the news about Himmler's actions?

- 10) As the Soviets advanced, Hitler began preparing for _____.

- 11) What did Hitler dictate late in the evening of April 28th?

(He dictated these to Traudl Junge, the secretary from a previous article...)

- 12) What did Hitler do just before midnight? _____

- 13) How close were the Soviet forces by the afternoon of April 29th? _____

- 14) What news did those in the bunker get from the outside world at this point?

- 15) Hitler tested his poison capsules on whom? _____

- 16) What did Hitler and his new wife Eva do at the point when the Soviet forces were just a block away?

- 17) What did Herr and Frau (*Mr. and Mrs.*) Goebbels do the following day – May 1st?

The Last Will of Adolf Hitler – Read for your personal enjoyment :-D

First Part of the Political Testament

- 18) Who does Hitler blame for the war? _____

- 19) Hitler says that the war, in spite of all setbacks, will go down one day in history as the most _____ and _____ demonstration of a nation's life purpose. *(Unbelievable!)*

- 20) Does Hitler believe he has achieved something special? YES NO

Second Part of the Political Testament

- 21) We would assume that Hitler's very last words of his final political statement – in fact, his very last written words of **all** – would be words of great importance to him. So what are his final words? Hitler ends his Political Testament by charging the leaders of Germany with the important tasks of

(1) observing the laws of _____ and

(2) mercilessly opposing the universal _____ of all peoples - International _____

- 22) So even to the very end of his life, Hitler is focused on opposing the _____.

The War is Over . . . Please Come Out

The Hiroo Onoda Story



- 1) How many years did Lt. Onoda live in the jungle? _____
- 2) Why was he living in the jungle? _____
- 3) On which island was he hiding out? _____
- 4) Summarize the orders he was given by his division commander: _____

- 5) How many men were in his cell? (*by cell, they do not mean a prison cell but rather "a small unit"*) _____
- 6) What sort of information did they get initially that told them the war had ended?

- 7) Why didn't they believe that the war was over at that time?

- 8) Later, after Private Akatsu left the group and then sent a note to them that it was safe to leave the jungle, why didn't they believe him? _____
- 9) What did the two remaining men think was eventually going to happen?

- 10) Who finally managed to track Lt. Onoda down? _____
- 11) Onoda would not surrender until what happened? _____
- 12) How did Lt. Onoda meet his (former) commanding officer?

- 13) How was he greeted upon returning to Japan? _____
- 14) What did he do after returning to Japan?

- 15) What did he do in May of 1996? _____
- 16) What did he do after that? _____