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The German Problem-Children.

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THE GERMAN PROBLEM-CHILDREN

By Sgt. K l a u s M a n n

Among the many atrocity pictures I have seen in the course of the past few months, there was one that struck me as particularly significant and thought-provoking. It showed three young German boys at the ages between eight and eleven, who had fired from an ambush at some of our soldiers in one of the Allied-occupied towns. The three little snipers looked by no means like savage ruffians; on the contrary, they appeared rather well-bred and dapper -- typical scions of a "respectable" German middle-class family. Yet their action proved that they are dangerous little fanatics.

What is wrong with those youngsters? Were they born as Nazis? Are they by nature abnormal and criminal -- tainted with hereditary vices and evil instincts --, or are they just misguided and muddle-headed?

If we believed in the innate and incurable meanness of a Nazi child, we would therewith accept the Nazi doctrine of an inferior race. Yet I am sure that most Americans agreed with the statement President Roosevelt made in his address of 22 October, 1944: "We bring no charge against the German race as such, for we cannot believe that God has eternally condemned any race of humanity."

But if it is true that German youth is not essentially and incurably different from youth in other countries, it is also true that the average Nazi child differs unmistakably and disturbingly from average children elsewhere. They three lads in the picture are not just a bunch of wild kids who amuse themselves with guns, for want of other toys; in their own childish way, they are tough and unscrupulous representatives of

the "master race" -- miniature supermen who despise other nations and firmly believe that this world has been created only for one purpose: to be ruled by the Fuehrer.

It is almost impossible for any citizen of a free, normal country to imagine the thoroughness and ingenuity of Nazi indoctrination. Literally from babyhood on, a child's mind is being deliberately and consistently imbued with the absurdities and distortions of Nazi philosophy. For the past ten years education in Germany has indeed been a "School for Barbarians" -- to quote the title of an American book describing the methods and consequences of this most sinister pedagogical system.

No doubt, the Nazis have done a remarkably good job in confusing and corrupting a whole German generation. The German war preparations would have been incomplete without this strict and comprehensive educational program. The schools where children were infected with the bacillus of intolerance and nationalistic ^{nationalistic} ~~aggressiveness~~ ^{aggressiveness} ~~megalomania~~ were as indispensable for Hitler's world-conquering projects as the factories producing his planes and tanks.

But if education has proved such a formidable weapon in the hands of the Nazis -- why should we not try ^{to use} it as well? If it was possible to indoctrinate German youth with the slogans of Nazism -- why should not an effort be made to familiarize "Hitler's children" with the principles and purposes of democracy?

There may be many different or even contradictory views as to the economic and political solution of the German problem. ■ But about one point all those schools of thought seem to agree completely: The German people have to be re-educated. No matter what kind of conditions the

"Unconditional Surrender" formula may imply -- the issue of Germany's moral and political re-education remains of paramount, immediate significance. The German people will have to be first defeated, then disarmed, policed, in many cases punished; but they will also, and above all, have to be mentally cured. To assert that the Germans are "incurable," means practically to deny the possibility of lasting peace. The German character has been shaped by history -- not by any innate "racial" conditions. This character can and must be changed by means of education -- or else we are bound to have another war, in twenty-five years or sooner.

The re-education of the German people will have to be planned and prepared as one of the vital campaigns in our effort to win the peace.

Out here in the field, "somewhere in Italy," I am hardly in a position to know exactly how much planning and preparing has already been done. All discussions of the German question lead ~~somehow~~ to the conclusion that the German people will somehow have to be re-educated; but in none of the many books and articles dealing with this problem do we find anything like a definite educational program. Have the basic objectives of the coming pedagogical campaign already been clarified and formulated? Are there competent individuals or committees in charge of this delicate and vitally important job?

All German school books -- especially the history books -- will have to be revised. The whole personnel of German schools and universities must undergo a strict and thorough examination testing the political and moral qualifications of every teacher, professor, and lecturer. Film industry and newspapers, the repertoires of theaters and radio stations -- all mediums of instruction, propaganda and entertainment will have to be supervised and directed according to a new

cultural policy. It will not be enough to refute or to ignore the absurd doctrines of Nazism; it will be the task of pedagogues and publicists to explain and popularize the very ideals and traditions which are at stake in this crisis of our civilization.

Naturally, the instruction and enlightenment of children can be only one aspect and one special department of this vast educational effort, the object of which should be the German population in its entirety. Yet among all the "targets" of the coming pedagogic attack, German youth may prove the most significant and the most promising one.

Our moral victory will not be complete, unless we succeed in convincing German youth -- through our deeds even more than through our arguments -- that our way of life is preferable to the Nazi way of life; that our ideas are right, and that Hitler's ideas are wrong.

The new generation in post-War Germany must not only be technically prevented from provoking another war; it must be brought up in a spirit which excludes and rejects the mere thought of war as a possible way to increase Germany's might and glory.

Among the many mistakes made by the defunct Weimar Republic, the gravest one was maybe that the republican leaders utterly failed to reform the German schools and universities. I was brought up in pre-Hitler Germany, and I know that even during the comparatively peaceful years following World War One the spirit prevailing in German educational institutions was that of extreme, aggressive nationalism.

But I also know that there were other more approvable potentialities in the character of that particular German generation. The influence of the so-called German Youth Movement still was powerful in that time, and this influence was apt to counterbalance, to a certain extent, the

dangerous chauvinism preached and promoted by most of our professors.

It is impossible to understand German youth of today without being familiar with that strange and quite unique phenomenon -- the German Youth Movement. It all started shortly before the first World War as a kind of emotional upheaval of some high-minded young men and women -- fervently opposed to the materialism and the drabness of modern industrial civilization.

The German Youth Movement -- in contrast to ~~other~~ less pretentious youth organizations in other European countries and in the United States -- represented a philosophy or "Weltanschauung" (to use that typically German vague and bombastic term). ~~The leading thought of this philosophy was, Back To Nature!~~

Call of youth.

It was an unbloody revolution --
— wandering, singing, camping,
many up the face of the mountains,
exciting parties, racing, games,
... mid-air acrobatics.

THE GERMAN PROBLEM-CHILDREN

Among the many atrocity pictures I have seen in the course of the past few months, there was one that struck me as particularly significant and thought-provoking. It showed three young German boys at the ages between eight and eleven, who had fired from an ambush at some of our soldiers in one of the Allied-occupied German towns. The three little snipers looked by no means like savage ruffians; on the contrary, they appeared rather well-bred and dapper -- typical scions of a "respectable" German middle-class family. Yet their action proved that they are dangerous little rascals. *fantasy*

What is wrong with those youngsters? ~~Are they indeed essentially different from boys in other countries? Or is it just that their immature minds have been systematically corrupted and confused? Are they by nature evil and criminal -- tainted perhaps with hereditary vices and innate abnormalities --, or are they just misguided and muddle-headed?~~ *Abnormal* *evil instincts* *with*

~~There can be no doubt that the Nazi children are not~~ *major danger child*

~~It does not seem likely that the children in Nazi Germany should be by nature different from children in other countries. But indoctrination is terribly thorough and systematic... and it starts early. The deliberate neglect and distortion of the truth begins in school -- even before... Education under the Hitler regime is indeed a "School for Barbarians," as it has been called. The German kid has been made believe that he belongs to a "master race" whose supreme mission it is to fight all inferior races and finally to conquer the world... Fantastic ideas about other nations... Absurd conceptions...~~ *(Confused and abnormal)*

*Idea of evil race - Naziism -
Roosevelt with quotation - P. 9.*

No, they ^{by nature} ~~do not~~
differ ~~by~~ ^{from} other
children; but ~~actually~~
they are actually different...
For ~~a~~ ^{the} ~~particular~~ of a person
romantic, it is almost
impossible to compare
thoroughness of indoctrination.

Since education has
spite to ~~consumption~~ ^{them},
re-education should
be able to end them...

If it would be a mistake to overestimate the innate, incurable nastiness in the character of a young German, it would be equally fallacious to underestimate the thoroughness ~~and depth~~ of ... indoctrination.

I don't know those three murderous kids portrayed in our press -- in fact, it is quite some time ago since I had an opportunity to talk with children of this particular type and upbringing. Yet they seem familiar to me; for I am only too versed in the obnoxious ideology that has shaped their thoughts; besides I know their older brothers -- or rather, fellows that might be their brothers.

Looking at those the pictures, I could not help remember Prisoners Many were only children... ~~Eight~~ Seventeen, even younger... Even the older ones ~~were~~ appeared to be on the moral and intellectual level of a child...

Yes some were nasty fellows...

Some Nazi fanatics...

The majority, apathetic... Waiting for something...

What an effort it will be, to make ~~human~~ civilized human beings out of them! Yet it has to be done...

Whatever opinions about Germany... : Re-education essential...
~~Roosevelt quotation.~~

Of course, whole nation will have to be educated... Mediums for educational campaign -- not only school books but film, theater, press, etc. — Major campaign ...

Yet education of youth for many reasons most important. -- Youth -- future. -- Youth -- more flexible, impressionable, can be influenced -- ~~was~~ which is particularly true of children... Youth

Education of Youth
only one aspect ...

We know this is a re-education.

has been object of special Nazi attention, since beginning of Hitler movement...

Nazis have exploited, not only the aggressive instincts of young people, but also their idealism...

Nazism has chosen many disguises -- in reality "Revolution of Nihilism..." : but one of its favourite formulas: Revolution of Youth...

Roots in Youth Movement...

The German Problem C.B.M.
GERMAN YOUTH

Among the many atrocity pictures I have seen in the course of the past few months, there was one that struck me as particularly significant and thought-provoking. It showed three young German boys at the ages between eight and eleven, who had fired from an ambush at some of our soldiers in one of the Allied-occupied German towns. The three little snipers looked by no means like savage ruffians; on the contrary, they appeared rather well-bred and dapper -- typical scions of a "respectable" German middle-class family. Yet their action proved that they were dangerous little ~~fanatics~~ ^{rascals}.

What is wrong with those youngsters? Are they indeed essentially different from boys in other countries? Or is it just that their immature minds have been wantonly corrupted and confused? Are they by nature ~~evil~~ ^{evil} ~~nasty~~ ^{are criminal} and arrogant, or are they just misguided and muddle-headed? ~~Are they incurable criminals and fanatics, or are they just wild kids who amuse themselves with bloody, hazardous pranks?~~
~~If we admit that they are incurable, we accept the Nazi theory of essentially evil races.~~ [✓]

If their ~~aggressiveness and arrog~~ ^{But it} murderous instincts are hereditary and innate, then we had better renounce all hope to influence and change their characters. [✓] If their present aggressiveness and arrogance are only the result of propaganda and education, we may have a chance to make civilized human beings out of them.

Now, to ~~presume~~ ^{assume} that they are incurable means to accept [✓] Nazi theory of an essentially ~~inferior~~ ^{inferior} and evil race. If a German child is incurably bad.... then President Roosevelt was ~~wrong~~ ^{said} when saying, in his ~~memorable~~ ^{memorable} address of 22 October, 1944: "We ~~will~~ bring no charge against the German race as such, for we cannot believe that

(Before assuming that they are incurable, we ought to know)

x) I don't know the children
in Nav. Germany but I
know school books etc:
"School for Barbarians;"
"Hitler's Children."

And I know the
old brothers ---

Prisoners ---

God has eternally condemned any race of humanity..."

~~It is~~ it must be possible to educate...

of such a job

On the other hand, it would be folly to underrate the difficulty. Nazi doctrination is appallingly thorough and systematic... It begins early... In many cases the parents help... School, etc... It is a tremendous task

Not only question of German youth: whole population

There are many different schools of thought as regards the German problem. But there is one basic point about which all the schools undoubtedly agree: the German people, and especially German youth, have to be re-educated... No matter what kind of conditions -- military, economic, and political -- the "Unconditional Surrender" formula may imply -- the issue of Germany's moral and political re-education remains of paramount, immediate importance. The German people, after Hitler's defeat, will have to be disarmed, policed, in many cases punished; but they will also, and above all, have to be mentally cured. The German character has been shaped by history -- not by any innate and unchangeable "racial" conditions. This character can and must be changed by means of education -- or else we are bound to have another war, in twenty years or years, if not sooner.

It is a tremendous task -- not to be preformed in a few months or years but in decades. But it has to be done...

The re-education of the German people will have to be planned and prepared as one of the vital campaigns in our effort to win the peace...

Of course, this educational effort will ~~can~~ not be limited to German youth but must comprise whole nation... Yet youth will be our special concern...

School books
Teachers, etc.

It is difficult to say which age will prove the most responsive one
... It might be hoped that the youngsters will prove comparatively
easy... Their minds still soft, impressionable, flexible -- can be
influenced and shaped... Children forget quickly and easily...

The boys between 15 and 20 -- more thoroughly indoctrinated...
No pre-Hitler memories...

But, ^{talking with} ~~interrogating~~ German soldiers, I have found young fellows
disillusioned, bitter, cynical, lacking in enthusiasm... : they
don't have not consciously witnessed heyday of Nazism -- when they
joined the army, decline had already begun... Fellows in their early
twenties appeared more cocky and arrogant -- remembering the military
triumphs of 1939 and 1940...

But then, there are no absolute rules... I have found various
types in all age-groups...

Yes, there were nasty fellows among them -- dumb, brutal, com=
placent, incapable of any generous impulse or any honest, independent
thought. Can they be educated? Will they ever respond to the / appeal
of reason and decency? Frankly, I do not think so; nor do I know what
should be done with them. The only argument they understand is phy=

sical force etc.

Others, bewildered --- Nausea ---
*

Romanicism.

Youth Movement
Hitler Youth

Movement not

Re-education / "guerrilla"
campaign ... "

THE GERMAN YOUTH MOVEMENT

Recently there have been reports about ^{an} a German underground anti-Nazi organization in Germany, called Edelweiss Pirates -- consisting of half-grown boys and girls... The group does not seem to be very strong; yet it is significant -- first, because it is ^{any} ~~one of the few~~ organized nucleus of resistance under ^{1/2 6.5.47} ~~Himmler's~~ dictatorship... and especially because it is a movement of young people, whom most people might suspect to be ardent Nazis...

The "Pirates" -- spread all over the country -- most active in the Rhineland. Movement -- growing
No definite political line.
Militant, aggressive, rather bold. Forming small bands; night attacks on Nazis. Sabotage and harrass Hitler Youth, to which many "pirates" formerly belonged. Found it dull and sterile...

Alpine flower as symbol... Own songs... as correspondents put it,
 "in the tradition of the German Youth Movement." In fact, it seems that
 the "Pirates"... rooted ... in Youth Movement...
 What is the German Youth Movement?

A rather unique affair -- typical German, unthinkable in any other country...

It all started shortly before the first World War as a kind of *rebellion* when a bunch of emotional upheaval of some high-minded young men and women *ferverently* *opposed* to the materialism and the drabness of modern industrial civilization. *Mysticism ... sentimentality ...*

~~In the beginning, the Youth Movement was definitely, indeed, emphati-~~
~~cally unpolitical.~~ Boys and girls met at picturesque spot -- preferably
on mountain peaks or in clearings of forests. They made extensive hikes
called "Wandervögel" -- Wandering Birds. They made extensive hikes
together, sang ancient songs, danced around bonfires, and ~~raved~~ about
the ~~get ecstatic~~ about the beauties of German sceneries. They believed
in Free Love, fantastic costumes and ~~of course, they had~~ ^{philosophy} -- "Wiltansky".
They disapproved of bourgeois conventions, cigarettes, big cities, ~~the~~

modern technique, and the ~~the~~ older generation. They believed
the boy - long-haired, with shag pants, ~~same~~ bag-
legs, sandals --. Girls, primitive ~~from~~ dresses, open
hair, flowns --.

in Free Love and in the ~~the~~ privileges of Youth.

The notion of Youth was to them not only a natural and enjoyable stage of life; it was something divine.... They kept raving about their being young and ; they despised and pitted the old folks.... Youth became a fetish, a program, and a battle-cry. "We are young!" insisted the ~~men~~ "Wandering Birds," with ecstatic obstinacy...

The battle-cry proved attractive. The Youth Movement gained considerable influence. It created its own artistic style -- a rather precious style, based on medieval patterns. ^{Musical etc.} There were poets and pedagogues became interested... There were country schools directed in the spirit of the Movement... A whole literature... ^{Various Artistic...}

Then came World War One and interrupted these idyllic goings-on. The generation which was had founded the Youth Movement perished on the battlefields of Flanders and Russia...

After the War, the Youth Movement was revived... During the post-War years it played an important role. Its influence ~~of~~ was on the whole wholesome and refreshing, for all its excesses and eccentricities. It counterbalanced, on the hand, the vogue of jazz and night-clubs of the "Roaring Twenties;" on the other hand, the reactionary, sticky atmosphere prevailing in German public school, even during the years of the Weimar Republic.

Among the many mistakes made by the defunct Weimar Republic, the gravest one was maybe that the democratic leaders utterly failed to reform the ^{educational} German schools and universities. I was brought up in pre-Hitler Germany, and I know that even th during those comparatively peaceful years the spirit prevailing in ~~Ger~~ most German educational

2nd Half Decade of

1920 : Brin disk ^{Y-group}
Roth Falken
Scouts (boys)
Richt-way groups...

*With Movement-
Y-group*

*Blind
Wyn...*

On facts with others inf. distinct and artistic elements...

institutions was that of extreme, aggressive nationalism.

~~The air in the "Gymnasium"~~

After having suffered from the reactionary of a "Gymnasium" which I attended in Munich, I appreciated ~~and rejoiced~~ the very different style of a Free country school, "Odenwaldschule," near Heidelberg. Its leader, Paulus Geheeb, was one of the veterans of Youth Movement. The school was... idealistic, humane, cosmopolitan... (Geheeb, incidentally, left Germany, as soon as Hitler came to power, and founded a new country school in Switzerland -- Ecole de l'Humanité : School of Mankind...)

The Youth Movement began to change its character during the last years preceding the outbreak of the Third Reich. ^{Lost in politics} It was gradually split up into various political ~~groups~~ ^{and} religious groups -- Catholic, Communistic, Social-Democratic, ~~conservative~~, nationalistic... Gradually the nationalistic wing became more and more predominant.

The Nazis have exploited and abused all kinds of ideologies; they have tried to appeal to the most different instincts and traditions -- conservative, anarchistic, etc. A German refugee and former collaborator of Hitler -- Hermann Rauschning -- has coined the most definition of Nazism when calling it the "Revolution of Nihilism" -- that is to say, the revolution without aim and program, the revolution that leads nowhere... the emphasis of bad destruction is put on the completely cynical, using ideas as pawns

The Nazis liked to speak and think of their movement as a "Revolution of Youth."

When still struggling for power, they wooed all classes and sectors of the ^{population} ~~populace~~ -- the peasants and the working men, ~~the land owners and~~ the big business and middle class... They promised everything ~~and~~ to everybody...

But more than anything else -- youth...

They succeeded, fairly well -- at least temporarily...

They attained their aim by appealing to lowest instincts and by attracting the lowest type of German youth... the young Nazi hero, Horst Wessel, for instance, was -- as is generally known -- an ordinary pimp and professional ruffian...

But Nazi propaganda can also work in a more subtle way, ~~and Goebbels~~ ... Goebbels was not satisfied with winning over the scum of German youth; his siren songs were also addressed to the nobler parts...

He appealed to ~~idealism~~, romanticism... ^{result of leadership} ~~idealism~~ ^{discipline for war} ~~romanticism~~ ^{"Prima"}

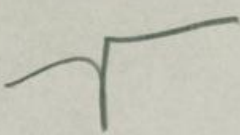
Nazism presented itself as the heir of Youth Movement...

Then ~~came the time of~~, with Hitler's coming to power, began ~~the~~ for Germany the time of ^{open} intense, war preparation. Everything ~~all~~ was subordinated to this one purpose -- to make the nation ready for the imperialistic war... All economic and intellectual activities were "co-ordinated" -- gleichgeschaltet --

Education -- almost needless to say -- played an important role in Hitler's comprehensive scheme of moral and material rearmament. The schools where a whole generation was infected with the bacillus of racial ^{propaganda} ~~intolerance~~ and ^{imperialism} ~~chauvinistic~~ aggressiveness, were as indispensable for Hitler's world-conquering plans as were the factories producing planes and tanks. Wunder

The Youth Movement had long ceased to exist officially. All youth organizations became part of the Hitler Youth, ~~to~~ which every Germany boy is compelled to join...

[Handwritten signature]



It is almost impossible for any citizen of a free, normal country to imagine the thoroughness and ingenuity of Nazi indoctrination. Literally from babyhood on, a child's mind is being deliberately and consistently imbued with the absurdities and the distortions of Nazi philosophy. For the past ten years education in Germany has indeed been a "School for Barbarians" -- to quote the title of an American book describing the methods and consequences of this most sinister pedagogical system.

Yet the "Edelweiss Pirates" seem to prove that the ~~spark of the~~ Nazis have not succeeded in extinguishing the spark of the Youth Movement altogether... Some young people begin to realize that their idealism has been cynically abused, misguided, cheated... *Underground. x)*

Of course, it would be a dangerous fallacy to overrate the influence or the number of those young men and women opposing the Nazi régime. But it would also be wrong to ignore or to belittle the existence of such a current...

There ~~was~~ are other promising symptoms...

which occurred

The anti-Nazi riots *at* Munich University, back in 1942, and resulted in the execution of one girl student and of two young men. The incident was provoked by a public speech of a high Nazi official, Paul Giesler, who attacked and ridiculed female students, and, when the girls left the auditorium as a gesture of protest, had them arrested by the SS guards.

*(His young boys, helping girls...
Outburst of anti-Nazi feeling...
PW, who participated, you mean...
Youth Movement type himself...)*

*x) Paradox: Youth Mov. as which
for Nazi — and at the same time,
one of the few movements to
resist, survive...*

1
Face facts: Youth in defeated Germany -- will be 80% apathetic, ^(ignores)
disillusioned, ^{drum} helpless, cynical, exhausted...

10 % Nazi fanatics -- potential guerilla fighters, likely to cause trouble...

10 % potential friends... If we approach them the right way, they may help us in controlling the hostile minority and educating the apathetic majority.

PWs — fairly representative
cross section ...
Older men — mostly apathetic
on anti-Nazi
About 25 — in work
(with exceptions).
Youngsters — 16 — 21!

~~YOUTH...~~

4

.....
Even more difficult may be those between the ages of 20 and 25 who are too young to have any ~~per~~ pre-Hitler memories, but old enough to ~~un~~ be completely indoctrinated... While the youngsters Moreover, they have seen Nazism in its heyday -- the years of Hitler's glory, 1940 -- whereas the youngsters were not in a position to appreciate the meaning of those days: their first impressions of Nazism are of the days of decline... Nazism after Stalingrad...

In order to understand the character of German youth, one has to know something about the so-called German Youth Movement. ^{Rather unique movement: romantic rebellion} This rather unique movement started shortly before the First World War, as a kind of romantic rebellion against the mechanization of our time... Young people, boys and girls, wandering through the lovely sceneries of German countryside -- the so-called "Wandervögel", Wandering Birds --, camping in the open air, singing old folksongs, ^{play: -y gr: come} wearing long hair ~~and~~, no stockings, sandals, and primitive clothes... But in reality, all this was behind all this was a good deal of philosophy -- "Weltanschauung": ~~In~~ the Germans can't do anything without that kind of thing... ^{Emotional} Rebellion of youth against the mechanization of modern time, away from the big cities, back to the big cities Nature...

After the War, Youth Movement was revived and developed... It ~~is~~ became political... There was various groups -- Catholic, Social-Democratic, conservative, nationalistic, Communist...

Crust of Youth ... against the grown-ups ... but Youth not as ~~the~~ propagator; stage of life, but its climax...

Personality ... A whole program ... Youth ...

Nationalistic element became more and more predominant... Nazis were very good at exploiting the emotional appeal of the Youth Movement for their own purposes... Wooed youth... Flattered its vanity... National Socialism ^{has been} aptly defined ^{by Rosenberg} as "Revolution of Nihilism": which is to say, the revolution of nothingness, the revolution without aim and program. It has been presented as the Conservative Revolution,..... But most frequently as the Revolution of Youth... There can be no doubt that German youth has supported Hitler more enthusiastically than any other sector of the German nation...

Is this still the case?

To a certain degree -- undoubtedly. No use to fool ourselves...

~~We have to face the fact that German youth still predominantly under Hitler's spell... Will be a tough job to enlighten and cure them...~~

~~However, it would be a mistake to ignore or belittle the more promising prospects...~~

The very tradition of the Youth Movement, on which Nazism capitalized, contains elements and potentialities ... Humanitarian spirit, compatible with internationalism... integrity... fervor...
.... We may also count on disillusionment... natural tendency of young people to oppose whatever happens to be in power...: which happens to be Nazism...

Promising symptoms: ^{W)} so-called Edelweiss-Piraten -- directly derived from Youth Movement.... Munich University which used to be Nazi fortress... Riot... I met PW who participated... His hatred... Was exceptional; yet there were others...

H M — Konrad Me
Wann der so gut
Laut of organization
den f... ..

Bd M
(B...
d...
Radl)

LiGwal

✓ Many former members of HJ ...
and BDM ... ^{Barbarian} ...
— no Party ... ^{Rheinland} ... ^{Washington} ... ^{Rück} ...
anti-Klavi ...

— wear Edelweiss, an
Alpine flower, as a symbol.
Usually E. is hidden
inside ya. lapel ...

Own songs, in tradition
of Youth Movement ...
militant ... time HJ
dull and staid ... form
small bands ... mark ~~that~~ night
a Marks on Klavis ...

— growing —

A German Youth

Städtische
Bibliothek
München

255/72

The boy on this picture is fifteen years old. As a sniper, he was shooting at Allied troops — until he was finally caught and had to surrender. That was the end of his playing soldier; his puerile dream of war and heroism was over...

It is a tragic picture. The tragedy it presents is not only that of defeat and captivity. The lad's face has a long, bitter story to tell. His features have been marked by early, hard experiences and evil adventures.

For a boy of his age, there should be nothing but studying and playing. But instead of teaching him how to become a sensible and civilized human being, the Nazis have trained him for murder. An innocuous kid — that's what he really is, or what he ought to be. The Nazis, however, have made a dangerous fanatic out of him.

The Nazis have cheated this young man out of his youth — him and his whole generation. Millions of young Germans are being poisoned and abused by an irresponsible leadership — just as the unfortunate, bewildered and corrupted child in our picture. Callow boys — their minds addled by propaganda lies — may believe that they serve the Fatherland when helping, with their feeble powers, to prolong the lost war — thus increasing their own suffering and that of their families.

We wished that the German war-lords and politicians of annihilation could see the portrait of this desperate lad. It should appear to them in their dreams — the woeful face of a sacrificed generation. If the tightly closed lips of this boy could speak — what terrible accusations would the false leaders have to listen to!

But the great criminal, who has ruined this young man's life as he has countless others, is not willing or able, perhaps, to hear the cries of his victims. Frozen in his own selfishness and mania of grandeur, he listens only to the sinister advices of his famous «inner voice». More and more victims — that is what his cursed «inner voice» requires: more and more young lives, oceans of blood and tears, senseless destruction, without aim, without end...

But if he, the Führer, is blind and deaf to human suffering — *you*, German soldier, still have ears to hear and eyes to see with! Look at the youth in our picture! He might be your brother, or your son, or your younger comrade. Don't you feel sorry for him? Do you want to continue fighting until all German youth becomes like this figure of misery and horror?

**The continuation of the War
means the destruction of
the German people!**