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Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his twin sister Sabine were born in Breslau, Germany on February 4, 1906. An extremely bright young man, he shocked his family when he decided to become a theologian. No Bonhoeffer had ever chosen the Christian church as a profession.

Life in the beautiful town of Breslau, on the Oder River, was pleasant for young Dietrich:

- Karl, his father, was a well-known professor of psychiatry and neurology.
- Paula, his mother, was a university graduate who home-schooled Dietrich while he was young.
- The Bonhoeffers had eight children; Dietrich was the sixth.

After the war, in 1945, Breslau ceased to exist as a German town. The city, with its beautiful churches, university (this is the Aula Leopoldina at the University of Wroclaw) and scenery, became known as Wroclaw and today is part of Poland.

Germans living in the town at the end of the war had to leave. It is ironic that Breslau, Bonhoeffer's hometown, ceased to be German not long after he was killed.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/UNLIKELY-CHOICE-Dietrich-Bonhoeffer>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/UNLIKELY-CHOICE-Dietrich-Bonhoeffer>

## Media Stream



### Breslau Germany - Panoramic View

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Breslau-Germany-Panoramic-View>



### Photograph of Oder River

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### Karl Bonhoeffer Photograph

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### Paula Bonhoeffer

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### Aerial View of Breslau

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### Map Depicting Breslau

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### Aula Leopoldina

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### University at Breslau

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