

0. SUICIDAL RESISTANCE - Story Preface

1. SUICIDAL RESISTANCE

2. AN UNLIKELY CHOICE

3. A BUDDING INTELLECTUAL

4. HITLER'S 'FINAL SOLUTION'

5. STALKING A MADMAN

6. ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF HITLER

7. HITLER'S HORRORS WORSEN

8. A MARTYR'S DEATH

9. FINAL MONSTROUS ACTS

10. BONHOEFFER'S LEGACY

11. POLITICALLY INCORRECT HEROES



This image—by Christian Kaiser Verlag and online via the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum—depicts the Flossenbürg execution site where Dietrich Bonhoeffer died. The actual place of execution was near the wall on the far end of this picture.

At Flossenburg, a Nazi concentration camp, everyone knew the words a soldier spoke to a condemned prisoner:

Make ready and come with us.

On Sunday, April 8, 1945, a Nazi soldier directed those words to Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor who resisted Hitler and the Nazi regime. He had just concluded a worship service.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, like Martin Luther King, was murdered at age 39. Both men of God were killed during the month of April: King, the victim of an assassin whose rifle he did not see; Bonhoeffer, the victim of an executioner whose rope he did not fear.

Like King, a preacher whose words indicted a system of racial prejudice, Bonhoeffer was a preacher whose actions defied a system of racial murder. Cautioned that he could be killed for his words, King would not be silent. Warned that he could be executed for his actions, Bonhoeffer would not be passive.

Both men left a legacy of profound accomplishments. Most people remember King and what he did for civil rights.

Many people do not remember Bonhoeffer and what he did for human rights.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/SUICIDAL-RESISTANCE-Agent-of-Grace)

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Media Stream



Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Image online, courtesy [Berlin State Library](http://www.berlin-state-libraries.de/).

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