



0. HITLER'S 'FINAL SOLUTION' - 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

Reinhard Heydrich sent this February 26, 1942 letter to a diplomat by the name of Martin Luther following the Wannsee Conference. The letter is "in connection with sending the protocol of the conference." It mentions the *Endlösung der Judenfrage* ("Final Solution of the Jewish Question"). The original letter is maintained at the House of the Wannsee Conference.

Within a year after Bonhoeffer and his colleagues started the Confessing Church, the Nazis were no longer content to merely humiliate Jews. Why merely humiliate when one has the power to do more?

In 1935, the Third Reich did much more.

The government passed race laws that specifically targeted Jews, a step which should have surprised no one who had listened to Hitler long before he ruled Germany. He set forth his plan in the book *Mein Kampf* ("My Struggle") and in the 25-Point Program of his party.

The "Nuremberg Laws," among other things:

- Stripped all German Jews of their citizenship, making Jews "subjects," not citizens.
- "Legally" enabled the Nazis to begin their atrocities against the Jews.
- Specified who was a Jew and prescribed how they would be treated in Germany.

In his speech about the Nuremberg Laws, Hitler even addressed the potential need for a "final solution" to the Jewish "problem."

The Holocaust had begun.

Trying to stop the ever-widening influence of Nazi tyranny, Bonhoeffer joined the Abwehr, a German military intelligence organization led by Admiral Wilhelm Canaris. Its "agents" had access to vital war information.

People working against the Third Reich, like Dietrich Bonhoeffer, were able to pass key information to anti-Nazi contacts.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/HITLER-S-FINAL-SOLUTION-Agent-of-Grace>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/HITLER-S-FINAL-SOLUTION-Agent-of-Grace>

