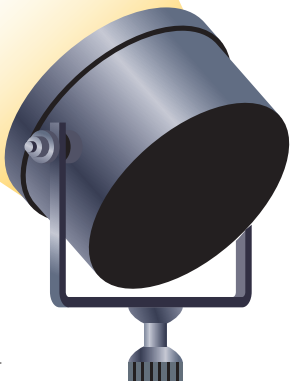


Is the Gestapo really worried **About a Girl Named after a Bunny from a children's book?**



by the hair he pulled and her head snapped back. She freed herself with a powerful kick to the shins. She picked up a nearby stick just before she was punched in the face. She swung the stick, made contact and ran.

The group around Gertrud Koch created and displayed leaflets and wrote slogans on house walls and railroad cars. At the beginning of their leaflet campaigns in the summer of 1942, one text by the Edelweiß Group read as follows:

*"Finally put an end
to the brown horde!
We perish in this
misery. This world
is no longer our world."*

Gertrud (called "Mucki") Koch, b. Kühlem was born in Cologne as the daughter of a boilermaker and a pharmacist. Her father was a communist; he died in the Esterwegen concentration camp.

Before all youth organizations other than those run by the Nazis were outlawed, Mucki was a member of the Red Young Pioneers. Mucki, named after a rabbit in a children's book, refused to join the Association of German Girls because she didn't agree that the duty of German females was to have "Aryan" children-preferably with an SS man. That idea was disgusting to Gertrud. She had no interest in ever having her children believe in Hitler. Instead, she co-founded a group of like-minded youth that came to be called the Edelweiss Pirates (EP).

Mucki was not violent though the older, so-called "Navajos" from Cologne's southern part of the city understandably attacked HJ patrols for reasons Mucki came to understand in May of 1940. She had heard of kids being followed and attacked by Hitler Youth patrols and she believed that it was her friends' love of freedom that pissed off the Hitler Youth so much. In fact, at the May Day parade in Cologne where the Hitler Youth and League of German Girls marched in lock-step looking smart and clean as usual the true character of these groups was displayed. All of a sudden the Hitler Youth broke ranks and as Gertrud stood on the sidewalk she was attacked. She felt a tug on her scalp, he had her

The EP's most spectacular action was a "rain of leaflets" from the dome of Cologne Central Station. As a result, friends and acquaintances were arrested and taken to the notorious EL-DE house, where the Gestapo was based. Gertrud Koch was - like some others - sent to prison in Brauweiler. Other members of the group were sent to the front in punishment companies. Koch suffered the torture and beatings from the Gestapo officers, was



in solitary confinement for two months and was only able to get out of custody in the Brauweiler Abbey by escaping due to a Nazi mistake.

Koch had once dreamed of becoming a Montessori school teacher. Now her only wish was to make it out of the war alive. Together with her mother, Koch escaped from Cologne and lived on a mountain farm in the Allgäu for two years until the end of the war. After the Second World War, Gertrud Koch became involved in the Communist Party of Germany (KPD). Later she worked helping drug addicts, while living in Cologne. In 2005 she was one of the co-founders of the Edelweiss Pirate Festival in Cologne, which highlights the music of the politically resistant youth of the Nazi era every year. Until her final days in 2016, she went by her Pirate codename "Mucki."

<https://allthatsinteresting.com/edelweiss-pirates>


Flowers in the Gutter Chapters 13-14



Teenage Years & Government Fears: Is the Gestapo really worried About a Girl Named after a Bunny from a children's book?

Read the Spotlight article: "Is the Gestapo really worried About a Girl Named after a Bunny from a children's book?" Annotate the text you read by recording your questions, reactions, opinions and connections.


Annotation Code for Stop, Think React Reading Strategy

Code	Meaning
?	This makes me wonder... <i>then in the margin record your thoughts</i>
	I don't understand... <i>circle words or ideas that you don't understand</i>
<u>Main Idea</u>	<i>Underline the Topic Sentence/Main idea or Central Idea of the text</i>
!	Wow! This is really interesting... <i>then record any opinions or reactions you have related to this idea</i>
C	This reminds me of... <i>in the margin record the connection from your personal or academic experience</i>
□	This is where I started getting lost... <i>make sure you continue to circle ideas and words that add to your confusion</i>

Sentence Starters for Annotations

Questions	Reactions	Connections	Opinions
I wonder why... I don't understand... How come... What about...	I didn't know... Wow,	This reminds me of _____ because... This is like _____ because...	I agree/disagree with _____ because... If I were _____ I would...

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Spotlight on Resister Sister:

Britta “MAJOR” Bergmann

The very first punk in East Berlin went by the name of “Major”-Her real name was Britta Bergmann. All through school Britta suffered from the feeling that her choices were being taken from her by the government, that decisions about who she was and who she would or could be. She knew, she just knew, it was wrong that you weren’t permitted to read whatever you wanted, that you couldn’t openly express your opinions. Wrong that creativity, curiosity and independent thinking were forbidden.

Major was 15 years old when, in 1977, her older sister handed her a stack of magazines brought to her by a visiting relative from West Berlin.

Among the images of ABBA, Boney M, and Smokie, she landed on one that caught her attention - a picture of the Sex Pistols.

A few weeks later she heard their song Pretty Vacant while illegally listening to a western radio station and became hooked.

With a history of rebellion in the family - Britta’s grandfather was jailed under Hitler for being a communist while her grandmother was blacklisted for refusing to give a Nazi salute - the movement suited her.

The following day she began copying the band’s look - hacking off her hair, ripping and re-stitching her clothes before slinging the chain from a spare toilet plunger around her waist.

Along her shoulders she fashioned a pair of epaulettes from safety pins, and when she arrived at school the next day a classmate saluted her, shouting ‘Hello, Major!’, which became her nickname.

School authorities did not take

her stunts so lightly.

Any deviation from the official path was seen as threatening to the social order the dictatorship nurtured with the system of youth organizations and propaganda, all designed to feed properly indoctrinated workers into the planned economy.

She was repeatedly sent home to change her clothes but refused, and was given extra assignments to try to ‘reintegrate’ her into socialist society.

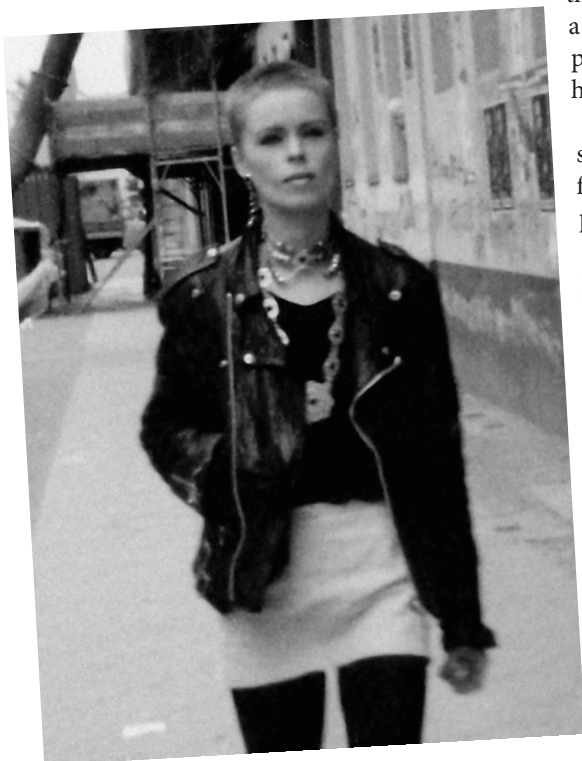
Being a punk helped Major in two ways. First, it gave voice to her rage and the strength to survive in a system she hated. Second, the look provided an explicit way for her to show the opposition everytime she stepped out in public. In a place where a leaden sky hung above many cities much of the year and the air was choked with the ruddy smoke belched out by all the stoves burning brown coal ripped from strip mines in central East Germany. In these surroundings, punks, splattered with paint and pins and home-made buttons and patches, wearing garish makeup, their hair dyed unnatural colors- might as well have dropped from outer space.

Major’s fellow citizens “encouraged” her to stick to the norm. This encouragement came in the form of insults- “you should be sent to the gas chambers” & “It wouldn’t have taken Hitler long to get rid of the likes of you.” There were also beatings at the hands of those East Germans who weren’t going to let a bunch of teens parade around like that, looking absolutely disgraceful, showing total disregard for society. All this antagonism drew Major’s little group of punks together, all for one and one for all. Like the British band Sham 69 sang:

*If the kids are united
They will never be divided*

Major was taken in for questioning by the Stasi after a letter discussing an escape attempt between her and a friend was intercepted. From that moment on she was tailed wherever she went, all her mail was opened and read, and the authorities took a note of whoever she met with. A Lieutenant Müller of the STASI was convinced he had ferreted out a dangerous enemy of the state in 16-year-old Major. And maybe he was right.


After being exiled to the west, Major, years later, discovered the Stasi had considered sending her to an asylum where her ‘difficulties’ could be dealt with.



Teenage Years & Government Fears: Becoming a “Major” problem for the East German Authorities

Read the Spotlight article: Becoming a major problem for the East German Authorities.
Annotate the text you read by recording your questions, reactions, opinions and connections.

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Flyer discovered by the Wuppertal
Gestapo, 1942.

To all subjugated German youth!

German youth, think of the golden days of the scouts, think back to the sunny days of trips and camping. This has all been denied to you.

Why? Today's Nazi-Germany want to stick you in the Hitler Youth. Where you will be trained in military and technical skills like marching, shooting, map-reading, and orienteering, etc. The goal of all of this goes back to: Cannon fodder for Hitler's insatiable greed for power!

German youth, bring yourself to the fight for freedom and rights for your children and your children's children, because if Hitler is to win the war, Europe will be in chaos and the world will be enslaved as it was in its youngest days. Bring the bondage to an end before it is too late.

Lord free us!

From: Gaddy p. 111

Found Flyer:

1. Who could have authored this document?
2. Who was the intended audience?
3. What does the author want the audience to do?
4. In what ways does the author try to convince the audience to take the action the author desires them to take?

Read the article on the Edelweiss Pirates and complete the sensory figure below by adding ears, eyes, a nose and mouth. Also, finish each statement describing something this pirate girl smelled, touched, felt, heard, saw and tasted during the WWII era. Use each of the vocabulary words/phrases at least once.

With my ears,
I heard..

With my nose,
I smelled ..

With my hands,
I held..

With my heart,
I felt..



With my eyes,
I saw ..

With my mouth,
I tasted..

Word Bank

Checkered Shirts

Executions

Hiking & Camping

Writing on Walls

Escaped Prisoners

Hitler Youth

Read the article "What it Meant to be Punk in the GDR" and complete the sensory figure below by adding ears, eyes, a nose and mouth. Also, finish each statement describing something this punk girl smelled, touched, felt, heard, saw and tasted during the existence of East Germany.. Use each of the vocabulary words/phrases at least once.

With my ears,
I heard..

With my nose, I smelled ..

With my hands,
I held..

With my heart,
I felt..



With my eyes,
I saw ..

With my mouth,
I tasted..

Word Bank

Stasi

Smuggling

Church Concerts

Imprisoned

Safety Pins

Interrogation