



WHO BE POPN'?

**DO YOU LOVE IT WHEN
YOUTH TAKE ACTION AND
USE THEIR AGENCY?**

**DO YOU HAVE A THIRST TO KNOW
WHAT YOUTH DID TO RESIST THE
REPRESSIVE SYSTEM IN EAST
GERMANY DURING THE COLD WAR
OR THE NAZIS IN WORLD WAR II?**

**OF COURSE YOU DO AND THIS GAMESHOW SENSATION
THAT'S SWEEPING THE NATION- WHO BE POPN'?
- IS JUST RIGHT FOR YOU!**

Was it the Edelweiss Pirates who painted walls with graffiti? Perhaps it was the Ost Punks that s
crawled on the walls? Maybe neither group did that sort of thing or maybe they both did...

All you have to do to play is read the statement and indicate in the blank before each scenario
whether it was the EPs, OPs, both or neither that participated in the specific type of resistance
described in the statement. It is just that simple- Let's get started!

Choice Key:

B = Both the Edelweiss Pirates & Ost Punks experienced this scenario

EP = The Edelweiss Pirates Experienced this scenario

OP = The Ost Punks Experienced this scenario

N = Neither the Edelweiss Pirates or Ost Punks experienced this scenario

_____ **Scenario #1** - Used music to express discontent with the current government at their peril.

_____ **Scenario #2** - Performed acts of sabotage to disrupt the government's supply chain.

_____ **Scenario #3** - Created printed materials considered to be illegal in an effort to make their anti-government view known to their fellow citizens.

_____ **Scenario #4** - Worried about losing the respect of both local and national authorities, they waited for other groups to take action and create change in Germany.

_____ **Scenario #5** - Stole and smuggled food to feed prisoners who were slowly starving.

_____ **Scenario #6** - Were eager to join government sponsored youth groups in order to better assimilate into mainstream society.

_____ **Scenario #7** - Painted and plastered walls with graffiti and posters to express opposition to the German government under which they found themselves living.

_____ **Scenario #8** - Were arrested and forced to perform unpaid labor for the government.

Scenario #1 - Answer: Both

Ost Punk youth using music to express discontent with the government at their peril.

Three members of the East German punk band Namenlos were arrested and held in prison for 5 months awaiting trial regarding the lyrics in their tune "Border Song":

Minefields and barbed wire so nobody risks going over
Walls and electric fences, they're snatching away our freedom
Automatic firing devices and minefields so we like it here
In our beautiful country, in our beautiful Country



The East German Government charged the band members under paragraph 220 of the East German criminal code, a legal holdover from the Nazi era, with slandering the system. The members received the following prison sentences:

Frank the bass player- 1 year
A-Micha guitar player 1.5 years
Jana lead singer 1.5 years

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Edelweiss Pirates using music to express discontent with Nazi rule at their peril.

Pico strummed out "We March Along the Rhine and Ruhr" - the original was a Hitler Youth song, but the pirates had changed the words:

We march along the Rhine and Ruhr,
We are fighting for our freedom.
The Hitler Youth, break them in two!
Edelweiss march, watch out- the streets are free!

Then, a crash. SS and Hitler Youth Patrol Duty officers boomed. "Singing bündische songs? You all know that isn't allowed. Lying is pointless, we heard you." The SS officer demanded that the kids sing "Show Me the Way to Go Home". This was a folk song that they had also changed with anti-Nazi lyrics. The Pirates were careful to sing the lyrics the SS officer wanted to hear. When they had finished singing the traditional lyrics the officer said, "There is no problem here."

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Scenario #2 - Answer: Edelweiss Pirates

Edelweiss Pirates Sabotaging the War Effort.

After Fritz Thielen was released from prison he went back to work at the Ford factory making trucks for the Nazi war effort. At the end of a workday in November of 1943 Fritz and his coworker and fellow Pirate, Hans "Lang" Balzer, made their way through the dark to the wooden crates stacked next to the river. Inside of the crates were replacement parts for the trucks built in the factory- the boxes had been inspected and were ready to be shipped to the eastern front. Fritz pried open a box and grabbed an ignition coil and dropped it into the river. They nailed the box shut to be shipped without the most important part.

In 1944 Fritz Thielen and Hans "Lang" Balzer were at it again. The two Pirates decided to bury broken milk bottles in the dirt road that newly finished trucks had to pass over as they exited the factory. The tires would blow costing the Nazis money and the timely delivery of new equipment with only a little broken glass. It worked great until someone noticed the milk bottles. When they were seen burying glass they faked a fight and chase between them. The plant manager thought that the sabotage was too much for these two young men to pull off so they were not charged with a crime. Guards were posted on the road and that was the end of the milk bottle sabotage.

Gaddy Chapter 39 & 41

Scenario #3 - Answer: Both

Smuggling “Dangerous” printed material into the DDR-

Micha “A-Micha” Horshing took a train to Poland in the spring of 1988 where he met with a punk named Slipeck to pick up 1,000 copies of a fanzine for an upcoming punk festival-the church where the festival was to be held would not let it be printed with their machine due to their fear that the content of the ‘zine would provoke a Stasi raid. A-Micha’s buddies in Poland suggested he sew the ‘zines into a giant teddy bear, but he just put them in a duffel bag and boarded the train back to East Germany. A-Micha was detained by a customs official and was looking at four to six years in prison for a punk ‘zine. A-Micha was released on a technicality and promised to return the next day with information on the punk festival- A-Micha never made it back to the Stasi offices.



A Mug shot of A-Micha taken
by the Stasi in 1983
(The Guardian 11/5/2019)

of the War-

Inside of the grand Cologne Cathedral Mucki felt the weight of a full shoulder bag of fliers. She carefully picked up a hymnal and stuffed flier in it that read SOLDIERS LAY DOWN YOUR WEAPONS. She moved along the pew repeating the same process over and over again. She had to get rid of all of the flyers- nothing could be found on her person.

Later in 1942 Mucki along with fellow Edelweiss Pirates, the Mountain Climber, Banjo Willi, Ätz, Jus decided that they were going to drop fliers in Cologne's main train station. If caught they knew they could wind up in Jail or a concentration camp which just might include torture. Mucki picked up the fliers and hid them under the padding of a baby stroller. She was nervous, but no one paid any attention to her as she made her way through the ruins of Cologne. She buried them under some rubble for the Mountain Climber to pick up. He was risking his life, as they all

1942-Distributing Fliers critical

were. They met at the train station during the evening rush hour. They spread out to stand watch. When all seemed safe the Mountain Climber shot up a maintenance ladder All at once, paper sailed down from the ceiling reading:

PUT AN END TO THE BROWN-SHIRTED HORDE

SOLDIERS, LAY DOWN YOUR WEAPONS!

WE PERISH IN THIS MISERY. THIS WORLD IS NO LONGER OUR WORLD.

WE HAVE TO FIGHT FOR ANOTHER WORLD OR WE WILL PERISH, WE WILL PERISH IN THIS MISERY.

They all moved quickly in different directions away from the train station. The next day, the newspaper story: the action at the train station had been committed by a group of criminals.

Due to this act many Edelweiss Pirates were jailed including Mucki who was incarcerated for nine months at Brauweiler, where the Gestapo beat her and once threw her down the stairs, breaking her arm.

Gaddy Prologue

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

Scenario #4 - Answer: Neither

The Edelweiss Pirates and Ost Punks were the groups that often risked their reputations and freedom to take a stand against government policies regarding personal freedoms, civil rights, peace and the degradation of the environment.

Scenario #5 - Answer: Edelweiss Pirates

Edelweiss Pirates Help Feed Starving Prisoners:

The first theft from the train cars went well for the Edelweiss Pirates. Maria's friends got food out of the train. A pirate named Bubbes snuck food to the Russian prisoners, and the Pirates kept some for themselves. The next time was different. Something was wrong, and when they saw cigarette smoke seeping out of the train cars, they called off the break-in. Bubbes threw a stone at one of the train cars and men in uniforms jumped out and searched the area.

After Fritz Thielen was released from Brauweiler prison he had to go back to work at Ford, and that was awful too. He worked in a punishment brigade with Russian prisoners of war and Ukrainian forced laborers for over ten hours a day. The forced laborers were given wooden shoes and worn-out clothes to wear. Fritz also could not help noticing their hunger. On Fridays, when the German Ford employees were served soup, the young Ukrainians would try to sneak in. They would also sit on the roof looking into the windows, waiting to get some leftovers from the Germans. Fritz would throw bread rolls out the window or he'd open the windows wide and someone else would pull the guys down into the room so they could eat and get out before being caught.

Scenario #6 - Answer: Neither

The Edelweiss Pirates formed in large part due to the militarization and Nazification of traditional youth groups in Germany- the kids wanted to be kids with other kids in nature without any hierarchy or drilling-they were down with just chilling. The Ost Punks were the kids who were not going to let themselves be standardized and forced into a future planned for them and not of their choosing. The Free German Youth was seen by Ost Punks as just a feeder program of scared and mindless workers for the planned economy of East Germany.

Scenario #7 Answer: Both

Edelweiss Pirates and Ost Punks painted walls with graffiti and plastered them with posters to voice their opposition to the respective German governments under which they found themselves living. For example...

Ost Punks

In 1981 a punk named Speiche and his friends started a graffiti campaign that ended in the spraying of REVOLUTION GEGEN DIE GESELLSCHAFT or OVERTHROW THE POLICE STATE.

Mohr p.60

On August 12th< 1981 Esther Friedmann & Robert Paris were walking home in East Berlin and decided to spray paint a saying on a wall-they didn't think it was a big deal. They painted the wall with the following: "ZWANZIG JAHRE MAUER, WIR WERDEN LANGSAM SAUER " or TWENTY YEARS OF THE WALL, WE'RE STARTING TO GET PISSED OFF

They were caught vandalizing the wall and arrested and taken to a prison for political prisoners. The trial started three months after their arrests-Esther received an eight month sentence and Robert got 6 months. The sentences were suspended, but Esther's mom lost her job as representative to the World Health Organization and her father also ended up unemployed.

Other popular sayings used by Ost punk graffiti artists:

MACHT KAPUTT, WAS EUCH KAPUTT MACHT or DESTROY WHAT'S DESTROYING YOU

STIRB NICHT IM WARTERRAUM DER ZUKUNFT or DON'T DIE IN THE WAITINGROOM OF THE FUTURE

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Edelweiss Pirates

When the Edelweiss pirates didn't have any flyers, they made other plans. They met at night and moved through the black and empty streets. No lights could shine- no street or stop lights and every window was fitted with blackout curtains. The city was hidden from the bombers flying overhead and that meant that the Edelweiss Pirates could sneak through the streets with their buckets of white paint scrawling messages on the sides of buildings and plastering them with posters that read:

HEIL NAVAJO
FOR THIS WE THANK OUR FÜHRER
ONE PEOPLE, ONE REICH, ONE WRECK
THE ALLIED TROOPS ARE ADVANCING ON ALL FRONTS
THOUSANDS OF GERMAN SOLDIERS KILLED BECAUSE OF HITLER'S MADNESS

Gaddy Chapter 27 & 30

Scenario #8 - Answer: Both

Ost Punk youth arrested, jailed, and forced to work for the government.

While serving her sentence in Hoheneck prison for her "Border Song" lyrics:

Minefields and barbed wire so nobody risks going over
Walls and electric fences, they're snatching away our freedom
Automatic firing devices and minefields so we like it here
In our beautiful country, in our beautiful Country

Jana Schlosser, lead singer of Namenlos was forced to work for the East German government. The cash-strapped country contracted with international firms like Ikea to earn Western currency for the cash-strapped country. At first Jana welcomed the chance to get out of her cell. But she eventually drew a night shift, working eight hours through the night until 6:30 a.m., at which point she was sometimes forced to stay awake another hour for an official count of the inmates at 7:30 a.m.

Edelweiss Pirate youth arrested, jailed, and forced to work for the government.

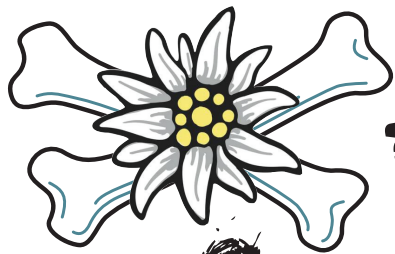
Fritz Thielen, a member of the Navajos, was caught up in a Gestapo dragnet operation and told by an official "You will be brought to a camp, especially made for Edelweiss Pirates. That will be the last chance for you and your friends to become a proper part of society."

Fritz was loaded onto a train in September of 1944 and taken to the city of Ellern. There, the Nazis had built a work camp for boys ages thirteen to seventeen who had been deemed "difficult to teach", who were against the Nazi ideology. The Gestapo officer said to Fritz that this was his last chance to work hard and behave, and he might be able to just go home after three months of "reeducation." Ellern was a collection of houses and a furniture factory where the boys were supposed to work.

Fritz was up at 5:00 am and was only allowed to wash his face, with a shower or bath only when absolutely necessary. Everyone had lice and there was a pot of cream to prevent scabies. The boys would spend an hour working on the "camp" and head to the factory for a ten hour workday @ 6:30 am. At 5:00pm the boys were back in camp to work on the barracks and watch propaganda films about the greatness of the third reich.

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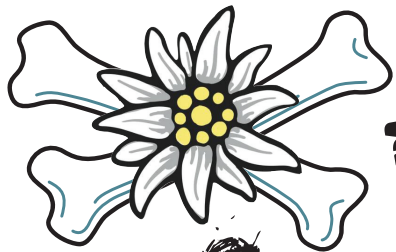
WHY DID THEY RESIST?



EDELWEISS PIRATES

OST PUNKS

IN WHAT WAYS DID THEY RESIST?



EDELWEISS PIRATES

OST PUNKS