

BACKDOOR PROGRAM

1. Object.

The purpose of this program is to increase the strength and effectiveness of opposition groups now existing within Germany among the younger generation. These groups have members ranging in age from 8 to 25, roughly speaking, but those from 16 to 20 are most likely to respond to programs such as that presented here.

Only groups having some definite form - Edelweiss - Piraten, Anker, Hambigo - are likely to serve the purpose; for relatively unorganized groups a different program (Primrose) is separately submitted. A partial list of the activities already engaged in by the Backdoor groups will serve to make the object we hope to further more clear:

- a. Unauthorized "hiking" (Wandern) and camping out; i.e. open defiance of State Youth Service regulations.
- b. Printing of illegal leaflets and pamphlets; subversive propaganda.
- c. Attacks on Hitler Youth leaders, oftentimes resulting in death or serious injury.
- d. Coining of jokes, slogans, nicknames, rumors, etc. casting discredit on the State Youth Service and its adherents.
- e. Spreading of ideologies of vaguely democratic and pacifistic character; sponsorship of individualism.
- f. Praise of German youth movements as they existed before Hitler's seizure of power, and efforts to re-establish certain aspects of them.
- g. Stress on the necessary autonomy of German youth activities, with consequent resistance to Nazi regimentation and control from above.

2. Method.

The proposed method is black broadcasting, for the stress on youth movement autonomy noted above makes it highly unlikely that white broadcasting will be received any more favorably than is Nazi indoctrination. Like the old German youth movements, the Backdoor groups are rebelling against direction and control from above, hence the most effective means of increasing their scope and action will be those which appear to arise out of Backdoor spontaneity and self-direction. Moreover, the romantic appeal of the illicit and forbidden will find strong response among youngsters whose whole bent is toward the romantic, adventurous, wild and daringly defiant.

Cover for the method is simply that a group of lads in one of those towns where Backdoor is already known to be strong (Bonn, for example) have done one of the following (our technicians will have the final word on plausibility here):

- a. Stolen a mobile sender
- b. Built their own sender from spare parts secured in various ways; "ham" transmission in the United States is often from senders of this type.
- c. Combined two receivers in such a way that they can be used as a transmitter. (Leach suggestion)

A devastated ^{at} town, with its rubble-covered basements and junked technical facilities, is a more plausible location for such a sender than is an isolated region such as the Fichtenberg, the Harz, the Hunsrück, or the Schwarzwald. Shifts of location as the sender incurs the danger of DF-ing are also more plausible in a town of some size and suitable ruin.

These boys have been presumably trained in radio work in one of the State Youth Service schools; many German lads have undergone precisely such technical training. In addition, one or more of their older leaders could be represented to be from among those signal corps veterans who has been so seriously wounded as to be judged unfit for military service. Intelligence coming from POW interrogation shows that there are many such persons in Germany at present.

One or two older voices can be used but most of the voices must be obviously quite youthful.

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3. Subject matter.

The boys tell the story of their technical triumph, revelling in such a demonstration of their initiative, spontaneity, courage, and skill.

Then they give an account of the beginnings of Backdoor, pointing out how clearly the movement connects with unregimented pre-Nazi activities and, incidentally, what they hate and despise in Nazi-controlled youth work. They are not definitely political in the sense of espousing any program of reform or revolution with clearcut outlines; adolescent rebellion against the older generation and its younger representatives should be the keynote. In a sense, Backdoor should seem to raise hell simply for the sake of raising hell, for that is exactly what the real movement does. In view of the fact that the hell-raising strikes at Nazi control of the younger generation in the most effective ways possible, the absence of other than vague political views will do no harm and, indeed, will avoid emphasis on possible ideological differences which would otherwise split Backdoor recruits.

Along with this there should be numerous specific stories of what the hell-raising was like - names, dates, places - and how the Nazis have been vainly trying to check or suppress their youthful enemies. The element of romantic adventure can here be strongly developed, and all of that misty exaltation of the pre-Nazi youth movements, with their struggle against an uncomprehending adult world, can be revived and capitalized to the full.

Inseparably connected with such subject matter are the typical expressive forms in which this romanticism has manifested itself in the past and is demonstrably manifesting itself now: instrumental music and song. The Klampfe or Laute (guitar) plays a large part, and in our possession are many texts of songs now sung by Backdoor groups. A little further research will undoubtedly lead to the discovery of the tunes. All of the available songs, and many more which can be reclaimed from "Der Zupfgeigenhansl", the songbook of the pre-Nazi youth movements, lay heavy weight on living one's own life, escaping from irksome controls, loyalty of likeminded (i.e. rebellious) comrades, hatred of arbitrary authority, and romantic irresponsibility. Almost every broadcast could include some song or tune, thus a certain entertainment value would be introduced, for the intelligence shows that Backdoor music is considered beautiful, and the old youth movement music certainly was.

about Along with all of this there should unquestionably be included concrete suggestions of how to attack the Nazis and at the same time preserve the key values of "essentially German" life for the sake of the future. Here are some:

- a. Refusal to wear uniforms other than those of Backdoor type (leather shorts, linen shirt open at the throat, sandals, and other highly individualistic costume), accompanied by ridicule of those who wear the Nazi-imposed garb.
- b. Ostracism of Nazi youth leaders and rank-and-file.
- c. Direct attack on, or at least self-defense against, all Nazis who interfere with Backdoor activities.
- d. Attack on the meeting-places of the State Youth Service - hostels, town and city centers, outdoor camps.
- e. Tuning in on 'spontaneous' broadcasts such as this program, and the construction and operation of similar transmitters. Some direct technical advice could be given by someone familiar with contemporary German sources of radio parts supply.
- f. Printing or otherwise cheaply reproducing anti-Nazi handbills, stickers, pamphlets, etc.
- g. Painting or chalking anti-Nazi slogans on public buildings, and so on.
- h. Search for and union with other Backdoor groups, perhaps facilitated by the use of simple but not too obvious passwords, grips, symbols (such as the Edelweiss under the lapel now used by some groups), and other romantically mystifying devices.
- i. Re-establishing ties with parents and others who have been pushed out of contact with the younger generation by the Nazis. Mother and daughter, father and son, grandchild and grandparent could be urged to unite or re-unite in opposition to Nazi efforts to weaken familial influence.

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- i. (cont.) Staying away from the Nazi youth meetings could be made to serve ends like these.
- j. Appropriately dramatized and glorified speeches about the mission of Backdoor groups in the saving of worthwhile phases of German life after the inevitable defeat, providing an antidote for similarly high-faluting Nazi oratory, should also be provided. These speeches could also embody slogans and catchwords that would help to carry their message.

4. Target.

This has already been implied in the foregoing. Essentially, the target is that cluster of attitudes existing among German youth which can be used to subvert Nazi discipline and control. Given the large numbers of youngsters in the Volksturm, as well as those of lesser age carrying on basic war activities, loss of Nazi authority in any large degree would hamper the war effort very considerably. The age groups from 10 to 20 include at a minimum estimate, about seven million Germans. Granted, for the sake of discussion, that not more than 1 per cent of these would ever hear the program directly, and that not more than 10 per cent of these would respond as we wish, that is still a target of 7000 persons. If every youngster so influenced reached only three others, we have a body of 2800 subversive agents. Hitherto we have done very little to reach this group; we have been shooting at the more obvious targets - frequently without apparent result - and have overlooked the smaller game that may reward our efforts. Even big-game hunters do not disdain an occasional rabbit.

5. Transmission.

This likewise has been discussed before. Short wave, beamed at the Rhineland, Baden, and Württemberg, or just at the northern Rhineland, would serve the purpose at the beginning. As our experimenters tinker with their apparatus, we might have them get better transmission - i.e., over a larger radius.

6. Duration.

There should be at least ten transmissions before the boys decide that DF is getting too close and that they'd better quit. Wednesday evening, when all good Nazi youth are supposed to listen to their weekly program, might be a good time, particularly if Backdoor could use a wave-length close to that used by the Nazis. There is no good reason why each transmission could not be at least a half-hour in length. It might add verisimilitude if it came on at irregular intervals and in several sections during the "experimental" stage, and in any case it should have the appearance of spontaneity which a certain raggedness of production and presentation would lend.

Although Wednesday night has been mentioned, that should be only one of the nights or other times of the week used by Backdoor, for no one would imagine that romantically rebellious groups such as this would be inclined to stick to a rigid schedule. At least twice a week, and preferably more, with the more frequent appearances at the beginning when enthusiasm is presumably high, would yield a low limit of from four to five weeks.

The gist of each of the ten programs might be about as follows (without close organization, but rather as a kind of roughly integrated medley):

1. How we got on the air; the story of the building (or whatnot) of the transmitter and how we learned to run it. As a kind of afterthought, what we're going to use it for.

BACKDOOR PROGRAM

2. Who's who in the Backdoor, how they came to join, and what they're doing to make life miserable for the Nazi youth. A little juvenile boasting and yarns about various thrilling escapades. Songs and Klampfe playing.
3. What the German youth movements were like before Hitler, with talks by boys and, perhaps, girls who have heard about this movement or that. Catholic, Lutheran, Social-Democratic, "free" and other movements could be mentioned, but all the talks should cover only those elements held in common. Songs and harmonica-playing.
4. Continuation of 3 - too much to cover in one session.
5. Account of a camping-out venture of last summer in direct defiance of Nazi regulations. Two or three complementary stories, with enough overlapping to preserve semblance of authenticity. Venture might be placed in the Fichtelberg. Lagerfeuer songs and music.
6. Another similar account, this time about a venture in the Schwarzwald. Landsknecht songs and music.
7. Stories about fights with the Hitler Youth, running back to the time of "Der Pack", a rebel group that was tried and convicted in 1939. No songs or music.
8. Why the Backdoor groups fight the Hitler Youth. A juvenile, over-dramatized, but vivid talk, with plenty of cloudy rhetoric about Germany's mission after defeat. Plenty of appropriate song and music.
9. How to fight the Hitler Youth, with frequent reference to stories told in 2 and 7. Concrete instructions about holds, punches, and even the use of weapons. Humorous accounts of how Nazi bullies got the worst of it.
10. Triumphant account of what has presumably happened since the series of broadcasts began, with glowing forecast of the future of Backdoor and its "host of affiliated new groups". Reasons for going off the air (danger of NK, DF, etc.) but promise to come again soon, with invitation to other groups to institute programs patterned along Backdoor lines. Grand musical finale, with singing of "Uns geht die Sonne nicht unter."

~~SECRET~~

Dec. 24, 1944
Howard Becker

PRIMROSE PROGRAM

1. Object.

The purpose of this program is to undermine the morale of the German younger generation, particularly with regard to willingness to participate actively in Nazi youth activities. A secondary purpose is the encouragement of relatively unorganized gangs of rebellious youngsters in their current attacks on the Hitler Youth (HJ) and the League of German Girls (BDM). These gangs should be distinguished from the groups dealt with in the Backdoor program, for the gangs or Primrose groups, as they will be termed hereafter, have so little continuity of program or leadership that they cannot with any plausibility be represented as carrying out elaborate and sustained broadcasts, etc. If the Primroses know that they are feared, however, they may be encouraged in their "wild" attacks. As matters now stand, they already behave in the following ways:

- a. Street-corner brawling with Hitler Youth, both leaders and rank-and-file, frequently leading to slashings and stabbings.
- b. Jeering, calling obscene names, and otherwise spreading "dirt". The BDM, for example, is often termed the Bund deutscher Metzetze, Bund deutscher Miesenicke, and the like.
- c. Breaking into "nests", "small homes", and hostels, and carrying out thieving and vandalism.
- d. Sabotaging HJ and BDM meetings by inattention, contradiction, scuffling, and willful misunderstanding.
- e. General intimidation of parents and youngsters concerning what will happen to the youngsters if they ~~axkin~~ continue to function actively in Nazi youth organizations.
- f. Wearing of bizarre costume, long hair, and so on as direct defiance of the aggressive masculinity of the Hitler Youth.
- g. Increasing general demoralization by sexual excesses and other Verwehrlosung.

2. Method.

The method proposed is black broadcasting along these lines: A former official of the Hitler Youth higher bureaucracy, sent to the front as an officer of the Volksturm, is wounded and after recovery is declared permanently unusable in any military capacity. He makes his way into the Vorarlberg, where a group of disaffected Germans and Austrians have set up a sender. (This part of the cover is the same as that of our other projected Vorarlberg program). In conjunction with other broadcasts over the same sender this man, called Sorker hereafter, tells German parents and youngsters of the terrible dangers confronting them in the ruthless Primrose groups.

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PRIMROSE PROGRAM

3. Subject matter.

Sorger's motivation is that of a former pre-Nazi youth leader who "went along" because of his love for Germany. Now that the war is definitely lost, he has come to the conviction that the younger generation must be saved for the sake of Germany's future. But how can it be saved if increasing fanaticism wipes out the younger generation in futile resistance and underground efforts, and particularly if the Primroses and similar gangs physically and morally destroy that part of Germany's youth on whom Kultur depends?

Sorger sees some hope in the Backdoor groups, whose program he has heard, but his immediate effort is simply to get German youth to refrain from all Nazi activities, thus avoiding needless sacrifice in opposing Allied efforts, and, moreover, avoiding the assaults and general degradation which will otherwise be suffered at the hands of the Primroses.

He begins by telling the story of his experiences as a Nazi youth movement official whose work brought to his attention the increasing Verwehrosung deutscher Jugend. After listing the manifestations of youthful demoralization that have appeared since IEN 1933, and particularly since 1939, he tells how he gradually became convinced that the Nazi youth program has done nothing to check this demoralization, but on the contrary has accelerated it.

Next, he tells what the Primroses have been doing, beginning with the mass trials of youth which occurred in 1939, and how a special division of the Gestapo has had to be set up to combat terroristic gangs. Further, as a Volksturm officer he has had occasion to observe directly the moralische Zersetzung of literally hundreds of boys who have been exposed to all the worst influences of the war period.

Under the impact of all this, Sorger has therefore reverted, as he himself says, to his earlier non-political attitude with regard to youth activities. The prime necessity is to withdraw from an organization that can only lead to destruction, and to gather moral and spiritual strength for the task of Germany's renewal. "From the ashes of defeat the German phoenix can rise again if our boys and girls are saved to us."

Sorger continues by pointing out that even with evacuation and separation from parents it is still possible to maintain family ties, not only by letter-writing but also by passively resisting the essentially anti-family training given by HW and HEM. Such passive resistance also has the merit of enabling the boy or girl to escape attack by the Primroses, and to avoid becoming like them--for they are the end products of Nazification.

"Save yourselves and save Germany."

4. Target.

This has already been implied in the foregoing. At bottom, the aim is to develop fear: fear of the Primroses, of Nazification of apparently inevitable demoralization, of equally inevitable defeat.

PRIMROSE PROGRAM

4. Target (continued).

Fear that inspires desperate activity, however, is not desired; we want passive, paralyzing fear.

Numbers involved are fairly large, for the program is intended to reach all the way down to the Jungvolk--8 to 18 or thereabouts. In addition, parents are included in the target, so that all in all we have a large group. This will be passive, not active, but it may have as many as twenty million potential listeners, of whom perhaps 50,000 may actually be reached.

5. Transmission.

Short-wave. The Voralberg transmitter can perhaps be represented as quite powerful: our technicians will have to be consulted here. The target is spatially broad; all of Germany should be reached if possible. This is in contrast to the Backdoor program, which at first can be aimed only at the west and southwest.

6. Duration.

Four or five transmissions will be the most that can be used without the danger of getting too thin. Inasmuch as the program is conceived as one offering among several from the Voralberg station, it can be sandwiched in as convenience dictates. It seems clear, however, that as the message of only one man is involved, several periods in relatively quick succession could be used.

If we decide to put on Backdoor, this could follow, but it might detract from the effectiveness of the former. It would probably be better to follow Backdoor with Fiddle (the "straight" HJ program in competition with Backdoor) and then follow Fiddle with Primrose.

Each transmission of Primrose could run for from fifteen minutes to a half-hour. Anything longer than that would probably be inadvisable. The gist of each of Sorger's transmissions might be about as follows:

1. Who I, Sorger, am, how and why I got here, and what I am going to tell you about.
2. Account of my youth movement work before 1933, why I "went along" with the Nazis, what I hoped for from Nazi youth activities, and how I have been slowly disillusioned.
3. The history of the Primroses and of the Verwahrlosung der Jugend; the terrible situation with which German youngsters and parents are confronted.
4. What can be done to avoid Nazification, with its ultimate ending on the Primrose path (ahem), as well as to avoid attacks and moral Zersetzung at the hands of the Primroses.
5. The future of Germany if only its youth is saved: a cloudy reinterpretation of "Germany's eternal mission, the building of a higher Kultur."

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Dec. 24, 1944
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"Save yourselves and save Germany."

4. Target.

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Dec. 24, 1944
Howard Becker

PRIMROSE PROGRAM

4. Target (continued).

Fear that inspires desperate activity, however, is not desired; we want passive, paralyzing fear.

Numbers involved are fairly large, for the program is intended to reach all the way down to the Jungvolk--8 to 16 or thereabouts. In addition, parents are included in the target, so that all in all we have a large group. This will be passive, not active, but it may have as many as twenty million potential listeners, of whom perhaps 50,000 may actually be reached.

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If we decide to put on Backdoor, this could follow, but it might detract from the effectiveness of the former. It would probably be better to follow Backdoor with Fiddle (the "straight" HF program in competition with Backdoor) and then follow Fiddle with Primrose.

Each transmission of Primrose could run for from fifteen minutes to a half-hour. Anything longer than that would probably be inadvisable. The gist of each of Sorger's transmissions might be about as follows:

1. Who I, Sorger, am, how and why I got here, and what I am going to tell you about.
2. Account of my youth movement work before 1933, why I "went along" with the Nazis, what I hoped for from Nazi youth activities, and how I have been slowly disillusioned.
3. The history of the Primroses and of the Verwehrlosung der Jugend; the terrible situation with which German youngsters and parents are confronted.
4. What can be done to avoid Nazification, with its ~~written~~ ultimate ending on the Primrose path (ahem), as well as to avoid attacks and moral Zersetzung at the hands of the Primroses.
5. The future of Germany if only its youth is saved: a cloudy reinterpretation of "Germany's eternal mission, the building of a higher Kultur."

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Dec. 25, 1944
Howard Becker

FIDDLE PROGRAM

1. Object.

The purpose of this program is to arouse and /or accentuate opposition to the Hitler Youth (HJ) and the League of German Girls (BDM), together with their Young People's (JV) auxiliaries. The potential opposition is to be found among the German parental generation, particularly that portion which is relatively conservative in its religious and social views. Both Lutherans and Roman Catholics are concerned about the morals and related conduct of youth under Nazi influence. The intelligence shows this, if only because of the repeated official reassurances issued by the Ministry of Propaganda. Further, the great increase in juvenile delinquency and the existence of anti-Nazi youth groups, both amply confirmed by the intelligence, makes it plain that many parents must be feeling a great deal of alarm.

2. Method.

The proposed method is black broadcasting, ostensibly coming from an unauthorized sender set up by certain Hitler Youth groups which are unwilling to let the backdoor groups (see Backdoor program) have all the fun and glory of running a program of their own.

Cover, then, is merely that these Hitler youth have heard the Backdoor broadcasts and undertake to answer them on their own responsibility. Backdoor has presumably had considerable success, and the HJ naturally feel angry that anti-Nazis should be listened to and complimented on their technical resourcefulness, initiative, and daring. Moreover, the HJ wish to present their case unhampered by official caution; they believe that the time has come to take off the gloves. Their black sender gives them a chance to do this. Still further, the romantic appeal of the forbidden is presumably operative among the HJ as well as the Backdoor, for certainly the HJ, submitting themselves to the Party discipline as they do, are beginning to weary of routine and direction from above.

Like the Backdoor, the HJ have been trained in radio work in one of the State Youth Service schools, and there is no good reason why some adult Nazi might not have been persuaded to give them technical advice or even direct aid. For the sake of plausibility, their sender might be represented as more powerful and hence as giving better results from the very start. In fact, the listener might be permitted to draw the inference that the sender is not really unofficial at all, but is merely being used by the Party as a trial balloon to see how much the German public will accept. This inference, however, should not be underscored too strongly, for if it were the listeners might pay no more attention to the broadcast than if it were part of the all-too-familiar line.

Again as in the case of Backdoor, a devastated town is probably the most plausible location under present conditions.

Voices will have to be youthful.

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FIDDLE PROGRAM

3. Subject matter.

The HJ boys tell the story of having listened to the traitorous Backdoor broadcasts, and of their resolve to use Backdoors weapon against them.

Then they tell with glee how they built their sender, and how much better it is than the amateurish contrivance built by Backdoor.

Swinging into the subjectmatter proper, they engage in an elaborate refutation of the backdoor charge that the HJ is wholly controlled from above, but the unskillful nature of the refutation goes to prove the Backdoor assertions. Moreover, by listing and detailing the ways in which the HJ successfully fights Backdoor, they provide evidence that Backdoor really is a widespread and effective organization.

The main theme, however, is HJ fanaticism with the gloves off. They seize the opportunity to tell Noergler, Wiesmacher and Ewiggestrigen what the HJ really represents:

- a. Loyalty to the Fuehrer, so overdone as to be clearly blasphemous to anyone possessing a trace of religious orthodoxy.
- b. Race hatred, expressed with ferocity, and revelling in atrocities of which many Germans have had no knowledge or which they have refused to believe.
- c. Exhortation to reproduction regardless of considerations of legitimacy, etc., couched in terms of juvenile grossness repellent to all but the most thoroughly indoctrinated.
- d. Boasting about the exalted posts held in the SS, the Wehrmacht, and the Volkssturm by the HJ, plus tales of their heroic self-sacrifices which make it apparent that many of them have what amount to suicidal obsessions.
- e. Detailing of plans for going underground which are so irresponsible that any cautious German can see that if he aids the HJ by even giving shelter he will himself inevitably be caught and tried by the Allies.
- f. Undergang preachments: Germany will go up in smoke before the Nazis surrender. The lust for a grand-operatic Valhalla finale when defeated should here be evident.

All of this will be very difficult to do, for mere caratures will blow the cover in no time. Further, it must be reckoned with in advance that many Nazis will welcome a message of this kind. There is a very thin line between what will benefit us and what will benefit the Germans.

4. Target.

About as in Backdoor or perhaps considerably larger.

5. Transmission.

Short wave, quite powerful--i.e., covering the greater part of Germany. The fact that such a broadcast will almost certainly be jammed will not blow the cover, for the HJ who are running the show are doing it without authorization.