

The White Rose Resistance Group: Fighting Until the End

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Group Website

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As our group was searching for a topic for this year's History Day competition, the White Rose immediately stood out to us as a heroic story that would fit well into this year's theme, Communication in History. "Long live freedom" were Hans Scholl's last words before he was executed with his sister, Sophie, and friend, Christoph Probst. As members of a peaceful Hitler resistance group, the White Rose tried to communicate their opposition to Nazi violence and crimes through anti-fascist pamphlets and graphitti. Although the group was caught, their heroic and dangerous actions still gave people hope that change would come. After their execution, Allied forces dropped tens of thousands of the White Rose pamphlets all over Germany. They were able to change many German citizens' views of Hitler and the Nazis. Today, the White Rose group is considered one of Germany's many heroes.

Most of our research was done through books and websites. The websites we used were more about the main idea of the White Rose. As we dug deeper, we found many books that were helpful. One specific book we read, *Sophie Scholl and the White Rose* by Annette Dumbach and Jud Newborn, was super helpful in that it had translated documents from the Scholl's and Christoph Probst's (main members of the White Rose) trial. Another very helpful resource for our project was our interview with Tanja Spitzer, who works for the National World War II Museum. She grew up in Ulm, Germany and had a first hand experience of how the White Rose group impacted Munich. *Sophie Scholl- The Final Days*, a movie made about the White Rose in 2006, gave a perspective about what it was like for the Scholls and Christoph during their investigation, trial, and before the execution.

We felt that a website would be able to convey the story of the White Rose best. With the uncertainty of Covid-19, and in person school, a website would be more convenient to do at home. We liked that the website gave us the ability to have pictures, words, and videos. Also we

liked that it had a higher word count. We have definitely learned more about technology, working together, and problem solving while putting together our website.

From 1942 to 1943 the White Rose communicated their anti-fascist message and proved that anyone can make a difference peacefully no matter who they are or what circumstances they're in. The White Rose took a risk to share their opinions with as many people as they could. Even if someone wasn't personally connected to the White Rose, they were still hearing their message. The White Rose resistance group was the perfect example of fighting for what you believe no matter the consequences. Even at the end, the members never regretted their actions. The White Rose was brave and honorable, which is why we chose their story for our project this year.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary:

Spitzer, Tanja. (2020, November 20). [Zoom interview].

We interviewed Tanja Spitzer November 20, 2020. She is the project manager for the Institute of War and Democracy at the World War II Museum. She answered a lot of our questions about the impacts the White Rose had, the members, the Scholls, and more. She also gave a first-hand account of what people learn about the White Rose today in Germany.

Secondary:

Alexander Schmorell. (2021, January 25). Retrieved January 26, 2021, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Schmorell

This website gave information about Alex Schmorell. It talked about his birthday, the day he died, what he contributed to the White Rose and more. It helped us understand some of the more personal facts about Alex.

Axelrod, T. (2002). *Hans and Sophie Scholl: German resisters of the White Rose*. Irvine, CA: Saddleback Pub.

This book told the story of Hans and Sophie Scholl and was helpful in giving us facts about the White Rose, such as information about how the White Rose distributed leaflets.

Blakemore, E. (2017, February 22). The Secret Student Group That Stood Up to the Nazis.

Retrieved November 11, 2020, from

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/the-secret-student-group-stood-up-nazis-180962250/>.

This website gave information on Kurt Huber, the professor at the University of Munich that was a part of the White Rose. It talked about what he did in the beginning to help the group realize they wanted to resist. It also talked about the group's execution such as Hans' last words which were "Long live freedom!"

Burns, L. (2013, February 22). White Rose: The Germans who tried to topple Hitler. Retrieved November 14, 2020, from <https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-21521060>.

This website included an interview with one of the members who used to be part of the White Rose. She talked about ways the group spoke out, people in the group, and the executions. She also talked about what it was like getting arrested by the Gestapo and almost getting executed as well.

Childers, T. (2018). *The Third Reich: A history of Nazi Germany*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster Paperbacks.

This book gave valuable information on Germany, such as when Adolf Hitler was young, and Hitler's rise to power. There wasn't information about the White Rose, but the book provides valuable background information about Nazi Germany.

Deutsche Welle. *Remembering the "White Rose": DW: 24.02.2003*.
www.dw.com/en/remembering-the-white-rose/a-783992.

This website gave us a quote and a very detailed description of how Sophie and Hans Scholl got caught. Also, it gave us lots of facts about what the White Rose did to resist.

Freedman, R. (2016). *We will not be silent: The White Rose student resistance movement that defied Adolf Hitler*. Boston: Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

This book told the story of the White Rose resistance group and its founders, Hans and Sophie Scholl. It gave information about their lives before they created the White Rose, as well as their experiences being part of the White Rose.

Holocaust Encyclopedia. (n.d.). Retrieved November 17, 2020, from <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/white-rose>.

This website helped get information about the execution of the Scholls. This was important to know because it shows how severe the punishment was for resisting Hitler and how brave they were for doing it.

Holocaust Resistance. (n.d.). Retrieved November 15, 2020, from

<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-white-rose-a-lesson-in-dissent>.

This website gave a lot of interesting facts. For example, it said that the prison guards were so impressed by the group's calm attitude, that they broke the rules and let the group see each other again. It also said who their trial judge was and had a quote about the trial how the trial was biased and unfair.

Hoose, P. M. (2019). *The boys who challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club*. New York: Square Fish.

This book showed us that the White Rose was one of the few peaceful Nazi resistance groups. Other groups would use arson and bombs whereas the White Rose handed out fliers. It also took place in Denmark during the time of World War II so it gave insight into what it was like in other countries during that time.

Kurt Huber. (2020, December 21). Retrieved January 26, 2021, from

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurt_Huber

This website talked about Kurt Huber who was, in a way, the adviser of the White Rose. He was some of the students in the group's teacher. He would talk negatively about Hitler and the Nazi regime in his lessons. It was important to learn details about him because he was one of the reasons the group formed.

Malloryk. (2020, February 21). *Sophie Scholl and the White Rose: The National WWII Museum: New Orleans*. Retrieved November 11, 2020, from

<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/sophie-scholl-and-white-rose>.

This website gave a numerous amount of information about Sophie Scholl. It included her child life, adult life, passions, and opinions. It also talked about who else was involved in the group and went into more detail about what the group did to resist. The website also gave quotes from some of the fliers the White Rose sent out.

Nazis arrest White Rose resistance leaders. (2009, November 05). Retrieved November 11, 2020, from <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/nazis-arrest-white-rose-resistance-leaders>. This website gave quotes from some of the fliers the group sent out and also gave information on Hans Scholl such as what he did in college. It also went into detail about how the group got caught, their executions, and the possible origin of the group's name.

Newborn, J., & Dumbach, A. (2017). *Sophie Scholl and the White Rose*. Oneworld Publications. This book gave a lot of quotes from Sophie Scholl's diary. It also mentioned some of the short term impacts the White Rose made, such as giving people hope that there could be change. It listed all the leaflets, in English, that the White Rose published, including the draft of the seventh pamphlet. It had some of the documents from their trial such as their sentence. Along with that, it had some pictures of the group and things such as the stamp dedicated to Sophie and Hans.

Sophie Scholl The Final Days. 2005. [DVD] Directed by M. Rothmund.

This movie gave a really good visual representation of what happened when the Scholl's and Christoph Probst got caught, their investigation, trial, and execution. It showed that Sophie had to stay in a prison cell with a prison adviser for a few days before her trial. It showed that Sophie actually lied to the investigator at first to protect the others in the group. It also showed how biased and cruel the judge at their trial was.

Sophie Scholl: The German Student Activist Executed at 21 For Her Anti-Nazi Resistance. (n.d.). Retrieved November 12, 2020, from <https://www.amightygirl.com/blog?p=19179>. This website had information about Sophie Scholl's execution and how Sophie and Hans got caught in detail.

Spartacus Educational, J. (n.d.). Retrieved January 25, 2021, from <https://spartacus-educational.com/GERschmorell.htm>

This website gave us valuable information about Alex Schmorell, Willi Graf, and Kurt Huber. It told us more about their involvement with the White Rose, and their arrest and execution.

White Rose. (n.d.). Retrieved November 04, 2020, from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/White-Rose>.

This website had a video explaining the White Rose group and what they did to resist Hitler. It also interviewed some people that were in the group such as Georg Wittenstein and explained what happened when the group was caught. It also talked about what the group did to communicate their resistance. They sent out fliers and painted words such as “Freedom” on buildings. We used two parts of the video on our website.

White Rose. (2021, January 15). Retrieved January 22, 2021, from

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Rose#:~:text=On%2013%20January%201943%2C%20a,members%20of%20the%20White%20Rose.

This website gave good information about how the group was formed. It explained that part of the reason was because they were angry about a speech a Nazi party leader gave at their school. We did not know this before. Originally we just thought the group was formed because they shared similar beliefs.

Willi Graf. (2021, January 25). Retrieved January 26, 2021, from

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willi_Graf

This website was really helpful giving details about Willi. It talked about who he was and the things he did. It was important to know these things because he was one of the main members of the group.

Wilson, K. (2019). *White Rose*. Versify.

This was a different way of writing about the White Rose while still being an informational biography.

Images for Illustrations:

(1943). Retrieved January 25, 2021, from

<https://www.amazon.com/Gestapo-Interrogation-Transcripts-Professor-Harnack-ebook/dp/B00D4ZKDIC>

This is a picture of the cover of Kurt Huber’s interrogation transcripts taken in 1943.

White Rose. (n.d.). Retrieved January 15, 2021, from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/White-Rose>.

This clip from a video gives a good visual representation of what the White Rose did. It talks about what their goal was and how they got caught.

(n.d.). Retrieved December 30, 2020, from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/White-Rose>.

This picture shows the statue of metal pamphlets that represent the ones Sophie Scholl threw over the balcony at the University of Munich. The picture was taken in 1990 when the statue was built.(2017, February 22). Retrieved December 30, 2020, from

(1943, February 18). Retrieved January 5, 2021, from

<https://flashbak.com/sophie-scholl-and-the-white-rose-rebellion-55957/>.

This picture was taken on February 18, 1943, the day Sophie and Hans Scholl got caught distributing pamphlets at the University of Munich. These are Sophie Scholl's mugshots that were taken by the Gestapo later that day.

(1942, July 23). Retrieved January 5, 2021, from

<https://flashbak.com/sophie-scholl-and-the-white-rose-rebellion-55957/>.

This picture shows Hans Scholl, Sophie Scholl, and Alex Schmorell needing funds to print and mail pamphlets. It was taken on July 23, 1942.

(1942). Retrieved January 6, 2021, from

<https://flashbak.com/sophie-scholl-and-the-white-rose-rebellion-55957/>.

This is the first pamphlet the White Rose sent out in 1942.

(1943). Retrieved January 6, 2021, from

<https://flashbak.com/sophie-scholl-and-the-white-rose-rebellion-55957/>.

This is the sixth pamphlet the White Rose group sent out in 1943.

(n.d.). Retrieved January 14, 2021, from
<https://www.historyanswers.co.uk/history-of-war/the-20-toughest-commando-missions-revealed-in-history-of-war-issue-19/>.

This is a picture of the hall at the University of Munich where Sophie dropped the White Rose pamphlets of the balcony.

(n.d.). Retrieved January 13, 2021, from
<http://www.holocaustresearchproject.org/revolt/wrleaflets.html>.

This is a picture of the hand cranked printing press the White Rose group used to print their flyers.

1940, internationalbcc.co.uk/about-ibcc/news/sophie-scholl/. Accessed 2021.

This is an individual picture of Sophie Scholl.

(n.d.). Retrieved January 14, 2021, from
<http://www.inquiriesjournal.com/articles/1671/the-white-rose-movement-conscience-in-silent-nazi-germany>.

This is a picture of the stamp made for Sophie and Hans Scholl.

(n.d.). Retrieved January 10, 2021, from
<https://iusboverseas.wordpress.com/2013/12/02/the-white-rose-we-will-not-be-silent-2/>.

This is a graph full of pictures of all the main members of the White Rose taken at various times. The pictures include Scholl's, Christoph Probst, Alex Schmorell, Willi Graf, and Professor Kurt Huber.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/the-secret-student-group-stood-up-nazis-180962250/>.

This picture was taken in 1942 and it shows the three main members of the White Rose group, Christoph Probst, Sophie Scholl, and Hans Scholl talking.

[Photograph found in Germany]. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://spartacus-educational.com/GERschollH.htm> (Originally photographed 1937)
This photo, from 1937, is of Hans Scholl and his youth group.

(n.d.). Retrieved January 25, 2021, from <https://spartacus-educational.com/GERschmorell.htm>
This is a picture of Alex Schmorell.

(1941). Retrieved January 25, 2021, from <https://spartacus-educational.com/GERgraf.htm>
This is a picture of Willi Graf taken in 1941.

(1943). Retrieved January 25, 2021, from <https://spartacus-educational.com/GERhuberK.htm>
This picture, taken in 1943, is a picture of Kurt Huber.

(1942). Retrieved January 13, 2021, from <https://spartacus-educational.com/ExamRHU12.htm>.
This picture was taken in 1942 and shows Alex Schmorell and Hans Scholl on the Eastern front.

(1943). Retrieved January 13, 2021, from <https://www.weisse-rose-stiftung.de/white-rose-resistance-group/>.
This picture, taken in 1943 shows the back of Sophie Scholl's indictment in which she wrote "freedom" on.

(1943, February). Retrieved January 10, 2021, from <https://www.weisse-rose-stiftung.de/white-rose-resistance-group/white-rose-wall-slogans/>
This is a picture of the White Rose graffiti saying "Down with Hitler." It was taken in 1943.

(1943). Retrieved January 6, 2021, from <https://www.whiterosestance.com/after-the-execution.html>.
This photograph, from 1943, is Hans Scholl's mugshot. It was taken the day Hans and his sister Sophie were caught distributing anti-fascist pamphlets at the University of Munich.

(1985). Retrieved January 6, 2021, from <https://www.whiterosestance.com/after-the-execution.html>.
This is an article from the New York Times from 1985 that talks about the White Rose.

(1943), www.whiterosestance.com/after-the-execution.html. Accessed 2021.
This is Christoph Probst's mugshots from 1943.

1943, www.whiterosestance.com/after-the-execution.html. Accessed 2021.
This is a mugshot of Sophie Scholl.

(2014). Retrieved January 8, 2021, from <https://www.whiterosestance.com/after-the-execution.html>.
This picture, from 2014, is of the guillotine that was used to execute the Scholls and Christoph Probst..

(1941). Retrieved January 8, 2021, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hans_Scholl
This is a photo of Hans Scholl by himself from 1941.

(1941), en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christoph_Probst. Accessed 2021.
This is an individual picture of Christoph Probst.

